

CONNECT

SITM's Corporate Newsletter



Corporate Connect

Alumni Connect

Faculty Connect

Student Connect

Social Connect



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SYMBIOSIS INSTITUTE OF TELECOM MANAGEMENT
SYMBIOSIS INTERNATIONAL (DEEMED UNIVERSITY)

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About SITM



The Journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step!

Symbiosis Institute of Telecom Management (SITM) is a well-known name in the ICT industry which proffers leaders and pioneers for its tremendous contribution towards the domain. The analytical thinking is imbibed into the minds of every student. SITM specialises in nurturing future managers with additional technological acumen, a set of professionals who have the right blend of requirements to set the pace in their respective fields.

Several industry-centric training programs have been made a part of curriculum which includes ITIL, eTOM, Revenue Assurance, Risk Management, Internal Audit etc. These programs are a great value addition for the students of SITM. SITM, with its active alumni network, promotes communication and building connections between the students and the industry. The institute encourages its students to take part in projects in collaboration with leaders of the ICT domain who have been once a part of the same institute.

SITM hosts International Telecom Seminar called Communique where experts from industrial world discuss various topics from ICT domain. Prevision, an annual magazine published by SITM forecasts trends in telecom industry after proper research and evaluation. Prayukti– an Annual Journal of SITM is published for promoting research in the field of Telecom, IT, and Business. SITM encourages students to see the practical side of the knowledge gained and enhance workplace productivity.

To sum it up in a few words, SITM is a B-school which makes you face the corporate world more efficiently and effectively.

Corporate Connect

GUEST LECTURES: A vision on the mission



Omkar Deshmukh
Senior Business Analyst,
Netcracker

Mr. Omkar Deshmukh started the lecture by acquainting the students with several amusing anecdotes from his journey. He has been a part of large transformation projects for the leading Telecom companies across the globe. He has an experience in Business Analysis and Solution Design, documentation for CRM, Order Management, Product Catalog, and Inventory Management. His profile includes pre-sales experience in which he was responsible for preparing an RFP response, demo.

“What is OSS/BSS?” asked Mr Deshmukh, to the curious minds attending his lecture. Quite a few students gave their best shots but they couldn’t hit the brief. He then proceeded to enlighten the students and explained to them how the OSS/BSS works in the real world. The audience appreciated and connected well with the practical usage of the technology since they were having sound theoretical knowledge of the same. He further explained the concept of COTS&SERVICE Companies; starting from acronym expansion i.e. “Commercial Off The Shelf” to real-life implementation and how it is changing the market structure.

Mr Deshmukh expressly stated different types of catalogues including Marketing, Service and Billing catalog. He pointed out how traditional architecture used to block the client from having a variety of choices between the vendors and a kind of monopoly was present in the business, but now reformed architecture allows everyone to have a varied choice and companies like Amdocs, Net cracker, Ericsson, Huawei, and Sigma compete among themselves which finally results in growth of technology. The entanglement between various kinds of the catalog is a significant one and was duly pointed out throughout the session. Concepts like Order Capture and Modularity along with their real-life applications made a lasting impression on the batch as Mr Deshmukh proceeded to elude us with more insights into the world of catalogue management.

He then ventured into explaining the end to end process and cash back concept. With realistic examples, backed with empirical evidence mostly drawn from his real-life experiences, he left no stone unturned in explaining the significance of OSS/BSS, catalog management, and COTS. The session ended with a quiz which helped the batch to revisit and recheck all the concepts which were discussed in the last one and a half hour.

GUEST LECTURES: A vision on the mission



Aniket Joshi.
Business Consultant,
Tech Mahindra

Mr. Joshi began the session by praising the web and tech team for the video they have created and recalled his days of SITM. Going forward, he shared insights from his journey of 11 years, he started his career with Tata Communication, then Idea Cellular and currently he is handling the role of a consultant in Tech Mahindra. In all these spans of time, one thing which pushed him to achieve his goals was “Passion” and “Hard Work”. He expressed his gratitude towards the faculty of SITM for providing unconditional support to him.

“Why SITM?” asked Mr. Aniket, to the probing minds attending his lecture. The students had impressive answers which gave him a feeling of the well-informed audience in terms of decision making. He made the session two-way by asking the students about the curriculum, subjects, and about their work experience. Mr. Joshi then shared some glimpse of the roles which he had done in last few years, it included Pre-sales, Product Management and consulting out of them his favorite was the Product Manager. Thereafter revealing more about his career in sales, he talked about meeting different peoples around the globe and getting to know their culture, problems, and their working lifestyle.

“Which career path should you consider?” “What appeals you the most?” by saying this he the focus on the job profile rather than anything else. He also briefed the batch about the job profiles offered at Telecom Companies, IT, ITES, and the Big 4’s and how much growth one industry offers compared to the time it demands.

He further explained the very interesting concept of 4 P’s viz; “Persistent”, “Passionate”, “Plays the Game” and “Politically Aware”. He insisted on one thing one should be persistent and passionate about the work he does. Politically aware expresses the need to be privy about the political complexities of the organization. He enlightened the students by saying “Career is what you make of it”. He pinpointed on the types of journey one can take, the roles where they can fit in, the opportunities which are favourable for them and lastly being persistent about what you do. He concluded his informative lecture by the quoting a line – “The world is your oyster.”

Corporate Interview



Ashutosh Kumar
Supply Business Head
RIVIGO

1. What according to you is perfect time management?

For me, time management starts right from the clarity of goal. It assists in what we want to achieve, which helps in setting up long-term and short-term goals, which further gets translated in monthly and daily calendar. At last, it's all about managing the urgent and important assignments or the activities for everyday business delivery, making sure we are not derailed from the original goal.

2. What keeps you happy apart from work?

Honestly, I enjoy my work. However, happiness to me apart from work is catching up with young grads or startup warriors, talking to them and learning from their passion and zeal. Also, I enjoy me-time by reading my favorite books, listening to music and riding bikes. It's like a ZERO thought moment for me.

3. How do you balance your professional life and your hobbies simultaneously?

Running is my habit and it takes just 30-45 minutes. It gives me great freedom anytime and anywhere. Though, at times it's difficult especially when I work for startups where every now and then we are solving problems but, running keeps me alive. Apart from this, I practice to live in the moment and if I get time I celebrate each moment.

4. Can you share your thoughts on how to best prepare oneself for a career in Marketing?

My first blog- "A run towards bottom will take you to the Top" is all about this question. It's all about learning consumer way of marketing and being completely consumer obsessed. Many times, I see people creating a marketing campaign just because they want to do it, without thinking the end goal as the program is backed by strong data and consumer's voice.

It should be right from- Knowing your consumer, meeting them, listening them carefully, and looking at your product and its experience, as per the customers, as they get into every detail of the product. Also, marketing shouldn't be started until you fix 100% delight for your first set of customers. Post that, how the complete campaign machinery will work towards the conversion and what will be the MoS (Measurement of success) metrics with a complete project charter detailing every fine line of event sequence and ownership which will give scale to any marketing campaign.

So, to become a great marketing professional, it's mandatory to have a deep sense of customer empathy and to drive the scale, one must understand technology and data.

5. If you were not into your current profession, what would you be (alternate career choice)?

I was passionate about automobile and bikes. Therefore, I would have opened some cool setup to modify bikes and cars.

6. What advice do you give to the people working with you?

Wear your heart on your sleeves and move forward with “Purity, Purpose and Pace” with a practice to “Grow in Life not in Head”. Always operate like you are “No one” because if you grow in head you’ll lose on learnability and your career arch will get shorter. And If any team member is a manager then my first advise to him will be to become a playing captain and not a commentator. Also remember that “team members should not report to me, they should look up to me”.

7. How according to you Marketing will affect the industries?

“Jo dikhta haiwo Bikta hai”. It’s not going to change the fact that evolving technologies like TV and mobiles are changing their models and approach of marketing. With a new smartphone laced with power, customers have a greater transparency which has to be understood. Customers are much more empowered than before which will push the industries to opt for real product improvisations.

8. How you relate your theoretical knowledge with your practical work?

According to me, this shouldn’t be seen like- theory comes from thinking and practical comes from execution. Business success comes from conceptual brilliance and executional excellence. When we study about different cases and articles, we develop our thinking machinery and practice to solve large complex problems. Now, when we get into the practical world, nothing changes except for the fact that we play live matches where victory and defeat depends on how good and bad our practice has been.

9. Your best piece of advice to young professionals?

Career is a marathon; do not put yourself on treadmill with a time bomb like promotions or growth. Questions like which company, what role, how much CTC, etc., should not be concentrated upon. It’s a long journey so enjoy it. Do what makes you happy and learn to be 1% better every day. It will compound to 40x growth in one year.

10. Essential motivational factors that help you to move forward in your professional life?

Spending your morning’s 20-30 minutes with yourself and asking yourself like am I learning, am I getting better every next day or not will help you to deliver what you are supposed to and enjoy your work even more.

11. What according to you are the key skill sets a student must never forgo in his life to succeed in his or her professional life?

Think big and think in a box, ownership, data driven, one percent of self-improvement every day and tech obsession are the essential qualities for a successful professional.

Corporate Interview



Sachin Srivastava
General Manager (Networks)
Vodafone India

1. What according to you is the perfect time management?

Time management should essentially consider prioritizing the important tasks, aim at arriving a work life balance.

2. What keeps u happy apart from work?

Anything that brings me closer to life be it spending time with the family, catching up with old friends and playing guitar.

3. How do you balance your professional life and hobbies simultaneously?

I keep weekends or the vacation time only for my hobbies. During the weekdays, it is more about work and the routine tasks.

4. Can you share your thoughts on how to best prepare oneself for a career in management?

This is one of the most sought after discipline in the field of education. But it should not be seen as just some course that can guarantee a job. There is much more to management. Eye for details, keen desire to add value to your deliverables, making things better at work – can take anyone's career to new heights.

5. If you were not into your current profession, what would you be (alternate career choice)?

I have always seen myself as a teacher. During my engineering days, I often covered for professors and used to teach my juniors. I still have this passion to teach. It is always nice to have an insight on how the young minds think.

6. What advice do you give to the people working with you?

Never be afraid to ask questions, take ownership of what you do and never leave any open ends while doing a task.

7. How according to u, "Upcoming Technologies" will affect the telecom industry?

The upcoming trends in technology are going to change everyone's life and not just the telecom industry. We are already taking in terms of Zettabyte and Exabyte. Cloud, Artificial Intelligence has found a place in our lives too. The trends unfolding will do so in an environment of higher expectations; namely, for business value, security, transparency, and equal access to opportunity.

8. How do you relate your theoretical knowledge with your practical work?

Theory is needed for the conceptual understanding. Unless applied practically, it is useless. So both go hand in hand.

9. Your best piece of advice to the young professionals

There is no shortcut to success and hard work always pays. During the course of time, everyone gets an idea on how to work smart. However, in the initial days of career, it is always advisable to imbibe as much as one can at the workplace.

10. Essential motivational factors that help you to move forward in your professional life

A sense of accountability, keen desire to learn more and more are the main reasons to keep me motivated.

11. What according to you are the key skill sets a student must never forgo in his life to succeed in his/her professional life?

Accept challenges, embrace changes, always remain a student at heart and be open to learn new things



If the path is beautiful, let's move ahead without asking where it leads.

Photograph by
Anu Bhakthadas
(Batch of 2018-20)

Alumni Connect - Alumni Speak



Kunal Bhatia
Director Cybersecurity, EY
BATCH: 2006 – 2008

1. What was the most significant contributing factor to your being in the type of work, you are in?

After working for a few years in Industry, I realized that I was not being challenged on an everyday basis. So, I thought the MBA program at SITM would be a good way to bring about this change. I am fortunate that it worked out and now it's been over 10 years in Consulting. I enjoy every bit of my professional life as much as I enjoy my personal life.

2. What are the major skills needed to be a top performer in the work environment?

Attitude - The strength with which an attitude is held is often a good predictor of behaviour. The stronger the attitude the more likely it should affect behaviour at work. In such a rapidly changing industry, you will never find one individual strong in all subjects. However, with the right attitude, one can always pick up newer areas and add value over a period of time.

3. How did your experience at SITM help you find your first position after MBA?

I was selected by EY for the summer internship in 2006. The first year at SITM helped me with the right knowledge and skills about the telecom sector to excel at the internship. This was followed by a pre-placement offer from EY in 2007. I have not looked back or anywhere since it's been 10+ strong years with EY.

4. If you could do it all over again, what would you do differently?

The two years at Symbiosis offer a great opportunity to students to build personal relationships with the leaders of tomorrow, both within SITM and all the schools of management under Symbiosis umbrella. During these two years at SITM, I was focused primarily on learning. If there is one thing I believe I did not invest conscious time in, it's building strong relations with the broader set of students. I wish I would have made personal efforts in building stronger relationships within and outside SITM.

5. What parts of your life you find most challenging and what do you find most enjoyable?

It is interesting that the answer to both questions is my work life. Consulting is a challenging domain as one is expected to be two steps ahead of clients and have a point of view on the different advancements in the field of business and technology. However, such challenges also give an opportunity to learn newer areas and to keep pace with the industry. I enjoy being challenged this way and being able to discuss business and technological changes in detail with my clients.

6. How was your journey at SITM, and what your one of the best experiences?

My journey at SITM was very fulfilling. I experienced how learning at B-schools is structured to add value to young professionals. SITM gave me an opportunity to interact with people from different regions and cultures in India, enabling me to work effectively in diverse teams.

One such teaming experience for me was being part of the Placement Committee. Coming in from diverse

educational backgrounds and cultures, our team had a common mission to bring the best employers in the industry to our campus and give all students of our batch the right opportunities to build a strong foundation to their career. It's a great example of strong teaming – which included a common mission that binds us, our commitment to the mission that drives progress and is measured by tangible results in the form of strong placements. It is through such experiences, that I am able to drive a strong teaming for my clients.

7. Being a proud Alumnus, what do you expect from the Alumni Committee?

SITM's Alumni Committee has been at the forefront of driving and maintaining a strong connection for all alumni with the institute. It would be great if the committee can identify innovative ways of sharing the great experiences some of us have had over the years, within or outside India. Aided by today's connected platforms and social media, such sharing will help our alumni learn from and leverage each other's global experiences to move ahead.

8. Your best piece of advice to young professionals?

Utilise these years in the best possible way, build strong personal relationships which can be termed as your corporate family, so that you have their support as you make your way into the professional world. And yes, enjoy this time as you will never get it back!

9. Are cyber security threats overhyped?

Over the last few years, Cyber security has moved from being an IT issue to becoming a Board matter, it now requires a strong strategy and approach to be defined and implemented to be able to protect any business. Cyber security threat landscape and its applicability have also shifted significantly, from majorly being applied to the financial services sector to now being applied to large infrastructure and nationalized services such as a country's telecommunications infrastructure, oil & gas, power & utilities as well as the transport sector.

When the CEO of one of my clients called me and mentioned about the ransom ware email that he had received, all of a sudden, the Cyber security threat became real. Such attacks can significantly affect an organization's ability to deliver services to its customers while damaging stakeholder confidence once it's known to media. The impact of such threats can be irreparable. Cyber security threats are for real, those who accept and respond will emerge as leaders in their areas of business.

The Visionary



Nipun Mali

Co-Founder at Sense Digital

Marketing & Finance

BATCH: 2006-2008

1. What drove you towards entrepreneurship?

It has always been about doing what I love and about doing it for myself. I have learnt from the historical experiences and had a belief that the venture would be able to sail through in the initial phases of its journey. It was also very clear in my mind that I would rather create my own path, than somebody else doing it for me.

2. What was the originating point of your idea?

For me, at Sense Digital, Entrepreneurship happened by Chance and by Choice. When the last organization, where I worked, got acquired, it came as an unpleasant surprise. I come from a very open culture and the new organization had a very structure-driven culture.

Then and there, I made the decision that I would rather make my own culture rather than following a protocol which I was not comfortable with. And that's how Sense Digital was born.

3. If you could do it all over again, what would you do differently?

Initially, I was glad that I was able to onboard investors on day 1 of starting the business and the investments were good enough to help the firm manage the working capital for around 4 months. Now sometimes, I feel that, had the association made it somehow in those 4-5 months, it would not have needed the investors.

Had the investors on-boarded at a much later stage, things would have been very different today.

4. What has SITM's role been in making you what you are?

SITM has certainly been a stepping-stone to wherever I have reached. The first corporate lessons that I learnt were in the B-school, which certainly helped to stay afloat in the real corporate world.

5. If you would like to share with us one of your best moments at college?

There have been many good memories, but the best ones have been those which were spent with my friends at SITM. I still reminisce the time we had gone from Pune to Delhi via train. I had made some lasting friendships that day.

6. What goal would you like to grasp in the coming future?

I feel proud to say that Sense Digital is a known name in the Indian industry. The next goal and the vision is to take it beyond Indian shores. Sense Digital, does work with some of the big clients in the Middle East & South East Asia. The goal is to make them consider Sense Digital, a default partner for their digital media requirements.

7. What guidelines would you give to budding entrepreneurial minds?

22-26 years is the best age to try and build new things. This is the time where we have very limited responsibilities. Always keep your heart and mind open and never be afraid. If your entrepreneur journey takes off, there is no looking back. If it doesn't, it still will give you some of the biggest lessons in life.

The Visionary



Vishakha Mayanikar

Founder at Zohhar

BATCH: 1996 – 1998

1. What drove you towards entrepreneurship?

I always wanted to do something different, and I wish to have a change in my life rather than the change in the role. There certainly was no disillusionment in the corporate work life that led me towards entrepreneurship. I have spent about 3 years studying and experimenting in the field I chose before I could completely venture out.

2. What was the originating point of your idea?

A strong desire to do things on my own has always driven me forward. When it's your idea that you create only you can do the best justice to it. Your clay, your hands, your mould and your masterpiece.

3. If you could do it all over again, what would you do differently?

I don't believe in going back and doing it differently. Even if I redo it all, there are always going to be some new if not old mistakes. So, I'll rather keep it the way it is.

4. What has SITM's role been in making you what you are?

It opened a new world, telecom was just opening up then. It gave me my first job, some great teachers who are still a source of guidance. And finally some good friends. It also gave me higher self-confidence.

5. If you would like to share with us one of your best moments at college.

The best moment I had experienced during my college days was my first public talk. I had been surprised to discover that I could speak well in public and that too with confidence.

6. What goal would you like to grasp in the coming future?

I work in the area of personal betterment. I have in mind the number of individuals I want to reach out to with this message and make a difference.

7. What guidelines would you give to budding entrepreneurial minds?

Irrespective of why, if you have taken the step to be an entrepreneur, it is already a very bold step. But it needn't be done in haste. Make sure you have the finances to tide over for a while. Many fantastic ideas die a premature death because of this. Also, the integrity for your product is a necessity. If you believe in the value of what you sell, eventually your employees and customers will see through it as well. Moreover, your mind and body are the only tools that you have to achieve all your dreams. Make sure they are not abused. Take great care of both.

And finally, make sure the people closest to you are not compromised in your journey. When you taste success they should be part of your success too.

Message Board



Abhishek.D.Tambulwadkar

Technical consultant at EY

BATCH: 2016 – 2018

“I’d trade all my tomorrows for one single yesterday.”

-Kris Kristofferson

Whenever SITM calls, nostalgia kicks in. I was thrilled and felt privileged when I was asked to write a piece for the August Edition of Connect. Although it has been just 5 months since I left the campus, the urge to be a part of life at SITM is still going strong. The campus, hostel, assignments, syndicate meetings and projects, MNC, the list of memories is never-ending. In life, we reach a point where we want things to happen. It does not matter if they are good or bad, but the important thing is that something must happen. Life at SITM was truly happening. SITM gave me the quickest 2 years of my life.

Every educational institute makes sure that their students learn, but at SITM, I had some great experiences that are very useful in the future professional career. The exposure I received, be it in the committees, Prevision, Editorial Board or Academic Clubs, each of these helped me gain expertise beyond the domain knowledge. My tenure definitely helped me grow as a person as well as a professional. The list of some amazing people I met at SITM includes, the professors and the staff along with my batch-mates, my senior batch and the junior batch as well, who played an important role in shaping me up during these couple of years.

Today in the industry, I am able to remember and relate many concepts that had been taught at SITM. It feels great to have an initial in-depth knowledge of most of the topics. No matter where I go and what I achieve in the future, SITM will always have a special place in my life. One thing I can definitely say is that, at SITM, you just don’t create memories but you live every single of them to the fullest.

Bengaluru Meet 2018



Namma Alma Matter

To take a walk down the corridors of nostalgia, the Alumni Committee hosted the Alumni Meet on 24th February, 2018. This was the first chapter of the calendar year and was hosted in Bangalore at Hotel Citrus Cunningham. The event was graced by our esteemed alumni ranging of various batches. The meet was inaugurated by the Director Prof. Abhijeet Chirputkar and speaking at the occasion; he praised their contribution and encouraged them for continuing the support.

The meet also witnessed a new initiative "Know your alumni" whereby the alumnus were seen knowing more about one another for the betterment. This was followed by the address of the student Chief Coordinator, Nisarg Patel who thanked one and all who were present in the evening and graced the occasion. After which the cake cutting ceremony was preceded by the Director Prof. Abhijeet Chirputkar and Deputy Director Prof. Giri Hallur which indicated the meet open.

The meet witnessed active involvement of the alumnus. The efforts put behind the meet was applauded and appreciated by every alumnus present during the evening.

Reconnect'18

Delhi Chapter



Reminisce, Re-unite, Relive

"Like branches of a tree, our lives may grow in different directions but our roots remain as one."

An Alumni meet is an event for old relationships to be cherished, celebrated, and refreshed and new ones to be formed. It is a time to reflect and relive the good old memories of the Alumni, as they look forward with a sense of purpose and anticipation. The Alumni Relations Team was pleased to organize Reconnect'18 Delhi Chapter on August 4, 2018, at The Fern Residency, Sector 29, Gurugram. With the motto "Reminisce, Re-unite, Relive", SITM, through its alumni meet emphasizes on creating a bond between the graduates, existing students, and the faculty.

The meet initiated with an insightful address by our esteemed Director, Prof. Abhijeet Chirpukar. In his speech, he mentioned the new courses at SITM and how they align with the current demand of the industry. Following which, Dr. Neelesh Kumbhojkar, Director, Symbiosis Centre for Alumni Engagement (SCAE), registered his thoughts on creating and maintaining a sound alumni network and building the alumni community into a stronger movement. This was trailed by Chief Coordinator, Mr. Amar Aswani expressing his gratitude to everyone present there for making the event successful. The evening became more memorable as the alumnus felt nostalgic after indulging in a rapid-fire round refreshing their SITM days. Next, the gala dinners provided an enriching trip down the memory lane giving our alumni an opportunity to network and interact with their old friends again. Some things changed, some stayed the same. Reconnect'18 Delhi Chapter concluded with a sweet hope of reconnecting next year.

Canvas



With mind as clear as water, anything is possible.

Photograph by
Ankit Patel
(Batch of 2018-20)

Faculty Connect - Faculty Message



Prof. Pramod Damle

Focus on telecom domain is SITM's characteristic but not the sole attribute which makes it stand out from the crowd of B-schools. There is more than that when it comes to picking up, preparing, polishing and positioning our students. The team of faculty members equips them with knowledge of entwined braids of business and telecom technology. In doing so, students are introduced to the latest phenomena like 5G, blockchain, Li-Fi, etc. as also the old & gold nuggets like network basics, BCG box, Bell curve, etc.

When it comes to professional credentials, professors lead by example ... many teachers here are eTOM, ITIL, FCA, CGEIT, CISA, PMP, TOGAF certification holders. Some professors bring to the table their rich experience of having contributed to telecom giants like Airtel, Ericsson, Robi Axiata, R-Com, etc. This work-ex is quantitatively in decades and qualitatively in the form of consultants, trainers, managers, auditors, directors, scientists, etc.

Personally, I do not rest on my 4-decade experience but keep on reinventing myself by building newer practices like executive coaching initiated for SITM alumni, enterprise architecture, and faculty development program on the subject of 'Consulting'. Such invigorating exercises not just enrich my capabilities but in turn help students – present as well as past ones – push the envelope, so that their careers gradually reach the pinnacle ... as evinced by some alumni occupying the corner cabins of CXO, Director, etc.

It's strengthening and satisfying to see such accomplished alumni giving back to their alma mater via guest lecturers & workshops."

Faculty Interview



Prof. Kiran Kunte

1. What have been the proud moments in all these years?

I am a white-collar actively operational in the fields of finance, audit & assurance, Direct tax litigations, valuations and consultancy of high-end corporate issues. This profession is an ideal combination of finance and law and hence is an ever dynamic and transmutation field. You need to be vigilant on a 24x7 basis. On most of the occasions, there will be a counterpart /opponent to refute and confront with you. At times of a battle of nerves, it is a proud moment for professional like me, when we are successful in our litigation and overrides the other conflicting views. Even while losing a case, teaches us a lot and gives off the shelf tips on our approaches. Overall the entire activity is a proud exercise in my way of life.

2. What was the turning point in your life which made you chose CA as a career option for you?

I pursued LLB and Chartered accountancy simultaneously. The word "Chartered" itself motivated me to be a part of this fraternity. Once there was a weighty debate in the parliament regarding the use of this word "Chartered". It was criticised that it is colonial in nature. But that justifies why in the field of finance this is the only profession in India which has been bestowed with this charismatic word "Chartered". I was also impressed by the eminence of the "Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)", an autonomous body set up under the act of the Parliament. It is one of the top premier institute in India which carries international repute. Being a member of ICAI is at par as a partner in nation-building. Entrance for the CA course is one of the toughest examinations in India mostly with a qualifying percentage in single digit only. CA as a career option is worthwhile, whether you are in employment or in the profession.

3. How has your teaching experience so far at SITM?

Selection in SYMBIOSIS, either as a faculty or as a student itself is arduous. Students are demanding. In fact, they are on the verge of taking a big leap in the corporate space. Sharing the knowledge with SITM students in the class is always challenging as well as satisfying experience.

4. What inspirational message would you like to give to students of SITM?

Probably, I am not that senior in age to give a message to my students. Nevertheless, since I carry a bogie of corporate experience over two decades, let me advice students to grab knowledge to their possible extent and combine the textual knowledge with the experience of learned faculties at SITM. It will give them a solid foundation of the domain which will be helpful for them to create a stable career and blossom in a rewarding corporate horizon.

Canvas



It never gets easier, You just get better.

Photograph by
Sreejib Mukherjee
(Batch of 2018-20)

Student Connect - Student Speak



When I thought of getting into a top B-school with my technical knowledge, the first college that came into my mind was SITM. From walking into the campus on the day of GEPIWAT to present date, the faculty and seniors are taking efforts and providing us the platform where we can come out of our shell and explore what is within us. Lectures, Committee task, assignments and most importantly meeting deadlines all these in a single day is no doubt helping me to nurture my potential every day. Talking about the campus, it's like heaven on the earth, with the lush green surrounding; clouds touching your feet literally make you feel contented. Midnight Cafe is like a lifeline for all of us and it can beat CCD anyday. Last but not the least I am looking forward to maintaining the same level of vigour throughout the course and getting lifetime experience.

-Akash Warkhede, 1st year

SITM has provided me with the perfect platform to shape my career into the techno-management world. First and foremost, the campus is breath-taking. Situated on the hilltop, one gets filled with immense joy due to closeness with nature. Coming to academics, the faculties are always ready to lend a hand. The curriculum focuses more on practical knowledge rather than just bookish stuff. I got to know so much about what is exactly happening in the industry, as regular interaction sessions with eminent industry experts were conducted in the form of guest lectures. All the processes in the institute are student driven. This inculcated a sense of responsibility in me and taught me how to manage my tasks. A lot of focus is given on discipline which I feel is not stressed upon that much in other B-Schools. Another good thing I liked is that the institute goes an extra mile by getting all students certified to latest industry certifications like Revenue Assurance and many more. This took the level of my resume up. Wishing for halcyon days ahead!



- Aniket Patil, 1st year



Going away from my family and embracing a shift from corporate to college life is not an easy task for all and it wasn't for me as well. But, as the days went by, the faculty, the friends and the natural beauty at SITM ensured that there is never a dull moment in my life. Early mornings and late nights brought back the feel of my undergraduate college days. It has become like a home away from home for me. My first month at SITM was a happening one and truly lived up to my expectations. Talking about curriculum, the college is quite diverse in that. Faculties are highly experienced in both industry and academics, along with that they are very cooperative. To sum it up, I believe that SITM is not just one of the best niche schools in India has but is also one of its kinds when it comes to etiquettes and sophistication.

- Ayush Kulshresthal, 1st Year

It all started with an unnerving experience commonly known as the GEPIWAT round. Contrary to popular belief the event was really well managed with the students working perfectly in sync like a well-oiled machine. Well, as time passed the good news popped up in my mailbox and within the blink of an eye, I was a proud addition to the Symbiosis family.

My anticipation and speculations were put to rest once I walked in the campus and attended the induction program. This college provides us with an extremely promising future along with two years of unprecedented fun and frolic on the campus. With amazing opportunities like travelling to France or Germany or even Dubai, SITM has won my heart. The umbrella of Symbiosis has excellent faculty and an opportunity to implement our theoretical knowledge into practical experiences. I for one am really excited to move forward on this journey and let the petals of my carrier unfold one after the other.



-Barshekee Chanda, 1st year



It was a Friday evening when I entered the gates of Symbiosis International University. A feeling of rush, a feeling of excitement and enthusiasm all gushing in together. I was left awestruck when I entered the SITM campus at Lavale situated amidst lush greenery, it felt as if the college was offering an MBA in heaven. It was the first time that I was staying in a hostel. The next two days were pretty decent as I interacted with a lot of my batch mates. The following Monday saw the beginning of a new phase in my life. The college had barely begun and I saw myself appearing for four interviews in one week alone for various committees. To top it all I also was made the temporary class representative of my batch. Now I was not only concerned about my deadlines but also the batch's deadline. But as days passed I have learned or am learning something new every day, be it handling my batch or assignment deadlines. Also, the seniors have been very supportive and they make sure that we do not face the slightest of difficulties. When I came to SITM, little did I know that one day I would respect the true essence of this college which is discipline. Now I am looking forward to the surprises each day here at SITM throws at me with all vigour and passion.

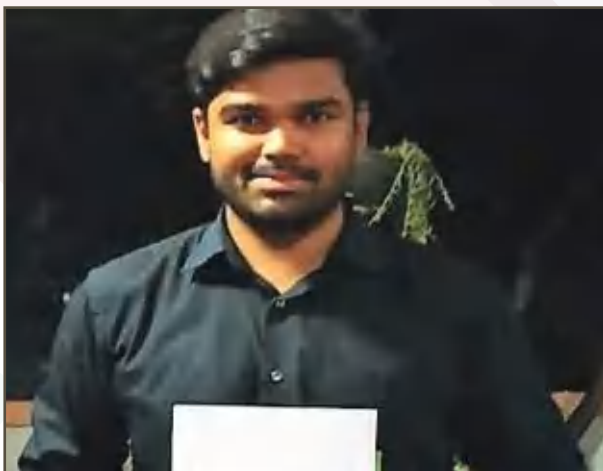
- Unnati Vora, 1st Year

Student Awards



2nd year students Nishita Poddar and Sarthak Dhar (Marketing & Finance) won 3rd price at MICA ICMC conference, Ahmedabad. They presented a paper titled "relationship between storytelling and brand retention with special reference to the commercial" at the conference.

2nd year student Mukul Mittal (Systems and Finance) is awarded the "DIRECTORS DEBUTANT AWARD" for scoring the highest percentile in SNAP for batch 2017-19.



2nd year student Vallabh Jagtap (Systems and Finance) is awarded the Kudos Award in E&Y during his internship.

Symconnect Experience



“With hundreds of MBA colleges, narrowing down to a single option becomes extremely difficult. A chance to interact with the current batch comes to a ray of light. SymConnect was exactly that. I got a chance to interact with seniors, I got a thorough understanding of the ethos of SITM. I understood how SITM as a brand is perceived in the Industry. SymConnect helped me in aligning my thoughts with the goals of the institution, which eventually helped me in making the right choice! Thanks to SITM and all the members of SymConnect programme, who guided me through my journey to SITM.”

- **Rohit P** (Year 1)

“Being a software engineer I wanted to do a management course but wasn’t very keen to give up on the technical world. So, generic MBA wasn’t an answer for me. I have heard about SITM being a leader in training ICT managers but attending SymConnect steered my head clear of all doubts. I got a chance to interact with the esteemed alumni of the institute and a group of hospitable seniors who addressed to even the slightest and silly doubts in my head. The interaction helped me to ensure my entry into SITM and be a part of this exciting journey”



- **Jyotsna Pathak** (Year 1)



“I always wanted to have the best of both worlds i.e. to be a techno-manager. SymConnect showed me how to do it over a cup of coffee at CCD, Pune. The interactions were not only engaging but fun too. The video of SITM and the experiences shared by seniors about enthralling campus life sealed SITM in my mind and made it my dream college. The questions regarding the GEPIWAT process was answered which helped me to prepare for the process. I am very thankful to the team for coming up with this wonderful event that helps the aspirant to understand what SITM truly stands for.”

- **Mukul Parashar** (Year 1)

“Coming from a mechanical engineering background and having an experience in the IT industry, I was very confused about which college to prefer. After attending Symconnect I was ensured that SITM is the best fit for me, that too not under any stressful but greatly amicable environment. A team of seniors presented a PPT informing about what exactly SITM has to offer and the audiovisual just took over me. The alumni I got a chance to interact with told about her college experience and what skill-set is required in the corporate world. All in all, Symconnect is a great platform to get the right insights of the college and the course prior to joining which an aspirant can get.”



Deepak Choubay, (Year 1)



Goodbyes that lead to a new phase of life

Goodbye is the true essence in the phrase "ALOHA". However, it certainly depicts "Till we meet again" in our dictionary. With every passing year, a new batch comes and an existing batch makes their way to explore the corporate lives. Senior students welcoming juniors and junior batch arranging a memorable farewell ceremony for their seniors has been a long-standing tradition of SITM.

After the roller coaster ride of these two years with some sweet victorious moments and anxiety, an "Oscar" themed farewell was just another cherry on the cake and another success story was then written in the history of SITM.

Prior to the D-day, the scribbling evening was celebrated which made the seniors pen down and paint the memories and nostalgia of the memorable two years. And the countdown for the D day ended which made everyone go in awe for the "Oscar" themed decorated campus and walked down the Walk of Fame. The batch was then showered with loving messages and guidance from the esteemed faculty members. The event was made interesting with Award presentations and some games in the middle pertaining to the memories the seniors have had in the campus. Emotions ran high as the evening came to a close. Altogether, it certainly was a night to remember and the Batch of 2016-18 walked into the night with memories to cherish and dreams to accomplish.



Aneesha Dalal

“Dance is her spirituality” says Aneesha Dalal. She believes that music and dance are the elevated forms of spirituality. They create energy. She further motivated people to believe that you have got to suppress your ego and know that you can never be perfect because you are always growing. In life, what your voice and words can’t convey, your body can. She speaks of dance therapy which uses your body to speak. She admires Govinda for how he dances from his soul. If your soul isn’t there you have got to find it somehow. She tried to inspire the crowd by sharing her experiences that if we see ourselves differently, all our fears would be evaporated. Unconsciously dance heals you. Everything in our lives is limitless. At the end she concluded that- “life is like a dance performance, curtain goes up, you start dancing, you stumble and fall but the show must go on.”

An animal behaviorist by profession, but he takes it as a passion. He started by explaining the relationship between nature and human beings. He highlighted that how society keeps pets as their status symbol or in a race to superiority. Mr. Sachdev talked about using innovation in improving the condition of stray dogs, not by culling them or by pushing them in another city but, has a plan for them. He gave some Insights about how animals have inspired him, and how to be passionate in life. He explained that, how the saying “Survival of the fittest” is not for the human world, it’s a saying taken from the animal world, by giving apt examples. Also, how half-baked information is harmful. In the end, he concluded that money & investment is not everything, there is a life to endure and should be given back to the society & nature, because we all are thinking beings, so follow your passion and enjoy what you are doing.



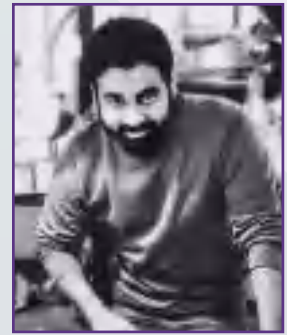
Manoor Sachdev



Punya Arora

Punya Arora, a photographer, stand-up comedian, an alumna and now even the youngest visiting faculty ever at Light and Life academy (Ooty) opens up by stating how photography chose her itself. The next marking point in her life came when the art of Comedy chose her and helped her learn the most valuable lessons in her life, for e.g. how anything and everything can be funny, if you choose to laugh about it. “Truth, honesty is way funnier” she quoted. True energy that you put forth is the one that eventually is reflected back to you. Funny comes from life, experience and honesty. “So what!?” this is an essential question one must ask himself while facing any negative criticism in life. Don’t let your spark or your curiosity fade away or simply stated, don’t let the kid inside you die. Bad things don’t happen TO you, they happen FOR you, so that you can be a better copy of yourself tomorrow.

Mithilesh Vazalwar is among 20 odd Indians and Aeropress championship winner who is a Q grader, a rare profession. A life of a Q grader is all about coffee roasting, brewing, and tasting, only 2-3% of people who appear are able to pass through it. Mr. Vazalwar says coffee has lots of research and chemistry involved in it. The taste of coffee depends upon the certain variables like climatic condition, water and it's soluble involved in coffee brewing which has to be in correct proportion to get the mind-blasting coffee taste. He talked about how the red cherry coffee bean is handpicked from farms and further, it is roasted to aromatic brown coffee beans which are monitored by the roasting graph to get the soul-satisfying taste of coffee. These days more of the brands, artist, and photographers are into coffee, making it a more serious thing rather than just a cool beverage. A coffee scoring above 80 falls under specialty and below 80 falls under the commercial thing. India is the next big market for coffee as Australia and the USA are already saturated.



Mithilesh Vazalwar

Having worked in Everest Brand Solutions Pvt Ltd and Ogilvy & Mather India, Mr. Mahesh Chauhan later went on to become the youngest CEO in advertising of Rediffusion Group in 2008, at the age of 39. Now leading his own firm, SALT Brand Solution, Mahesh, popularly known as Mash, in his talk, points out towards the 'desires' that lie between the real and the ideal self and how marketers today are manipulating people into buying things they don't even need just by targeting those desires of theirs. Mr. Chauhan then goes on to explain how our desires today have developed egos that has led to us being harder to please. He also explains how marketing today is based on a few components; spirituality, wellness and vanity being the major ones. Giving marketing a new perspective, he sums it up as a result of our desires.



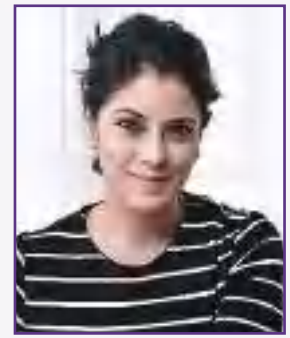
Mahesh Chauhan



Sonam Nair

Sonam Nair, an eminent entrant in the field of film direction delineated the evolution of Indian cinemas that she has witnessed over the past thirty years. Her insights on the change of the movie market and the proliferating demand of Indian audience over time and technology broadened our thinking process on the field. She touched the era of video cassettes where availability was a delicacy, then the period of emerging craze 'nfor big screens and multiplexes and finally the boom of digital media with its garland of short films, web series and documentaries moving along with mainstream film industry. She focused on the content in movie making as she believes that competition is an exponential parameter in today's market. She even stated about the success of her work on modern lifestyles, sexual awareness, and urban society. Her prominent short film "Khujli" got her a good recognition. She motivated us with her optimistic panorama on the changing market and enthused us by saying "Don't limit your dreams, your dream needs to keep on evolving, as the world is evolving but you can fulfill it".

“Investing gives you a voice and your voice matters”, says Mitali Mukherjee. Her TED Talk was specific to Millennial and their fossilized way of approach towards investing. She emphasized on financial literacy and came up with a solution of including financial investing conversations in education. She put forth a few thoughts briefing about technology where Millennial are inclined to, listing of goals with respect to short-term and long-term runs and having a positive attitude towards risk-taking and making mistakes. She unveiled about her experiences with children who are dyslexic and belong to economically challenged backgrounds. It was a conclusive end with a thought of investing ethically and supporting the heroes.



Mitali Mukherjee

AARAMBH 2018

Aarambh is a cultural extravaganza and rendezvous organized by Symbiosis International University (SIU) to bring people from different walks of life to come together and bring up their skills and showcase their talent. Symbiosis family has members from all over the world and the event witnesses a unique amalgamation of various cultures.

In Aarambh 2018, Symbiosis Institute of Telecom Management (SITM) displayed an astounding performance, just like every year. The theme which was undertaken this time - 'Mysfit' - was perfectly portrayed with the backdrop of a "Mental Asylum", which highlights the importance of the different people in the society and why everyone needs to be treated equally in the society. The performance of the students was much appreciated and allured the audience to contemplate upon the aspects of the society and created a long impression in their eyes.

Mrs. Ruchi Kher Jaggi, Director, Symbiosis Institute of Media and Communication (SIMC) was solicited as the chief guest for the event. The students were very much felicitated with the presence of Mr. Abhijeet Chirputkar, Director of SITM, and other Associate faculties who came in to inspire, cheer and elate the participants.

The Participants with all their passion, drive and focus put in tremendous efforts. The performers deserved the standing ovation they received in the auditorium, for their heart touching performance and won many hearts. SITM is veritably proud of the phenomenal pool of talent. The event was glorious and incredible, thanks to E-cell from SITM, the organizers of the event, who did an impressive job.



Mysfit: Grow up as a misfit to fit in.

Induction Programme

Yet another year and SITM Proudly welcomes its New Batch of MBA(TM) 2018-2020. The induction began on June 4th with an initiative to groom the overall personality of students and make them acquainted with the culture of the institution which they are bound to adhere for the next 2 years.

The aim of the programme was to ensure that every student feels welcomed, engaged and excited to begin this new important stage in their life. The idea was to make the students aware of their prospective opportunities and to show them the path they have to adopt in order to be successful.

The Programme started with the lamp lighting ceremony followed by the address by the Hon. Director Prof CA Abhijeet Chirputkar where they welcomed the students and advised them with their words of wisdom. Followed by a session on adopting "Beyond the classroom" technique of teaching by Dr.Pramod Damle. The Sessions were conducted in Bhaskaracharya Hall.

Yet another day and students were all set for a knowledgeable session scheduled for them for the day. It started with the kind words of Dr.Bagchi where he shared his knowledge on body weight management followed by lively Col. Sunil Brijkrishan, with his kind words the students were all mesmerized and full of positivity. He emphasized the importance of effective communication skills for managers. After the lunch break, it was Mr. Amit Satpathy followed by Mr. Deepak Pargaonkar who addressed the student gathering and made them aware of the emerging trends in the market. Then comes Mr.Kunal Bhatia and Mrs. Arunima Jaipuriyar where they touched upon Crowd sourced consulting delivery and emerging e-commerce market.

The last day of the induction programme started with one of the star alumnus of SITM Mr.Vishal Jain who talked about what the industry want from us and the emerging skill sets required to excel in the industry. Next in line was Mr.Harshal Pendse who talked about various kinds of techniques used by google in collecting user data and various announcements Google I/O 2018.Then comes Mr.Abhijeet Dutta followed by Mr.Ravindra Kelkar who proudly shared their experience when they were at SITM. Moving towards the end Mr.Rajan Dhawan discussed about the upcoming trends in the research industry like data integration and implicit measures. Mr.Nikhil Suranglikar gave his insights about the telecom industry in India.

Last but not the least was Mr.Rahul Sharma who was connected from Germany through a Skype Session. He proceeded with his session allowing students to ask various questions.



The Journey towards infinite possibilities starts today.

Inbound Activity

New place gives us new sights and insights. Having change as the only constant of life; we step into SITM embracing a new change. No danger, no hardship would get back this college life ever again. To begin our college life on a positive & spirited note, every year SITM organized "Inbound activity" on the 2nd day of our week-long induction program, powered by Empower India. It was introduced with an objective to efface the feeling of strangeness among the new batch & to pump everybody up with never give up attitude and face every situation with positivity come hell or high water.

Mr. Bharat and Mr. Anuj being the cofounders of the company along with other two members conducted gamut of activities in our college premises. They had planned various activities with an objective to impart some great values, teamwork, collaboration & perseverance to the students of batch 2018-20. They made us learn with fun. Experiential learning was the essence of the activity. Through different activities and games, we learned that alone we can do little, together we can do so much more, also allowing us to imbibe the importance of planning, team work and leadership within us. If we fail to plan, then we plan to fail. With an end to this eventful day, we embarked on a new journey of togetherness with an aim to create some values and differences.



Glory comes to those who fear nothing.

Icebreaker Matches

“Individually, we are a drop. Together, we are an ocean”. Ice Breaker’18 began with an exhilarating note with clash of the smartest minds of SITM. The matches between juniors and seniors reached fever pitch on all 3 days as they set the court on fire. They flung themselves into chess, badminton, table tennis and counter strike with full enthusiasm. The talented participants put their heart and soul into the games and proved that great things never come from comfort zones. It was wonderful to see that when it comes to sports, each participant did nothing by halves. It was a rollercoaster ride with loads of cheering and memories. The power packed event with maximum participation, definitely was an ice breaker between juniors and seniors because sometimes you win and sometimes you learn. They proved that they are stronger together.



Ain't no stopping us now.



The silence of the nature is very real, It surrounds you... you feel it.

Photograph by
Aniket Tamhane
(Batch of 2018-20)

Social Connect - The Blood Donation Camp



“A single pint of blood can save three lives; a single gesture can create a million smiles”

With such an inspiration in mind and a firm vision of eyes, SITM has always been a pathfinder with its innovative ways to uplift the grievances of the society. Like every year, SITM had organized a blood donation campaign at the SIU Lavale campus. SITM Plan to Act, Reach, Support and Heal (S.P.A.R.S.H.) has taken up many such initiatives to reach out to the social rancour with its abetting hand. Blood Donation camp is such an event organized by SPARSH to spread awareness among the upcoming generations to assess the value of a pint of blood.

Every year on 31st July, which happens to be the birth anniversary of Dr. Mujumdar, President & Founding Director, Symbiosis Society, SITM takes an initiative to organize a blood donation camp in SIU Lavale campus. SITM in collaboration with Symbiosis Centre for Health Care (SCHC) helped in setting up the camp at SIU convention hall. The blood collected in the camp went to two blood banks- Pune Blood Bank & Deendayal Memorial Hospital Blood Bank respectively. Students, staffs and other working professionals from different institutes of symbiosis took out some time from their compact schedule to be a part of this noble initiative. Almost 205 candidates showed up their enthusiasm and donated blood with extreme ardour, the event thus turned out to be a mass success in the campus.

One day prior to the event day, SPARSH organized a vehement act of Flash mob to promote and motivate the mass for the need for blood donation. The campus was furbished with relevant posters by the SPARSH members. Such initiatives help the student of SITM to move forward with an associative mind.

The Man In The Shadows - Suresh Kaka



Things are not ways what they seem, we generally see only a part of it and get carried with the fruitful results. But there is something more than we could ever know behind the scenes.

As Symbiosis Institute of Telecom Management (SITM) completes 22 years since its inception, has emerged as the top B-school in India for Telecom. We tend to thank the stalwart and tireless efforts of all the faculties, but we miss the main pillars of SITM, the unsung heroes, who work hard relentlessly in the background – ‘the kakas’!

It was inspirational interviewing the man, in charge of all kaka’s in SITM who is a firm believer of never say die attitude. He is one of the veteran’s here in SITM and is an integral part of Symbiosis family for 22 years as of now.

Yes, we are talking about Suresh Kaka, the senior most kaka in SITM.

He starts his day traveling all the way from Vishranth wadi, 20kms far from college. Beginning from 9 o’ clock in the morning till 6 o’ clock in the evening, sometimes even till 7 o’ clock depending on the lectures, His duty starts with opening the faculty cabin doors, maintaining the files and other documents, rushing tirelessly across the academic and faculty blocks. Meanwhile, in this busy schedule when he gets some time to relax, he collects stones, papers, and other stuff and make it into a prepossessing material and in fact have a wide collection of arts and crafts in the pantry room.

When asked about his equation with faculties, he answered they treat him as their brother and give at most respect for every work he does and compliments for his arts and crafts. He also added he has uncountable memorable moments shared with them.

Talking about his personal life, he lives with his wife and two daughters. When asked about the best batch of SITM he has ever seen, he quickly answered that all students to him are like his two daughters Mitali and Kavya.

The Best thing that stood out while interviewing him was the smile he had and the euphoria he had while recollecting his memories and relation with faculties and students. Having worked for 20 years in the shadows, he is looking forward to working the same for the betterment of SITM and contribute more to achieve more and more heights.

Upcoming Events

- Communique'18
- SymConnect-Aspirant Interaction Programme
- Reconnect'18-Mumbai Chapter

Faculty Mentors



Prof. Abhijeet Chirputkar
Director, SITM



Mrs. Bhakti Vyawahare
Corporate Interface Officer, SITM

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