

# Preparing the IT professionals for 2010

**R**ajalaxmi Engineering College, Chennai, through its student wing of the Computer Society of India, organised a three-day national-level symposium for students from March 8. Bringing the IT aspirants into the professional fold right from the first year of their course — was the theme of the symposium. The first-year engineering (IT) students participated in the meet organised at the TIDEL Park.

Dr. Thangam Meganathan, chairperson of Rajalaxmi Engineering College, K. Jayaramakrishnan, vice-president, Tata Consultancy Services, K. Adhivarahan, chairman, CSI Chennai Chapter provided an overview of the events for the three days.

Lakshmi Narayan, vice-chairman, Cognizant Technology Solutions; Prof. C.R. Muthukrishnan, consulting advisor, Tata Consultancy Services; Prof. S Ramachander, Strategy Consultant and Management Mentor, participated in the interactive session with students. The discussion was moderated by Sumant C. Raman, Advisor, Life Sciences and Healthcare Practice, TCS. "Get to know the principles while learning subjects in college, keep learning and keep pace with the developments and have integrity and values," was the advice to the students by Mr. Lakshmi Narayan.

In the panel discussion, Shiv Shankar, head, Infosys, Chennai Development Centre, and S. Ramanathan, Param Consulting, clarified students' doubts.

Fully managed by students under mentorship from stalwarts from industry and academics, the sessions included paper presentation on IT for the nation, covering e-governance, IT for industry encompassing healthcare, education, manufacturing. The symposium was holistic in approach as



**INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE:** *Lakshmi Narayan, vice-chairman, Cognizant Technology Solutions, addressing the students.*

scope for entrepreneurship as well as further studies was discussed. Among the presentations were a case study by a young entrepreneur T.N.C. Venkatarangan, chairman and managing director, Vishwak Solutions, who shared his experience of starting a software outfit straight from college. Opportunities and facilities available for higher education in the U.K., and presentations from Hutch, Microsoft and IBM were the other highlights at the symposium.

Prizes were given to the best papers, winners in the debate and quiz. An essay contest was held to bring out the summary of the symposium. Prof. C.R. Muthukrishnan presided over a session at which Mr. Shiv Shankar distributed the prizes and delivered the valedictory address on March 10.