INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE FOR HUMANITY AND SOCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES (ITIHAS)

Message from the VICE-CHANCELLOR

SASTRA makes significant contributions, not just to the advancement of education, but also in a variety of ways to societal welfare, promotion of culture, sensitizing the state and civil society on variety of pressing issues and so on. Towards these objectives, several schemes were drawn and are being implemented now.

SASTRA Conferred Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) on the three eminent personalities hailing from the erstwhile composite Thanjavur district on the occasion of the Holy Mahamaham, on February 17, 2016: Shri N. Gopalaswami, former Chief Election Commissioner, Shri Udaiyalur K. Kalyanaraman, Renowned Namasankeerthanam Scholar and Dr. Kudavayil M. Balasubramanian, Renowned Archeologist & Temple Historian.

We felt that it is a lifetime opportunity to serve the humanity during the holy Mahamaham festival held at Kumbakonam. Nearly one lakh devotees were served full meals at our Kumbakonam Campus for four days during the Mahamaham. SASTRA also rendered technical assistance to the Police Department in crowd monitoring during the festival, with its Image processing and video analytics algorithm, developed exclusively for this purpose.

SASTRA University is much beholden to its founder Chancellor Late Shri S. Ramachandra Iyer. Without his extraordinary commitment and initiatives, the institution would not have achieved its present glory. In order to celebrate the centenary year in a befitting manner, SASTRA has planned to offer free surgery to around 150 children requiring critical cardiac, neural, ENT and other surgeries, educational scholarship, competitions to nurture nationalism, spiritualism and humanism besides other charitable activities.

‘SASTRA-Obaid Siddiqui Award,’ ‘SASTRA-G.N. Ramachandran Award’ and ‘SASTRA C.N.R. Rao Award’ were presented to four distinguished scientists of our country on February 28, as part of the National Science Day Celebrations.

SASTRA University presented the fourth edition of the ThinkEdu Conclave organized by The New Indian Express, on February 9 & 10, 2016 in Chennai. Smt. Smriti Irani, Union HRD Minister inaugurated the event in which scholars, politicians, academics and social reformers deliberated on the topic “Should Indian Education be Indianised?”

A new branch of the City Union Bank was opened at SASTRA Campus on March 31, 2016. The bank will serve the growing banking needs of the Staff and Students of the campus and the local population.

The present issue of ITIHAS features a variety of events conducted during the quarter, achievements by students and many more.

With examinations around the corner, let me wish our dear students all success!

Prof. R. Sethuraman
Vice- Chancellor
Dr. Badrinath said that all the three recipients of the honourary doctorate degrees are natives of composite Thanjavur District and have achieved eminence from humble beginnings. He appealed to the youth who attended the convocation to emulate the three and take them as role models.

Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean-Planning and Development, SASTRA read out the citations.

Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice Chancellor welcomed the gathering and Dr. S. Swaminathan, Dean – Sponsored Research proposed a vote of thanks.

Many prominent citizens of Kumbakonam attended the function.

Dr. Badrinath addressing the audience

Dr. Badrinath

Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam

Prof. R. Sethuraman

Dr. S. Swaminathan

Many prominent citizens of Kumbakonam attended the function.

Dr. Kudavayil M. Balasubramanian receives the Degree of Doctor of Letters

SASTRA University has conferred the Degree of Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) to Dr. Kudavayil M. Balasubramanian for the exemplary research and work on temple architecture that stands as a testimony to Indian Culture, the exceptional commitment to unravel the minutiae of temple sculpture, painting and music, the passionate and illustrious career and work that provided the platform to the understanding of our rich Indian history, culture, fine arts and literature, and as SASTRA's homage to an academic scholar.

Shri N. Gopalasamy receives the Degree of Doctor of Letters

SASTRA University has conferred the Degree of Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) to Shri N. Gopalasamy with a deep sense of appreciation for his devoted and extraordinary service to the country's administration in various capacities, for his admirable and inspiring courage in altering the nation's electoral scenario, his bold leadership in diverse portfolios, his passionate endeavour to constantly strive for Sanskrit and Indian Culture as a tool for national integration and by way of offering SASTRA’s homage to an honest administrative legend.

Dr. Kudavayil M. Balasubramanian receives the Degree of Doctor of Letters

SASTRA University has conferred the Degree of Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) to Dr. Kudavayil M. Balasubramanian for the exemplary research and work on temple architecture that stands as a testimony to Indian Culture, the exceptional commitment to unravel the minutiae of temple sculpture, painting and music, the passionate and illustrious career and work that provided the platform to the understanding of our rich Indian history, culture, fine arts and literature, and as SASTRA's homage to an academic scholar.

Shri Bdaiyalur K. Kalyanaraman receives the Degree of Doctor of Letters

SASTRA University has conferred the Degree of Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) to Shri Udaiyalur K. Kalyanaraman with a deep sense of appreciation for his relentless pursuit in promoting traditional Bhajana Sampradhaya amongst the old and the young alike, the initiatives to establish Bhajan Sampradhaya as a viable tool for devotion and national integration and as SASTRA's homage to the exemplary services to the cultural heritage of India.
Late Shri S. Ramachandra Iyer Centenary Celebrations are being organized throughout the year. As part of the events SASTRA will offer free surgery to around 150 children requiring critical cardiac, neural, ENT and other surgeries, educational scholarship, competitions to nurture nationalism, spiritualism and humanism besides other charitable activities.

The university handed over a cheque for Rs.25 lakh as the first instalment to Sri Ramachandra Hospitals, Chennai, for the conduct of free surgeries.

Out of the 150 children identified for treatment, over 50 children have already undergone surgeries.

S A S T R A
U n i v e r s i t y
o r g a n i z e d a
special medical
camp for the
children below
the age of 15
l i v i n g  i n
Thanjavur district
on January 23 &
24, 2016 at the Thanjavur and Kumbakonam campuses as a p a r t  o f  C e n t e n a r y  c e l e b r a t i o n s  o f  L a t e
Shri.S. Ramachandra Iyer, Founder Chancellor of SASTRA.

The camp was formally inaugurated by Dr. J.S.N. Moorthi, Vice-Chancellor, Sri Ramachandra Medical University, Chennai and Prof. R. Sethuraman Vice Chancellor, SASTRA University.

While inaugurating the camp, Prof. R. Sethuraman, said that from the camp 100 children from economically weak background in Thanjavur district, requiring surgery will be identified and the entire cost of surgery will be sponsored by S A S T R A
U n i v e r s i t y  i n
addition to travel
cost.

In the two-day camp, more than 800 children participated and a r o u n d 2 0 0
children were preliminarily identified having serious illness relating to heart, neuro, brain, ENT, and other areas. During the c a m p  E C G ,  E c h o ,
Ultrasound and other c l i n i c a l  t e s t s  w e r e conducted free of cost apart from free medicines.

Dr.J.S.N. Moorthi VC, SRMU, Chennai said further tests will be conducted at SRMU campus to confirm surgical requirements and further treatments.

The accompanying parents appreciated SASTRA for its special efforts to help the poor children of Thanjavur. A team of 15 doctors from Sri Ramachandra Medical University, specializing in different areas viz, Cardiology, Neurology, Pediatric, General medicine & Ophthalmology, participated in the camp.
MEGA ANNADHANAM BY SASTRA UNIVERSITY TO DEVOTEES OF MAHAMAHAM

SASTRA University provided Annadhanam to around 1 lakh devotees of the Holy Mahamaham 2016, from February 19 to 22, 2016. The devotees who visited SASTRA campus in Kumbakonam during the four days were hospitably seated in a giant pandal and were served the traditional "kalyana saapadu" in plantain leaf, prepared by Arusuvai Arasu Natarajan. A team of over 300 cooks, 700 servers and 1000 volunteers were engaged in this mammoth exercise.

The Annadhanam arrangements of SASTRA University filled the gastric appetite of devotees who praised the excellent arrangements.

"Mahamaham is a lifetime opportunity to serve humanity and to this spiritual event that sees the convergence of lakhs of devotees without an invitation, offering delicious food is one of the finest ways of showing Kumbakonam's hospitality" said Prof.R.Sethuraman, Vice-Chancellor.

Shri. Pon. Radhakrishnan, Union Minister of State for Road Transport, Highways & Shipping inaugurating the exhibition organised by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Govt. of India, at Kumbakonam in view of Mahamaham, in the presence of Prof.R. Sethuraman, Vice Chancellor, SASTRA on February 12, 2016.

Shri. Pon. Radhakrishnan and Prof.R. Sethuraman flagged off the awareness rally on "Clean India," in Kumbakonam in which 562 students of SASTRA participated. The rally started from Banadurai School and marched up to the Mahamaham Tank.
SASTRA'S SOFTWARE FOR CROWD COUNTING & MONITORING @ MAHAMAHAM

SASTRA executed a project for crowd monitoring during the Mahamaham festival at Kumbakonam from February 14 to 22, 2016. The project entitled “Crowd counting and monitoring using live video” developed by the School of EEE, SASTRA played a significant role in assisting the Govt. of Tamil Nadu for the smooth conduct of the Mahamaham Festival. As part of this task, crowd density was computed, which was utilized during the crowd safety measures implemented by the Tamilnadu Police.

For this purpose, a base station comprising four UHD cameras was installed at the Mahamaham tank to monitor the crowd movement, assisted by live video streaming. Using the developed image processing and video analytics algorithm two major tasks were carried out:

1. For every half an hour, updated information regarding the total number of devotees who crossed the Mahamaham tank after taking holy dip in the tank was calculated and the same was intimated to the police officials.
2. Total number of people in the tank at any particular time was also provided.

The crowd monitoring system developed and implemented by SASTRA team was well appreciated by the higher police authorities and general public. Nine faculty members of School of EEE headed by Dr. N.R. Raajan developed the project.

XI SHRI NARAYANAN MEMORIAL LECTURE

Dr. Bibek Debroy, Economist & Member NITI AAYOG delivered the XI Shri Narayanan Memorial Lecture on March 12, 2016 at Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre, SASTRA University, Kumbakonam. Making an analysis on the Union Budget Dr. Debroy said: “There will be a two-quarter lag for private investment to follow public expenditure at current levels of underutilized private capacity and when this happens, aggregate demand will increase in the future.” The lecture was organised by SASTRA in memory of City Union Bank’s late & longest serving Chairman V.Narayanan.

Dr. Debroy traced the evolutionary process of the budget exercise with key insights on the round up to the budget and said that it was based on the recommendation of a group of some State Chief Ministers that the Swachh Cess of 0.5% was levied in the Union Budget 2016-17. Dismissing the objections to poor allocation to social sector like health & education, Dr. Debroy categorically observed that these are not in the Union list and the responsibility of the Union government is to focus on delivery in centrally sponsored social schemes and not primary budgetary support.

Highlighting the role of governments at all levels – Union, State & Local bodies, he said that the triple databases – Socio-Economic Caste Census, the PM Jan-Dhan Yojana and the AADHAR will be instrumental in ensuring subsidies, insurance benefits, pension, etc. reach the deserving rural population while the government agencies ensure availability of public goods and services in a prioritised manner and added that this budget has rightly identified Agriculture and Rural infrastructure to enhance rural livelihood and prosperity.

Dr. Debroy encouraged students and other stakeholders to be more participative through mygov.in and make the budget making exercise more democratic.

Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean – Planning & Development welcomed the audience and said that this budget had shades of an Indian family – father’s aspiration, mother’s allocation, distant relative’s objection and astrologer’s prediction. Dr. N. Kamakodi, CEO & MD of the City Union Bank proposed a vote of thanks.
SASTRA's Science Day Award presentation ceremony was held on February 28, 2016. Dr. D. P. Singh, Director, National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) delivered the National Science Day address and presented the awards.

Delivering the lecture Dr. Singh said that Science education and research are meant for holistic development which includes internal, external and eternal peace as also for economic, social, cultural, spiritual and institutional prosperity. He stressed the need for senior scientists to encourage the youth to take up a career in science for the purpose of innovation with novelty, relevance and implementation.

He said the present state of science research at higher educational institutions and science education at school levels needs to be improved with more focus by the government and the industry.

With 59 per cent of secondary schools in the country not having an integrated science lab and with only 32 per cent of higher secondary schools having separate rooms for laboratories, science in schools must aim at reducing the gap between theory and practice, he noted.

At the research level, investment and output are far below those in advanced countries such as the United States, United Kingdom, China and Brazil, he observed.

He gave away the various awards instituted by SASTRA to the distinguished scientists:

1. **SASTRA-Obaid Siddiqi Award** to Prof. K. Vijayraghavan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology.
2. **SASTRA-G.N.Ramachandran Award** to Dr. T. V. Ramakrishnan, Distinguished Associate, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.
3. **SASTRA-CNR Rao Award** to Dr. T. K. Chandrasekhar, former Secretary, SERB and Dr. N. Sathyamurthy, Director of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali.

Each award winner was presented with a citation and a cash award of Rs. 5 lakh. Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice Chancellor welcomed the gathering.

In a move to meet the demands of learners from different parts of the world, SASTRA University & NIIT TV enters into a significant partnership. This partnership will offer industry-aligned support programs in B.Tech. and M.Tech. to improve learning and employability of engineering graduates and further will expand to include multidisciplinary courses. High quality educational online videos will reach out to engineering students across 140 countries, free of cost through the NIIT TV online video portal and classes will be handled by SASTRA faculty. To begin with SASTRA offers three courses in emerging areas – Biomedical Nanotechnology, Biosensors & Control Systems. This collaborative venture will offer courses online both on a pre-scheduled and on-demand mode for a wide cross-section of learners across 140 countries worldwide. This initiative perfectly aligns with the Govt of India's Digital India initiative and more specifically with the MHRD's proposed National MOOC Mission. Moving forward, the platform will also offer assessment & certification modules to facilitate academic mobility through credit transfers & mutual recognition. SASTRA has already partnered with the IITs in the NPTEL initiative and offered 13 courses and is also looking forward to partnering in the National MOOC Mission once it is formally launched. “This partnership with NIIT TV is crucial as it not only provides a much needed indigenously branded MOOC-like initiative, but also an opportunity to collaborate with one of India's leading training company” said Dr. S. Swaminathan, Dean, Sponsored Research and the chief architect of this initiative. NIIT TV's Chief Strategy Officer Udai Singh added that this effort will increase the employability of engineering graduates and also improve quality of existing workforce also.
SASTRA University presented the fourth edition of the ThinkEdu Conclave organized by The New Indian Express on February 9 & 10, 2016 at ITC Grand Chola, Chennai. The theme of ThinkEdu Conclave 2016 was 'Should Indian education be Indianised?' Over a period of two days, scholars, politicians, academics and social reformers deliberated on topics that require immediate attention. The objective of the initiative was to provide a platform for the state and civil society to engage in intelligent dialogue about several aspects of the Indian education system.

Smt. Smriti Irani, Union Minister for Human Resource Development inaugurated the event. Addressing a hall packed with students, teachers, academicians and corporates, Smt. Irani informed that the new draft education policy would have several game-changing initiatives — including a potential system that could link promotion of teachers to the performance of their students. “I told bureaucrats that we need the views of citizens and it can't be generic. We decided to leverage every democratic interface and reached out to over 1.5 lakh villages who gave us inputs,” she said.

Smt. Irani said that the HRD Ministry is going to open a new portal that has curriculum, Indian research work and international journals- which will be translated into 22 Indian languages. She added that this move will be a game changer for lakhs of students studying in Indian languages across the country.

Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean-Planning and Development, SASTRA University spoke in the session on “Is India's next education boom hiding in its villages?” on the second day of the conclave.

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Founder, Art of Living, addressing the closing session said, “Politicians are not some special class or species who have come from another planet. They are one among you, among us. So, one of you must take the lead. If you have the passion for people and service to society, you must come.”

“Unfortunately in this country and everywhere else in the world, politics is no longer a service, it has lost its sheen and respect, which it had during the time of Kamaraj and Mahatma Gandhi and a few generations before us. That needs to be set right.” He exhorted the youth to make that change, en masse.

Speaking on 'corruption' — another one of India's burning issues — he called it a debilitating factor that took a toll not only on politics, but also impacted several spheres, obstructing a nation's progress.

Sri Ravishankar called for an education that was not only sound in knowledge, but also fostered yoga and ayurveda, which, he said, were mediums of imbibing these ethics.

The ThinkEdu Conclave through its sessions, discussions and debates strived to propel India forward on the path of development.
Though we are a third world country, the idea of villages is not third class. We cannot museumise rural India, rather, we should be extending them to a larger eco-system to extract the intellectual gold mine hidden in rural India. We should be empowered to give degrees to open air universities running in rural India in order to integrate them into formal education.

The reason for the decline in quality of education and its superficial nature could be attributed to several factors but one that was particularly true. The school curriculum is decided by bureaucrats and academics in their second innings, sitting in air-conditioned rooms and intellectually cut off from the educational situation and we are mandated to follow the curriculum. As a result, we miss capturing the knowledge hiding in our villages.

Around 54% of the rural population is literate according to the 2011 census. A number of first-generation learners will demand access to higher education. Everybody wants to become an engineer but this demand for education is not going to be even. We will be challenged between disparities between those who have a better lifestyle, rural population and those who do not.

Dr. S. VAIDHYASUBRAMANIAM
Dean – Planning & Development, SASTRA University

CITY UNION BANK BRANCH AT SASTRA

The 525th branch and the 1325th ATM of the City Union Bank (CUB) were opened on March 31, 2016. Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice Chancellor, SASTRA inaugurated the branch and addressed the gathering. He said that even in the digital age the services of the staff of CUB is commendable.

Dr. N. Kamakoti, CEO & MD of CUB presided over the function. Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean-Planning and Development and Dr. S. Swaminathan, Dean-Sponsored Research, Prof. G. Bhalachandran, Registrar were also participated.

CUB officials Shri Krishnan, Shri Gopalakrishnan, Shri Ramasamy, Shri Balu, Shri Ilangoovan, Shri Ravi were also present. Shri Venkatesan, CUB-SASTRA Branch Manager proposed a vote of thanks.
A 3-day International Conference on 'Frontiers in Nanoscience & Nanotechnology' (ICFNN'16), the first of the series of conferences planned throughout the year, in commemoration of the centenary year of the Founder Chancellor of SASTRA University, Late Shri S. Ramachandra Iyer, was held from February 26-28, 2016. It was an exceptionally high quality networking event for expert academicians and for people from industries across the world. The conference aimed at enabling participants to develop professional contacts and partnerships, as well as to enhance their knowledge, expertise and abilities in Nanotechnology and Nanoscience, a field that is constantly innovating and evolving.

Dr. Raychaudhuri, Distinguished Professor (Emeritus) and former Director of S.N. Bose National Center for Basic Sciences, Kolkata inaugurated the conference and released the conference proceedings. Dr. S. Swaminathan, Director, Centre for Nanotechnology and Advanced Biomaterials, SASTRA and the Convenor of the conference welcomed the gathering.

Dr. A. K. Raychaudhuri in his key-note address, spoke on his experiments with single nanowires. So far nanomaterials used by scientists were ensembles or simply put collections of several nano-sized basic units. The inherent trouble of using such ensembles is uniform deposition and a requirement for averaging results. The idea of using a single unit of nanomaterial to carry out experiments is very novel, enabling scientists to obtain data in a different dimension, but is highly challenging, said the speaker. Dr. A.K. Raychaudhuri and his team pioneered this interesting area of research. Results showing a six fold increase in photoresponse, while reducing the size of the nanosensing elements by using nanowires replacing an ensemble, was exhilarating.

He concluded the session with an inspirational note that many experiments may be failing and frustrating but perseverance and correct learning from failures could be ground breaking, making the impossible possible and there lies the fun and beauty of scientific research.

Experts in Nanotechnology and Nanoscience, academics, researchers and persons from industries from many countries participated in the conference. 150 research papers were presented during the three days.

A two-day conference on Microbial Biofilms (CoMB 2016) was organized by School of Chemical and Biotechnology and Centre for Research in Infectious Diseases (CRID) on January 29&30, 2016. Prof. V. Nagaraja, Professor at Indian Institute of Science and President of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru inaugurated the Conference and presented the keynote lecture on “Biofilm - as a lifestyle statement.” He informed the participants that Microbiology is no more a neglected field in India and that it is now one of the ever-growing fields in Science.

The conference provided a platform for the biofilm researchers across the country an opportunity to meet, discuss, deliberate and network on this area. There were 11 plenary sessions and 4 short talks. The speakers included expert scientists from IISc, IIT, IISER and many reputed universities. There were several research poster presentations and idea poster presentations.

Senior Supreme Court Advocate & Parliamentarian Shri K. Parasaran delivered a lecture on 'Law and Dharma' at the Samskrita Vaibhavam organized by the Department of Oriental Studies, SASTRA on March 7, 2016. Delivering the lecture Shri Parasaran said: “The three arms of our constitution - executive, legislature and judiciary are India's
trusts with bureaucrats, democratically elected members and judges as its trustees and it is their combined responsibility to uphold Dharma, as any deviation from Dharma has no salvation.”

He wondered under what legal dharma are plenary legislations being tested on the doctrines of arbitrariness and irrationality? The Supreme Court has followed 'Kala Dharma' by handling sensitive situations effectively without showing any unwanted urgency and this forms a rich learning resource for current and future judiciary. Quoting from the Bhagavad Gita, Shri Parasaran said that the first sloka starts with Dharma and ends with Jaya and the Supreme Court's symbol also conveys the message wherever there is Dharma (righteousness) there is Jaya (victory).

Former Supreme Court Judge B.N.Srikrishna also spoke on 'Legal Samskriti' and shared the legacy of India's civilizational Sanskrit assets that are present in the 14 primary sources of knowledge which includes the four Vedas. Citing examples from Yagnavalkya Smriti, Justice Srikrishna traced the evolution of modern criminal, civil and many substantive laws in the Vyavahara section of the Smriti and wanted legal professionals to understand such traditional knowledge and its relevance to contemporary society. He dismissed the pursuit of Artha and Kama without Dharma and said that the concept of Dharma is the greatest gift of Sanskrit to humanity.

In two separate sessions, Dr. Purnima Srikrishna shared her research findings on the Vidyashankara Temple at Sringeri and renowned temple historian and author Dr.Chithra Madhavan spoke on Sanskrit in ancient and medieval Tamilnadu. She shared 6th, 7th and 13th century Sanskrit nagiri and granthic inscriptions in many Tamilnadu temples.

Dr.N.Kannan, Head, Department of Oriental Studies at SASTRA welcomed the gathering. Chi. Amrith Bhargav, fourth year Law Student was the Student Coordinator of the event.

MoU WITH TVS

The School of Management, SASTRA signed an MoU on 21st January 2016 with M/s TVS, on January 21, 2016. The MoU, under the banner TVS SASTRA ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME-The Pathway to the Future, enables a comprehensive entrepreneurship programme planned for a year covering all facets of management to develop professional management practices in entrepreneurship for sustained business growth for 300 TVS franchisees in TVS Automobile Solutions and TVS Parts Mart from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka. The programme is scheduled for a duration of 12 days per batch split into three rounds on topics covering Human Resource Management, Finance and Accounts, Marketing, Logistics & Supply Chain Management areas. The training programme commenced on March 14, 2016.

PONGAL GIFT TO VILLAGERS

In connection with Pongal, the Management of SASTRA University distributed 5 kg of rice, 1 kg of jaggery, half kg of dhal and a cotton saree to 600 ration card holders of Thirumalaisamudram Village, 418 card holders of Vallam Pudhur village, 202 card holders of Monnyampatti Village and 382 card holders of Kuruvadipatti Village, on January 13, 2016. Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean-Planning and Development distributed the gifts to villagers.

SASTRA University has been distributing the pongal gift to these villages for the past 16 years.

Dr. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam distributing the Pongal Gifts
The tenth edition of SASTRA University's multi-tech fest Daksh was organized from February 19-21, 2016.

Shri Girish Mathrubootham, CEO of FreshDesk, Dr. Pawan Agarwal, CEO of the Mumbai Dabbawala Circuit, Dr. B.N. Ramesh, Addl. DGP, West Bengal and former Director, CRPF Academy participated in the inaugural function.

Events of various clusters related to all branches of engineering - PARVARTANA, YANTRIKA, JIVAZASTRA, SAMAYIKA and SAGGANITRA provided a platform for students to test their technical skills.

Many workshops were conducted to impart hands-on experience to the students. Ornithopter, conducted by Aerotrix, taught the principles involved in aerodynamics. Bridge Design, conducted by Civil Simplified, delved into the construction of a bridge. Spybiotics, i3indiya technologies, was all about building customised spy robots. Raspberry Pi, by Roxent Technologies, taught how one could master engineering projects with this emerging microcomputer. Big Data, conducted by HT India Labs, offered tips on tackling computational bottlenecks.

The Interns Fair saw students take tests in various domains. The best were offered internships. Daksh DECA paired up with “Let's Intern,” a major internship guidance platform.

Dr. Ramesh inaugurated the Strut d' Auto Expo, powered by SSB TATA Motors, which showcased luxury cars from the stables of Nissan, Mahindra, Nissan, KTM, Ford and Chevrolet.

The Daksh Quiz, Spardha, was a great success and the winners received goodies from Zebronics. The bike stunt show by DPZ, powered by Motul, was a treat.

Participants were also asked to present their research ideas at a competition and the judges decided the winners based on merit. Team Technotainment offered myriad events. The Tron Dance by Skeleton Dance Crew from India's Got Best Talent and Thandav, SASTRA's Eastern dance team, enthralled the audience.

Bannari Amman College of Engineering bagged the first prize in the paper presentation. Students were delighted with the Interns fair where they were interviewed by companies. Some gained internships from leading firms.

The Auto Expo culminated with Auto Parade involving more than 20 cars and 10 bikes. The western dance crew of SASTRA, Insiders, gave a scintillating performance.

Power talks

Shri Girish Mathrubootham who spoke on ‘Lessons from my Startup Journey' enthralled the audience by highlighting his experience in establishing a successful startup. He spoke on the evolution of FreshDesk and gave valuable points on how to become a successful entrepreneur.

Dr. Pawan Agarwal, CEO of the Mumbai Dabbawala made an inspiring address on 'The Success Story of Mumbai Dabbawala.' The auditorium roared with applause listening to the sensational talk on the logistics and supply chain management of the dabbawalas. He floored the audience with his inquisitive and beguiling recitals.

'Music and Samskaras' was the topic chosen by Kalaimamani Shri H. Ramakrishnan, who stood as an outstanding example
SASTRA’S SEMESTER ABROAD PROGRAMME - 2016

65 B.Tech. students of 2016 batch are undergoing their Research Internship at the following prestigious Universities, under the Semester Abroad Programme. They are being paid a monthly stipend of USD 200 and round trip airfare by SASTRA University with tuition fee waiver.

Harvard MIT
Maanas. V
Shri Vidhya S
Sushmerta A M
Anuradhaa. S
Dheerajali. P
Sharada. S
Meenakshi. S
Akshaya Srinivasan
Anuradha. S
Devbalaji. P
Sai Prasad S

UPC, Barcelona
Bachu Lakshmi Venkata
Malavika Suresh
Akshaya R
Akhaya .P
Aravindha Krishnan. J
Nithin Krishna. K.s
Gurajala Mohan Chand
Attuluru Mohana Preethi
S. V. Abhinav
Balaji. N

University of Pittsburgh
Supraja R
Balmuri Sricharani
Vijetha. G. V
Abhinay Sivuni
B. Venkatkrishnan

University West, Sweden
Adithya. S
Venkateswaran. V
Manepilli Srikar

Georgia Institute of Technology
Vivek Kumar
Kaludvi Sreenivasa
Murthy Deepika
Sushanth. K

University of Bologna, Italy
Jeyakaran. M
Sanjay Ganeshan
Machippeddy Sugun

Plymouth University
Sivaramakrishnan. M
Aruna Ganesan S
Rajkumar

University of Pittsburgh
Supraja R
Balmuri Sricharani
Vijetha. G. V
Abhinay Sivuni
B. Venkatkrishnan

University of Wisconsin, Madison
Anirudhi Muralidharan
Arum Subramaniyan. S
Nanditha. T.V.

Aarhus, Denmark
Indra Kumar G

Case Western University
Supradasa J

Czechoslovakia, Abdukhali
Prathiti Neelakandan

Cornell University
Jayashree S
Vaishali Balachandran

Friedrich Schiller, Germany
Manasa Abhirami Bharathwaj

Max-Planck
Manya Ganesan

Ohio State University
Prakruti S Rao

Oxford, UK
Krithika. B

UEC, Tokyo, Japan
Durga Sundaram

University of Ontario Institute of Technology
Akash Ram. S

University of Pennsylvania
Sanjana Sundaresan

University of Tennessee, Knoxville
G. V. Vidyacharan

University of Texas, Austin
Sreya Kumar D

University of Windsor, Canada
Ramapriya. A.N

Virginia Tech
Supraja. H
to students. He spoke about how samskaras bring cultural gains and mould one's character. This eminent journalist and renowned music artist spoke on channelizing one's energy in the righteous way.

Dr. B.N. Ramesh, I.P.S, Addl DGP, West Bengal and former director, CRPF academy deliberated on 'The Role of Youth in the Future of Bharat.' He stood as a live example who showed the students that an indomitable will with dynamism could bring pinnacle of glory to our nation and that the youth have an unprecedented role in uplifting the country.

More than 1500 participants from various institutions in the south took part in the tech-fest.

Kum. Mayurri Kumar, the Student President of Daksh DECA with her big team of students coordinated the event.

KURUKSASTRA '16

Kuruksastra '16, SASTRA's annual cultural festival was held from March 25 to 27, 2016.

SASTRA Music Team gave a skilful rendition of their favourite dance and melody numbers in the evening of March 24, 2016.

The preliminary rounds to every event was conducted on day one, with the Tamizh dramatics and other related events seeing an avalanche of participants. It was also a night of celebration, as the day was ended with a group dance competition in both the themed and non themed category, with the winners getting a direct ticket into the TN Hip Hop championship from John Britto and Dr.Padmaja Suresh themselves.

On the third and final day, musicians Vijay Prakash, Nikhil Mathews and Darshan Doshi, accompanied by music director Leon James and band gave a fitting end to the initial two days of unabated celebration. The crowd was asked to sing along to Vijay Prakash's tunes and the night ended with a rapid
sequence of high energy dance numbers, much to the joy of over 10,000 college students assembled at the arena. As a final token of love, Mr. Vijay Prakash ended his performance with the words "Every artiste is waiting to perform at Kuruksastra, because of the love and support we get"

The event had more than 1,500 participants from around the country and the overall trophy was bagged by the Government College of Technology, Coimbatore.

The high points of this year's fest included a delightful instrumental performance by premier flautist Naveen and his band. The event participation was also driven by the presence of celebrity judges such as established thespian and cinema artiste Elango Kumaravel, film veteran Delhi Ganesh and cinematographer Ravi Roy.

Kum. Mayurri Kumar, the Student President of Daksh DECA with her big team of students coordinated the event.
K R Ramamani Taxation Moot Court

A team of students from School of Law, SAstra comprising Kum. Harini S of IV year B.A.,LL.B. (Hons.), Chi. Ashwin Kumar M of IV year B.A., LL.B. (Hons.) and Chi. Amogh Simha N S of III year B.A., LL.B. (Hons.) won the prestigious 6th K R Ramamani Memorial Taxation Moot Court Competition 2016 organised by School of Excellence in Law, Chennai and SAPR Associates from March 4-6, 2016. They won against SVKM College of Law in the finals and Jindal Global Law School in the semifinals. The final was judged by Honble Justice Shri P R Shivakumar of the Madras High Court, Additional Advocate General Shri Arvindh Pandiyarn and Registrar cum V.C. in-charge of TNNLS Shri Arun Roy IAS. The moot problem was based on international taxation and the competition witnessed participation from various law schools at the national level. Kum. Harini S also won the Best speaker award.

Criminal Trial Advocacy National Moot Court

The School of Law, SAstra won the Christ Law School Criminal trial advocacy national moot court competition held in Bengaluru on February 21, 2016. The moot problem was on the Narcotic Drugs and Sychnotrophic Substances Act. Around 24 teams from across India participated, which included 7 National Law Schools, Symbiosis Pune, ILS Pune, GLC Mumbai & SOEL Chennai. SAstra beat ILS Pune in the semifinals before convincingly overcoming Amity University Law School in the finals. The team comprising Karthick Subramanian, Shriram & G Kartikeyan received the winner’s trophy and cash award of Rs.20,000 from Shri Rama Jois, Former Chief Justice of Punjab & Harayana High Court.

N. Natarajan Charitable Trust’s Moot Court

School of Law, SAstra won the N. Natarajan Charitable Trust's maiden Criminal Law Moot Court Competition organised by the Madras Bar Association from January 29-31, 2016. The team comprising Shri Kiran M (IV year B.B.A., LL. B. (Hons.), Shri Vikas Muralidharan (III year B.B.A., LL. B. (Hons.) & Shri Sundar Athreya (III year B.B.A., LL.B. (Hons.) from SAstra beat the team from the School of Excellence, TN Dr Ambedkar Law University in the Finals of the Competition. The team was awarded with a rolling trophy and a cash prize of Rs. 45,000/- .The moot problem was related to sedition under section IPC 124 A - Sedition and on Articles 14 (Right to Equality), 19 (Right to Freedom of Expression) and 21 (Protection of Life and Personal Liberty) of the Indian Constitution. Over 15 law schools in Tamil Nadu participated in the moot court competition. The final was judged by the judges of High Court of Madras, namely, Justice Shri N Kirubhakaran, Justice Shri T Raja and Justice Shri T Sudanthiram. Shri Vikas Muralidharan also won the Second Best Speaker Award. The Award carried a trophy and a cash prize of Rs. 10,000/-.

Justice Shri S.Nagamuthu, Judge of the Madras High Court delivered a Knowledge Leadership Forum lecture at the School of Law on ‘Principles of Criminal Jurisprudence’ on February 6, 2016. Delivering the lecture he said that criminal law cannot be expressive in all provisions and the judicial dispensation must bear in mind the cardinal principles of criminal jurisprudence in addition to also accepting explainable human nature that aligns with natural human conduct which no law can change.

Justice Nagamuthu covered the various elements and dimensions of the criminal justice administration in India. Dividing India’s history of criminal jurisprudence into pre-constitutional and post-constitutional timelines, he said that the Rule of Law was the basis of administering justice in India. Stressing on the salience of constitutional principles,
he said that the Constitution was the touchstone of every statute. Dealing with the procedural law relating to criminal justice adjudication process, he traced the various stages of arrest, enshrined in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

Explaining the constitutional balance relating to the fundamental rights jurisprudence and the procedural nuances, he dwelt on the basic principles relating to the Criminal Procedure Code and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872. He advised lawyers to be familiar with the provisions of the Evidence Act and assist the court in dispensing justice.

Justice S. Nagamuthu congratulated the winning moot team of SASTRA Law School in the recently concluded Madras Bar Association Criminal Law Moot & appreciated the rare blend of criminal & constitutional law that the students mixed during the course of their arguments.

Dr. A.K. Mallik, Honorary Distinguished Professor of Department of Aerospace Engineering and Applied Mechanics, Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IIEST), Shibpur, Howrah delivered a lecture on “Magical Mathematics of Ramanujan,” on February 1, 2016, jointly organised by the School of Humanities and Sciences and SASTRA Mathematics Club. In his lecture, he explained an easy way of forming Magic Squares, especially those magic squares which are Ramanujan's favourite.

Mr. J. Balakrishnan, Vice President, Bharati Airtel Ltd, Chennai spoke on the evolution of telecommunication technology on March 8, 2016. He explained how Telecomunication technology has affected certain types of business in one way but these innovations enhanced the business in other ways thereby giving lot of comfort and convenience to the people.

TCS has proposed to set-up an impact innovation center at Nashik, India focused on Enhancing Lives of citizens. For achieving its vision, the IT giant has come forward to include the talents of students of SASTRA to solve pressing challenges in the following seven social themes: Health & Hygiene, Education & Skills, Financial & Personal Security, Energy, Water & Environment, Food & Agriculture, Housing & Transportation, Citizen Empowerment & Transparency.

Experts from the company have conducted an exclusive workshop at SASTRA University on February 9, 2016, to enable the students to create their start-ups, innovate and to become entrepreneur. The students will also get opportunity to work at the Impact Innovation Center and develop solutions to address real world challenges over 6 to 12 months period. Shri. Hasit Kaji, Vice President, Multiple Strategic Initiatives and Shri. Ganesh Thirunavukkarasu, Campus lead, Talent Acquisition Group – Chennai - Regional Campus Hiring conducted the workshop.

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To highlight the glory of our Ancient Alzhwars and their Pasurams and thereby to create awareness among the younger generation about the Rich Heritage of our Motherland, a one-day National Seminar on Divya Prabandham was organized by the Department of Oriental Studies & Research at the Main Campus of SASTRA on 12th March 2016.

The conference was inaugurated by His Holiness the Jeeyar of Mannargudi. The following eminent speakers addressed the various sessions during the seminar:

Dr. M.A. Venkatakrishnan, Retd. HoD of Vaishnavism, University of Madras on The Treasure House of commentaries on Divya Prabandham

Dr. O.R. Vijaya Raghvan, AP, Shankaracharya University, Kalady on Prabandham & Vaishnava Dinacharya

Dr. N. Kannan, HOD, Department of Oriental Studies and Research, SASTRA on ‘Astrology in Tiruchchandavvittam’

Dr. Bhooma Venkatakrishnan on Prabandham & Manavazha Maamunigal

Dr. S. Padmanahan, Professor & Head, Department of Sanskrit, University of Madras on ‘Sri Desika & Prabandham’

Sri V.S. Karunakaran, Retd. Director of SSI, New Delhi on ‘Veda and Prabandham’

Dr. N.V. Vasudevan, Professor, Department of Sanskrit, Trivandrum University on ‘Brahmasutra and Prabandham’

Nearly two hundred delegates studying MA Divya Prabandham in SASTRA through Distance Mode of learning attended the Seminar.

Based on the request made by the Kumbakonam Municipality, the School of Civil Engineering, SASTRA conducted a study on the carrying capacity of the abandoned 450 mm cast iron pipeline system from Valayappettai old pump-house to overhead tank near Mahamagam tank running about 4.6 km. Based on the recommendations by SASTRA, the old pipeline system was repaired and put to use during the festival. The channels in the Kumbakonam town were desilted and cleaned for the Mahamagam festival and the volume of silt to be removed was surveyed and estimated by the School of Civil Engineering. The 32nd Institution Day and Sports Day of Shanmugha Polytechnic College was held on 18th March 2016. Dr. V. Badrinath Dean, School of Management & Director, Training & Placement SASTRA University distributed the academic and sports prizes to the winners.

Dr. H.R. Bhargava, Senior Assistant Professor, SCBT, SASTRA presented a research paper on the topic “Effect of Indian Honey bee venom (Apis cerana) on wound healing efficacy, antibacterial activity and purification of peptide components” at the 44th Apimondia International Conference held at Daejeon, Korea, from September 15th to 20th, 2015. The Department of Science and Technology, Government of India sponsored his trip.

Dr. K. Kannan, Professor of Mathematics and Dean-School of Humanities and Sciences, SASTRA presented a research paper on the topic, “Development of Gravitational Emulation Search Algorithm for solving Ternary class of Diophantine Equations” at the International Conference in Number Theory held at University of Florida, Gainesville, USA, from March 17th to 21st, 2016. SASTRA University and University of Florida awarded the travel grant for his visit.

Colosseum, the eight edition of the national level Sports Fest, was organized at SASTRA University, Thanjavur from February 10 to 14, 2016. More than 1300 students from 47 institutions participated in the following events: Cricket (Men), Football (Men), Basketball (M&W), Badminton (M&W), Best Physique (M), Chess (M&W), Handball (M), Table Tennis (M&W) and Tennis (M&W), Volleyball (M&W).

SASTRA University won the Overall Championship Rolling Trophy by securing 76 points followed by Karunya University, Coimbatore which secured 56 points. SSN College of Engineering, Chennai secured 30 points.

At the valedictory function held on February 14, 2016, Dr. Swaminathan, Dean-Sponsored Research, SASTRA presented the trophy and cash prizes to the winners.
SASTRA cultural team bagged the overall trophy for Best Cultural Contingent at Riviera 2016, the national level cultural festival of VIT University. In the festival held from 4th February to 7th February 2016, SASTRA's team performed well in almost all clusters. On the literary front, the English Literary Team excelled at events like What's the Good Word, Dumb Charades, Potpourri and JAM, while the Telugu team proved its prowess at Antakshari, Creative Writing, Quiz and an Acting event. The Tamil Literary Team performed admirably at Debate, Quiz and Potpourri and the Hindi team was responsible for victories in Antakshari, Dumb Charades and Debate.

The Dramatics club put up an amazing play and also bagged the runner-up award for Best Play while winning the Best Actor category. The Eastern Dance team placed at Dual Dance and Theme Dance events while its Western counterpart bagged prizes in Solo Dance, Dual Dance and Theme Dance events. The SASTRA Foto Hub (SFH) won over the audience with their amazing screenplay and was adjudged the runner-up in the Film Festival event.

Our team received the overall trophy from Shri Siddharth Narayan, the renowned South Indian actor. This was SASTRA's seventh victory for the Overall Trophy at Riviera in nine years.

Our cultural team won laurels in SAARANG 2016, the cultural festival of IIT Madras, held from January 6-10, 2016. The English Literary Society had placed second in Cryptic Crossword event, second again in the highly coveted Just A Minute (JAM) and secured the first as well third places in Potpourri, drubbing their opponents from colleges all over the country. The Tamil Literary Society had come second in their Street Play event.

The SASTRA Music Team continued the tradition of winning the main music event "Tarang" (the Eastern band event) and opened the Popular Nite pro-show. Apart from this, they also clinched the second and third places in Powerchords (Western semi-pro band) and Unplugged (eastern acoustics) events, respectively.

SASTRA Fotohub, the University's photo and short film cluster came second in the Short film event and won the On Ground Photography event held on day two.

School of Management, SASTRA organized PRADIPTA '16 – a one-day State Level Inter-Collegiate Commerce & Management Students’ Meet on 12th March, 2016. Shri S. Selvakumar, Vice President, M/s Integrated Enterprises, Chennai inaugurated the programme and spoke on the modern facets of corporate. He influenced the students to dream their future and execute according to it.

80 students from 10 educational institutions participated in Facts and Furious (quiz), Enigma (Connections), Paper Salad (Collage Making), Nerdson the Rope (Debate), AD(D) Craze (Ad Quest) and Corporate Roadies (Best Manager).

The overall trophy was won by St. Joseph's College, Trichy. Shri. S. Thiyagarajan, Assistant Professor & Staff – Coordinator organized the programme.

School of Management, Entrepreneurship Development Cell has organized, 'SHE, The power of Women in Entrepreneurial World,' a programme exclusive for women students of SASTRA, on March 22, 2016. Mrs. Mahalakshmi Saravanan, Founder - Women Entrepreneurs India and Mrs. Srimathi Sridhar, Founder - Chirag addressed the gathering.

A two-day workshop was conducted for the benefit of the students of Arts and Science courses on Soft skills and Quantitative Aptitude. 137 students from SRC and Main Campus attended the workshop held at the Main Campus on February, 6 & 7, 2016. Experts from companies conducted the workshop.
AWARD FOR THE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

The School of Management, SASTRA has won the “Best B School with Innovative Marketing to the Target Segment” award given by The DNA and Stars of the Group, under the Innovative Education Awards 2016. The award is hosted by Asian Confederation of Businesses and endorsed by A For-purpose organization and CMO Asia. The award was presented at Taj Lands End, Mumbai on February 18th 2016.

BOOK CHAPTER BY SASTRA FACULTY

Dr. V. Badrinath, Dean, School of Management, SASTRA University has contributed a chapter titled “Further Education & Training, Retraining; Skillful India -A dream or Reality?” for the book “India; Preparation for the world of Work”-Education system and school to Work Transition” published by M/s Springer Publication, Germany. The book was released by Mr Bjorne Rhode, Consul General Of Germany in India at IIM Bangalore on February 12, 2016.

TCS BEST STUDENT AWARD

Dr. A.K. Pattabiraman Krishnaswamy, Head Accreditation Process for South India and Academic Interface for Tamilnadu, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Chennai presented TCS Best Student Award to Chi. P. Abinesh, IV B.Tech. Civil, on March 17, 2016. Award consists of a gold medal, certificate and cash prize of Rs 10,000. Dr. A.K. Pattabiraman said that TCS has selected 100 best Institutions in India including SASTRA University for presenting TCS Best Student Award. The awardee is selected based on academic excellence, participation in Institute level activities and successfully executing socially relevant projects.

WEBINARS BY TCS

Live webinars on “Enterprise Content Management,” “Assurance and Testing,” “Cyber Security and TCS Security” were conducted by TCS to B.Tech. students of SASTRA in January & February 2016. Nearly 200 students attended each webinar.

TRAINING TO STUDENTS OF SWAMI DAYANANDA SCHOOL, RISHIKESH

A two-week communication skills and personality development training was offered to 22 students and 12 teachers of Swami Dayananda Public School, Rishikesh from December 30 2015 to January 10, 2016, at the SASTRA campus, Thanjavur.

Dr. V. Badrinath, Dean, School of Management inaugurated the programme and conducted a session on power of positive thinking for building a successful professional and personal life. Various other sessions conducted to the students include Spoken and Written English Skills, English Grammar, Communication Skills, Self Confidence, Team Skills, Career Planning, Desktop Skills and etc. The students were also taken to Thanjavur Big Temple. Slokha classes were also conducted at the temple daily.

Special sessions on Classroom Communication were also conducted to the teachers.

TRAINING TO REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Department of Computer Applications, SASTRA University has organized a hands on training for the staff members of the Land Registration Department, Government of Tamil Nadu. based on the request from the Government of Tamil Nadu. About 250 staff members from Thanjavur, Pattukottai, Mayladuthurai, Kumbakonam revenue districts attended this 10-day training programme held from 23rd January 2016 to 14th February 2016, in batches. Experts from TCS offered this training using their Software specially designed for On-line Land Registration Process. SASTRA has sponsored the entire expenses of this programme.
Recent Developments In Taxation

The Department of Commerce and Management Studies organized a National Conference on Recent Developments in Taxation (NCRDT 2016) on March 18, 2016. Shri J. Sadagopan, Chief Manager (Taxation), City Union Bank, Kumbakonam, inaugurated the conference. Shri CA.B.A. Shankar of M/s Verma & Co., Salem spoke on practical challenges in tax compliance. CA.P. Sudarsan Raghavan, Associate Vice President, M/s Steria India Limited, Noida, delivered a lecture on DTAA - A Walk Through. Prof. V.C. Shanker, M.D.T. Hindu College, Tirunelveli, dealt with the topic Emerging Issues in Indirect Taxes. Dr. K.B. Nidheesh from Pondicherry University spoke on the Recent Development in Direct Taxes. Dr.S. Janakiraman, Assistant Professor in Economic, Government Arts College, Kumbakonam, delivered the valedictory address. Around 300 students from various colleges in Tamil Nadu participated in the Conference. Professor G. Sethuraman and Dr. G.R. Gayathiri, Assistant Professors, Department of Commerce and Management Studies served as the conveners of the conference.

Advanced Computing

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering organized a National Conference on Advanced Computing (NCAC’16) on March 25, 2016. Commander (Retd.,) LR. Prakash, Head, Center for Development for Advanced Computing, Chennai, inaugurated the Conference. Shri. Prabharak Krishnan of Amrita University delivered a lecture on “Computing in the era of multi-core, many-core CPUs and GPUs.” Dr. N. Sairam, Associate Dean, School of Computing, SASTRA, spoke on “Rough Granular Computing.” Dr. S. Balaji, Professor, Computer Science and Engineering, Jain University, Karnataka delivered a lecture on “Internet of Things, the Enabler of Smart Cities” in the valedictory ceremony. Around 250 students from various colleges in India participated in the Conference. Dr. B. Sreedevi, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, SRC was the convener of the Conference.

GENECHEM, The Association of the Department of Chemistry and Biosciences organized a one day workshop on “Microtome & Immuno Techniques” on March 23, 2016. Dr. Rajadurai, QC Consultant Euro lab, Erode delivered a lecture on “Advanced Techniques and Strategies Employed in Disease Diagnosis” and Shri. P. Saravanan, QC Consultant and MD, Kalam Career Express, Madurai spoke on “Career Opportunities in Biochemistry & Microbiology.”

ISTE-Students Chapter organized a guest lecture by Prof. T.S. Murugesh of Depart. of E&I, Annamalai University, delivered a lecture on “Controllers for Engineering Applications,” on March 28, 2016. He spoke on concepts like designing controllers for automatic steering system and washing machine, open loop, crossed loop, fuzzy controllers, Neuro fuzzy controller design, etc., Shri. B. Ponmudi, Department of EEE organized the programme.

Inplant Training Programme

The Department of Computer Science arranged for an Inplant Training Programme for final year III M.C.A, II M.Sc (CS), and V M.Sc. B.Ed., (CS) students on December 31,2015 at Logic Research Labs (Software Research & Development) Pillaiyampettai, Ammachatram, Kumbakonam. The programme exposed the students to the "Current trends in Information Technology and its Applications Development", Android Apps Development, Cloud based applications, Virtualization and Cloud Apps Rasperry Pi and Lab Logic Software, Smart Apps with Barcode identification, Signature Pad and Smart Card in Advance management, Social Media software's - Impact in IT marketing and Challenging Cloud based applications are some of the vital areas covered. Ms. Sangeetha H (COO), Logic Research Labs, Software Research and Development served as the resource person. Shri. R. Senthil Kumar, Department of CSE organized the programme. The participants were given certificates by Logic Research Labs.
HONOUR TO PHYSICAL DIRECTOR

Shri.R.Saravanan, Assistant Professor-II, Department of Physical Education, SASTRA University, Thanjavur has been nominated as Tamil Nadu Body Building Team Coach by Tamil Nadu Amateur Body Building Association, for the 56th Senior National Body Building Championship to be held at Greater Noida (UP) from 25th to 27th March 2016, which is organized by U.P. State Body Building Association.

NSS SPECIAL CAMP

A week long special camp was organized by the NSS units of SRC from March 21 – 27, 2016 at Pulianchery, Moopakoil and Kottaiyur villages of Kumbakonam Taluk. Medical camp, rain water harvesting, road safety, health awareness, LPG Gas users' safety and voter awareness camps were conducted. Blood donation camp was also carried out. Saplings were planted in the Kottaiyoor Middle School campus. Temple cleaning and school campus cleaning work were also carried out by the volunteers. Dr. C. Savariraj Sagayam, M.D (Siddha) and Dr. P.Rajalakshmi B.S.,M.S., of CARISM, SASTRA organized a Siddha and Diabetic Screening Camp. As many as 96 villagers were screened for Blood pressure, Blood sugar, Urine sugar, and Hemoglobin.

NSS Programme Officers Dr.S. Meganathan, Shri M. Sundararaman and Shri S.A. Harish Rajaraman organized the camp activities.

32 NSS volunteers participated in the Pulse Polio Immunisation camp on January 17, 2016. 18 volunteers were deployed for crowd control duty for the consecration ceremony of Sri Aadhi Kumbeshwarar Temple in Kumbakonam on January 21, 2016. National Voters Day was observed at SRC on January 25, 2016.

180 units of blood were donated to the Kumbakonam Govt. Hospital Blood Bank in the two Blood Donation Camps organized by the NSS Units in February 2016. 25 NSS volunteers participated in the Mahamaham Prasadh packing bruary 15- to 18, 2016 at Swamimalai Temple from February 15-18, 2016. An Elocution Competition was conducted March 30, 2016 in which 34 students participated.

NCC NEWS

4 SD cadets of SRC campus attended the Army Attachment Camp at Hyderabad, from February 10-24, 2016, in which 180 NCC cadets from all Battalions of Trichy and Madurai NCC Group participated. They were attached to the '9 Gorkha Rifles', the first Battalion of 76 INF Brigade, of Indian Army. They underwent training in operating various military crafts and equipment.

NCC Officer, Lt.T. Senthilnathan, scored 2nd rank in the 'NCC Officer's Refresher Course' held at Officers Training Academy, Kamptee, Nagpur from March 30 to April 28, 2015, in which 92 NCC officers from various places of our country participated.

32nd INSTITUTION DAY AND SPORTS DAY OF SHANMUGHA POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE

The 32nd Institution Day and Sports Day of Shanmugha Polytechnic College were held on 18th March 2016. Dr.V. Badrinath Dean, School of Management & Director, Training & Placement SASTRA University delivered the institution day address and distributed the academic and sports prizes.

BLOOD DONATION CAMP

A Blood Donation Camp was organized by the NSS Units of Shanmugha Polytechnic College on February 18, 2016. Nearly 100 volunteers donated blood. A team of doctors from Thanjavur Medical College Hospital conducted the camp.
LAURELS IN CULTURALS

INTERSCHOOL COMPETITIONS

Inter-school Competitions, as part of Youth Talent Encouragement Programme, were held from February 1-5, 2016. English, Tamil Elocutions, India Quiz, Carnatic Music-Vocal, Sanskrit Recitation competitions were conducted for the school children. Cash awards were given to the prize winners and a Library Development fund of Rs.5,000 was given to each of the winning schools.

THIRUPPAVAI-THIRUVEMPAVAI RECITATION

'Thiruppavai and Thiruvempavai Recitation Competition' was organized on January 12, 2016. The event has been organized every year under 'Youth Talent encouragement Programme' to motivate the school students. Nearly 20 schools participated in the competition.

Shri K.M. Marimuthu who judged the event spoke about the values imparted by the singing as well as by reciting Thiruppavai and Thiruvempavai. He quoted that each and every word in the Pasurams are charged with life and energy.

Kum. A. Madhimitha of Town Hr. Sec. School won the first prize of Rs. 3000. Kum. R. Sheetal, of the same school won the second prize of Rs. 2000 and Kum. S.Nivetha Sri of The New Light Hr.Sec. School won the third Prize of Rs.1,000. The students who recited the 30 Pasurams of Thiruppavai and 20 Pasurams of Thiruvempavai were awarded a cash prize of Rs.500 each.

A similar contest was held at the main campus, Thanjavur.

MARGHAZHI UTSAV

Kalamalika, on January 13, 2016 organised 'Marghazhi Utsav,' with the rendering of bhajans at SRC campus on January 13, 2016. K.Venkatesh of II B.C.A, S. Karthikeyan of I B. Tech, Sai Hari, Chandrasekaran of B. Tech, K. Ram Gopal of I B. C. A. formed the choir. G. Premkrisnan of III B.Com and P.Shivram Bijju were on the Mridhangam and Kanjira, respectively.

K.Venkatesh, V. Karthikeyan, S. Sai Hari, S. Chandrasekaran, T. Ram Gopal, Sowdasaksari Vidhya, S., K. Nandhini, R. Radhika, rendered the 'Pancharatna Kritis' on February 10, 2016, to pay tribute to St. Thiyagaraja.

LAURELS IN SAARANG '16

A team of 9 students participated in IIT Saarang '16, at Chennai from January 7 - 10, 2016. The team won cash award in Spelling Bee and the event 'What's the Good Word?' Their dramatics script was selected among 40 institutions and the trailer was selected among 20 colleges. The team participated in the final round and was placed fifth in position and received

SOCIAL SERVICE CAMP BY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

The School of Education organized a five-day Social Service Camp for the students of B.Ed. and III year Integrated B.Ed. programmes from March 26 to 31, 2016. The camp was inaugurated by Dr.G.P.Ragini, at Arulmighu Jagannatha Perumal temple, Nathankoil. To gain awareness of rural administration, an interaction with Shri. R.Sivasankaran, the President of Seshampadi panchayat was arranged. Students also interacted with rural workers of MGNREG scheme. They also visited the Panchayat School at Seshmpadi and interacted with the Headmaster and teachers to gain knowledge of school administration.

A Lecture on Special Education was delivered on the second day of the camp by Smt.Rameswari, Special Education Instructor. Dr.Rajesh Ram, Consultant Orthopedician delivered a lecture on first aid measures. Dr.K.Narasimhan, Assistant Professor, School of Education delivered a lecture on Principles of Scouts and Guides.

On the third day, the students visited the Temple of Consciousness and learnt some important Asanas. Ms. Amutha and Shri Murugan of Temple of Consciousness served as resource persons. In the afternoon a demonstration was performed by Shri. Thishanthan of Government Fine Arts College, Kottayur on preparation of teaching aids (Line Arts for Teachers).

On the fourth day Shri. Sathiyanoomathy, Physical Director, SRC taught the student teachers certain indoor and outdoor games. Cultural programmes were organized on the fifth and final day of the camp.
Application forms will be issued from March 25, 2016

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<th>Degree Programmes</th>
<th>Mode of Admission</th>
<th>Last Date for Application Submission</th>
<th>Counselling Date(s)</th>
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<td>B.Tech. &amp; 5-year Integrated M.Tech.</td>
<td>76% of the seats will be filled on the basis of normalized +2 marks &amp; JEE (Main) 2016 scores</td>
<td>June 11, 2016 (5:00 pm)</td>
<td>June 22, 23, 24 &amp; 25</td>
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<td>(Thanjavur &amp; Kumbakonam campus)</td>
<td>Release of Rank list June 11, 2016 (9:00 p.m.)</td>
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<td>2016</td>
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<td>M.Tech. / M.Sc.</td>
<td>Test and interview. GATE candidates will be given preference for M.Tech. with monthly stipend of Rs. 5000/-</td>
<td>June 11, 2016 (6:00 pm)</td>
<td>Call letter for counselling will be sent by e-mail</td>
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<td>M.B.A.</td>
<td>Test and interview, AIMAT/XAT/CAT/GMAT/CMAT candidates will be given preference</td>
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<td>5-year integrated B.A./B.B.A./B.Com; LL.B (Hons.)</td>
<td>Based on +2 normalised marks &amp; CLAT 2016 score.</td>
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Application form along with prospectus can be obtained in person from SASTRA Campus (Thanjavur & Kumbakonam) or at No.5, Subbaraya Nagar main Street, Kodambakkam, Chennai - 600 024. (Samiyar Madam Bus Stop) (Phone: 044-24838029) on payment of Rs. 600/- (Rs.300/- for B.Com. (CA), M.Sc. and Law) or by post on payment of Rs. 650/- (Rs. 350/- for B.Com. (CA), M.Sc. and Law) by Demand Draft favouring SASTRA payable at Thanjavur. Applications are available at select branches of City Union Bank and can also be downloaded / submitted online. (Details at www.sastra.edu).

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