

## OFFICE BEARERS

**Dr. Daphne Pillai**  
Founder President

**Ms. Namrata Saxena**  
President

**Ms. Preeti Pawar**  
President- Elect

**Ms. Yvette Lee**  
Immediate Past  
President &  
Programme Action  
Co-ordinator

**Ms. Susanna Cherian**  
Hon. Secretary

**Ms. Mamta Patil**  
Hon. Treasurer

**Ms. Munawira  
Kotyad Pillai**  
Club Extension &  
Membership Officer

**Dr. Smita Dalvi**  
Communication &  
Publicity Officer

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Soroptimist Sisters,

I am deeply honored and consider it precious to be taking over as the President of Soroptimist International Bombay Chembur for the term 2022-24 and I sincerely look forward to embark on this journey together with all you dear Soroptimist sisters.

SIBC has been successfully reaching out to uplift and empower women through its various activities and projects, with a special focus to work towards the accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. This noble endeavor has helped each of us to evolve as strong women committed to service. Driven by this sense of purpose, I commit to do my best to continue to further the aims of SIBC and keep the spirit of Soroptimism high.

I would like to thank our Founder President Dr. Daphne Pillai and each and every one of you for trusting and delegating this task to me and my fellow board members.

I hope that together we will reach out to make a difference in the lives of many more women and young girls and make the best of this gracious responsibility bestowed upon us to make it a memorable and fruitful tenure.

Regards,



**Namrata Saxena**  
President, SI Bombay Chembur (SIBC)

## PROJECTS - February 2022 to June 2022



# Highlights of February – June 2022

**UN WOMEN** **NBCW** **CSW66**  
**Water, Climate Change and Life Chances for Girls and Women**

**Speakers**

**Dr. Dayane Pillai**  
 Co-Chair of Mahatma Education Society, Pillai Group of Institutions

**Ms. Margaret Clark**  
 President, National Board of Catholic Women

**Ms. Marian - Vincent Cohen**  
 President, Women for Better Partnership

**Dr. Jodie Chagun**  
 Partner, Department of Technology and Logistics, University of Glasgow

**CSW66**  
**National Board of Catholic Women**  
**England and Wales**  
**Parallel Event**  
**Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**Time : (12 midday EST) 4 pm (GMT) (9.30 pm IST)**  
**Meeting ID: 947 3800 6887**  
**Passcode : 512402**

**Soroptimist Welfare Association (SIBC)**  
 in association with  
**Chathiyara Football Academy**  
 (VHSS Chathiyara, Thamarakulam, Alappuzha, Kerala)  
 organises

**A session on Safe and Unsafe Touch**  
 For the girls pursuing football in CFA under the project  
 "Promoting sports for underprivileged girls in rural Kerala"

**Date: 19th February, 2022**  
**Time: 4.30 pm**  
**Platform: Zoom**

**Soroptimist International BOMBAY CHEMBUR** in collaboration with **Mahatma Education Society's PILLAI COLLEGE OF ARTS, COMMERCE & SCIENCE (Autonomous), New Panvel**

**CELEBRATING Women & Girls in STEM THE EXPERTS**

**Nidhi Sharma**  
 /nidhi-sharma/  
 Scrum Master at Capgemini, Agile Coach

**Munawira Kotyad**  
 /munawira-kotyad/  
 Founder at Wonderwheel Enterprises, Associate Professor at PHCET

**Akanksha Pandya**  
 /akanksha-pandya/  
 Software Developer at Wipro Technologies

**10 February 2022, 1 PM Onwards**  
**Online Platform**

Supported by Women Development Cell of

**Soroptimist International BOMBAY CHEMBUR** 50

**MES's Pillai College of Education & Research, Chembur**  
 in Collaboration with  
**Soroptimist Welfare Association and Chembur English High School**

presents  
 an interactive awareness programme  
**Know your Rights**  
 observing Human Rights Day

On 10th December, 2021  
 Time: 10.00 am – 10.45 am  
 Venue: Multipurpose Hall, Ground Floor, Chembur Campus

**Maintain safety protocols**  
**Wear your mask**  
**Ensure social distance**  
**Use sanitizer**

**Soroptimist Welfare Association(SIBC)**  
 In Association with  
**Women Development Cell**  
**MAHATMA EDUCATION SOCIETY'S**  
**Pillai HOC College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Rasayani**  
 [Accredited by NAAC & ISO 9001:2015 Certified]

organises  
**MINITHON**  
**Time: 6:45 AM - 8:00 AM**  
 On Account Of  
**International Women's Day**

**Soroptimist International Bombay Chembur (SIBC)** in collaboration with **Mahatma Education Society's Pillai College of Arts, Science and Commerce**

**WORLD WETLANDS DAY**  
 PUBLIC EXHIBITION

**CHIEF GUEST**  
 From: Mrs. Pragti Sandbhair  
 A&P, Unit, Government, Panvel, Vasai, and Corporation

**25TH FEBRUARY 2022**  
**TIME : 9AM - 4PM**  
**SPECIAL CEREMONY - 2PM**

**VENUE : STLY AREA ,**  
**Dr. K. M. Vasudevan Pillai campus**

**Talavs of Panvel**





MES's Pillai College of Education and Research, Chembur  
in collaboration with

Soroptimist Welfare Association (SIBC)  
celebrates

**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2022**

*Theme: Conserve Indian native flora and fauna*



4th June, 2022

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Multipurpose Area, Ground floor MES's Chembur Campus

 **Soroptimist International**  
BOMBAY CHEMBUR

in association with

**edukidz**  
INTERNATIONAL  
PRE-SCHOOL & DAYCARE  
A unit of Vidyadhan Educational Development Ltd.

Tilak Nagar | Kharghar | New Panvel

**Celebrates**

**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY**

**USE**

**ECO BAG**

**thanks**

\*SIBC is registered as Soroptimist Welfare Association

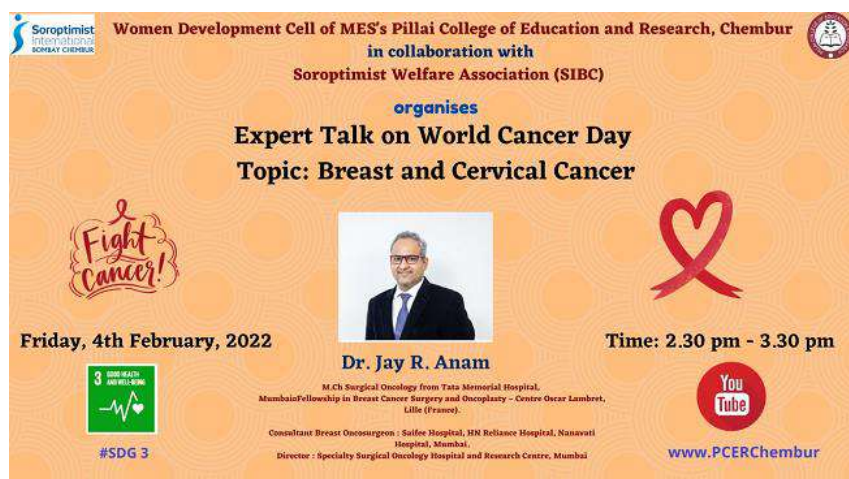
20/6/22

## World Cancer Day

04 February, 2022



On 4th February, 2022 SI Bombay Chembur in association with Pillai College of Education and Research, Chembur, conducted an expert talk on World Cancer Day on the topic – Breast Cancer and Cervical Cancer focusing on breast and Cervical Cancer and raising awareness about early detection, prevention, and care including surgical options for treatment of cancer. There were 141 participants both from B.Ed. batch of student teachers, and faculty from PCER and SIBC who attended the program wholeheartedly. This event was aligned with SDG #3, “Good Health and Well-being”.



## Session on De-addiction and Sex Education

11 February, 2022



Soroptimist Welfare Association in collaboration with Chembur English High School organized an interactive session on De-addiction and Sex Education on 11th February, 2022 to make healthy decisions about sex & sexuality. The session was organized for around 150 boys of Std 8th 9th and 10th. Resource person for the talk was Mr. Chandrakant Sarvagod from Stree Mukti Sangathan. The talk focused on SDG #3 and #4.





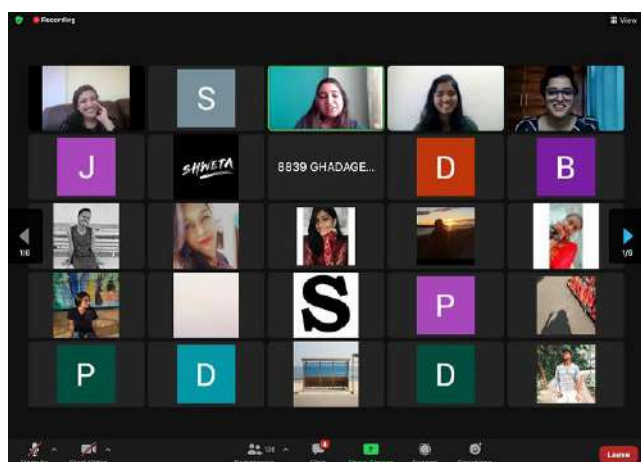
# International Day of Women and Girls in Science

10,11 February, 2022



SIBC in collaboration with Pillai College of Arts, Commerce and Science organized a webinar on 'Women in STEM' on 10th February, 2022, with the motive of celebrating women's contribution in STEM. The speakers of the webinar were Ms. Munawira Kotyad, Soroptimist member, Founder of Wonderwheel Enterprises, and Director at Pillai Center for Innovation and Research; Ms. Nidhi Sharma, Scrum Master at Capgemini, Agile Coach; and Ms. Akanksha Pandya, Technical Lead at Wipro technologies.

SIBC also conducted an interactive session for the students of Chembur English High School on 11 Feb 2022. PAC Ms. Munawira Kotyad spoke on the need for girls to take up science and technology as further studies and join the profession. Around 100 girls attended the session. This served SDG #4, #5, and #10.

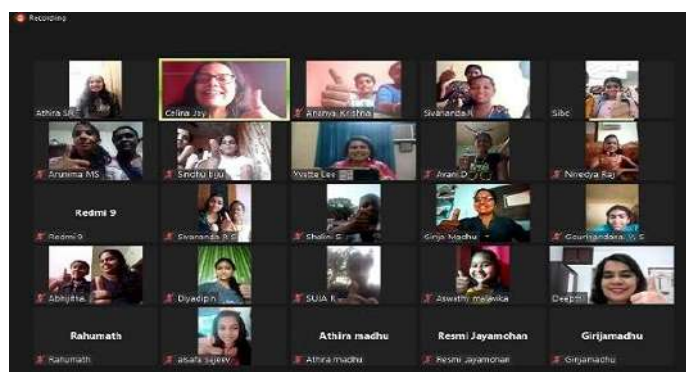
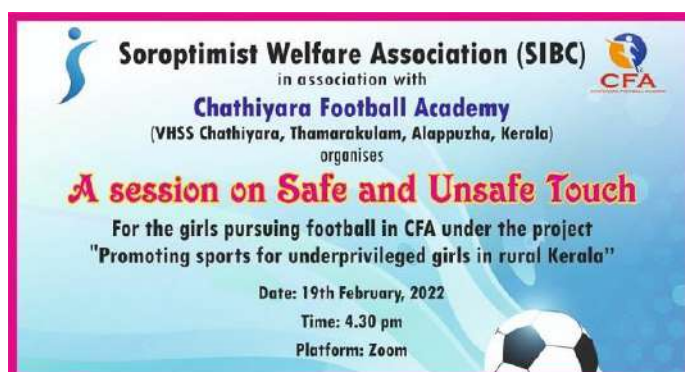


## Safe and Unsafe Touch

19 February, 2022



SI Bombay Chembur in collaboration with Chathiyara Football Academy, Kerala organized a session on Safe and Unsafe Touch in Malayam for 35 children on the 19th February, 2022. This was the first time that a session of this sort was organized for the students who belong to a rural community. The project focused on SDG #3.



## World Wetlands Day

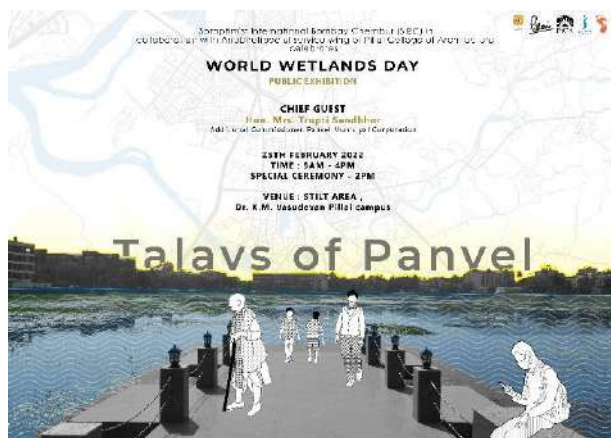
25 February, 2022



SI Bombay Chembur got together with MES Pillai College of Architecture, Panvel, to observe World Wetlands Day by organizing a public exhibition. The exhibition aimed to raise awareness about the vital role of wetlands such as urban lakes for people and the city.

The exhibition featured work carried out by the students of architecture under the guidance of the faculty team and the SIBC members. It comprised of the documentation of the Krishnale Talav Precinct situated in the heart of the inner city of Panvel. It also featured a few urban intervention proposals for the revival of the lake precinct by the students.

The additional Municipal Commissioner of Panvel, Mrs. Trupti Sandbhor was the chief guest for the event. Dr. K. M. Vasudevan Pillai, the chairman of MES was a guest of honour.



## World Water Day

22 March, 2022



SIBC in collaboration with Pillai College of Architecture organized an expert lecture by Prof. Nandan Mungekar on the topic of 'Rainwater Harvesting' on 22nd March, 2022 on the occasion of World Water Day. The talk helped architecture students to learn techniques and methods of rainwater harvesting for application in their academic projects and professional career in future. It tackled the issue of fresh water scarcity impacting the life of communities. Approximately 100 students and faculty members in Pillai Campus Panvel attended the session.





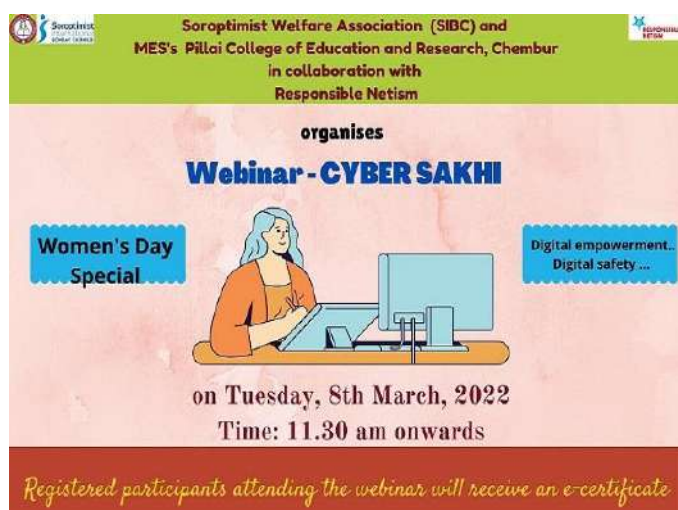
# International Women's Day

08 March, 2022



On the occasion of International Women's Day on 8th March, 2022 focusing on SDG #5 "Gender Equality", SIBC and Pillai College of Education and Research Chembur, in collaboration with 'Responsible Netizen' organized an event named webinar 'Cyber Sakhi'. The session was attended by the faculties and students of F.Y. B.Ed. and S.Y. B.Ed. The aim of this session was to spread awareness about cybercrimes and cyber security thus, helping to foster digital empowerment and creating awareness about digital safety among female students.

To mark International Women's Day, SIBC in association with WDC of Pillai HOC College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Rasayani organized Minithon on 8th March, 2022. The theme of the event was "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow". The objective of the event was to spread awareness about the importance of fitness and fun. Running improves blood circulation and helps you de-stress. The event was flagged off by Dr. Lata Menon, Soroptimist member, and Principal, PHCASC, Rasayani. A total of 107 students participated in the event across all streams thereby making it a grand success.





# Soroptimist Excellence Awards 2022

08 March, 2022



SIBC celebrated International Women's Day by conferring the '**SI Excellence Awards 2022**' on **Ms. Lara Jesani**, for her exemplary work in the field of human rights. The award carries a trophy, citation and a donation of Rs. 10,000 to an NGO.

Lara Jesani is an independent litigator in Bombay High Court and National Green Tribunal. She takes up cases of human rights violations, in particular constitutional, environmental, development, and anti-corruption matters, death penalty / criminal cases, and in defense of human rights defenders. In particular, she represents project-affected communities and civil society organizations.

On this occasion, she addressed the audience virtually on the topic 'Gender Justice and the Indian Constitution.' The audience of around 200 for the webinar was -- Soroptimist members from all over India and from our Friendship Links along with students and teachers. Her talk was very motivational as she spoke about her journey and her work during the COVID pandemic which has been highly appreciated.



Post the event, a donation of Rs. 10000/- was made to Parcham Collective, an organization that works with young girls belonging to the Muslim community living in slum communities in Mumbra, Mumbai. The organization through various activities that they conduct, aim at building life skills among girls.

# Talk on Exam Anxiety and Coping Strategies

08 March, 2022



SIBC in association with the Women Development Cell (WDC) of Pillai HOC College of Arts, Science, and Commerce, Rasayani organized a webinar on Exam Anxiety and Coping Strategies on 23rd April, 2022.

Ms. Komal Haware, Clinical Psychologist, Counselor, and Teacher was the resource person for the event. She spoke at length about goal setting, time management, how to stay focused, and Exam Preparation. A total of 118 students participated in the event across all streams thereby making it a grand success. The project focused on SDG #3 and SDG #4.

The poster is for a webinar titled 'Exam Anxiety and Coping Strategies'. It features a background with faint, handwritten-style text such as 'I don't remember', 'I think', and 'no wait'. The text on the poster includes: 'Soroptimist Welfare Association(SWA)' in black; 'In Association with' in green; 'Women Development Cell' in black; 'or' in green; 'MAHATMA EDUCATION SOCIETY'S' in red; 'Pillai HOC College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Rasayani' in red; '[Accredited by NAAC & ISO 9001:2015 Certified]' in green; 'organises' in green; 'A Webinar on' in black; 'Exam Anxiety and Coping Strategies' in large purple font; a date box for 'April 23'; 'Time: 11:00 am - 12:00 noon'; 'Platform- zoom' with the Zoom logo; a portrait of Ms. Komal Haware; and her name and title 'Ms. Komal Haware Clinical Psychologist, Counselor and Teacher' in red. Logos for SWA and Pillai HOC are also present.



# World Environment Day

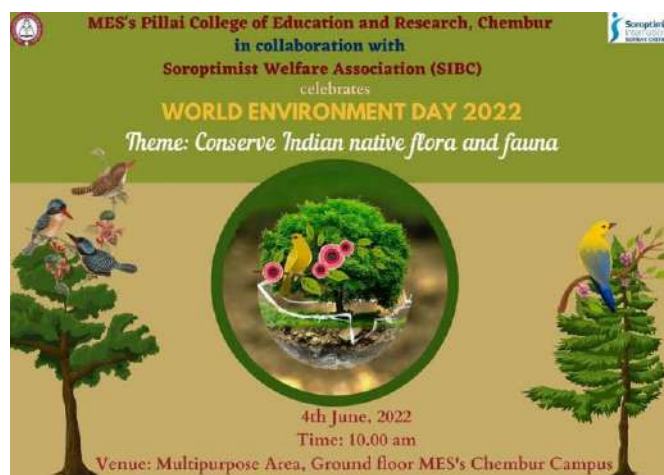
05 June, 2022



SI Bombay Chembur celebrated World Environment Day in the month of June in association with several Pillai Group of Institutions. Some of the highlights were as follows:

With the Social Service Committee of Pillai Institute of Management Studies and Research, we conducted an online webinar on 5th June, 2022. The theme for World Environment Day this year is **'Only One Earth'**. The objective of this webinar was to raise awareness about the dangers that growing pollution levels and climate change pose to the ecosystem. The esteemed speakers were Mr. Pashupathy Gopalan, CEO of Sunedison and Vilasini Housing and Dr. Pranjal Kumar Phukan, Thought leader and industry expert.

In collaboration with MES's Pillai College of Education and Research we carried out a large plantation drive. The theme of the drive is **'Conserve Indian native flora and fauna'**. Under this initiative we will be planting 500 plants in Tribal area of Dindori and Peth Taluka of Nashik district, Maharashtra and 500 plants in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai residential areas. The plants are selected as per the specific habitat of different species of birds to bring their homes back.





# World Environment Day

"No to Single Use Plastic"



In response to the SIGBI call for dedicated action against single plastic, SI Bombay Chembur conducted various campaigns in the month of June among the students of different ages who have the maximum stake in the sustainable future for the planet. Some of the highlights were as follows:

To inculcate environmental sensitivity from a tender age, a workshop was organized for the toddlers of Edukids International, Mumbai.

Another workshop was organized for the children of Chembur English High School on the theme of recycling. The resource person taught the kids to make cloth bags from old T-shirts.

Along with the Environment Protection Cell of Pillai College of Arts, Commerce and Science, we conducted 2 sessions for the students. On 21st June, an expert talk was delivered by Mr. Ajay Mishra, Founder of Biocrux, on the topic – "India Mechanical Blessing for the Environment". This was followed up on 22<sup>nd</sup> June with "Mechanics into action - Recycling Plastic". Where the activity was -- Get your plastic bottles, Crush them in the plastic shredder, See the beautiful and useful product made out of plastic threads.





# International Day of Yoga

21 June, 2022



To mark International Day of Yoga 2022, SI Bombay Chembur tied up with several Pillai Group of Institutions. Certified Yoga teachers were invited for the sessions. Some of the highlights were as follows:

Along with Mahatma Night Degree College of Arts and Commerce, Chembur, organized a Yoga workshop for students and faculty members. It was offered by Kaivalyadham Yoga Centre, Mumbai the theme of the workshop was "Yoga for Humanity". Yoga for peace was the message shared with participants.

SIBC with Chembur English High School conducted a Yoga session for the school kids. We also introduced Yoga to tiny toddlers of Edukids International, Mumbai.

SIBC in association with Pillai Institute of Management Studies observed the "International Yoga Day" by organising a yoga session for the female housekeeping staff of the Panvel campus. The WDC of Pillai HOC College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Rasayani also conducted a Yoga workshop.



# Why I am a Soroptimist!!



**Dr. Lata Krishnan,**

NASI President in 2016-18

The term Soroptimist International was introduced to us by Dr. Daphne Pillai, Chairperson Management Board and Secretary of Mahatma Education Society's Pillai Group of Institutions, Mumbai. She shared with us stories of Soroptimist brave-hearts who helped save the lives of total strangers (some of her family members) who had met with a serious car accident in the United States of America. This story moved me. I was impressed by the courage and helping nature of those Soroptimist ladies.

There was a buzz going on in the college campus. Antoinette D'Costa, Anna Kurrian, Iman Calcuawala and other members from SI Colaba were coming to meet us and tell us more about Soroptimist International. There were discussions about starting a new Soroptimist International club in Chembur, Mumbai. Dr. Daphne Pillai, Founder President of SI Bombay Chembur is my friend, philosopher and guide. Just before the meeting, she explained how important it is for every thinking woman to think beyond herself. Her words kindled the social conscience in me.

The meeting began. Veteran Soroptimist Antoinette D'Costa addressed the gathering. She had a magnetic charm about her. The radiance emerging from her courage of conviction and accomplishments set her apart from the crowd. Antoinette had already served two terms as Director, International Good Will and Understanding at the Federation of Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI). She explained to us how soroptimism was a commitment to transform the lives of women and girls. She said, Sisterhood is at the core of "Soroptimism." No matter where you go, if you meet a Soroptimist be sure to have found a sister who will be there for you. Friendship and home hospitality are key elements of a true Soroptimist.

The members spoke about their international travels for attending SIGBI conferences, participating in friendship link projects, attending club meetings, reporting programme action work and membership building. I listened very carefully. The Soroptimist members were strong vibrant personalities with poise, charisma and style. I enjoyed their cajoling words and was impressed with the narration of their stories of SI projects big and small. I was instantly attracted to them and wanted to be like them!



## Member Achievements

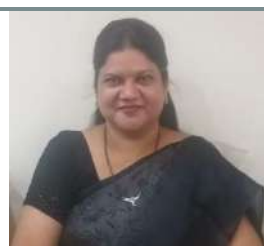


SIBC Founder President **Dr. Daphne Pillai** was a speaker at the United Nation's 'Commission on the Status of Women' -- CSW66, organized by the National Board of Catholic Women, England and Wales on 15th March, 2022 on the topic "Water: Climate Change and Life Chances for Girls and Women". The talk can be viewed at

<https://daphnepillai.com/global-links/nbcw-csw66/>



SIBC Member and Principal of Pillai College of Education and Research, Chembur, **Dr. Reni Francis** secured her second PhD, this time in Business Economics from University of Mumbai, on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022.



SIBC member **Ms. Mamta Patil** was appointed as In-charge principal of Pillai HOC College of Education and Research, Rasayani.

## SIBC AGM



The Annual General Body Meeting of SIBC was held at 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at Dr. K.M. Vasudevan Pillai Campus, Panvel. The annual report was presented by President Yvette Lee on behalf of PAC Munawira Kotyad.

The members showered compliments on the outgoing team of 2018-2022 for their exemplary dedicated work. Dr. Daphne Pillai who was the returning officer announced the names of members elected unopposed for the new governing body to take charge.



Introducing the new Governing Body 2022-24 of SIBC elected at the AGM held on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2022:

Left to Right:

Ms. Preeti Pawar (President Elect), Ms. Yvette Lee (PAC & IPP), Dr. Smita Dalvi (Communication Officer), Dr. Daphne Pillai (Founder President), Ms. Namrata Saxena (President), Ms. Susanna Cherian (Secretary), Ms. Mamta Patil (Treasurer), Ms. Munawira Kotyad Pillai (Club Extension & Membership Officer) (not in picture).

## Upcoming Events and Projects

Organ Donation Day

Bharat Nutrition Day

Adult Literacy Drive

International Day for the Girl Child

World Mental Health Day

Joy of Giving Week

### ***SI President's Appeal***



### **"Opening Doors to a Bright Future"**

The objectives of this appeal are to:

- Provide access to education in all its forms for disadvantaged and marginalised women and girls.
- Provide education to women and girls in a safe, friendly, and stimulating environment where there is equality of opportunity and support for all.
- Develop mentoring programmes that encourage confidence, self-esteem and increase the participation of women and girls in society and in decision-making.
- Increase access to information, educational resources, and services, to empower women and girls to make informed life-choices.

- Maureen Maguire

SI President (2022-23)



### ***Did You Know?***



Savitribai Phule and Fatima Sheikh were the pioneers of girls' education in India. Together, they set up the first school for girls in India in Pune - ensuring that students from non-dominant castes could access education.

They shared the tasks of teaching girls, going from house to house encouraging families to send their girls to the school and managing the affairs of the school.

Savitribai and her husband Jotiba faced immense opposition from the upper caste society for their reformist agenda and were made to vacate their ancestral house. It was Fatima and her brother who provided them and the school a home in the interim period.

The Poona University was renamed as Savitribai Phule University to honour her legacy.

