



# Young Minds Moulding Lives

BY MARIA FERNANDES | NT KURIOCITY

**T**his initiative called Laser Mission 10x (LMTx) was flagged off by NIT Goa chapter's International Society for Optics and Photonics (SPIE) and is supported by two NGOs - The Association of Friends of Astronomy (AFA) and Fascination.

To find out more about their mission NT KURIOCITY caught up with Viresh Vazirani, Tejas Raut Desai and Amey Kamat, all part of LMTx and students of NIT, Goa.

#### How did LMTx come about?

Viresh: NIT director, Dr GRC Reddy took this initiative as he wanted to create awareness among children of Goa in the fields of Science and Technology; and under the guidance of our faculty advisor Dr P S Reddy we were soon on our way.

Tejas: School children in Goa do not have as much exposure to this subject as in other states and our vision is to inspire students and increase their interest in science and technology and also prepare them for research and scientific innovation.

Amey: The education system in the state is good but at a certain level they do not get practical experience that we get in a technical college. So, using resources available to us, we go to schools and show students research activities and projects we do thus generating interest especially in rural areas.

#### What are the topics you'll teach?

Amey: We have a curriculum that was put together by a content development team and covers topics that are not usually covered in schools like basic electronics.

Tejas: Topics are those that we ourselves as school children felt should have been taught to us. With the extensive school syllabus, teachers do not get time for any extra topics, so we try and supplement what teachers are already doing.

Viresh: Our curriculum is divided into three - demonstrative, conceptual and interactive. In the first, we show robots or simple machines which grab their attention immediately and then go on and explain the concept or

mechanics of the demo and finally we have a question-answer session. In this part, we also inform them about opportunities and colleges available for that particular field. We believe that just giving a session does not make sense, so we take it one step further and give more information on how to go ahead in that field. These workshops focus on bridging the gaps between theoretical science and its real-life applications. This in turn motivates students to connect the science they study with the real world, thus changing their outlook towards science.

**Who says only adults can teach Science and Technology to children? A group of very enterprising and dedicated college students have taken the initiative and proved that if there is a burning desire and a love for the subject along with the technical knowhow then reaching out to school children and imparting this knowledge is simply a matter of going ahead and doing it**

#### What is the duration of these workshops?

Amey: Young Sparks is a series of half-day workshops and we intend conducting them in urban as well as rural schools across Goa during August and September, every year.

#### Which was the first school that you started with?

Tejas: Acdil High School, Porvorim. A group member suggested it and we went ahead and sent a request which was accepted.

**So far you have covered a handful of**

#### **schools, what is the reaction of school authorities and teachers to youngsters wanting to teach children?**

Amey: The response has been extremely satisfying and school authorities have been very open to the idea. Also, our letter requesting for permission is well worded and precise, explaining exactly the syllabus we follow.

#### **What about children? What is their reaction?**

Viresh: Children are more than happy as they connect better with someone closer to their age. Some students are extremely smart and inquisitive, wanting to know how and why. For example, a student in a Curchorem school wanted to know why we do not have robots that are as smart as human beings. It is really amazing to meet some very bright students especially in rural areas.

#### **How are your team members taken on board?**

Viresh: We only take on those who are passionate about their subjects and want to pass on their knowledge to others.

#### **You are also a part of an NGO called Fascination, can you explain?**

Viresh: Fascination is a social initiative run by a group of diverse individuals who seek to gift students the joy of learning what they wish and a platform to explore the world of opportunities. Our volunteers include current students and graduates from prestigious colleges like IIT Bombay, BITS Pilani, IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur, NIT Surathkal, NIT Calicut, NIT Goa, VIT, GIM, GEC, etc. Top educationists, artists and scientists of Goa are our mentors. Fascination is different from LMTx as LMTx only focuses on Science and Technology, whereas Fascination covers other topics as well.

#### **How have you benefitted from these workshops?**

Tejas: Holding these sessions gives us an opportunity to practice conducting seminars and also doing presentations.

Amey: Also when students give us a positive feedback, we feel good knowing we have imparted knowledge and helped them.

**VIRAL VID**  
**Ohio State Marching Band**  
**"Michael Jackson Tribute"**  
It's near impossible to top the late Michael Jackson's talent for moon walking. But the Ohio State University Marching Band came close in its incredible tribute to the late King of Pop. The musical marchers played some of Jackson's greatest hits, including "Bad," "Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'" and "Billie Jean."  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTca2nrIn4U#t=180>

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## APP JUNCTION

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Sleep Cycle Alarm Clock - It'll help you track the quality of your sleep and feel more rested in the morning, but you have to take it to bed. (\$1.99). Available on iOS.

Daily Water - This app is a constant reminder to drink more. It will sound an alarm every time you should be drinking H2O. (\$0.99) Available on iOS.

## WHAT'S NEW?

### Life360

Life360 is a family locator, messaging tool and communication app all in one. It lets you create groups, called "Circles", of family & friends so you can:

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- Get alerted when a Circle member reaches a destination
- Track a stolen or lost phone
- And chatting in the Family Locator App is FREE. Available for iOS and Android.



### UK TOP 5

- 1 The Monster - Eminem (feat. Rihanna) [New/1 week in chart]
- 2 Royals - Lorde [Down 1] 2 weeks in chart]
- 3 Eat Sleep Rave Repeat (Calvin Harris Remix) - Fatboy Slim & Riva Starr [New/1 week in chart]
- 4 Story Of My Life - One Direction [New] 1 week in chart]
- 5 Counting Stars - OneRepublic [Down 2 | 14 weeks in chart]

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## VLCC Goa Turns 5

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### What has IFFI given Goa?

As Goa prepares to host the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) for the 10th time in the state this month, VIVA GOA takes a look at whether the glamorous event has contributed to the State and what its future holds

#### FEATURE & ARTICLES

- Advocate General of Goa Atmaram Nadkarni talks about the science of Spiritual healing and the process to transform energy into a vital force
- Commissioner of Customs, Central Excise & Service Tax (Goa) V. P. C. Rao takes it as a challenge upon himself to counter falling revenues in the wake of the ban on mining in Goa
- Dr. Ratan Naik, the first lady FRCS doctor from Goa, gives us an insight about pre-liberation Goa, her medical education and life as a doctor
- Dr. Ravish Kolwalkar on pain management and explains Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD)
- Dr. Asha Sawardekar throws light on the importance of Religion to find self happiness
- Amita & Natasha Quenim share an opinion about life and the role of success in it
- The Rotary Club of Panaji Eye Bank Trust shares the experiences of their success since its inception as the number of eye donors has increased
- Goa's favourite fashion designer, 'Source of Youth' at the Wills Lifestyle India Fashion Week, Spring Summer 2014 Wendell Rodrigues shows his collection,
- Shrinivas Dempo's installation as the Honorary Vice Consul of Italy in Goa
- The grand opening night of the Novotel Goa Shrem, luxury hotel and resort in Candolim
- Le Passage to India gears up for yet another season of travel & tourism SPOTLIGHT
- Raveena Deshpande bags the 1st prize at the All-India INSPIRE Awards 2013 held in New Delhi with her project on 'Taming Hard Water the Eco-friendly way'

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