

**Silver Jubilee Year**

(August 2009 - August 2010)

The campus newspaper of SRM University

# SPECTRUM



Dr. Shivakumar

## Varsity in US awards Ph.D to Dr Shivakumar

By A Spectrum Reporter

Dr. R.Shivakumar, the Pro Vice Chancellor of SRM University and Secretary of the SRM Arts and Science College has been awarded the Ph.D Degree in Pharmacology by the International University of Contemporary Studies, Washington D.C.,USA.

The young Dr.Shivakumar who has in his own characteristic fashion displayed dynamic leadership at the Ramapuram Campus is known for his hard and diligent work, not to mention his style of going about the task on hand with a pleasant smile.

A medical professional by education and training Dr.Shivakumar is looked upon with deep respect at Ramapuram and elsewhere for his simple and humanitarian ways of life but also for being a strict disciplinarian with a focus on the all round development of the faculty and the student body.

In his pursuit of higher academic excellence in India and overseas, Dr.Shivakumar

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## University awards Rs.9 cr in scholarships this academic year

By Mark Nathan

SRM University Chancellor, Mr T R Pachamuthu, and Vice-Chancellor, Prof P Sathyanarayanan, announced a scholarship amount of Rs 9 crore for the new academic year, up from last year's Rs 6.5 crore. This amount will be given to meritorious students under the University Founder's Scholarship and other University scholarship programmes.

The Chancellor recently handed over the scholarship offer letters to four of the 20 students who topped the SRM Engineering Entrance Examination at a function held during the Counselling at the University's Kattankulathur campus.

The four students are Venkata Manoj, Raghu Theja, Young Harish and Surendra Reddy, all belong to Andhra Pradesh. The 20 toppers of the SRM Engineering Entrance Examination will be given free B. Tech course for full four years, with the subject of their choice, and a whopping Rs. 2 crore offered as scholarship, besides Rs 1,000 as stipend per month.

Apart from this, 77 seats are being given this year under the sports quota as part of the Founder's Scholarship programme. Of the 77 seats, 25 have been allocated to



The Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor with student scholarship awardees

B.Tech courses, 22 for MBA and the balance for other fields including Science and Humanities.

Later, speaking to *Spectrum*, Mr Pachamuthu said, "All the 32 district toppers in Tamil Nadu and five students hailing from poor financial background will be given free education." He also said that 200 students, who had secured 95 per cent marks in Higher Secondary exams of State Board or 90 per cent marks in CBSE will be eligible for the University scholarship and 50

per cent of their tuition fee will be waived.

Stating that SRM University had been rated at par with the Indian Institute of Technology in view of its state-of-the-art infrastructure, the Chancellor said it augurs well for the institution when some of the IITJEE toppers preferred to join SRM this year.

Later, addressing a press conference, the Chancellor and Prof Sathyanarayanan announced that the University will introduce under-graduate

courses in nanotechnology, infrastructural engineering, nuclear engineering, architectural engineering and fashion technology.

Prof. Sathyanarayanan said the proposed Film Institute, being set up in association with the family of late actor Sivaji Ganesan, is ready to commence classes from this academic year. "Admissions are in progress and we received good response for the institute's courses," he said.

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# SRM Hospitals give a new lease of life for three year old child

*Through complex open heart surgery*



*Pro Chancellor, Mr. Ravi, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Satyanarayanan and doctors, with the patients*

## By Mark Nathan

It was a new lease of life for these young ones.

Saravanan, just four years old and the three-year-old Nandini, were born with birth defects in the heart. Also, two others aged 24 and 31, one from Elavoor and the other from Chennai, got their life back to normal courtesy the Department of Cardio Thoracic Surgery of SRM Medical College and Hospital and Health Sciences.

All of them can now breathe easy and do their work comfortably and play their favourite sport.

Soon after being referred to the Hospital, a team of cardio thoracic surgeons, headed by Dr V Harshavardhan and Dr Nanda Kishore Kapadia, performed the complex open heart surgeries on them to rectify the defects in the heart.

Speaking to *Spectrum* after introducing the two young patients, hailing from poor agriculture families facing a bleak future, SRM University Pro Chancellor Mr. P Ravi, Vice-Chancellor Prof. P Sathyanarayanan, Dr Harshavardhan and Dr Kapadia, of the SRM Hospital said the diagnosis revealed that both of them were suffering from ventricular septal defect, which results in a mix up of blood in the heart.

They were suffering from breathing problems due to lack

of oxygen in the blood. It was even more complicated for Saravanan as he used to faint without any reaction after crying for a while.

“After studying the heart beats, an ECGG was done to analyse each chamber in the heart to find whether sufficient blood was being pumped to the heart. We found there was a hole resulting in mixing of bad and good blood in the heart,” Dr Kapadia said.

Since the defects could not be treated through a minimally invasive surgery, open heart surgeries were performed to correct the defect. The heart was opened and connected to the heart and lung machine. The hole was closed using a prosthetic material and both of them have become normal, Dr Kapadia said.

Both of them were born with a small hole during birth. Generally, such holes get closed, as the child grows, in four to five years. Since the holes did not close, open heart surgery was the only solution, he added.

Mr Ravi and Prof Sathyanarayanan said the hospital,



*Saravanan and Nandhini with their mothers.*

which was equipped with latest equipment to perform all types of major heart surgeries, had performed the surgeries free of cost. “We have so far performed complicated surgeries on 12 patients. We did the first open heart surgery last month and so far we have done 12 such surgeries.” The hospital, under the guidance of the University Chancellor, Mr. T R Pachamuthu, would be doing the first 20 surgeries free of cost.

Mr Ravi said the hospital proposes to perform nearly 250 free heart surgeries every year, with the aim of providing quality health care to the poor.

“We aim to do more than 500 surgeries a year. Our main aim is to become one of the best health care providers in India by 2010,” he added.

Dr Kapadia and Dr Harshavardhan said that SRM Hospital would soon be included in the list of hospitals in which Government would provide assistance to children from poor families for heart surgeries under the *Idhayam Kappom* scheme.



## Celebrating the Silver Jubilee

By a Spectrum Reporter

The academic and the University Community are in for a rare treat. Beginning this week and for the next whole year SRM is celebrating the Silver Jubilee with events and programmes so meticulously planned that no one will be disappointed.

Faculties and disciplines are in competition with one another and in a healthy way to make sure that they are on top of Events with several senior University officials supervising the year long celebrations in which many VVIPs are expected to attend. Wait and Watch is the buzzword at Kattankulathur!

The Month of August will see the Silver Jubilee Torch Bike Rally from Trichy to Chennai and August 19<sup>th</sup> is a date to be marked in the Calendars—the Inaugural function, the opening of the

University Building and honouring 25 people who helped in establishing a college are all scheduled for the day. And the month of celebrations closes out on the 29<sup>th</sup> with the Inauguration of the new campus in Trichy.

And for September the highpoint will be on the 11<sup>th</sup> with the unveiling of the Statue of the Mother of our Chancellor and Chairman. A programme is also planned on the same day on Women’s Empowerment besides honouring 25 Eminent women.

And the List of planned events for the coming months goes on with the Grand Finale or the Valedictory Function scheduled for August 20, 2010.

*Spectrum* is proud to be a part of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations and will be covering the events and festivities.

## Varsity in US awards...

Cont. P - 1 has not lost track of his emphasis on Elementary and Secondary education. This is evidenced from the fact that he is the CEO of the Florence Nightingale School where he interacts regularly with teachers, parents and students.

A multi-faceted personality with the gift of public speaking, Dr. Shivakumar’s most

recent academic credentials undoubtedly goes the distance in strengthening the intellectual infrastructure of the SRM Group of Institutions in which he plays a pivotal role.

The Faculty, Students and the Non-Teaching Staff congratulate Dr. Shivakumar and wish him the very best in all his forthcoming endeavours.

# MoU on Japanese Studies



The President of the Indo Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr.N.Krishnaswami and SRM Vice Chancellor Prof.P.Sathyannarayanan with the signed Memorandum of Understanding. Also in the picture are Ms Suguna Ramamoorthy, Secretary General IJCCI and the Consul General of Japan in Chennai Mr.Kazuo Minagawa.

## By Spectrum Reporter

A “Centre for Japanese Studies”, which offers certificate and diploma courses on various facets of Japan, was launched at the SRM University, which was adjudged as the Number one private varsity in India.

The Centre was set up jointly by the SRM University

and the Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IJCCI). It was a mere coincidence that the day marked the 64th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima by United States during World War II.

A Memorandum of Understanding to this effect was signed at the University campus at suburban Kat-

tankalthur by the University Registrar Prof N.Sethuraman and the Secretary General of the IJCCI Ms Suguna Ramamoorthy in the presence of the Consul-General of Japan in Chennai Kazuo Minagawa, the University Vice-Chancellor Prof P Sathyannarayanan and Chamber founder and President Prof.N. Krishnaswami.

Talking to reporters after the launch function, Prof Sathyannarayanan said the Centre would offer Certificate and Diploma courses in Japanese languages, linguistics, their culture, business and other aspects of Japan.

He said SRM University was the second institute in India to have such a Centre for Japanese Studies after the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi.

He said the Courses would commence from the present Academic year beginning in September and the Centre would offer UG and PG

courses on Japanese studies in future. Prof Sathyannarayanan also said the University was also willing to set up its campus in Japan if that government allowed private players in the sector.

Speaking on the occasion Prof. Krishnaswami said that the IJCCI has been working for the strengthening of bilateral relations between India and Japan for the last twenty years in educational, cultural and economic fields. “The Chamber decided to establish the Centre for Japanese Studies at this point of time as the 21st century is considered the century of Asia, and in particular the century of Japan and India” he said adding that in this the Chamber has been “fortunate” to be associated with SRM University “and the joint effort will make the planned Centre a centre of Excellence on Japan and Japanology”.

Earlier, inaugurating the Centre, Mr Kazuo Minagawa called for strengthening the bilateral ties between the two countries by proper un-

derstanding of the economy, politics and culture of the two Nations, which were “Natural partners and eternal friends”.

He Japanese investments in India had surpassed China and they were still growing, about 40 per cent of investments were in the manufacturing sector and several financial institutions in Japan were funding various projects in India.

There had been increase in number of Japanese companies in India from 65 in 2007 to 155 at present. The number of Japanese nationals in India also doubled from 200 to 450, he said and attributed this to the establishment of a manufacturing facility being set up at Oragadam by auto major Nissan which would be commissioned by May next year.

Mr.N.Murali, Vice Chairman of IJCCI and Managing Director of The Hindu, retired Chief Secretary of West Bengal, Mr. B.S.Raghavan and Industrialist and Director of IJCCI Mr.Ramakrishna Raja offered felicitations on the occasion.

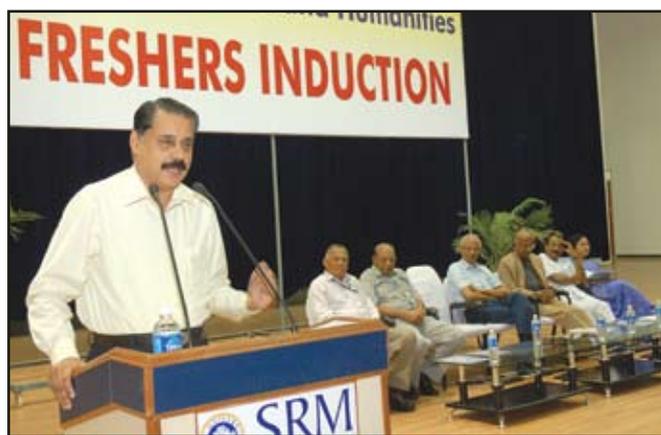
# When freshers come, a rosy welcome!

## By Aditya Panja

More than 1500 freshers, their parents, guardians and siblings were welcomed at the Dr.T.P.Ganesan Auditorium in the main campus as a part of the Induction Programme of the Faculty of Science and Humanities on August 3, 2009.

The new students saw first hand what an SRM Welcome is all about with the induction ceremony pitching not only the traditional like the Invocation but also featuring three senior students giving an idea of what life is all about at the sprawling campus in Tamil, Hindi and English and in the kind of expectations and challenges that lie ahead in the months and years to come.

And starting off the programme was the Director of the Faculty of Science and Humanities, Dr. R.Balasubramanian, who not only welcomed the Freshers and their families but also went on to give a gist of what could be expected from the



Mr. Maalan sharing his thoughts.

University as it pertained to academic and intellectual pursuits.

For a person heading a rapidly expanding faculty, both in terms of disciplines and teaching/research staff, Dr. Balasubramanian assured incoming students and their families of the kind of dedication that can be expected from his faculty with the bottom line message to parents that their wards are in good hands and would be taken good care of.

The Registrar, Professor N.Sethuraman, for his part

outlined in detail what the SRM University and the Community was all about emphasizing that education in this main Campus went beyond books and degrees to bringing out full fledged graduates who are well versed not only in academia but also being good citizens knowledgeable of the surrounding environment.

“Knowledge is power” is not a new quote, but every time it is said it brings up new energy in a student’s mind. This was exactly what the chief guest Dr. N. Ravichandran, CEO of operations TVS

Lucas was stressing on at the Induction Programme .It was really a treat to hear Dr.Ravichandran as he was introduced as a person with a rare combination of academic excellence and hands on experience with a first rate industrial house of India and in the world. Sharing his personal experience, he motivated the students to have a vision and mission in life.

One of the highlights of the Programme was in the Greetings offered by an array of individuals with credentials that are only to be envied. And heading that list was Mr.Narayanan Maalan, or simply known to many as only “Maalan” who is a noted

journalist, writer, novelist and now Media Advisor to the SRM Group and a Faculty Member in the School of Media Studies at the SRM University. The two others who participated in this segment were Dr.Anuradha Parakat, Director for Corporate Affairs and Student Mentoring, and Dr. Venkataramani, Director of the Campus. And the Dean of the Faculty of Science and Humanities, Dr. K. Sengotti summed it all up in his Vote of Thanks.

The programme was followed by lunch for the staff, parents and students. The freshers, then, busied themselves with filling up the several forms to update university records.



A Section of the audience paying careful attention.

## Students design sensor to check heart beat

By A Spectrum Reporter

Five students from SRM University (Modinagar) have designed a sensor to check the heart beat rate in human body.

Second year students of the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Mohammed Afzal Siddiqui, Sachin Sharma, Rohit Sharma, G. Srinikhil Gupta, and Anurag Saha, designed the innovative sensor, which has a special type of electrode to sense the pumping of blood by the heart. These electrodes can sense the change in electron density during contraction and de-contraction of the heart.

The heart beat rate of a person can be calculated if he/she holds the sensor with both the hands. The students are planning to upgrade the machine in such a way that it can also be used as blood pressure monitor and digital thermometer. They want to introduce Bluetooth technology, data transfer system and G.P.S. device in the machine.

For inventing this sensor, they received the Best Appreciative Project award in 'TECHKRITT', an annual national-level science festival held at IIT, Kanpur. They also won a prize in 'Cognizance', an annual national level tech fest held at IIT, Roorkee. They stood second in TECHNO-EXPO, an event conducted during *Aarush '08*, a national level tech fest that is held in SRM University every year.

# Nano duo – Pride of SRM

By Ratnika Sharma

Just imagine the sense of happiness and pride that is felt at seeing one's success story in a textbook read by students all over the country! That was exactly how Ojas Mahapatra, doing M.S in Nanotechnology, and Deepti Mahapatra, doing B.Tech, Biotechnology at SRM University, felt on seeing their story printed in an ICSC hindi textbook for Class V students.

In 2003, they were awarded the Young Children Scientist Award by the then President of India, Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam. "I can never forget the thrill and excitement I felt at seeing the President and talking to him for an hour as he is one of my biggest sources of inspiration!" In the same year, the brother-sister duo got the Junior Scientist Fellowship under the Kishore Vidyayanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY). They had done several scientific projects and represented Orissa in multiple competitions and



Ojas and Deepti showing the text book, which contains a lesson on them, to vicechancellor, Prof. Sathyannarayanan

forums. Many of their projects were also implemented by the state government, like use of bio agents as pesticides in agriculture.

Both Ojas and Deepti had contributed significantly to the development of their respective departments by conducting innovative experiments and building recognition for the departments. Ojas was part of the University cricket and weightlifting teams and also the lead guitarist in the University band, *Missing*

*Link*. Deepti represents SRM in throw ball.

According to Ojas, one must strive to be good at everything and look for a holistic development. When asked about the secret of his success, he said, "Success comes your way if you are focused, hard working and most of all passionate about life and learning," and added that youth today lost the spirit of adventure and lack vision. Accepting failures is a part of the process. "I would like to give the credit of my

achievements to my parents, Mr. R.B Mahapatra and Ms. Manju Mahapatra, and the SRM Management," he said.

Currently he is working on carbon nano structures and their implications in the various sectors of the society.

Brimming with confidence, Ojas announced that a Nobel Prize is surely on their way, either to him or his sister.

## Daring while debuting

By A Spectrum Reporter

The National Cadet Corps team of SRM University had won accolades in *Cadofest*, an inter-collegiate NCC cultural, held at DDGD Vaishnav College, Arumbakkam, recently.

Hemanta Kumar Sharma, a Year II student of B.Tech

(Mechatronics) bagged the highest individual event award 'MAYTRAI 08-09'. He had to pass through a series of tough tests like, Group Discussion, Situation Reaction Test, Shipwreck, Extempore, Treasure Hunt, Advance Leadership Test, general interview and personal interview. He was

awarded a gold medal, a shield and a certificate.

Lokesh Panthri, another Year II student of Aerospace Engineering, was the first runner up in the 'Best Cadet' category. His skills were tested through Word of Command, squad handling, general

knowledge, and finally interview. He was awarded with a silver medal and a certificate.

The University's NCC unit also won this year's *Jeeva Spasm* (a service to humanity) rolling trophy. This is the first time the cadets of SRM are participating in *Cadofest*.

## Hostel administration overhauled : Prof. Venkataramani

By Trisha Anand



Prof. Venkataramani

In a bid to enhance experience for over 12,000 boarders on Kattankulathur campus, SRM University has restructured its hostel administration.

The University had handed over the additional charge of Chief Warden to Prof. R Venkataramani, Director for Campus Administration and Sports.

Speaking to *Spectrum*, Prof Venkataramani, said, "The restructuring had been done to integrate the hostel administration with academic activities."

Giving details of the newly-restructured hostel administration, the Director said that he will now be assisted by two Senior Wardens, one for the boy's and the other for the Girl's hostels. Dr V Srinivasan, a Professor in the Department of Mathematics, and Dr R Jeyalakshmi, a Professor in the Department of Chemistry, are the two Senior Wardens. These Senior Wardens will now be assisted by over 70 Deputy Wardens.

Plans are also afoot to form committees like mess, housekeeping, recreation, sports and magazines to make the boarders' life comfortable and happy, clarified Prof. Venkataramani.



A row of hostel building.

# Alumni sponsor prizes... *Aarush 09*

By Ratnika Sharma

*Aarush* this year is unique in the sense that both the students and the alumni are a part of it and are working hard to make it a success.

A group of alumni, including Tabish Ashraf, turned entrepreneurs recently by launching a company called Beatrix Solutions Pvt. Ltd. The fledging company focuses on the niche areas of organising events, workshops and seminars in schools and colleges across the country.

Speaking to *Spectrum* recently, Tabish said, "We essentially specialise in knowledge, brand and image management and provide 100% customisable services. *Aarush 09* is our first major initiative and we are offering Rs 3 lakh as sponsorship fund to the event. This amount will be used as prize money to cover the various events during *Aarush*."

In addition, Tabish said, the top eight students will be selected from among the participants for summer training in New Delhi. "We'll take care of their travel, stay and food expenses," he clarified.

Interestingly, the company is offering a 15% discount to students participating in *Aarush 09* in any of the workshops it plans to conduct anywhere in the country.



Tabish Ashraf

"Apart from this, we plan to appoint some students to act as our Student Partners to act as a link between an educational institution and our company. We'll offer attractive remuneration. Also, we'll absorb outstanding performers at *Aarush* as trainees in the company," elaborated Tabish.

The 52 plus technical events of *Aarush 09* in eight categories are conceived designed and executed by SRM engineering students. The Webarch Students' Club is playing a major role in designing web posters and banners for *Aarush*.

## *Aarush 09*

# Aarush is back—with a bang!

By Aditya Kesanupalli,  
Deepak Pinninty and  
Siddharth Panicker

*Aarush 09* - the rising of the Sun - is back with a bang, promising a much bigger and a larger show this time around. The year 2009 marks the completion of 25 glorious years of SRM's splendour. *Aarush*, being our annual technical fest, makes it all the more commemorative.

2007 saw the birth of *Aarush*, and two years hence it is one of the most sought after tech fests. A union of brains, skill, technology, talent, creativity and some luck. It truly signifies the cultural melange that SRM stands for.

*Aarush* is broadly classified into seven categories, namely Robogyan, Yuddhame, Presentatio, Blue Book, X-Zone, Konstruction and Magefficie. Each with their own set of events. Be it robotics, circuits and programmes, mind games or online battles, share broking, paper presentations, and many more, *Aarush* has it all.

Here's your chance to explore and showcase your well-groomed or untapped skills. Come September, our college will witness a hubbub of young technocrats from every corner of the country. Participation is expected from every state of India this time, beating last year's recorded



Registering the *Aarush '09*.

26 states.

The placement block is abuzz with activity day in and day out with determined minds that form the core, organising committee. Manish Singh Rathore is leading the team, which is leaving no stone unturned in their pursuit of making it a stupendous success. Be it publicity, sponsorships, maintenance, hospitality, public relations or event management, work has started in full swing.

52 of the 200 odd events that were submitted have been

selected after careful scrutiny. These events form the heart and soul of *Aarush*. In addition to this, we also have Beatrix Solutions Pvt Ltd offering pre-*Aarush* workshops in areas like robotics, event management, entrepreneurship and ethical hacking. In short, they aim at carving a complete professional. The tentative dates for the event are from September 10 TO 12.

So readers, wake up. Put on your thinking caps. The countdown has begun.

## SRM SAE team looking for sponsors to compete in Mini BAJA

By Moen Sen

DUOTTRO 13.0, a 13-member team of the SRM SAE Collegiate Club, will soon head to South Africa to take part in the SAE International Mini BAJA, slated to be held on October 16 and 17, this year.

The Society of Automotive Engineers, founded in 1905, works with an aim to develop technical information through all forms of automobiles and its chapter in SRM was started in 1997.

SAE organises the Mini BAJA, where teams from all over the world are required to design and fabricate an



SRM SAE team.

off terrain vehicle that will withstand the various static, dynamic and endurance tests. The vehicle that passes all these tests with flying colours will be chosen the winner. DUOTTRO 13.0, headed by Aurijit Aiyer, Comprises Year

IV Automobile Engineering students, and is one of the three teams from India participating in the competition. The project is being done under the guidance of Prof. Leenus Jesu Martin, Head, Department of Automobile Engineering.

The team, which has students from the Department of Mechanical Engineering also, has already proved its mettle at BAJA SAE India held earlier this year in Madhya Pradesh.

Apart from the official 13 member team, a few Year III Mechanical Engineering students are working behind the scenes and have been actively involved in the fabrication of the vehicle.

The SRM team, which has completed the designing and modelling of the vehicle, is expected to spend Rs 10 lakh for materials, spare parts, equipments, travelling and other expenses, for the whole project. Their initial funding

came from the University. "But it is insufficient," says Aurijit, and adds that the team is on the look out for sponsors.

The following is the SRM SAE team: Aurijit Aiyer, Ashwin J, Amit Kumar, Gyanendra Kumar, Arpit Tripathi, Anuj Keshri, Prashant Kumar, Nishant Taj, Nandan Singh, Bhaskar J, Asash Priyeranjan, Pankaj Kumar, and Krishnaswamy.

The support team consists of Elisitty Vamsi, Anubhav Thakur, Praveen Kumar, Arvind Vishwanathan, Raghunandan B, M V Sumanth, Subash Babu, Deepak Seshan, Sumeet Kumar, Krishna, Nirmal, and Nishanth Singh.

By Mark Nathan

The three-day first Indian Youth Science Congress that concluded recently had eminent scientists urging today's youth to come up with innovative research, whose benefits would reach the common man and serve society.

The event, organised by M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in association with SRM University and Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth Development, was attended by more than 500 young scientists, researchers, academicians, college and school students. The theme of the Congress was *Youth and Shaping the Future of Innovations in Science for Societal needs*.

The Indian Youth Science Congress Association (IYSCA), a national body, which fillip to young scientists, was formed during the meet.

The newly formed body was formally launched by the secretary of the Department of Science and Technology Mr T Ramaswami, at the valedictory function of the three-day event.

The IYSCA would be an umbrella organisation

## Indian Youth Science Congress calls for innovative research for societal needs



A participant receives a certificate from Prof. Sathyanarayanan. Prof. Swaminathan, and Dr. T. Ganesan, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Planning & Development) are also in the picture.

that would conduct annual or biannual youth science congress at different locations in the country.

Unlike the Indian Science Congress, which benefits PhDs, researchers and scientists of high cadre, the IYSCA would concentrate on nationally important themes,

where young scientists could play a key role.

Addressing the conference, Mr Ramaswami said a majority of the scientific contributions were unable to spur the country's economic growth. Though India had the largest pool of scientific community, the benefits of

their research were yet to percolate, he said.

While stating that his department would support the IYSC and its association, he expressed confidence that it would be vibrant and will encourage youth to take up research in science and technology as it was

the responsibility of young men and women to take the country forward. SRM University Vice-Chancellor, Prof P Sathyanarayanan, said an Interim Working Committee was formed and it would be headed by Dr Ajay Parida, Executive Director of MSSRF, secretaries, treasurer and joint secretary, six members from different parts of the country would be included in the committee, which would organise the second Youth Congress, form a task force for mobilising young scientists to combat climate change, prepare a road map for ensuring the success of the decade of innovation, besides draw out the constitution for the newly-formed association.

The IYSCA was a platform for the youth, by the youth and it would be governed by the youth, he added.

Initially, the interim secretary of the IYSCA would be housed at M S Swaminathan Research Foundation at Taramani in Chennai.

Member of Parliament and MSSRF Chairman, Prof M.S.Swaminathan, in his valedictory address said the country would continue to remain poor as long as its human resources were undervalued and its material resources overvalued. The Youth Science Congress, he said, had thrown up some important 'outputs'. This forum for young scientists is all set to have a dialogue on climate change, debate on the empowerment of women in agriculture and the need to bridge the many 'divides' in the country.

The major topics touched upon during the course of the three-day Congress were innovations in science for societal needs, scientific innovations in relation to achieving the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, science for human security and well-being, innovations in relation to the national missions for climate change, inculcating scientific temper among young minds and young scientists and shaping India's future.

Later, Prof. Sathyanarayanan distributed prizes to participants and winners of the competitive events of the three-day conference.

## Youth urged to combat climate change through scientific innovations

Help cut down 70 per cent of carbon emissions by 2015, says Prof Swaminathan

By Mark Nathan

Eminent agriculture scientist, Prof M S Swaminathan recently exhorted youth to use ecology as the foundation for scientific innovations.

On the sidelines of the Indian Youth Science Congress, held recently at Sriperumbudur, he said scientific innovations should not affect the ecological systems like ozone layer in the wake of concerns over climate change and global warming.

Of the over 1.2 billion Indians, 70 per cent were below the age of 35 and 242

million were in the age group of 10 to 19. "In the next few decades, India will have the world's largest number of young people," he said and wanted Indian youth to take up research for scientific innovations to combat climate change.

Speaking on the impact of climate change on food production, Prof. Swaminathan said 1-20 deg C increase in mean temperature would decrease the rice yield by 0.75 ton per hectare in efficient zones and 0.06 tonne per hectare in coastal regions. "The impact of increase of 0.50 C in winter temperature will bring down the wheat crop duration by seven days and the yield by 0.45 tonne per hectare," he added.

He said there would be

unprecedented drought conditions and floods, rising sea levels, mass extinction of both humans and animals and glacier-free decertified world in the wake of prediction of four deg C rise in temperature by 2050.

Stating that the impact of the climate change would be alarming as most of the Himalayan glaciers would melt with adverse repercussions for many of the major rivers in the region, he said, "Bangladesh and South India will be severely affected as a result of sea level rise."

"To combat this, it would be safe to reduce our carbon emissions by 70 per cent by 2015. However, the worrying factor is that we are currently adding three per cent more every year," explained Prof.

Swaminathan.

Later, speaking to *Spectrum* SRM University Vice-Chancellor, Prof P Sathyanarayanan, said India would be in an advantageous position in future as the average age of the Indian would be 29 by 2020, when compared to 37 in China, 38 in the US, 47 in Germany and 48 in Japan.

"In 2020, India will be called as a nation of the youth, presenting more opportunities for the youth," he added. Observing that the present working population of 67 crore would go up significantly in future, Prof Sathyanarayanan said the policy-makers should take necessary steps to ensure good education, employment and health care to them.

"A great leader's courage to fulfill his vision comes from passion, not position."

-Anonymous

By Spectrum Team

# SRM's Tuk Tuk wins green contest

Truly getting out of the laboratory and onto the streets, Ankur Kumar of SRM University along with seven other students can now talk like an auto driver, walk like an auto driver and act like an auto driver.

Charged with the task of creating an engine kit for a fuel-efficient and cost-effective hybrid tuk tuk, they passed with flying colours - winning the 4 stroke category in the International Hybrid Auto Rickshaw Project.

The competition was the brain child of Stef Van Dongen, founder of Enviu- innovators in sustainability. As Mathijis Huis in't Veld, the project manager for the event put it, "Stef wanted to conduct the competition to develop a prototype for a fuel-efficient, environment-friendly and inexpensive tuk tuk."



The winners of the 2 stroke category with Sqn. Ldr. Sharma and SRM Vice Chancellor Prof. P. Sathayanarayanan.



Measuring the fuel.

The three-day competition was recently held at the Kattankulathur campus of SRM University. Of the seven teams that participated, four were from Holland and the rest from India. The Indian teams were from SRM University, RVCE and Ramiah Institute of Bangalore.

Over the course of the three days, the teams came up with inspiring methods to

make a perfect 'green' tuk tuk, including those that run on electrolysed water, magnetised fuel and one which works by letting the exhaust fumes return to the engine!

The event witnessed two days of racing. To win, each vehicle had to complete 25 rounds at a particular speed within a set time. The first race in which the students themselves acted

as drivers were with the modified engines.

In the second race, however, local auto drivers from Chennai were called in to race with original engines. Fuel tanks were measured before and after each race in order to obtain a fair calculation of fuel efficiency.

At the valedictory function, the Chief Guest, Squadron Leader (rtd) Rakesh Sharma, Chairman of the Board for Automated Workflow, extolled the need for international cooperation in looking after Planet Earth. He also announced that on August 15 his organisation will initiate the process to reforest India.

Mr Bob Hiensch, Ambassador, The Netherlands and Mr Sharma awarded the prizes to the winning teams. HANS University of The Netherlands won in the 2 stroke category and SRM University won in the 4 stroke. The two teams managed to reduce the vehicle's carbon monoxide emissions from 3% to .3% and increased the mileage by 40%. The winning teams won 10,000 euros, which they want to use to implement their business plan in the future.

## INTERVIEW

# It gives us an awesome feeling: Ankur Kumar

After an exhausting 25 laps with the last drop of fuel being weighed, the seven tuk tuk teams from Holland and India trudged back to their rooms. The next day the team from SRM University was declared the winner in the 4-stroke category! The captain of the SRM University team **Ankur Kumar**, a B.Tech (Automobile Engineering) alumnus of the University, spoke to **Sunandini Chakraborty** and **Ratnika Sharma** of Spectrum. Excerpts:

**Question: Your team worked hard for this award. How do you feel after the win?**

**Answer:** Proud! Winning at any competition gives us an awesome feeling. It feels

great to see our prototype being accepted. We worked very hard for this success.

**Q: What were your initial difficulties? How did you overcome them?**

**Ans:** Well . . . putting together the concept was our first major difficulty. We had to work out a formula to bring together the concepts of fuel efficiency and cost effectiveness to develop a business plan and ensure marketability for the engine kit.

**Q: What modifications did you make in the engine to make it more effective?**

**Ans:** Three major changes were done. First, we replaced the existing carburettor with a smaller one. The idea was to minimise the air intake. Second, we went for the magneti-



Ankur checking his auto before the contest.

sation of the fuel, and third, we modified the exhaust lane in order to improve the cold charging system. By this we were able to reduce the fuel

cost by 30% and carbon dioxide emissions by 60%.

**Q: When did you start working on the project?**

**Ans:** Ah . . . the project was first introduced by the former CEO of Phillips, who was in touch with our Professor Leenus J Martin. Our tuk tuk arrived in January 2009 and we've been working intensively for the last six months.

**Q: What's your team strength?**

**Ans:** Eight members. They include old and current students of the Department of Automobile Engineering, Department of Mechatronics and the School of Management. Their names are: Ankur Kumar, Abhay Pratap, Mritunjay Kumar, Shahid Khan, Satyasambit Rath, Bharathkumar Hegde, Sreejith Nair and Dhivyaa Gandhi.

# Pictures Speak a Thousand words

*The Chancellor and other top university officials interacting at the Engineering counseling session*







The VIPs on the dais.

## Valliammai Polytechnic celebrates silver jubilee

By Mark Nathan

Way back in 1984 only few private players were into the polytechnic education. Valliammai Society started Valliammai Polytechnic at Kattankulathur and this was the first institution of the SRM Group, which paved the way for SRM University's tree of educational institutions.

Singing paeans of the founder, Dr. R Shivakumar, Secretary of the Valliammai Society, congratulated the founder for his vision and emphasised the need for the students to make their parents proud and thereby making the country proud.

Speaking on the occasion of the polytechnic's silver jubilee celebrations, SRM Group Chairman and SRM University's Chancellor, Mr T R Pachamuthu, recalled the 25 year long journey of the Valliammai Polytechnic College and thanked the then education minister, Mr C Aranganayakam, who was also present,

for according sanction to start the polytechnic.

"The seeds sown in the form of Valliammai Polytechnic college, has now grown as a banyan tree leading to the formation of the SRM University, which has 40,000 students in its fold in its four campuses in India", he said.

"The University, which was ranked Number One, was not only known in India, but was recognised in several parts of the world," he added.

The University's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P Sathyanarayanan, too echoed similar sentiments and recalled the formative days of the polytechnic by his father, Mr Pachamuthu.

Former minister for education in Tamil Nadu, Mr C Aranganayakam, elaborated on his association with educationists and recalled his days in establishing various colleges and institutions including the SRM College in the private sector. He congratulated the management for imparting quality education.

Prof. N R Shetty, President of the Indian Society of Technical Education, New Delhi, was the Chief Guest of the function, where Mr Sarthak Behuria, Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation, delivered his Keynote address. Pro Vice Chancellor of the SRM University, Dr. T P Ganesan, Registrar of the University, Prof. N Sethuraman, Mr. Kovai Thambi, Principal of Valliammai Polytechnic, Dr R Balasubramaniam, and other departmental heads from the college were present on the occasion.



A view of the audience.

## Polytechnic education doesn't get due share: Prof Shetty

By Mark Nathan

Prof. N R. Shetty, President of the Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE), New Delhi, lamented that due share is not given to polytechnic education in the present scenario. He was speaking during the silver jubilee celebrations of the Valliammai Polytechnic at Kattankulathur recently.



Mr. Kovai Thambi offering felicitations

Later, delivering his keynote address at the function, Mr Sarthak Behuria, Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation, said the Indian economy has become highly vulnerable to volatile oil prices and face tough choices to limit inflationary measures and reduce fiscal burden due to fuel subsidies.

"We are in a better position to absorb external shocks and adjust to oil prices fluctuations. Our external payment positions are more secure, monetary policy is stronger, fiscal balance has improved and economic structures are more flexible and capable of adjusting quickly," he added.

He said recently there has been a bit of shift in the inflation picture since the commodity prices, especially the oil

prices, have fallen well below the earlier peaks.

"This probably reflects a weakening in economic conditions in many industrialised countries," he noted.

Stating that there was a pressing need for popular education in energy affairs, beginning with a broader public understanding on the energy challenges, Mr Behuria said energy touches every other aspect of societal activity.

"It is influenced by politics, culture, technological innovation, global trade and financial markets. Forecasters predict that in the coming decades, there will be water problem and food scarcity also looms large. The success in addressing these issues will be greatly determined by how we solve the issues of energy."



Lighting the lamp.

# Venture into power plants: Minister Arcot Veerasamy

By Mark Nathan

An 80-year-old engineer's two-decade long research has proved that power can be generated from well water.

Revealing this while participating in the valedictory of the silver jubilee celebrations of the Valliammai Polytechnic College, part of the SRM Group of Institutions at its campus in Kattankulathur, the Tamil Nadu Electricity Minister, Mr Arcot N Veerasamy, said he was satisfied with the prototype project to be launched soon.

SRM Group Chairman, Mr T R Pachamuthu, SRM University Vice Chancellor, Prof P Sathyanarayanan, Pro Chancellor Mr. P Ravi, Valliammai Society Secretary, and Dr R Shivakumar were among those who were present on the occasion.

Under this new innovative project, 1 mega watt of power can be generated in just 90 days when compared to other projects like thermal, hydro,

and wind mills, which would take at least three to five years to generate power.

Mr Veerasamy, without disclosing the identity of the engineer, who met him at his residence recently, said under the project, power could be produced using 15 HP motors to draw water from well.

"There is no need to have any big dams to generate power. The water from the household well can be drawn to generate power," he added.

After studying the prototype, Mr Veerasamy said this project could generate up to 10,000 MW without any gestation period. "Once this proved successful, there was no need for any other source for producing power to meet the future needs."

He said Rs 1.5 crore has been arranged as desired by the engineer for setting up the pilot project, which would go on stream soon.

Once it becomes successful,



Mr. Arcot Veerasamy receiving a bouquet from Dr. Shivakumar as the Chancellor looks on.

the Tamil Nadu government would wholeheartedly support this project to generate power up to 10,000 MW without any hitch.

Observing that 6 lakh MW of power was required by 2035, He also requested the SRM Chairman, Mr T R Pachamuthu, to consider venturing into power generation

plants while expanding his educational plans.

Stating that power from water was a revolutionary move, Mr Veerasamy said power from thermal plant was expected to be limited as the lignite stock would last only for 60 years and gas-based projects were proving costlier. Hydel projects too were

becoming difficult due to lack of rains.

Showering encomiums on Mr Pachamuthu for his selfless service in building a reputed institution like SRM, Mr Veerasamy promised the SRM management all help in getting post-graduate medical courses from the coming academic year for its medical college.



Strengthening friendship.



Honouring the VIPs



The SRM University team with the trophy.

## SRM wins Aircel volleyball championship

By Mohana Krishnan

In the Aircel State-level inter-collegiate volleyball tournament in Chennai recently, SRM University defeated Sethu Institute of Engineering, Madurai, to claim the title. The scores: 21-25, 25-13, 25-23, 25-22.

The final witnessed a frenzied contest between packed attacker-blocker lines, with long rallies few and far between. Sethu pulled away to a 21-17 lead, only

for SRM to win four straight points and draw level.

However, Sethu replied in kind, winning the next four points, with a deep ace from Jagabar Ali giving the boys from Madurai a 1-0 lead.

Undeterred, the SRM players upped their intensity and won the second set 25-13.

The third set see-sawed all the way through to 17-all, before service errors from Jerald and Jagabar Ali

handed SRM the two-point lead it craved for. Soon, after a steep, unanswered spike from S. Karthik and another clever dink from Thangalagu, SRM was 2-1 up.

The fourth set replicated the narrative of the first — but only up to a point. Down 16-19, SRM recovered to 21-all. Unlike the first set, however, SRM carried the momentum forward to take the score to 24-21.

## Modinagar cricketers get international exposure

By A Spectrum Reporter

Nine students of SRM University, Modinagar Campus, represented the State and the country in the international Super Six Cricket Tournament organised by the Royal Bangkok Sports Committee in Bangkok recently. The Indian team won all its league matches, scored a fluent win in the quarterfinals before losing to the Bahrain team in the semi-finals.

For the Indian youngsters, it must have suddenly felt like a superb international exposure. Mr. K Saravanan, Director of Physical Education, served as the coach. The presence of cricketer Vinod Kambli and Hariharan, ODI umpire, boosted the spirits of the team, which was captained by Ali Faraz Rizvi. The tournament consisted of four pools, each containing five teams.

In the first league match, the

SRM team was pitted against Chittagong (a Bangladesh team), which contained an international player, Akram Khan. But the SRM team scored a fluent win. Chittagong won the toss and it opted to field first. Abhirup Ganguly and Rizvi scored 68 runs in the given five overs. Abhirup Ganguli was able to hit two sixes and a four in three consecutive balls in Akram Khan's over. The team sighted victory when Rizvi took the wicket of Akram Khan. In this match, Vishal Chauhan demonstrated his bowling skills.

The second league match was against Chandigarh, which batted first having won the toss. It was able to score just 50 runs. Vishal Chauhan and Abhishek Rajput bowled them out in style. Needing 51 for victory, the batsmen Gautam and Lakshya Sharma helped the SRM team achieve the target.

In the third league match against Asia United, the SRM team limited the rival's score to just 44 runs, the credit for which went to bowlers Rahul Dagar and Abhishek Rajput. It was left to batsman Abhirup Ganguly to score all the runs for a well-earned victory.

The next league match was quite tough as UBL Blue managed to score 60 runs. In this match, the SRM team introduced two new members, Ghanshyam and Ankur, and went ahead to win and earn a place in the quarter finals.

Malwiya's, another Indian club, also managed to enter the quarterfinals and was pitted against the SRM team. Rizvi and Ganguli's brilliant performance took the team's score to 74 runs and a berth in the semi-finals, where they lost to the Bahrain team.

## Vikkram bats for SRM

By A Spectrum Reporter

team was the runner up.

Vikkram Jangid, a second year student of Computer Science Engineering, SRM University, Ramapuram, was a member of the cricket team that stood second in the All India Inter-Collegiate tournament conducted by SSN College of Engineering, Chennai, recently.

Vikkram has been participating in cricket tournaments conducted by various institutions all over India. He was a part of the team that represented SRM University in the All India Inter-University Cricket Tournament organised by Mumbai University. The

He was also part of the team that participated in a cricket tournament organised by Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering. The team received the Dr. A. C. Muthiah Rolling Trophy for standing first in the tournament.

Vikkram won the third position in a cricket competition held by Sri Bhagawan Mahaveer Jain College, Bangalore, recently. He was acknowledged for participating in the Great Chennai Run held recently in Chennai. The run raised public awareness about 'GiveLife' project that supports the cause of providing basic amenities to children.

## Cressida '09 to test skills of geeks

By Chinmayee Mishra and Mandakini Ayapilla

The two-day IT Symposium titled *Cressida '09* is all set to offer 13 new events to test the skills of computer geeks on August 7 and 8. The Department of Information Technology is organising the event, according to Narmada, one of the main organisers.

"This year we have twisted the games to make it more interesting," said Narmada.

Along with technical events, some exciting workshops, road-shows and quiz competitions are included this year, the organiser said.

Sun, Microsoft and Radio One are some of the major sponsors for this mega event.

So, if you think you are the computer geek as they want, register yourself and take away the cash prize worth Rs 10,000.

## SNIPPETS

**Sahil offered \$ 89,000 salary:** A San Francisco-based company recently offered Sahil, who is yet to receive his B.Tech (Computer Science) degree from SRM University, has been offered \$ 89,000 (Rs 42 lakh) per annum. He studied for a semester at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA, under Semester



Sahil

Abroad Programme (SAP). "During my stay at MIT, I had attended many interviews. Then in November last year, this company flew me out for a final interview. With this offer in my hand I can now further my studies at Stanford. Thanks to SRM's SAP initiative, my life changed. I am sure you can see the difference SAP has made in this placement. SRM's support has been truly fundamental in making my dream come true," said Sahil.

**METAMORPH '09:** The School of Biosciences, SRM University, Ramapuram Campus, recently organised a national symposium *Metamorph 09* on career prospects for life science students. The event was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Dr. Sultan Ahmed Ismail, Professor and Head, Department of Biotechnology, New College, Chennai along with the Director, Dr V.N. Pattabiraman. Dr. Sumanth C. Raman, Advisor, Life Sciences & Healthcare Practice, TCS, Chennai delivered his keynote address at the event, while Dr. Surya Senthil, Advocate and Partner, JUS MAXIMA LAW OFFICES Intellectual Property & Corporate Attorneys, Chennai gave his special address.

## ‘Webarch’ to teach website designing

By Ritika Agarwal & Rini Devnath

To encourage and teach students, who are interested in designing websites and softwares, the ‘Webarch’ Club has been formed in the University. It is the brain child of four students – R. Karthik (final year, Information Technology Engineering), Rajdeep, Vineet Kumar and Neeraj (final year students, Computer Science Engineering).

Their idea to form a club, where the students’ technical acumen can be sharpened, was conceived when the foursome along with Rohit (third year, CSE) participated in the ‘Microsoft Go-Alive’ competition, organised by Microsoft throughout India between February and September, 2008.

### Book published

By A Spectrum Reporter

Dr. Vijay Kumar Roy, Lecturer in English in SRM University’s Modinagar campus, has got his book, *Premanjali*, published from Adhyayan Publication, New Delhi. The book is a collection of 41 poems in Hindi. His next book, *Aesthetics in the Poetry of John Keats* is under publication and is expected to be published soon.

They grabbed the first place in the state and the 10th place in the country, out of the 259 participants.

To be a part of this club a test was conducted. They received 97 applications out of which 38 were selected. The applicant’s knowledge in Object Oriented Programming concept, html and designing were tested. Classes for students are taken in the Research and Development lab in the Hi-Tech building of the university.

The objective of the club is to impart knowledge in the field of web application by organising regular workshops and guest lectures.

The core team is also involved in designing websites for various departments in the University. They have designed online feedback forms, online placement papers, *Aarush ’08* and *Milan ’08* registration websites and a website for the Department of Information Technology. Presently the projects at hand include development of a website for BAJA Project and *Aarush ’09*. The club is headed by a Faculty Convener, Mr. Venkatesh, from IT department.

## Biswajit debuts as director

By A Spectrum Reporter

A former student of SRM may soon be a popular film director. Biswajit Sundara, who just passed out from Computer Science Engineering, has made a short film – *Surname*. The movie was made in the previous academic year.

“It is a movie with a strong social message,” said Biswajit. “We talk about gender equality, but do we adopt it? My film is about a young married woman, who fights for her rights,” he added.

Deepak, who passed out from Mechanical Engineering and Rupparna Datta, a second year Instrumentation and Computer Engineering student, portray the lead characters, that is, ‘the married couple’ in the movie.

“The young husband wants to support his wife and her decisions, but society puts a lot of pressure on him,” says Deepak about his character. Rupparna reveals that her character in the film is very much like herself. “I was able to relate with the protagonist,” she adds.

The entire movie has been shot inside the campus – temple, hospital and SRM Hotel. Biswajit has selected Deepak and Rupparna out of the 30 students who applied for audition. “I asked them to react to



The actors with the Director.

various situations – emotional, romantic, anger and shock. I tested their confidence level, dialogue delivery and how they adapt to situations. The audition went on for seven to eight days,” he says.

The film was shot within 10 days, from May 9 to 18. Biswajit bore the entire cost of making the film as he wanted to be a film maker since childhood. He earlier made a short film on the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar.

Though both Rupparna and Deepak have acted in several skits in school, Deepak has



Biswajit.

acted in a telefilm – *Anuradha* – telecast in Doordharshan when he was just 10.

Biswajit is planning to send this movie to film festivals.

## SRM wins MMA Award for Managerial Excellence 2009



SRM University has been selected by the Jury to win the prestigious ‘MMA Award for Managerial Excellence’ for the year 2009 in the Educational Institutions Category. University Vice Chancellor, Prof P Satyanarayanan received the Award on behalf of the institution. This Award was given away during the valedictory function preceding MMA’s 53rd Annual General Meeting held recently at Hotel Le Royal Meridien in Chennai. The MMA Award is in direct recognition of the path breaking initiatives taken by the University, to enable students to become more competitive - by participating in Global Conferences, developing entrepreneurship and organising business plan competitions.

# FREEWHEELING

SPECTRUM

## Plan and Excel at SRM

By Anuradha Parakkat

Joining college after school is a major turning point in one's life. It is a phase when transformation begins, in terms of beliefs, attitudes, opinions and perspective. Awareness of this change is essential to shape yourself. The major shift begins specially amongst teenagers, as all along the parents have been hand-holding them in the school and the Plus Two stage, be it studies, tuitions, morning studies, model or final exams.



Ms. Anuradha

College signifies freedom and the excitement to choose and decide. Many conclude it to be an end of close monitoring by parents. This is indeed an important phase as you take charge and control of life. Like an artist who sketches his work, you must have a plan of how you would like to shape up your life in the graduation level. The grades and score you want at the end of each semester. The projects you want to do. The extracurricular activities you want to participate in and win at the college and intercollegiate level.

This can be called a "dream sketch". Some of the seniors have gone out so happy and contented, going abroad for further studies, good paying jobs, some others "just okay", some wished they could redo some aspects. The later happens as one has not planned and focused one's life, or lived like a leaf in the river, going in the direction

the wind takes or river flows and hitting on the rocks some times.

The college life is the best period in one's life and many times in life we refer back to this period as we are constantly shaping ourselves up. The changes that happen are immense and hence the learning very wide, be it a day scholar or a hostel boarder, from Tamil Nadu or other states, you will have to make a shift in your belief systems and preconceived notions. At first, the newness is exciting, the changes that you start encountering everyday gets on you and the sense of adventure recede and your daily routine has to be rewritten. You have to become conscious of your mannerism and behaviour both in the class and on the campus; you will have to make yourself understood to your new friends, faculty and others. At home, parents and siblings understand you well and support your requirements. In the college and the hostel, you will have to request politely and make things work for you.

Your dream sketch should be on the wall constantly reminding you of your purpose and direction for sense of achievement. Ask for help when you need it, do not live with it and grumble. Find solutions to your issues and problems.

Each one of you has immense potential irrespective of your medium of education.

Be focused and excel.

## Are you in need of counselling?

By Trisha Anand

Before you ask this question to yourself, ask another one, what is counselling?

The word counselling has gained a good amount of negativity in recent times. Today, youngsters think counselling is only for those who are depressed or mentally imbalanced. Therefore, it has become a fad amongst youngsters to ignore counselling.

They first need to know the real meaning of the word. Ignorance is not always bliss. The Oxford dictionary describes the verb 'counselling' as 'to listen and to give support / professional advice to someone who needs help'. Let the disturbance in your mind be of any magnitude, counselling is a big help.

When someone listens to you, your problems get reduced by half. Counselling is talking, guiding and showing light behind shadows to someone. One should not feel ashamed to talk to someone. It does not put you down.

Mr. D.I. Ravindran, students' counsellor, explains that any psychological trouble should be handled in the same way as we handle any physical problem. "One's own thought process should not be the end of getting answers to problems," said Ravindran.

Mr. Ravindran has an MS in Counselling. He is available on the campus from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm and pays a visit to Ramapuram campus on Thursdays. He even visits the hostels once a month. There are plans to shift his cabin to the IT Park soon. Many

first year students have benefited from interactions with him.

Many students are ignorant of the existence of counselling facilities on the campus. Some of the counsellors are listed here: Ms. Anuradha Parakkat, (Director, corporate Affairs and Students' Mentoring), 1st floor, Placement Cell Building, [anuradha@srmuniv.ac.in](mailto:anuradha@srmuniv.ac.in), Ph: 044-27456021; Mr. D.I. Ravindran, 3rd floor, Placement Cell Building, (Students' Counselor), [ravindrani@yahoo.com](mailto:ravindrani@yahoo.com), Mobile: 9840414389.

There are also some faculty members who can be approached at any point of time for any nature of problems. Every teacher here is as friendly as a parent. Some very encouraging teachers who can be approached in desperate times are: Ms. T. Mythili, Head, Career Guidance Cell, [mythilisomu@gmail.com](mailto:mythilisomu@gmail.com); Professor Venkat Pulapaka, Head, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, 3rd floor, MBA Block, [venkat.pulapaka@gmail.com](mailto:venkat.pulapaka@gmail.com), Mobile: 09443937428, 044-27452270, Extn. 7023; Mr. P Priyanand, Lecturer, Career Guidance Cell, [priyanpaul89@yahoo.co.in](mailto:priyanpaul89@yahoo.co.in); and Ms. B Revathi, Lecturer, career Guidance Cell, [revathi\\_b06@yahoo.com](mailto:revathi_b06@yahoo.com).



## Nothing left in science?

By Varun Krishnan

Till now we have seen how to identify a scientist and what to do to become one. But what bothers everyone is after so many years of discoveries and so

many theories, laws and hypothesis crammed in our text books, is there anything left to be found out at all?

At various times in the chequered history of science, eminent scientists have surveyed the scientific body, made symbolic dusting motion with their hands, and pronounced with gloomy satisfaction that that was just about it, no further discoveries were left to be made in science. This was invariably the signal for a series of major discoveries that turned the whole thing

on its head and set it off in new directions, hitherto undreamt of.

The last such occasion was towards the end of the nineteenth century, when John Michelson, the first American Nobel laureate, who had performed the experiment for measuring the velocity of light in the direction of the earth's path in space and perpendicular to it, remarked that it seemed probable the grand underlying principle of physical science had been firmly established and that

further advances were to be sought chiefly in the vigorous application of those principles to all phenomena. He was not a lone fuddy-duddy. The view he articulated was widely held. Naturally, very soon after he uttered it, the completely new phenomenon of radioactivity burst on to the scene. And even as he spoke, the teenage Albert Einstein was beaver away, fashioning the bombshells that he was to lob into theory of relativity, explained satisfactorily for the first time the results of Michelson's own famous experiment.

Another fine example is that of Rutherford, the father of the atom himself, who injudiciously remarked that any idea that the atom could ever provide useful power was total rubbish. Inevitable, the first nuclear reactor was in operation comfortable within ten years of his pronouncement. So despite the enormous growth in science already experienced in the last century we can confidently advise all to expect no slowing down in the torrent of exciting developments.

# Take a tour of the campus

By Trisha Anand

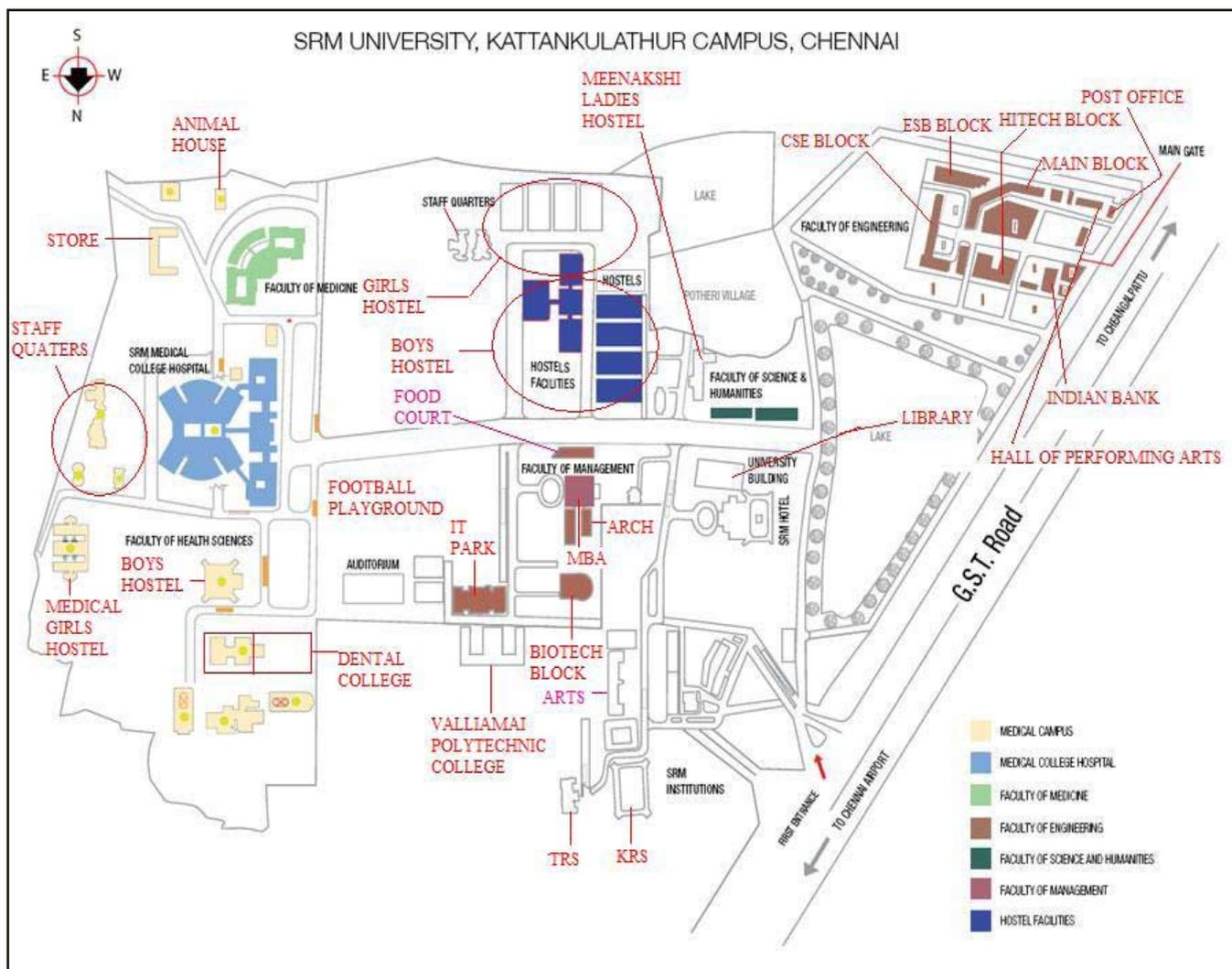
It's that time of the year when a new batch of students comes to join the University and everyone gears up to welcome them warmly.

With such a large campus one thing is for sure - the diversity on the University campus is really unique. A quick view of the campus map for the new students will give them a sense of belonging!

There are two gates to enter the University - Valliamai gate and the main gate. Walking straight from the main gate, one reaches the Hi-Tech, CSE, ESB blocks and the old library building. Towards right is the Registrar's, Director's and Associate Director's office, and discount, certificates and fees counters. Next to it is the Hall of Performing Arts (recently converted into Centralised Collection Counter), Office of the International Relations, Maintenance Department, and a Post Office. Towards left of the main gate are the University Canteen, Indian Bank, Placement Cell and Dean's (Admissions) office. Any detailed information of the campus can be obtained from the office of Estate Officer, Maintenance Department.

As one moves out of the main campus, one goes through the basketball, ball badminton, volleyball and tennis courts. Moving towards the Annex, one finds a breathtaking view of the SRM lake to the left. If one goes straight on the road next to the lake one reaches SRM Hotel.

Before the hotel on the right is the Institute of Hotel



Management and Catering. Immediately after the Hotel Management Institute, if you take a right turn, you will be on the Mahatma Gandhi Road. A few yards down the road and to the left before the first roundabout is the new University Administrative building that is still under construction.

The Central Library of the University is located in this building. The library has an enviable collection of books on different topics. Students can get three books issued at a time on their ID Cards.

Besides the University building and behind the SRM Hotel is the International Hostel. If one goes further on that road one reaches the SRM Arts and Science College, KRS and TRS Hostels, and the Valliammai Engineering College and the entry and exit gate of the University.

On the right side of the first roundabout are the Meenakshi Ladies Hostel and staff quarters. A supermarket is also situated there. Immediately after the first roundabout to the left is a temple and while moving forward on the MG

Road one finds boys hostels [G, H, I, J and A and B].

In front of the boy's hostels on the right side of the MG Road, one finds a shopping complex, where one finds an extension branch of the City Union Bank, a supermarket, two restaurants, a laundry outlet and a tailoring shop. Opposite to the bank on the left side of the MG Road is the Higginbothams book shop.

Just before the second roundabout on the left side of MG Road stands the Food Court. If you turn right at the roundabout you come to a

sports medicine centre, boys gymnasium, prayer halls and biogas digester and finally to the girls hostels and the New Engineering Staff Quarters.

If you turn left at the second roundabout, you will reach the MBA Block, Biotechnology Block, B Arch Block, IT Park, Polytechnic College and the T P Ganesan Auditorium. In front of IT Park is a football ground.

Moving straight from the second roundabout one reaches SRM Medical College and Hospital. It's equipped with modern medical technology.

## The smell

By Abin Biswas

I was told by our chief editor not to use the word stink because it would be impolite and I promised him that I would try my best . . . Come to think of it, it is NOT a stink . . . its NOT even close . . . its huge, so huge that everyone experiences it on every single day of their existence in the college!

Still baffled about what I'm trying to talk about . . . well . . . it's the huge variety

of smells you get while wandering through the campus . . . By the way, sorry for not introducing myself. I am J.A.C.K. (that's, Just Another College Kid) and meet my friends W.H.A.C.K. (Weirdly Heroic Average College Kid) and C.R.A.C.K (Crazy and Retarded Average College kid) . . . Don't ask any questions about the generous use of dots in our first names . . . ITS A LONG STORY!

So there we were, three of us strolling along the road between the staff quarters and

the girls hostels' when suddenly this awesome 'smell' hits our noses, I say hit because it was so powerful that our tiny brains were literally knocked out of our already half empty skulls . . . WOW . . . it was worse than being hit by a ten tonne truck (I say this, because C.R.A.C.K. was once in that situation, that's why he's a little cuckoo! . . . Don't tell him I told you so though . . . he's a bit sensitive!). Immediately the three of us began wondering what could be the cause of that horribly beautiful smell.

W.H.A.C.K. said it was because of the leftover food from the mess, C.R.A.C.K. thought that it was because of the huge heap of what seemed to be dog droppings in the corner.

Anyway, travelling through the same area again the next day we noticed that the smell had not disappeared but had been replaced with an equally powerful, mystifying smell. W.H.A.C.K. decided to get to the bottom of this mystery . . . He hasn't had much luck figuring it out what those smells are. However, he does

tell me that the smell is not just limited to that particular area . . . ITS EVERYWHERE . . . the food court, and the back gate. Wonderfully though the 'smell' does two things. It either draws you towards it just like Rakhi Sawant attracts primetime news reports or it REPELS you just like a friend who does not wash his hands after a visit to the urinal!

I guess the 'smell' is a part and parcel of living in India . . . and frankly we three are proud of it!

By Varun Shankar

**GUEST COLUMN**

# My experiences at UC Davis

I've always been interested in the system of education they have in the USA. I was wondering if there was some way I could be a part of that system and hence enhance my own education. SRM University's Semester Abroad Programme (SAP) was the ultimate opportunity for me to realise my dream.

I studied at the University of California, Davis, for one quarter (three months). I took up three subjects at the undergraduate level: Algorithms, Probability & Statistical Modeling, and Graphics. I also took up a graduate level class called Graphics Architecture.

My reason for choosing these subjects? I knew they would help me with grad school and help me get better in my field of specialisation (Computer Graphics). The experience was extraordinary. All classes were application-based, and even the Probability course had programming assignments. I found myself

working hard to keep up, initially at least, but things got better with time.

I also had some wonderful friends to ease me into life at UC Davis - students who had gone on the SAP to UC Davis in September and were there for two quarters. However, I chose to stay with foreign roommates instead of Indians, just to get a feel of it. I shared my room with a Korean student, Hun Kyo Jung, and the other room was occupied by a Japanese student, Yuta Sato. The three of us got on very well, with the minor occasional hiccup! Often, my study sessions would be bolstered by a freshly baked cake or a batch of garlic bread that Hun Kyo made - he's a wonderful cook! Long chats with him and Yuta taught me a lot of new things about Korean and Japanese culture; Asians have a lot in

common, but our vast and separate pasts seem to have caused a lot of divergence in tradition.

I also made a few American friends - the experience wouldn't have been complete without them! I found that Americans were friendly and open-minded, and casually intelligent. They have a passion for the outdoors, for video games, for anything that makes life interesting.

I personally experienced no 'culture shock' because, in my opinion, Indians of my generation are pretty accustomed to the western lifestyle. I did have to cook a lot, because I was a staunch vegetarian and not a big fan of salads, which are the main vegetarian dishes in the USA. My craving for Indian restaurant food was satisfied when I went to Berkeley with my friend. That day, we ate

*bhel puri* and watched Americans enjoying the Indian food as much as we did!

However, I knew there would be no point in going to the USA and just taking up courses - this was my chance to try my hand at research, and identify the exact field under graphics that interested me. I can safely say that I managed to do both. Also, I'm a great believer in a balanced life, and so, I tried to enjoy myself as much as I studied. My friends and I went skiing, saw the famous *Russell Peters* live (he's a stand-up comedian) and ate out a lot. To occupy my mind and hands, I read plenty of novels and also played my guitar a lot. I was thoroughly satisfied and exhausted at the end of the quarter - the kind of exhaustion that can only come when you really enjoy what you do!

I believe we can learn a lot from Americans - their courtesy, friendliness, and their desire to treat all people as equals. I loved the way they respected the needs of the handicapped without pitying them. I loved how easy it was to make friends, and how approachable the professors were - they often wanted us to call them by first name!

However, while I definitely love Davis and America in general, I can safely say that my heart lies in Chennai - a city of organised chaos, glaring sunlight, rough people, but deep-rooted tradition, honesty and intelligence. A modern city, with its feet firmly on the ground and its head in the clouds. This kind of contrast is pretty representative of India as a whole. After coming back home, I realise that the joy of life comes mainly from contrasts and fresh experiences, be there in the USA or in good old India!

**HOT SPOT**

## Aarush infuses new spirit into student life

By Nivedita

With the onset of the *Aarush* 'season', the Placement Cell is abuzz with activities. It has infused a new spirit on the campus. The 4th floor and terrace of the Placement Cell building is the hub of a multitude of activities of various committees of *Aarush 09*.

The organisers, committee heads, event co-ordinators and volunteers congregate as soon as the clock strikes 4 pm and continue slogging it out till late in the night. Students of various committees like hospitality, maintenance, publicity and decoration gather here to

discuss on how to manage and co-ordinate the various events. One can find students from the second, third and fourth years putting in combined efforts and working collectively to make *Aarush 09* a grand success.

The brain storming sessions are often seen giving way to *samosa* parties where many a new friendship is developed. The peak period, when you can almost feel the enthusiasm is before 6 pm, when girls are allowed out of their hostels.

The placement cell has become the focal point of almost every student involved in



Registration

*Aarush*. Healthy interactions between seniors and juniors working towards a common cause have made the Placement Cell a cheerful hot-spot.

### Guidelines to contributors

As we end the second year of *Spectrum*, to ensure that it continues to be an enjoyable reading experience, we would appreciate it if contributors observed these guidelines:

- ◆ Submissions should be in MS Word document. ◆ Contributions must be in the form of articles. ◆ Pictures must be in .jpg format. ◆ Submit only soft copies of articles and pictures. ◆ Write in simple English. ◆ Your contributions should be in less than 1000 words.
- ◆ Focus on the achievements of staff and students and developments in the departments.
- ◆ The articles must answer the following questions:
  1. What is the event? 2. Who are involved? 3. When did it happen?
  4. Where did it happen? 5. How did it happen? 6. Who said what?
- ◆ Present the most important facts at the beginning of the articles. ◆ The names and designations of the persons in the article must be correctly spelt. ◆ Spell out acronyms, abbreviations and figures. ◆ Revise your article for accuracy. ◆ Finally, ask yourself: Is the article complete? Is it interesting? Would I read it if I saw it in a newspaper or journal?

## Why..?

Why do we hate each other?  
Why can't we love?  
Why try to rule each other?  
Why can't we serve?

Why do we turn savage?  
Why can't we stay humans?  
Why doesn't violence surprise us anymore?  
Why can't we throw away the guns?

Why is someone's life cheaper based on His race or Her gender?  
Why do fanatics win everywhere?  
Why do we showcase a shameful surrender?

Why is this nation so vulnerable?  
What has made us so weak?  
How can a few terrorists hold us at ransom?  
Why do they make us so weak?

Why is the bloodshed so profound?  
Are we still humans or are we hounds?  
Why do I feel truth no more triumphs?  
Why do I see faith losing ground?

Why should someone die for doing the right thing?  
Why aren't his killers caught?  
Why don't they die for a change?  
Why isn't a lesson taught?

I am not asking for answers.  
Maybe there are none.  
But without the will to answer these,  
This battle won't be won...

**Kunal Anand**  
SRM University.