

**IEEE India Bulletin Vol. 12 No. 2 November 2004****INDEX****Features**

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**ISSUE SPONSORED BY DELHI SECTION****Fourteenth Year of Publication****CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

Dear fellow members,

Congrats to Madras section on forming a total of 92 Student Branches so far and we sincerely hope and wish that before the year end they would reach the magical number of 100 and thus be the first ever section to have 100 Student Branches.

Another potential signal growth, of which we play a major role is the Region 10 membership. Region 10 is slowly inching towards becoming the largest Region in IEEE World wide and proving that IEEE indeed is transnational and knows no boundaries. Request conduct an aggressive membership drive all over India so that we can help Region 10 become the largest one in IEEE.

The slate for the India Council executive committee for the year 2005 has been submitted by the Chair of the IC Nominations Committee Mr H L Bajaj. The slate is published elsewhere in this bulletin.

In an earlier issue of the bulletin, the need for a subsistence funding of the Council was brought up with a proposal. Looks like that we have no alternative but to go in for a Council assessment added to each Indian member's annual dues. The IC AGM in Dec 2004 will deliberate this proposal.

The prestigious annual event of IEEE in India viz. "INDICON 2004" is scheduled to be held at IIT Kharagpur between Dec 20 to 22, 2004. Preparations are underway and all are once again requested to participate. Another important annual event for the student members is the India Council's M V Chauhan Students' Paper Contest 2004. Please visit the India Council web site for details.

Looking forward to your active support and participation in IEEE activities,

with best wishes and regards,

**R. MURALIDHARAN**

Chairman - IEEE India Council

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**EDITOR'S DESK**

Be it in home front or work place, have we all not noticed on several occasions that a single word or sentence we uttered, has led to a chain of unpleasant developments? How many times have we not regretted for what we spoke!

◆**I have often regretted having spoken, never having kept silent**◆

◆The most basic and powerful way to connect to another person is to listen. Just listen. Perhaps the most important thing we ever give each other is our attention◆. A loving silence often has far more power to heal and to connect than the most well-intentioned words◆ These words of R.N. Remen make perfect sense in this context.

◆Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter◆ **Martin Luther King, Jr**

That doesn◆t mean that one should always keep the mouth shut to escape from hassles. A well thought out comment at certain occasions helping to ease tension or leading to a solution has often been noticed by all of us. But they are well timed & worded - a combination very difficult to practice always.

◆It is as important to cultivate your *silence power* as your *word power*◆

- **William James**

Finally, conscience -the mentor within us- is a wonderful arbiter telling us when and what to speak. If you go by its timely advices, silence and speech could be judiciously used for a rich living in society - helping others and at the same time enjoying our life.

Trivandrum

1 Nov '04

**N.T.Nair**

Editor

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<b>IEEE NEWS AND EVENTS</b>
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IEEE INDIA COUNCIL

PROPOSED SLATE FOR 2005

<b>S. N.</b>	<b>POST</b>	<b>SECTION</b>	<b>NAME</b>
1	Chair	Delhi	<b>SHRI RAJENDRA K. ASTHANA</b>
2	Exe. Vice Chair	Kerala	<b>SHRI N. T. NAIR</b>
3	Secretary / Treasurer	Delhi	<b>DR. RAM NATH</b>
4	Immediate Past Chair	Mumbai	<b>SHRI R. MURALIDHARAN</b>
5	VC - Professional Activities	Delhi	<b>SHRI R. K. VIR</b>
6	VC - Student Activities	Mumbai	<b>DR. M. M. SHAH</b>
7	VC - Technical Activities	U. P.	<b>DR. S. C. SRIVASTAVA</b>
8	VC - Educational Activities	Hyderabad	<b>DR. ARUN AGARWAL</b>
9	VC - Membership Devel.	Bangalore	<b>PROF. K. RAJAGOPAL</b>
10	News Letter Editor	Kerala	<b>SHRI N. T. NAIR</b>
11	Ombudsman	Chennai	<b>DR. N. M. PARTHASARATHY</b>
12	Member at Large	Vadodara	<b>DR. A. K. AGGARWAL</b>

13

Member at Large

Kolkatta

**Dr. N. CHATTERJEE****H. L. BAJAJ Dr. H. P. KHINCHA****P. K. SRIVASTAVA**

Chairman

Member

Member

**IEEE-Distinguished Lecture Program**

Prof Ajit K Chattopadhyay, IEEE Fellow, IEEE-IAS Distinguished Lecturer and IEEE-IAS Calcutta Chair, Emeritus Professor, Electrical Engg Dept, BESU (Bengal Engineering and Science University), Howrah, visited Thailand, China and Malaysia in September 2004 and delivered invited tutorial lectures at the following IEEE forums under the IEEE Distinguished Lecture Program on **Power Electronics -Past, Present and Future**.

- ◆ ◆ PES Chapter of IEEE-Thailand Section at NECTEC Training Center, Bangkok
- ◆ ◆ IAS Beijing Chapter of IEEE China Section, at No. 21 Research Institute of CETC, Shanghai, China
- ◆ ◆ IAS Beijing Chapter of IEEE China Section, at the Tsinghua University, Beijing, China
- ◆ ◆ Joint IAS/IES/PELS Chapter of IEEE Malaysia Section at Multimedia University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

**Untiring Love- A true story**

In order to renovate the house, someone in Japan tore open the wall. Japanese houses normally have a hollow space between the wooden walls. When tearing down the walls, he found that there was a lizard stuck there because a nail from outside was hammered into one of its feet. He saw this, felt pity, and at the same time he was curious. When he checked the nail, turns out, it was nailed 10 years ago when the house was first built. What happened? The lizard had survived in such a position for 10 years! In a dark wall partition for 10 years without moving, it is impossible and mind-boggling. Then he wondered how this lizard survived for 10 years without moving a single step--since its foot was nailed! So he stopped his work and observed the lizard, what it had been doing, and what and how it had been eating. Later, not knowing from where it came appeared another lizard, with food in its mouth. Ahh! He was stunned and at the same time, touched deeply. Another lizard had been feeding the stuck one for the past 10 years...

Such love, such a beautiful love! Such love happened with this tiny creature... What can love do? It can do wonders! Love can perform miracles! Just think about it; one lizard had been feeding the other one untiringly for 10 long years, without giving up hope on its partner.

If a small creature like a lizard can love like this... just imagine how we can love if we try!

**Technology in Brief****Super-strong Fibres**

One of the most intriguing properties of carbon nanotubes, large molecules that could prove a basic building block for nanotech, is their potential to form superstrong materials. Fibres made of nanotubes are potentially 10 times stronger than the strongest existing commercial fibres. Now researchers at **Rice University** say they have improved methods for manufacturing fibres made of single-walled carbon nanotubes. The improved manufacturing methods could potentially make large-scale production of the super strong fibres commercially viable.

**Real-time Doctoring**

A British firm has developed a prototype medical monitor that, when implanted under a patient's skin, would transmit data about heart rate, temperature and blood pressure.

Ubicare's new monitor is the size of a coin and would provide a physiological context to help cardiologists treat patients and better predict coronary episodes. Data collected at a secure server site would accumulate information to give insight into trends, environmental risk factors and other historical patient medical information. For more details, visit:

<<http://www.thefeature.com/article?articleid=101127>>

### **Bright Lights, Little Battery**

Organic light-emitting diodes have been touted as a brighter and less power-hungry alternative to the standard liquid-crystal displays found in cell phones and other devices. Novald, a startup in Dresden, Germany, aims to make OLEDs even more attractive by doubling their energy efficiency. The Novald researchers infuse the outer, organic, layers of the multilayer diode with small amounts of another organic material, in much the way that chip makers dope semiconductors. The added molecules boost the layers' electrical conductivity and thus reduce the amount of power the diode loses as heat. The company has already made a more energy-efficient green OLED, says CEO Gildas Sorin. It is close to doubling the efficiency of the red and blue OLEDs that would also be required for a full-color display, he adds. Novald expects the first display containing its materials to hit the market by early 2006.

### **News - Scan**

### **Tricking Roulette Table**

A neat high-tech trick may have been responsible for three Eastern Europeans winning \$1.8 million at a London Ritz. According to the march 23, 2004 CNN.com ([www.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/europe/03/23/ritz.casino.ap/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/europe/03/23/ritz.casino.ap/index.html)), the police believe that a laser scanner within a cell phone was used to calculate the speed of the ball on the spinning wheel, and hence its likely resting place.

Police are investigating, but apparently it worked. But this is only the presage of things to come just wait until people routinely receive various augmentation implants as NBIC (the convergence of Nanotechnology, Biology & medicine, Information science, and Cognitive sciences) make such things feasible, and such augmentation will then quickly become a must-have competitive advantage. How could you successfully compete with someone, for example, who might be able to think 25% faster than you? Or has been augmented to have a virtually perfect memory? Or has been augmented to be able to see far beyond the typical visual spectrum, or to hear better, and in frequencies both higher and lower than most humans?

Will we begin seeing signs such as No Augmenteds allowed, or Nanotech Free Zone? Doubtful!

But can such discrimination will be feasible, since many augmentations will be medically necessary? And, as a (probably rapidly) growing segment of the population joins the cyborg generation to gain a competitive advantage in business (and perhaps in society in general as well), then businesses turning away so many customers would affect their bottom lines.

This sounds like the beginnings of Star Trek's Borg.

But current research and its initially crude prototypes, once married with our developing NBIC capabilities, will make such augmentation (hopefully more aesthetically pleasing than the Borg) almost a surety. Not to mention the desire of businesses to cash in on the cash cow that such augmentation products will generate. And cash flow is a very powerful enabler...

## The Good, The Bad and The Ugly

### The Good

The good is that if your ire has ever been raised by a cell phone ringing while you're engrossed in a movie, a play, a concert, or some similar event, then you may want to attend such events in France. As described in Wired (<http://www.wired.com/news/culture/0,1284,51273,00.html>), it seems that 85% of the French support the use of cell phone jammers at such events in order to curb the distractions and their Interior Minister has made the use of jammers legal! (In the U.S., it's generally illegal to jam any public radio spectrum or service.)

By the way, the French may be doing their citizens a service, since it turns out that some people don't take such cell phone distraction lying down one man was beaten to death in a German beer garden when he refused to mute his phone!

There are certainly other arenas that could benefit from being able to jam cell phones. For example, some educators in Ireland would like to use this technology in schools to keep students focused on their studies, rather than on planning tonight's party. Not to mention keeping students from techno-cheating (<http://www.textually.org/picturephoning/archives/005415.htm>). Also businesses that have locker rooms, such as gyms, where their bans on picture phones are not always followed...

### The Bad

The bad news is that while reducing interruptions in certain places seems like a laudable goal, the idea of jamming cell phone communications has some very negative and dangerous implications. The first, perhaps most obvious, is that cell phones have become many people's lifeline to emergency services. Just imagine if a fire broke out at a jammed public event, and nobody could report it to the authorities. Or if a family tried to contact their student in school due to a family emergency, only to find that the student couldn't receive the message. Or if someone was being accosted or he/she witnessed another crime and was unable to call for help. (Remember that radio waves generally don't follow boundary instructions, often leaking beyond their intended area.)

### And The Ugly

Yes, rude people who choose not to strangle their cell phones (or at least put them on vibrate) in certain venues are public nuisances and should be treated as such (disorderly conduct, or some similar charge). Or, like that now-dead German, those without cell phone etiquette may find themselves at the center of an ugly mob scene of people who just won't take it anymore.

But rather than jamming everyone's phone, how about a strong campaign to firmly establish the new social norms that cell phones demand? (Without help, societal norms change far more slowly than the technologies that cause such problems.) Or for some applications (such as schools), a local ordinance that prohibits outgoing cell phone calls, along with a receive-only device that would flag outgoing calls made from within the school, could pass the identifying information on to the administrators or police for further action. (Although this might well run afoul of various U.S. radio privacy laws.)

These are just a few examples of the issues and types of solutions that might be considered to address cell phone abuse, both now and in the future. But the most important thing we can learn from today's issues is that technology will continue to dramatically affect how people interact with one another. As with virtually every advance throughout history (consider the changes that had to take place after the introduction of stone knives, pistols, bombs, etc.), we have to learn to define and accept the needed changes, and integrate them into society.

Given the exponential growth of technology, and the accelerating RATE of such growth(!), let's be sure that we pay as much attention to the societal impacts of the technologies we unleash, as we do to the technologies themselves.

It will certainly make for quieter movies...

**Arthur Ashe**, the legendary Wimbledon player was diagnosed with AIDS. From world over, he received letters from his fans, one of which said: ♦Why does GOD have to select you for such a bad disease?♦ To this Arthur Ashe replied: The world over 5 crore children start playing tennis, 50 lakh learn to play tennis, 5 lakh learn professional tennis, 50,000 come to the circuit , 5,000 reach the grand slam, 50 reach Wimbledon, 4 to semi-final, 2 to the finals♦.

When I was holding a cup I never asked GOD, ♦Why me?♦  
And today in pain I should not be asking GOD, ♦Why me?♦

♦People won't remember what you did. People won't remember what you said. **But people will remember how you made them feel**♦

♦Neale Donald Walsch

\* \* \*

♦Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows, it empties today of its strength♦

♦Corrie Ten Boom

\* \* \*

♦Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed♦

♦Mahatma Gandhi

\* \* \*

♦When you have nothing left but love, then for the first time you become aware that love is enough♦

♦C S Lewis

\* \* \*

♦ We do not inherit the land from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children♦

♦American proverb

#### Editorial Board

Er. N.T. Nair Editor

Prof. V.K. Damodaran Member

Er. J. Muraleemohan Lal Member

**This page last modified on: July 13, 2002**

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