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INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
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Education will decide economic destiny of India

STAFF WRITER

Emphasising that technology and innovation will be the key to “democratising development and prosperity” in overcoming the economic and social challenges of a post-Covid-19 world, Union Minister of Commerce, Industry and Railways, Mr. Piyush Goyal, called for a mix of ‘virtual education and classroom education’ in tapping the current potential for online education.

Amid the novel coronavirus pandemic unwittingly opening up a huge potential for virtual learning, Mr. Piyush Goyal said the current potential for ‘virtual education’ was huge - estimated at US dollars ten billion-, adding, it would be preferable to “do a hybrid of virtual education and classroom education” in helping the youth cope with the present challenges and global competition.

The Minister was delivering the keynote address at the inaugural of an Industry Academia Global Virtual Conference on ‘Emerging Economic Scenario - Identify and Create Competencies’, jointly organised by SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), on Thursday.

Citing the initiative of the Indian Railways which has 300 training institutes across the country, Mr. Goyal said his Ministry was now setting up a ‘National Rail and Transportation University’,

which will play a vital role in developing a modern railway system in India. The pedagogic programme will be partly virtual and partly in classrooms and will dovetail on-the-job training that will create skilled manpower to harness new technologies. That was the kind of hybrid educational model that was needed, he said, and quoted Michael Porter to drive home the message, “prosperity is created, not inherited.”

Lauding the FICCI paper released at the inaugural on “Online Education, Opportunities and Challenges”, Mr. Piyush Goyal said it will be a good starting point for policy makers, educational institutions and industry to engage with the best on what needs to be done as “education will decide the economic destiny of India.”

Stating that technology and education was changing the way “you and me live”, something which may not be visible but has a very deep impact on us, Mr. Goyal, speaking via video conference from his office in New Delhi, complemented both FICCI and SRM University for organising this global virtual seminar, to deliberate and initiate a dialogue on “this very important subject and come out with outcomes which will help us in the post-Covid world.”

Calling for harnessing new and emerging technologies - whether it be big data analytics, block chain or Internet of things-, in a meaningful way, so that every single market opportunity globally was seized, Mr. Goyal said the rise of technology itself was not bad per se. “It is not something we should shy

away from, but engage with it”. Technology should be part of a newer way of studying and living and a mode of “re-tooling our skills”. Some jobs may be lost due to new technology, but on the aggregate it will add to jobs, the Minister said.

Underscoring how technology was helping the government of India in certain sectors in better management of schemes that will lead to social and economic equity, Mr. Goyal cited the growing US economy triggered by technological innovation and development. “We need to skill our people to absorb technology, to help bridge the gap between haves and havenots,” the minister said.

Referring to how Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi took ‘Yoga’ to the whole world and was instrumental in getting the

UN declare observance of ‘World Yoga Day’, a very holistic combination of exercises for the wellbeing of the body, mind and soul, Mr. Goyal asked was there any start-up that took the ‘power of Yoga’ to the world, to seize the opportunity “opened up for us by the Prime Minister”. India has the potential to “become a powerhouse” to provide this technique of Yoga to the World, he said. Similar was the opportunity for India, with its excellent tradition of craftsmanship and carpenters, to export furniture to the rest of the world, Mr. Piyush Goyal said, adding, ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ does not close our doors to the world, but engages with it and using our natural advantages “competes with the rest of the world.” In her special address, Dr Sangita Reddy, President,



International Yoga Day 2020: SRM promotes yoga for holistic development

STAFF WRITER

SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur, celebrated International Yoga Day 2020 with a yoga demonstration followed by special guest lectures. The yoga demonstration was held at 7 am at the Institute’s premises as per University

Grants Commission (UGC) guidelines with the social-distancing protocol. The drill was for 45 minutes and was participated by SRMIST’s Vice-Chancellor, Associate Director (campus life) among others. UGC has also asked universities and colleges to encourage students and faculty members to perform ‘Yoga at

FICCI, and Joint Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals, said the apex national chamber was deep into the issues facing the education sector today, even as she underscored the deeper impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and its economic fallout globally.

Pointing out to industrial production in India plunging by 16.70 per cent post-Covid outbreak, and bleak prospects thrown up by other macroeconomic indices including FDI and migrating workforce, Dr Sangita Reddy said it was in this backdrop that it was imperative to deliberate on the adequacy of traditional educational models “to prepare our youth to live in a multi-dimensional, complex world.” Covid-19 has fundamentally redefined our work order, even as social distancing policies demand the learning of new skills and re-ordering of the workplace. Over 220 million students of various universities and other educational institutions have been disrupted by the pandemic, she regretted. Highlighting the importance of strengthening digital and online initiatives in learning, Dr Sangita Reddy proposed that if students cannot go to school in September, then it would be good to create a new platform that allows for synergies between global universities and Indian universities and enables students from abroad to spend a minimum six months in India. The Centre could consider such a new partnership programme and take steps to get the needed “permits and sanctions”, she urged Mr. Goel.

Besides reskilling workers, Dr Sangita Reddy said we would need to impart high levels of cognitive skills to take advantage of the digital technology



trends in a post-Covid world. There was tremendous scope in education for India with surge in online registrations, fruitful initiatives in digital learning, besides India emerging as providers to the world in pharma and healthcare, she stressed.

Dr. T.R. Paarivendhar, Chancellor, SRMIST, welcoming all the participants to the global webinar, said academia and industry were two sides of the same coin and the potential for collaboration was huge, particularly in enhancing the quality of education and research.

Stressing the vital role played by education in creating human resources, Dr Paarivendhar said India still had a “long way to go” in funding for higher education as a percentage of the GDP. While Norway spent 6.40 per cent of its GDP on higher education, New Zealand 6.30 per cent, UK 6.20 per cent, USA 6.10 per cent and Germany 5.10 per cent, India spent 4.60 per cent. The FICCI had a “very vital role” to play in

enlightening the government on plans and financial allocations for education to help solve India’s unemployment problem, Dr Paarivendhar, who is also Perambalur MP, said, adding, last academic year, over 8,500 SRM students were placed in different companies.

Ms. Shobha Mishra Ghosh, assistant secretary general, FICCI, who was instrumental in organising this event, said over 1,700 registrations had been received for this virtual meet including from abroad, besides the event going live on YouTube and Facebook. The Covid-19 pandemic has induced a ‘paradigm shift’, forcing us to re-imagine the traditional educational model, explained Ms. Ghosh. The inaugural was followed by two thematic and thought-provoking panel discussions- one on the ‘New World of Work’ and the second on the ‘New Age- Industry-Academia Collaboration’. With eminent persons from industry and academia participating in both the panels, they were “wonderful,



fascinating sessions” with great ideas thrown up for reflection and appropriate action, as Mr. Mohandas Pai, Chairman, Manipal Global Education, who chaired the second session, later put it.

In the first panel discussion on the changing workplace, the panelists included Bijay Sahoo, President HR- Reliance Industries Ltd, who remarked that Covid-19 has redefined the notion of work itself bringing the farmer and agriculture to the centre stage of the Indian economy. The others were, Mr. Arun Jain, CMD, Intellect Design, Mr. Anurag Malik, Partner and India Leader, Workforce Advisory, EY, who dwelt on how much percentage of ‘remote working’ or working from home could be institutionalized in today’s context, Mr. Hemel Shah, senior VP and CIO, Dell, and Mr. Lokesh Mehra, Head, AWS Academy, South Asia, Amazon. Mr. Pranjal Sharma, moderated the first panel discussion.

The second panel discussion saw an equally colourful array

of personalities including, Dr Ajit Ranade, President & Chief Economist, Aditya Birla Group, Prof Tan Eng Chye, President-NUS, Singapore, Mr Andreas Schleicher, Director, Directorate of Education & Skills, OECD, Prof V Ramgopal Rao, Director- IIT Delhi, and Prof Rishikesh T. Krishnan, Director, IIM Bangalore. Mr. Mohandas Pai made the discussion very lively with his pointed queries, emphasising points such as linking farmers to markets for better prices for their produce and creating open systems, networks and platforms where technological innovation can flourish. In the valedictory session, Dr. Sandeep Sancheti, Vice Chancellor, SRMIST, thanked everyone for their valuable participation including Union Minister Piyush Goyal, and ably summarised the take-aways from the global virtual meet on Thursday. From the FICCI side, Mr. Dilip Chenoy, Secretary General FICCI, proposed a vote of thanks.

home and Yoga with family’. The special guest lectures for Yoga Day was facilitated through a webinar. The welcome address was given by SRMIST’s Director of Sports, Dr. K. Vaithianathan. Vice-Chancellor of SRMIST, Dr. Sandeep Sancheti in his presidential address said, “The best way to keep your body fit during COVID19 is through yoga. It can be done from the comfort of our homes and one does not need to go outdoor. Yoga brings harmony between man and nature and will help us discover a sense of worthiness. Regular practice leads to better

physical, mental, and positive changes in our lifestyle.” Special guest for the event, Yogachemmal, Dr. Meena Ramanatham, Associate professor and Deputy Director, Centre for Yoga Therapy Education and Research, MGMCRI, Puducherry gave a presentation on “Wholistic effects of yoga for the benefit to the humanity”.

She said, “Yoga eases the conflict that happens between one’s body and mind. It eases stress and gives you a state of relaxation. Yoga practices done mindfully calms the mind and strengthens the immune system.

It has several biochemical, physiological benefits that will help in improving our health, strength, and immunity.” She also explained how each part of our brains works and how yoga helps to ease the turbulence that occurs within the nerves. “A simple muthra has several benefits which help you to connect within - intrapersonal and transpersonal.” Our other special guest, Dr. R. Elangovan, Professor and Head, Faculty of Yoga Science and Therapy, Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education and Research, Chennai spoke on the ‘Principles

of Yoga is the need of the hour’. He stressed the importance of five principles that one needs to follow - proper exercises, proper breathing, a good diet, relaxation, meditation, and positive thinking - for leading a healthy life.

This International Yoga Day celebration was organized by SRMIST’s Faculty of Science and Humanities Department of Physical Education and the Department of Yoga.

“Yoga eases the conflict that happens between one’s body and mind. It eases stress and gives you a state of relaxation. Yoga practices done mindfully calms the mind and strengthens the immune system... -Dr. Meena Ramanatham.”

Covid19: SRM hospital begins COVAXIN clinical trail on volunteers

STAFF WRITTER

SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre (SRM MCHRC) has initiated the COVAXIN clinical trial at its facility at Kattankulathur, Tamil Nadu.

The human trials begun on 23 July and two volunteers have received the injection this morning at 9 am.

Speaking at a press meet held at the hospital, Pro Vice Chancellor (Medical) Lt. Col. Dr. A. Ravi Kumar said, "Two volunteers received the injection this morning and they have tolerated the medicine well and did not have any complaints."

He added, "The volunteers were screened prior to this to identify if they were healthy. Laboratory investigations, COVID antigen and antibody testing was done. Only those found eligible after detailed investigations were selected to participate in this study." Present for the press meet were Dean of SRM MCH Dr. A. Sundaram, Medical Superintendent Dr. K. Thangaraj, COVAXIN clinical trial team Principal Investigator Dr. Satyajit Mohapatra and Dr. Melvin George. Explaining the

process of the clinical trial, Dean Dr. A. Sundaram said, "This vaccine contains the inactivated virus and every subject has to take two doses, 14 days apart. They will be kept under observation for a few hours and can then resume their usual activities. Each volunteer will have to come after receiving the injections for a total of four visits subsequently at day 28, 42, 104 and 194. During these visits, their response to the vaccination will be assessed by immunogenicity testing."

SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre is the only medical college in Tamil Nadu to be selected for this trial. The trials have already begun in AIIMS Patna, PGIMS Rohtak and Nizam's Institute, Hyderabad. COVAXIN is developed by the Bharat Biotech International limited in Collaboration with ICMR and NIV (Pune). The drug has got the nod for human trials from Drugs controller of General of India. SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre has been doing this under the able guidance of our Chancellor Dr. T.R. Paarivendhar, Pro Chancellor (Academics) Dr. P. Sathyanarayanan, Pro VC (Medical) Lt. Col. Dr. A. Ravi Kumar and Dean of SRM

MCH Dr. A. Sundaram. The COVAXIN clinical trial team is led by Principal Investigator Dr. Satyajit Mohapatra along with Dr. Melvin George who are assisted by a well-trained team of doctors, nursing staff and support staff.

SRM MCHRC has a State-of-the-art clinical trial facility to handle phase 2 clinical trial. The trial unit that was partly sponsored by DST, Govt of India has carried out several clinical trials in the last eight years. Five major projects are currently ongoing with COVID, one being COVID vaccine trail, another a BCG vaccine trail for prevention against COVID, an ICMR led cohort study on hydroxychloroquine prophylaxis for health care workers, an international multi centric clinical trial for COVID patients with certain drugs and a asiddha based product kabasura kudeneer for COVID patients. SRM MCHRC serves a population of over 3,00,000 in and around Kattankulathur. SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre (SRM MCHRC) offers a plethora of opportunities to climb the career ladder as well as to change this world to better healthier providing the sophisticated treatment.

SRM AP faculty receives the prestigious grant by DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance

STAFF WRITTER

Dr. Sutharsan Govindarajan, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, SRM University-AP has been awarded the prestigious 'Early Career Fellowship' grant by DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance, funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the Wellcome Trust, United Kingdom. The fellowship supports outstanding young scientists to pursue high-quality research in the field of biomedical science and establish themselves as independent researchers in India. Dr. Sutharsan sought a total research grant of 1.1 crore for a period of 5 years as a DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance Early career fellow. The India Alliance grants are highly competitive and is based on the profile of the applicant and the novelty and the importance of the proposed research. Nationwide only less than 10 Early Career grants are awarded every year. Dr Sutharsan is a highly accomplished scientist,

having published research articles in highly reputed journals, including the most prestigious Nature and Nature Microbiology. Through this fellowship, Dr. Sutharsan will establish an independent research laboratory

at SRM University – AP with the support of Prof. Jayaseelan, Head, Department of Biology, and the fellowship supervisor of the project. In this project, Dr. Sutharsan plans to venture and explore the biology of a novel class of bacteriophages called Jumbo-phages. "Bacteriophages, which are the most abundant biological entities on the planet, are viruses that infect bacteria but do not harm humans. Jumbo-phages, as the name suggests, are giant viruses with large genome. A sneak peek into their lifestyle during my postdoctoral research led me, to realize that these phages build fascinating complex



structures inside the bacteria they infect. Such complex structures are well known to be formed in eukaryotic cells like human cells but was not thought to be made by bacteriophages, which have evolved billions of years before

eukaryotes. Thus, studying how such cellular structures are formed by jumbo-phages provides a unique opportunity to investigate the origin of complex life" informs Dr. Sutharsan. He also explains that the proposed research has several biotechnological applications such as phage therapy and synthetic biology. Dr. Sutharsan further shares, "This is one the best fellowships, a young scientist can obtain in India. It is an honour, prestige and a recognition for the scientist as well as to the University. In the next 5 years, I anticipate major fundamental discoveries in the field of bacteriophage biology and evolution".

Brilliant students of SRM AP land up with excellent job offers

STAFF WRITTER

SRM University AP, Andhra Pradesh has commenced its journey to secure a better future for the first batch of students. Promising students of SRM AP have grabbed excellent job offers in the Campus Recruitment Drive for Class 2021 B.Tech students. Anheuser-Busch InBev offered 6 months internship, followed by a job offer to outstanding candidates. The company shortlisted Pesala Sai Tanmayi, Sri Harsha Tavidisetty Rajendra, Tuhin Sarkar, and Koushik M Bhargav. Anheuser-Busch InBev SA/NV, commonly known as AB InBev is a Belgian multinational drink and brewing company. The company has offered an internship stipend of 30 thousand per month and a CTC of 12-17 LPA to the candidates who will join the company after successful completion of their internship.

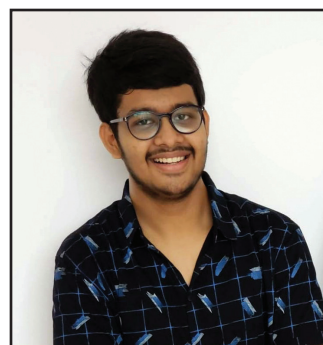
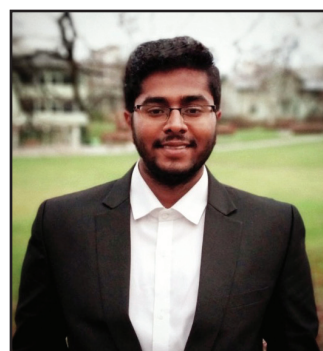
Another renowned company Health Rx, A health - tech start-up from Bajaj Finserv group has offered Technical Internship with a stipend of 35 thousand per month, and post that a confirmed job offer with CTC of 12 LPA to Talari Hrisheekesh, and Gude Abhin. Further, VIRTUSA Corporation, an American IT service provider, offered a position in the company with a CTC of 4.5 LPA to Yallamagari Rachakada Poojith Reddy, Nagamlla Venkata Sai Nikhith, Chattala Vasundhara, Rampati Venkat Tarun, and Sai Rishvanth Katragadda. The other company which conducted the recruitment drive at SRM

AP, Sahaj Soft, selected Sri Ritika Katragadda and offered her a CTC of 10 LPA. Sahaj Soft is a software services and consulting firm which provides simple solutions backed by their time-tested methodology and engineering practices.

As the recruiters shortlist the best young talent who are enthusiastic, devoted to learning and brimming with fresh and creative ideas, SRMAP placement team have thoroughly trained the students both in terms of technical expertise and soft skills. The rigorous training that the students underwent since the beginning of their B. Tech course, coupled with their talent and motivation, has enabled them to succeed in recruitment drive with flying colours. SRM AP believes that this is merely the beginning of the placement season, and many more brilliant students are waiting to showcase their mettle to land up with excellent job offers in top-notch companies.

About SRM University, AP:

SRM University, Andhra Pradesh is a multi-stream research university with focus on diverse fields. From engineering to medicine and from liberal arts to management, SRM's vision is to emerge as a world-class university that is globally connected, nationally relevant, and regionally transformative. SRM has partnered with the world's best names for educational method and philosophy, campus design and infrastructure, learning and living spaces, and recruitment of faculty and leadership.





ARIIA 2020 Rankings: SRM secures second position

STAFF WRITER

SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur (formerly known as SRM University) has found a podium finish in Atal Rankings of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2020.

The ranking was announced virtually by Vice President, Mr. M. Venkaiah Naidu, and SRMIST has secured second place in the Private or Self-Financed universities category. A total of 674 institutions took part in the rankings and SRMIST managed to secure the podium finish this year too.

ARIIA is an initiative of the Ministry of HRD, implemented by AICTE and Ministry's Innovation Cell, Government of India to systematically rank higher education institutions and universities in India on indicators related to Innovation, Startup and Entrepreneurship

Development amongst students and faculty.

The major parameters on which ARIIA is based are Programs and Activities on IPR, Innovation, Start-up and Entrepreneurship, Pre-Incubation & Incubation Infrastructure & Facilities to Support I&E, Annual Budget Spent on Promoting and Supporting I&E Activities, Courses on Innovation, IPR and Entrepreneurship Development, Intellectual Property (IP), Technology Transfer and Commercialization, Successful Innovation and Start-ups & Funding Innovation & start-ups.

SRMIST is one of the top-ranking universities in India with over 52,000 students and more than 3200 faculty across all the campuses. It offers a wide range of undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programs in Engineering, Management, Medicine and Health Sciences, Hotel Management, Science

and Humanities, Agricultural Sciences and a School of Law. Apart from much recent ARIIA ranking, SRMIST is accredited by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with "A++" the highest grade and the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has placed it under the category "I" and also under section 12 (b) which entitles government funding for research. Placing SRMIST in the top league among QS ranked institutions in India, QS has awarded a 5-star rating in Teaching, Employability, and Inclusiveness with an overall rating of 4-star. SRMIST is a QS I-GAUGE Diamond rated institution. Further, at the Kattankulathur campus, Five engineering programs have been accredited by ABET, USA (www.abet.org), and another four Engineering programs by IET, UK. It has more than 1000 international students from 64 countries studying in various



programs. SRMIST is spread over three campuses in and around Chennai (Kattankulathur, Ramapuram, Vadapalani) and one in NCR, Delhi (Modinagar).

In addition to the SRM Institute of Science and Technology, the SRM group has established state private universities at Haryana, Sikkim and AP-Amaravati.



SRM Chancellor inaugurates new campus for Agricultural Science, Paarivendhar Telemedicine Centre on his birthday

STAFF WRITER

Founder Chancellor of SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Dr. T. R. Paarivendhar, M.P., today inaugurated the new campus for the College of Agricultural Science and the Paarivendhar Telemedicine Centre on the occasion of his birthday.

The new campus of the College of Agricultural Science will function from Vendhar Nagar, Baburayanpettai, Chengalpattu district and the Paarivendhar

Telemedicine Centre is to function from SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre (SRM MCHRC) in Kattankulathur.

The event was presided over by SRMIST's Pro Chancellor (Academics) Dr. P. Sathyanarayanan, Vice Chancellor Dr. Sandeep Sancheti, Pro Vice Chancellor (S&H) Dr. R. Balasubramanian, Pro Vice Chancellor Dr. C. Muthamizhselvan, Registrar Dr. N. Sethuraman, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Medical) of SRM MCHRC Lt. Col. Dr. A. Ravi Kumar.

Speaking at the event which was held virtually, Dr. T. R. Paarivendhar said, "The agriculture school was started a few years back in SRMIST in a small way, now they have a place of their own with all facilities."

"SRM has always played a key role in helping the neighbourhood in which it functions. So I hope Vendhar Nagar will also grow as our agricultural college grows," he added. He then urged students to come forward to make use of the facilities at the college.

On the opening of the Telemedicine centre, Dr. T. R. Paarivendhar said, "SRM MCHRC has always been providing treatment at a nominal rate and is also the centre for COVAXIN clinical trial in Tamil Nadu. Now with the opening of this Telemedicine centre, it will try and give solutions to all our medical problems from the comfort of our homes."

Pro Chancellor (Academics)

Dr. P. Sathyanarayanan, said, "It is an auspicious day for us to start anything new on our Chancellor's birthday. Our Founder-Chancellor always wanted an agriculturist to become the Chief Minister of our State and now his wish has come true as our present CM comes from an agricultural family. SRM MCHRC is known for its COVAXIN clinical trial and now we hope that our newly opened Telemedicine centre also become one of the most sought after."

He also urged that the faculty and students here should make SRMIST be recognized as an Institute of Eminence and world-class universities globally.

On the occasion, construction works at the College of Agricultural Science were given dress materials. Health camp and Siddha preventive medicines to fight COVID 19 were also provided to about 1200 villagers.

Paarivendhar Telemedicine Centre will function on all days, except Sundays and government holidays, from 8 am to 4 pm. Regular teleconsulting will be provided by senior doctors (professors) in all specialities.

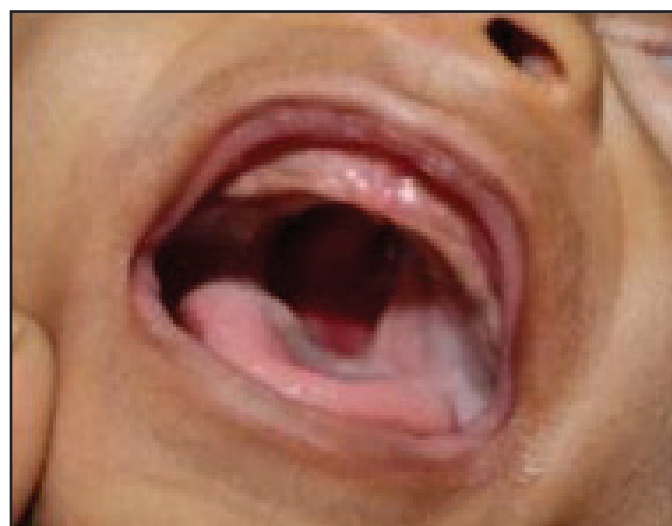
This telemedicine centre will function as per the guidelines issued by the Medical Council of India (MCI). The initial consultation fee would be Rs. 400 and Rs.250 will be charged for a review. For scheduling appointments call 044 47432303/ 7358026016 or email to hemalatm@srmist.edu.in.

Infant treated of cleft-palate at SRM Kattankulathur Dental College & Hospital

STAFF WRITER

It was a proud moment for the Cleft Rehabilitation section of the Department of Prosthodontics and Implantology, SRM Kattankulathur Dental College and Hospital (SRM KDCH) as they successfully treat a one-month-old baby Divya (name changed), who was affected by a severe case of cleft-palate. This procedure was done by a team of doctors lead by their HoD, Dr. Vidyashree from the Department of Prosthodontics and Implantology, SRM KDCH. Cleft -palate is a common congenital deformity of the Oro-facial region. Patients suffering from this have difficulty in swallowing, speech, and in some cases ear and dental problems. Cleft is usually seen in consanguineous marriages. SRM Kattankulathur Dental College and Hospital is one of the few colleges in India recognised and equipped to treat infantile cleft- lip, and palate. The doctors here are experienced in handling such conditions. This treatment involves making measurements of the mouth with a semi-fluid material. Divya's parents hailed from a remote village near Trichy and she was diagnosed as suffering from cleft- lip, and palate from the time she was born. Her parents were on the verge of despair as they consulted various doctors and hospitals and were denied treatment due to the severity and age of the patient. Her parents, fortunately, met one of their relatives, who had undergone various treatments at SRM Kattankulathur Dental Hospital. He immediately referred them to the Department of Prosthodontics at SRM Kattankulathur Dental College and Hospital. When Divya visited the Hospital,

she was consulted by an expert team of Prosthodontists. Series of radiographs were suggested to evaluate her condition. The parents were apprehensive at first but were later counseled about their child's condition and the best available treatment plans. They were convinced and accepted for further treatment procedures. The infant was referred for Cleft rehabilitation as she was always crying. She was unable to feed due to a large opening between the nose and the mouth. There was difficulty in swallowing due to the absence of negative pressure during suckling due to the cleft at the back of the palate. This also results in the regurgitation of fluids into the nasal passage. So the treatment plan was to close the oro-nasal passage by providing a Feeding plate. This requires an impression of the palate which was made with the help of specialised tray and materials. The cast of the impression was made and the feeding plate was processed immediately in a single day with heat-cured acrylic resin. A button was attached to the feeding plate with the help of dental floss to prevent the appliance from slipping intraorally. The feeding plate was inserted into the baby's mouth and the child immediately took her feed. Divya's mother had tears in her eyes as she was extremely happy to see her baby swallow and feed properly for the first time since birth. It was important for the infant to feed well for the wellbeing, growth, and weight gain so that the cleft could be corrected permanently with surgery. The family was extremely grateful to the team of doctors who took great care and completed the treatment swiftly.



“SRM has always played a key role in helping the neighbourhood in which it functions. So I hope Vendhar Nagar will also grow as our agricultural college grows,”



SRMAP's exclusive liaison with APSSDC to provide quality training to the students

STAFF WRITER

Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation (APSSDC) has provided an exclusive opportunity for our students at SRM University-AP, Andhra Pradesh with the Online Internship Programme of one Month to forty-five days. The

programme exposes, engages and educates students through real-world experience and live projects by utilising latest industry tools such as Android, web development using React JS & Django, Python, embedded printed circuit board, AWS Cloud etc.

Around 1140 students of B.Tech first, second and third year of SRM University-AP have registered for the Online Internship Programme in different areas as per their choice. Furthermore, out of the total 1140 registered students, 821 students are doing Online Internship in Phase-I, and the remaining

others will get a chance at the Phase-II of the programme. It is an amazingly great opportunity that APSSDC has provided for the students. The Online Internship Programme is curved out to play a pivotal role for our SRM University-AP students with the experience needed to bridge the gap between academia

and industry. Simultaneously, it will help students to enhance their ability and confidence to secure their dream job in IT and Core sectors. SRM University-AP profoundly appreciates the motivating initiative by APSSDC for our students and other technical institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy extends his support for the development of SRM University- AP

STAFF WRITER

SRM University AP has been creating marvels since its inception in 2017 in order to reach its goal of becoming a multidisciplinary research institute of international repute. SRMAP thrives on bringing quality education within reach of our students to lessen the dependability on international institutions for quality education and research. SRMAP believes that our meritorious students can

do wonders if they are given proper support and guidance. The University is already known for its modernised and innovative curriculum, state-of-the-art infrastructure and research opportunities.

Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, acknowledged the efforts of SRM University-AP and extended his full cooperation and support in the development and future plans of SRM University-AP. During a

meeting with Dr TR Paarivendhar, the Founding Chancellor of SRM University-AP and MP, Perambalur Constituency, Tamil Nadu; Dr P. Sathyanarayanan, President of the University; Dr VS Rao, Vice-Chancellor; Dr D. Narayana Rao, Pro-Vice-Chancellor; and Dr D. Gunasekharan, Registrar at the camp office, on Thursday evening, CM Reddy affirmed his stand on the expansion of the Education sector. He said that his government attaches great

importance to the advancement of the education sector and is ready to provide full support to higher educational institutions.

Dr Paarivendhar, the Founder Chancellor of the University, invited the Chief Minister to visit the campus of SRMAP to inaugurate the newly built complex of research laboratories and auditorium of international standards on the university campus. He further requested the CM to help in the creation

of roads and other infrastructure required for the development of the University. CM Jagan Reddy has assured that the growth of education sector is one of the top priority works for his government. The Chief Minister mentioned the request to Mr Dhanunjaya Reddy, Chief Secretary to the CM, for improving the road connectivity to the University and facilitate other infrastructure development aspects, as requested by the University.



The Founder Chancellor (Left) along with Pro-Chancellor (Academics) and Pro Vice Chancellor (SRM-AP) SRMIST with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh



SRM emerges winners of software edition of 'Smart India Hackathon 2020'

STAFF WRITER

Team Carboxy from the Department of Computer Science Engineering (CSE) at the SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur, has emerged as the national winners of the software edition of 'Smart India Hackathon 2020' held recently.

The team Carboxy consisting of six students - Blessin George Varghese (Team Leader), T.R. Rohith, Subhashree Hazra, Arpit Sharma, Chirag Gomber, and Siddhant Thakur represented SRMIST in the national finale.

The team worked on the problem statement put forward by Bajaj Finserv's HealthRx in order to come up with an innovative way to bring up a healthier India.

The team built a Medical Lab Report digitization and standardization system with rich user experience and detailed analytics. The platform also delivers ML-powered insights on user's health. The solution will help the user to store and comprehend his/her lab reports even if they aren't aware of the medical terms. Machine Learning powered recommendations will help the user to be proactive in terms of staying healthy. For the organization, it provides a very interactive dashboard with very detailed analytics! They were working on improving their solution during the lockdown and were able to deliver a solution that was appreciated by the evaluators.

The evaluators also expressed interest in taking the solution forward to a product. The team said that it was a unique experience in attending this online hackathon. They had to discuss, design, and develop while being connected virtually.

A few of the team members - Blessin George Varghese, T.R. Rohith, and Subashree Hazra - had won SIH previously.

Smart India Hackathon is a nationwide initiative by the Government of India (GoI) to provide students with a platform to solve some of the pressing problems faced in daily lives, and thus inculcate a culture of product innovation and a mindset of problem-solving. Thousands of students participate at different nodal centres in the national grand finale. Smart India Hackathon is conducted every year since 2017 in two formats i.e. SIH Software and SIH Hardware Editions.

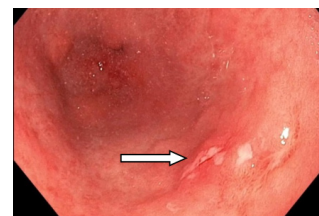
SRM doctors use advanced endoscopic treatment to save senior citizen

STAFF WRITER

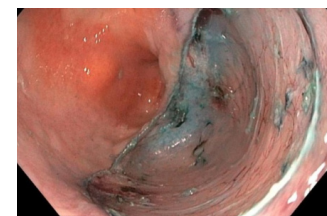
SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre (SRM MCHRC) in Kattakulathur has been performing a wide range of rare lifesaving procedures at affordable rates. Some of the rare cases, which most doctors were not able to diagnose or cure, have been treated successfully here. In the same line now a team of doctors here has successfully cured a patient with gastric cancer.

Subburama Reddy (name changed) a 72-year-old male came to SRM MCHRC in March 2020 with complaints of indigestion and abdominal bloating sensation. As part of the evaluation, he underwent upper GI endoscopy at the Department of Medical Gastroenterology.

He was found to have a small ulcer in the stomach which was further evaluated by image enhanced endoscopy called Narrowband Imaging and was diagnosed to have a cancer stomach which was confirmed



Early Gastric Cancer



After ESD - Cancer tissue resected

by taking a biopsy. He was evaluated further by imaging and was diagnosed to have early gastric cancer (Paris IIc).

The doctors decided for an advanced endoscopic procedure known as Endoscopic Submucosal Dissection (ESD) where the cancer tissue is endoscopically resected without the need for surgery.

Subburama Reddy underwent the procedure on 10 March 2020 and cancer in the stomach was successfully resected after a 90 minutes procedure under anaesthesia. The patient did not have any post-procedure complaints or discomfort and was discharged from the hospital

with oral diet advice after 48 hours. Three months post-procedure, Subburama Reddy is doing well. Endoscopy helped this patient by early diagnosis of cancer in the stomach and with the availability of advanced endoscopic equipment and expertise we were able to successfully remove cancer in the stomach endoscopically and avoid major surgery. ESD is an advanced endoscopic procedure that is performed to remove gastrointestinal tumours. It has now started gaining popularity in India. With increasing public awareness patients can undergo Upper GI Endoscopies.

SRM doctors cure patient with benign lesion in pancreas

STAFF WRITER

SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre (SRM MCHRC) in Kattankulathur is known for having treated and cured patients with rare medical conditions. One such patient is a 58-years-old woman who was successfully treated and cured with a Benign lesion of the pancreas.

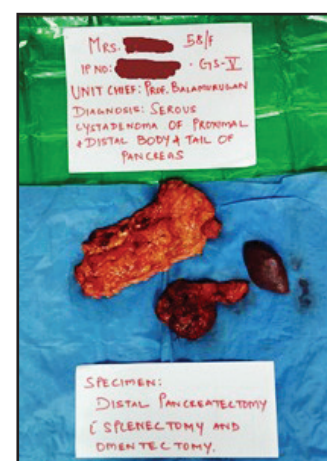
Radha (name changed) came to SRM MCHRC with complaints of abdominal pain for two weeks. She had no other symptoms such as no history of nausea, no loss of appetite, no loss of weight and had normal bowel and bladder movements. However, she was diabetic and was on treatment for the same for the last two years.

Evaluations such as MRCP, CT Abdomen and Endoscopic Ultrasound were performed on her and she was diagnosed having a cystic lesion of the pancreas.

She underwent surgery recently, and a large cyst of 10x11x7 cm was noted over the distal aspect of the pancreas. Distal pancreatectomy was performed; and as the splenic vein was found closely adherent to the cyst wall, it was decided to proceed with a splenectomy (removal of the spleen). Postoperative period was uneventful as she responded well to the treatment.

Histopathological examination of the excised mass revealed a mucinous cystadenoma of the pancreas. Though a malignancy is always suspected and must be ruled out, this patient had a benign tumour which was diagnosed promptly quite early and removed successfully. Her quality of life post-procedure remains good, and she continues treatment for her diabetes alone.

Not all tumours are malignant, some can be benign and be treated completely if diagnosed accurately early on



“The platform also delivers ML-powered insights on user's health. The solution will help the user to store and comprehend his/her lab reports even if they aren't aware of the medical terms.”



World Record of 63 Push-ups in 30 Sec & Most Archer Push-ups in 60 Sec.

STAFF WRITTER

Bombom Rajkumar from CSE 1st Year, SRM University Delhi-NCR has made a world record to complete 63 push-ups in 30 sec and most archer push-ups in 60 sec. With his two record-breaking attempts, he bagged the Guinness World Record titles.

Camp on “Nature and Environment”

STAFF WRITTER

Faculty of Law, SRM University Delhi-NCR, organized a camp on the theme “Nature and Environment” at Manoli village during 27th February-2nd March, 2020. The chief resource person was the renowned environmental activist, Mr. Chandi Prasad Bhatt. He is one of the pioneering global environmental activists who received Ramon Magsaysay Award for community leadership, Padma Bhushan, Gandhi Peace Prize and so on. Mr. Bhatt interacted with the villagers along with the students and the faculty members. He reflected on the transforming nature of environmental struggles and climate justice in relation to the existing political

economy. Professor (Dr) Ashok K Kantroo, Dean, Faculty of Law, one of the experts on environmental law also engaged with the students and spoke about the plural, ecological concerns as well as its relations to the life world of soft people. During this camp, the villagers discussed diverse aspects of their day to day life in relation to rapidly changing agrarian scenario. Students, thus imbibed the sense of subaltern social ecology and its relevance in the capitalistic phase of neo liberalism under the guidance of the stalwart, Mr. Chandi Prasad Bhatt. Students do remember this camp as unique because of its impeccable and intersection list approach that links environmental questions and social justice.



Students and faculty members with Mr. Chandi Prasad Bhatt

Launch of ICI student chapter

STAFF WRITTER

Department of Civil Engineering and Indian Concrete Institute (ICI), Gurugram Chapter launched ICI student chapter on 24th January 2020.

ICI Student Chapter, SRM University, Delhi – NCR, Sonapat, Haryana along with Indian Concrete Institute (ICI), Gurugram Chapter organized an Industrial Visit to “Utra Tech Cement Plant, Kotpulti, Rajasthan” on 14th February 2020



Dr Vineet Bajaj and Mr. Nitin Dahiya receiving the ICI Institutional Membership Certificate from Mr. Surpadip Das, Vice-President, ICI – North, Mr. Rajeeb Kumar, Chairman – ICI, Gurugram Chapter, Mr. Vikash Agarwal, Treasurer – ICI Gurugram Chapter

Professor Nigel G. J. Richards at International Webinar

STAFF WRITTER

An international webinar in association with Cardiff University, United Kingdom on the topic of: “Combining Chemistry and Biology in Anti-Cancer Drug Discovery” was organized by Department of Chemistry, SRM University Delhi-NCR on 30th June, 2020.

Speaker was Professor Nigel G. J. Richards, School of Chemistry, Cardiff University, Cardiff, Wales, CF10 3AT, United Kingdom (UK)



Professor Nigel G. J. Richards, School of Chemistry, Cardiff University



Mr. Bombom Rajkumar (Right) with Ms. Sonia Bhatla, Assistant Director, Department of Physical Education (left)

Overall champion trophy in interstate karate championship

STAFF WRITTER

Gratifying Moment for SRM university. Bombom Rajkumar from CSE 1st year has won one Gold, one Silver Medal and Overall Champion Trophy in 1st YNR Inter-States Karate Championship held at Hyderabad from 7-9 Feb 2020.

From a list of 300 participants, Mr Bombom was able to clinch a Gold in Kata Open Senior Category and Silver in Kumite U-21 Category.



Dr.P.Prakash, former Vice Chancellor (left), Mr.Ravi Pachamoothoo, Chancellor, Dr.Manish Bhalla, Registrar and Officiating Vice Chancellor with the official from Vatel Hotel & Tourism Business School, France.

SRM-IHM signs MOU with Vatel Hotel & Tourism Business School, France

STAFF WRITTER

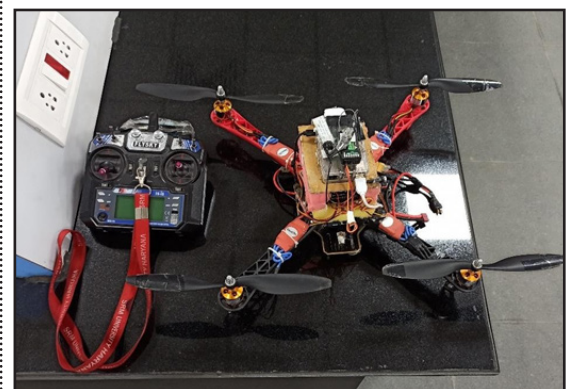
SRM Institute of Hotel Management signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Vatel Hotel & Tourism Business School, France regarding the collaboration for the program in Hospitality, Tourism & Spirits Management on Feb 24, 2020. According to this, it will be very helpful for both establishments to propose new opportunities to students & faculties to learn new skills and gain new knowledge in the Hospitality, Tourism, and Wine & Spirit fields.

UAV/Drones developed by EEE Students

STAFF WRITTER

Electrical and Electronics Engineering Students, developed Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), most commonly known as drones, are small aircraft which are often used when it is too difficult, expensive or risky for a manned aircraft to fly.

These unmanned pieces of technology are installed with cameras, GPS and sensors to monitor surrounding conditions



Photographs of DRONE developed by EEE Students



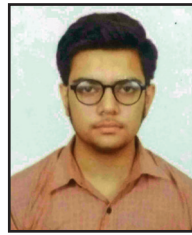
Photographs of DRONE Flying by EEE Students

SRMIST Announces B.Tech Admission Rank List 2020

STAFF WRITER

SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST, formerly SRM University), has announced the SRM B. Tech Rank List for 2020 admissions. In the light of the ongoing pandemic, the SRMJEE which determines entry into the much sought after engineering degree programmes, was cancelled this year, and replaced with rankings based on +2 / Pre-University / equivalent marks in PCM / PCB submitted by the candidate. A total of 1.36 lakh candidates from across India and overseas had applied for admission to SRM B.Tech 2020.

The Top 10 Rankers represent the student diversity of SRM, and come from diverse backgrounds across India: Ekkaluri Harshitha, Andhra Pradesh; R Sanjay, Karnataka; Abhinav Tripathi, Rajasthan; Dharshin Balakrishnan, Tamil Nadu; Shivam Kumar, Bihar; Arun Martin, Kerala; Ajay Parmar, Madhya Pradesh; Rudr Kesar, Jammu and Kashmir;



Mayank Singh, Uttar Pradesh and Hil Savani, Gujarat, emerged as toppers in the all India Top 10 Rank list.

On enrolment, Top 100 Rank Holders will be awarded Founder's Scholarship with 100% Tuition and Hostel fee waiver. The Top 101 to 500 rank holders will be awarded SRM Merit Scholarship with 100% Tuition fee waiver. The university also offers an incredible range of

scholarship to the tune of Rs 40 Crores benefiting 3200+ students every year, making studying in the university affordable to all. SRMIST also offers on-the-spot loan facilitation of bank educational loans.

The next step in the Admission Process is the Rankings along with the Allocated Branch will be sent to the successful candidates registered email ID and mobile number. Based on

the seat availability, SRM will conduct online - counselling in the coming days. In view of high preference to join SRM, counselling is only planned for the top 50,000 Ranks.

The SRM Ranking is applicable for B. Tech Admission in all campuses of SRM Institute of Science and Technology located at Kattankulathur (Main Campus, Chennai Area), Vadapalani and Ramapuram in Chennai city, and

Delhi – NCR; SRM University, AP – Andhra Pradesh; SRM University, Sonapat – Haryana and SRM University, Sikkim. This year SRMIST has created a placement record with 8500+ Job Offers, 149 Super Dream Offers, 1629 Dream Offers, with a top salary of Rs 41.6 L, the highest ever by any university in India.

Around 625+ Top – notch companies, including Microsoft, Amazon, IBM, CISCO, Siemens, PayPal, Accenture, Capgemini, Hewlett Packard, TCS, Infosys, Cognizant, Wipro, ABB, L & T, Ford, TVS, Schneider, Renault Nissan, Cerner, GT Strategies, Ford, Bioclinica, and Zifo among many others, visit SRMIST every year to recruit the students in well paying jobs in their companies.

For more details, the students/parents can contact our Counsellors at +91 [044] 27455510, 47437500 or email: admissions.india@srmist.edu.in or log onto www.srmist.edu.in

Making Travel and Life Easier !

My name is Prashanth Gurunath. I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology from SRM University, Kattankulathur campus (First class with distinction) in May 2019. I am an android app developer and a budding entrepreneur and I've done an app called City Square that solves a problem which all us face in our day-to-day lives. I would like to thank my teachers in SRM as they were instrumental in teaching me the importance of solving problems for people.

300 word description about the app:

People travel a lot to attend meet up with their friends, relatives, partners or any kind of get-together just because a cluster of them are closer to the area chosen by the majority. They end up making and canceling the plan because of this reason. I personally faced this problem and either my plans used to get cancelled or I had to spend a lot of money on travelling. Being an engineer and a software developer, I wanted to solve the problems which I had using the help of Technology. So I created an app called City Square.



Prashanth Gurunath

City Square is an android app that allows users to add multiple locations (places where their friends stay for example) and then the app will find the central location with a single click.

By using this app, people can conveniently save time, fuel and money by finding the central location that's equidistant to all people and that's not it; If you travel to a new city for a visit, interview or client meeting, based on the places which you want to go-to, you can stay at a hotel that's an equidistant location.

Especially in times of lockdown and COVID, there are certain companies where employees still have to go out for client meetings. By using this app, they can minimize their travel and also the risk involved. Instead of a set of people travelling a long distance to a place, all the ones in a group can travel an equidistant distance.

The app also displays Zomato restaurants with details about restaurant ratings, restaurant address etc in these added regions making it easy for people to plan an outing. The app is currently available in Google Play Store for free and I'm working on the subsequent versions of the same.

As of July 15th, 2020 the app more than 1400 downloads.

I would like to thank my design team and fellow SRMites for their help:

1. Rohithh Prakash (IT Department, SRM Ktr – Batch of 2019)
2. Deepthi M (IT Department, SRM Ktr - Batch of 2019)
3. Yazir M (CSE, SRM Ktr - Batch of 2019)

Extensive oral cancer patient gets cured at SRMKDC

STAFF WRITER

It was a moment worth remembering for SRM Oral Cancer Centre at SRM Kattankulathur Dental College and Hospital (SRMKDC) when it successfully treated a 53 year old male patient affected with an advanced case of oral cancer. SRMKDC is one of the few dental colleges in the state operating on cancer patients at most affordable cost. According to doctors, a patient who came from Kanyakumari had approached many other hospitals only to be denied the treatment before he approached SRMKDC. One of the most recognised referral centres. So far 153 cases have been diagnosed in last three years and nearly 56 cases have been operated. The 53 year old male had a large tumour on his lower lip. The tumour was huge in size and was growing rapidly for the three months. His condition compelled him to avoid social life. The patient also stopped going out of his home. And, that was when one of his well-wisher referred him to SRMKDC. Soon after the admission the team of Surgeons

Dr Vivek N, Head, Department of Maxillofacial Surgery. Dr. Saravanan. C, Dr. Karthik R, Dr. Prashanthi, G. and ably assisted by the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology headed by Dr.K.T.Magesh. The CT Scan report revealed that the disease had spread to the neck lymph nodes.

The test results were evaluated and discussed among the team members and an appropriate treatment plan was decided. Operation was performed for eight hours and tumour was removed, even the disease in the neck was also removed. The tumour removed measured 8x4 cm. However, this surgery left a big hole on his face and his lower jaw. The patient then underwent a modified technique where his own tissues were used by rotation and advancement to achieve a functional cosmetic result. The adjacent healthy tissue was perfectly rotated to close this gap. After the surgery, the patient's face looked almost similar to the one before the onset of the disease. The patient now is comfortable and leads a normal social life.



SRM IST Provides Incredible Options To Study Abroad For Students With SAT Scores

STAFF WRITER

SRM Institute of Science and Technology— SRMIST (formerly known as SRM University), Chennai, India, as a member of the India Global Higher Education Alliance of the US based College Board, which conducts the SAT examinations, is offering attractive scholarships of up to 35% for students with SAT scores.

SRMIST offers exciting options, one should never miss, be it Transfer / Twining program to study abroad after 2 years at SRM and completing the final 2 years abroad for the degree to be awarded by the overseas university, or after completing graduation, or in opting for a top – notch job through campus placement. With over 200 MoUs with universities overseas, the options are unlimited.

“ On the job front, SRMIST offers incredible opportunities for placement. This year, the achievements have been remarkable with 8500+ job offers, 625+ companies recruiting, with a top salary of Rs. 41.6L, the highest ever by any university in India.

On the job front, SRMIST offers incredible opportunities for placement. This year, the achievements have been remarkable with 8500+ job offers, 625+ companies recruiting, with a top salary of Rs. 41.6L, the highest ever by any university in India.

SRMIST is a highly preferred university in India, QS 4 Star Rated Top No 1 Multi-Stream University, with over 50,000 students from across India, and 64 countries, 3,200 faculty, Semester Abroad Programs, Industry Internships, Student run Clubs and Labs. It offers a wide range of programs in Engineering, Medicine and Health Sciences, Management, Science and Humanities, Law and Agricultural Sciences.

If you are an NRI/PIO/OCI seeking B.Tech degree, to avail domestic fee, one can apply through Admission (www.srmist.edu.in). SRMJEEE stands cancelled due to the Pandemic. Admissions are now based on the ranking of marks obtained in 12th Standard / Equivalent through E-Counselling starting in the first week of August 2020.

Those who are NRI/PIO/OCI or Foreign category, can proceed to apply in the International Admission Category, availing amazing scholarships with fee waivers of 25% to 35% under merit and 40% for SAARC countries and Africa.

Others can apply in the Admissions India category for E- counselling and Interview based admissions for M.Tech, MBABBA, Education, Hotel Management, Allied Health Sciences (except Medicine and Dental) and Science & Humanities UG and PG, programs. For all B.Tech programs, the Admission India category is based on 12th Standard / Equivalent obtained.

Aspiring students can start the on line application processes by visiting www.srmist.edu.in

RECOGNITIONS

STAFF WRITER

We are happy to announce Dr. Abhay Sagade, who is Associate professor (Research) at Department of Physics and Nanotechnology has been awarded the prestigious “Royal Society Yusuf Hamied International Exchange Award” funded by The Yusuf and Farida Hamied Foundation United Kingdom for exhibiting strong leadership and collaboration... Congratulations for the tremendous success you’ve achieved, Faculties like you make the organization what it is today. Thank you for bringing your best to work every single day. In this program, he will be collaborating with researchers at the University of Southampton to develop fast response on-chip temperature sensors. Dr Sagade said that “In today’s high increased density of electronic components per unit area with miniaturization and high-frequency operation, can lead to localized (over) heating problems (known as ‘hot spots’), making thermal management a key factor for determining the performance and the reliability of integrated circuits. To manage the heat, reliable measurement of local temperatures and its small fluctuations down to micron & sub-micron scale is challenging. In this program, we will utilize our expertise to develop new materials, fabrication processes and measurements to achieve this goal efficiently.”

The award is supported by the Yusuf and Farida Hamied Foundation, for setting collaborations between the UK



Dr. Abhay Sagade

& International researchers including India. This scheme is intended to support stimulate only new collaborations between scientists in the UK & overseas. Research must be within the Royal Society’s remit of natural sciences, which includes but is not limited to biological research, chemistry, engineering, mathematics & physics. For this program, SRMIST & the University of Southampton will collaborate for two years (2020-2022). The award is conferred to the successful applications who should be strong in all respects of the following criteria:

- Extensive research background of the UK and overseas scientist;
- Strength of the scientists and institution in the area of the proposed research;
- Mutual benefit of the collaboration;
- Strength of the proposal;
- Potential contribution to the UK science base;
- Potential for long-term collaboration.

STAFF WRITER

We are glad to inform you that Dr. Paromita Chakraborty, Associate Professor at SRM Research Institute & Department of Civil Engineering has obtained two International consultancy projects in 2020 with a total outlay of Rs. 1.88 crores for SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur. Dr. Paromita Chakraborty proposed a novel idea to identify a chemical marker in relation to the spread of SARS-CoV-2 via wastewater. Her project titled ‘Monitoring of community wastewater for early signaling the spread of COVID-19 in Chennai City’ is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Swiss Cooperation Office India, Embassy of Switzerland, New Delhi. The total outlay of this project is Rs.

94.2 lakhs and it aims to check the spread of SARS-CoV-2 from wastewater treatment plants and riverine belt in Chennai. The co-investigators for this project are from The Energy Research Institute (TERI), New Delhi, and Mu Gamma

Consultants, Gurgaon. Her second project ‘India-Norway cooperation Project on Capacity building for Reducing Plastic and Chemical Pollution in India (INOPOL)’ with collaborators from Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA), Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET), The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Mu Gamma Consultants Pvt. Ltd. (MGC), and Toxics Link is funded by the Norwegian Embassy. It will focus on the interlinked challenges of marine litter, microplastics and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). As lead investigator from SRMIST, she could secure a fund of 1.6 million NOK (approximately 1.32 crores INR) for SRMIST alone. Dr. Chakraborty will lead the investigation of land sources, river fluxes, and ocean input of plastic and



Dr. Chakraborty

POPs interlinkages and associated pollution to curb the pollution in the state of Gujarat which is the plastic recycling hub of the country. The details of the 5 Indo-Norway projects funded by Norway to curb the plastic pollution in India were covered by the Norwegian media



SRM hospital opens ROP screening for premature babies

STAFF WRITER

SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre (SRM MCHRC) and Aravind Eye Hospital have signed a Memorandum of understanding by which the former will now be able to provide regular Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) screening of high-risk babies at its premises in Kattankulathur. This is done as part of the commitment to the National Program for Prevention and Control of Blindness (NPCB), to prevent childhood blindness due to ROP.

Aravind Eye Hospital will provide a team of experts and expertise to do the screening at SRM Medical College and Hospital and Research Centre (screening include Tele ROP). Apart from screening, experts from Aravind Eye Hospital will provide treatment advice, perform interventions in the form of laser or intravitreal injection or surgery free of cost. Speaking at the MoU signing, Dean of SRM MCH Dr. A. Sundaram said, "ROP is the important cause of childhood blindness. This can be if diagnosed early."

Dr. Prabhu Baskaran, Vitreo-retinal surgeon from Aravind Eye Hospital, said, ROP screening will be done by a trained technician while the intervention will be done by a doctor. The

screening process would take less than five minutes, while the intervention if it extensive laser it will take about 45 minutes while a smaller process will take 30 mins or so. The outcome of this process will help cure blindness in premature babies."

"This ROP process will completely be real-time. It will alert if there is a treatment required or not after the diagnose. This will prevent sick babies from being shifted for treatment," he added.

Pro Vice Chancellor (Medical) Lt. Col. Dr. A. Ravi Kumar said, "The idea is to catch the illness early and treat it. This process is a welcoming effort and this opens new avenues for treatment in the future.' The cost of screening right now is done free.

Retinopathy of Prematurity is one of the causes of permanent vision impairment among premature babies. babies born before 34 weeks of gestation or with less than 1850 grams birth weight, any baby with long term exposure to oxygen, suffers respiratory distress syndrome, recovers from septicemia, underwent multiple blood transfusion, recovered from apneic episodes, has intraventricular hemorrhage are at risk of developing ROP.

Covid-19 blues pitches SRM into more research initiatives including Siddha

STAFF WRITER

Even after six months into a global pandemic, the continuing uncertainty over the progression of Covid-19, novel coronavirus, has infused a greater degree of social purpose in SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre at Kattankulathur near here to try and contribute to taming the virus by undertaking research across medicinal systems including 'Siddha', said Dr. Lt Col A. Ravikumar, Pro Vice Chancellor, Medical and Health Sciences

In the popular message-space, 'Kabasura Kudineer', the herbal concoction as part of the indigenous 'Siddha' formulations to tackle coronavirus, may be seen as a harmless immune booster in susceptible populations. But that stage is already being surpassed, thanks to the Central and State governments also opening up the inclusion of Indian systems of medicine and medical research institutions like SRM taking up the challenge.

Going beyond a facile recommendation that 'Siddha' formulations including 'Kabasura Kudineer' is an 'add-on therapy' in treating Covid-19 patients, "We are now testing its efficacy in a proper scientific study to see whether it really works," says Dr. Melvin George, Associate Professor, Clinical Pharmacology, SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre.

The study, in collaboration with the National Institute of Siddha (NIS), aims to document, on the basis of scientific evidence, how the 'Siddha' formulations add to the effectiveness of the mainline allopathic hospital treatment to cure Covid-19 and also how they can prevent the virus from spreading.

This important study is being aided by two groups of people in all 150 and split into 75 persons in each group with their individual consent-, of which one group will get the regular medical treatment for Covid-19 plus the 'Siddha' formulations and the other group get only standard medical care, explains Dr. Satyajit Mahapatra and Dr Melvin George.

The outcomes from these two groups will be compared in testing claims whether 'Siddha'



formulations really help prevent Covid-19 cases going from 'mild' to 'severe', the lesser number of days taken for a cure and the like. "Nearly 40 per cent of this study has been completed and at the end of it we will publish the findings along with the NIS", he said.

Another area of research SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre is in thick of, is testing the efficacy of recombinant BCG vaccine in preventing Covid-19 infections among people who are in the high-risk zone, particularly among the hospital staff who are treating Covid-19 patients. This is in partnership with the Serum Institute, Pune.

The third study involves finding out whether 'Hydroxychloroquine' as a prophylactic can prevent onset of Covid-19 coronavirus infection in people who are working in hospitals. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has given guidelines for this two months back and SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre is one of the 25 hospitals across India chosen for this study also, points out Dr Melvin George. Ultimately, with so many people suffering



Dr. Lt Col A. Ravikumar,
Pro Vice Chancellor,
Medical and Health Sciences

due to Covid-19, the purpose of "widening our research horizons, given our very good infrastructure, by collaborating with various organisations is to join different initiatives and with our contributions cumulatively make an impact" in fighting the pandemic, says Dr Melvin George. "It is a large team who are working and if by collaborative research we can contribute to understanding Covid-19, for its treatment and prevention and if it can stop the pandemic and save people's lives, it will be a big thing," added Dr Melvin George, on the overall significance of these projects.

Contact details: Dr. Melvin George 9894133697

“ with so many people suffering due to Covid-19, the purpose of “widening our research horizons, given our very good infrastructure, by collaborating with various organisations is to join different initiatives and with our contributions cumulatively make an impact” in fighting the pandemic, ”