

SPECTRUM

The campus newspaper of SRM University

SRM students design software to check shoulder surfing

By Aditya Panja

Two SRM University students recently designed software that can prevent Peeping Toms from looking over your shoulder while you are either keying in personal data into a computer or punching your password at an ATM kiosk.

The students, Divyans Mahansaria, a III year B.Tech student of the Department of Computer Science Engineering, and R.S. Diwaagar, a IV year student of the Department of Information Technology, SRM University, few months back designed a software named SS 1.0, which will prevent shoulder surfing.

“We presented a paper on the software at a national conference held recently at Hyderabad. We are now working on SS 5.0, an upgraded version of the software. Meanwhile, they plan to present software SS 2.5 version at an international conference to be held at Thaphar University, Patiala in March next. We are also waiting for the copyrights for the software so that we will be its legal owners before marketing it” explained Divyans about his future plans.



Divyans

According to other researchers on the subject, shoulder surfing is effective in crowded places because it's relatively easy to observe someone as they: fill out a form, enter their PIN at an automated teller machine, use a calling card at a public pay phone, enter passwords at a cyber cafe, public and university libraries, or airport kiosks, and enter a digit code for a rented locker in a public place such as the airport.

Divyans initially teamed up with Ashish Kalsin, a III year student of the Department of Information

→ Pg. 2



Kamal Hassan inviting students to join film industry while inaugurating Milan '09.

Infrastructure for film institute getting ready: Chancellor

Kamal Hassan says entertainment industry needs educated youth

By Mark Nathan

Reiterating SRM University's stand on the infrastructure needed for commencing courses in the field of cinema, the Chancellor, Mr T R Pachamuthu, said that the University plans to set up the necessary infrastructure for the Film Institute it has planned on an area of 17 acres with greenery is getting ready on the University's Kattankulathur campus.

Talking to the media on the side-

lines of *Milan-2009*, a three-day national level cultural show organised by SRM, Mr Pachamuthu said, “Once the infrastructure is ready the University will commence the Film Institute and it will rope in industry doyens to assist the University in imparting the best quality education.”

Earlier, Padmashri, popular actor and thespian Kamal Hassan said the film industry needed more educated people and exhorted the students to take up a career in the film world

after completing their studies.

Inaugurating *Milan-2009*, the actor said the film industry needed educated people. “It doesn't mean that all of them should become actors. The advent of technology provides enormous opportunities for the students to take up career in the film world. The film industry offers so many positions for the students to pursue their career,” he added.

→ Pg. 8



Little more practical

Alumni Chapter in US



Central Library

Milan'09



Dress code

By Mark Nathan

The Union Government would consider issuing guidelines to all States to prevent fleecing by corporate hospitals and private labs for conducting pathology tests, Director General of the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), Dr. Vishwa Mohan Katoch, announced. Talking to reporters after inaugurat-

Guidelines to prevent pathology labs from fleecing patients soon

ing *APCON 2008*, the annual conference of the International Academy of Pathology, organised by SRM University at its campus in Kattankulathur, Dr Katoch said since health was a State subject, the Centre

could only perform the role of an adviser.

It was for the State to ensure that quality treatment reached the poor at affordable cost. When pointed out that some private hospitals were

fleecing people coming for pathology tests, he said, the Centre would, however, send guidelines to be followed to bring in regulations.

Asked whether the Centre was planning to bring in amendments or legislation for uniform rates across the country for pathology tests, Dr Katoch said the Centre would consider issuing guidelines to the States in this regard. He said the ICMR's activities encompassed every health research activity from research stage to the application stage.

Observing that there was no dearth of funds for medical research as India invests the maximum for research, he said dreaded diseases like polio and leprosy, which were once considered epidemics, were

now under control. He said plans were afoot to acquire cutting edge innovation in microbiology and pathology (the study of disease-causing germs), and aim to make them available to students, by networking with medical colleges. In this context, Dr. Katoch called for greater collaboration between universities and hospitals and said in foreign countries, universities and hospitals did not function as two separate institutions. "The universities acted as the driving force behind hospitals in providing patient care," he added. He exhorted the medical fraternity to perform their tasks with love and said otherwise there would be no difference between doctors and a lab technician.

Mr Harsh Mohan, President of Indian Association of Pathologists and Microbiologists and University Chancellor Mr T R Pachamuthu also spoke on the occasion.



Dr. Katoch at APCON.

SRM students design software...

→ Pg. 1

Technology, also from SRM University, to develop the prototype of the software. "We spent about a year in designing the software. We initially experimented with it in the smart classes at SRM. The results of the prototype were showcased at a national conference held at Sathyabama University in

December 2007. It was well received and we were encouraged to improve its design," he added. Describing the reasons for designing the software, Divyans said, "I was a victim of shoulder surfing. I didn't want others to fall prey to shoulder surfers. I am grateful to Prof. Shreedar, HoD of the Department of Computer Science Engineering, Dr. Kan-

tha, HoD of the Department of Bio-Technology, and Dr. Vinayagan, HoD, Department of Mechanical Engineering for supporting and motivating me." Elaborating on his future plans, Divyans said that he will visit Japan for a 10-day tour this June as part of the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youth.

Harvard training for SRM MBBS students

By Mark Nathan

SRM University Vice Chancellor Prof. P. Sathyanarayanan recently announced that the University has plans to send two MBBS students, based on their academic performance, to the Harvard Medical College Hospital every year, for a fully sponsored three-month training period. He was speaking at the inaugural function of *APCON 2008*, an annual conference of the International Academy of Pathology, which was organised by SRM University at its campus in Kattankulathur.



THE EDITORIAL TEAM

KATTANKULATHUR CAMPUS ENGINEERING

Mechanical Engineering

Faculty - MR. Stalin John
Student - Sangam Chaturvedi
Student - Sanjay Singh

Bio-Technology

Faculty - Mr. T. Thirumurugan
Dr. P. Gurumoorthy
Student - Prerna Chauhan
Student - S.K. Vivek
Student - S.V.K. Ragavendra

School of ECE

Faculty - Mr. R. Dinakaran
Faculty - Mr. Vigneswaran
Student - Manish Kumar Singh

Civil Engineering

Student - C. Kumara Venkatesh

Information Technology

Faculty - G. Vadivu
Student - R.S. Diwakar

MBA, Kattankulathur

Faculty - Yaseen Maswood
Student - Mrinal Deo

MEDICINE

College of Pharmacy

Faculty - Amudavali
Student - Manoj Narra

College of Dentistry

Faculty - B. Mohan

Department of Community Medicine

Faculty - Dr. N. Seetharaman

Dept. of Microbiology

SRM Medical College Hospital & Research Center.

Faculty - Dr. P.K. Uma
Maheswari

SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

BCMA

Student - R. Kalaiyarasi

Computer Science

Faculty - M. Karthikeyan

CSE

Faculty - B. Amutha
Student - V. Raghav

SRM Institute of Hotel

Management

Faculty - Vijayakumar
- Catherine A.

SRM ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

Faculty - V. Chitra

Nutrition & Dietetics

Faculty - S. Riyas Fathima

ECS

Faculty - Dr. Anuradha

French

Faculty - R. Nandini

Tamil

Faculty - J. Munusamy

English

Faculty - Anuja K. Philip

Biotech

- Moen Sen

Abhishekh

BMI

- Shreya

Nivedita

Sharoni

ECE - Tirthankar Jana

Mech - Varun Krishnan

Shiv

TCE - Deepak

Ritika

RAMAPURAM CAMPUS

Bio-informatics

Faculty - G.V. Ashok Kumar

Student - Chinari Pawan Kumar

Patro

CSE

Faculty - Balika.J. Chellai

Student - Awanish Kumar

Civil Engineering

Faculty - K.S. Sathyanarayanan

ECE

Faculty - P. Sivakumar

Student - K. Sunderam

EEE

Faculty - M. Deva Brinda

ICE

Faculty - R. Bhagyalakshmi

IT

Faculty - P. Sathiyavalli

Student - M. Suhasini

MBA

Faculty - Mrs. Mary Auxilai

Student - Prasanna Venkatesh

MODINAGAR CAMPUS

Management Studies

Faculty - Ms. Ruhi Jain

Photos : J. Vijay Kumar

Some of the departments and schools remain unrepresented. The Deans and HoDs of those

institutions are requested to nominate representatives and mail in their name and contact details to Mr Venkat Pulapaka, Professor and Head, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, SRM University, 3rd Floor, MBA Block, Kattankulathur. E-mail: pulapaka@jmc.srmuniv.ac.in and / or venkat.pulapaka@gmail.com. Mobile: 9443937428.

Printed by :

SRM Publications (P) Ltd.,

#9, V.V. Kovil Street, Chinmaya Nagar, Chennai.

Published by :

SRM School of Journalism & Mass Communication,

SRM University

Kattankulathur, Kancheepuram Dist., Tamil Nadu.

Ph : 044-27452270 - Extn. 7023.

New courses a hit with students, Dean Admissions

By Deepak Pinninty & Abhishek Panikar

The past one year, Faculty of Engineering and Technology witnessed the introduction of new courses and a rapid advancement in research-oriented activities. The newly introduced undergraduate courses include Information and Telecommunication Engineering with Electronics and Computer Engineering being its parent branch.

Announcing this to *Spectrum*, Professor R Muthusubramaniam, Dean-Admissions, SRM University, said, "Also on the roll is the Computer Science and Software Engineering course and a post-graduate programme in Nano science and Nanotechnology."

Explaining about the success of the new courses, the Dean said, "The new courses were an instant hit with the students during the June 2008 admission process. We have high hopes for the courses this year too."

The Dean added that the market demand and the rapid change in the industry make it utmost necessary for constant review of the course disciplines. Automatically, the need for newer disciplines crops up.

Agreeing with him, the Registrar of the University, Dr. N. Sethuraman, said that this step of introducing novel courses is no small feat and has proved that SRM stands out among the rest.

SRM scholars find that most nano particles have antibacterial property

Findings could boost making drugs with nanoscale components

By A Spectrum Reporter

A team of research scholars from SRM University, led by Dr Kantha D Arunachalam, Head of the Department of Biotechnology, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, have recently put forward a new theory in the field of nano technology after having done an extensive research on the antibacterial activity of a variety of nano particles.

The team, comprising Prof C. Gopalakrishnan, In-Charge of the Center of Excellence in Nanotechnology, Mr Ojas Mahapatra, Research Associate, and Megha Bhagat, former B.Tech student, extensively studied the antibacterial activities of several nano particles of different inorganic matter during August-September period of 2008.

Revealing this to *Spectrum*, Mr Ojas Mahapatra said, "The popularity of nano particles has resulted in them being used in almost every field including medicine, biotechnology, aeronautics and space science. In recent times, silver nano particles has earned a good name for being antibacterial. They have also been used as additives in medical, textile and food industries. However, SRM research scholars found in their study that most of the nano particles have an antibacterial property, which is not limited to few elements or compounds." Appreciating their findings,



Prof. Gopalakrishnan (Left) and Mr. Mahapatra.

the Nanobiotechnology expert from University of Bielefeld, Germany, Dr Simone Herth said, "It is an interesting work with lot of potential towards making drugs with nanoscale components."

Based on their findings, the researchers last year published a paper titled 'Ultrafine dispersed CuO nano particles and their antibacterial activity' in the international research journal called the *Journal of Experimental Nanoscience*, a product of the Taylor and Francis Group.

Dr B. Vigneashwari, a Best Scientist awardee of Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Italy, said, "The paper clearly explains the efficacy of CuO nano particles on pathogenic bacteria. It is worthwhile mentioning here that one of the credible achievements of

their work is, as synthesised CuO nano particles were used against four pathogenic bacteria and exemplary results were shown." Giving details of their findings, Mr Mahapatra said the research scholars adopted a wet chemical procedure and used Copper oxide nano particles, with a particle size ranging from 80 to 160nm, for their experiments. Copper carbonate hydroxide and sodium hydroxide were used as raw materials. Copper hydroxide was generated as a precursor that was thermally decomposed to CuO nano particles. The nano particles, which were characterised using atomic force microscopy, X-ray diffraction and UV-visible spectrometry, were then tested for antibacterial activity against *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Salmonella paratyphi* and *Shigella* strains, he explained.

Mr Mahapatra then clarified that most of the nano particles have antibacterial properties.

This property is not due to the elemental composition, but it is a function of the particles size. "Our job was to make charge stabilise nano particles that do not encounter any hindrance in crossing the cellular membrane barrier," he added. Mr C. Gopalakrishnan, Centre I/C, Nanotechnology Research Centre, SRM University, said, "The antibacterial properties of the nano particles is an important property that can be utilised in various fields like medicine, healthcare, and environment. It can be potentially used as a drug in the near future or it can be used to clean up environment by killing the harmful organisms present in water or contaminated land."

A forum on HR Re-engineering is born

By Mrinal Deo & Abhijeet Sinha

With the global meltdown having a cascading effect on the recruitment scenario, it was evident that a forum like HR Re-Engineering was needed to dispel the fear among the student fraternity. Taking a cue from the grand success of TQM Week celebrations at the SRM School of Management, this forum was convened recently and there was enthusiastic participation from the First and Second Year Management students.

A host of veterans in the Human Resources domain were invited to shed light on the global meltdown and its impact on recruitments and what was the need of the hour.

N.Ganesh, Head-HR, of Caterpillar, spoke on employee retention and the drivers for engaging employees in the organisation. He also talked about various methods of employee-job integration.

Speaking on 'Employee Branding', Mr. B. Satyaseelan, Head (Employee Resources), HR-Nokia, said that employee branding was not a short-term initiative. It is the positioning of an organisation in the labour market, he explained.

Dr. V.P. Rajkumar, VP-HR, eNoah, another veteran in the field, said that the opportunities in HR sector were immense and management students should have a long-term goal for their career prospects. In the post-lunch session, Mr. Sashikant, Regional

Manager, Bajaj Allianz (an alumnus of SRM Engineering College), addressed the gathering on the vibrant topic 'Managing change'. "Opportunities keep coming and going, but we need to adapt to the demands of the situation," he said. Dr. Kartikeyan, Director, Gemba Consultancy, spoke on 'Expectation as a HR manager'. On a question raised by Megha Sharma of II MBA regarding placements, he said that companies picked candidates on the basis of attitude and the potential of the candidates to be trained.

The programme was coordinated by Mr. K. Sadasivan, Assistant Professor, and Mrs. Vanita, Lecturer, SRM School of Management.



Dr. Sinha inaugurating the seminar.

Central govt plans to restore the Pallikaranai marshland

SRM promises all help in this green campaign

By Mark Nathan

The Indian Government would constitute a high level committee of scientists and experts from various institutions to suggest proposals to restore the Pallikaranai marshland on the outskirts of the city, announced Dr. R. R. Sinha, Advisor to Department of Agriculture Bio-technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, New Delhi, while talking to reporters recently after inaugurating a National Seminar on Recent Trends in Environmental Biotechnology at SRM University in Kattankulathur.

Dr. Sinha said the committee, to be formed by his department, would comprise experts from Indian Institute of Technology, and Madras & National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI).

Assuring all possible help from the Centre to Tamil Nadu to chalk out remedial measures to restore the polluted Pallikaranai marsh to its pristine glory, he said if the State Government comes out with a proposal to remove the 100 ft depth of dumps that contains nickel, cadmium, dioxins, plastics and solid waste, the Centre would support it.

"It has to be a coordinate effort by both the Centre and the State," he said and added that mass awareness has to be created on reduction of waste and

segregating them at source. "Planting more number of trees in the area is one of the best solutions for reclaiming the land from pollution. We can do it in consultation with the local people. Our department had done a similar project in Jammu and Kashmir so with that expertise I think we can succeed in our efforts," Mr. Sinha said.

Pointing out that the biotechnology department would rope in experts from various educational institutions like IIT and SRM, Dr. Sinha said the use of microbes would help the absorption of heavy metals accumulated in the marsh.

Ms. Sheela Rani Chunkath, convener, expert committee, solid waste management, Pallikaranai marshland, who was also present, said the marshlands has over 200 varieties of unique flora and fauna and it attracts 104 species of birds. She said about 1400 tonnes of garbage from four zones of Chennai City Corporation were dumped in Perungudi dumping yard every day. "If adequate steps were taken and awareness created, it could be reduced to ten per cent," she added.

SRM University Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Sathyanarayanan, promised all help from the faculty and students of the University in this campaign as the institution always accord top priority for pollution-free and green environment.

'Little more practical learning would do good'

A passion for soccer, an eye for administration and an affable nature is what best describes Emmanuel Affum, a second year student of M.Tech Communication Engineering. In an interview with Varun Krishnan and Moen Sen of Spectrum, he talks about his country, Ghana, and his experiences in India.



Emmanuel

Question: What made you join SRM University for your M.Tech?

Answer: I did my B.Tech from the All Nations University, Ghana. SRM University has a close association with it. The Chancellor there advised me to pursue my M.Tech with SRM University. The idea of witnessing and being part of the largest democracy in the world excited me.

Q: Did you have any preconceived ideas about India?

Ans: Not really. Many of my professors there were Indians. I had read a lot about India and Gandhi. I have seen several Bollywood movies dubbed in English! So I was pretty much aware of what India had to offer me.

Q: How has your experience been so far?

Ans: Indian culture is entirely different from that of Ghana. India has taught me how to adjust and appreciate. Initially, my professors found it difficult to understand my accent. I am planning to stay back for a month or two after my course, so I can travel the length and breadth of this country and experience its variety.

Q: What do you think of the system of education followed in India?

Ans: Indians give a lot of importance to academics. They are very thorough with their books. Although India is coming up with great scholars and innovations, a little more emphasis on practical learning would do a world of good. I also feel that English as a subject should be a part of the curriculum in all courses.

Q: What is the education system in Ghana like?

Ans: The student-professor relationship is symbiotic in nature. Instead of taking lectures, the professor generally gives students projects and encourages them to experiment, research and find out answers for themselves. The professor then reviews their findings and points out their mistakes. After the necessary corrections, the students present their topics in the class. This is generally followed by the professor clearing all doubts and teaching any points that may have been missed. Many a time, students come up with certain path-breaking facts, which the professor then follows up on and publishes.

Q: What is the co-curricular scenario like in Ghana?

Ans: A lot of emphasis is laid on co-curricular activities in Ghana. All students are encouraged to participate in sports every day, even if they are not part of the college teams. We are taught from our childhood that all a body needs is water, exercise and a required quantum of food. Cultural, debates, sports and other activities are a staple part of our college life. We have regular seminars on not just academics related subjects but also on social responsibilities and moral values, which help in moulding the students into responsible citizens. We have frequent discussions and debates in class about various social and environmental issues.

Q: Is there anything more you would like to tell us about SRM?

Ans: I'm passionate about soccer and play it whenever I can. SRM has a beautiful campus. I enjoy spending time in the library and in the main campus. Students should make good use of the infrastructural facilities here, which I have seen grow exponentially in the past year. I was delighted to see the Vice-Chancellor's initiative to help students reach him directly by e-mail. Students should make responsible use of this opportunity.

Q: What are your future plans?

Ans: On a personal front I would like to celebrate my grandfather's 100th birthday with him. On a professional note, I would like to pursue a career in administration. I am planning to study further for that. However, ultimately what happens is in the hands of the Almighty.

Discussion on expanding Indian entrepreneurship

By A Spectrum Reporter

The SRM School of Management recently held panel discussion on 'Expanding the Reach of Indian Entrepreneurship'. It was held as part of the Global Entrepreneurship Week Celebration organised by Northeastern University, USA. The panel members were Mr. Chandu Nair, entrepreneur, co-founder

and president of Scope Global E-Knowledge Company, Dr. Raman, MD, KLA-Tencor, Mr. Sriram, venture capitalist and Director, Behive Venture Limited, Dr. Jayshree Suresh, Dean, SRM School of Management, and Prof. Ponniah, ex-banker. A question and answer session with the students and faculty followed the discussion.

Dr. Roy presents paper at English conference

By A Spectrum Reporter

The 53rd All India English Teachers Conference was recently held in Gurukul Kangri University, Haridwar, Uttarakhand. The conference was hosted by Gurukul Kangri's Department of English. Dr. Vijay Kumar Roy, English Professor, Department of Science and Humanities, Modinagar Campus, presented a paper entitled *Impact of Indian Ethos on Poetry of John Keats*. Dr Vijay's paper was well received.

Know all about your grades

By Siddharth Panicker & Vivek Krishnan

The concrete testimony of our academic progress is our grades. It is, therefore, important for students to be familiar with the current grading system in SRM University. Here is an overview on how students are being graded, comparing it with the grading system that was followed in the 2006-07 academic year.

The earlier system was *Absolute Method of Grading*, which was based entirely on the marks obtained by a student in a particular subject.

However, in 2007-08 the grading system was changed to *Relative Grading System*. It takes into account the performance of a student relative to

the rest of the candidates. Both systems, as pointed out by the Controller of Examinations, Dr Ponnuswamy, have their pros and cons.

Depending on the highest marks scored, the relative grading method puts the first few students in one slot of grade, the next few in the other, and so on. Hence, students need not worry if the question paper is too hard, nor should they put themselves too much at ease if it is an easy one. The level of toughness is relative.

The relative grading system provides a thorough appraisal of students, since it is completely managed by their respective subject teachers who also take into account factors like discipline and regularity.

The absolute grading, which is still being followed for the third and fourth year engineering students, is based entirely on the marks they obtain, where candidates can earn themselves an 'S' on scoring 91 marks or above. An 'S', however, is not present in the current grading system.

The percentage of internal marks in a candidate's score has been increased to 50 per cent in the current system of grading, whereas the earlier system had demarcated only 30 per cent for the internal assessment of a candidate in a subject. The relative grading system has been adopted by SRM keeping in mind to be at par with national and international universities of repute.

VC opens Alumni Chapter in US

By A Spectrum Reporter

At least three chapters are needed to cover all the SRM University's alumni in the United States, said Prof. P. Sathyanarayanan, Vice-Chancellor, SRM University, while inaugurating an alumni chapter in New Jersey recently. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Sathyanarayanan said that alumni meetings can be held in these chapters on a rotation basis and a president would be selected for each region based on their degree of interest and contact with



Vice Chancellor other alumni.

Ms. Vanitha Sundaramoorthy of the 1993 BTech batch was selected principal coordinator of the Alumni Members and will be in charge of meet-

ings in the U.S. The other office-bearers for New York and New Jersey region include Mr. S. Gopala Krishnan (1991), president; Mr. Praveen Venkatesh (1991), vice-president; Mr. Subramaniam Natrajan (1994), secretary, and Mr. Srikant Rajagopalan (2004), treasurer.

The inaugural alumni meet was also attended by the following alumni: Rexon Jayashingh (1991), Manivanna Varadan (1989), Sreeram Venkataraman (1993), Subby Natarajan (1994) and Pandaribai Parthiban (1993).

R'puram hosts meet on Moore's Law

By Shakeela Sathish

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering, SRM University, Ramapuram, conducted its first National Conference, Erudite '08, recently with the theme '*Moore's Law Revisited: Recent Advances in Computer Science*'.

Of the 25 papers received from various institutions including IIT Rourkee, IIT Kanpur, Jerusalem College of Engineering, and Jeppiar College of Engineering, 10 were selected and presented at the conference.

The conference papers dealt with topics like Image Processing, Networks, Graphics,



A paper presentation in progress.

and Distributed Systems.

Ms. Sunitha Lal, Vice President-Human Resource, AIG Systems and Solutions, was the Chief Guest of the inaugural function, while Dr. R. Srinivasan, Dean, School of

Computing, and Professor S.S. Sridhar, Head of the Department of Computer Science Engineering, participated.

Mr. Kalidoss of Wipro, Chennai, was the Chief Guest of the valedictory function.

Prabhu Chawla to inaugurate J-School symposium

By A Spectrum Reporter

Development communication is a topic that is being discussed widely these days. It has assumed new connotations over the years. In view of sharing and analysing the different practices of development communication, the Young Journalists Association (YJA), formed by the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, is organising a one-day national-level symposium on 26 February. The topic is "Development Communication – Practices and Dilemmas".

Mr. Prabhu Chawla, Editorial Director of the India Today group will inaugurate the symposium, while Mr. N. Ravi, Editor of *The Hindu*, will deliver the valedictory address.

Eminent personalities from academics, media and films have been invited. There will be a panel discussion in the morning session (11 a.m.), which will discuss the practices of development communication and another in the post-lunch session (2 p.m.), which will focus on the dilemmas. Each panel will have five speakers.

The first panel is being chaired by Dr. K.V. Nagaraj, Professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Mangalore University. The other panel members are Prof. Sunil Kanta Behera, Behrampur University, Dr. D.V.R. Murthy, Andhra University, Yuhi Sethu, Film Director, Chennai and Mr. Shree Padre, Editor, *Adhike Patrike* and Water Journalist.

The second panel is being chaired by Prof. Dr. Tapati Basu, Head, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Calcutta University. The other panel members are Mr. K. Hariharan, Director, LV Prasad Film and Television Academy, Chennai, Mr. D. Suresh Kumar, Assistant Editor – Education, *The Times of India*, Chennai and Dr. I. Arul Aram, Assistant Professor,



Dr. Balasubramanian

Department of Media Sciences, Anna University. "The Faculty of Science & Humanities is to SRM University what human touch is to life," said its Director Dr. R. Balasubramanian. He went on to add: "It is, therefore, not surprising that the SRM School of Journalism & Mass Communication has motivated the Young Journalists Association to conduct a national symposium on the theme 'Development Communication — Practices & Dilemmas'."

The YJA "intends to carry out journalistic pursuits with broad communication concepts and ideologies. It also proposes to inculcate the spirit of journalism among youth, encourage students to explore their creative skills and provide a platform for academic inter-disciplinarity," said Prof. Venkat Pulapaka, Head of the Department of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. The YJA will conduct conferences, workshops, competitions, debates, paper presentations, poster presentations, documentary, short films and radio documentary. It will also organise communication-related programmes and special lectures for media students, Prof. Pulapaka added.

Mr. T. R. Pachamuthu, Chancellor, SRM University, Mr. P. Ravi, Pro Chancellor, Prof. P. Sathyanarayanan, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Shiv Kumar, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Dr. N. Sethuraman, Registrar, and Dr. R. Balasubramanian, Director, Faculty of Science and Humanities, will grace the function.

Read *Spectrum*



Education Minister Thennarasu.

By Mark Nathan

Tamil Nadu School Education Minister Thangam Thennarasu urged school heads in the State to upgrade their skills to meet the expectations and requirements of students and to make them employable. Winding up a seminar on leadership skills 'Zest 2008' organised by the SRM Uni-

versity at its Kattankulathur campus, he said school heads should function as CEOs of corporate houses to mould the students. Pointing out that each student spent about 25,000 hours in a school in his lifetime; he said teachers had a great responsibility to shaping their future. In this context, he added, "The head played a crucial role not only

'School heads should function like corporate CEOs'

in school administration, but also in the outcome of results of public examinations. An analysis showed that schools with very poor results either did not have heads or many of them were transferred during the academic year." Such seminars would help the heads of schools to upgrade their skills and knowledge, he said. The minister suggested that new methods of teaching and curriculum in schools should be evolved in tandem with the changes in society. In line with this trend the State Government had provided computers to all the 27,000 primary and middle schools

in the State, he announced. This had helped the students pick up computer skills from a very young age, Thiru Thennarasu said. Observing that 30 per cent of the students who pass out of engineering colleges were not employable, SRM's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P. Sathyanarayanan, stated that the University was planning to set up a committee to advise on how best to mould students when they joined college after completing their school education. This would help in improving the quality of education and students' overall abilities, he added. SRM University Chancellor

T. R. Pachamuthu pointed out that the budget allocation for education was 30 per cent in China. "In India, it has been around 20 per cent." He suggested that the budget allocation for secondary and higher education should be increased liberally to create more infrastructures to develop students with the requisite skills at school level. Principals, Correspondents and Heads from more than 800 schools from all over Tamil Nadu and from a few schools from Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh attended the seminar.

Lecturer's writings see light of day

By A Spectrum Reporter

Dr. Vijay Kumar Roy, Lecturer in English, Department of Science and Humanities, SRM University, NCR Campus, Modinagar has had four articles published in international and national journals.

The article "The Portrayal of Indian Society in the Poetry of Shiv K." was published in *The Commonwealth Review*, New Delhi, Vol. XVIII, No. 2. The second article "Interplay of the Erotic and the Sublime in the Poetry of John Donne and Vidyapati" was published in *Cyber Literature*, Patna, Vol. XXI, No. 1. The third article "A Standard Approach to Research" was published in *Shaastrarth: Special Issue of Research Methods*, Mithila Research Institute (Government of Bihar), Darbhanga, Vol. X, No. 1. And the fourth article "Teaching of English: A Holistic Perspective" was published in *Shiksha*, Darbhanga, Vol. 2, No. 1.

One of his poems "The Greatest Jewel" has also been published in an international journal *The Commonwealth Review*, New Delhi, Vol. XVIII, No. 1.

"You need a certain amount of nerve to be a writer."

Margaret Atwood

'Strained relations with managers force 80% employees to quit jobs'

Dr. Anthony Ashok Kumar reports in his doctoral thesis

By A Spectrum Reporter

At least 80 per cent of the employees in the hospitality industry quit their jobs due to strained relationships with their managers, according to a recent research done by Dr. D. Anthony Ashok Kumar, Principal of the SRM Institute of Hotel Management and Senior General Manager of SRM Hotel.

In order to stem the trend, Dr. Anthony suggested in his Ph.D thesis, titled *A Study of Human Resource Development of an Oligopoly Firm in Hotels, Tourism and Travel Industry with Special Reference to on-the-job Training*, that if employees are trained well in inter-personal skills they will be an asset to the organisation. This in turn will help in the development of the firm.

Dr. Anthony, whose thesis is the first Ph.D in India pertaining to the hospitality industry, has analysed the performance of 200 employees from SRM Hotel, Potheri and SRM Hotel, Tiruchi and 200 employees from Taj Hotel, Chennai, in his thesis. He has chosen three categories of employees – stewards, supervisors and managers and has studied their per-

SRM building five star hotel at Saidapet

By A Spectrum Reporter

The SRM Group is building a five star hotel in Saidapet, which will be opened in 2010, said Dr. D. Anthony Ashok Kumar, Principal of the SRM Institute of Hotel Management and Senior General Manager of SRM Hotel.

According to him 2010 onwards India is going to witness a mushrooming of star hotels and Chennai alone is likely to get 20 five star hotels, while in New Delhi 40 hotels will be opened for the Asian games.



Dr. Anthony

formance, relationship with their colleagues, absenteeism and trainings undergone etc., to determine how long they have stayed and what made them stay.

In all the three firms the relationship between the managers and the supervisors and stewards were good, he said. Fifty per cent of the employees at SRM Hotels had stayed with the hotel for over seven years. And 70 per cent of Taj employees had been serving in the organisation for 20 years. SRM Hotels cannot be compared with the Taj, in terms of the pay package and incentives, he said, since SRM is a Three Star hotel and is only 12 years old, while the Taj is a Five Star hotel and is more than a century old.

Stating that good public relations skills and a disciplined work style can take an employee to greater heights, he added that a candidate who joins as a Manager in a hotel can become the General Manager within 10 years if he maintains good relationship with his subordinates and the guests in the hotel.

Emphasising that attractive salaries and incentives are also important to woo and retain employees, he said, "We spend lakhs of money to train them. But they quit and to join call centres because they offer better salaries. So to woo and retain employees, hotels managements should not only pay well but also introduce performance-linked pay increase system."

While emphasising that the hospitality industry remains unaffected by the recent global financial crisis, Dr Anthony said the occupancy rate continues to stay as high as 80 per cent in SRM Hotel during the last few months. "The market crisis has affected the industry only five to ten per cent. Recruitments have not been cut short. And we are planning to upgrade the SRM Hotel in Potheri and Tiruchi to four star status within six months," he added.

Mr. Anthony had held positions of repute in the industry as well as in the academics. He was conferred the Gurukul Jyothi Award for Excellence in Education by the Human Resource Development Ministry in 2006. During his tenure as Principal, the SRM Institute of Hotel Management was chosen the best college, which offers Hotel Management course, for two consecutive years (2003, 2004) in a survey conducted by A.C. Nielsen and Sun TV.

In a survey conducted by *The Week* magazine (March 2006), the institute was among the top 10 colleges offering Hotel Management courses in India.

Good education creates a better society, says Dr Balasubramanian



Director

Dr R Balasubramanian, Director, Faculty of Sciences and Humanities, SRM Uni-

versity, can be described as a multi-faceted personality, who enjoys his work and is happy with his colleagues. He was the former Professor and Head, Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Madras. Born on January 12, 1945 and holding M.A., M.Litt, Ph.D. degrees in Public Administration, Professor Balasubramanian had put in an academic service for a period of over three decades. At present, he is fully involved in the development of the discipline in SRM, University. He has a wide variety of experience and expertise. He has successfully guided 25 Ph.D. and 40 M.Phil. scholars. As a well travelled academic, he visited UK, USA, France, Switzerland, Italy, Argentina, Yugoslavia, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea, Malaysia and West Germany, where he participated in international conferences and academic interactions. Taking time off his busy schedule, the professor spoke to Ms Padmapriya Srinivasan of Spectrum recently. Excerpts:

Question: How has the experience of heading such a promising faculty in SRM University been like? What were the challenges you faced while developing the faculty?

Answer: Happy and enjoyable. Creating an environment of cordiality where there is a free flow of communication among all the members of the faculty while still maintaining discipline is the highlight of this faculty. Ensuring that the faculty did not fall short of the infrastructure in comparison with the engineering department was a challenge. However, with ample support from the management, the faculty

today has well equipped labs and its own library.

Q: If you were to recommend a school-leaving student to join the Faculty of Sciences and Humanities at SRM, what do you think will be the USP of the courses that are offered here?

Ans: Good education creates a better society. We believe in providing a holistic education to our students. In terms of academics, the students are provided with the best environment both in terms of staff as well as infrastructure. The faculty is home to students from all over the country. The teachers are very approachable. A counsellor is appointed for every 20 students to address grievances. There is plenty of exposure through seminars and lectures by professors from other universities of repute. Special coaching is given to those students who miss their classes due to sports. The qualities of punctuality, discipline and diligence are what the students gain during their stint in our faculty.

Q: What are the future prospects for students pursuing bachelors/masters in this field?

Ans: The academics are constantly revised to keep them up-to-date. Besides, the faculty also encourages students to carry out research work. Many of our students have won prizes at technical symposiums. There are an equal number of students who opt for higher studies or work after graduation.

Q: What are your expansion plans for the faculty?

Ans: We intend to introduce new courses at the UG as well as the PG level. A separate placement cell that trains the students in soft skills and provides career bridge courses will also be set up, subject to the approval by the Vice Chancellor.

Newspaper stall opens

By Aditya Panja

Starting February end faculty and students of SRM University can buy daily newspapers at a

stall set up in the Food Court, Kattankulathur Campus. The stall owners are selling newspapers in different languages including Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil, and English.



Students renewing their books at the library counter.

SRM to be part of Eklavya Programme on DD1

By Tirthankar Jana

Dr. Rajendran, the Chief Librarian of the SRM University's central library, has announced that the institution is planning to start an educational initiative called 'Eklavya Technology Programme' soon. The programme will be telecast live on Doordarsan 1. Interested students can participate and be the audience but they will not be allowed to interact.

Stating that the library may be converted into a digital one that will have electronic journals, e-books, e-thesis and research materials for Ph.D scholars, he also added that there may soon be a conference hall and a video library, which will have 1,900 video programmes.

Research is gaining prominence at the University and the library, set up in the new

administration block opposite the Ganesh Temple, is providing latest technological facilities to encourage researchers. It provides a separate area for the scholars and there are plans to introduce texts for civil service examination preparation.

Dr. Rajendran said that the library operates on the automated Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology that will enable a smooth transaction of books and it'll also ensure inventory control. RFID is an automatic identification method, relying on storing and remotely retrieving data using devices called RFID tags or transponders.

The technology requires some extent of cooperation from an RFID reader and a RFID tag. A RFID tag is an object that can be applied to or incorporated into a product, animal, or person for the

purpose of identification and tracking using radio waves. Some tags can be read from several metres away and beyond the line of sight of the reader. The new library has been received well by the students. Spread over a 1.5 lakh square feet area, the library has 70,000 books, 200 journals, 15 regional newspapers (Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Hindi) along with the English newspapers and 4,000 online journals, which have a multi-user license allowing people to browse from their server from anywhere on the campus.

The library is served by 26 staff members and there are plans to induct 16 more members to the team. The library, which is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., is open on all the days, except on national and University declared holidays. The library houses a browsing centre and a cafeteria.

6 pharmacy students get scholarships

By Amudavalli & Manoj Narra

The Chennai-based Tamil Nadu Pharmaceutical Science Welfare Trust recently awarded its annual scholarships worth Rs 22,000/- to six post-graduate students of SRM College of Pharmacy to pursue their projects in categories like pharmacognosy, pharmaceutical chemistry and pharmacology.

The six students are P Suchitra Selvam and Diptame Santhosh (pharmacognosy), Gajendra Kumar, Ankit Ritoke, and Gurdeep Singh Sahuza (pharmaceutical chemistry), and Nandu R Kayande (pharmacology).

The Trust recently awarded the scholarships at Vels College of Science after thoroughly scrutinizing abstracts submitted by students from across the state.

...film institute getting ready...

→ Pg. 1

To drive home his point, Kamal admitted that he was a high school drop out and his fathers repeated efforts to make him study went in vain. "An actor can be an IAS officer or a Ph. D. also."

Kamal recalled his father's words asking him to take up studies while pursuing his goal of becoming an actor. "But that day did not really happen," he said and appealed to the students to finish their studies first and then take up a career in the film industry.

There was never a dull moment right through the one-hour long function and the decibel level at the over-crowded auditorium, which had nearly 7,000 students as against its capacity of 4,000, remained at the highest.

Students from more than 60 colleges from across the country had gathered for the carnival.

Talking to reporters, SRM University Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor Prof P. Sathyanarayanan said the event was getting bigger every year and plans were afoot to make it an international event.

Milan '09 saw some excellent talent of college students spread all over India. The overall performance was judged with parameters not only highlighting talent but also team performance and execution of the event.

In the choreography event NIT Trichy topped the list followed by Dream Team of Loyola and James Dance School of St. Josephs Arts and Science, Chennai

It was a dream come true for the Dream Team from Loyola College Chennai to bag the overall championship and Gurunak Chennai were the runner up.

Addressing the gathering the Vice Chancellor Prof. P. Sathyanarayanan said, "We always felt that education alone is not enough for a person to develop but the culturals and sports also play an important role. These programmes definitely are a platform to express and develop one's skill which will benefit them in future."

The chief guest G. Ramkumar Managing Director of Sivaji productions awarded the Sivaji award to C Yokesh, a second year BCS student of Gurunak College, Chennai, whose performance was spell binding.

Ramkumar showering encomiums on the University said that, he would extend all support to the proposed SRM Sivaji Institute of Film Technology which is slated to be opened in July or August this year wherein all celebrities of the film industry including Rajnikanth, Kamal Hassan and senior technical personnel and Directors would visit the institute as faculty to train the students. He also said he would invite Bharat Ratna Dr. Lata Mangeshkar on Oct. 01 to the SRM University to inaugurate the programmes of the Film Institute.



Students told to take up a career in cyber forensics

SRM urged to set up a centre in digital forensics

By G.Vadivu

Privacy, data protection and many other issues influencing internet security have to be seen against specific cultural backdrops, as there are nuances and specific implications in the Indian context, said Dr. Gulshan Rai, Director, Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), in his recent keynote address delivered at a three-day workshop on *Computer Forensic Tools and Techniques*. The Department of Information Technology, SRM University organised the workshop.

As a consequence, Dr. Gulshan Rai felt that there was a need to have customised laws instead of simply borrowing from the advanced countries of the West.

Reeling out statistics on different varieties of cyber threats and crimes plaguing the world today, Dr. Rai insisted that every security professional should read the Monthly Security Bulletin published by CERT-In to keep abreast with the cyber crime scene.

Discussing the challenges faced by an organisation due to cyber security issues, Dr. Rai explained about the key role played by CERT-In in dealing with such incidents.

He then insisted that more students should take up a career in the field of cyber forensics, "... as the field needed more trained professionals. Students desirous of pursuing a career in cyber forensics can get additional certifications from key organisations in the field of Digital Forensics."

In this connection, Dr. Rai urged SRM University to set up a Centre of Excellence in Digital Forensics and announced that he was ready to extend all assistance. "Such initiatives will surely improve the co-ordination between the enforcers of regulatory frameworks and the private players. Also, sharper definition of roles among the bigger players will boost professionalism in this sector," he said.

Among others, Dr. P. K. A. Muniswaran, Director, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Dr. C. Muthamizhchelvan, Associate Director (E&T), Mr. Balu. S, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Cyber Crime Cell, CBCID, and Prof. S. Rajendran, Head, Department of Information Technology, SRM University, participated in the workshop.



Union Minister Mr. Raghupathy with Dr. Balaji and SRM Chancellor.

SRM students to plant 3.5 lakh tree saplings across campuses by 2010

By Mark Nathan

SRM University Chancellor, Mr T R Pachamuthu recently declared that about 35,000 students of the University will plant 10 tree saplings each and that will help in raising 3.5 lakh trees across campuses by next year. "This will help in enhancing the green cover and provide a safe eco-system," Mr Pachamuthu said while presiding over the inaugural function of a national conference on *Effect of Climate Change and Sustainable Resource Management* organised by the SRM University at its campus in Kattankulathur.

Replying to this, the Union Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Mr S Raghupathy said that the National Action Plan, launched by the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, reflects the importance India attaches to mobilising its national energies in meeting the challenge of climate change and to make the country's economic development energy-efficient.

Inaugurating the conference, Mr Raghupathy said that without a careful long-term strategy, climate change will undermine the development efforts with adverse consequences on people's livelihood, the environment in which they live and work

and their personal health and welfare.

"It is also a challenge that encompasses the interests of both the present and future generations," he added.

As the challenge due to climate change was both complex and cross cutting in nature, Mr. Raghupathy said the national plan focuses on eight national missions to be pursued as key components for sustainable development. "These include national missions on solar energy, enhanced energy efficiency, sustainable habitat, conserving water, sustaining the Himalayan eco-system, creating a 'Green India', sustainable agriculture and establishing a knowledge platform for climate change. The vision of the plan was to make India's economic development energy efficient, he explained.

The University Vice-Chancellor, Professor P. Sathyanarayanan said considering that there was a rise in sea level by four inches due to global warming and hot temperatures were being witnessed due to climate change, the conference was of utmost importance under the present scenario.

Delivering the keynote address at the conference, the Tamil Nadu State Forest Commission Member Secretary

and Chief Conservator of Forest, Dr S Balaji, said according to the 2007 census, the tiger population has increased in Tamil Nadu from 62 to 76 while several other states have reported a decline.

"It's a healthy sign that the eco-system system is in good shape. Increase in tiger population shows that forests are in good shape and eco-systems are good," he said.

Recalling the success of eco-development approach involving localism in tiger conservation in Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, Dr Balaji said, "Making the core area of tiger reserve inviolable and eco-development in buffer areas to improve the quality of life of people could keep both forest dwellers and tigers happy."

He said combating climate change involves making a series of lifestyle changes in day-to-day life. "It involves changes that are based on three cardinal principles of environmental management viz., reduce, reuse and recycle."

Observing that it entailed pro-nature sustainable development, he said, "Let us think globally and act locally to minimise the impact of climate change to save our fragile biosphere for the posterity."



Dr. Gulshan Rai

SRM to establish outreach health care centres

By A Spectrum Reporter

SRM Medical College & Research Centre (SRMC&RC) will soon be establishing outreach centres in five villages surrounding the university to complement the existing Primary Health Care services.

By reaching out to the neighbouring communities, SRM Hospital will improve the quality of care and create a healthy community around it. Towards this objective, Prof. P. Sathyanarayanan, Vice Chancellor, SRM University, recently gave free seats to five village girls in the Diploma in Nursing Course on the recommendation of the Associate Director-Paramedical, Dr. N. Chandrababha, and the Principal Investigator of the Queen-SRM Project, Dr. A.R. Chandrasekaran.

These girls, on completion of the course, will work as SRM nurses in the outposts thus complementing the project activities. Villagers from Karanaipuduchery have been granted a 50% fee waiver for all inpatients admitted in SRM Hospital.

Sign boards have been installed on availability of 24/7 ambulance services at prominent location in Karanaipuduchery. If villagers call SRM Ambulance will immediately pick up those cases from the village and rush them to SRM hospital for treatment.

The Population Health Registry (PHR) Project is the outcome of an MoU between Queen's University, Canada and SRM University. The Department of Community Medicine has commenced the piloting of the Population Health Registry Project in two villages Karanaipuduchery and Kalivandapattu. This PHR is unique since it captures key demographic and environmental variables related to health and illness, in a comprehensive manner which no other registry does.

Eight surveyors from the local community have been identified and are at present undergoing hands-on computer training to gain skills in the field for filling the responses during the survey. The survey consists of two parts: the

house-to-house survey component and the Geographical Information System (GIS) mapping component.

The survey will cover information on the individual, family and the village and each individual will be assigned a Unique Identification Number. The data collected during the survey will include information on infants, children below five years, women in the reproductive age group and the general population that will help to establish a health registry of key base line indicators on demographic data, personal health data of each individual and environmental data of the village such as water supply, health facilities, industries, fair price shops and places of worship.

This data base will help establish a query-based Health Management Information System (HMIS). Future research activities will hinge on the data collected.

This pilot study will be completed soon and the data results will be shared during the joint review by SRM and Queen's University.



A student browsing books at Higginbothams

Higginbothams to strengthen operations at Kattankulathur

Higginbothams has completed one year on the SRM University campus at Kattankulathur. In order to review its performance during the past year and find out its futures plans, *Aparna Nair* of Spectrum recently spoke to **Mr Venkatesan Ramanathan**, the Chief Operating Officer of Higginbothams. Excerpts from the interview:

Question: How was your experience for the past one year after setting up Higginbothams at the Kattankulathur campus of SRM University?

Answer: The past one year was quite encouraging and we look forward to further strengthening our operations at SRM.

Q: How were your initial sales and how are they now?

Ans: Initially, the sales were low and they improved steadily. Though, we are yet to reach the breakeven sales volume at the SRM store.

Q: What is the minimum turnover per day?

Ans: Average daily turnover is Rs. 4000 as against the breakeven volume of Rs. 15,000 per day. But we are optimistic to reach it perhaps in the next financial year.

Q: What types of books are in high demand?

Ans: The demand is highest for self improvement and general books.

Q: How is the response from the faculty members of SRM?

Ans: The response from SRM faculty members is quite positive.

Q: Do you provide discounts for the books during special occasions?

Ans: Yes. We are giving minimum 10% discount.

Q: How is the response for stationary items, music CDs and cards ?

Ans: The response is very good, though we plan to widen our range of these products.

Q: What are your plans for the further improvement of Higginbothams in SRM?

Ans: We hope to be the single window supplier not only to the students as retail customers, but also to the institution and all the departments for the semester books, reference books, and library books.

Q: Your message to the students of SRM?

Ans: As your partners in progress, we desire that every student reaches his or her full potential in their area of specialisation and their chosen profession and ultimately add value to the society.



Girls take guard of honour on R-Day

By Menorca Chaturvedi

The SRM University celebrated the 59th Republic Day recently. The National Cadet Corps (NCC) of the University held the annual parade. Captain N. Vijaya Sarathy from the Indian Navy took the honour.

The second year senior division boys performed the contingent drill and breath-holding stunts. Noel Ramesh Babu and Avijit Biswas received appreciation for the same. Senior Under Officer Santhosh Krishnan performed bike stunts. The best cadet award went to Cadet Pushpendra Patel and Cadet Dhivya. Cadets Aparajita Iyer and Lokesh Pantri were awarded for "Best Drill". The award for the 'Best Turnout' was given to Cadet Madhumita and Cadet Lav Kumar Jain. B-Certificates were handed over to the Senior Batch.

And for the first time in SRM history there was girls' guard of honour.

ISTE Students First Chapter

By Ruhi Jain

Dr. Manoj Pandey, Dean, SRM-Institute of Management and Technology, Modinagar, asked the students should work for the community on humanitarian grounds. He made this statement while recently inaugurating the ISTE Student's Chapter at SRM's Modinagar campus.

Later, launching the official website of ISTE college for um, www.srmimt.com/iste.htm Dr. Pandey, appreciated the designer, Shashi Ranjan Jha, a III Year student of CSE, and said the SRM chapter boasts of 250 members representing different departments.

Later, the students participated in three intra-college events, i.e. Walts, Need for Seed, and Alpha Graffiti.

The Student Chairperson of ISTE's SRM chapter is Abhinav Goil.



ISTE meet

Expanding Indian entrepreneurship

By A Spectrum Reporter

As part of Global Entrepreneurship Week Celebration organized by Northeastern University, USA an Entrepreneurship Discussion Panel titled 'Unleash Your Ideas' on the topic 'Expanding the reach of Indian Entrepreneurship' was held by the SRM School of Management recently.

A five-member panel consisting of academicians and practitioners discussed the subject's theories and practices. The panelists consisted of **Mr. Chandu Nair** (an entrepreneur, co-founder and president of Scope Global E – Knowledge Company) as the moderator, **Dr. Raman** (an entrepreneur, MD, KLA – Tencor, India), **Mr. Sriraman** (a venture capitalist, Director, Behive Venture Limited), **Dr. Jayshree** (academician, Dean, SRM school of Management), and **Prof. Ponniah** (ex-banker).



The newly named MG Road at Kattankulathur Campus.

Namakaran for campus roads

By Debleena Chatterjee

The authorities of SRM University recently named most of the key roads on the annexure campus at Kattankulathur to avoid confusion among first-time visitors and some of the main campus faculty and students.

Explaining this to Spectrum, Mr. Thirumurugan, Estate Officer of the University, said, "The decision to name the roads was taken by the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and other top officials of the university almost two months back to make it convenient for all to locate the different places on the campus."

Mr. Thirumurugan said that the roads were named after eminent personalities like Mahatma Gandhi, Sir C.V.Raman, and Dr. Radhakrishnan. "For instance, the road starting from

the main security gate till the Medical hospital and college campus has been named as Mahatma Gandhi Road. Three other roads and one lane have also been named."

For instance, the road starting from IT Park to Java Green circle is named as Sir C.V.Raman Road, while the road from the Java Green circle to the girl's hostel is now named Dr. Radhakrishnan. The road starting from the central library circle to the basketball court near Valliammai Engineering College is named as Bharathi Road. The lane opposite to



the Bharathi Road is named Bharathi Lane.

The authorities have also proposed that the road starting from the Valliammai Engineering Gate and touching the SRM Arts and Science College is likely to be named Nehru Road, and the road from the School of Bio-Engineering Building to the other end of Dr T P Ganesan Auditorium is to be named Vedananda Road. The authorities are in the process of naming the remaining roads on the campus, revealed Mr. Thirumurugan.

Papers and Projects

Modi Nagar

K. Vimal Kumar, Lecturer of CSE Department, SRM University, NCR Campus, Ghaziabad, presented an international paper named "Securing communication using Function Extraction Technology for Malicious code behavior and analysis",

This was published in Elsevier Journal for Computer and Security, Network and Communication. He also presented another international paper titled "Generalized Load sharing of Homogeneous Network of distributed Environment" that has been published in a Journal of Computer System, Network and Communication

K. Vimal Kumar, Lecturer of CSE Department, SRM

University, NCR Campus,

Ghaziabad, presented a national paper titled "Panoramic Sensor Based Blind Spot

Accident Prevention System" that is published in Journal of IPED, Vol 3, Jan-Jun 2009.

K. Vimal Kumar, Lecturer of CSE Department, SRM University, NCR Campus,

Ghaziabad, presented a paper titled "Ultrasonic Sensor based Blind Spot

Accident Prevention System" that is published in IEEE conference ICACTE 2009.

Dr. Shamimul Qamar, Professor and Head (IT), SRM University NCR campus, has submitted a project on "Quality of service Guarantees in Wireless Data Communication Network" to Univer-

sity Grants Commission, New Delhi.

Dr. Shamimul Qamar, Professor and Head (IT), SRM University NCR campus, has submitted a project on "Performance Analysis of Pre-rake and Rake receiver of DS-CDMA System" for Young Scientist Visiting Fellowship at Council of science and Technology of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow.

Dr. Shamimul Qamar, Professor and Head (IT), SRM University NCR campus, has submitted a project on "Co-operative Spectrum Sensing and Allocating for Secondary user based on Cognitive Radio Networks" as SERC FAST TRACK PROPOSAL for Young Scientist at Department of Science and Technology,

Prize for Cutie Pie

By Abhishek Panikar

A team of SRM students won third prize in ArtBot, a robot making competition, held as a part of Mood Indigo Festival at IIT Mumbai.

The participants had to build a robot that performs a unique function. Uday Bhaskar, Sanjay, R.V Subramanyam, C.Ravi Teja, Ramanchinni of SRM University built 'Cutie Pie', which could write 26 alphabets holding a paintbrush. Using only Visual Basic, this robot could also paint simple figures like 'IIT'.

The team had to go through rigorous telephonic elimination rounds before the final round. The Mood Indigo Festival is Asia's biggest technical festival.

SRM wins prizes in hardware contest

By Ruhi Jain

SRM University, Modinagar stood first in Electronics and third overall among 455 colleges that took part in an international-level techno management fest at IIT-Kharagpur recently.

The members of the SRM team consisted of five second year electronics and communication students: Mohd. Afzal Siddiqui, Sachin Sharma, Rohit Sharma, G. Srinikhil Gupta and Anurag Saha. In the open hardware contest, they submitted a project titled *Electro Cardio Heart Beat Monitor*. They received a cash prize of Rs. 6000 for their innovative idea and presentation.

The event had three main rounds. The first round was based on an abstract and video of the model. 17 teams were selected for the second round in which the participants were grilled with tough questions. Six teams were selected for the final round and they were further subjected to intensive questioning on the mechanical part.

It may be mentioned that the same team had won the second prize in the project description event 'Techno-Expo' in Aarush '08, a national level tech fest conducted by SRM University in Kattankulathur.

Electricity, bio-pesticide, bio-diesel . . . all from waste

Year II Biotech students take up eco-friendly projects under KVPY

By A Spectrum Reporter

Ever heard about coconut shell extract being used as an anti-biotic, extracts from harmful weeds being used as bio-pesticide, generation of electricity from waste water treatment?

The second year students of the Department of Biotechnology, School of Bio-Engineering, SRM University, have worked on diversified projects like improving the life span of electrical instruments, producing bio-diesel from fatty acids and using sugar and salt as food preservatives instead of vinegar.

They have done the projects as part of "Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana" (KVPY), a programme started by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of



The Biotech students with their faculty.

India, and administered by the Indian Institute of Science, to encourage students of Basic Sciences, Engineering and Medicine to pursue research in these areas. "The management was also very supportive. They provided financial assistance for the students to start off with their projects,"

said Dr. Kantha D. Arunachalam, Head of the Department of Biotechnology. She guided two of the students in doing their projects.

The government will award scholarships and contingency grants to students whose projects are selected. Manish Krishna has been selected for interview for his project about making bio-pesticide from weed extracts (see box). Explaining the reasons for the selection of Manish's project, Dr. Arunachalam said, "It was perhaps chosen for its novelty in waste management."

Anoop Kumar Shee's project focuses on the efficiency of food preservatives in bacterial strains. He has compared two preservatives for this study – sugar and vinegar. At the concentration of 2.5 per cent, vinegar was able to contain the growth of bacteria strains till the third day, while the easily available and inexpensive sugar, was able to contain the growth of bacterial strains till the fifth day. His batch mate Rimjhim Mowar, in her project, had found out that salt was able to control the growth of microbes till the third day.

Chandan along with his three batch mates Avtar Sain, Geo George Phillip and Ankit Modi has done a project on the antibacterial property of coconut shell extract. They have discovered that the crude extract inhibited the growth of bacteria, which shows resistance to Meropenem (the highest class of antibiotic used in clinical practice). They are planning to expand their study by identifying the active compound responsible for the extract's antibiotic property and investigating its potential to be used as drug.

Aayushi Uberoi's project is about increasing the life span of electrical instruments by making the flow of energy constant. By modifying the capacitor, she says, she can help control drawing of energy from the internal system. So energy consumption will be modified to suit the requirement thereby reducing the load on the system. She tried this on the tube lights in the International Hostel and 75 per cent energy was saved. She also says that the cost of electricity bills could be cut down by 5 to 20 per cent.

Akash Srivastava has designed an instrument to produce bio-diesel by heating fatty acids extracted from *Jatropha Curcus* plant and monohydric alcohol. The plant could be grown anywhere and is cost-effective also.

Anshuman Srivastava and Deepika Mittal have prepared an apparatus – 'microbial fuel cell' – to produce bio-electricity from sewage water. The micro-organisms present in the sewage, due to some metabolic reaction, release electrons. This apparatus will tap the electrons thereby producing 0.8 volts of electricity. But this is still a primary stage in their research and they are planning to modify the apparatus so that bulk electricity for commercial purposes could be produced.

Saurabh Raghuvanshi's project is a bit different from his batch mates. He had taken saliva samples of 68 persons. Among them there were smokers, non-smokers and past smokers. Using a technique called Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR) in the samples, Saurabh has found out that if a chain smoker stops smoking even for six months his saliva does not show that he is in a normal state like a non-smoker. So chances of getting various oral diseases still persist in that person.

Moreover, at least one hour is required for a person, who is smoking, to reach back to his normal condition, that is, condition prior to smoking period. But this condition is again different from that of a non-smoker's spectrum.

IISc selects Manish's bio-pesticide project

Manish Krishna's project has been selected by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore. He has been asked to attend an interview in IIT, Mumbai, where he will be interviewed by a panel of professors from IIT and IISc. Manish's project is about making bio-pesticide from weed extracts. Manish says it can be prepared at home. It is also cost-effective, so poor farmers can make use of it. He had done the project with his batch mate Taruna Khemchandani. But as per the KVPY programme requirements, a project could be sent under the name of one person only. Coming from an agriculture-based family, Manish once noted that the pests that affect the crop do not affect the weeds. So he did experiments with 19 types of weeds. He found out that when the weed extract is combined with cow's urine it gives a bio-pesticide. Manish says the pesticide leaves no residue and is eco-friendly. If Manish is selected in the interview he will be getting a stipend of Rs. 7,000 every month till his pre-Ph.D level studies. Twenty projects have been selected under the engineering stream from all over India and Manish's project is one among them.

Physiotherapy students emerge overall champs at PANACEA '08

By A Spectrum Reporter

Judges at PANACEA '08, a state-level cultural extravaganza, which was organised by SRM Medical College and Research Centre, SRM University, declared the SRM College of Physiotherapy as the overall winners of the event.

Physiotherapy students picked up 13 prizes in various events during the cultural jamboree that attracted students from 17 medical, dental and allied health-related professional colleges from across Tamil Nadu.

The second place was won by Balaji Dental College

Chennai. In events like solo singing, adzap, minute make-up and *antakshari*, physiotherapy students bagged first prizes and earned a prize amount of over Rs 30,000.

Leading film stars, musicians and television personalities were the judges at the three-day programme.



The Principal, faculty and the students of the SRM College of Physiotherapy with the Overall Championship Trophy.

FREEWHEELING

SPECTRUM

Team Spectrum speaks

It's been pure joy working for *Spectrum*. I was lucky to join during its initial stages. I have watched it grow and me growing along with it. The team for me is the best part of *Spectrum*. With all the initial awkwardness gone we have bonded a lot. With the variety of assignments done, *Spectrum* has truly brought out the best in all of us. One thing is for sure; during my four years at SRM, *Spectrum* will be the most memorable part.

- Abhishek Paniker

It is generally said, "Momentous happenings touch you and go ahead faster than wind, leaving you mystified how time has elapsed." So has been my journey with *Spectrum*. It has given me a platform to vent my creative expressions. It has also given me a platform to reach out to the university and taught me the virtues of team work, punctuality and bonding. Above all, *Spectrum* meetings and discussions have added a glow of freshness to my life here. In short, one year with *Spectrum* has been incredible.

- Deepak Pinninty



Team Spectrum

I still remember my first *Spectrum* meeting. *Spectrum* was then a nameless, content-less dream. Taking it forward and growing with it while watching it grow has been an experience I will cherish all my life. I never knew chasing deadlines could be such fun! *Spectrum* has given me an opportunity to interact with people across all departments and learn more than what any textbook can offer

to teach. College, for me, would be incomplete without *Spectrum*. Venkat sir, the HOD of Journalism and Mass Communication has guided and moulded us into better reporters and more responsible team members. Being a part of Team *Spectrum* is the best thing that could have happened to me in SRM.

- Moen Sen

For me, the journey of *Spectrum* has proved to be a great boon not only in enhancing my personality but also in helping me to ameliorate my communication skills. *Spectrum* has provided us an opportunity to interact and mingle with students and faculty of various colleges under SRM University. I have understood the true essence of team spirit. Under the guidance of our mentor, Venkat Sir, we have learnt priceless lessons that will remain with us throughout our lives.

- Nivedita

One year...yet it seems like only yesterday when we came together as Team *Spectrum*. *Spectrum* has been a learning experience since it gave me a chance to know our University better.

- Editor

whole lot of fun with them turning out to be parliamentary sessions at times. But isn't that one of the reasons why we all feel like a family? I will cherish the memories all my life. I never thought I would be enjoying "work" so much. But who wouldn't if one had such great team mates?

- Shreya Chandrashekhhar

It's been one year since I joined *Spectrum*. It's been one of the best periods of my life. *Spectrum* has given me the opportunity to make some great friends. I've learnt to work in a team and appreciate others for what they are. I have felt myself grow along with *Spectrum* in this one year. *Spectrum* will be the biggest positive thing I will take from this college.

- Shiv Kumar Ganesh

A spectrum is a condition that can vary infinitely within a continuum. We too are a team of different people having different sets of ideas but genuinely committed to a bigger cause – creating awareness among people. *Spectrum* to me is the perfect medium to test my management skills. It also enhances the meaning of team spirit as here I have always felt that the team is bigger than the individual. We have managed to consistently deliver the goods under trying circumstances which has demanded true character.

- Tirthankar Jana

Spectrum, in optics, refers to the seven colours into which white polychromatic light disperses into. And as if to emphasise the fact *Spectrum* has splashed my campus life with myriad, bright colours to make it lovely and beautiful. It has given me a platform to pursue my passion, an opportunity to see my name printed on a newspaper, it has given me an identity and sense of self respect, a great mentor in Venkat Sir and a great team.

- Varun Krishnan

Guidelines to contributors

We thank contributors for their valuable inputs for the first three issues of *Spectrum*. We wish this cooperation will continue from both faculty and students for the future issues. To ensure that *Spectrum* continues to be an enjoyable reading experience, contributors may please observe 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 more 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 article.
- * 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?



Varsity reviews dress code

By Rini Devnath and
Ritika Agarwal

The month of August saw new life and energy infused into the college campus. The arrival of the first years took up vibrancy levels by several rungs.

Along with their arrival, a change in the dress code was introduced. With fashion trends changing, a need for a refreshing look was felt. The new dress code was heartily welcomed by students. First years are seen to be making the most of it.

The most significant change was the introduction of trousers and collared shirts for

girls, the options for whom were earlier restricted only to *saris* and *salwaar-kameez*. Nonetheless, the new dress code comes with restrictions. Hair below shoulder length should be tied and shabby jeans are to be avoided.

Boys can now sport collared T-shirts. However, they have been prohibited from keeping long locks. Shoes have been made mandatory.

Even though seniors have grown accustomed to the earlier dress code, they too are slowly picking up the trend.

Although education and a commitment to lifelong learning are essential for success,



a groomed personality adds to the charm. Smart attire is the key to an impressive personality.

Down the memory lane...

23rd August, 2007

The passage of time has brought both of us to a new alley - our abode for 4 years - SRM University. With a sense of joy and enthusiasm, we entered the portals of the campus, coupled with the fear of getting ragged. Above all, the ambience of the campus has attracted us. A new hostel and new friends added to the excitement.

7th September, 2007

This place is definitely rocking. Two weekends in the campus and we are already loving it. A wonderful set of friends doesn't allow us to miss home! Plus the innumerable events that take place around keep us on our toes. Our university even has a campus newspaper *Spectrum* that helps us connect with the ongoing activities.

10th October, 2007

We hate exams! And, that too in the midst of *Shuru*. Well, it's our cultural fest. One moment we were mugging up formulae for the test and the next moment we were dancing and singing. At the end of the day we see our beds and feel so happy. It dawns on us that THIS IS COLLEGE LIFE AFTER ALL!

30th December, 2007

Yippiiiiieeee... We will be going home. The college life kept us busy throughout the day. But at the end of it all, we miss our parents. After

all, it's because of them that we are here.

17th March, 2008

It's been a long time since we wrote to you. But this is something that made us do so. *Milan '08* - we don't have words to express what we just witnessed in the last three days. We have never been to a national level cultural fest and we should say it was a mesmerising experience. The time and money involved was enough to explain how big an event it was. More than 300 colleges participating, an international band performance and Asha Tai's presence made it even more special.

12th May, 2008

We stand at the threshold of a new year in college. The happiness of a year that passed by successfully brings together a responsibility to gear up for the next.

The friendly fights about a common crush, the night outs, the pizza parties... it reels in front of our eyes as a kaleidoscope.

23rd August, 2008

August is synonymous with *Aaruush*, the national level tech fest. With 40 plus events from contraptions to robotics, it was again time to get busy. Be it the robotics workshop or the online registrations, everything was hip and happening.

12th September, 2008

With a colourful festive season in the backdrop, the University in collaboration with SAE India organised the national student convention. With delegates pouring in from all over the nation, we played a perfect host.

8th October, 2008

We think this one is a record breaker. Almost all the departments conducted their symposiums and conferences. CSE made us aware of 'The Sixth Sense', EEE's 'Corona', E & I's 'Dokince', Mechanical's 'Chakravyuh'. It was a joyride.

29th November, 2008

Our exams are over! But this time we are not that happy about leaving this place. In the last one year, it provided us with food (ahem!!!!) and shelter and most importantly, friends. We don't want to waste a single moment being away from all this. A year back, we were craving to go back home and now we are desperately hoping to come back soon. Anyways, happy holidays...

18th January, 2009

A new year and a new beginning... It seems like an era away from college and friends. These two months at home made us realise how great our college, our friends and our world at SRM are. Of course, there are disappointments too, but the good overrides the bad.

What Science is

Varun Krishnan

Since I am starting here a column on science, I find it most apt in dedicating myself to this trivial yet boggling question. What is science? Defining science is no child's play. Many a successful scientist have tried but failed miserably. So instead of approaching the problem directly, let us meander around a more convenient path.

Let us first divide science into its fundamental branches. So now we ask, what are the fundamental branches of science? Science, in a broad sense, can be classified into physics, chemistry and biology.

One thing should be remembered here that mathematics is not a branch of science. It is a tool that helps us understand and comprehend science in an accurate manner. Mathematics is so vast that it surpasses the boundary of science to become a field on its own.

In the beginning people believed chemistry and physics to be the elite two. Only those who believed that they owe a token gesture to science, but were unfortunate because

math seemed to evade them, took up biology. But with time biology proved itself to be as big a field as the other two.

Physics is that branch of science which deals with the study of increasingly smaller entities which are ultimately responsible for the way substances behave. Chemistry, as popularly believed, has nothing to do with the rapport a girl and boy may share. It is actually the way a material reacts to the presence of another in contact, under different environmental conditions. Biology is the study of the living organisms and how their system works to make them perform so many processes all at once. But if we take an up close look at chemistry and biology then we could see that all the stuff we study in them are due to the atoms and molecules which for some reason move about aimlessly and collide with each other thus producing spectacular results. But physics is the branch which deals with molecules and atoms and their kinetics. So we can see that biology and chemistry can be ultimately explained by physics. Thus physics can be called the uncrowned king of science.

*Do you want to get involved in **Spectrum** ?*

**You can contribute
news or even features.**

Having YOU write for Spectrum is like getting a big present!!

Contact : venkat.pulapaka@gmail.com

सोचिए...

अनुराग मधुर

गाँव का नाम सुनते ही कुछ लोगों के मस्तिष्क में एक बनी-बनायी हुई छवि उभरती है कि गाँव का मतलब है अशिक्षा, गरीबी, पिछड़ापन, बैलगाड़ी की खट-खट और धूलभरी सड़कें।

ऐसा मानने वाले और कहने वाले ये कुछ लोग उन लोगों की श्रेणी में आते हैं, जो साँस भी वातानुकूलित कमरे में ही लेना पसन्द करते हैं, इनकी प्यास पानी से नहीं बल्कि पेप्सी और कोक जैसे पेय पदार्थों से बुझती है।

बर्गर एवं पिज्जा संस्कृति के इन अनुयायियों का मानना है कि गाँव भारत की तीसरी दुनिया है।

वास्तविकता की धरातल को छोड़कर कल्पना की दुनिया में उड़ने वालों को यह कौन समझाए कि शहरों की भव्यता और चकाचौंध गाँव के अंधेरे झोपड़े से ही प्रकाशमान हो रही है, शहर की उन्नति एवं खुशहाली का मार्ग गाँव की पतली पगडंडियों से चलकर ही शहर तक पहुँचती है। हाँ, लेकिन यह और बात है कि यह ऐसा रास्ता है, जिससे होकर विकास और प्रगति शहर की ओर तो जाती है लेकिन उस रास्ते से वापस नहीं लौटती, यानी कि 'वन वे'।

आजादी के 61 साल बाद भी किसी ने इस मार्ग के दोहरीकरण पर ध्यान नहीं दिया, किसी ने भी ऐसे पथ का निर्माण नहीं किया, जिससे कि उन्नति, खुशहाली, समृद्धि और विकास शहर से वापस गाँवों में आ सके। जैसा कि हम सभी जानते हैं, भारत कृषि प्रधान देश है, कृषि के लिए ज़मीन चाहिए क्योंकि खेती मौल्स और बहुमंजिले इमारत के छतों पर तो की नहीं जा सकती है। खेत, खेती और खेतिहर आपको गाँवों में ही मिलेंगे, शायद इसलिए ही भारत को गाँवों का देश भी कहा जाता है।

आँकड़ों के अनुसार भारत की 70% आबादी भारत के 6,38,365 गाँवों में निवास करती है।

महात्मा गाँधी ने तो यहाँ तक कहा कि 'भारत की आत्मा भारत

के गाँवों में रहती है।'

लेकिन आज-कल स्थिति में थोड़ा सा परिवर्तन हुआ है, आज भारत की आत्मा अपने छोटे-छोटे सपनों के साथ बड़े-बड़े शहरों व महानगरों में भटक रही है, वह भटक रही है अपने रोजमर्रा के संसाधनों की पूर्ति के लिए या फिर एक बेहतर जीवन शैली के लिए।

गाँव से शहर की ओर पलायन करने वाले जन समूहों में एक महत्वपूर्ण वर्ग है खेतिहर या देहाड़ी मज़दूरों का जो शहर आते हैं अपनी मूल-भूत आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति के लिए, वहीं दूसरा वर्ग वह है जिनका मकसद होता है उच्च शिक्षा की प्राप्ति। इस वर्ग का ध्यान 'पैकेज' यानी पर-एनम सैलरी (वार्षिक आय) पर ज्यादा होता है। क्योंकि इन्हें आकर्षित करती हैं, शहर की ऊँची इमारतें, चमचमाती कार और उस कार की रफ्तार से भी तेज जिंदगी। इनका सपना शहर की ऊँची इमारतों से भी ज्यादा ऊँचा होता है, और हो भी क्यों न यह भारत



न वो खेत बाँकी रह जाएगा, न वो आवो हवा रवां बाँकी।

रह जाएगा तो बस उस, ऐस-ए रफ़ता का एक धुंधला सा निशां बाँकी।

की आत्मा जो है।

सब सही है, आपके सपने भी और आपका शहरी जीवनशैली से आकर्षण भी।

बस आपसे मेरी इतनी सी विनती है कि जरा सोचिये, उनके बारे में जिन्हें हम पीछे छोड़ आए हैं, सोचिए उन आँखों के बारे में जो

न जाने कबसे हमारी आस में बाट जोहे बैठे हैं।

बस एक बार सोचिये उन हाँथों के बारे में जो बहुमंजिली इमारतों का निर्माण तो करते हैं लेकिन खुद उनके पास आशियाना नहीं होता।

हमें अपनी जिम्मेदारी समझनी

होगी नहीं तो शायद वह दिन दूर नहीं जब गाँव में खेत तो रह जाएँगे लेकिन खेतिहर नहीं, मकान तो होंगे लेकिन लोग नहीं।

जगमगाती झिलमिलाती सड़कों पे मैं आवारा फिरूँ, गैर की बस्ती है, कब तक दर-बदर मारा फिरूँ।

Movie review

Slumdog Millionaire



Cast: Dev Patel, Frieda Pinto, Tanay Chheda, Anil Kapoor, Irfan Khan, Madhur Mittal & Co.

Director: Danny Boyle

Screenplay: Simon Beaufoy

Like it or hate it, Danny Boyle's 'Slumdog Millionaire' is a repackaged pucca bollywood pot boiler... it has a love triangle,

childhood love, separation and reunion. Although an adaptation of Vikas Swarup's novel "Q & A", it seems to have ostensibly borrowed few elements from Mira Nair's "Salaam Bombay". While Mira played it safe, Danny plunges head-on into the murky underbelly of Mumbai touching on almost every stereotypical themes

associated with Mumbai or India otherwise, from the poverty of Mumbai's slums, crime-and-prostitution gangs to child begging and obnoxious fan-following for film stars. And he does this juggling act with a perfect élan.

This is the story of Jamal Malik (Dev Patel), a young man from the Dharavi Slums, who picks up enough English and general knowledge while working as a *chaiwallah* in a call centre and lands up on the TV game show "Kaun Banega Crorepati" in a bid to be seen by his long-lost love Latika (Frieda Pinto).

When he is close to winning the jackpot, he is accused of cheating by the police (Irfan Khan) and the host of the show (Anil Kapoor). But strangely, one way or the other, the answers to all the question asked on the show were sourced from different events in his troubled life.

In the end he wins the love of his life and Rs 20 million in the show. 'Slumdog' follows his rags-to-riches story.

'Slumdog' is a technically outstanding film with a heady mixture of some brilliant camera work, peppy music and a deftly interwoven cinematography.

Simon Beaufoy brings in a riveting and an outright natural screenplay that fits seamlessly into the movie. A sure winner all the way is the cast ensemble! And under the controlled and nuanced direction of Danny, the characters appear natural and not mere card-board cut-outs: their emotional undercurrents are well-depicted without being jarringly brutal or contrived. Danny Boyle has made this movie straight from the heart and it definitely shows.

What could have been an exploitative tour of Mumbai's slums turns out to be a tour de force. And instead of poverty-pornography, there is a joyous zing about this movie. So, go catch it and revel in its ferocious optimism.