



Gardens of the world in a world of gardens



Namitha Venkat

The sheer range of the horticultural splendour of the 335-acre Amrita campus is arresting to the eyes as it is refreshing to the heart.

The elder trees lining the roads with their yellow flowers in full bloom and the fallen flowers giving the roads a golden sheen, the Japanese Zen garden, the herbal garden and the rock gardens with waterfalls greet the visitors as they step into the campus.

"In nature, everything blends and at Amrita, we have tried to incorporate that in our gardens," says Dr. M. Aravindakshan, Co-ordinator, Centre for Environmental Studies here. The very landscape in front of the

main building is a unique blend of almost everything from tall bottle palms on either side of the path that leads to a serene, marble statue of Goddess Saraswathy to a small lotus pond chipped with Japanese gardens on its sides. "They add to the beauty of the garden. Moreover, you don't have to replace them for another 100 years!" Dr. Aravindakshan says.

As the visitor heads for the Business School, he can sense an Indianness in the landscape with more than 130 species of medicinal plants. Further ahead, near the IT block, the garden takes on a haphazard arrangement of rocks and pebbles in a virtual recreation of the Japanese Zen garden. The Nakshatra Vanam is conceived

after the Indian calendar, with 27 trees representing the 27 stars.

The landscape around the guest house is brilliant, portraying a rain-forest around an oasis. On both sides of the steps that lead to the guest house, the landscaping is symmetrically done in a terraced garden style. While a rock-lined fountain stands to the left of the steps, the stream that flows from the fountain ends in a Pergola, a garden walk roofed with an open framework over which flowering vines grow.

Not a single patch of land in the whole campus has been ripped off of its natural setting. It is a symbiosis of many places, many cultures and many nations merged into one sprawling world of gardens.

"It is Amma's prayer that we develop the expansive-mindedness to embrace both scientific knowledge and spiritual wisdom. We can no longer afford to see these two streams of knowledge as flowing in opposite directions. In truth, they complement one another. If we merge these streams, we will find that we are able to create a mighty river—a river whose waters can remove suffering and spread life to all of humanity."



Anokha's Green Endeavour

Komal G
Krishna Veni KP

Anokha'11 presents Nivritti, a national symposium addressing the alarming crisis of climate change and global warming by involving young minds. The central idea of the symposium - 'Opportunities in the Renewable Energy sector to aid Global Sustainable Development - with focus on Research' is intertwined with the theme of Anokha- "National Security and Sustainable development".

Nivritti is organised in alliance with the strategic knowledge partner 'GreenAdd+' which is an organisation working towards ensuring and expediting the process of sustainable development in developing countries. It also provides holistic and logical solutions to the problems faced by the 21st century.

The symposium's objectives are "to inform, to involve, to innovate and to incubate". It also consists of intellectually stimulating panel discussions, paper presentations and educational workshops on clean technologies which would be followed by an exciting set of lecture series, industrial visits and educational workshops on green



At the Nivritti Conference

technologies. Various colleges from all over India have taken part in the paper presentation session on topics like 'New renewable technologies to prevent global warming'.

The symposium included Duke Cristopher, General Manager, Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency, Prabodh Bajpai, Professor, IIT, Kharagpur, C.Palanianappan, Chief Executive and General Secretary, Planters' Energy Network and Mr. Shardul Kshirsagar, Head C & H Services, SBU, Thermax Limited. The event also saw Linken Dawar, an ex student of Amrita who represented India at the Copenhagen Conference. These experts from research, government and corporate backgrounds threw light on the way forward for innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers and students to contribute to global efforts towards achieving energy sufficiency.

Did you know?

Amrita has...

A Swimming Pool which is of Olympic standards with 50m X 25m in size and contains 2.4 million liters of water and a Toddlers Pool. It has the state-of art machinery that can purify 2.4 million liters of water within six hours.

Three Effluent Treatment plants to recycle waste water. This system prevents environmental pollution and helps in organic farming and is very effective in water conservation.

Three gymnasiums inside the campus equipped with up ride bicycle, motorized treadmill, elliptical cross trainer, 6 in 1 multi-gym, 12 in multi-gym and 8 station multi-gym.

A guest house facility which includes 20 A.C rooms, 4 A.C suites, 20 non A.C rooms, conference hall and dining hall.

What they said...

"All the events were great; the programs in the evening were fantastic. Also, we read Campus Beats and it looks awesome."- Joe Antony and Aswin Oommen, of St. Josephs college, Pala

"It was brilliant actually. The bands were very entertaining. I loved TEDx; to be exposed to something of that calibre was really good. Everyone loves TED and we always wanted to be a part of it and to have gotten this opportunity was wonderful."- Sridvidya.R of Amrita Bangalore.

As told to Lakshmi Sivadas and Mrinal Mehta



ANOKHA 2011

Feb 8, 9, 10

Special Edition

A fest for students by the students

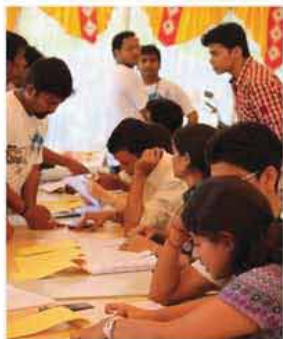
Student organizers talk about their experiences from ANOKHA'11

CB Correspondents

Behind every successful event are countless hours of work. Unsung heroes, who skipped meals, spent sleepless nights and hours copying missed notes, walked miles in the hot sun and raced against deadlines. This is the story of Anokha, the story of team work.

"There has been a lot of running around. The day before the event, most of us had to manage with just three hours of sleep", says Aditya, Chief Coordinator of the technical events.

The event has been entirely organ-



Organizers at the food counter

Workshops become arenas for skill development and learning

Anushree Madhavan
Renu Unnikrishnan

Hacking can be legal and there are ethics even in this relatively new cyber field that is often associated with snooping and spying.

One of the most popular workshops at this year's Anokha was the 'Ethical Hacking Workshop' that attracted about 350 potential student hackers. The workshop conducted by the Kyron Digital Securities aimed at educating the students on 'legal ways of hacking.'

This was one of the several workshops held this year to improve knowledge and skills in various fields.

A two-day workshop on 'Automotive and Engine Design' conducted by Metawing Technologies, Delhi, covered basic theories and technicalities, besides demonstrations with prototypes. At the end of the workshop, the students were presented with kits containing soft copies on automotives.

The workshop on 'Fuel Cell Hybrid' and 'Wind Mill Hybrid' con-

ducted by students themselves. In fact, even the onerous responsibility of ensuring discipline was handled entirely by student representatives, and they did not fail, despite stray complaints of overzealousness.

"Usually students are more enthused about the food and cultural programs. Yet, this year, the highlight has truly been the technical events", gleams Aditya.

The backbone of any event is its sponsors. "We started as early as June 2010, the day after Anokha '10. It was a hard task, convincing them to open up the purse strings," says Abhimanyu. A, student coordinator, Sponsorships.

An enterprising hospitality team too was designed two weeks in advance. Around 900 plus participants had opted for in campus accommodation. Four to six volunteers were available at the hostels throughout the day and night on a shift basis.

The only problem faced by the hospitality team was convincing the participants about the gate-pass system. "A student from VIT would not un-

derstand why he cannot go to the city at 9:30 at night," says Sachin Biju Nair, team leader, hospitality. Visitors seem to be quite happy with the hospitality procedure. "The volunteers are very helpful and patient. They are ready to answer our queries any time of the day. Everything from registrations to our rooms to events have gone smoothly," says Narasimhan, Jaya College of Engineering, Chennai.

Aditya does feel that the delegation of work could have been more effective. "However, overall, I am extremely satisfied. It felt great to see visitors coming forward and congratulating us on the improvement of the fest compared to last year."

The result sure has been a resounding success, the culmination of a year of collective hard work. The Anokha '11 story shall continue to live in the memories of many, posing a challenge to the organizers of Anokha 2012.



Aditya (Behind far right) with fellow organizers

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More placements from Larsen and Toubro: Charu Dutta

Vandana Rajan

An alumni of IIT Chennai, young and dynamic- These best describe Charu Dutta. He became the chief engineer for the Monorail Project of Larsen and Toubro Ltd. The Monorail project is one of a kind project in India. Excerpts from an interview:

About the L & T Monorail Project.

This 2460 crore project is the country's first Monorail System being set up for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority. A huge advantage for this project includes greater reliability, high maneuverability, lower cost, an eco-friendly design, sleek exteriors and air conditioned cars adding to the commuter comfort. We are planning to complete the project by the end of this year.

About Amrita

I was very much impressed by the structure and ambience of the university. Moreover, I liked the vibrant participation and enthusiasm of the students. The event is well or-



ganized and this is what makes Anokha exceptional. I am aware that L & T has been doing placements in Amrita for the past few years, so when we come here the next time, I will ensure that more students get placed, here because it will definitely help our company scale greater heights.

EVENTIDE: Three maestros set to dazzle

Vidya Venugopal

The heated brains have finally calmed down and the curtains are going to be dropped. After the audience at Amrita were enthralled by mind blowing performances by the bands and the dancers of the university, it's now time to party, with the veteran artists of the industry.

The grand finale, will witness heart throbbing performances from world-famous percussionist Sivamani, the 'chocolate' keyboard player Stephen Devassy and the great sitar maestro Ravi Chary.

"We expect great music and loads of fun out of the programme and I think this show is the highlight of Anokha which attracts the students from other colleges too," says Rajiv, second year engineering student of the university. Clearly the students are awaiting a thunderous performance tonight.

"I'm happy to know that Amrita is providing a platform for the budding and the experienced artists and we are eagerly waiting for the show to begin," opines Saranya, third year engineering student of Karunya University.

The show that starts at six in the evening will take you to the world of rhythms and beats. So rush to experience the nerve chilling performance of the decade with great musicians of the time and rock the show.