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Lifetime Achievement Award for our Chairman !

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The Rotary International - RI District 3231, The Rotary club of Maraimalai Nagar 'LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD to Shri.Ravi Pachamoothoo, Chairman, SRM Group, Pro-Chancellor, SRM Institute of Science & Technology.

SRMIST'S New VC and Registrar



Dr. Muthamizhchelvan

A Home-Grown Talent to the Top Leadership Position

STAFF WRITER

SRM Institute of Science and Technology, an internationally acclaimed and Category 1 private university headquartered in Chennai with multiple campuses across India has appointed Prof. Dr. C. Muthamizhchelvan as its 5th Vice Chancellor.

Dr. Muthamizhchelvan is a homegrown talent of SRM who has started his career as a lecturer in the department of physics and is a part of the institution over 35+ years. His experience and global exposure would set a new milestone for the university in the ever-changing education space. The Founder Chancellor on the occasion of welcoming the new Vice Chancellor, set a strong message to the internal community on his trust on fellow members and freedom to grow within and lead.

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The new age challenges require thorough understanding of global learning eco system and the strongly inherited strengths of the university to set new benchmark in the education space

Dr. Muthamizhchelvan on assuming office as Vice Chancellor shared his thoughts as a first note. SRM IST is a unique breed of multi-stream university outgrown from challenges of the century through its agility, valor and culture. It has been a land of opportunities for the academic and innovation community turning to the brighter sides for more than a lakh of students and researchers. The new age challenges require thorough understanding of global learning eco system and the strongly inherited strengths of the university to set new benchmark in the education space. I believe, our visionary leader, Founder/Chancellor has seeded this idea in me from my early days and has now handed over the mantle of Vice-Chancellor, SRM IST to me to lead this prestigious university towards making a strong impact.

As a home-grown talent of SRM my focus (I SEE) on this role will be to,

- Intensify efforts and consistently improve processes in the changing paradigm of teaching and learning
- Scale up the aspiration levels of the students and research community
- Encourage the innovative and enterprising minds to achieve their career goals
- Envision socially relevant and sustainable goals to achieve an impactful model for the goodness of mankind and every life on this planet.



Dr. S. Ponnusamy

An In – House Academic and Able Administrator

STAFF WRITER

SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), a multidisciplinary and Category 1 private university headquartered in Chennai with multiple campuses across India has appointed Prof. Dr. S. Ponnusamy as its 4th Registrar.

Dr. S. Ponnusamy is an in-house talent of SRM started his career as a lecturer in the Department of Physics and Nanotechnology. He has been part of the institution for over 30 years and has served in various capacities. Dr. S. Ponnusamy worked as SRMIST's Controller of Examination (CoE) for over 15 years. During his tenure as the CoE, he brought in several changes to the Institution as like the ERP – Enterprise Resource Planning across all faculties.

Dr. S. Ponnusamy is also a visiting Professor at Shizuoka University, Japan. Apart from being an able administrator, Dr. S. Ponnusamy has shown a keen interest in research in the field of crystal growth, Solar cell, Thermoelectrics, and Nanomaterial for bio-applications. The main theme of his research is related to the growth and characterization of bulk/ nanostructured crystalline semiconducting materials for photocatalysis, photovoltaic, thermoelectric, and bio-imaging applications.

He has to his credit over 200 research papers in various journals/proceedings and has made more than 200 presentations at national and international conferences. He has one patent, four books, and has been co-editor for eight publications.

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Dr. S. Ponnusamy is an in-house talent of SRM started his career as a lecturer in the Department of Physics and Nanotechnology. He has been part of the institution for over 30 years and has served in various capacities.

Van Mahotsav: A Toast to Trees

ANAMIKA TRIPATHI GAUTHAM PILLAI

SRM-IST recently celebrated Van Mahotsav, or Forest Festival from the 1st to the 7th of July 2021.Van Mahotsav is a weeklong annual festival that aims to spread awareness about forest conservation and environmental



protection. Keeping this thought in mind, a semi-virtual plantation drive was organized by NSS, RRC as well as by SRM College of Pharmacy.

Around 200 students with many faculty members took part in the festivities with some being physically present while others attended through online mode. As a part of this plantation drive, the faculty members planted numerous saplings and shed light on the importance of environment conservation along with its advantages. In addition to this, a seed ball distribution event was held to encourage more people to plant trees. In the end, an awareness program was conducted virtually in order to propagate an insight on the perils of deforestation and the pressing need for more forests.

With this celebration, SRMIST hoped to promote a spirit of environmental consciousness amongst its students. The participants of the event were left with increased awareness about forest conservation and the event was a huge success.



The Rotary International - RI District 3231, The Rotary club of Maraimalai Nagar 'LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD to Shri.Ravi Pachamoothoo, Chairman, SRM Group, Pro-Chancellor, SRM Institute of Science & Technology. It was presented by Mr.Babu Peram, Rotary District Governor, in the presence of Mr.P.A.Elango, President of Rotary Club, Maraimalai Nagar.

A Lifetime Achievement Award for our Chairman!

STAFF WRITER

The Rotary International-RI District 3231, The Rotary Club of Maraimalai Nagar awarded Life Time Achievement Award to Shri Ravi Pachmoothoo, Chairman of SRM Group, Pro Chancellor (Administration) SRM Institute of Science and Technology. The award was presented by Rtn. Babu Peram, Rotary District Governor (2018-2019) 3232, in the presence of Rtn P. A. Elango, President of Rotary club Maraimalai Nagar – 3231. The club has been showing its goodwill during this pandemic. It recognized and appreciated people in the field of education, hospitality and dedicated medical service amid pandemic.

The programme was conducted in the SIMS Conference Hall in Vadapalani, Chennai.

SRM signs MoU with SIRD to strenghthen rural development

STAFF WRITER

SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur under its Unnat Bharat Abhiyan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with State Institute of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, TN (SIRD & PR).

As per this undertaking, both the institutions will conduct collaborative training, seminars, workshops etc.; internship - both short and long term for students of SRMIST at SIRD≺ faculty development programmes; conduct research studies on mutual agreement; carrying out Programme Evaluation and Consultancy on mutual areas of interest, documentation of Case Studies on best practices and its dissemination; Village Adoption Programme and Out-reach Programme for model village, conducting exhibitions/meets and Melas and networking with institutions working for Rural Development & Panchayat Raj.



Director of SIRD Mr. S. Samuel Inbadurai, Centre Head, Centre for Networking, Communication and New Initiative Mr. K. P. S. Thillai Nayagam, Junior Faculty (Research) Dr. P. Sathyaraj, Junior Faculty (Networking) Mr. S. PremKumar from SIRD. From SRMIST, present were Vice Chancellor (Interim) Dr. C. Muthamizhchelvan, Registrar (Interim) Dr. C Ponnusamy, Deputy Registrar and Director (Hotel Management) Dr. D. Antony

Ashok Kumar, Associate Director (Campus life) & Nodal Officer Unnat Bharat Abhiyan/SBSI-SRMIST Dr. V.Thirumurugan and other coordinators. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Dr. C. Muthamizhchelvan said, "This collaboration will strengthen and support each other. We can use this as an opportunity to use technology to solve problems in rural areas. We make use of students to come up with the best solution."

In his opening remarks, Dr. D. Antony Ashok Kumar said, "SRMIST has been having a long standing relationship with SIRD. We will work mutually in the days to come."

Mr. S. Samuel Inbadurai said, "We have seen SRM grow into a top most Institute in the country. We are happy to have this collaboration.

This will help students to collaborate with us and do good projects." He said that the entire process of SIRD has moved from social model to economic model. "We will be happy to get technological support from SRMIST which will help in the livelihood of people from rural areas." The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. V.Thirumurugan.

The event was presided over by

Progress in Leaps with the New HIV Vaccine Trials

RUDRA PRATAP SINGH

"At some point in the 1970s, unbeknownst to the world, the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) gained a foothold and began its insidious spread, forever dividing the twentieth century into two eras – before and after AIDS" – the World Health Organization.

An ultimately powerful HIV vaccine will be an extraordinary scientific accomplishment. However, it has been hard to come by because the virus that causes AIDS is an expert shapeshifter with the capability to produce a wide range of strains worldwide, similar to Covid-19. The virus has probably existed for several years before it was officially recognised as the cause of AIDS in 1981. However, it was not until 1986 that the first vaccine trial took place in Zaire and 1988 in the USA. In 1990, the World Health Organisation (WHO) established a HIV Vaccine Committee for selection of the vaccine evaluation sites.

Up till now there have been various different approaches toward vaccine development by various organisations, countries and through various scientific methodologies. Broadly we can classify these trials into three categories. The first vaccine trial phase was from 1986-2003, through induction of neutralizing antibodies. The second trial phase was from 1995-2007, through the induction for CLT responses and the third phase was post 2007, in which a combination of different immune responses were being tested.



Up till now there have been various different approaches toward vaccine development by various organisations, countries and through various scientific methodologies

For now, neither one of these trials have yielded the desired outcome. The virus's ability to produce various strains makes vaccine development incredibly complicated when compared with other diseases. Earlier this year, the Oxford University of UK has announced phase 1 trial of a new vaccine. This is a mosaic vaccine that combines parts of different strains in one shot. Results from this trial are likely to be published by April 2022.

Mutual Funds – Sahi Hai?

RAMAY RAJ SINGH

Money is an ancient concept. Simple trading had been the norm for centuries until the stock market began. The stock market picked up steam in the 19th century and became a global phenomenon soon. One may ask what a stock is. To own a share of stock in a company means to own a piece of the pie. However, why would someone want to do so? When someone buys a share of stock, they show confidence and hence invest in a company's growth. The company uses funds received through these shares to grow its operations, and it then passes a portion of any profit made

Mutual funds are subject to market risks, but when managed right, it is worth the effort!

MUTUAL FUNDS Sahi Hai

to its shareholders as gains. Unfortunately, not all people have either time or energy or both to undergo the laborious task of managing one's stocks. Here is where mutual funds come into play. A mutual fund is a portfolio or collection of various stocks managed by an expert(s) on an investor's behalf. The expert charges a fee or takes a cut from the investor's profit for their service. This scheme helps individuals to invest

in the stock market despite a lack of knowledge. Mutual funds, hence, bring the masses into the world of trading. This increases overall investments, and thus provides a boost to the market, and by extension, to the economy. Mutual funds do come with a fair share of risks. However, if managed rightly, it can certainly help one to make profits and even outrun inflation. In conclusion, Mutual Funds Sahi Hai!

Impact of Delayed Exams

ADITYA KUMAR

The world today is extremely volatile. Numerous waves of COVID-19 have washed away the roads of expectations and hope. Various industries have been left hanging in uncertainty. One such area deeply impacted by the pandemic is the education sector, be it schools or colleges. An examination is the most crucial part of a student's life, as it is the stepping stone for a new beginning. Owing to the pandemic, the country saw a delay in board exams, JEE Mains, NEET, and other entrance exams, which has led to various problems for students. Students all over the country have been affected by the absence of a proper schedule. The regular shifting of dates has disturbed the flow of preparation and dropped the level of enthusiasm among these



Postponed exams have added to students' stress

young minds. Cancellation of boards has led to an assumed evaluation in the subjects that were not conducted in the pandemic year of 2020. For the batch of 2021, though the board exams stand cancelled, no one is sure about the final results. JEE Mains and NEET are the two main entrance examinations for government engineering and medical colleges respectively. The dates are finally out by the authorities; however, the state of mind in which a student will appear for the test is unknown. The situation is concerning. While some students have lost hope entirely, others have reached a point of complete disinterest. The delay of assessments has not only affected the students but the teachers and institutions as well, as the curriculum is getting disturbed.

This calls for a shift in regulations- the education system is at a standstill. The process of change is slow, but it is indeed better late than never.

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Encouraging Self - Development

STAFF WRITER

NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME (NSS) Six days online program on "Resilience in Crisis" from 5th July to 12th July 2021 for the students, staff and faculty members of SRMIST. The first day session was started with a formal inauguration. Dr.M. Cheralathan, Professor and Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering also addressed the gathering and highlighted the importance of topic 'resilience in crisis'. Dr. G. Balaji introduced the Heartfulness Institute and also about the guest speaker to the audience. Heartfulness Institute is a global nonprofit organization with thousands of volunteer trainers who serve more than a million meditators in over 130 countries. The six day program aimed at to encourage self-development, teach life skills such as stress management and promote the evolution of consciousness through a heart-centered and integrated lifestyle. Further, speakers spotted the example of Swami Vivekananda and his aspirations explaining three kinds of heartfulness practices essential to develop ourselves mentally and spiritually including the possibility of overall wellbeing by practicing the meditation, rejuvenation techniques. The program was organized with the support and motivation by The Vice Chancellor Dr. C. Muthamizhchelvan, the Registrar Dr. S. Ponnusamy, SRMIST and inaugural address by Dr. T. Rajasekaran, NSS Program Coordinator, SRMIST.



Participants interacting with the speaker

Locked Down: Struggling Domestic Workers of India

NATALIA RISHMA A

An estimated 67 million domestic workers around the globe, predominantly women, are struggling to make their ends meet. A lack of access to social protection systems makes them especially vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic. In a developing country like India, domestic workers are being denied access to necessities during the ongoing pandemic, and the lockdown impositions are crippling their earnings.

Most households in the urban and suburban regions of India heavily depend on domestic workers for their daily chores. According to National Sample Survey (2012), 39 lakhs people were employed as domestic workers by private households, out of whom 26 lakhs were females. With the lockdown in place, these women find it burdensome to commute to work, and hence,



The plight of Indian domestic workers during the COVID-19 pandemic

the employers seek immediate replacements. Domestic workers feel indispensable as they are thrown out of jobs. Many others receive pay cuts or no pay at all, while still being compelled to work. Eviction scares have become prominent with the second wave. With neither shelter nor salary, domestic workers will likely become reckless lawbreakers. The crime rates are bound to increase. The plunge in daily wages also has a depreciating effect on the workers and their families. The fall of India's economy is more than a steep line on a graph – it is the cries of abandoned daily wage earners, failed businesses, and sacrificed lives. Crises define the impact of society. Our profound lack of empathy and denial of the dignity of labour to women speaks volumes about our community's brutal influence on its individuals. A taunting question that keeps recurring these days is - "Have we failed as a society?".

SRM Soars High in Aerothon 2021

RITIK SHRIVASTAVA

Aerothon 2021, a national level detailed aircraft design competition organised by the prestigious Society of Automotive Engineers, India, was hosted virtually on 12 June 2021. The finals for the same were conducted and streamed on 13 June 2021. Over 500 participants from all over India, collectively forming nearly 80 teams, participated in this competition.

The competition required the participants to design an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), following a specific set of parameters. The aircraft had to adhere to the given parameters strictly and outperform the other teams' design as well. Team SRM AIR came out on top and claimed the glory and prize money of rupees one lakh; their design, the AlphaX, was recognised and awarded first prize in SAE India's Aerothon 2021 competition. SRM AIR presented the design of AlphaX - a hybrid fixed-wing UAV. The proposed UAV design aimed to deliver essential items like

medicines to remote areas and help in safety and surveillance operations.

AlphaX addresses the genuine concerns of the scant supply of basic amenities in lesser accessible regions and the lack of delivery staff due to the COVID-19 outbreak and manages to present itself as a viable solution to such issues. The representatives from SRM's Student Copter Research Organization and SRM UAV presented a solution to a global problem. The five-person team consisting of Ajay, Suhashini, Brynel, Mohsin and Nihal, with their creativity and ingenuity, have made a name for themselves and their institution on a national level, making all SRMIST proud.





"Shared Canvas: Modern Poetry and Visual Arts" : An event from SRMU, Sikkim.

STAFF WRITER

Department of English, SRM University, Sikkim successfully organized a video lecture session titled "Shared Canvas: Modern Poetry and Visual Arts". The lecture was delivered by Dr. Shweta Rao Garg; an eminent artist, writer and academician. The program commenced sharp at 03:00 P.M with a welcome note by Ms. Manisha Thakuri, Associate Dean, Social Sciences. It was followed by a song written, composed and sung by M.A students. Everyone shared Dr. Garg's passion as she straight away embarked on a visual journey of painting and poetry. Well known painters like Van Gogh, Monet were discussed along with lesser known women artists such as Hannah Hoch and Hilma af Klint.

From Impressionists to Dada to Abstract art and poetry inspired by paintings were spoken about in an hour and a half of the lecture session. The lecture concluded with a question and answer session where everyone participated enthusiastically. The session was a huge success with around 80 participants who came together virtually to celebrate 'Modern poetry and Visual Art'; from SRM University Sikkim and across India. It was an enriching experience for all the participants and specially for the students of the English Department who were actively involved since the inception of the program.



Shweta Rao Garg

Shweta Rao Garg is an artist, writer, and academic based in Ahamedabad. She is Associate Professor of English at DA-IICT, Gandhinagar. She is a former Fulbright scholar and receipent of Sahitya Akademit translation prize.

She is interested in the areas of gender studies, South Asian visual culture, food, and cultural studies. She has co-edited The English Paradigm in India: Essay in Language, Literature, and Culture published by Crossed Arrows in September 2021. Her research papers have been published in Asiatic: **IIUM Journal of English** Language and Literature, Contemporay Literary Criticism, Postcolonial Text, et.

She has had two solo exhibition of painings. The first, based on the works of Shakespeare called "The Bard in Acrylic", and the second, based on the lives of urban Indian women called, "of Goddesses and Women". The questions of identity, space, history and ordinary lives inform her works. Her standpoint as a feminst scholar shapes her subject matter and forms.



Students who got placed in government and non-government jobs pose with their awards along with the dignitaries of SRMIST.

Eight SRM students get placed under sports quota

STAFF WRITER

Department of Physical Education and Sports Science at SRM Institue of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur organised the 'Volleyball Achievers Award 2021' and honoured eight of its students for getting placed in government and private jobs. Of this, four girls have been selected to Indian Railways under the sports quota.

The chief guest for the event was SRMIST's Deputy Registrar and Director (Institute of Hotel Management) Dr. Antony Ashok Kumar. He gave away mementos to students to honour their achievements in sports and work.

The special guests for the event were SRMIST's Director (Career Centre) Mr. N. Venkata Sastry, Associate Director Campus Life & amp; Ladies Hostel Dr. E. Poovammal and Managing Director Sri Vinayaga Timbers, Tambaram Mr. T. Purushothaman.

A documentary on the Women' Volleyball Journey 2020-21 was released on the occasion. Students also performed Zumba and Bokwa workouts, which is implemented with their training sessions, at the event. Felicitating the girls, Dr. Antony Ashok Kumar said, "If we keep good health we can beat pandemic. It will also aid in creating many more achievers in sports."

Volleyball women' team coach Mr. Om Prakash elaborated on how the students are trained, how their diets are monitored, their workout sessions, and so on.

Congratulating the girls, Dr. E. Poovammal and Mr. N. Venkata Sastry encouraged many more students to take up sports and bring more laurels to the institution. Mr. T. Purushothaman who has been a patron of the sports wished the team many more laurels in the upcoming tournaments.

SRM alumni donate 100 vaporizers to workers

STAFF WRITER

The 2017 batch alumni of SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), led Neelesh Kumar Kuttala and Pavan have donated 100 vaporizers to SRMIST maintenance workers and hospital staff. This was done by the duo's initiative - Bhishma and Abhimanyu under the theme 'Humanity Starts With Charity' in bid to help the underprivileged fight COVID.

Present during the handover ceremony were SRMIST's Vice Chancellor (Interim) Dr. C.Muthamizhchelvan, Registrar (Interim) Dr. S. Ponnusamy, Deputy Registrar and Director (SRM Institute of Hotel Management) Dr. Antony Ashok Kumar, Deputy Registrar Mr. Wordsworth Manivannan, and Associate Director (Campus life) & amp; Nodal Officer UBA Dr. V. Thirumurugan. This was undertaken through the Director (Alumni Affairs) Dr. A. Rathinam. Speaking at the event, Neelesh said, "Several

of my school teachers were affected due to this pandemic. During the first wave, I reached out to them and helped them get back on their feet. Now I want to do something for my Institution and hence I came up with this idea.& quot; Dr. C. Muthamizhchelvan said, "We are proud that our alumni remember and think about their Alma mater after they leave the institution.""If we keep good health we can beat pandemic. It will also aid in creating many more achievers in sports." Volleyball women' team coach Mr. Om Prakash elaborated on how the students are trained. how their diets are monitored, their workout sessions, and so on. Congratulating the girls, Dr. E. Poovammal and Mr. N. Venkata Sastry encouraged many more students to take up sports and bring more laurels to the institution. Mr. T. Purushothaman who has been a patron of the sports wished the team many more laurels in the upcoming tournaments.



Eco-system Restoration and World Environment Day 2021

ANNIE ANJALI SHAJI

From dense green forest to breezy humid coasts, we all depend on a robust ecosystem for our very survival. An ecosystem is the interaction between living organisms like plants, animals and humans with their surroundings.

With earnest intent to support this massive 'global undertaking', the SRM Institute of Hotel Management organized an 'Eco-critical' webinar themed 'Ecosystem Restoration" on the 4th and 5th of May 2021. The Speakers of interest were serious activist such as Mr. Shekar Dattatri, Indian herpetologist and a wildlife filmmaker from Chennai, Ms Veena Nettar, Freelance Environment Educator, Dr. Supraja Dharini Founder and

Chairperson of TREE Foundation, Ms. Bano Haralu's Journalist and conversations, Mr. Srinidhi Sunder Rao Sustainability Head of the Waycool Foods & Products Pvt Ltd and a ESG professional those who have dedicated their lives to conserve nature and enlightened the participants with wisdom, genuinely taking back to our roots of Mother Nature. Meticulously hosted by Prof. Annie Anjali Shaji from the department of front office, the programs began both the days with a brief address by Dr. D. Anthony Ashok Kumar, the Director of SRM Institute of Hotel Management who is a man of many roles at SRM institute of science and technology. In his short harangue, he emphasized the involvement of SRM institutions in aiding

the conservation of nature and its resources as SRM's approaches have always been eco-friendly. He also recorded that all the five campus of SRM group have been designed and maintained as green campus especially SRM main campus at Katankulathur which maintain its own recycle based cobalt gas plant, vermicomposting project and efficient rain water harvest system that is channelled to the campus lake. The solar panels installed all over the campus conserves 10% of the total power consumed throughout the campus. Moreover SRM-IHM students are taken to the zoo, beaches and several tourist spots for clean-up programs creating awareness and sense of responsibility towards preserving natures as a sign of humane



integrity. Getting our students involved in environmental restoration activities is the top notch say rendering education that supports the student's life as well as nature. The director's small talk ended with him thanking the dignified speakers for spending their valuable time to vociferate the need of awareness of ecosystem restoration.

Activities at SRM University Delhi - NCR, SONEPAT

Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering

Webinar on "Futuristic Electronics"



Mr. Anbarasu Periasamy, Director of Engineering, Factana, Bangalore

This primary focus of this webinar was on Industrial Internet of Things. The industrial internet of things (IIoT) is the use of smart sensors and actuators to enhance manufacturing and industrial processes. Also, known as the industrial internet or Industry 4.0. HoT uses the power of smart machines and real-time analytics to take advantage of the data that "dumb machines" have produced in industrial settings for years. The driving philosophy behind IIoT is that smart machines are not only better than humans at capturing and analyzing data in real time, but they're also better at communicating important information that can be used to drive business decisions faster and

more accurately. The Industrial IoT goes beyond the simple exchange of data by connecting devices, systems and people in intelligent, real-world applications to enable environments such as automated factories, smart cities and connected healthcare.

Department of Mechanical Engineering

Science of Meditation & Offshore Technology

Industry speakers deliver lectures on advances in the understanding of Offshore Technology, Science of Meditation, Overview of FLNG (Floating Liquefied Natural Gas), Process system, Job opportunities. The talk aimed to enlighten students, researchers, faculty members and professionals working in offshore technology.





Hon'ble Dr. Justice Smt. Anita Sumanth, Judge, High Court of Madras

Faculty of Law

Webinar 'Some Legal **Issues Arising From The** Management of Hindu **Religious Institutions'**

The Faculty of Law, SRM University Delhi-NCR in association with Ranka Public Charitable Trust, organized an online lecture on the topic "Some Legal Issues Arising from the Management of Hindu Religious Institutions" on July 17th, 2021 at 4:30 P.M. The chief guest for the session was Hon'ble Dr. Justice Smt. Anita Sumanth, Judge, High Court of Madras. The Guests of Honour for the event were Hon'ble Mr. Justice V S Dave, Former Judge, Rajasthan High Court, Hon'ble Mr. Justice J K Ranka, Former Judge, Rajasthan High Court and Prof. Samuel Raj, Dean Academics, SRM University, Sonepat, Haryana. The Chief Guest talked about the historical evolution of religious institutions, focused on revitalizing temples as place of public activity and suggested that youth should participate in pragmatic and efficient governance of a temple.

GitHub Co-Pilot: A Programmer's Sidekick or Nemesis?

SHASHANK KUMAR

On June 29, 2021, every programmer's second greatest nightmare came true (the greatest nightmare is still "finding a missing semicolon") when GitHub launched the technical preview for GitHub co-pilot, their shiny new AI programmer that suggests entire blocks of code based on context.

OpenAI, the research laboratory powering GitHub co-pilot's recommendation system, was the brainchild of some of the smartest and richest minds in the world, most notably those of Elon Musk and Sam Altman. While the program was initially meant to be non-profit, the investors saw the potential of their product, the AI training program, and decided to monetize it.

GitHub gets to be at the forefront of this cutting-edge technology, thanks to a billion-dollar investment in the OpenAI program by its parent

company, Microsoft. GitHub and OpenAI used the billions of lines of open source code on StackOverflow and GitHub to train the AI. GitHub co-pilot's recommendations differ from those of StackOverflow primarily in two ways. Firstly, the user need not search for a problem and then copy-paste code because co-pilot automatically recognises the function name and suggests thousands of possible solutions. Secondly, every user gets a unique solution because the code is not being copied, instead it is being generated by the trained AI model.

Even though the program faced backlash from many professionals for using open source code to train the AI, it was welcomed by many others. It is popular opinion that the AI would not only boost productivity in developers but also improve code quality by eliminating minor human errors. Despite its future implications, the system today is far from perfect, and does not even come close to competing with a developer's problem solving ability.



Logos of OpenAI, Github, Microsoft and the Github co-pilot program.

" Even though the program faced backlash from many professionals for using open source code to train the AI, it was welcomed by many others. It is popular opinion that the AI would not only boost productivity in developers but also improve code quality by eliminating minor human errors.

THE Hard Problem of Consciousness

DIVYANSH MANSUKHANI *

Ani DiFranco sings, "...like you're trying to fight gravity on a planet that insists that love is like falling and falling is like this". Don't these phrases inflict a certain overwhelming subjective sense? We have had Shakespeare, the Apollo zeal, fights with our mums and whatnot - we must then have a colossal catalogue of subjective supremacy over a few of us, and certainly over entities such as a table. Does Consciousness, our ability to feel subjectively, make us alive? In the most general sense, ves, savs Sam Harris (we don>t consider the Moon to be alive as we don>t understand how it could be conscious, although it birthed, will die and respond to gravitational perturbations just like a human body)! What, in specific, I wish to discuss here is a problem. It isn>t as simple as merely recognizing Consciousness; it is rather a hard-to-understand and hard-to-respond problem, called the Hard Problem of Consciousness (HP): Why does a physical system such as the human body, which could have been evolving through time just like how it does now but only without Consciousness, have to be conscious at all - while other systems such as a table do not seem to inherit this feature?

Let me address the hard-to-understand notion in this paragraph. Consider Frank Jackson's thought experiment called Mary's Room; the following are the two set-ups: (a) Mary is kept in a black and white room since her birth. She is given a TV, which shows in the shades of B&W, that she uses to learn about the world outside her room. (b) Something peculiar about her is that she has an extraordinary brain - she can know everything, and so she does! For example, she knows what happens when a specific wavelength hits the retina of the eye: how the photon-electrical energy conversion occurs, how the occipital lobe responds, and also how people respond (for example, they feel happy, where that feeling is marked objectively, such

as by the level of dopamine secretions). Jackson asks, would she learn something new if she is taken out of her room into the chromatic world? Would she learn something new about the colour red if an apple is presented to her? Maybe take a pause and think! He says yes, like many other philosophers such as Thomas Nagel - who says that there is something it is like to see the colour red that isn>t the same as knowing about it. The HP is about discovering why the feeling of <something it is like to [verb]> arises. Is the question overhyped? No. Princess Elizabeth of Bohemia says that events have physical causes, and those causes have further such causes, making a trail of causal closure. Since the physical is objective (physics remarks in quants; it does not say that the RPM of a star is good), the causal closure does not leave both necessity and an entry point for subjectivity. How do we answer such a question! The rest of the article will address the hard-to-respond notion. Consider the question: why does mass exist? If you are a physicist, you might reply that it comes into existence due to symmetry breaking in the Higgs Field. I would then say that my question should be perceived as to why the Higgs field (or potential mass that hasn't yet come into existence) exists. You would reply that anything fundamental exists by virtue of the physical universe. If I then ask why the physical universe exists, you would be compelled to reply that since it's a composition, it exists by fundamental entities such as mass. If the epistemologist in you would not want to make an axiomatic synonymity between the physical universe and its entities, you would introduce a category: you would say that the physical universe is a 'framework'. Reasonable, so far! So, if we could find out what framework hosts Consciousness as its entity, we might end up doing just enough to answer the HP. Candidate hosts: one for sure is the physical universe, and the other, as philosophers are compelled to speculate,

must be non-physical or immaterial. Let us refer to the latter by the 'mind'. Does the mind face objections? Yes. One being as what Princess Elizabeth of Bohemia says, as mentioned in the second paragraph. The other: Ludwig Wittgenstein formulates as the 'Private Language Argument': he would say, how do we get to know if Mary learns something new if not for her testimony, the nature of which would be objective again? For example, if Mary learns upon seeing an apple that red feels good, she would say that to express how she feels, which would be exactly what she would have said if she hadn't seen the apple and knew everything about it anyway! Given that, and presuming that Consciousness arises from the mind, mental states such as 'something it is like to see red' or pain must be ineffable, establishing a private language between one and his mind. However, since that isn't the case - people understand what other people mean when they say "red apples" - the presumption that Consciousness arises from the mind must be false. This is how he objects. While there are many more objections, I will not discuss them for the sake of keeping the article short on point. What about the physical universe, can it not explain Consciousness? Well, the former is objective while the latter is subjective,



Taken from the Podcast: Mind with Mansukhani

so no! Daniel Dannett, however, comes up with a fix. He says that the subjective experience is illusory! He says that it is merely hard to conceive the above-said due to the computational complexity (brain processes occur in 86 billion neurons); it is just a matter of technological advancement in neuroscience that we will be able to obtain Consciousness. If you say that you are pretty much sure that the feeling is subjective, Dennett would perhaps say, sure, that is exactly what illusions are supposed to do! Just in case if you would like to investigate how objectivity converts into subjectivity (illusion or not), you could visit Roger Penrose's Orchestrated Objective Reduction (developed with Stuart Hameroff), where he says that (1) Consciousness is non-computable (unlike what Dennett says) and (2) since wavefunction collapse is non-computable as well, Consciousness might arise at inter-neuronal scale, from the Benzene molecules of Microtubules, where the quantum phenomenon is dominant. You could also visit my thesis, where I object to (1) and endorse (2) to suggest that Consciousness must be omnipresent, just like the Higgs Field (a physicalist version of Panprotopsychism).

Having all that said, I would want you to go through the second paragraph again to develop a finer understanding of the problem. If you are interested, you could also google how it differs from the easy problem, follow me in my upcoming Tedx talk, and read "Epiphenomenal Qualia" by Jackson, "The Conscious Mind" by David Chalmers (who formulated the HP), Princess Elizabeth's letters to René Descartes and any of Dennett's papers/articles. "We are the cosmos made conscious and life is the means by which the universe understands itself", Brian Cox.

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Webinar on Academic Project: Moving towards research excellence!

STAFF WRITER

The Directorate of Distance Education, SRM Institute of Science and Technology conducted a one day Webinar on "Academic Project" recently. The Webinar was conducted for the benefit of all the students enrolled with the Directorate of Distance Education at SRM IST. There were special sessions for management, journalism, commerce and yoga students to cater to their needs of preparing a research project. More than 500 students attended the event. The welcome address was given by Ms. Akanksha of MBA program. The keynote topic was importance of project in Academics. Two keynote speakers engaged this session. Dr. V. M. Ponniah, Dean, Faculty of Management and Dr. A. Duraisamy, Dean, College of Science and Humanities. Dr. Rajagopal, Director, DDE and Dr. Venugopal, Academic Coordinator, DDE were also present and shared their views on the topic. In Session 1, Dr. Senthil Kumar, Faculty of Management, gave an introduction about doing a research project. Session 2 was divided into three tracks with specific topics for Management, Commerce, Journalism and Yoga students. For the students of management, Dr. G. Venugopal, spoke on the topic "Industrial profile and Review of literature". In the same session a special talk on "Review of Literature and Research Methodology" was given by Ms. Rachel Jacob, HoD of Journalism and Mass Communication, Madras Christian College.

The students of the Yoga program had a talk on "Phenomenology and Field research" by Ms. Yoga Lakshmi, Asst. Prof. (Sr. G.), CSH, SRM IST. After lunch the 3rd session commenced with another parallel session. For the management and commerce students, Dr. K. Sankara Moorthy, Asst. Prof., FoM, SRMIST spoke on the topic "Research methodology, Data Anaysis and Findings". Dr. Vasupradha Srikrishna, Asst. Prof., Department of Communication, Madras Christian college engaged the journalism students on the topic "Data Analysis and Findings". Dr. S. Jahira Parveen, Asst. Prof., FoM, SRMIST, dealt with "Grounded theory, Ethnography" for the students of Yoga. The concluding session was on the subject "Conclusion and Project report writing" which was handled by Dr. K. Selvasundaram, HoD, CS and AF, CSH, SRM IST. The whole webinar was conducted on the Microsoft Teams platform. All the participants were given E-certificates for their active participation. The coordinator for the whole program was Mr. Daniel Rajkumar, Directorate of Distance Education, SRM IST.



SRM AP Students Create Record with StartUp OurEye.ai

STAFF WRITER

The first batch B.Tech students of SRM University AP founded OurEye.ai, an automated, end-toend video intelligence solution for enterprises to monitor surveillance camera recordings, leveraging pre-existing CCTV-IP infrastructure.

OurEye received USD 35,000 from Sanjay Mehta led 100X. VC, and currently comprises 23-member team including the three co-founders – Sourav Sanyal, Miran Junaidi and Saurabh Ghanekar, all final year Computer Science students of SRM University – AP.

Being used by 11 companies across 17 outlets, the start-up generated over USD 120,000 to fuel their mission of bringing cameras to life, said the OurEye team.

OurEye.ai is about creating a whole new world of remote auditing and monitoring with preexisting CCTV-IP infrastructure. It is a real-time video analytics platform that enables enterprises to supercharge their business with video analytics.

This transform and solves numerous operational problems across a variety of sectors such as F&B, Hospitality, Workplace Safety, and Manufacturing.

SRM University AP President Dr P Sathyanarayan said that the university has "a clear charter to advance and promote entrepreneurial and start-up ecosystem and culture to transform the state and country".

"It is gratifying to see that we were the first in the country to strike an alliance with UC Berkeley, SECT and Jacobs, for Design, Innovation and Entrepreneurship", he said.

"Our vision is that SRM AP should become the pride of Amaravathi like what UC Berkeley and Stanford are for Silicon Valley. With immense pleasure, I recognise and award Sourav, Miran and Saurabh, the Co-Founders of OurEye. ai, the start-up an award of Rs 5 lakhs", he added.

"Miran, Saurabh and Sourav, students of the maiden batch of

Being used by 11 companies across 17 outlets, the start-up generated over USD 120,000 to fuel their mission of bringing cameras to life, said the OurEye team. ,, SRM-AP, are not only setting an example to fellow students but will be quite involved with the University in establishing and creating an Entrepreneurial Ecosystem. Such successes certainly reaffirm our commitment to entrepreneurship and the idea of promoting start-ups, which are so critical to define the character and future of the university, region and the nation" expressed Prof VS Rao, Vice-Chancellor of the University.

The rich footprints of Cholas !

SHASHANK IYENGAR

Chola dynasty, alternatively spelled as cola, was one of the earliest Southern Indian kingdoms to rise, antedating the early Sangam poems and literature mentions the Chola king Kantaman, rumoured to be a contemporary of the sage Agastya. This Tamil thalassocracy of South India was one of the longest-ruling dynasties in the history of the world, established around 300 B.C.E. as one of the three crowned kings of Tamilakam.

Originated in the prosperous Kaveri River valley with Uraiyur (now Tiruchirapalli) as its oldest capital, This empire stretched from Sri Lanka in the south to the Godavari-Krishna river basin in the north and went up to the Konkan coast in Bhatkal, including the entire Malabar Coast (the Chea country), Lakshadweep and the Maldives. Being one of the most prosperous empires in Indian history- the Chola's zenith began with Vijayalaya, who started the golden age of Tamil literature producing imminent works such as Rajarajesvara Natakam, Viranukkaviyam, and Kannivana Puranam.

One of the most powerful Chola King, Rajaraja Chola, not only invaded Sri Lanka and parts of south-east Asia but also marshalled his empire's resources and built the Brihadeeswara Temple in 1010 CE. Later, under Rajaraja Chola III and his successor Rajendra Chola III the dynasty came to its decline. Furthermore, amidst intense power struggle in the Southern region, the Pandyas eventually emerged victoriously. However, The Cholas left a rich footprint influencing southern India and several Southeast Asian nations through literature and architecture, which are still vibrant and prevalent to this day.



Brihadishwara Chola temple, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, India

A Revamped OS for a Revamped Lifestyle

PRIYANKA SRINIVAS

Windows is coming out with a new release during a seemingly random time in the year. However, is it really random? "The last 18 months drove new behavior for how we create meaningful connections with people digitally," wrote Panos Panay, a chief executive at Windows. So, the release is not as untimely as it looks. They want to release a simple, WFH-compliant OS version.

Windows has recognised PC requirements in the face of a pandemic, and made a brilliant attempt to live up to the same. Before getting into the features, however, the elephant in the room is the logo-change. While the four-paned "window" stays, it is now revamped to a flat blue window from the three-dimensional, colourful one. The logo-change received mixed responses. What about the feature changes?

All the pinned icons in the taskbar are on the center for easy access. The start window contains all your recently-used files and folders across all devices. It supports multiple screen views with custom settings for different connected desktops. It is easier to connect with people with the Chat feature pinned to the taskbar. The Microsoft Store has a simpler, more elegant design too.

Set to release later in 2021, Windows aims to make tweaks and changes with new versions of Windows 11 coming out every year. Irrespective of the meek audience response at the press release, the new, designconscious changes are bound to bring many helpful changes when they are finally open to the world for private use.





The phenomenon is named after Oscar Wilde's Dorian Gray where his deeds affect his portrait on the wall.

You Look Like Your Name

ANAHITA GUPTA

Everyone judges a book by its cover, even if they are told not to. But does the way people judge others affect how they look? According to The Dorian Gray Effect, the answer is yes. Names may or may not influence a person's self-worth, confidence, grooming habits, and aesthetic choices. A person's physical appearance is what is perceived by others, which further affects the person's self-image.

Researchers from Hebrew University in Jerusalem conducted different studies to test out their hypothesis for the same.

During these studies, the participants were asked to match the name out of five options to the face, the ones they thought fit the person's facial appearance. For this example, Dan, the correct option, was chosen 38% of the time, which is greater than 1 in 4 random choices. The study showed that people turned

degree that cannot be considered pure chance or coincidence. In Mehrabian's 2001 paper, it is suggested that social attributes are interpreted from names. According to Simon Laham's 2012 paper, names that are easier to pronounce end up reflecting more favorably on appearances, perceived workplace status, and socioeconomic status. Unusual names provide no facial stereotype to go off of, leading to a subtle fear of the unknown. The face-name effect has come to such prevalence that artificial intelligence can predict names far more accurately than humans by finding commonalities in faces with the same name. In conclusion, there is strong evidence of facename prototypicality. People are subject to social structuring from the minute they are born, even by the simple choice that others make in giving them their names.

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- Contributing reports should be confined to a maximum of 250 words and must be written by students only.
- Accompanying pictures must have captions. Pictures without caption will not be published
- Request for coverage in Spectrum by its editorial team must be made well in advance with an accompanying note and the invitation to sridhark@srmist.edu.in
- Coverage of a certain event or receipt of an article does not guarantee publication.

-Editor

The Story of Hawa Mahal

TYRA MINNAL VINAY

Hawa Mahal is a beautiful pink architectural wonder that gave Jaipur its name- "The Pink City". Built in 1799 A.D by Sawai Pratap Singh and designed by Lal Chand Ustad. Even though a part of the history of this structure seems to have been lost, what remains, gives an overview of the lives of the then royals. Hawa Mahal is an archaeological wonder given the fact that it is the largest building built without a foundation and still stands to this day due to its curved shape. Its five-storey exterior is built to be akin to a Honeycomb and has 953 small windows, hence deriving its name Hawa Mahal. As folktale would have it. Hawa Mahal is said to have a deeper relation to the spirit world. During the era, the royal women weren't allowed to show their faces to the general public or even leave the royal quarters. Therefore,



A window and balcony at Hawa Mahal

to view the regular bustling life on the streets without them getting noticed, the king built them this palace.

As high conflict was prevalent with neighbouring kingdoms and foreign invaders, such as the Afghans and the Mughals. Adding to the fact that their Husbands were dying at battles, the Queens often immolated themselves to escape from foreign clutches. Owing to its history, it is said that the spirits or ghosts of the dead queens and their chambermaids can be heard in the palace from time to time. Whether or not this rumour is true or not is unsolved, but we surely know that the palace walls have withstood the testament of time to represent a piece of the story of the lives of the Queens of Rajasthan.

Reel or Real?

KRITIKA MALHOTRA

Science has been a dependable friend for the reel world, providing the genetic formula that brought dinosaurs back, the technology to invert the entropy of an object and quantum mechanics to prevent extinction of half the population. But has the reel world been good to science in return? Some of our favourite movies have their plot lines centred around incorrect biology!

For instance, Die Another Day (2002) features gene therapy as a means to alter DNA in its entirety, thereby changing one's appearance. Fact check: Gene therapy can be used to alter only a few genes to prevent or cure a disease. It certainly cannot be used to replace the entire DNA of an organism, and changing its appearance is a long shot.

Undoubtedly one of the fan favourites, Jurassic Park (1993) relies on the DNA of extinct dinosaurs for resurrecting them. However, DNA has an expiry date - its readability lasts for 1.5 million years, tops. Dinosaurs have been extinct for about 65 million years. This means that the technology used in the film





cannot be used in reality to bring back the Jurassic period.

CRISPR-Cas9, a technology that has gained rapid popularity in the scientific community for its ability to precisely alter a gene in any organism's DNA, was cast in Rampage (2018). It helped synthesise a dangerous pathogen that infected organisms causing them to become giant 'monsters'. In the real world, CRISPR couldn't affect the genomes of a high enough percentage of cells to make changes in a whole existing animal (a George-sized mistake). To make effective changes, it would have to be done at an embryonic stage.

Over the decades sci-fi movies have won our hearts, but it looks like the reel and real world are not always the same.