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Email: bppimtnewsletter@bppimt.ac.in

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Chief Advisor: Prof (Dr.) Sutapa Mukherjee

Editor in Chief: Prof (Dr.) B.N. Chatterji



Remembering P. C. Mahalanobis -The Great Statistician



Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, born on 29 June 1893, was an Indian Scientist and Applied Statistician. He is best remembered for the Mahalanobis distance, a statistical measure. He made pioneering studies in anthropometry in India. He founded the Indian Statistical Institute, and also contributed to the design of large-scale sample surveys. He passed matriculation examination in 1908 from the Brahma Boys School in Calcutta. Entering Presidency College, Calcutta in 1908, Mahalanobis passed the Intermediate Examination in science two years later and graduated with a B.Sc. with honours in physics in 1912. He matriculated from King's College in Cambridge in October 1913 and passed Part I of the mathematical tripos in 1914. He then transferred to the natural sciences tripos, obtained a first class pass in Part II in 1915 and was awarded a Senior Scholarship by King's College. In Cambridge, he became friendly with Srinivasa Ramanujan.

He returned to India in July 1915 to take a short holiday before beginning his research project. And here he was introduced to the Principal of Presidency College and was invited to take classes in Physics. He went back to England and was introduced to the journal *Biometrika*. This journal created great interest in him and he returned India with a complete set of this journal. He discovered the utility of Statistics in the problems of Meteorology, Anthropology and began working on it on his journey back to India. This interest in Statistics did not change the career path of Mahalanobis who was appointed as Professor of Physics at Presidency College in 1922. He continued to teach Physics at the College for the next thirty years but during this time he brought about profound changes which influenced the future development of Statistics in India. Many colleagues of Mahalanobis took an interest in Statistics and the group grew in the Statistical Laboratory located in his room at the Presidency College, Calcutta. Gradually the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) was established and formally registered on 28 April 1932. The other major achievement of Mahalanobis was the founding of the Statistics journal *Sankhya* in 1933. Mahalanobis received many honours for his remarkable contributions to the development of Statistics and to life in India. For example he was awarded the Weldon Medal and prize from Oxford University (1944), the Sir Deviprasad Sarvadhikari Gold Medal (1957), the Gold Medal from the Czech Academy of Sciences (1964), and the Durgaprasad Khaitan Gold Medal from the Asiatic Society (1968). He was the President of the Indian Science Congress in 1950 and President of the International Statistical Institute in 1957. He was elected a fellow of many societies and academies such as: the Royal Society of London (1945), the Econometric Society, United States (1951), the Pakistan Statistical Association (1952), the Royal Statistical Society, U.K. (1954), the USSR Academy of Sciences (1958), and the American Statistical Association (1961). He received honorary degrees from the University of Calcutta (1957), Sofia University (1961) and the University of Delhi (1964). In 1959 he was elected an Honorary Fellow of King's College, Cambridge. In 1968 the Government of India awarded him the Padma Vibhushan. This great son of India passed away on 28 June 1972.

ACADEMIC NEWS:

Publications:

Books:

Jayeeta Chanda, Ananya Kanjilal, Sabnam Sengupta, Swapan Bhattacharya, "Transformation Framework for Consistent Evolution of UML Behavioral Elements into BPMN Design Element", Handbook on Web Services Foundations, Springer, pp. 273-289, ISBN: 978-1-4614-7517-0.

Rikhiya Dhar, Piyanka Dhar, & Ranajit Dhar, "Optimal Control Problems in Hyperthermia", Lap Lambert Academic Publishing, ISBN-13: 978-3659490484.

Journals:

M. H. Khan, S. Pal, E. Bose, "A study on magnetic, specific heat and resistivity properties in $\text{Ca}_{0.85}\text{Eu}_{0.15}\text{MnO}_3$ around the phase transition temperature", Journal of Magnetism and Magnetic Materials **357**, 24-28 (May 2014), Impact factor: 1.826, ISSN: 0304-8853.

Amlan Raychaudhuri, Arkadev Roy, Ashesh Das, Gourav Kumar Shaw, Pratik Kumar Mitra, "Moving Object Detection using Differential Evolution", International Journal of Soft Computing & Engg. (IJSCE), **4** (2), 170-173 (May 2014), Impact factor: 1.117, Global impact factor: 0.415, ISSN (Online): 2231-2307.

Soumitra Singh, Partha Sarathi Chakraborty, "Datamining for generation, fetching & display of production data of a large scale organization", International Journal of Information Systems Management Research and Development, **4** (1), 25-28 (June 2014), Impact factor (JCC):1.4174, ISSN: 2250-236X



Balaram Ghosal, Asim Kumar Panda, "Li-Fi A Green Energy Initiative", International Journal of Computer Applications, **95** (11), 1-4 (June 14), Impact Factor: 0.821, ISBN: 973-93-80882-11-6

Pratap Chanda Mandal, "Study of Steganography Techniques Using Discrete Wavelet Transform", Journal of Global research in Computer Science, **5** (5), 7-14 (May 2014), Impact Factor: 0.92, , ISSN: 2229-371X

Sudipta Pal, Esa Bose, "Structural, magnetic and transport properties of $\text{Gd}_{0.7}\text{Ca}_{0.3}\text{MnO}_3$ and $\text{Gd}_{0.7}\text{Ca}_{0.3}\text{CrO}_3$: A comparative study", Physics Express, 2014, **4**: 3 (without Impact Factor).



Conference:

Anindita Ray and **Debashis De**, "Level Wise Initial Energy Assignment in Wireless Sensor Network for Better Network Lifetime", 2nd International Conference on Advanced Computing, Networking and Informatics (ICACNI) **2**, 67-74, (24-26 June 2014), ISBN (Print) 978-3-319-07349-1, ISBN (Online) 978-3-319-07350-7.

Participation

Pratap Chandra Mandal, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Computer Application attended a workshop on "Mobile Application Development using Android" conducted by Infosys Limited, Bhubaneswar at Netaji Subhash Engineering College from 21st to 23rd April 2014.

INSTITUTIONAL NEWS:

PATW 2014



The inauguration ceremony of PATW-2014 was held in our Institute on 5th April 2014. PATW is a three level competition organized by IET-UK to encourage young, aspiring, budding engineers to showcase their skills and technical knowhow. The three stages are Regional level, National Level and International Level. The Regional Level competition was organized by IET YP Section Kolkata Local Network from 5th April to 23rd April 2014.

Four Engineering Colleges of West Bengal have been selected as venues for Technical Sessions. Prof. (Dr.) Sutapa Mukherjee, our Principal was member of the Advisory panel and Ms. Tista Banerjee, Asst. Prof. (EE) was present as organizing chair of the Regional Level Programme.

Twenty five students of BPPIMT took part in the competition. Six of them qualified for contesting in the final round of the Regional Level Competition which was held at the auditorium of Greenland Inn, Kolkata on 23rd April 2014. Among them Nayanranjan Das (EE 2nd Year) was selected as best speaker and short listed for participation at National Level competition He presented a paper on 'Development of Batteries in Automobile Industries.'

University Semester Exam

The semester examination of WBUT was held successfully from 27th May - 10th June 2014. The Practical Examination was conducted during 10-13th May, 2014. Ms. Nandita Sanyal was the officer-in-charge, and Dr. Papri Saha and Mr. Surajit Mandal served in the capacity of supervisors.

