



AAR MAHAVEER NEWSLETTER

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From the Principal's Desk

New Year greetings to all our readers. This newsletter has been published once in three months, issue after issue, without a break since it started three years ago. If you examine the websites of the hundreds of engineering colleges in Andhra Pradesh, you will discover that this kind of performance is extremely rare. Thanks to the world wide web, our readership extends far beyond the two colleges under the Mahaveer Educational Society. This is seen from the numerous emails being received from all corners of the Globe. But one has to admit that the reading habit of our students is below our expectations, judging from their exhibition of poor language skills in job interviews. With so much information bombarding the students every instant through television, emails and social networks, they are unable to identify the good stuff to learn from. My generation was indeed fortunate to have been exposed to the beauty of literature and poetry. The Bal Bhavan public library in the Public Gardens at Nampalli was a rich source of information and inspiration in those days when the TV, internet and mobile phones did not exist.

Here are some New Year thoughts. When the mother gestures to the baby to stop, the baby believes in its mother and stops crawling towards the hot milk on the stove. When the baby encounters an unknown person or unfamiliar situation, it rushes towards its mother, assured of protection. It is my view that a similar trust is appropriate between the employee and the employer. The employee must try to implement what the employer wants, with the conviction or trust that it is good for the organization. Teachers should obey HODs and HODs in turn should obey the Principal with the belief that the actions would benefit the institution. If every one starts questioning every directive, there can be no progress. We should all keep in mind that the higher authority at each level has been appointed by selection and not by election and that we all have well defined roles to play. Similarly, the students ought to believe in their teachers. All this does not mean that we are heading towards autocracy. It is always possible to be creative and innovative within one's jurisdiction at the same time conforming to the norms of the institution. Teaching is an art and a science. The teacher has a lot of freedom though conforming to the culture of the institution. The growth and development of the institution very much depends on the initiative of the staff members. It is not enough if an employee simply carries out the instructions given to him. What is needed is generation of new ideas and new initiatives for taking the institution forward. If these are forthcoming from the teachers, the college will be a healthy and growing institution.

– Dr. Palanki Balakrishna

In this issue

We give the names of rank holders. Engineer cum Musician Akhila is interviewed by Sultana. We have photographs of Table Tennis championship event sponsored by Mahaveer Educational Society. These are followed by details of in-house teachers' seminar. Then we offer tips on Resume. ISRO Chairman undertook *Deeksha*. Chairman, Mahaveer Educational Society, determination personified, did it 25 times. Apps for Women's Safety are listed. Veda Vyas draws attention to Educational web sites. Then there is art work with Resistances, inductances and capacitors, inserted by Sireesha and Vasudha. The determination of people is reflected in two photographs inserted by Siva Prasad. The last but not the least item is *From Far and near*, wherein, developments in science, medicine and technology are presented.

Toppers in IV Batch I Semester 2nd Mid Examinations (October 2013)			
Branch	I Rank	II Rank	III Rank
ECE	Fehmida Bano	Shaik Neeha Tarunnam	B Pravallika, K Vineela, P Shruthi Mowdgalya
CSE	Y Uma	K Shireesha	P Mounika, P Pratyusha
EEE	N Jamuna	Sravya Kulkarni	P Swetha

Toppers in III B.Tech I Semester 2nd Mid Examinations (November 2013)			
Branch	I Rank	II Rank	III Rank
ECE	P Sai Prasanna Kumari	Syeda Fatima Zohra	B Saritha
CSE	Kruttika Sutrave	Preeti Lal	Wajiha Neha
EEE	P Akhila	B Spandana	M Nagamani

Toppers in II B.Tech I Semester 2nd Mid Examinations (October 2013)			
Branch	I Rank	II Rank	III Rank
ECE	V Pavani	G Pallavi	Anu P Suresh, P Manasa
CSE	Ameena Kauser	Vasa Preeti	Burra Meena
EEE	K Bhavani Priyanka	Gomasa Shailaja	Not awarded

Ms. Akula Akhila was interviewed by Ms. Hashmath Sultana (both from IV B.Tech ECE) on 12.12.2013. Here are some excerpts:



Hashmath: Our College has awarded you the title “The Nightingale of AARM”. Congratulations! What does music mean to you?

Akhila: As you can see from newspapers and TV reports, ours is a very disturbed society. Music gives a lot of solace and tranquility to the mind. Listening to music itself is a great experience. But being able to sing is an exhilarating and heavenly experience.

Hashmath: How did it all begin? Give an idea of your family background.

Akhila: My father is Srinivas, himself a musician. We are natives of Hyderabad. We are a small family. Right from my childhood, I enjoyed listening to the sitar of my father. I was really very fortunate to have early exposure to classical music.

Hashmath: When did you seriously begin learning music?

Akhila: I have been a student of music from the age of eleven. First, I learnt in the Carnatic style. Later I became a student of Hindustani style. Now I am working for a diploma in Hindustani music.

Hashmath: Is learning music the same as learning engineering subjects? Or, is there a difference?

Akhila: Music requires a lot of practice. You have to actually sing aloud several times. It is called **Saadhana**. In the case of engineering subjects, you can recollect in your mind formulas and equations when you are cooking or walking or waiting for some thing. Such a thing is not there for practicing music. You have to keep aside time for it and focus all your attention on it. This turns out to be very difficult in our hectic life. Moreover, most of the traditional music being devotional, we tend to adhere religiously to practice.

Hashmath: Which one do you like better – Carnatic or Hindustani?

Akhila: I like both, but between the two, Hindustani appeals to me more. May be because my father was in it.

Hashmath: How far have you come?

Akhila: I got the opportunity for 32 public performances so far. The first performance was at Tyagaraja Gana Sabha, where I was awarded the 2nd prize. This was on January 26, 2004. I had rendered one Annamacharya Keertana – *Narayanate namo namo*. I have received the AP State Government Award.

Hashmath: Which one do you like more – vocal or instrumental?

Akhila: I have been learning vocal music. But I am very fond listening to the sitar – it mesmerizes me. The sounds from the strings stir up wonderful emotions in me which are difficult to describe.

Hashmath: It is great that you have achieved so much at a young age.

Akhila: Yes, but I must acknowledge the role of my parents and my music teachers. I was fortunate to have had great teachers. I was the disciple of Smt. Shantakumari for the Carnatic tradition. As for Hindustani music, my Guru is Sri Govinda Rao, at Badruka College of Music and Dance, Hyderabad.

Hashmath: Who is your favourite musician?

Akhila: As Tyagaraja sang, “Endaro Mahanubhavulu..” India has been blessed with a very large spectrum of musicians. But if you insist on a single name, I will say “Pandit Bhimsen Joshi”.

Hashmath: In your music career, what was your memorable moment?

Akhila: It was my recital at Ravindra Bharati March 25, 2011.

Hashmath: Do you share your talent?

Akhila: Every Sunday, I hold music classes for 10 to 13 year olds.

Hashmath: You are a final year student of B.Tech, ECE. How do you balance studies and music?

Akhila: Both music and engineering are important for me. Balancing is very difficult, but perhaps where there is a Will, there is a way. Some times you are in a dilemma, when an opportunity to sing comes during B.Tech examinations. I have to choose between the two. So I chose academics. I want to start a school for children to teach music, while working as an engineer.

Hashmath: You are preserving our culture and taking it forward.

Akhila: Now the generation is very fast. They like hip hop, rock, but Indian Classical music has been there centuries and will go on forever. Electronics has contributed tremendously in recording, storing and sharing of this great asset. We are fortunate to be in the present age.

Hashmath: Thank you Akhila, it has been a very rewarding experience talking to you.

Akhila: Thank you.



An aerial view of combined studies



Shesha Saina Reddy in the role of the priest for *Dasara Puja* in The Exam Branch



Teachers offering *Haarathi* to the Goddess of Valour

**Swamy Vivekananda 150th Birth Anniversary A P State Ranking Table Tennis Championship,
Nov 5-7, 2013, Sponsored by Mahaveer Educational Society
under the auspices of A P Table Tennis Association**



A Akhila (IV ECE) renders Prayer as VIPs on Dias including Secretary, Dr. Eshwara Prasad (Director RCMAT), Dr. Ramana Rao (Registrar, JNTUH), Justice C V Ramulu and Chairman stand in reverence



Officials of AP Table Tennis Association graced the occasion by their presence



Justice C V Ramulu (with Chairman) and Dr. Ramana Rao, Registrar, JNTUH (with Secretary) inaugurate the games





Chairman, Mahaveer Ed. Soc., Puja Purna Bhodanandamaya, Ramakrishna Mission, Sri C Umamaheswara Rao IAS (Retd) and Secretary watching the games



Winners from ten events



Cheerful chums to serve champions
From left: G Babu Rao, MD Chotu, A. Krishna, J. Prathap Rao



A Shyam Kumar (Prantheeya Pracharak), Ashok Balda (AGM Retd, SBH & Gen.Secretary, SV150 Utsava Samithi, GHMC), Surender Reddy (Secretary Mahaveer Ednl Soc), Prakash Raju (Org. Secretary)

Speakers in Teachers' Seminar of 22.11.2013



From left: Madhurima, Swapna, Syamala, Priyanka, Pallavi, Vasavi, Pavithra, Lavanya, Mamatha, Aparna, Shilaja, Vanaja, Shirisha



From left: Shesha Saina Reddy, Vedavyas, Siva Prasad, Appalakonda, Nooka Raju, Veeranjanyulu, Naresh, Mallesh

In-house Faculty Development Programme

The programme started on 22.11.2013 and ended on 6.12.2013. On 22.11.2013, a seminar was held in the college with the theme “Teacher Qualities, Teaching Methodologies and Time Management” in which the staff members presented their views as to how to become a better teacher. This seminar was followed by Model Presentations by individual teachers on 26, 27, 28 and 29.11.2013. On 30.11.2013, two faculty members were deputed to attend the one day workshop on “Teaching Communication and Soft Skills” at Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad. One faculty member attended FDP on “Teaching Engineering Mechanics” from 26.11.2013 to 6.12.2013 at Vignan Institute of Technology and Science, Deshmukhi. This very useful programme was conducted by staff of IIT Kharagpur and wholly sponsored by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. On 6.12.2013, an educational video on “Methods of Teaching” prepared by Indira Gandhi National Open University was shown to all staff members. (URL: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5XX9-_9FIV0). This was followed by discussion by faculty members. Mr. Veeranjanyulu made a presentation on student psychology and teaching methodology from his B.Ed programme on 10.12.2013.

Introductory remarks by principal

It is not enough if the teachers come to college, teach and go home. We wish to do a professional job. For doing so, we wish to equip ourselves with more knowledge of our subjects as well as of teaching methodologies. We wish to share our ideas and experiences with each other. To begin with, we must see the glass as being half full and not half empty. Along with a positive attitude, we must proceed with concern and affection towards our students. No student will be punished nor branded as being dull. We will motivate every student and create a sense of achievement. Remember, Einstein was dubbed as a dunce by his school teachers and Bill Gates dropped out of college. Yet they are great geniuses. Never underestimate the potential of a student. We want to shift away from prison culture to a student centric approach to learning. We want to make learning enjoyable to the student. We wish to be remembered by the student as great teachers and as great human beings.

Recommendations made by speakers in Teachers’ Seminar of 22.11.2013 and in the concluding session after Model Presentations on 29.11.2013

1. Love your profession. A teacher can influence several students, batch after batch, thereby influencing the nation’s future. It is not just a 9 to 5 kind of job. Teaching profession is the noblest. Give your best to the profession. Parent is the first teacher. In the class room, the teacher becomes the parent. Maintain accuracy, empathy, flexibility, friendliness, kindness, tolerance and stability.
2. Master your subject – this is the foremost requirement. Acquire a higher qualification. Appearing for competitive and admission tests increases the confidence and competence in teaching. Write down each lecture and rehearse demonstrations.
3. Unlike school teachers, engineering teachers do not acquire a degree in teaching. Hence make special effort to learn teaching methodology and student psychology. It is going to be life long learning. Do not miss an opportunity to learn, to speak, to present or to deliver.
4. Show respect and concern for the knowledge and welfare of the students. Treat them equally. The medieval option of punishing a student is not available to you. Instead you will win over the student by gaining his trust

and confidence. Counselling is part of teaching. Instill confidence in the student. Celebrate student achievement.

5. Ask leading questions before you start your lecture in order to arouse the curiosity of the students. Explain to the students the importance and context of the topic and its practical applications. Maintain two way communications. Encourage student questions. Respond, do not react. Obtain feedback from the students.

6. Maintain eye contact but do not stare at a student. Keep a watch on your body language and on your hand movements. Keep moving in the class room addressing all the students. Do not however, distract their attention by your movement.

7. Do not make your lecture a monologue. Make it interactive and interesting. Make students speak in your class even if only for a short while.

8. Moderate speed of delivery of your lecture and modulate voice. The class room is a theatre; grab the attention of the student.

9. Reduce the *abstract* content and increase the *concrete* content in your lecture.

10. Do not be content having provided descriptive or qualitative information. Quantify, and give numerical problems. While setting the question paper, keep the entire spectrum of students in mind. Ensure impartial, proportionate marking.

11. Group Discussion, tutorial, seminar, role plays – these should be done by all teachers, not just those from Humanities Department. Never use SMS language.

12. Make use of analogies where available (For example, the transfer of bricks for conduction, convection and radiation). Provide many examples. List all applications. Do show physical models. Ask the students to identify the components in their home appliances.

13. Let students experiment in the lab. Do not be content with your demonstration, make the students do it.

14. Do not hesitate to have an element of humor while in the class room. Sport a smile. Create an environment of naturality and friendliness. However, your intention is to engage the student, not to entertain him.

15. Black board management: Write sufficiently large letters. Keep the lines straight and horizontal. Avoid spelling mistakes. Clean the board completely before you start writing afresh. Do not overwrite. Avoid screeching of chalk piece by changing the angle of holding it.

16. Use lecture time efficiently. Structure your presentation into introduction, main lecture and summary. Allot time proportionately for each. Give brief intermissions. Use time proportionately for all the Units within a semester. Avoid the tendency of going slow in the early Units and going fast in the last Units.

17. Provide a chance to students to collaborate with each other in assignments, group discussions and sports. People enjoy collaboration and team work.

18. Allow choices in assignments and in choosing seminar topics and projects and college events.

19. Make the session interesting; conduct Quizzes and technical games. Use technology tools and familiarize students with them. Try team teaching.

21. Even if you are a subject teacher, do not hesitate to teach English across the curriculum as well as values of life. Practice before you preach. When you are late for a class, you can not question a student for having come later than you.

22. Make students present papers and participate in events in our college as well as other colleges. Conduct quality faculty development programmes and student events to enhance exposure and organizing experience.

“The most important thing in life is to stop saying 'I wish' and start saying 'I will.' Consider nothing impossible, then treat possibilities as probabilities.” – Charles Dickens (1812-70)

Mrs. Madhurima and Ms. Vasudha attended a one day seminar on Teaching Communication and Soft Skills at JNTUH on 30.11.2013 and shared their knowledge with other teachers in Teachers' Forum Meeting on 2.12.2013:

English communication skills enhance employability. The listener forms an immediate impression based on what you say. Special effort has to be made to improve accent. The pronunciation has to be freed from the influence of the mother tongue. We, the teachers, should not only teach English, but we should also teach values to our students. We do this by sharing our all round knowledge with them and setting an example. Our epics are rich sources for inculcating ethical values in our students. The teacher has to consider himself as a friend and facilitator and not as a regulator and disciplinarian for students.

The teacher has to instill confidence in the student. The Caterpillar appears to be ugly. But eventually it transforms into a beautiful butterfly. Human beings should not underestimate their capability. They should remember that they too can be different eventually. The teacher has to make the student believe in his potential.

The flower has a fragrance and the fruit has a taste. Similarly, man has a characteristic personality. The mango tree cannot eat its own mangoes, but gives to others. In the same manner, human beings should help develop others. The ability to bear fruit is indicative of **Samskriti**. The refinement of character that makes one give the fruits of their labour to others is **Samskara**. Each one of us is a gift of God to this world. We will pay back God His gift simply by maximising our own contribution to humanity. Every new born child is a new thought of God with great potential. We must view our students too as children with great potential. On being and becoming: **Being** is confined to thinking about the present, whereas **becoming** includes a vision for the future.

What is the difference between soft skills and communication skills? Soft skills focus on just how to speak. Communication skills focus on reading, writing, speaking and listening. If you simply say, “Don’t close the door”, it is a communication skill. But if you say, “Thank you for not closing the door”, it becomes a soft skill. Interpersonal communication is that between two persons or among the members in a group. There should be a message, conveying a meaning. Instead of ‘Open the door’ one may reframe as “Will you please open the door?” While speaking, pause at the right moment and for the right duration. What is the difference between formal and informal language? We tend to use single verbs when informal and multiple verbs when formal. To prepare our students for their career, and for their life, we must exert to teach them communication skills. The chosen words should communicate ‘light’ but not ‘heat’. Heat hurts the person and masks away the light. Nothing is static in this world. Engineers should have near vision as well as far vision.

Pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar are important for acquiring reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. We try to expand the vocabulary and the ability to frame grammatically correct and full sentences. Every learning session has to be planned and recorded in a notebook. Materials required are to be identified and obtained. There are Sub skills too, namely, narration, short speech, introduction, cracking jokes (humour without degrading into comedy). The activity includes resume writing, self introduction, introduction of the topic or subject, project work, role play and group work. Resume and CV are not the same. Resume is

brief summary, whereas CV is detailed. It is better to submit brief resume instead of CV, as the employer will not read an elaborate CV.

Excessive use of gadgets and technology is making man partly into a machine. Do not overuse the technology, as it will not develop the mind and intellect. We must read, contemplate and expand our vision. We must grab every opportunity to learn, to teach, to excel and to succeed.



Mrs. Madhurima and Ms. Vasudha who made the presentation

Craft your resume

According to some estimates, the selectors give approximately **six** seconds to decide whether they should consider a candidate based on resumes. Hence aspirants should ensure that their resumes are not cluttered and convey the essentials in a single glance. Candidates should not lie, indulge in blatant flattery, or use childish sentences trying to garner pity and should avoid the other extreme of being high handed. They should also be careful not to pour too many personal details and should only give the latest and relevant information.

For resume / CV		
	What works	What doesn't
1	Write only the truth about yourself	A generic resume
2	One page resume	Spelling and grammar mistakes
3	Customise your resume	Lack of personal details
4	A precise career objective	Too much of information
5	Achievements, Responsibilities, Leadership, Team work	Childish, inappropriate email ids
6	Well presented photograph	Fancy formatting

- Professor Vidya Suresh



Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation, on the completion of 40 day *Deeksha* with *Irumudi* and 18 steps at Sabarimala



Chairman, Mahaveer Educational Society (left) as distinguished sponsor at the Bhumi Puja for Annadana Mandapam at Sabarimala. He has taken the forty day deeksha during the last twenty five years

Apps for safety of women

An **App** a self-contained program or piece of software designed to fulfill a particular purpose; an application, especially as downloaded by a user to a mobile device.

If the city cannot protect its women, it is time women found their own tools and techniques to tackle harassment and safety threats of any kind. For the technically savvy woman, a number of applications have been launched to provide that sense of security in times of emergency.

1. *Sentinel: Sends 'sms'es and emails to emergency contacts*
2. *Nirbhaya: Sends alerts during emergency situations; you can also send messages by shaking the phone.*
3. *Scream Alarm: The app literally screams*
4. *Panic Alarm Button with Flashlight and GPS on BlackBerry 10: Press the red panic button and the phone will send a message with a link to Google Maps with your GPS or GSM-based coordinates.*
5. *VithU: Press the power button twice to send out messages to listed contacts, who will also receive updates on your location*

- Sharmista Chaudhury

Educational Sites on the Web

A professional teacher will not depend only on the text books and reference books. He makes full use of the ppts (power point presentations) and pdfs (portable document formats) available on the net. In addition to NPTEL lectures, there are several other resources, which every inspired teacher must use:

Khan Academy: *khanacademy.org*

Library of over 4100 educational videos viewed over 250 million times

Coursera: *coursera.org*

Online degrees and lectures from the best professors worldwide

TED Talks: *ted.com*

Videos of more than 1400 talks from the world's greatest thinkers

Open Courseware Consortium: *ocwconsortium.org*

Video courses and lectures from top universities

iTunesU: *apple.com/education/itunes-u*

Download or create lectures for iPod, iPhone and iPad

Wikiversity: *en.wikiversity.org*

Open educational resources and collaborative learning communities from the Wikimedia Foundation

Textbook Revolution: *textbookrevolution.org*

Free textbooks on the net

- inserted by Vedavyas Gurla, HOD, CSE



The electronic band



Vehicles for the band players



Irresistible bracelets of resistors



Ear locks elegant

- Inserted by K Shireesha, Assistant Professor and D Vasudha HOD, ECE



Selfhelp - studying and selling fruits



Selfhelp – overcoming a handicap

- Inserted by T Siva Prasad, Assistant Professor, ECE

From Far and Near

Mangalyaan

India has boldly gone ahead with its Mars orbiter mission ignoring critics. China has become the 3rd country to have landed a rover on the Moon.

Autonomic materials

The Roman constructions have survived for thousands of years in spite of wars, earth quakes and other natural and manmade disasters. They used lime in combination with volcanic ash to build structures on land and under water. The resulting calcium aluminium silicate is a strong bonding material that has an inherent self repair mechanism. Cracks in cement concrete permit ingress of water and halides, leading to the corrosion of reinforcing steel and thereby limiting the life of the concrete. In Netherlands, bacteria are being introduced into the cracks formed in cement concrete. The bacteria consume oxygen and generate carbon dioxide. The gas evolved links up with calcium present in the concrete to form calcium carbonate that closes the crack. Also in Netherlands, an experimental highway has been built that uses asphalt with bitumen as glue. Tiny fibres of steel are mixed in the asphalt and the road stretch is heated by a mobile induction heater. The steel fibres heat up and melt the bitumen that bonds the asphalt together. The asphalt itself does not get inductively heated, thereby saving a lot of power. The life of such roads is more than double that of roads made without the steel fibres. Several self healing polymers and metals are under development in the US.

Alarm bell for drivers

Sleep is an essential and inescapable activity of the biological clock. Accidents take place when a tired bus driver falls asleep while going at high speed on smooth roads. A Dutch luxury bus company is testing Australian technology that monitors whether a driver is becoming drowsy. It uses infrared light and a camera to register eye movements for signs a driver may be close to nodding off, and sounds an alarm.

Pacemaker without strings!

Pacemakers are used to regulate irregular heart rates. Traditionally it requires an invasive procedure that creates a pocket in the chest to hold the pacemaker and its wires. The device uses electrical pulses to prompt the heart to beat at a normal rate. The new pacemaker, developed by the US company **Nanostim**, is less than 10 percent the size of a conventional pacemaker. It is delivered via a catheter inserted through the femoral vein near the groin. It has a built in battery with a lifespan of 9 to 13 years. The device can easily be retrieved to replace the battery. Since the new device is tiny and does not have any wires, it lowers the risk of infection and other complications and improves patient comfort. The device does not require patient activity restrictions and hence will improve the quality of life of the patients.

Bone stitching made easy!

Broken bones in the body are usually held together in place with the help of metal nails, screws and plates which are inserted in the body by surgery. Once the bones weld together, the metal parts are removed by another surgery and the patient has to wait for the second surgical wound to heal. Now German surgeon Ortwin Ruland uses a needle and thread to stitch the broken bones together using a biocompatible thread that dissolves in the body within just a few weeks. So a second surgery is not needed reducing physical discomfort and mental stress in the patient. The technique is especially handy in cases of multiple fractures in children.

Exercise or perish!

The present day children are living in an obesogenic environment. Body Mass Index is more now for children. In other words, today's children are fatter than children of any time in history. They run slower than their parents did when they were at their age. Physical fitness is going down at 5% per decade since 1975 in the West. It is 10% in South Korea, China and Hong Kong. You can gain or lose fitness easily. Choose activities that

you like or fun to you. Engage the large muscles of the body. Cycling, running, swimming are fairly intense. Accumulate 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous exercise per day. Vigorous means huffing and puffing. Aerobic fitness or cardiovascular fitness is a strong indicator of current and future health.

Sing your way to health!

Breathing is extremely difficult for people with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). Patients (for whom medicines were ineffective) improved dramatically on taking up singing for 60 to 90 minutes, beginning with warm up and raising the pitch and frequency. Singing helps to clear the airways. The lung capacity was found to improve dramatically with singing. The singing need not necessarily be melodious.

Honesty Index!

A team from the Reader's Digest placed 12 wallets each containing a good amount of money and owner's phone number at different places in different cities of the world. Some of the wallets were returned to the owners with money in tact while some were not. The number of wallets recovered along with the money from each city is taken to be the honesty index of that city. Mumbai proved to be the 2nd most honest city in relation to cities of several developed countries. Mere Mumbai Mahan, even though the sample size is too small for the conclusion to be valid. The cities and the honesty indices are: Helsinki (11/12), Mumbai (9/12), Budapest and New York (8/12), Moscow and Amsterdam (7/12), Berlin and Ljubljana (6/12), London and Warsaw (5/12), Bucharest, Rio de Janeiro and Zurich (4/12), Prague (3/12), Madrid (2/12) and Lisbon (1/12).

Free from Fear!

In the context of attacks on women, a hand-held distress tele-alarm device has just been launched. Called ***Nirbhaya***, the device has been developed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), and manufactured by the Hyderabad-based Electronics Corporation of India (ECIL). Unlike a cell phone app where one has to first unlock the handset, tap on the app and then press an onscreen button to send out a distress message, ***Nirbhaya*** is easier to operate. A person in distress can simply reach the device in their bag or pocket and find the button with their fingertips, without even looking at it. The device has its own GPS chip and can be used in conjunction with any handset which supports Bluetooth. Costing Rs 3,000, it can even be used with phones that do not have GPS facility. The device will transmit a blue tooth signal to the user's cell phone along with the GPS location, which in turn will send out the information to a set of five pre-selected phone numbers. It can also be used if a person senses a heart attack or has met with an accident.

- compiled by Dr. Palanki Balakrishna

“We should not judge people by their peak of excellence; but by the distance they have traveled from the point where they started.” – Henry Ward Beecher (1813-87)

“Believe in yourself and all that you are. Know that there is something inside you that is greater than any obstacle.” – Christian D. Larson (1874-1954)

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