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NEWSLETTER

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Indian Institute of Technology Madras

SUPERVISING EDITOR

Karthik Kurimindla - Commissioner

EDITORS

Meenakshi Anoop - Chief
Commissioner

Kaushik Raja P - Commissioner

Ria Hansda - Head of
Secretariat, CMO

Mokshagna Teja G - Coordinator

DESIGNED BY

Smiti Achliya - Coordinator

DESIGN SUPERVISION

Alfid K Khader - Head of
Secretariat, Design

Kaushik Raja P - Commissioner

DOCUMENT

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Student Ethics and Constitution
Commission

IIT Madras

Chennai 600 036

WEBSITE

<https://web.iitm.ac.in/secc/>

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From the desk of

*Chief
Commissioner*

Dear Students,

It is with great pride that we present the first edition of the SECC 2024-25 Newsletter for the July–November 2024 session. This document has been

carefully crafted to offer more than just updates on the organization's activities. It serves as both a warm welcome to the second edition of SECC 2024-25 and a celebratory greeting as we welcome the New Year 2025.

"You have no monopoly on the truth"

Reginald Rose (Twelve Angry Men)

This year, SECC has undergone a remarkable transformation, evolving from a mere regulatory body with the power to sanction into an organization that prioritizes dialogue, debate, harmonious resolution, and compassion. The profound statement above from Twelve Angry Men, a movie screened by SECC for the students, reminds us that the path to progress is paved with diverse voices, shared understanding, and the willingness to listen.

In SECC, we hold this principle close as we strive to foster inclusion, collaboration, and transparency in all our endeavors. This year, SECC truly embodied the spirit of compassionate law, aligning with Christopher D. Marshall's assertion in Compassionate Justice that, "Compassion is a manifestation of the relationality that binds people together in community and that constitutes the very essence of their humanity."

Although the alarming number of cases received during the first edition served as a stark reflection of the poor state of affairs within the student governance structure, it also revealed a silver lining. It showcased that people increasingly view SECC as a trustworthy and approachable quasi-judicial body, placing their faith in its ability to address and resolve the discrimination and injustices they have faced at the hands of the powerful.

A conscious shift was made this year with the incorporation of a formal Arbitration System into our methodology for the first time. More than two cases have already been resolved under this system, where the Commissioners act as third-party arbitrators. This approach allows the complainant and respondent to reach a consensus, rather than imposing sanctions without considering the context of either party. However, this shift has not deterred SECC from upholding the strength of the law. Stronger contempt of court proceedings have been initiated to ensure that these resolutions are implemented with the same fervor SECC demonstrates when facilitating consensus-building. SECC's activities extended far beyond the core work of the Commission.

In an effort to break the exclusivity often associated with higher student governance, the Secretariat organized an elaborate one-day trip to the St. George Fort Museum, Tamil Nadu Secretariat and Raj Bhavan, Chennai. This trip offered participants a unique blend of history and governance, creating an engaging platform for students genuinely interested in these fields. It was also an excellent opportunity for networking, learning, and meaningful interactions. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the unwavering support and dedication of my wonderful Commissioners, Mr. Karthik and Mr. Kaushik, as well as the entire SECC Secretariat Team.

As we move forward into the second edition of our tenure, our focus will shift toward addressing the on-ground realities and challenges faced by students. This includes tackling the lack of awareness regarding grievance redressal mechanisms at both the student and administrative levels. We aim to ensure more efficient use of technology to enhance user interaction and simplify the daunting and complicated rulebooks for the general student body. Beyond managerial improvements, we are planning more inclusive events and eagerly anticipate enthusiastic participation from prospective student government officials for the next tenure.

Together, let us continue to work towards a future that is inclusive, equitable, and sustainable. I encourage you to share your insights and suggestions, as they are pivotal to our collective success and do visit the Official SECC Website where we have uploaded all documents curated during the July-November 2024 session.

Meenakshi Anoop

JULY-NOV 2024: AN OVERVIEW

In this July-November 2024 semester, SECC organized a series of impactful events aimed at enhancing awareness about student governance and civic engagement. The Freshie Orientation Session, conducted in August, introduced the 2024 batch to the roles of SECC and SEC, offering insights into the electoral process and inviting students to join as Coordinators. Later that month, a screening of the iconic film 12 Angry Men sparked thought-provoking discussions on justice, the power of reasoning, and moral responsibility.

The Voices of the State event in September, featured renowned lawyer Prashant Bhushan, who shared his perspectives on law, governance, and development.

In October, the Democracy Duel quiz tested students' knowledge of Indian governance, with the top performers earning an exclusive opportunity to participate in The Power Circuit tour of Chennai's governance hubs in November, visiting Fort St. George, the Tamil Nadu Secretariat, and the Raj Bhavan—a deeply enriching and enjoyable experience. The season culminated with the Constitution Day event on 26th November, featuring former Chief Election Commissioner N. Gopalaswami, who emphasized the significance of the Indian Constitution and its role in safeguarding democratic values.

During the month of September,

SECC also assumed the role of the Student Election Commission (SEC), tasked with conducting the Freshers' Elections 2024. This year, the voter turnout reached an impressive 64%, a notable increase from last year's turnout of 33%. This marks a significant milestone in the institute's history, reflecting the growing engagement of the student community in shaping their leadership and future.

On the Judicial front, SECC took a significant step by utilizing an Arbitration Panel for the first time to resolve disputes between claimants and respondents. This panel, which acted as a neutral third party, helped both sides reach a consensus, taking into account the perspectives and circumstances of each party. The goal was to encourage dialogue and facilitate a harmonious resolution without the need for sanctions or directives. This approach marks a shift in SECC's role from being a sanction-oriented body to one focused on resolution and conflict management.

So far, the arbitration panel has been successfully applied in two cases. Currently, SECC is focused on refining the Unified PoR Selection Process and updating the PoR Charter to enhance operational efficiency.

CHRONICLE OF CASES



CASE 01

ADVISORY OPINION ON THE FINALIZATION OF POR SELECTIONS - MNS CORE SELECTION CASE

A complaint was filed with the SECC regarding the selection process for the Marketing & Sales (MnS) Core position for Saarang 2025. The complainant alleged that the Cultural Affairs Secretaries (CAS) selected a candidate who did not meet the eligibility criteria due to a “U” grade, violating guidelines set by the Student Legislative Council.

The SECC investigation revealed gaps in the selection process and communication. The CAS stated that no official results had been announced, while the complaint indicated that results were informally shared in a cultural space. The CAS clarified that eligibility criteria are thoroughly assessed and deviations

require approval from the Cultural Affairs Rulebook. However, SECC observed that the criteria mandated by the SLC agenda of October 6, 2022, were treated with flexibility.

A lack of formal communication regarding the rejection of the complainant was noted, violating official communication protocols. The absence of transparency and adherence to formal procedures highlighted significant flaws in the selection process.

The SECC ruled that the selection process must comply with the SLC agenda, Cultural Affairs Rulebook, and PoR Charter. Selection results must align with established eligibility

criteria and be formally announced through official channels such as email. Informal announcements are considered illegitimate, null, and void.

SECC commissioners unanimously approved these findings and recommendations. The advisory emphasizes the need for stricter adherence to guidelines and better communication in future selection processes.

ARBITRAL AWARD - CULTURAL CONTINGENT HEADS SELECTION CASE

A complaint was filed regarding procedural violations in the selection of Contingent Heads citing delays and irregularities that impacted team efficiency. The complaint highlighted delays in the selection process and procedural lapses, such as including Events Cores and the Cultural Outreach Committee Head in the interview panel, contrary to the CAS Rulebook guidelines. The Claimants also raised concerns about an informal attempt to extend the application deadline for a third aspirant, reportedly without their knowledge.

The CAS justified the delays by citing prior commitments, including Saarang Core Team selections, and proposed changes to the interview

panel to include Events Cores and the Cultural Outreach Committee Head. The CAS also informally discussed extending the application deadline for a third aspirant who missed the original deadline, though no formal request was submitted. The Outgoing Contingent Heads raised concerns about these procedural deviations and their potential impact on the selection's legitimacy.

The Arbitration Panel noted inconsistencies in adherence to the CAS Rulebook, SLC precedents, and procedural protocols. It emphasized that any inclusion of unauthorized participants in the selection panel renders decisions null and void. The panel also acknowledged the

urgency of completing the selection to ensure the Contingent Team is fully functional for the upcoming Inter-IIT events.

The Arbitration Panel ruled that the selection process must adhere to the CAS Rulebook, SLC agenda, and SECC guidelines to maintain transparency and procedural integrity. The inclusion of Events Cores or the COC Head in the selection panel for the Contingent Heads was deemed illegitimate, following precedents established by the SECC. The decision highlighted the equal standing of the Contingent Team, Sangam Team, and Saarang Team, emphasizing that Events Cores cannot participate in Contingent Head selections.

The panel outlined a strict timeline for the selection process. It also mandated formal communication channels for extensions and results to ensure fairness and accountability.

VERDICT ON THE RAS EXECUTIVES AND HEADS SELECTION CASE

The SECC received a complaint from the Standing Committee Chairperson of Research Affairs of the SLC 2024-25, filed on behalf of anonymous Research Legislators and GSB members. The complaint accused the Research Affairs Secretary (RAS) 2024-25 of breaching the selection procedures for the Research Affairs Sphere (RAS) Executives and Heads. It alleged that the process failed to comply with the guidelines outlined in the RAS Rulebook and the PoR Charter 2024. Among the issues raised was the selection of an Executive who had reportedly been found guilty of misconduct by the Disciplinary Committee, a decision that directly violated the eligibility criteria specified in the Call for RAS

Executives & Heads email.

The complainants also pointed out that an official WhatsApp group for Research Legislators (RL) and RAS members was created before the official results of the selection process were announced, which raised concerns about the timeline and fairness of the process.

During the SECC Investigative Hearing, it was claimed that the outgoing RAS Executives and Heads had been individually contacted and informed about the interviews, with some confirming their availability. However, several outgoing Executives and Heads denied receiving formal invitations or any follow-up communication regarding their

participation. This inconsistency raised concerns about the formal communication process and the exclusion of necessary stakeholders from the selection process.

The investigation involved several hearings and correspondence with outgoing RAS members from 2023-24, outgoing Executives and Heads, and current RAS Executives and Heads. In addition to reviewing the eligibility of candidates, the SECC also sought confirmation from competent authorities about the eligibility of a particular candidate who was selected for an Executive role but had a history of misconduct.

The findings of the investigation revealed significant procedural violations. It was determined that the selection process for the RAS Executives and Heads 2024-25, particularly the interview round, was not conducted in accordance with the established guidelines and RAS Rulebook. As a result, the SECC ordered a fresh round of interviews for the Executive positions.

The original applications would not need to be re-released unless the RAS 2024-25 team decided to reopen them. The new interviews were to be conducted by a panel that included outgoing RAS members from 2023-24, as required by the RAS Rulebook, and the selection process was to be fully documented, including the maintenance of evaluation sheets by the panel members.

Regarding the selection of Heads for various verticals within RAS, the SECC decided to halt the selections made by RAS (2024-25) due to discrepancies in the process, including the absence or lack of consultation with outgoing members. The outgoing RAS Executives and Heads must now be consulted, and if necessary, they are permitted to conduct interviews and provide feedback before final decisions are made.

Additionally, the selection of the Executive found guilty of misconduct was annulled, and the individual was

ordered to be rejected from the position. Regarding the creation of the WhatsApp group, it was advised that the RAS 2024-25 team refrain from discussing results with applicants before the formal announcement, as such actions could undermine the transparency and fairness of the process.

The SECC ruling was unanimously accepted by the three SECC Commissioners, all of whom agreed with the findings and decisions, affirming that corrective actions were necessary to restore fairness and transparency to the RAS selection process.

INTERVENTION INTO THE SWD PLACEMENT TEAM APPLICATION PROCESS - WRIT OF PROHIBITION & MANDAMUS

On June 9, 2024, the Research Affairs Secretary, announced the creation of a new vertical within the Placement Team for students with disabilities (SWD). This initiative aimed to address the specific needs of SWD students in the placement process, encouraging SWD students to apply for Core and Coordinator positions in the team.

However the SECC intervened, pointing out a significant procedural oversight. SECC noted that the SWD Placement Team had not been officially presented and ratified by the SLC. Without this ratification, the vertical could not proceed with its recruitment process

In response, SECC issued a Writ of Prohibition, ordering the immediate cessation of the application process for the SWD Placement Team. had not been officially presented and ratified by the SLC. Without this ratification, the vertical could not proceed with its recruitment process.

In response, SECC issued a Writ of Prohibition, ordering the immediate cessation of the application process for the SWD Placement Team. SECC required that the application process be halted to prevent the inclusion of students in a non-recognized vertical.

SECC also issued a Writ of Mandamus, directing the Research

Affairs Secretary to table the SWD Placement Team for ratification by the SLC without delay.

The Research Affairs Secretary promptly responded to the SECC's concerns, confirming that the application process had been halted and assuring that the team would be tabled for SLC ratification. In a subsequent communication, RAS informed all students that the recruitment for the SWD Placement Team would be paused until the vertical received SLC approval, noting that the process would resume once it was officially ratified.

VERDICT ON THE RAS COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SELECTION CASE

The SECC received a complaint accusing the Research Affairs Secretary (RAS) 2024-25 of breaching the selection procedures for the Research Affairs Sphere (RAS) Executives and Heads from an Aspiring RAS Executive 2024-25 (also an Ongoing RAS Head 2023-24). It alleged that the process failed to comply with the guidelines outlined in the RAS Rulebook and the PoR Charter 2024. Among the issues raised was the non-compliance with official procedures regarding selection committee invitations and interview processes. Further, the complainant identified a lack of formal communication throughout the selection process, from initiation to the release of results.

The complainant also highlighted that the currently selected individuals were not eligible for the posts due to inadequate participation in prior events, raising questions about the decisions made by the selection committee.

During the SECC Investigative Hearing, it was claimed that the outgoing RAS Executives and Heads had been individually contacted and informed about the interviews, with some confirming their availability. However, several outgoing Executives and Heads denied receiving formal invitations or follow-up communication regarding their participation. This inconsistency raised concerns about the formal communication process and the exclusion of necessary stakeholders

from the selection process.

The findings of the investigation revealed significant procedural violations. It was determined that the selection process for the RAS Executives and Heads 2024-25, particularly the interview round, was not conducted in accordance with the established guidelines and RAS Rulebook. As a result, the SECC ordered a fresh round of interviews for the Executive positions. The original applications would not need to be re-released unless the RAS 2024-25 team decided to reopen them. The new interviews were to be conducted by a panel that included outgoing RAS members from 2023-24, as required by the RAS Rulebook, and the selection process was to be fully documented, including the maintenance of evaluation sheets by the panel members.

Regarding the selection of Heads for various verticals within RAS, the SECC decided to halt the selections before final decisions are made.

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ARBITRAL AWARD - MEDIA CLUB CONVENORS SELECTION CASE

A complaint was filed with the SECC by the Outgoing Media Club Convenor (2023-24) regarding discrepancies in the selection process for the Incumbent Media Club Convenors (2024-25). The Outgoing Convenor alleged bias on the part of the Events Cores (2024-25), claiming they favored a particular candidate and undermined the Outgoing Convenor's role in the decision-making process. The complaint highlighted that despite creating the application form and being present for most interviews, the Outgoing Convenor's input was not adequately considered. Furthermore, only one Events Core attended all interviews (except one), while the remaining cores relied on this individual's decisions without consulting the

Outgoing Convenor.

The Outgoing Convenor also reported that repeated requests to meet with the Cultural Secretaries to resolve the issue and to access the evaluation sheet used to assess candidates were denied by the Events Cores. Despite these claims, the SECC found no conclusive evidence of bias but identified procedural lapses in the selection process. Specifically, the selection of club convenors in the cultural sphere appeared to rely on informal practices rather than adhering to established rules. The refusal to share the evaluation sheet further highlighted transparency concerns.

Given that Club Convenors hold

equal responsibility in club operations as Events Cores, as acknowledged by one Events Core, the SECC emphasized the importance of recognizing this equal weightage. Consequently, SECC determined a 1:1 ratio of weightage between the Events Cores and the Outgoing Convenor for evaluating candidates, considering only one of the Events Cores was present in all Interview panels, and the other Events Cores agreed to the firm decision of the other.

in the Cultural Affairs Secretaries Rulebook.

This led to the second Arbitrational Panel that SECC had conducted this semester, which resulted in two solutions. First, the evaluation process should involve both the Events Cores and the Outgoing Convenor using the same rubric, with the selection based on their combined scores. In case of a dispute, the Cultural Affairs Secretaries decision would be final. Alternatively, the Events Cores were instructed to restart the selection process, re-release the application, and adhere strictly to the selection rules outlined

FINANCIAL MISAPPROPRIATION – COMPLAINT AGAINST THE FORMER STUDENT GENERAL SECRETARY (2023-24)

SECC received a complaint from the Student Activities Trust Centre (STACT) against the former Student General Secretary (SGS 2023-24) regarding discrepancies in the bills submitted for reimbursement for Ethnic Day 2024. The complaint highlighted that the initial bill submitted from the Vendor A for the samosas provided during the Ethnic Day event lacked the GST amount. Due to the high reimbursement amount, STACT requested a GST-compliant bill from Vendor A. Instead, SGS submitted a GST bill from another Vendor B, which raised suspicions about the authenticity of the submitted bills.

Upon investigation, Vendor A

initially confirmed delivering the specified number of samosas but later claimed that he had only delivered a smaller quantity of samosas along with tea and beverages. When Vendor B was questioned, he stated that no order for the specified number of samosas was placed with him. He revealed that the bill was generated at the request of the SGS on behalf of Vendor A. Vendor B admitted that he did not verify the details provided by Vendor A and had no prior interaction with him, trusting the SGS solely due to his position and status as a student of IITM.

Further investigation into Vendor A's records revealed that Vendor A,

being illiterate, often provided blank signed bills. Based on these findings, the SECC concluded that the bills submitted by the SGS to STACT for reimbursement were potentially fabricated. Since the student has since graduated from IITM, the SECC recommended that appropriate actions be taken in accordance with institute policy.

FINANCIAL MISAPPROPRIATION – COMPLAINT AGAINST THE FORMER SPEAKER OF SLC (2023-24)

SECC received a complaint from the Student Activities Trust Centre (STACT) against the former Speaker of the SLC (2023-24) regarding discrepancies in the bills submitted for reimbursement for SLC Networking Dinner 02. This marked the second financial misappropriation case handled by the SECC in the July-November 2024 Semester. The complaint highlighted various issues with the bills submitted for reimbursement, which raised suspicion due to inconsistencies.

Initially, a bill from Vendor A was submitted but was deemed invalid due to the invalidity of the GST number, which also indicated a GST

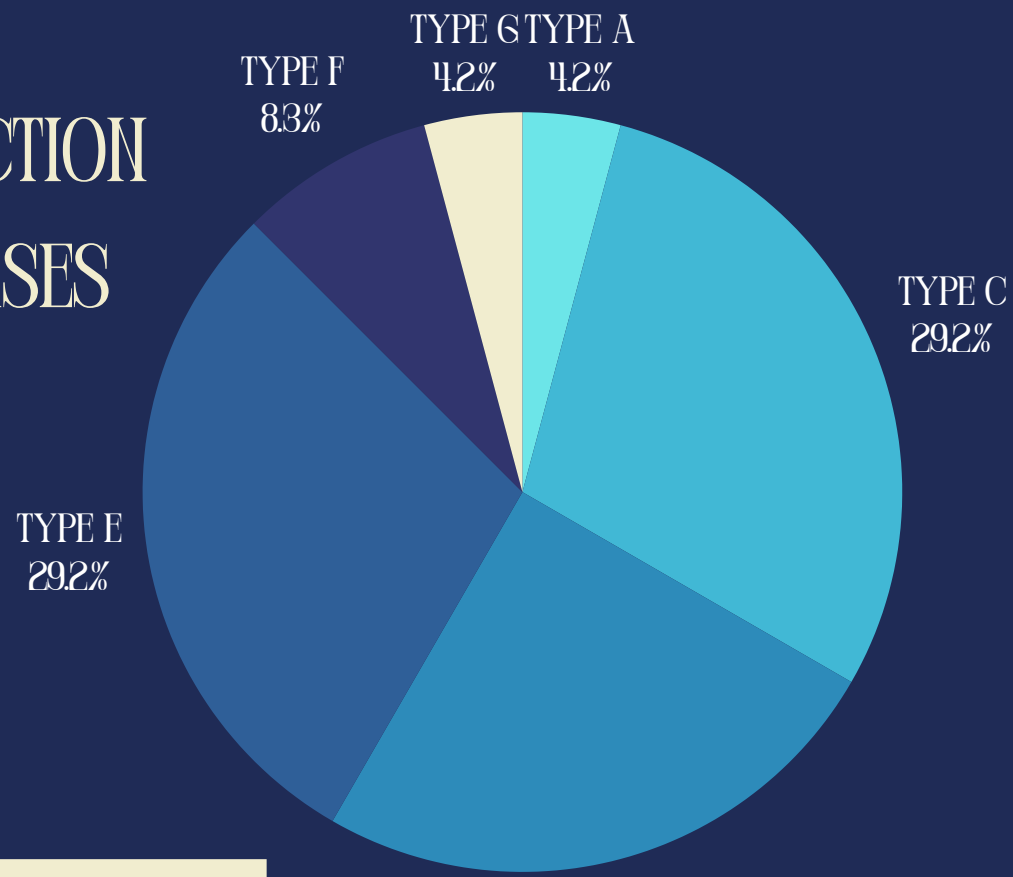
of 12%. To address this issue, a quotation from Vendor B with a GST of 12% was subsequently submitted. Since quotations cannot be used for reimbursement, a tax invoice from Vendor B with the same GST rate of 12% was submitted. However, due to discrepancies regarding the exact GST percentage led to the submission of another bill from the same Vendor B with a GST of 18%. Upon investigation, Vendor A confirmed that they had provided the food for SLC Networking Dinner 02 and attributed the invalidity of their GST number to unpaid GST dues. Vendor A also stated that Vendor B was a business partner, operating several branches in Chennai, a claim Vendor B corroborated.

Vendor A further confirmed that the payment had been delayed for an extended period but acknowledged receiving advance payments from both the Speaker (2023-24) and a friend of the Speaker (2023-24), a claim verified by the SECC. Based on its findings, the SECC concluded that the base amount without GST could be paid to Vendor A, while the applicable GST rate should be determined following the established rules and protocols of the STACT office.

TYPES OF JURISDICTION & RELATED CASES

- A. Interpretation of the Constitution. Case - 4
- B. Interpretation of constitutional amendments.
- C. Interpretation of all legislation passed into law. Case - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
- D. Disputes and controversies involving:
 - a. Student(s) against an organization or vice versa Case - 1, 2, 6
 - b. An organization against an organization.
 - c. Student(s) against student(s). Case - 3, 5
 - d. Student(s) against faculty members and staff in such cases where the Fundamental Rights guaranteed by this Constitution are suspected of having been violated.
- E. Charges of violations of the constitution, constitutional amendments, or other legislation passed by Student Legislative Council and signed into law. Case - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
- F. Financial Misappropriation. Case - 7, 8
- G. Suo Motu. Case - 4

TYPES OF JURISDICTION AND RELATED CASES



TYPE OF RESOLUTION	CASE NO.
ADVISORY OPINION	1, 7, 8
ARBITRAL AWARD	2, 6
VERDICT	3, 5
ISSUANCE OF WRIT	4

TYPES OF RESOLUTIONS AND RELATED CASES

EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS



SECC AND SEC FRESHIE ORIENTATION SESSION

Date: 5 August, 2024

Venue: Central Lecture Theatre (CLT)

The SECC hosted an engaging and comprehensive Freshers' Orientation Session for the batch of 2024. The session served as an excellent opportunity to introduce the freshers to the pivotal bodies of the institute, offering them insights into the core values and functioning of SECC and SEC. From unraveling terms like "quasi-judicial" to explaining the concept of "first-past-the-post voting," the orientation was a perfect blend of education and interaction, designed to instill awareness about student governance.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The orientation began with a comprehensive overview of the SECC detailing its role as the institute's regulatory and

quasi-judicial body and introducing its significance in maintaining ethical conduct among the student community. This was followed by an in-depth explanation of the SEC, its functions, and its responsibilities during the election process. Freshers were guided through the intricacies of the institute's electoral framework, including the procedure for contesting various posts, the systematic execution of voting, and the transparent counting process that upholds the fairness of elections. Adding to the excitement, the session featured a highly interactive segment where participants enthusiastically engaged with the speakers, asking questions and sharing their thoughts. The orientation concluded with the three secretariat heads inviting freshers to join their teams as

Coordinators under SECC's three distinct verticals, offering them a chance to directly contribute to student governance. To ensure clarity and engagement, the core team dedicated time to addressing doubts and answering all questions posed by the attendees. Finally, as a token of appreciation, all participants were treated to refreshments, leaving them with a sense of belonging and motivation to be part of the governance structure.



MOVIE SCREENING: 12 ANGRY MEN

Date: 31 August, 2024

Venue: Central Lecture Theatre (CLT)

As a nod to the values of justice and deliberation, SECC kick-started its tenure with the screening of the critically acclaimed classic, *12 Angry Men*, on 31 August 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS:

This timeless courtroom drama revolves around 12 jurors who, after hearing the closing arguments of a murder trial, must decide the fate of a young teenager accused of a heinous crime. The film's intense narrative delves into themes of moral responsibility, personal bias, and the power of reasoning, resonating deeply with the ethos of SECC. The event was met with overwhelming enthusiasm, drawing a full house of attendees who immersed themselves in the gripping tale of debate and decision-making. Following the

screening, refreshments were served to all, adding a touch of camaraderie to the evening.

This impactful and engaging event marked a fantastic start to the SECC's tenure, setting the tone for a year of meaningful and thought-provoking initiatives.

VOICES OF THE STATE: FT. PRASHANT BHUSHAN

Date: 14 September, 2024

Venue: Central Lecture Theatre (CLT)

Voices of the State has been a flagship event by the SECC, and this rendition of it featured the eminent lawyer and social activist, Advocate Prashant Bhushan on 14 September 2024. Renowned for his legal acumen and unwavering commitment to public interest litigation, Mr. Bhushan has been a pivotal figure in India's legal and political landscape, advocating for accountability, transparency, and judicial independence.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Organized in collaboration with the Extra Mural Lectures (EML) team, the event featured an engaging and thought-provoking session with Advocate Bhushan. He answered a series of curated questions from the SECC and EML teams, addressing

topics ranging from development to his experiences in the legal field.

Drawing on his time at IIT-M, Advocate Bhushan reflected on the evolution of student self-governance, noting the significant changes since his days as a student. He also shared his views on the crucial role of the judiciary in a democratic country like India, emphasizing its responsibility in upholding justice and safeguarding democratic values. On the subject of development, he advocated for a holistic approach—one that prioritizes not just economic growth but also sustainability, equity, and diversity. As a revolutionary in the Indian legal landscape, his honest answers provided us with food for thought on the intersection of law, justice, and society. He spoke quite openly and it was evident that

this boldness in defending constitutional values, even when faced with immense pressure, made him such a prominent figure in shaping legal discourse.

This was followed by an open Q&A session, where the audience had the rare opportunity to engage directly with him. The interaction sparked thoughtful and dynamic discussions on a wide range of issues, further enriching the experience.

The event was a resounding success, offering attendees a rare glimpse into the mind of a prominent figure in Indian law and activism. It left the audience inspired, more informed about governance, and deeply engaged in conversations around social justice and policy.

DEMOCRACY DUEL: A QUIZ ON INDIAN GOVERNANCE

Date: 29 October, 2024

Venue: Class Room Complex 102 (CRC)

The Democracy Duel was an engaging quiz competition orchestrated in collaboration with the Quiz Club of IIT Madras, that combined knowledge, strategy, and excitement to deepen students' understanding of Indian governance and to foster civic awareness.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The event was skillfully hosted by a quiz master who orally presented the questions, also displayed on screens for clarity. Each participant was given two minutes to write their answers, with the quiz master occasionally dropping helpful hints—such as the number of letters in the word or intriguing clues about the answer.

The quiz primarily focused on significant milestones and highlights of Indian governance over the years, offering a rich educational experience. After an intense session of brainstorming and strategy, the top three winners were awarded cash prizes from a pool of ₹3,000, celebrating their exceptional performance. Moreover, the top 25 participants earned an exclusive opportunity to participate in the next major event: The Power Circuit: A Tour of Chennai's Governance Hubs, making the quiz a stepping stone to further exploration and learning.



THE POWER CIRCUIT: A TOUR OF CHENNAI'S GOVERNANCE HUBS

Date: 2 November, 2024

As a reward for their exceptional performance in the Democracy Duel, the top 25 participants embarked on an exclusive one-day tour of Chennai's prominent government institutions. This immersive trip, known as The Power Circuit, offered a firsthand experience of the city's rich administrative heritage and governance legacy.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The visit was an immersive experience envisioned to help students better understand the history, culture, and workings of the Tamil Nadu administration. The students were exposed to the colonial history of India by visiting Fort St. George, followed by a guided tour of Raj Bhavan, one of the most significant political landmarks in the state.

The visit began at the iconic Fort St. George, a historic fort that holds a special place in India's colonial past. Here, students had the opportunity to explore the rich history of British India and the role Fort St. George played during the colonial era. The fort, which now houses the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, presented a unique blend of historical architecture and political significance. As students walked through its halls, they gained insights into the struggle for independence and the colonial legacy that shaped modern-day India. The artifacts displayed at the museum took us back in time, offering a firsthand look at the colonial history that shaped India.

The group then proceeded to Raj Bhavan, the official residence of the Governor of Tamil Nadu. Upon arrival, the students were welcomed with a guided tour of the Raj Bhavan, where they were given an in-depth understanding of the building's historical significance, architecture, and its role in governance. We also had the opportunity to watch cultural performances from different states as part of the State Foundation Day celebrations. Additionally, the students had interactions with officials from Raj Bhavan, who were able to engage in a dialogue about the responsibilities of the office of the governor,

and the broader functioning of the state machinery.

The visit to the Tamil Nadu Secretariat and Raj Bhavan was immensely beneficial in helping students grasp the historical and constitutional significance of these institutions. Furthermore, the interaction with Raj Bhavan officials provided a real-world perspective on the workings of the state's governance, highlighting the importance of ethics, responsibility, and transparency in public offices. Overall, the trip proved to be both fun and enriching for all the students.





CONSTITUTION DAY 2024: FT. N. GOPALASWAMI, FORMER CEC

Date: 26 November, 2024

Venue: IC & SR Hall 3

HIGHLIGHTS:

On Constitution Day, an insightful event was organized by the DOST Office, in collaboration with SECC and SLC, to highlight the significance of the Indian Constitution and its impact on governance. The event featured the esteemed Chief Guest, N. Gopalaswami, Former Chief Election Commissioner, who delivered a thought-provoking speech on the importance of the Constitution and the autonomy of the Election Commission.

The session was followed by a Panel Discussion moderated by Atharv Joshi, with panelists including N. Gopalaswami, Prof. Sudarshan Padmanabhan, Dhvani Baheti, and Kaushik Raja P.

The discussion covered various aspects of constitutional implementation, with a focus on structural issues hindering equality and equal opportunities in India. One of the key points raised was the need for pressing structural reforms to address these issues. Additionally, the panel also discussed the governance at IITM, highlighting the model inspired by the Indian Constitution, which includes a quasi-judicial body (SECC), an independent election body (SEC), the executive council, and a legislative body (SLC).

Student Election Commission, taking the model from Election Commission of India, has adopted cutting edge technology like blockchain to formulate the voting

portal and also devised discreet yet easy methods to avail online voting for students who couldn't be present. The panel concluded with a Q&A session, followed by a prize distribution ceremony where participants, including the panelists, were awarded with the Manorama Yearbook.

Also bringing out the creativity in the students of the institute, the DOST Office organized an essay writing and drawing competition that masterfully blended the theme of the Constitution with creative prompts designed to ignite the artistic spirit in participants. The thought-provoking nature of the competition captivated the imagination of students, encouraging them to channel their artistic and literary talents in unique ways. The event was met with enthusiastic participation, as numerous submissions poured in, showcasing the vibrant creativity on campus. During the celebrations, a formal ceremony was held to honor the winners—three from each category who were awarded prizes

and applauded for their outstanding contributions.

On 26th November 2024, as per the Ministry of Education, Government of India, all Heads of Departments/Centres/Sections were asked to read out the Preamble from the Constitution of India to highlight the ideals on the basis of which our nation's principles were formed. The entire student fraternity, faculty members and staff members, repeated the Preamble behind them.

THE TEAM

COMMISSIONERS



Karthik Kurimindla
Commissioner



Meenakshi Anoop
Chief Commissioner



Kaushik Raja P
Commissioner

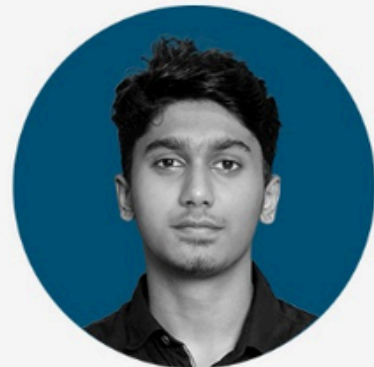
HEADS OF SECRETARIAT



Behjad Yasar
Events and Outreach



Ria Hansda
Constitutional Monitoring
and Operations



Alfid K Khader
Design

COORDINATORS



Dhruv Jalan
Events and Outreach



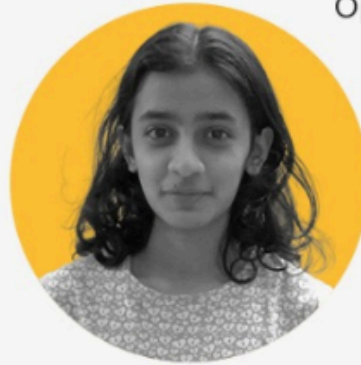
Nawin Pragasaran E
Events and Outreach



Mokshagna Teja
Constitutional Monitoring and
Operations

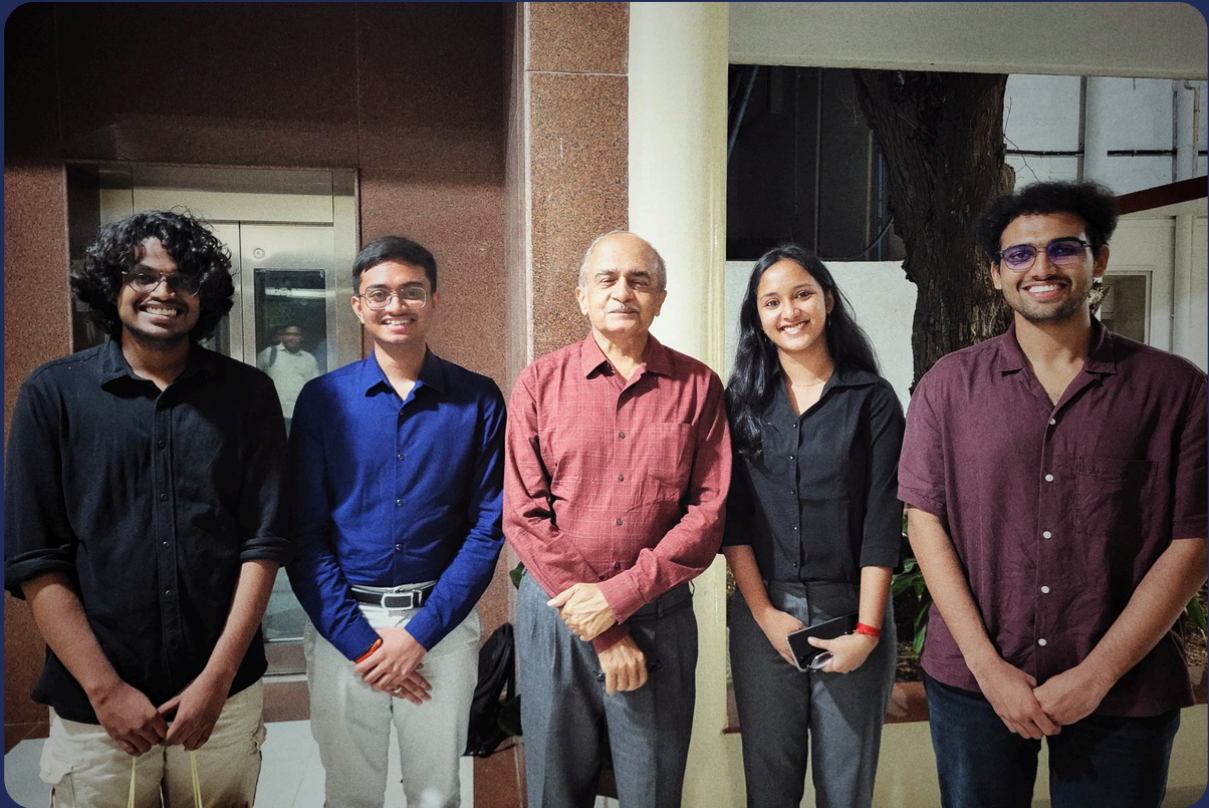


Aslah Yasar
Design



Smiti Achliya
Design

CANDID CLICKS



CANDID CLICKS



CANDID CLICKS



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