

**IEEE India Bulletin Vol. 9 No. 4 April 1999**

*This electronic version of the IEEE India Bulletin is an adaptation of the official, printed newsletter. This adaptation has required some minor modifications and restructuring of the original text, to suit its viewing as a webpage.*

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[Chairman's Message](#) || [Editorial](#) || [Pagemaster Calling !](#) || [Power Engineering Society Chapter Wise and otherwise](#) || [Future shape](#) || [Receipts and Payments 1998](#) || [LIM Propelled metro system](#)  
[Section Office Bearers \(Kerala & Bombay\)](#) || [IBTI-99](#) || [Technology corner](#) || [ACE-99](#)  
[Your feedback is IMPORTANT!](#)

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

### EXCELLENT WORK BY CHAPTERS

IEEE India Council has seven chapters directly associated with it. The members will be pleased to know that this year two of the chapters have won recognition from their parent Societies. The IEEE Communications Society has awarded 1998 COMSOC CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD to our Joint IEEE Chapter of Aerospace & Electronic Systems Society, Communications Society and Lasers & Electro- optics Society

The Award was presented ceremoniously at the GLOBECOM 98 held in November 98 at Sydney, Australia. The IEEE Aerospace and Electronics Systems Society has issued a CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION in recognition of the activities of the CHAPTER.

17th Digital Avionics System Conference held at Seattle, Washington during October 31-November 6, 1998 has issued a CERTIFICATION OF APPRECIATION for the Indian Coordination Chair. The IEEE Regional Activities Board (RAB) nominations and appointments Committee has identified the Chair of the above Chapter, Dr. R.G. Gupta, as a possible candidate for the position of the 1999 RAB Vice Chair-Regional Chapter and Section Chapter Activities. The Joint IEEE India Council Chapter of Electronic Devices Society and Microwave Theory & Techniques Society has been selected by Electron Device Society for its recently constituted BEST CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD. The chapter has received the honour for the first award being conferred starting this year. India Chapter and Singapore Chapter are joint winners of this Award.

### IC WEB-SITE AND MAILING LIST

India Council's web-site has been operational for about one year and is at:  
[www.ewh.ieee.org/r10/india\\_council](http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r10/india_council)

An e-mailing list has also been established. It is now for each one of us as members to make use of it and to make the site interesting. May I appeal to the members to subscribe to IEEE ICs e-mailing list ? Please also motivate other members, who may be close to you, to join up so that the list becomes as exhaustive as possible. This is a very fast, convenient, and inexpensive way of reaching out to a large part of IEEE family in India. Instructions for joining this mailing list are available in the IC home page mentioned above. You can post messages on this mailing list, you can get updates regularly, and be actively involved in IEEE activities and events. And, to make the mailing list interesting and useful, please post interesting articles, which you think would be useful to other members, regularly on the web-site.

If you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Parthasarthy, the IC Page Master at [algolog@hd1.vsnl.net.in](mailto:algolog@hd1.vsnl.net.in)

Any suggestions for making the Web-site more interesting and useful to the IEEE family in India will be highly welcome.

[Go to TOP](#)

Ahmedabad Dr. A. K. Aggarwal  
1st Apr. 1999 Chairman



[Go to TOP](#)

#### PAGEMASTER CALLING !

With this issue, the electronic version of India Bulletin completes one year !

And, to celebrate this event, we have introduced a new feature: you will now be able to consult ALL earlier issues (1999 only) of the Bulletin on-line ! Try this new feature, and let me know what you feel about it. You have a handle to this new feature, in the main homepage of India Council (go to the paragraph marked: "Our Newsletter").

While you are on the homepage of India Council, notice that we have made several fine improvements to that page too. We have also added a link to the list of office bearers of the India Council for 1999. Take a look.

S. Parthasarathy  
Pagemaster -- India Council

[Go to TOP](#)

#### POWER ENGINEERING SOCIETY CHAPTER Kerala Section

The Kerala Section has formed a Power Engineering Society Chapter, the third Chapter under the Section. Mr. Cherian Oommen, Dy. Chief Engineer , KSEB has been nominated as the Chapter chair and Mr. Simon P. Verghese, Executive (Design Contracts), Alind Switch gear Division, Mannar, Kerala has been nominated as the Chapter Secretary/Treasurer.

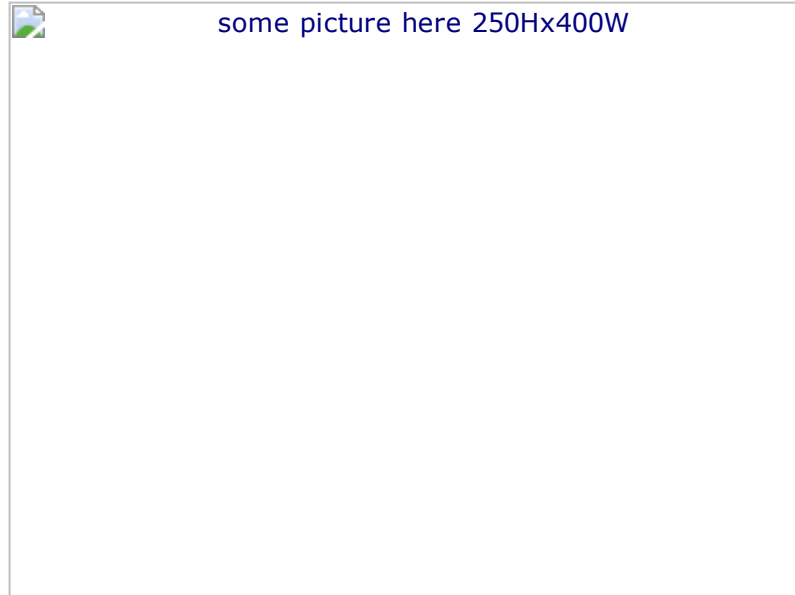
The Chapter is being inaugurated on 14 April 1999 by Dr. (Mrs.) K. Gomathy, former Chair of Region 10 Student Activities and former Chair of Kerala Section at the Institution of Engineers Hall, Trivandrum. The inaugural function will be followed by a talk on Power Distribution Management - Computer Application by Er. Sebastian V. Kurien, President of EDC, Kochi. - Er. J.M.Lal, Chairman, Kerala Section

[Go to TOP](#)

#### FUTURE SHAPE

How will the buildings in the next millennium look like? There could be many shapes, using many a new materials. Yet, one thing is sure. Good many may aspire for a building which will produce its own electricity - through solar technologies. It would be nice to visualise - and even better to

see one in reality - of that kind of a building. In the G8 Summit held in Birmingham, UK, there was an answer to meet your inquisitive eyes. British Petroleum Group and Arup Associates, used sustainable materials like timber, glass and recycled concrete to build an edifice of the kind you see in this column. It features a sloping wall covered with black photo voltaic cells which produce 15 kW of peak power. Enough to feed atleast 20 average families in India. This power does all the jobs at this building including TV and Computers. If you need more on this experimental building, you may contact Ms. Sarah Rawlings at e-mail:sarah.rawlinr@arup.com (source:Spectrum 1998 Sep-Oct)



*Shape of things to come !*

[Go to TOP](#)

#### WISE AND OTHERWISE

He who laughs last is the one who intended to tell the joke himself.-*The Lion*

Watching your diet is easier than following it.-*Malcom Forbes*

Tolerance is based on courtesy, respect and the suspicion that the other fellow may be right.-  
*Quote magazine*

The perfect is the enemy of good.-*Voltaire*

[Go to TOP](#)

Statement of Receipts & Payments - 1998

#### **Statement of Receipts & Payments - 1998 (In Rupees)**

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Receipts	1998	1997 Payments	1998	1997
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Opening Balance	2,70,313.44	2,67,829.82				
				Returnable Seed money		
				To ACE'98	20,000.00	
				To TENCON 98	25,000.00	45,000.00
				Students activities		30,000.00
Interest Earned	15,713.41					
				SPAC'98		2,500.00
Interest accrued from FDR Canara Bank	14,968.00	30,681.41	12,001.14			10,025.00
				To News letter a/c Previous balance	674.00	
				Current Support	25,000.00	25,674.00
From Hyderabad Sec ACE'97	10,385.50	25,000.00		Rebate to (LA&C a/c) chapters		38,840.00
				Web page creation & maintenance		10,000.00
From Sections				Other expenditure		
India bulletin a/c	10,000.00	30,000.00		Communications (Reg. (Postage etc.) issue)	7,128.00	2,995.00
				Travel & meetings	17,140.00	7,813.00
				Office, Xerox, Stationery etc.	3,435.00	2,269.00
Return of Seed money				Bank Charges		319.00
ACE'97	30,000.00			Professional charges	1,000.00	1,000.00
SP'97	5,000.00			Less received from SBI Powai	310.00	*13,206.32
						*(Exp. of 1996)
		35,000.00	10,000.00	TENCON-98	12,150.00	
						41,482.00
From Hq's rebate to chapters US\$1050	44,148.00	14,827.00				
From Hq's bonus \$ 105	4,401.00					
From IETE - Seminar on Inf. Tech.			5,585.00			
				Closing Balance		
				FDR, UBI, Mumbai	19,572.00	
				FDR, Canara Bank, Hyd.	88,012.00	

	SB, Canara Bank, New Delhi	15,468.00		
	From IETE - Seminar on Inf. Tech.	5,585.00		
	SB, SBI, Hyderabad	1,18,381.35		
			2,41,433.35	2,70,313.44
<b>TOTAL:</b>		4,04,929.35	3,65,242.96	<b>TOTAL:</b> 4,04,929.35 3,65,242.96

Sd/-  
 (Dr. R. K. Bagga)  
 Chairman

Sd/-  
 (RVN Sastry)  
 Auditor

Sd/-  
 (N.Vyaghreswara Rao)  
 Secretary & Treasurer

Note: In addition to the above receipts, from Region 10 - SSVR funds, US \$ 500/- was sanctioned and will be accounted in 1999.

[Go to TOP](#)

### International Workshop on LIM Propelled Rail Metro System - Report

The urban transportation problems of cities with population in excess of one million were discussed during a two-day International Workshop on LIM Propelled Rail metro System organised at Swatantrata Bhawan, Banaras Hindu University, on January 8-9, 1999 by Department of Electrical Engineering, IT-BHU jointly with IEEE UP Section. Indian Railways and M/s ADtranz sponsored the workshop and thirty-six organisations belonging to the Railways, Industries, user and academic institutions participated in this Workshop, Singapore representative of Japanese Subway Association gave a presentation of Linear Metro Systems operating in Japan.

Invited experts from users and manufacturing industries, Academic and R & D institutions, and Japanese Subway association presented papers which covered technical and economical aspects relevant to LIM propelled transport system. These papers dealt with system design, LIM based traction technology, control strategies, tunneling, wheel-rail dynamics of LIM systems etc. The R&D work done at IT-BHU for the last three decades was reviewed and the delegates had opportunity to inspect the working models and the set up at Malaviya Center for Development & Evaluation of LIM Propelled Rail Metro System which was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor, BHU on 15-04-97.

In the Concluding Session a resolution was adopted laying emphasis on indigenous development and adoption of LIM technology for establishing underground corridors with limited overhead and surface stretches to solve the problems of congestion and pollution in a cost-effective manner. Following recommendations were adopted on 9-1-1999 at Swatantrata Bhavan, BHU

1. A rail based underground rapid transit system is essentially required in growing cities with population level of one million plus to reduce congestion on the roads and minimise pollution
2. Linear Induction Motor technology has matured and reached take-off stage in India. It can offer a viable solution to urban transportation problems in this country, if developed indigenously.
3. LIM technology can be developed indigenously on the basis of R&D work already done in academic institutions by adopting a consortium approach as done elsewhere for similar development
4. A national level consortium consisting of Academic institutions, industries & users is recommended.

This should be coordinated by one of the Central Govt. ministries for effective follow-up, funding and to ensure development of a prototype system in about five years.

Professor. S. N. Mahendra  
Organising Secretary

[Go to TOP](#)

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Awards Mr. S. Gopakumar

Conference Activities Mr. E. E. Rajakumar

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Web Support Mr. Simon Zacharia

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[Go to TOP](#)

IBTI - 99

International Conference on  
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS THROUGH INTERNET (IBTI-99)

14th and 15th of April, 1999  
at Science City, Calcutta  
organized jointly by the  
Institute of Engineering & Management, and  
IEEE CALCUTTA SECTION.

PROGRAM :

14th April :

Ist Session : Conference & panel discussion (10AM - 1.45PM)

2nd Session : Tutorial

(1.30 PM - 3 PM)

Topic :

Use of Internet in the field of import business. 3rd Session : Tutorial

(3.30 PM to 5PM) Topic :

Use of internet for enhancing home marketing.

15th April :

Ist Session : Conference and panel discussion (10 AM - 1.45 PM)

2nd Session : Tutorial

(1.30 PM to 3 PM)

Topic:

Use of Internet for enhancing export potential 3rd Session : Tutorial

(3.30 PM - 5 PM) Use of Internet for getting international technology and methods of getting introduced to the academicians of the world.

web site address : [iem.cjb.net](http://iem.cjb.net)



[Go to TOP](#)

## TECHNOLOGY CORNER

### **Methanol calling the Housewife**

Methanol, known also as wood alcohol has emerged as a cleaner and more efficient fuel than fossil fuels. It can be produced either on a large scale using natural gas as the source, or from biomass wastes like coconut pith, wood pieces or bagasse from sugar industry. A new Swedish effort has shown the route to a low cost fuel, producing 390 million litres of methanol at a cost equivalent to Rs. 12 per litre. It has fewer environmental side effects. It can be produced without any hazardous or polluting by-products. It requires cheap and easily available natural gas or biomass as raw material. Large and complex plants are not at all required. It can also be produced in decentralised units, which can be deployed in rural areas and in residential buildings. May be, very soon methanol may emerge as an environment friendly domestic fuel.

### **Solar cooling**

A new solar cooling system has been developed by two german companies viz. EG Solar and Zeo-Tech. This solar refrigerator has a built in evaporator, one or more zeolite containers, and a parabolic solar collector. Four kg of zeolite is connected to the evaporator of this solar fridge. Temperature upto 0.6 deg C can be maintained for 72 hours. Water and Zeolite are natural products. Repairs to the unit can be done locally anywhere.

[Go to TOP](#)

## ACE 99

### IEEE INDIA COUNCIL AND KERALA SECTION INVITE YOU TO IEEE INDIA COUNCIL ANNUAL CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION 1999 AT TRIVANDRUM

Theme: Intelligent Networking  
Dates: 2-4 December 1999

It is decided to have both invited & contributed papers in the seminar. There will be tutorials on the first day of the conference on the following topics:

- o Java
- o Network Management,
- o Case studies on E-Commerce

Sri N A P Thampi is the Chairman for the Tutorials. Dr. Chandrasekharan of IBM Bangalore and Dr. Parameswar Velayudhan of "Srushti" are the invited Faculty for the Tutorials.

The Convention is classified into the following subject streams:

1. E - commerce
  - Digital Currency
  - Technique and Tools
  - Electronic Payment Systems, Payment methods
  - Security Technologies
2. Networking Applications
  - Impact on society
  - Internet Advantages
  - Web Based education
  - Distributed computing

- Cable TV applications
- Real Time Controls
- Process controls
- Energy Management

Please contact:

Koruthu P.Varughese  
Convener, ACE - 99,  
Harmonieeee  
Ambujavilasom Road, Trivandrum 695 001  
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[Go to TOP](#)

## EDITORIAL

### More accepted than ever

IEEE in India is more accepted than ever. Its membership in India has increased to 11072, within two years from around 6000, of which 4436 are student members. We can all be proud that IEEE as a professional forum is more accepted by the engineers working in the area of electronics, computers, energy and the like. The opportunities the Institute is offering to its members for professional updating is enormous. Publications come first. The technical meetings and training programmes organised by the various sections and chapters in India are the next item on the list of benefits. But, many members are unable to attend most of these programmes. What way we have to extend such facilities to the smaller clusters of engineers in smaller towns etc. should be debated. May be the Student chapters can play a big role in taking such technical meetings in collaboration with the established Sections to as near locations as possible in this country. May be we may plan for atleast one student Chapter per district in the country. The Kerala Section has been for a number of years, organising technical meetings every week on a fixed day jointly with like minded professional societies, making the attendance at meetings far better than before. the Sections in Metros have been regularly organising Technical seminars of indepth subject involvement. Many Chapters have aimed at International technical events in India with commendable success.

This little bulletin had been a link between the organisers and the users of these technological activities. Regularity of the issues have meant faster and cheaper communication means for the farthest of the members. I wish we could continue to maintain this communication link inspite of the swelling membership. The Sections and Chapters can and must help the Bulletin to serve its members better, by way their reports and support.

Further, it is time we think of serving the increasing numbers of our members in more innovative ways. Some suggestions have come from members. But before I publish them, I would solicit more views from a wider section of our readers. May I have them during the month of April itself?

Please note my new IEEE e-mail alias!

**E-mail :** [vkd@ieee.org](mailto:vkd@ieee.org) [Click here to send an e mail to the Editor.](#)

Trivandrum Prof. V K Damodaran  
04 April 1999 Editor



[Go to TOP](#)

### **Your feedback is important !**

- e mail: [algolog@hd1.vsnl.net.in](mailto:algolog@hd1.vsnl.net.in)  
[Click here to send your feedback, comments, remarks and suggestions.](#)
- Write to:

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- Call: + 91 - 40 - 775 1650 (24 hours)
- FAX: + 91 - 40 - 775 1135

[Goto-top](#)

**Thank you for your visit**

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#### **Administrivia:**

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