

Bohemians at Bangalore Literature Festival, 2013 – September 27-29, 2013

Six people, forty hours unfurled train journey and no idea whatsoever about the work that needed to be done. That is how the delegation of Symbiosis Law School Noida, especially the Literary Society, The Bohemians set out for their escapade at the Bangalore Literature Fest 2013.

BLF is an Annual Flagship event in the cultural calendar of Bangalore and focuses on rekindling the romance with literature and foster reading and writing, especially among the youth. It offers a national platform with a glocal appeal and bridges the gap between literature in English and Indian regional languages.

Since Symbiosis Institute of Media and Communications, Bangalore was a partner to the event, and the Director of the same institute was the mentor of our literary society the Bohemians, a delegation was requested and duly sent.

After a brief meeting with the director Mrs. Maya Chakrobarty and a welcome meeting with the other volunteers for the event, we six were assigned different departments to handle for the three day event that was held during 27th to 29th September 2013.

Mr. Yashasvi Virendra, Mr. Archit Gupta and Mr. Mayur T. Priyan were assigned the Airport duty. They were responsible for escorting the delegates from their flights and ensure that they reached the venue comfortably.

Miss. Anshika Agrwal was responsible for the Media Desk. I included the coordination with the members of the press that came in to cover the event.

Miss. Nainjyot Gandhi was in the VIP lounge organizing team. Her task was to take care of the delegates while they took breaks and waited for their sessions to commence and make sure that their requests were duly addressed.

Miss Aadya Dube was assigned the Curator Job at the exhibitions that were a part of the same event.

The three days of extensive work made us take a leap in the world of organizing a national level event and the literature circle all together. Not only the work make us competent in skills like managing the celebrities and looking into every small details that requires to be done at such a

large scale event management but also taught us the skill of effective crisis management incase a situation like that arrived.

We left Bangalore after 5 days with a plethora of experience that made us rich, a basket full of admiration and acknowledgement for the work we had managed to effectively and satisfaction that made us grow a little bit more.

We are incredibly thankful to our Director Dr. C.J Rawandale and Mrs. Maaya Chakrobarty mentor of the Bohemians and the Director of Symbiosis Institute of Media and Communication for providing us with this opportunity and believing that we had in us to effectively hold the trust that had been entrusted in us.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN THE WORDS OF THE TEAM



Aadya Dube:
(4th Year Learner)

Being a patron of literature the event was like a dream come true. Every work assigned to us needed to be done, aptly and correctly, because not only were we supposed to be the guests at our sister college in Bangalore, we were also there to make a name for our college and introduce it to the national level in a way that actually represented what it meant being a Symbian.



Three days of the event and two before that passed like it was a blink of an eye. This opportunity that BLF'13 provided made me more competent at handling responsibilities and a much more serious towards work person.

We also had our very own share of fun. Be it having coffee with Authors like William Dalmeida to having conversations with Miss Shobha De or Ms. Anita Nair, or listening to the panel discussions and hearing Gulzaar Shaab's poetry or Farhan Akhtar's songs or to have received our certificates from Mr. Rakesh Omprakash Mehra, there was fun and learning and ofcourse literature at every step.

This is one event I am unlikely to forget. Ever. And I am thankful to everyone who made it possible for me to be a part of this success.

Mayur .T. Priyen :

(2nd year Learner)

It's not often you get the chance to meet your favourite personalities and receive them from an airport all by yourself, fortunately enough, I received approximately 45 such people for the Bangalore Literature Festival. To be honest, when I packed my bags for this trip I was expecting nothing more than a holiday, but never did I expect that I would be sitting in a lawn seeing William Dalrymple speak on Indian History, Mr.Rajmohan Gandhi shake hands with Mr.Babar Ayaz, Gulzar saab sign his books for his fans with Pandit



Hari Prakash Chaurasia's flute weaving music in the background. The day we stepped into Bangalore, we were told that we would be assigned with 'airport duties'. We were asked to set up a help desk at the airport and assist the guests arriving. The hours spent at the airport seemed to be never ending and was totally tiresome but hey, for seeing God, you'll have to wait in a queue, that's the rule. 48 hours in the airport and we received more than 45 personalities whom we rarely get a chance to meet in person. From Mr. Christopher Kleoble to Gulzar and from Farhan Akhtar to Ms.Shobha De, we met an array of personalities, we were the first ones to receive them, escort them and interact with them.

Now, after successfully completing the duties given to us, we got the opportunity to visit the venue and witness the events. It was a platter of literature, served hot to us, ranging from fiery debates, book launches, poetry reading sessions, discussions and a heavenly musical evening. The moments I would cherish the most in my life would be getting a personalized copy of the magazine 'Granta' with the sign of its editor Mr. Ian Jack himself. To top it all up, we had the opportunity to have dinner with all of these literary intellectuals under the same roof. That awesome was BLF 2013, so if you ask me more about BLF, my reply would be "It's around the corner and I'm waiting for it, again"

Yashasvi Virendra
(3rd Year Learner)

Four pending projects, advent of examination, burden of unconcluded assignments on one hand and an ineluctable invitation enwrapping an opportunity to fulfill my satiation of literature from the mentor of our literature society and Director, SIMC Mrs. Maya Chakrobarty on the other hand, a real clash of interest!!!



However it is rightly said that in such state conflict always follow what heart says which eventually led me for such a stupendous and spectacular event which I never thought off.

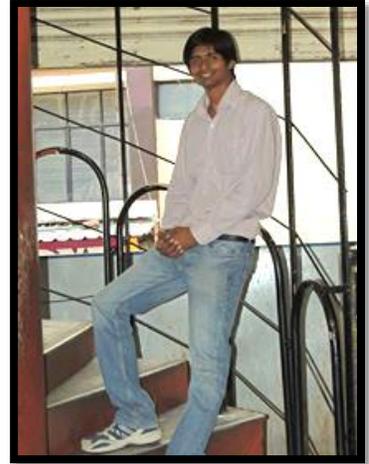
The task of receiving the guest at the Airport was really a tedious one however working in that erudite and resplendent environment with all those celebrated authors and celebrities was like a dream coming true for them. The experience of meeting celebrities like Farhan Akhtar, Mr. Rakesh Om Prakesh Mehra Mr. Prasun Joshi is beyond my expression in words. The event fulfilled my quench of listening to Shri Ravi Shanker and feel the mystical music of Pandit Hari Prasad Chaurasia's flute which was only possible through television. The wondrous opportunity of meeting the celebrated authors like Shobha De , William Dalmphry, Babar Ayas and getting a book signed by Gulzaar Saheb was like meeting the celestials .

Stay at SIMC was very homely and I never felt that I not in the my own college because of such prodigious and gracious hospitality from SIMC The full spirit of our Symbiosis University which is "*A home away from home*" was felt at SIMC . I am desperately waiting for the next edition of Bangalore Literature Fest and will love to be its part.

Archit Gupta:

(2nd year Learner)

The Bangalore Literature Festival was a great experience for me. It brought lot of exposure and working experience at huge level. It all started with a exiting 40 hours train journey and it just passed away like 4 hours journey. Right from day one, I got to meet new people and interact with them. On the first day work was allotted to me. I have to escort the renowned authors at Bangalore International Airport. On the second day, I along with my colleagues went to airport office for entry passes. So the work started mid night. It was shift of almost 12 hours overnight. Like this it continued for three days and I time came when I realized that I haven't slept for straight 56 hours.



Now came the most happening part of the trip when I got the chance to attend the Literature Festival. The atmosphere was great. People like Mr. Boria Mazumdar were criticizing role of BCCI. And on the other hand cultural event was taking place. It feels immense pleasure when you get certificate from Mr. Rakesh Om Prakash Mehra and Gulzar Sahab.

Overall the trip was a fabulous one. I would like to thank my college Director Mr. C. J. Rawandale and Director of SIMC, Bangalore for providing this opportunity and I feel privileged to be part of this trip. I would also like to thank my colleagues for making me part of this event.

Anshika Agarwal

(2nd year Learner)

As we stepped out of the Bangalore Railway Station, I could feel that we are in a totally different world. The College hosting the Bangalore literature fest was charged with ecstasy and adrenaline. We were introduced to the hosts as volunteers from Symbiosis Law School, NOIDA. And hence we were given various assignments and duties for the upcoming fest.



The first day was a light but celebrity studded start of the fest, with Farhan Akhtar, Mr. Prasoan Joshi and Mr. Rakesh Om Prakash Mehra discussing the making of their film, “*Bhag Milkha bhag!*” The Press conference kick started the fest with loads of jovialities and fun. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar concluded the day with a special and interactive session. We were personally introduced to various world-renowned authors, including Ms. Shobha De. The duty to take care of the authors in the VIP Authors’ Lounge gave the opportunity to interact with all the celebrities. The last day of the fest was concluded with a session chaired by the famous lyricist Gulzar *Sahab* and it dealt with his infamous lifetime journey till date. It was a mesmerizing session as it gave way to the legend’s own success story that enlightened so many young artists and students attending that session.

The Bangalore Literature fest was concluded with a Dinner party for the dignitaries and the volunteers, which left me “spellbound”.

And as I returned back to my home town, I had a new building interest in Literature. I know I will be speaking on the behalf of all the contingent members too when I say that it was truly as life-altering and marvelous experience which cannot be described in words but can only be experienced practically.

Nainjyot Gandhi

(2nd year Learner)

“Big opportunities comes to you when you least expect them”

Such prominent and uncertain opportunity was the Bangalore Literature fest. With exams and tutorial around the corner clouds of anxiety and pressure cast across every learner and then came the invitation from SIMC about an erudite literature fest happening in Bangalore. This came, as silver lining in the paramount exam pressure and within a blink of an eye I was knew I was a part of such resplendent event.



Reaching Bangalore was tiring task however the desire to meet the personality about whom we have just read or watched in television kept the fire ignited in us and I was immensely happy when I was assigned the duty at the VIP lounge and the media desk. It gave me the opportunity to meet and interact with authors like William Dalmphry, or a having conversations with Miss Shobha De or Ms. Anita Nair, or to be an audience to Ian Jack or listening to the panel discussions and hearing Gulzaar Shaab’s poetry or Farhan Akhtar’s songs were a monumental experience. The opportunity of getting a book autographed by no other than the majestic Gulzaar saheb or getting a picture clicked with Mr. Om Prakash Mehra was a dream coming true.

Further to add feathers to the crown we were given a grand dinner with all the celebrated personalities. Thus I can simply say that I am just waiting for the next BLF.