Inspiring story of dazzling brilliance

The viva voce of the final exam in the university was in progress. The examiner in physics asked this question to the student: “How will you measure the height of a very tall building using a barometer?” The examiner was ostensibly expecting an answer that the barometric pressures at the top and the bottom of the building are different, and by calculating, one could determine the height of the building.

The student however replied: “Tie the barometer to a long string, lower the string till the barometer touches the ground and then measure the length of the string.”

Although the answer was technically correct, it was not acceptable to the examiner because it was not the expected answer. So the student was failed. Consequently, the student had no other go but to appeal to the university. The university appointed an independent arbitrator to decide the case. The arbitrator’s judgment proclaimed that despite the answer was fundamentally correct it did not display any apparent knowledge of physics. Finally it was decided to resolve the problem by calling the student in and giving him just six minutes to give a verbal answer which showed at least a minimal familiarity with the basic principles of physics.

For five minutes the student sat quiet, deeply engrossed in thought. When the arbitrator warned him that time was running out, the student replied that he had several truly appropriate answers, but couldn’t make up his mind which one to use. On being advised to hurry up the student replied as follows:

Firstly, you could take the barometer up to the roof of the skyscraper, drop it over the edge, and measure the time it takes to reach the ground. The height of the building can then be worked out from the formula $H = 0.5g \times t^2$. But bad luck on the barometer.

Or if the sun is shining you could measure the height of the barometer, then fix it on end and measure the length of its shadow. Then you measure the length of the skyscraper’s shadow, and thereafter it is a simple matter of proportional arithmetic to work out the height of the skyscraper.

But if you wanted to be extremely scientific about it, you could tie a short piece of string to the barometer and swing it like a pendulum, first at ground level and then on the roof of the skyscraper. The height is worked out by the difference in the gravitational restoring force $T = 2 \pi \sqrt{l/g}$.

Or if the skyscraper has an outside emergency staircase, it would be easier to walk up it and mark off the height of the skyscraper in barometer lengths, then add them up.

If you merely wanted to be mundane and orthodox about it, of course, you could use the barometer to measure the air pressure on the roof of the skyscraper and on the ground, and convert the difference in millibars into feet to give the height of the building.

No doubt, the student who gave such a brilliant answer can’t just remain very ordinary. The student in this episode was Neil Bohr, the first person from Denmark to win Nobel prize for physics.

Moral: Education is not merely stuffing students’ heads with information and formulae to be memorised and reproduced upon demand, but is teaching students how to think and solve problems using whatever tools are available.

Dr.P.C.Nayar

Dr.Pradeep P.Thevannoor Innovation Awards presented

Dr.Pradeep P.Thevannoor Innovation Awards 2016 were presented to the winners by Mr.Feroze Varun Gandhi MP at a colourful function held at SCMS School of Engineering and Technology on February 10. While presenting the awards Mr.Varun Gandhi specially lauded the efforts made by SCMS through these awards to promote the spirit of innovation among school and college students in our country.

Infinite talents in our country

“The ideas shared by our youth should be given due consideration,” said Mr. Varun Gandhi in his address. India is a country...
which has got huge wealth of talents to challenge any country in the world, he added. Only technological innovations can ensure sustainable development in future, he explained.

Inequality, a matter of concern

GDP is not an indicator of human development rate in the country. Inequality between the rich and the poor is on the increase, said Mr.Varun Gandhi. "There were only a few billionaires in the country during early 80s. Now the number of billionaires has crossed 90. While a good number of the people of a city lives in slums and on streets, around 60 percent of the resource and wealth in the country is accumulated with 10 percent of the population. No government can go ahead with acute economic inequality and economic growth side by side," he said.

Mr.Gandhi expressed the opinion that the situation could be changed only with the attainment of social democracy along with political democracy. "We should have members in the Parliament representing various sectors like farmers, technologists and the like. A farmer should represent farmers in the parliament. Similarly doctors or engineers should have their representatives from the same profession," he suggested.

The winning teams

The team from Madras Institute of Technology, Chennai was the winner in the college category for their proposal named 'Nano Solar Sail Swarm in a Cost Effective Ground Testing Apparatus' and team from ER & DCI Institute of Technology, Thiruvananthapuram was the runner up with their project 'Indriya- the Smart Guidance System.' In the school level S.M.V. Higher Secondary School, Poonjar claimed the first prize for their proposition 'Third Eye for Blinds' and St.Sebastian's HSS Velimanam, Kannur claimed the runner up prize for their scheme 'The Smart Car.' A special award named as Best Woman Innovator PPTIA 2016 was introduced this year and Ms.Priyanka Shiralkar from B.V. Bhoomaraddi College of Engineering and Technology, Hubballi, Karnataka earned it for her idea proposal titled 'Graphical User Interface for Illiterate and Semi-literate Workers at Construction Sites.'

Mr.Navas Meeran, Managing Director, Eastern Condiments and Co-chairman, CII Start Up Council presided over the function. He expressed his appreciation for attracting participants from different parts of the country.

An annual affair

Dr.Pradeep PThevannoor Innovation Awards have been instituted as an annual national competition honouring outstanding socially relevant and commercially viable innovative thoughts from students of schools and colleges all over India. The intention of these awards is to encourage the generation of novel products, services and technologies from students of schools and colleges. These awards can become the foundation for new developments and best practices.

The prize money for the college level competition is: Rs.1 lakh for the winner and Rs.50,000 for the runner-up. At the school level Rs.50,000 for the winner and Rs.25,000 for the runner-up. An assured prize money of Rs. 10,000 each is presented to the rest of the finalists.
Good participation

This year, there were nearly 500 registrations and more than half of them completed abstract idea proposals. These submissions were scrutinised by an expert panel to minimise the list to 66 quality submissions. Out of these, 39 entries came under the college category and the remaining 27 in the school category.

The shortlisted participants were evaluated carefully to identify the 15 best innovations each from school and college categories. They were marked as semi-finalists. These 30 innovations were presented in an exhibition cum semi-final round on February 9.

The exhibition attracted large crowd including students from schools in and around the campus, faculty members, and students from different engineering colleges, and members from industry and research organisations. A judging panel of experts comprising members from the fields of research, industry, academia and entrepreneurship selected the best 5 ideas from each category.

The grand jury

Mr.Navas Meeran, Managing Director, Eastern Condiments and Co-chairman, CII Start Up Council, Dr.K.Ajith Kumar, Scientist Project Director, NPOL, Kochi, Mr.Shyam Menon, Co-founder and Investment Director, Infuse Ventures, Bengaluru and Mr.Sandith Thandacherry, CEO, Navgathi Marine Design and Construction were the Grand Jury members who evaluated the winners of Dr. Pradeep P. Thevannoor Innovation Awards second edition.

Supervisory development certificate programme for Carborundum Universal

A MoU has been signed between SCMS Group and Carborundum Universal for conducting supervisory development training programme for Carborundum staff working in the junior supervisory position. The training will enable the staff to get promoted to higher positions. The training is for a period of six months and will be conducted at the campuses of SCMS School of Engineering and Technology and SCMS COCHIN School of Business. Prof.Pramod P.Thevannoor, Vice Chairman, SCMS Group and Mr.M.Muthia, Executive Vice President-HR, Carborundum Universal signed the agreement on February 13.

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SCMS Sports Club and Sports Meet inaugurated

Veteran national cricketer and national coach PBalachandran and renowned international player Sreesanth were the chief guests at the inauguration of SCMS Sports Club and its Annual Sports Meet on February 13.

“Whatever may be the number of marks you score in your examinations here, the real test for you will be in facing the challenging situations in future, particularly in management,” said Mr.Balachandran while inaugurating the Sports Club. “When you get engaged with all sorts of sporting activities,” he said, “you will become physically and mentally more fit to face challenging situations in your life.” The great lesson sports can give you is that every day will not be your day, he warned.

Contd. on page 4
Annual sports meet

With the purpose of instilling sportsman spirit among students and to enhance their physical and social skills, the much awaited annual sports meet was conducted during the period from February 13 to 18. As reported above, international cricketer Sreesanth inaugurated the meet. The meet which was spread over six days was conducted at three venues namely, Prathap Nagar campus, Udyogamandal Club indoor stadium, and FACT ground. Besides athletics, competitions were held in football, cricket, volleyball, throw ball, basketball, shuttle badminton, caroms, chess and table tennis. Students from SCMS COCHIN School of Business, SSTM and SIBB-R&D were grouped into six houses – Kochi Chargers, Kochi Indians, Kochi Kings, Kochi Royals, Kochi Tigers and Kochi Warriors – to compete among them. The Overall Championship Trophy was won by the house Kochi Kings. Kochi Chargers won the runner up trophy. The faculty events included shot put by men and women. Midhun Mohan and Sachin Girish shared the title of Best Sportsperson Boy and Angel Mary was adjudged the Best Sportsperson Girl.

The meet ended with Dr.V.Raman Nair, Group Director, congratulating the winners with trophies.

Mr.S.Sreesanth taking a selfie with the students.

Mr.T.P.Sreenivasan's lecture

Renowned former diplomat Mr.T.P.Sreenivasan was a guest faculty for the course on International Relations on February 8 and 9.

Speaking on the policy changes initiated by the new US President Donald Trump he said that Mr.Trump’s theory is that the whole idea of climate change is a hoax by the Chinese. “You all know that it is contrary to the fact,” he said. Over a period of time the scientific community has agreed beyond doubt that climate change is caused by human action. What Mr.Trump has invented is that there is no such thing as climate change. So he argues that the US need not spend any money on this account. When you accept the theory of climate change, automatically there has to be a restriction on industrialisation. Because the best way to prevent climate change is by restricting any kind of development activity. However we all need development. Therefore, the best approach will be to go for development in a sustainable manner, Mr. Sreenivasan suggested. Mr.Trump’s argument is that we can have uncontrolled development. The purpose behind it is to have uncontrolled development in the US. Since he has removed climate change as a possibility, the immediate impact will be that the commitment of the US made to finance environmental activities to prevent climate change will disappear. This is a major shift in his policy, Mr.Sreenivasan explained.

Speaking on China Mr.Sreenivasan said that the Chinese rise is a threat not only to India but also to all other countries of the region. Their proposal is to have the world with China as the leader. The word ‘china’ itself means the centre of the world. Obviously we cannot accept the Chinese proposal. At the same time we cannot have a war with China. There is no military solution to the Chinese issue, he argued.

The US has a policy to contain China. The US expects a confrontation with China in Asia in a period of 20-30 years. That is why President George Bush took a strategy to make friend with India. That is why he offered us a nuclear deal. To counter China you cannot depend on Russia, because Chinese Russian relationship is so strong, he pleaded.

The question is whether Mr.Trump will become so close to Russia and forget about China. This is a danger. If we become close to Russia and say no more danger from China then we will be exposed completely. We will not have a friend in Asia Pacific region. Then we will have to deal only with Japan and Australia. If the US withdraws from Asia Pacific region that will be a big danger for us. That will leave the field open to China I hope Mr. Trump will not do that because he distrusts China also. Mr.Trump’s idea is to withdraw from their commitments in other parts of the world and focus more in the US to make the US great. I don’t think he can do it. If the US has to be a great country it has to honour its commitments, he reasoned.

It is unthinkable for the US and Russia to come closer, because it will be opposed by people from both the countries. There is already lot of irritation in the US that Mr.Trump got the help from Mr.Putin to win the election, whether it is true or not, Mr.Sreenivasan explained.
Marketing Grid programme

Under the auspices of the Marketing Grid, Mr. R.K. Menon, a Retail Professional with over 22 years of experience across 18 countries in prestigious companies like Philips, Kodak, D’damas and Reliance Retail interacted with the students on February 15. His interaction revolved around using mythology and belief systems to delineate consumer types and behaviours and building effective emotional and transactional triggers. He also explained the moment of truth in a mall and use of influence and power of persuasion to create zones of maximum effectiveness in a marketplace.

Institute industry interaction

Mr. Abhishek Rajagolkar

Mr. Abhishek Rajagolkar, Director-Sales & Marketing, Marriott Group of Hotels, Kochi shared his experiences with the students on February 2. “This is the right time for you to think about what you want to achieve and what kind of profession you want to get into,” he suggested. “If you want to achieve something in life you need to put your effort towards it to make it happen,” he advised. The quality that helped him to excel in his particular job was his special interest in his role, he emphasised. He also spoke on the L.E.A.R.N. (Listen, Empathise, Apologise, React. Notify) concept followed in handling guest issues in their hotels. According to him one of the biggest shifts that happened in terms of decision making in the recent past is references, reviews and the like – not just in hotel industry but in every other industry. Key opinion leaders have become one of the most important influencing factors in peoples’s decision making, he clarified.

MDP Programmes conducted

Prof. Sreekumar B. Pillai, Department of Marketing, facilitated a Women Entrepreneurship Development Programme at KITCO, Kochi on December 27. The programme was sponsored by the Department of Science & Technology, National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board and the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad. The topic covered areas like marketing strategy, tools for market survey, and market survey analysis. Twenty women entrepreneurs participated.

FDP attended

Dr. Sengottuvelu C., Professor and Head-Consultancy attended two-day FDP on Modern Instructional Practices for Teaching and Learning (TEQIP II sponsored) organised by Teaching and Learning Centre, NIT, Tiruchirappalli on January 30 and 31.

Knowledge sharing programme

The first talk under knowledge sharing programme was by Prof. Sreekumar B. Pillai on the topic ‘Why are we a consumer state?’ on February 6. The second talk was by Dr. M. Madhu, HoD-HR on the topic ‘Global Workspace’ on February 20.

Homecoming

As part of the alumni homecoming lecture series, Mr. C. S. Karthik, Director, Knowise Academy, an alumnus belonging to PGDM Batch 13, addressed the students on February 10.

Guest lecture

Dr. C. S. Shajumon, Department of Humanities, ISRO was a guest lecturer for the course on International Relations and Trade on February 23.

PGDM students win prizes

PGDM students won two prizes in the Management Fest conducted at Bharat Mata College on February 21.

HR Game – Second prize - Harkrishnan Nair, Kiran R. Menon, Noble Jacob and Sachu Saju

MBA students shine in Rajagiri fest
MBA batch 13 students won the Second Prize in the Best Management Team at Inceptra 2017, the management fest organised by Rajagiri College of Management and Applied Sciences. The winning team members were: Judy Mary Babu, Hari Krishna, Vaishnavi, Navaneeth S. and Varun Raveedran.

B Com students shine in Rajagiri fest
B Com students secured Second Prize in Marketing Game and fourth position in Business Quiz at Inceptra 2017 - the management fest organised by Rajagiri College of Management and Applied Sciences. The participants of Marketing Game were: Arun Narayanan, Anand Manoj, Anagha Raveendranath, Ashna Ashraf and Evita Cicilia.

B Com students bag first prize
B Com students of SSTM bagged first prize in the category Product Launch in the management fest Idam 2017 organised by U.C. College Aluva on February 12. The winning team members were Sunena, Anagha Raveendranath, Arun Narayanan and Anand Manoj.

Study on behavioural aspects of government employees
As an initiative of the research and training cell, Vigilance & Anti Corruption Bureau, Kerala, the MBA department conducted a research study on the topic ‘A study on the behavioural attitude of government employees: a special reference to government hospitals in Ernakulam.’ The study was coordinated by Ms.Praveena K. and Ms.Devi S. Nair. In connection with the study, the students of MBA 14 batch conducted a survey in the different government hospitals in Ernakulam district. The students could collect approximately 800 responses from 16 hospitals. The findings were analysed and the final report was presented by Dr.G.P.C.Nayar, Chairman, SCMS Group to the Superintendent of Police, Mr. Thomson Jose IPS at a solemn function at SCMS on February 2.

Annual post budget analysis attended
Twenty students of MBA Batch 13 attended the Annual Post Budget Analysis on February 6 at Taj Gateway Hotel, Ernakulum, organised by the Cochin Chamber of Commerce & Industry in association with the Institute of Cost Accountants of India, Cochin Chapter. They were accompanied by faculty member Ms. Devi S. Nair.

Paper presented
Ms. Rinu Jayaprakash, Assistant Professor presented a paper titled 'Green Banking - Significance in the present scenario' in the UGC-sponsored one day International Conference on 'Innovative & Sustainable Business Practices' conducted by the Department of Management Studies, University of Madras on February 10.

Paper published

MCA & DDMCA students as winners
The following MCA and DDMCA students excelled in the following events organised by KMM College, Thrikkakara on January 25.
- Minute to win it - Second Prize – Jinitha Merin (MCA sem 3) and Achutha S. Kamal (MCA sem 3)
- Query Rush - Quiz - First Prize - Naveen M.M. (DDMCA Sem 4) and Sreejesh J. (DDMCA Sem 4)
- Mastermind - Coding - Second Prize - Noel Joby (DDMCA Sem 4)

Shreya Gopi Krishnan Nair was selected for the final round in Best Personality event conducted by Depaul Institute of Technology, Angamaly on February 7.

The following companies conducted campus recruitment in our campus during the month of February.
- GIC Housing Finance Ltd.
- Hi-Build Coatings Pvt. Ltd.
- Indian Oil-Adani Gas Pvt. Ltd.
- UST Global Inc.
- Teknowmics Knowledge Solution Pvt. Ltd.
- Luker Electric Technologies Pvt. Ltd.
- ESAF Microfinance

The best management team receiving the prize from Mr.Kochouseph Chittilappilly.

The winners are seen along with Dr.Sashi Kumar G., Principal, Prof.N.Narayanan, HoD and Mr. Arun Kumar M., Lecturer.

The following companies conducted campus recruitment in our campus during the month of February.
National seminar on Assistive Technology for Specially Abled Persons

A national seminar on Assistive Technology for Specially Abled Persons was conducted on February 18. The seminar was sponsored by Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment, and Department of Science & Technology, Government of India.

Presiding over the function, Dr.Radha P.Thevannoor, Group Director said that assistive technology can compensate for a child’s skills deficits or areas of disability and help to improve his self-reliance and sense of independence. Dr.Sashi Kumar G., Principal, SSTM spoke on the need for enhancing accessibility to assistive devices.

Mr.K.V.Johny, Principal Technology Officer, CDAC and Mr.V.K.Bhadran, Assistant Director, CDAC engaged the sessions. Mr.Johny spoke on assistive technology and its exhaustive possibilities quoting the example of Mr.Stephen Hawking who was exceptionally successful in overcoming obstacles defying the OLS odds. He said high cost of the devices and lack of its availability are the limiting factors. Mr.Bhadran spoke on the role of electronics and ICT in assistive technology.

Dr.Sunil Jacob, Professor-ECE, SSET demonstrated some of the models developed by his team in assistive technology. Professional social workers, teachers and members of NGOs participated in the seminar.

Industrial visit to Kitex Industries

B Com second semester students paid a visit to Kitex Industries, Kizhakkambalam to familiarise themselves with the industry on February 21.

The students who participated in the training are seen along with Dr.C.Mohankumar, Director, SIBB-R&D.

Dr.C.Mohankumar as chief guest

Dr.C.Mohankumar, Director, SIBB-R&D was the chief guest at the Annual State Conference of Dental Doctors and Seminar on Molecular Pathology, Current Trends and Prospects held at Muvattupuzha on January 28.

Training conducted at Anna University Coimbatore campus

Under the guidance of Dr. C. Mohankumar, Director, SCMS Institute for Bioscience and Biotech Research and Development (SIBB R&D), a two-day training in molecular biology and immunology was conducted for MTech Biotechnology students of Anna University regional campus at Coimbatore, on February 16 and 17.

Dr.C.Mohankumar, Director, SIBB-R&D speaking at the Annual State Conference of Dental Doctors and Seminar on Molecular Pathology, Current Trends and Prospects held at Muvattupuzha.
New methodology developed at SCMS Water Institute - for improving water use efficiency

A new methodology has been developed by SCMS Water Institute of SSET in collaboration with the German company NIVUS for assessing and improving water use efficiency of irrigation canals in Kerala. A field demonstration of this methodology is being carried out by a team of MTech students of Environmental Engineering at SSET on the left bank canal of Chalakkudy river diversion scheme.

Students are making real time discharge measurements at various locations along the canal network using ultrasonic flow sensors developed by NIVUS, Germany.

The measurements taken using NIVUS sensors along with the satellite remote sensing data of the command area will help in estimating demand, supply and deficit of water for agricultural uses. This can not only improve the distribution in the irrigation canal network but will also reduce misuse and over use of irrigation water. This study has a great significance as our state is going to face the most severe drought in history and whatever water saved is equivalent to water created.

Seminars and workshops

The officials from University of Surrey, UK visited SSET campus on February 6. BTech final year Civil Engineering students interacted with them.

Foundation Programme 5.0 Faculty Briefing Webinar organised by Infosys was conducted on February 7 and five faculty members attended the webinar.

Foundation Programme 5.0 Webinar series for doubt clarification and interaction sessions for 2017 batch Infosys-placed students were organised by Infosys on February 9 and 16.

Talks given

Mr. Sijo M. T., Assistant Professor-Mechanical delivered a talk on ‘Metal Matrix Composites - An overview’ at the first National Symposium on Advanced Materials and Processing organised by Government Engineering College, Palakkad on January 21.

Mr. Sam Joshy, Assistant Professor-Mechanical delivered a talk on ‘Analysis of Wear and Plastic Deformation in Remanufactured Forging Dies’ at the National Symposium on Advanced Materials & Processing organised by Government Engineering College, Palakkad on January 21.

Students undergo training in Japan

Paul Thomas Sajith and Dipin Dinesh, 8th semester BTech CSE students who were selected from Kerala to undergo a two-week training and Internship on Ruby Programming Language from January 15 to 29, had undergone the training in Matsue City, Japan from January 15 to 29. Matsue City is the hometown of Mr. Yukihiro Matsumoto, the creator of Ruby Programming Language. Students also had an opportunity to work on projects offered by two companies Honest Company Ltd. situated in Matsue and Hi-Soft Corporation, Izumo, Japan. This initiative was taken by HIDA (The Overseas Human Resources and Industry Development Association) to promote the language among Indian IT professionals.

Placement News (Engineering)

The following organisations conducted recruitment drive for our 2017 batch students during February 2017.

- Tavant Technologies
- Think and Learn Pvt. Ltd.
- CSS Corp
- Sutherland Global Services (Voice Process)
- Neway Paints & Building Materials
- Konfidence conducted ten-day aptitude training programme for BTech 6th semester students.

Seminars and workshops

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