Lieutenant Governor felicitated for degree in Doctor of Letters

The Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, Dr. Iqbal Singh, was conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters at the 76th Annual Convocation of Andhra University on Dec. 5.

The ceremony was organized by the Government of Puducherry at the Jawaharlal Nehru Auditorium here on Dec. 17.

Dr. Iqbal Singh, in expressing his acknowledgment of the felicitation, said that he found the people of Puducherry to be warm and simple. He also shared his views on national integration and the need for sincere commitment, and said, "God is one, and work is worship."

Silver Jubilee Celebrations take off

On Oct. 16, Pondicherry University entered its 25th year. The Inaugural Lectures of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations from Nov. 24-Jan. 7 were introduced by Prof. J.A.K. Tareen, Vice-Chancellor, at the Earth and Science Seminar Hall.

Prof. J.A.K. Tareen pointed out that in the celebrations, every activity must be gainful. Inviting scientists and veterans from all over the world to the university is one such activity.

"Let the silver jubilee bring in a new chapter, new josh (energy) to the university", he said. He hoped that the presence of global resources, including at least ten Nobel laureates would enthuse and inspire all on campus.

On this occasion, he also expressed the intention to establish a Centre for Green Energy Research and M.Tech. in Green Technology.

The lectures were delivered by Prof. V. Renugopalakrishnan, North-eastern University, Boston, USA on Green Energy Research and an environmentally sustainable world. In his thought provoking address, he stressed on the need to conserve and generate energy. He added that through transformative leaps into the future, we will all have a role to play. "We can pierce every barrier and if anyone says we cannot do it, the question is why not? The only requirements are perseverance and tenacity," he added.

2010: Silver Jubilee Year Activities

In an interview with the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. J.A.K. Tareen, about the Silver Jubilee celebrations, THE INQUINER learnt that the Silver Jubilee year is being celebrated with the following activities:

- Silver Jubilee lectures by eminent scholars from India and abroad.
- Silver Jubilee souvenirs include jackets, ties, t-shirts, wall & table calendars exclusively designed by our Vice-Chancellor.
- Establishing the Silver Jubilee fund.
- Silver Jubilee Cultural Meet of theatre artists from SAARC countries.
- Silver Jubilee coffer table book will be brought out.
- Silver Jubilee Convention Complex at a cost of 35 crores will be constructed.
- Silver Jubilee award for Best Research in Science & Technology, Social Sciences, Management and Humanities.
- University souvenirs will be designed.
- Silver Jubilee Scholarship fund.

PU launches 22 diplomas, 6 certificate courses

Vol. 1, No. 3 of The Inquirer released on the occasion in the presence of (from left): Mr. Loganathan, Prof. Gnanam, Prof. Tareen, Dr. Iqbal Singh, Mr. Vaithilingam and Mr. Shajahan.

Mr. Loganathan, a front-runner in our country, said that the former Vice-Chancellor of the university, Prof. A. Gnanam. He also released the third issue of THE INQUINER on this occasion and said that the standard of the journal is world-class.

Beyond Disability

Mrugamandan, a 2nd year M.A. English student, is one of the brightest students in the university. Nikhil, in 1st year M.C.A, believes in planning and says it is the key to success. Sakhthivel, a 1st year M.A. Tamil student, loves books and spends most of his time reading. The three of them have different ideas, concepts, lifestyles, goals and aspirations. But what they have in common is the tag "disability."
The zeal to weave dreams into reality needs powerful motivation. Only a select few seize the moment and make a success story. Meet the person behind the changing face of our library, forward-thinking, new age librarian, Dr. R. Sampiyulla of the Ananda Rangapillai Library, Pondicherry University. A graduate of Madras University, with 28 years of experience, she is set to give the library a much-needed face lift. Thus, the librarian caught up with her while she talked about her future plans and the role of the library in a new information society.

TI: What made you come here?

This is a central university. However my alma mater, Madras University, will always have a special place in my heart.

TI: What did you have in mind when you first took charge of this library?

My major task was to make our Vice Chancellor’s vision come true. He wanted the library to have the best ambience that will attract library users. Revamping the structure was my primary task. I had to bring the library back to life, work on the value-added services the library could offer and introduce innovative facilities.

TI: How far have you been able to achieve your goal?

In one year, the university has undergone many changes. Through the journal Consortium of the UGC, we have delivered over a thousand articles to various universities and received over 800 for our students. A book exhibition was organized in the campus where e-books were marketed alongside print books. We have regular book-reading sessions to upgrade library facilities.

TI: How would you rate the library on a 10-point rating scale?

I would like to give the library 8 points for the tremendous improvement it has made in the past year. But we still have a lot of work to do. To get a four-star rated, fully air-conditioned, building with 24-hour reading facility will soon be coming up next to the present one. We will also have a special state-of-the-art section for the visually challenged, a children’s library and the Department of Library and Information Science. The library is integrated with a Wi-Fi connection and a Beta version of the library portal, which was launched in August is about to go public soon.

TI: What are the difficulties you have faced with?

We had the problem of low bandwidth that has been overcome. It has been increased four-fold from 8 mbps to 32 mbps. In this aspect, we are on par with top universities like the University of Hyderabad and the University of Delhi. Also, 15,000 print books and 7,000 e-books were purchased last year. We have access to 18,000 full text e-journals at present. Every section is over-flowing with books. Therefore, we are facing the difficulty of space, which will soon be overcome when the new building comes up.

TI: Why is the library not accessible 24-hours?

There isn’t enough staff to assist in managing the library on a 24-hour basis. Currently, however, the library does remain open till 10 pm for the examinations. This too will change in the near future.

TI: As the Chief Librarian and as a teacher, what is your view on the subject of Library and Information Science?

Most people are not aware of this field. Our university introduced this course two years ago. Not many students are opting for it. Currently, however, the demand for Library and Information Science graduates is rising. Many corporate bodies and publishing houses are looking for professionals who are better equipped to suit the growing needs in different spheres of society, such as academic institutions, corporate bodies, hospitals, research libraries, public libraries, and publishing houses.

TI: Do you have any plans to make the library a good employment opportunities.

One should not be forced to come to the library. One should develop a desire for using it, as it is the heart of any university.

As told to Kamlesh and Smarak

DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

In continuation of our section which is similar to the "Know your University" initiative on the campus, we are happy to showcase yet another department. This issue introduces our readers to the working and accomplishments of the Library and Information Science Department.

Editor-
The Department of Library and Information Science offers a masters’ degree in Library and Information Science (MLIS). Started in the academic year 2007-08, it has expanded under the able leadership of Dr. R. Sampiyulla.

The discipline caters to creating a pool of information professionals who, in society, are traditionally known as librarians. But since the world has changed, the role and concept of a librarian has also achieved a paradigm shift. A new genre of information professionals are evolving who are better termed as Information Scientists, Cyberman’s, Technical Editors and Webmasters.

The course curriculum is designed to suit the growing needs in different spheres of society, such as academic institutions, corporate bodies, hospitals, research libraries, public libraries, and publishing houses. Being part of a central university, it has developed its programme with new avenues in library sciences like modules on Library Automation, Digital Libraries, Web Technologies, E-Publishing, Industrial information systems, Technical writing, Communication skills and Public Relations. It also ensures to provide sufficient hands-on training in different library software and digitization of library. Students also undergo summer internship for two months in reputed libraries to have a proper work experience.

Recently this department has introduced a PG Diploma course on Library Automation and Networking (PGDLAN) which will be an added qualification to students.

So it would be a perfect decision to study here for those who wish to excel in the field of Library and Information Science. The department has already set the stage for you!

Dr. R., Samyuktha Coordinator, Dept. of Library & Information Science Pondicherry University

Jal Hindu() University observes Hindi Pakhwara Samaroh

Pondicherry University celebrated Hindi Pakhwara Samaroh (Celebration of Hindi Day) on Sep. 29 at the J.N. Auditorium. Coordinator of the event Dr. Chakradasa B., Belaera, Reader, Department of Sanskrit, emphasised the importance of promoting Hindi. Dileep Singh, Registrar of Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha, Chennai, was the Chief Guest.

Prof. A. Balasubramanian, Director of Culture and Cultural Relations, conveyed Christmas wishes on this occasion. Prof. Jyotsna Chetti, former Principal of Bishop Heber College, Trichy, gave the Christmas message and highlighted its significance in today’s world.

Onam festival

The festival of Onam was celebrated at the university on Oct 11 by organizing a cultural programme at the J.N. Auditorium. The event – Ritu ’09 showcased music, dance and other cultural aspects of Kerala, including traditional art forms, such as Theyyam and oppumon.

John Thomas, former Registrar of the university, was the Chief Guest. S. Loganathan, the Registrar, inaugurated the event. Prof. A. Balasubramanian, Director of Culture and Cultural Relations and Nelson J. Thambi, Coordinator of Department of French were also among the guests.

Diwali

The festival of Diwali was celebrated in a grand manner with music, dance and other cultural programmes and some spectacular fireworks at the J.N. Auditorium on Oct 17.

Hindi Pakhwara Samaroh

The Department of Performing Arts staged a drama performance – Veilai Yattantai in their Studio Theatre on Oct 25. The performance followed a 8-day Thoru Koothoo workshop conducted by the department for the university students. Thoru Koothu is one of the oldest and most popular forms of Tamil drama. On Nov 11, two plays - ‘King Oedipus’ and ‘La Lobia The Wolf Woman’ were staged by the students. La Lobia was a solo performance by Jaro Fruto Vergara at the Culture-cum-Convention Centre, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. J.A.K. Tareen was the Chief Guest.

The show was part of a week-long Physical Theatre Workshop conducted by Jaro Fruto Vergara and Yaomi, both from Colombia, for the Performing Arts students.

For coverage of activities in the Campus Buzz, inform us at puinguirer@gmail.com
Pondicherry University observed Vigilance Awareness Week from Nov. 3-7, as per the recommendations of the CVC (Central Vigilance Commission), Government of India, New Delhi.

Essay and poster competitions were conducted for faculty members, non-teaching staff and students of the university and affiliated colleges as part of the Vigilance Awareness Week. More than hundred people participated in these.

On Oct. 3, all University Officers, Faculty and staff gathered in the J.N. Auditorium. The winners of the essay and poster competitions were awarded prizes before administering the Pledge. The Vice-Chancellor then addressed the gathering and administered the Pledge to all. It was broadcast live on Puduvai Vaani – the Community Radio Station of the university.

Promos, jingles and programmes, including audio bytes from Statutory Officers, faculty, staff and students on Vigilance Awareness were also broadcast on Puduvai Vaani during this week.

The Centre for Women’s Studies organised a 3-day national seminar on ‘Social Justice in the Era of Globalization: Invoking Gandhi Ideal’ from Nov. 25-28. Subject experts, professors, research scholars and students from different parts of the country participated and presented papers at the event.

The seminar was inaugurated by S.N. Sabu, Director, Prime Minister’s Office, New Delhi, who remembered Gandhi's contribution to securing social equity through non-violence. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Tareen, called the seminar an eye-opener.

He urged the participants to imbibe values that could help counteract the negative impact of materialism and consumerism. He also said that people in positions of power should play a fair role in ensuring social justice.

The Department of Economics, School of Management, organised a function to unveil the portraits of Nobel Laureates in Economics since the institution of the award in 1969.

Prof. M. Ramadass, Head of the department said that it was a significant day in the annals of the department. He hoped that these would create awareness among students and motivate them to become Nobel Laureates.

Prof. Bashir Ahmed Khan, Dean, School of Management, reiterated the sentiment and facilitated this initiative. Prof. J.A.K. Tareen, Vice-Chancellor, noted that this marked the beginning of a new trend in the university. He hopes that the portraits would inspire youngsters to excel.

He also stressed on the need to experiment in the field of higher education. He emphasised on the need to create various endeavours that enthuse the young and bring out their talents.

The Centre for Tribal and Rural Development (CTRD), in association with the Department of Ecology and Environmental Sciences, organised an exhibition of carry bags from Oct. 5-7.

The successful launch of yellow ‘taxi’ bicycles for male students was followed up by bright blue bicycles for female students. A convenient facility for the students to move around the campus, its usage prepares them to become responsible citizens.

The Canteen renovation

In a move to improve the quality of food available on the campus, the existing canteens have been renovated and one new canteen has been inaugurated.

The new Canteen 3, set up near the School of Management building, has quickly gained popularity. It also has an A/C Hall and facilities to celebrate birthdays and other occasions.

Upcoming

Dec. 29-30, 2009 International Conference on Antiquity

International Social Skills And Creativity organised by Department of Social Work & Sri Balaji VidyaPeeth University Venue:

Culture-Cum-Convention Centre

Pondicherry University Jana 21-22, 2010 National Seminar on Emerging Trends in Media: The rise of digital culture and its impact on information society organised by Centre for Electronic Media Venue:

School of Management Auditorium

News Briefs

The Department of Mathematics organised a national seminar on “Analysis of Partial Differential Equations” from Dec. 18-19. It was inaugurated by Prof. A. Ralamburamani, Director, Culture & Cultural Relations, Pondicherry University.

The Department of Tourism Studies conducted a ‘Pondicherry Heritage Promotional Campaign’ on Vyasal Street, followed by a street play to celebrate World Tourism Day on Sept. 27. The department also conducted a workshop on ‘Tourism Celebrating Diversity’ at the School of Management auditorium on this occasion.

The Centre for Tribal and Rural Development (CTRD), in association with the Department of Ecology and Environmental Sciences, organised an exhibition of carry bags from Oct. 5-7. These were awarded prizes before administering the Pledge.
PU for education reforms

Attempts have been made by the government to give quality education to all children through the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). This has been further extended through Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) to the secondary level.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 creates a legal entitlement for compulsory and free education for all children between the ages of 6 & 14 years. In higher education, the outlay has been increased by 10 times in the Eleventh Five Year Plan as compared to the Tenth Five Year Plan. National Mission on Education through ICT has been launched in February 2009 with an outlay of about Rs. 5000 crore. This aims to provide internet connectivity to about 20,000 colleges and educational institutions.

The Kota tribe from the Nilgiris in South India has a population of five thousand persons spread across seven villages. Their occupations include agriculture, gold-smithing, cattle rearing, carpentry and pottery. They revere God, their parents and nature.

An effort was initiated by the students of the Department of Environment and Environmental Sciences by inviting the Kota tribe to perform in the university on Oct. 7.

Their folk performances included a series of dances one that invokes and praises God, another called Ragasikil (a dance as part of house-warming ceremony) and lastly, the wedding dance called Lynore.

Tradition and modernity must meet

A National Workshop on Folklore and other Disciplines was held by the Subramania Bharati School of Tamil Language and Literature at the School of Management Auditorium on Dec. 18-19.

Addressing the participants, Prof. A. Balasubramanian, Director of Culture and Cultural Relations, said that folklore is a traditional form of entertainment that reflects the culture of the people. He emphasised the need to promote, protect and project folklore, especially Dravidian folklore. In the changing scenario of emerging new media, it is necessary to record the varied folklore activities on digital forms, he added.

Stressing on the need to include folk media in our educational system and in modern forms of mass communication, he urged media professionals to integrate folk forms into cinema, radio, television, and the Internet. As a step in this direction, the university has initiated the development of a culture portal on the Internet. The revival of folklore would help in changing society and people through social and cultural development.

A folk dance performance at the Subramania Bharati Auditorium by the Kota tribe from Pudukkotagiri, Nilgiris. Photo: Kannan

Pooncherry University became part of an important environmental action through this campaign. Hundreds of students and staff, including the university Registrar joined in. Tamilli, one of the students who took initiative to organise the campaign, called it an extremely effective tool for awareness. "We got about 400 signatures. It encouraged the people to come forward and support this campaign. Many students asked questions and tried to gain more awareness about global warming and the 350 target," she added.

The department stressed on the need to record data on the rise of global warming, the role of the university in rainwater harvesting, solid waste management and efficient utilisation of energy in the university. Stating that colleges and universities all over the world are embracing sustainability goals, he said that such an effort would help to put our university on the global map of sustainable campuses.

Students can play an important role in promoting environmental awareness by joining the action network initiated under the aegis of the Sustainable Development programme of the department, he added.

A sustainable world and an eco-friendly campus

The students of the Department of Ecology and Environmental Sciences launched a signature campaign and encouraged students to join an effort against global warming on the International Day of Climate Action.

The international website - 350.org - was the convergence point of the campaign, which aims to bring down the level of carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere from 390 to 350 parts per million. According to scientists, 350 is the safe upper limit for CO2 in the earth's atmosphere.

On Oct. 24, Pondicherry University became part of an important environmental action through this campaign. Hundreds of students and staff, including the university Registrar joined in. Tamilli, one of the students who took initiative to organise the campaign, called it an extremely effective tool for awareness. "We got about 400 signatures. It encouraged the people to come forward and support this campaign. Many students asked questions and tried to gain more awareness about global warming and the 350 target," she added.

The Department of Ecology and Environmental Sciences has called for setting up an environmentally sustainable campus.

As part of the Sustainable Campus Initiative, Dr. G. Poyya Moli, Reader, Department of Ecology and Environmental Science emphasised the need to promote and reinforce environmental responsibility.

Addressing the students at the lecture hall on Dec. 18, he urged students to volunteer and participate in this project. He suggested the implementation of various folklore activities on digital forms, he added.

He stressed on the need to include folk media in our educational system and in modern forms of mass communication. He urged media professionals to integrate folk forms into cinema, radio, television, and the Internet. As a step in this direction, the university has initiated the development of a culture portal on the Internet. The revival of folklore would help in changing society and people through social and cultural development.

A student signing up for the signature campaign. Photo: Siddarth
A winner against all odds

Vijayata Rani is a Ph.D scholar in the Department of Politics and International Studies at Pondicherry University. She talks to THE INQUIRER about her visual impairment, struggles and success.

"I cannot let my disability stop me from achieving my dreams," says Vijayata, brimming with confidence.

Vijayata, whose name means ‘winner’, has faced many challenges in her journey – being denied admission in schools because of her disability, surrounded by people unaware of her problems and a lack of proper guidance in school. She has crossed all these hurdles and more with her vivacity and zest for life. Full of energy, she is proud to be in a position few have managed to reach.

The various people who have encouraged her, include her teachers and family. "I learned basic Braille from Dr. Ashvin, a Philosophy professor, when I was in Class VII. Before that, I studied in a regular school, where my mother was a teacher. She read out the books for me and I would take my exams orally. My mother was always there to assist and guide me," she said.

Vijayata was diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa at the age of two. She has been travelling to different parts of the country for her treatment as well as for her education. She first studied in Betiah, her hometown in Bihar, and then moved on to the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped (NIVH), Dehradun. She was initially a bit apprehensive about living away from her family, but took it as a challenge and the experiences made her stronger.

At NIVH, she completed her higher secondary education and also received many awards. Subsequently, she joined Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi in 2013 and took up Political Science as her major, which was her favourite subject. After her graduation, she came to the South, to do her Masters from Stella Mary’s College in Chennai. With the advancement of modern technology, it became easier for her to study and she also learned how to use a computer. Her friends and teachers also assisted and supported her in every way.

After completing her Masters, Vijayata wanted to pursue her Ph.D and joined Pondicherry University. She is now conducting research on Indo-European Relations. Even though technology has the potential to facilitate learning, she has observed that there are limited facilities for the visually challenged. Vijayata feels that more emphasis should be placed on improving library facilities in all educational institutions.

She is always a solution."
Caring for the world: Ecology department

“Whatever you do will be insignificant, but it is very important that you do it.”

- Mahatma Gandhi

It is often easy to feel overwhelmed at a time of species extinction and habitat destruction. The problem is large and complex and it’s common for individuals to feel powerless.

Yet, everything we do is vitally important. We may only do a little bit in the grand scheme of things, but together our seemingly small actions add up to a lot.

Doing their part is the Department of Ecology and Environmental Sciences in Pondicherry University. They observed Wildlife Week from Oct 5-7. The students tried to spread the message of conservation and environmental awareness through a melange of activities, such as film and documentary screenings, lectures by eminent speakers, a wildlife photography exhibition, a wildlife quiz, live snake handling and a mini fair with various stalls.

Annamalai University and Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) joined the Ecology department in organising the Wildlife Week.

Students from the Centre of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Marine Biology, Annamalai University, led by Associate Professor Dr. T.T. Ajith Kumar, set up a stall as part of Wildlife Week. The stall showcased marine ornamental fish, which were bred for trading purposes. These fish were sourced from the Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands.

After CMFRI (Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute), CAS is known to have facilities in place for breeding marine ornamental fish in India. “We are the first to use water with low saline content for breeding these fish,” explained N.R. Dharyanthi, a Ph.D. student from CAS. The real-life version of Disney’s Nemo and other marine ornamental fish, such as the false clownfish, caught the attention of students.

The department also organised a two-day photo exhibition as part of the Wildlife Week to spread awareness about the importance of preserving wildlife and it showcased at least 500 photographs taken from around the globe.

Regional photos formed the majority and most of them were taken at the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. Every wildlife photograph had a detailed description about the species, along with the picture. The collection covered various species, ranging from insects to blue whales.

Organisations such as Madras Naturalist Society, WWF Chennai, Alliance Francaise Paducherry and several individuals contributed photographs.

Discussing the relevance of the event, Sidharth R., an M.Sc. student and a member of the organising committee said, “Conservation is the need of the hour. We want to make people aware of the species that are about to disappear from this planet and we want them to do something to prevent that.”

When asked if their campaign is focusing on any particular species, he said, “We often find that the students and the security staff in the campus kill snakes and scorpions. We want to let them know that not all of these creatures are dangerous and their existence is important to maintain the balance of the ecosystem.”

Films, such as Ice Age 3, Born Free and documentaries by David Attenborough, were also screened as part of the Wildlife Week. The event concluded with a skit about conservation awareness and a dance performance by the Kota tribe from Pudukottai, Nilgiris.

The programme was an opportunity to the university students to learn and understand about the customs, beliefs and rituals of the tribe.

When students asked the troupe about their thoughts on modernisation, S. Nandan Camba, the youngest of the troupe, said, “We welcome education but not complete modernisation. We want to preserve our tradition that has been passed down to us from our ancestors.”

Sure enough some tribals were spotted using cell phones, but that is about as far as they let technology influence their lives - they are fighting to ensure that their habitat does not turn into a concrete jungle.
In order to be authentic, open, sincere and honest, you have to heal the past that has stayed recorded onto the heart of the self. Heal it so that your heart can love without fear, and all your being can show itself without hiding, without bitterness or rigidity.

To overcome fears, it is necessary that your mind is not weighed down by the past nor worried about the future. It is important that you are in peace with your past. Revisit your past, if there is some part of the past where you feel bitterness, resentment, hate, fear or unhappiness, it is good to cleanse it. You can have bad experiences in different moments, but learn not to record them in your memory. With inner strength and with mental power, that is, with a mind that does not repeat the weak, the negative, and does not keep on thinking about bad experiences, you can deal with situations and live through them with flexibility, lightness, tolerance and transformation.

If in your consciousness there remains a minimal impression of something of the past, some experience with someone, when you

Artistic expression knows no boundaries. A little known yet unique form of art is sand sculpting. The creation of a masterpiece out of just a pile of sand involves a lot of hard work, creativity and dedication. Sudarshan Pattnaik is a world renowned sand artist who is known for his innovative and detailed sand sculptures. Born in Puri, Orissa, Pattnaik taught himself this complex art since sand art is not considered a professional art form in India yet.

His firm determination and creative zeal made him overcome these limitations and master this art. Today, his work has been appreciated and applauded the world over and he has won a number of different awards for his creations that give sand art a new content and meaning.

“My ultimate aim is to change people's perception that sand art is a temporary form of art,” said he. He has a unique way of depicting social issues symbolically through his art. His work on the Olive Ridley turtles on the Orissa coastline, creations on world peace, AIDS awareness and so on have given his work a meaning that goes beyond the aesthetic.

Sudarshan Pattnaik came to the shore of Pondicherry as an exhibition from Oct. 1-4. Organised by the Rotary Club of Pondicherry, the exhibition "The Wings of the Muse" exhibited a sand sculpture created for the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti and also to spread awareness on Global Warming. It was created by him and an 8-member team in 8 hours, using 100 tonnes of sand.

It portrayed Mahatma Gandhi with the famous “three monkeys” against the backdrop of a clean and healthy world. “Save Forest, Clean City, Conserve Water,” read the message on the sculpture. Pattnaik’s gift to Pondicherry, therefore, is a unique idea of combining Gandhi’s ideals of peace and the need for environmental protection.

Pattnaik has yet another goal — working towards the conversion of sand art into a professionally recognised form of art. He started providing training to artists through the open air Gidan Sand Art Institute at Puri beach, in 1994. Starting with just two students, he now has a 35 member team of sand artists. He has students from India and abroad who enrol for regular and short-term courses, and he helps them undertake projects. “I aim to use the Gurukul concept to help interested persons to become professional sand artists,” he explained. He has conducted •Felicitated during the release of the 20th edition of Limca Book of Records 2009 at New Delhi for being among the twenty •People of the Year. •First Prize at the Berlin World Sand Art Competition in 2008. •Fourth Prize at China International Sand Sculpture Competition 2003. •Champion Medal in “29th International Snow Statue Contest - 2002” at Sapporo, Japan. •Created the world’s biggest Santa Claus on sand in 2006 and got a mention in the Limca Book of World Records.
The rhetoric of the men rallying embodied by a woman - a goddess. Telangana, an empty space, is banners- are not very different from song and dance, slogans and included visuals- banners, posters, demand for a separate nationhood witnessed to the performance of the heart of the struggle, I have been EFL University, inside Osmania

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You feel a sense of deja vu when you see Hindi films? While watching Koi Mil Gayaa, Sarkar, Partner, Chak De! India or Ghajini, did you smell something fishy? There has always been an argument that Bollywood is notorious for plagiarism. There is enough proof to believe that 50% of Hindi movies are remakes of British, American or French films. Why do Indian filmmakers copy Western or other foreign films? It is because they suffer from the lack of originality or do the producers think that it is safer to follow the tested path?

The fact is that our audience doesn't care whether a film is original or copied. All they want is an entertainment with songs, music and dance; even if it has nothing to do with the context. Ghajini is one of the latest ones that have been lifted. It is copied from Memento, written by Jonathan Nolan and directed by Christopher Nolan. And sadly, this copy holds the record for the highest earnings at the box office by a Bollywood film - 200 crore.

Another hit of 2008, Singh Is Kinng, Parineeti Chopra's, Capsaicin Lady for a Day and the movie's fight which I witnessed on campus mainly comprised men. All banners also carried a map - the visual representation of the land- of the nation- imagined and inscribed onto a map - a physical visual space. The other visual markers on campus were the posters of newspaper cuttings pasted on the walls. They spoke of all the atrocities that the police perpetrated- the lathi charge, the martyrs, those who died. Pamphlets which were handed out also carried photos of students who died, gory images of bloody faces, mutilated bodies. The history of the movement was traced, there was also the justification that the movement was not separatist but demanded only a land which had existed 60 years before. The other justification granted in the banners was a quote from Jawaharlal Nehru in Hindi which stated that Telangana was a bride given in marriage to Andhra Pradesh and if there was a discord, she could be granted divorce: Telangana could then demand for a separate state. This quote is an anti-separatist discourse. Song and dance also played an integral role in the performance for the demand of a separate state. Any rally which demanded that the university close down, or a candle light vigil for the martyrs, who died in the lathi charge; was marked by a song which spoke of the struggles of the people; their demand for a land, their mourning for those who had died fighting for it. The song: rhetoric was all connected to the land- the demand for water, the crops, the failure of the rains and the appeal to mother earth. There was anger too - that they were suppressed, that the dams and reservoirs - in short the development projects - all went to Andhra, that they did not get employment, that their jobs were going to Andhraraites. Andhra Pradesh was the other in determining the self of Telangana. Most important was the rally slogans: 'Jai Telangana, we want Telangana...'

When Mr. P. Chalubaramann announced the separate state there was jubilation at the campus door after midnight. Thousands of students gathered to shout Jai Telangana. Some students_headers, congratulated each other, jumped on the road, got drunk, stopped cars and vehicles - the lathi charge; was marked by a light vigil for the martyrs, who died in the lathi charge; wish them Jai Telangana and wave the TBS flag. It was a jubilation for all those years of effort, a jubilation that they would go independent in the future, that they would have a land of their own, that they would be able to channel the development to their area. How far this dream will be fulfilled is another matter. The police who had blocked the road method tests put a barbed wire (it looked like a war zone), stood by watching the whole show, waiting for orders to move out. The performance was in full swing - flags, crackers, slogans - all these constituting the basics of any nationalism - and in that agitation was no different.

The state has been announced, but the fight is not yet over. With ministers resigning, the bill to be passed at various stages and the process of state formation, there remains a lot to be done. Let us wait and watch what happens next.

The writer, Ketaki Chokhawala, completed her M.A. in English this year from Pondicherry University. She is presently pursuing M.Phil. in Cultural Studies at the EFL University, Hyderabad. The views expressed are entirely her own.

Bollywood and the desperate act of remaking

Dil Wahi Duhania Le Jayenge (DDLJ), which enjoyed a run of 10 years on the silver screen, is inspired from The Sure Thing. Kuch Kuch Hota Hai from Sleepless in Seattle, Black from The Mule & Scarface, Hum Tum from When Harry Met Sally, Moolahottabhoon from Dead Poets Society and Apneaghat, Vastaar and Satya from the epic Al Pacino-starrer Scarface.

Did you go for a David Dhawan or he Magnificent Seven? It is inspired from the epic Al Pacino-starrer Scarface.

Still, I go for a David Dhawan or Abbas-Mustan film to test myself and to find how much time it will take me to name the original. I suppose I don't have to write anything about Pyaar Daarshan (the man who earns a living by merely translating other language movies). Half of his films are copies of Hollywood movies, for example, Garam Masala (Boeing Boeing) and Dany Ka G. It’s Fate (One Flew Over the Cuckoos Nest) and the other half are remakes of Malayalam movies; example Bhool Bhulaiyya (Manichitrathazhu) and Hera Pheri (Rampi Rao Speaking).

These are just a few examples. Why is this happening so often and should it be prevented? Love stories form a majority of storylines for desi movies and Indian filmmakers have tried every variation of a romantic plot - the ‘boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy finds girl’ story. Every variation has been made into a film somewhere. And the filmmakers have been asked to perform in the same manner. How many possibilities are there in a love story?

Then again, we do not have a lot of creative scriptwriters, so there is not much chance of making pathbreaking films. What our scriptwriters do is, they watch some Guy Ritchie and Quentin Tarantino movies and write a similar plot, which is a complete copy. It is okay to make Bollywood movies that are inspired from other language films. But I read somewhere to actors being shown videos of the original film and being asked to perform in the same manner. Surely that can be avoided.

Now that major corporate houses have become producers in India, imitations are likely to be punished. So copyrights have to be purchased from the original filmmakers and credit should be given. But I read somewhere to actors being shown videos of the original film and being asked to perform in the same manner. Surely that can be avoided.

The truth is that only a few Indian filmmakers try to come up with original ideas and that leaves us with no option than to watch copied ones. It is fine if a movie openly acknowledges that it is inspired from another movie. But if a imitation pretends to be original, let us just try to avoid it and see the original instead. Because we must learn to enjoy the sheer power of originality.