

SIES College of Management Studies – IQAC Meeting

Report (18 July 2025)

Meeting Details

- **Date:** 18th July 2025
- **Time:** 10:30 AM
- **Venue:** Kalpvriksha Conference Room (Ground Floor, SIESCOMS)
- **Convener:** Dr. Madhavi Dhole (I/C Director and IQAC Chairperson)
- **Attendees:**
 - Dr. Madhavi Dhole – I/C Director & IQAC Chairperson (Convener)
 - Dr. Shilpa – Faculty Coordinator, IQAC
 - Dr. Ira – Faculty Member, IQAC
 - Mr. Subramaniyan Neelakandan – Industrialist Nominee, IQAC Member
 - Dr. Vishwanathan – Management Nominee, IQAC Member
 - Dr. Abhishek – Faculty Member, IQAC
 - Prof. Dipti – Faculty Member, IQAC
 - Ms. Manisha – I/C Registrar, IQAC Member

Agenda

1. **Confirmation of previous IQAC meeting minutes** – Review and approval of the minutes of the last meeting.
2. **Commencement of Academic Year (MMS & MCA programs)** – Discussion on the start of the new academic year for MMS and MCA courses.
3. **Planning for Academic Year 2025–26 (Faculty and Students)** – Plans and preparations for the upcoming academic year, covering initiatives for faculty and students.
4. **New Initiatives for 2025–26 (Faculty and Students)** – Introduction of new academic and co-curricular initiatives for the year 2025–26 targeting faculty development and student development.

5. **MCA Departmental Plan (25-Year Milestone)** – Deliberation on plans to commemorate the MCA department's 25-year completion (silver jubilee).
6. **Any Other Business** – Any additional issues or suggestions with the permission of the Chair.

Proceedings

- **Opening:** Dr. Madhavi Dhole (Convener and Chairperson) welcomed all members to the meeting and set the agenda. She emphasized the objectives of the session and the importance of each agenda item.
- **Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** Dr. Shilpa (IQAC Faculty Coordinator) presented the minutes and the Action Taken Report (ATR) from the previous IQAC meeting. The committee reviewed these documents, and they were unanimously approved by all members.
- **Commencement of New Academic Year:** Dr. Shilpa informed the committee about the commencement of the new academic year for the MMS and MCA programs. Key dates and preparations for starting the academic year were discussed, ensuring that both **Master of Management Studies (MMS)** and **Master of Computer Applications (MCA)** programs begin smoothly.
- **Planning for AY 2025–26:** As part of planning for the upcoming academic year 2025–26, several new initiatives were outlined for both faculty and students:
 - **Faculty Development Initiatives:** Two major initiatives were introduced for faculty members to enhance academic and research capabilities:
 - *NEP Implementation Strategies* – Strategies to implement the **National Education Policy (NEP)** in curriculum and teaching methods.
 - *AI Tools for Research* – Training sessions on leveraging Artificial Intelligence tools in academic research.
 - **Student Development Initiatives:** Multiple initiatives were planned to enrich student learning and exposure beyond the classroom:
 - *Student Research Conferences* – Opportunities for MMS and MCA students to present research papers and engage in peer dialogue.
 - *Guest Expert Sessions* – Domain-specific knowledge-sharing sessions featuring industry and academic experts.
 - *Project Work on Indian Knowledge Systems* – Guided projects and presentations focusing on Indian Knowledge Systems.

- *Domain-Specific Conclaves* – Subject-area conclaves to deepen knowledge in specific fields.
 - *Start-Up Pitch Deck Competition* – A competition to encourage entrepreneurial ideas, problem-solving skills, and investor-readiness among students.
 - *Generative AI Training* – Immersive training sessions on the use and ethics of generative AI technologies in academic and professional settings.
- **MCA 25-Year Milestone:** The committee acknowledged that the MCA department is marking its 25th year. Preliminary plans to commemorate this **25-year milestone** were noted, and it was agreed that detailed activities and celebrations would be planned to honor this significant achievement for the department.
 - **Placement Enhancement Initiatives:** Dr. Ira (IQAC faculty member) introduced a series of initiatives aimed at enhancing student employability and professional readiness. The committee discussed the following training programs to better prepare students for placements:
 - *SAP for Finance* – Training students on SAP software applications in financial management.
 - *SAP for Operations* – Training on SAP applications in operations and supply chain management.
 - *Advanced Software Tools* – Workshops on tools such as Power BI, Tableau, R Programming, and SPSS to improve analytical and technical skills.
 - *Soft Skills & Personality Development* – Programs to improve communication, teamwork, and professional etiquette.
 - *Group Discussion & Personal Interview Training* – Sessions to train students for group discussions, personal interviews, and aptitude tests commonly used in recruitment.
 - *Technical Interview Skills* – Domain-specific technical interview preparation conducted by industry experts to help students excel in technical rounds.
 - **Industry Input – Seminars and Entrepreneurship:** Mr. Subramaniam Neelakandan (Industrialist Nominee, IQAC member) proposed organizing **domain-specific seminars** for MCA students. He suggested that seminars focused on relevant industry domains would give students exposure to various business processes and current industry practices. In addition, Dr. Vishwanathan (Management Nominee, IQAC member) recommended further encouraging student **entrepreneurial acumen**. In response, Dr. Abhishek and Prof. Dipti (IQAC faculty members) shared the institute's existing practices and programs that support student

entrepreneurship, highlighting that entrepreneurship development is already an area of focus at SIESCOMS. Dr. Vishwanathan commended these efforts and emphasized looking for new ways to nurture and recognize student startups and innovations.

- **Collaboration with Industry Association:** Dr. Vishwanathan further suggested exploring a collaboration with the **Thane-Belapur Industrial Association**. Such a collaboration could provide additional industry exposure, internships, and networking opportunities for students and faculty. The committee agreed that partnering with an industry association in the region would be valuable, and this idea will be investigated for feasibility and mutual benefits.
- **Infrastructure – SAP Laboratory:** Mr. Subramaniyan inquired about the existence of an **SAP laboratory** on campus for hands-on training in enterprise resource planning tools. He pointed out that having a dedicated SAP lab could greatly benefit students in gaining practical experience. The committee discussed possible approaches to establish such a lab and potential support or partnerships needed for its implementation. This item was noted as a potential development project, pending further review of resources and requirements.
- **Support for MDP and Consultancy Projects:** Dr. Madhavi Dhole addressed the challenges the institute faces in conducting **Management Development Programs (MDPs)** and consultancy projects. These challenges include securing industry participation and faculty bandwidth for these programs. She requested Mr. Subramaniyan's assistance in identifying opportunities and providing industry support to bolster SIESCOMS's MDP and consultancy offerings. Mr. Subramaniyan agreed to leverage his industrial network to help facilitate more projects and collaborations in this area.
- **Alumni Scholarship Announcement:** Dr. Madhavi also highlighted a recent success in alumni engagement – students received a financial scholarship totaling **₹1,75,000** from the 25th alumni batch of SIESCOMS. This scholarship fund, contributed by alumni, recognizes student excellence and provides financial support. The committee appreciated the alumni's contribution and discussed the importance of continuing to strengthen alumni relations for such initiatives.
- **Staff Development:** Dr. Vishwanathan suggested the institute should invest in **upskilling non-teaching staff** to improve overall productivity and operational efficiency. This includes providing training for administrative and support staff in relevant skills and technologies. The committee acknowledged this recommendation, noting that empowering non-teaching staff is vital for institutional quality improvement. In line with enhancing professional development, Dr. Madhavi encouraged Ms. Manisha (I/C Registrar and IQAC member) to pursue a Ph.D. Dr. Madhavi emphasized that supporting further education for staff and faculty members is important for personal growth and the institution's academic environment. Ms. Manisha was

appreciative of the encouragement, and the committee concurred on promoting a culture of continuous learning among employees.

Key Highlights

- **Unanimous Approval of Previous Minutes:** The minutes and action-taken report of the previous IQAC meeting were reviewed and approved by all members without amendments.
- **Academic Year Kick-off:** Plans for the commencement of the new academic year were confirmed for both MMS and MCA programs, ensuring readiness for incoming and returning students.
- **New Faculty Initiatives:** The committee introduced new professional development initiatives for faculty, including strategies to implement the National Education Policy (NEP) and training in advanced AI tools for research, aiming to enhance teaching and research quality.
- **New Student Initiatives:** A comprehensive set of student-centric initiatives was outlined for 2025–26. These include research conferences for student paper presentations, expert guest lectures, projects on Indian Knowledge Systems, academic conclaves, a start-up pitch competition, and training in generative AI – all designed to enrich student learning and skills beyond the regular curriculum.
- **Placement Readiness Programs:** Specialized training modules were discussed to boost student employability, such as SAP software training (Finance and Operations), hands-on experience with analytical tools (Power BI, Tableau, R, SPSS), soft skills and personality development workshops, coaching for group discussions and interviews (including aptitude tests), and technical interview preparation by industry experts.
- **Recommendations by IQAC Members:** External and management representatives on the IQAC put forward valuable suggestions, including conducting domain-specific seminars for MCA students to bridge academic learning with industry practices, and enhancing support for student entrepreneurship initiatives. Collaborating with the Thane-Belapur industrial association was highlighted as a strategic move to strengthen industry links. Additionally, the idea of establishing an on-campus SAP laboratory was discussed to provide practical training for students.
- **Addressing MDP and Consultancy Challenges:** The IQAC acknowledged current challenges in executing Management Development Programs and consultancy projects. Support from industry partners, facilitated by IQAC members like Mr. Subramaniyan, was identified as a way to expand these activities.

- **Alumni Engagement Success:** An alumni-sponsored scholarship of ₹1,75,000 was announced, contributed by the 25th alumni batch of SIESCOMS. This was a key highlight showcasing alumni engagement in supporting student development.
- **Focus on Staff Development:** The importance of upskilling non-teaching staff was recognized as a means to improve institutional efficiency. Furthermore, the Chairperson encouraged academic advancement for staff, exemplified by motivating the I/C Registrar to pursue doctoral studies.

Recommendations

Based on the discussions during the meeting, the following recommendations and action items were identified for implementation:

- **Organize Domain-Specific Seminars:** Plan and conduct seminars in relevant industry domains for MCA students to provide them with exposure to real-world business processes and contemporary practices.
- **Encourage Student Entrepreneurship:** Continue to foster and expand support for student entrepreneurial initiatives. Leverage existing entrepreneurship programs and introduce new opportunities (e.g., incubator support, mentorship) to nurture student start-ups and innovation.
- **Industry Collaboration:** Explore a formal collaboration with the Thane-Belapur Industrial Association (or similar industry bodies) to enhance industry-academia linkages, including internships, expert talks, and joint events.
- **Establish an SAP Laboratory:** Evaluate the feasibility of setting up an SAP training laboratory on campus. This facility would allow hands-on learning of enterprise resource planning tools, improving students' practical skills in high-demand software.
- **Enhance MDP and Consultancy Programs:** Seek increased industry participation and support for Management Development Programs and consultancy projects. Identify areas where industry experts can contribute as resource persons or clients, thereby enriching these programs and extending SIESCOMS's outreach.
- **Alumni Scholarship Programs:** Strengthen alumni engagement by encouraging alumni batches to institute scholarships, awards, or funding for current students. Building on the example of the ₹1,75,000 scholarship from the 25th alumni batch, formalize a mechanism to regularly involve alumni in supporting student excellence.
- **Upskilling Non-Teaching Staff:** Implement training and development workshops for non-teaching and administrative staff. Focus on improving technical skills (e.g., IT tools, office

productivity software) and soft skills (e.g., customer service, communication) to increase efficiency and service quality within the institute.

- **Support Staff Higher Education:** Encourage and support faculty and staff members in pursuing higher education and professional certifications. For example, provide necessary flexibility or resources for staff interested in doctoral programs, as exemplified by the encouragement given to the I/C Registrar to pursue a Ph.D.

Adjournment

Dr. Madhavi Dhole (Chairperson, IQAC) thanked all attendees for their active participation and valuable contributions to the discussions. With all agenda items addressed and deliberated, the meeting was adjourned *sine die* as scheduled. The Chairperson noted appreciation for the collaborative spirit of the members and emphasized prompt follow-up on the recommendations made.

Approved by: Dr. Madhavi Dhole – Chairperson, IQAC

Glimpse of the meeting:





