

IITB-Monash Research Academy



(L-R) Prof. Richard Larkins, AO, Vice-Chancellor and President, Monash University; Dr. Ramesh Mashelkar, Former Director-General, CSIR; and Prof. Juzer M. Vasi, Acting Director, IIT Bombay

IIT Bombay and Monash University in Australia jointly announced on November 26, 2008, the formal launch of the IITB-Monash Research Academy, a first-of-its-kind premier multidisciplinary research academy, to be set up in a purpose-built modern facility on the IIT Bombay campus.

The academy aims at developing high-quality research capability to enhance knowledge in various fields of scientific endeavour to benefit India and Australia, undertaking theme-based, goal-directed and use-inspired strategic

research in partnership with government and industry, building a strong cadre of high-quality doctoral students. These students will spend part of their candidature at Monash University and part at IIT Bombay, and will take up projects of commercial significance in collaboration with industry in India, Australia and elsewhere so as to create significant research and commercial impact on a national and global scale.

The initial focus of the academy is broadly based around six diverse

cutting edge research themes such as Energy, Water, Biotechnology and Stem Cell Research, Infrastructure, Advanced Computational Engineering, and Nanotechnology. These themes will together address the future R&D challenges of several industry sectors such as petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, automotive, infrastructure, biotechnology, life sciences, IT, financial markets, etc.

The doctoral programme will enable students to receive a joint accredited PhD degree from both

Monash University and IIT Bombay. The students will be supported by attractive scholarships. The high-quality stream of doctoral and postdoctoral research scholars produced by the academy will form the backbone of India's standing as a global R&D hub.

Funding commitments for research have also been received from industry. Industry can look forward to carrying out its long-term research through the academy using its high-end, modern and purpose-built research infrastructure. At the same time, the industry in India, Australia and elsewhere can also develop its strategic talent pipeline through the academy.

The academy will be a not-for-profit autonomous institution with an independent Governing Board and a high-powered Advisory Council, comprising captains of industry and research luminaries.

IIT Bombay Celebrates National Education Day



Prof. Juzer M. Vasi, Acting Director, IIT Bombay, addressing the gathering at the National Education Day Celebration

IIT Bombay observed National Education Day on November 11, 2008, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad – a fitting tribute to the memories of this remarkable man and of his contributions. A multifaceted inspirational figure, Dr. Azad tirelessly championed the cause of education and

strove to ensure that education was not the privilege of only the elite, but that it reached the common man as well. The highlight of the occasion was the Open House Discussion on "Review and Enhancement of PhD programme in IIT Bombay", which analysed the present state of research in the campus among the student community. Measures were suggested to improve the quality of life of a research scholar on campus and to ensure a more productive research output.

Groundbreaking Ceremony of Bio-School Building and Lecture Hall Complex



Dr. Anil Kakodkar performing the groundbreaking ceremony

The groundbreaking ceremony for the Bio-School building and Lecture Hall Complex was performed by Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT Bombay on November 18, 2008. Other members of Board of Governors were also present on the occasion.



Mood Indigo 2008

The Asia's largest college cultural festival and a phenomenon which is potentially growing with every passing year, Mood Indigo will be celebrated at IIT Bombay from 20th to 23rd December 2008.



Prof. Gopalan & Prof. Kundu addressing the MI press conference

The theme for this year's Mood Indigo 2008 is Retro, which represents the culture of the 70s and the early 80s. The Mood Indigo team will be creating a retro atmosphere by using elements not only from Indian Retro, but from cultures all across the globe. Axel the Hippie represents the most iconic culture of this period, the hippie culture. With its colorful sense of dressing and retro jewelery, Mood Indigo aims to make Axel the common element by which people remember Mood Indigo 2008.

Like every year, this year too, Mood Indigo 2008 will be about colleges anxious to win the national trophies in all genres that the cultural scene of India has to offer - dance, dramatics, speaking, literary arts, fine arts, music and many more. Mood Indigo 2008 will also offer various workshops, exhibitions and interactive sessions. Each day will end with performances by noted personalities.

Given its stature and reach, Mood Indigo also takes up novel initiatives each year, to serve the society. This year Mood Indigo has come up with a Blood Donation Drive called 'Khoon Chala'. Not only has it been hugely successful, but also it has initiated a kind of a movement amongst the youth of the city. This campaign has addressed the blood deficit in the city and the nation. The collected blood, goes to the blood banks, from where it gets transmitted to those who are in need. In the last two phases it has collected 2275 units of blood. The concluding phase will be held during the Mood Indigo festival at the campus.

Indo-Russian Students' Festival of Friendship



Russian students performing at the event

Under the Indo-Russian Students' Festival of Friendship, a grand cultural programme of Music & Dance was organised at IIT Bombay on November 21, 2008. A 50-member student group representing leading universities in Russia entertained the audience with scintillating performances and the P.C. Saxena Auditorium was packed to capacity.



Awards and Distinctions

Prof. Azizuddin Khan, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences was awarded Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD) Fellowship to participate ICCL Summer School 2008 Computational Logic and Cognitive Science at Technische Universität Dresden, Germany from August 24 to September 6, 2008.

Prof. D. Manjunath, Department of Electrical Engineering has been selected for the award of Prof. S.V.C. Aiya Memorial Award for Telecom Education from IETE Pune Section for the current year.

Publications / Presentations

Prof. Azizuddin Khan with **Prof. V. Singh** of Department of Humanities and Social Sciences. Heterogeneity in

Choices on Iowa Gambling Task: Preference for Infrequent-High Magnitude Punishment. *Mind and Society*, Vol 9,1-15.

"National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies", located in New Delhi released their study related, "Status of India in Science and Technology" as reflected in its publication output in Scopus International Database, 1996-2006. In this report, they compiled top 50 highly cited papers from India. Among these 50 papers, the paper from the group of Chemistry department viz **Prof. Sambasivarao Kotha**, **Prof. K. Lahiri**, and **Prof. D. Kashinath**, has been included.

Seminars/ Colloquia/ Lecture

Department of Physics

Dr. Samindranath Mitra, Associate Editor, *Physical Review Letters*, Assistant Director, Journal Innovations American Physical Society Editorial Office delivered a seminar on November 11, 2008.

L. Ramdas Ram - Mohan, Department of Physics, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester delivered a seminar on "Designing Magnetic Sensors with Enhanced Geometric Magneto-resistance" on November 5, 2008.

Department of Energy Science and Engineering

Prof. S. Ramasesha, Professor IISc, Bangalore, delivered a seminar on "Organic Light Emitting Diodes" on December 3, 2008.

Prof. Pratim Biswas, Stifel and Quinette Jens Professor of Environmental Engineering Science and Chair of the Department of Energy, Environmental and Chemical Engineering at Washington University in

TPMDC 2008



Mr. N. V. Merani, Former Principal Secretary, PWD inaugurating the conference



IIT Bombay Golden Jubilee International Conference and 8th International Conference on Transportation Planning and Implementation Methodologies for Developing Countries with special emphasis on Infrastructure Systems was held during December 3-6, 2008 at IIT Bombay. There were about 20 International Presentations and 75 National Presentations. The technical sessions were held in three parallel sessions at PC Saxena, IRCC, FC Kohli Lecture Theatres. Experts from different Government Agencies also participated in the deliberations. Technical Visit was arranged for the delegates to the Bandra-Worli Sealink Project.

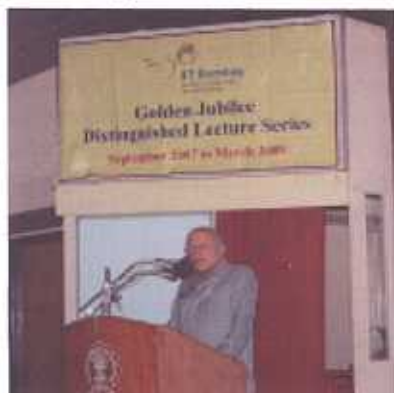
St. Louis delivered a seminar on "Nanotechnology for Energy Applications?" two talks on "Nanotechnology enabling energy application" and Nanoparticle Technology and solar cell application: Non Silicon based systems" on December 4, 2008.

School of Biosciences & Bioengineering

Dr. Anindya Roy, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Clare Hall Laboratories, London Research Institute, UK delivered a seminar on "Repair of transcription blocking DNA damage and hereditary Cancer syndromes" on November 10, 2008.

Dr. Subhagata Chattopadhyay, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Associate Lecturer (Level - 'A'), ApuHC, School of Information Systems, Technology and Management, The University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia delivered a seminar on "Medical Informatics" on November 11, 2008.

Golden Jubilee Distinguished Lecture



Prof. M.S. Swaminathan delivering the Lecture

Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, Chairman, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai delivered a lecture on "Achieving Freedom from Hunger in an Era of Climate Change" on November 6, 2008.

Student News

Shri Ajay Kumar Mandhyan, M. Tech Student of Corr. Sci. & Engg. (passed out in 2003) working in NML, Jamshedpur as Scientist 'C'. was honoured by President of India for Best Scientist under Physically challenged category.

Appointments



Prof. N. Venkataramani has been appointed as the Associate Dean (Infrastructure Planning & Support II), from October 31, 2008 for a period of 3 years.



Dr. Suryendu Dutta, has been appointed as Assistant Professor, Department of Earth Sciences from October 31, 2008.



Prof. Nand Kishore, has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Chemistry, from December 3, 2008.



Dr. Rajesh Gupta, has been appointed as Assistant Professor, Department of Energy Science & Engineering from November 18, 2008.



Dr. N. C. Narayanan, has been appointed as Associate Professor, Centre for Technology Alternatives for Rural Areas from October 31, 2008.



Dr. Kedar Damle, has been appointed as Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Physics from November 19, 2008 for a period of 2 years.



Prof. R. R. Hirwani, has been appointed as Adjunct Professor in the Shailesh J. Mehta School of Management, from November 21, 2008 for a period of 2 years.



Mr. Pravesh Jung Golay, has been appointed as Lecturer, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences from November 26, 2008 for a period of 3 years.



Dr. Debraj Chakraborty, has been appointed as Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering from October 31, 2008.



Dr. (Ms.) Puja Padhi, has been appointed as Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences from November 19, 2008.



Dr. (Ms.) Sarmistha Pattanaik, has been appointed as Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences from October 17, 2008.



Dr. V. Rajbabu, has been appointed as Asst. Professor, Department of Electrical Engg. from October 31, 2008.



Shri K. R. P. Unnithan, has been appointed as Member - Secretary of Accommodation Allotment Committee.



Dr. (Ms.) Maryam Shojaei Baghini, has been appointed as Senior Research Scientist, Department of Electrical Engg. from November 5, 2008 for a period of 5 years.



Ms. Sarita S. Srimani, retired from Campus School on November 30, 2008.

Retirements

Errata

In the last month's issue of Campus Diary, under the Publications/ Presentations and Faculty News section, Prof. Malhar Arvind Kulkarni's department was wrongly printed as Electrical Engineering instead of Humanities and Social Sciences. We apologize for the typographical error.

Salt 'n Pepper

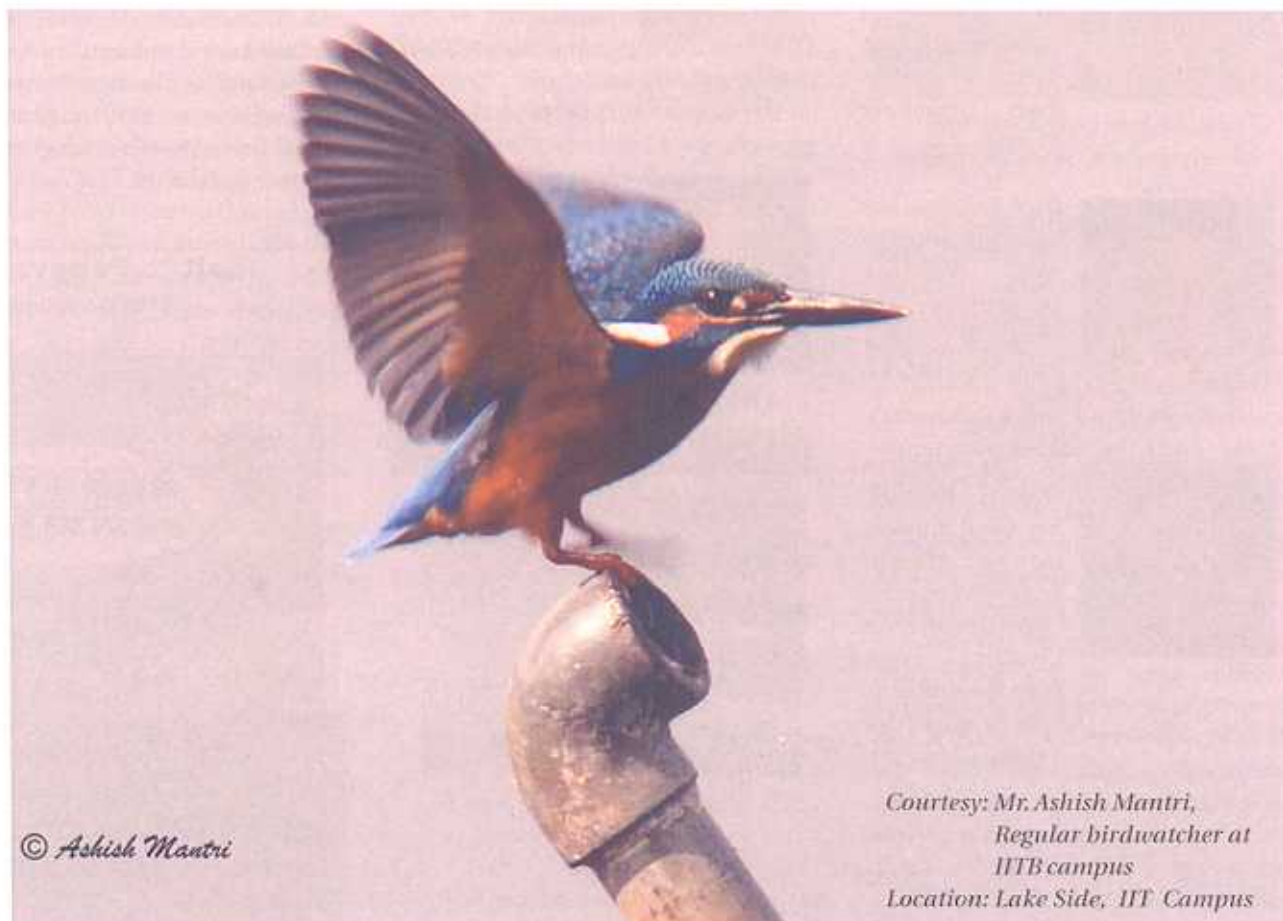
by Dr. Arun Inamdar



Events

CEP Courses			
No.	Course Title	Coordinator/ Department	Date
1	Piping Engineering	Prof. A.S. Moharir, Chemical Engg.	December 10 - 23
2	Certificate Programme in Management [for Godrej Group of Companies.] Batch-III, Term-I]	Prof. S.N. Rao, SJMSoM	December 11 - 22
3	Marketing "Mantra" for Techno-entrepreneurs	Prof. D.B. Phatak, Computer Sc. & Engg.	December 15 - 17
4	Control of Chemical Processes (for NPCIL, Mumbai)	Prof. P.S.V. Natraj, Systems & Control Engg.	December 10 - 12

In the Wilderness



Common Kingfisher (Alcedo Atthis)

A beautiful sparrow size bird with blue upperparts, orange underparts and long bill, can be seen most part of the year around the lake side area.

