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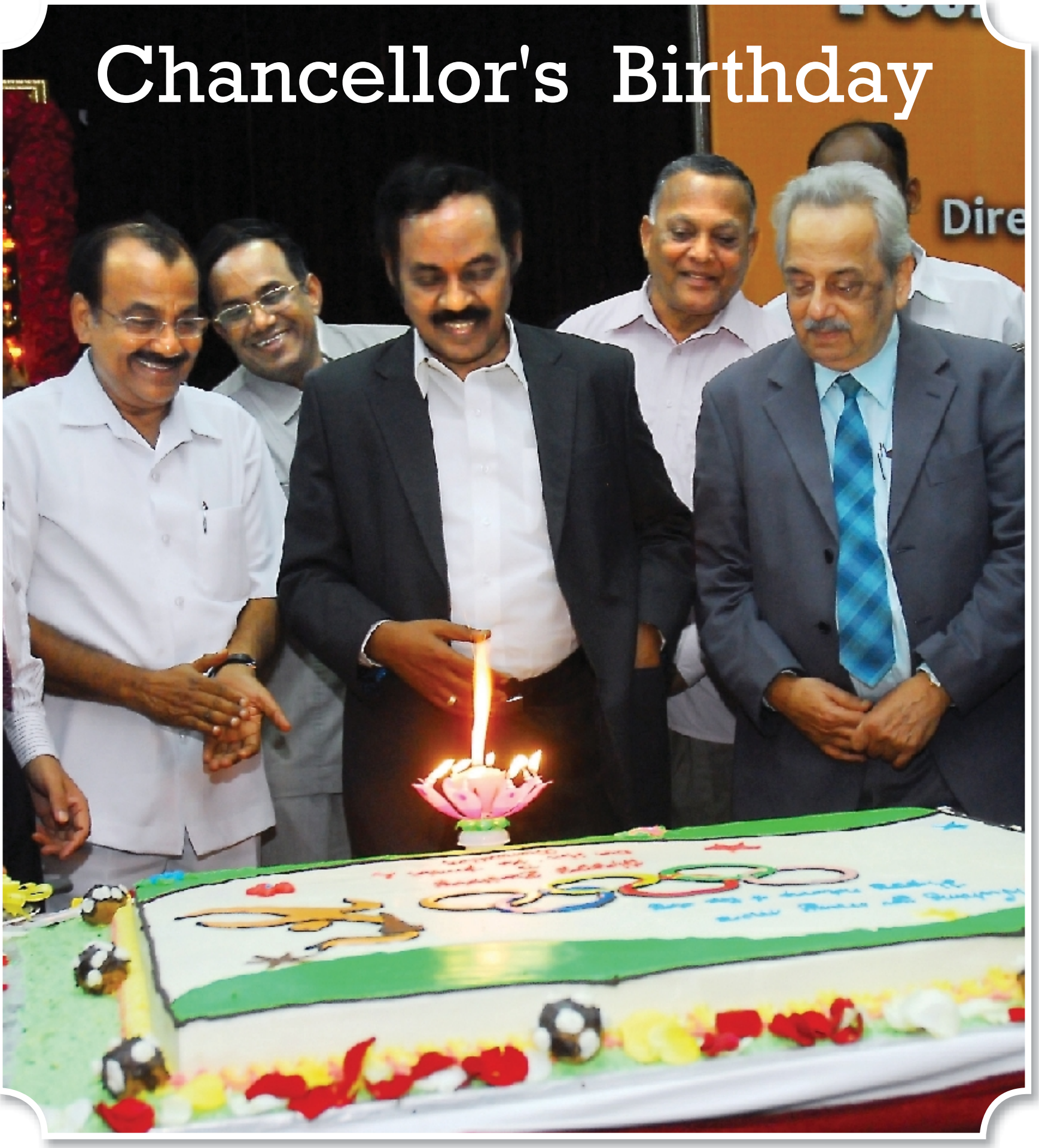
Chancellor's Birthday



Youth Awakening Day observed on founder's birthday

SRM University Chancellor, Dr. T.R. Pachamuthu handing over the 'Founder's Birthday Trophy' to the winners of the Basketball event held at the SRM University in the Intra-SRM Group of Institutions tournaments held on the occasion of the Chancellor's birthday celebrations. Also seen are the SRM University Vice-Chancellor, Dr. M. Ponnavaikko, Prof. Manik Sahani, Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. Thangaraju, Director of FSH and Sports, Dr.Balasubramaniam

Mark Nathan

SRM Group of Institutions Founder Dr T R Pachamuthu presented the 'Founder's Birthday Trophy' to the winners of Basketball and Throwball events. The Directorate of Sports organised the tournament on August 24, the Founder's Birthday.

Twelve teams each in the men and in the women's section participated in the intra-SRM event. The SRM Faculty of Engineering and Technology bagged the Basketball title and SRM Faculty of Science and Humanities finished runner-up.

In the Throwball, Easwari Engineering College and SRM University finished winner and runner-up respectively. Coinciding with his birthday, which was being celebrated as a 'Youth Awakening Day', Dr Pachamuthu presented the trophies to the winners and appealed to the youth to enter politics to shape up the country's future. The list of teams that participated in the tournament included. **Men:** SRM Faculty of Engineering Technology "A" Team, SRM Faculty of Engineering Technology "B" Team, SRM Faculty of Engineering Technology PG Team, SRM Medical Team(Dental, Physiotherapy, Nursing), SRM Ramapuram Campus Team, SRM Vadapalani Campus Team, SRM Faculty of Science and Humanities Team, Valliammai Engineering College Team, SRM Arts & Science College Team, SRM Polytechnic & Valliammai Polytechnic Team, Easwari Engineering Team, and TRP Engineering (Trichy) Team.

The **Women's teams** included: SRM Faculty of Engineering Technology "A", SRM Faculty of Engineering Technology "B", SRM Faculty of Engineering Technology PG, SRM Medical Team(Dental, Physiotherapy, Nursing), SRM Ramapuram Campus, SRM Vadapalani Campus, SRM Faculty of Science and Humanities, Valliammai Engineering College, SRM Arts & Science College, SRM Polytechnic & Valliammai Polytechnic, Easwari Engineering, and TRP Engineering (Trichy).

1. *Dr. Ponnavaiko Vice-Chancellor taking the salute during the march-past,*
2. *A Section of the referees,*
3. *A basketball game in progress,*
4. *A girl's throwball game in progress,*
5. *Another game in progress.*

Honouring Teachers In The Family...

By Pradeep Kumar, Vikram Solanki and Sourya Chakrabarti

Somebody once said, "A good teacher is like a candle – it consumes itself to light the way for others." And that is why teaching is widely regarded to be a noble profession. SRM University chose to honour its teaching community by organising Teacher's day celebrations, at the Dr TP Ganesan auditorium.

The venue had teaching folks from both Ramapuram and Vadapalani campuses joining their colleagues at Kattankulathur to make it one memorable event which was presided by the Chancellor Dr TR Pachamuthu. Also attending were the President, Prof. P Sathyanarayanan, the Vice-Chancellor, Dr.Ponnavaikko, the Pro-Vice-Chancellors, the Registrar, the Controller of Examinations and all Directors and Deans.

The Chancellor, who started his career as a teacher and over the years went on to build a first rate teaching empire, stated that teachers are capable of producing talents that will run this country in time. He also had a word of advice for the SRM teaching family-- that to improve one's teaching credentials it is necessary that they follow a process he referred to as stock taking. He later explained that it involved gathering reports on individual student's performances and evaluating them over a period of time and carefully analysing his/her development trajectory. A positive result would mean that the teacher has carried out his/her duties successfully. The critical thing for the SRM teaching community,the Chancellor said,was not to rest on its laurels but in persisting for the better all the time.

The President of SRM University delivering the Teacher's Day address

> "We at SRM give great value to our teachers. They are our asset. - President"

A section of the teaching community led by the Vice-Chancellor being honoured by the Chancellor and President.

The President Prof. Sathyanarayanan echoed the words of the Chancellor adding that the purpose of Teacher's Day should be imbibed within the teachers and that every teacher should consider oneself accountable for a student's performance. Calling on the community to do an "internal analysis" that factors in the contribution of each individual the President remarked "be truthful to your job and to your conscience." Maintaining that the objective is to build SRM into a world class institution in a span of three years,the President called for the strengthening of the fundamentals."We at SRM give great value to our teachers.They are our asset" the President said adding that for the sake of the students the teaching community would have to "work harder".

A reference manual for the teachers was released by the President and the first copy was received by the Chancellor. The manual's objective is to serve as a guide to the teachers and instruct them with a few essential do's and don'ts.

"A teacher is the one who ignites a fire in the student. Teachers are the backbone of the institution", the Vice-Chancellor, Dr.Ponnavaikko said in his Special Address stressing that high among the qualities of a good teacher should by ethics, integrity and trust."Teachers must be role models" the Vice-Chancellor said making the point that "when you accept a job you should prepare to have job satisfaction". Confident that SRM University will keep its accent on excellence in a holistic fashion, the Vice-Chancellor said " We are definitely capable of producing good students and teachers".

The event also served as a platform to honour teachers in the SRM family cutting across disciplines and campuses who have excelled in their positions in a variety of ways such as publications and securing research grants. Certificates of Appreciation plus cash awards were distributed to each of the recipients.

Best Teacher Award

Dr. V.P.R.Sivakumar, Dean, College of Physiotherapy, SRM University has been awarded the "Best Teacher Award" for his exemplary contribution in the field of Physiotherapy on the occasion of World Physiotherapy Day and Teacher's Day Celebrations held recently at the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Chennai.

"The Management of SRM University congratulates Mr. V.P.R.Sivakumar, Dean, College of Physiotherapy for his achievements made and takes on record his meritorious services rendered in the field of Physiotherapy and expects his continuous enthusiasm in the years to come."

SRM doctors save cancer patient's limb and life

Shruti Iyer

For the first time in the history of SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre a bone tumour resection and reconstruction with a custom-made prosthesis was attempted. Resection involves removing of a section of an organ or bone followed by reconstruction, which is the putting together of the remaining region to ensure proper functioning. This procedure was carried out successfully.

Dr.Chandrasekar and his team with the patient.

A 41-year-old patient from Salem had been suffering from pain and swelling for more than two years. None of his previous doctors had diagnosed that he had a benign tumour in the knee joint of his left leg. Dr. V Chandrasekar, Department of Orthopedics, SRM Hospital, who handled the case next, found the presence of the tumour and performed a surgery to remove it. On reoccurrence of the tumour a few months later, Dr. Chandrasekar realised that the tumour had become malignant.

Another complication was the large size of the tumour and its proximity to blood vessels, which posed a risk to the limb and of the tumour breaking to become catastrophic. Consultation with Dr. R Dhanapal, Head of the Department of Orthopedics, SRM Hospital, led to the use of 'Restore', a prosthesis made of cobalt, titanium and chromium, which filled up the gap that the further resection caused. This was the first time this procedure was performed in the hospital and it replaced the general methods that proved fruitless in such a complicated case. Post operative care and follow up showed that the tumour was cured and the prosthesis was a success.

Passion for literature brings teachers, students together

Ashish George

For the past one year a small group of people have been squatting every Friday evening in front of the park opposite the SRM IT Park building and reading, discussing and analysing books.

They are members of the Readers' Club and their objective is to promote the habit of reading, explore the world of literature and arts and share the knowledge gained, explained Mr. R Bragadish, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication. He is one of the founding members of the Club. Stating that passion for literature brought the small group of teachers and students together, Pushpraj, a Year II B.Sc. Visual Communication student of the Faculty of Science and Humanities, said, "I joined the Club with a desire to share my poems and realised it was an opportunity to enhance my creative writing skills and knowledge."

The Reader's club session in progress

Lamenting that book readers are a vanishing tribe, Mr D I Ravindran, Student Counsellor, SRM University, said, "Clubs like this will definitely improve the quality in reading habits of the youth today." While agreeing with this, Mr Mohamed Ibrahim, an Assistant Professor in the Career Development Centre, SRM University, said, "We not only discuss books but also other arts like cinema and painting." Explaining that all members are equal and all views are welcomed, Mr. S Danasekar, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics (FSH) and also a founder member, said, "Here we don't criticise anyone; rather we appreciate and give suggestions."

Concurring with his statement, Vidyasagar, another Year II B.Sc. Visual Communication student of the FSH said, "The best thing is that the encouragements we get in the Club helps polish our creativity as a writer and a poet." Vidyasagar discovered his love for literature only after joining the Club.

FSH doubles student intake, expands to Vadapalani campus

Pradeep Kumar and Vikram Solanki

The Faculty of Science and Humanities, SRM University, doubled its student intake, expanded to Vadapalani campus and a leading magazine ranked its School of Commerce and Economics No.4 in India this year. Announcing this to *Spectrum*, Dr. R Balasubramanian, Director (FSH), said, "Last year we had admitted about 700 students to study in various courses. This academic year we have so far admitted 1,400 students. We doubled our intake. Our total student strength has crossed 3,000."

Revealing that more students got admitted in courses like B.Com, B.B.A and B.C.A this year, he said, "It is because of quality in our teaching methodology. In this connection, I am happy to inform that the *Sunday Indian* magazine ranked our School of Commerce and Economics, No.4 in India."

With more students joining B.Com, B.B.A and B.C.A courses, he said, "This year for the first time we are offering these three courses at our Vadapalani campus." The FSH is also planning to offer other courses like B.Sc. Viscom and B.A in Journalism at the Vadapalani campus soon, he added.

To meet the travel needs of the growing student strength, the FSH introduced 12 new air-conditioned buses for the benefit of the day scholars.

"FSH is now self sufficient and we need not depend on the buses plying for the benefit of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology students," said the FSH Director, who is also the Director for Sports. Thanking the University management for reposing faith in him and giving him an additional responsibility as the Director for the SRM-IAS Academy, Dr. Balasubramanian said that the academy, which was set up few months back, is training 53 civil service aspirants free of cost.

Dr. Usha Kalyani, Dean of the academy, along with a team of experienced faculty members assist the Director.

Tamil Perayam busy framing syllabus for virtual education

Dr. Habibullah, *the 70-year-old Tamil poet and a pioneer in the abstract genre, joined the SRM fraternity as the Secretary of Tamil Perayam, which is a forum for virtual education and research in Tamil language and an institution that recognises literary personalities for their contribution to the development of the ancient tongue. When Tamil poetry was releasing itself from the clutches of monotonous tradition form, Habibullah went several steps ahead and brought abstract approach to Tamil. His articles on poetics explained the experience of abstractness. His poems are part of the syllabus in many universities. Known widely as poet Abi in Tamil literary circles, Dr. Habibullah recently spoke to* **Bragadish** *of* Spectrum. *Excerpts:*

Dr. Habibullah

Question: What is happening at Tamil Perayam now? What does it do?

Answer: We are busy framing syllabus for our virtual education segment. Very soon our virtual content will hopefully be ready and then we'll admit students. We will be offering M.A, M.Phil and diploma courses in Tholkappiyam. We are also getting ready to offer a diploma course on a classical Tamil book of a student's choice. In addition, every year we will give away awards to 10 people who have contributed to Tamil society, mainly in the fields of literature, scientific Tamil, and research. A lifetime achievement award is also planned. Each person will receive a cash award of ₹ 1.5 lakh.

Q: You are a pioneer in bringing the abstract genre to Tamil poetry. Why did you choose that form?

Ans: I always wanted to liberate my poems from the dictatorship of words, so the form came to me naturally.

Q: Time is one of the major themes in your poetry. How do you describe time?

Ans: Time is just a flood of lights, which is infinity. We human beings changed it into pieces for our convenience. So I call it a black Sun, which is a symbol of time, and we use it as a Sun shade.

Aaruush at Five

By Mark Nathan

'Aaruush 2011', the fifth edition of the biggest annual Techno-management Fest, was inaugurated at SRM University at its campus in suburban Kattankulathur by the Director of the Centre for Air Borne Systems, Dr.S Christopher in the presence of SRM University Vice-Chancellor, M Ponnavaikko and Registrar, N Sethuraman.

The five-day festival featured a total of 57 events, including six online events like gaming, which were highly popular among the participants from technical and management institutions from different parts of India.

The organizers said in a press note that this year Aaruush had tied up with NGOs like HOPE, PETA, Fifth Pillar, Aid India, WWF, CRY and India Against Corruption with young entrepreneurs also interacting with the students at panel discussions.

Speaking after inaugurating the event, Dr Christopher highlighted how the Air Borne systems evolved over the year and made a PowerPoint presentation about the role played by his organisation in the development of the LCA and other aircrafts.

Later, he inspected the vehicles designed by the students of SRM University. The display included an All Terrain Vehicle and a high-speed prototype racing car, which won the honours in the 'best marketed car category' in the recent competition organised by Society for Automobile Engineers.

In all, 25 students from different departments worked for more than eight months to design the petrol-run car, which was fitted with a Maruti 800 cc car engine that could touch a speed of about 110 kmph.

The All Terrain Vehicle was designed by another batch of 25 students and it had competed in BAJA SAE India competition held at Pritampur in Madhya Pradesh this year. The vehicle gave a demonstration of climbing down a staircase and also negotiating a heap of mud.

What got the attention of the enthusiastic audience was the High-Speed Unmanned Ground Vehicle designed by the Central Vehicle Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE), Avadi.

The Vice-Chancellor presenting a momento to the Chief Guest with the Pro-Vice Chancellor looking on.

Tamilnadu Energy Development Agency exhibiting a mobile solar heater.

SRM trio take a flight into the blue yonder

Win 3rd prize at Heilein 'Flight into the Future' contest

Archit Kacker

Three final year students of the Department of Aerospace Engineering, SRM University recently bagged the third prize at the Robert A. Heilein 'Flight into the Future' Contest held at Moscow, Russia. As part of the prize, the three were awarded a cash prize of US $ 1,500 and an individual Diploma.

Stating that an Indian team reached the finals for the first time in five years of the contest, the three students, Pallav Kumar Singh, Mayur Misra and Pothamsetti Ramana Kumar, said, "We were one of the 12 teams to be selected in the finals from across Europe, India, and Africa."

The three designed a 3-D model of a low-cost space exploration and settlement project titled *Areutopia - A New Frontier.*

Giving details of the project, Pallav said, "Our project was on space settlement intended for human civilisation in the near future and will also give a boost to Earth's resources by extra terrestrial mining and refueling of inter planetary missions to explore the realms of space."

The Chief of Kazakhstan Space Agency and Dean of Moscow Aviation along with other eminent panelists judged the entries, added Pallav.

Sharing their experience in Russia, Ramana said, "It was awesome. And, our whole trip was sponsored by the Robert A. Heinlein Trust."

The 'Flight into the Future' contest is in honour of Robert A. Heinlein, a renowned American author and one of the founders of modern science fiction genre.

To promote the dreams of Robert and his wife Virginia on humanity's future in space various prizes and competitions including Heinlein Prize for Accomplishments in Commercial Space Activities, the Microgravity Research Competition, and the Heinlein Commercial Space Activity Prize were established. Explaining that their teachers contributed significantly in their project, Mayur Misra said, "The teachers behind our success include Prof. M. Balakrishnan, Head, Department of Aerospace Engineering, Mr. Mahendra Perumal, Associate Professor, Department of Aerospace Engineering and our project guide, Mr. R. Durairaj, Visiting Faculty, Mr. V. Krishnamurthy, Project Officer, Suryakiran Peravalli, a final year student and other faculty members of the department."

INTERVIEW

SRM's Swagata grabs the 5th rank in GATE 2011

Swagata Sharma, *final year, B.Tech Genetic Engineering, cleared the Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE, 2011) with an All-India Rank of 5. The GATE is an All-India Examination conducted by the seven IITs and IISc, Bangalore, on behalf of the Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD), Government of India. It is vital in deciding the future of many students across India wishing to pursue their higher education at top institutions within the country. Lakhs of students apply every year for the few coveted positions.* **Vishwanath S** *of* Spectrum *spoke to Swagata about her success. Excerpts:*

> "I maintained a routine... covered the basics... I did not join any coaching centers..."

Question: How and when did it all start for you?

Answer: I got to know about GATE when I was in the second year, and my seniors had just given the exam. Talking to faculty members and surfing the Net helped me gain valuable information about the exam. My preparation started early in the fifth semester.

Q: Your preparation must have been extraordinary. What was your mantra?

Ans: Not really. I maintained a routine, by covering the basics of subjects taught in the past and ongoing semesters. I did not join any coaching centers or take any correspondence course. In January, I started solving various Multiple Choice Questions given in a GATE reference book, answering almost two-thirds of the total. This helped me understand the pattern and the kind of questions asked. It even helped me to an extent with courses that were not yet taught in college.

Q: What is the exam pattern like?

Ans: The GATE examination pattern has been revised in recent years, and now includes separate question sets for Life Sciences and Biotechnology, with Chemistry being a constant feature. The Life Sciences section requires a sound knowledge of core biological subjects and is preferred by M.Tech and M.Sc students, while the Biotechnology section has the usual engineering courses including Mathematics. I found the latter easier and scored more, hence I chose that.

Q: What was the exam day like for you?

Ans: On the day of the exam, my roommate actually had a tough time trying to wake me up at 6 in the morning! As my exam was at 9 a.m. and the books were quite heavy, I didn't carry any material. So, no last-minute revision. The paper was surprisingly easy, but because of the relative marking system, I was uncertain. I attempted 55/65 questions. After my exam, my friends and I went to Express Avenue to chill out!

Q: I'm sure the result day was more nerve wrecking.

Ans: When my result came out, and my classmates got selected, I was a bit tense as I hadn't checked mine yet! I went during lunch to find out, and after that I called up my mom to tell her the good news. She wouldn't believe me, but then, neither could I! I spent a sleepless night letting it all sink in!

Q: I'm sure everyone in your class got a treat! How does this result affect your future plans?

Swagata

Ans: They sure did! I initially kept placement as an option after my B.Tech, but after GATE, an M.Tech at one of the IITs is now realistic. Some research projects too have GATE as one of their selection criteria, and my score can probably fetch grants from various companies, Indian and foreign, or a scholarship from the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.

Q: What does Swagata Sharma do when she's not busy breaking records?

Ans: She's busy burning them! I'm a trained singer and have a B.Mus degree from Golaghat, Assam. I've been a hosteller since 11th and I'm accustomed to living alone and have found fun in so many different things. I read novels too, both English and Assamese.

Meenakshi hostel gets a facelift; accommodates NRI students

Siddhhant Bohara

SRM University recently converted the Meenakshi Girls Hostel into a new NRI international hostel and renovated it to international standards to accommodate over 400 foreign and NRI students and faculties.

Announcing this to *Spectrum*, Prof. R Venkataramani, Director for Campus Life and Hostels, SRM University, said, "Like the old NRI hostel, the SRM Institute of Hotel Management will take complete care of the food requirements of the new hostel inmates."

In order to provide better security to girls staying in the hostels, the University had shifted girls staying in the KRS Hostel to the A and B blocks of the New Engineering Staff Quarters. "Now all the girls will be staying in the same area and it will be easy for us to provide them security," he said.

To accommodate these students in the staff quarters, Prof. Venkataramani said, "We shifted the faculty staying there to the A and B blocks opposite to the Meenakshi international hostel."

Stating that the first year students of the Valliammai Engineering College and the College of Pharmacy are now being accommodated in the KRS Hostel, he said, "As of now 900 students are registered to stay in that hostel."

New SAC office bearers aim to improve communication with students

A slew of activities planned this year starting with Shuru

Vishwanath S

The Student Activity Centre (SAC) of SRM University is buzzing with activity again. The old team exited to give way to the new one. Twenty three new office-bearers of different houses and committees were appointed and they are already planning for the year ahead.

The new core team of SAC includes eight House captains, two cultural secretaries, a treasurer, a sponsorship head and two PROs. The new 23-member SAC team were officially introduced to the new engineering students during the fresher's orientation programme.

Speaking to *Spectrum,* Ms. Anuradha Parakkat, Director, Student Mentoring and Corporate Affairs, said, "We adopted a different selection process this year. We asked the previous office-bearers of the cultural committee to interview and select the new generation of applicants. They did the selections based on the applicants' experience in hosting cultural events and their vision for the 2011-12 cultural scene."

The applicants also faced a psychometric test.

Deepak Gurijala, the new captain of Trishul House, said, "The new selection process was a good learning experience for us in terms of handling stress at the top levels."

Kaushalya Ganesh, one of the two newly appointed PROs, said, "We aim to improve the communication between the event coordinators and the students. This is to make students aware of the various cultural activities in SRM University."

Revealing the future plans of the new-look SAC, Ms. Anuradha Parakkat said, "The new team is coming up with lots of viable ideas and strategies and has done a lot of groundwork. The University expects them to start more innovative initiatives like the TEDx."

Stating that the new team is set to face its first litmus test in the form of Shuru, which was held recently, the new office-bearers said that they had already set up an anti-ragging cell on the Kattankulathur campus.

Listing out their other initiatives, they said that they are planning to launch a new Literary Club, create a Workshop Club and arrange a leadership programme with ISKCON, Chennai.

Stalls stand tall at Aaruush!

By Rohini Bothra

Tickling the taste buds of the young and old alike, the food stalls lined up next to Java Green managed to bring in cultures from all over India and the world under one shelter. With Anondo and Kolkata chat representing Bengal and their famous rolls, and Thalapakattu biryani representing Tamil Nadu. The lane with other food stalls like Jugghead, Baskin Robins and Burger Man was a common hangout till late in the evening.

Stalls with clothes, bags and gift items were also jam-packed. A few stalls promoting several schools and organizations like Spaceterior, for interior design and PETA, to stop abuse against animals received a lot of interest.

A student busy at the stall during Aaruush

"The rates are very cheap and the quality is excellent. It is good to have stalls like these once in a while as we get to experiment different kinds of food", said Shreya, a student, happily munching on a burger!

A spoonful Robotics, a pinch of Gyan

By Debojyoti Roy

Students registering for Robogyan

Ever since its entry into Aaruush, domain Robogyan has provided some of the most gifted students a unique chance to show off their skills in the field of robotics as well as the chance to win some very interesting prizes. This domain gave competitors, "an opportunity to be innovative and co-ordinate their own unique robotics event."

This year, Robogyan saw a wide range of manual, semi-automatic and automatic bots taking the fight to each other across six challenging events designed to push through technical and creative barriers.

More mainstream events like Man O Maze had participants maneuvering their bots around a maze in a specified amount of time and in Robodrive where robots were made to clear hurdles and retrieve objects. Both vied for popularity against more hardcore events like Robo Soccer and Robo Wrestle 1.0 where robots had to "fight" each other to win cash awards. The robot race in Race 2 finish was hugely entertaining. Glideator, with its remote controlled gliders was an innovative addition to the domain. More than 500 students from major universities in the country participated in the various events. As always Aaruush managed to cater to every participant. Domain head, Amanpreet Singh said that the event was a "unique experience" and teamwork too played a part in the events success.

All in all Robogyan 2011 saw a good turnout with a lot of screaming metal giving everyone involved a good reason to celebrate.

Aaruush '11- bigger and better!

By Shruti Pillai

The fifth edition of one of the National Level Techno-Management fest of SRM University, Aaruush'11 was inaugurated on 6th September, 2011 at Dr. T.P. Ganesan Auditorium by Dr. S. Christopher, Director of The Centre for Air Borne Systems, Bangalore. With over 10,000 student registerations, this year's Aaruush took a step forward from the previous years with the introduction of the 'Conference System', wherein during guest lectures the audience could also participate and share their opinions.

Over 150 teams registered in the events under different domains such as Robogyan, Knostruction, Magefficie, Fundaz, and X Zone. The four day fest from 6th to 9th September, Aaruush'11 witnessed an amazing display of talents, wits and energy by the contestants. The wide variety of events such as Lab Rats, Awestuck, Crack Jack, Robogravity, Black Friday, Mind Freak, and Race 2 Finish, tested the participant's skills in the field of technology, entertainment, general knowledge, current affairs and a lot more.

"This year Aaruush has been extremely exciting for me and all my friends. The type of competition and performance has been really good", said Swati Madan, from Vellore Institute of technology. "I would love to come back next year and win more prizes", she added. The wide range of stalls for food, clothes, bags, promotion of schools, prevention of animal abuse (PETA) and interior design (Spaceterior) attracted a huge crowd.

Aaruush '11 came to a close with its valedictory function held on 10th September, 2011 at Dr.T.P Ganesan Mini Hall 2. The ceremony was presided over by Mr. M Vijay Anand, the Chief Guest and the president of the NGO, 5th Pillar- Corruption Killer. During an informal but interactive session, he highlighted the ill-effects of corruption in India. Prof. Rathnam from the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, the Conveyor of Aarush'11 encouraged and congratulated all the students involved in making Aarush'11 a success.

> *"I would love to come back next year and win more prizes"*

The Chief Guest and the Vice-Chancellor expressing keen interest in the vehicles designed by SRM University students

The Funda of Fundaz!

Sanghamitra Kar and Shruti Pillai

A fusion of technology, entertainment, general knowledge, basic fundamental and current affairs truly described the Fundaz domain of Aarush '11. With registrations nearing 2,500, from over 10 colleges, it was inevitably among the most competitive spheres. Fundaz covered six events, which included Name the Game, Fastest Finger First, Greenwars, Mindfreak, Scidaz and Golden Archer. While Name the Game tested the participant's general knowledge through quizzes, Fastest Finger First was meant for the current generation "texters". Greenwars hit on the vital issue of environmental degradation. Mindfreak followed a hierarchy of rounds which focused on interaction, fun and tested the participants' aptitude skills, mathematical and critical reasoning, time management and spontaneity. Scidaz assessed participant's science applications in life and finally Golden Archery challenged their archery skills. The winners of the domain received cash prizes totaling over ₹40,000. "We had maximum number of event registrations, which made us glad because our hard work paid off!" exclaimed Aditya Gupta, the domain head.

Techno-battle at Yuddhame

By Rohini Bothra

One of the nine domains of Aaruush'11 was Yuddhame, a set of events dealing with honing software and hardware skills, coding in various languages, web designing, networking and communication techniques and integrated circuits. This was divided into six events: Bugdroid (developing an app using ANDROID and GIMP), Crack Jack, X Code(to test programming skills), Net Cyrus, Web Unleashed (based on all round skills) and Hackerszilla (dealing with network security and analytical aptitude). Spread over four days, these events charged young minds and transformed boring graphs and circuits into remarkable, mind-boggling games. "We learnt a great many applications of simple circuits and our logical and analytical abilities were tested to their fullest limits", said a participant from a visiting college. Yuddhame saw the registration of over 500 participants from over 15 colleges in India. The talented winners were awarded prize money worth ₹9,000. "The contestants were pretty excited about the events and gave their best output making the competition much better," said Ayush Gupta, the event executive.

A peek into the world

Trisha Anand, Archit Kakker, Ashish George, Sridhar Siddharth

Imagine feeding 7,000 plus hungry tummies four times every day for over 300 days, year after year.

"It's a tough job," confesses Professor R. Venkatramani, Director for Campus Life and Hostels, SRM University. "Over 450 pairs of hands chop three tonnes of vegetables, cook 700 kg of rice, and knead 575 kg of wheat dough round the clock to provide quality food to students residing in SRM hostels. It's not easy to coordinate this kind of work," says the Director.

Discussing with *Spectrum* recently, he says, "Our basic idea is to make the food preparation system less labour-intensive while maintaining the quality."

One way of achieving this would be through the proposed procurement of a chapati making machine that can prepare 10,000 chapatis in an hour. Second, the purchase of a fully-automated industrial dishwasher that would keep the utensils clean.

"The dishwasher can clean, rinse, dry and store the utensils all at the same time," discloses Professor Venkatramani.

Since these machines consume high energy, the University is implementing energy efficient methods in the mess management system through solar and bio-gas plants.

Says the Director, "We are tapping solar energy to steam cook rice, make chapathis and boil vegetables. We roped in the School of Mechanical Engineering of SRM, who in collaboration with The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, installed 36 rooftop dishes to tap solar energy."

Three years ago the University installed a bio-gas plant to heat water that steam cooks rice and also feeds the industrial canteen boiler.

"Its success has prompted us to expand the plant," says Professor Venkatramani.

A Vegetable store room

Sorting the onions

Rice cooking in progress

Preparing a curry

Chopping vegetables

Baking bread

# of hostel mess

Most of the 350 kg bio-waste that is generated every day in the kitchen and the mess halls on the Kattankulathur campus goes into the bio-gas plant.

"This waste is a cause of concern for us. We take care to make optimal utilisation of raw materials and avoid plate wastage," he says. Wastage depends on the consumption of the number of dishes. And the four kitchens of the Kattankulathur campus decide the menu one week in advance, says Mr. KT Jayakannan, Manager, CR Caterers.

"We have four kitchens and six dining halls on campus, excluding the medical hostels," says Professor Venkatramani. CR Caterers run the girls' mess, Raja Caterers take care of the first year Boys' mess and the NRI mess, Royal Cafe' runs the KRS and TRS messes, while the SRM Mess Management takes care of the Sannasi boys' mess.

"We select the caterers through the tendering process on an annual basis. And the quality of food prepared is the key criteria for the selection of a caterer," says the Director. Mr. Jayakannan says, "Our workers work hard in the kitchen heat to provide the approved quality food to the students." Running the mess on a large scale is not an easy task. Right from purchasing of the raw material to providing the finished food on time to thousands of students requires precision planning and coordination. Says Professor Venkatramani, "We buy all perishable items like fruits and vegetables from the Koyambedu market on a daily basis, while dry provisions like flour, rice, pulses are bought once every fortnight."

A vendor from Guduvancheri supplies 800 litres of milk every day and other vendors supply items like 4,000 eggs (weekly), 350 kg of chicken (weekly), and 550 litres of Sunflower oil (daily) regularly to the purchase department.

Sannasi Mess kitchen alone uses 40 LPG commercial gas cylinders every day to ignite 18 burners and six tawas to prepare food.

Kneading wheat dough

Pressing chapathis

Preparing Chapatis

Students enjoying their food

Candidates from SRM IAS Academy clear Prelims

A Spectrum Reporter

Ten candidates of the first batch of the SRM IAS Academy passed this year's Civil Services Examination (Preliminary), announced Dr.S Usha Kalyani, Dean of the academy and the Faculty of Science and Humanities, Vadapalani.

Speaking to *Spectrum*, Dr. Kalyani said, "We coached the first batch of 53 candidates from January this year for free. All appeared for the prelims and of them 10 cleared the exam. Considering that this is the first batch, it is a good pass percentage."

The 10 candidates are Natha Kumar S, Bharani Kumar M, Somesh Saravana R, Dilip Kumar J, Prabhu M, Steffi J, Kannan M V G, Saravana Prabhu G, Yasser Arafat F A, and Gopalakrishnan K.

Commenting on the performance of the SRM candidates, Dr Kalyani said that many of them could not clear the examination due to the introduction of a new system of negative marking this year.

"We will now be coaching these 10 candidates for the main civil examination. We plan to start the coaching in the next few days. We have also released an advertisement calling for fresh applicants for the main exam coaching," she said.

New FSH students urged not to forget their values

Spectrum Reporters

Industry experts and top officials of the Faculty of Science and Humanities, SRM University recently urged the 1,400 new under-graduate and post -graduate students to broaden their perspectives by learning new languages and not to forget their values. Mr. Amardeep Devdason and Ms. Nanda Chintaluri, of the communication service provider RR Donnelley, FSH Director, Dr. R Balasubramanian, and Dean, Dr K Sengotti, were speaking on the occasion of the Fresher's Induction ceremony of the Faculty of Science and Humanities.

"SRM University has a rich talent pool for RR Donnelley and similar companies to recruit from," said the two industry experts. Addressing the audience on admissions this year, Dr. Balasubramanian said, "This year, the departments of Commerce, Visual Communication, Computer Science and Business Administration witnessed phenomenal growth in student intake. Commerce has nearly 300 students to be divided into five divisions, while students of Visual Communication, Computer Science and Business Administration courses have been divided into three divisions each."

Praising the facilities on campus after the ceremony, Ms. Anjali Dutta, a parent, said, "The facilities like purified water and Wi-Fi connectivity in the hostels are impressive."

Certificates being verified

Entering student data into ERP system.

Vadapalani welcomes new FSH students

Vikram Solanki

Chancellor of SRM University, Dr TR Pachamuthu, Vice Chancellor, Dr. M Ponnavaiko and Director, Dr. R Balasubramanian recently welcomed the first batch of over 300 students of the Faculty of Science and Humanities who would be studying at the Vadapalani campus from the academic year 2011-12.

Stating that SRM University is a renowned institution for its engineering courses and placements, Dr. Pachamuthu, said, "Today more students are seeking admission to the Faculty of Science and Humanities because of that brand image."

Clarifying that the Kattankulathur campus is open for the students of Vadapalani campus, Dr. Balasubramanian said that the FSH students of Vadapalani can utilise the technological facilities available on the Kattankulathur campus.

Further, he said, "We will organise weekly lectures from industry experts, experts from Institute of Chartered Accountancy, and experts from the banking field and the corporate world. Apart from this the students can also visit the Kattankulathur campus in the weekend to get exposure to the technology used there."

Parents and students at Vadapalani Induction ceremony

FSH introduces registration fee for students eligible for placement

Sooraj Rajmohan

The Faculty of Science and Humanities, SRM University, is bringing in new rules and regulations to streamline the campus placement procedure from the academic year 2011-12.

Starting this year, eligible final year students of FSH will have to register if they wish to sit for placements and also pay a registration fee to obtain the Personal Data Form and a Unique Placement Card. Announcing this to Spectrum, Mr. V. Sundaravadivel, Placement Officer for the Faculty of Science and Humanities, said, "These new regulations are already functional in the Faculty of Engineering and Technology. We are just adopting them from this year. And our placement season is scheduled to start soon this year."

Giving reasons for the revamp measures, the Placement Officer said the idea was to give a chance to only those eligible students who were genuinely interested in taking up jobs and discourage those students who were keen to pursue higher education.

"In the past two years we found that many selected students actually opt out of the jobs after receiving the offers. On inquiry we found that they were keen to pursue higher education than take up a job. This was frustrating and embarrassing for us. We work hard to bring in good companies for campus placements and when the students don't take up the job offers, the organisations question us and hesitate to visit us again," he said.

In the past, he said that some students who registered for the placements failed to turn up for the recruitment sessions.

Elaborating on the placement rules starting this year, the Placement Officer said that students with no arrears and having 50 per cent and above marks in the previous semester examination will be eligible for campus placements.

During the selection process the students are expected to carry the Unique Placement Card for identification purpose. "They have to return the card to avoid malpractices like duplication," the Placement Officer said. "Once a student is selected for a job he will not be eligible for further selections", he said.

SRM to focus on medical tourism and set up new varsity in Haryana

Announces SRM Chairman P Ravi during Connoisseurs'11

Thasneem M

Connoisseurs 2011, a seminar on the Indo-French Culinary Art, focused at the differences between India and France. Food, wine and fashion have made its common endeavour to meet international counters around the world recently at the SRM Institute of Hotel Management, SRM University, Kattankulathur campus.

The SRM Institute of Hotel Management organised the seminar.

The seminar discussed about developing the future of food and wine tourism. Traditionally food and wine consumption by tourists have been very much part of the travel experience, with significant social, cultural, environmental and economic implications.

Inaugurating the seminar and the exhibition on the French cuisine, Ms. S Gokula Indira, Minister for Tourism, Government of Tamil Nadu, expressed her desire to put out more hotels in the tsunami-affected areas on the coastline of the state. She also wanted big institutions to open up budget hotels for students visiting India and especially on study tours visiting Tamil Nadu.

A demo at the Connoisseurs 2011 by Chef Silly Isabelle, Professional Chef from Culinary School of Education, France. Looking on is Ms. S. Gokula Indira, Minister for Tourism Government of Tamil Nadu, P Ravi, Chairman, SRM Group, Prof. N. Sethuraman, Registrar, SRM University, Dr. Antony Ashok Kumar, Director and Principal, SRM Institute of Hotel Management and other university officials.

"Indian food is unique in its taste and blends. The variety of Indian cooking is colourful and aromatic and has been regarded as the third most popular cuisine in the world," SRM Institute of Hotel Management Director and Principal, Dr. Antony Ashok Kumar said at the inaugural function. He said wine tourism was an important element of the visitor's experience. The aim of the seminar is to build those experiences into the wider cultural and lifestyle marketing activities within key domestic and international markets, he added. The newly appointed Chairman of SRM Group of Institutions, Mr. P Ravi, said the primary objectives of the seminar would be to act as a platform for creating an environment conducive to the growth of food and wine tourism in the hospitality industry in the country.

Mr. Ravi said, "the SRM University would concentrate on medical tourism by expanding its existing hospital on the Kattankulathur campus and by opening a new one for the benefit of foreign patients, who could combine medicine and tourism, while visiting India for treatments".

Spreading its wings, SRM University would be setting up its new campus in Haryana. Talking to Spectrum on the sidelines of Connoisseurs 2011, Mr. Ravi said the aesthetically designed campus in Haryana would be constructed with an investment of about ₹ 300 crores. The campus would have engineering, medical, dental and Para-medical courses and would be ready in three year's time.

"We recently met the Haryana Chief Minister and got the necessary approvals. We have taken possession of the land and the foundation stone will be laid within six to nine months for the new campus," he explained.

Mr. Ravi said it would be a state-of-the-art aesthetically designed campus. "We are in the process of short listing international architectures and designers who are making their presentations."

"We will also seek University status from the UGC and it will be named as SRM-Haryana University," Mr. Ravi said. He added that up gradation of the Chennai Medical College and Hospital, Trichy is also on the cards. Later, Chef Silly Isabelle, professional chef from Culinary School of Education, France, gave a demonstration of French delicacies at the food exhibition.

Then, Mr Gildas Hostis, a wine educator from the Loire Valley Hospitality School, gave the SRM Hotel Management students a glimpse of the food and wine culture of France. A workshop organised during the food expo showcased more than 100 dishes from India, France, Thailand, China and Italy.

9th Batch of 58 SAP students all set to fly to US

Vice Consul, US Consulate, distributes scholarships worth $ 95,000/-

Mark Nathan

The SRM University held its fourth Semester Abroad Scholarship Award function recently.

The University wants its students to compete with the best of the brains in the world and prove that its students are at par with students studying in institutions of excellence in India and abroad. It further wants to provide an opportunity to its students to pursue part of their studies in foreign universities, get international exposure thereby throwing open a plethora of opportunities for them to grab. With this as an objective SRM University ventured into an ambitious programme in January 2008 called the 'Semester Abroad Programme' (SAP) under which students were sent to prestigious universities in the USA, UK, France, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, Japan, Korea and Australia to pursue studies for one semester.

After studying one semester at the foreign University, the credits earned there will be transferred to SRM and the students on their return continue their studies at SRM and earn the degree awarded by SRM University. Under this programme, so far 300 students have spent one semester in foreign Universities.

The 9th Batch of 58 students will be going during August-September period. The 8th batch of 45 students had gone in spring 2011 and have returned after successful completion of one semester. The internal selection process for 10th Batch has been started and the selected students will be going in January 2012.

To help reduce the burden on the parents of the students who opt for SAP programme, SRM University announced scholarships and tuition fee waiver to deserving students and has been giving financial support to the tune of ₹ 1.5 crore every year. Out of the 11 students who will be going to MIT during fall 2011, eight meritorious students will be offered financial support to the tune of US $10,000/- each. Similarly, one student going to Cornell University and another to Harvard-MIT Health Sciences and Technology receives a scholarship of US $10,000/- and US $5,000/- respectively.

The Chief Guest for the function Ms. Maureen Chao, Vice Consul, US Consulate General, Chennai, addressed the students and distributed the scholarship for 10 students totaling US $95,000/- (Approx. ₹ 48 Lakh). Speaking at the function, Ms. Chao said the SAP would provide the students a lot of opportunities and wanted the students to take advantage of it. "Some of the very best students of India will be visiting some of the best universities in the US. We (the US) are lucky to have those students in our universities," she said.

SRM University Vice-Chancellor Dr. M Ponnavaiko, in his special address, said that 11 of the students visiting MIT in the US would be given ₹15 million each as part of the sponsorship from the University, which was presented by Ms Maureen.

COUNSELING 2011
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Student preference for evergreen engg courses stays unchanged

But demand for core biology based courses sees a fall this year

Trisha Anand and
Amrutha Murali

SRM University's top admission expert, Prof. R Muthusubramanian, revealed that core biology based engineering courses saw a decline in demand this year, while the preference of B.Tech courses like Mechanical, ECE, CSE, EEE, and Civil didn't change much this year too.

Speaking to Spectrum recently, Prof. Muthusubramanian, who is the Director for Admissions, said, "This is purely because of industrialisation. Be it a micro or macro industry, mechanical engineers are a necessity. Hence, there is a steady demand for them. Also, the other branches in demand have much diversification in PG studies."

Stating that about 30% of students admitted this year are from Tamil Nadu, 25% from Andhra Pradesh and rest from northern part of India, Prof. Muthusubramanian announced the introduction of two new courses in B.Tech, namely B.Tech in Nuclear Engineering and B.Tech in Nano Technology. He further revealed that the two new post graduate courses introduced this year and last year picked up momentum during admissions this year. "The courses are Masters in Solar Energy and the other is MS in Nano Science," he added. Disclosing that over 500 officials were engaged in various tasks during this admission season, Prof. Muthusubramanian said, "This year, SRMEEE was conducted at over 190 centres and counselling was conducted to fill up 7,500 engineering seats in both UG and PG courses. More than 1,36,000 students registered, which is up by 50,000 as compared to the last year. Among these, 30,000 students were called for counseling." Welcoming the new engineering students into the SRM family, the professor said that the institution offers a total of 21 branches in B.Tech, 23 disciplines in under graduation and 30 specialisations in M.Tech. "We have B.Tech, B.Arch, and B.Des. under UG courses and M.Tech, MBA, MCA, PGPM, PGPRM, M.Arch, MS under post graduate courses," he added. Sharing information on foreign student admissions, Prof. Muthusubramanian said, "More foreign students are studying in SRM as it provides good hostel facilities. We find that more parents are willing to allow their wards to study abroad."

The winning Volleyball team

SRM lifts TN Inter-Collegiate Volleyball trophy

Nirmal

SRM University recently beat Panimalar Engineering College, Chennai in the finals of the Tamil Nadu State Inter-Collegiate Volleyball Men's Tournament to lift the trophy. SRM beat Panimalar 25/19, 18/25, 25/15, 29/27.

JCI of Sivakasi organised the tournament in which SRM's Volleyball (men) team literally had a cake walk right from the league stage. The team played and won two league matches, one each against PTC, Pollachi Arts College, Kancheepuram (25/22, 25/14) and Vels University, Chennai (25/15, 25/14).

In the semifinals, SRM beat Sri Krishna College, Coimbatore (25/20, 25/17, 25/18) to enter the finals for a title clash with Panimalar Engineering College.

S. Rajkumar was declared the Best All-rounder of the Tournament and T. Sakthikumar was declared the Best Libero of the Tournament.

Scores: League Result: SRM University beat PTC, Pollachi Arts College, Kanchipuram (25/22, 25/14): SRM University beat Vels University, Chennai (25/15, 25/14): Semi finals: SRM University beat Sri Krishna College, Coimbatore (25/20, 25/17, 25/18). Final Result: SRM University beat Panimalar Engineering College, Chennai (25/19, 18/25, 25/15, 29/27)

Placements up three fold at SRM, top recruiters expected this year

R.Krishnan

"There has been a threefold increase in the number of engineering students placed between the years 2009 and 2010. This year we expect an even bigger success," said Prof. S. Ganapathy, Dean – Placement, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, SRM University.

While speaking to Spectrum on the placement scenario at SRM University, Prof Ganapathy said, "This is an astounding figure even after including a 30 per cent increase in student intake."

One of the factors that led to this increase in placements is because of the pre-placement training given to the engineering students, right from their first year of education at SRM University.

"The Placement Cell of SRM University provides training to students through workshops. Last year over 3000 students benefitted from 10 such workshops," said Prof Ganapathy.

This academic year, many new companies are expected to come in for recruitment and they include Capital IQ, ABB, Mu Sigma and Accenture. GlobalScholar, an online learning community, would be the first company to recruit at SRM University this year, said Prof Ganapathy.

Prof. Ganapathy

Explaining the recruitment policies of some of the visiting companies, Prof Ganapathy said, "Students having more than 75 per cent marks in their academic career from Class 10 onwards need not write the aptitude test for Tata Consultancy Services. They can directly appear for the personal interviews."

Stating that HCL follows a similar system with students having over 60 per cent marks, Prof Ganapathy said, "This is done only in a select few universities and colleges known for their quality in education. And I am proud to inform you that TCS placed SRM in the 'A' grade category for its quality of education."

Advising students on how to face the oncoming interviews, Prof. Ganapathy said "Students should be application-oriented and not stop with the theoretical knowledge. They should have a scientific perspective to everyday problems. Many questions asked in the interviews test this ability of the student."

Giving examples of some of the questions that could be asked during the interviews, he said, "The interviewers may ask questions like 'Why does a tractor have its exhaust pipe at the top?' and 'How does the ball speed measurement technique in cricket matches work?'"

Stressing the importance of seeking interview tips from seniors, Prof. Ganapathy said that they are a major source of learning. However, stating that the best source of learning is books, he advised students to make reading a habit.

1st College Day fete at TRP College

A Spectrum Reporter

DR. N .Ramachandran, Vice-Chancellor of Periyar Maniammai University, recently said that industry—academia interaction forums will not only bring the two sectors closer but will also facilitate mutual knowledge and skill sharing. He was speaking as a chief guest during the College Day and Sports Day celebrations held at the TRP Engineering College (SRM Group), Irungalur, Trichy. The college was celebrating these two days for the first time.

Appreciating the efforts of Dr. T. Tamizharasan, the Principal of the college, in developing the campus, DR. Ramachandran said such initiatives will benefit educational institutions a lot.

Trophies and cash awards were distributed under several categories in academic proficiency and sports during the function.

Mr. R Vengatesan, the Chief Administrative Officer of Chennai Medical College and Research Centre, and Dr. S Muruganandam, Head, Department of Mathematics and the Academic Coordinator, were present during the function.

SRM defends Ball Badminton Fives trophy

Nirmal

For the fourth consecutive year the Ball Badminton team of SRM University lifted the Ball Badminton Fives State-Level (Two Seniors) Invitation trophy recently. The defending champions beat Roots BBC, Chennai (29-27, 27-29, 29-20) during the Invitation tournament held in GORC, Nagai. In the quarter finals the SRM team beat ERC Elampillai (29-11, 29-15). In the league rounds SRM first beat NRBBC Najunda Puram, Coimbatore (29-20, 29-22) and then beat TBBC, Tiruvottriyur, Chennai (29-25, 29-20).

Scores: I Round (Quarter Finals) - SRM beat ERC Elampillai (29-11, 29-15); I Round (League) - SRM beat NRBBC Najunda Puram, Coimbatore (29-20, 29-22): SRM beat TBBC, Tiruvottriyur, Chennai (29-25, 29-20) and in the Finals: SRM beat Roots BBC, Chennai (29-27, 27-29, 29-20).

44 SRM sports persons get ₹ 2.86 lakh scholarship

A Spectrum Reporter

The Sports Development Authority, Government of Tamil Nadu recently gave scholarships worth ₹ 2.89 lakh to 44 SRM University's sports persons for their outstanding performance in the various inter-university tournaments during the academic year 2010-11, according to the Directorate of Sports of the University.

The Sports Authority gave the scholarships under the annual Joint Sports Scholarship Scheme of the state government. The idea is to encourage sports and games in educational institutions in the state and excellence in performance amongst students.

This year the scholarship beneficiaries in SRM belong to the following teams: Volleyball (Men), Ball Badminton (Men), and Basketball (Men & Women). Each player received ₹ 6,500/- as a gift.

In addition, Dr T R Pacha muthu, Chancellor of the University, also gave a one-time incentive of ₹ 3,500/- to each of the 44 players.

Do you want to get involved in Spectrum ? You can contribute news or even features. Contact : **spectrum@srmuniv.ac.in**

Machine using 3-D Printing technique aids SRM researchers

Shruti Iyer

Every day, hundreds of students pass by the Mechanical Block A in the main campus of SRM University, Kattankulathur. A few would notice the sign that says 'RPT and CMM'. A few out of the few would know about the engineering marvel that room houses.

Inside lies a Rapid Prototyping Machine, made by Stratasys, USA. SRM University bought this machine a year back and it is only the second of its kind to be used for pure research in an educational institution in India. Ford boasts of four of these, which the automobile giant uses on a commercial level.

Dr. T Kumar, Professor, School of Mechanical Engineering says, "In here we do something called '3-D Printing', which involves a layer by layer manufacturing technique. We can make any tool, part or object by simply feeding its dimensions into the computer." The machine uses Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS), polycarbonate or a combination of the two as its raw material to make 3-D models of any structure. The technique requires no tool, is pollution free and can be carried out unsupervised once the desired particulars are fed into the system.

"We like to call this an 'art to part' technique as even a sketch with proposed dimensions is enough for us to create a model," says Mr. S. Karuppudiyan, the Laboratory In-Charge. He is assisted by Mr. Vijayaraghavan who runs the machine. The machine costs close to ₹ 1.2 crore and is complemented by a second machine (approx. ₹ 75 lakh). It is used to calculate the dimensions of an object in case the details are not known or available. Here, the object in question is scanned and the RPT machine makes a replica using the calculated dimensions.

Models are made by a Fusion Deposition Method (FDM), wherein, the raw material is converted to a semi solid state which passes through nozzles positioned in the XY axis. Structures up to the size of 10x10 in. can be made. In case of structures with overhangs, a scaffold is also manufactured along with the object; this can later be separated by simple techniques like dissolving in a reagent. The main use of this machine is to make working models of objects to test their feasibility. This gives an opportunity for test runs and trial and error thereby avoiding wastage of expensive materials. Commercially, once the modifications are made and the design is perfected, a high end version of the FDM 360mc can be used, wherein ABS is replaced with the actual material required for manufacturing the part. Liquid RPTs can be used for the manufacture of biological materials. Scaffolds for regeneration of tissues can be made using this technique. It also proves to be extremely useful in medicine especially in Orthopedics and Dentistry.

"One day, models based on X-Rays can be made, which will help doctors detect even the smallest of problems or abnormalities," says Mr. Karuppudiyan, who is currently working on 'Computer-aided tissue engineering'.

Dr. Kumar signs off by saying, "We have a lot of students from medicine as well as life sciences who approach us for replicas of the nerve system, organs, and limbs for research purposes. Our doors are always open to those who want to learn."

Left : The rapid prototyping machine; Top : Machine that calculates the dimensions; Below : 3 D models.

Smart Ice Café vends healthy food

A student having a sandwich

Angel George

Pepsico India tied up with the SRM Institute of Hotel Management and set up a Smart Ice Café on the institute's campus recently to provide healthy and nutritious fast food to SRMites, who are generally pressed for time.

Disclosing this to *Spectrum*, Dr. Antony Ashok Kumar, Director and Principal of SRM Institute of Hotel Management, said, "This café initiative is not for commercial gain. Our aim is to provide a healthy life style for SRMites. The tariff is purse-friendly." Pepsico India has provided the infrastructure and the raw material, while the institute has given them space. Further, the faculty and students of the hotel management institute prepare the food items for sale through the café.

Stating that the Café has been set up on a trial basis, Dr. Ashok Kumar said, "We may consider setting up more such kiosks if this one becomes a success."

Some of the healthy food items the Café vends include cakes, puffs, cherry oats drink, and varieties of brown bread sandwich. Chefs Mr. Subramaniam and Mohammed Sadik guide the catering students to prepare them.

New shops at Food Court

8 new food outlets at Food Court

Poornima Hariharan

To cater to the ever-growing needs of the students on the Kattankulathur campus, SRM University recently provided space in the Food Court to eight new entrepreneurs to set up eateries.

Interestingly, at least two of the new food outlets are run by student entrepreneurs.

Stating this to *Spectrum* recently, Mr V Thirumuragan, Estate Officer, said, "All the new outlets are already functioning and are offering different delicacies like pastry items, vegetarian meals, fast foods and other Indian and Western dishes."

Initially the idea was to provide space to non-food entrepreneurs at the Food Court. "However, the idea got rejected and the space was given to food vendors," said Mr S S Rajendran, Supervisor in the Estate Office.

Inaugurating the training camp.

SRM B-School training ICICI recruits

A Spectrum Reporter

SRM University is currently providing training to fresh engineering recruits of the ICICI Group in the areas of finance and marketing as part of its tie-up with the banking and insurance major.

The two had recently entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to conduct a month-long Joint Certification Programme for the purpose and this is ICICI's first initiative for training with a university in Tamil Nadu.

ICICI had recruited these engineers from institutions like VIT University, Puducherry University and SRM University.

Mr. Chandramouli, Zonal Head, Sales, ICICI, inaugurated the programme.

Muthucharam 90.4 Mhz to air new programmes

M Devika and Ramkirubahar

SRM University's community radio, Muthucharam 90.4 Mhz, is preparing a new time schedule to air its programmes and getting ready to introduce new programmes soon. Disclosing this to Spectrum recently, Ms. Divyasri, Station Manager and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Visual Communication, Faculty of Science and Humanities, said the revised broadcasting time will be from 6 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 7 p.m.

"We are revising the timings in order to get more contributions from the people in the nearby communities and SRM students. The morning slot is for the communities residing around SRM's Kattankulathur campus. Of the three hours in the evening slot, one hour will be dedicated to SRM students and faculties," she said. Muthucharam 90.4 Mhz is also planning to introduce two weekly programmes named *Meadai* and *Arimugam* to exhibit the community talents, said Mr. Nagappan, Programme Executive of the station. Interested faculties and students can contact Ms. Divyasri, Station manager at 9790946086 or through email: srmcr90.4@gmail.com

Students use mobile tech to find solutions to social challenges

During a 3-day boot camp at Kattankulathur campus

Avani Khandelwal

Over 400 students of SRM University recently addressed the various challenges plaguing the society and provided sustainable solutions that use mobile phones as a medium.

They were participating in a three-day mobile boot camp that Indian Mobile Initiative (IMI) organised at the Kattankulathur campus of SRM University.

Aakriti Shroff, Kyle Fisher and Thiago Vieira, all sophomores, majoring in a myriad of courses at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston founded the organisation with funds raised from their institute and Google. They organised this pilot programme with those funds.

IMI aims to create a self-sustainable network of mobile application developers, entrepreneurs, IT companies, educators and investors in India with a focus on social enterprise.

Stating that the kind of ideas the students came up in such a short time were remarkable, Aakriti Shroff said, "There is immense potential and we will ensure that the Indian Mobile Initiative grows to be more than a 3-day workshop at SRM. Technology and Social Enterprise go in tandem with each other. Our student engineers are testament to this."

All the participants of the boot camp were introduced to the development of applications using Android combined with entrepreneurial skills to support their application development.

The students were asked to come up with ideas for applications that would have a social and market value, keeping in mind the socio-economic problems that India faces. They discussed how their application would be a solution to these problems.

One application that generated interest during the workshop was a charity application that a group of students came up with. This application brought together NGOs, volunteers, investors and observers on one convenient platform.

Stating that the workshop was an enriching experience, Arpit Gupta, a Year II student of the Department of Information Technology, said, "We were given a chance to understand and learn about the most exciting development platform currently available."

The organisers plan to conduct similar camps at other universities in India and provide seed fund to those ideas that provide sustainable and viable solutions.

Vadapalani welcomes freshers

Padma Rao

The Chancellor of SRM University, Dr T R Patchamuthu, and other top University officials recently welcomed the third batch of engineering students at the Vadapalani Campus during the Inaugural Day function recently.

The new engineering students got a low down on aspects like goal setting and academic and grade structure in the University.

Others present during the function included: Dr. M Ponnaiviakko, Vice Chancellor, SRM University, Dr. N Sethuraman, Registrar, SRM University, Dr. C Muthamizhchelvan, Director, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Kattankulathur, Mr. M Subramanian, Director, Vadapalani Campus, Dr. N Vasudevan, Dean of Engineering, Vadapalani Campus, and Dr. B Baskaran, Head of the Department for B. Tech first year students.

Chancellor welcomes new engineering students

SRM participates in health expo

Top & Above : SRM Group Chairman, Mr.P.Ravi and other SRM doctors inaugurating the stall at the health expo.

Shruti Iyer

SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre (SRMCHRC), Kattankulathur and Chennai Medical College (CMC), Trichy set up two stalls and participated in the three-day Health and Beauty Expo organised recently at the Chennai Trade Centre.

Visitors to the stalls were given free health check ups and Dr Murali and his colleagues of the Department of Dermatology, SRM University, even provided tips on cosmetic issues.

Deans, Heads of various departments, including that of Cardiology, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Plastic Surgery and Dermatology, and other officials of the SRMCHRC and CME participated in the expo.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Jamespandian, Dean, SRM Medical College Hospital & Research Centre received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Hon'ble Minister of Health in the presence of Prof.Dr.MailvaganaNatrajan, Vice Chancellor and Senior ENT Professor Kameswaran at the Teacher's Day Celebration by the Tamilnadu Dr.MGR University.

SRM docs perform rare heart op, save Govindaraj

Shruti Iyer

Mr. Govindaraj has SRM Hospital's cardio team to thank for correctly diagnosing and removing a large precarious clot from his aorta.

Dr. S. Elangovan, Professor and Head of the Department of Cardiology, and his team conducted a series of rigorous tests after Mr. Govindaraj, who suffered a heart attack five years back, complained of intermittent chest pains and breathlessness on minimal exertion. Tests showed a large blood clot attached to the inner wall of his aorta. This clot had the risk of dislodging any time and thus blocking the flow of blood to the brain or either of the major organs. The cardiothoracic team, under the guidance of Dr. K. Harshavardhan, Professor and Head, immediately performed a surgery and the post operative care ensured Mr. Govindaraj could resume his daily routine without fear. This case of heart attack is very rare with only 16 cases being reported in the world. This is also the first case from India and is hence a huge achievement for the cardio team at SRM Hospital.

Dr. Jamespandian presenting a memento to Dr. Saravanan.

SRM Doctors with the patient

Medic from US speaks on kidney disease

Shruti Iyer

Dr. B Saravanan, MD, FASN-FASIN, Consultant in General and Interventional Nephrology, North West Mississippi Medical Centre and Baptist Memorial Hospital, Tennessee, USA, recently gave a guest lecture on Update on Chronic Kidney Disease and its Cardiovascular Implications at the Academic Society Meet of SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre.

The Department of General Medicine and Cardiology Department organised the meet.

Dr. Elangovan gets Best Teacher award

Shruti Iyer

Dr. Elangovan

The eve of the Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University Day, also known as Doctors' Day, was special for Dr. S. Elangovan, Professor and Head of the Department of Cardiology, SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre. On this day he received the 'Best Teacher in Cardiology' award and the 'Award for Appreciation of the Contribution to Tamil Development'. The event was organised by Dr. N. Mayilvaganan, Vice Chancellor of the Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University and saw the presence of Dr. Mathangi Ramakrishnan, plastic surgeon and Dr. S S Badrinath, Chairman, Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai.

Stress on palliative care

Dr. V. Sathyanarayanan

Dr. Mallika Thiruvadanan, a palliative care physician, recently told over 300 delegates that palliative care attempts to create a balance between the patients and their families.

She was speaking at a one day Continuous Medical Education Programme (CMEP) on "Palliative Medicine: An Overview" at the Kattankulathur campus of SRM University. The Department of Pharmacology, SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre, organised the programme. Among those who attended the programme included Dr. M. Ganapathy, SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre, Dr. James pandian, Dean, SRM MCH & RC, Dr. G Shivasekar, Vice Principal, SRM MCH & RC, Dr. V Vedamoorthy, Oncologist, SRM Hospital, and Dr. R Jamuna Rani, Professor and Head, Department of Pharmacology.

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Importance of EEE students in power industry stressed

Valliammai organises Emerge' 11, a 2-day national-level technical symposium

Karthik N

Dr. T.P.Ganesan and other top dignitories releasing the souvenior.

Over 50 papers were presented, developments in cloud computing were discussed and the importance of electrical and electronic engineering students in the power industry was stressed during a two-day national-level technical symposium called Emerge'11 recently.

The Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Valliammai Engineering College (VEC) in association with IEEE Valliammai Student Branch recently organised the symposium.

The papers focused on key issues like new renewable energy, embedded systems, bio-medical engineering, recent trends in power systems and power electronics and drives.

As Dr. T P Ganesan, Pro Vice Chancellor (Planning and Development), SRM University presided over the inaugural function, the chief guest Mr. R Vijaya Rajeswaram, Managing Director, VI – Microsystems Pvt. Ltd, Chennai, inaugurated the symposium along with the guest of honour, Mr. T K Gopinath, Assistant Manager, Numerical Products, Areva T&D India Ltd, Chennai.

Some of the events that took place during the symposium included Counter Strike, Devil's Advocate, Electronic Debate, Technical Quiz, Adzap and Sci–Fi. Counter Strike was all about speed, concentration and gaming skills. Devil's Advocate provided a platform for those with arguing abilities. Among others, those who participated in the symposium included: Mr. R K Shukla, Director, ON Load Gears, Chennai, Mr. M S Balaji Managing Director, Kasa Anlagen India Pvt. Ltd, Dr. S Thiruvengadam, eminent professor, Dr. M. Balasubramanian, Principal, Valliammai Engineering College, Dr. D. Padma Subramanian, Professor and Head, Department of EEE, Mr. S Rajan Babu, Assistant Professor, Department of EEE, Mr. A. Gopi, Asst. Professor, Department of EEE, and K Syed Fazel, Secretary, Emerge'11. N Lokeshwaran and D S Divya were the MCs.

Over 100 get low down on material analysis techniques

Rahul Walia

Over 100 delegates representing various educational institutions, research organisations and the industry from Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and Andhra Pradesh were recently given a low down on Advanced Analytical Techniques for Materials Characterisation during a two-day workshop.

The Department of Chemistry, SRM University, in association with the Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai organised the workshop to enable scientists and academicians to exchange knowledge on various analytical techniques and their applications.

> *"The workshop had practical sessions on Electrochemical Techniques, Gas chromatography..."*

Dr. A B Mandal, Director, Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai, inaugurated the workshop and released a souvenir. The workshop had practical sessions on Electrochemical Techniques, Gas chromatography, Atomic force microscopy, and X-ray diffraction.

Others who attended the workshop included Dr. TP Ganesan, Pro-Vice Chancellor, SRM University, Dr. N Sethuraman, Registrar, SRM University, Dr.S Ponnusamy, Controller of Examinations, SRM University, Dr. P Kamaraj, Head, Department of Chemistry, Dr. P Sambasiva Rao, Professor, Puducherry University, Dr. T Raju, Professor, University of Madras, Dr. B V N Phani Kumar, Scientist, CLRI, Dr. V Narayanan, Professor, University of Madras, Dr. A Stephen, Asst. Professor, University of Madras, and Dr. B Natarajan, Coordinator of the workshop.

Unqualified construction workers get tips on good practices

Sudipta Saha

Experts from the Society of Civil Engineers and faculty members of the Department of Civil Engineering, SRM University recently explained to a group of unqualified construction personnel how good practices in their field can save the lives of millions.

"One heart specialist can perhaps save just a few thousand lives throughout his career but a good civil engineer saves millions of lives through proper construction practices," said Dr KS Satyanarayanan, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering.

He was speaking to the group of unqualified construction personnel during a one day Social Relevance Programme organised recently by the Department of Civil Engineering. The objective of the programme was to make the unqualified construction workers aware of good practices in the techniques of civil engineering. The group was exposed to topics like proper construction methods, and safety measures to be taken while constructing structures.

Sunny to take on seniors at 6 Red Snooker tourney

Amrutha Murali

Sunny A Jadwani, a junior level Snooker champ of SRM University, reached the quarter finals of the Hash 10 World Sim Billiards and Snooker National (Juniors) tournament held in Chennai recently. However, he lost to Himanshu of Andhra Pradesh by 3 frames to 1 in the quarters, which was the qualifying round for his entry into the national junior team.

Speaking to Spectrum, a disappointed Sunny said, "It was a bad day for me. I used only 20 per cent of my capacity that day and lost. This was the last chance for me to enter the big league in the junior category. From now on I have to compete at the senior level."

Earlier, Sunny, a 20-year-old final year B.Tech student of the Department of Computer Science Engineering, SRM University, played four qualifying round matches and won all 3-0. The next two rounds of match also went off smoothly with Sunny maintaining the 3-0 winning lead.

Leaving his disappointment aside, he is now preparing for the next tournament. "I am preparing to participate in 6 Red Snooker National Tournament (Senior) to be held in Chandigarh this September," said Sunny.

***Sunny** : SRM's cue master*

Describing his journey into the world of Snooker, Sunny said, "I started playing Snooker in a parlour as a hobby and didn't realise that it would become a passion." He started tinkering with the pool game first and then when he went to Jamaica in 2006 to spend his vacation with his brother in a resort, Sunny started taking Snooker seriously.

"Since then I have been playing several club-level and state-level tournaments and had won several prizes. I won my first major title, i.e. the Tamil Nadu State Rank 1 in Snooker and State Rank 2 in Billiards in 2008 in Sub Junior categories," he said.

In 2009, he was placed second (Tamil Nadu) in billiards and had an All India Ranking of 6. In 2010, Sunny was placed 3rd in Tamil Nadu at the Junior-Level Snooker and Billiards tournament.

Recently, while playing against Siddarth Rao in the Tamil Nadu Senior Ranking Tournament, Sunny said, "I lost by a whisker in the final round. But I have the satisfaction that I came very close to beating Rao, who is a top class national senior-level player. I am now confident that I can take on any senior player."

Revealing that he got this confidence not through self training, but by training under Loganathan, a former top class state-level player, Sunny said, "Playing with him gives me confidence. Getting coached under him has helped me improve the technical aspects of my game."

Stating that he practices for three hours every day at the Tamil Nadu Billiards and Snooker Association in Royapettah, Sunny said, "The association doesn't charge me anything."

Going down memory lane, Sunny said, "I will reveal a little known fact about me. Till the age of 15 years, I was a fast bowler maintaining speeds of 108 kmph. I almost got selected to the Tamil Nadu state-level junior cricket team. If they had selected me, my life would have taken a different turn."

The winning TT Players

SRM clinch chess title, take 2nd spot in TT

A Spectrum Reporter

The chess team of SRM University bagged the first prize and the Table Tennis Team won the second place in the Krishnadas Purushothamadas Trophy. D.G.Vaishnav College, Chennai organised the tournament recently. Forty five colleges took part in the Table Tennis category while 50 colleges participated in chess during the state-level tournament. **Scores** (Chess): Round 1 - SRM beat Nazerath College (4 – 0); Round 2 - SRM beat New College (4 – 0); Round 3 - SRM drew with Loyola College (2 – 2); Round 4 - SRM beat Sriram Engineering College (4 – 0); Round 5 - SRM beat D G Vasihnav College (4 – 0); Round 6 - SRM beat Vivekanada College (4 – 0). **Scores** (Table Tennis): Quarter Finals - SRM beat Sri Devi College (3 / 0); Semi Finals - SRM beat SSN College (3 / 0); and Finals - SRM lost to Loyola College (3 / 0).

SRM to spend ₹ 1.73 cr on 125 sports students

A Spectrum Reporter

SRM University is planning to spend over ₹ 1.73 crore to provide free education to 125 sports students during the academic year 2011-12. The amount will be covering their tuition, food and accommodation expenses.

Revealing this information to Spectrum, officials of the Directorate of Sports, SRM University, said that all the 125 students recently received their admission cards. The sports students have been admitted to the faculties of Engineering and Technology, Science and Humanities, SRM School of Management, SRM Arts and Science College, Valliammai Engineering College and TRP Engineering College, Trichy.

They will be representing SRM University at various tournaments in games like Athletics, Badminton, Ball Badminton, Basketball, Chess, Cricket, Hockey, Table Tennis, Tennis and Volleyball.

Some of the admitted sports students include national and international level players like Malolan Rengarajan (Ranji Player, Cricket), R. Ramnath Bhuvanesh (Chess International), D. Prithiviraj Thondaiman (Shooting International), Deepika Baburaj (Volleyball, Junior India) and Albert John (Senior Nationals, Hockey). These 125 students are part of the 500 odd sports persons who went through sports quota selection trials during May this year.

SRM bags state Ball Badminton trophy

A Spectrum Reporter

SRM University beat Vels Srinivasa Engineering, Chennai (29 – 24, 29- 26) in the finals of the State-level Ball Badminton Tournament held recently at Komorapalayam.

In the League Gate stage SRM thrashed Nirmala College (29 – 05, 29 – 10), and went on to win the next three League matches.

SRM first beat St. Joseph's Engineering, Chennai (29-16, 24-29, 29-23) in a tough match. Next it beat Lady Sivasamy, Chennai (29-18, 29 – 16) and Vels Srinivasa Engineering, Chennai (29 – 24, 29- 26).

SRM's Prithvi lifts his first under-18 tennis title

Nirmal

It was a double delight for Prithvi Sekhar, a Year I student of the Department of Information Technology, SRM University, Ramapuram campus.

The week Prithvi joined SRM University, he beat the top seeded R Sharadh 7-5, 6-0 to win the (under-18) tennis title (boys) in the ABI Showtech-KTC tournament held recently in Chennai.

"This is my first under-18 title and I am very happy," gushed the 18-year-old sixth seed while speaking to Spectrum recently.

Prithvi led 5-2 with one break in the first set. Sharadh clawed back to level at 5-5, but surrendered his serve again to lose the set. It was a cake walk in the second set as Prithvi crushed his rival 6-0 to lift the title.

Stating that he was a main draw player in the tournament, Prithvi said that he beat Subash Kaushik 6-0, 6-0 in the first round and then went on to beat Krishna in the pre-quarter finals. In the semi finals he beat Vasudev Vijayraman 6-4, 6-4.

In the doubles, Prithvi paired with Rashwath Ravi and struggled to beat Sharadh and Raj 6-7(3), 6-4, 10-3 in the semi finals. "It was a real tough match. Our opponents were real good players," said Prithvi, who plays with the assistance of a hearing aid.

In the finals, his pair crushed Ravishankar and Vasudev Vijayraman 6-2, 6-2.

Balaji Ramasamy and Suresh Kumar coach Prithvi, who hails from a family of sports persons, while Ranjith Decca is his fitness coach.

His father, Mr L Sekhar, who currently works as the General Manager of Hofincons Infotech & Industrial Services Pvt. Ltd, was a Cricket and a Table Tennis player. His mother, Ms Gomathi Sekhar, was a state-level Kabbadi and Kho Kho player, while his elder brother, Praveen is also a sportsperson.

Prithvi, who started playing tennis in 2001 and entered the tournament circuit in 2003 itself, is all set to step into the men's circuit.

"I will be playing for the first time in the State Ranking Invitation tournament for men, which the Namakkal District Union Club is organising. In September, I'll take part in the ITF Juniors Tennis Championship in Chennai for the last time in the under-18 category," he revealed.

Delights galore

- Prithvi beats top seed R Sharadh 7-5, 6-0 in finals
- 18-year-old is a Year I student of the Dept of IT, SRM University, Ramapuram campus
- Was sixth seed in the ABI Showtech-KTC tournament
- In doubles final, Prithvi paired with Rashwath Ravi to crush Ravishankar and Vasudev Vijayraman 6-2, 6-2
- Hails from a family of sports persons
- Playing for the first time in the State Ranking Invitation tournament for men

Prithvi with his trophy

Jury lauds SRM's Camber Racing team for their professional conduct

R Krishnan

"We fared reasonably well at the just-concluded Supra SAE event, but could have done much better," said Tarun Tripathy, Marketing Head, Camber Racing. There were many positives the team took away from the event.

"We were the only team to have onboard over 10 national sponsors and generate an event budget of over ₹ 7.5 lakh. We also had a complete mobile race paddock with enough spares and equipment onboard to build another car if the need arose," he added.

NDTV 24X7 and Radio Mirchi 98.3 covered their performance during the event extensively. They were also lauded by the jury for their professional conduct and for their complete compliance with the rulebook. The team won ₹ 25,000 as prize money for the marketing event.

The four-day Supra SAE event had 44 teams from across the nation competing against each other at the Madras Motor Sports race track in Chennai. The event saw an attendance of over 1,250 people including students, professors and industry experts.

Camber Racing team.

> *"The SRM Camber racing team was the only team to breeze through the initial inspection hassle-free by complying cent per cent with the rule book."*

SRM University was the official host of the event. The event was attended by students and industry experts, including Mr. Vicky Chandok who is one of the important faces of motorsports in India.

The SRM Camber racing team was the only team to breeze through the initial inspection hassle-free by complying cent per cent with the rule book. The technical inspection was followed by the static events that included the design scrutiny, cost report and marketing presentation, all handled by industry experts from companies like Control-Tec Michigan, Maruti-Suzuki, John Deere, and Cummins.

The end of the static events marked the beginning of the dynamic track events like skid-pad, where the cars went round and round in circles, autocross, where cars hit lefts, rights and U-turns, endurance and finally fuel economy. Only about half the teams qualified for the last two events.

The design work on the LJM02, the next vehicle from their stable, has already begun at the race paddock in the Center for Automotive Excellence at SRM University. The Supra SAE 2012 is scheduled for June 2012 at the new Formula One race track coming up in Delhi.

TRENDZ...

Of nerds and retro spectacles

Prerana Agarwal

Who would have thought that the retro spectacles would become hot and fashionable accessories again? Gone are the days when the chashmish were considered to be the geeks of the batch. Today, these nerdo spectacles are back in vogue.

When celebs like Justin Timberland, Ashton Kutcher, David Beckham, Preity Zinta and the Big B can sport them, then why not the SRMites?

SRMites find it hip to wear square or round swanky spectacles on the campus. They come in different colours including black, red, blue, and green. Colour doesn't matter, as long as they are oversized!

Fashionable eyewear has now become such an in thing that people are switching back to spectacles from contacts only to make a fashion statement.

Even those blessed with the perfect 20/20 vision are indulging themselves with these sporting spectacles just to change their appearance completely.

"Wearing contacts everyday is inconvenient. So these jaunty glasses are an easy way to add fun and funk to your personality," says Shagun Batra, Year II students of the Department of Information and Telecommunication Engineering.

Remember the common saying - Nerds are people whom you make fun of in school and work in real life?

Well, it seems that the nerds have taken their revenge, indeed!

HOTSPOT

Burp!!

Amrutha Murali

Variety is the spice of life. And we SRMites are spoilt for choice. We have so many types, varieties and places to choose from, that by the time our poor mind makes a decision, the tummy starts paying for it. Rather loudly sometimes!!

The Food Court on the Kattankulathur campus of SRM University has a new hangout! Yes, this time it's for all us gluttons! For all those who are yet to satisfy their stomachs, head down to the lane behind EMO. A row of food stalls will leave you rather amazed at the variety of food you get to choose from.

Start your day with a plate of hot idlis or pongal. Come back to hog on spicy paneer rolls from Bengali roll corner. If noodles are your taste, then grab a plate. Want some nice homely food? Why not try the Andhra mess; you'll definitely end up licking your fingers. Sandwiches are what your tummy craves for? Sai Foods has a long list of sandwiches waiting for you. Quench that thirst with a drink. The juice stall has everything from secret passion to your everyday Lime Soda! For all you chocolate maniacs, Zest has the perfect menu for you. From chocolate fountain to chocolate tarts to chocolate ice cream and so much more. Try the variety of other flavours if you're not a chocoholic. How can one forget Bangs? SRM's very own mini KFC! The place attracts you as honey attracts ants!

Head down to the foodies paradise and fulfill all the demands of a hungry tummy! Go satisfy the hunger pangs, those sudden cravings and add a smile to your faces! Not to forget, they're not too threatening to the wallet either!

Naveen's royal ride

Naveen with his 350cc bullet

R.Krishnan

When all others commute on motorcycles that make a whirring sound, some commute on ones that thump. One among them is Naveen Thirumaran, final year, Mechanical Engineering. He owns a 350cc Royal Enfield Bullet.

Unlike other contemporary motorcycles whose engines are made of aluminum alloys, this has a cast iron engine. The heavy crank enables the engine to keep running even at very low RPMs. Hence, the much coveted thump.

The sitting posture on the bike makes the rider sit upright, which rules out any spinal cord problems prevalent while riding other bikes. Another distinguishing feature of the Standard Bullet, the staple motorcycle of the Indian army, is that the engine has its cylinder, clutch and gearbox separate and not integrated together as in other contemporary bikes. The brakes in a motorcycle like the Bullet are not as sharp as the others. This is done intentionally as controlling the bike would become difficult on braking suddenly, with the risk of the vehicle slipping, causing injury to the rider.

The Bullet is one of the very few motorcycles that can move along unforgiving terrains and gradients. "The bike's not for high speeds, the rider should try and work up a decent speed and cruise along" said Naveen. The bike's ergonomic design facilitates long distance travel. Naveen has gone on many trips on his Bullet. He frequents his hometown, Tiruvanamalai, a 200 km ride which he looks forward to every weekend.

Onam at FSH

Students and faculty of the Department of Visual Communicatin celebrated onam enthusiastically. The function saw the participation of the Director and Dean of FSH with Ms.Anuradha Parakat Director, Corporate Affairs and Student Mentoring being the chief guest.

"Oh! My SRM"

Where Blossoming Of Flowers Welcomes The Morning,
Where Sweet Cool Breeze Welcomes The Evening,
Where Green Grasses Kiss The Soil & Trees Stand Calmly Void Of Turmoil,
Where Peace Pevails Every Moment,
There, I Am, "Oh! My SRM".

Where Education Is Like Sport,
Where New Technologies Are The Spirit,
Where Creativity Is In The Core Of Every Function & Scientific Research
Is Embedded In Thought & Action.
Where Environment Is Immaculately Clean.
There I Am, "Oh! My SRM".

Where Teachers Are Our Parents & Students Are Friends.
Where We Are All One Irrespective Of Cast, Religion & Race,
That's Why Our Institution Has Attained A Global Face.
Where Discipline Is Everywhere Out And In,
There I Am, "Oh! My SRM".

The Institution Is Our Temple, Faculties Are Deity,
Our Prayer To Almighty That The Institution Adds To Its Beauty.
More & More Genius Of Fame International,
Thus Proclaiming India To The World Of Its Value Eternal.
I Remain, "Oh! My SRM".

Biswanath Ghosh

जरा संभल के...

सहिदुल इस्लाम

"लाख बदल लो आईने चेहरा नही बदलता।
हथेलियों पर खिंचने से लकीरें मुकद्दर नहीं बदलता।
महज कैलेंडर बदलने से दिन नहीं बदलता।
सोये से हैं पहचान हमारी, बिना सोचे कुछ नहीं बदलता।"

युवा जीवन का रहस्य इन्हीं पंक्तियों में छिपी है; फिर भी युवा मन की है यही पुकार 'स्लो पॉइजन इज माई लाईफ'। 'स्लो पॉइजन' से तात्पर्य है धुम्रपान व मादक द्रव्य या ड्रग्स। हम सभी जानते हैं कि इनका सेवन हमारे स्वास्थ्य के लिए हानिकारक है फिर भी सारी उम्र हम इसे नहीं छोड़ना चाहते। कुछ लोगों के लिए यह शौक बन चूका है तो, कुछ इसे छोड़ना चाहते हैं। इसी पर संस्कृत का श्लोक भी है... अज्ञानाद् वारूणीं पीत्वा संस्कारेणैव शुद्धयति। यति पूर्वमनिर्देश्यं प्राणान्तिकमिति स्थितिः।। अर्थात् "यदि भूल से मदिरा पी ली जाए तो प्रायश्चित करने से शुद्ध हो सकता है, पर जो जान बूझकर उसका प्रयोग करता है उसका प्रायश्चित तो प्राण त्याग कर देना ही है।" इसका शौक हमारे जेब पर भी भारी पड़ता है। इस पर राष्ट्रपिता महात्मा गांधी ने कहा है "अब तक मैं यह नही समझ पाया कि तंबाकू पीने का इतना जबरदस्त शौक लोगों को क्यों है, नशा हमारे धन को ही नष्ट नहीं करता वरन् स्वास्थ्य और परलोक को भी बिगाड़ता है।" आज भी यह एक सवाल बना हुआ है।

आज समय इतना बदला है कि, हर चौक-चौराहे पर युवाओं के हाथों में किताब और कलम की जगह बीयर और सिगरेट देखने को मिल जाते है। जिन युवाओं को भारतीय सभ्यता-संस्कृति की रक्षा करनी है, वही युवावर्ग पाश्चात्य शैली का परिचायक बनता जा रहा है। शायद! आज के भारतीय युवा ये नही समझ पा रहे हैं; कि पश्चिम के देशों में ठण्ड़ी जलवायु है, परन्तु भारत की जलवायु गरम है। शायद पश्चिम के देशों में इसकी आवश्यकता हो, पर हमारे लिए तो ये हानिकारक ही हैं।

बात भारतीय युवाओं की हो तो हमारे देश की नारियां पीछे कैसे रह सकती हैं? वो भारतीय नारी जिन्हें हमारे समाज की धुरी मानी जाती है, उनमे भी धुम्रपान व मादक द्रव्यों की लत लग चूकी है, और इनकी भी संख्या तेजी से बढ़ रही है। इसी वजह से आज शिक्षण संस्थानों में अनुशासनहीनता और देश में अपराध में बढ़ोतरी भी हुई है।

हम जानते हैं कि तम्बाकू (सिगरेट) में निकोटिन नामक जहरीला पदार्थ पाया जाता है, जो हमारे शरीर में कैंसर जैसी खतरनाक बीमारी फैलाता है। ऐसा माना जाता है कि निकोटिन की करीब 6 मिलीग्राम मात्रा एक कुत्ते को तीन मिनट में ही मार देती है। इससे अंदाजा लगाया जा सकता है कि, धुम्रपान हमारे स्वास्थ्य के लिए कितना हानिकारक है। धुम्रपान के सेवन से हममें चरित्रहीनता के साथ-साथ अनेक बीमारियां भी घर कर जाती है। निकोटीन से हमारी

जीवनी शक्ति (वीर्य) में अनेकों दोष आ जाती है एवं घ्राण शक्ति भी कमजोर हो जाती है। इन तथ्यों से पता चलता है कि स्लो पॉइजन सिर्फ हमें ही नही आनेवाली पीढ़ी को भी प्रभावित करती है। 'प्रेक्टिशनर' पत्रिका के अनुसार कैंसर से मरनेवालों की संख्या 112 प्रति लाख उनकी है, जो धूम्रपान करते हैं तथा 12 प्रति लाख वैसे हैं, जो दुर्व्यसन नहीं करते। शायद ये 12 वे है? जो धुम्रपान करनेवालों के आसपास होते हैं, जिन्हें हम 'पैसिव स्मोकर' कहते हैं।

बात यहीं नहीं थमती...हमारे आसपास की हरियाली भी इससे प्रभावित हो रही है। हर 300 सिगरेटों की तम्बाकू को पकाने के लिए एक भरापूरा पेड़ जलाकर राख कर दिया जाता है। 'एनसाइक्लोपीडिया ब्रिटेनिका' के अनुसार 3,63,900 टन प्रतिवर्ष तंबाकू उत्पादन हेतु 12 लाख 86 हजार एकड़ भूमि में विद्यमान जंगलों को भारत में वृक्ष विहीन कर दिया जाता है। जैसे- जैसे सिगरेटों की खपत बढ़ी है, वैसे-वैसे जंगल नष्ट किए जा रहे हैं, जिसका पर्यावरण पर बहुत प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ रहा है। शायद! हम अपनी पूरी जिन्दगी में एक भी पेड़ नही लगा पाते, पर अनेक पेडों का सिगरेट जरूर पी जाते हैं। आज के युवा को इस पर विचार करना हीं होगा नहीं तो, हमें ग्लोबल वार्मिंग के साये से कोई नहीं बचा पायेगा।

इन कमोद्दीपक पदार्थ की उत्तेजना में मनुष्य की पाशविक प्रवृत्तियाँ उत्तेजित हो उठती हैं और मनुष्य व्यभिचार, अशिष्टता, अनीति की ओर प्रवृत होता है। इससे चरित्र भ्रष्टता के साथ-साथ नपुंसकता भी आती है। कुछ व्यक्तियों की यह गलत धारणा हो गई है कि शराब से शक्ति प्राप्त होती है, लेकिन शराब उत्तेजक पदार्थ मात्र है। जो व्यक्ति उत्तेजक पदार्थों से शक्ति प्राप्ति की आशा रखता है, वह कृत्रिम माया मरीचिका में निवास करता है।

आज समाज में धुम्रपान के बढ़ते प्रभाव को देखकर सरकार ने सन् 2008 में सार्वजनिक स्थानों पर धुम्रपान निषेध कानून भी बनाये हैं। इसका उल्लंघन करनेवाले को कड़ी दंड एवं जुर्माना भरने का भी प्रावधान है। इस पर सरकार के साथ हमें भी अपना रवैय्या बदलना होगा। दुर्व्यसन कुछ थोड़े से व्यक्तियों के जीवन को हीं नष्ट नहीं करते, वरन् बड़े-बड़े देश, राष्ट्र, जन समुदाय इनके कारण सर्वनाश के गड्ढे में गिर जाते हैं। इसलिए जरा संभल के... कहीं हम अपने अस्तित्व को न खो बैठे। जरा इस पर भी गौर फरमाएं...

हम बदलेंगे, युग बदलेगा।
हम सुधरेंगे, युग सुधरेगा।

திருக்குறளும் செல்லிய ஆய்வுகளும்

நிகழ்வறிக்கை

திரு. இராமசாமி நினைவுப் பல்கலைக்கழகத் தமிழ்ப்பேராயத்தின் சார்பில் 23.08.11 அன்று திருக்குறளும் செல்லிய ஆய்வுகளும் என்னும் தலைப்பில் சிறப்புச் சொற்பொழிவு தி. பொ. கணேசன் சிற்றரங்கு 1-ல் நடைபெற்றது.

பொழிவில் கலந்துகொண்ட அனைவரையும் தமிழ்ப்பேராயத்தின் சிறப்புநிலைப் பேராசிரியர் முனைவர் பீ. மு. அபிபுல்லா அவர்கள் வரவேற்றுப் பேசினார்.

தமிழ்ப்பேராயத்தின் தலைவரும், பல்கலைக்கழகத் துணைவேந்தருமாகிய முனைவர் மு. பொன்னவைக்கோ அவர்கள் தலைமையுரை வழங்கினார். அவர் தமது உரையில், உலகின் ஆதிஇனம் தமிழகத்தில்தான் தோன்றியது எனக் கூறினார். அதற்கு ஆதாரமாக கி.மு 5 -ஆம் நூற்றாண்டில் வாழ்ந்த எரோடடஸ் (Herodotus) என்னும் அறிஞர் இயற்றிய The Histories என்ற நூலைக் குறிப்பிட்டார். பனைமரத்தை நம்பி வாழ்ந்த தமிழர்களைக் குறிப்பிடப் பயன்பட்ட மரமேறி என்ற சொல் பனைஏறி என்றாகி, பாமேஷியர் என மாறி, பினிசியர் என்றாகியது என்பதைச் சுட்டிக்காட்டினார். தமிழ்ச்சொற்கள் கிரேக்கம், ஆங்கிலம் போன்ற பல மொழிகளுக்கு வேர்ச் சொற்களாக அமைந்திருப்பதை எடுத்துக்காட்டுகளுடன் விளக்கினார். மேலும், கிரேக்கமொழி தமிழின் வேரிலிருந்து தோன்றியது என்றார். தொடர்ந்து உணவு, உறவுப் பெயர்கள் தமிழிலிருந்து கொரிய மொழிக்குச் சென்றுள்ளதைக் குறிப்பிட்டார். Education என்ற சொல் தமிழின் எடு என்ற வேர்ச் சொல்லிருந்து உருவாகியது எனக் குறிப்பிட்டார். மேலும். தமிழின் பல்வேறு சிறப்புகள் தொடர்பான பல தகவல்களைக் கூறித் தம் உரையை நிறைவு செய்தார்.

தஞ்சை, தமிழ்ப் பல்கலைக் கழகத்தின் மேனாள் துணைவேந்தர் முனைவர் ம. இராசேந்திரன் அவர்கள் முன்னிலையுரை வழங்கினார். உலகில் அதிகம் விரும்பப்பட்ட/படிக்கப்பட்ட நூல்களான திருக்குரான், பைபிள், திருக்குறள் ஆகியவற்றில், திருக்குறள் மட்டுமே சமயம் சாராத, ஆனால் எல்லாச் சமயத்தவரும் விரும்பும் நூல் என்றார். அறிவியல் அடிப்படையில் தமிழர்கள் சிந்தித்துள்ளனர் எனக் கூறி, அதற்குச் சான்றாகத் தொல்காப்பியர் உயிர்களை ஓரறிவுயிர்முதல் ஆறறிவுயிர்வரை பகுத்துக்காட்டியதைக் குறிப்பிட்டார். மாந்த இன ஆராய்ச்சியில் இன்று முதன்மையாகத் திகழும் DNA ஆய்வின் அடிப்படையில், பல இலட்சம் ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முந்தைய DNA இன்றைய தமிழக மனிதனின் ஞிழிகி வுடன் ஒத்திருப்பதைச் சுட்டினார். மனத்தின் மரபுக் கூறுகளைக் கண்டறியத் திருக்குறள் பயன்படும் என்று கூறி நிறைவு செய்தார்.

மூதறிஞர் காரைக்குடி இல. நாராயணசாமி அவர்கள் சிறப்புச் சொற்பொழிவாற்றினார். பல திருக்குறள்களுக்குப் பகுத்தறிவு அடிப்படையில் உரை கூறினார். திருகுறளில் கடவுள் வாழ்த்து என்னும் அதிகாரத் தலைப்பு திருவள்ளுவருக்குப் பின்னர் அந்நூலைத் தொகுத்தோர் இட்டபெயர். திருவள்ளுவர் கடவுள் என்னும் சொல்லை எங்கும் எழுதவில்லை. பகவன் என அவர் குறிப்பது பகவு+அன். பகவு உலகில் உயிர் வாழ்விற்குக் காரணமாக இருக்கிற, பகலவனை (சூரியனைக் குறிக்கும். வாலறிவன், அந்தணன், இறைவன் போன்ற எல்லாச் சொற்களும் கடவுளைக் குறிப்பிடுவன அல்ல. அறிவாற்றலில் முதன்மை பெற்றிருக்கின்ற சான்றோர்களையே குறிப்பன. அவர்களைப் பின்பற்றி வாழ்வதே தொழுதல் என வள்ளுவர் குறிப்பதாக அவர் விளக்கினார். அந்த அதிகாரத்தை வையத்தின் பிறப்பு எனத் தலைப்பிடுவதே பொருத்தம் என்றார்.

வையத்துள் வாழ்வாங்கு வாழ்வதே சிறப்பானது. மறுமை, மேலுலகம் என்று அக்கால மக்கள் தவறாகக் கொண்டிருந்த கருத்துகளை வள்ளுவர் மென்மையான முறையில் மறுத்து இருக்கிறார். தெய்வத்தால் ஆகாதது முயற்சியால் ஆகும் என அவர் சொன்னது இவ்வகையிலான கடவுள் மறுப்பே எனக் கூறி, வள்ளுவர் ஒரு நாத்திகர் என உறுதிப்படுத்தினார்.

தமிழ்ப்பேராயத்தின் பதிப்பாளர் முனைவர் ச. சு. இராமர் இளங்கோ அவர்கள் நன்றியுரை கூறினார். துணைப்பேராசிரியர் முனைவர் சு. மகேசுவரி அவர்கள் நிகழ்ச்சியைத் தொகுத்து வழங்க, நாட்டுப்பண்ணுடன் விழா நிறைவுபெற்றது.

வாழ்த்து மடல்

ஆத்தூரில் உதித்த
எங்கள்
ஆதவனே !

ஏர் பிடித்துழுது
விதை விதைப்பவர்கள்
சந்ததியில் தோன்றிய
சந்திரனே !

கரும் பலகையில்
அறிவு முத்துக்களை
விதைக்கும்
ஆசிரியராய்
வாழ்வைத் துவங்கிய
பிறை நிலவே !

நம்பிக்கையே மூலதனமாய்..
உழைப்பே உறுதுணையாய்..
விடாமுயற்சியே வெற்றி படிக்கட்டுகளாய்..
வானமே எல்லையாய்க் கொண்டு
எஸ்.ஆர்.எம் - கல்வி நிறுவனத்தை
வளர்த்த வளர்பிறையே !

வெற்றி பெற்ற
பலருக்கு
தெய்வ அருளுண்டு.
ஆனால்..
உங்களிடம்
மட்டும் தான்
தெய்வங்களே
உடன் வசிக்கின்றார்கள் !
[இராமசாமி - தந்தையாய்
வள்ளியம்மை - தாயாய்
ஈஸ்வரி - தாரமாய்]

இந்திய தேசத்தில்
புதிய ஜனநாயகத்தைத்
தோற்றுவிக்க
இந்திய ஜனநாயகக் கட்சியைத்
தோற்றுவித்த
பாரி வேந்தரே !

இன்று
''இளைஞர் எழுச்சி நாள்''
கொண்டாடும் எழுச்சிமிக்கவரே!

வாழ்த்த எங்களுக்கு
வயதில்லை - ஆதலால்
எல்லாம் வல்ல இறைவனின்
தாழ்பணிந்து வேண்டுகிறோம்.

வாழ்க நின் பணி !
வளர்க நின் புகழ் !

பிரார்த்தனைகளுடன்
ஆசிரியர்கள் மற்றும் மாணவர்கள்
அறிவியல் மற்றும் மானுடவியல் புலம்
எஸ்.ஆர்.எம் பல்கலைக்கழகம்.

Chancellor urges youth to join politics

A Spectrum Reporter

Dr. T R Pachamuthu, Chancellor, SRM University gave a clarion call to the youth to join politics and raise the status of the nation in the world.

He was addressing faculty and students gathered on the occasion of the Founder's Birthday Trophy celebration on his birthday recently. The Directorate of Sports organised the function under the aegis of the Faculty of Science and Humanities.

"The future of the country is in the hands of the youth and a positive change will happen at the earliest only with the backing of students, parents and faculty members," he said.

Earlier in the day, while inaugurating SRM Group's 24/7 new news channel named Puthiya Thalaimurai TV, he said, "The new channel is a thoughtful and innovative move that would work for the betterment of youth."

Similarly, a political party named Indhiya Jananayaga Katchi (IJK) was established last year after much thought to bring in a positive change in the society with the help of the youth, he explained.

The Vice Chancellor, the Registrar, Directors, Deans, Heads of various departments, students and other well wishers presented bouquets, shawls and mementos to the Chancellor after he cut the birthday cake.

Professor Manik Sahani, a senior advisor to the Chancellor, said, "This day is not important to him, but to you, me and us."