

## IIT Bombay Extension Centre of Gujarat Inaugurated

The "IIT Bombay Extension Centre of Gujarat" was inaugurated at Ahmedabad by the chief minister of Gujarat on February 7, 2008 in the presence of Prof. Ashok Misra and Prof. Dipan Ghosh, giving a big boost to the science and technology education in the state. The centre is expected to conduct around 45 short-term programmes during the next academic year, including courses in the field of piping engineering, low-cost high-technology automation, information technology project management and water recycling of soil bio-technology. That apart, the centre also offers full-time courses for one year. These courses are aimed at a smooth transition for graduates of other engineering colleges to IIT system.

"The IITB Extension Centre of Gujarat will provide engineers and IT professionals an opportunity to upgrade their technical skills," said Professor Misra.

### IITB honoured

IIT Bombay won the Eureka Entrepreneurship Competition for developing an innovative gaming machine for the amusement industry. In fact, India Games CEO Mr. Vishal Gondal promised to fund this start-up by the team named "8 Point Systems." Mr. Gondal said, "This team's gaming

machine will make you ride a Dhoom 2 bike or a Don car."

The competition saw entries from 650 colleges from around the world and the second prize was won by the Indian School of Business and Cornell University, which jointly worked on photonwave technologies for fibre optic communication. The final-year students of BITS Pilani, stood third for developing a portal that would understand personalities to predict future behavior.

The Times of India's "Lead India" winner Mr. R. K. Mishra, who gave away the first prize, said that he would go through the eight proposals which reached the final stage and promised to fund a plan that was rural-based, but "non-internet and non-software based."

To the 30,000-strong audience present at the campus, Mr. Mishra said, "All you educated people have opinions but they remain in your drawing room. Think different and of ideas that will change lives at the grassroot level." He urged students to get out of the dotcom craze and think for "the real people".

### Bhumipujan Ceremony: "Hostel-10 Expansion" project

Bhumipujan ceremony of "Hostel-10 Expansion" project was held on February 14, 2008, on the campus in the presence of Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Chairman, Prof. Ashok Misra, Director, and faculty members of the institute.

### Awards and Distinctions

Prof. Ashok Misra, Director, was conferred upon the APA Distinguished Award for his scientific excellence and the contribution to the field of Polymer Science & Technology. The award was instituted by Asian Polymer Association.

Prof. Ramachandran, Department of Aerospace Engineering, received the "FOSS (Free/Open Source Software) India Award" for developing free and open source software visualization tools.

Prof. Dulal Panda, School of Biosciences and Bioengineering, has been elected as a "Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore".

### Faculty News

Prof. A. K. Rastogi, Department of Civil Engineering, delivered a keynote address entitled, "Water Resources Engineering in Civil Engineering" at the

(Contd. on page 2)



*(Contd. from page 1)*

National Conference on Emerging Technologies in Civil Engineering held at PVVP College of Engineering, Feb 28-29, 2008, Ahmednagar.

**Prof. Pushpa Trivedi**, HSS Dept, was invited to deliver a lecture on "The Health Effects of Air-Pollution in Asian Cities: A Case Study of Mumbai" at the Workshop on Environment and Development in Asia. The workshop was jointly organised by the Committee of Environment Frontiers International Program and the Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Tohoku University. The workshop was held at Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan, on January 29, 2008.

**Prof. Pushpak Bhattacharyya**, CSE Department, was invited to deliver lectures (4th and 5th February 2008) on the topic of "Wordnets and Computational Semantics Analysis" in the 2-week long winter school on "Linguistics and Language Technology", organized by Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, at North East Hill University, Shillong. There were discussions on the creation of wordnets – which are semantic networks of word meanings-of many languages of the Tibeto Burman family in the North-East. Subsequently, Prof. Bhattacharyya visited North Bengal University, Siliguri, and held discussions on possible projects on language processing.

Prof. Bhattacharyya supervised a two-day "Dictionary Workshop", organised by the Natural Language Processing group, from 31<sup>st</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2008. IIT Bombay is playing leading roles in nation-wide consortia mode projects involving premier academic institutes and industries of India on Machine Translation and Cross Lingual Information Retrieval, funded by the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology. The main

outcome of the workshop was the clarification of many issues in the Multilingual Dictionary Framework, advanced by IIT Bombay and adopted by many different language processing groups of India for a diverse set of languages.

Prof. Bhattacharyya attended the Global Wordnet Conference on January 22-25, 2008, at Szeged, Hungary. He presented the work done by the Natural Language Processing Group of CSE Department, IIT Bombay, on "Wordnet Evaluation and Multilingual Dictionaries." He also chaired the session on "Statistical Techniques" and participated in the executive meeting of the Global Wordnet Association.

**Prof. Atanu Ghosh**, SJMSOM, was invited to deliver a talk on "Leadership" at the Conference on Emotional Intelligence, organised by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Tata Institute of Social Sciences at Deonar during 30-31 January 2008.

Prof. Ghosh was invited by National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad, to conduct a workshop on "Strategy and Leadership" for the students of Strategic Design Management from 1st to 4th December 2007.

Prof. Ghosh presented the "Findings of Business and Information Technologies Study 2006" at the 2nd International Conference on Management IBSA.ICON 07 held at Ahmedabad, on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2007, and also at the 5th International Conference on E-Governance (ICEG 2007) held at Hyderabad on 28-30 December 2007.

Prof. Ghosh delivered talks on "The Innovative Way of Learning on Leadership: an Experiment at the School of Management, IIT Bombay", at Fr C Rodrigues Institute of Management Studies, Navi Mumbai, on 1st

September and 13th October 2007; at Department of Management Studies, IIT Delhi, on 15th September 2007; at NL Dalmia Institute of Management Studies and Research, Mumbai on 18th October 2007; at the Department of Management Studies, IIT Madras on 13th November 2007; at NID Ahmedabad on 4th December 2008, at S.K.Patel Institute of Management & Computer Studies, Gandhinagar on 26th December 2007; at Emergency Management and Research Institute, Hyderabad on 28th December 2007; at School of Management Studies, JNTU, Hyderabad on 29th December 2007; and to a group of visiting French senior participants from SMEs (organized by ESCP-EAP Business School), Paris, on 14 th January 2008.

**Prof. A.K. Dikshit**, CESE, participated in the International Conference on Biotechnology for Sustainable Development (BSD 2008) organised jointly by NCL Pune and Lund University Germany on January 7-9, 2008. The topic of technical paper was "Biotechnology for Distillery Wastewater Management".

Prof. Dikshit was invited to deliver three talks entitled "EIA of Fertilizer Industry – Case Study 1", "EIA of Fertilizer Industry – Case Study 2", and "GIS Utility in EIA" at the Management Development Programme on 'EIA for Development Projects' organized by National Institute for Industrial Engineering (NITIE), Mumbai on January 29, 2008.

Prof. Dikshit delivered lectures on "Introduction to Artificial Neural Networks", "Air Quality Prediction using Neural Networks", and "Optimization of Wastewater Treatment using MATLAB" at the Short Term Training Programme on 'Marvels of MATLAB in Engineering' organized by the Department of Civil Engineering, Rizvi College of



Engineering, Mumbai, on January 30, 2008.

Prof. Dikshit attended the Indo-French Workshop on "Water and Wastewater" (IFUWWT) held at IIT Madras, February 4-5, 2008, as the Institute Representative and delivered talk on "Waste Management for Urban and Semi-urban Areas" during the workshop. It was resolved during the workshop that Institute members shall participate in joint research projects and shall facilitate exchange of faculty, staff and students between participating Indian and French institutions.

**Prof. Anurag Garg**, CESE, delivered a talk as Guest speaker on "Road Map for the Solid Waste Management" in a seminar on "Solid Waste Management" jointly organized by Kalyan Borivali Municipal Corporation and Birla College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Kalyan, on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

Prof. Garg presented a paper on "Treatment of Pulp and Paper Mill Effluent using Thermo-Chemical Precipitation and Wet Oxidation Processes" in All India Seminar on "Advances in Effluent and Environmental Control Measures in Chemical and Allied Industries" during February 9-10, 2008, at New Delhi, organized by the Institution of Engineers (I), Delhi.

**Prof. Neelima Talwar**, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, presented a paper titled "Technologies of/and Performance in Globalizing India" at the Modern Language Association (MLA) Convention held in Chicago from December 27 to 30, 2007.

Prof. Talwar had meetings on Dec 3, 10 and 12, 2007, with Prof. Gerald Early, Director of the Centre for the Humanities, faculty members associated with the Centre and with Prof.

James V. Wersch, Director, McDonnell International Scholars Academy, Washington University, St. Louis, to discuss pedagogic issues of common interest including the significance of dialogic forms like drama in the rapidly changing world. Areas of further interaction were identified.

**Prof. S. N. Datta**, Department of Chemistry, delivered a series of seminar in North Bengal University during the month of December 2007. The titles covered by him during the seminar were "Theoretical Study of the Electron Transfer Processes Involved in the Z Scheme of Photosynthesis", "Theoretical and Computational Aspects of Magnetic Molecules", "Relativistic Dynamics in a Strong Homogeneous Magnetic Field", "Retarded Boson-Fermion Interaction in Atomic and Molecular Systems".

### Student News

Materials Research Society of India (MRSI) has conferred the G.C. Jain Memorial Prize upon **Dr. R. K. Goyal** for the best Ph.D. thesis in Materials Science for the year 2007. Dr. Goyal completed his thesis entitled "Preparation and Characterization of High Performance Polymer Matrix Composites Based on PEEK and AlN/ Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> Dispersions" under the supervision of Prof. A. N. Tiwari, Department of Metallurgical Engineering & Materials Science.

**Mr. M.S. Chauhan, Mr. Sanjay Singh and Ms. Deepika Upadhyay**, Research Scholars, CESE, attended the International Conference on "Biotechnology for Sustainable Development (BSD 2008)" held at NCL Pune from January 7 to 9, 2008. Mr. Chauhan presented poster on "Decolourisation of Distillery Wastewater: A Biotechnological Approach"; Mr. Singh on "COD and Color Removal of Distillery Spent Wash Using Fungal Bioreactors" and Ms. Upadhyay on "Endosulfan Removal by Bacillus Magetarium Biomass". All technical papers were co-authored with

their doctoral supervisor Prof. A.K. Dikshit.

A paper entitled "Application of Force Sensing Resistor (FSR) for Determination of Plantar Pressure for Diabetic Foot during Normal Walking" by **N.K.Rana and G.G.Ray** was presented at the International Conference on "Sensors, Signal Processing, Communication, Control and Instrumentation" (SSPCCIN-2008), Pune, 3-5 January, 2008. The paper got the "Best Research Paper Award" in the said conference. Mr. N.K.Rana is a Ph.D. scholar who has just submitted his thesis under the guidance of Professor G.G.Ray, Associate Faculty, School of Biosciences and Bioengineering, IITB.

**Mr. Aditya Goyal**, a student of Department of Electrical Engineering, has been selected for the Honda YES Award in India 2007.

A paper submitted by **Mr. S. Bag** a Ph.D student of Department Mechanical Engineering, entitled "Three Dimensional Heat Transfer Modeling of Laser Beam Welding using Adaptive Volumetric Heat Source and GA based Optimization of Absorption Coefficient" at the International Welding Conference, "IIW-IC-2008", held at Chennai from 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> January 2008 was awarded the second best paper.

A paper submitted by **Mr. B. Prabhu**, a Ph.D student of Department Mechanical Engineering, entitled "Probing Void Formation in Friction Stir Welding of 10 mm Thick Similar and Dissimilar Aluminum Alloys" at the International Welding Conference, "IIW-IC-2008", held at Chennai from 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> January 2008, was awarded the third best paper.

### Staff News

**Shri Daulat Jotwani**, Librarian, Central Library, has been awarded the Punjab National Librarian Award-2007 by SATKAL Trust for Advancement of Librarianship for his contributions and professional achievements. The award



was given by Shri Jaganmohan, former Union Minister and Lt. Governor, J&K, at a function held at the Indian International Centre, New Delhi, on January 17, 2008

**Dr. D.N. Phadke**, Asst. Librarian, Central Library, delivered a lecture in a seminar on "Information Literacy: Role of Librarians" under the Quality Improvement Programme of Pune University on December 14, 2007. The programme was organized by Bhartiya Jain Sanghatana Mahavidyalaya at Wagholi, Pune.

### **Publications**

A book authored by **Prof. D. M. Dhamdhare** of Computer Science and Engineering Department, entitled "Operating Systems-A Concept-Based Approach" has been published by McGraw Hill, US. The book is developed as a text for the first course in operating systems. It covers the concepts, techniques and case studies of conventional and distributed operating systems in a well-integrated manner. The book is in its second edition in India, and is widely used in Indian universities. It has also been published as a Chinese edition and as an international edition.

Two papers by viz "Relationship between Prospective and Retrospective Memory: A Questionnaire Based Study" and "Role of Meta-memory and Demography in Prospective and Retrospective Memory" by **Dr. Azizuddin Khan**, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, have been accepted and published in Psychological Studies, Volume 52(2), 2007, and Journal of Psychosocial Research, 2(2), 63-75.

### **Seminars/Colloquia/ Lectures**

#### **Department of Civil Engineering**

**Prof. Jacob Steen Moller**, Head of Civil Engineering Department, Technical University of Denmark, delivered a lecture on "Applied Oceanography and Hydrodynamics" on February 8, 2008.

#### **Department of Mathematics**

**Dr. Anupam Kumar Singh**, IMSc, Chennai delivered a colloquium lecture entitled "Real Elements in Spin Groups" on January 28, 2008

**Prof. C.S. Rajan**, TIFR, Mumbai, delivered a colloquium lecture titled "Spectrum and Arithmetic" on January 29, 2008

**Dr. P. Zvengrowski**, University of Calgary, delivered a colloquium on "Riemann and his Zeta Function" on January 31, 2008

**Dr. P. Zvengrowski**, University of Calgary, delivered a seminar on "Vector Bundles flag manifolds and Stiefel manifolds" on January 30, 2008

#### **Department of Metallurgical Engineering & Materials Science**

**Prof. Mukesh Jain**, Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, McMaster University, Canada, delivered a seminar on "Automotive Forming Research at McMaster University" on February 13, 2008

**Prof. John F. Wong**, Institute of Physical Chemistry, RWTH Aachen University, Germany delivered a seminar on "Microgels and Magnetic Nanoparticles: a Layered Approach" on March 5, 2008

**Prof. Raman Singh**, Department of Mechanical & Chemical Engineering,

Monash University, Australia, delivered a seminar on "Corrosion Research at Monash" on February 5, 2008

**Dr. Lars Halldahl**, CMD, Hot Disk, Sweden, delivered a seminar on "How to measure Thermal Conductivity" on February 5, 2008

**Mr. Gunjan Bharadwaj**, Management Consultant of Ernst & Young, Germany, delivered a seminar on "Financial Advisory Environment Innovation Management: German Perspective" on January 23, 2008.

#### **Department of Physics**

**Dr. Shiraz Minwalla**, TIFR, delivered a seminar on "The Gravity-Gauge Theory Correspondence." on February 17, 2008.

**Dr. Gagan Bihari Mohanty**, University of Warwick, delivered a seminar on "Charm of the Charmless - Results on Hadronic B Decays from BaBar" on February 29, 2008.

**Dr. Subhendu Rakshit**, Universitaat Dortmund, Germany delivered a seminar on "Ice Fishing for Neutrinos" on February 27, 2008.

**Prof. Govind P. Agrawal**, University of Rochester, USA delivered a seminar on "The Institute of Optics" on March 6, 2008.

**Dr. Deepak Kasinathan**, Max Planck Institute for Chemical Physics of Solids, Germany delivered a seminar on "Unusual Magnetic Properties in CuSb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub> & Cs<sub>2</sub>AgF<sub>4</sub> driven by Orbital Ordering" on January 24, 2008.

**Dr. Shouvik Datta**, University of Oregon, USA delivered a seminar on "Experimental Evidence of Configurational Relaxation of Oxygen Defects in Hydrogenated Amorphous



Silicon-Germanium Alloys" on January 15, 2008.

**Dr. Apratim Chatterji**, Soft Matter and Biophysics Group, Research Center, Germany delivered a seminar on "Electrophoresis of Highly Charged colloids" on January 16, 2008.

**Dr. Shubhrangshe Dasgupta**, University of Toronto, Canada delivered a seminar on "Coherent control of light with matter and vice versa" on January 9, 2008.

**School of Biosciences & Bioengineering**

**Dr. Shyam Biswal**, Associate Professor of Toxicology, Pulmonary and Oncology, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, U.S.A, delivered a seminar on "KEAP1 - NRF2 pathway: A critical Player in Environmental Stress Response and Modifier of Inflammatory Diseases" on February 9, 2008

**Dr. Avinash G. Patwardhan**, Professor, Orthopaedic Surgery & Rehab, U.S.A, delivered a seminar on "Biomechanical Assessment of Innovative Technologies in the Treatment of Back Pain" on February 13, 2008.

**Dr. Lara R**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA, delivered a seminar on "The Bacteroides NBU1 Integrase: An unusual Tyrosine recombinase" on February 20, 2008

**Dr. Deepak Barua**, Harvard University, USA, delivered a seminar on "Functional plant ecology: from Genes to Complex Phenotypes" on February 29, 2008.

**Dr. Padman K. Qasba**, Chief, Structural Glycobiology Section, NCI FCRE, NIH delivered a seminar on "Structure-Function Studies on Glyco-

syltransferases and Design of Novel Glycosyltransferases with Vast Biological Applications" on February 4, 2008

**Prof. P. I. Pradeepkumar**, Department of Chemistry delivered a seminar on "Novel Deoxyribozymes for Bioorganic Reactions" on January 16, 2008

**Centre for Environmental Science and Engineering**

**Prof. Sherwood Rowland**, Nobel Laureate, Department of Chemistry, University of California, USA, delivered a lecture on "Stratospheric Ozone Depletion by Chlorofluorocarbons" on February 11, 2008

**Public Lecture**

**Prof. Carlo Rubia**, Nobel Laureate in Physics, delivered a lecture on "Dark Matter in the Universe" on February 9, 2008.

**Workshops**

A three-day workshop on 'Natural Language Processing (NLP)' was held at the Center for Indian Language Technology (CFILT), CSE Department, IIT Bombay, on 16-18 January, 2008. There were presentations by the NLP groups of Chalmers University, Sweden, and IIT Bombay, led respectively by Prof. K. Prasad and Prof. Pushpak Bhattacharyya. The former group primarily spoke of their longstanding work on Grammatical Formalism, an old framework of NLP, based on functional programming. The IITB team presented their multi-faceted work on semantics, shallow parsing, cross lingual search, wordnets, etc. Both the groups will explore possibilities of focused joint work on NLP.

**Workshop at Aizwal (Mizoram)**



A workshop on "New Designs, Tools and Technologies" was held at Aizwal, Mizoram, for craft persons from Mizoram by the design team of IDC (Industrial Design Center), IIT Bombay as a part of KVIC- sponsored project "Mini Bamboo Clusters". The workshop was conducted from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> January 2008 under the expert guidance of Prof. A. G. Rao of IDC and Mr. Ramhangaia of Hham Chhantu Pawl, an NGO which organised the workshop backed by KVIC. The participants were trained to make products applying simple techniques using machines and moulds. Several products were made during the training imparted by IDC.

Trainers for this workshop included IDC Bamboo team Mr. Sachin (Designer), Niranjan Rudrapal (Skilled craftsman), Gangamma Gowd (Skilled crafts instructor), Mr. Shankar Bala (Mould Maker); back up team at IDC Mrs. Shubhangi Ramugade and Mr. Pradhan.

**News from IIT Hospital**

Alcoholic Anonymous (AA) at IIT Hospital successfully completed one year on 19-02-2008. Mr. Tukaram Zore has been active member of AA and has contributed extensively towards its success.

Mr. Alphonso D'Souza, Hospital Medical Social Worker (M.S.W.), is enthusiastically conducting meetings



and helping people to abstain from alcohol. Mr. Anand Bhuyal is one of the beneficiary. He is away from alcohol for one year, since he started attending the meetings. Other Members who

benefited from Alcoholic Anonymous (AA) in past are: Mr. Balu Gopal Bhure, Mr. Anand Shantaram Bhuyal, Mr. Ramesh, Mr. Prabhakar, and Mr. Tukaram Zore.

**“Development through Planning, Market or Decentralization?”  
January 21-23, 2008**

The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences organised a seminar on “Development through Planning, Market or Decentralization?”, as a part of the Golden Jubilee activities of the Institute. Prof. L.M. Bhole was the Convener and Professors A. Ramanathan and K. Narayanan were the Co-conveners of the Seminar. In all, 74 delegates registered and participated in the seminar. From outside India, scholars from the University of Lancaster, United Kingdom, and Graduate Institute of Development Studies, Switzerland, participated. The Indian participants came from several academic institutions – universities and research institutions, Reserve Bank of India, NABARD, ICRIER, and trading organisations like Multi Commodity Exchange [MCX].

In addition to the inaugural and concluding sessions, the seminar had nine technical sessions. The inaugural keynote address was delivered by Mrs. Shyamala Gopinath, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India. Professor Juzer Vasi, Deputy Director, IIT Bombay, gave the Chairperson’s Address, and Prof. L.M. Bhole gave Introduction to the seminar. The session started with a Welcome Speech by Professor Meenakshi Gupta, Head, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, IIT Bombay, and concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Prof. A. Ramanathan. The Concluding Session was chaired by Professor Meenakshi Gupta and the Multi Commodity Exchange, (MCX) gave a presentation on “Carbon Trading and Economic Development”. Professor K. Narayanan gave the Vote of Thanks.

In all, 21 research papers were presented in the nine technical sessions. The technical sessions covered most of the sub-themes listed for the seminar. Each session was chaired by an eminent person who also gave detailed comments on the papers presented. It was followed by discussion from the floor. The discussions emphasised the interdisciplinary nature of the issues.

Since the participants came from different backgrounds – science, technology, economics, business schools and other social sciences – discussions were lively, and participation rates very high. We intend to publish the seminar papers after peer reviewing from the point of view of publication.

The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development [NABARD], Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX), and Lupin Industries provided funds that enabled us to conduct the seminar.

**News from CDEEP**

**Inauguration of Live Webcast Courses**

The Centre for Distance Engineering Education Programme (CDEEP) formally inaugurated their latest programme, LiveWebcast Courses, on 19 January 2008. The inaugural function was held at IIT Bombay and addressed by eminent dignitaries including Prof. Ashok Misra, Director, Mr. M Bharadwaj, Director, Technical Education, Gujarat, and Mr. A. A. Ghatol, Vice Chancellor, BATU.

Started in 2003, CDEEP is the educational outreach programme of IITB. Its mission is to offer courses taught by expert faculty in various fields of engineering and science to a large number of participants across the globe.

CDEEP is now webcasting live courses from IITB. It will start by offering six courses. Anyone can freely access the webcasts across the globe. The only requirement is a personal computer with an internet connection and 100kbps bandwidth. Through live webcasts, participants can view IITB courses by going to <http://www.cdeep.iitb.ac.in/solo/>. To register for value-added services, it is necessary to pay Rs 1000 per course. On registration, participants can use services like the Learning Management System (LMS) and Video On Demand (VOD). If a student is not able to view the live webcasts, he can access them later with the VOD service. Those registering with the website will get a certificate of participation from IITB.

CDEEP organized a 2-day workshop on 19& 20 January 2008 for nearly 30 teachers from colleges in Gujarat and Maharashtra. All these colleges intend to access the live webcast courses, thus providing additional technical content to their students. The workshop will familiarize the teachers with all aspects



of the webcast courses. They will also learn how to effectively use the Learning Management System (LMS) which is now being used in IITB to further the interaction between students and faculty.

The LMS used in IITB is Moodle which allows students to put up queries for the faculty members outside class hours. Moreover, instructional material like course notes, assignments, question papers and solutions are posted on Moodle. It also serves the purpose of a discussion forum for students. The teacher can create different threads of discussion, like doubts on lectures and assignments, and all the students can participate in them. Thus, students at IITB as well as those participating in the live webcasts have similar access to all the material associated with the course. This effectively allows participants of the webcasts to study and work with IITB students.

### **New Office of Dean (RM)**

The new Dean(RM) office on the Main Building first floor was inaugurated by Mr. Victor Menezes and Prof. Ashok Misra on January 8, 2008. Prof. S. P. Sukhatme, Mr. Ajit Ranade, Distinguished member of the IITB Advisory Council, faculty members, officers and staff members were present on the occasion

### **Research Scholars' Forum**

Empowering Research Scholars: Interactive Workshop Session on Right to Information

Research Scholars' Forum (RSF) of IIT Bombay kick-started its round of activities scheduled for 2008 by organizing an interactive talk on "Empowering Yourself with Right to Information" on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2008. The

session was conducted by Mr. Shailesh Gandhi, a distinguished alumnus of IIT Bombay, who is also the Convener of the National Campaign for People's Right to Information (NCPRI), and an indefatigable voice for transparency and democracy. He spoke about the intricacies of RTI, and gave some examples from his first-hand experience as a contributor to this field. Highlighting some of the success stories, Mr. Gandhi said that it is possible to attain the ideal of "Swaraj" if each citizen of our country decides to uphold the values of the nation. The talk was well attended by faculty and research scholars.

### **Appointments**

**Prof. Alok Dey** has been appointed as a Visiting Professor in the Department of Mathematics from February 4, 2008, for a period of two weeks.

**Dr. Arnab Bhattacharya** has been appointed as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering from January 21, 2008, for a period of two years.

**Prof. U. A. Yajnik**, Department of Physics has been appointed as the Head of the Computer Centre vice Prof. Anurag Mehra from February 1, 2008, for a period of three years.

**Prof. Raman S. Srinivasa**, Department of Met. Engg. & Materials Science, has been appointed as the Head of the Centre for Research in Nanotechnology and Science (CRNTS) vice Prof. K. C. Khilar from January 31, 2008, for a period of three years.

**Shri Dinesh Sharma** has been appointed a Lecturer (Sr. Scale) (Contract) in the Shailesh J. Mehta School of Management from January 21, 2008, for a period of six months.

**Dr. Mukesh Jain** has been appointed as a Visiting Associate Professor in the Department of Metallurgical Engineering & Materials Sciences from January 24, 2008, for a period of seven months.

**Dr. Ganesh A. Viswanathan** has been appointed as an Assistant Professor (Contract) in the Department of Chemical Engineering from January 21, 2008, for a period of two years.

**Prof. Peter Zvengrowski** has been appointed as a Visiting Professor in the Department of Mathematics from January 21, 2008, for a period of one month.

**Prof. Anurag Mehra**, Department of Chemical Engineering, has been appointed as the Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering vice Prof. A. K. Suresh from January 21, 2008, for a period of three years.

**Dr. Mohammed Aslam** has been appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physics from January 7, 2008.

**Dr. (Ms.) Trupti Mishra** has been appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Shailesh J. Mehta School of Management from January 11, 2008.

**Dr. Mandar M. Deshmukh** has been appointed as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering from January 8, 2008, for a period of two years.

**Dr. Sameer Sapra** has been appointed as an Assistant Professor (Contract) in the Department of Chemistry from January 9, 2008, for a period of two years.

**Retirements**

as on 29.02.2008

1. Shri B.L. Dhiwar  
Hospital
2. Shri S.B. Filse  
Department of Mechanical Engg.
3. Shri B.B. Kamble  
Security Section
4. Shri B.T. Kale  
Central Stores
5. Shri S.L. Fernandes  
Department of Chemical Engg.

as on 31.03.2008

1. Shri K. G. Sawale  
Accounts Section
2. Shri A.V. Prasad Rao  
Accounts Section
3. Shri O.P. Jayachandran  
Hostel No. 3

**Events**

CEP Courses

No.	Course Title	Coordinator / Department	Date
1	Spring Course on Human Interaction	Prof. A. N. Joshi IDC	February 05 - 15
2	Piping Engineering (Venue: IITB Golden Jubilee Extension Centre, Gujarat)	Prof. A. S. Moharir Chemical Engineering	February 07 - 11
3	Piping Engineering (Venue: Dubai, UAE)	Prof. A. S. Moharir Chemical Engineering	February 16 - 28
4	CNC Programme	Prof. K. P. Karunakaran Mechanical Engineering	February 18 - 22
5	Rheology of Complex Fluids	Prof. D. V. Khakhar Chemical Engineering	February 18 - 22
6	Nonlinear Dynamics and Chaos	Prof. H. R. Srirangarajan Mechanical Engineering	February 18
7	Thermal Analysis of Welding (For Steel Authority of India Ltd., Bhilai Steel Plant, Bhilai)	Prof. A. De Mechanical Engineering	February 18 - 21
8	Cryocoolers - Theory, Design and Practice	Prof. M. Atrey Mechanical Engineering	February 19 - 22
9	Service Oriented Architectures with Web Services	Prof. U. Belur Compter Sc. & Engg.	February 19 - 22
10	Low Cost Hi-Tech Automation (Venue: Bhuj, Gujarat)	Prof. N. Ramakrishnan Mechanical Engineering	February 20 - 24
11	Quantitative Risk Assessment (for Chilworth Ltd., Mumbai)	Prof. S. Roy Chemical Engineering	February 20 - 23
12	Mathematic for Teachers	Prof. I. K. Rana Mathematics	February 24

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