

# SPECTRUM

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## SRM allocates Rs 5 crore every year for R & D, says Dr Rao

*University provides a slew of research opportunities to faculty and students*

**Moen Sen and Nivedita**

SRM University is providing a slew of research opportunities to faculty and students, announced Dr D Narayana Rao, Director (Research). Revealing that the University is heavily investing in research and development, Dr Rao said, "SRM allocates Rs 5 crore every year for R&D."

Speaking to *Spectrum*, Dr Rao said the University is giving financial assistance to students who attend national and international conferences. He further said that the departments of Nanotechnology, Electronics and Communication Engineering, Bioengineering and Schools of Pharmacology and Public Health are carrying out a good amount of research.



Dr Narayana Rao

Emphasising the importance of research in the fields of Science and Technology, Dr. S V Kasmir Raja, Dean (Research), said, "Research helps the faculty stay abreast with frontline and emerging areas. It facilitates contemporary thinking and improves their teaching skills by the use of latest technology and knowledge. Research helps students innovate and think creatively."



Dr. Kasmir Raja

Elaborating on the issue of public funding for R&D, Dr Rao said that science is an engine to develop wealth and jobs. Hence,

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## STAYING AT THE TOP

*SRM Engineering placed at No 13 in an extensive survey*

**A Staff Writer**

With its consistent focus on high quality academics and an accent on providing first class facilities for students and faculty, SRM University has maintained its unique status among national institutions.

In an extensive survey, commissioned by *Zee News* and *DNA*, and carried out by *Ipsos*, the world's third-ranked research agency, SRM Engineering has been placed at **Number 13** in an evaluation of the status of engineering colleges in India.

The first seven places were taken up by the Indian Institutes of Technology, with IIT-Kanpur topping the list, followed by IIT-Delhi and IIT-Mumbai. IIT Madras was placed sixth.

According to a report in the *DNA* the survey was backed by groundwork undertaken on the basis of inputs from leading academicians, faculty members and alumni,



It is a matter of great pride and happiness that the faculty of Engineering and Technology of SRM University has emerged as one of the top engineering institutions in India, as seen from the extensive survey commissioned by *Zee News* and *Daily News Analysis (DNA)*. Given the scale, size of operations and the large number of diverse students, this is not a mean achievement. The survey has rightly taken into account the various factors that have made our institution a top ranking one.

The vision of our Chancellor, the ideas and guidance of our Vice Chancellor, the sincerity, purposefulness and coordination of the Directors, Deans and HODs, the dedication and commitment of faculty and the willing and whole hearted support of the non teaching staff have brought us this recognition. I am extremely happy and share this pleasure with all my colleagues. Let us not be satisfied to rest on our laurels but work together to scale new heights to become one of the most acclaimed institutions of India.

- Dr. P.K.A Muniswaran, Director (E&T)

SRM Engineering is consistently rated high nationally in various evaluations and it is of great pride and honour to realise that our University is batting in the same league as that of known and established institutions in the country. Here we constantly strive to reach higher levels of excellence by focusing not only on the academic component but also in having first rate research facilities that benefit students and teachers.

- Dr.C. Muthamizhchelvan, Associate Director, (E&T)

current as well as prospective students of the colleges concerned. Several factors went into the assessment of the engineering colleges such as history and reputation, admission process, course curriculum, learning environment, faculty competence, infrastructure, foreign exchange programmes, research facilities, laboratories and workshops, hostel

facilities, placements and new innovative courses.

SRM Engineering stayed high in the charts generally but scored big when it came to New Innovative Courses (Number 8); Foreign Exchange Programs (Number 11); Infrastructure (Number 12) and Faculty Competence (Number 13).



ENGG. COLLEGES	PARAMETERS										
	Overall Ranking	History & Reputation	Admission Process	Course Curriculum	Learning Environment	Faculty Competence	Infrastructure	Foreign Exp. Programs	Research Facilities	Labs / Workshops	Hostel Facilities
1. IIT, Kanpur	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2. IIT, Delhi	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3. IIT, Mumbai	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4. IIT, Kharagpur	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5. IIT, Roorkee	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6. IIT, Madras	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7. IIT, Guwahati	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
8. IIT, Varanasi	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9. IIT, Patna	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
10. IIT, Ranchi	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
11. IIT, Allahabad	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
12. Engg College of SRM, Chennai	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
14. College of engineering, Anna Univ	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
15. J. J. Somaiya Institute of Technology	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
16. J. J. Somaiya Institute of Technology	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
17. J. J. Somaiya Institute of Technology	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
18. J. J. Somaiya Institute of Technology	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
19. J. J. Somaiya Institute of Technology	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
20. IIT, Trichy	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20



**Students planting trees**  
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**Toppers in all India exams**  
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**More seats to benefit rural students**  
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**Sports selection**  
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# Evaluation of engineering education a compelling necessity: Anna Univ VC



Rank holder S. Shruthi in IEIE receiving the degree from Anna University Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. Mannar Jawahar, and SRM Group of Institutions Chairman, Dr T.R. Pachamuthu at the 6th Graduation Day of the Valliammai Engineering College held at Kattankulathur.

## A Staff Writer

Evaluation of the engineering education system in the country with global perspective has become a compelling necessity, said Anna University Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P Mannar Jawahar, recently.

Delivering the Sixth Graduation Day address of the Valliammai Engineering College, part of the SRM Group of Institutions, Dr. Jawahar observed there has been proliferation of higher education institutions in the country in general, and in engineering in particular. Though they contribute significantly to the economic growth and social advancement of the country, maintaining their quality and keeping them on par with premier institutions was a primary concern. "Scientists and engineers are expected to anticipate, predict and be prepared to solve the future problems. This in turn calls for not only an efficient, but also an effective engineering education system," he said, adding, "Hence the evaluation

of the engineering education system with global perspective becomes a compelling necessity."

The higher education system should also address the crucial issue of improving the quality of the staff as the quality of teachers determines the quality of higher education.

Dr. Jawahar said the increased awareness of needs of the students and providing clarity of educational programmes to meet the choice would usher in a new era of growth and development.

In his presidential address, SRM Institutions of Educational Institutions Chairman, Dr. T R Pachamuthu, said there has been 88 per cent placement last year in the Valliammai College and said those who could not get placements should not lose heart. "They in turn should think of becoming entrepreneurs to become job providers instead of being job seekers," he added. Seven students received Gold Medals and over 545 students were conferred degrees at the 6th Graduation Day.

## 15-day summer swimming camp held at SRM Hotel

### Vandana Krishnan

The SRM Hotel in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Maraimalainagar recently conducted a 15-day summer swimming camp. Nearly 60 school students from Maraimalainagar, Singaperumal Kovil and Guduvanchery participated in the camp.

Participants of the camp were provided with the services of two coaches, safety tubes and life jackets on concession, while the Rotary Club arranged to transport the students from Maraimalainagar.

"It is for the third consecutive year that SRM Hotel had organised the camp. We are happy to note that the number of participants is

increasing every year," said Mr G Saravana Kumar, Resident Manager of the hotel.

The 60 participants were split into two batches and the kids were happy to spend their vacation in a useful way, said Mr Saravana Kumar.

The age group of the participants range from eight to 16 years.

Dr Antony Ashok Kumar, Director of SRM Institute of Hotel Management and Senior General Manager of SRM Hotel inaugurated the camp. Others present during the inaugural function included Rotarian (Rtn) Iyyasamy, President, Rotary Club, Maraimalainagar and Rtn Balasubramaniam, Director and Club Administrator, Rotary Club, Maraimalainagar.

## Ecoyouth street play pitches for reviving tiger population

### Navneet Iyengar

They may not be forest-dwellers, but Ecoyouth sure knows how to say *Halla Bol* and campaign for the protection of tigers and environment in India. The 400 plus volunteer strong one-year-old eco-friendly youth club of SRM University raised their combined voice during a street play, *Tigrave*, to highlight the tiger tragedy in India and the need to act fast to reverse the falling numbers of the majestic beast. There are only 1410 tigers left in the county. Poachers recently skinned one.

Giving highlights of the play to *Spectrum*, Ecoyouth founders Vinod and Ram Nitesh said, "The electronic component major ASUS, a multi-national company, appreciated our work and not only sponsored the street play, but also entrusted us the task of planting tree saplings."

Vinod is a Year III Bio technology Engineering student while Ram Nitesh is pursuing his Year II in Electronics and Communication Engineering at SRM University.

The play *Tigrave* focuses on death, desperation and hope. The lone surviving tiger is shot dead. There is knee-jerk reaction from government and non governmental agencies, who discuss to find ways to revive the tiger population. The ghost of the last tiger in the play brings back memories of happier times when it had walked freely without fear and danger from poachers.

The appearance of author Ruskin Bond marks a shift in the script. He rues the loss of his beloved animal and goes in search of the animal. The play ends on a happy note when Ruskin Bond comes across a pregnant tigress, police capture the poachers with the help of Ecoyouth volunteers, and

the tiger population is seen flourishing.

At the end of the play, Raj kumar, an Ecoyouth volunteer, gave a boost to the Save Tiger campaign by declaring, "My Name is Youth, and I am a Tiger Conservationist."

Ecoyouth volunteers later discussed various ways in which SRM students can take part in conserving the environment. The not-for-profit club earlier took up programmes like beach cleaning, slogan writing and poster designing competitions, and rock concerts with a theme on environmental conservation. It also has collaborations with Indian Youth Climate Network and NGOs like SAVE, and 350ME.

Ecoyouth is keen to involve more SRM students to work on projects related to environmental conservation. To get in touch with Ecoyouth email queries to vinod@ecoyouth.in.



## Kattankulathur campus hostels do a *batti bandh*

Shruti Iyer

**E**ighty per cent of the hostels on the Kattankulathur campus of SRM University were in complete darkness for an entire hour recently.

Generally, when lights go off students groan, curse, complain and scream. But this time, it was the students themselves who were behind the power-cut. It was part of the “Earth Hour” initiative of the Enviro Club of SRM University.

The Club, launched in October 2009 in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and exnora.org, is currently in talks with the Indian Tobacco Corporation (ITC) for recycling paper.

The Club members plan to collect books from the University students and either give them away for free or recycle them.

The Club members are planning to organise various activities next semester including “Good deed a day”, creating organic gardens, waste audit and power audit.

“We want to monitor power consumption levels during events like *Aaruush* and *Milan* and devise ways to make up for the resources consumed,” said some of the members.

The members are also planning to work on banning of plastic bags within the campus and take up the lake treatment project.



*The new-look Team Conrods with Prof. Leenus Martin.*

## Fresh blood injects new vigour in Team Conrods

### SRM SAE Collegiate Club looking for sponsors

R Krishnan

**T**wenty five new faces, a modified clutch plate system and a renewed vigour inject fresh enthusiasm in the new-look Team Conrods of the SRM SAE Collegiate Club.

After taking over the reigns from his predecessor, Rahul Sinha, a final year automobile engineering student, the new student leader of the team, R V Subramanyam told *Spectrum*, “We are

getting ready to take part in the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) BAJA event to be held at Pitampur near Indore in January 2011. This time we’ll bring the trophy home.”

Subramanyam is a Year III mechanical engineering student. Prof. Leenus Jesu Martin, Head of the Department of Automobile Engineering, is the chief mentor and the guiding force behind the SRM SAE Collegiate Club.

Founded in 1905, SAE works

to impart hands-on training in automobile designing and BAJA is a much awaited annual SAE event. Teams from over 150 colleges in the country participate in it.

Each team designs and fabricates an All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) that withstands various static, dynamic and endurance tests during the event.

During the previous BAJA outing, the Conrods faced a technical glitch in the

transmission system and lost out in the final stages of the event. Soon after their return, the team solved the problem by arresting the clutch plate movement.

“Having solved the technical glitches, we are now on the look out for sponsors who can pitch in with funds for materials, spare parts, equipments and transportation,” said Subramanyam.

Those willing to help can contact Subramanyam at 91+9789013428.

## IT students plant trees to save earth

A Spectrum Reporter

**B**raving scorching heat recently, three Year III students of the Department of Information Technology planted 100 tree saplings at various locations on the Ramapuram campus of SRM University.

The three, Anish, Mitesh and Sairam, felt that the only way to save the planet was by planting trees.

“We collected contributions from our fellow-students and purchased 100 saplings from Stanley Medical College and planted them on our campus,” Mitesh explained.

He further added, “Trees can reduce pollution, bring rain, provide shade, increases the oxygen content in the atmosphere and also protect the environment from global warming.” The Director, Vice-Principal and HoD of the IT Department participated

in the tree planting exercise.

*The tree planting exercise in progress.*





## Meet on physiotherapy held

**Pradeep Kumar and U.Radhakrishnan**

**S**RM College of Physiotherapy organised a

‘Continuing Physiotherapy Education’ program on current trends of physiotherapy in women’s health, on 18 April 2010 at SRM’s Vadapalani Campus.



The in vocation ceremony was well attended by the dignitaries that included the Registrar Dr N. Sethuraman, the Controller of Examinations of

Dr M.G.R University Dr Niranjana Devi and the chief guest Dr Thamizhachi Thangapandian, a renowned Poet, Politician, Theatre Artist and Classical dancer and known for her active role in Women empowerment. The other speakers were the Dean and the associate director of SRM College of physiotherapy Dr V.P.R. Siva Kumar and Dr N. Chandra Prabha respectively.

Dr Thamizhachi Thangapandian, emphasised the importance of physiotherapy

knowledge being spread to the rural areas as well, and recollected her own experience of how physiotherapy helped her to regroup and get back to her normal life after a road accident that had left her with multiple fractures in the backbone.

The schedule of the Programme was framed for the benefit of the students. Topics related to Basic Anatomy & Physiology were presented by Dr.Vijaya Ragavan and Mr.BabuKumar; Dr.Saraswathy, a leading OBG Specialist spoke about

Role of Physiotherapist in high risk pregnancy; and Dr.A.Vanitha, Gynaec Endoscopy Specialist gave a presentation about various surgical procedures with video presentations.

Mrs.Ponmathi, Assistant Professor, SRM College of Physiotherapy gave a demonstration on diastasis recti and physiotherapy management with Ms.Arthi Priyadarshini, Chief Physiotherapist, presenting a paper on labour and its physiotherapy management.

## Engineering students urged to think big

**A Staff Writer**

**A** two-day first ever International Conference on Communication and Computing was held recently at the SRM University in Ramapuram.

ELCOT Managing Director, Dr. Santosh Babu, IAS, inaugurated the conference, being held as part of SRM Group’s Silver Jubilee Celebrations. In his address, which was laced with wit and humour, he said the students would be contributing to a paradigm shift to India’s growth.

Stating that rural areas provided vast opportunities in bandwidth and communication, he exhorted the students to think big as several of the students might become bureaucrats, scientists or politicians. He highlighted various roles played by the ELCOT in shaping school dropouts through rural BPOs, which was a resounding success in the backward Dharmapuri district.

The Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE), SRM University, Ramapuram campus in association with the New Delhi based IEEE MTT-S organised the conference. Presiding over the function, the Chancellor, Dr T R Pachamuthu, said the main aim of the conference was to provide a platform for the students to present their innovative research ideas in a competitive atmosphere pointing to the papers that were being presented in the in the fields of communication, networking and VLSI. Over 150 papers on various topics were received from different universities across the country and abroad.

Students from various Engineering colleges were exposed to latest developments and advancements in the field of Electronics and Communication, besides throwing light the field offers in respect of communications in rural areas.

Oracle Consulting Solutions Director, Dr. Bhanu Nalagonda, Dr. Kent Chamberlin, Professor from New Hampshire University, USA and Dr. Deepak Bhatnagar, Chairman, IEEE MTT-S, New Delhi were among those who spoke on the occasion.

## SRM IHM students top all India exams



Arjun mukund (right) and Naresh Kumar, the gold and silver medal winners.

**Vandana Krishnan**

**T**wo Year II B.Sc. students of the SRM Institute of Hotel Management topped in the 2008-09 national-level examinations organised under the auspices of the National Council of Hotel Management and Catering Technology (NCHMCT), Ministry of Tourism.

“While Arjun Mukund got the gold medal for securing 85% marks in the all India

examinations, Naresh Kumar was awarded the silver medal for his 78% of marks,” announced Mr G Saravana Kumar, Vice Principal of SRM Institute of Hotel Management.

The two, who are pursuing their B.Sc. programme in Hospitality and Hotel Administration at SRM University, received their medals and the certificates of merit from Mr Sultan Ahmed, the Minister of State for Tourism, recently during a function at the Institute of Hotel Management in Pusa.

“It is a privilege that our students have won both the first and the second places competing with 46 prestigious institutions affiliated to NCHMCT,” said Mr Saravana Kumar.

Thanking his class teacher, chef Nageswaran and the Head of the Department, Mr Ramesh, for their support, Arjun Mukund said, “I opted for this course because hospitality is a booming industry. On completion of the course, I plan to do MBA in Airlines and Airport Management.”

Stating that this development will boost the placement chances of the institute’s students, Mr Saravana Kumar said, “This year nearly 150 students have been placed in 25 star hotels like Taj, Oberoi, and GRT excluding international fast food chains like KFC.

This year’s NCHMCT exams are going on now and Mr Saravana Kumar expects the students will fare well this time also.

**O**ver 260 students from 22 colleges from Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh participated in a National Seminar on ‘Emerging Trends on Molecular Modelling and Drug Design’ recently held at the Kattankulathur campus of SRM University. The Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Department of

## Seminar on trends in molecular modelling held

Pharmacology, SRM College of Pharmacy organised the seminar. Experts deliberated over several topics including Target Based Drug Design, Structure based Pharmacophore Design in Computer Aided Drug Discovery, Approaches in Drug Design and Applications of Molecular

Modelling. Experts who attended the seminar included Dr. Mukesh Doble, Professor, Department of Biotechnology, IIT-Madras, Mr. Raghu, Director, Schrodinger, Hyderabad, Mr. M Ramanathan, Professor and Head, Department of Pharmacology, PSG College of Pharmacy, Coimbatore, and Dr.

V Subramanian, Scientist, CLRI, Chennai. Dr. N Sethuraman, Registrar, SRM University inaugurated the seminar. Dr. N Chandraprabha, Associate Director (Para Medicals), SRM University, Prof. K S Lakshmi, Dean, SRM College of Pharmacy, and Dr. K Ilango, Vice Principal,

SRM College of Pharmacy graced the occasion. Dr. S Ponnusamy, Controller of Examinations, SRM University presided over the valedictory function.

Members of the organising committee included Ms P Valentina, Mr. S. Arunkumar, Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Ms V Chitra, Department of Pharmacology.



## Wins first prize

V Amudavalli

**T**ina Varghese, a Year II MPharm student, won the first prize for her paper and poster presentation at the one-day National Seminar on Spectral Analysis in Pharmaceutical Research held



Tina Varghese

at Amrita School of Pharmacy, Amrita University, Kochi. Her paper was titled Analytical Method Development and Validation of Derivative spectrophotometric method for estimation of Doxophylline and Montelukast Sodium in bulk and Pharmaceutical formulation was declared as the best poster presentation. Dr. K S Lakshmi, Dean and HOD, Department of Pharmaceutical Analysis, SRM College of Pharmacy guided Tina.

## Wins 2nd prize

V Amudavalli

**G**harish, a Year I MPharm student, SRM College of Pharmacy, recently won the second prize at the National Conference on 'Recent Trends and Applications of Nanotechnology in Pharmacy and Biology' for his paper on Formulation of Sodium Alginate Nanospheres containing Amphotericin B for the treatment of systemic candidiasis. Anna University, Thiruchirapalli organised the conference. Ms S Sangeetha, Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutics, SRM College of Pharmacy, guided Harish.



G. Harish

A Staff Writer

**T**he University of Madras would sanction an additional 10 per cent seats from the coming academic year to all its affiliated colleges in rural areas for the benefit of rural students, its Vice Chancellor, Col Dr G Thiruvassagam, said recently.

Delivering the 14th Graduation Day address at the SRM Arts and Science College in Kattankulathur, he said additional 10 % seats means creation of another 200 to 250 seats in the colleges situated in rural areas.

He said this would help rural students to pursue higher education.

Lauding the efforts of SRM University, which had been catering to the rural students by setting up its campus on the city outskirts, Dr Thiruvassagam said rural students, most of who hail from agricultural background, could not afford to come to the city for higher education.

"Only if more colleges are opened in rural areas, rural students will get access to higher education," he said.

Dr. Thiruvassagam also announced that from the coming academic year, the University of Madras would have monthly placement camps to ensure that 100 per cent placement for its students studying in affiliated colleges.

He said his University would also make it mandatory that every college should have a placement cell and a placement officer to ensure that all its students in affiliated colleges were placed appropriately.

He appealed to the companies participating in campus placements to dispense with the category of minimum

# 10% more seats to benefit rural students: Dr.Thiruvassagam

Three Gold Medalists and 118 rank holders at the 14<sup>th</sup> Graduation Day at SRM Arts and Science



Gold medallist and first rank holder T. Srividhya in M. Sc (CST) receiving the degree from University of Madras Vice-Chancellor Col. Dr. G. Thiruvassagam at the 14th Graduation Day of the SRM Arts and Science College held today at Kattankulathur. Others in the picture are Chairman SRM Group of Institutions and SRM Arts and Science College Principal Dr. K. Subburam.

70 per cent marks in Tenth and Plus Two exams as it would go against the interest of rural students.

Stating that private sector playing a major role in setting up colleges and universities has come to stay, Dr Thiruvassagam said at present 68 per cent of the 26,000 colleges were managed by the private sector, which could ensure both quality and quantity. "Keeping this in mind, apex bodies like the UGC, Department of

Science and Technology and HRD Ministry have started providing a lot of support to the private sector," he said.

Dr Thiruvassagam exhorted the students not to walk on the traditional route of landing up in a secured white collar job.

"It is high time you develop entrepreneurial skills and enter into business ventures. It might seem risky to begin with, but if you work hard you are sure to emerge successful. Instead of being a job seeker you can

become a job provider," he added.

SRM University Chancellor, Dr T R Pachamuthu, appealed to the students to not land themselves in routine jobs and instead serve the society and the nation by becoming bureaucrats and IPS officers.

In all 608 students were conferred degrees of which 118 were University rank holders and three were gold medallists.



**Ethical Fest:** The Department of Biotechnology, Faculty of Science and Humanities recently organised a one-day Ethical Fest in the new University Administrative Building. Dr. R Balasubramanian, Director - FSH, inaugurated the festival, which provided a platform for students to show their creativity, talent and present their views concerning the ethical issues in Life Sciences through poster and model presentations. Some of the issues showcased included Bio-safety, Human Cloning, Stem cell, Chimeric DNA, and GM foods. Mr. Gopalakrishnan, Scientist-in-charge Department of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology and Dr. Sridhar Narayanan, Head, Department of Visual Communication were the judges and they distributed cash prizes to the winners





## IHM student wins photo contest

**Vandana Krishnan**

**S** S Keshav Krishna, a Year I student of B.Sc in Hotel Management and Catering Technology, recently bagged the first prize in a state-level inter-collegiate photo contest. Madras Photo Journalism Academy, in collaboration with Madras Photographic Society and Jaigopal Garodia Vivekananda Vidhyalaya Matric School organised the contest.

Krishna, who is a student of the SRM Institute of Hotel Management, won the prize for his photo titled *Co-operation through Co-ordination* in the colour prints category covering landscape, seascape and nature.

Nearly 25 premier institutions participated in the event. A. Perumal, an eminent nature and wild life photographer, presented a Certificate of Merit and a cash prize of Rs 3000 to Krishna.

# Agni wins after a gruelling 3-Day sports meet

**By Ritika Agarwal & Tirthankar Jana**

**T**he recent three-day Inter-House Sports Meet witnessed unprecedented participation from students. Participants from the four houses, Agni, Aakash, Trishul and Prithvi, were seen giving a tough competition to one another. Agni emerged as the winner after giving a sterling performance in all events.

On the first day of the meet, basketball and kabaddi were held in both, the girls' and the boys' categories. The winners were Trishul and Agni respectively.

The second day was reserved for throw ball and

basketball for boys. Agni and Trishul, respectively, bagged the trophies.

Frisbee and all the athletic events were reserved for the final day of the Sports Meet. The Frisbee Trophy was shared by Aakash and Agni. Among the athletic events, shot put, discus throw, 100 metres sprint and 4x100 metres were held for boys and girls.

Among the girls, the winners were Mini Poonia (Agni), Prabashini (Agni) and Manisha (Prithvi) in shot put, discus and 100 mts respectively. In the boys' category, the top position was secured by Manoj (Aakash) in discus throw as well as the shot put. Sateen from Prithvi won the 100 metre race.

→ P1

the Government of India is allocating substantial amounts to research and development. "In fact, faculty and students can get funds for their projects from Government of India funding agencies like the Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology, Department of Atomic Energy, Defence Research Development Organisation and the Ministry of Public Health."

"Students of different disciplines are encouraged to submit a brief research proposal to an expert panel comprising eminent faculty members. Last academic year, we received 24 proposals, of which 13 were funded. Funds to the extent of Rs 50,000 (approx) were allocated to each of the selected projects.

The projects are expected to conclude by May, 2010. Fresh proposals will shortly be invited for the 2010-2011 academic year," said Dr Kasmir Raja.

Stating that the University encourages faculty members to submit research proposals for Pilot Projects, Dr Rao said that the Directorate of Research has so far sanctioned Rs 80 lakhs in grants for 51 project proposals. "On completion of the projects, the faculty is encouraged to publish their findings in research journals of repute and file for patents," he explained.

Providing details of other research initiatives, Dr Rao said that the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India has been under the Fast Track Scheme encouraging scholars below 35

years to pursue research.

"This year the Department of S&T had already approved and sanctioned two projects of SRM researchers. A few more are under review. In the past three years, 15 major research projects with a total outlay of Rs 6 crore had been allotted to faculty members of SRM."

Other research initiatives include the 'Fund for Improvement in Science and Technology' (FIST). Under this, School of Bioengineering and Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering received funds, and the School of Pharmacy is developing a multi-layered floating tablet that will offer new methods of drug delivery.

In collaboration with the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), SRM University has set up a 16m meteorological tower housing 16 sensors to monitor and study air pollution. "Data is being archived for different scientific and operational applications," Dr Raja said. Continuing with its strive towards excellence, SRM University, in collaboration with ISRO is planning to establish a Centre of Excellence in Space Science and Space Technology, said Dr Rao adding that new medical research, radiation and stem cell laboratories are also being taken up.

## Robotics is an inter-disciplinary field of operation: CAIR official

**M**r. K Ramesh, Additional Director, Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR) of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO - Bangalore) recently visited SRM University's Kattankulathur campus. Deepak Pinninty of Spectrum caught up with him. Despite his busy schedule, Mr. Ramesh spoke

of the immense role of robots in today's life and at the same time stressed that 'Human life is a God created robot and the God created robot is superior than the one created by man.' Excerpts:

**Question: What is the role of robotics today?**

**Answer:** Robotics, as far as its application in today's

life is concerned, is a very wide subject. It encompasses almost every branch of engineering and thus makes it an inter-disciplinary field of operation. With the increasing developments, collaboration of different fields is the need of the hour. That is where the field of robotics makes the difference with increased accuracy and reduced time consumption.

**Q: Enlighten us on the role of Robotics in DRDO.**

**Ans:** Robotics is used in a much wider dimension in DRDO. Be it for the security systems within the DRDO premises, the traffic control operations or the conventional production purposes, robotics finds its place in every sphere of activity.

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# Cricket is my passion: Ashwin

**K Shanmugapriyan**

“Cricket is my passion,” says R D Ashwin Kumar, who is one of the key players of SRM University cricket team. A Year II student of the Department of Aerospace Engineering, Ashwin skilfully balances his studies and cricket. He started playing cricket when he was just eight years old. During the academic year 2009-2010, he played for the following teams:

Under 19, 22, 25 for Tamil Nadu State.



Ashwin

He proudly says that he is one among the 15 members selected from Universities all over India to get special training at the National Cricket Academy. He also played for the Buchi Babu Tournament and was one of the probables for the Tamil Nadu Ranji Team.

## Rare feat



S. Vinothraj, I Year / BBA student of Faculty of science and Humanities, Kattankulathur has achieved a rare feat by receiving 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan Black Belt from the President of Okinawa Karate Association of Japan. He has practicing in Okinawa Karate – Do Goju – Ryu Rhysyokai India style for the past ten years. So far India has produced only three 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan Black Belts including Vinothraj.

## Joseph selected

C. Berdinent Carmel Joseph, I year / B.Com, Faculty of Science and Humanities, SRM University, he selected a Junior Indian Basketball Camp at Luthiyana, Punjab from 15th May to June 2010 and conducting a Junior FIBA (Federation of International Basketball Association) Asian Basketball Championship held at Yeman, South Africa from 9th-22nd September 2010

He has selected to represent the Mastan Basketball Professional League for Men & Women at Mumbai from 5th to 15th May, 2010. Five players only selected from Tamilnadu for this League. He is only College Student.

Robotics is an inter-disciplinary field of operation ...

→ P6

**Q: It is the human brain involved in making a robot. So, is the robot more efficient, or the man?**

**A.** Human life or man, to be precise, is a God created robot. This God created robot is much superior than the one created by man in all circumstances. Nothing can break the natural course of play. Scientifically speaking, if we compare the computational capacities of an average human brain and a robot, the consumption time would be more for the robot.

**Q: How do you think events like Robolympix would help nurture talent?**

**Ans:** Robolympix is an excellent initiative by the Robotics Club of SRM University. It is wonderful to see young students make such robots. Yet, there is a huge room for growth and development. Students can try more on a practical and professional scale that would help the industry and the general population.

**Q: What would your message for the students be?**

**Ans:** Innovation can only be brought to the forefront by the youth. So it is you, the students, who must try to bring more creativity and innovation in whichever field you wish to proceed in.

# Sports quota selection list to be released soon

**Mohana Krishnan**

The list of selected candidates for admission (2010-2011) to various courses in SRM University under the sports quota is being finalised and will be released soon. The selection trials were held in Kattankulathur recently.

Nearly 400 players from across the country took part in the trials and exhibited their skills. Players were given free accommodation and food along with their parents. Their skills and fitness levels were tested.

Trials were conducted in the following sports Ball Badminton (Men & Women), Badminton (Men & Women), Basketball (Men & Women), Cricket (Men), Chess, Table Tennis (Men & Women), Tennis (Men), and Volleyball (Men & Women). The Director for Sports along with the Selection Committee members, including Associate Director (Faculty of Engineering & Technology), Advisor (Sports), Dean (FS&H) witnessed the selection trials.





# Once again, SRM Engineering College ranked as one of the top 15 Engineering Colleges in India by



&



World's No.3 Research Agency



ENGG. COLLEGES	Overall Ranking	History & Reputation	Admission Process	Course Curriculum	Learning Environment	Faculty Competence	Infrastructure	Foreign Exch. Programs	Research Facilities	Labs / Workshops	Hospital Facilities	Placement
IIT, Kanpur	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	4	1	3	1	2
IIT Delhi	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	1	2	4	2	1
IIT, Mumbai	3	4	4	4	3	6	3	2	3	2	3	3
IIT Kharagpur	4	3	1	3	4	5	5	3	4	1	4	4
IIT Rourkee	5	6	6	5	5	4	6	7	5	5	5	5
IIT Madras	6	5	5	6	6	9	7	6	6	6	6	6
BITs Pilani	7	8	8	8	9	10	13	8	9	11	9	7
BITs Pilani	8	7	7	7	7	7	10	13	10	8	7	8
Engineering College of SRM, Chennai	13	19	13	13	13	13	12	11	19	20	14	15
Inst. of Technology, Banaras	14	10	9	10	12	8	11	14	12	10	16	10
NIT, Warangal	11	9	13	12	10	12	11	14	12	14	8	12
MN-NIT, Allahabad	12	14	14	11	11	12	14	14	12	10	16	10
Engg College of SRM, Chennai	13	19	13	13	13	13	12	11	19	20	14	15
College of engineering, Pune	14	11	18	16	15	17	16	15	16	17	13	20
Visvesvariah Tech. Inst., Belgaum	15	15	17	17	15	19	19	20	20	19	18	19
IIIT, Hyderabad	16	16	16	14	14	20	17	18	18	15	20	18
Vellore Institute of Tech	17	17	17	16	14	16	17	19	17	17	15	18
Manipal Inst. of Tech, Manipal	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
Sushil Ambani IIT, G'nagar	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19

We thank our students, alumni and faculty who made it possible to achieve this feat.



For admission and further details, contact:  
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