



सह चौर्य करवावहै

THE INSTITUTION OF ELECTRONICS AND TELECOMMUNICATION ENGINEERS

FROM PRESIDENT'S DESK



It is a great pleasure in addressing you once again. The perceived opportunities that lie ahead for us charges us with optimistic outlook to deliver desired results to our stakeholders as per their expectations. I am happy to inform you that successful conduct of events like IETE Apex Forum on National Telecom Policy 2005-06, technical activities and workshops undertaken by various IETE Centres/ Subcentres, opening up of new ISFs at various engineering colleges and Institutions are positive indicators of steady growth and progress of IETE. The willingness to conduct relevant and varied activities by the Centres/ Sub Centres is very satisfying to me. Initiatives for stepping up of e-learning at Noida Centre is indeed very welcome for our student members. The interests of our student fraternity are uppermost in our minds all the time and concerted efforts have resulted in timely remedial and reinforcing initiatives for their development to meet the challenges of the highly competitive environment. Keeping in line with the vision of IETE, we are dedicated towards knowledge driven society. 37th IETE Mid Term Symposium on "Information Communication Technology Initiative for Rural Development" recently concluded at Kolkata Centre shows fulfilling performance of IETE in the service of our nation. The high quality of papers presented and the interaction during MTS-06 indicates the sound home work done and hard work put in by Kolkata centre in organizing this symposium. The subject chosen was very topical and relevant for the development of the rural areas of our country.

Our endeavour shall be to maintain and improve such high standards to secure for IETE a rightful place amongst the professional bodies. I am sure, together we and esteemed representative cross sections of academia and industry can reach out to distant places through such events and help highlighting the importance of keeping abreast with the latest changing technologies.

Contributions that add value to our Institution are most welcome. They would help us reinvent ourselves around the changing aspirations. Write to us on ietend@bol.net.in

Lt Gen D P Sehgal



Lighting of lamp during inaugural ceremony of MTS-06 by Chief Guest Prof Sankar Sen. Also seen in the picture are Lt Gen D P Sehgal, President, IETE and Prof H Saha, Chairman Kolkata Centre



President IETE - delivering his address at the inaugural ceremony



The Chief Guest, Shri M M Pallam Raju, Hon'ble Minister of State for Defence, Lt Gen D P Sehgal, Shri P N Chopra and Maj Gen C M Logani during IETE Apex Forum at IETE, New Delhi on March 1, 2006



Prof V L Deshpande receiving a memento from the President IETE during C V Raman Memorial Lecture



Corporate Members seen during Bhubaneswar AGM Meeting on 10.2.06



Inauguration ceremony of 2nd Floor accommodation of the IETE Kolkata Centre. President IETE, Lt Gen D P Sehgal, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd)

NEWS FROM HQs

Report on 37th IETE Mid-Term Symposium- 2006

The symposium on **"Information Communication Technology Initiatives for Rural Development"** (ICTIRD-06) was inaugurated on 8th April at the International Tower, Salt Lake Electronics Complex, Kolkata by Prof Sankar Sen, an eminent scientist and administrator, ex-minister of Govt of West Bengal and Ex-Vice-Chancellor of Jadavpur University. Prof Sen elaborated the theme of the seminar by pointing out that ICT initiatives for rural development must emphasize on woman empowerment, local language based programmes and information database, non conventional energy for providing power to the ICT hardware and above all a clear-cut understanding about the rural scenario. Dr G D Gautama, Principal Secretary, Dept of Information Technology, Govt of West Bengal, laid out the road map for Govt of West Bengal for extending the benefits of ICT to the rural sector of West Bengal. Particular emphasis has been given to the sectors of education, health, agriculture and land reform. **Prof Bikash Sinha, Director of Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics and VECC, Kolkata**, member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of Prime Minister, delivered the prestigious **Vikram Sarabhai Memorial lecture**. He brilliantly illustrated the high quality achievements in VECC and SINP in the fields of indigenously developed technology of superconducting magnets, Nuclear Detector chips etc. He emphasized the importance of hardware component of ICT and the Indian capability to develop these hardware components as well. Lt Gen P Sehgal, President, IETE

congratulated the Kolkata Center for choosing the theme for the Mid-Term symposium and explained the key role IETE can play in bridging the digital divide caused by the urbanization of ICT so far. Lt Gen Davinder Kumar, Chairman of Technical Programme Committee gave an overview of the symposium. Prof H Saha, Chairman of Kolkata Centre delivered the welcome address and Gp Capt H Kaushal, zonal coordinator (East) offered the vote of thanks in the inaugural session.

The symposium was divided into six technical sessions devoted to (a) Education (b) Communication (c) e-governance (d) Health care (e) Energy and Agriculture- all in relevance to rural development. Sixteen invited talks by eminent experts from the Government, Public sector, Industry and Academic institutions were delivered. About twenty five oral and poster papers from young researchers of various academic institutions like IIT Kharagpur, IIT Guwahati, and Calcutta University and some reputed Engg Colleges were also presented during the convention. Shri Ashis Sanyal, Director, Dept of Information Technology, Govt of India presented an excellent overview of the initiatives taken by Govt of India for extending ICT to the rural population of our country by setting up of 100,000 ICT enabled Common Services Centers (CSC) in the villages in cooperation with various NGO's and Gram Panchayats. Information in the form of agriculture inputs, weather, commodity prices, health as well as services in the form of e-governance, tele-medicine, bill payments and bookings etc will be made available to the villagers at large through this CSCs which will be operated by the villagers entrepreneurs themselves on a profit center mode. Dr M N Roy, IAS, Principal secretary, Dept of Panchayat and Rural Development, Govt of WB

enumerated the measures already taken and to be taken up by Govt of WB in these sectors. Some of these include application softwares like Integrated Fund Monitoring and accounting system for Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samitis, Gram Panchayat management system, Court cases monitoring system at District and Sub-district levels etc. Dr S K Chakravarty, CGM, BSNL Calcutta Telephones stressed upon the various issues of inequalities of ICT between urban and rural sectors. He highlighted the great success stories of extending ICT to rural sector which include (a) Franchisee PCOs in India (b) 1.5 lakh telephone lines in Bangladesh and (c) Gramin Sanchar Society initiative in West Bengal. An important aspect of ICT initiatives is its security aspect particularly in the context of increasing use of financial transactions related to commercial and agricultural products. Dr Suvendu Das of ERTL dealt with the security aspects of ICT with an emphasis to rural applications. Disaster Management by ICT, particularly for flood control and other natural disaster control in remote villages was presented by Prof P K Das of Jadavpur University and Shri Ashis Ghosh of World Space. The use of solar power by deployment of SPV systems for energizing the ICT gadgets in remote rural areas was elaborated by Dr Kanak Mukherjee, MD, Agni Power and Electrons (Pvt) Ltd. Shri Kushal Nandi of Hutchission Telecom East India Ltd and Shri S C Banerjee of Reliance Infocom Ltd stressed the initialization of utilizing this existing infrastructure of Mobile Telecommunication for communicating data and video beyond voice only from rural information kiosks.

Tele-Health care is one of the most important areas where ICT can go a long way in bringing the modern health care facilities to the remote rural regions.

Dr B S Bedi of DIT, Govt of India and Dr J N Maity of Webel ECS elaborated the initiatives already undertaken by Govt of India and Govt WB in this regard.

This valedictory session of the conference chaired by Gp Capt H Kaushal who along with Maj Gen Yashwant Deva, AVSM (Retd) Past President IETE summed up the important deliberations of the conference and congratulated Kolkata Centre for the successful completion of MTS-06.

Recommendations of the Symposium

1. 70% of Indian population live in the villages while most of them are yet to receive ICT benefits. Necessary initiatives must be taken by the National and State Govt in cooperation with NGOs to extend the benefits of ICT to its vast rural population.
2. ICT can transform the lives of rural masses in India by cutting down drastically the bureaucratic formalities and associated time delay in processing various governance measures including land reforms agricultural input/output parameters, Educational & Health facilities and programs, banking, subsidy and promotional efforts etc. Necessary awareness in this regard should be generated among officials of States and Central Govt.
3. DIT, Govt of India has taken up correct initiatives in respect of e-governance and telehealth services by involving a number of NGOs in their programmes. IETE should try to get involved in this national and state level programmes.

4. Hardware infrastructure for extension of ICT to rural India should be developed by Indian industries at scientific institutes without having total dependence on foreign countries in these key segments.

Apex Forum on National Telecom Policy 2005-06

The first Apex Forum of year 2006 on **National Telecom Policy 2005-06** was held on March 1, 2006 at IETE HQ, New Delhi. The subject was of national importance. Telecommunication is the only sector that showed visible progress after India opened up its economy in 1991. Private participation has helped in the reasonable growth of telephone density. Mobile growth has been remarkable. However, connectivity in rural area continues to be a problem area. Value Added Services Policy of 1992 and Telecom Policy 1994 have contributed significantly but National Telecom Growth is much less in comparison to the countries in our neighbourhood. A new Broadband Policy and directions on the utilization of Satellite Communication have been issued. The Indian Telegraph Act has been amended to take care of the new issues. With the new policy in place and the idea of IndiaOne and rationalised ADC, the country is looking for real boom in the Telecom Sector with world class new generation services with IP and other multimedia facilities ushering a real converged environment.

IETE, once again provided the desired platform for the needed debate and invited Shri M M Pallam Raju, Hon'ble Minister of State for Defence as the Chief Guest. Shri P P Malhotra, Co-Chairman, Industrial Coordination Committee, Wg Cdr D N Misra (Retd)

Chairman, Industrial Coordination Committee; Lt Gen D P Sehgal, PVS AVSM, VSM (Retd), President IETE, Shri P N Chopra, DIG, BSF (Retd) and Maj Gen C M Logani, VSM (Retd) Secretary General IETE, spoke on the occasion. Welcome Address was by Cdr D N Misra (Retd). Maj Gen C M Logani, read the citation and President IETE conferred IETE Fellowship on Shri M M Pallam Raju. The Chief Guest released the Proceedings of IETE-EXPO-2005 held during 4th ATC of IETE. Shri P N Chopra presented the overview of the subject of Apex Forum and introduced the panelists. The session followed by presentations by the panelists.

Shri B B Bhatia, Dir, Motorola India Pvt Ltd spoke on the topic "Mobile rural - Bridging the Digital Divide". He explained the divide as the socioeconomic difference between the communities in their access to computers and Internet. The term digital divide refers to gaps between groups in the ability to use ICT effectively due to differing literacy and technical skills and inavailability of quality of useful digital content. He emphasized how the areas of healthcare, agriculture, education and mobile communication are being helped by the technology with Motorola products. There is an improved quality of access and efficiency of healthcare, increased productivity, effective management in agriculture supply chain connecting major continents. He mentioned about the Pilot Project that Motorola proposes to roll out to make education and knowledge available to the farthest reaches of the country and Motorola - Communication Technology Company solving Rural Access Technology issues.

Dr N Vijayaditya, DG, NIC, spoke on "Wireless Networking". He started

with population, empowerment of village panchayats, need to accelerate rural employment by the Govt and the urban areas to assist rural areas. He touched upon the drawbacks in wireless technology, setting up of the standards for policy reforms, implementation of WiMax and developing security plans.

Prof P V Indiresan, Distinguished Fellow & Past President of IETE, gave a brief talk touching the areas of R & D, security and education. He opined that National Telecom Policy should re-emphasize on the self-reliant/indigenous R & D sector. He worked for more than one C-DoTs in the country. He appreciated the contribution of IETE in reaching out and spreading the technical education to far-flung areas of the country thus creating the desirable technical manpower. Regarding security concerns, he stressed on specific Internet protocols.

Lt Gen Davinder Kumar, PVSM, VSM, Bar & ADC, invited opinions on the question "Can communication be a fundamental right?". He also emphasized the need to develop indigenous base. As information is power, it should be upgraded from service to industry status. There is a need for synergy, convergence, infrastructure like information kiosks, etc. He talked about the need of dynamic engineers, right kind of HRD, good finishing schools, facilitation of right kind of R&D, information security policy, implementation of policies that are unbiased and transparent.

Shri T V Ramachandran, DG, COAI, talked about India being at the cutting edge of telecom reforms. The country being the 5th largest in the world in numbers of telecom subscribers has to penetrate rural areas, tapping of value education that was going out, expansion

of networks, lower tariffs, sharing of infrastructures, vital scarce resources, cell sites and USO funds.

Shri S C Khanna, Secretary General, AUSPI, based his presentation on National Telecom Policy 1994, 1999, amendments in 2003 and proposed NTP 2006. He suggested to enhance liberalization and opening up of the telecom sector to bring affordability and competition, encourage convergence of services and technologies, provisioning of reliable telecom services at reasonable cost and facilitate access to the rural masses through tax relief, free spectrum, no levies on the revenue share, etc. He also gave the objectives of NTP 2006 and the set targets. Regulatory approach and the Spectrum Management, Rural Info-Communications were also touched.

Lt Gen D P Sehgal, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd), President IETE, summing up the debate explained that the issues debated concerned all and that the National Telecom policy should be implementable and consumer, govt & industry friendly. It should be free from all the shackles as India is almost at the breakout phase, he said.

The Chief Guest, **Shri M M Pallam Raju, Hon'ble Minister of State for Defence**, appreciated the role of IETE in education sector and for creating educated trained manpower. Emphasizing the need to create a real manufacturing base in telecom sector he said that it was sad that we have not been able to translate research into products. There should be optimal utilization of infrastructure. Policy, he said, should be all favouring, stress should be on universities in their involvement in manpower development for the real knowledge society and updation of data by dissemination of knowledge.

IETE Apex Forum had a total unanimity on the need for enhancing of teledensity, creating of high quality global standards, cost effective telecommunication infrastructure, spread of broadband, need for incentives to increase rural teledensity, creating a real manufacturing base in telecom sector in the country, an effective regulatory mechanism and establishment of world class ICT setup in the country.

C V Raman Memorial Lecture

The 10th Sir C V Raman Memorial Lecture was delivered by **Shri Vinay L Deshpande, Chairman & CEO, Encore Software Ltd, Bangalore** on March 1, 2006 at IETE HQ, New Delhi.

In his lecture on "Affordable Information Appliances" **Shri Deshpande** highlighted the importance of information, need of rural information, its benefits and challenges. He said that IT was helping in bridging the information divide. He explained that the **Encore Simputer** designed for this purpose is a low cost, mobile, linux-based, local language-computing device with multiple inputs and connectivity options. He said that the personal computers have become too complex over the years and pose too much of a challenge for most of the people. Therefore solution appropriate to our situation is needed, that is Information Appliances. **Simputer** is one of such appliances with desirable features and unique advantages. Talking of **Mobilis**, the mobile desktop information appliance, he described its unique features and advantages like simple to use, low power consumption, built-in software, higher reliability, downloadability, low threat of virus, low total cost of ownership. Its applications are basically in the field of education, healthcare, e-Governance.

shops and businesses, automobiles etc. The other affordable, multiusage compact desktop information appliance is **Sofcomp**, with typical applications in community kiosk terminals, POS terminal, embedded appliance for specialized uses, rural health-care, telemedicine, field data collection, decision support system, integrated Disease Surveillance System, GPS-based mobile data collection for urban local bodies. **Sathi**, a very useful, lowcost battlefield handheld information appliance, inducted by the Indian Army to assist in Command & Control and battlefield situational awareness. It provides a handy information terminal with map display, facilitates communication and remote monitoring of operations from headquarters. It also provides IFF (Identification of Friend or Foe) facility.

NEWS FROM LOCAL CENTRES

Bangalore

The activities organized by the IETE Bangalore centre were :-

- Sir C V Raman Memorial Lecture on "The Intriguing World of Animals" by Prof G S Ranganath, Raman Research Institute, Bangalore, on National Science Day, 28 Feb 2006. Prof C Murali, Chairman, IETE Bangalore Centre presided.
- Lectures held under Continuing Education Programme: VLSI- Sequential and Combinational Circuit and Memory Design by Prof Cyril Prasanna Raj; RTO's- Interrupts, I/O device handling demo- Operating Systems & RTO's by Prof R Prakash and introduction to VLSI Design & VHDL by Prof Veena.

Bhubaneswar

The IETE Bhubaneswar centre held its Annual General Body Meeting on Feb 10, 2006. The discussions held covered commencement of guidance classes, examination, project evaluation, library facilities, technical activities, Admin and fiscal matters.

Delhi

IETE Delhi Centre organized its annual function on April 4, 2006. Prof Jagdish Mukhi, MLA Janakpuri, New Delhi, inaugurated the function. Welcome address was delivered by Chairman, Shri K C Chhabra. Lt Gen D P Sehgal, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd), President IETE presided over the function.

Hyderabad

The following activities were held by the centre:-

1. One day seminar on Development of Human Resources for IT, Software & Hardware Industries by Smt P Sabitha Indra Reddy, Hon'ble Minister of Mines and Geology, Information Technology and Communications, Investments and Infrastructure was held on March 11, 2006.
2. Lt Gen D P Sehgal, President IETE, visited centre on Feb 19, 2006 to interact with local Council Members, Executive Committee Members and student members. He also presented Prof CVS Rao Gold Medal for the year 2004 to Ms S Shirisha Madhav and Shri Pavan Kumar of AMIETE (ET Stream) and IETE Award to Shri R Ravi Chandra of AMIETE (CS Stream).

Jammu

A National Conference on "Emerging Trends in Electronics Technology (NCETET-2006)" was held under aegis of IETE Chandigarh Centre. The conference was inaugurated on Mar 4, 2006 by the Chief Guest, Lt Gen S K Sinha (Retd), Hon'ble Governor of Jammu and Kashmir and was presided over by the Vice Chancellor SMVDU, Prof N K Bansal. 42 papers were spread over 6 technical sessions, besides three invited talks by eminent experts in the field. The two days of contributed and invited presentations in the form of oral and poster session, provided extensive opportunities for the participants for exchange of technical information. The event immensely benefitted the upcoming scientists, technocrats, engineers and industrialists of the state. Certificates of participation were distributed to the participants by Prof N K Bansal, Vice Chancellor of SMVDU at the valedictory function.

Kochi

A zonal seminar on "New Trends in Communication" on 24th-25th Feb 2006 was organized by IETE Kochi Centre.

Kolkata

37th Mid Term Symposium of IETE on the topic **Information Communication Technology Initiatives for Rural Development (ICTIRD-06)** was successfully conducted under the aegis of IETE Kolkata Centre during 7-9 April, 2006. The centre also inaugurated its 2nd Floor accommodation by Lt Gen D P Sehgal, President IETE, on April 7, 2006.

Mankapur

IETE Mankapur Centre and CSI together organized a two-day conference on "Wireless and Broadband" on January 6-7, 2006 at ITI Limited, Mankapur. Presence of VC, UP Technical University, Prof (Dr) D S Chauhan; Director Production ITI Ltd, Shri J K Verma; Prof K K Bhutani, Director UPTEC and founder member of CSI Allahabad Chapter; Shri S P Tripathi AGM-M, Unit Head ITI Ltd, Mankapur; Shri B P Gupta AGM-F ITI Ltd; Shri P K Chand, DGM (IT) BSNL, Orissa Circle; Shri S C Tiwari, Dir, DOEACC; Shri H P Shukla Addl Director; Prof L K Singh, Dir IET; Dr RML Avadh University, Faizabad; fraternities from CSI and IETE; delegates, students and other dignitaries from various institutions and Engg colleges made the conference most informative and impressive. Presentation of quality papers, Q-A sessions under the chairmanship of high dignitaries were very well appreciated.

Mysore

A workshop on "Broadband Technology" was held in coordination with RTTC, BSNL, Mysore on Feb 26, 2006. Dr G Raghavendra Rao, Principal, National Institute of Engineering, Mysore inaugurated the workshop. Shri S S Sridhara, Chairman, IETE Mysore sub-centre, presided over the function. Shri T V Venkatram, ITS, Sr Principal, RTTC was the Guest of Honour and spoke on latest developments on broadband technology. The other speakers were: Shri A V Srikantan, SDE, on Broadband Architecture and Services, Shri K Balasubramanya, SDE, RTTC on WiFi Networks and Shri P V Krishnakumar, SDE, RTTC on Lab Demo & Configurations of broadband technology. About 20 participants attended the workshop. Vote of thanks was proposed

by Shri A Vijayendra, Hony Secretary, IETE.

Nagpur

The centre organised the following activities :

21-01-2006: A state level quiz competition was held on 'Mobile Communication' at the RKNEC, Nagpur. 14 teams participated in the event. The prizes were given to 1st, 2nd and 3rd winners and each participant was given a certificate. AVM U A Deshpande was the Chief Guest, Dr D A Deshpande, Chairman IETE Nagpur Centre, presided over the function. Shri Manish Damley Prof Incharge ISF, proposed the vote of thanks.

22-01-2006: One-day Basic Electronics Training Seminar to give hands-on training to students was held at VMV Commerce, JMT Arts and JJP Science College, Nagpur. 20 Students participated in the workshop. The seminar was inaugurated by Shri S P Gorowara, DIG BSF (Retd). Dr K R Bagree, Dr D A Deshpande and Shri Ananda Bose were the faculty.

04-02-2006: A one-day seminar on "Information Communication Technology in Education" was held jointly with VMV Commerce, JMT Arts and JJP Science College, Nagpur. The Seminar was presided over by Wg Cdr M L Bala (Retd). Shri Shashikant Choudhary, CEO Lambent Technologies, Nagpur, was the Chief Guest. Session-wise speakers were: 1st session: Wg Cdr Bala, Dr Sanjay Wagh, Director, Central India Research Institute; 2nd session: Shri Vivek Wagh, Incharge, Joy of learning Programme, CIRI Nagpur, Shri Goopichand, Vice President, Volk Soft Technologies, Hyderabad and Mrs A Sakhare, Head, Dept of Computer

Science and Electronics, Nagpur University; 3rd session: Shri V L Abhyankar, Incharge, Distance Learning Programme, VNIT Nagpur; Shri Brij Sarda, DirecWay Global Education and Shri Ananda Bose HAM Activist. A note by Dr D A Deshpande on "Use of ICT in teaching, learning and evaluation" was circulated to all the participants. An essay competition was conducted for students up to the 12th class in the name of Late Mrs Suraksha Gorowara. Shri S P Gorowara, DIG BSF (Retd), donated a rolling trophy in the memory of his wife. Winners: 1st prize - Ms Pragya Tiwari, 2nd prize - Ms Sugandha Sahay, Rolling trophy- Centre Point School, Seminary Hills, Nagpur.

11-02-2006: A Vidarbha level Project competition was held jointly with VMV Commerce, JMT Arts and JJP Science College. 9 teams participated in the competition. Dr Sanjay Wagh, Shri Ananda Bose, Ms Atiya Khan were the judges for the competition. The distinguishing feature of the competition was peer evaluation. The first prize was won by Shri Nilesh S Burange and Ms Payal C Umredkar of Electronics Dept of Nagpur University, the second prize was won by Ms Barkha Pandit and Ms Janhavi Ukhalkar, College of Engineering, Akola and the third prize was won by Shri Hrishikesh Awasthi and Shri Nilesh Ghadge of Umred College of Engineering, Umred. The prize distribution function was presided over by Dr D A Deshpande Chairman IETE Nagpur Centre. Dr K R Bagree proposed vote of thanks.

Nashik

The sub-centre organized one-day technical seminar on March 4, 2006 on the following topics:-

- (a) "IT Business Network in large Industry and with its vendor" by

Shri S R Karode, DGM (IT & System), Crompton Greaves Ltd, Nashik.

(b) "IT for Industrial Controls" by Shri V T Datar, Dir, Multiquadrant Industrial Controls (I) Pvt Ltd, Nashik.

(c) "Role of Renewable Energy in IT/ Telecom/Industry" by Dr Omprakash Kulkarni, CE, Sharada Inventions, Nashik.

Noida

Project Elan (e-learning and Networks) located at IETE NOIDA complex has made good strides. Currently 'Content' for eight subjects is under development by ISTE and likely to be delivered soon. A portal designed to inform, educate and guide the students in respect of e-learning, under progressive development, has been hosted on the internet. Though the Edusat programme has suffered a set-back, due to certain unavoidable reasons, it is expected that Elan would be on National beam in the very near future. Concurrently the Internet route is available to the students, through the microwave link established between Elan and the CDAC Data Centre at Noida. Elan is currently conducting trials with selected Centre for 'One to One' video conferencing, as also the bulk delivery of information and messages to the students via SMS. It is also planned to evaluate the 'Net Computer/Thin client' as an affordable alternative for a PC for the students.

Pilani

• The annual get-together of IETE Members of Pilani Centre was held at CEERI, Pilani on Jan 13, 2006.

- "Tech-Utsav 2006" was organized at BTTI, Pilani from Jan 20-25, 2006, by IETE Pilani Centre in collaboration with IFTA, Pilani Chapter. The program was mainly for the benefits of engineering, diploma students and IETE student members. Various competitions were held on technical subjects in the form of cartoon, poster, quiz, seminar, debate, etc. Col V N Ratnagar, Director, BET, Pilani, inaugurated the function on Jan 20, 2006. Technical lectures were delivered by IETE members of the centre on topics like "Semiconductor Devices and Technology for Fabrication" by Sh A K Gupta, "Race between Cable TV & DTH" by Sh Vikrant Mishra, "Trends in Microwave Application" by Dr VVP Singh, "High Power Klystron" by Dr L M Joshi, "Introduction to Nano-Technology" by Dr R K Nahar and "Integrated Circuit Fabrication Techniques" by Prof Vasant D Vankar, IIT New Delhi. Sh V N Dholakhandi, Director, Birla Museums, Pilani, distributed the prizes to the participants in different activities in the concluding session on Jan 25, 2006.

Vadodara

The centre conducted the following activities:-

1. Induction of Railway Staff College, Ministry of Railways, Govt of India as IETE Organizational Member was formalised on Oct 15, 2005 by Chairman IETE, Vadodara and Director Staff General, Railway Staff College. The two institutions are to work together for mutual benefit.
2. Upgradation of Vadodara sub-centre to full-fledged IETE centre was

inaugurated on Oct 22, 2006. Gen D P Sehgal, President IETE, inaugurated the function. The function was graced by Gen S K Sharma, Comdant, EME School, Vadodara, Shri M Sinha, Principal Gen M Sinha, BSNL, Vadodara, Smt Smriti, Council Member IETE, Vadodara, Chairperson Ahmedabad Centre, Prof J V Dave, Chairman, Ahmedabad Centre besides other dignitaries. The President in his inaugural address commended the work done by the centre and apprised the audience about its functioning. Wg Cdr Vasavada (Retd) the veteran of Vadodara centre was honoured with a shawl for his lifetime contribution. Ms Prakruti P Sanghavi, a recipient of DIPIETE (CS) was honoured with IETE Gold Medal and a certificate which she could not receive during AGM. Shri Naresh, Sr Scientific Officer, BAE Systems, Hony Secretary, IETE Vadodara Centre proposed vote of thanks. The inauguration function was followed by technical session in which eminent speakers like Col (R) Abraham, Dean, Faculty of Instrumentation Technology School, Vadodara on "Circuit Technology"; Shri P V Kulkarni, Chief Engineer (E&T), Section, ONGC, Vadodara on "Information to Information" and Shri Shah, Chairman, Sigma Institute of Technology & Engg, Vadodara delivered expert talks.

Vijayawada

The Centre organized South Seminar on "Bio-Informatics" on 25-26, 2006. Dr B L Deekshatru, Council Member, was the Chief Guest. Bio-informatics is a new scientific discipline that integrates biology

computer science and mathematics into a broad field which will have a profound impact on all fields of biology according to former director of National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Dr B L Deekshatulu. It is a comprehensive application of probability and statistics in Mathematics along with biochemistry in science and a core set of problem-solving methods such as computer algorithms to the understanding of living systems. Explaining the artificial Neural Network, he said that the network was a replica of nervous system. It has the connectivity with artificial intelligence and robotics to identify images, sense and take corrective measures automatically in handling human immunity and health system. Dr M C Chandra Mouly, IETE Council Member, delivered the inaugural speech. Prof K Laxminarayana, IETE council Member, released the seminar proceedings. Dr K M Prasad, Chairman IETE Vijayawada, presided over the function. Expert lectures were delivered by Dr S Bapi Raju, Reader Central University, Hyderabad; Dr E G Rajan, Prof & Academician, Pentagram Research Pvt Ltd, Hyderabad; Shri K V Ramana, Associate Professor, College of Engineering, JNTU, Kakinada; Shri G Vijay Kumar, Lecturer, Dept of ECE, V R Siddhartha College, Vijayawada. Certificates were given to the participants who presented technical papers. Shri E V Krishna Rao proposed vote of thanks.

Warangal

A lecture on "Information/ Network Security" by Shri A Sarveswara Rao, FIETE, DMRL, Hyderabad was organized on Feb 25, 2006. The centre also arranged a technical quiz and technical extempore.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE

- **Professional Activity Centre (PAC)** of IETE was opened at **Dept of Electronics & Communication and Telecommunication Engineering, JNN College of Engg, Shimoga** on March 4, 2006. Inaugurating the Professional Activity Centre, Chairman IETE, Bangalore Centre, Prof C Murali, said that PAC is the first of its kind in the state, and is committed to the cause of improving the academic and professional activities of students and professionals in the corporate fields at various levels. Apart from enhancing the standards of professionals in the fields of electronics and telecommunications, there is a need to instill professional outlook among them. Students who are being enrolled as the members of the PAC, would promote its academic activities through technical conferences, seminars, workshops and discussions on topical subjects. Technical officer of IETE outlined the activities of IETE. Dr M H Kori, Technical Director, Lucent Technologies, Bangalore, presented the technical paper. Prof C Murali and Dr D L Subrahmanyam, Founder Chairman of Ahmedabad IETE Centre were the Chief Guests. Shri S V Thimmaiah, Joint Secretary, National Education Society, Shimoga, presided over the function. Vice Principal of JNNCE and Head of EC Dept, Dr R Srinivasa Rao Kunte welcomed the gathering.

ISF ACTIVITIES

- IETE Student Forum on Oct 16, 2005 at **Sa'ad Vidya Mandal Institute of Technology (SVMIT), Bharuch**, organized "Electrolumen-2005" a state level paper, technical quiz and project competition. The expert talks were by Shri P V Khubalkar, Chief Engg (E&T), ONGC Vadodara and Shri J Bhatt, Additional General Manager, GNFC, Bharuch.
 - IETE Student Forum was inaugurated on Feb 7, 2006 at **Meenakshi Sundararajan Engineering College, Chennai**. Also, a seminar on "Latest Trends in Communications", lectures on Broadband, WiFi and Wimax and Mobile communication technologies were organised.
 - ISF, **Sri Sai Ram Engineering College, Chennai** held workshops on "Pspice" and "T V Servicing & Troubleshooting". The Pspice workshop, a two-day workshop in four sessions, was conducted on Feb 2-3, 2006 by Dr Ravi of Prof MGR Deemed University. Two sessions focused on the theoretical aspects of the software Pspice, in its DOS and window avatars, the third session focussed on solving of different problems. The fourth session focussed on the practical use of the Pspice software.
- The workshop on "T V Servicing & Troubleshooting" from Feb 16 to Feb 17, 2006 was conducted by Mr Charles. An overview of the necessary theory involved in the servicing and repair of television with all practical aspects of servicing were covered.

- **ISF of DVR College of Engineering & Technology, Medak**, organized a national symposium, ELEKTRA 2K6 during Feb 15-17, 2006 with the focus on VLSI, Microprocessor applications, Embedded Systems and Image Processing.

- **The IETE Students' Forum at KMR Institute of Technology, Dundigal** was inaugurated on Feb 20, 2006. Dr B C Jinaga, Rector, JNTU, Hyderabad was the Chief Guest.

- **ISF of SRKR Engineering College, ECE Dept, Bhimavaram, AP**, organized a lecture on Feb 23, 2006 by Shri T V Siva Kanth, MS, PhD, Univ of Utah, USA on "Reflectometry Technique for Wire Fault Location in Aging Aircraft". He also had interactive session on "The Present and Future prospects for ECE students in USA".

- **ISF of Mepco Schlenk Engineering College, Sivakasi**, organized a one day workshop on "Radio and Video Communication-A Practical Approach" on Feb 24, 2006 by Shri Sairam, Asstt Station Engg AIR, Tuticorin and Shri Godwin Gnanaraj, Station Engineer, Doordarshan, Tirunelveli. A lecture on "Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA) Architecture and Programing Concepts" by Shri S Syed Ameer Abbas, Asst Professor of EC Dept was arranged on March 30, 2006.

- **ISF at Jodhpur Institute of Engineering and Technology, Jodhpur** was inaugurated on March 1, 2006 by Dr S Sancheti, Chairman, IETE, Jaipur. A seminar on "New Paradigms and Challenges: Opportunities for Electronic

Engineers" was arranged on this occasion.

- A National level technical Symposium "Enantiosis 2006" was organized by ISF of **K K Wagh Institute of Engg, Education and Research, Nashik** on 10-11 March, 2006. The main focus of the event was "Tecnokriti" National Level Technical Paper Presentation Contest.

- **ISF at Dept of ECE, Panimalar Engg College** arranged a workshop on "Modern Telecom System" on Mar 14-15, 2006.

- **APHELION'06** was an inter collegiate project exhibition organized by association of IETE Chennai Centre and ISF, **Sri Sai Ram Engineering College, Chennai** on Mar 17, 2006.

NEWS TITBITS

1. The high resolution imagery of sensitive installations would be replaced on the website Google Earth with low-resolution images, making it difficult for subversive elements to take a close look at important sites and pinpoint their gradient and location.
2. By the end of 2010 laptop market will constitute 50% of the total PC sale in India. The figure today is less than 10%. Technology would evolve to make it more rugged, expandable and powerful, besides integrating all the latest electronic gizmos into it.
3. Govt has asked the cellular operators, both GSM and CDMA, to share infrastructure (cell sites) to improve coverage and quality of service without putting up more and

more towers that spoil city skyline and raise security concern. Infrastructure sharing enables two or more competing cellular operators to emit radio signals from same towers (instead of each putting up its own) thereby cutting cost and improving coverage.

4. The High Court had given the Centre four weeks deadline to implement the Conditional Access System (CAS) for Cable operators, but still there is controversy whether CAS is good for everybody. There is confusion about CAS in India largely because several key questions remain unanswered, like who would determine which channels form part of the free-air bouquet? How much would consumer have to pay for bouquet of pay channels? How much would the set-top box cost? Would the consumer have to pay for the bouquet or would the cable operators foot the bill?

5. Software companies are encouraging work-from-home culture and this trend is catching up fast among techies. Indian software house Wipro is now taking telecommuting on war footing. Telecommuting is a flexible scheduling arrangement that permits the employee to work from another location (usually home other than his/her office). In some offices like IBM India and Wipro there are telecommuting zones where there are work stations or for the telecommuters who come on certain days. Now the companies are realizing that the need to balance work and family is important. So some of them like Texas Instruments Inc also pays a stipend to take care of the broadband and phone costs at home.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Subject	Date	Venue	Contact
13 th National Seminar on Sensor Networks and Applications	13-14 May 2006	Allahabad	Shri P N Gupta Secretary IETE Allahabad Centre J K Institute of Applied Physics & Technology University of Allahabad Allahabad-211 002 Ph : 0532-2460442 (O) 0532-2644684 (R) Fax : 0532-2233287 E-mail : pngjkau@yahoo.co.in
38 th World Telecommunication Day on "Promoting Global Cybersecurity"	17 May 2006	New Delhi	The Secretary General IETE, 2 Institutional Area Lodi Road, New Delhi-110 003 Ph : + 91 (011) 24631810/30/40/50 E-mail : ietend@bol.net.in ietend@iasdl01.vsnl.net.in
National Exhibition on New Age Careers and Education, CAREERA-2006	10-11 Jun 2006	Hyderabad	Prof Mohd Abbas Ali Chief Patron IQRA Society for Carrer Guidance B-7C, View towers, 6-2-1 Opp Mercedes Show Room, Lakdi-Ka-Pool, Hyderabad-500004 Ph : 040-2332 6832, 9849487866 E-mail : professorabbasali@yahoo.com
India International Engineering Expo 2006	2-5 Nov 2006	Mumbai	Mr Harry Singh Event Coordinator ET IEEE 2006 DESK India International Engineering Expo 2006 Secretariat, 530 Laxmi Plaza, Laxmi Industrial Estate 5 th Floor, New Link Road Andheri (W), Mumbai-400 053 Ph : +91 22 2630 2640/ +91 22 26302734 Fax : +91 22 2636 7676 E-mail : info@timesiex.com Web : www.timesiex.com
International Conference on Next Generation Communication Systems (ICONGENCOM-2006)	9-11 Dec 2006	Allahabad	Prof Nar Singh Convener, ICONGENCOM-2006 Ph : (0532) 2460442



Seminar on Information Communication Technology in Education. Dr D A Deshpande, Chairman IETE Nagpur Centre addressing the gathering. Seated on the dais are (from Left) Dr K R Bagree, Wg Cdr M L Bala, President of the Function, En Shashikant Choudhari, CE Lambent Technology and Prin B C Vyas



President IETE addressing audience on 22.10.2005 at Vadodara during inauguration of upgradation of Vadodara Centre



Seminar Proceedings released at IETE South Zonal Seminar on Bio-Informatics held during 25-26 March 2006 at Vijayawada local Centre



Workshop on TV servicing & Troubleshooting at Sri Ram Engg College on 16-17 Feb 2006



Shri T V Siva Kanth, University of Utah, USA, delivering lecture at SRKR Engg College, Bhimavaram on 23.2.2006 under ISF activity



Seen at the Inaugural function of Professional Activity Centre at JNNCE, Shimoga from L to R : Dr R Srinivasa Rao Kunte, Dr D L Subramanyam, Dr M H Kori, Sri S V Thimmaiah, Prof C Muruli, Prof P S Raja Shekaraiah, Sri Bhagawan

Note: The Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions expressed by individual author and speaker.

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