

connect

EDITOR'S VOICE


The advent of digital technology is having a telling effect on the Film industry. There are clear signs that the future belongs to digital technologies and sweeping changes are in the offing which will totally change the way films are captured, post produced and presented on the screen. No doubt, this is a potential threat to the Celluloid Film technology. The motion picture Laboratories and of course, the Film manufacturers will be taking the brunt of this technological onslaught.

We all know that any new invention steals the bread and butter of a small cross section of the society who continue to practice the traditional ways and lag behind in switching over to new technologies. History has demonstrated this. However, technology is benevolent to a vast majority of the society. It is ultimately for the good of the people and for making their lives better and easier. The moral is that changes are inevitable and we need to anticipate it for our survival. Perhaps, that is why they say "change is the only thing that doesn't change".

Recently a Tamil Film called "SILANDHI" was captured digitally, completely post produced on the digital platform and was also released in digital format with reasonable success. In fact, the producers after the primary release of the Film in digital format made a few celluloid film prints for exploitation in B and C centers where there is no facility for digital projection. I am sure, such initiatives are happening in other language films as well. The proliferation of digital technology across the entire film production chain very much depends upon the number of screens which are ready for digital projection. With the cost of Digital Projectors coming down the days are not far off when majority of the cinema theatres are equipped to handle Digital Projection. Hence, let us be prepared for the ultimate migration to digital domain which seems inevitable.

S.Sivaraman,
Editor

RECENT PROJECTS AT PRASAD GROUP

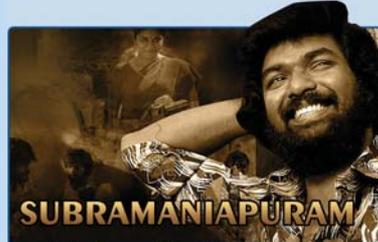

VFX - EFX, Chennai
DI - Prasad EFX, Mumbai



VFX & DI - EFX, Chennai
Lab - Prasad Film Labs, Chennai



Lab - Prasad Film Labs, Mumbai
DI - Prasad EFX, Mumbai



Lab - Prasad Film Labs, Chennai
VFX & DI - EFX, Chennai



VFX & DI
EFX, Hyderabad



Lab - Prasad Film Labs,
Thiruvananthapuram



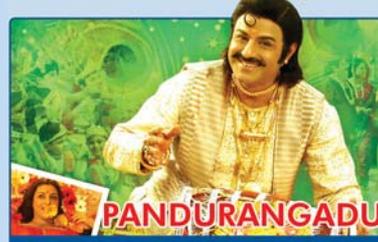
DVD Authoring
Prasad Video Digital, Chennai



Lab - Prasad Film Labs,
Hyderabad



Audio - Prasad Recording Studios,
Chennai



VFX - EFX, Hyderabad



Lab - Prasad Film Labs,
Bhubaneswar



Lab - Prasad Film Labs,
Bangalore

NATIONAL AWARD FOR BEST SPECIAL EFFECTS TO PRASAD EFX

The 54th National Film Awards of The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, were announced on June 10, 2008. The award for the Best Special Effects has been won by Prasad EFX for its cutting edge work in Rakesh Roshan's 'Krrish'.

The jury, in a citation, lauded Prasad EFX for its "impressive effects and technical finesse that enhances the magical quality of the film". The award will comprise of a Rajat Kamal and cash prize of Rs 50,000. Produced and directed by Rakesh Roshan, Krrish involved 1200 VFX shots spanning a duration of nearly 90 minutes. The award will be received by Mrs.Kavita Prasad on 2nd September 2008 in New Delhi.



CONNECT congratulates the EFX team on this great achievement.

THODA PYAR THODA MAGIC - A VFX SPECIAL

Prasad EFX executed more than 420 VFX shots for Yash Raj Films' Thoda Pyar Thoda Magic (TPTM), directed and co-produced by Kunal Kohli. Starring Rani Mukerji and Saif Ali Khan in lead roles, the movie loaded with VFX shots captured the imagination of the audience and received critical acclaim for the technical finesse of the VFX and DI. The VFX for TPTM was supervised by Neil Cunningham from London while a team of more than 60 specialists from Prasad EFX worked on this project.

The movie plot called for lots of 3D modeling and animation as the project also involved designing and building the concept of 'Heaven'. The complete 3D cloud environment set was designed and animated digitally. Various types of 3D models were built into a heaven and cloud environment. Other special features included 3D Season changes, 3D set extensions, 3D animated characters like Dolphins, Dinosaur, Ninja Spiders, Sea Horses, Lobsters, and Seagulls and matching them to live action footage. Some of the complicated compositing shots involved Rani Mukerji walking alongside Mahatma Gandhi in an old newsreel shot with his arm around her and Rani cycling down to earth on a rainbow in between clouds.



Neil Cunningham added, "This project was a wonderful opportunity for EFX and me, because of the variety of VFX that the film demanded. I knew TPTM would be an interesting project when I realized that we had to design and build a virtual heaven. The production team had incredible imagination and we were called upon to create images that brought their ideas to life. All this was achieved in record time and even under pressure the EFX guys were able to come up with creative ideas at every stage. I am extremely impressed and happy with the work done by Prasad EFX."

Kunal Kohli said, "This is the first time that I have tried wide-ranging VFX in my movies. TPTM involved exploring the fantasy world with children. I looked for some one who will understand my ideas and give me fresh perspectives. I was quite impressed with the VFX work done for the film Krrish by Prasad EFX. As my movie involved plenty of effects, I approached EFX to supplement my ideas. We planned and story boarded the visual effects shots in the movie four to five months before shooting the film. Every detail was carefully evaluated. The film took around 85 days to shoot. What I envisioned is what you can see on the screen. I am satisfied to see the end product well executed by Prasad EFX."



The digital intermediate process was done by Prasad EFX and Prasad Film Labs, Mumbai made over 500 prints of the movie for national and global distribution from the DI negatives.

Some of the VFX images from the movie

Before

After



3D Creatures



3D Car



3D Bicycle

TEAM BUILDING WORKSHOP

A two day Team Building Workshop was organized at Prasad EFX Chennai on 4th & 5th July 2008 for around 25 employees by Human Resources department. The program was conducted by Ms. Lalitha, Chief Consultant, Spark Plus at Prasad Film Labs, Chennai. The primary objective of the program was to expose the participants to diverse viewpoints, bring a fresh outlook on issues and give them first-hand experience of working with peers from varied cultures and backgrounds. The entire session focused on experiential learning through role plays, group activities, group discussions, interactive presentations, psychometric tests and video shows. One of the participants Mr. Dhaneswaran quoted, "The training program was a useful start to evaluate my understanding on supervising and handling a team successfully".



KODAK VISIT



Mr. Ramesh Prasad and Mr. Greg McKibbin

Mr. Greg McKibbin - Business Regional General Manager & Vice President - Entertainment Imaging, Kodak (Australia) paid a visit to Prasad Film Laboratories, Chennai. He was accompanied by top officials of Kodak from Mumbai and Chennai. Mr. McKibbin showed keen interest in touring the Prasad facilities and was very impressed after the tour. In an informal chat later, Mr. McKibbin discussed about the current trends in Digital technology especially in the exhibition sector.



L to R - M/S. Suresh Iyer, Mehrnoz Maloo, S. Sivaraman, Amuthavanan, Greg McKibbin, Ramesh Prasad, Hariharan, K.R. Subramanian, Rajesh Jiandani & Prasanth

TRAINING PROGRAM



As part of the Image Care Programme at Prasad Film Labs, Chennai and in compliance with the training policy of the company, a training programme on COLOUR THEORY & FILM STRUCTURE was conducted by Mr. Sivaraman - General Manager - Operations. The Supervisory staff from Production department, Chemists and Maintenance Engineers participated in the programme. This was followed by an interactive session.



TAIWANESE DELEGATES VISIT PRASAD

It was indeed a great occasion when a 14 member delegation comprising of MPs, Academicians from Taiwan dealing with strategic and political issues visited Prasad Studios on the 31st of July 2008. They were high level members of think tanks and business persons visiting India at the invitation of Ministry of External Affairs. Shri Viraj Singh from the Ministry was the coordinator for the visit. The main objective of their visit was to expose them to developments in modern India and the various concerns and interest that India has on social, economic and international issues. During the visit to the Academy they were briefed in detail about the salient facts that make the Indian film industry so popular. After viewing our corporate showreel they were surprised to know about the sophisticated technology available at Prasad's facilities for the film industry at such economical prices.



The delegation was headed by Ms Li-wun Cheng, legislator of the ruling KMT party, who is also in charge of Foreign Affairs. She was also the official spokesperson of the party. Also in the group were reputed academicians like Mr Francis Yi-hua Kan from the National Chengchi University and Mr Da-jung Li from Tamkang University, Taipei. After the visit to the Academy they went over to the Film Lab and saw the technological advancements made by our Lab. They were fascinated to know that some of the internationally renowned filmmakers have been coming to Prasad Labs and EFX to derive the best results for their films. The Ministry of External Affairs expressed keen interest to interact with CII Southern Region office bearers and CII members. We are sure, the delegation would benefit immensely from such an interaction which would provide them with a macro picture of the economic activity in South India and the opportunities available for foreign investors to invest here.

5th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AT PRASADS



5th Anniversary Cake



Mr. Ramesh Prasad addressing the employees



Mr. Srikanth, Head - Operations addressing the employees



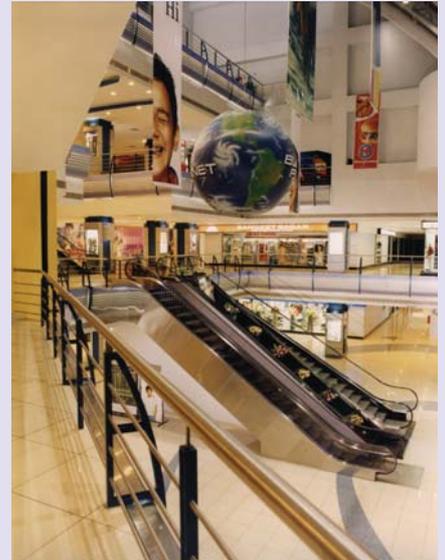
It was celebration time all around at Prasads – Mall, Multiplex and IMAX Theatre on 25th July 08 when the 5th Anniversary of the complex was celebrated grandly at Hyderabad.

Prasads - Family Entertainment Center completes 5 Glorious years this July and it has been a journey full of fun, achievement

and grandeur over the years. It was a dream of Mr. Ramesh Prasad to bring IMAX to Hyderabad and today Prasads stands as a landmark in the twin cities with over 55 million visitors and 2 million movie watchers thronging till now.

Prasads is the most exciting entertainment center the city of Hyderabad has ever seen with Multiplex housing 5 theatres, Food Courts, Food outlets, Shopping, South India's largest indoor Gaming Arcade, the revolutionary IMAX 2D and 3D Theater and other great entertainment zones. Prasads is the first IMAX theatre in south india has the largest 3D IMAX screen in the world and the largest 2D screen in India. It was rated No 1 in the world for the highest occupancy for the movies Spiderman 3, Spiderman 2 and Harry Potter 4.

Prasads boasts of some of the best entertainment ventures in India. The Mirror Maze which is one of its kind in the country has amazed about 5 lakh visitors till now. Prasads, 4D FX which is first of its kind in India has attracted about 75,000 visitors in just 6 months of its launch.



All this would not have been possible without the support of our valued Patrons and as a token of gratitude, Prasads celebrated its 5 Glorious Years over 5 days from 4th Aug to 8th Aug 2008 wherein every patron in these 5 days got a sure shot gift on the purchase of a movie ticket. 60,000 gifts including food and beverages, Titan Watch, IMAX tickets, Pepe jeans, DVD player, LCD TV and so on were given away. This celebration was co-sponsored by Coca Cola, retail outlets and other vendors at Prasads.

We thank all our customers, employees and well wishers who have been instrumental in making Prasads a household name across Hyderabad & Secunderabad.



Mr. Ramesh Prasad & his family watching the culturals

SRIKANTH, HEAD-OPERATIONS

Visit our new website www.prasadz.com

PRASADS
HYDERABAD'S PRIDE

5
Glorious
Years



AWARDS TO EMPLOYEES OF PRASADS

Categories	Name	Department	Prize
Dance Competition	Rajesh/Sanjay	Concessions / FF	Ohris Meal voucher
Singing Competition	D Geetha/Chakrapani	Box Off/ Projection	Ohris Meal voucher
Rangoli Competition 2nd Prize	Nagalaxmi/Shanthi/Usha Rekha/Faheem/Ramkrishna	Fun Factory Cust.care/Stores	Ohris Meal voucher Ohris Meal voucher
Best Employee Awards	Robert Thomas B Srinivas Shivraj Don Bosco harry B Srinivas Rao Chandra Sekhar.K Chakrapani KS Raghavan	Fun Factory Concessions Customer Care Box Office Maintenance Security Projection Fin & Admin	Virgin mobile Virgin mobile Virgin mobile Virgin mobile Virgin mobile Virgin mobile Virgin mobile
Best Groomed person (Male)	Rahul Dev Alexander	Cust.Care	Rice Cooker
Best Groomed person (Female)	T.Srilakshmi	Concessions	Rice Cooker
Best Attendance	Robert Thomas	Fun Factory	Timex watch
Best Head of the Dept	Krishnamurthy Kishan	Sales & Mktg	Sansui Home Theatre
Best Supporting Officer	K Krishna Kishore	Maintenance	Virgin mobile
Best Supervisor	A Pavan Das	Fun Factory	Virgin mobile



Don Bosco Harry - Box Office K S Raghavan - Finance



Chandra Sekhar - Security Srilakshmi- Concessions



Chakrapani - Projection Krishnamurthy Kishan - Sales & Marketing

Teams were formed with Senior Management, Managers and other employees of Prasads for a Cricket tournament. The Maintenance Department team won the series. Congratulations to the winners.

Category	Teams	Name	Prize
Man of the Match	Maintenance Vs Box Office	B.Chaitanya	T Shirt and Football
Man of the Match	Cust care Vs Concessions	Ch Sudarshan	T Shirt and Football
Man of the Match	Projection Vs Management	G Mahender	T Shirt and Football
Man of the Match	Fun Factory Games Vs Fun Factory Entertainment	Rahul Swaraj	T Shirt and Football
Man of the Match (Semi Finals)	FF Entert. Vs Concessions	Pavan Das	T Shirt and Football
Man of the Match (Semi Finals)	Maintenance Vs Management	Venkat Prasad	T Shirt and Football
Man of the Match - Finals	Maintenance Vs FF Entert.	KVV Shiva Prasad	T Shirt and Football
Man of the Series	Maintenance	B.Chaitanya Prasad	Timex Watch



Rangoli competition



A dance show in the competition

A stage show performed by the employees

* Winners in Blue.

NEWS AT PRASADS



1



2



3



4



5

1. TIMEX brand ambassador and Australian Cricketer Brett Lee visited Prasads.
2. Vodafone McLaren Mercedes F1 replica had a press launch at Prasads on 4th July 2008.
3. Deloitte & Prasads organised AVOID PLASTIC CAMPAIGN on 14th June 2008 at Prasads.
4. Disney Channel conducted True Popstar Audition on 17th & 18th May, 2008 at Prasads. Winners of this audition will meet Hanna Montana in the USA!
5. The Dark Knight was released in IMAX to a great response.

PRASAD GROUP IN THE MEDIA

THE HINDU METROPLUS

CHENNAI-MONDAY, MAY 19, 2008

L.V. PRASAD ACADEMY Hariharan believes students learn best from their peers than from books



CHASING BIG SCREEN DREAMS

Chennai seems to be the destination for students around the country to learn filmmaking. "Yes, filmmaking is an art that can be taught but the onus is more on the learners," says K.Hariharan, Director, L.V.Prasad Film & TV Academy. "Sometimes, they can unlock their minds within a week into a course; sometimes, receptiveness takes a while. The idea is to play guide to the students and let them learn through team work. Arcadia University sends its students to L.V.Prasad Film School. Students from Brooklyn College, City University of New York, stay for 10 days and form groups with our students to make a six minute film. Sometimes, they came back with violent arguments; sometimes they have a fantastic time. But, all this is part of learning." explains Hariharan.

THE HINDU METRO PLUS, 19th MAY 2008

EFX DELIVERS VFX FOR THODA PYAR THODA MAGIC

Neil Cunningham added, "This project was a wonderful opportunity for EFX and me, because of the variety of VFX that the film demanded. I knew TPTM would be an interesting project when I realized that we had to design and build heaven entirely in CG. The production team had incredible imaginations, and we were called upon to create images that brought their ideas to life. All this were able to add creative ideas at every stage. I am extremely impressed and happy with the work done by EFX Prasad."

ANIMATION XPRESS, 28th June 2008



EFX PRASAD WIN BIG AT 54TH NATIONAL AWARDS

The 54th National Film Awards of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, were announced on June 10, 2008. The award for the best Special Effects has been won by EFX Prasad Corporation for its cutting edge work in Rakesh Roshan's Krrish. Prasad EFX Executive Producer of VFX, Kilari Himakumar said, "It was a team effort, which involved very high-end 3D modeling and animation, including whole body scans. A lot of 3D models of Cards, Bikes, Helicopter, Birds and Animals were created and animated to match live-action footage. Complicated wire removals and compositing work was minutely executed and so were critical special effects that add intensity to images and action shots. A whole futuristic 3D set was designed and implemented by the team at EFX Prasad. The fire sequences were the most challenging as they were shot live, and then composited."

ANIMATION XPRESS, 11th June 2008

MOHSEN MAKHMALBAF VISIT

Internationally famous Iranian film director Mr. Mohsen Makhmalbaf was in Chennai to complete post production for his latest Russian film titled "The man who came with the snow". The film is co-directed by Ms. Marziyeh Makhmalbaf. This is the third visit to Prasad Facilities for Mr.Makmalbaf who has received several awards from around the world. Previously he had post produced films such as Sex & Philosophy and Scream of the Ants using Prasad Group facilities.

Mr. Makhmalbaf who has directed more than 35 films of international repute quoted "India is a good destination for my post production needs. My experience with Prasad has been a gratifying one. I am very happy with the facilities offered, especially on the colour grading part. I look forward to using the digital facilities of Prasad group in my future projects. The quality and price offered to me at Prasad is two times better compared to my post production experiences in other countries."



In the picture: Left to right: M/S. Prassanna Vithanage, Film Director - Sri Lanka, Lakshmi Narayanan - Sound designer, Sivaraman, Ponnaiah, Marziyeh Makhmalbaf - Film Director, Jaya Vasant, Mohandas along with Mohsen Makhmalbaf - Film Director.

WELCOME TO PRASAD GROUP

PRASAD MEDIA CORPORATION LTD, HYDERABAD.

B.Chaitanya Prasad, Supervisor - Security
 R Vishnu Vardhan Rao, Security Officer
 MD Mosin, CCTV Technician - Maintenance
 T Sravan Kumar, Associate - Concessions
 K Shekar, Associate - Concessions
 K Shyam Sunder Rao, Associate - Concessions
 M Veerababu, Projectionist - Multiplex
 K Bhaskar Rao, Associate - Concessions
 Ch Sudershan, Associate - Concessions
 Syed Khaleed, Associate - Customer care
 P Anil Kumar, Electrician - Maintenance
 Shamshuddin Ansari, Technical Supervisor - Fun Factory
 N Naresh, Associate - Concessions
 Ch Taraka Srinivas Rao, Asst.Manager - Fun Factory
 N Gunnaiah, Associate - Concessions
 M Narayan Rao, Technician - Maintenance
 Vemula Raghu Prasad, Projectionist - Multiplex

PRASAD FILM LABS, MUMBAI

Sachin Poojari, Lab Trainee
 Naresh Gajula, Lab Trainee
 Vikas Khedkar, Lab Trainee
 Praful Kumar Kabmle, Lab Trainee
 Ashok Supe, Lab Trainee
 Sandesh Barshinge, Lab Trainee
 Vishal More, Lab Trainee
 Rakesh Ghag, Editor
 Kiran Kamble, Electrician
 Priya Kshirsagar, Assistant – HR & Admin
 Jagadish Abhang, Assistant Purchase & Stores
 Challaidurai Pandian, Driver

PRASAD VIDEO DIGITAL, CHENNAI

Srinivasan. D, Trainee - DVD Authoring
 Lakshmi Swathi. P, Trainee - Computer Graphics

PRASAD FILM LABORATORIES, CHENNAI

Yuvaraj.A, EDP Department

* Please report any names left out by mistake through e-mail to connect@prasadgroup.org for inclusion in the next issue

RETIREMENT



K.Madhavarao, Printing Dept of Prasad Film Laboratories, Chennai was superannuated from service on 14th July 2008 after 25 years of service.

BABY NEWS

PRASAD FILM LABS, TRIVANDRUM

Jayendran Nair, Quality Control Dept., was blessed with a Baby Girl on 11th April 2008.



Pankajakshan, Printing Dept., was blessed with a Baby Girl on 29th May 2008.

Sathikumar, Processing Dept., was blessed with a Baby Boy on 30th July 2008.

Sajeem, Processing Dept., was blessed with a Baby Girl on 1st August 2008.

PRASAD GROUP CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS, CHENNAI

Mathivathana Sundaram.N was blessed with a baby boy on 7th June 2008

Ramesh.S was blessed with a baby girl 14th July 2008

PRASAD FILM LABS, MUMBAI

Imtiyaz Ansari, Lab Operator was blessed with a Baby Girl on 21st June, 2008

Deepak Kirdat, Lab Operator was blessed with a Baby Boy on 15th February, 2008

PRASAD VIDEO DIGITAL, CHENNAI

T.Saravanan, Member- Avid Edit was blessed with a Girl baby on 21st July 2008

WEDDING BELLS

PRASAD FILM LABS, MUMBAI

Rajesh Bagade Lab Operator got married to Seema on 18th May, 2008.

L. Saravanan, Asst. Manager - Maintenance got married to Radhamani on 15th June, 2008

PRASAD VIDEO DIGITAL, CHENNAI

Franklin Kanaas. A - Sr. Executive HR got married on 21.05.2008

CONDOLENCES

M.Gopal, Painter at Prasad Film Laboratories, Chennai expired on 11th June 2008

BLOOD DONATION CAMP

Prasad EFX, Chennai organized a Blood Donation camp on July 19, 2007. More than 40 employees from EFX & Prasad Video Digital participated and donated blood to Jeevan Blood Bank & Research Centre.

BLESSINGS FROM A SISTER (For a brother far away)

As I sit and think of you brother dear
 Thoughts come pouring and I fear



That you may not be able to withstand
 The vastness of deserted sand

And indifference of people may be more
 Who come across on a new shore

You may be hurt, you may not cry
 But you might quit when you need to try

And anticipating all the mess
 I stop myself! I decide to bless!!

May you be tough, may you be strong
 May you have emotions to more than carry on

May the world always laugh with you
 And you never have reasons to feel blue

May you help those who are in need
 May there be positivity in your deed

May you learn of things right and wrong
 Without too much noise, without too much song

May you have an eye for selecting true friends
 We both know they don't change like current trends

May you taste success, and earn your own bread
 May the highs in your life, never get into your head

May your life have love, may your life have joy
 May you be the right dad, for girl or a boy

May they ne'er fall short of your caress
 To you dear brother, I thee bless!!

KHANAK JHA,
Asst.Manager, Human Resources,
Prasad EFX - Mumbai



PRASAD FILM LABS, MUMBAI PICNIC

Voila! Picnic! Girlz and Boyz reacted in the same way. This 'Voila' is not local. It's a French expression to catch hold of someone's attention. Once the Picnic was announced it was as if a lightning had passed through everyone. Everyone's reaction was – "Who cares where we are going but we ARE going for a Picnic." And we set off to a place near Kashid, one of the famous beaches on the outskirts of Mumbai. The turnout was such that one big bus was not enough and we had two buses full of the hustle bustle of anticipation of fun and all other topics, particularly work, were left far behind.



The buses buzzed out in the rains amidst the smiles and songs - Filmy, non-filmy, quawwalies, ghazals, the best to come was local and regional songs. Soon there was a change in the scene both outside and inside the bus. We were out of the concrete jungle, passing through lavish green fields with mountains, gushing rivers and open grey skies, in between the sun twinkling a misty light. The whole atmosphere was quite unusual than the routine; the trains and the buses and the traffic and the crowds and the pollution. It was easy to breathe, all freshening and enriching.



And the scene inside the bus had changed from Sing Song Genre to High Frequency Drama. The bus had transformed into a stage and a high level Drama was on. There was no Director, no Writer, no Art Director, only the performing Actors. This drama was a Potpourri of Raje Shivaji, Dadoji Kond Dev, Tanaji, Sambhaji, Jeeja Bai, Akbar, Aurangzeb, Salim, Anarkali – all historical personas confronting with present day screen personalities like, Shah Rukh, Amitabh, Abhishek, etc. and to beat them all was Nana Patekar. The Boyz were modulating voices, manipulating the script to their fancy with spontaneous, rich flow of dialogues – and believe it or not, all extempore. And it was musical too. There were all sorts of songs including the devotional songs – the Bhajans, all with the correct timing of entry-exit of the characters. It was a-m-a-z-i-n-g!!!

As we reached to the Resort there was another surprise waiting for us. Wow! It was a DJ Party; so all of us jumped from one stage to another. Dancing did not end until the wee hours and do you think people were tired? No way. The early morning breeze brought in another session – swimming frenzy. There was a rain dance in the 'agenda' but since Varunraj – the Lord of Rains, was giving us his company through out there was no need for the artificial rains. While the Boyz chose to be in the swimming pool, the Girlz went out exploring. The entire surrounding was so picturesque that anywhere you place the camera you had a frame ready to click. A constant rain, the farmers ploughing, crabs running helter-skelter, cranes flying, heavy clouds covering hill tops, red rustic roof tops hiding in the greenery, all wet green-gray atmosphere, visuals with a background sound-track of Cuckoos, Bulbuls and other birds chirping, a picture post card experience indeed.

By sheer luck we also landed up at the wonderful Birla Mandir built in white marble. Like every other Birla Mandir it had a unique spacious architecture but the speciality of this temple was hundreds of small bells with a slender Pipal tree leaf like flap inside each bell instead of the usual gong. With the wind, tender ripples of chimes spread over, the Gods must be certainly at peace here. This was followed by an interesting visit to a typical Konkan village complete with scattered houses, narrow up and down zigzag lanes, a small lake, the wet smell of trees mixed with fragrance of flowers like Anant, Champa, Chameili, Jaai not to miss out Roses, Mogra, Ghaneri, Sadaphuli, Shevanti went up to our heads like champagne. In the midst of coconut tree plantations villagers were plucking Taro-leaf and watching the rain drops dancing and rolling on the leaf, sparkling like diamonds, was precious experience indeed.



City beaches are usually chaotic. Revdanda beach was quiet with not a soul around but it was certainly not calm, there was a constant tussle between the rain and the sea waves. The high tide was also contributing its share and the huge dark gray clouds, the culprits, were enjoying the water games played by nature. We the spectators were dazzled. The sound of the Arabian Sea was penetrating through out heart beats. Was the sound calling us for the introspection? Was the sound reflecting our hearts filled with the gratitude towards the one who had brought us all together with a purpose? The sound certainly made a permanent abode within us as we resumed next day on our jobs with clean minds with all malign washed away in the rains. While going we all were particles of, say, Plaster of Paris but while coming back we had turned into beautiful statuette of friendship.

SANGEETA DIGHE - CO-ORDINATOR, OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT, PRASAD FILM LABS, MUMBAI



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