The students of 1st MS in Communication, accompanied by two teachers, made a two day educational trip to Chennai on 20 January, 2012, soon after completing their Mid-Term Exams. This tradition was taken forward by the current batch of MS in Communication as their seniors did the same. The purpose of the trip was to visit the AVM Studio at Chennai and familiarise themselves with the workings of a studio and how shootings are done in the industry. The journey was taken by train and was a pleasant travel too.

The AVM studio located in Vadaypalani at Chennai was formerly known as ‘Pragati studio’ and was re-named after the initials of its founder Avichi Miyappan in the year 1945, soon after he gained recognition as a producer. Apart from films, some popular television serials in various south Indian languages have also been produced using the in house facilities of AVM Studio.

The first destination for the students was the AVM studio once they reached Chennai at 5 am. The journey from the railway station to the studio was completed in about 40 minutes and once the students reached the studio at around 6 am, they were given time to freshen up and gather at a common point for breakfast at 8 am. The students at the studio were served with traditional South Indian food for breakfast and lunch, on a plantain leaf with a variety of mouth watering traditional dishes from avial to kesari bath and paisam which not only appealed to their taste buds but also compelled them to take extra servings.

Post breakfast, the students were taken on a tour around the studio which was scheduled to go on till 12 pm before they broke for lunch. As the day passed, the temperatures kept rising constantly but this did not hamper the spirits of the students with which they were exploring the studio. Their first happenstance was with the semi-burnt buildings which are yet to be demolished and replaced with the new ones. They moved around and acquainted themselves with the various sets such as the prison, the court room, the central jail along with some other sets for the television serials and reality shows of the south. Across the studio there were various temples which were erected as sets for films being shot at the studio, one just being at the entrance of the studio gates. The final visit was made to an air conditioned editing come preview theatre where the students watched the songs of a yet to be released Tamil movie which was in its post-production stage.

Exploring the studio was a heart warming experience as well as a pleasant break from the regular classes but a trip without a spiritual experience is incomplete. This guided the students towards their next destination; The Santhome Church.

~Ritika Singh
The Chennai trip was not just a visit of learning but also a spiritual experience. The next place of visit within the city was the Santhome Church which is the International shrine of St. Thomas Basilica, built over the tomb of Apostle St. Thomas who is the Father of Christianity in India. The commute to the Church was also made by the private hired bus and took nearly one and a half hour to reach there from the AVM studio.

It was late afternoon when the students arrived at the Church and the first thing they did was to spend a few minutes inside the church offering their prayers. Later they proceeded towards the underground tomb of St. Thomas, where a few ladies were sitting together, singing hymns in the local language whilst the others paid their homage to the Saint. Though the Church does not have the Saint’s body buried there, a part of him is preserved as a piece of flesh and bone which is displayed to the visitors for view. As a mark of respect, all the visitors are supposed to enter the underground tomb bare footed.

Apart from the tomb and the church the other place of attraction was a room of monuments which displayed the relics of the Saints and earthen ware that were excavated. Along with these there were tomb-stones of some prominent Saints, some writings, Bibles and the most important preserved item was the weapon that was used to kill St. Thomas.

With this, the brief visit to the Church came to an end but before proceeding the students spent some time at the Marina Beach which was just behind the Church. There was a popular bakery outside the Church, where the students and teachers snacked well before they moved ahead to explore another part of the city.

-Ritika Singh

FEAST YOUR EYES WITH...

* Agneepath
* Anbe sivam
* Psycho
* Sita sings the blues
* Wall-E
* Deewar

Elliot’s Beach or "Besant Nagar Beach" (also known as) ’ is located in Besant Nagar, Chennai, India. It forms the end-point of the Marina Beach shore and is named after Edward Elliot, former Governor of Madras. It has the Velankanni Church and the Ashtalakshmi temple nearby and is sometimes nicknamed ‘Bessie’. In the colonial era, it was a fairly exclusive place limited to ex-patriots. The beach is a prominent hang-out zone for most of the college-going crowd in Chennai. On weekends, it becomes quite an experience to find parking space by the beach roads.

It is located towards the south of Marina Beach and is an extremely calm and tranquil place. The beach is known as ‘Bessie’ amongst the locals. As the beach does not offer much activity, it is ideal for long walks. Moreover, the ones who want to soak their feet in the seawater and lose themselves completely in the arms of nature. Elliot’s Beach is quite a hit amongst both the tourists as well as the natives of Tamil Nadu.

It is also the favourite destination of foreign tourists. Elliot’s Beach offers very subtle activity, with only few food joints and restaurants. You can relish the mouth watering South Indian snacks and pamper your taste buds, here. Apart from this, there are some religious and historical monuments, to be explored, to add to your adventure.

The Ashtalakshmi Temple is about 20 years old and has modern style architecture. It is dedicated to Goddess Lakshmi and appears different from the rest of the Temples in

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South India. In addition, there is the Schmidt Memorial, which is dedicated to a Dutch sailor who lost his life while saving a drowning fellow. It is one of the most notable landmarks on the famous beach.

- Shriya Rajagopalan

SUN, SAND AND KONDATTAM

The waves, the wind, the walk in the sand, the setting sun – it all gives you a feeling of stillness in the vast world. Though you can’t see the end, but it gives you the courage to look beyond, see the possibilities that lay in front of you. All it asks from you is to take a step forward.

As Vincent Van Gough quotes, “The fishermen know that the sea is dangerous and the storm terrible, but they have never found these dangers sufficient reason for remaining ashore.”

After their visit to Santhome Church, the students explored the nearby Marina Beach. Calm, clean, secluded, Marina beach gave the students a moment of peace and stillness. They sat with their best buds on the sea shore, looking at the never ending sea and its serenity.

Next stop: Besant Nagar Beach. The ambience was what beaches are typically defined as – fun, frolic, families, lovers, friends, food. For them, it was a break from monotonous, a break from their daily schedules; it was a sense of freedom. They let themselves go for a day, enjoyed as little kids would. Onlookers could have assumed them to be “over grown kids” or somebody just set loose in a civilisation. But they weren’t bothered. From posing for random pictures, jumping with the waves, eating cotton candy, drawing faces in the sand, they did it all.

This trip rekindled the child in all of them, not that it wasn’t there, it just needed bit of pampering to come out in open.

- Bhargavi Kashyap

FOODIES WORLD

Food, as this word pops up into our mind, all that the people could think of is their favourite dish from some place and as soon we landed in the beach, the one thing all of us wanted to do other than going to the shore is to explore the humungous eat out places in besantnagar beach. Thus, we asked the localities’ about some restaurants that we shouldn’t miss out on and also the local road side shops which provide us amazing food.

As soon as we reached the beach, all that we could see were the numerous small shops on the beach which was selling hot bhajji’s, pakodas and fish fries. Other than this, we heard that Muruganidli shop was the best in the whole area for the authentic south Indian idli’s and pongal.

Then we went and tried the Fruit shop at Greamsroad which is very famous for its variety of fresh juices. By now, all our stomachs were filled and thus we decided to do some photography and go to the shore and enjoy the weather. After the splashing of water at each other and having some memorable moments, we wanted to try something very different and that’s when we went and spoke to some college going students and asked them as to which place is affordable and good for junk food and our next stop was at Funk and Jazz which was famous for its chilli cheese fries and the snicker doughnuts. There’s also Pupil and Mash which are famous for burgers and sandwiches. Our trip ended after eating the delicious food in Bessie beach and that is not where our hunger stopped, we ate in the station also.

Thus, I can conclude by saying that everyone in my class is a big FOODIE especially the students from outstations as they rarely get to have home food. SO this becomes the times for them to explore the city’s famous food joints.

- Shriya Rajagopalan
The puppetry workshop that took place on the 19th and 20th of January was a true experience itself. As the day began with a lot of liveliness, excitement and enthusiasm, the class gathered with all the necessary materials for the workshop. Each group willingly participated, contributing to all the materials such as bamboo sticks, cartons, old clothes, plastic bottles and homemade gum with minimal expenditure.

The class was introduced to one of the most interactive and leading artists in the field of theatre. It was Mr. Upendra, his assistants Mr. Nishant and Mr. Dhyannesh who got the class together. The day began with an introduction to puppetry as an art form and its impact in the field of art and culture. A documentary was screened to show puppetry and its fame in many parts of Kerala which is respectively called as ‘pavakoothu’.

Very soon the class got into their respective groups to begin with their concept for a grand performance the next day. Three varieties of puppets were taught to the class. The first one was with the help of cartons, secondly with plastic bottles and thirdly with balloons. It was quite tasking to sit for such a long time and make the varieties of puppets, but the fun involved, the colouring techniques used and the creative ideas pitched in added to the joy and enthusiasm of the class.

The most important part of the workshop was the significance of working in a group and cooperating for best results, with a bundle of puppets made and the humour added to it. The class saw a sense of unity as everyone helped to bring out the best with a puppetry show at the end of the workshop.

-Vidisha M D’Souza

**PUPPET MADE EASY**

Steps to make a Bottle puppet
1. Take a used plastic bottle e.g. mineral water bottle, and make two holes slightly below the neck of the bottle with the help of a one foot long binding wire. The holes should be quiet big enough to insert the binding wire from one end to the other end of the bottle.
2. A third hole should be made slightly below the two holes; the three holes together would look like a downward triangle.
3. Insert the binding wire along with a strong thread that is capable enough to hold the binding wire from one opposite hole and bring it out through the other. The thread should stay suspended through the third hole by putting it through with the help of a small piece of wire.
4. The wire should be twisted in order to make it look like the hands of a bottle.
5. Take two pieces of news papers and roll them according to the length of each hand and stick them.
6. Take a skin coloured cloth and roll it in order to cover the hands.
7. Make a fine round ball with newspaper and insert it in the mouth of the bottle to make the head. Cover it with skin coloured cloth and take a black cloth to stitch the hair of the puppet.
8. It is up to you as to how you want to dress the puppet either with a saree or with a frock. You can decorate the dress of the puppet with a lace or shiny sequences and finally draw the eyes, nose and mouth of the puppet.

-Vidisha M D’Souza

**RECREATING THE DYING ART**

Browsing net and watching television are one of the most common hobbies one can find around nowadays. Kids would want to be theatre artists, actors, singers, ventriloquist too, but ask them about being a puppeteer, their first response, “Who”.
This is the condition of traditional art forms in the country. There was a time when going to circus with parents, watching a puppet show with them used to be the “big weekend plan”. Time spent with family has reduced many folds. Now, it’s all about hanging out with friends at fancy places or staring at and refreshing the same web page for hour’s altogether.

Art forms like circus, puppetry and traditional dance forms like Malkham are gradually being enlisted in the endangered species. The students of MS in Communication were given an opportunity to at least learn the art of puppetry, if not master it. A two day workshop on puppetry was conducted for the students which introduced them to puppetry making and story-telling through puppets.

By the end of the workshop, the students who were divided into groups presented their own puppetry show and the theme was “social causes”. Different stories depicting the current scenario in the society like industrialisation, child labour, reservation of lakes, health consciousness and stray dogs were presented through puppets.

The show, though not the professional best, but was appreciated by the audience which included Dean of the department, faculty members, members of Theatre-in-Education and Mr. Upendra who taught the students the art. They appreciated the enthusiasm, effort and creativity put in by the students.

The audience and the “puppeteers”, enjoyed the evening, they put life into the lifeless; they made them dance to their tunes.

―Bhargavi Kashyap

As of now, what’s the scene is very active on facebook and twitter. However, their web-site (www.whatsthescene.com) is still under construction and magazines have not been published yet. The members of ‘what’s the scene’ do not get paid at the moment but they do get to attend some of the best music concerts and interact with some amazing artists from world over without paying any entry fee. This itself is a bonus to all those who love music for music’s sake.

WHAT’S THE SCENE?

At a time when most magazines are dedicated to the same old fashion, food, beauty and travel journalism, India is about to be hit by a new wave of music journalism. What’s the scene is an upcoming magazine which aims at reviewing live music concerts and performances from all over India. Its aim is to showcase talent in India, bring in talent from abroad as well as familiarize its readers with music and artists from all over the world, thus placing India on an International arena. This magazine is to be the first of its kind in India.

What’s the scene was started in 2011 by a few young music maniacs from different parts of the country. Their aim was to popularise music concerts and cover live bands. The team is divided into two main groups, writers/critics and photographers. Every writer has a flair for writing as well as a sound knowledge about music so as to provide unbiased reviews to its readers. The photographers comprise of youth who love the art of photography as well as music. Their aim is to get the best photographs of the artists while they are performing. The WTS team has grown immensely in the past few months and have recruited youngsters from all over India. Since the number of concerts happening throughout India is a lot, every writer specialises in a specific genre of music for easy co-ordination.

WHAT’S COOKING....??

- Inbloom
- Theatre production- ‘Of Power and Passion’
- MSCOMM presents ‘Acts of Ludicrus’
- Admissions 2012
- National talent promotion program on 30th January 2012 at 9.00 am
- Christ University Kannada sangha, Kavidina on 31st January 2012 at 9.00 am
- Department of Economics is organizing National Young Economist -30th January, 2012 at 9.00 am
On The 27th of January, the students of MS in Communication had screened the Tamil flick ‘Anbe Sivam’ for their ‘Transtalkies’. ‘Anbe Sivam’, literally ‘love is God’ is a 2003 drama film directed by Sundar C. Written by Kamal Hassan, the film stars Madhavan, Kamal Hassan and Kiran Rathod. Much of the storyline revolves around Nallasivam (Kamal Hassan) and Anbarasu (Madhavan), who prefers to be called ‘A-Arsu’. They are drawn together for three days, following a sequence of events after they meet each other at the Bhubaneswar airport, where Anbarasu mistakes Nalla to be a terrorist.

Nalla is a trade unionist and Anbarasu is an ad filmmaker. While Nalla is an idealist with a sense of humour that stays with him through the ups and downs in his life, Anbarasu is an arrogant young man who favours capitalism. The film was highly praised for its themes like globalization, financial disparity and compassion and these are very well exemplified through the protagonists.

The film was to be directed by Priyadarshan initially, however due to some differences Sundar C directed the film. Music for the film was composed by Vidyasagar. The characters were well defined, the storyline was strong and these attributes contributed to the commercial success of the film. The film can be classified as parallel cinema and it has a high rating of 8.1 in IMDB.

The film is indeed a MUST WATCH for all those who haven’t watched it.

– Sanesh Mathew

Did you know?

- A dog’s sense of smell is 1,000 times more sensitive than human.
- Giraffes are the tallest of all land mammals, adult males can grow up to 17’ tall. Their tall legs enable them to see danger from a long distance.
- The famous board game, Chess was invented in India.
- Yoga was invented in India 5000 years ago.
- In India’s 1,00,000 years of history, it has never invaded any other country.
- A goat’s eye has a rectangular pupil.
- Giraffes don’t have vocal chord