

Prof Raju's charge of plagiarism found correct

UK varsity warns lecturer

Shams Ur Rehman Alavi
Bhopal, November 7

THE SCIENTIFIC fraternity in the United Kingdom (UK) has been taken by a storm after the charges of plagiarism levelled against a faculty member of the prestigious University of Exeter by the renowned City-based mathematician Professor C K Raju were found to be correct.

The university has issued a warning to the defaulter faculty member Dennis Almeida who allegedly plagiarised the path-breaking works of Prof Raju in the field of mathematics and published them in his name.

A mathematician and physicist, Dr C K Raju is well known for his research in which he has claimed that European mathematicians did not invent calculus, which was perhaps transferred from India to the West. He was staggered to find his unpublished work plagiarised by the UK lecturer early this year.

Soon after the 'discovery', Dr Raju, who is Head of Centre for Computer Science with the Makhmal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism, and the university's the



Prof C K Raju

then DG Sharad Chandra Behar took up the issue with the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Exeter in March this year.

Recently, the VC of the University of Exeter, Professor Steve Smith, wrote a letter to Behar that an investigation was undertaken after the complaint of Dr Raju and after the enquiry was conducted, a written warning has been issued to Almeida that he must adhere to conventionally accepted tenets of authorship/acknowledgement in publications and any failure in future would be referred to a tribunal constituted under the university's statutes which could lead to his dismissal from the university.

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Dr Raju had charged Almeida, Lecturer in Mathematics Education at the School of Education in Exeter, Dr Zadorzhnyy, Department of Classics, University of Liverpool and another person for plagiarism of his innovative research.

According to Dr Raju, he had placed an advertise-

ment for Research Associate on his project, Madhava and the origin of calculus on the Internet in 1998, following which, Almeida had contacted him showing his interest in history of mathematics.

Almeida came to India to meet Raju and after his return to England raised some funding from the university for the project. In process, he reportedly gained access to Raju's unpublished works by saying that this was needed to raise more funds.

The association between the two continued until mid-2000.

However, Almeida then allegedly co-opted Dr

George Joseph, Reader in Economics Department of the University of Manchester, on the grounds that his British citizenship will help in raising more funding. The terms subsequently became unacceptable for Dr Raju because it appeared to him that Almeida wanted to take over Dr Raju's ideas but giving him only a side role.

The association thus ended but to Raju's astonishment, he found that his thesis was presented by Dr Joseph in a conference in December 2000 and then Almeida, John and Zadorzhnyy wrote a paper, "Keralase mathematics: its possible transmission to Europe and consequential educational implications" in a journal in 2001.

Dr C K Raju, who played

a leading role in the development of India's first supercomputer, Param, is an author of several books. He has questioned scientists like Einstein and Isaac Newton and challenged the long-existing beliefs that calculus was invented in Europe.

He has written several books including the famous, 'The Eleven Pictures of Time'.

The eminent Bhopal mathematician was astounded when he found that his unpublished work was freely used without credit to him and it appeared on a website recently. The complaint to the VC, University of Exeter was made and now the reply from the university and the findings of enquiry have at last proved the Indian

mathematician correct.

MP-based mathematician's work plagiarised abroad

By Pawanpreet Singh Saluja

Bhopal, Nov 23 (UNI)

A member of the UK-based University of Exeter's School of Education and Lifelong Learning has been found guilty of plagiarising a Madhya Pradesh-based-mathematician's work pertaining to the manner in which the concept of differential calculus spread to Europe in the 16th century.

In a recent letter to former Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism Director-General Sharad Chandra Behar - a copy of the missive was obtained by UNI - University of Exeter Vice-Chancellor Steve Smith said that, subject to findings of an investigation initiated following Prof C K Raju's complaint, Mr Dennis Almeida has been asked to adhere to "conventionally-accepted tenets of authorship/acknowledgements in publications" and warned that "any failure in future to adhere to this principle... could lead to his being dismissed."

"A warning isn't enough. But that's the action the university has taken. I would use the incident to explain how this (transmission of knowledge such as calculus) happened in the past and how it continues today," Prof Raju quipped during an interview to UNI. According to the city-based mathematician, Mr Almeida got access to his work as the result of an acquaintance that developed after the latter contacted Prof Raju following a website advertisement placed by him for seeking a research associate for his Indian National Science Academy-funded project 'Madhava and the Origin of Calculus'.

"Mr Almeida expressed a desire for joint work and promised to raise the required funding. Although he couldn't contribute much academically, I accepted the