

National Unity Oath (October 2022)

The Government of India introduced the “National Unity Day” or “Rashtriya Ekta Diwas” in 2014. Since then, it is celebrated every year on 31st October, which marks the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The Home Ministry of India cites that the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas “will provide an opportunity to reaffirm the inherent strength and resilience of our nation to withstand the actual and potential threats of the unity, integrity, and security of our country.” Manipal School of Life Sciences, MAHE Manipal honoured the contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as all students, research scholars and staff undertook the oath to preserve the unity, integrity and security of the nation resolving to make their own contributions to spread the message of unity among their peers on 31.10.2022.



Karnataka Rajyotsava Day (November 2022)

Karnataka Rajyotsava or the Karnataka Formation Day is a state public holiday and has been celebrated every year on 1st November since 1956. It is marked by the announcement and presentation of the honours list for Rajyotsava Awards by the Government of Karnataka, hoisting of the official Karnataka flag with an address from the Chief Minister and Governor of the state.

Manipal School of Life Sciences (MSLS) celebrated the 67th Karnataka Rajyotsava with music, dance and many noteworthy cheers. The premises was draped red and yellow as students appraised the exquisite rangoli of the state of Karnataka with a picture of Puneeth Rajkumar followed by an eager participation of students, research scholars and teachers in a quiz



individually and in groups.

The evening began in high spirits with our anchor, Archana B.M., a welcome speech by Maithri, followed by an elegant poem by Darshan

CM. The *nada geethe* was sung, instilling pride among the students. Harshith then entertained the crowd with funny yet informative speech and jokes.

Yakshagana, a traditional theatre with a combination of dance, music, dialogue and costume, was performed by Samartha, illuminating the glorious heritage of *Dakshina Kannada*. This was followed by a group dance and group song by the Masters students of team Phoenix.



The electrifying evening was further amplified by the game of *antakshari*. Our dear professors, research scholars and students alike sang enthusiastically, showing off their vocal skills. The respected director also recounted some self-written poems that evoked motivation in the young minds and inspired the passionate audience.



The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Fariah and an insightful video about the magnificent state of Karnataka, followed by the national anthem.

World Environment Day (June 2023)

On the occasion of the World Environment Day, students and researchers of Manipal School of Life Sciences, MAHE Manipal undertook various activities as part of the efforts to preserve the spirit of environmentalism and social responsibility.

Endemic Bird Day – Bird-watching and Documentation at the Manipal Lake



As a part of Nature Club activity with Manipal Center for Natural Sciences, there was bird-watching and documentation organized in Manipal Lake. A student of MSLS was a part of this. On this day, there were migratory Lesser Whistling Ducks spotted. The Bird of the day – the rare Painted Shrike out in the open – was one of the highlights along with about 20 other species documented.

The activity was joined in by members from different fields and disciplines, as they all came together for the love of birds and the spirit of Endemic bird conservation.

Cleaning Up the Agumbe Ghat

A group of professionals and students from all fields over Manipal and Udipi, including Fariha Fatima from MSLS, got together to clean our polluted Western Ghats, a haven and abode of nature. The place was littered with tonnes of Plastic and the day ended with a cleaner, greener, and better Ghat road.



A picture showing the Monkey in its current natural environment, looking for food amidst a pile of human trash



Why Agumbe Ghat? The Ghat is one of the only few places where the critically endangered Lion-tailed Macaque is found. Plastic covers, bottles and other waste thrown by the inconsiderate tourists becomes a pile of suffocation in their green abode. When the organisms mistakenly feed on the smaller plastic bits that do not get degraded, it gets into the food chain and causes an already-endangered species to become even more prone to extinction. This is one of the prized possessions in Karnataka, a hub of immense natural diversity. This must be protected, by the hands of the responsible citizens.

Re-pen initiative extended to MSLS by the Student Council



This is a plastic-recycling initiative taking place across colleges of MAHE, and is being practiced in MSLS with full grit and dedication. The pens which are out-of-use and thrown and this plastic is sent for recycling to provide an overall circular economy and reduce throwing plastic into the environment.

World Environment Day – Essay Writing Competition

To raise awareness about World Environment Day, celebrated every year on June 5, an essay writing competition was conducted at MSLS, with active participation from all students. Over the years, this event has become a global platform for individuals from all walks of life to spread awareness about protecting the environment. From its early beginnings in 1972, this event has grown to become the largest global platform for environmental outreach. This year the slogan of the World Environmental Day was “Only One Earth”, focusing on “Living Sustainably in Harmony with Nature”. The “Only One Earth” was campaigned to impact positive changes, encouraging people to make better choices and do their bit to preserve the environment for future generations.

The students’ essays touched upon the need to conserve our planet’s resources in response to multiple crises, from climate change to loss of biodiversity and an increase in carbon emissions. Particular emphasis was placed on the fact that the planet Earth is still the only liveable planet in our solar system, and immediate transformative action was required, helping reset the balance between people and the natural world, to ensure a better future for all. The best essays written would then be featured in the upcoming editions of MSLS’ newsletter, VIVUS.

World Environment Day – Cleaning of facilities

As part of World Environment Day activities, Manipal School of Life Sciences dedicated a day on May 19, 2023, to undertake an initiative to clear and clean all laboratory and storage facilities in the institution. A dedicated team of staff and volunteers joined forces to clear litter, debris, and other waste materials from the institution's facilities. Thorough and meticulous

work was done by students and research associates to ensure all laboratories were cleared of all unnecessary items and all plastic waste, and storage and transport boxes and bags were collected and disposed or reused. By taking proactive measures to clean and protect our immediate environment, Manipal School of Life Sciences commits to promoting a safer, healthier, and sustainable world.



World Environment Day Awareness Walkathon

Students, researchers and faculty of MSLS, participated in the annual environmental awareness march conducted by the university on June 5, 2023, which covered a distance of about 5 km in Manipal, culminating in a planting drive and a function where speakers highlighted the changing environment and the need to persevere in our efforts to preserve the biodiversity, reduce pollution and reuse as many things as possible.



UGC Events Conducted

Extempore/Debate Competition- “Reforms in the Electoral System”

An Extempore and Debate Competition was conducted on 15th February 2022, on the topic “Reforms in the Electoral System”. The event was held in the MSLS Auditorium, with students participating in full force. The competition brought awareness to the issues facing a democracy when elections are not held in a fair manner. In the extempore competition, students were given a topic and spoke on the subject. The topics ranged from what the issues plaguing the electoral processes in India to what reforms could be put into place to root out corruption and thereby ensuring that elections were conducted freely and with full transparency. Students also debated on the current reforms set up by the Electoral Commission in India, and how they could tackle the challenges associated with conducting elections in India.



Essay Writing Competition- “Bharat Bhagya Vidhaata”

An essay writing competition was conducted on the topic “Bharata Bhagya Vidhaata” (“Long Live India”) on 3rd April 2022. These are words written by a Bengali poet, Rabindranath Tagore in our national anthem. The competition celebrated India’s diverse culture and its values of unity, fraternity and equality. This competition provided a platform for the students to collate their thoughts about the topic in their own words which promotes logical and critical thinking while also developing functional literacy. It also served as a reminder that unity of the nation is important for progress especially due to the worldwide pandemic and hardships endured by people in past few years.



Parikshe pe Charcha (February 2023)

Students and employees of Manipal School of Life Sciences, MAHE Manipal participated in the “Parikshe pe Charcha” event of the Government of India on 03.02.2023, listening to the speech and interactions of the honourable Prime Minister of India.



Language Appreciation Events

MSLS is an eclectic hot spot of students from diverse cultural backgrounds. Promoting and celebrating the appreciated diversity in the languages, every year the institution organizes events such as the International Mother Language Day (Matrabasha Diwas) and other cultural events to promote all languages in the country/world. In 2022-23 as well, the students arranged for a display board to be filled by students in their own languages. The results were a great proof of the ‘unity in diversity’ in India.



Teachers' Day Celebrations at MSLS – 5th September 2022.

On the 5th of September every year, **Teachers' Day** or **Shikshak Divas** is celebrated to mark the birthday of the country's first Vice President who later went on to become the second President of India, Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan. A renowned scholar, philosopher and Bharat Ratna awardee, Dr Radhakrishnan was a highly-respected teacher and prolific statesman, who championed the role of teachers in society and always strived to ensure that "teachers should be the best minds in the country."

The students of Manipal School of Life Sciences celebrated Teachers' Day with full enthusiasm dedicated to the Faculty Members and staff in the MSLS Auditorium, Annex Building. The celebrations started off with a talk by Dr. M.S. Valiathan, a notable physician and cardiac surgeon, former President of the National Science Academy and eminent teacher, researcher and Ayurvedic scholar. He spoke of his experience donning many hats in his academic career, and highlighted the importance of his teachers whose insights and words shaped him, right from early on in his medical education, to as recently in later years through his studies in Ayurveda.

The cultural events hit off with dance performances from Raunak and group and classical dance performances from Abigail and team. A group song by Twinkle and team and a duet by Ram and Shreya followed. Sayandriya recited a poem on the significance of Teachers' Day. Soumya and Ananya gave speeches highlighting the significance of Teachers in our lives.

A musical chairs competition was conducted with whole-hearted participation by all professors and faculty members, with the winner(s) receiving prizes. The celebrations ended with the distribution of specialised cards, given to all the teachers highlighting the impact they made in the minds of the young students through their insights and advice. Snacks and juice were distributed concluding the event.



