



Hansa meets AV challenge with aplomb at Ambedkar Dental College

First Audiocom Communications installation in Bengaluru

The Ambedkar Dental College in Bengaluru - one of the prestigious medical institutions in the silicon capital of the country - recently acquired a unique distinction - A dedicated auditorium with multi-purpose functionality of sophistication. The challenging task was taken up and executed with aplomb by the locally-based AV solutions provider Hansa Pictures. SIA presents an account.

The Ambedkar Dental College in Bengaluru - one of the premier seats of dental education in the State - recently completed 25 years of academic existence. To commemorate the milestone achievement the management wanted to create an iconic embellishment to the institution which could serve many generations to come. An ideal choice was to have a 'dedicated' auditorium with multiple functionalities to meet their growing needs. They created a shell space on the third floor of the college building and then pondered over what needed to be done. While they did have a set of ideas on how they should have the facility done, there were many issues to be addressed, and they scouted for an able solutions provider who could deliver exactly what they wanted.

They found one, after due diligence. Hansa Pictures, who have earned a name for executing many such projects. Thus came in Hansa, with a solution they thought was best.

control room design; stage design and commercial lighting set-up.

"Their impression was that awarding extra work to the same vendor would ease their work and help in proper work co-ordination," Gautam says, adding, "it was, however, a big challenge at our end as it meant that we had to go out of our domain and execute many other jobs. We took up the challenge."



"The brief wasn't really one," quips **Gautam N Shah, Director of Hansa Pictures.** "It was as sizeable as it could get"

According to him, the facility had to be a multi-purpose space to include dramatics, academics and other college events. It started with having an AV install to facilitate cultural performance with lighting, acoustics, seating design, motorized curtain systems etc. and went on to expand to electrical job;

According to him, the greatest challenge in a turnkey project is to see that everything works in tandem without criss-crossing or disturbing any other work. An important aspect of the challenge was that there was no specific acoustic consultant. "The minute we

got the job, we broke down the task to nuts and bolts," explains Gautam. "We took up the acoustics first. While we had finished with the grid, the client was still to finalize on the electrical contractor and the AC supplier. That we were tasked with extra jobs, we immediately re-planned our schedule and drew up our strategy."

The Hansa team had 30dB-35dB in mind to be achieved in this auditorium. It was achievable as it was a grid type with



Tannoy VX speakers

Rockfon ceiling tiles with .9NRC sound absorption. Past that, the side walls and back walls were treated with slit plywood of 6mm gaps with poly-wadding behind it up to a height of five feet. The reason for slits in the design was to help in sound reflection and also to protect the walls from getting dirty. Past five feet from there on, the installer applied woodwool boards and fabric laid over it. Another potential challenge came up from the stage. While the stage itself was small, it had a wall on one side. To make the stage bigger, for facilitating flexible movement of performers, it had to be extended by four feet, and to do this, even the side wall had to be extended. "That this happened just a few days before the inauguration date, it was quite a big task," admits Gautam.

Lighting was another important factor. The lighting grid was manufactured locally with MS pipes, and designed like a matrix keeping flexibility in mind. "The choice was clearly ETC (Electronic Theatre Controls)," affirms the installer, "the fixtures are very rugged, easy to use, aesthetically appealing and most importantly energy saving. Using a lesser intensity bulb like 575W Halogen, the brightness is equivalent to a 750W fixture of any other brand."

Another important aspect of the install was configuring the motorized curtains. While the grid was manufactured locally, the main screen curtain which opens sideways is controlled by a RF remote over a somfy motor.

AV- the all important factor:

The key feature of AV at this project is the use of **Tannoy** speakers and **Lab.gruppen** amplifiers. Says Gautam: "Tannoy's dual concentric technology



has always amazed me. The sound reproduction is simply superb. We have installed Tannoy in the past and it has always been my choice as the product, technology and quality are superior, especially the VX series speakers."

"We had suggestions coming in from Krishna of Tannoy, so we were very confident of the product as well," he continues, "the best part about the VX12 speaker is their sound dispersion. The speakers have a great throw and the sound is very clean."

Choosing to drive the speakers through Lab.gruppen amps was yet another intelligent move they made, explains the installer. That the amp was compact and powerful gave them multiple advantages. The four-channel amp was so powerful that it could power all the speakers in the auditorium. Its very compact size meant that it occupied much lesser space and helped conserve energy.

They did not have to tweak too much, admits Gautam, thanks to the **Biamp** Nexia SP digital signal processor- just some basic delay setting, addition of



limiters and gains, and it is foolproof. No chance of tampering. "This was important since the venue is a college and multiples of people would try fiddling with it."

Complementing the audio was a meticulous video characterized by an **NEC** projector and a motorized screen. The chosen NEC M420X projector throws an image size up to 13ft x 10ft. Moreover, it has a host of inputs- two computers, two video inputs, one HD input, and one networking port for multiple connectivity.

The display component was handled by installing a Fixed Frame Screen which acts as a projection surface as well as a cyclorama screen forming a backdrop.

Audiocom Communications installation:

An interesting, unique feature of the install here is the choice of Audiocom system from **Telex Communications**,

which was installed for the first time in Bengaluru. As it is, two-way communication between the people on stage and the technical staff in the control room is imperative, explains the installer. Conventional modes like cellular phones and walkie-talkie have their own issues; the Audiocom conduit is the best in that it is a hotline system. The person wanting to communicate has to just press a button and start talking. It is seamless and reliable.

While the whole install, despite challenges, had been completed as per the upgraded client requirements, Gautam admits having one regret. The balcony was not ready before the inauguration and the total number of seats available were only 190. If the balcony was ready, another 64 seats would have made the auditorium look complete.

Having said that Gautam and his team are happy that they won the appreciation from the Chairman of the institution, Gurappaji.

"It was a mission-critical operation accomplished with gust and determination," Gautam conjures up.

www.hansagroup.in

www.tannoy.com

www.lab.gruppen.com

The AV Spec at the Auditorium

Audio:

- Tannoy VX12 FOH Speakers
- Tannoy VX-8 : 4 no.s of fill speakers (2 below balcony & 2 in the balcony)
- Tannoy VS15BP Subwoofers -2 no.s
- Lab.gruppen C28:4 Amplifier -1 no.
- Biamp Nexia SP Digital Signal Processor -1 no.
- Yamaha MG166CX Mixer -1 no.
- Samson Airline Micro Earset Mic. - 1 no.
- JTS-US 8001D with MH-750 wireless Handheld Mic-1 no.
- Sennheiser MZH3040 Gooseneck Mic. - 1 no.
- DB Cromo 12 Stage Monitors - 2 no.s

Video:

- NEC M420X Projector with multiple inputs
- Fixed Frame Screen
- Sony Blue Ray Player

Lighting:

- ETC Source 4 Junior Profile lights - 4 no.s
- ETC Pars with interchangeable lenses - 4 no.s
- Aluminium 1000W Par Cans - 8 no.s
- Raytech Powerpack -2 no.s
- ETC Smartfade 1248-DMX Dimming Desk - 1 no.