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ReNews

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Newsletter of Research Scholars



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"Friendship"
painting by Jhilli



editorial

*H*ello and welcome to another edition of ReNews. This edition reflects the end of semester mood. Not many articles have been sent this time and also not much has happened in terms of events. With winter setting in and bringing in the holiday season, hope all of you are in high spirits.

We are happy to welcome the new Dean (Academic Research), Prof. Sarit Kumar Das of Mechanical Engineering Department, who took charge on 1st November, 2012. A team lead by our RAS had an impromptu meeting with the new Dean, the details of which are covered in this issue.

This time we also have a Hindi poem, hope you guys enjoy reading it. We are looking forward to more such articles. Also wishing the scholars sitting for placements, all the best! May you get the best jobs with the fattest pay packets. And do contribute once you're placed, not in terms of money but articles.

With the world coming to an end next month, we hope you enjoy this final edition of ReNews. But just in case the Mayans screwed up their calculations, we hope to see you again next month.



Oswald Jason Lobo



William Kumar Moses Jr.

Cover page - *Jaalta Deeya*
Vaishakh Nair
Pd. D scholar
Chemical Engineering

Housing Allotment Issues

Minutes of Meeting held on 5th Nov, 2012 with research scholars

The following are the points were raised by scholars at the meeting:

By Regular Scholars:

1. Regular scholars till July 2011 have to be given quarters before the QIP scholars are given accommodation.
2. Ratio of Quarters allotment for Regular:QIP scholars should be changed in favor of regular scholars to 1:1.
3. Withdrawal of already allotted 8 quarters to the QIP scholars.
4. It is very difficult to afford the rent+living cost outside for a regular scholar with income being only HTRA and HRA.
5. According to the mail sent by RAS, allotment of quarters should be based on seniority and date of marriage, but the list has been prepared based on date of marriage for those who are married some time after joining. This is not according to the mail.
6. If both husband and wife are research scholars at IITM, higher priority has to be given in allotting quarters.
7. HRA is still not released.

By QIP Scholars:

1. For QIP scholars, if you want to change the present ratio of 2:1, then provide HRA, else follow the 2:1 ratio.
2. Some of us do not even get salary from parent organizations (even though by rules, they are supposed to get) and we only get a stipend of Rs. 9000/- with no HRA also.
3. Most of the QIP scholars are married, aged and have kids. Keep this point in mind and allocate quarters early.

With the minutes of meeting signed by the scholars present at the meeting, I have subsequently met with the Dean (Admin) and Dy. Registrar on 07/11/12. Below are the minutes of these meetings:

This is what Dean (Admin) said:

The request that regular scholars till 2011 have to be given accommodation prior to giving QIP scholars cannot be done as it goes against the very basic rule we follow regarding the allotment, i. e., QIP:regular are allocated in 2:1. Since there is an increase in the number of regular scholars waiting for quarters, we may look at revising the number 2:1. But since QIP scholars also raised a valid point against changing 2:1 ratio, we will discuss this in the next HAC (Housing Allotment Committee) meet and see what can be done regarding ratio.

If both husband and wife are from IITM, it becomes a special case. If they want higher priority they can approach Dean (AR) and request him. If he thinks they can be given priority, he will sanction it and then we will proceed to allot them quarters giving them higher priority.

This is what the Dy. Registrar said:

HRA has been released to some already. We are releasing as and when we are getting the application and individually. There was some problem with the date of release initially. Now we are releasing from July 2012 to all. Please give us some time. We are working on it.

Placements

The work in progress:

Firstly, the Director and Dean (AR) are helping me with the circulation of yearbook to the big tech guys of the companies by contacting them. The idea is to involve the entire faculty and get the contacts. Also, Dean (IAR) has uploaded the book on OAA website and has sent the book to all Alumni to contact the scholar, if they have any posting suiting the profile of the scholar.

Secondly, I am working with the Dean (AR) to see that a separate cell is established for research scholars' placements, which will work 365 days a year and the work on this has already been started. May be by January we will come up with the actual working cell. We are speeding up the establishment of this cell, so that the scholars who want to avail placement facilities this year can also reap the benefits of this cell.

Thirdly, we are going to have a one to one talk with the tech guys when they come for interviews in December and this will be done with the help of some of the faculty available. Mails will be circulated to faculty asking for their help with the day's schedule through Dean (AR).

Lastly, most of the coordinators have tried contacting companies to convince them to come for M. S. They are still working to contact companies and they will be working to see that the whole placement process goes smoothly without any glitches.

We are also planning to have a placement mela where alumni are invited and asked to interact with the scholars. The yearbook and research magazine will be distributed to the alumni during the mela.

QIP Scholars Issue

QIP scholars have raised the following issues and requested me to represent them, with these problems, to the concerned authority:

- 1) Scholarship/ Living expenses allowance is very less, only Rs. 9000 per month.
- 2) After 3 years during extension that allowance is only Rs. 6500 per month for six months.
- 3) As most of the QIP research scholars are married, they have more responsibilities and financial liabilities (housing loan, children educations, family reallocation expenses and medical expenses)
- 4) In reality most of the institutes are not giving payment to the sponsored faculty.
- 5) Present Scholarship/Living expenses allowance is very less.

The expectations they put forward are:

- 1) For QIP research Scholars should get at least Rs. 16000 per month continued to be the same during extension stay (long or short) (after 3 years) to complete research work.
- 2) Family members should get medical facility in Campus Hospital.
- 3) H.R.A. should be given till the allotment of Quarters in Campus.

I have taken up the issue with the chairman for continuing education, Ajit Kumar Kolar, who is the in-charge of QIP students. The following is the gist of the meeting:

He said QIP comes under ACT and getting anything done from ACT is impossible. But he said that they are planning to improve the living expenses from the existing Rs. 9000/- to Rs. 15,000/-, but it will not happen anytime soon. He said this is the only issue that can be addressed. Regarding the extension of period for which living expenses are given, he said they are working to increase the period to 3 years 9 months and Rs. 15,000/- will be given during the extension period also. Regarding medical facility in campus hospital for the family members, no student or scholar is eligible for this in IITM.

He also mentioned that he knows the problems of QIP scholars and advised me to pass the message to these scholars asking them to form a group and represent their problems better, by themselves!



Meeting with Dean Academic Research

Prof. Sarit Kumar Das took over as our new Dean (Academic Research) on the 1st of November, 2012. A Ph. D councilor, one M. S. councilor, one ReGCell member and an editor of ReNews met the new Dean on 7th November, along with the RAS. This was followed up with another meeting on the 20th of November. It was an informal meeting for the both the dean and students to get acquainted each other. Prof. Das started the dialogue by briefly spelling out his plans. Among the many things that he mentioned were that he will spend more time in his office to concentrate on how to improve the research atmosphere in the campus rather than do rudimentary paper work like signing of reports, files etc. The RAS mentioned the difficulty in completing various administrative works. The Dean proposed converting most of the paper work done by the research scholars into online processes. This he hoped will spare the scholars the hassle of running around for signatures and approvals.

The scholars led by the RAS outlined the various activities they had taken up this year. Among them was the publication of the yearbook which contains the profiles of the passing out students of next year. The Dean appreciated the initiative and promised his support in getting the copies printed and sending them out to the faculty and the concerned people. Another important topic of discussion was the M. S program in the institute. The students mentioned the difficulties that the M. S scholars are presently facing with the placements. The whole M. S. program revision if possible was also suggested by the RAS. He also wanted a detailed report on various issues from the RAS along with the feedback from scholars on various problems/issues they would have faced at various points of time during their stay here.

There was a mention of how the comprehensive viva for Ph. D scholars was non-uniform across the various departments. Some departments grade the scholars solely based on viva exam where as some grade based on a written exam. Some departments also offer the option of taking an extra course in lieu of the comprehensive exam. The Dean explaining the pros and cons of each exam proposed to have a minimum weightage of 25% for each exam. This he hoped will bring in some uniformity in the comprehensive viva across the departments and will also give flexibility to the departments in this regard.

There was also a mention of mentoring by a group of faculty to reduce unethical practices that a scholar may resort to due to work pressure or various other pressures.

The dean also mentioned the need of having less but more effective DC/GTC meetings. He said

that the present meetings were turning out to be mere rituals with no productive benefit to the scholars. To highlight this he mentioned that the zero DC/GTC meetings which are held to discuss the courses to be taken by the scholar are held in October, when the scholar is already half way through his/her course work. He emphasized that the timing of having the meeting and the content of it are important.

he Dean also emphasized on taking the direct Ph. D. program more seriously. Under this a B. Tech can join as a Ph. D. scholar and if it proves to be out of their bounds, the scholar can convert it to an M. S. and complete it with its requirements.

In the follow up meeting on 20th November, the RAS highlighted the present situation of the recruitment of M. S./Ph. D. scholars. The Dean was informed that most of the companies were not willing to hire M. S./Ph. D. scholars. This was despite the best efforts of the placement coordinators to persuade the companies to allow the scholars to appear for the placement process. The Dean inferred that it is mainly because the hiring was done by HR representatives of the companies, who do not have much technical knowledge. The Dean suggested that we contact the technical people directly for the placement of the scholars. At this point the RAS mentioned that a yearbook containing the details of all the scholars passing out in the next year is already ready. She requested the dean to forward it to all the HoDs and faculty, who in turn will try to locate the technical person in different companies. This request was agreed to by the dean.

The dean also suggested that we start a research colloquium where big people from different fields will come and share their ideas.

This was just the gist of the many things that were discussed during the meetings. ReNews hopes to conduct an interview with the new dean in the near future and bring out his plans for the students and faculty of IITM and the research scholars in particular.

awards

As per the IITM website, the following were the awards given out in November, 2012.

Dr. A. Murali (guide: Prof. S. Baskaran), and Dr. D. Jagadeesh Chandra Prasad (guide: Dr.G. Sekar), former Ph. D. scholars, Department of Chemistry have been awarded the 2nd Prize of '*2012 Lilly Outstanding Thesis Awards*' for their theses. The award consists of USD 1000 and Lilly Plaque.

Mr. B.Gokul, former M. S. Scholar, Department of Mechanical Engineering has been selected for the '*Innovative Student Project Award for 2012*' (Master's Level) by INAE for his thesis entitled Development of a Multifunctional Sensor Network with an Optimized Communication Protocol for Industrial Process Monitoring. His thesis is one among the five Master Level thesis selected for the Award. He was guided by Dr. Somashekhar S. Hiremath.



Rome wasn't built in a day. A quintessential case in point is the evolution of behind-the-screens scientific technicalities in the world of movies. Everyone loves watching movies in theatres. We watch, we enjoy and we walk out. Alas, we never really understand the true reason behind the delight of having watched a good movie. Movies are just not about scripts, performances, songs, dances, and happy endings. There is a world beyond that. There is a colossal share of science and technology involved. After all, the story of cinema is a story of art and science intertwined as one. Cinema is simply an art whetted through science, so to speak.

On the occasion of 100 years of Indian cinema, a talk on the involvement of science and technology in movies was held at MRC, Central Library. The evening was graced by the presence of Mr. K. R. Subramanian, Business Head; Mr. S. Sivaraman, General Manager Operations and Mr. Arun Bose, Chief Recording Engineer from Prasad Laboratories, Chennai. The audience was introduced to Dr. L. V. Prasad, the father-figure of Indian cinema through a five minute video. As cinemas were all about picture, sound and the experience, the talk proceeded in a similar manner.

Mr. Sivaraman started with the stereotypes that wine-woman-wealth industry (read Cine industry) has now become a work-work-work industry with newer technology being developed and implemented with changing times. The audience was taken on a journey of the four major technological breakthroughs – pinhole camera, theory of persistence of vision, photography and celluloid. Passing comments were made on how stories were explained through images, viz. the Lascaux's cave paintings at France and that of Ajantha and Ellora, Chinese leather puppets and the magic lanterns to project slides. Persistence of vision, the tendency of the image getting recorded in the retina and persisting after its removal for a small duration was explained and its role in transforming the industry was highlighted. The evolution of the digital camera and its previous forms amazed the audience. The names of devices and the things they could do seemed very little in comparison to the contemporary devices, which went to show the kind of journey it has been for cinemas. Truly speaking, it had passion written all over it!

Audience was left in splits on hearing that the first record of motion picture was Edison's assistant, Freddott sneezing! A hang of Black Maria, the world's first studio; Nickledeon's Vitascope, the world's first theatre; people running away from their seats on seeing the arrival of train shot by Lumiere brothers; the 32 mm in 32mm print was arrived at by Edison when he joined his two fingers to describe the width of the print, Hannibal's invention of celluloid for purpose of shirt collar but later becoming an integral part of cinema etc. thoroughly overwhelmed the audience. The culmination saw a



Vivek Bharadwaj
M. S scholar
Applied Mechanics

brief outlook on the history and the experiences in the development of Digital Non-Linear Editing, first pioneered by George Lucas' Editroid system, the brain behind Star Wars. When Mr. Sivaraman completed his talk, the quote by Jean Luc Godard *PHOTOGRAPHY IS TRUTH, CINEMA IS TRUTH 24 TIMES PER SECOND* had a new meaning.

Mr. Arun Bose's discourse on sound technology was very interesting. The reason behind rapid press forwards of silent films, advancement from silent to sound pictures, the 5.1 Dolby digital sound, and the meaning of dts were explained to the audience. The description of married prints, the amplification methods used, and the newer technologies to be used were very insightful.

With a shortage of time, Dr. K. R. Subramanian briefed the audience on the 'experience' part of cinemas; the evolution of cinema theatres, from touring talkies to tents to cini-plexes and multi-plexes. Being an IIT alumnus himself, he shared quite a few interesting incidents that happened during the course of his career which brought the house down.

The talk ensued in an unequivocal disclosure that development in cinema is an everlasting process. The power of cinema reigns, as long as science prevails.

Mathematics and Adhyatma

15th Nov, 2012

The talk was organized by Vivekananda Study Circle. Dr C. S. Yogananda, HOD of Mathematics, SJC Engineering College, Mysore, gave the talk. The speaker has a Ph. D. in Mathematics from the Institute of Mathematical Sciences and is also well known for his pioneering efforts in bringing out digitized versions of Rigveda and all the eighteen Puranas (in Kannada).

The talk concentrated on the parallels between Mathematics and Adhyatma. The speaker was drawing on the parallels he found during various discussions he had with others, in line with the book Tao of Physics.

The speaker started his talk with the story of Ramakrishna Paramahansa going in to raptures just at the mere sight of birds flying in the sky. He said that that, that Ananda can only be experienced and cannot be described. Same with mathematics, when you experience something, only you



Ishita Kumar
Ph. D Scholar
Aerospace Engineering

can feel that Ananda. This he termed as Swanubhava (Swa+anubhava). You can only experience it. No one else can make you experience it how much ever they try explaining it to you. Another parallel he showed is with regards to the five axioms of Euclid and the vedas. Though Euclid was the one who succeeded in making the five axioms and giving a systematic overview, he was not the first one to make them as such. All the credit for the axioms cannot be attributed to Euclid alone. He said this is called apourishya, where the success cannot be attributed to just one single person. Similarly though Vedas were divided systematically by Vyasa, he is not the sole contributor of Vedas.

The speaker compared the two facets of mathematics, mathematics just for the sake of mathematics and mathematics for the purpose of applications, to the two facets of Adhyatma, namely pure Adhyatma and its applications where principles are outlined for a person to carry out life in harmony with the world. He spoke about shakshatkara (self – realization), where you keep doing something but when you are interested in that thing and ponder deep in to it you realize what it is. The parallel he drew to shakshatkara in mathematics is an example from geometry. Geometry has been used to construct buildings from long ago. Long ago, if you had to build a right angle wall to the already existing wall, people used to use a 12 linked chain, it seems. They used to arrange the chain as 3links X 4links X 5links triangle and when the already existing wall was in parallel to either 3 links or 4 links, the right angled wall was constructed in line with either 4 links or 3 links respectively. He said people can just keep doing this, whenever required, but if you question, why only 3X4X5 and why not 4X4X4 or some other combination, will you understand Pythagoras theorem. So, when you question and ponder deeper, you realize the greater ideas.

He said that, mind only sees what it wants to see. Just as Casino succeeded over Galileo to predict the orbit of Saturn because he could disconnect his mind from already existing notion, one can only see new patterns when you are free from prejudices. He said, proof and science have come a long way and if a new model can predict the solar system or atom better than the already existing ones, we should be open to it. He said that it is similar to following certain norms well laid by saints, but in a position to look beyond them.

Adhyatma, he said, is a way of life. If we take Atman, it is said that it is a part of that supreme Bramhan and will go back to the Bramhan, but we do not know why this is so. Life happens, but do not know why. This path is the mechanistic view. Answering this 'why' he said is the aim of life.

He spoke about Avasthatraya, i.e., the three states. The three states being wakefulness, dream state and deep sleep. He said, body needs rest, but even in sleep many parts do not rest. So he questioned why do we sleep. He said that during sleep we will be ourselves, near to our true self. Since we are our true self during sleep, we have to go to sleep and come back. Again, he said, these are his thoughts and are open to debate. He said that, distance, velocity (differential of distance) and acceleration (differential of velocity) are also three important parameters. Differentiating acceleration, though mathematically possible, is not required as the three above mentioned parameters are enough to explain the physical phenomena.

He then shifted his talk towards education. Though Greece has produced many great intellectuals, much of it has been lost with time, while in India still a major chunk of knowledge remains. He then wondered where our educational system failed. He said that knowledge is anything and not just maths, engineering, etc. He said that even our scriptures contain a lot of knowledge. But our educational system discourages us from reading them as we cannot make a living out of that. He hoped that this will change.



Perceptions

It's December, the time of the year when friends studying abroad come home on vacation. You definitely know they have had a fair share of fun through their Facebook wall posts and know that more accounts are in stock when you meet them. The kind of food, places and people they get to meet, the facilities at labs, their advisor-group meetings, the lab itself seem all interesting and fun! It appears like your friend is having 'the' time of his life: one that you feel you never had.

And then there are questions: *What am I doing here? Why is my lab this way? What kind of environment is this? Loads of paperwork, lack of facilities and all the other hurdles for research...*

The perception of what we do affects the way we do things. The feeling that things here are insufficient or the only abundance is the dearth of things makes us complain more about stuff that is not going to change. All the hours spent imagining 'how it should work here' are only going to change the positions of hands of the clock.

So what exactly are we going to do?

Insti is currently ranked at QS World Ranking 69 for technical institutions for the year 2012. We as a team are good but have a long way to go before we could really be pioneers. If we were to expect world class research here, it's high time we change our perceptions. Cutting edge research doesn't happen by cutting corners (those hours in lab spent on Facebook, sit-coms, youtube, cricinfo, blogs...!).

When was the last time you completed your part of the deal with your advisor, referred books sitting in library or spent hours near the 'WHITE BOARD' in your lab? Studying here was a dream to most of us and we can't complain. We are living our dream after all.

How many of us even know what our friends work on? How many of us even know the scholars in our own group? Do we ever attend the talks, workshops or even the seminars in our department? A pin-point focus on things related only to our research would make us cows tied to poles and allowed to graze on a set perimeter. The greener pastures remain greener; you don't stand a chance to explore new things.

It's our perception of entities, the opinion we seem to have about everything going on around us that beats the 'enthu' out of us, leaving us a smaller perimeter to really enjoy and take pride in what we do! A short lived enthu meets an untimely death as months go by. From being a bubbly eyed first sem junior, we end up graduating as a fatigued and fragile senior. Our foray into research would be a story of frolic and fun if and only if one gets his/her perceptions right!

So, WHAT'S RIGHT? DEPENDS ON WHETHER YOU WANT TO STRUGGLE OR SUFFER!

Chai - monks



|| If you aren't part of the solutions, you are part of the problems ||
- Shiv Khera



Fresh Look at India, from a Researcher's Eye

After few months of stay abroad, I landed at Aana (as per the Malaysian pilot!) international airport, Chennai wearing a sweater, having just finished Shantaram! All my senses were extra alert, taking in everything about my country - smell, humidity, heat, people - everything had a fresh and nice feel to it. I noticed the people working at the airport, their attire, and the vehicles carrying luggage which I had never noticed before. On the way back from the airport to the campus, the driver drove as if he was in the audition for the next part of the Fast and the Furious! He was trying hard to make me believe that the AC was turned on! At last, even when it was difficult for me to believe, I reached my hostel in one piece! I was expecting an argument for the taxi fare, but surprisingly he turned out to be a gentleman.

I had to start my running that day itself so that I would be able to finish the administrative procedures in one week at the minimum. I started running back and forth between accounts, academic section and the CCW office. Everybody wanted letters, lot of signatures and the funniest part is that all of them wanted letters from the other, at the same time! Surprisingly, instead of getting angry I was laughing at this entire comedy!

I was wondering why, what and how it became like this (everything that I have talked till now). The easiest answer is "Indian mentality, Indian attitude..." But I find this reply a very vague one, because it doesn't tell us what this mentality/attitude is. I believe this is a "chalega" attitude. It's late for office – chalega, inefficiency in work, offices – chalega. Everything chalega chalega! There are a few people who would like this to change, but they are up against a majority whose numbers are in the billions! These minority who thrive for a change lose themselves on the way or run away from this place, frustrated. I was also one of those minority, but thankfully I don't really care about my frustrations! I have solutions for these questions. I have few answers for these questions. But I never believed that these are THE solutions or answers. What I would want instead is to have these questions in every single mind. I believe the thought process of "trying" to find answers to these questions will bring a big change. What I am scared of in the attempt to realize this, is hearing an answer "chalega" in everybody's mind when they are not able to find answer to these questions. It should be understood that questions are more important than answers. Keep asking questions!



Haunting Journey

It was on 2nd June, 2009 that I wanted to travel in the Trivandrum express which was scheduled to depart from Chennai Central at 15:25 hrs standard Indian railway time. I was rushing on the platform towards the third class compartment after realizing that the reserved ticket I had was not confirmed. I had no other choice than travelling in the third class compartment as the next day was chosen for the 'Grihapravesam' of my newly built house. The compartment was so crowded that I couldn't even place both my feet together on the floor.

I had a look at the people who were sitting in the nearby seats. An old gentleman was just looking at me and we both exchanged simple smiles. The 'Vibhoothi mark' on his forehead said that he was a hardcore Hindu devotee. The train started moving and the old man also started speaking with his neighboring passengers. He was kindly requesting the co-passengers who were sitting to adjust themselves to accommodate one or two more people in the seats. Thus, three more people could sit in that row and they gave their thanks to the old man through their pleasant smiles. I was still standing beside him and he asked me to move adjacent to the man sitting opposite to him as he was about to get down in the next stop. Thus I too expressed my sincere gratitude to the old man through my smile. He was laughing and said some slogans of 'Bhagavathgitha'. He was very talkative to everyone sitting in that entire row. He mostly spoke in Tamil and was capable of translating things to Hindi and English too. He said that he was a railway employee and started speaking about the benefits for the railway employees. Though he said many things to me, I just shook my head and never opened my mouth. At last he succeeded in his attempt by asking me whether I am a Malayalee or not.

I could not keep my mouth shut for quite a while as he started speaking in Malayalam. He said he was a native of Kollam and was on a journey back to Kollam after 40 long years of stay in Chennai. He again started telling his old-times stories to everyone with convincing quotes from all the religious texts. He showed a few bills to everyone to convince us that he was still getting a 50% discount from all railway canteens and some other bill was to convey that all his luggage and things were coming in the luggage carrier bogie of the same train. He also asked my help for the next day morning to collect all his things from the Kollam railway station. The train was then about to reach Jolarpettai, after which the train would not have any stops during the next two to three hours of its journey. The old man advised everyone to get their food from Jolarpettai

Akhilesh S
M. S scholar
Applied Mechanics



'A person with a new idea is a crank until the idea succeeds.'

as it was already 6:30 pm. Suddenly he started collecting money from everyone and said that he was going to get food from the railway canteen for 50% discounted rate and would collect food for everyone. At last, he came to me also and I just refused his offer saying that I had bought bananas and biscuits for my dinner. The train was about to reach Jolarpettai and suddenly the old man came closer to me and asked for 1000 rupee's change. I said sorry as I did not have more than 500 rupees in my purse. He once again requested me to check for how much money I had in my purse. I just opened my purse with great distress and it had one 500 rupee note. The old man was very happy to see that 500 rupee note and he requested me to give that note and he guaranteed its return soon after his arrival after getting the food. I hesitated to give the money. The old man was still hopeful on me and I had a flash back of his conversation with us. My hand slowly went inside the purse and touched the 500 rupee note. My brain said "No....No....No" but my heart said "How will you say 'no'? He helped you get a seat and more over he is an innocent fellow." I just listened to my heart and gave him that 500 rupee note. He just got down at Jolarpettai and slowly disappeared into the mob. The man sitting beside me asked "Will he come back?" Everyone was silent for a while and suddenly the train's loud horn broke the silence. The train slowly started moving. I felt my heart beating louder than the train. I was still looking at the platform. Slowly Jolarpettai station and my innocent hopes were swallowed by the darkness. Everybody looked at each other and said "He was a genius". I just opened my bag and took one banana and started chewing it slowly to cover up my mixed emotions. They once again said "He was a genius in his own profession!"

तलाश

एक सच्चे प्यार की तलाश में ,
यहाँ-वहाँ भटक रही थी
प्यार तो मुझमे था,
और मैं जहां में ढूँढ रही थी...

एक अजीब सी महक की तलाश में ,
मैं जर्रा -जर्रा छान रही थी
कस्तूरी तो मुझमे थी,
और मैं वन में ढूँढ रही थी...

एक उन्मुक्त तृप्ति की तलाश में ,
मैं हर ताल भांप रही थी
नदी तो मुझमे थी,
और मैं पहाडो में ढूँढ रही थी...

एक ऊँची उड़ान की तलाश में ,
अम्बर -अम्बर देख रही थी
उड़ान तो मन में थी,
और मैं पंख ढूँढ रही थी...

प्रेम और अपनेपन की तलाश में ,
हर गलियारा झांक रही थी
जज्बात तो मुझमे थे,
और मैं ओरों में ढूँढ रही थी...

खिलते कमल की तलाश में ,
हर सरोवर जाँच रही थी
कमल तो मन में खिले थे,
और मैं बहार ढूँढ रही थी...

जाने कैसी अजीब तलाश में ,
उधेड़बुन सी बन रही थी
चाहत कुछ पाने की थी,
और मैं खुद को ढूँढ रही थी...

Aditi Yadav
M. S scholar
Dept. of Management Studies

*'Researching myself...
phrasing the feelings'*





Intra Department Cricket Tournament



Despite the busy research life in IITM, we somehow found time in bringing together all research scholars and M.Tech students of Chemical Engineering Department who are interested in playing cricket to participate in an intra-departmental cricket tournament for two days. The initiation came from MSB (Mechanical Sciences Block) ChemE Research Scholars and everybody responded well to the call put forward by me for organizing the tournament. It was held on 16th and 19th of September 2012.

Inspired by the intra-hostel matches in Krishna, I organized the tournament with the help of SCG (systems and control Group) research Scholars and other ChemE research Scholars in MSB. We got lots of suggestions from the ChemE research scholars in MSB, HSB (Humanities Sciences Block) and CHL (Chemical Engineering Laboratory) on the format and number of matches played and it took a while to decide upon it. It was decided to have four teams with a knock-out format with 10 over per match. Teams were based on buildings where the labs situated and were aptly named CHL, HSB , MSB1 and MSB2.

Here are the Teams and their details

CHL: Y.Santosh Kumar(C) , Nagarajan , K.Venkateswara Rao ,B Hari Krishna Reddy ,Satyam Naidu VIKAS JAGGI, Sreenivas Matla ,Narsimha Reddy ,Balaji and M.Tech freshies also joined later.

HSB: R.Piramuthu Raja Ashok (C),SantoshDaware, BSwaminathBharadwaj,J.Venkatesh, Jyotendranath, GangadharSwamy,Sathieesh.S,Shahid and the B.Tech Guys joined later in the team

MSB1: Hemanth Kumar (C), C.S.Rao, M.Danny Raj, Abhishankar Kumar, Arun Sridharan, Abhinav Garg Venkata Reddy, BSRK, M.Ravi kiran

MSB2: Dipin S Pillai (C), Anil B. Vir, Shekhar Kulkarni ,Avinash Sahu, Ashutosh Singh, Jason Picardo KS Rajmohan,Abhilash,Lalit Musmade

The first match was held on 16th September and was between MSB2 and CHL. Winning the toss MSB2 elected to field first had some problem in bowling at the starting but they got back with a good economy rate in the end overs . Anil Vir took two wickets and Dipin and Asutosh one each. In the batting side Y Santosh of CHL made 19* followed by Satyam Naidu 12 and Sreenivas Matla 12. In second innings MSB2 lost wickets at often intervals and not been in track to reach a total of 88 to win and it is almost one sided with Santosh took 2 wickets while Matla and Reddy had one each. Santosh has been awarded MOM for his all-round performance .CHL is qualified for final.

The second match was held later in the day and was between HSB andMSB1.This was a high scoring match. MSB1 won the toss and elected to field first. The poor bowling of MSB andthe consistent batting of HSB helped the latter to get to a huge total of 119.Venkatesh (42),Raja Ashok (29) helped HSB to get that score.In reply to HSB, MSB1 got to a bright start provided by Venkata Reddy (53) and BSRK (11).Venkata looked to take the match away from HSB, but the lack of support from the other end meant MSB1 ended up losing to HSB.



The final was held on the auspicious day of VinayakaChathurthi, 19th September. The players rushed to the ground after performing Puja in the Shiv Temple near Gurunath. CHL won the toss and put HSB into bat. HSB put a target of 67. Vikas Jaggi (13) helped CHL in critical situations and helped CHL in winning the series. Venkatesh was adjudged Man of the series. J Venkatesh was adjudged Man of the series.

T Hemanth Kumar
Ph. D scholar
Chemical Engg.



Later we also played a friendly match involving all team members, but it had to be stopped in the middle due to rain. We all enjoyed a joyful VinayakaChathurthi and the intra-departmental cricket tournament. I got compliments for organizing the event and I thanked everyone for making it successful. With the tournament done, everyone is back to their own works...@ IITM.

REGcell

ReGCell has become very active this month with solving the problems registered with the cell and also with new initiatives started under its umbrella. We had some complaints, some of which are very serious. We are having discussions and trying to address the issues, with the scholars in the loop. As has been promised, we are having track numbers for these problems and addressing them. We also met with Dean (AR) a couple of times and the faculty of Research Task force during this month to highlight the various issues.

Apart from this, we have come up with two new initiatives **ReJoys** and **ReEcho**. ReJoys is an open platform where you can explain your research work to scholars from all the departments. The idea here is to be able to explain your work to those who are not from your background as it is said that a scholar is a true researcher if he can explain his work to a layman or a 10 year old. Let us break the barriers and show the world what we are made of! We have received responses from three scholars showing their interest in expressing their research. We are planning to have the first of this some time in December 2012. Anyone interested in talking about your research can mail ras@smail.iitm.ac.in. ReEcho is a Colloquium for Research Scholars. A common platform to discuss, dwell and debate on serious issues concerning a scholar's stay at IIT Madras. Colloquium is "An informal meeting for the exchange of views." We wish to have more inputs, when we represent the issues/problems of a scholar to the concerned. This is an open forum where any scholar can come and share their opinion on the given topic of discussion. We are organizing the first colloquium on 03/12/2012 at 4:00 PM in MRC, Central Library. And the Topic of Discussion is "Research Environment at IIT Madras". Help us better the research environment at IIT Madras with your participation and by giving us your valuable views.

We are also working on bringing out a questionnaire to understand problems of scholars. I know, it will be one more questionnaire for all of you, who have been recently asked to fill many such forms. But, we wish to make it different from the others till now. Suggestions on this are welcome and can be mailed to us.

Lastly, you can register your problems/give us your feedback at <http://researchportal.iitm.ac.in> under the ReGCell tab. Your issues can also be mailed to regcell@googlegroups.com (public group, anybody can send email). Or you can call 9382102882/9176856546, our 24x7 helpline. Also, we have a ReGCell FB page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/regcell/> (closed group, please join the group to take part in the discussions). You all are most welcome to use any of the above to reach ReGCell for your issues and problems. Hoping we can make a difference.

Ishitha K
ReGCell Member

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