

## University of Madras to offer joint-doctoral degree

**T**he University of Madras will offer a joint doctoral (Ph.D) degree and M. Tech courses from July 2011.

The joint Ph.D will be awarded to candidates submitting thesis on the basis of original and independent research conducted jointly in two universities in any particular discipline or involving more than one discipline (inter-disciplinary). It is applicable only for the Departments of University of Madras which will be either parent university or host university.

The syndicate and the academic council have already accepted the recommendations of the Board of Research Studies suggesting the regulations for the joint Ph.D programme to take effect from July 2011.

The candidates will be required to fill in separate application and registration forms specifically issued for the programme at the time of admission, said G. Thiruvasa-

gam, vice-chancellor of the university, expecting the move to give a new facelift for research.

The candidates for whom the University of Madras is the parent institution, should have obtained a master's degree with 55 per cent marks in the qualifying exam (for SC/ST candidates who have completed PG before 1991, the minimum is 50 per cent in the qualifying exam).

Candidates for whom the University of Madras will be the host institution should have registered for Ph.D with institutions with which the UNOM has signed an MoU. For both, candidates should provide proof of having a supervisor.

After obtaining the provisional registration in the parent university, the application should apply at the host university for admission. If the applicant satisfies the requirements for the joint Ph.D programme, then the applicant will be

interviewed through video conference (foreign students) or through personal appearance.

As per the regulations, the provisional registration in the parent university should not be used for getting the visa to enter the host country without the call letter from the host institution.

No change of supervisors and transfer of scholar will be permitted under the joint Ph.D programme. If a supervisor is found to be involved in plagiarism, moral turpitude with fraudulent academic accomplishments and other activities prejudicial to the reputation of the university, his/her guideship will be summarily withdrawn without assigning any reason, Mr. Thiruvasagam said.

The university also has decided to launch M.Tech programmes. The first M.Tech degree programme will be in Geoinformatics.

**B. ARAVIND KUMAR**