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DRIVE

Editor's Note

On completion of 11 years, when we look back, it has truly been a long ride of thrill and joy, immense amount of satisfaction that we could give and contribute in the best possible manner.

Starting with mere 100 students and 5 faculty reaching today community of mighty 1100 students and more than 30 faculty. Number of students who have graduated from SEMCOM since inception has reached 1870, and facilities have increased manifold. We have invested more than Rs 40 lacs into books, journals, periodicals so far.

The powerful punch line "what we think, others don't" has really created magical impact on all of us taking many unique initiatives for quality education such as - creative admission process for BBA students, Personalized counseling of students, transparent relationship with parents, experiential learning, and focus on developing right attitude in addition to knowledge and skills, institutionalizing quality through ISO certification, thereby generating a stimulating learning environment.

We, together, have been able to encourage our students to give their best of the performance, not only in academics, but also other aspects of life. So far, our students have secured 14 Gold Medals at various programs of study at the University examinations. 6 times the college has remained Champion – first and second at the University Youth Festival, number of times Champion at the Sports at the University level, number of times our students have shown their sensitivity towards society in critical times.

We carry the honour of being the first college of this campus having the web site in the year 1999, the first college of Gujarat receiving ISO certification, the first college in the Western parts of India coming out with BBA (Hons) in Information Technology Management, the first college of India coming out with Master's in E-Commerce and E-Business, the first college of Asia creating on-line cyber law clinic. And, today, we are creating a history taking this annual Day celebration LIVE on the internet. These are some of the milestones which have made SEMCOM DISTINCT from others.

Our students are charged with a fire to do something great, unique in their life, and we, the faculty, have emerged to be more of mentors and facilitators than merely teachers.

The college has accolades from many sections of the society, but truly epitomized by our own H'ble Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi – “SEMCOM – the institution developed and managed by Charutar Vidya Mandal, through innovation, has face-lifted the concept of education and within a short span, has become a known institution for the meaningful learning in the region.”

This has been possible due to the result of patience, perseverance, and passion driven by a mantra called “pursuit of Excellence” – the mantra given by our H'ble Chairman sir who ignites our minds to give best of us to our students, both in terms of imparting education and enriching their experience. His confidence in us, his continuous guidance have enabled us to realize that opportunities are limitless, where faculty can take up challenges without fears and students bring out their potentials without tears.

We promise to continue to grow with the same spirit in the coming years and make the college a springboard for our students' progress, and prosperity.

Dr Nikhil Zaveri

Union Budget 2008-09:

Some Comments



Dr G S Gupta
IIM, Ahmedabad

1. Indian economy is on a high growth path of over 8 per cent since 2003-04 and the budget 2008-09 is in the right perspective. Its emphasis on inclusive growth and merit goods (education and health) is well founded. Proposal for establishing more IITs and Central Universities is very encouraging.
2. Performance of agriculture has been fluctuating and weak. Accordingly, the budget's initiative to raise the investment rate in this sector so as to enhance its relative contribution to GDP is welcome.
3. The inclusive growth impetus requires helping farmers, as all other financially weaker sections of the society. However, waiving of bank loans for all farmers (full for marginal and small, and partial for others) does not appear to be a sound policy. This is for three reasons:

(a) Waivers are often followed by future loans and subsequent defaults, as people get used to such free gifts.

(b) There is no income tax on agricultural income and a part of the farmers' loans have been used for personal expenditures, such as marriages and other social celebrations. Rebate of 25 per cent on return of 75 per cent of debts to even large farmers is certainly unwarranted.

(c) Farmers in rural areas hardly have access to bank loans and thus they borrow from money lenders at exorbitant rates. They are the marginal and small farmers, and often in distress, and yet they are left uncovered in this waiver scheme.

Finance Minister could have come out with some innovative idea to assist weak farmers.

4. It is heartening to note that the various deficits are on the lower trend, albeit the unaccounted oil, food and fertilizer bonds. However, we are still deviating from the FRBM (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management) Act. It is true that economists, unlike the accountants, do not insist on budget

balancing on yearly basis but we still believe in inter-temporal government budget constraint, popularly known as fiscal sustainability, and the FRBM is to honour that constraint. In spite of booming tax proceeds, the budget has failed to do away with the revenue deficit.

5. In the quest to adhere to the FRBM Act, the Finance Minister is trying to control the government expenditures. This is fine. However, the axe is on the wrong side as it falls more on the capital expenditure than on the revenue expenditure. This is seen in the data which suggest that the share of capital expenditure in total expenditure has gone down from 22.8 per cent in 2004-05 to 17.0 per cent in revised estimates 2007-08 and to 12.4 per cent in Budget estimates 2008-09. It is good to note that the share of the plan expenditure is on rise.
6. The increase in the tax-GDP ratio and the reduction in most tax rates are noteworthy achievements of the UPA government. This would motivate people and firms to work longer, harder and smartly which is the need of this country. However, it is hard to believe that direct tax proposals are revenue neutral. The fear is more due to the impending recession in USA and the fate of our stock market in recent weeks.

In conclusion, the budget is good and we hope the Finance Minister is able to meet his commitments to farmers and other weaker sections of the society, achieve his numbers with regard to fiscal and revenue deficits, and impress the voters to give another term to the UPA government.

11th Annual Day Report:

Throughout the academic year SEMCOM takes strenuous efforts in pursuance of academic excellence and in achieving the desired result ultimately. But at the same time it is well aware of the fact that working without any break makes life monotonous and tedious thereby affecting the end result. So every now and then it takes the required break to relax, rejuvenate and renew its strength and energy and to critically analyze its achievements and performances. There must be a special moment/occasion to savor/relish all these at one place and at a particular time.

The Annual Day held on February 4, 2008 was that grand, unforgettable and the most cherished event. It was celebrated with pomp and grandeur. An atmosphere of exultation and exhilaration infused the campus. The vibrant, solemn and buoyant atmosphere was infectious and tangible.

The Chief Guest for the memorable occasion was Swami Anubhavananda, the founder of Sat Bhavana Trust. His speech was inspirational and enlightening, warming many towards his conception of life and his attitude towards the highly competitive world. His suave and witty address filled the audience with a new release of life and energy. The way he delivered his philosophy on leadership and management was a stunning revelation of what a man under of garb of simplicity can achieve and contribute with his gift of the gab.

Principal, Dr. Nikhil Zaveri, presented the report on academic, placement and other developmental activities in the college. The college achieved a result of 97% average in all streams.

Four students got university gold medals in various disciplines. The college had won championships at sports tournaments and Youth Festival (among 52 colleges). The Vice President of Students' Council Mr. Rajesh Modi gave a report of the different activities held during the academic year 2007 – 2008 in the college.

SEMCOM acts as a foster parent towards its students and as a true parent takes immense pride and joy in acknowledging the potentials and accomplishments of its children. Knowing full well that bounteous God and magnanimous nature have bestowed man with a vast pool of talents and skills, SEMCOM provides the students with the best opportunities which bring to surface the potentials of the students. And in due recognition of their accomplishment it gives away prizes and awards. These prizes and awards boost the morale of the students thereby edging them to do their best. The deserving students were motivated with prizes and awards and they felt privileged and blessed to receive them from the Chief Guest, Swami Anubhavananda and the Chairman, Dr C L Patel.

Ms Waheeda Sheikh
Sr. Lecturer, SEMCOM

Awards 2007-08:

SEMCOM always serves as a launching pad from students take off for a better living and bright and promising career. Man with the help of his inherent talents and skills invested in him by God and nature strives to progress himself and that of the society wherein he lives thereby making the world a better place to live in. But every now and then opportunities must be provided to enable these latent talents to surface and when they are brought to limelight it is only right that due recognition, applause and commendation be given. SEMCOM takes pride in letting the world know that it provides students with the best opportunities which will help them to articulate their feelings, opinions and conceptions in the best possible way.

During the academic year 2007 – 2008 SEMCOM has achieved great things and attained great heights. Students of SEMCOM have taken tremendous efforts to excel in various fields thus bringing glory and honour to their parents, themselves and ultimately to the college. Such students are the shining/twinkling precious gems in the royal diadem of the college. SEMCOM takes immense pleasure in honouring these students for their unfathomable contribution and achievement. The prizes and awards will not only encourage them to do better still but also inspire other students to achieve and attain the same.

SEMCOM teems with such brilliant students.

1. SHINING STARS

There are students who like the bright morning star outshine others by their distinct endeavours. By their achievements they dispel darkness to usher in an era of enlightenment and academic awakening.

1. Nishit Patel
2. Neal Patel
3. Priyanka Pamnani
4. Sunita Das
5. Kumpal Devdhara
6. Gayatri Vichare
7. Giriraj Patel
8. Hursh Patel

2. SCROLL OF HONOUR

Each nation has its own history wherein is written the heroic deeds of its great men. SEMCOM has its own unique chronicle and it is only too proud to boast of its magnificent existence so far and see it expand day by day. It has its own students who by their outstanding performance are worthy to be etched in the annals of the college.

1. Mahim Chauhan
2. Rahul Rathi
3. Ajay Meghani
4. Jaydev Ardesna
5. Ankita Mishra

6. Atit Shah
7. Kinjal Bagadia
8. Pradeep Patel
9. Nikunj Patel
10. Mulraj Jadeja
11. Vimal Sadiwala
12. Brijesh Patel
13. Sukruti Bhatt
14. R. Gitanjali
15. Rishikesh
16. Jaysh Boricha

3. JEWELS OF SEMCOM (Students)

A crown is made more valuable and beautiful by different precious gems of different values and significance. There are students who like the different valuable gems adorn the royal tapestry of SEMCOM.

1. Maulik Dhakan
2. Swati Goswani
3. Rahul Bhatnagar
4. Niraj Purohit
5. Arpit Goyal
6. Kushal Dalal
7. Charmi Patel
8. Hiral Patel
9. Bency Babu
10. Keyur Patel
11. Ashish Jain (MEb)
12. Nilkanth Dave (MEb)
13. Pankaj Yadav (MEb)

14. Nividh Jain (MEb)

4. GRANDMASTER OF SEMCOM

SEMCOM has its own vast pool of talents. When India is proud of its Grandmaster, Viswanath Anand, SEMCOM is also proud of its Grandmaster Druvrajsingh Zhala who has brought many laurels to the college having participated in various competitions.

5. SOCIAL SENSITIVITY AWARD

SEMCOM believes in all round personality development. Even while imparting academic excellence to its students it does not forget its most important obligation which is service to its society and mankind. It nurtures and instills the same in its students.

Bhavik Patel (MeB-I) was given Social Sensitivity Award for his extraordinary concern for society and mankind.

6. ORATOR OF THE DECADE

The world has witnessed the toppling of kingdoms and empires and the culprits brought to justice by the fiery speeches of great men. SEMCOM takes great delight in honouring Siddharth Bhatt with the Orator of the Decade award for having represented the college in various competitions thereby bringing glory and recognition for the college.

7. ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Students bubble with life, enthusiasm and energy. The energy must be properly channelized and compartmentalized. Keeping this in mind it organizes different activities to make full use of its resource. It does not stop here. It takes efforts to acknowledge the talents of students in various fields. SEMCOM is happy to award Nitesh Adeshra (Male) and Mudra Patel (Female) with Achievement Award for their active participation and achievements in different fields.

8. BEST STUDENT AWARD

Valay Patel (TYBCA – Male) and Ankita Parikh (TYBCA – Female); Shivani Maheswari (TYBCOM – Female) were given the Best Student Award for their active participation in various activities and for their unequalled and noteworthy performance and contribution.

9. OUTSTANDING PERSONALITY OF SEMCOM

SEMCOM aims at all round personality development. It desires to see its students being well informed, equipped and accomplished in all fields. It likes to honour students who strive towards this goal. Digna Patel (TYBBA) and Arti Amin (TYBCOM) were given this award for their exceptional attitude towards betterment of themselves and college.

10. SCROLL OF HONOURS (Parents)

It is an undeniable fact parents play a major role in the development and progress of their children. Their duty does not end in enrolling their children in the best schools and colleges. In fact their role begins only after getting their children admitted into the best schools and colleges. Parents who realise their duties and obligations are very valuable to the smooth functioning of the college.

1. Dipak Mehta
2. Kanubhai Patel
3. Siddharth Patel
4. H. V. Patel

11. ENLIGHTENED PARENTS AWARD

Dr. Pradeep R Patel and Mrs & Mr Dinesh Patel (Parents of Mudra) were honoured with Enlightened Parents Award for having quite well their implication, duty and obligation as parents.

12. ENLIGHTENED PATRON OF SEMCOM

No man is an island. Similarly, no institute can run/function smoothly without any external aid. It constantly needs the unfailing help and support of people who will render their service without any inhibition and expecting nothing in return. SEMCOM is very grateful to Mr Mehul Patel, Sanket Sales, Anand, for his patronage and likes to felicitate him with

the Enlightened Patron of SEMCOM award.

13. ELECON CHALLENGER AWARD

Elecon group of companies have been sponsoring aids to deserving students excelling in studies in spite of their economical and social constraints. Rohan Buch (FYBCOM – Male) and Anushri Uniyal (SYBBA – Female) were given this award for their outstanding academic performance. Each was given a laptop.

14. ENLIGHTENED ALUMNI OF SEMCOM

Very few people remember with gratitude what their institutes have contributed to the betterment of their lives. Two such people are Ketav Patel and Rushabh Patel. They were our former students who render their valuable and indispensable service to the college and have not forgotten that their roots are still in SEMCOM and have forgotten the people who played immeasurable roles in their lives by grooming them for a bright and successful life. These students were given the Enlightened Alumni of SEMCOM award.

15. EXCELSIOR OF SEMCOM

Two of SEMCOM alumni were awarded with SEMCOM Excelsior Award for their outstanding and noteworthy achievement

in their workplaces within a very short span of time. Ms. Nikita Kaul who was recognized by The Times of India group as an “emerging young Indian woman” in March 2008, was one of them. The award was given in recognition of her social sensitiveness and concerns for the needy and poor people for whom she works through SEVA Trust, Ahmedabad. Mr. Priyang Patel, Vice President, Operation and Revenue Generation at PanaMax Co. Ltd, was given this award for his exceptional contribution and achievement.

18. SEMCOM'S OUTSTANDING ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Students of SEMCOM do not fail to carry out with them what they acquired during their years of study. Rather they carry the torch of learning thereby letting the whole world know of their accumulation of knowledge and when confronted and challenged they know how to convert their knowledge to wisdom. They like the lighthouse shine brightly and excel in whatever they undertake. Ms. Bansari Patel was given this award for her excellence in entrepreneurship and for her noteworthy profit making achievement with TATA Indicom Services.

Ms Nishrin Pathan
Lecturer, SEMCOM

SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL'S WIT AND HUMOUR

The architect of independent India is mostly thought of as a tough and stern man. Most of us, even those who have read and known Sardar think of him as a stout and austere man with little sense of humor. This, however, would not go well with those who have been closely associated with Sardar during his life. I wish to recount before you a few incidents that bring out the lighter side of this tough man's persona. These are incidents narrated by some of the close associates of Sardar of which Shri Chimanbhai Patel, son of Bhaikaka and Mr. Duleep Mathai deserve a special mention.

When Sardar was a primary school student, once his teacher punished him and asked him to write down tables and bring them to school the following day. The teacher asked to do something and Sardar blindly did; this would rarely happen. Sardar did not bring the tables and when the teacher enquired why he had not brought the tables, Sardar replied, "Sir, I wanted to bring the tables but there is no place in this class-room to put any more tables!"

In another incident during the Bardoli Satyagraha, Sardar was addressing a gathering in a village. As Sardar made his point, a few buffaloes, sitting a little away

from the gathering bellowed. Sardar, very present mindedly, said, "Even these buffloes do not like the British. The British Government is already baffled with our agitation. I wonder, how would it stand the protest of these buffaloes!"

In another incident in Ahmedabad, as Sardar was walking on the street he met an acquaintance who was going to meet Mahatma Gandhi. Sardar enquired why was he going to meet Bapu. The man replied he wanted to talk to Bapu on *Bhramcharya*. Sardar instantly said, "Bapu is not the right person to talk about *Bhramcharya*. You rather talk about it to me. Bapu has five children and his wife his also alive. I have only two children, my wife died long ago and I haven't even remarried. I am a better *Bhramchari*!"

Sardar's life is too full of incidents that bring out his wit and humor. It is for us to discover the more pleasant an tougher side of this man seemingly tough leader yet beloved leader of ours.

Siddharth Bhatt
4YBBA-ITM