Helping handloom SRM way

Recession-hit handloom weavers from Ramanathpuram did brisk business for three days at the Kattankulathur campus of SRM University. They sold cotton saris, silk cotton saris, *churidhar* material and bed spreads under the banner of Sri Sowdambigai Handloom Welfare Association. Speaking to *Spectrum*, one of the association's members said, "Handloom weavers in Tamil Nadu are badly hit by recession. To help them sell their products, the association is travelling around the state to promote their handloom products. We have received positive response so far for our initiative. We thank authorities of SRM University for permitting us to sell our products on the campus." **- By Aditya Panja**

SRM to set up clinical research trials centre soon

To tie up with a multi-national pharmaceutical company

By Mark Nathan

SRM University will soon set up a clinical research trials centre in a tie up with a multi national pharmaceutical company to enable students and its faculty to do research in clinical drug delivery systems.

Announcing this to reporters at the launch of *The BioExpress*, a monthly bulletin brought out by the students of the School of Bioengineering, at the University campus in Kattankulathur, SRM's Vice Chancellor, Prof

P Sathyanarayanan, said the institution will sign a MoU with a MNC pharmaceutical company within four weeks and research in clinical trials will start functioning from the 2009-10 academic year.

SRM University had earmarked an investment corpus of Rs. 70 lakh for the development of the centre, said Prof Sathyanarayanan.

"The pharma company will provide patients for research work, while SRM will provide 40 beds for them. This will be a first of its kind aca-

demic-industry initiative for research in drug delivery systems," he added.

SRM faculty and the students will carry out the research projects at the new centre, which is to be housed in a building having 25,000 sft floor space at Kattankulathur. Articles based on successful research projects will be published in various journals of repute.

Expressing his happiness with *Bio-Express*, Prof. Sathyanaryanan urged

Engineering students turn entrepreneurs

University opens Incubation Centre to provide office space to new enterprises

By Anuj Srivas

Getting placed in Infosys is not the coolest thing anymore for SRM engineering students! Being your own boss, working your own hours and finally collecting a salary decided by you is definitely the new way to go.

Several engineering students decided to become entrepreneurs and two student business ventures opened their shops in an Incubation Centre that was established by SRM University recently. "The Centre is the brainchild of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. P Satyanarayanan. His idea is to encourage students to take up entrepreneurship on the SRM campus," said Ms Anuradha Parakkat, Director, Corporate Affairs and Student Mentoring.

The Incubation Centre, located at Room No. 401 on the fourth floor of the Placement Cell building, ". . . is set up to give an office environment for the new student enterprises. The Centre will provide office space, computers, and phone access to the young entrepreneurs for a period of six months. The idea is to help them to establish themselves in the market and then relocate to their own premises," explained Ms Anuradha.

"This initiative is in tune with our Chancellor's vision. He encourages SRM students to become job creators and not job seekers," elaborated Ms Anuradha.

Yipee Inc, founded by Vikas Kumar and Vineet Kumar Neeraj, Year IV EEE and IT students, is an event management and consultancy company.

Explaining their business plans to *Spectrum* recently, Vineet Kumar said, "We plan to conduct everything from computer programming workshops to birthday parties and product launches as part of our event management initiative. On the

A student donating blood.

Over 100 donate blood at awareness camp

By Satya Kishore & Saahil Maheshwari

Over a 100 students and faculty members of SRM University donated blood at a blood donation camp that was organised recently at SRM Hospital, Kattankulathur. The camp was in collaboration with Indian Pharmaceutical Association - Student Forum, Mumbai.

"The objective of the programme was to create awareness among public on the importance of donating blood," said Ms. Lalitha C. Pillai, Head of the Department, SRM Blood Bank.

Appreciating the efforts of the students, Mr. Moses, (in charge) of Blood Bank, said, "It was for the first time that the SRM Blood Bank saw so many donors and the camp proved that one need not be a doctor to save lives."

The campaign was organised under the guidance of Dr. K.S.Lakshmi, Principal, SRM College of Pharmacy, and organised by Satish Kumar, Sandeep Varma, Navya Keerthan, Pranavi Mandava, Praveen Katari, Rama Rao, Sushmita and volunteers from final year College of Pharmacy .

Kiranmayee and Deepika win awards at *Illiminati-09*

By Sunandini Chakraborty

Ms. Kiranmayee and Ms. Deepika, students of B.Ed and M.Ed courses respectively of the School of Teacher Education and Research, SRM University, won the Best Outgoing Students Award at *Illiminati-09*, the 5th Annual Day function of the School held recently.

Prizes were also given to students of other departments of the School, that include English, Tamil, Maths, Social Science, Physical Science, Biological Science and Telugu, for teaching competency, teaching aid and the best teaching model presented.

"This is a socially-oriented and an activity-based programme," said the Chief Guest, Mr. S. Kannappan, Joint Director, Department of School Education, Government of Tamil Nadu, while inaugurating the event.

He stressed the importance of teachers in today's society by saying that they have a very big social responsibility as they influence the youth to move in a positive direction. He urged more people to take up teaching as there are many

Dr. Lakshmi presenting an award to Ms.Kiranmayee.

opportunities in the profession today. Citing the example of *Sarva Siksaha Abhiyan – education for all* initiative of the Central Government, which was also implemented in Tamil Nadu successfully, he said there are many opportunities under this programme.

Later, speaking on the occasion, Dr. K.S.Lakshmi, Principal, SRM School of Pharmacy, said, "Teachers are

next to God because they have the responsibility of molding thousands of young lives. Children are like clay and it is teachers who shape them as better citizens."

Dr.V.Vinaitheerthan, Director, SRM School of Teacher Education and Research and Dr.S.Prabhu, HoD of the School, also spoke.

By Ratnika Sharma and Prashanti Ganesh

A gearless electric car called Revgen, made by four final year students of SRM University, is all set to hit the road as a free shuttle service for staff and students on campus.

The eco-friendly car can accommodate up to four people besides the driver and 50-100 kg cargo. It runs on lead acid battery of 12 volts and its charging time is 7-8 hours. When fully charged, it can run up to 50-60 kms and cover 8-10 trips from the main campus to the IT Park.

The car can touch a maximum speed of 40 km/hour. The students are expected to test drive the car shortly on the campus.

Santosh Kumar Bharati (Year IV EEE) was the project team leader, while T. Balaji Prasad (Year II, M.Tech EEE) provides overall technical guidance. Deepesh Monga (Year IV Automobile), came up with the mechanical design and Rishikesh Kumar (Year IV EEE) took care of the electrical design.

Besides the electric car, the team has designed a hybrid car for differently-abled people and a driverless car. The hybrid car idea was mooted by Deepesh Monga and completed by an eight-member team from EEE and Mechanical departments.

The team is planning to organise Traffic Jam, an event to showcase the vehicles. CEOs from various automo-

T. Balaji Prasad

Santosh Kumar Bharati

Deepesh Monga

Rishikesh Kumar

GET READY FOR REVGEN ROLL OUT

SRM students make 5-seater electric car

Eco-friendly vehicle to ply on University's Kattankulathur campus as free shuttle service

Driver-less car

Revgen

bile companies are expected to attend the event. The team is hoping to make all the vehicles commercially successful and user-friendly.

The electric car, a final year project of Santosh, took one and half years and Rs 3.85 lakhs to finish. Santosh said, "The project is partly funded by SRM University and the project coordinator and lecturer in EEE Department, Ms. Shiv Shankari, encouraged us to get involved in these projects. By handling subjects besides the core subjects, our placement options are better now."

The team used a combination of fibre and metal to improve the existing model. Fibre was used because it weighs less, is more durable and easy to mould. The high power motor and the speed controller were imported from China because of their unavailability in India. The team claims that this design is unique in the automobile industry. When asked why they chose to assemble the car away from campus, Santosh answered that they had to travel a lot to get the required parts and other facilities like labour for glass cutting and therefore decided it would be more feasible to work closer to the scrap markets and in the city. Being a part of the EEE Department, they thought it was their responsibility to provide the University with an electric vehicle to be at par with other universities. "This zero-emission car is eco-friendly and if commercially manufactured will cost Rs. 2.5 to 3 lakh only," he said.

The hybrid car is extremely fuel efficient and is user-friendly because it is fully remote controlled and gearless. The remote controlled-driverless car can be effectively used for military purposes. It enables easy access to information in a discreet manner in the border areas. Santosh has been recruited by Mahindra & Mahindra Pvt Ltd., an Indian automobile major, because he dared to venture outside his field. He says, "Students should acquire knowledge outside their fields for better opportunities. They should also have perseverance and should not be disheartened by failures." The team's next project: a controlled security system on the campus. This system will survey the campus, identify sensitive areas and provide solutions.

Carbon emissions are near zero levels: Santosh

*Santosh Kumar Bharati (Year IV EEE), project team leader and brain behind Revgen, speaks to **Prashanti Ganesh** and **Ratnika Sharma** of* Spectrum. *Excerpts from the interview:*

Question: How efficient are these vehicles in everyday lives?

Answer: These vehicles are like any other vehicle, in fact, much more efficient because of the small engines used. Carbon emissions are near zero levels and hence they are eco-friendly.

Q: How are these cars different from other cars?

Ans: These cars are hybrid. They can run both on batteries and motors (single cylinder fuel motors, as used in motor bikes.) Once the battery runs out, the car can switch over to the fuel motor will simultaneously charge the battery. Their mileage is incredible and the engine is imported from China.

Q: How can the differently-abled use the vehicle?

Ans: The hybrid car is completely remote controlled and gearless.

Q: What challenges did your team face?

Ans: The groundwork took more than six months delaying our work plan. We had to wait long hours and ended up with bleak results. Technical support and required resources were also not easily available. Finally, we overcame the difficulties and our project is nearing its completion stage.

Q: What is your team's message to your juniors?

Ans: Even after we pass out of college, we are willing to help any interested student with their ideas and projects. Students should acquire knowledge outside their fields for better opportunities. They should also have perseverance and should not be disheartened by failures.

SRM picks up maximum prizes at inaugural Robolympix '09

By Abhishek Panikar, Siddharth Panicker and Ratnika Sharma

Robots recently swarmed SRM University's Kattankulathur campus. They climbed, swam, crawled, wrestled, played hockey and soccer to win prizes during the two-day *Robolympix 09* festival.

Year II students of the departments of ECE and EEE conceived and organised the festival, for which Prasanta Bhattacharya and Tabish Ashraf, Year IV students of EEE department were student conveners, while Asst. Professor A Rathinam of the same department was the faculty coordinator.

Highlighting the importance of robots in today's world, Mr S Ganapathi, a retired IPS officer, currently working as the Senior Vice President of Hyundai Motors, claimed that robots have made humans redundant in sectors like automobile and information technology.

Citing an example, Mr Ganapathi said that in the manufacturing of the car i10, around 1500 automobile parts out of 1635 were being welded by robots and the rest were being assembled manually and so there is a lot of scope for students in this field.

Over 150 teams from 20 colleges participated in the nine events conducted during *Robolympix*. The most popular event was Heptathlon where the robots had to race against each other on seven varied two team from SRM won the first and third prize terrains. The first and third places were se-cured by two SRM University teams. (The second place was secured by SEC, Porur).

In the event called Amphib, robots were required to traverse through a land and sea course. Junk including used up pet bottles and headphone covers, was used to make the robots lighter, giving them a faster maneuverability. Team from SRM University won the first prize, while Savitha Engineering College won the second and the National College of Engineering, Bangalore, won the third prize.

In Free Style Wrestling, the robots were made to wrestle with each other and push the opponents off the arena. The first and second prize was bagged by SRM University team and IIT Madras stood third.

National College of Engineering kicked their way through to the first position in the Robosoccer event. All teams had one striker and one defender each or a single robot playing both roles. Spoons and metal plates were used as striking tools. SRM University stood second and Siddhaganga Institute of Technology, Tumkur came third.

Robots armed with spoons, rotating bars, and rotating plates dominated Air Hockey event. National College of Engineering, Bangalore, won the first prize, SRM University took the second and third places.

Participants of the event Basketball had to work on a number of motors as the robots had to move around, pick the ball up and drop it. Actions like picking and dropping the ball were done using methods like clamping and scooping. IIT Madras stood first, SRM University stood second and National College of Engineering, Bangalore came third.

Roborelay required a robot to cover the arena as fast as possible and pass the baton to another robot from the same team, which in turn covered the arena as fast as it could. Savitha Engineering College won the first prize, National College of Engineering, Bangalore the second and PVC Polytechnic College, Bangalore, the third.

Mountain climbing involved scaling an inclined plane, then a vertical wall and then coming back down another inclined plane. The trick was to have the lightest robot possible with a magnet placed so that climbing could be easy. Three different teams of SRM University won all the three prizes in the event.

Robots had to hit a golf ball with sufficient strength and a sense of direction in Bowling event. The National College of Engineering, Bangalore, bagged the first prize, SRM University, the second prize and VMU Aarupadaiveedu Institute of Technology the third place.

Dr C Muthmamizhchelvan, Associate Director, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, gave away cash prizes and medals to the winners during the valedictory. Addressing the students, he said that he was very happy to see students organise a quality event in a short span of time and in a limited budget.

Swimming robots.

Scaling heights.

Robolympix to be an annual event, say coordinators

Yash Sharma, Guruditya Sinha and Neeraj Jaikumar are three of the key coordinators of Robolympix '09, a national-level event in robotics that was recently organised at the Kattankulathur campus of SRM University. This is a first of its kind national-level event to be organised by SRM students. Students of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, SRM University conceived, designed and organised the two-day event. Deepak Pinninty of Spectrum recently spoke to the co-ordinators. Excerpts from the interview:

Question: How did you come up with such an idea?

Answer: Till now we have been working on simple operating robots and such related events. To broaden the robotic horizon and to give it a more creative and interesting appeal we came up with the idea of Robolympix.

Q: What has been the attracting factor?

Ans: The very fact that robots get into the shoes of humans and participate in sporting activities like basketball, air hockey, and swimming is a factor that attracts people.

Q: Considering Robolympix to be a relatively new event, how did you go about it?

Ans: It started with designing the problem statements and approaching the higher authorities who found the idea to be really fresh and interesting. With the support and guidance from the Associate Director, Dr. C. Muthamizhchelvan and Asst. Professor Rathinam, Department of EEE, we could do everything that we planned.

Q: Robolympix did extremely well. How was the experience?

Ans: The turnout has been mind-blowing. The response for participation was five times more than the expected numbers. With teams ranging from IIT Madras and Anna University to colleges from Bangalore, the response was excellent.

Q: What next?

Ans: We plan to make Robolympix an annual event like Aaruush and Milan. We also wish to add more interesting and novel events to attract more participants.

Getting ready.

Hockey match.

Winners!

Youth urged to join politics to root out crime and corruption

650 students graduate from Arts and Sc. College

By Mark Nathan

Youngsters should take to politics to root out the three grave evils of caste, crime and corruption, former Supreme Court Judge, Justice Shivaraj V Patil, observed recently, while delivering the 13th Graduation Day address of the SRM Arts and Science College, in Kattankulathur.

Justice Shivaraj Patil endorsed the view of SRM University Chancellor, Mr T R Pachamuthu, that youth were the future of the country and they should enter politics in large numbers.

Justice Patil said that during the independence movement, people were ready to give their maximum to the country. "But in the present day context, politicians are trying to extract the maximum from the country. In India, we have everything, but people in rural areas are half-fed and are not leading a dignified life. They are not living . . . they are just existing as their living conditions are pathetic," he bemoaned.

Stating that caste, crime and corruption have become cancerous to the country's development, Justice Patil urged youngsters, with competency, character, commitment and compassion to serve the people and the

country, and wage a battle to raise the standards of living of the people by entering politics. The present scenario was that without muscle and money power, it was not possible to win in elections.

Quoting elder statesman (Late) C Rajagopalachari, he said, "If there is a vacancy and if good men did not come forward, bad men will jump in to occupy the slot. Politicians are using the elections as an investment to earn more. This needs to be changed and the youth have a great

and onerous responsibility to bring in that change by playing a greater role in public life," he said, adding that vote was a powerful tool that could change the destiny of India. The 521 million youth in India have the responsibility to choose a responsible leader. In his presidential address, Mr Pachamuthu said youth should enter politics as emphasised by former President APJ Kalam. He also said that the SRM University is planning to introduce a new course to develop future politicians. In all, 650 students passed out on the Graduation Day, of which Ms B Sreeya (MBA), Ms A Gokilavani (B.Sc, Hotel Management) and E Saravanan (M Sc, Visual communication) were given gold medals.

Justice Shivaraj Patil handing over the Gold Medal and Certificate to Ms Shreya at the 13th Graduation Day of SRM Arts & Science College in the presence of SRM Chancellor Mr Pachamuthu. Alongside is Dr. K. Subburam, Principal, SRM Arts & Science College.

Ankit leaves a footprint on the global grass

By Deepak Pinninty

Ankit Bakshi, a Year III Biotechnology student and a budding filmmaker, was recently felicitated at the two-day International Short Film Festival in Chennai for his short film *Leaves of Grass*. The film shows the journey of a drug addict, whose life is infused with hallucinations and the resulting twists and turns in his life. A novel idea set against a backdrop of a social evil, there is no doubt that it won critical acclaim. It is indeed commendable that this film stood tall among 500 entries from India and abroad. "It was an awesome experience being felicitated and above all, my

movie being selected from 500 entries both national and international," said an elated Ankit Bakshi.

This short film had two actors, one of them from our own college, Ms Janani, a Year I BMI student. "It was an excellent experience working for a short film, " Ms Janani said. Scaling newer heights, Ankit recently tied up with MAM Movies for technical support for his future endeavours. He has two more short films coming up, i.e. *Let's not say Goodbye* about global warming and *Lemons and Chillies*, which takes a peek into the traditionalistic/superstitious India.

Genius is one percent inspiration and 99% perspiration.
                    - *Thomas Alva Edison*
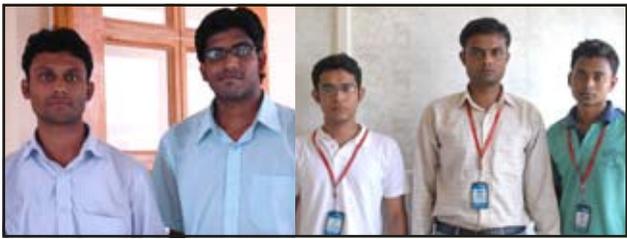
The budding businessmen.

Engineering students turn...

↳ P1

consultancy side, we plan to develop elementary software for registration, design websites, and provide flash and animation designing for brand new companies."

"Our target customers are mainly colleges and universities and the corporate sector," said Vikas Kumar. While, Yogiki Inc., founded by three other SRM students, Dipti Ranjan Biswal, Anirban Chowdhary, and Saurav Kumar Singh (all Year IV students on the verge of passing out through the Departments of Mechanical and EEE), is an educational robotics firm.

"We are an educational robotics firm that proposes to organise robotic workshops in schools and colleges across the country, as well as sell make-your-own robot kits at cheaper rates," explained Anirban Chowdhary. Anirban hopes to inculcate a love for robotics among the youth of India as well. "There are approximately 12 lakh engineering students graduating every year in India. Add to this a few more lakh school students who are fascinated with robots. This untapped population is a potential client-base for our business," explained Anirban.

To help the three Yogiki founders realise their dreams is a team of other engineering students comprising Anindya Mukherjee, Amit Kumar, Gunjan Anand, Prateek Mukherjee, Raju Ranjan, and Arivind Doss. "They extend support through services like product design, human resource procurement and marketing," said Anirban.

The BioExpress was launched by the Vice Chancellor. The first copy was received by Dr. Ponnavaikko.

Clinical trials centre

↳ P1

the School of Bioengineering to ensure that the bulletin evolves into a complete scientific research journal in the next couple of years to meet the expectations of the international scientific community.

Bharathidasan University Vice Chancellor, Dr Ponnavaikko, who launched the bulletin, stressed the importance of biotechnology in which new developments were taking place across the world. Prof. D. Janakiraman, Department of Computer Science Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai, Dr. T.P. Ganesan, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Dr. N. Sethuraman, Registrar, and Dr. K. Ramasamy, Dean of the School of Bio Engineering also spoke.

Guest lecture on yoga and meditation

By Menorca Chaturvedi

Helping the students relieve themselves of the stress, the Department of English and Foreign Languages, SRM University, Ramapuram, arranged for a guest lecture on ISHA Yoga – Inner Engineering recently. 'The Fourth Dimension', the English association of the department, took the initiative and invited Mr. Vinod Hari, a Satguru of ISHA Foundation.

MBA students urged to become entrepreneurs

By A Spectrum Reporter

"Entrepreneurship should become the conscious choice of management students," said Mr. E. Sarath Babu, Chief Executive Officer, Food King Caterers Pvt Ltd, recently.

Mr Sarath Babu was the chief guest of Quest '09, the national-level management meet organised by the Department of Management Studies, SRM University, Ramapuram Campus, Chennai.

Sharing his valuable experience in entrepreneurial endeavour, Mr. Sarath Babu encouraged the management students to establish their own business.

Some of the events at Quest '09 included AD_ZAP, Business Plan, Business Quiz, Best Manager and CFO in Crisis.

Welcoming the chief guest.

Mr. Suresh, Manager-HR, Best and Crompton, gave away cash prizes and trophies to the winners of various events at the valedictory function.

Mr. R. Venkatesh, Chief Financial Officer, Larsen & Toubro, Dr. C. Muthamizhchelvan, Associate Director, Faculty of Engineering & Technology, SRM University, Dr. Viswa Kumar, the Vice-Principal, SRM University, Ramapuram, Dr. Antony Michael Raj, the Academic Co-ordinator of SRM, Ramapuram, Dr. G. Ramanaiah, HoD, Department of Management Studies, were also present.

Students representing over 25 colleges and B-Schools presented a cultural show during the meet.

Dr. Ismail at the inaugural function.

Symposium on career prospects held

By A Spectrum Reporter

Over 300 students from across states were recently exposed to career prospects in the field of life sciences during *Metamorph '09*, a national-level symposium. The School of Biosciences, SRM University, Ramapuram Campus, organised the symposium.

The symposium was inau-

gurated by Dr. Sultan Ahmed Ismail, Professor and Head, Department of Biotechnology, New College, Chennai. The Director, Mr. V.N. Pattabiraman, Vice Principal, Dr. K. Viswakumar, Academic Co-ordinator, Dr. L. Antony Michael Raj, Dean, Dr.Y.Rajalakshmi and the convenor, Dr.V.Umashankar, (HoD), were present.

Others who participated in the symposium included Dr. Sumanth C. Raman, Advisor, Life Sciences and Healthcare Practice, Tata Consultancy Services, Chennai, Dr. Surya Senthil, Advocate and Partner, Jus Maxima Law Offices Intellectual Property and Corporate Attorneys, Chennai, and Dr. M. Sakthivel, President, Aquaculture Foundation of India, Chennai.

By Ratnika Sharma
Rajapavithra &
Padma Rao

Trishul does it again!

It needs hard work, determination and outstanding leadership skills for a team to succeed and Trishul House proved it once again by winning this year's Trophy as the Best House with 3,550 points during the Gratitude Day celebrations held recently.

Agni House came second with 3,050 points followed by Prithvi House with 1,300 points and Akash House with 800 points.

During the celebrations, the new House Captains for the next academic year were announced. Anudeep (Year III, ECE) was selected as the House Captain for Trishul House, Priyanka Deb (Year III, Food Process Engineering) is the new House Captain for Prithvi House, Anuj Kesari (Year III, Mechanical) is the new House Captain for Akash House and Kasim (Year III, CSE) is the House Captain for Agni House.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. P.K.A Muniswaran, Director, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, SRM University, said that the students of each House did a lot of social work throughout the year. Giving tips to students, he

Ms. Anuradha presenting a certificate to a Milan '09 *coordinator.*

Outgoing Trishul captain.

Taking notes at the function.

said, "Competition is part and parcel of life, which should be faced with grit and determination without succumbing to its pressures."

Ms Anuradha Parakkad, Director, Corporate Affairs and Student Mentoring, said that even though the houses have performed well during the year, the leadership has failed because of lack of total participation from the students. Out of 2500 students in each House only few represent their

houses in various events.

"The onus is on the House Captains to discover the hidden talents in their team and bring them to the fore, making sure there is full participation this year," she urged.

The outgoing Captains presented annual activity reports of their respective Houses of the past year. Later, Ms. Anuradha presented certificates to the organisers of *Milan09* and event coordinators.

2-day global conference on electrical energy systems held

By Chinmayee Mishra

"India is reasonably good in power production, but it should focus more on mass generation," said Dr Bhim Singh, Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, while inaugurating the two-day International Conference on Electrical Energy Systems and Power Electronics in Emerging Economies (ICEESPEEE'09).

The Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, SRM University, Kattankulathur, organised the conference.

Speaking on a wide range of technologies available in the country, Dr Singh said that most of the electricity is being utilised in big sectors like defence and telecommunication, whereas supply of electricity for domestic consumption is neglected.

Outgoing data, Dr Singh stated that India stands fourth in the consumption of wind energy; with Chennai standing second after Japan, which is world's No 1 country in consuming wind energy for domestic purpose.

Later, giving details of the conference, Dr S.S Dash, Professor of the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, SRM University, said that the organisers received a total of 450 papers from across the world of

which 225 were selected for the conference. He also added that 20 international papers were received from countries like Japan, United States of America, United Kingdom, Italy and Egypt. Papers pertaining to research areas including

Power System Operation and Control, Energy Systems, Power Quality, and FACTS were presented during the nine panel sessions, which were chaired by domain experts from different colleges.

Dr Enrique Acha, University of Glasgow, UK and Dr K. Shanti Swarup, IIT Madras, and Prof Manik Sahani, Advisor, SRM University also spoke. Students of the Department of EEE presented a classical dance show called *Simma Nadhini* during the conference.

Left to right: *Dr. Ganesan, Dr. Bhim Singh, Prof. Sathyanarayanan, Prof. Sahani, and Dr. Muniswaran at the ICEESPEEE09 function.*

Code of Conduct helps in maintaining

*SRM University recently introduced a new Code of Conduct, which the students have to follow on the Kattankulathur campus. The objective of the new code of conduct was to maintain discipline and decorum on the campus. To find out as to why the University authorities felt the need to introduce this new initiative, **Siddharth Panicker** of* Spectrum *recently spoke to* **Professor R Venkataramani**, *Director for Campus Administration and Sports. Excerpts:*

Question: Why this new Code of Conduct?

Answer: SRM University has a vast campus at Kattankulathur. It has varied departments, a diversified faculty and sister institutions located on the campus. It is important to maintain discipline and decorum on the campus. Teachers and students should not be disturbed in any way. The campus should have a friendly environment that is free from violence. People have to maintain a certain amount of dignity and have cordial relations with all. Considering all this, the need for a code of conduct was felt.

Q: One of your initiatives under the new code is to ban birthday parties and any other celebrations at the Food Court. Why?

Ans: The Food Court is not a big area where birthdays and other occasions can be celebrated. It is a place where people can refresh themselves and go back to their respective works. Also, big celebrations will take up a lot of space, and others won't get a place to sit. Hence, these celebrations have been banned at the Food Court. Also, the Food Court shouldn't be considered as a lovers' park. And outsiders are allowed in provided they have friends or relatives or have work on the campus.

Q: Has there been any change on the campus after the Code of Conduct was implemented?

Ans: There has been a significant change lately. Instances of violence have reduced, garbage isn't seen strewn around, the Food Court is cleaner and the ambience is friendlier.

Q: The Fifth Code states that modesty in dressing is expected and 'undue attention' of others should be avoided. Can you please clarify as to what it means?

Ans: Hostel boys are generally found roaming around the campus in half clad condition. People visiting the campus may think that they are beggars. Also, girls are seen wearing sleeveless tops without *dupattas*. Such dressing sense is not modesty.

Students should be fully clad when on the campus. That is why this dress code has been introduced.

Q: The Sixth Code directs students to dispose off waste in dustbins. Do you plan to place more dustbins across the campus?

Ans: Definitely. We want students from voluntary groups such as the Rotary Club and NSS to come forward and help us identify new locations for the waste bins and also suggest to improve hygiene conditions on the campus. We're willing to provide anything that is required to maintain a clean and green campus.

Winners all!

Siddhant Dhall (Year I BTech): Has won the second prize for his paper on *Green Fuel Matters (IDP)* at *KSHIJIJ'09,* IIT Kharagpur recently.

B. Balaji (Year II, BTech - Mechtronics): Won first prize for participating in Spent Quiz at National Level Cultural Fest – *Technofes'09* at College of Engineering, Anna University, Guindy Campus. He also won second prize in Sports Quiz at *Mitafest 2009,* MIT Engineering College, Chrompet.

Aayush Dhingra   *K. V. Madana gopal*   *M. Goutham*

Aaush Dhingra (Year II - ECE), K. V. Madana Gopal (Year II – Mechatronics) and M. Goutham (Year II – ECE): All three won second prize in *Slam Dunk* event in *Pragyan'09* at International Techno – Management Festival of National Institute of Technology, Tiruchi.

Bibek Kabi and Baibhab Guru (Year II – EEE): Both have won first prize in *League of Machine* of *Tathva'08* organised by the National Institute of Technology, Calicut.

CAB meetings held

By A Spectrum Reporter

At least 150 domain experts from India Inc gathered at SRM University over the past three months to deliberate on several issues including building quality human capital, excellence in education, developing global practices and benchmarks for both performance and rewards, and to suggest changes in curriculum based on emerging industry needs. "The initiative was part of the SRM University's move to establish a Corporate Advisory Board by bringing in industry captains to advise the institution," explained Ms Anuradha Parakkat, Director for Corporate Affairs and Student Mentoring.

More girls get ranks as 544 engg. students graduate from Easwari

Indian engineers will soon rule the world, says Dr Ramasami

By Mark Nathan

A total of 145 post graduates and 399 graduates received degrees at the 9th Graduation Ceremony of Easwari Engineering College, SRM Group of Educational Institutions, held recently at the college on Ramapuram campus. 13 Anna University Ranks were secured (between 4th and 46th rank) by the students of whom 10 were girls.

Earlier, delivering the Graduation Day address, Dr. T. Ramasami, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, said engineering education in India should encourage competitive excellence and some challenges could be addressed effectively only through collaboration and not through individual effort.

Dr Ramasami pointed out that the present engineering education system in India focused only on understanding phenomena rather than inculcating a problem-solving mindset.

"Convergence of purpose is important to resolve challenges of larger magnitude," he explained.

Dr. Ramaswami handing over the medal and certificate to a rank holder at the 9th Graduation Day of the Easwari College.

Predicting that Indian engineers will soon be ruling the world, Dr Ramasami said, "Such a scenario is possible provided the nation evolves a different system of engineering education that prepares young minds to solve problems rather than merely understand them."

Further, in support of his prediction, he said, "At least 54 per cent of India's population is aged below 35 years. It is estimated that by 2030 one third of the global population below 35 years in age would be Indian."

He then urged the graduating students to keep abreast with the emerging trends and be versatile in the chosen field. "Practice high ethical values and be passionate about what you do", he added.

He said driven by the present young generation, India will emerge power ful and will become the world leader in the years to come. He advised the students to learn from our civilisation and earn more accolades in future in all spheres of life.

Earlier, presiding over the function, Mr T.R. Pachamuthu, Chairman, SRM Group of Institutions and Chancellor of SRM University, urged alumni working in companies of repute to be exemplary employees. "Maintaining a good tract record at work was a prime responsibility of alumni towards job-seeking graduates," he said.

discipline on campus: Prof Venkataramani

Q: Girls have to report back to their respective hostels by 6 pm. Why?

Ans: Because, we're very concerned about their safety. Girls wear jewellery, carry their mobile phones in hand and are easy targets for pickpockets and thugs. Also, the traffic situation on the National Highway outside the campus is bad, with vehicles driving at break-neck speed. However, if girls want to visit relatives or friends, they can take a special permission and the time limit in such instance can be stretched upto 8 pm.

Q: Two wheelers are banned on the campus, but shuttle service drivers are

Prof. Venkataramani

often seen driving recklessly. What steps are being taken to overcome this problem?

Ans: A speed limit of 20 kmph has already been imposed on the campus. We are planning to periodically convene meetings, which will be attended by University authorities and students, to discuss safety issues on the campus. Also, students shouldn't stop buses wherever they like. It will cause confusion in vehicular traffic. Shuttle service bus stops have been earmarked at key location on the campus. Students should wait there to board a bus.

Q: The Code of Conduct does not cover activities inside the hostel buildings. Any specific reason?

Ans: Separate rules pertaining to hostel activities have already been put up in all hostel buildings.

Q: There is a ban on sitting on benches on the campus after working hours. Why?

Ans: Sitting on benches after college hours presents an ugly picture. Also, it leaves large scope for indecent behaviour and illegal activities, since very few people are seen on the campus after working hours.

Q: Have there been any instances of students violating these new rules?

Ans: No. However, it is necessary to spread the awareness of the importance of the code of conduct among the student community. Further, we wish to make the campus more green and environmental friendly. Organisations like the NSS and NCC should help in this cause. We can adopt an annual 'Clean Campus Week'. If a country like Singapore can be neat and clean, why can't our campus be clean and green?

Q: Any message to the students.

Ans: Following the Code of Conduct will make better citizens out of our students, and a model for others to follow. By improving disciplinary standards, students will be admired and appreciated everywhere, in every walk of life.

R&D should meet the needs of industry, society: Dr. Madan Mohan

3000 attend national seminar on Bioinformatics Application in Medical Sciences

By Menorca Chaturvedi

"Research and development should feed science and technology in India to be in tune with the needs of the industry and societal requirements," said Dr. T. Madan Mohan, Advisor (Bioinformatics), Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, recently.

Dr. Madan Mohan, who was inaugurating the two-day *National Seminar on Bioinformatics Application in Medical Sciences (NSBAMS'09)* at SRM University, Kattankulathur, added that, "There is a need for this synergy to be coherent and to enable science and technology to contribute maximally to national development and Human Resource Development plays a vital role in this."

Over 3000 delegates from across the country attended the seminar that was organised by

Dr. Madan Mohan releasing the proceedings.

iClone, an association of the Department of Bioinformatics, School of Bioengineering, SRM University. The seminar received 160 papers from students and research scholars, of which, 30 were selected for presentations.

Researchers from top Indian institutions like IIT (Kanpur), IIT (New Delhi), Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi), Centre of Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB – Hyderabad), Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT – Hyderabad), Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI - Lucknow), Institute of Genomic and Integrative Biology (IGIB - New Delhi), Indian Institute of Science (Bangalore), University of Madras (Chennai), Bharathiar University (Coimbatore) and Schrodinger (Bangalore) participated in the seminar, where topics like medical informatics, vaccine designing, image processing, microarray,

proteomics, genomics, forensic sciences, neuroscience and immunology were discussed.

Earlier, welcoming the delegates, Dr. Ramaswamy, Dean, School of Bioengineering, said, "The objective of the seminar is to highlight the impact of bioinformatics on medical sciences in recent times."

Elaborating on the advances made by bioinformatics, Dr. Ramaswamy said, "Bioinformatics, a term that is coined for the application of information technology in biology, is emerging as a major element in contemporary biology and biotechnology research. Rapid advances in the field of computers, coupled with the increasing computer literacy among people favour the implementation of computer applications in medical practice."

Delivering his presidential address, Mr T.R. Pachamuthu, Chancellor, SRM University, said that more and more students were showing interest in biotechnology-related subjects today. He then added that students should use opportunities like this seminar to interact with experts to enhance their research skills in genomics, proteomics and drug discovery.

Banker gives a lowdown on the meltdown

By Prashanti Ganesh

"Major problems will always be followed by a golden age," said Mr. T.Ramaswamy, Deputy General Manager of Indian Bank, Chennai, while presenting a Special Lecture on *Global Melting* that was organised by the School of Management recently.

Giving an insight into the different stages of economic surge, Mr. Ramaswamy said that the younger generation will be more impacted by this meltdown, rather than the middle-aged and aged people.

Tracing the expenditure record of the United States of America, Mr. Ramaswamy explained that, "A major portion of that country's expenditure was concentrated on initiatives like the race to the moon, the World War II, the Vietnam War and NASA explorations, which were unnecessary for the global economy." The loss of economic surplus, according to him, could result in the collapse of various complex societies.

Stressing that the concept of global meltdown is on everybody's mind, Mr. Ramaswamy explained that Japan "As part of stimulus initiative, spent more than $ 8 trillion."

Commenting on the Bush and Obama Administrations, he said "We have and are living through an era of profound irresponsibility," and added that the world leaders always "forget the lessons from the past bubbles."

He saw similarities between fiscal disasters like Dow 1992, NASDAQ 2000-02 and the decade long Japanese crisis of 1980-90, and the economic collapses in nations like Lebanon and Zimbabwe.

Dr. Chandraprabha and others lighing the Kuthuvilakku.

Nursing students exposed to multiple interfaces of aging

By A Spectrum Reporter

Over 100 student delegates from various nursing colleges recently gathered at SRM College of Nursing, SRM University, to participate in the Continuing Nursing Education Programme, where experts discussed on issues relating to the theme *Successful Ageing - Multiple Interfaces*.

The delegates were exposed to lectures by domain experts including Dr. Jaya Mohanraj, Dean, SRM College of Nursing, who spoke on *Support Services for the Elderly*. Other experts who spoke on the occasion include Prof. Selvakani Pandian, Vice Principal, SRM College of Nursing (*Physiological basis of aging*), Dr. B. Krishnaswamy (*Various aspects of geriatrics*), Ms. B. Jayabharathi, Senior Lecturer

(*Global Scenario of the elderly*), Ms. M. Hemamalini, Senior Lecturer (*Psychosocial aspects of aging*), Ms. P. Abirami, Senior Lecturer (*Long-term care, clinical and community programmes*), and Ms. K. Latha, Senior Lecturer (*Myths and facts about the elderly*).

Dr. B. Krishnaswamy, Head of Department Geriatric Medicine, Madras Medical College and Government General Hospitalinaugurated the programme. Dr. N. Chandraprabha, Associate Director, Paramedical Institutions, SRM University, Dr. Vinod Kochupillai, Director, SRM Medical and Health Science, SRM General Hospital, Dr. James Pandian, Dean SRM Medical College, were also present.

Cultural show at College Day.

College of Nursing celebrates Annual Day

By A Spectrum Reporter

SRM College of Nursing recently celebrated its Annual Day, which was inaugurated by Dr. G. Josephine R. Little Flower, Registrar Tamil Nadu Nurses and Midwives Council, Chennai. Winners of the cultural and sports competitions were given prizes during the celebrations. Dr. N. Chandraprabha, Associate Director, Para-Medical Institution, SRM University, Dr. Jaya Mohanraj, Dean, SRM College of Nursing, and Prof. Selvakani Pandian, Vice Principal, SRM College of Nursing, were present.

Pharmacy students get orientation in employability skills

By A Spectrum Reporter

The SRM College of Pharmacy in association with InPharm Association, Bangalore recently organised a one-day orientation programme on employability skills in Kattankulathur to sensitise pharmacy students to meet the demands of the industry in today's competitive job market.

550 students from nine pharmacy colleges across Tamil Nadu participated in the programme, where they were exposed to topics like career guidance, professionalism, self-presentation, improvement action plan, interpersonal skills, group discussion,

conversational skills, and personal and professional grooming.

Speaking at the occasion, Mr. L. Karthick, Chief Corporate Trainer, Sampoorn Siksha, Bangalore, said that career guidance becomes a precursor for nurturing students' acquisition skills.

Certificates were issued to the participants at the end of the programme. Earlier, Dr. N. Chandraprabha, Associate Director, Paramedical Institutions, SRM University, inaugurated the programme. Dr. K. S. Lakshmi, Principal, College of Pharmacy, was also present.

Mr. Balaji

90 attend FDP on advance developer technologies

By Vadivu Karthik

The Department of Information Technology, SRM University, Kattankulathur, organised a one-day Faculty Development Programme in association with Microsoft Corporation India.

The FDP was organised to enable 90 faculty members from about 15 engineering and Arts & Science Colleges in and around Chennai to keep pace with the changing trends in Advanced Developer Technologies. Mr. Balamurali Balaji, a Microsoft Valuable Professional on .NET was the resource person of the programme.

Focus on hospital safety

By A Spectrum Reporter

SRM College of Nursing celebrated World Health Day 2009 on the theme *Save Lives – Make hospitals safe in emergencies*.

Dr. Kanchana Khan, Principal, Omayal Achi College of Nursing, who was the Chief Guest of the function presented a paper on *Readiness of health personal as a cornerstone in emergency*. Later, Dr. Chandrasekar, Principal Investigator of SRM Queen Project, presented a paper on

World Health Day celebrations.

'*How prepared are we to handle emergencies in hospitals*'. Dr. N. Chandraprabha, Associate Director, Para Medical

Institution, SRM University, Dr. Jaya Mohanraj, Dean, and Prof. Selvakani Pandian, Vice Principal, were present.

Workshop on news writing

By A Spectrum Reporter

Spectrum is organising a two-hour workshop on 'News writing' every Friday from 3.30 to 5.30 pm at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Kattankulathur, from July 2009.

Interested students and faculty members can register for the workshop with the Office Assistant, School of Journalism and Mass Communication. For details contact the Editor: 9443937428 or venkat.pulapaka@gmail.com.

Participated in education fair

By A Spectrum Reporter

The staff from various paramedical institutions of SRM University recently counselled prospective students and their parents on career opportunities in the paramedical field during a three-day education fair titled *Vahikatti 2009* that was organised in Chennai by Tamil-language newspaper Dinamalar.

SRM University had been participating in the event for the past 15 years. The University Vice Chancellor, Prof P. Sathyanarayanan, inaugurated the SRM stall, which was visited by students from various parts of the state.

Research opportunities aplenty in defence and space sectors: Dr Lalit

2-day national conference on microelectronics and communication held

By Diwakar R.Marur

Referring to the global meltdown and the slowdown faced by the information technology companies, Vice-Chancellor Dr Lalit M Pattnaik Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) said there were a lot of research opportunities in strategic sectors like Defence, Atomic Energy and Space.

He recently inaugurated the two-day National Conference on Microelectronics and Communication, NCMEC – 09, at SRM University, Kattankulathur. The conference was organised by the Department of Electronic Communication Engineering.

"The DRDO has been looking for research projects from premier educational institutions like the SRM. But it should be application-driven," Dr Lalit said.

Explaining that working opportunities in strategic sectors were very exciting, Dr Lalit said because of the economic slowdown there was lot of tension on those working in IT companies. "Working in strategic sectors like Defence, Atomic Energy and Space, were hassle-free, less constraints, besides good pay, thanks to the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission," he said.

"It will be very exciting to work in Defence, Space and Atomic Energy than in IT companies," Dr Lalit said and

Prof. Sathyanarayanan welcoming Dr. Lalit.

added that universities like the SRM should join hands with R and D institutions in the country, like the DRDO, rather than IT companies.

Stressing on the importance of quality faculty, Dr Lalit said universities, instead of looking for young blood, could consider recruiting superannuated experts from the field of Defence, Space and Atomic energy and put them into teaching.

"These senior people can be used for at least 10 years after they superannuated at the age of 60. This will definitely bring in quality in faculty," he added.

Dr Lalit said the future wars would not be fought with missiles or rifles. "The modern warfare has changed and electronic security will be the challenge of the future

as hackers are hell-bent in destabilising the civilian and defence applications security," he said.

"No need to fight a war. If the security data is hacked everything will come to a standstill. E-Ticket bookings in Railways, Airways, banking and credit card access, everything will be paralysed if the security data is hacked," he said and added that hackers pose a major threat in future due to the advent of wireless technology.

He also talked about the availability of funding agencies available with the central government. He encouraged departments to write and submit proposals to Department of Science and technology (DST) under the Funds for Improvement of Science and Technology (FIST) program. He said that the proposals

for this grant should be on research oriented work and not on regular laboratory work. He said that a lot of foreign collaborations, especially with United Kingdom, United States of America and France, are available.

SRM University Vice-Chancellor, Prof P Sathyanarayanan, said the main objective of the conference was to focus on recent advances in microelectronics and communication and bring together researchers and engineers from academic institutions, R and D labs and industries on a common platform.

In his facilitation address, Director (E & T), Dr. P.K.A. Muniswaran, said that out of 100 papers received at NCMEC 2009, only 32 papers were selected, and authors of the selected papers were called to present their contributions.

Biotechnology symposium in Ramapuram

By Mandakini Ayyapilla

Ever thought of a brighter and cleaner future? Don't you want to depend less on chemicals? The symposium conducted by the Department of Biotechnology Department, SRM University, on Ramapuram Campus recently, focused on these issues and also on the job opportunities in the field of Biosciences.

The programme included poster presentation and biocartooning that attracted about 500 students from SRM University, Kattankulathur, SRM University, Ramapuram, Sathyabhama University and Amet University.

Dr. Ismail, Head, Department of Biotechnology, New College, Pondicherry, commenced the paper presentation session. Tamil Selvi and Group, M.Sc. 1st year, SRM University, Kattankulathur, secured the first position in this event. The second place was shared by Sathyabhama University and SRM University, Ramapuram; and the third place was shared by Sathyabhama University and SRM University, Kattankulathur. Sandeep of Sathyabhama University secured first position in bio-cartooning. The events were judged by the faculty members of SRM University, Ramapuram. Dr. Ismail, Head, Biotechnology, New College, Puducherry; Mr. Senthil, advocate; Mr. Shaktivel, President, Aquaculture Foundation of India (Chennai); and Dr. Suman, Medical Consultant, PCS, were some of the dignitaries at the symposium.

B-School students win prizes at *Synergy* and *Aawaz*

By A Spectrum Reporter

Seven Year I students of SRM School of Management, SRM University, recently picked up three first prizes and one second prize in two different management fests in Tamil Nadu.

The students, Dhivya Gandhi, Sreejith Nair, S.Santosh Sugadhanam, V.Badrinath Raju, Sundar Raj, Vinodh

Kannan, and Sudhit Kumar, had participated in *Synergy*, organised by Sangeetha Engineering College, Chennai and later three of them took part in *Aawaz,* organised at the Amrita School of Business, Amrita University, Coimbatore.

At Sangeetha Engineering College the students took part in three of the four management events of *Synergy*, i.e. Corporate Walk, Business

Quiz, and Adzap, and won all three events. While, Vinodh Kannan and Mohan won the first prize in Business Quiz, Sreejith Nair won the first prize in Best Manager event and a team comprising Dhivya Gandhi, V. Badrinath Raju, S. Santosh Sugadhanom, Suchit Kumar and Sunder Raj won the first prize in Adzap event. Consequently, SRM University was declared over all champions at *Synergy*.

Later, three of the students, Sreejith Nair, Dhivya Gandhi and S. Santhosh Sugadhanam, travelled to Amrita University in Coimbatore to participate in the management event titled *Aawaz*, which was co-hosted by C11's Young India and Amrita School of Business. The SRM team presented two papers titled *Reforms in textile industry* and *HR Strategies: for the transformation and revival of the IT industry*.

Aawaz, which attracted 1,200 participants, saw 600 papers being presented of which 24 were selected.

SRM team led by Sreejith Nair and Dhivya Gandhi won the second prize (Rs.1,000 cash) for your paper on textile industry reforms. A corporate team from Tata Consultancy Services bagged the first prize.

Moving towards a green consumer

By Shubhra Roy and
Yaaseen Masvood

Today's business organisations are increasingly associating themselves with social responsibility, particularly towards environment and ecology. It is not surprising that many of them are responding to this by aligning their brands with the epitome of social responsibility and eco-friendliness.

In this context, a two-day workshop on *Green con-sumerism-challenges in the Horizon* was conducted on the SRM University campus recently to throw light on the issues of green consumerism. The programme was co-ordinated by the University's Directorate of Campus Administration with assistance from Dr. Jeyalakshmi, Professor (Chemistry Department), Mr. S. Senthil Kumar, Head of Marketing, Ms. Vetriselvi and Ms. Santhana Lakshmi, SRM School of Management.

Inaugurating the workshop, Mr. R.S. Bharati, Chaiman, Alandur Municipality, spoke about the green initiatives he had launched at the Alandur municipality, where as chairman he faced challenges in making the municipality as a model to other municipalities in the country. He inspired the students to start educating their parents and relatives about the concept of green consumerism.

Dr. P.K.A. Muneswaran, Director (E and T) delivered the presidential address. Prof. R. Venkataramani, Director, Campus Administration, felicitated the speaker on his maiden effort to set standards in the administration of municipalities. Dr. Jayshree Suresh, Dean, SRM School of Management, offered her felicitations on the steps being taken up for education of the youth at SRM University on being an 'active green consumer'.

Speakers at the workshop included Mr. S.Madhavan, Co-founder and Director, Green Quotient Systems, Dr. Shanthi Venkatesh, faculty, SRM School of Management, Ms. Amritha Kasthurirangan, Citizen Consumer Civic Action Group, Dr. P. Balakrishnamurthy, Director, International Institute of Biotechnology and Toxicity, Paddappai, Justice Mr. K. Sampath, former President, State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, and Dr. B. Kalpana, faculty, School Of Public Health, SRM University.

Bio-tech student chosen for two summer fellowships

By Apporva Muralinath

Aayushi Uberoi, a second year student of Biotechnology, has been selected for two summer fellowships this year – The Science Academies' Summer Research Fellowship Programme for students and teachers and a summer programme at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. The former one is being organised by the Science Education Panel of the three science academies – Indian Academy of Science, Bangalore, The National Academy, New Delhi and The National Academy of Sciences, India. It offers a two-month summer fellowship to enable students/teachers to work with the scientists of the academies. For the latter, Aayushi had submitted a project on "Development of Recombinant Hemoglobin and its Micro-Encapsulation for its use as a Blood substituent". About 5,000 students from all over India applied for this fellowship and only 120 were selected. Under the life sciences category 31 students have been selected and Aayushi is one among them. Aayushi has also been selected to work under Dr. Rita Mulherkar, Principal Investigator, Advanced Centre for Treatment Research & Education in Cancer, Tata Memorial Centre. The selection was done by Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Research. The British Council and The Energy and Resources Institute, has selected her as an International Climate Champion this year. There are 200 International Climate Champions in 13 different countries recruited by the British Council.

SRM Film & Television Institute to offer two courses

By A Spectrum Reporter

The satellite and television boom has opened up thrilling and lucrative career opportunities in the media and entertainment industry. With more than 200 television channels and about 1000 films being produced every year in the country, including about 100 in Tamil Nadu, there is a shortage of technical and creative talent in the industry.

There are only a few educational institutions that train students to meet the needs of this industry, which seems to have a perennial demand for script writers, production designers, story board artists, cameramen, editors, actors, computer graphics specialists, sound engineers and directors.

Taking this into account, the SRM Film & Television Institute, established recently by SRM University, will offer two new courses named Bachelor of Film Technology (BFT) and Diploma in Film Acting (DFT), from the academic year 2009-2010.

BFT is a comprehensive three-year degree course that offers training in direction, cinematography, editing, sound, graphics & animation, art direction, film producing and marketing. At the end of the programme, graduating students will have become experts in three major areas: pre-production, production and post-production.

DFA is a one year course that imparts training in the multi-dimensional aspects of film as well as television acting and helps students acquire the required skills, confidence and poise so necessary for an acting career.

SRM Film & Television Institute's advisory council consists of leading names in the industry: G. Ramkumar, Managing Director, Sivaji Production; G. Prabhu, Actor; K.S. Ravikumar, Director; Bharathiraja, Director; P. Vasu, Director; Gangai Amaran, Music Director; B. Lenin, Editor; K. Hariharan, Director and Academician; Prasanth, Actor; Yuhi Sethu, Script Writer and TV Host; Brain Jennings.

For further details call Mr. D. Balaji, Head, SRM Film & Television Institute, at 9444768735.

Valliammai ranked third among affiliated colleges

By Rahul Preeth &
Mark Nathan

"Valliammai has been ranked third among the colleges affiliated to Anna University," said Dr. M. Balasubramanian, Principal, Valliammai Engineering College, when he was delivering the annual report during the college day celebrations. "The overall pass percentage of our college has increased by 5.3 per cent this academic year, that is, from 67.2 to 72.5 per cent," he added. The chief guest Dr. V. C. Ravichandran, Director, Centre for University Industry Collaboration, Anna University, turned nostalgic and emphasised that the students should develop the habit of making small progress towards their work everyday that would result in remarkable success.

He talked about his association with the college at the inception and expressed happiness over the present infrastructure. He also congratulated the students for having contributed to the success of the college. While deliver-ing the presidential address, Pro Vice-Chancellor of SRM University, Dr. T. P. Ganesan, praised the efforts made by the college administration for improving the infrastructure and achieving accreditation from the National Broad of Accreditation for courses like Computer Science Engineering, Electronics and Computer Science Engineering, Information Technology, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering and Master of Computer Application within a short span of two years. Later, Dr. N. Sethuraman, Registrar of SRM University, appreciated the college for having

Dignitaries with rank holders.

increased the placement percentage from last year's 72.97 per cent (242/333) to 76.4 per cent (253/331), this academic year. Subsequently, prizes were given to the members of the faculty who have published articles in international publications and authored books. Students who topped the university exam were also given prizes.

By Ratinka Sharma

Students win prizes for architectural innovation

At least 400 architecture students from 20 different colleges recently converged at SRM University to provide affordable housing solutions to urban poor, which is one of the biggest problems facing the country at present.

They were participating in a seminar aptly titled Housing and Affordability Architectural and Technological Solutions (HAATS '09), organised by the School of Architecture, SRM University, Kattankulathur.

Seven competitive events were held and prizes worth Rs. 50,000 were given away.

Building a model of a house with cubes having maximum ventilation was the objective of the event *Cubix*. Zeeshan Naiyer and James bagged the first prize worth Rs. 500, Sachin and Jeetan Kumar, the second and Surag and Tijo Baby, the third. All of them were from SRM University.

The most popular event, *Urban Hut*, was a designing competition conducted in two levels. The participants presented their designs based on parameters like using new materials and technologies, sustainable planning principles, prefabrication, and multilevel spatial planning. Of the 20 entries in the first level, 10 were selected for the finals, which were judged by architect Jaisim, Chairman of the Indian Institute of Architects, Karnataka Chapter

and architect Rani. Prashanth M.S. of T.K.M. College, Kollam won the first prize worth Rs. 15,000. The second prize worth Rs. 7,000 was won by Dilip from School of Architechture and Planning, Anna University, followed by Sahil, Priya Mohanty, Rayal Y. Anand of Satyabhama University with the third prize worth Rs. 5,000.

Papers were also presented on the main theme by students from various colleges. Asha N. M. of Rashtriya Vidyalaya College of Engineering, Bangalore, won the first prize worth Rs. 3,000, T. Abitha and S. Shivashankari of Hindustan College, Chennai, won the second prize worth Rs. 2,000. Abhinay M. and Saraswathi of

Hindustan College, S. Krithika of KSR Technology were joint winners for the third prize worth Rs. 500.

Rajani and Aravind. R of SAP, Anna University, won the first prize worth Rs. 1,500 in the *Architectural Quiz*. Abhishek Gaurav and Sam Exeeson of Satyabhama got the second prize worth Rs. 750 and Apurvashish and Amandeep from SRM University came third and won Rs. 500.

D. Pradeep, V.S. Ajithbose, Balamurugan and Surendhar of SRM University won the first prize in the short film making competition. The prize money was Rs. 1,000.

Prasantha of SRM University emerged winner by

clicking the best photograph in the *Photography* event and bagged Rs. 1,000. Prashanth M.S. of TKM College, Kollam won the second prize.

Students submitted sketches focusing on alternative ways of building houses. Rahul of Bharath University got the first prize of Rs. 500. Sriram Adithya of SAP, Anna University got the second prize.

Dumb Charades was all about enacting a quote, the architectural way. The participants were to enact the name of a monument or building. Nivedhita and Gayathri of SAP, Anna University won the first prize and got Rs. 500. Dipanshu and Roshini Das of Bharath University won the

second prize – Rs. 250. Kunal Patel and Selvaprakash of SRM University came third.

Later, guest lectures were presented by Mr. P. K. Das, Architect, Mr. Jaisim, and Mr. Satprem Maini, Director, Auroville Earth Institute, and also a representative for India and South Asia to the UNESCO Chair Earthen Architecture, Constructive and Sustainable Development.

Mr. Jaisim released a magazine, *Zodmaegis*, edited by Abhishek and Shiraj of B.Arch, Year IV. The show was organised and managed by Sandeep Kumar, Nikhil Bharath, Bharath Kumar of B.Arch, Year IV.

Delegates at the architectural expo.

Youth urged to shoulder the responsibility of building the India of the future

Dr. Mylswami Annadurai giving away the degrees in the presence of Mr Pachamuthu, Chairman, Valliammai Society. Pro-Chancellor Mr P. Ravi and Vice-Chancellor Prof. P Sathyanarayanan, Pro Vice-Chancellor Dr. Ganesan and Registrar Dr. Sethuraman are also in the picture.

By Mark Nathan

Calling upon the youth of today, Dr. Mylswami Annadurai , Project Director Chandrayaan I and II ISRO Bangalore, said they should shoulder the responsibility of building the India of the future while delivering the 5th convocation address at the SRM Valliammai Engineering College, Kattankulathur.

He said, "In the challenging times prevailing today, our country needs you more than ever - needs your talent, your ideas your energy, your great enthusiasm. Every individual should know the purpose and individual strength to make his/her life meaningful and I have great confidence that you will build both successful

and fulfilling careers. You all occupy the upper strata of knowledge society and it is vital that you integrate and apply your wisdom in ways that enables our country to evolve into a formidable economy and I wish you to take on the task of building India of the future."

SRM Group of Institutions, Chairman, Mr T R Pachamuthu, who presided over the Graduation Day ceremony, congratulated the rank holders, college toppers and the graduates.

He said those who could not get placements during campus interviews, should not lose hearts and could pursue other avenues like becoming IAS or IPS officers, or becoming entrepreneurs. He wanted

the educated and qualified persons to take to politics and shoulder the responsibility of the nation.

487 students received their degrees of which 10 were Anna University rank holders.

Earlier, Dr. T P Ganesan, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Planning and Development), SRM University, welcomed the gathering. The Principal of the Valliammai College, Dr. M. Balasubramaniam, presented the achievements of the college. Pro-Chancellor, Mr P Ravi and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. P Sathyanarayanan, and Registrar, Dr N. Sethuraman, of SRM University were present on the occasion.

Santosh judged 'coolest performer' at *Airtel Super Singer* contest

By Adithya V

Not having a musical background did not stop this 21-year-old. Having an enduring passion for music was all it took Santosh Hariharan to step up, and work his way through the challenging rounds of *Airtel Super Singer*. "I never really thought I'd make it this far," said Santosh, who made it through 15 challenging elimination rounds.

Santosh was born in Mumbai, and has been living in Chennai for over three years. He is currently doing his B.Sc in Biotechnology at SRM. But music remains his greatest passion. "After my B.Sc, I will finally have all my time for music," he said.

Airtel Super Singer, the

popular music show on television, poses enough hurdles to the participants that it can well be compared to a gruelling marathon. The hopefuls are tested at each step of the way; not only are their vocal abilities at different kinds of songs under evaluation, but their stamina too.

The entry process was fairly straightforward for him, as he does his own home recording. All he had to do was to send a demo track to the organisers by email, and he was in.

"I was in a room filled with contestants, most of whom I had seen performing on TV before," recalls Santosh of his first round. "Here were trained professionals, and I was going to compete with them! I guess I had nothing to lose." This attitude probably worked out, for he was referred to as "Coolest Performer" by several judges throughout the contest.

After round two, the competition intensified with two more districts joining in. Each round presented a different theme: duet, western, even jazz; testing the versatility of the contestants, but Santosh

had no problem. It was only in round seven that Santosh met the real challenge: singing on the main stage! This round was judged by renowned singers Srinivas, Sujatha and Unni Krishnan. Santosh received the nod from them, after singing a song from '*Maunam Pesiyade'.* Competition was heating up, with more candidates being shown the door. Santosh kept his cool as the rounds progressed: a legacy number in the 9th, a Hindi movie song in the 10th, and a dedication to a friend in the 11th . Further on, he sang a medley of four songs by Ilayaraja, and even an "Unplugged" version of *Oh Vennila,* with Steven on the piano, all the way up to round 15, his highest in the competition.

For the last one month, Santosh has been learning Hindustani classical singing, and hopes that one day he can sing for A. R. Rahman. He knows that there is a lot of work involved, but he is sure he will make it big as a singer one day. Santosh maintains a blog, and some of his musical works can be found at santosh. blogspot.com.

Santosh Hariharan

Balaguru receiving the certificate.

Karate kid Balaguru wins 2nd place at Freedom Cup

By Priya Swaminathan

The 19-year-old karate kid, A. Balaguru, of the Department of Bioinformatics, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, recently won medals in the ATR Freedom Cup Karate Championship – 2009.

Competing against 22 participants, Balaguru displayed brilliance in martial arts steps to bag the second place in the event KATA and a third place in the technical fight category of KUMITE – SHIAI. He overcame a challenge from 27 participants.

He also won a third place in the team event (three per each team) among 12 teams.

Balaguru practices the Sen – Shito Ryu style of karate and is currently entering the Black Sho-Dan stage. The ATR Freedom Cup was organised jointly by Indian Karate and GOSHIN – RYU Karate Associations.

He is currently preparing for the Japanese SHITO-RYU-National-level Japanese Martial Arts Tournament to be held in June in Andhra Pradesh.

The triumph of the sporting spirit

By Abhishek Panikar

The battleground: SRM sports fields across the campus. The warriors: students from various departments sweating it out for the ultimate prize: the sports shield. This was the scene during the inter-department sports meet. Being the first of its kind, students from every discipline participated in the meet for various sports ranging from basketball to table tennis. Undeterred by the cycle test, students weren't afraid of showing their fighting spirit and loyalty towards their department, as seen right from the start during the selections.

Divided into six major groups, each group consisted of a number of departments. Group I: Civil, Architecture, and Chemical Engineering. Group 2: Mechanical, Automobile, Aerospace and Mechatronics. Group 3: CSE, IT, MCA. Group 4: ECE, EEE, ICE, and ENI. Group 5: Biotechnology, Bioinformatics, Food and Process, Genetics. Group 6: MBA.

Each group had a mixed bag of students excelling in different sports, ensuring that the competition was pretty fierce. There were two sections – the first being sports and then athletics. For the boys, the sports were basketball, cricket, volleyball, football, ball badminton and table tennis. For the girls, the events were

throwball, basketball, volleyball, ball badminton and table tennis.

Though the time allotted for basketball was just 20 minutes, the fun quotient remained high. As one of player put it: "Double the excitement in shorter time." In the end Group 2 boys and Group 5 girls emerged the winners. In volleyball, Group 6 emerged triumphant in both the boys and girls' sections with the blockers and hitters demonstrating their skills.

In table tennis, players smashed the ball across the net trying hard to upset the opponent. The match was, however, lopsided with Group 3 boys and girls winning the title. Group 3 boys and Group 6 girls won in ball badminton, an equally exciting game with teams smashing the ball about the court. Football was 40 minutes of pure adrenaline and exhilaration. Held at the grounds in front of the auditorium most matches had a climatic finish with the winner unsure till the end. Ultimately the boys of Group 2 stole the show. Throwball was enthralling too as Group 5 girls used every ounce of teamwork to ensure victory.

Cricket brought the thrill of twenty20 with it bringing out the best of the players in limited overs. Group 3 were the victors. Athletics was a test of endurance and speed in 100m, 1500m, 3000m and other events.

Chess makes our mind sharp, says Dr Dash

By Chinmayee Mishra

"Chess increases the presence of mind and makes our mind sharper," says Dr S S Dash, Professor, Department of Electronics and Electrical Engineering, SRM University, Kattankulathur.

Dr Dash has a strong liking for chess and was the Orissa state level champion when he was pursuing M.Tech in Orissa.

Again in 2004 he won the SSB College Championship and for the last three years has been playing chess in FIDE (Fédération Internationale des Échecs) rated competitions like Adyar Open Times.

A member of the Tamil Nadu Chess Academy, he has already played against eight international players registering three victories, two losses and three draws.

Along with academics, he is also an active player and devotes two hours daily for playing chess online in www.icccchessclub. com, where he competes with many international players. Six months back, he was ranked 1650 internationally.

He strongly feels that chess is an important game among all other games, which can even be played by a differently abled person as it doesn't require much physical fitness.

FREEWHEELING

SPECTRUM

By Aparna Nair and Moen Sen

Beating the Great Meltdown

With the mercury scaling new heights and the humidity sapping our energy, beating the heat is the Holy Grail for survival. A swift glance around the campus, and we saw the innovative and funky ways that SRMites have adopted to stun the sun!

Colourful umbrellas, sporty caps and goggles are a stylish yet practical way of keeping it cool. The different cafeterias have also geared up to keep up with the soaring demands for cold drinks, juices and ice creams. Even the new fresh lime soda vending machines are having a tough time keeping up with the long queues. Cashing in on the sweltering heat, Java Green, the 'hottest' hangout has introduced a new range of coolers. Among the favourites are *Black Currant* and *Strawberry Kissed*

Students beating summer with coolers.

Banana.

The fruit stalls near the back gate are the new favourite hang out zones. After a hot and tiring day, what could be better than catching up with your friends while biting into a ripe and juicy watermelon? Not only does it go easy on wallet, but it's also packed with vitamin C, vitamin A and lycopene that helps fight harmful free radicals in your body and prevents cancer. The high water content keeps dehydration at bay.

The SRM hostels are also not far behind catering to the needs of the hot and bothered students.

Delicious buttermilk and occasional watermelon treats keep the students energised.

HOT SPOT

At the adda.

Girls have an *adda* to relax and gossip

By Nivedita

Hand in Hand Tamil Nadu canteen, located in the heart of girls' hostel campus, comes alive after college hours.

Owned by Ms Anudhavalli and Ms Gajalakshmi, the canteen, with four employees including a chief chef (or Master in local parlance) from Orissa, had become an *adda* for relaxation and gos-

sip. Girls hang out at Hand in Hand till 9 pm and that is what makes it special.

Initially, the canteen offered Indian delicacies like *chaat* and *pani puri*. But today the range of lip-smacking Indian and Chinese snacks and beverages include bread omelette, delicious *samosas*, vegetable noodles, and rice complemented with *gobi manchurian*, *paneer manchurian*, mushroom

Manchurian, chicken noodles, chicken rice, chilly chicken and chicken *Manchurian,* chips, chocolates, ice-creams and chilled soft drinks.

The small, hygienic multipurpose canteen also offers value additions like chicken *masala* and *parotas* on certain days and sells stationary and daily utility items. This hangout makes life easy for the girls.

Wadaiko . . .
a heart-beating experience!

By Shreya Chandrasekhar

Music is the common mode of communication as it transports connoisseurs to a different world altogether. So did *Wadaiko* (*wa* meaning 'our' and *taiko* meaning 'drums'). The Year II Japanese language students of SRM University were recently taken to witness the aura created by the Japanese drums.

The programme was an initiative of Dr. Anbazhagan, Head, Department of English and Foreign Languages, and Asst. Professor R Natarajan (Japanese).

Wadaiko-ensemble, *ABEYA*, is a group of Japanese traditional musicians and led by Hidesabura ABE, a *tsugaru-Shamisen* player. The ensemble consists of his pupils who are professionals from various fields and promising *Wadaiko*, *Shakuhachi* and other instrument players. The Japanese are known to master in whatever they do. *Wadaiko* proved it! The excitement in the Narada Gana Sabha auditorium was palpable. Everyone was left in awe seeing the co-ordination with which they were playing the drums. Every beat of the drums seemed to have feelings. The group played a song that depicted the feelings of the people of the small town, Tsugaru, and how they beat the cold weather.

In short it was once in a lifetime experience and a treat to the ears.

My life is my message

- Mahatma Gandhi

Laxmikant (extreme right) with his team.

INTERVIEW

We'll return next year for Robolympix, says Laxmikant

*The Robotics Club of SRM University hosted Robolympix 09 recently. A team of students led by **Laxmikant** from SIT, Tumkur in Karnataka, participated in the event. He spoke to **Kunal Anand**, after the event and shared the team's experiences at SRM University. Excerpts:*

Question: What is your opinion about Robolympix 09?

Answer: Well, it's an event organised on a large scale. We could meet hundreds of teams. It has been a great learning experience competing against the best minds from all over the country.

Q: How does this event fare in comparison to other competitions?

Ans: I have been to robotic competitions with a two or maximum of five events. But here we had nine events! That makes Robolympix 09 an Olympics in true sense.

Q: That's true . . . but how was the standard of the competition?

Ans: I knew that SRM students ware good at robotics. You guys make beautiful and fantastic robots. Besides, here we had colleges from different parts of the country. That makes the competition tougher and interesting.

Q: What events did your team participate in?

Ans: We participated in six events - Robo

Relay, Heptathlon, Wrestling, Air Hockey, Amphib and Robo Soccer. We reached the finals in two of the events.

Q: Congrats! Your comments on the overall organisation of the event?

Ans: Compared to other events where I had been to, the hospitality here has been exceptionally good. We got nice rooms for our stay and the food was hygienic and tasty. Whenever we needed any assistance, the co-ordinators and volunteers were more than eager to help us.

Q: What is your opinion about robotics as a career?

Ans: Robotics has always been an interesting field. Many institutions and companies offer scholarships to students who are good at it. In developed countries like U.S and Japan, robotics is a booming industry. So, if someone wants to pursue robotics as a career, he has a plethora of opportunities before him.

Q: Any suggestions for the organisers to improve this event next year?

Ans: The event should have been spread over 3-4 days, instead of two. We didn't get time between events and the timings of few events coincided due to which we had problems participating in them. But, overall, it has been a great learning experience and we will surely return next year to improve our tally.

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?

-Editor

TALKING SCIENCE

The scientific method

By Varun Krishnan

This is the big one and keeps preying upon our minds. Students often run to teachers and ask, "For God's sake, ma'am, I have to know this. What's the difference between a scientific law, and a mere theory? And how does the humble hypothesis fit in?"

Sometimes, even teachers feel tempted to dodge this question by simply laughing and replying that anything by Newton is a law, while anything by lesser beings is a theory. But discerning the anxiety on the faces of their students, the teachers suppress this desire of theirs. However, the difference becomes clear if we consider, for a moment, the scientific method.

From observations, or sometimes simply because of watching a late night horror or Rajanikanth movie, some dream up a theory. Then one can use the theory to hypothesise, make predictions, and test the hypotheses by means of experiments designed to prove them (or, in most cases, to disprove them). If the results of the experiments agree with the predictions, then the theory is pronounced 'good' – so far. Sooner or later someone else comes along with some more extensive or more accurate observations, which the theory is unable to account for. The theory is then tinkered with to make the facts fit into it. Let me elucidate with examples now.

Consider Newton's law of gravity, which like so many laws, had to bow its knee to Einstein's general Theory of Relativity. Perhaps it is simply that having seen so many laws bite the dust of experimental fact, there is a reluctance nowadays to confer the status of law so lightly. Let's take the case of QED; not *quod erat demonstrandum* but Quantum Electro-Dynamics, of which the great Richard Feynman was the high priest. This has been undoubtedly the most successful theory of all time, its experimental verifications agreeing with theoretical predictions not approximately but to the nth decimal. Yet, it has never been ennobled and remains a mere theory.

In modern science, experiments and observations are king. A law or theory, no matter how ingeniously fashioned, no matter how elegantly phrased, is like the present day cricket team – only as good as the end result.

Everything that money can buy...

I have heard a lot about money,
Some say it brings happiness,
Others say it leads to melancholy.
For some, its the ultimate means
to fulfill every desire..
For some its inferno, for some its fire.
Maybe this is true, but
I don't wana comply..
I want everything that money can buy.

Bikes n babes,
Gadgets n cars,
I want to be world's biggest czar.
I know I can do this,
I wana give it a try,
I want everything that money can buy.

I want a bungalow on the Beverly Hills,
I want a life with all its thrills . . .
Yoga can wait, first leme party . . .
The road to heaven has to be trudged,
But on earth, I prefer a bugatti.
You call this materialism?
Actually, . . . materialistic am I . . .
I want everything that money can buy . . .

But that's not the whole of me . . .
I do feel the pinch,
I do feel the pain,
My eyes do get moistened seeing that child begging in rain

A portion of my property,
I will save it for him.
I will lighten his life,
I know its dim . . .
For long he has suffered,
No more must he cry . . .
That's why I want everything that money can buy . . .

Kunal Anand, CSE 'B'(Year II)