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**A real talent hunt**

Manoj from Amazon Development Centre India and Uma of Nokia India bagged the Mr. Ascendas and Ms. Ascendas titles respectively at the Ascendas Talent Hunt held recently.

The three-day event held in association with Hello 106.4 FM at the International Tech Park Chennai, saw about 40 IT companies coming together for three days of fun and extravaganza. The talent hunt started with contests in junk art and photography. R. Ramesh of Lionbridge Technologies won first prize for creating a robot out of plastic bottles. Shanmugam of Amazon Development Centre, India, bagged the first prize for his photograph 'Candid Moments with Colleagues'.

The judges for the fashion show were ace fashion designer Rehane, fashion stylist Priya Rajesh, renowned theatre personality Varalakshmi Sarathkumar and Lee Fu Nyap, Senior Vice President, Ascendas India Operations. Nine teams participated in the show and Amazon Gangsters, the team from Amazon Development Centre, India, bagged the first prize.

The events culminated with a dance competition. The best dancers were adjudged by John Britto of John Britto Dance Studio and Satishkumar V.R., Vice President - Ascendas Chennai Operations. **Cobra Legal Solutions** emerged victorious in the folk dance category and Sony Imageworks bagged the first place in western dance. ■

**HR and best practices**

*Two-day NASSCOM HR Summit in city*

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Chennai will play host to the NASSCOM HR Summit 2009 on July 28 and 29 at hotel Le Royal Meridien. The summit holds significance as 2008 has been a turbulent year, with the economic slowdown and issues around handling workforce making the role of HR more challenging. This year the theme is 'Balancing the Board: Cost and Competencies'.

The two-day event will be attended by industry bigwigs like Som Mittal, president NASSCOM; Kris Gopalakrishnan, CEO and MD, Infosys Technologies; Sanjay JOG, Group HR Head, Future Group; Ian Gore, HR Head, South Asia, CITI; and Suresh C. Senapaty, Executive Director and CFO, Wipro, to name a few.

Top industry heads will be sharing insights on how the economic crisis has reshaped the industry, the most difficult decisions that leaders had to take and how they were handled, ex-



pectation from HR heads and importance of employer branding, to name a few.

Speakers Anand Pillai, senior vice-president, HCL Technologies; Karthik N. Sarma, Chief People Officer, WNS Global Services; and Prabir Jha, Senior Vice-President and Global Chief, HR, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Limited, will discuss how to assess employees' needs and their perception of the company, what engagement strategies can be worked out for employees on the bench and the top five drivers that keep employees engaged.

'Going Global: Key imperatives

for creating a global workforce'; 'Looking into the future: Top five HR practices to follow'; 'Managing Variable Pay: Approach and implementation case studies' are some of the other topics for discussion. The valedictory will be presented by Subroto Bagchi of MindTree on 'Doing the right thing: Making ethics a way of life'.

**Who can attend?**

The summit can be attended by CEOs, senior HR professionals and training and industry-academia alliance heads.

For further details log on to [www.nasscom.in](http://www.nasscom.in)



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**Table-top message**



▲ Students look at a banana leaf-shaped dining table on display at the two-day 'Banana Festival' inaugurated at Island Grounds, in Chennai on Saturday.

PHOTO: S.S. KUMAR