

“Faith is taking the first
step even when you don’t
see the whole staircase.”
- Dr. Martin Luther King
Jr.

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PCU Strengthens Global Academic Presence Through Sakal Aicon & Educon London 2025 Delegation

Pimpri Chinchwad University, Pune marked a significant stride in their global academic vision by participating in the prestigious Sakal Aicon London 2025 and Sakal Educon London 2025 delegations.

These initiatives brought together leaders from Maharashtra’s prominent universities on an academic visit to some of the most reputed higher education institutions across the United Kingdom.

The visit was organised with the objective of strengthening India-UK educational ties through collaborative discussions on research, teaching excellence, cultural exchange,

and faculty–student mobility programs.

During this international engagement, the delegation had the privilege of interacting with several eminent education leaders, including Shri Sanjay Patil, President of the D.Y. Patil Education Group, and Prof. Bhalerao, along with other distinguished academics and administrators.

These interactions facilitated rich dialogues on global academic innovation, emerging trends in higher education, and the evolving needs of future-ready institutions.

The discussions reaffirmed the collective commitment

of Indian universities to align with global benchmarks and to contribute actively to the international academic community.

A major highlight of the visit was the delegation’s interaction at the University of Bath- School of Management, recognised as one of the United Kingdom’s premier business schools.

The team met Professor Dan Davies and engaged in meaningful conversations on collaborative opportunities such as joint research initiatives, international academic programs, and faculty and student exchange possibilities.

The visit opened new avenues for institutional partnership and laid the groundwork for future engagements that can benefit students, researchers, and faculty members from both nations.

Representing PCET and PCU in this distinguished delegation were Dr. Girish Desai, Executive Director of PCET; management representatives Shri Ajinkya Kalbhor and Shri Narendra Landge, Dr. Sudeep Thepade, Pro Vice Chancellor of PCU; Shri R. G. Biradar, Director of Admissions and Outreach; Prof. Dr. Anuradha Thakare, Professor and Head of CSE (AI & ML) at PCCOE Pune.

Their participation underscored the institution’s dedication to expanding its global network and creating meaningful academic partnerships that promote innovation and excellence.

This international engagement aligns closely with the vision of Pimpri Chinchwad University, which aspires to become a world-class centre of learning known for academic excellence, in interdisciplinary innovation, and global collaboration. PCU is firmly committed to nurturing students into responsible, skilled, and globally aware individuals through quality education, research-driven learning, and international exposure.

By embracing global partnerships and fostering a culture of innovation, the university aims to contribute significantly to shaping the future of higher education in India.

The participation of PCET-PCU in the Sakal Aicon and Educon London 2025 delegation marks a promising step toward expanding the university’s global footprint. It reinforces the institution’s long-term commitment to building bridges of knowledge, strengthening international academic cooperation, and creating transformative learning experiences for its students and faculty.



PCU Hosts UK Education Fair-Achievers Edition, Strengthening Global Academic Opportunities

Pimpri Chinchwad University (PCU) successfully hosted the UK Education Fair Achievers Edition, creating a dynamic and inspiring platform for students aspiring to pursue international education.

Organised in collaboration with the National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU) and the University of East London, and supported by the British Council, the event brought together prominent UK universities, global education experts, and young learners from across the region.

The fair witnessed enthusiastic participation from students keen to explore overseas academic pathways, world-ranked institutions, and specialised programs in diverse fields.


Representatives from leading UK universities interacted directly with students, offering insights on admissions, academic structures, scholarship opportunities, and career prospects in the global job market.

The fair served as a valuable forum for one-on-one guidance, enabling students total education requirements and align their aspirations with the right institutions.

The event highlighted PCU’s growing emphasis on providing global exposure and future-ready opportunities to its students. By hosting international education fairs and fostering partnerships with reputed global institutions, the university continues to strengthen its commitment to internationalisation, industry-aligned learning, and transformative educational experiences.

The Achievers Edition of the UK Education Fair stood as a testament to PCU’s dedication to empowering students with the knowledge, networks, and confidence needed to succeed on the world stage.

PCU Welcomes New Vice Chancellor, Dr. Santosh Sonavane



Pimpri Chinchwad University, proudly announces the appointment of Dr. Santosh S. Sonavane as its new Vice Chancellor.

A seasoned academic leader with an impressive legacy of institutional transformation, Dr. Sonavane brings with him over 26 years of rich administrative and teaching experience, including 16 years in senior leadership roles across some of India’s most prestigious educational organisations.

Dr. Sonavane has previously served as Chief Operations Officer, Founding Vice Chancellor, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Dean, Campus Director, and Principal at institutions such as Amity University (Noida), Vijaybhoomi University (Mumbai), Symbiosis Skills & Professional University, Ajeenkya DY Patil University, Modern Education Society, Dr. DY Patil Technical Campus, and MIT Pune.

His expertise spans both greenfield university setups and the transformation of brownfield institutions, making him a highly accomplished and visionary leader in the higher education landscape.

An alumnus of the University of Pune, Dr. Sonavane completed his B.E. in Electronics in 1998, followed by a Ph.D. in Electronics Engineering from IIT Dhanbad in 2009.

PCU warmly welcomes Dr. Santosh S. Sonavane and looks forward to his inspiring leadership in steering the university toward new heights of academic and institutional excellence.

PCU Hosts University of Worcester Delegation, Strengthening International Academic Partnerships

PCU, Pune, had the honour of hosting an esteemed delegation from the University of Worcester, United Kingdom, marking a significant advancement in PCU’s ongoing efforts to build strong global academic linkages and collaborative opportunities.

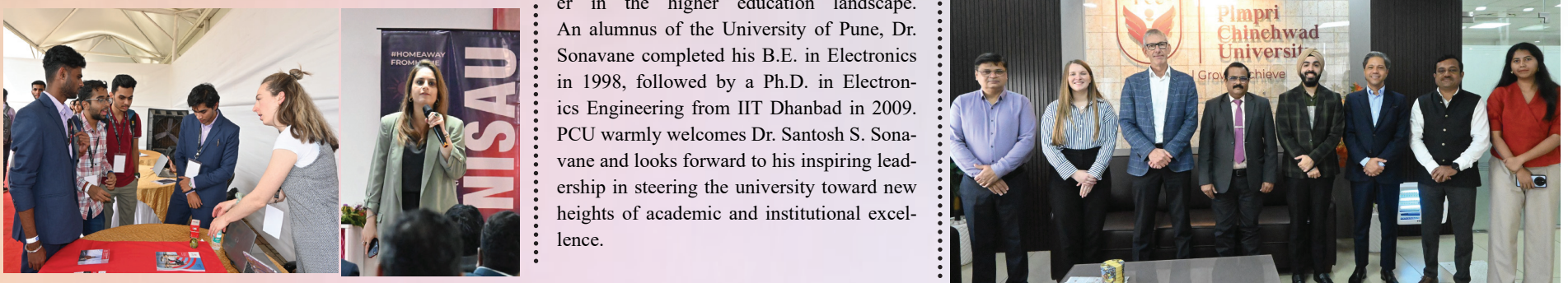
The visit reinforced the university’s commitment to fostering meaningful international partnerships that enhance learning, research, and cross-cultural exchange.

The distinguished delegation comprised Mr. Harkirat Sahni, Regional Advisor (South Asia); Dr. Paulo Mora-Avila, Senior Lecturer in Public Relations, Sustainability, Brand Management and Corporate Reputation, and International Partnership Manager; Ms. Lauren Jack, Regional Manager (South Asia); and Dr. Nick Slade, Deputy Pro Vice Chancellor International & External Affairs at the University of Worcester.

Their visit aimed at deepening institutional cooperation and exploring avenues for joint initiatives that could benefit students and faculty from both universities.

During the interaction sessions, discussions centred around academic collaboration, exchange programs, joint research prospects, and co-designed academic modules aligned with global industry needs.

The event was graced by the presence of PCU’s respected Vice Chancellor, Dr. Santosh S. Sonavane. The visit from the University of Worcester delegation marks yet another milestone in PCU’s mission to broaden its international collaborations, enrich academic experiences, and create global opportunities for its students and faculty.



Book Recommendation:
The Kite Runner
-Khaled Hosseini

The story follows Amir and Hassan, two boys from different social backgrounds whose lives are shaped by friendship, betrayal, and redemption. Though centred on a deeply emotional narrative, the novel beautifully captures the festive rhythms of Afghan culture, especially during Eid, Nowruz, and traditional kite-fighting festivals.



Movie Recommendation:
Movie Name: Coco (2017)

Set against the vibrant backdrop of Mexico's iconic festival Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), Coco is a heartfelt and visually stunning film that celebrates family bonds, traditions, and the spiritual beauty of remembering loved ones. It beautifully blends music, folklore, and festive visuals, making it one of the most emotionally rich films inspired by cultural festivities.

PCU Hosts Pitch Fest 2025:
Showcasing Innovation and Entrepreneurial Talent from Across India

Pimpri Chinchwad University, Pune, through its Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), successfully organised the PCU Pitch Fest 2025, a landmark event designed to empower young innovators, strategic thinkers, and aspiring entrepreneurs.

The initiative aimed to transform creative ideas into impactful ventures, providing a national platform for students to showcase their potential in contributing to India's rapidly expanding innovation ecosystem.

More than a competition, the Pitch Fest served as a nurturing launchpad encouraging imagination, addressing real-world challenges, and fostering meaningful entrepreneurial spirit.

The event drew an over-

whelming 100+ registrations from 22 states, representing the diverse and vibrant creative energy of the country. After a rigorous screening process, 35 exceptional participants were selected to present their ideas to an elite jury panel.

Each pitch was evaluated not just on innovation, but also on feasibility, sustainability, and its ability to address societal needs. The quality of presentations, combined with the passion displayed by the participants, made the Pitch Fest a compelling showcase of India's next generation of problem-solvers.

The distinguished jury comprised prominent industry leaders and experts: Mr. Satyajit Kulkarni, Associate Director and Head

of CSR & Consultancy; Mr. Yogiraj Deokar, retired member of MCED; Ms. Archana Pachankar, CEO, CIL, PCCOE; and Ms. Kalyani Raje, Founder, Decipher Market Research.

Their guidance, professional insights, and constructive feedback added immense value to the event, helping participants sharpen their ideas and better understand the expectations of the entrepreneurial landscape. The jury's presence elevated the Pitch Fest, setting a high standard of evaluation and mentorship.

The event was further graced by the presence of Honourable Vice Chancellor Dr. Santosh S. Sonawane, Registrar Prof. (Dr.) Anil Maheshwari, alongside es-

teemed Directors, Deans, faculty members, and a highly enthusiastic student audience. Their participation and encouragement underscored PCU's commitment to advancing an educational culture where learning extends far beyond traditional classroom boundaries.

Aligned with the university's vision of fostering innovation-driven, experiential learning, the Pitch Fest offered participating teams not only recognition and prizes but also access to mentorship, incubation opportunities, and potential funding avenues. These opportunities empower students to convert their concepts into viable ventures, nurturing their confidence and entrepreneurial capabilities.

The event concluded with a series of remarkable pitches that received acclaim for their originality and impact. Many participants expressed their eagerness to refine their ideas further with the guidance of mentors and industry leaders who showed interest in supporting their innovative journeys.

The PCU Pitch Fest 2025 stands as a proud testament to Pimpri Chinchwad University's mission of cultivating visionary thinkers, fostering a culture of innovation, and contributing meaningfully to India's dynamic startup landscape. Through such initiatives, PCU continues to empower students to become architects of change, shaping a future driven by creativity, technology, and purpose.



School of Media and Communication Visit the Film Set of
Nagraj Manjule's Upcoming Film "Khashaba"

Students from the Pune School of Media and Communication at Pimpri Chinchwad University had an exceptional experiential learning opportunity as they visited the shooting floor of acclaimed filmmaker Nagraj Manjule during the production of his much-awaited Marathi film Khashaba.

The visit offered students a unique, behind-the-scenes perspective into the world of professional filmmaking, allowing them to witness firsthand how creative vision is meticulously translated into cinematic reality.

During the visit, students observed the functioning of a live film set and gained exposure to the technical and artistic processes involved in filmmaking.

An interactive session with Director Nagraj Manjule, along with the Heads of key departments, enriched the learning experience. They shared insights on direction, cinematography, production design, costumes, sound, and the complex synchronisation required to

bring each frame to life. Students also had the opportunity to ask questions, enabling them to connect theoretical concepts with real industry practices.

The discussion highlighted the importance of teamwork, creative problem-solving, and discipline on a film set, offering students a practical understanding of concepts they study in the

classroom. Witnessing the collaborative dynamics between the director, crew members, and performers allowed students to appreciate the depth, intricacy, and coordination that define the cinematic craft.

For media and communication students aspiring to build careers in film, television, advertising, and digital content production, the visit served as a powerful real-world learning engagement. It not only deepened their understanding of filmmaking techniques but also inspired them by demonstrating the dedication, precision, and

artistry that go into creating impactful cinema.

This visit also encouraged students to think critically about storytelling approaches, visual narratives, and the evolving language of contemporary Indian cinema. Engaging with one of the industry's most celebrated filmmakers broadened their creative perspectives and motivated them to explore bold and original storytelling ideas of their own.

The experiential initiative reflects PCU's commitment to industry-driven learning, hands-on exposure, and preparing students for creative and professional excellence in the media world. By facilitating such immersive academic experiences, Pimpri Chinchwad University continues to bridge the gap between education and industry, empowering students to confidently step into the competitive and ever-evolving field of media and entertainment.



“If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds’ worth of distance
run, Yours is the Earth and everything
in it”- Rudyard Kipling

PCU's bhashyam

“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I
remember. Involve me and I learn.”
Benjamin Franklin

Expressions Beyond Words



Expressed by Sarthak Rake (F.Y B.Tech)



BEAUTY OF WINTERS



PCU'S INSIGHTS

PCU Samarpan Club Spreads Festive Cheer with “Joy of Giving Initiative” at Kalashram Orphanage



In the true spirit of Diwali, the PCU Samarpan Club, along with the School of Pharmacy at Pimpri Chinchwad University, organised a heartwarming Joy of Giving initiative by visiting the Kalashram Orphanage in Talegaon Dabhade. The visit aimed to share festive happiness, offer essential support, and inspire students through acts of compassion and community service.

Faculty members and students from the School of Pharmacy generously donated Diwali faral, daily essentials, and other necessities, ensuring

that the children at the orphanage could celebrate the festival of lights with equal joy and warmth. The interaction with the children offered students a meaningful opportunity to understand empathy, social responsibility, and the true value of giving back to society.

The visit was filled with smiles, conversations, and heartfelt moments, creating an atmosphere of togetherness and festive joy. It also reinforced the university's ongoing commitment to nurturing socially responsible citizens who contribute positively to the community.

PCU extended deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed to making the initiative impactful and memorable, the wonderful children of Kalashram for their warmth, the supportive orphanage staff for their hospitality, the dedicated volunteers and faculty members for their compassion, and the donors whose generosity made this celebration possible. The collective efforts of PCU's staff and students brought hope, happiness, and festive cheer, truly embodying the essence of Diwali.



TCS HackQuest Awareness Session Conducted at PCU

Pimpri Chinchwad University's Industry Institute Interaction Cell successfully organised the TCS HackQuest Awareness Session, an initiative aimed at familiarising students with emerging trends in cybersecurity, industry expectations, and the competitive landscape of technology-based problem-solving.

The session provided a comprehensive overview of the TCS HackQuest platform, a prestigious national-level cybersecurity competition that attracts some of the brightest technical minds from across the country. Students participated with great enthusiasm, engaging deeply with the concepts presented during the session.

They gained valuable exposure to real-world cybersecurity challenges, practical

problem-solving approaches, and key skills required to excel in this fast-evolving domain.

The session also shed light on the recruitment pathways and career opportunities within Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), helping students better understand how participation in HackQuest can enhance their professional prospects.

The initiative reflects PCU's commitment to creating productive industry-academia interactions that prepare students for future-ready careers. By hosting such sessions, the university continues to strengthen its focus on equipping learners with cutting-edge knowledge, hands-on experiences, and opportunities to explore high-demand global career avenues.



Red Hat Day @ PCU Celebrates Innovation, Technical Excellence Through RHA Challenge 2025

(PCU) proudly hosted the Red Hat Academy (RHA) Challenge 2025, marking a vibrant celebration of technology, innovation, and emerging talent on campus.

The event brought together aspiring tech enthusiasts who showcased their expertise in Red Hat technologies, open-source tools, and problem-solving skills in a dynamic and competitive environment.

Red Hat Day at PCU served as an exciting platform for students to demonstrate their technical

capabilities in real-time scenarios while also gaining valuable exposure to industry-recognised enterprise technologies. Participants engaged in hands-on challenges that tested their proficiency, cre-

ativity, and ability to apply open-source solutions to practical problems reflecting the growing relevance of Linux, cloud technologies, and automation in the modern tech world.

The enthusiasm and determi-

nation displayed by the students made the event a remarkable success. Their strong performances highlighted the depth of technical talent at PCU and reaffirmed the university's efforts to nurture industry-ready professionals through experiential learning and global technology collaborations. PCU congrat-

ulated all participants for their outstanding contribution, passion for technology, and commitment to excellence. The success of the RHA Challenge 2025 further strengthens the university's mission to encourage innovation, support emerging tech leaders, and build a robust ecosystem for future-ready learning.



“No matter how hard the past is, you can always begin again.”

PCU's Bhashyam

“A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step.”
- Lao Tzu

NextGen Innovators Club Inaugurated at PCU with Inspiring Insights from Industry Leader



Pimpri Chinchwad University marked a significant step toward fostering innovation and technological excellence with the inauguration of the NextGen Innovators Club, held in the presence of esteemed industry expert Mr. Manoj Suresh, Director at AWS Neura Flash Private Limited, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Addressing the gathering of students, faculty, and budding innovators, Mr. Suresh delivered an inspiring keynote on the power of innovation, emerging technologies, and the importance of continuous learning in an ever-evolving digital world.

His insightful perspectives encouraged students to think beyond conventional

boundaries and approach creativity with purpose and impact. His interaction with the audience proved to be both motivational and enlightening, setting the tone for the club's mission to nurture future-ready innovators.

The event witnessed the dedicated efforts of Dr. Manisha Khadse, Club Coordinator, whose meticulous planning, guidance, and leadership played a key role in bringing the vision of the NextGen Innovators Club to life. Her commitment to fostering a culture of creativity and collaboration at PCU has established a strong foundation for the club's future activities.

The inauguration was further supported by Dr. V. N. Patil and the faculty members of the CSE AI & DS Department, whose encouragement and involvement ensured the event's success. Their continued support reflects PCU's focus on building platforms that empower students with experiential learning and industry engagement.

With the launch of the NextGen Innovators Club, PCU takes another stride toward creating a vibrant ecosystem where ideas evolve into impactful projects and innovations. The university looks forward to cultivating a community that thrives on curiosity, creativity, and transformational thinking.

Purpose-Driven Learning Session at PCU Inspires Students to Thrive in an AI-Powered Future

PCU, in collaboration with Coursera, successfully hosted a transformative learning session titled “Purpose-Driven Learning: The Human Foundation for Flourishing in an AI-Powered Economy.” The event served as a thought-provoking exploration of how purpose, values, and human-centered thinking can shape meaningful careers in a rapidly evolving digital world.

The session was led by Dr. Victor Strecher, a pioneering professor at the University of Michigan's School of Public Health and a globally recognised thought leader in the field of purpose

and wellbeing. Dr. Strecher captivated both students and faculty with his engaging perspectives on the need to cultivate personal purpose in an era dominated by artificial intelligence, automation, and technological disruption.

Through interactive discussions, real-world examples, and compelling research insights, Dr. Strecher highlighted how aligning personal values with academic and professional aspirations can significantly enhance creativity, resilience, and long-term fulfilment.

He emphasised that while AI will continue to reshape work as we know

it, human qualities such as meaning, empathy, connection, and purpose will remain irreplaceable in driving innovation and well-being.

The session strongly resonated with the PCU community, encouraging students to think beyond traditional career pathways and approach their futures with a sense of intention and clarity.

The experience also underscored PCU's commitment to providing global learning opportunities and integrating holistic, future-focused education into its academic environment.

In partnership with leading international platforms like Coursera, PCU continues to prioritise purpose-centric learning, global exposure, and industry-relevant insights ensuring that students are not only career-ready but also equipped to lead meaningful, purpose-driven lives in an AI-powered economy.



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