



# ITI HAS

## (IT Is Happening At SASTRA)



### NewsLetter from SASTRA

Vol. 6

2006

II Quarter

#### MESSAGE FROM THE VICE - CHANCELLOR




SASTRA Deemed University celebrated its Quinquennial Day on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2006. Seventeen years as an Engineering College and five years as a Deemed University – a period of 22 years is indeed a time for stock-taking. The comprehensive annual report read by Prof.

R. Kandaswamy made me think in retrospect to the past and look forward in prospect to the work ahead of us at SASTRA. Whatever be our achievements till date, there is always an unfinished agenda ahead.

Over the years SASTRA has introduced programmes in emerging areas of Engineering and Technology, developed infrastructure more than adequate to the needs of the programmes, entered into collaborative activities with the Central Government by setting up the TIFAC-CORE in Advanced Computing, signed MoUs with foreign Universities for mutual cooperation and set up research centres in Indian System of Medicine and Nano-Technology and Bio-Materials. I am happy that research activities are progressing in the right direction making SASTRA a truly integrated university for teaching, training, research and development. All these have placed SASTRA alongside the foremost centres of higher education at home and abroad.

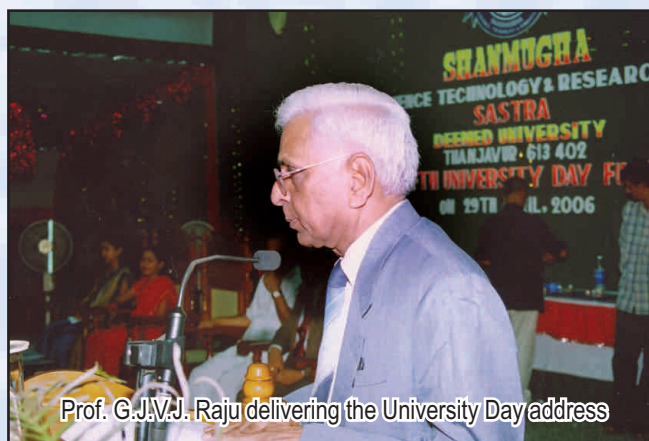
Prof. K.G. Seshadri in his literary treatise, 'A Quinquennial Tribute', pays a glorious tribute to SASTRA, in his own inimitable style. This finds a place in this issue.

The fact that this year too, students from almost all over the country plumped for admissions at SASTRA, is proof positive of the abundant faith they have reposed in us. The placement percentage of our final year students is heartwarming. I wish them a very bright future.

  
Prof. R. Sethuraman  
Vice-Chancellor

#### QUINQUENNIAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

The Quinquennial Day of SASTRA Deemed University was celebrated on 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2006. Delivering the University Day address, Prof. G.J.V.J. Raju, Former Chairman of National Board of Accreditation, called for maintaining quality and standards not only in infrastructure facilities but also in teaching - learning process and research. He said that educational institutions face the problem of inadequate qualified teaching faculty. Creation of adequate facilities to pursue research may mitigate this problem. He appreciated the progress SASTRA has made in all fields during the five years as a Deemed University. He commended the transparent admission process of SASTRA. He called for a concerted effort on the part of the management, the teaching faculty and the students for the all-round growth and benefit of all the stakeholders involved in the development of the institution. Prof. G.J.V.J. Raju presented the Kamakoti Award to Chi. M.C. Prasanna Venkata Ramanan of the Final Year B.Tech. Bio-Engineering.



Prof. G.J.V.J. Raju delivering the University Day address

Prof R. Sethuraman, Vice Chancellor, traced the growth of SASTRA over the years. Prof. R. Kandaswamy, Registrar, presented the Annual Report of the University for the academic year 2005-06. Prof. K.G. Seshadri, Dean, Humanities & Sciences, in his 'Quinquennial Tribute' traced the spectacular growth of SASTRA during its first five years as a Deemed University under



Chi. M.C. Prasanna Venkata Ramanan receives the Kamakoti Award from the Chief Guest

the leadership of its Vice Chancellor Prof. R. Sethuraman. Kum. Manas Manjari Sinha, IV Year B.Tech. Student Chairperson welcomed the gathering and Kum. C. Dharini, III year B.Tech. Student Secretary, proposed a vote of thanks.

### ACADEMIC PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

SASTRA has a unique system of awarding academic prizes for the First and Second rank holders in all courses in each semester and First, Second and Third prizes for overall performance in each semester. The prizes were distributed to all the prize winners of B.Tech., M.Tech., M.C.A., and M.B.A., courses on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2006 at a function organized simultaneously in all the seven schools (CE, ME, EEE, Computing, CBT, MS and H&S). In all 800 students received 1475 book prizes valued at Rs. 2.50 lakhs.

### ANNUAL SPORTS DAY

The Annual Sports Day was held on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2006 Shri S. Simon Sundararaj (Olympian Football) delivered the Sports Day address and distributed the prizes. Dr. P. Ramani, Dean - Education, welcomed the gathering and Shri V. Paramasivam, Physical Director, presented the Physical Education Report.

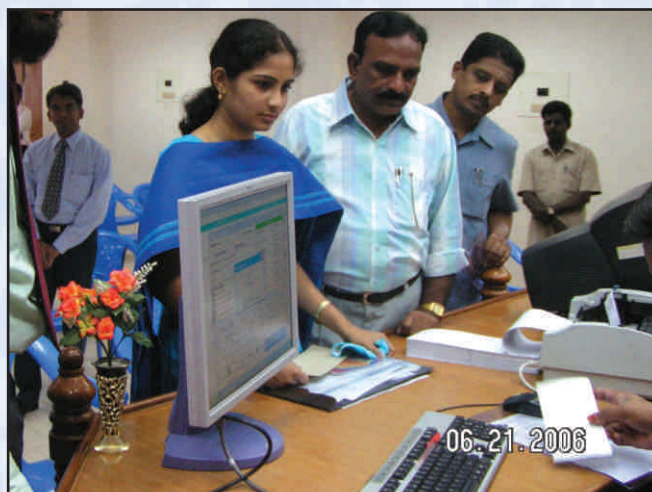


Shri Simon Sundararaj receiving the memento from Prof. R. Kandaswamy

### COUNSELLING FOR B.TECH ADMISSIONS AT SASTRA

The Counselling for B.Tech. admissions 2006-07, for various courses at SASTRA Deemed University was held from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June 2006. This year over 8000 applications were received from students of various boards in Tamil Nadu, Andra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharastra, Kerala, Bihar, Jharkhand, Delhi, Kolkatta, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Goa, Meghalaya, Nagaland etc. The Plus-Two marks had been normalized to bring all students to the same level of comparison. Applications were received till 6.00 p.m. on 10<sup>th</sup> June and the rank list was released at 9.00 p.m. on the same day through the SASTRA website.

70% of the seats in various B.Tech. Programmes were filled based on the rank secured by the students, which were based on the aggregate marks secured in the Plus-Two examinations. The remaining 30% were allotted by the CBSE through AIEEE 06.



Counselling in progress

Shri V. Jayanth, Chief of News Bureau & Associate Editor, The Hindu, Chennai handed over the first admission letter to Kum. Israth Sultana Patan.



Kum. Israth Sultana Patan receiving the admission letter from Shri V. Jayanth

## IOB'S EDUCATION LOAN CAMPAIGN

The Indian Overseas Bank Extension Counter at SASTRA Campus organized a special campaign from 22<sup>nd</sup> June to 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2006, to promote 'Vidya Jothi', their Educational Loan Scheme. The campaign was inaugurated by Shri. R. Vaidhyanathan, Sr. Regional Manager (IOB) and Prof. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean – Planning and Development, SASTRA.

Shri Chandrasekharan, Sr. Manager, Nilagirivattam Branch and Shri G.S. Shankara Narayanan, Sr. Manager, SASTRA-EC also participated. Hundreds of students were interviewed and in principle sanction was given to 359 students.



## FEEL EMPLOYABLE PROGRAMME

The Department of Training and Placement organized a 3-day intensive training programme “FEEL Employable” for all the final year students of B.Tech., M.Tech., M.B.A., and M.C.A., as part of preparation for campus recruitment. It was conducted in 5 batches from 30<sup>th</sup> May – 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2006.



Prof. A. Ramaswamy addressing the audience

In all 1236 students attended the programme. The focus was on Human Resource Development and other technical aspects of the selection process like Group Discussion and Personal Interview were dealt with in detail. The training aimed at enhancing the communication skills of the students and their self esteem.

A similar programme was organized for the Final Year B.Tech. and M.C.A. Students at Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre, SASTRA, Kumbakonam from 27<sup>th</sup> June – 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2006.

Prof. Sunney Therappan, Director, AIM INSIGHTS, Mangalore was the Chief Resource Person. He was assisted by a team of master facilitators.



Mock Interview

## FEEL TEACHER

The Training and Placement Department organized a special programme 'Feel Teacher' on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2006. 65 Teachers from various schools in and around Thanjavur participated. The objective of the programme was to develop effective communication skills in the teachers, which would help them effect a change of behavior in the students. The aim was to create a conducive learning environment in the class room thereby enhancing the self esteem and motivation of the students.

## EDITORIAL BOARD

|                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Prof. K.G. Seshadri         | Dean, Humanities & Sciences     |
| Prof. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam | Dean, Planning & Development    |
| Dr. S. Swaminathan          | Dean, (SR) & Director (CeNTAB)  |
| Shri G. Venkatraman         | Sr. Lecturer, Dept. of English  |
| Smt S. Pramila              | Sr. Lecturer, Dept. of English  |
| Shri R. Ravi                | Lecturer, Dept. of English, SRC |

*ITIHAS can also be viewed at [www.sastra.edu](http://www.sastra.edu)*

Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy (SASTRA), Deemed University, Thanjavur - 613 402, Tamil Nadu.

## TENTH ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING

The Tenth Academic Council Meeting of SASTRA was held on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2006. The council resolved to introduce new courses such as B.Tech (IT), M.Sc., Microbiology, M.Phil. Microbiology and B.Ed. at Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre in Kumbakonam.

The council noted the approval granted by the National Council for Teacher Education for starting the B.Ed. programme.

A three-member committee was formed, led by Prof. P.V. Vaidyanathan, former Vice-Chancellor, Annamalai University, along with Dr. S. Pugazhenth, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, SASTRA, and Shri K. Sridhar, Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, SASTRA, to review the rules and regulations of the part-time B.Tech. programme.

Another committee headed by Dr. K.N. Sivaraman, Founder-Director of the State Institute of English, with Dr. P. Ramani, Dean Education, SASTRA, and Dr. V. Badrinath, Professor of Commerce, SASTRA, as members was constituted to formulate a plan to improve communication and other soft skills of students to make them employable in BPO industry, which was expected to offer, on a conservative estimate, more than 5,00,000 jobs in the next five years.

Prof. P.V. Vaidyanathan, former Vice-Chancellor, Annamalai University, Dr. R. Sethuraman, Former Director, Madras Institute of Technology, Major A. Balasubramaniam and senior academicians from SASTRA participated in the meeting.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. R. Sethuraman presided over the meeting.

## FIRST Ph.D. AWARDEE

Prof. S. Gopalakrishnan, Professor, School of Computing, SASTRA defended his Ph.D. thesis on the topic 'Biomedical Image Processing and its applications to Clinical Diagnosis', on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2006.



Prof. S. Gopalakrishnan during the Viva Voce Exam

Prof. S. Gopalakrishnan registered and graduated as the first candidate, did his research under the supervision of Dr. M. Thiyagarajan, Prof. School of Computing, SASTRA. Dr. A. Krishnamoorthy, Professor and Head, Dept. of Mathematics, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Cochin was the External Examiner.

**Prof. N.K. Sakthivel**, Professor in the School of Computing defended his thesis on the topic "Investigation of Traffic on Networks and Development of Intelligent Routing Technique", in a public viva voce exam on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2006. Dr. T.R. Sivaramakrishnan, Dean-Research, was his research supervisor.



## AWARD OF Ph.D.



**Prof. K. Murugu Mohan Kumar**, Asst. Professor, School of Mechanical Engineering got his Ph.D. from National Institute of Technology (NIT), Tiruchirapalli, in February, 2006 for his thesis "Combustion Characteristics of C.I. Engine using Bio-Diesel as Fuel and Comparison with Diesel Fuel Operation".

**Shri N. Baskar**, Senior Lecturer in the School of Mechanical Engineering, received his Ph.D degree from Bharathidasan University, Trichy, in April 2006, for his thesis "Optimization of Mechining Variables using Non-Traditional Techniques."



**Prof. R. Srikanth**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics, got his Ph.D., in May 2006 from Bharathidasan University, Trichy, for his thesis " Special forms of Ternary Diophantine Equation and Applications."

**Shri. T. Vimalan**, Coordinator, Department of Astrology, obtained his Ph.D., from Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, in May 2006, for his thesis "Astrological doctrines in Valmikiramayana - A Study." (Tamil).



## AMITY UNIVERSITY/SASTRA WORKSHOP ON MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD

Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre, SASTRA and Amity Centre for Olympiad Science and Technology, Amity University, Noida, U.P. jointly conducted a workshop on Mathematics Olympiad, at the Noida University Campus from 15<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2006 for the students of VIII- XII classes. The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. V.S. Ramamurthy, Former Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India. Dr. S.Swaminathan, Dean, Sponsored Research, SASTRA and Dr.L.M.Rengarajan, Director, Vacuum Technology Project of Noida University participated in the function.

Dr. R. Srikanth, Asst. Professor and Shri R.Dharmarajan, Lecturer, Department of Mathematics, SASTRA conducted the workshop.



## HIGGINBOTHAMS AT SASTRA

M/s Higginbothams Pvt. Ltd., has opened a Book Store in SASTRA Campus. The book store was inaugurated by Shri V. Jayanth, Chief of News Bureau, The Hindu, Chennai on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2006.



Shri V. Jayanth inaugurating the book store

The Registrar, the Deans of various schools, Mr. Murali, Manager, Major Accounts, Higginbothams, Chennai and Shri J. Srinivasan, Branch Manager, Trichy, Shri S. Manikandan, Branch Manager, Higginbothams, SASTRA, also participated in the function.



A view of the Higginbothams at SASTRA

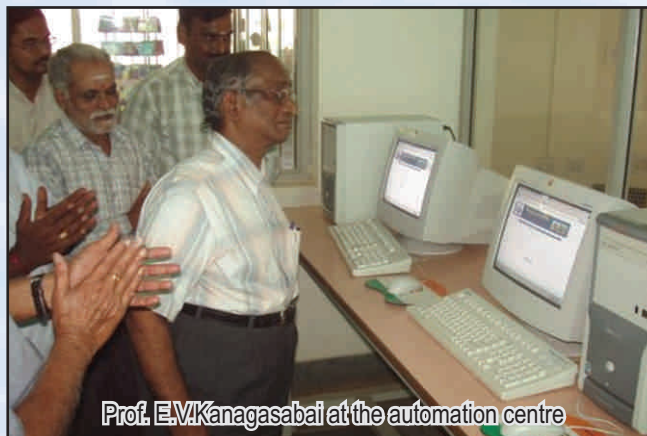
## LIBRARY AUTOMATION

Prof. K.G. Seshadri, Dean, Humanities and Sciences, inaugurated the automated functioning of the Central Library activities on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2006, by lighting the *Kutthuvilakku*. Prof. E.V. Kanagasabai, Registrar, I/c commissioned the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC), Prof. S. Jayaraman, University Librarian explained the salient features of the automation facility which replaced the existing one.



Prof. K.G. Seshadri lighting the traditional lamp

The Library automation covers the entire gamut of library operation – acquisition, cataloguing, circulation, renewal, reservation, Online Public Access Catalogue, serial control, non-book materials, stock verification and facilities for generating various reports. The OPAC facility is to be made available throughout the Intranet and also to be uploaded on the web.



Prof. E.V. Kanagasabai at the automation centre

## SASTRA - A QUINQUENNIAL TRIBUTE

Five years have passed  
Five long summers that have flown  
Like five lovely springs  
In the youth of SASTRA:  
Five fruitful autumns  
In my own personal life,  
Five wondrous winters  
With not a scintilla of discontent  
Since the twenty seventh April 2001  
When SASTRA blossomed from SHANMUGA  
Like a golden butterfly from its chrysalis !

And methought I will set it all down,  
A recordation, an avowal and a thanksgiving  
By a septuagenarian Scholar-gypsy,  
Even as a doting mentor from a ring-side seat  
Watching the brilliant performance  
Of his favourite chela  
Meeting all challengers inside the ring  
To emerge victorious at the end of the struggle.

Down memory lane I back traverse,  
And bring to mind the efforts Herculean,  
The tremendous toil and the streaming sweat,  
The agony before and the ecstasy after  
The achievement of the status of a Deemed University,  
Of all those involved in this sacred venture,  
Led by the one and only Sethuraman  
With his heroic stance while facing odds,  
His indomitable will never to submit or to yield,  
His courage and the strength to carry on the struggle  
Maugre the many obstacles along the way  
Till success crowned his head !  
“ Imaging the whole and then executing the parts  
Fancying the fabric  
Quite, before building,  
Ere steel strike fire from quartz,  
Ere mortar dab brick”:  
Wrote my favourite poet,

Singing the praise of a scholar great !  
And here, in this campus, I did witness  
The self- same process of meticulous planning  
Followed by perfect execution ;  
Counting not the cost but caring only  
For the consummation of the project.  
Block after block  
Building by building  
Rose like an exhalation  
Magnificent and majestic,  
Beautility being the theme;  
An army of workers, draughtsmen, architects,  
Masons, machines and materials, landscaping artists,  
Gardeners and technicians, together wrought day and night  
To make the skyline over the campus  
So imposing and colourful  
With shaded avenues, roads and by-ways  
That meander through the campus  
Connecting the different blocks:  
What was but a barren land, dry and unromantic,  
Has undergone “a sea-change  
Into something rich and strange”,  
With a majestic pile of structures and noble edifices,  
Alive with intellectual activity,  
The cynosure of all neighbouring eyes:  
And all solely due to the magnificent obsession  
Of a man with a trinocular vision;  
Of one who never floundered before setbacks;  
Of one who welcomed each rebuff  
As but challenges to be met and overcome;  
Of one who spared no pains, neither time  
Nor energy nor sinews of war  
To raise standards in education-- teaching, learning or  
research;  
Of one whose eyes keep looking at the far distance,  
The middle distance and the near distance:  
The first, the goal of his passion of a world-class University;  
The second, the plans and the projects for the immediate  
future;  
The third, the pressing issues of the present day,

## SASTRA - A QUINQUENNIAL TRIBUTE

Chiefly those involving the welfare of the student-wards,  
Their career-placements at the end of their course,  
(The trinocular vision I mentioned afore),  
Fulfilling the original purpose of education,  
To wit; drawing out their latent talents,  
Providing them the ambience required and the encouragement  
To promote the best in them;  
Excellence being the buzz word in the campus.  
Towards these lofty goals  
SASTRA true to its name  
Has in its first quinquennium,  
Joined hands with world class-seats of higher learning,  
Be it Musashi in Japan,  
Or Arkansas or Stevens in America.

I bear witness to the wonderful upward change  
That has happened in all aspects of University life,  
Be it the teaching-learning process  
Or tie-ups or infrastructure  
Or research and publications,  
Library facilities, communication, Endowment lectures  
And visits of brilliant academics, scholars and scientists  
During the International Conferences held every year.

I have had myself, heaven-sent moments  
When sparks from on high fell into my consciousness,  
Making me particularly aware  
Of the pulsating spirit of SASTRA so aptly named!  
And I prophesy that in the fulness of time  
In a few lustrums more  
This campus will see the hoary glory of Nalanda and Taxila  
Revived but charged with "the magic in the web of 'IT' "--  
The ancient Soul of Bharat in a modern body.

It was Richard Mulcaster of 16<sup>th</sup> Century England  
Who defining humanism once said:  
" It is not a mind, nor a body  
That we have to cultivate, but a man;

And we cannot divide him".  
SASTRA has evolved such an esemplastic approach  
To unify diverse elements  
Into one harmonious whole.  
Perhaps few if any, Universities in the country and abroad,  
Have set their sights on the twin imperatives  
As we have done here;  
The first being the Scientific knowledge Imperative:  
And the second, at least as important as the first,  
If not more, the development of the spirit -  
What I would call the 'Ethical Imperative'.  
SASTRA under Sethuraman has evolved this  
As its grand programme for its alumni and alumnae,  
To whom we proclaim:  
*"Sursum Corda! ; Lift up your hearts"*  
As the poet advised the Trojans of yore;  
'And hold your heads high'  
As Tagore advises us in his Gitanjali;  
And again, "May your grey cells keep working overtime  
Like the latest generation computers!"

I have a vision before me:  
This campus will, a decade from now,  
Be the foremost temple of higher learning in the land,  
A glorious testimony to the concept of National Integration;  
A celebrated centre of advanced research in  
Nanotechnology ,  
Indian systems of medicine and other areas,  
Holding its own among far-famed Universities the world over  
Under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Prof. R.  
Sethuraman.

I pray for more power to his elbow  
In all that he envisions, undertakes and executes,  
While I continue to watch with a parental love and pride,  
Its spectacular rise to greater and greater glory!  
ESTO PERPETUA !

- K.G.S.  
29.04.2006

## **SASTRA STUDY GIVES CLEAN CHIT TO INDIAN HERBAL MEDICINES**

The publication entitled, "Heavy metal content of Ayurvedic herbal medicinal products" in the Journal of American Medical Association by Saper, et al., (2004) has left a conclusion that one out of 5 Ayurvedic HMPs produced in South Asia and available in Boston South Asian grocery stores contains potentially harmful levels of lead, mercury, and/or arsenic. It further stated that users of Ayurvedic medicine may be at risk for heavy metal toxicity, and testing of Ayurvedic HMPs for toxic heavy metals should be mandatory.

This report has given a great set-back to the Government of India to promote traditional medicine. With a view to protecting our Ayurvedic Medicinal Products and considering our nation's interest the Centre for Advanced Research in Indian System of Medicine (CARISM), SASTRA Deemed University, initiated steps to evaluate the safety profile of herbo-metallic preparations especially the three preparations mentioned in the JAMA article without any financial support from funding agencies. After establishing the safety profile of the three preparations in pre-clinical studies, SASTRA approached the Centre for Psychosomatic and Biofeedback Medicine, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, to take up the clinical studies, and Dr.ALM Post Graduate Institute of Basic Medical Sciences (Dr.ALM PGIBMS), University of Madras, Chennai for a joint venture in continuing the human clinical and toxicity studies and reconfirming the findings done at SASTRA. In this way, the above three institutions decided to take up this issue on priority basis on war-footing to establish the safety of our traditional formulations.

The findings of the experiments were communicated to the Department of AYUSH and to the Department of Science and Technology (DST). The Department of AYUSH, Government of India, New Delhi, constituted an expert committee comprising members from CSIR, AIIMS, ICMR and the Department of AYUSH and invited us to present our findings at AYUSH, New Delhi on May 8, 2006. Dr.G.Victor Rajamanickam, Dean, CARISM, Dr.G.P.Dubey, Emeritus Professor, Dr.S.Swaminathan, Director, CeNTAB, Dr. Aruna

Agarwal, CPBM, BHU, Dr.R. Venkatakrishna Murali, and Dr. S.L. Maheswari Dr. ALM PGIBMS, University of Madras, Dr.K.Uma Maheswari, CeNTAB, SASTRA, Ms.U.Subasini and Dr. Eugene Wilson participated in the proceedings. The committee expressed its appreciation and wanted the findings to be published in JAMA as well in the national press.

Subsequently, the findings of the study were published in 'The Hindu', Chennai Edition dated 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2006.

Presently, CARISM is taking necessary steps to present the findings of the above study in Harvard Medical School, USA from where the publication in JAMA appeared. In this regard, SASTRA has already deputed Dr.G.P.Dubey, Emeritus Professor, SASTRA for initiating the discussion with the publishers and also take up this matter with National Institute of Health (NIH), USA for a joint venture with SASTRA.

## **EXPERTS FROM 'AYUSH' VISIT SASTRA**

Under the direction of Shri.Shiv Basant, Joint Secretary, Department of Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH), Dr.G.S.Lavekar, Director, Central Council of Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS), Department of AYUSH, New Delhi, and Dr.G.Veluchamy, Director, National Institute of Siddha, Chennai, visited SASTRA on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2006.



Dr.G.S.Lavekar and Dr.G.Veluchamy at CARISM



Dr.G.S.Lavekar and Dr.G.Veluchamy with our Vice-Chancellor

Dr.Lavekar visited SASTRA to examine the Infrastructure and manpower facilities in CARISM for joint collaborative programs with CCRAS, Dept. of AYUSH. The team expressed their satisfaction in the State-of-the-art infrastructure facilities and research activities of CARISM and expressed willingness for collaboration.

### TRAINING FOR SANSKRIT TEACHERS

A ten-day training programme for Sanskrit Teachers was conducted at SASTRA Campus from 18<sup>th</sup> May to 27<sup>th</sup> May 2006. The state level training programme was organized by the Tamilnadu Chapter of 'Samskritha Bharathi'. In this programme more than 300 school and college teachers, students who are studying Sanskrit as a second language and those who know Sanskrit, participated.

This programme was inaugurated by Dr. C. Thangamuthu, Vice-Chancellor, Bharathidasan University, Trichy. Prof. Sathiyaseelan and Prof. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean – Planning and Development, SASTRA participated in the function.

The valedictory function was held on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2006. Shri Sriram, State co-ordinator, Samskritha Bharathi, presided over the function. Shri R. Ramasubbu, Associate Editor, Dhinamalar, Shri Pattabiraman, G.B. Engineering Enterprises, Trichy, Dr. Ramachandran, State Secretary, Samskritha Bharathi addressed the gathering.

### SUMMER FELLOWSHIP



Chi. Rajkumar Singh, IV B.Tech. Bio-Engineering received a summer fellowship from the Indian Academy of Sciences (IAS), Bangalore. He worked with Prof. M.K. Chandrasekharan, Evolutionary & Organismal Biology Unit, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, during this summer for a period of 8 weeks. He received a fellowship of Rs. 4,000/- per month.

### RASTRAPATHI AWARD FOR GUIDE SISTERHOOD



Kum. N. Ranjani of I. B.Tech., Bio-Technology branch, SASTRA, a former student of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Chennai, has received the Rastrapathi Award for Scouts. The award has been given to her for service to the country and the fellow beings and as a true member of the family of Guide Sisterhood.

### NCC ANNUAL CAMP



A Combined Annual Training Camp of NCC Air Wing, of Senior Division Boys, Senior Wing Girls and Junior Division Boys was held at SASTRA Campus between 21<sup>st</sup> June and 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2006. 235 Senior Division cadets and 500 Junior Division cadets of Rockfort Group NCC, Trichy, 12 Associated NCC Officers and 12 permanent Instruction Staff of the Indian Air Force attended the camp. The camp was commanded by Wing Commander Bhaskar Biswas, Commanding Officer, No.3, (TN) Air Squadron NCC (Tech.) Trichy. The camp activities included health run, physical training exercises, foot drill, arms drill and sports and games. Special Lectures were delivered on



The winning team of the Junior Division Boys receiving the rolling shield

Service Subjects such as General Service Knowledge, Principles of Flight, Air Navigation, Aero Engines, Air Frames, Airmanship, Meteorology, Armament, Aeromodeling, etc.

Mrs. Relton of Bishop Heber College delivered a lecture on Environmental Education. Dr. Godwin delivered a lecture on leadership skills.

Prof. A. Ramaswamy, Dean, Training & Placement, and Dr. P. Ramani, Dean, Education, conducted a career guidance interactive session.

A range practice and a route march to Vallampudur and Nattani villages were part of the camp.

Prof. S. Vaidhyasubramaniam, Dean, Planning and Development inaugurated the camp. Colonel T.M. Shanmugam, Group Commander, Rock Fort Group, Trichy, presided over the function.

In his valedictory address Prof. S.Vaidhyasubramaniam emphasized that the youth of India is the future India and appealed to the cadets to undertake massive efforts to turn India to become not only a super knowledge power but also a beacon light to lead the entire humanity. First Officer Shri Sumbro proposed a vote of thanks. The camp was made possible by the benign and benevolent support extended by Prof. R. Sethuraman, Vice-Chancellor, SASTRA. The camp was coordinated by Sqn. Ldr. Dr. P. Ramani, Dean, Education.

### NSS SPECIAL CAMP

The NSS Unit of SASTRA, SRC Organised a special camp at Korkkai Village from 22<sup>nd</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2006. NSS volunteers, involved themselves in various activities like water tank cleaning, temple cleaning, tree planting, desilting the pond etc. Special Medical Camp and Dental Camp were also organized for the benefit of the villagers. Group activities for the village children were conducted to create awareness among them regarding health and hygiene. Dr. T.R. Sivaramakrishanan, Dean

Research, SASTRA delivered a lecture on 'Disaster Management'. The camp was inaugurated by Prof. P.V. Ramakrishanan, Dean, SRC, SASTRA and Dr. K. Chandrasekara Rao, Head of the Department of Mathematics, SRC participated in the valedictory ceremony. Shri D. Narasimhan, Shri Sayee Prasanna, N.S.S. Officers and Shri S. Meganathan, Lecturer, Department of Computer Science, were the organizers of the camp.



Road Formation by our NSS volunteers



Medical Camp

### WORLD TELECOM DAY 2006 OBSERVED

The Broadcast Engineering Society (India), Thanjavur Chapter and the ECE Department of SASTRA, jointly organized a function at SASTRA campus on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2006 to observe 'World Telecom Day 2006.' World Telecom Day commemorates the day of the formation of International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the international body under United Nations, which is the worldwide regulating and arbitrating authority in the Communications and Information & Communication Technologies. Every year, the day is observed with a special theme on the issues relating to communication technologies. The theme of this year was "Promoting the Global Cyber Security."



Shri M. Ananthan welcomes the gathering

Shri M. Ananthan, (Chapter Secretary), Station Engineer, Doordarshan Maintenance Centre, Thanjavur, welcomed the gathering. Prof. P.V.Ramakrishnan, Dean, SRC, SASTRA delivered a lecture on "Nano Technology - Challenges and Opportunities" and Shri K. Suresh Kumar, Senior Lecturer, TIFAC CORE, SASTRA delivered a lecture on "Cyber Laws and Cyber Security - An Overview".

### CERTIFICATE COURSES

Certificate Courses of two-week duration, on a variety of areas were conducted by various schools for all the IV semester B.Tech. students of SASTRA main campus and SRC from 30<sup>th</sup> May to 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2006.

A Certificate course in 'Communication and Soft Skills' was conducted for III year Arts and Science students and final year MCA students of SRC by the Department of English from 13<sup>th</sup> June to 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2006.

These courses, offered as a value addition, are interdisciplinary in nature which will increase the employability of the students. The courses were offered free of cost.

### CERTIFICATE COURSE IN TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS

A Certificate Course in "Technical Communication Skills" was conducted by the Department of English for all the II semester B.Tech. students of SASTRA main campus and SRC, Kumbakonam from 30<sup>th</sup> May to 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2006. 1540 students in the main campus and 200 students in SRC attended the course. A 124 - page printed course material prepared by Dr. P. Ramani, Dean - School of Education, was used. The course focused on Communication Skills, Presentation Skills, Language and Discourse features of Science and Technology and Technical Report Writing.

### FIFTH ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATIONS AT SRC



Shri T.N. Shanmugham delivering the annual day address

Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre of SASTRA at Kumbakonam celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual & Sports Day on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2006. Colonel T.N. Shanmugam, Group Commander NCC, Rock Fort Group, Trichy delivered the annual day address. In his address, the Chief Guest appreciated the academic toppers and the best performers in the field of sports and also appreciated SASTRA for encouraging intellectual and physical efforts of the students in a big way. He gave away Book Prizes to 270 toppers in Academics and prizes to the winners of sports and games events.

Prof. R. Kandaswamy, Registrar, SASTRA graced the occasion. Dr. P. Ramani, Dean - Education, welcomed the gathering. Prof. V. Srinivasan, Head, Department of Commerce, proposed a vote of thanks.



Prof. R. Kandaswamy giving away prize for sports and games

### 86<sup>th</sup> REMEMBRANCE DAY OF SRINIVASA RAMANUJAN

The 86<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day of the Mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan was solemnly observed on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2006, at the Srinivasa Ramanujan Centre, SASTRA Deemed University, Kumbakonam. Prof. R. Balasubramanian, Director, Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, inaugurated the conference and delivered a lecture on the work of Ramanujan on Modular equations and combinatorics, an area which has potential applications in Computer Science. He spoke on Greedy Algorithm and its application to the sequence of numbers {1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 13, 14}. The failure of the algorithm when applied to generate this sequence to find the general ( $n^{\text{th}}$ ) term was highlighted.

The lecture was followed by a brief CD-ROM presentation on the Life and Work of Srinivasa Ramanujan, (Part - I) which has been developed as part of the DST project, by



Prof. R. Balasubramanian delivering the special address

Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy (SASTRA), Deemed University, Thanjavur - 613 402, Tamil Nadu.

Dr. Srinivasa Rao of SRC. A talk on “Continued Fractions (CF) and their Applications”, an area in which pioneering work was done by Ramanujan and recorded by him in his celebrated Note books, was presented by Dr. R. Parthasarathy, a former Professor at IIT, Chennai and renowned writer of about 250 popular articles on the contributions of Scientists and Engineers, in 'The Hindu'.

Dr. P.R. Parthasarathy, Department of Mathematics, IIT, Chennai, gave an 'extensive presentation of Ramanujan's work on continued Fractions and their probabilistic interpretation based on his research work in this area and its application to birth and death process. He concluded the talk with a list of areas such as Genomics to which the concept can be utilized with success.

Prof. R. Balakrishnan, DST Chair at SRC and Prof. K. Chandrasekara Rao, Head, Department of Mathematics, SRC, chaired the sessions.

### UP COMING EVENT



## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on

**“NUMBER THEORY & COMBINATORICS”**  
**19 - 22 DECEMBER 2006**

Organised by

**SRINIVASA RAMANUJAN CENTRE**

### IMPORTANT DATES

Paper Submission : **October 31, 2006**  
Intimation of paper acceptance : **November 15, 2006**  
Camera ready paper submission & Registration : **December 01, 2006**  
Conference : **December 19-22, 2006**

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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