



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

SATYAMEVAJAYATHE

One big mistake and the founder of Satyam Computers, one of the top home-grown IT industries is toiling in Hyderabad's Chanchalguda jail. For the whole world B Ramalinga Raju may be a villain, after the startling revelation of fraud in the company, but for residents of his native village, BHIMAVARAM in West Godavari district, he is still a good Samaritan.

I myself could have spoken ill of this winner of Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Services Award 1999 like many stockholders and shareholders of this company who are directly or indirectly affected by the scam, but I realized that there is always another side of the coin. Although many know him only as a businessman, he has also showed a strong social orientation and has been furthering the cause of social transformation through Byrraju Foundation and EMRI. **Byrraju Foundation** was set up in July 2001 in the memory of the Late Byrraju Satyanarayana Raju, the founder of the Satyam group of companies. It seeks to build progressive self-reliant rural communities, with a holistic approach, by providing services in the areas of health care, environment, sanitation, primary education, adult literacy and skills development. The Foundation currently works in 180 villages in 6 districts of Andhra Pradesh positively transforming the lives of nearly a million people. **EMRI** (Emergency Management and Research Institute) an innovative idea floated by the family of this disgraced entrepreneur, is a pioneer in Emergency Management Services in India. As a not - for - profit professional organization operating in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode, EMRI is the only professional Emergency Service Provider in India today. EMRI handles medical, police and fire emergencies through the "1-0-8 Emergency service". This is a free service delivered through state-of-art emergency call response centers and has over 1400 ambulances across Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Assam and Meghalaya. Backed by the technical expertise of Satyam, the EMRI through the 108 ambulance saved many lives by shifting the injured in road accidents to hospitals in the shortest possible time.

Mr. Raju might have committed a serious accounting fraud to the tune of 7000 crore rupees, but he surely has done equally good social service as the aforementioned data suggests. Let the jury decide what punishment he should be given legally, but at least we, the people (who are in no way affected by this much-hyped up corporate scandal), should stay away from making blatant and illogical comments and respect him for the good services his NGO has provided.

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Vivekananda Yuva Sankalp (VYS)

In collaboration with SU and NSS, NIRMAAN conducted Vivekananda Yuva Sankalp program here at the BITS-Pilani campus on the occasion of the Republic Day which was a grand success. The event witnessed an immense response of almost 250 people. Also, as a part of this program, 4000 booklets on the life of Swami Vivekananda were distributed among all the students and professors



The event started at 10.30 in the morning after the flag hoisting. The speaker for the event was Swami Nikhil Atmanandaji while the chief guest was our Vice-Chancellor Prof. L.K.Maheshwari. The speaker, Secretary of Rama Krishna Mission Jaipur readily accepted our request and had come all the way from Jaipur only to deliver the speech.

The first speech was that of Swamiji. He spoke eloquently for thirty minutes on the topic “Swami Vivekananda And His Life” revealing many interesting aspects of Vivekananda’s life. His speech spellbound the audience who gave a heeding patient ear to all his words. Also, Prof.L.K.Maheshwari threw light on “Swami Vivekananda And His Message to The Youth” by giving thought provoking and practical applications of Vivekananda’s teachings in our daily life.

The url for the REFUGENCE website is provided here:

<http://nirmaan.org/refulgence-2k9/home.html>

Workshop on Social Entrepreneurship

In association with CEL, NIRMAAN organized a two day workshop on 7th and 8th of February where the students were given a vivid view on the entire concept of SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS and what it takes to be one. This was done by three stupefying speakers who have reached the pinnacle of success or growing as one in social entrepreneurship.

The first speaker was Mr. Sunil Handa (founder of the Ekalvy Education Foundation, a non-profit educational institute), a professor from IIM-A who had a wonderful career as a businessman. His live examples portrayed not only the real obstacles in life but also the strength manifested in man by which he can cross all barriers. The next lecture was given by Mr. Kavikrut, the Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer of Mobile Medics. In 2006, Mr. Kavikrut was named one of 30 BITSians under the age of 30 for outstanding leadership. He gave a wonderful talk on what went wrong in his project and thus showcased what mistakes one tends to commit while undertaking a project and how they could to be avoided. The third speaker was Mr.V.K.Desai, the founder of TINYTECH PLANTS, that works towards inventing small and simple technology that can strengthen the local economy. After establishing 1373 oil mills in 72 different countries, he is still working in the direction of developing new technology. His ideas in the field of science and technology helped the students to realize the opportunities one can seize in small industries and how that can develop the society.



Project Updates

GYAN BODH(GB)

The gyan bodh team had 2 surveys in the past few weeks in order to inform more and more of the Pilani people about the GB teaching sessions. Apart from that, GB had an audio visual quiz for secondary and higher secondary classes and sports competitions for lower classes on 26th January in the gyan bodh park.



Inter Connectivity of Schools (ICS)

The ICS project had a workshop for the training of teachers of schools around Pilani. The workshop was conducted under the supervision of Prof. G.S.Chauhan and Mrs. Usha Manjunath who gave their suggestions to the participants on teaching methodologies and also answered queries of the participants. ICS is also planning to conduct a career counseling session for kids of various schools soon in the future.



School Adoption Program (SAP)

The SAP team has started to encourage school-dropouts to engage in academics by conducting Sunday activities for them in the last few weeks. SAP has already started conducting events and activities, like competitions for kids, in the government secondary school in Khedla which it is going to adopt very soon.

You can as well subscribe to our e-newsletter at the url provided here:

www.nirmaan.org/page/Pilani.aspx

SHG (HARINAGAR)

After establishing a production unit for stitching in Harinagar Colony, the self help group has now put its back into establishing a training center for women in the village. A professional trainer with an experience of 25 yrs in training the self help group women has been hired from the Chirawa town who also teaches in the center run by NIRMAAN at Khedla village. Also, 2 new machines (out of the 5 machines sponsored by the BITSAA Chennai Trust) have been installed in the center.



SHG (KHEDLA)

In the Khedla village, the women in the stitching center have been taught to stitch laptop covers. And now that the women are well trained in these, orders from the BITS students will be taken and the production unit is going to be working on them. Three new machines have been installed in the center and training in basic stitching for others is going on in parallel with the center in Harinagar colony.



Our APOGEE Events

E-SOLVE :-Engineering solutions for villages, this is a contest to showcase your engineering skills as well as make a difference to the people of rural India, by coming up with efficient, effective and feasible solutions to the problem statement, which has been loaded on. Submit your abstracts to nirmaan@bits-apogee.org. **The last day for abstract submission is 7th MARCH.**

TECHNOVISION :-We invite innovative models and imaginative approaches in the application of technology and in solving problems that plague INDIA in the form of paper presentation. Submit your abstracts to nirmaan@bits-apogee.org. **The last day for abstract submission is 3rd MARCH.**

INDIA QUIZ :-The India Quiz is a platform for testing your IQ (India Quotient). Teams of three from all over the country participate in this one of a kind quiz conducted in the BITS auditorium during Apogee, to prove how Indian they really are.

REFULGENCE :- Nirmaan's flagship event this semester, Refulgence is an All-India social B-Plan competition seeking ideas that aim to change the future of our country. The event basically aims at providing a holistic platform for young social entrepreneurs to present their ideas and encourage them to illuminate the plight rural masses of India, to make a difference in the lives of the downtrodden and underprivileged across the country. Each team can have a maximum of 5 members. The prize money to be won is up to Rs. 30,000. **Mail in your executive summaries to refulgence.bits@gmail.com. Last date for submission of the summary is 1st MARCH.**

A good company delivers excellent products and services, and a great company does all that and also strives to make the world a better place.

-WILLIAM FORD JUNIOR, FORD MOTORS

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