

## Make India Innovative and Competitive.. Narendra Modi

A Staff Writer

Stressing that education is the critical factor in nation building as well as in fighting poverty, the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Mr. Narendra Modi maintained that some sixty five years after Independence it is unfortunate that the country has not focused on education. In spite of the fact that India had established universities 1000 years ago and had several hundred universities, none of them have global ranking, Mr. Modi said.

“Our land equates knowledge with wealth. Knowledge is wealth that nobody can steal. But it is unfortunate that we have not been able to focus on education. Education is important for nation building” the Chief Minister of the vibrant state said adding in this era, knowledge is the biggest wealth. “It cannot be stolen, nobody can snatch it”.

Mr. Modi was at SRM

University’s Kattankulathur campus for the Ninth Convocation—a grand event that saw nearly 10,300 graduates being conferred degrees in person and in absentia in the fields of Engineering and Technology, Science and Humanities and Medicine and Health Sciences. Dr. Avinash Chander, Director General of DRDO and Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister was honoured with an honorary D.Sc (Honoris Causa) for his contribution to science.

Saying that the demographic dividend of India was its biggest strength and that 65 per cent of the population is less than 35 years old, Mr.Modi spoke of the importance of youth, asking them to step up to play a role in the nation’s future. “Give our youth the strength and they will do in 60 months what we could not in 60 years”, the Gujarat Chief Minister remarked. “... we need to focus on three key things: skill development, speed and scale”, he told the



*The Chairman of the SRM Group Mr. Ravi Pachamoothoo in a conversation with the Gujarat Chief Minister with the Founder Chancellor looking on.*

gathering.

If the BJP comes to power in the next general elections, it would set up prestigious institutions such as the IITs, IIMs and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in every state, Mr. Modi said making the point that the access of youth to such prestigious institutions and education is limited and this was the country’s biggest challenge. “We need to renew our commitment to education and commit ourselves to educating every child... we should not be left behind any other country in terms of coverage or quality of education”, Mr. Modi said..

Alternating his address between English and Hindi, Mr.Modi argued that the government did indeed have a role to play in furthering education in the country and that while the private sector is keen to be a major

### Trend Setter and a Selfless Leader.. Founder Chancellor

A Staff Writer

Welcoming the Chief Minister of Gujarat to the Ninth Convocation of SRM University at its Kattankulathur campus, the Founder Chancellor, Dr. T.R.Pachamuthu, maintained that there was no force that would be in a position to prevent Mr. Narendra Modi

from becoming the next Prime Minister of India. The Founder Chancellor called Mr.Modi a trend setter in the economic development of the nation and one who has proved as a selfless leader of the country.

“From a common man to a people’s man—from

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**The Chief Minister of Gujarat, Mr. Narendra Modi, unveiled the Statue of Thirumathi Valliammai, the Mother of the Founder Chancellor.**

actor, a proper environment would have to be there. “Why are there only a few SRMs? Why can’t such institutions be established in every nook and corner of the country” he asked going on to make the point that the private sector had to be given a free hand but that institution-building has to begin with the government.

At different points in his thirty minute address, Mr. Modi praised the achievements of SRM University and complimented the Founder Chancellor for keeping the focus on the quality of education imparted at various institutions of the SRM Group. Besides the Founder Chancellor, the Chairman of the SRM Group

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# Make India.....

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of Institutions, the President of SRM University and the Vice President, SRM University attended the convocation.

Speaking of Sathya Nadella of Hyderabad becoming the CEO of Microsoft, Mr. Modi called on the youth of India to take on to entrepreneurship development. “You must dream to reach the heights of Nadella. Create companies like Microsoft, Apple and Google in India. Own them, manage them” he said. “Do whatever you can to make India innovative and competitive”. Calling on students to “think big”, the

Chief Minister quipped “When the Japanese are thinking of improving their bullet trains, we are still thinking of adding bogies to our trains”.

Prior to the start of the formal convocation procedures, Mr. Modi unveiled the statue of Smt. Valliammai, the mother of the Founder Chancellor. The statue that has its presence at the entrance of the SRM Group of Institutions at Kattankulathur reflects the role of a mother in a rural and humble settings and yet going on to make the kind of person like the Founder Chancellor—an educationist, a philanthropist and a visionary.

Mr. Modi, in fact, started his Convocation Address on a sentimental fashion by referring to the role of a Mother in a person’s life and asking young graduates to remember two things—the Mother land and the contributions it has made to their up coming. “It is this soil, air and water which makes you what you are. We are just part of the whole and the whole is India”, Mr. Modi said.

The Vice Chancellor of SRM University, Dr. M. Ponnaivaikko, presented the annual report that outlined the achievements—national and international—of the University.

## Trend Setter ...

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C.M. to P.M.—he today is a successful Chief Minister of the state of Gujarat. Tomorrow he will be the Prime Minister of our great country, India. No force from outside can stop this from happening”, the Founder Chancellor said. By his becoming the PM, the country gets a new dawn; his new approach and determination will bring water and electricity for all. Agriculture will grow and the industry will prosper. Thousands and millions of people in villages and cities will be freed from the clutches of poverty”, he added.

“There will be a new impulse and new energy to work; there will be justice and fair play, respect and tolerance for different faiths and cultures. He is a true Gandhian who is fulfilling the dreams of our Great Mahatma by making Gujarat a liquor free state”, the Founder Chancellor noted going on to make the point that India not only needs a proven statesman but one who would uphold the self respect of the country.

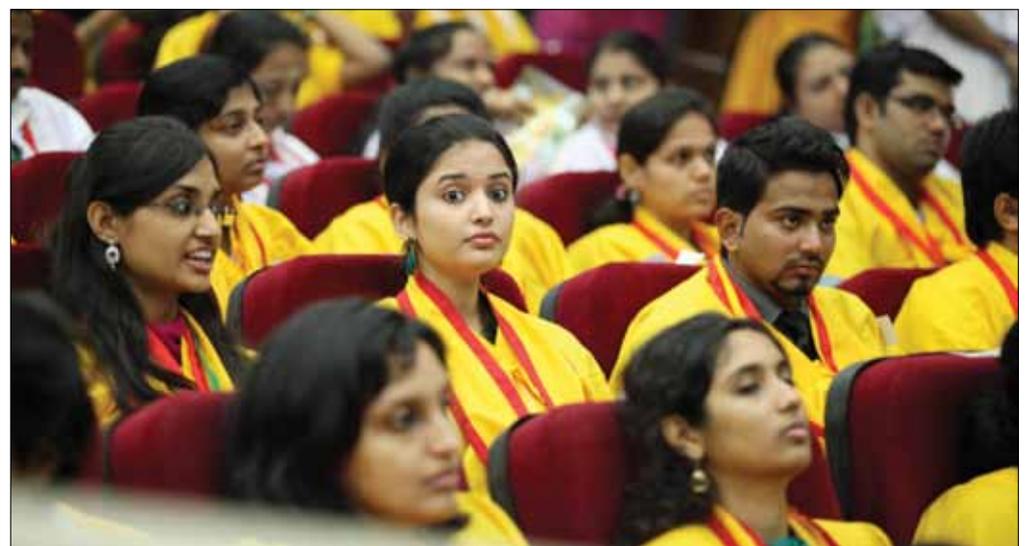
“He (Mr. Modi) has a strong concern for the self respect of the country and for every Indian as

an individual. On his assuming office as PM, we are sure our neighbouring countries, nay the whole world, will look up to India as a great country”, Dr. Pachamuthu said. “In a nation once in a while a Mahatma is born and once in a century a NAMO may be born... We rarely come across a clean person like him who is determined to make the country clean. There will be no corruption, no more loot of the country’s wealth”, he added.

Calling Mr. Modi a “role model” and a “true leader” of the country, the Founder Chancellor reminded graduates that the Chief Minister’s very presence here will instill many things like confidence, courage, boldness. Selflessness, sacrifice, service, patriotism and sincerity. “... you are the culmination of Sri Sardar Vallabhai Patel and Subas Chandra Bose; the living legend representing Swami Vivekananda, posing his spirituality and vision for India”, the Founder Chancellor said.

For a person who did not attach much importance to sentiments, the Founder Chancellor still narrated an incident that happened a few years back. “Mrs Prathibha Patel who was Governor of Rajasthan then, visited our University and was with us for half a day. And in the next few months she became the President of this country”, Dr. Pachamuthu said to applause.

Tracing the achievements of faculty and students in the course of his welcome address, the Founder Chancellor pointed out that in a span of less than ten years, SRM University has already become a national university of international repute. “At our University, we firmly believe that there are no religious, political and geographical boundaries in education and research”, he stressed.



On his assuming office as PM, we are sure our neighbouring countries, nay the whole world, will look up to India as a great country

-Chancellor

## Research Day at SRM

## Setting sights on the Sun

Staff Writer

Urging the academic community to give its valuable inputs to improve the position of India in the realm of Space research and exploration, the Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation, Padma Bhushan Dr. K. Radhakrishnan called for inter-disciplinary cooperation in the frontline areas of research as the way of engagement for the future.

Dr. K. Radhakrishnan was the Chief Guest at SRM University's Research Day, a unique event that saw over 600 students—Research Scholars pursuing their Ph.Ds and others—cutting across faculties coming up with research proposals with a group of successful ones walking away with Gold and Silver medals. The proposals by way of abstracts were brought out in a publication that was released by the Founder Chancellor of the SRM Group of Educational Institutions, Dr. T.R. Pachamuthu.

“Science and Technology has a major developmental role to play for any country” Dr. Radhakrishnan said going on to make the point that forays into space for a multitude of reasons was important to a country like India as it had nearly 18 per cent of the world population but only 2.4 per cent of the geographic area and 4 per



The Founder Chancellor presenting a memento to Padma Bhushan Dr. Radhakrishnan  
Also seen in the picture is the Director of Research, Dr. Narayana Rao.

cent of water resources. Calling Space the “Last frontier of Humankind” the Chairman of ISRO stressed that aside from exploration and colonization of space, sufficient attention would have to be paid to the security domain and space enterprise.

Dr. Radhakrishnan told a highly attentive gathering at the Kattankulathur campus that the ISRO has chalked up at least a dozen missions in the next several years, including one to probe the Sun. The “Aditya” mission to the Sun is now set for between 2017 and 2020. “The mission would be around the Earth. A few equipment are being planned for that. We

hope for the launch between 2017 and 2020,” he said. This apart, space habitat studies are also being planned for this three year period. Chandrayan II is being planned between 2014 and 2017 with the ISRO planning an indigenous lander and rover for the mission.

He also detailed the utility of ISRO satellites in tracking natural disasters making the point that three satellites were very helpful in Cyclone Phailin by sending over 400 images during the critical four days. “With their inputs, we were able to predict the velocity, intensity and the date of landfall almost accurately,” he said.

The Mars Orbiter Mission, the ambitious inter-planetary mission embarked upon by ISRO last November, has already travelled one third of a total distance of 680 million kilometers and the Indian Space Agency is gearing up for the more challenging experimental GSLV-MK III Mission that would carry a crew module to test the atmospheric phase of the flight. This mission is scheduled for between the end of May and the first week of June.

“The experimental flight of GSLV-MK III is getting ready now and it will carry a crew module. It will have the solid strap-ons and the liquid core

stage functioning and giving a velocity of nearly five km per second, whereas the upper cryogenic stage will not be igniting which is called the passive cryogenic stage”, the ISRO Chief said adding “as it comes down we will have the crew module tested for the re-entry character study”.

Calling on Research guides to further stimulate by instilling thoughts in the young minds, Dr. Radhakrishnan paid handsome compliments to the SRM student community recalling the “brilliant presentation” put together some four years ago by students who were keen on sending a satellite with cooperation from the ISRO. That project materialized in October 2011 and SRM's satellite has already completed 12,000 orbits. “The SRMSAT is doing fine”, Dr. Radhakrishnan said.

The Founder Chancellor of SRM University, Dr. T.R. Pachamuthu, maintained that research is the only area that can improve the status of a country and that it was futile to keep lamenting that no Indian University figures in the top 200 global list. “Being in the top 200 means you need to pay serious attention to research. Only more research will improve the status of a

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The Chief Guest with the Gold medal winning students.



The SCRO team (from left) Jagadeesh (3rd year E&I), Ganesh ram (team pilot), Mr.Senthil Kumar (Team mentor), Asst. Prof. Mr A.Vinoth Kumar, G.Sathappan (Team leader) (3rd Yr Aerospace), John Surya (2 Yr Aerospace), Satyanarayanan.J (My partner and Team Leader) (3rd Yr aerospace), Karthik Pasupatheeswaran (final yr Mechanical), Bala Krishnan (final yr aerospace), Sasitharan.A (3rd yr aerospace), Surya Venkatesh (2 nd yr Aerospace), Arul Shengan (Team Pilot)

# SCRO's Flight Of Success

**Radhika Venkatraman  
Khushboo Agarwal**

“If you want to achieve something, no one will give you the opportunity, you have to create it for yourself”, says Sathappan Ganesan, a third year student from Aerospace Department, who instituted SRM'S Student Copter Research Organization with Satyanarayan, 3rd year student.

Comprising of an efficient team of 14 members, SCRO has been manifesting various

air shows for the past 4 months. Their first show held at the Tamil Nadu Science Congress was resplendent with the team being interviewed by various local cable networks.

On display were several air bots such as an autonomous tested air robot named Drona GI, a tri-copter for agile and extreme maneuvers in confined areas, designed and fabricated by the team. Their second air show was held in our campus grounds during the Regional Science Congress. Three other

air shows have been held ever since.

Some of their past projects include designing highly economical planes for beginners, fabrication of A380 static model with control surfaces scaled down to a prudent 1:32 ratio.

Team SCRO is currently working on some very compelling projects, such as contriving an Aerial Surveillance Copter to survey the entire SRM University and provide aerial images. Another interesting project they're currently working on is

assembling ACMAV - Ambient conditions monitoring aerial vehicles which provides data on pressure, temperature, air speed, humidity and air quality at various altitudes.

They have received immense support from the Director and staff of Engineering and Technology, who have assisted them even in the most trying times, financially and technically.

When asked about the future projects, Sathappan Ganesan expeditiously replies that they have several projects under

scrutiny such as fabricating Airships, building octal-copters as well as high endurance copters with proximity, which can be put to commercial use. They have also started an intern program for interested first year students who are trained in designing and fabricating their own aerial vehicles.

The team's main aim is to bring together various colleges, international universities and organizations in the field of UAVS and drones for establishing global contact and innovation.

## Setting sights....

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Dr. K. Radhakrishnan

college or a university” the Founder Chancellor remarked.

“Research is not possible by compulsion. Research needs an inquisitive mind. At SRM University we encourage research, individually and collectively”, the Founder Chancellor said. With a view to excelling in

the academic and research environments he pointed out that SRM University was the only University to have a separate Department for Research. “Go to the next level”, the Founder Chancellor urged the student and research communities.

In his Welcome address, the Director of Research, Dr. D. Narayana Rao said that Research is meant to tickle the thought process and go beyond routine academics. The SRM University community had to its credit some 1600 paper publications nationally and internationally with some 900 students pursuing their Ph.Ds in various disciplines he pointed out.

Dr. Kasmir Raja, Dean of Research proposed a vote of thanks.

## Jonathan Bridge, University of Liver Pool, UK, talks on Sustainable Development in Structural Engineering

**A Staff Writer**

Dr. Jonathan Bridge, basically an environmental engineer currently with the School of Engineering in University of Liverpool, UK has come down to our University on 06.02.2014 to inculcate sense of sustainable development to the aspiring civil engineers. His brief lecture on sustainable development for all the students of Civil Engineering was very informative and enlightening.

Jonathan has quoted the greatest shortcoming of the human race is our inability to understand the exponential function. Sustainable Development is the important demand of today's era especially in under developed and developing countries. Cities

like Rio de Janeiro are in the need of sustainable development where the population density is high. Also, along with other contemporary mega cities globally even some of the prominent cities like Kolkata (Ranking Fourth in Population Density globally) were highly in need of sustainable development. Dr.T.Ch.Madhavi, Professor

and HOD/Civil Engineering welcomed the chief guest and gave a brief introduction about the Speaker. Dr. Antony Michael Raj, Vice Principal, presided over the session.

At the end of the Lecture, students were aware of the career prospective in Sustainable Development and also its importance in today's world



Dr. Jonathan Bridge being given a traditional welcome

# Milan'14: A Cultural Extravaganza!

**Anand.M  
Harsha  
Satyaki Ganguly  
Pallavi Gupta**

Milan, SRM's national level cultural festival was organized from 23rd to 26th January 2014. This year saw a first of its kind Pre-Milan promotion with an adventure camp organised on the 5th and 6th of January. Activities like paragliding, flying fox, and paintball were organised over the said weekend. The inaugural ceremony saw actor Vaibhav Reddy and his crew from the Tamil movie, 'Damal Dumil' making an appearance. The fest saw a participation of over 4,700 students, with people amassing from all over the city as well from colleges like VIT, NIT, IIT, Crescent, Loyola and Hindu University to name a few.

With over 36 events like Serpensortia, Funky Doodle, Amazing Race, Road Graffiti etc., Milan'14 allowed students to showcase their talents in every avenue. Popular events namely Fear Factor, Fashion Show and Milan Jodi made a comeback this year too.

The first day of Milan saw the campus donning a new look, with stalls set up by various reputed food joints, brimming with excited faces. The main attraction of the day was the event 'Eastern and Western Bands', in which several bands from across the country put up breath-taking performances. The event was judged by acclaimed vocalist Surojit Guha and music director Bharathwaj. 'Battle of Bands' was another highlight of the day.

The next day was nothing short of a blockbuster. Teams from various colleges competed against each other, showcasing their dramatic abilities; but it was the team from Guru Nanak College that walked away with the first prize. The folk dance competition which was a team event saw the host team (SRM) walk away with the honours. It was judged by dance masters Akshaya and Shanmugam. TVS Racing organised an exhilarating bike performance

that was a delight for all the biking enthusiasts. The evening of such an exciting day had yet to witness the bonanza that was the Pro-Show. Well-known Punjabi pop-star, Daler Mehndi made the large audience in the open-air theatre dance to his all-time catchy tunes.

Day three began with the promise of more entertainment. It saw many of the events reach their conclusion. One of the

most popular events of the fest was 'Choreonite', which turned out to be a grand success with a huge participation and an overwhelming response. Another similar event, 'Choreonite Plus', judged by actors- Raghu Ji, Mahendran and Mahath, was a competition exclusively for professionals. The day ended with the much awaited 'DJ Nite', where DJs Navz and Kav set the dance floor on fire with

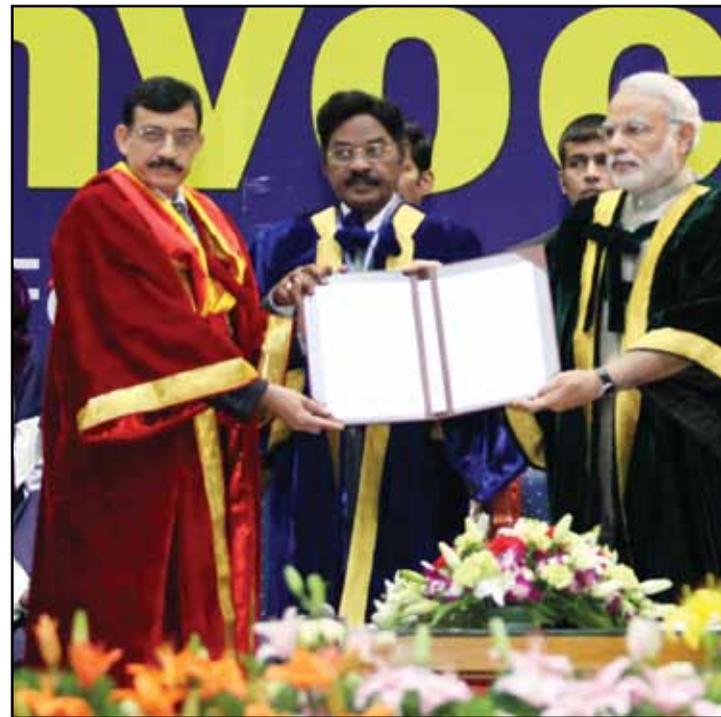
their peppy tunes.

The final day of the fest started with 'Fashion Show', sponsored by Marks and Spencer. It was marked by the elegance and panache of various modelling teams. The team from NIFT stood out from the rest, walking away with the 1st prize. The event was judged by reputed designer Rupesh Reddy along with Danish models Alexandra and Julia.

Celebrated actor, Karthik Shivakumar and an upcoming actress, Catherine Tresa were the chief guests at the valedictory function. An impromptu dance and song performances by Karthik made the audience in the arena go berserk with excitement. With this, the 4 day event concluded, leaving everyone yearning for the next cultural extravaganza.



# Memories of the 9<sup>th</sup> Convocation...



# “NaMo Bharat!”

**Anirudh Mani  
Nandita Adityan**

As the 9th convocation of SRM University Kattankulathur began, the security across the campus tightened and the entire area was cordoned off. Trying her best to break through this barrier and reaching out to Mr. Modi with her message, Prapatti Singh, a final year student from the EEE department succeeded in reciting her poem to him who greatly appreciated this gesture of hers.

Speaking to Spectrum, she said, “The fact that he managed to take out time for a regular college student and hear her out shows his level headedness. I was more than touched by the fact that he called me by my nick name which he picked up from my brother who was running around all over the place to arrange this meeting.” Prapatti was very skillfully guided by her brother, Ram R. Singh who also is a final year ITC student. “Narendra Modi was very happy that a girl of my age showed so much patriotism and passion towards the country. I am truly inspired by the way he gave up all worldly pleasures to lead the country and his journey, from being a tea seller to running for Prime Minister in the coming elections. My



poem was based on his life and how he chose to lead it.”, she added.

Prapatti’s patriotic writing is something she took from her grandfather who also helped and

inspired her to take forward this poem to the man she wrote it about. “I see my future in politics, defense or civil engineering. I do not see any other career that would suit me better.”





The members of SRM's numerous research teams along with Dr. Avinash Chander, Director-General, DRDO (center).

## We have the capability to change the way the world thinks - Avinash Chander

**Sanju Varughese Mathew**

There is a growing need in the country for fresh ideas, new thoughts, and renewed vigour. This was the underlying theme of the discussion meeting held recently regarding the various projects currently being undertaken by the University. The event was attended by dignitaries such as Dr. T. R. Pachamuthu, Chancellor and Dr. M. Ponnavaiko, Vice Chancellor among others. Numerous faculty and students were also in attendance to witness the progress of SRM's most exciting research activities.

Dr. Avinash Chander, Director-General of Defence Research

and Development Organization (DRDO) served as the Chief Guest. The man behind India's Agni series of missiles was quick to point out the emergence of research as a critical factor in ensuring the stability of a nation. While our progress as a research-oriented nation was lauded, the need for India to emerge as a leader in terms of innovation and development was also stressed upon.

"Today, strength lies in our quality of research", he stated. "With a severe resource crunch expected within 30 years, there is an urgent need to evolve to futuristic capabilities." He also emphasized on the dependency of modern warfare on research-

driven technology. "30% of the US Air force is unmanned with a target of achieving 75% efficiency by the end of the century. India must not lag behind."

SRM-SAT, SRM Search Engine (SRM-SE), SRM Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (SRM-UAV), SRM Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (SRM-AUV) and SRM Student Copter Research Organization (SCRO) presented the audience with project updates. Potential hurdles were also tackled with discussions shifting to practical and long-term solutions. The interactive session was followed by real-time demonstrations of the working of some of the projects.

## DST Inspire Science Camp 2013

**Vaishali Suresh**

The Department of Physics and Nanotechnology observed a truly spectacular end to the year 2013, as it was the proud host of one of the most prestigious initiatives of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) of the Government of India --- The 'DST Inspire Science Camp 2013'. The camp was conducted in the college auditorium from the 27th to the 31st of December, 2013. It was inaugurated by the honourable chief guest DR. S. R. Rao, Advisor of the Dept of Biotechnology, of the Govt of India; along with

Guests of Honour - Dr. R. Suresh, Director of Aerodrome Meteorological Office, and, Dr. S R Ramanan, Director of Area Cyclone Warning Centre, Regional Meteorological Centre - the Guests of Honour also released the 'Climate Calendar of India'. The Presidential Address was given by the ever-eloquent Vice Chancellor, Dr. M. Ponnavaikko.

Many big names in the field of Science from Chennai, Kalpakkam, Pondicherry and Hyderabad moved the participants of the camp with their inspirational talks. There were many events conducted

during the course of the camp - such as the 'Inspire Quiz' and 'Effervescence' which stimulated the Grey Matter of the participants. Apart from these events, the organizers set up exciting events, viz. SRM Walk, Auto Show, Cultural Program and Air Show.

The successful event came to a close on the 31st of December, following an Awards Distribution Ceremony. The Director of E&T, Dr. C. Muthamizhchelvan gave his concluding remarks and finally the Vote Of Thanks was proposed by the head of Department of Physics and Nanotechnology

## ISA Meet '14 at SRM University

**Gaurav Sarma**

The national level ISA meet held at SRM University, on 19th and 20th February, proved to be a great success with multiple events and guest lectures conducted throughout the day. Founded in 1948, ISA, which stands for Instrument Society of America, has more than 50,000 members worldwide and has set the standards to be followed by the Instrumentation Society.

The first chief guest to address the students was Mr. Claudios Fernando, Director (Coory Automotives India Private Limited), followed by Mr Ranganath Muttu, President (ISA South India Section) and Mr. Dominic Savio, General Manager (Valeo Private India Limited). After receiving direct key points and suggestions from top level executives of the automation industry, the students were enlightened and encouraged to pursue their passion and contribute to their respective fields.

The highlight of the event were the lectures by the youngest CEOs in India, Mr Sanjay Kumaran and Mr Shravan Kumaran, of ages 12 and 14 respectively. They built 150 test apps before publishing their first app, which was on the iOS market. Currently, they run their own company called "Go Dimensions" and have various best selling apps on the app market like Catch me cop, Player planet, etc.

Various appealing and innovative events like Circuit Debuggers, Conquest, Paper Presentation, Control LABVIEW, Electro Warriors were organised and witnessed healthy participation by the students.

"I would like to thank our HOD (ICE), Dr. A Vimlia Juliet, Mrs. Balkiya Laxmi, Assistant Professor (ICE) and Mr. Upendra Singh, President (ISA Students Meet 2014), without whom the event wouldn't be such a grand success", said Abhilash Mallick, member of the organizing team.

## It's not just Algebra and Trigonometry!

**Harsha Sitashree Sen**

The Ramanujan Math Club had organized the Engineering Math Fest on 4th February 2014. It turned out to be a huge success. Mr. R. Balakrishnan, director of Institute of Mathematics and Science was the chief guest for the event. "Mathematics is both, an art and a science," he said.

The fest comprised of 5 levels - Puzzles, DumbC, Quiz, Crossword, and NFS. In the

first round, puzzles were to be arranged in the correct order. DumbC was a level where one had to act a mathematical term. Quiz was an amalgamation of mind twisting questions. Crossword was a tricky level where one had to get the correct word in the given space. NFS (Need for Speed) posed a platform to demonstrate one's alacrity while doing math. The prize money was ₹ 25,000 which was bagged by the students of Sathyabama University.

## From the Desk of The Chairman, SRM Group

The Chairman of the SRM Group of Educational Institutions, Mr. Ravi Pachamoothoo, has asked the SRM Community to send in their complaints, concerns and suggestions to him at [srmchairman@gmail.com](mailto:srmchairman@gmail.com) or through sms to 99400 88414 (text messages only)

# Digging a Deep borehole for information on origins of monsoon : Nayak

A Staff Writer

Ministry of Earth Sciences Secretary, Dr Shailesh Nayak said a deep borehole up to a distance of 3 kms would be drilled in the Laxmi Basin, Arabian Sea in 2015 to get information about the origin of the monsoon.

“Under the Indian Ocean Deep Drilling Program, we will be drilling a deep borehole up to 3 km in the Laxmi Basin, Arabian Sea in 2015. This borehole is expected to provide information about the origin of the monsoon as well as its variability in the past”, he said, while inaugurating the four-day International Tropical Meteorology Symposium on Monsoons-Observations, Prediction and Simulation (MOPS) organised by the SRM University at its campus in suburban Kattankulathur

Observing that the Indian summer monsoon (ISM) was the largest continental rainfall anywhere in the world, he said the variability of ISM

was closely linked with the energy and material transfer between different components of the Earth systems like atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and geosphere. “It is affected by the global environment and in turn, affects global climate. Hence, there is a need to build effective global partnership to address this challenge”, he said.

Noting that ISM was critical to agriculture, water resources and economy of the country, he said the extreme variations in ISM lead to floods or droughts. In this context, understanding the variability of monsoon and prediction at different space and time scales was vital to well-being of the population of India.

Stating that the origin of ISM was linked to the rise of the Himalayas, Dr Nayak said the rate of uplift and erosional activities have shown variations in rainfall in a multiple-millennial scale.

“The variability of rainfall during the last 25,000 years has been recorded in sediment



SRM University Research Director Dr. D. Narayana Rao explaining the various projects including the unmanned helicopter vehicle done by the SRM University students to chief guest Ministry of Earth Sciences Secretary Dr Shailesh Nayak.

cores. The drastic reduction in monsoon rainfall was probably the cause of decline of the Indus Valley Civilization during the late Holocene”, he pointed out. The study of past variations in rainfall was important for improved paleoclimate modelling and predicting ISM variations in future.

He said “we have made significant progress in improving

the five-day forecast, the accuracy of which has been around 70-75 per cent. In Delhi, and 120 cities there is significant improvement in forecasting weather parameters up to 12 hours.

“There was lot of media attention about Uttarakhand floods. The specific forecast for Kedarnath, Badrinath, Joshimath, Gangotri and Jamanotri was

provided to all concerned before three days”, he pointed out.

The cyclone track, landfall, intensity, associated rainfall and storm surge prediction has been improved considerably. The Phailin Cyclone forecast and response was exemplary, at the same time, the other cyclones Mahasen, Helen, Lehar, Madi were predicted extremely well.

## Dealing with Corrosion and its Control

A Staff Writer

The Department of chemistry, SRM University organized a “Short Term Training Course on Corrosion and its Control” (STCC-2014) recently in association with NIGIS South Zone.

The inaugural function was held on 30.1.2014 at Dr. T P Ganesan Auditorium, SRM University, Kattankulathur. Dr.P.Kamaraj, Convener - STCC 2014 welcomed the gathering. Dr. R. Balasubramanian, Director, Faculty of Science & Humanities presided over the function and released the CD of Course Material. The Chief Guest Dr. M. Atmanand, Director, NIOT, Govt. of India inaugurated the program.

The effects of corrosion in our daily lives are both direct and indirect. Hence forth there is a need to carry out a systematic study of corrosion mechanism and its control measures. This course was aimed at inculcating the knowledge

about the recognition of corrosion control technologies. This short term training course provided a forum for revealing various corrosion control methods through the lectures by eminent scientists.

The program of action included nine technical sessions covering the thrust areas by the lectures delivered by the experts in corrosion. The topics and the field of the speakers of this training course were:

Relevance of Corrosion: An Overview - Dr. U. Kamachi Mudali, IGCAR, Kalpakkam, Corrosion - Principles and Types - Prof. S. K. Seshadri, IIT Madras, Chennai; Microbiologically Influenced Corrosion - Dr. T. S. Rao, BARCF, Kalpakkam, Corrosion in Concrete Structures - Dr. Radhakrishna G. Pillai, IIT Madras; Corrosion Testing & Monitoring - Dr. S. Rangarajan, BARCF, Kalpakkam; Biomaterials Corrosion - Dr. N. Rajendran, Anna University, Chennai, Corrosion in Marine Applications -Dr. Venkatesan,

NIOT, Chennai, Corrosion of Pipelines in Oil and Refinery Industries - Dr. N. Palaniswami, CECRI, Karaikudi; Corrosion related Failures & Case study in Automobile Industry -Dr. T. Sundararajan, Wheels India, Chennai.

There were about 60 delegates from various Educational institutions and industries. There was a special session for research scholars where

their findings were displayed as posters on both the days. Based on interaction of the experts with the research scholars, two best papers were awarded cash prize.

This program explored some of the fundamental reactions involved in corrosion and strategies to minimize the corrosion process associated with large engineering structures (oil & gas industry, automobile

industry, marines, concrete structure, etc) and materials used to fabricate the medical implants. The valedictory function was held on 31.1.2014. Dr.T.Subba rao distributed the prizes for the best papers. Dr.N.Rajendran, Anna University, Dr.Palanisamy, CECRI, Karaikudi, Dr.Rangarajan, IGCAR and Dr.P.Kamaraj distributed the certificates to the participants.



(L to R): Dr.Narayana Rao (Director-Research), Dr.P.Kamaraj (Convener - STCC2014), Dr.M.Atmanand (Director, NIOT), Dr. R. Balasubramanian (Director, FS&H), Dr.U.Kamachi Mudali, President of NIGIS-South Zone, Dr. Sheshadri, Former Dean, IIT Madras, and Dr.T.Subba Rao, IGCAR, Kalpakkam

# Report on SRMU-KGCL Techno-meet on Geopolymers

**A Staff Writer**

The Techno-meet on Geopolymers was arranged at SRM University with the main objective of creating awareness amongst engineers and architects on the potential utility of geopolymer materials for construction of sustainable infrastructure. The meet attracted more than 150 participants which included practicing engineers, scientists, architects, teachers, technical/scientific staff, research scholars and under and post-graduates students from different colleges, universities, and national laboratories, in and around the City of Chennai.

Prof. R Jeyalakshmi, Head, Dept of Chemistry, in her welcome address, emphasised the need for close collaboration between various fields of knowledge/expertise such as chemistry, civil, chemical engineering and geology for developing cost-effective, practically usable composites for various applications.

Dr. T.P.Ganesan, former Dean, IIT Madras and Pro-Vice Chancellor (P&D),



SRM University, delivered the inaugural address. He brought out the need for alternate binder to Portland cement in order to reduce the environmental impact of usage of Portland Cement in constructions, since, Portland cement production inherently involves the emission of global warming gas in the form of carbon dioxide, besides requiring high energy. He called upon KGCL and CACR to develop precast products using eco-friendly geopolymer concretes using

special facilities at SRMU. The challenge is to put to use the potential of geopolymers to construct sustainable and energy efficient structures.

Shri. M.S. Jain, Chairman, KGCL informed the audience about various products such as silicates and silica produced in their world class facilities spread over India and abroad. He was happy to note that these chemicals would result in green houses through geopolymerisation of alumino-silicate source

materials such as fly ash and could become affordable for the common man.

Shri. Ramakrishnan, Chief Engineer, Tamilnadu Housing Board, while describing the constructions in the government sector, requested research/academic community to produce stronger and durable concretes using industrial wastes, satisfying the present Codal provisions. He discussed the necessity for faster construction in the field.

Shri Ajith Kumar Chordia, Vice Chairman, Indian Green Building Council, Chennai Chapter, dealt on interesting approaches to the green building certifications and green building ratings, with examples drawn from his own experiences. He felt that geopolymers would definitely make the building, cost effective due to their superior ecological properties, inspite of the possible higher initial cost of some of the Geopolymeric formulation.

Shri N. P. Rajamane Ph. D, (Ex-XSIR-SERC Scientist), Head, CACR, SRMU, discussed ecological advantages of geopolymer concretes quantitatively measured in terms of Embodied Energy and Embodied Carbon dioxide Emissions.

The Chief guest of the Techno-meet, Dr.B.VRangan, Emeritus Professor, Curtin University, Australia, presented an extensive test data on various aspects of fly ash based geopolymer concretes with few examples of actual practical applications in Australia. He also urged young researchers to venture into this field for its versatility and immediate applicability.

Finally, the Techno-meet ended with the vote of thanks by Dr. P. Sivaprasad, Advisor (R&D), KGCL.

## Walk With A Scholar Programme

**Staff Reporter**

The students and faculty members of Government Arts College, Munnar visited SRM University for "Walk With A Scholar Programme" recently. Walk With A Scholar (WWS) Programme is a novel initiative of the Department of Collegiate Education, Government of

Kerala. The scheme proposes to arrange specialized mentoring programs for students in Under Graduate Programs in Arts, Science and Commerce and to provide guidance for their future.

Fifty students along with four faculty mentors accompanied by Dr.Nagaraj, co-ordinator of the programme at Munnar

Arts College came to SRM University, Kattankulathur to get necessary orientation, guidance and motivation to the students. The Director, Faculty of Science & Humanities interacted with the visiting students and persist the importance of communicative skills for the students with rural background. Dr.V.Dhanalakshmi, Head of the Department, Tamil

...Fifty students along with four faculty mentors from Munnar Arts College came to SRM to get necessary orientation, guidance and motivation...

co-ordinated the program and gave a short presentation on Tamil Computing to the students of the Department of Tamil, Government Arts College, Munnar. The Students from Mathematics and Commerce discipline visited and had an interaction section with the

respective faculties of FSH, SRM University, Kattankulathur. Ms.Sathyapriya, Placement officer of FSH, SRM University outlined the role and function of Placement Cell. The visiting students had a tour of SRM Campus and its facilities.



# No Games, Just Sports

**Adrian Pereira  
Shruti Ganesh**

“You can be sportive in education, but you cannot be educated without sports.” said Karan Mehta, Team Manager of School of Bio-Engineering. Thinking along similar lines, SRM University organized the first Inter-School Sports Tournament 2014 wherein various schools of study participated with much gusto.

The event was initiated by Dr. C. Muthamizhchelvan, Director, E& T, to promote better interaction among students and to bridge the gap between departments. “It was the Director’s idea to have an inter school sports tournament in addition to the inter college events and his support has been crucial”, said Mr. E.P. Siva, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics and the Overall Co-ordinator of the event.

In Basketball, School of Mechanical Engineering secured first while in the women’s category, School of Bio-Engineering won the first place. The School of Bio-Engineering bagged the first place in Football. Volleyball finals were played on 17th of February, 2014 in the main campus which witnessed the School of Computer Science Engineering clinching the title.

The much awaited cricket matches were held on 15th

and 16th of February, 2014 at the dental grounds wherein the School of Mechanical Engineering emerged victorious. In Chess, the School of Mechanical Engineering won the first place in the men’s category while in the women’s category, the School of Civil Engineering won first place. Table tennis saw the victory of the School of Mechanical Engineering. In the women’s category, School of Civil Engineering grabbed the top spot.

In Badminton, under Men’s category, the School of Mechanical Engineering walked away with the gold and in the women’s category, the School of Electronics and Communication Engineering came first. Throwball for women ended with the School of Civil Engineering winning first place.

Ms. Vinupriya, Overall Coordinator and Assistant Professor, Department of Bio-Medical Engineering, sharing her thoughts on what improvements can be made said, “We must make sports hour compulsory for students across all departments, atleast for 1 or 2 hours in a week.”

Mr. Santhosh, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology, mentioned the necessity to conduct the event during college hours or on a holiday to attract more viewers and increase the enthusiasm among the players.



Winning team with Chancellor and Director Sports

## Hat-trick for SRM University in Volleyball

**Mohanakrishnan**

SRM University completed a hat-trick of triumphs when it won the all-India inter-university volleyball championship conducted by Shivaji University, Kolhapur, on Sunday prevailing over Calicut 25-22, 25-11, 25-13.

Entering the fray as the defending champion after winning the South zone title at Tirupati, SRM beat Barkatullah University, Bhopal (25-13, 25-12, 25-10), Shivaji University (25-18, 25-15, 25-11), Punjabi (25-21, 25-16, 25-20), and

Sanskrit University, Darbanga (27-5, 25-11, 25-15) in the league stage.

Then it beat Osmania (25-13, 25-16, 25-13) in the quarter final and defeated Bharathiyar, Kovai (25-19, 27-25, 25-13) in the semi-final.

## SRM retains Trophy

SRM University completed a Defending Champion of triumphs when it won the all-India inter-university Ball Badminton Womens championship conducted by DRAVIDAN UNIVERSITY, KUPPAM, AP, .

Entering the fray as the defending champion SRM beat Calicut University in Quater Finals, (29/9, 29/6), Madras University (29/3, 29/4), Anna University, (29/21, 29/10) and Mangalore University 17/29, 29/24, 29/23 in the league stage.



Ballbadminton team with Chancellor and Director Sports



Inter-School Sports Tournament 2014

## Glories victory

Recently SRM University is organised. Tamil Nadu state Inter Deemed University, Volleyball Men & Women, and Tennis Men & Women Tournament 2013-2014 under the auspices of Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT). Dr. M. Ponnaivaikko, Vice-chancellor inaugurated the tournament. About 25 Universities took part in the above tournament. SRM won the championships in Volleyball (men & Women) and Tennis (Men & Women) with the cash award ₹ 1,12,000/- The Winners were felicitated by Dr. Ponnusamy, COE, SRM University



Winners Felicitated by C.O.E and Director Sports

## Next, Aliens v/s Potheri Autorickshaws?

Anirudh Mani  
NanditaAdityan

The above is the representation of a null string in some programming languages. I was hoping to start this article with a common phrase which one might use to call an auto-rickshaw for hire on the road, but I could not recollect any, hence the null reference. After a little thought and reasoning I knew why. There are simply too many autos for hire in and around Potheri, that even standing up and looking like a passenger-to-be is enough to attract one. Sometimes, this might extend to a wave of hand.

Let's face it, the auto-rickshaws do form apart of the backbone of the whole transportation medium of this place, if not the whole of it. Over the years, their numbers have steadily increased but yes, it does look like a clear case of 'supply as per demand'. For example, in the morning, people living all around the college campus take an auto rickshaw to get to College in time. One of the busiest paths for this mode of transport is from the Main Campus to the Annexure Campus and vice versa. People take auto rickshaws to the Potheri Railway Station to catch that train leaving in a few minutes. In the evening, when one is coming back from the city, a lot of tired people take an auto rickshaw back to their respective hostels.

### So, what is the actual auto rickshaw scene here?

The auto rickshaw drivers also understand the importance of this and don't leave a chance to test their vehicles to its maximum speed in the narrow crowded roads of Potheri, revving up their over ambitious little engines to full capacity. The whole atmosphere here is one of a very big family, you

can probably imagine the Shire (Hi5! Treat yourself to an ice cream today if you are a Lord of the Rings Fan!). Once in a day an auto rickshaw driver will make it a point to brush past atleast five odd pedestrians on the narrow roads at high speeds. But then I think the auto rickshaw drivers take it all in good fun, as if they really were in the Shire, as if everyone was fine with it. They might charge you a lot, sometimes your whole cash pocket, but it is a thrilling ride, if that's worth the cash for you! Oh, and the auto rickshaw drivers don't really believe in the government of the State, complex political views and resentment of. Anyway, no meters.

### Conclusion?

There wasn't an argument to start with if you notice but here's an interesting thought. Auto rickshaws are fast, and they are furious, and daring, and yellow, and a million other things all at the same time. It's more than entertaining to see this little things challenge the machines multiple times their size and power. Yes, the Free Shuttle Service Buses. It's no secret that these two modes of commute run the place i.e., Potheri, so there is bound to be rivalry between them, I suspect. It's adorable to see these auto rickshaws challenging the might of the Buses by over taking them at corners and at close angles. One of the most common sights these days is a traffic jam in the morning caused due to the auto-rickshaw unwilling to pull back. Now, there is some nerve!

Well, there are pros and cons to everything but the auto-rickshaws are one of the most interesting objects to watch and observe, after the dogs of Potheri ofcourse.

# Oh! The Nineties!

Harish Kumar

Ok, read this only if you were born in the early nineties. Else you wouldn't even get the gist of the journey you are about to embark on. How were our days when there were no I-phones or tablets? My very first memory of having a fun gadget on my hand was a cheesy pocket video game (Brick games, they were called?) . Thinking about it now, we had a killer time then! Later came the video games with a console, controllers and cartridges. There were Mario, Duck hunt, Contra and a lot more. The period when it would take forever for the Windows 98 to boot and for the dial up modem to get connected, when cell phones came in and the Nokia 1100 definitely had a Space Impact on us? The memories.

Now let us go through what we saw on these boxy televisions we had. Awesome cartoons! I mean cartoons which one still doesn't tire of, right from Mickey Mouse & Friends to Pokémon. One would have vivid memories of the cool cartoon characters on Cartoon Network like the



Swat Kats, Scooby Doo, Dexter and of course Tom & Jerry. We also had our own shows, didn't we? How can we forget our own superhero Shakthiman! Comics were another mode of killing boredom back then. Right from Amar Chitra Katha to Tinkle, a lot of them provided us with loads of fun. Alright, apart from this, didn't we also "go out" and play something? How many of you remember breaking a window pane while playing 'gully' cricket and speeding away in fear?

Music was a lot different back then. Don't we still listen to the old classics? A.R. Rahman

would cast a spell on us with his songs. Music also dominated us from overseas. Metal and Pop were at their peak and Trance was picking up. While Nirvana transcended our state of mind, Michael Jackson gave us a reason to move the body. And we all had our Backstreet Boys, Boyzone phases!

If you just felt a wave of nostalgia, then you probably miss the 90's a lot. So don't forget what you were once. Anyways, life has to go on. Let us lead a life with reference to our past, act in the present and achieve in the future. Hail the 90's!

## Everywhere And Not A Joke To Laugh?

Aditya Dabral

Two security personnel over walkie-talkie

A: You need to clear the parking area ASAP!!

B: Roger That ...

A: No, I want you to Nadal It because I am a NADAL fan.

Wait a second!! What was that? Was it even a joke? Should I laugh, Oh my god I don't even how to react on it. This is what probably your reaction to the above lines should be if someone told this to you as a joke. But guys believe me there are worse. Jokes are not made by people with a different set of brains, they are made by situations around us. Let's have another one.

Situation during attendance in a classroom

Professor: Bheedu Dev

Voice in the class: Absent Sir

Prof: Keedu Ram

Voice: Present Sir

Prof: LukhuChahtri

Voice: Present sir

Prof: C.Deva

Voice: Why should I,hez ugly!!!

This article is basically for the people who wish to laugh but have no clue as to where to find it, so here it goes. In your television set : We are all know about the show "Comedy Nights With Kapil" ; an award winning show which is not only nationally but internationally famous as well. P.S. It is also a good source to know about the upcoming films. Again we have shows like "Tarak Mehta KaUltaChashma", "Comedy Circus" and many laughter competitions shows. But all of us don't have the urge to watch TV shows and also don't feel like switching it on simply staying glued to our lappys. So for such dedication towards laptops we have the YouTube channels. From politics to sports to recent events, hot topics, bollywood and basically all that's there in the world making news is presented in a satirical comedy form by these channels. Videos

by "TheViralFever" known popularly as the Qtiyapa Videos are best known for their humorous approach towards the current political scenario, Bollywood films and the so called reality shows. There are channels such as AIB (abbreviation well know), ManyaKiDuniya and many more that have humor videos on everyday situations, Bollywood songs, relationship related issues, in short you name it and you have it. Sitting at home watching humor can get a bit boring and cliché but for those of you who are willing to shell out a bit to enjoy humor outside your niche can visit places like "The Comedy Store" which have outstanding performances by standup comedians form all across the world. Standup comedy withartistical mimicry, day to day life experiences and recent events can be enjoyed in a different ambience. But if you ask me I'd say just look around, be positive and let your imagination flow, you might need none of this and yet be able to amuse yourself.

