


REPORT OF THE EXPERT COMMITTEE THAT VISITED ~~CHENNAI MATHEMATICAL INSTITUTE~~ ~~CHENNAI~~ TO CONSIDER FOR THE GRANT OF DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY STATUS


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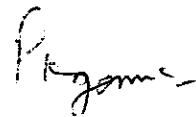
1.0 Introduction

The Chennai mathematical Institute (CMI) had sent an application in December 2005 to MHRD for grant of Deemed to be University status to the Institute under "De-novo" category. The MHRD forwarded their proposal to UGC and requested for the recommendations of UGC. Accordingly, the Chairman UGC had constituted an Expert Committee to consider the proposal of Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI), SIPCOT IT Park, Siruseri, Chennai- 603 103 for the grant of Deemed to be University status under "De-novo" category. The composition of the Committee is given below;

1. Prof. R.P. Bamba  
Former Vice-Chancellor  
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2. Prof. Karmeshu  
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3. Prof. Pawan K. Jain  
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4. Dr. K. Gunasekaran  
Joint Secretary  
University Grants Commission  
Bahadurshah Zafar Marg  
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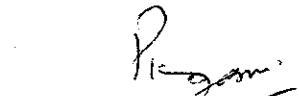
The above Committee visited Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI) on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2006 and had an extensive discussion with the Director, Faculty Members and students. It also inspected the infrastructure facilities available in the Institute in the form of library, computer centre, class rooms, faculty office; etc.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND OF THE INSTITUTION

The Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI) was established in 1989 through the initiative of Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation (SPIC) in Chennai. Prof. C.S. Seshadri, an eminent internationally renowned

  
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mathematician and a former Professor of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), a Fellow of the Royal Society, U.K. and a National Research Professor has been the Director of the Institute since its inception. The faculty of the Institute at present consists of distinguished mathematicians, computer scientists and physicists. Among its faculty, CMI has several Adjunct Professors most of whom spend a large part of their time in CMI and a good number of them are in-house members of the Institute. **Appendix-A** gives the names of **faculty members and Non-teaching staff** of Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI).

**Appendix-B** gives the profile and **list of publication** of the faculty members of Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI).

**Appendix -C** gives the **list of Ph. D.** produced by Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI) from its inception.


**Appendix-D** gives the **placement** of the students of **Undergraduate and Postgraduate** programmes right from inception.

**Appendix-E** gives the dates of the meetings of **Governing Body and Advisory Committees** of the Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI)

**Appendix-F** gives the **academic achievements** of Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI) as on date.

  
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As on date, CMI has received the donations from private agencies / individuals as per the details given below:

- |    |  |   |                          |
|----|--|---|--------------------------|
| 1. | SPIC   | : | Rs.4.00 Crores (Approx.) |
| 2. | Sriram Group of Companies                                      | : | Rs.2.25 Crores (Approx.) |
| 3. | Shri N. Prasad   | : | Rs.1.00 Crore            |
| 4. | Chennai Willingdon Corporate Foundation                        | : | Rs. 0.50 Crores          |
| 5. | Infosys  | : | Rs.0.25 Crores           |
| 6. | Contribution from Mathematicians and The Trusts set up by them | : | Rs.0.50 Crores           |

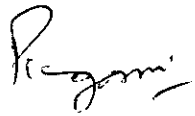
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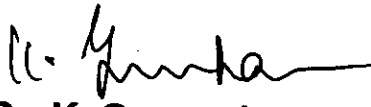
Rs.8.50 Crores

Atomic Energy Commission has agreed to make the full recurring cost of Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI) which is at present Rs.2.37 Crores per annum.

  
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The proposal to take over Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI) was approved by Atomic Energy Commission but still pending for further consideration by the Govt. of India.

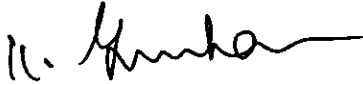
### 3.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI) has proven in the short period of its existence that it has a good blend of research and teaching in the frontier areas of mathematical sciences. Eminent faculty/scholars of the Institute are motivating the youngsters to pursue exciting career in mathematical sciences. This in turn has encouraged many young bright students from all over the country to pursue courses of study right from undergraduate level to Ph.D.
- 3.2 Admission of the students is done through an admission test conducted on all India basis through which the Institute is able to attract highly motivated and talented students. Based on extensive interaction with the students, the Committee was very much impressed with the quality of students.
- 3.3 The Committee appreciated the general philosophy of the Institute to nurture excellence. In the backdrop of general situation that exists in the present higher education system, it is not surprising to note that only a few

  
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outstanding students join the Institute. Further, it was heartening to note that some of the students who joined this Institute also had offers of admission in very popular courses in reputed Institution like IIT. It is hoped that in the coming years, when more students become aware of the excitement and opportunities in basic sciences, more students will opt for science education in general and mathematical science education in particular and make use of the facilities and expertise available in this Institute and similar institutions.


3.4 On the basis of discussion with the Director and faculty members, the Committee learnt that the search for high quality faculty is very thorough and rigorous. Quality is the only criterion in their selection. It is very important to emphasize that the Institute has been able to attract and retain the quality teachers for several years, despite the fact that many mathematical institutions are in the vicinity of Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI).

3.5 The Committee went through the research publications of the faculty and found that research contribution is of high quality. This is evident from the articles that have been published in the Internationally reputed research journals. It needs to be emphasized that quality of publications in the area of Theoretical Computer Science is also of high quality. This is in contrast to the existing situation prevailing in other institutions. It is refreshing to find that some faculty members and students have left jobs in IT sector and opted to join the Institute.

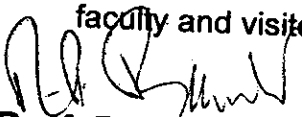
  
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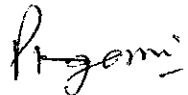
  
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- 3.6 The training of students is very rigorous which prepares them to take up for their study in the emerging areas. Many of the students after the undergraduate training have got admission in best of the Institutions in India and abroad. Many of them have opted to pursue career in academics.
- 3.7 The Committee noted the lack of experimental facilities for pursuing courses in physics. The Committee was informed that CMI has made inter-institutional arrangement with IIT Madras, IGCAR, Kalpakam and Homi Bhabha Center for Science Education, Mumbai. This arrangement has enabled the students to be exposed with the best of the experimental facilities.
- 3.8 The Committee is in total agreement that the insistence on quality is imperative and the future development in other areas like Systems biology, Financial/Actuarial Mathematics, which the Institute may like to develop in future, should be in conformity with this basic philosophy.
- 3.9 The Committee also opines with the recommendations made by Atomic Energy Commission and other National Funding Agencies like DST that CMI should have greater interaction and impact on the research and teaching in colleges and universities. They are advised to organize short term programmes for teachers and young research scholars from the university system. On the lines of IUCAA, the Institute might also provide opportunities for the young research workers to spend some time at Institute pursuing their own research interests and interacting with the faculty and visitors.

  
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