

Pondicherry University
(A Central University)

Outreach Activities 2024-25

Report on National Science Day- OPEN DAY Celebration at the Department of Chemistry, Pondicherry University

Date & Time: 25th February 2026, 10 am to 01 pm

Venue: Department of Chemistry, Pondicherry University, Kalapet, Puducherry

Occasion: National Science Day, **OPEN DAY**

1. Introduction

National Science Day is celebrated every year on **28 February** across India to honour the discovery of the *Raman Effect* by Nobel-laureate physicist Sir C.V. Raman in 1928 — a pivotal moment in scientific research and recognition for India.

2. Theme & Objectives

Although National Science Day has an overarching national theme each year, the Department of Chemistry's celebration focused on **promoting scientific temperament among the school children, innovation, and bridging school and higher education science exposure** through interactive events and demonstrations.

The department's objectives were to:

- Encourage interest in science, especially in chemistry and research, among the school students of classes VI-XII.
- Provide practical exposure to working scientific models, computational chemistry, and laboratory equipment.
- Inspire future careers in chemistry.

3. Key Events & Activities

The department organized the following activities on the OPEN DAY:

- Live demonstrations of 14 scientific experiments, including molecular models and hands-on experience of computational chemistry.
- Six posters showcasing chemistry involved in the kitchen, daily life, how to detect food adulterations, common medicines, some very important Indian scientists, and the last ten years' Nobel laureates with their key contributions.
- Guided tours of advanced laboratories and research facilities.
- The Head of the Department interacted with the school students, which was followed by an audio-video session showing three-dimensional molecular structures, crystal structures, chemical reactions that change colour with time, involvement of orbitals in the transition state of chemical reactions, and CO₂-O₂ cycle in nature. It also showed

Nobel laureates in the last 15 years and their key contributions. The departmental profile was also showcased in this session.

- Respected Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Prakash Babu, kindly visited the exhibition and interacted with the school students.

This initiative was aimed at giving younger students a first-hand experience of university-level chemistry education and research.

4. Student Engagement & Impact

The **Open Day** celebration in the Department of Chemistry attracted participation from local schools. The platforms were provided for:

- Display of student scientific thinking.
- Interaction with university researchers and educators.
- Exploration of future scientific careers.

Such engagement helped to build scientific curiosity among young learners and reinforce the Department of Chemistry, Pondicherry University's role as a hub for chemistry education.

5. Conclusion

The National Science Day celebrations at the Department of Chemistry, Pondicherry University, successfully combined academic rigor, outreach, and hands-on science exposure. The programme not only honored a historic scientific achievement but also underscored the importance of inspiring new generations toward science, research, and innovation.

Open Day program





1. Visit of French students from Lady Doak College, Madurai – 14th August 2025

Dr. Santo Micheline Sangeetha, alumnus of Dept. of French, Pondicherry University along with 4 faculty from the Lady Doak College Madurai visited the Department of French, Pondicherry University. This was the occasion to talk about the History of French in Pondicherry, prospects of studying French and also the various programmes of Pondicherry University.





2. Visit of Students from Amity University – Haryana – 13th October 2025

Dr. Priyobroto Shoo, alumnus of Dept. of French along with Dr. Mahapurva visited the Pondicherry University, Dept. of French along with 12 students of B.A. French (Hons with research) programme on 13th October 2025. The Head, Dept of French, Dr. Sarmila Acharif interacted with the students and spoke about the importance of languages and career opportunities in this domain. The students shared their experience and interests also.

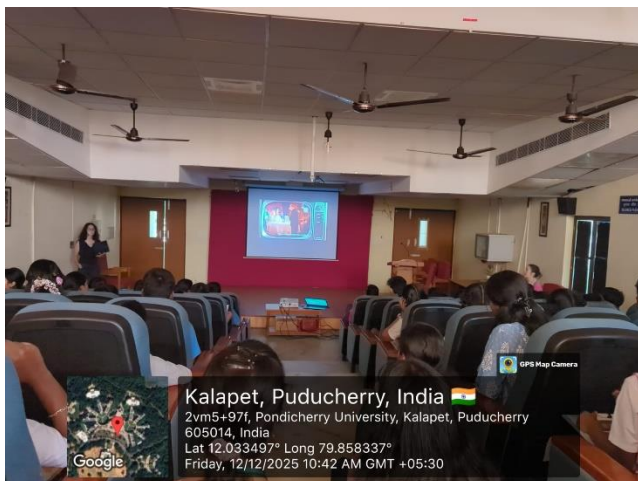


3. Visit of School students – 12th December 2025

A film projection of *Ratatouille* was organized for the **60 school students of Calve Collège and the Pensionnat de Jeunes Filles** at Pondicherry University on 12th December 2025. The event was held at Seminar Hall 1 and commenced at 10:00 a.m. The programme was conducted with the objective of providing an educational and engaging cinematic experience while encouraging observation, critical thinking, and interactive learning among the students in a university environment.

Each participant was provided with a booklet on movie observation to help them follow the narrative and reflect on key aspects of the film. The programme began with a welcome address delivered by the esteemed Head of the Department, Dr. Sarmila Acharif. Following the which, the film projection commenced. The film projection was concluded at 1:00 p.m., after which an online quiz session was conducted by Madame Camille, French Tutor. The quiz was highly interactive and engaging, and the students participated enthusiastically, demonstrating keen interest and understanding of the film.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Madame Camille, expressing gratitude for the cooperation and support. The event was well received by the students, who expressed great enjoyment and active involvement throughout the programme. The successful execution of the event highlighted effective coordination between the university and school participants. The programme ended on a pleasant and memorable note with a group photograph of the professors, followed by a group photograph including all those present at the venue.





4. Visit of French students from St. Joseph College, Trichy – 13th February 2026

Ms. Mohanalakshmi, alumna of Dept. of French, Pondicherry University came with 52 students of the Dept. of French in St. Joseph College, Trichy on an educational visit to Pondicherry University. A talk was given by Dr. Sarmila Acharif and Dr. Ritu Tyagi on the career opportunities in the field of languages especially French and also the various PG programmes in Pondicherry University.



Report on Awareness Programme: “My Body, My Voice”

Programme Details

Title of the Programme: My Body, My Voice (Puberty, Attraction, Body Image)

Organised by: Centre for Women’s Studies, Pondicherry University

Date: 4 November 2025

Time: 11:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Venue: Kolping Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Kalapet

Faculty Coordinator: Dr. Kamalaveni, Associate Professor, Pondicherry University

Student Coordinators: Selva Kumar, Thuyanenjan, Tejaswini

Introduction

The Centre for Women’s Studies, Pondicherry University, organized an awareness programme titled “My Body, My Voice” on 4 November 2025 at Kolping Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Kalapet. The programme focused on key aspects of adolescence, including puberty, attraction, and body image, aiming to create awareness and promote healthy understanding among school students.

Objectives of the Programme

The primary objective of the programme was to provide adolescents with accurate knowledge about physical and emotional changes during puberty. It also aimed to foster a positive body image, address misconceptions related to attraction, and encourage open discussions on sensitive topics. The programme sought to empower students with confidence, self-awareness, and the ability to make informed decisions regarding their health and well-being.

Programme Proceedings

The session was conducted interactively, creating a safe and inclusive space for students to engage and express their thoughts. Dr. Kamalaveni led the session, addressing crucial aspects of adolescence in a simple and relatable manner.

The discussion covered:

Physical and emotional changes during puberty

Understanding attraction and managing emotions

Building a positive body image and self-esteem

Addressing myths and misconceptions related to adolescent development

Students actively participated in the session by asking questions and sharing their concerns. The interactive nature of the programme encouraged open dialogue and helped in reducing hesitation around sensitive topics.

Learning Outcomes

The programme had a significant impact on students, contributing to their personal and social development:

Enhanced Awareness: Students gained a clear understanding of puberty and related changes.

Improved Self-Confidence: The session promoted positive body image and self-acceptance.

Emotional Understanding: Participants learned to understand and manage feelings of attraction responsibly.

Myth Busting: Misconceptions regarding adolescence were addressed effectively.

Safe Communication: Students felt encouraged to discuss sensitive issues openly and seek guidance when needed.

Conclusion

The programme “My Body, My Voice” was highly effective in creating awareness among school students about adolescence and body image. It successfully provided a platform for open discussion, enabling students to gain clarity, confidence, and a healthy perspective towards their physical and emotional development. The initiative reflects the Centre’s commitment to promoting gender-sensitive education and adolescent well-being.



Ms. Tejaswini engaging students on adolescent well-being and self-confidence



Mr. Selva Kumar addressing students on attraction and emotional well-being



Students actively engaging during the awareness session



Mr. Thuyanenjan engaging students on emotional well-being and attraction

Report on Awareness Session: Smart Eating and Smart Thinking

Venue: Jyothi Vellalar Higher Secondary School, Kalapet

Date: 2 September 2025

Duration: 1 Hour

Conducted by: Aruba Rais & Sheeju K.K., Centre for Women's Studies, Pondicherry University

Introduction

As part of the field engagement initiatives of the Centre for Women's Studies, Pondicherry University, an interactive awareness session was conducted at Jyothi Vellalar Higher Secondary School, Kalapet, on the theme "Smart Eating and Smart Thinking." The session aimed to sensitize students about the importance of nutrition, its relationship with cognitive development, and the gender dimensions associated with food access and distribution.

Objectives of the Session

To promote awareness of balanced diets and healthy eating habits among adolescents.

To introduce a gender perspective in understanding food and nutrition.

To highlight challenges faced by vulnerable communities in accessing adequate nutrition.

To encourage active student participation through interactive activities.

To connect healthy eating practices with improved academic performance and well-being.

Session Overview

The session commenced at 11:00 AM with the participation of VIII standard students. It was conducted in two segments: the first by Aruba Rais and the second by Sheeju K.K. The facilitators adopted an interactive and student-friendly approach, ensuring effective engagement throughout the session.

1. Understanding Smart Eating

The session began with an explanation of the importance of nutritious food, particularly the role of breakfast in enhancing concentration and learning ability. Local food examples were discussed to make the concept relatable and practical.

2. Smart Thinking and Academic Growth

Students were encouraged to reflect on how proper nutrition contributes to memory, creativity, and confidence, thereby improving academic performance.

3. Gender Perspective on Food and Nutrition

A critical discussion was initiated on gender inequalities in food distribution within households. It highlighted how girls and women often receive less nutritious food and are the last to eat.

Students were encouraged to reflect on the importance of equality in food access and its implications for health outcomes.

4. Real-Life Contexts

The facilitators shared examples from plantation regions, including Malakkapara Lower Primary School in Kerala, where children often attend school without breakfast. This discussion highlighted the role of socio-economic conditions in shaping nutritional outcomes and emphasized the importance of collective responsibility.

5. Interactive Memory Game

An engaging memory game was conducted to reinforce the concepts discussed. Students were asked to recall words related to food, nature, and their surroundings. This activity enhanced participation and improved retention of key ideas.

6. Food and Economic Disparities

Students were encouraged to think about their favourite foods and trace the chain of individuals involved in bringing food to their table. The discussion was enriched through the narration of Santhosh Echikkannam's short story "Biryani," which highlighted issues of food wastage and economic inequality. This activity fostered awareness of the value of food and the labour involved in its production.

Outcomes of the Session

Increased awareness among students regarding balanced diets and healthy eating practices.

Improved understanding of gender disparities in food access and nutrition.

Enhanced student engagement through participatory and activity-based learning.

Greater sensitivity towards issues of food security, inequality, and social responsibility.

Reflections from Facilitators

Aruba

Rais:

The session provided a meaningful opportunity to engage with students on issues of nutrition and gender. It highlighted how food choices influence not only physical health but also academic performance and confidence. The discussion on gender inequalities offered deeper insights into how social norms shape health outcomes, particularly for girls and women.

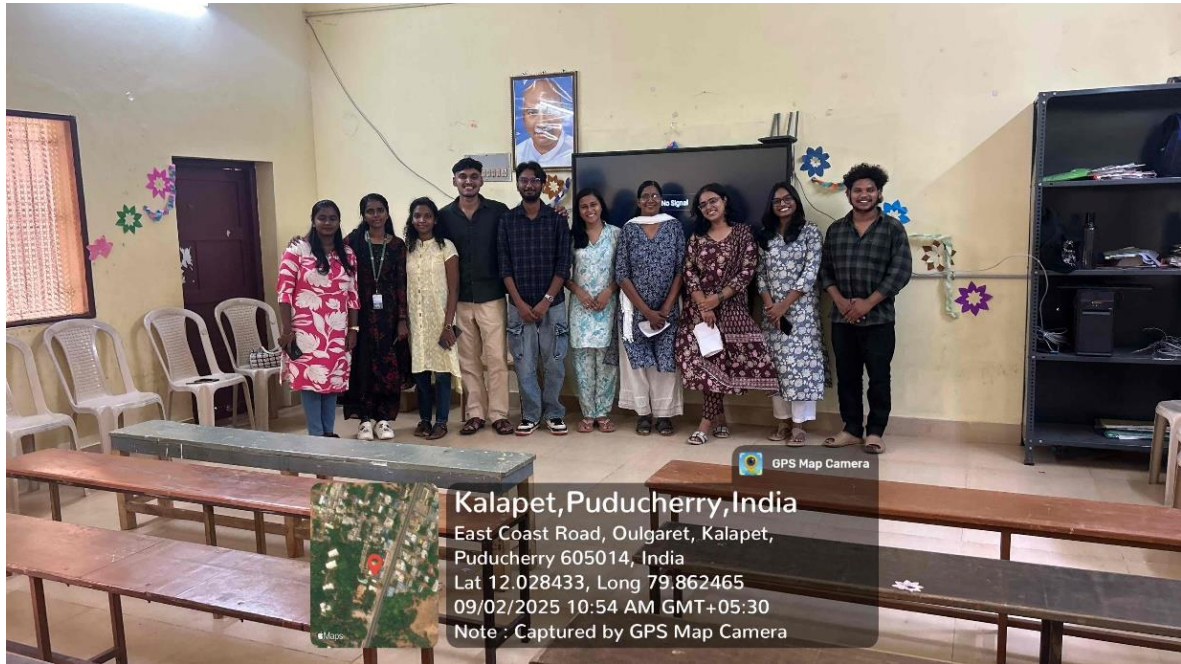
Sheeju

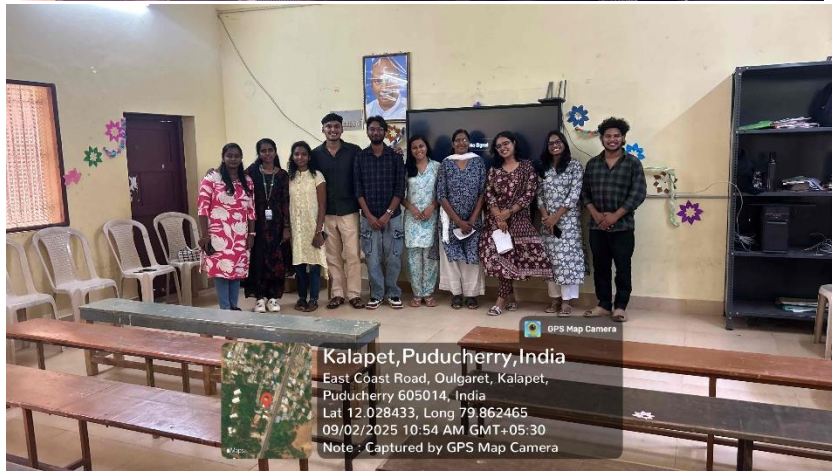
K.K.:

The session was an enriching experience that combined interactive learning with social awareness. Through activities such as the memory game, students were able to connect health practices with broader social issues like poverty and food insecurity. The experience also contributed to personal growth by enhancing communication skills and confidence in engaging with young learners.

Conclusion

The awareness session on “Smart Eating and Smart Thinking” successfully linked nutrition with education, gender equality, and social responsibility. It created a platform for students to reflect on their eating habits while understanding the broader socio-economic and gender-related dimensions of food practices. The session proved to be both informative and transformative, benefiting both the participants and the facilitators.





Title of the Programme

Strengthening Resilience: Stress Management for Local Police Personnel

Programme Details

Organised by: In-Service Training Centre, Police Department, Coimbatore

Resource Person: Dr. Kamalaveni, Associate Professor, Centre for Women's Studies, Pondicherry University

Date: 24 November 2025

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Venue: In-Service Training Centre, PTS Campus, Coimbatore

Target Audience: Local Police Personnel

Nature of Activity: Extension Activity

Introduction

As part of extension and community outreach initiatives, Dr. Kamalaveni was invited by the Police Department, Coimbatore, to deliver a session on stress management for local police personnel. The programme focused on enhancing emotional resilience, mental well-being, and coping strategies among police officials who face high levels of occupational stress. The invitation letter (dated 21.11.2025) highlights the relevance of the session in promoting professional well-being among officers.

Objectives of the Programme

To create awareness about occupational stress and its impact on mental health

To equip police personnel with practical stress management techniques

To enhance emotional resilience and coping mechanisms

To promote mental well-being and work-life balance

To sensitize participants on gender perspectives and emotional intelligence

Programme Proceedings

The session commenced with an introduction to the significance of mental health and stress management in policing professions. Dr. Kamalaveni delivered an engaging and interactive lecture addressing the nature and causes of stress in high-pressure work environments.

The session covered:

Understanding stress and its psychological and physical impacts

Identifying sources of occupational stress among police personnel

Techniques for stress management, including relaxation methods and mindfulness

Emotional regulation and resilience-building strategies

Importance of gender sensitivity and empathetic communication in professional settings

Participants actively engaged in the session by sharing their experiences and participating in discussions. Practical strategies were shared to help them manage stress effectively in both personal and professional contexts.

Learning Outcomes

Improved Awareness: Participants gained insight into stress and its impact on their well-being

Skill Development: Learned practical techniques for managing stress and building resilience

Emotional Strength: Enhanced ability to cope with workplace challenges

Behavioural Change: Encouraged positive thinking and emotional regulation

Professional Efficiency: Promoted a healthier work environment and improved interpersonal interactions

Outcome and Impact

The programme was well-received by the participants and appreciated for its relevance and practical approach. It contributed significantly to enhancing the psychological well-being of police personnel. The session also strengthened the university's commitment to community engagement and extension activities.

Conclusion

The extension activity successfully addressed a critical need for stress management among police personnel. By integrating academic expertise with community outreach, the programme demonstrated the importance of mental health awareness in demanding professions. It stands as a meaningful contribution towards building a resilient and emotionally balanced workforce.



Dr. Kamalaveni delivering a session on stress management for police personnel at the In-Service Training Centre, Coimbatore



Dr. Kamalaveni delivering a session on stress management for police personnel at the In-Service Training Centre, Coimbatore



Dr. Kamalaveni delivering a session on stress management for police personnel at the In-Service Training Centre, Coimbatore

Title of the Programme: Awareness Programme on Sexual Harassment at Workplace

Introduction

As part of the Sexual Harassment Prevention Week, an awareness programme on workplace sexual harassment was organized by ICFRE–IFGTB, Coimbatore. Dr. Kamalaveni was invited as a resource person to deliver an expert session on the issue. The programme aimed to sensitize employees about the significance of maintaining a safe and respectful work environment and to promote awareness of legal frameworks and preventive measures.

Objectives of the Programme

- To create awareness about sexual harassment at the workplace
- To educate participants on legal provisions and institutional mechanisms
- To promote a safe, inclusive, and gender-sensitive work environment
- To encourage reporting and prevention of workplace harassment
- To build awareness on rights, responsibilities, and redressal systems

Programme Proceedings

The programme commenced with an introductory session highlighting the importance of workplace safety and gender sensitivity. Dr. Kamalaveni delivered an insightful lecture on the concept of sexual harassment, its forms, and its impact on individuals and institutions.

Key aspects covered in the session included:

Definition and types of sexual harassment at the workplace

Overview of the POSH Act (2013) and its implementation

Role and functioning of the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)

Rights of employees and responsibilities of employers

Preventive strategies and mechanisms for redressal

The session was followed by an awareness film screening, which reinforced key messages and provided practical scenarios for better understanding. Participants actively engaged in discussions and clarified their queries regarding workplace conduct and reporting procedures.

Learning Outcomes

Enhanced Awareness: Participants gained clarity on identifying and preventing sexual harassment

Legal Literacy: Improved understanding of the POSH Act and ICC mechanisms

Behavioural Sensitization: Encouraged respectful workplace interactions

Empowerment: Participants felt more confident in addressing and reporting issues

Institutional Strengthening: Reinforced the importance of structured grievance redressal systems

Outcome and Impact

The programme was highly impactful and well-received by participants across different professional roles. It contributed to strengthening awareness, promoting gender sensitivity, and fostering a safe working environment within the institution. The inclusion of both lecture and film-based learning enhanced participant engagement and understanding.

Conclusion

The awareness programme successfully highlighted the importance of preventing sexual harassment in workplaces and reinforced the need for institutional accountability and individual responsibility. The session reflects a meaningful extension activity contributing to social awareness, gender justice, and professional ethics.



Dr. Kamalaveni delivering an awareness session on sexual harassment at workplace at ICFRE–IFGTB, Coimbatore



Report on One-Day Awareness Programme

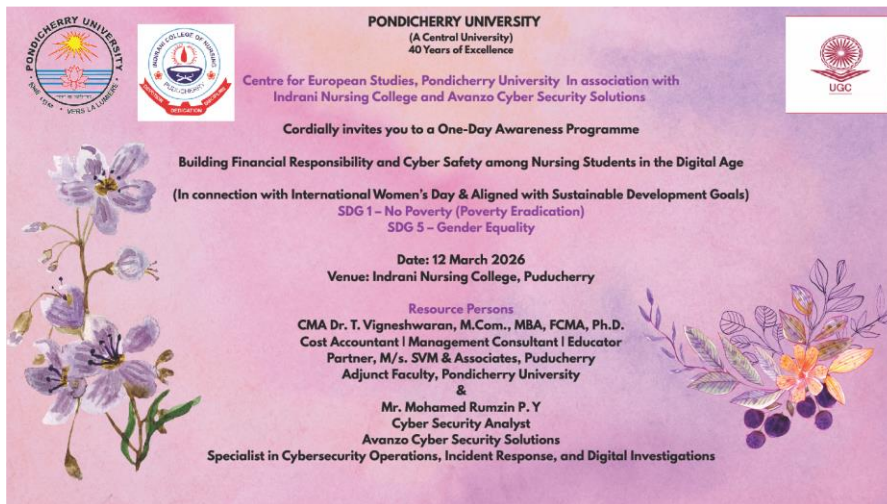
Building Financial Responsibility and Cyber Safety among Nursing Students in the Digital Age on 12th and 13th March 2026

Title of the Programme	Building Financial Responsibility and Cyber Safety among Nursing Students in the Digital Age
Date and Venue	12 March 2026 Indrani Nursing College, 13 March 2026 Department of Green Energy technology and centre for European Studies Pondicherry University
Time	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Organizing Bodies	Centre for European Studies, Pondicherry University and Avanzo Cyber Security Solutions
Target Audience	Nursing students and students from science department and Social science various departments
SDG Alignment	SDG 1 – No Poverty; SDG 5 – Gender Equality

The Centre for European Studies, Pondicherry University, in association with Indrani Nursing College, Puducherry and Avanzo Cyber Security Solutions, organized an awareness programme titled “Building Financial Responsibility and Cyber Safety among Nursing Students in the Digital Age.” The programme was conducted on 12 March 2026 at Indrani Nursing College, Puducherry as part of activities connected with International Women’s Day and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 1 – No Poverty (Poverty Eradication) and SDG 5 – Gender Equality. The event aimed to highlight the importance of financial literacy and cyber awareness among young women students, enabling them to use digital platforms safely and responsibly.

The programme was attended by nursing students and faculty members, with nearly 100 students actively participating. The event began with a welcome address by the faculty members of Indrani Nursing College, who emphasized the growing relevance of financial awareness and digital security in today’s technologically driven world. The first session on

Financial Responsibility was delivered by Dr. T. Vigneshwaran, who discussed the importance of financial planning for students and young professionals. He highlighted responsible use of banking services, digital payment systems, budgeting practices, and awareness of savings and investments. He also explained ways to protect individuals from financial frauds and scams.



The second session on Cyber Safety and Digital Security was conducted by Mr. Mohamed Rumzin, who addressed the increasing risks of cyber threats and online frauds. He explained various forms of cybercrime such as phishing, identity theft, malware attacks, and online scams, and provided practical guidance on safe use of social media and protection of personal data. The sessions were interactive, and students actively participated in discussions. The programme concluded with a valedictory session and felicitation of the resource persons by the faculty members of Indrani Nursing College, acknowledging their valuable contribution in promoting financial and cyber awareness among students.



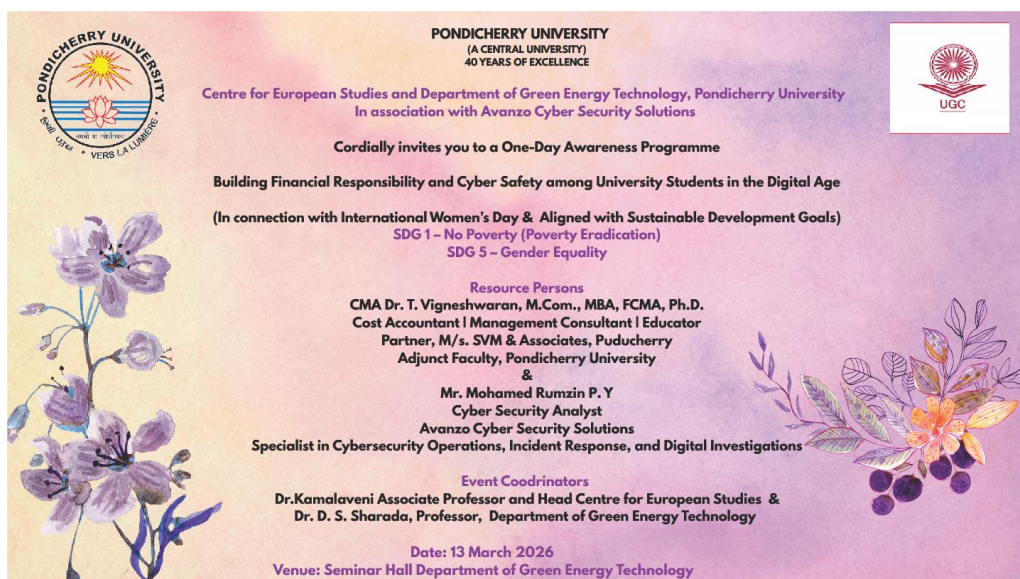
Mr. Mohamed Rumzin delivering an insightful session on Cyber Safety and Digital Security, highlighting the growing risks of cyber threats, online frauds, and the importance of responsible digital practices among Indrani nursing collegestudents.



Dr. T. Vigneshwaran addressing students on the importance of financial planning and responsible money management for a secure future at Indrani nursing college.



Following this programme, a second session of the awareness programme was conducted on 13 March 2026 at Pondicherry University for students from various departments of the university. The morning session was organized for students from the Department of Green Energy Technology and the Department of Nanoscience and Technology. The afternoon session included participation from students of the Departments of Chemistry, Anthropology, Mass Media, Political Science, and French. Similar to the programme held on 12 March, the sessions focused on building awareness about financial responsibility and cyber safety in the digital age.



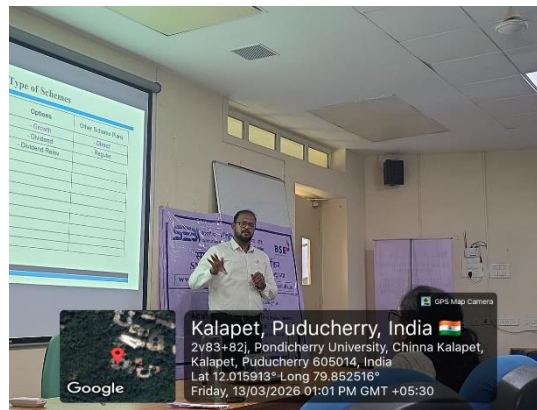
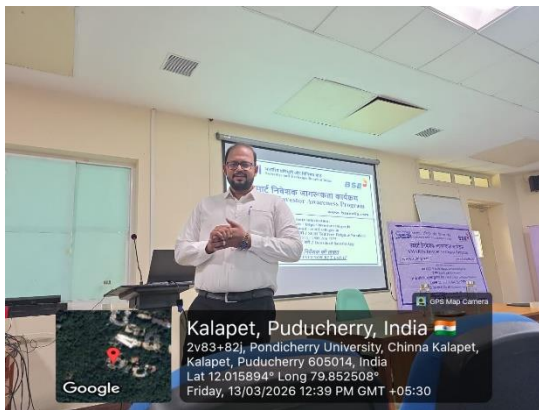
Dr. T. Vigneshwaran delivered a lecture on financial literacy, emphasizing the importance of financial discipline, responsible digital transactions, and long-term financial planning for students. Mr. Mohamed Rumzin conducted the session on cyber security, explaining the various types of cyber threats and providing practical strategies to safeguard personal and financial information online. Students actively engaged with the speakers during the interactive discussion session, raising questions about digital transactions, online security, and safe internet practices. The programme successfully created awareness among students from diverse academic disciplines about the importance of financial management, digital responsibility, and cyber security, which are increasingly essential skills in the contemporary digital environment. An interactive discussion session followed the lectures, during which students clarified their doubts regarding online banking, digital transactions, and cyber security issues. The resource persons provided practical examples and useful tips that helped students better understand the importance of maintaining digital security in their everyday lives.

Programme Details: The programme focused on enhancing financial literacy and cyber safety awareness among students. Sessions were delivered by Dr. T. Vigneshwaran (Financial Responsibility) and Mr. Mohamed Rumzin (Cyber Safety). Interactive discussions enabled students to understand safe digital practices, financial planning, and fraud prevention.

Outcome: Students gained practical knowledge on financial management and cyber security awareness.



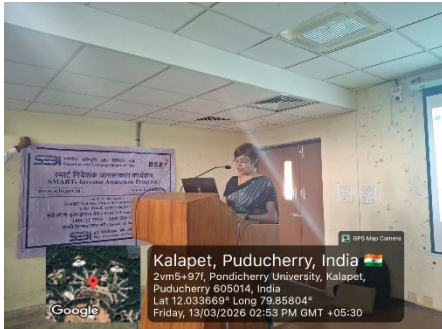
Sharada D. S., Professor, Department of Green Energy Technology, warmly welcoming the gathering and introducing the resource persons for the session on 13th morning 2026 at Department of Green Energy Technology.



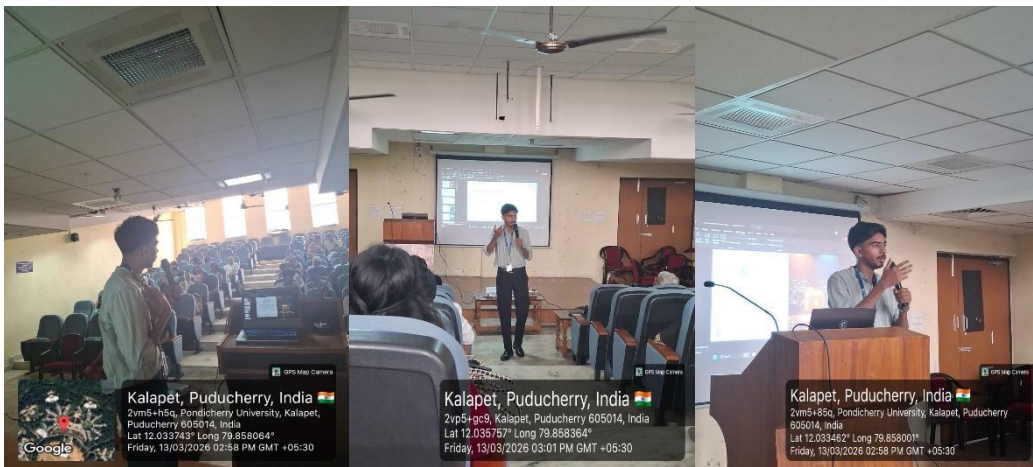
Dr. T. Vigneshwaran addressing students on the importance of financial planning and responsible money management for a secure future



Mr. Mohamed Rumzin delivering an insightful session on Cyber Safety and Digital Security, highlighting the growing risks of cyber threats, online frauds, and the importance of responsible digital practices among pondicherry university students on 13.03.2026



Dr. Kamalaveni, Associate Professor and Head, Centre for European Studies, Pondicherry University, welcoming the gathering and highlighting the significance of financial responsibility and cyber safety in the digital age on 13th March 2026.



Mr. Mohamed Rumzin delivering an insightful session on cyber Safety and Digital Security, highlighting the growing risks of cyber threats, online frauds, and the importance of responsible digital practices among Pondicherry University students on 13.03.2026

Report on India–France Relations Symposium & Heritage Walk

Programme Details

Title of the Programme: India–France Relations Symposium & Heritage Walk

Academic Year: 2025–2026

Date: 30 October 2025

Duration: 6 Hours (Lecture – 3 hours; Heritage Walk – 3 hours)

Venue: Pondicherry University & Heritage Sites, Puducherry

Organised by: Centre for European Studies, Pondicherry University

Activity Lead: Dr. Kamalaveni, Associate Professor, Centre for European Studies

Participants: Students: 70

Faculty: 3

External Participants: 10

Mode of Delivery: Offline

Funding: Sponsored by Sri Aurobindo Society

Introduction

The Centre for European Studies, Pondicherry University, organised a one-day academic programme titled “India–France Relations Symposium & Heritage Walk” on 30 October 2025. The programme combined a scholarly lecture with an experiential heritage walk to provide students with a multidimensional understanding of Franco-Indian relations, particularly focusing on women’s rights, citizenship, and colonial history.

Objectives of the Programme

The programme aimed to provide students with a nuanced understanding of India–France diplomatic and cultural relations, with a special emphasis on the evolution of women’s political rights in both contexts. It sought to bridge theoretical knowledge with lived historical experience through a combination of classroom engagement and field-based learning. By integrating a heritage walk, the initiative intended to deepen students’ appreciation of colonial legacies, cultural exchange, and the role of built heritage in shaping socio-political narratives.

Programme Schedule and Proceedings

The programme commenced with a Welcome Address by Dr. Kamalaveni, Associate Professor and Head, Centre for European Studies, Pondicherry University, who introduced the objectives and relevance of the programme.

This was followed by a Guest Lecture on “Cultural Pathways to Citizenship: Women’s Law, Franchise, and Franco-Indian Heritage” delivered by Dr. Kishor Kumar Tripathy, Member

Secretary, AuroBharati, Sri Aurobindo Society. The lecture explored the intersections of law, gender, and colonial history in shaping democratic rights in both France and India.

An interactive discussion session enabled students to engage critically with the themes presented and clarify their queries. Post lunch, participants undertook a Heritage Walking Tour covering key Franco-Indian landmarks including Alliance Française, French Consulate, Eglise Notre-Dame des Anges, French Institute, and the Seaside Promenade. This activity encouraged observation and documentation of historical sites linked to political and social transformations.

The programme also included a Timeline Mapping Workshop, where students collaboratively developed comparative visual representations of women's franchise rights in India and France. The event concluded with a Valedictory Session and Certificate Distribution, summarising key learnings and reflections.

Learning Outcomes

The programme significantly contributed to students' academic and experiential learning in the following ways:

Comparative Understanding: Students developed a deeper insight into the evolution of women's legal and political rights in India and France.

Cultural Awareness: The heritage walk enhanced their appreciation of Puducherry's unique Franco-Indian cultural landscape.

Analytical Skills: Activities such as timeline mapping strengthened their ability to analyse and interpret historical developments.

Experiential Learning: Direct engagement with heritage spaces enabled students to connect theoretical knowledge with real-world contexts.

Collaborative Learning: Group activities improved teamwork, communication, and presentation skills.

Outcome and Impact

The programme was highly successful in achieving its objectives. The lecture component enriched students' understanding of international relations and gender perspectives, while the heritage walk provided an immersive learning experience. The integration of academic and field-based approaches fostered critical thinking, research curiosity, and cross-cultural awareness among participants.

Conclusion

The India–France Relations Symposium & Heritage Walk stands as an effective model of interdisciplinary and experiential learning. By blending academic discourse with heritage engagement, the programme offered students a holistic educational experience, reinforcing the importance of historical context in understanding contemporary global and gender issues.



Dr. Tharanikarasu delivering the Inaugural Address for the programme



Dr. Kamalaveni delivering the Welcome Address and outlining the objectives of the programme



Participants attending the inaugural session of the India–France Relations Symposium



Dr. Kishor Kumar Tripathy delivering the expert lecture on women's rights and Franco-Indian heritage and Engaged student participation during the guest lecture session



Students participating in the heritage walk exploring Franco-Indian historical sites





Students at the Seaside Promenade reflecting on colonial urban heritage



Interactive discussion and Q&A session with students



Report on Lecture Session on Reproductive Health and Government Schemes

Organisers: Vaishnavi K, Aswanth Raj T N

Date: 15 September 2025

Venue: St. Joseph Higher Secondary School, Thavalakuppam

As part of the outreach initiatives of the Centre for Women's Studies, Pondicherry University, a one-hour awareness lecture on Reproductive Health and Government Schemes was conducted on 15 September 2025 for students of 8th and 9th standards at St. Joseph Higher Secondary School, Thavalakuppam. The session was held from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM with the objective of enhancing adolescents' understanding of physical and emotional changes during puberty, reproductive health, and available government support systems.

The session was divided into two segments. The first part was facilitated by Vaishnavi K, followed by Aswanth Raj T N. The resource persons used simple language, relatable examples, and interactive methods to ensure effective communication with the students. Initially, the students appeared hesitant to engage; however, as the session progressed, they became more confident and actively participated by asking questions and sharing their thoughts.

The lecture focused on multiple key objectives. It aimed to create awareness about the biological and emotional changes during adolescence and to normalize these experiences as part of natural growth. Emphasis was placed on maintaining reproductive health through hygiene, nutrition, and self-care practices. The session also addressed the importance of developing a positive body image and self-acceptance among adolescents. Additionally, information was provided on important government initiatives such as the Menstrual Hygiene Scheme and the School Health and Wellness Programme.

To enhance engagement, the facilitators incorporated storytelling and real-life examples, which helped students relate to the subject matter more effectively. The interactive nature of the session created a comfortable space for students to discuss sensitive topics openly.

The programme also served as a valuable learning experience for the organisers. It strengthened their communication skills, leadership abilities, and understanding of how to approach adolescents with sensitivity and clarity. The experience provided insights into the functioning of school environments and the importance of adapting teaching methods to suit young learners.

The cooperation and support extended by the school teachers played a significant role in the successful execution of the programme. Their welcoming approach created a conducive environment for meaningful interaction.

Overall, the session proved to be an effective platform for encouraging adolescents to openly discuss health-related concerns while gaining practical knowledge about government initiatives supporting their well-being. It also reinforced the importance of creating a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning space for discussions on sensitive issues.

Photographs:



1. Students attentively listening to the session.



2. Interactive participation with students raising questions.



3. Resource persons delivering the session.



4. Classroom discussion on reproductive health and schemes.

Rural Camp – Velicham'24 organized by Department of Social Work from 18th March – 22nd March 2024

VELICHAM'24 The Department of Social Work, Pondicherry University organized a five-day Rural Camp, VELICHAM'24, from 18 – 22 March 2024 for the first-year MSW trainees in collaboration with the Sristi Village Foundation in Villupuram District, Tamil Nadu. The camp commenced with an Inaugural Session

https://www.pondiuni.edu.in/university_news/rural-camp-velicham24-department-of-social-work/



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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

WE, THE FIRST YEAR MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK(MSW) STUDENTS CORDIALLY INVITE ONE AND ALL TO OUR FIVE-DAY

RURAL CAMP

VELICHAM'24

18th March - 22nd March, 2024
Inauguration on Monday, 18th March, 2024 at 10:30am onwards

SRISTI VILLAGE FOUNDATION
KONAMANGALAM VILLAGE, THAZHUTHALI, POST,
TINDIVANAM T.K, VILUPPURAM, TAMIL NADU 604304

RURAL CAMP COORDINATORS:

PROF. A. SHAHIN SULTANA
PROF. K. DEVAN
DR. IFTEKHAR ALAM

PROF. K. ANBU
HEAD
DEPT. OF SOCIAL WORK
PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY

