



The South Indian Association's
The S.I.A. College of Higher Education
Affiliated to University of Mumbai
Accredited B+ by NAAC
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AbhiPrerna Report

Date: 25th February, 2022

AbhiPrerna 2022, an initiative under Department of Management Studies was inaugurated on 25th February, 2022. The idea behind AbhiPrerna is to bring achievers and role models from varied disciplines like social work, sports, business, defence, humanities etc. to share their stories, achievements and struggles with the students. AbhiPrerna aims to ***Engage, Inspire & Ignite*** the students to aspire big and achieve their dreams.

The inaugural session of the Talk show was conducted in the college auditorium on 25th February, 2022. A total of 210 students attended the session. The event was also broadcasted online through Microsoft Live. The speakers for the inaugural session were Mr. Mahesh Patil, Social worker and history enthusiast and Mr. Gajanand Vaidya, cyclist, trekker and adventure sports aficionado. The total attendance in the online session was 97 .

Mr. Mahesh Patil is a dedicated social worker whose inclination towards serving the society was visible even at a very young age. While he was still in school, he would teach science to the visually impaired students at Victoria School. His work and efforts have been recognized in the form of several medals and awards. He was awarded silver medal by Mumbai City Social Education Committee. He has been felicitated by the Chief minister of Maharashtra, Mr. Vasant Dada Patil, and Vice admiral Mr. Manohar Awati. On the occasion of international year for youth, Sir was awarded by the President of India, Gyani Zail Singh in 1985.

Mr. Mahesh Patil shared his life story, achievements and struggles with the students. Giving his own example of assembling a transistor out of a kit map while in high school, he stressed on the importance of curiosity for a learner. His initial jobs enabled him to explore Mumbai and find his calling. During this time, he visited several historical places in Maharashtra like Raigad, Pratapgad and other historical forts. This led him to establish the Youth Hostel Association in Dombivli. This organisation enables its members to travel all over Maharashtra and India at nominal rates.

As a social worker, he played an active role in organising blood donation camps, tree plantation drives etc. He exhorted the students to engage in service of others with a selfless attitude or Nishkama Bhava. Later, he was also elected as a member of the managing committee of Abhinav Sahakari Bank Dombivli. However soon, fortune turned for the worse as his business of

pharmaceutical franchisee closed down leading to debt and complete bankruptcy. He was further cheated of a huge sum of money and was unemployed for one and half years. Though negative thoughts occurred to him during this dark phase of life, the responsibility of children and family kept him going. He reminded the students never to surrender before the difficulties. ***‘Tough times don’t last. Tough people do.’***

He had to start once again from zero as a fabric salesman. He implored the students to respect every profession and value ***‘Dignity of work’***. Networking and communication skills that he had honed earlier helped him to become a successful sales and marketing professional. Slowly but surely he could once again bounce back into financial stability and recover from the earlier loss.

Using his vast knowledge of history, Sir peppered his talk with anecdotes from the life of Chhatrapathi Shivaji Maharaj, Sambhaji Raje, Tarabai Shinde and Rajaram Maharaj. He has researched, written and published three books on the history of Maharashtra and Rajasthan. According to him, the major qualities that one should imbibe in life are steadfastness, curiosity, dedication, resilience and courage. Also, in any profession or trade, one should engage in the in-depth study of the field.

The second speaker for AbhiPrerna 2K22 was Mr. Gajanand Vaidya. Mr. Gajanand Vaidya is a seasoned trekker, cyclist and a mountaineer. He has completed more than two hundred and twenty-five historical fort treks in Maharashtra and has led more than 600 trekking campaigns. He has participated and led several long-distance cycling treks to Kanyakumari and other regions in India.

Mr. Gajanand Vaidya started his talk by imploring the audience to appreciate the abundance and vastness of Nature. ***Being actually in the natural habitat, makes one develop a holistic sensitivity towards Nature.*** Sir came from a humble background with him being the first person in his family to complete matriculation and attend college. His father supported him throughout his life and encouraged him to succeed.

Kothligad, Peth was the first fort that he visited during college. This experience developed in him a passion for trekking and mountain climbing. A vital challenge he faced was to create a group of like-minded individuals sharing similar interests especially in the absence of social media. One of the initial ***long distance cycling treks*** that he led, included group of ***six people travelling from Kalyan to Kanyakumari in 1996 in 45 days***. It was their dedication and perseverance that helped them, overcome all the logistical challenges and language issues such as dealing with the locals and understanding the non – English signs in milestones, etc.

Sir noted that it is dedication and consistency of efforts that enables a person to achieve something special and succeed in life. If our efforts are genuine and we are committed to the goals the Grace of the Almighty will definitely help us reach the other shore. He has led cycling treks for 37 consecutive years.

His curiosity and love for Nature made him work as a Sarp Mitra. One of the incredible experiences that he shared was when he led a cycling trek to Ladakh at an altitude of 18000 feet, in what was then the highest motorable road in India. They were overwhelmed by the welcome that they received from the locals and the tourists. Sir left the audience with the following mantras for success:

- Aim to do something special in life.
- Build an identity for yourself.
- Trust in almighty.
- Be consistent and steadfast in your efforts.
- Work with determination and focus.
