SRM
UNIVERSITY
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SPECTRUM

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FABULOUSH'12

A Tech Fest at SRM

Coming to terms with new challenges..

Rohini Bothra

SRM University will be introducing two new courses, in Ethical Hacking and Network Security, thereby enhancing the academic environmenty bringing in issues of current national and international relevance. The announcement came at Fabuloush'12, a national level technical fest organized by the School of Computer Sciences of the Faculty of Science and Humanities.

This three day fest, held in the Dr. T.P. Ganesan Auditorium was inaugurated by Mr. P.Ravi, Chairman of SRM Group, Mr. Ankit Fadia, a successful ethical hacker, cyber terrorism expert, popular author of over 15 books and holder of several national and international awards including MTV Youth Award and Embassy State Award was the chief guest and keynote speaker.

Mr. Fadia kept the crowd captivated and amused by displaying his prowess in the cyber world. Starting off with an introductory talk on Computer Security, he moved on to draw attention e-mail spoofing, blue snarfing and similar ways a criminal would use. He explained the use of various basic hacking softwares like Netbus, urging students to stay within limits and maintain the law while at the same time having a little fun. He also shared case studies portraying the threat cyber crime has in the world. He finally signed off explaining certain precautions everyone must take to prevent crime.

Images from FabuloSH '12

The afternoon session comprised of Gunshot – a technical quiz, Adzap – where youngsters selling products in the most convincing manner won, and Playwright – consisting of Plays and dramas.

Day two mostly comprised of seminars by eminent scientists, academicians and the like on various topics like cloud computing, open source software, multimedia, technology trends of 2012 etc. Mr. Atul Jha, a patron in Open Source Software and working at CSS Corporation took the crowd through the history of Open source software and the creation of Linux and GPL. He stressed the importance of such knowledge and how it would help young IT students. The seminar ended with an interactive question/answer session with in depth discussion on Linux and its role. A lot of gaming and mock interview events like Expomine also took place.The final day again saw various seminars, one particularly interesting by Chetan Kumar Shetty, young scientist and researcher on 'Virtual Display Technologies and its apps.' In his presentation he explained how in the past to touch a virtual object, inconvenient and big instruments were used and then introduced his own invention, which was a simple ring worn on the forefinger which contained IR LED, Lithium coin cells and with the help of USB cameras and IR filters to track finger moments. He went on talk about Holographic screens, phased array focusing technique and acoustic radiation pressure (based on non linear phenomenon of ultrasound), his own invention – all related to his new concept of virtual display. The other events included Cine making, a short film competition where excellent films on topics like global warming and political issues, Photoscape, Debugging, JunkArt and Poster presentation.

Ankit Fadia at SRM

Noted cyber specialist Mr.Ankit Fadia was at SRM University as the Chief Guest. Our cover page photos shows the Chairman of SRM Group Mr.P. Ravi, Mr. Ankit Fadia, the Director of the Faculty of Science and Humanities, Dr.R.Balasubramanian and the Dean (FSH), Dr.K. Sengotti at an interactive session with students.

SRM to introduce two new courses

Also to create Endowment Fund for Milan and Fabuloush

John Sunday

In keeping with its reputation as the number one private multi-stream university in India, SRM University, Chennai, will, from next academic session introduce two new courses in the Faculty of Science and Humanities.

The courses are ethical hacking and cyber security. The university will also create endowment fund for MILAN and Fabuloush, the two main annual cultural and technical events of the Faculty of Science and Humanities.

The Director, Faculty of Science and Humanities of the institution, Dr. R. Balasubramanian announced this at the 3-day annual national level technical symposium titled Fabuloush organized by the School of Computer Sciences. According to him, while the new courses were at the request of the chief guest of the occasion, Mr. Ankit Fadia and had the approval of the chairman, SRM University, Mr. P. Ravi, the endowment fund was to mobilize funds for

Fabulosh’12

ue : Dr. T.P.Ganesan Au
Date : 15,16 & 17-02-2012

Faculty of Science an ities
School of Comput
'12

The Valedictory function, saw Mr. Vijai Balaiah, Regional Manager, HP as the chief guest. In his address he explained the six principles needed to be successful – hard work, passion, practice, urge to be remarkable, experience of failure, positive attitude. “Success is a journey and not a destination” he said. This was followed by a presentation by Joon Mo Ko, a 2nd year BSc ISM student on IT and Amusement and Theme Park Industry. He talked about the work it takes to make a park. Later, certificates and prizes were distributed to participants and winners of all the events. The event ended with students putting on various dances, singing songs and miming famous stars which energized the tired crowd and rejuvenated their spirits promising to come back next year again with more fun.

INTERVIEW

“ A.R Rehman is like an encyclopedia !”

...Says Abhay Johdpurkar in an exclusive interview with Spectrum..

‘Sagunam viraivaai’ was the song with which Abhay Jodhpurkar, a 3rd year, B.Tech Biotechnology student of SRM University shot to fame and entered the limelight. This song catapulted his career in the music industry and he has made his mark by singing with the likes of A.R.Rehman and other such esteemed musicians on many instances. With several songs like, ‘Dekhoon teri surat’, ‘Uyir pirindaalum’ to his credit, the singer opens up to Priyanka Vedula of Spectrum about his work and more...

Q. When did you start showing interest in music?

A. I was always passionate about music, but started showing keen interest in music only after coming to college. After completing 12th standard I learnt Hindustani Classical for three months and passed my 2nd year vocal exam in that period itself. I got a chance to do playback singing after coming to Chennai. I have trained in Hindustani, Western and Carnatic music for around one and a half years from A.R.Rehman’s music school.

Q. Tell us about your achievements.

A. I have won national level competitions like AAROHAN 2007. I have represented my music school for concerts all over India. I have sung songs in Tamil, Kannada and Hindi films & a few more albums. That is all I am allowed to reveal so far.

Q. How did you get a chance of working with A.R.Rehman and how was the experience?

A. During my vocation at A.R.Rehman’s KM Music Conservatory, I got a chance to sing a single line for the annual function at KMC and Rehman sir noticed me from that very line!

My experience with A.R.Rehman sir was amazing. He is very down to earth and kind. He is like an encyclopedia! I have learnt a lot from him.

Q. What, according to you, was SRM’s role in your success?

A. SRM has given me a huge platform to showcase my talent. I am an active member of the music club, and I was noticed through the various concerts and shows organized by the music club through which I eventually got contacts of many music directors.

Q. What are your future plans?

A. I want Indian music to be known & enjoyed all over the world. I want to break the language barrier by learning and composing music of different genres and experiment fusion of different forms of music.

Q. What is your message to students who wish to pursue a career in music?

A. Please don’t waste your time doing something you are not meant for. We should pursue a career in what we are passionate about and being an SRMite, one gets tremendous scope of showing their talent in any field.

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annual hosting of Fabuloush and other events of the university.

Mr. Fadia, a well-known and popular certified ethical hacker, had in his keynote address expressed his desire for SRM to start a course on, ethical hacking as done in some few other colleges. He said that contrary to the popular notion, ethical hacking was a legitimate career which could be studied in universities. The hacking wizard who is a consultant to many countries and a prolific author also noted that internet security was of global concern. “We are living in a world where internet or computer hacking is a reality and no one is safe from it”, he said.

The 26 year old who did his first hacking at the age of 13 regretted that terrorists were ahead in cyber security, and that the awareness in this field was low in India.

In his presidential address at the occasion, the vice chancellor of the institution, Dr. M. Ponnavaikko said the goal of the symposium was to exhibit the technical skills of the about 1200 students from over 70 colleges who took part in the 3-day event.

He, however, advised the participants that knowledge and skill alone do not make human resources.

He opined that human values were indispensable aspect of human resources needed to improve the economy of any nation.

Speaking at the valedictory session of the symposium, Mr. Vijai Balaiah, Regional Manager, Hewlett Packard, pointed out to the students that having dreams and goals, and being passionate about them was the ladder to success and stardom.

He enjoined them to always put their dreams into practice and not to be deterred if they failed because “failure is an event and not a person”. Urging them to develop a positive mental attitude, he said; “remarkable people do things that are different or unique, believe you can do it, and you will do it”.

The 3-day technical fiesta was concluded with prize awards to winners of different competitions organized during the symposium.

Business needs concern for social perspectives

A Spectrum Reporter

SRM UNIVERSITY
National Conference

(From left to right) Dr Jayasree Suresh Dean School Of Management (kattangulathur), Dr.K.Abdul Ghani Dean (Rampuram), Dr.R.Maria Saleth Director, Madras Institute Of Development Studies, Dr.C.Muthamizhchelvan Director (E&T), Dr.L.Antony Michael Raj, Vice Principal, Dr.C.Sundar HoD

The Business Management today is no more a one man show or a stereotype safe journey in as pre-determined path. It is now a walk on the knife surrounded by challenges posed by various environmental factors, calling for constant, persistent and conscious upgradation and updating of the contemporary developments and incorporating the same into the business with a permanent commitment and concern for social perspectives and needs emerging from time to time, but for which the very basic existence of a business itself will be shackled. Therefore the National Conference has rightly chosen its Agenda of re thinking by the stakeholders concerned of the need for revisiting in to the emerging social perspectives of business management in the light of high degree of social awakening and social responsibility in order to revitalize and redesign business strategies pertaining to various functional areas keeping in view the contemporary issues involved therein. This conference also assumes significance at this juncture particularly in India, when the Mass movement is gaining momentum with a growing thrust on Corporate Social Responsibility and increased judicial activism having far reaching impact on the strategies and policies of business management. The Conference will have useful deliberations in simultaneous technical sessions on various vital issues and perspectives in this regard with a wide range of participation of people from various walks of life including the business executives, academicians, research scholars, students, professionals and officials, throwing light upon the policies to be formulated and the measures to be implemented to achieve the goal.

Department of Management Studies, SRM University, Ramapuram Conducted a National Conference on ‘Emerging Social Perspectives & Parallel Issues of Business Management” Dr.R.Maria Seleth Director, Madras Institute of Development Studies, graced the occasion by delivering the inaugural address. The Chief Guest released the Conference Proceedings. The special address was delivered by Dr.C.Muthamizhchelvan, Director and the event was felicitated by Dr.K.Abdul Ghani Dean, Dr.Jayashree Suresh Dean,Kattankulathur, Dr.L.Antony Michael Raj, Vice Principal, SRM University. Dr.C.Sundar HOD/MBA-Conference Convener has Welcomed the Gathering. Mr R.Balaji Conference Co-ordinator delivered Vote of thanks. Eminent Professors and Lecturers from various Educational Institutions participated in the National Conference and presented papers on Finance, Marketing, General management , HR and Systems.

Indira Award for Dr.Antony

Dr. D. Antony Ashok Kumar, Director & Principal of SRM Institute of Hotel Management Chennai, was honored with the Indira Gandhi Shiromani Award and Certificate of Excellence for outstanding individual achievements and distinguished services to the nation. It was presented by the Former Governor of Tamil Nadu, Dr Bhishma Narayana Singh and Dr.GVG Krishna Murthy, Former Chief Election Commissioner of India. The meeting was held in Delhi on 17.12.2011 and organized by India International Friendship Society.

These awards are given to few of the extraordinary men and women who have specialized in various fields like science and technology, education, industry, fine arts, politics and social work in lieu of the excellent services rendered with excellence in their respective fields. The meeting was attended by number of members of Parliament, Industrialists, Social Workers and intelligentsia.

Future trends in wireless sensor networks

Aaditya. A

“Recent and Future trends in wireless sensor networks”, a national workshop conducted by the Department of CSE, sponsored by Defense Research & Development Organization (DRDO) and with the support of IEEE student chapter and CSI Chennai Chapter was held recently. The workshop attended by 30 select participants from universities and research colleges across India had the objective to highlight the future and emerging research challenges in wireless sensor networks and train them in Tiny OS, an embedded operating system and platform targeting Wireless sensor networks.

The first day saw the inauguration of the workshop by the chief Guest Prof. J.P Raina, Director, Centre for NanoTechonology Rresearch, VIT, Vellore. This was followed by a presidential address by Prof. D.Narayana Rao and a welcome address by Dr. E.Poovammal, HoD, CSE. Followed by this, the chief guest gave his inaugural speech in which he talked about sensors networks, network requirements and wireless network senso` The inaugural function was concluded by vote of thanks by M.Pushpalatha, convener of the workshop.The next session was taken by Prof. V. Vaidehi, MIT, Anna University called “Object detection and tracking using wireless multimedia sensors”. She gave an insight on the various components of sensor nodes, applications of multimedia sensor networks, feature extraction, object tracking and many other such topics. The afternoon session was handled by M.Revathi Venkataraman, Asst.Professor, SRM University, called “ Introduction to Tiny OS programming”. She talked about demo applications, hardware in WSN, etc. The second day was managed by Professor Dharma P Agrawal, distinguished senior professor, University of Cincinnati. He covered a broad range of topics starting from introduction to sensor networks to security challenges in sensor networks. He also talked about Routing protocols in sensor networks, sensor data aggregation and heterogeneous sensor data deployment. The day ended with a question and answer session.

Day three was handled by Prof. Bhaskar Krishnamachar, who talked about “Wireless sensor networks and the internet of things”. The next session was continued by M.M.Pushpalatha on hands-on-training in Tiny OS.

The workshop ended with the valedictory function in which Dr. Kashmir Raja, Dean, Research, was the chief guest who gave the felicitation address and the welcome address was given by Prof C. Malathy, CSE. Followed by this feedback was given by the participants about the event. Certificates were distributed to the participants and finally vote of thanks was delivered by M.Revathi Venkataraman, Program Coordinator of the workshop.

You can be an entrepreneur!

Kavin Kumar
Abhijeet Deb

A 30 day intensive workshop on entrepreneurship development was organised by the Entrepreneur ship Development Institute of Government of Tamil Nadu in partnership with the Ministry of micro, small and medium enterprises of the Government of India and the National Institute of micro, small and medium enterprises (NIMSME), Hyderabad at the MBA seminar hall, SRM University, recently.

Dr. M.Ponnavaiko, Vice Chancellor inaugurated the event titled “You can be an entrepreneur”, which mainly focussed on the youth from backward classes, encouraging them to start their own businesses. More than 50 young men and women from the scheduled caste community in Kancheepuram and Thiruvallur district were benefitted from this event. He also encouraged the audience to become entrepreneurs in creating GDP. SRM University has started a new centre called ‘Centre for entrepreneurship and skill development’ to guide more students as entrepreneurs.

“Entrepreneur means one can do business and also be able to provide employment to others. People who are employed cannot be specified to be good at their work. Such people work only for their livelihood and others think that they are entrepreneurs, but one should work not only to support his/her family but also contribute to the society, thus having the desire to become an entrepreneur,” said Mr. R. Sethuraman, Registrar, SRM University

Dr. C. Rani, Director, NIMSME said, “The concept of entrepreneurship was introduced in NIMSME, Hyderabad in the year 1962, after which ‘Kakinada Experiment’ on development and motivation came into existence. Entrepreneurship is not an easy task, one should have the capability to withstand all the stress thinking independently and possessing knowledge in marketing and technology”, he added.

Mr. Hanish Chhabra, IAS Collector, Kancheepuram district had an informative interacting session with the audience stressing on all the points vocalised by the other speakers and wished that most of the participants of the event come out to be as successful entrepreneurs during the one month workshop session.

Dr.Balakrishnan, Additional Chief Secretary of Govenment of Tamil Nadu and Director of Entrepreneurial Development Institute (EDI) spoke about the similar programs conducted in 18 different locations in the state for the ‘adi dravidar’ students to equip them to become entrepreneurs. “Entrepreneurship is something that changes the life and environment of a person but the only basic requirement needed for it is ideas”, he said.

Stepping away from “native” bone setters

Dr.V.Chandrasekaran

Balmurugam, a 21 year old male of Athur sustained injury to the left hip some 5 months back. An X-ray of the left hip showed that in the ball and socket joint, there was a fractured neck of femur and the head of the femur was absorbed. Just as a person cannot live without a heart, same is the case without the head and neck of the femur. In order to save the head of the femur a bone from the leg was taken and inserted into the remnant neck along with screws. Now the function is restored and Balmurugan is able to walk. Likewise, a 21 year old male Ankaya from Guntur, Andhra Pradesh sustained injury to the left shoulder four months back. An X-ray the left shoulder showed that in the ball and socket joint, there was fractured neck of the humerus along with dislocation of the shoulder joint. He also believed in native treatment. He came to SRM Hospital Orthopedics Department for surgery. The head of the humerus was removed and replaced it with an artificial prosthesis and now the function is restored and he is able to do his daily activities and normal work.

43rd Annual Day

Dr. Shivakumar and other dignitaries along with faculty and students of SRM Nightingale School.

Creativity Lab for SRM Nightingale students

Staff Writer

The SRM Nightingale Matriculation Higher Secondary School will set up a “Creativity Lab” soon for the use of its students in an attempt to cultivate and develop creative skills. This was announced by the Correspondent, Dr. R. Shivakumar during the celebration of the 43rd Annual Day celebration, in the Kamaraj Memorial Hall, Teynampet on 24th January. The Registrar of SRM University, Dr. N Sethuraman praised the school for its commendable achievements in both academic and extracurricular activity. The Director, FSH, Dr. Balasubramaniam announced allotment of Rs. Five Crore by the management for the development of sports while talking about the unstinted support for growth in sports shown by them.

The Chief Guest, Mr. J. Angelo Irudayasamy, Inspector of the Matricaulation School appreciated the investment to the cause of education by SRM Group to bring out talents in children, helping them become good citizens of the country. Over 100 prizes were awarded to the students for their accomplishments, by the Chief Guest. This was followed by the entertainment programs with a theme of ‘Great Poets of India’, commemorating the 150th year of Rabindranath Tagore’s birthday.

Republic Day at SRM

Kashmira Samel

The ‘63rd Republic Day of India’ celebration was observed by SRM NCC cadets in the presence of the chief guest, Lt. Col. Sanjeev Oberoi in the Auditorium ground. The Guard of Honour was presented to him by cadets commanded by Company Under Officer (CUO), Ankita Singh. The function commenced with Associate NCC Officer (ANO), N. Thangadurai hoisting the NCC flag and then the Chief Guest hoisting the National flag. The parade was followed by a cultural programme.

The march past by Cadets

“Parents, teachers and students all have to work hand-in-hand to shape the future of the students”, said Lt. Col Oberoi going on to motivate students to serve the nation. Awards were distributed by the chief guest to many cadets. In Senior Division SD (for boys) awards were given. Best Cadet Gold to Cdt. Shashank Gaurav, Best Cadet Silver to Cdt. Sidhant Singh Parmar and Best Turn Out to Lance Corporal L/Cpl. Arun Kumar Singh. In Senior Wings (for girls) prizes were given for Best Drill to Cdt. Dhriti Dhara, Best Orator to Cdt. Nimitha and Best Turn Out to Cdt. Suhasini

Channel [V] back with Nokiafest ‘12 in Goa!

Spectrum Reporter

The renowned Channel [V] held one of its biggest and hottest college youth cultural fest from January 27th to 28th, 2012. The Nokia Indiafest that took place this year in Goa brought together college students to showcase their talents in a variety of events such as dance, dramatics, and singing. Their tagline, “Where the Heroes Are!” allows students to express their unique qualities beyond their academic capabilities. And also, just to have a little bit of fun!

It was SRM University that held the auditions for the Nokia Indiafest selecting a few students out of an impressive 2,800 entries. Vimal Raj. S, a second year B.A. student in Journalism and Mass Communication was selected as the Chennai Zone manager to organize and pre-plan the auditions here in Chennai. Due to Vimal’s impressive portfolio of event management at SRM, Director of Campus Administration Ms. Anuradha Parakkat, thus recommended him as a campus manager at the Nokia Indiafest to represent SRM University.

Being a very active member of the Student Activities Centre, Vimal has organized about 36 events in just a year and half here at SRM. He was one of the main organizers for the Milan ’12. Similarly, the Nokia Indiafest required him to coordinate, plan, and organize various events for students, such as “Tamasha,” a dramatics event, and “Beat It,” which featured dance. Working with some of the best campus managers of the nation and professionals already in the work field, Vimal says “It was a really good experience…” He feels it is important to learn from the professionals, as it will be useful later in the real world. Vimal was able to network with all kinds of people, and gain hands on experience related to his future plans.

As for advice for prospective students who may be interested in participating in next year’s fest, Vimal suggests to have no expectations whatsoever. He says he does this because he wants to be a part of the action and wants to “do something about it.” He doesn’t want to be standing around when he could be contributing to make a difference. It is this kind of attitude that has allowed Vimal to have this one of a kind experience, one that he will always remember.

FENESTRA ’11

A National Level CSE Technical Symposium

Staff Writer

Enduring the tradition of introducing new technologies and new challenges every year, Association of Computer Engineers (ACE), Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering, SRM University, Vadapalani, Chennai, conducted its first two day technical symposium FENESTRA’11, recently. The objective of the symposium was to provide a platform for budding talent and to facilitate learning of its participants. FENESTRA’11 had been conceptualized as the perfect combo of latest technology with a pinch of merriment. The beginning of this event was patented with the presence of Mr. Manivannan Subramanian, CEO, SRM Technologies, Chennai.The highlighted events of the symposium were Paper Presentation, Intellobotz, Revenge, Brainetiks, Take-1, Xtream Gaming, Prezentim, Zap it Up, Photo Editing, Roadies, Collage Making and Game Development Workshop. A total of 650-700 students from renowned Colleges/Universities across the country participated in this fest, henceforth, making it highly successful. Mr. M Subramaniyan , Director, SRM University, Vadapalani gave away the prizes and gift vouchers to the respective winners during the valedictory function.

The Registrar Dr.N.Sethuraman at the event.

Fun and frolic for a noble cause

Anirudh Mani

Team Butterflies of SRM University recently celebrated its fifth edition –Butterflies ’12. This social initiative was formed by the Student Activities Centre five years back, and since then has always been an event that lead up to’ Milan’, the Cultural Fest of SRM University.

Preceding the main event, the Team organized the Butterflies Road Show at Java Green. This two hour promotional event comprised of a dance performance by the DNA dance crew of the Faculty of Science and Humanities. The Music Club raked in cheers by playing a few crowd favorites like ‘One love’ and also got them to sing along. This roadshow also assisted in promoting ‘The Guardian Circle’, an NGO based in Hyderabad which works for the development of the underprivileged children.

The Event day started early as hundreds of young children accompanied by their teachers and members of the staff filled the ground in front of the T. P. Ganesan Auditorium. Prof. N. Sethuraman, Registrar, SRM University was the Chief Guest.

A Cultural Show was organized along with the Variety Show, Drama, Elocution, Drawing, Quiz, Memory Games, Essay Writing, Musical Chairs and other events. These competitions designed by the team to make children learn something new academically and otherwise were received well. The stage saw children talk on subjects like ‘Nuclear Power’, ‘Present State of India’ . The Quiz competition displayed their knowledge in various topics panning from history and geography to current affairs and entertainment. Apart from these, a free Health Check-Up Program was conducted by the SRM Medical College headed by Dr. K. R. John from the Community Health Department. The highlight of the day was the Magic Show by V. Srinidhi. The event ended with the winners of all the competitions being awarded the medals and certificates.

Selva, a senior member of the Team says, “We believe that before the students of SRM, the underprivileged should be given a chance to celebrate life and should get inspired to continue their studies”.

Last year the event had seen participation from over 600 students from 25 Government Schools studying in 6th to 9th standard. This year, the numbers have increased to nearly 1000 students. Also this year, a project to help out school children under the ‘School Adoption Program’ has been initiated . Suren, member of the Butterflies Team says, “I fully believe in this initiative and hope more and more people associate themselves with us to help lift up the lives of these underprivileged children.”

Presently, the Butterflies Team comprises of 153 member students and is growing. You can contact the following numbers and lend a helping hand:

Mohan: +917845409899,
Srivatsa: +919566052143

Workshop on etiquette and manners

A workshop on etiquette and manners was conducted by Ms. Yasmin Paul, Learning and Development Manager, in the Taj Coromandel Hotel, Chennai. It was beneficial for the students of the final year in view of the fact that there exists a big gap between the industrys’ expectation and the acquired skill of our students. Etiquette and manners are part of effective communication which enables the students to become employable individuals with good social skills. Such sessions are organized by IHM from time to time to brush up the student’s skill in communication.

Biotechnology Research Scholar bags award

Spectrum Reporter

Mr. S. Saravanan, Research Scholar, Department of Biotechnology, School of Bioengineering was adjudged with Best Oral Presentation Award for his research presentation at the International Conference on Biomedical Implant Devices and Tissue Engineering, 'BIDTE-2012" organized by Rajalakshmi Engineering College (REC), Society for Biomaterials and Artificial Organs-India (SBAOI), Society for Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine (STERMI) at Rajalakshmi Engineering College, Chennai. His presentation at BIDTE-2012 on "Bio-composite scaffolds containing chitosan/nano-hydroxyapatite/nano-copper-zinc for bone tissue engineering" exemplified the importance of biodegradable scaffolds for its vast scope in bone tissue regeneration. The research paper also investigated the effects of metal nanoparticles action against bacterial pathogens. Mr. S. Saravanan, is working under the expertise of Prof. N. Selvamurugan at the Tissue Engineering Laboratory in the Department of Biotechnology, SRM University.

A COPD Awareness Centre at SRM

Spectrum Reporter

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease or "COPD", as it is commonly known as, is a debilitating disease of the lungs caused primarily by cigarette smoking. COPD which is at present the fourth leading cause of death worldwide is predicted to become the third in the next decade. Though mortality due to other conditions like Ischenioc Heart Disease, stroke , infectious disease etc.., are showing a downward trend due to preventive measure, COPD death rates are ever increasing. One cigarette lessens our life by 5 minutes and one tobacco related death is occurring every 40 seconds. The Department of Pulmonary Medicine, SRM Medical College & Hospital in co-ordination with medical education unit conducted an anti-smoking campaign involving 200 NSS volunteers who formed a human chain on the busy GST road and spread awareness about the ill effects of smoking among the local population.

This was followed by a meeting to inaugurate the opening of COPD Awareness Centre presided by the Vice Chancellor, Dr.Ponnavaiko. The meeting was also attended by the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Medical), Dean, Deputy Dean, Medical Superintendent and Medical Education Unit. The welcome address was delivered by the Head of Department of Pulmonary Medicine, Dr.A.D. Nageswari. The various dignitaries spoke at length about their personal experience with nicotine addiction and how it was the need of the hour to promote "QUIT TOBACCO" campaigns. The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr.Prema, Chairman, Medical Education Department. The chief guest, Dr.P.K.Thomas, Senior Consultant Pulmonologist, delivered an informative and fact filled CME lecture titled COPD Update. This was followed by an interactive Q & A session with the audience moderated by Prof.V.Vedamoorthy, Oncologist.

ANTI SMOKING CAMPAI
Department of Pulmonary Medicine
Department of Medical Education

The Vice-Chancellor along with the Pro-Vice Chancellor and Dean (Medical) at the rally.

Conference on Genetic and Molecular Diagnosis in Modern Medicine 2012

Sneha.S
Shobhana.R

Date : Jan 26-29, 2012
Organised by
Genetic Engineering Association
Department of Genetic Engineering

The Participants at the event

The 5th Annual Conference on Genetic and Molecular Diagnosis in Modern Medicine 2012 was hosted this year by the Department of Genetic Engineering at SRM University, Kattankulathur. The conference was held over a span of four days in association with Genetics Associates Inc. USA, Indian Society for Human Genetics, Indian Psychiatric Society, Applied Bioscience, Mumbai and Invitrogen, Bengaluru.

The first day was dedicated to two pre-conference workshops that trained the delegates in various laboratory techniques. The inaugural function on the second day began with a plenary lecture by Dr.Wladimir Wertelecki, Chair of Medical Genetics, University of Southern Alabama, USA. The lecture was on the effect of Chernobyl nuclear radiation on new-borns. He also stressed on the lack of contribution towards the study of the radiation effects since the disaster and how only knowledge can give rise to hope. He emphasized saying, "He who has health…..has hope. He who has hope…..has everything."

Other dignitaries present at the inaugural were Dr.M.Vairamani, Dean (Bioengineering), Dr.Maya Thangavelu, Genzyme Genetics, California, USA, Dr.C.Muthamizhchelvan, Director (Engineering and Technology), Dr.M.Parani, HoD (Genetic Engineering), Dr.Waheeda Hopper, HoD (Bioinformatics) and Dr.S.Meignanalakshmi,HoD (Biotechnology). The Chief Guest at the inaugural was Dr.Pamela Flodman, Director, Graduate Program in Genetic Counselling, University of California, Irvine, USA and the Guest of Honour was Dr.Vaithialingam Dev, Director, Genetics Associates, Nashville, Tennessee, USA. The inaugural was followed by a poster presentation session.

The conference was divided into eight segments, which covered a myriad of topics. The various sessions of the conference had speakers from all over the country and many from USA delivering lectures on a wide range of topics. 'Evaluation of Mental Retardation' by Dr.Sucheta Bhatt of Genzyme Genetics, California, 'Genetics of Heart Disorders' by Dr.S.J.Patil, Narayana Hrudayalaya Health City, Bengaluru and 'Molecular Methods of Diagnosis' by Dr.Ashwin B.Dalal, Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad were some of the talks given during the conference.

A special cultural programme was organized for the dignitaries and delegates on the second day by the faculty and students of the Department of Genetic Engineering with the theme 'India'. The last day included two special sessions. One involved the presentation and discussion of interesting cases and the final session was a panel discussion on 'Strategies for Developing Clinical Genetics and Genetic Counselling'. The panellists at this discussion were Dr.Annie Hasan, Consultant and HoD, Dept of Genetics, Kamineni Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad, Prof G.Kumaramanickavel, Narayana Nethralaya, Bengaluru, Dr.K.E.Elizabeth, Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, Dr.Maya Thangavelu and Dr. Pamela Flodman.

The valedictory ceremony began with a welcome address by Dr.M.Ramya, Assistant Professor, Department of Genetic Engineering, SRM University. The Chief Guest of the valedictory ceremony was Dr. Jane Houldsworth who emphasised the responsibility that doctors have towards patients. The winners of the poster presentation competition, Vasavi Mohan, Anita .S and Indumati .N, were felicitated by Dr.C.Muthamizhchelvan who spoke about the possibility of starting a course in Genetic Counselling at SRM University. The conference came to a close with a vote of thanks by Dr.M.Parani.

Genetic Counselling at SRM

A plan to start a professional course for Genetic Counselling is currently in the pipeline as a collaborative effort between the Department of Genetic Engineering, the School of Public Health, the Department of Community Medicine and other related fields. It will be designed to train students to provide professional medical guidance to patients and families suffering from genetic diseases. Some of the key aspects of this course will be:

Professional training (bringing counsellors at par with doctors)

Relevance to Indian society

Good scope as a career choice in terms of recognition and monetary benefits

There will also be an emphasis on the study of ethics as a part of the syllabus.

MILAN'12 gusto engulfs SRM...

Ashish George
Lavanya Durai
Sai Priya
Prerana Agarwal

"Milan, as the name suggests is a place where people of all cultures gather in a mood of festivity and that is what, precisely this place means, as I see it..." said actor Krishnamurthy, from the Tamil film industry. With sailing boats, festivity in the air, campus vibrant with students from all over the nation, this edition of Milan evoked its theme-get pirated ….

The four day cultural fest of SRM University started with actor Siddharth, of 'Rang De Basanti' fame, addressing the enthusiastic students during the inaugural ceremony. So impressed was the actor with the crowd and infrastructure at the Kattankulathur campus, that he himself took snaps to capture the Milan euphoria. The occasion was also graced by the debut movie director, Balaji Mohan and politician & actor Mr. Sarath Kumar. The International band from UK, RDB (Rhythm, Dhol & Bass) and Airtel Super Singer fame, Santosh, Pooja & Raginisri were the additional highlights of Milan'12 and ended up stirring the audience and compelling them to dance to their beats.

This edition of the cultural fest saw over 47 events, workshops with participation from 79 colleges covering 12 states across the country. Spanning over seven domains- Dance, Music, Dramatics, Literary, Creative and Fine Arts, Fashion and Fun zone, Milan'12 allowed the students to showcase their talents in every possible avenue.

'Choreonite'- Milan's dance competition, had two categories- Theme and Non-Theme and saw Stella Maris College and Loyola College walk away with the 1st prize of 25,000/- each respectively. John Britto, veteran hip-hop dancer was the Guest of Honour for the event. Actor, Jeeva and Music Director Archu also interacted with the students.

'Thirak' showcased the folklore of the nation with Tamil, Marathi, Assamese folk dances etc. "The expertise delivered by the Bihu dance team in Tamil Nadu, far away from their homeland really impressed me" said Mrs. Uma Ramesh, a trained Bharatnatyam dancer who has been practising the art for over 30 years. For the folk dance, the 1st prize was bagged by a team from the Faculty of Science and Humanities (FSH), SRM for their unique theme depicting the rights of the transgender.

'The Panchayat' was one of the new entries in this year's 'Literary' domain, in which the participants indulged in a debate on a controversial topic. 'Word-A-Ganza' allowed the students to test their word power and command over English. Apart from these 'Poesy', 'Pen-it', 'Get Set Speak' also dazzled the 'Literary' arena.

'Glitz and Glamour' – the fashion show of Milan came up with the theme of Medieval Mantra and Neon Nostalgia which covered both western as well as Indian culture. SRM, Ethiraj and AMS bagged the top 3 prizes respectively. Apporva Elizabeth Mitra (Miss South India Runner-up), Sashi (Senior Brand Manager (TOI) Chennai), and Biju Jaydevan (Model co-ordinator), judged the event. "SRM was electrifying and the designer (Gaurav Chowdhury) did an awesome job"- said Dhanshika, kollywood actor, who was the Guest of honour for that day.

Spanning from 'Fear Factor' to 'Antakshari', 'Funzone' encompassed 15 events and multiplied the entertainment quotient of Milan. Events like 'Treasure hunt', 'Minute to Win it' and 'The Lost Symbol' triggered the adrenaline of the participants, while events like 'Ship-Wreck' and 'Sinful Satire' tested their wits. 'Dramatics' included events such as LOL, Scene Sitara, Dream Theatre, Adzap

In conversation with R. Sarathkumar

*R. Sarathkumar, an Indian journalist, politician and actor in the South Indian film industry, was the Chief Guest for the Milan'12 inaugural function. **Abhijeet Deb** of Spectrum took this opportunity to interview him. Excerpts…*

Q. How do you feel the younger generation can bring a change or development in the society?

A. The youth faces greater challenges and has greater opportunities. Though the competition is tough, the youth needs to take up such challenges in a manner that they reach at the top. Have confidence in yourself.

Q. According to you, what should one excel in to get into acting and the film industry?

A. Talent and Luck. There are many talented artistes who have not made it to the top. You may be talented but you may not make it. Vision and confidence is needed.

Q. How do you feel being honored as the 'Supreme Star'?

A. It is what the people call me. These are attributes we get along the way. My signature has become an autograph.

Q. How would you differentiate your college life from the current generations' college life?

A. Opportunities are much more now. The basic thing that my father could get me, or wanted is my degree. Well, the current generation has much more choices then the past. My vision was clear and that was to become an actor.

Q. Anything you would like to share about your upcoming ventures?

A. 'Vidiyal', a remake of a Malayalam movie 'Traffic' and 'Kochadaiyaan', which is a different film for me and Rajnikanth. It is based on the current technology.

Q. Any message for the youth and the students of SRM University?

A. The world is yours. Get into politics, get into the system and change it for the betterment of our country and the upcoming generation. You don't need 'Abdul Kalam' or 'Anna Hazare' to change the system. You are provided with it (opportunities), so do it yourself. Destiny requires passion and talent. Make an effort and never give up."

LIFE
VICE - CHANCELLOR
CHIEF GUEST

and Broadway, the variety of shows saw numerous participants from various colleges taking a keen interest to showcase their dramatic skills. This domain had some of the famous theatre personalities and successful directors and producers lending their time to judge the events. Freddy Koikaran, Aparna Nagesh, Mr. Bharath from 4 Dimensions; director Mr. Sargunam, were few of them who kindly helped judge the events.

The 'Music' domain was sub divided into western, eastern, instrumental and jugalbandhi. This domain had esteemed personalities from the music arena judging the contestants on their talents. The judges panel included Mr.Krishnamurthy and A.R.Reihana who sang 'Sasural genda phul'-Delhi6 left the audience spellbound.

The workshops aimed to hone the diverse skills students have, were a definite hit. The Mind Mapping workshop by Dilip Mukherjee, CEO Buzon International, Singapore enlightened the students to map their brain to tap their potentials to the fullest. The chocolate making, photography and salsa workshop gave a good range to the workshops brought in this year. The Chief Guest of the salsa workshop, Mr. Unni Nair, retired Air-force Squad leader, said "Any type of dance is not only for the entertainment factor, but also for one's personal development".

The celebrated actor Mammootty along with the acclaimed director Ameer Sultan, were the chief guests at the valedictory function. Ms. Anuradha Parakkat, Director, Corporate Affairs and Student Mentoring, revealed the details of Milan'12 to the guests and this was followed by the presenting of a series of awards. The *Sivaji Ganesan Award* for Best talent was presented to Mohammed Azaruddin, a student of FSH of SRM University. The *Best College Award* went to 'Kalasagligam College' and the *Popular College* at Milan '12 was awarded to 'DG Vaishnav College'. The valedictory program came to an end with the felicitation of Mammootty with an Award and the 'Vote of Thanks' to the panel of judges.

Milan'12 witnessed a plethora of celebs, manifolding the vivacity of the carnival and left everyone yearning for the next Milan extravaganza.

What the Choreonite Judges said...

Sreelakshme Ramdas

Uma, (Classical Dancer): "The youth has fresh ideas, themes and style."

Unni Nair (Professional Dancer and Singer): "It is not about dance, but it's about how we carry ourselves."

Raja Krishnamoorthy (Actor): "Milan is different from other college culturals. I loved the opening and there was a huge response from the audience after each performance."

Radhika (Film Choreographer): "Life without dance is like life without water to me. The students are energetic and filled with ideas."

Industry needs to step up participation

Anup Saboo
Aditya Dabral

The 56th DAE Solid State Physics Symposium - 2011 which featured speakers from across the globe was held in SRM University in the Dr. T.P. Ganesan Auditorium. This symposium saw papers on the latest research developments and trends in solid state physics and related fields.

"Cooperation between government agencies and universities alone is not enough if India is to research and develop new technologies in the nuclear sciences. Industry bodies and players need to step up their participation in the process", said Dr. S. Kailas, Physics Group Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) while inaugurating the symposium. He urged the science and engineering students to enrol in the training school of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and become a part of India's nuclear projects.

The Chancellor Dr. T.R. Pachamuthu echoed Dr. Kailas' views on cooperation between the various market players "The time has come for teachers, educators, policy makers, administrators and scientists to refine science research in India, so parents can help their children become scientists instead of pressurising them to become IT professionals, engineers and doctors," the Chancellor remarked. "This is the time for collaboration of government, universities, R&D laboratories and industry. Government efforts must be addressed to establish an industry-laboratory-university association", he added.

The Vice Chancellor Dr. M. Ponnavaiko, Dr. S.L.Chaplot, BARC Solid State Physics Division Head and Mr. R Mukhopadhyay, Convenor of the symposium, were some of the personalities who made their presence felt at the inaugural function.

Seminars on topics like Superconductivity, Chemistry of materials, Organic Semiconductor and Amorphous solids and glasses were a part of the event that saw presentations by Young Achiever Award nominees.

Tech club prize distribution ceremony

Spectrum Reporter

Tech club had conducted its first prize distribution ceremony, recently. Mrs. Bhagya Devi IRS, Southern regional director, SSC was the chief guest and gave away the prizes to all the prize winners of the events Debate, Essay Writing and Technical Quiz.

The Chief Guest addressed the gathering on various placement opportunities available in the public sector and motivated the students to take UPSC exams such as civil engineering services. She also threw light on the topic 'Humanity in Engineering' and delivered an motivating speech to the gathering.

The Dean, SRM University, Ramapuram and the coordinator of the Tech Club graced the occasion and advised the students to take up more such technical and co-curricular activities.

All the active Tech Club bearers were honored by presenting them with certificates of service.

Chief Guest Distributing the Prizes

Parinaam all set to bring SRM on par with global standards

₹4 Crores sanctioned to augment IT infrastructure across the campus...

Soaham Dutta
Trisha Anand

The project of the SRM University is as unique as its name. Parinaam, the Sanskrit word translates as 'Transformation' and this journey started with the objective to provide role-based information access to the stakeholders across the varsity which would help them to take the right decisions at the right time. Justifying its name, the project aims to realize the vision of the President, Prof. P.Sathyanarayanan, 'To make SRM as one among the world's top 100 Universities'.

The project spearheaded by ITKM [Information Technology and Knowledge Management], was initiated successfully, recently. Even though it is a three year project, its effects can already be felt. The timely distribution of identity cards to the fresher's, one centralized database for the students and a full-time team of content writers and designers working for the website, exemplify the difference made by this project.

The objective of Parinaam is to employ the best practices being followed for activities such as admissions, academics, student affairs, placements, and other administration-related functions like procurement, finance, customer relationship management, facilities management, Human Resource Management System (HRMS), Alumni management, and the like, as well as to automate all the processes and to seamlessly integrate them using cutting edge technologies.

Connectivity and access are the critical areas in executing this project. A fiber optic cable of 15 km has been laid across the University, connecting all the buildings and over 800 Wi-Fi access points have been deployed. The network architecture has been changed from two tier to three tier, with built-in redundancy in order to ensure full time availability.

As a part of the Parinaam project, a comprehensive email system – Zimbra has been rolled out across the campus. The faculty and staff were given training sessions to familiarize them with the Zimbra mail and encourage them to use only their official e-mail id for internal or external official communication

Planned in three phases, this project covers about 14 modules and would certainly help the stakeholders to spend their quality time on strategic issues than spending their time to check the daily chores, so as to raise the University at par with the global standards. The first phase involves the automation of core functions like academics, and other administrative activities like human resource, finance and accounts, payroll, and facilities management. The second phase includes library management, knowledge management system and the Professional Virtual Community (PVC) which helps faculty and student collaboration. The third phase is the Learning Management System (LMS), a comprehensive Management Information System (MIS) and a dashboard.

TCS iON is an ERP platform that integrates all the processes as well as the academic and administration functions. Plans are in effect to open a call centre to cater to the inquiries of candidates, both national and international. "We are here to help the real time information flow from one stakeholder to the other and this process would lessen the manual labour and would enhance accountability and transparency", says Dr. K. Mohan, Director, ITKM.

Also as a green initiative, E-pay slips replacing paper has been rolled out. Apart from this, ITKM has also been instrumental in opening up and maintaining a comprehensive community intranet portal 'My SRM'(www.srmuniv.ac.in/mysrm) for students and staff. The website revamp project is also planned and we would be soon seeing the new website. This three phase journey of transformation would certainly place SRM in the global map.

Placement secrets revealed

Spectrum Reporter

Tech Club conducted an open forum on 'Placement Preparations' for III-year students of all the departments of SRM University, Ramapuram, recently. The Forum focused on giving useful tips to the III-year students who are gearing up for placements soon. During the session, final year students who were well-placed, revealed the secrets of getting placed and gave tips for performing well in the aptitude tests, technical interviews and HR interviews.

In the open forum the third year students participated very enthusiastically and raised many questions to the seniors who have secured placements. In turn the seniors gave very useful information to the juniors starting from how to prepare their resume, present themselves, cracking the interview and performing well in the aptitude rounds.

The final year students from the various departments who actively supported the event by giving their valuable experience were Harrison, Vikram, Senthil, Dinaker, Kavin, Saurav, Vignesh, Venkat and Siva.

Addressing technical needs of community

Spectrum Reporter

The department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering conducted a workshop on ‘Winding and PCB Fabrication” co- ordinated by Ms.A.Lavanya, Asst. Professor, EEE, and Ms.R.C.Ilambirai, Asst. Professor, EEE, for the rural students around SRM University Campus, Kattankulathur. Dr.S.S.Dash HoD, EEE, inaugurated the programme and gave an inspiring speech to the gathering. The main motto of this programme is to serve the community near the University, to provide young people an opportunity to enhance the knowledge and skills that assist them in personal development, to address the technical needs of communities to promote betterment in a framework of service and to motivate the rural students by providing a hands on experience in day- to-day electrical utilities.

The participants actively participated in the practical session which followed the respective theory sessions. A similar programme was conducted last year in January on “Electrical wiring and safety measures”. As there was repeated participantion for the programme, the department decided to conduct such programmes every year seeing their interest.

On 29th January 2012 valedictory function was presided by Estate officer Mr.Thirumurugan and he distributed the certificates to the participants and advised the students to attend such programmes in the near future.

Recent advances in Millimeter Radio communications – RaMmCom’12

Spectrum Reporter

In today’s world, ′WIRELESS′ is the new buzz and landscape of Wireless Communications is changing rapidly. The last few years have seen a growth in the demand for wireless broadband access. The reason for this growth can be seen as the emergence of multimedia applications, demands for ubiquitous high-speed Internet connectivity, the massive growth in the mobile & wireless communications and the deregulation in the telecommunications industry. Recently, applications of Millimeter waves (at 60 GHz) for high-speed broadband Wireless Local Area Networks and Wireless Personal Area Network communication systems such as multimedia equipment, home appliances, video signal transmissions, file downloading and personal computers in indoor environment are increasingly gaining importance. In view of these developments and importance, the Department of Telecommunications Engineering conducted a two day faculty development programme on “Recent Advances in Millimeter Radio Communications - RaMmCom”. Around 60 M.Tech students and 25 Faculty Members participated in this programme.

SRM
"Recent Advances in Millimeter Radio Communications" - RaMmCom'12
SRM UNIVERSITY

The Conference in progress

Prof. Dr. A.D. Sarma, Professor & Director, Research & Training Unit for Navigational Electronics, Osmania University, Hyderabad, was the Chief Guest for the Inaugural Function and delivered a talk on “Atmospheric Effects on Millimeter Wave Propagation”.

Following the inaugural function, Dr.Vince Rodriguez of ETS Lindgren gave a lecture on “Anechoic chambers for antenna pattern measurements and challenges for antenna pattern measurement in the mm wave range”. After this, Prof.Dr. S. Raju of Thyagaraja College of Engineering, Madurai, discussed about “Avenues and Applications of Millimeter Wave Communication Systems”. The last session on day one was handled by Mr. Rahul Unni, Technology Specialist of ANSYS/ENTUPLE, who gave a talk on the usage of “Ansoft Tools for High Frequency Design and Simulation” and about “Capabilities Of Ansys/Ansoft in Millimeter Wave Communications”

On day two, Dr.P.H.Rao presented a session on “Millimeter wave imaging”, followed by Mr.Senthil Kumaran of HCL Technologies, who discussed about “Antenna Test and Measurement Issues”. Then, Dr. V. Nagarajan, Andromedia Communications, Chennai gave an innovative lecture on “Next-Gen Networks Intelligent/Cognitive Network Architectures, Optical Fibre/Wireless”. Mr.Sentil, ElmackEngg/Agilent showcased the wide scope of ADS software in Antenna design.

Expectations of Aerospace Engineers

Kashmira Samel
Archit Kacker

Mr. Nat Jambulingam, an eminent space scientist from USA and black belt in Lean Six Sigma (LSS), gave a seminar on applications and analysis of reliability in the field of Aerospace Engineering and told what is expected from the modern engineers in the area of design, manufacturing test and launch systems to satisfy the need of the costumers.

He further updated students with (LSS) principle that pursues towards perfection in the process of waste elimination in engineering industries. He filled in the students with Process Development Kaizens (PDK) and Value Stream Maps (VSM) that aids in strategic planning and plan execution.

“The students here are very enthusiastic. I recently came to know about SRMSAT and the win at NASA competition and I find it really good”, Mr. Jambulingam remarked when asked about his interaction with the student community at SRM University.

SRM at *Sur Lehani*

Spectrum Reporter

Displaying their proficiency in poetry writing, students of SRM came out on top at the inter-collegiate Hindi poetry writing competition *“Sur Lehani”* organized by Uchi Siksha Aur Sodh Sansthan Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachan Sabha on February 20, 2012. Amongst the 51 participants from various colleges, Aditya Ranjan(1st MSc Bio), Mohit Bahal(1st BCA), Suresmshu Guha and Rupa Kumari Mitra(1st BSc Bio) from SRM took part under the excellent guidance of Asst. Professors from the Hindi Dept. Mr. Shwahidal Islam and Ms. Razia Begum.

Aaditya Ranjan’s poetry won a lot of appreciation and a cash prize of Rs. 300. The title for the competition was “B. Tech, M. Tech aur Bio. Tech”

“VIRTUAL EYE” - A replacement for the white stick

Ashish George

“While working in the field of Context Aware Computing in wireless sensor networking, I thought of putting my work for the benefit of visually impaired community,” said Mrs. B. Amutha, faculty member of Computer Science and Engineering. Mrs. Amutha, under the guidance of Vice Chancellor, Dr. M. Ponnavaikko, has created ‘Virtual Eye’, a device for visually challenged people. This device helps in navigation and also gives the locations of users to their guardians, thus working as a tracking device.

The locations can be sent via Short Message Services (SMS) in both English and Tamil language. The device can be worn as a belt and uses Zigbee when indoor and Global Positioning System (GPS) when outdoor .

The obstacle detection is done by Sound Navigation and Ranging (SONAR). The device notifies the user about the position of pits and obstacles. In case of moving obstacles it also informs about their speed and direction. This information is sent in the form of predefined voice commands according to the situation via headphones.

“We have received an encouraging letter from the Ministry Of Science, New Delhi and are planning to submit the project proposal,” said Mrs. Amutha.

Currently she is working on the third version of the device. She is also willing to work in future for hearing impaired people using Speech to Text technology and for mentally challenged people using Cognitive methods.

A provisional patent of “Virtual Eye” has been registered and in future it may be sent for mass production through SRM University.

தமிழ்க் கணினிமொழியியல்–பயிலரங்கு

திரு. இராமசாமி நினைவுப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்
இந்திய மொழிகளின் தரவுத்தொகுப்புச்
தமிழ்க் கணினி
பயிலரங்க நிறை

பயிலரங்கில் பங்கேற்றவருக்குச் சான்றிதழ் வழங்கப்படுகிறது,

கணினித்தமிழ்த் துறையில் மிகுதியான மனித வளங்களை உருவாக்கும் சீரிய நோக்கத்தோடு திரு. இராமசாமி நினைவுப் பல்கலைக்கழகத் தமிழ்ப் பேராயத்தின் (Thamizh Academy) கணினித்தமிழ்க் கல்வித்துறை (Computational Tamil Studies), இந்திய மொழிகளின் நடுவண் நிறுவனத்தின் மொழித் தரவுத்தொகுப்புச் சேர்த்தியத்துடன் (Linguistics Data Consortium for Indian Languages) இணைந்து 20.1.2012 முதல் 30.1.2012வரை SRM பல்கலைக்கழகக் காட்டாங்குளத்தூர் வளாகத்தில், தமிழ்க் கணினிமொழியியல் Tamil Computational Linguistics எனும் வரலாற்றுச் சிறப்புமிக்க பயிலரங்கினை நடத்தியது.

பல்கலைக்கழகத் துணைவேந்தரும், தமிழ்ப்பேராயத்தின் தலைவருமான முனைவர் மு. பொன்னவைக்கோ அவர்கள் தலைமையில் 20.1.2012 வெள்ளிக்கிழமை காலை 10 மணிக்குத் தொடங்கிய தொடக்கவிழா நிகழ்ச்சியில் இந்திய மொழிகளின் நடுவண் நிறுவனத்தின் மொழித் தரவுத்தொகுப்புச் சேர்த்தியத்தின் தலைவர் முனைவர் எல். இராமமூர்த்தி, தமிழக அரசின் பணியாளர் மற்றும் நிர்வாகச் சீர்திருத்தத்துறையின் முதன்மைச்செயலர் திரு. ம. குற்றாலிங்கம் இ.ஆ.ப., கணினித்தமிழ்க் கல்வித்துறையின் சிறப்புநிலைப் பேராசிரியர் முனைவர் ந. தெய்வசுந்தரம், ‘உத்தமம்’ தலைவர் திரு. மணி. மணிவண்ணன், கணித்தமிழ்ச் சங்கத் தலைவர் திரு. மா. ஆண்டோ பீட்டர் முதலானோர் பங்கேற்று முறையே கருத்துரை, சிறப்புரை, அறிமுகவுரை, வாழ்த்துரை வழங்கினர். கணினித்தமிழ்க் கல்வித்துறையின் ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர் இல. சுந்தரம் வரவேற்புரையாற்றினார். தமிழ்ப்பேராயத்தின் ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர் முனைவர் கோ. பாக்கியவதி ரவி நன்றியுரை வழங்கிட அறிவியல் மற்றும் கலையியல் புலத்தின் தமிழ்த்துறைத் துணைப் பேராசிரியர் முனைவர் க.சுந்தரபாண்டியன் நிகழ்ச்சியைத் தொகுத்து வழங்கினார்.

10 நாட்களில் 37 அமர்வுகளாகப் பயிற்சி வகுப்புகளும், ஒரு நாள் தமிழ்க்கணினிப் பயிற்சியுமாக 11 நாட்கள் நிகழ்ந்த பயிலரங்கில் 30 தலைப்புகளின்கீழ் வகுப்புகள் நடைபெற்றன. இந்திய அளவில் தலைசிறந்த கல்வி மற்றும் ஆராய்ச்சி நிறுவனங்களில் பணியாற்றும் மொழி Language, மொழியியல் Linguistics, மொழித் தொழில்நுட்பம் Language Technology, ஒலியியல் Phonetics, பேச்சுத் தொழில்நுட்பம் Speech Technology, கணினித்தமிழ் Tamil Computing, இணையத்தமிழ் Internet Tamil, கணினிமொழியியல் Computational Linguistics, கணினிப்பொறியியல் Computer Engineering எனப் பல்வேறு துறைகளில் தோய்ந்த 29 பேராசிரிய வல்லுநர்கள் பயிற்சியளித்தனர்.

தமிழ்நாடு, புதுச்சேரி, கருநாடகம், ஆந்திரம், டெல்லி ஆகிய மாநிலங்களிலிருந்தும் இலங்கை, மலேசியா ஆகிய நாடுகளிலிருந்தும் 60 கல்வி நிறுவனங்களைச் சேர்ந்த தமிழ், ஆங்கிலம், மொழியியல், புள்ளியியல், கனிணியியல், கணிப்பொறியியல் எனப் பல்துறை சார்ந்த பேராசிரியர்கள், முனைவர்பட்ட ஆய்வாளர்கள் என 108 பங்கேற்பாளர்கள் கலந்துகொண்டு பயிற்சி பெற்றனர்.

கணினித்தமிழ் வரலாற்றில் ஒரு திருப்புமுனையாகத் திகழ்ந்த இப் பயிலரங்கின் நிறைவு விழா, 30.1.2012 திங்கட்கிழமை மாலை 4 மணிக்கு முனைவர் தி.பொ. கணேசன் சிற்றரங்கத்தில் நடைபெற்றது. இவ் விழாவில் SRM பல்கலைக்கழக அறிவியல் மற்றும் கலையியல் புலத்தின் தமிழ்த்துறைத் தலைவர் முனைவர் வ. தனலட்சுமி வரவேற்புரை வழங்கிட, பேராசிரியர் ந. தெய்வசுந்தரம் பயிலரங்கத் தொகுப்புரையை வழங்கினார். பேராசிரியர் தி. நெடுஞ்செழியன், பேராசிரியர் சு, மகாலட்சுமி, பேராசிரியர் சு.லெ. அப்துல் அலீம், ஆய்வாளர் சல்மா சலீம் தம்பி, LDC-IL ஆய்வாளர் லோ.இர. பிரேம்குமார் ஆகியோர் பங்கேற்பாளர்கள் சார்பில் தங்கள் பயனுரையைப் பகிர்ந்துகொண்டனர்.

அறிவியல் மற்றும் கலையியல் புலத்தின் இயக்குநர் முனைவர் இர. பாலசுப்பிரமணியன் அவர்கள் தலைமையுரையாற்றினார். சுவிட்சர்லாந்து நாட்டிலிருந்து வருகைதந்திருந்த முனைவர் கு. கல்யாணசுந்தரம் அவர்கள் தமிழ் இணைய மாநாடு போன்று இப் பயிலரங்கம் நடந்துள்ளது எனக் குறிப்பிட்டுக் கருத்துரை வழங்கினார். பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் தேர்வுக் கட்டுப்பாட்டு அலுவலர் முனைவர் மு. பொன்னுசாமி அவர்கள் பயிலரங்கத் தொகுப்புக் குறுந்தகட்டினை வெளியிட்டு நிறைவுரையாற்றினார்.

பங்கேற்பாளர்கள் அனைவருக்கும் சான்றிதழ் வழங்கப்பட்டது. பயிலரங்கின் நினைவுப்பரிசாகப் பங்கேற்பாளர்கள் அனைவருக்கும் நூல்கள் வழங்கப்பட்டன. கணினித்தமிழ்க் கல்வித்துறையின் ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர் இல. சுந்தரம் நன்றியுரையாற்றிட துணைப்பேராசிரியர் ஆ. முத்தமிழ்ச்செல்வன் நிகழ்ச்சியைத் தொகுத்து வழங்கினார்.

Dispelling misconceptions of Space

Joel Vasanth

Aman Jot Singh, a first year Aerospace Engineering student who shows an earnest interest in the study of space and more specifically in radio-astronomy and astrophotography has recently set up a club called Amateur Astronomers At Night (AAAN).

“The overall objective of AAAN is to throw some light upon the field of astronomy and clear common misconceptions pertaining to space. For example, existence of life on other planets,” says Aman who has a reputed association with organizations like NASA and ISRO and is working for SPACE, an NGO for such activities. His achievements include sighting asteroids, consistently winning space settlement design projects conducted by NASA and various other national projects.

“AAAN will include events like field trips to areas within a 15 km radius of the college followed by stargazing, photography of the sky at night as well as visits to observatories and research stations” Aman adds.

Workshops are proposed to be conducted along with guest lectures from national and international officials such as Anita Gail, President of Boeing, India and Patrick Miller who held a campaign for asteroid hunts in Texas. The club will receive affiliations from NASA and other aerospace companies. Registrations are also open for students belonging to other departments and schools.

Registrations for AAAN are currently open. The process of enrolling requires submitting a registration form which can be collected from Aman himself. Call +919884569251 for further details.

Awareness on environment and climate modeling

Spectrum Reporter

A national level workshop on Environmental and climate modeling was organized by the Department of Civil Engineering, SRM University campus, Kattakulathur in association with India Meteorological Department (IMD) and Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), Maraimalai Nagar to create an awareness about the recent changes in environment and climate.

It was inaugurated by Dr.R.Suresh, Director, Airport Meteorological centre and valedictory address was given by Dr.Y.E.A.Raj Deputy Director General, IMD Nungambakkam, Chennai. Several eminent personalities from Environment and climate sectors gave talk on different fields. Important speakers include Dr.R Suresh, Director, Airport Meteorological Centre, Meenambakkam. Dr.R .Bhaskaran, Head, RIAS, REG group, IGCAR, Mrs. Latha Shanmugham, IIT Madras, Dr.V.Kanagasabai, Principal, Vels Srinivasa Engineering college and Dr.S.Mohan, Director, NITTTR.

Around two fifty participants from different colleges all over India registered for this workshop. This workshop covered wide range of recent topics in the field of Climate change, Air pollution modeling, Nuclear power in Environment and Remote sensing and GIS applications in Environment.

Participants also had hands on training to handle water analyzer kit. Each participant was given opportunity to test water samples. Basic water quality parameters can be tested using this kit.

A site visit to the Automatic weather station, SRM University campus, which was installed in association with IGCAR was also arranged for the participants.

World Cancer Day

Spectrum Reporter

The Drug Information Centre, Department of Pharmacy Practice, SRM College of Pharmacy, conducted a cancer awareness programme on 4th of February, 2012, which is celebrated as World Cancer Day.

Cancer is a term used for diseases in which abnormal cells divide without control and are able to invade other tissues. It is a leading cause of death world, accounting for 7.6 million deaths in 2008. About 30% of cancer deaths are due to the five leading behavioural and dietary risks: High Body Mass Index, low fruit and vegetable intake, lack of physical activity, tobacco use and alcohol use.

Treatment of cancer include methods such as psychosocial support, surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy. Some of the most common cancer types, such as breast cancer, cervical cancer and colorectal cancer have higher cure rates when detected early and treated according to best practices.

The awareness programme was conducted by issuing pamphlets and exhibiting posters, along with distribution of green tea packets. Almost 500 pamphlets, both in English and Tamil, were distributed with the help of staff and students of the department of Pharmacy.

Many questions regarding cancer were raised by the public and also employees of the hospital with regard to onset, preventive measures and symptoms of cancer. The awareness programme was well received by the public as well.

We would like to thank our Pro-Vice Chancellor, Associate Director, Faculty of Health Science, Dean, SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre, Medical Superintendent, R.M.O., Dean, ISISM, Dean, Tamil Perayam and Dean, SRM College of Pharmacy for their co-operation in making the programme a grand success.

Making history with every pass

...SRMSAT goes on to become the longest operating Indian student satellite as it enters its fifth month in orbit

Shruti Iyer

While the buzz of the SRMSAT is still doing its round all over campus and beyond, not many are aware that the two year long saga does not end with just the October 2011 launch. The nanosatellite, which was launched to monitor the atmospheric CO2 and water vapour levels over India, is currently being tracked on a daily basis here, at SRM Kattankulathur.

Located on the terrace of the University building, the Ground Station (GS) of the satellite has members of the SRMSAT team gather at intervals of about 2 hours each, to monitor a 'pass'.'A pass is when the GS's visibility region, which is around 2,500 km. and the satellite's visibility range of 3,000 km. coincide', explains Mr. Prabakhar an expert who used to work at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre – Sriharikota and one who often helps the student team.

During the 15 minute long pass, an antenna mounted on top of the GS aligns itself to get a good signal which is then recorded. 'We hear a series of beeping which is in Morse code and when decoded, it generally gives SRMVUCZZPXC. Each letter stands for a parameter and it helps us decipher the satellite mode, status of the magnetometer, GPS, temperature etc.,' elaborates Kushal Halder a III-year. Computer Science Engineering student and a member of the On Board Computer Subsystem. Vikash Ranjan, Electronics and Communication Engineering, III-year. and a part of the Communication Subsystem adds, 'Our GS has been functional since December 2011 and while the satellite scans during the day, it dumps the data collected during the passes it makes at night. On an average, there are about 5 passes a day.' Even though the team is busy with SRMSAT-1, talks of another such project have already been initiated. Mr. M. Loganathan, Project Architect - Space Systems, says "Recruitment for the next team is currently on. Our idea for SRMSAT-2 is a constellation of satellites targeted towards solar power generation. We intend to power one satellite with energy transmitted from the other through microwaves. In a similar fashion, this solar power can be transmitted to earth, which is our aim".

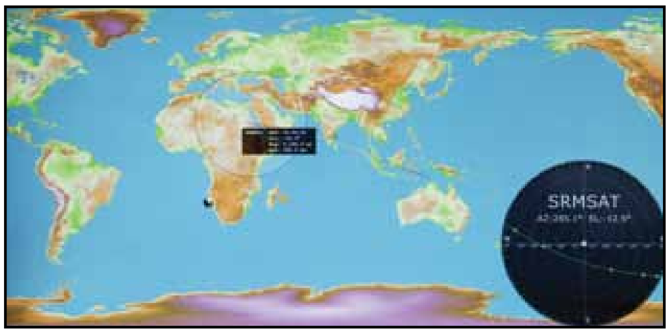

Image from the Tracking Station at University Building, SRM University.

Since a large part of these projects are student driven, the GS is open to anyone who wants to learn more about SRM's maiden student satellite or observe how it's tracked. Says Vishal.L.B a Mechanical Engineering, final year student of the Thermal Subsystem, 'Though our website has all the information regarding the SRMSAT, people can either tune into 437.425 MHz to hear the satellite during a pass or just get in touch with a team member and visit the GS to witness it unfold live.'

Details of SRMSAT are available at www.srmsat.in

Mathematics must be applications oriented -Vice Chancellor

Spectrum Report

We all know that the year 2012 has been declared as "National Mathematical Year", to commemorate the 125th birthday of the Mathematical prodigy Srinivasa Ramanujan, by our Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. In the light of this, a two-day National Conference on Mathematical Techniques and its Applications (NCMTA 20102) was organized, recently, by the department of Mathematics, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, SRM University.

The conference was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor Dr. M. Ponnavaikko. In his presidential address, he emphasized the role of the Mathematics teachers to be application oriented. He also explained the evolution of Mathematics from its primitive age to the Modern times.

In his inaugural address, the chief guest of the function Dr. G. Krishnakumar, Director, National Data Center, Pune, stressed the need for imparting the concepts of Basic Mathematics and gradually its advancements leading to research and also its applications to physical problems. The two day conference witnessed a galaxy of resource persons drawn from various fields of specialization in Mathematics such as Fuzzy analysis, Functional analysis, Fluid dynamics, Graph Theory, PDE's, Queueing Theory, Banking, Mathematical Finance, internet security, integrable systems, Algebra, Topological spaces, Statistics, Biological Mathematics, Petrinets and so on. Special lectures captivating the audience were delivered. There were about 40 paper presentations by research scholars and academicians from various colleges and Universities from different parts of our country. The whole program was marked by a good amount of deliberations and interactions, which was found to be very helpful to those who have been guiding research and also who are being guided.

At the Valedictory function Dr. R. Balasubramanian, Director, Faculty of Science & Humanities appreciated the roles of the organizers, the invited speakers and the participants. He congratulated the organizers for putting together a national conference in a successful manner and wished that the department should be able to host an International Conference in Mathematics by next year. He also extended his help in getting the conference organized in a big way.

"Students should passionately involve in Mathematics" – Dr. Vijayakumar

Spectrum Reporter

"Students should consider Mathematics as their career and more students should get into research in Mathematics; as Mathematics is the technical language of science", said Dr. A. Vijaya Kumar, Prof. and Head, Department of Science and Humanities, RMK Engg. College. He was delivering a special lecture as part of "Ramanujan @ 125" organized by FRACTAL, the Mathematics Association of SRM University Ramapuram.

As 2012 has been declared as the National Mathematics Year, the Mathematics association has planned a series of activities throughout the year under the title "Ramanujan @ 125". The Vice Principal Dr. L. Antony Michael Raj welcomed the gathering. The Dean Dr. K. Abdul Ghani presided over the function and Mr. M. Kannan, Asst. Professor, proposed the vote of thanks.

SRM launches Research Institute

Trisha Anand

With the objective to carry out quality research in frontline and emerging areas of science and technology, SRM has launched its own SRM Research Institute. While looking for highly capable, committed and passionate researchers, SRM invited applications for the positions in research faculty through advertisements in well reputed journals like Nature, Science, and IEEE Spectrum etc. An overwhelming response was received in the form of about 4000 applications. After several iterations of short listing, the interviews were conducted and 28 candidates in different streams were selected with research capability demonstrated through high quality publications, being the basic criterion for selection. Out of these, 20 have given consent to join the research wing and 7 have already joined the institute. "The research institute will provide necessary start-up research grant to set up laboratories for the faculty members who are joining basic sciences or engineering stream. SRM will provide state-of-the- art experiment facilities to carry out research", states Prof D. Narayana Rao, Director, Research, SRM University. The laboratories are expected to be functional in the next 6-12 months in the corresponding Departments.

This new initiative is sure to bring laurels to the University in terms of quality research publications with high impact factors. "The research faculty members are expected to teach four hours a week apart from the research work so that they can motivate and inspire the students to join them in carrying out research", reflects Dr. Rao. Dr. Arijit Sen, one of the seven researchers who have joined recently says, "This research initiative is first of its kind in a private institution and gives science a chance to grow." He has also taken classes for B.Tech students and is pleasantly surprised with the number of students with keen interest towards research. The researchers are concentrating on various fields such as physics, nanotechnology, Chemistry, toxicology, biotechnology, mechanical, photocatalysis, etc. Dr. Paromita Chakraborty, a return from Savannah State University, U.S.A., stated that, "It's our responsibility to take the institute to higher levels of excellence". Among the others who have joined are Dr. Ekambaram Balaraman, Dr. Ganesan, Dr. B. Neppolian, Dr. Ranjith Kunath and Dr. Ramkumar.

Of Interest to Faculty and Students...

FULBRIGHT USIEF

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For a fellowship brochure, contact the USIEF office in your region or send request with a self-addressed and stamped (Rs. 45) A4 size envelope.
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West: USIEF, Maker Bhavan-1, New Marine Lines, Mumbai 400020
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South: USIEF, American Consulate Building, Anna Salai, Chennai 600006

Due dates for submission of 2013-2014 Fulbright applications begin July 16, 2012. If you have questions, e-mail them to: ip@usief.org.in

The winning team

SRM wins All India Inter Univeristy Table Tennis Tournament

SRM University's men's table tennis team the bagged first place at the All India Inter University Table Tennis Tournament. It was held at RTM Nagpur University on 18th and 25th of January, 2012.

The team shined in the league matches by beating Vishwabharati Univeristy (3-2), GND University (3-1) and Devi Ahilya University (3-1).

In the Quarter finals, SRM beat VTU, Belgaum with a score of 3-0. They then defeated Burdwan University, West Bengal (3-0) in the semi finals.

SRM University triumphed over the University of Calcutta with a score of 3-1 in the finals winning the title.

SRM Women win KCG Verghese Memorial Cup

Hindustan University organised the KCG Verghese Memorial Basketball Women Tournament, recently.

The matches were held among SRM University, SSNCE Chennai, Hindustan University and St. Joseph's Engineering college; in which SRM University beat all the three teams. SRM University beat SSNCE Chennai (44/27), in the semifinals our University beat Hindustan University (41/33) and in the finals our University beat St. Joseph's Engineering College (56/44).

The best player of the tournament was Ms.U.Rehila Begum of IV-year B.Tech ECE, SRM University.

SRM Excels in South Zone Inter University Chess Championship

VIT University ,Vellore organized a South Zone Inter University Chess Championship recently.

The matches were held among SRM University, Kannur University, Sastra University, Madras University, Osamnia University, Anna University, JNTU Hyderabad, JUNTU Kakinada, VTU Belgaum and University of Calicut in which SRM University beat all the other teams gaining 32 points out of 36. Our University beat Kannur University (4/0), Sastra University (4/0), Madras University (3/1), Osamnia University (3.5/0.5), Anna University (2.5/1.5), JNTU Hyderabad (4/0), JUNTU Kakinada (3.5/0.5), VTU Belgaum (3.5/0.5) and University of Calicut (4/0).

SRM University was the "Defending Champion". Out of 36 points SRM got 32 points, hence creating a new record. Anna University, Chennai, Osmania University and JNTU, Hyderabad bagged runners up, third place, and fourth place respectively.

SRM shines at Rivera

SRM University competed in the Rivera 2012, held from 1st to 6th February in VIT Vellore.

The men's basketball team made a smooth win by beating Karunya University (70 / 40), Vels University (60 / 25) and SSBD College (30 / 22). In the finals, they thrashed VIT Univeristy with a score of 66/40. Oneh Edwin O Doka from SRM University was declared the best player.

The women's basketball team defeated VIT, Chennai (50 / 18) and Auxilium, Vellore (60 / 25). In the finals, VIT, Vellore was hammered with a score of 66 / 28.

The chess team won the title two years consecutively by beating Siddartha Educational Trust (4 – 0) in the final round.

The badmintons women's team triumphed by defeating VIT University (3 / 0) in the finals. They entered the finals by beating Stella Maris College (3 / 1) in the semi finals.

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BOOK REVIEW

"The story of a man, whom legend turned into God"

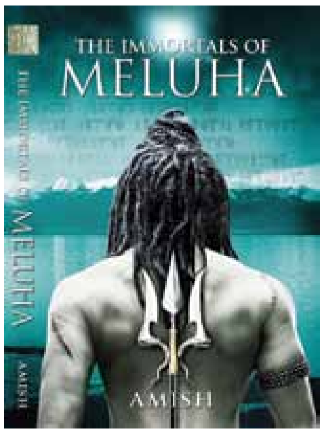
-The Shiva Trilogy:Amish Tripathi

Saipriya Vishwanath. S

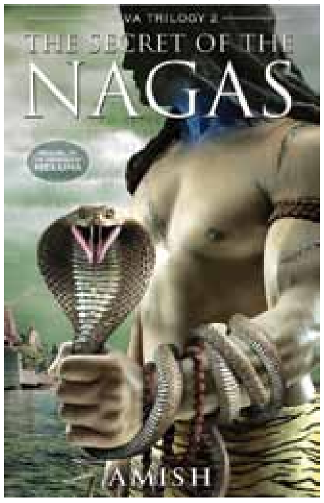
For millions Lord Shiva is a revered God, worshipped in his numerous forms. This fact prohibits others from thinking about his beginnings.

Author Amish Tripathi, holds no such inhibitions. The first book, The Immortals of Meluha, introduces Shiva as a tribal chieftain who has an extraordinary destiny waiting for him. The book is set in 1900 BC, better known as the period of the Indus Valley Civilization. It follows the journey of Shiva from his beginning as a nomadic tribe leader. He finds love along the way. Also 'Somras' administered to him, gives him his immortality and the characteristic blue neck. Bound by duty and love, how he aids the Suryavanshis in their battle with the Chandravanshis and later the Nagas, forms the rest of the story. The main theme of the book shows how Shiva's Karma recast him as Mahadev - God of Gods. The book is a potpourri of Hindu mythology, history, philosophy and literary freedom. The author juxtaposes this to create his debut novel in a lucid language permeated with scientific explanations of various myths.

The Secret of the Nagas, is a worthy sequel wherein Shiva's hunt for the Nagas continues. Halfway through the book, Shiva welcomes his first son – Karthik. The book contains numerous twists that change the course of the story. Shiva's realization of evil is followed by truth that his friend Brihaspati is still alive. The end of the book ensures an eager wait for the third book, The Oath of the Vayuputras.



The final verdict - Amish manages to provide a very unique perspective to Indian mythology. Stories you have grown up listening to, take such delightful twists in this series; it leaves you wanting for more. The language is simple, readable English, presented in a racy format but with the unnecessary use of Italics at places. While reading, there is no religious fervor, but just curiosity about the particular treatise of thought. At the end, you are just happy that someone has taken Indian myth and folklore to fiction, and the author has done a commendable job.



TRENDZ...

The *Mob* fever catches up at SRM...

Amrutha Murali

SRM is never behind when it comes to picking up the most happening Trends. And this time, the trend which literally rocked the students was the FLASH MOB. For those of you who missed out on this unique experience, here's a gist of what unfolded in the Kattankulathur campus.

Flash mobs are a group of people who come together at a random place and start dancing in a synchronised manner. These mobs can vary in numbers, depending on the songs and the places where they are performed.

The trend started in SRM during the annual cultural festival-' Milan'. Inspired by the flash mob at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus the organisers thought that flash mobs would be a great way to reach out to the masses.

The very first flash mob on campus was held in the central student hub- Java Green. The second edition to it was held in front of the Hi-tech block in the main campus. The students came out in large numbers and grooved on the beats of hit numbers like Kolaveri, Kala sala etc.

The popularity of the flash mobs can be gauged by the number of hits it has received on YouTube.

So, the next time you hear loud music and see a bunch of people break into a jig in the middle of nowhere, just let down your hair...and go join the fun. As they say... the more, the merrier.

TECH TALK

Cool Apps to hang out with...powered by Android

Akshun Ojha
Ankur Bhuyan

Gone are the days when the platform Java Micro Edition was widely used in mobile phones. Newer platforms with better features and relative ease of using are catching up quite fast. One of the front runners when it comes to popular mobile phone platforms is Android. A good majority of the students in our campus use Android phones and this is a good case in point to understand the reach and success of the Android platform.

Android is a Linux based operating system developed by Open Handset Alliance (OHA) led by Google. With over 4 lakh applications available in Android Market till January '12, a plethora of choices are left for the users providing them a friendly mobile interface. The applications fall into many categories like messaging, health, entertainment, gaming, office work, to mention just a few. In messaging, WAY2SMS allows selection of multiple phone contacts for messaging ensuring fast delivery of SMS. Its counterpart, 'GO-SMS' allows allocation of text colour, scheduled message delivery and different SMS ringtones for specific contacts. In the category of entertainment, applications such as PVR cinemas, INOX, BOOKMYSHOW allow booking movie tickets through multiple payment options with desired seat selection. The 'YOUTUBE' application is to be used for watching videos and the 'RAAGA' is used for listening to music across genres and languages. App's like ANGRY BIRDS, GTA III, NFS SHIFT 3D and so on are apt for gaming enthusiasts. WIKIDROID powered by voice search and GOOGLE TRANSLATOR are app's that are used by people to communicate in different languages. Photos can be edited through applications like PIC SAY and CAMERA360 in the most accurate way as done on computers. POLARIS OFFICE allows document viewing in all formats while aTORRENT enables downloading big files.

Applications like THE TIMES OF INDIA and THE HINDU help the users get updated on current happenings from around the globe. Also the SCREEN CAPTURE SHORTCUT which helps to take a screenshot of the current screen like the print screen key in Windows. Next is the ULYSSE SPEEDOMETER. Using this one can get the speed of any vehicle (in which one is travelling of course!) using the GPS of your phone. One of the most popular app these days is WHATSAPP. It is a messenger which is very light and lets you share files, images as other messengers do. Another one is VLINGO which is a personal assistant that enables the users to send messages without typing, through voice command.

The current version of Androidis 4.0.3 (Ice Cream Sandwich) and versions like 2.3 and 3.0 are still in use by many companies. It stands today as leader in its segment and has indeed paved way for a new phase in mobile technology.

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