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MCI (P) 039/04/2017 PPS 1669/08/2013 (022992)



Harsha International Public School Sports A Classy Facility

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INDIA

By Ram Bhavanashi

An Auditorium Of A 'Class'

Harsha International Public School on Bengaluru Outskirts Sports a Classy Facility



One of the many advantages of awareness and information about technology availability is it can help create spaces of desired technology deployment in the desired fashion. While Bengaluru, referred to as ICT Capital of India, has many such examples of inventive AV deployments, the laurels are joined by yet another credential recently- from the Education segment.

A new auditorium facility created at Harsha International Public School on the premises of MS Ramaiah Harsha Hospital campus is a veritable statement of its class. Bengaluru-based AV systems integration firm Hansa Pictures took the honours of the design-build install. A snappy exclusive by SI Asia.

Healthcare to Mindcare...

MS Ramaiah Harsha Hospital at Nelamangala – some 25 kilometres northwest of Central Bengaluru – on the National Highway 4 (Bengaluru-Pune Road), is credited with having

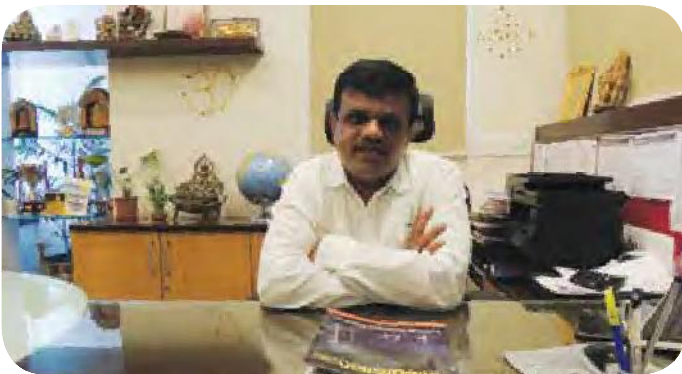
some of the most sophisticated and speciality medical services, and more, serving the region with the same finesse, if not better, as those with 'super speciality' trappings in the main city.

That's not the story though here. A school that is created adjacent to the hospital on the same premises is one to reckon.



Harsha International Public School (HIPS), set up by a group of go-getter professionals, and managed under the Harsha Charitable Trust is a statement in itself.

Besides many modern educational embellishments that have more or less become conventional for most schools in city, the HIPS prides itself in setting up **Smart Classrooms** and **Audio-Visual rooms** as well as part of its resolve to disseminate knowledge in tune with the 'gen-next' mode of teaching. That is not all. With a view to further providing a wider platform to promote the students' all-round skills in cultural and recreational activities, as also creating a facility for the institution's future requirements, the management decided to build a state-of-the-art auditorium on the premises.



Sivakumar, Chairman, Harsha International Public School

"At the outset, we were actually concerned at the tragic situation in the region when it was shorn of any basic medical amenity in the vicinity; and this stretch being the National Highway, prone to fatal road mishaps, it used to be painful scenarios very often on the roads," recalls S. Sivakumar, Chairman, Harsha Group of Institutions- the promoting body of HIPS. "At that time, we decided to build a hospital with the same, if not better, facilities as those in the super speciality hospitals in the main city," he explains.

While the initiative helped save hundreds of lives, the promoters weren't really happy as they felt something missing. Watching people sending their wards to the distant Bengaluru for quality education, and struggling to bear the exorbitant costs – even as many others settle with substandard or 'no' education at all – they decided to set up an institution that meets the educational requirements of the region.

"It had to meet not just the requirements, but the aspirations of people," recalls Sivakumar. "So, we decided to build a school that sports all that is offered by acclaimed institutions in the city, in terms of amenities; we would match, if not better them."

The resolve saw the coming together of like-minded people driven by the vision, and that gave foundations for building the 'classy' Harsha International Public School. While most of the modern facilities like the Smart Classrooms and AV rooms happened by default one after the other, it was a situation to consider when they wanted to create a dedicated facility for

expressing the students' cultural and recreational aspirations. "We wanted to create the auditorium that met the requirements now, and is capable of meeting the needs in future," said the Chairman.

Making of HIPS...

While the promoters scouted for a solutions provider who could meet their requirements, Bengaluru-based Hansa Pictures landed the job- owing to their acknowledged track record in the domain, and trusted relationship with the HIPS management from a credible job executed earlier. Hansa's good track record in the domain and with the HIPS meant that their job got multiplied with added services. The design-build brief in essence meant that they had to design and fix the acoustic solution as well, before getting on to the AV design set-up.

"The client wanted the auditorium to be designed with latest amenities, which was anyway known to us," says Gautam N Shah, Head-Projects, at Hansa. "The new spec in the brief was that the auditorium to sport very vibrant and vivid colours, to be in tune with children's mindset. That's one," he recalls. "Two- the latest AV solution had to be designed and built at a very economical budget, that was a certain challenge."

The first good thing about the install was that the designer got the opportunity to get involved with the building construction from the beginning. "We got to involve in the project from the time of the basic structure coming up; that helped us assess the acoustic requirements, calculate the dB levels, and suggest the acoustic measures," Gautam explains. "Employing the Ease software, we measured the acoustics as well as the audio specs, and did the lighting and video requirements."

The 406-seat, rectangular auditorium hall - designed by locally-based Veedu Architects - comprised two levels of seating with a Balcony class at the rear end, where exited the Control Room. So, with a view to providing a seamless, smooth two-way connect between the Control Room and the Stage proceedings, Hansa decided to incorporate wireless communication system across the facility.





In order to stitch in the acoustic solution, Hansa turned to **Himalayan Acoustics** whose acoustic tiles are claimed to come with special characteristics of broadband frequency absorption, and play reflective at the same time. "The reason we chose these tiles was because of their special properties of noise absorption and sound diffusion; that helps provide uniform sound dispersion across the ambience of the space," Gautam explains. "We employed tiles coloured in two special hues- with a view to making the ceiling ambience young and inviting."

Indeed the auditorium sports a very warm and lively blend of ideas between the architect and the AV designer as exemplified by the vibrant colours on one side, and ingenious employment of lighting and aesthetics on the other. With a fair degree of allowance for natural light to be controlled by rotatable blinds and clever usage of veneer finish wooden side and rear walls, the interiors do look very pleasant. The wooden-decked floors contribute to the acoustic spec.

The AV Design

The AV solution thus comprised the audio with five wired and three handheld cardioid wireless microphones from Mipro doing the audio capture; a Yamaha mixer in the Control Room mixing the audio while four EV loudspeakers – two each mounted on the two side walls in front and rear- did the sound reproduction. A Telex-RTS Full Duplex Talk system is employed to provide a seamless two-way communication. The

video comprised an NEC DLP projector hung from the ceiling in front of the stage, while the display comprised a cyclorama of Galalite make on the facing wall. The stage is fitted with a ceiling-mounted lighting grid comprising ETC's Halogen Profiles, while the FOH lighting bar is fixed with Pixless LEDs from Canara Lighting.

"The deployment process was largely smooth and seamless," says Gautam. "That we got involved in the structure from the very beginning, and we had a very matching wavelength with the architect's design vision, there weren't any major challenges," he explains. "It only mattered a regular, and attentive coordination with the AC vendor so that the noise issues were addressed and not intruded into the audi; it was also about the Electrical team so that we fixed all wiring issues in the beginning itself."

The client is obviously happy- to the extent of issuing a commendation to Gautam and team.

"We are certainly happy, they did a commendable job," comes the appreciation from Sivakumar. "The designers not only gave us a solution to our requirement, they were able to walk an extra mile to accomplish the job within the budget and timelines, and make it more fulfilling and experiential."

"That was a very fulfilling experience for us too, says the Hansa Exec. It gives us immense pleasure that we not only got involved in a very distinct project but were able to make the client happy."

www.hansagroup.in

The FACTFILE:

Project Name: Harsha International Public School
Project Location: Nelamanagala, Bengaluru
Project Owner (Promoters): Harsha Group of Institutions
Project Segment: Education (Facility-Auditorium)
Interior Design: Veedu Architects
AV&Acoustics Design: Hansa Pictures
Systems Integrator: Hansa Pictures

Key Solutions Installed:

- Four units of Electro-Voice Loudspeakers
- One unit of Yamaha mixer
- One Lighting desk
- Microphones (5 wired & 3 wireless) from Mipro
- RTS & Telex (duplex talk for seamless communication)
- One unit of NEC DLP projection
- On-stage Lighting from ETC Halogen Profiles
- FOH Lighting Pixless LEDs from Canara Lighting
- One unit of Cyclorama (Galalite make)
- Drapery System from Hansa Pictures
- Fog Machines from Antari (Acme make)