

Greetings!

Welcome to one of India's biggest undergraduate fests of 2010 – SYMPULSE! Sympulse 2010 is an international knowledge and cultural extravaganza brought to you by the Symbiosis International University with an aim to bring together students from all over the world as they learn, communicate, compete and of course, have an unforgettable time.

We, the hospitality team are working hard towards ensuring a pleasant and comfortable stay for all our participating teams. We have arranged a multitude of facilities, services and provisions for the same.

To ensure that you and your delegation have a comfortable time, we have, at your service:

- Complementary accommodation facility (Please refer to our lodging section)
- Complementary airport pick up and drop facility
- Provision for complimentary lunch and dinner inside the University campus
- Individual Team guides who will ensure that your stay with us is as comfortable as possible

We are making certain that you will take back with you memories of a lifetime.

We look forward to seeing you in February!

Warm Regards

Shrikala Kashyap
Head
International Relations

Incredible India



In a country as diverse and complex as India, it is not surprising to find that people here reflect the rich glories of the past, the culture, traditions and values relative to geographic locations and the numerous distinctive manners, habits and food that will always remain truly Indian. All these factors add up to the rich and vibrant culture of India. From the highest peak in the Himalayas to the serene beaches of Goa, India is known for its beautiful locales. India is a "Paradise on Earth".

India has always been at the forefront of innovation. With Indian companies venturing out into newer markets there has been sudden surge of technological advancements in every possible field. From high-tech IT parks and state of the art exhibition centres, India has it all. Today India boasts of various ventures in different states that are well equipped with the latest paraphernalia and skilled workers.

Well, the very name of India conjures up images of colors, cultures, art, mountains, deserts and people. From time immemorial, it has also been a centre for learning. Thousands of years ago, great scholars used to teach through the scriptures a variety of subjects like philosophy, religion, medicine, literature, drama and art, astrology, mathematics and sociology were taught and masterpieces on these subjects were written. This tradition is practiced even today. You are one of the many students that come to India in search of knowledge. There is much to see and much more to learn. SO, Welcome to India!

About Pune



Pune has been known by a plethora of sobriquets: Cultural capital of Maharashtra, Queen of the Deccan and Oxford of the East.

Being surrounded by beautiful hills and the Sinhagad fort, Pune is among the greenest urban areas in the country. This growing metropolis brings to the mind a myriad of images - ancient forts, ornate palaces, shopping arcades, educational institutions, Temples, mosques, and churches.

Pune is definitely marching toward achieving international stature and repute, and developing into a globally recognized, vibrant and dynamic education and industry based economy.

Students from all over the world come to Pune for educational pursuits. When one thinks of Pune, one can't help but marvel at the blend of the history and the future that this city has to offer.

All international students will be taken on a Pune tour covering significant landmarks and attractions in the city.

Accommodation



Accommodation and meals for all students are free of cost.

National and International delegates and faculty advisors who attend Sympulse 2010 will be provided with comfortable and free accommodation.

The organizing committee of Sympulse 2010 would like to extend our warmest welcome to all our outstation participants. We have taken the utmost care to ensure that your stay with us will be a comfortable and pleasant one.

Delegates can be assured that any lodging provided by the organizers will be comfortable, safe and include the following additional facilities:

- Round the clock Wi-Fi connectivity.
- 24x7 Room service.
- Complimentary breakfast
- LCD Televisions in every room
- Power back-up

Social Events



The Symulate Banquet

A social gathering of the future business associates of the world, The Symulate Banquet promises to be a corporate social event to remember.

SIMUNC International Night

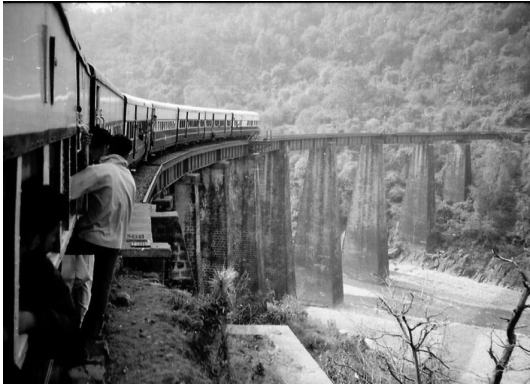
The International Night is the magical melting pot and sharing of cultures, excellent food, talents and entertainment. It is a night where all the delegates, after a long day's work let their hair down and enjoy the tradition of fun, dance, song and bright, lively colors.

Our gala night concert and dance offer all delegates a chance to wind down after days of hard work and negotiation. The night calls for fun and entertainment, while one of the best DJs in Pune spins music for the dance. This evening will provide an opportunity for delegates to get to know each other socially and to celebrate their achievements outside of the formal conference structure before the final day of committee and closing ceremonies.

Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony will surely be a memorable experience. Reverse Polarity (Winners of [V] Launch Pad '09), will be setting the stage on fire, along with other bands from various genres. The spoils will go to the victors, in an extravaganza of lights, music and fun, where students will have yet another chance to interact, experience a fitting climax to one week of awesomeness.

GETTING THERE



AIR: Pune is connected by air to most of the international airports in India. The nearest city to Pune by air is Mumbai, which is well connected to all airports of different countries. The flight from Mumbai to Pune takes around half an hour. The Pune airport is about 20 kms from the city centre.

RAILWAY: Pune is extremely well connected by rail. There are several connections between Pune and other metros, especially Mumbai. Travel time by rail between Mumbai-Pune is approximately three and a half hours. Seats on most trains are booked many days in advance. For a comfortable and carefree journey, it is better to reserve a seat. You can find more information and book your tickets online on the Indian railways website: <http://www.indianrail.gov.in> The Pune railway station is approximately 8 kms from Symbiosis.

BUS: Maharashtra state roadways buses and buses operated by private companies connect the different places in the state to Pune as well as destinations in the neighboring states. Many people traveling to Pune from Mumbai prefer to do so by road as the distance between Mumbai-Pune is just 170 km. Travel time by expressway between the 2 cities is about 3 hrs. Travel agents and tour operators will rent out chauffeur driven vans, cars and coaches. You can book these on arrival at the Mumbai Airport, at the enquiry counter.

GETTING AROUND IN PUNE: Autorick-shaws and self owned two wheelers are the most frequently used modes of transport in Pune. Autorick-shaws are available easily and can be used to travel to any part of the city. However, before you begin your ride always make sure that the rickshaw driver agrees to charge you by the meter and as far as possible check the rate card present with the driver while paying.

CURRENCY AND BANKING



Currency in India: Indian rupee (INR)

The Indian rupee is available in denominations of Rs 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and Rs 1000. One rupee is split into a hundred paise available in denominations 25p and 50p. There are coins for Re.1, Rs.2 and Rs.5.

Banks are located throughout the city and ATM's are conveniently located throughout the city's main shopping and business centres. Banking hours usually are 10 am to 2pm, Monday to Friday and 10am to 12 noon on Saturdays.

Major international credit cards are widely accepted in Pune.

Not all banks accept travelers cheques or currency other than dollars or pound sterling. Change money only at accredited bureau. Money changing facility is available at the Lohegaon Airport, a short distance from the city and at the bigger hotels. International foreign exchange providers have several branches in Pune.

OTHER INFORMATION



EATING OUT

While local, Indian food is most easily available here, suiting all budgets, Pune also has quite a few restaurants offering cuisines from different parts of the world like East Asian, Lebanese and Continental.

COMMUNICATION MEANS

Pune is a technologically savvy city that offers Internet cafes and phone booths on every other corner that make keeping in touch so very easy. Pune, as the rest of India, of course, sees a wide use of mobile phones too.

Visa

Foreign Nationals desirous of coming into India are required to possess a valid passport of their country and a valid Indian Visa.

There is no provision of 'Visa on Arrival' in India and no fee is charged for immigration facilities at the airports. Foreign passengers should ensure that they are in possession of valid Indian Visa before they start their journey to India except nationals of Nepal and Bhutan who do not require visa to enter India and nationals of Maldives who do not require visa for entry in India for a period up to 90 days (a separate Visa regime exists for diplomatic/official passport holders).

The Consular Passport and Visa (CPV) Division of the Ministry of External Affairs is responsible for issuance of Indian visas to the foreign nationals for their visit for various purposes. This facility is granted through various Indian missions abroad.

Visa fees are non-refundable and subject to change without notice. The High Commission reserves the right on granting and deciding type/duration of visa irrespective of the fees tendered at the time of making application. Granting of Visa does not confer the right of entry to India and is subject to the discretion of the Immigration Authorities.

Specific Visas are granted for a variety of purposes. Listed below in a tabular form are the types of visa; categorised on the basis of purpose of staying in India.

Types of visa		
Type	Period	Documents required
Tourist Visa	6 months	Docs supporting the applicant's financial standing
Business Visa	One or more years	Letter from the sponsoring organisation
Student Visa	For the duration of the academic course of study or for a period of five years whichever is less	Proof of admission to recognized Universities/Institutions in India
Transit Visa	Maximum For 15 Days	Evidence of onward travel to a destination outside India
Conference Visa	For the duration of the conference or seminar	Letter of invitation from the organiser of the conference

Visa Application Form

Visa application form is available at the office of Indian Embassy in the country where the NRI/PIO resides. Visa form for nationals of Pakistan and Bangladesh are generally different. All NRIs/PIOs, including children (who don't possess OCI or PIO card) need to apply for Visa in separate visa forms.

Procedure for obtaining Visa

Visas can be applied for in person or by post at the High Commission of India based in the country from where the candidate intends to depart for India. Specific visas are granted for a variety of purposes that are aforementioned.

Requirements for Visa

Generally the following documents are required for obtaining Indian Visa. However, the requirement may vary from country to country.

- Original passport valid for at least 6 months
- Visa fee
- Two passport size photographs
- Supporting documents, where necessary
- Duly completed application form

Visa for NRIs and PIOs

Persons of Indian Origins and Non-Resident Indians who possess either OCI (Overseas Indian Citizenship) or PIO card don't need Indian Visa. OCI and PIO give them the freedom to visit India without visa. OCI and PIO cards are multi-purpose life long visa for visiting India.

However, those NRIs and PIOs who don't have OCI or PIO card can apply for and get Indian visa through the procedure mentioned above.



Q: Why participate in Sympulse?

A: Sympulse prides itself on its highly inclusive nature and ability to attract students from all areas of study. It is unique because of the great depth of experiences and perspectives provided by students from a wide range of academic backgrounds. It offers students a chance to interactively educate themselves about international problems while increasing their public speaking skills. The dynamic peer motivated setting is an ideal place for students to apply their knowledge while creating lasting friendships and having loads of fun.

Q: How is Sympulse different from other fests?

A: Sympulse has been created by blending the magic of three of our most anticipated events: MUNC – Mock United Nations Conference, Symulate – The Business Fest and Ananya – The Cultural Fest. With such a vibrant combination, we are sure that Sympulse promises you a complete package of an undoubtedly rewarding experience.

Q: Are there any activities besides the festival?

A: Yes! Every day after the sessions we have a string of light hearted social events where everyone can let their hair down and relax. We've got The Social Evening, The International Night, The Karaoke Night and lastly an adventure packed city tour.

Q: Does SYMPULSE provide meals?

A: Yes, we provide you with complete meals, and what's better; it's absolutely free. You can take your pick from a range of delicious multi-national cuisines, and of course, our very own Indian delicacies brought together from all the corners of our country, especially for you!

Q: Is the conference really 'international'?

A: Yes, in every way! We can assure you it is really international. One of the SYMPULSE goals is to have as many different nationalities as possible at the conference. This contributes to the uniquely multi cultural atmosphere at SYMPULSE.

Q: Can you give financial support to participants?

A: No, we do not provide any financial support to participants.

Q: Is accommodation provided?

A: Accommodation is provided, and once again, is absolutely free! We have selected areas that are in the heart of the city, with easy access to shopping centers, restaurants, the famed Mahatma Gandhi Road, the airport, train stations and so many more that effectively capture the Indian soul.

Q: Is there something interesting to see in Pune?

A: Yes there is! Pune has a blend of potpourri and culture, The Osho International Meditation Resort has acquired international recognition – it has earned the title of 'Pune's Pride'. The Aga Khan Palace, is a simple memorial to Gandhi and his life. Gandhiji's wife, Kasturba Gandhi passed away here while in captivity. Parvati Temple is the one of the most scenic locations in Pune. Situated at a height of 2100 feet above sea level and provides a picturesque aerial view of the city. Then we have, Konark Park, a beautiful bird sanctuary, the birds here have been collected by Dr. Jog over a period of 30 years from different parts of the world! The list is never ending, but it would be best to come here and explore more!

Q: Do I need fest experience?

A: Absolutely not. Enthusiasm is the characteristic we look for the most.

Q: Will there be time left to visit the city?

A: Yes there is, although we would like to point out that the schedule is quite busy. But, right now we are preparing city tours and social activities so you will get a chance to see more of Pune.

Q: How is the weather in Pune during February?

A: Between January and March are the most pleasant months in Pune. The sun is bright and warm, and the temperature is moderate. Overall, the climate and temperature does not go to extremities and humidity is completely negligible here. Pune's weather is always perfect for morning and evening walks!

Q: What is the local language spoken?

A: The local language spoken is Marathi; however there's nothing to worry about, English is also widely and comfortably spoken in Pune.

Q: What is the currency used?

A: The currency is the Indian Rupee.

For more Information:

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