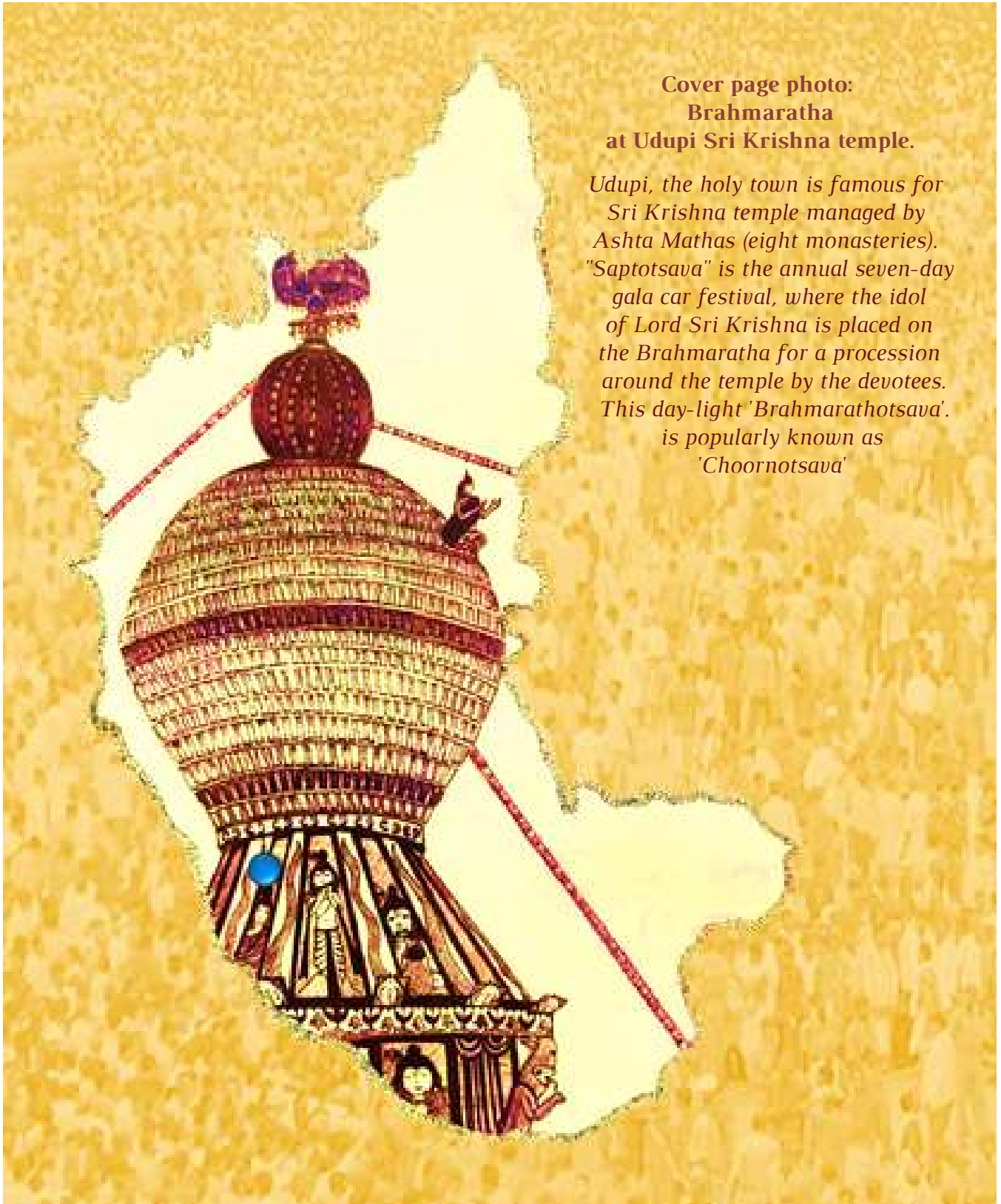




AULA MAGNA

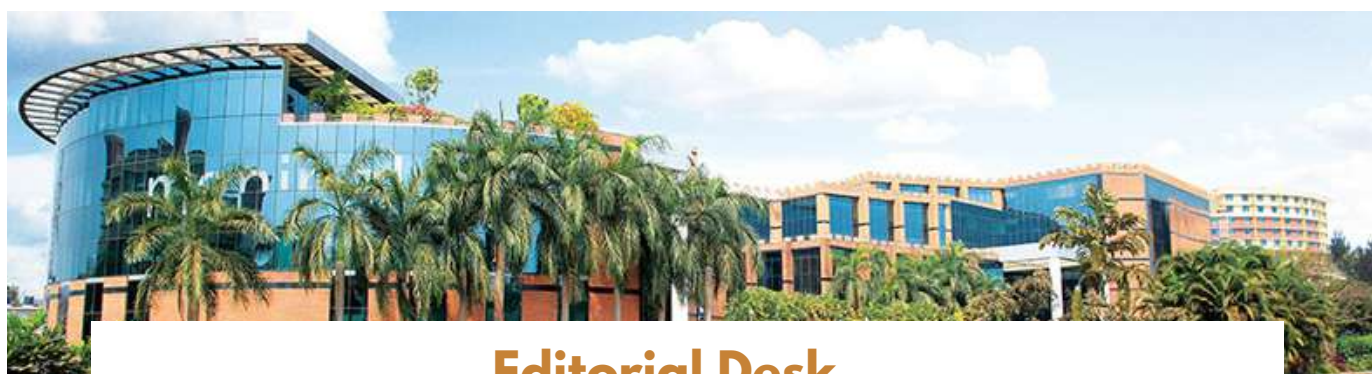


An initiative by the Office of International Affairs & Collaborations, MAHE



**Cover page photo:
Brahmaratha
at Udupi Sri Krishna temple.**

Udupi, the holy town is famous for Sri Krishna temple managed by Ashta Mathas (eight monasteries). "Saptotsava" is the annual seven-day gala car festival, where the idol of Lord Sri Krishna is placed on the Brahmaratha for a procession around the temple by the devotees. This day-light 'Brahmarathotsava' is popularly known as 'Choornotsava'



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Building a Better World through Higher Education



The Association
of Commonwealth
Universities



Aditya Malkani

South & East Asia Representative,
The Association of Commonwealth Universities

It is my great pleasure to be writing the editorial for Aula Magna – the quarterly newsletter of the prestigious Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE). Being based in India, I have had the great pleasure of observing the giant leaps made by MAHE over the years – including achieving recognition as an Institute of Eminence by the Government of India. MAHE has grown from strength to strength under the stewardship of able leaders, with the contribution of world-class academics, and most importantly its bright and talented students. We are indeed proud to have access to the intellectual capital fostered at MAHE via their membership of the ACU.

The Association of Commonwealth Universities is a network of over 500 member universities in more than 50 countries, with nearly two-thirds of our membership in developing countries.

Our mission is to build a better world through higher education, and we believe in the transformative power of universities – for individuals, communities, and nations. All of our work is testimony to this mission.

The ACU's approach to building partnerships is equitable, sustainable, and focuses on strengthening the capacity of our member universities for the long term. We believe that there should be a tangible and lasting change as a result of a partnership, whether it is in the area of teaching, research, student and faculty exchange, or collaborative education.

The ACU promotes knowledge sharing and knowledge democracy through our university networks and communities of practice in Climate Resilience, Peace and Reconciliation, Higher Education and the SDGs, Supporting Research, and Human Resources in Higher Education. These networks connect nearly 2,000 colleagues across our membership, providing platforms for staff and students from universities around the Commonwealth to share ideas and best practice and build partnerships.

As the ACU's South & East Asia Representative - my remit extends across eight countries in the region, where we have nearly 250 members, with 150 members based in India alone. Our membership in Asia includes some of the most prominent institutions from the public and private sectors, and six members of our Governing Council are vice-chancellors of leading Asian universities.

We are working with our members in India on a range of initiatives to address their needs. In February 2020, we conducted a series of India Forums focused on blended learning – bringing together our Indian (and some UK) member institutions to discuss the vital issue of tackling teaching shortages with the assistance of technology. These forums were graciously hosted by the

National Law University – Delhi, University of Mumbai, and Christ University (Bangalore). The world experienced a pivot to online learning shortly after, caused rather abruptly by the pandemic, and this has only accelerated the thrust towards blended learning, as we emerge into a post-pandemic world.

At the same time, the pandemic has exposed and exacerbated the issue of the digital divide, which is an important area of the ACU's policy work. We are having exploratory conversations with MAHE about convening a conference to highlight some of the challenges confronting teachers and learners, caused by the digital divide in higher education. It is imperative that these challenges are emphasised to governments and philanthropic funders, who can accordingly plan for remedial solutions.

Finally, following on from discussions at meetings of the ACU's East Asia Regional Committee, we have been pursuing the Committee's keen interest in exploring a virtual exchange scheme between universities in the region, and also involving a small number of universities in the UK and in the Pacific region. The proposed virtual exchange programme will enable undergraduates from India and the wider East Asia region to study and work with students from different backgrounds and cultures through joint online courses, and we are looking forward to MAHE's active participation in this initiative. Through virtual mobility and exchange, we have the potential to expand access to the benefits of an international experience – engaging many more students than through physical mobility, while providing opportunities for them to develop the skills and competencies they need in a jobs market where companies are increasingly working in more global and collaborative settings.

In conclusion, the ACU is committed to supporting its member universities to 'build forward better' after the pandemic. By working together across borders, universities – with the support of international networks like the ACU – can envisage a future that builds on the experience and learnings of the past year, promote equity of access and outcomes, and support the next generation of leaders. Through this, we can secure not just the future of our sector, but the greener, healthier, safer future that our nations need.

Good wishes.



Our mission is to build a better world through higher education, and we believe in the transformative power of universities – for individuals, communities, and nations



MAHE - King's - Virtual Knowledge Exchange Program



King's College London, UK and Kasturba Medical College (KMC), Manipal co-designed and delivered a four-week virtual global health elective course to aid student mobility and knowledge exchange, which is the first of its kind to be delivered in India.

The joint virtual electives focused on global health with weekly themes, including the impact of COVID-19, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, and maternal health care. Drawing on their experiences, clinician academics from both institutions shared insights and reflections on each of these themes. Participating students were also given the opportunity to work together in smaller groups, helping them to build social connections and enhance their intercultural understanding. The elective was conducted jointly under the guidance of Professor Ann Wylie, Lecturer in Medical Education and Deputy Director of King's Undergraduate Medical Education in the Community, and Dr Sindhura Lakshmi, Associate Professor of Pathology at KMC, Manipal.

The global health elective was supported by the Association of Commonwealth (ACU) Medical Student Virtual Mobility Project Grants, which aims to enable cross-border collaboration without the need for physical travel, thus supporting student mobility, knowledge exchange, and innovation. As the virtual electives provided greater opportunities for collaboration between students and mitigated some of the challenges posed by usual elective experiences, such as travel restrictions, the team is exploring options for continuing the course in 2022.

Conferring of Honorary Professorship at Cardiff University to Dr Salins



Dr Naveen Salins

Professor and Head, Department of Palliative Medicine and Supportive Care, KMC, MAHE, Manipal

Dr Naveen Salins, Professor and Head of the Department of Palliative Medicine and Supportive Care, Kasturba Medical College, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal has been conferred the title of Honorary Professor of Medicine by Cardiff University, UK for a period of five years. Dr Salins has been associated with Cardiff University as a teacher and examiner for the MSc Palliative Medicine program for many years, and was the thesis guide for several students during the research phase of the MSc program.

Dr Salins recently completed his PhD from Lancaster University, UK, on the subject of pediatric palliative care for childhood cancers, and continues to strive towards achieving new feats in this field.

The Spirit of Forging New Connections with the University of New Brunswick



Owing to the pandemic, the student exchange collaboration between MAHE and University of New Brunswick (UNB), Canada has blossomed into a virtual exchange. 14 undergraduate students from the Department of Exercise and Sports Science opted to take courses offered by UNB during their final semester. The students were given the option to choose from five different courses offered during the winter semester at UNB, which were an amalgamation of pre-recorded lectures and live sessions along with periodic assignments and quizzes for engagement. The completion of the course awarded the students extra credit, a good learning experience and an enriching interaction with international faculty. We look forward to an onsite exchange of students that could further enhance their practical and cultural experience during the term.

A Collaboration for a Better Tomorrow

A collaborative initiative between the Department of Health Information Management, Manipal Centre for Health Professions, MAHE and the School of Informatics and Computing (SoIC), Indiana University and Purdue University (IUPUI), USA has led to new opportunities for students. This program allows the undergraduate students to complete four years of BSc program in Health Information Management at MAHE and subsequently go to IUPUI SoIC for one year and pursue their MS in Health Informatics there. The postgraduates enrolling into the Master's program are also eligible for MS in Health Informatics. Additionally, the students receive a scholarship of \$4,500 and an accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information.

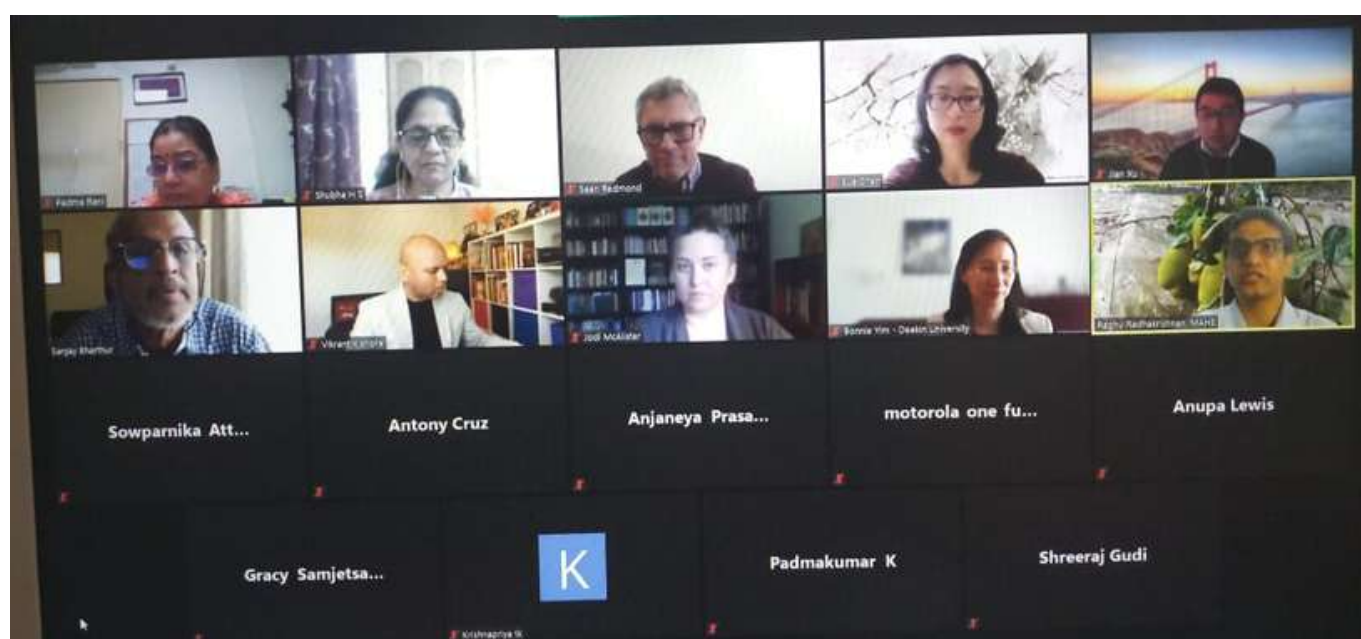
Digital Dentistry - A New Mode of Education

A virtual student exchange program hosted by Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine (GSDM), USA was held from 19 January - 6 March 2021 with participating schools including Faculty of Dentistry, Chulalongkorn University, Manipal College of Dental Sciences, Manipal, University of Manchester, Division of Dentistry and Tokyo Medical and Dental University. The opening session began with a welcome message from the Dean of the Boston University GSDM, Jeffrey W Hutter, followed by an introduction of the participating students. One session was allotted per school for the students to present an overview of their school, application process, curriculum, post-graduation options and healthcare delivery system highlighting a unique aspect of their school as well as a tour of their respective dental schools and campuses. This virtual program was an effort towards providing a perfect replacement for the onsite activity under the current scenario.

An Amalgamation of Ideas - First Online Global Health Symposium 2021

Global Health Symposium is an yearly occasion facilitated by the Department of Health Policy, Prasanna School of Public Health (PSPH), MAHE. Due to the pandemic, the occasion for 2021 was led in an online mode from April 19 - 30, 2021. The conference had 333 members from across six Universities. The participants were separated into six clusters, namely Occupational Health, Traditional Health Practices, Environmental Health, Reproductive and Child Health, Infectious Diseases Surveillance, Planetary Health, and Mental Health. The system mapping activity of the symposium was well facilitated with faculty expert sessions, group discussions with stakeholders, faculty debriefing, and guest lectures by eminent five speakers from various domains of global health. The Symposium is normally preceded by a Foundation Course for the understudies where they examine and work on the points that they will be chipping away at during the Symposium. This permits the students to work with a bunch of individuals from various social foundations. Alumni networking was another opportunity provided for all the students across the Universities.

An International Plethora of Research Stories



Manipal Institute of Communication, MIC, MAHE & Deakin University jointly organised "Sharing Asian Research Stories: Pathways to Collaboration", an online research colloquium on 29 June 2021. Faculty members and research scholars from both sides discussed their research ideas and possibilities of cooperation. Dr Raghu Radhakrishnan, Director Office of International Affairs and Collaborations, MAHE and Dr Bonnie Yim, Associate Dean (International Engagement) – Faculty of Arts & Education, Deakin University presided over the inaugural.

Dr Sean Redmond and Dr Jian Xu from Deakin University, Dr Padma Rani, Director MIC were the session conveners. Some of the collaborative activities and research proposals discussed during the colloquium have taken off to a good start.

New Partnerships



Up Close and Personal with Ms Shruti Sain - WGSHA Expert Lecture Series

"Her session helped students realize the importance of having a presence of mind and attention to detail, and how, with a thorough base, subjects could be made simpler."

As a part of the expert lecture series, Welcomgroup Graduate School of Hotel Administration (WGSHA) organized a webinar by their alumna, Ms Shruti Sain, CFO Sustainability Technology Solutions, Honey Well, Atlanta, USA on May 14, 2021. She started the session by talking about her 20 year long professional journey starting from Assistant Manager, F&B quality, ITC till her current position as CFO. She threw light on her inclination towards the financial industry while being a part of the hospitality industry. Her session helped students realize the importance of having a presence of mind and attention to detail, and how, with a thorough base, subjects could be made simpler. Later, she spoke about her work life and gave some insights on various challenges she faced and how she overcame them, which was surely motivating for students. A Q&A session was kept at the end.



Ms Shruti Sain
CFO- Sustainable Technology
Solutions, Honey well, Atlanta,
USA & WGSHA Alumna

“Who am I? Discovering oneself” (Ability and Skill Enhancement Lecture Series)



Mr Senthil Rajamani
Director of Operations & Business
Development, Xeenius Technology,
USA

The lecture was organised for 35th course BHM students, WGSHA, MAHE, Manipal on 2 June 2021 using the MS Teams platform. Mr Senthil Rajamani was the speaker and the event was moderated by Ms Supriya Shenoy, 2nd year BHM student. Chef K Thirugnanasambantham, Principal, WGSHA, MAHE gave the opening remarks.

The session mainly focused on the professional and personal experiences of Mr Senthil Rajamani. He began the session by sharing the difficulties he had to face to convince his family to take up Hotel Management as a course. He encouraged the students to join professional networking sites like LinkedIn and connect to professionals. He shared stories of how he moved forward in his career path by joining Taj group of Hotels; Blue Room Restaurant, Kenya and now working as an Independent Hotelier till finally becoming the Director of Operations & Business Development. This was followed by a Q&A session. Ms. Aavantika Bhattacharya delivered the vote of thanks.

Customer is the King - Hospitality Etiquettes



On the 14th of June, 2021, the students of 34th course BHM, WGSMA were treated to a webinar on the importance of guest satisfaction in the hotel industry by Mr Karan Kapoor. In his lecture on “The Importance of Guest Satisfaction, he emphasized on how important customer satisfaction is for the survival and growth of a hotel. Even though profits and reduced costs are important,

they can be achieved as by- products of excellent customer service. He also spoke about the formula of 3Cs – confidence, confidence and confidence in terms of the guest journey, emotional connection and communication with the guests. Lastly, he spoke about how a customer’s journey extends even beyond his/ her stay in the form of feedback, and how valuable this can be to the growth of the hotel.

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