

IISc, IIMB campuses go to the dogs

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COMPLEX theories and concepts are no more the sole tormentors of the researchers and students at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Indian Institute of Management (IIM) these days. The lush green and serene premier campuses, considered a researchers' paradise, have become the hunting grounds of stray dogs too.

"I was attacked by a group of dogs at night once. We have tried to contact CUPA (Compassion Unlimited Plus Action) but nothing seems to be working," a researcher told *Express*.

A calm and secure environment has been taken over by dog attacks, bird droppings, cats and rats at IISc and IIM.

"IISc may no longer be on the hit list of terrorists and extremists, but the campus has started becoming the target of stray predators like dogs, cats, rats and crows that have made the life inside the campus uncomfortable. While cats and rats are endemic in messes, hostels, and tea board, bird droppings start after 5 pm. If one goes for an evening walk, he/she would definitely have a brush with bird drop-

pings," the researcher added.

Evidently scared and scarred, Binod Kumar Bharti, a researcher at IISc, recently wrote a mail to everybody in the campus seeking to get rid of the menace. The mail reads thus: "Dear all, IISc is no longer a safe place, if you look at the behaviour of the street dogs roaming in the campus. If you are walking in

the campus alone or with somebody, you are inviting them to attack. They will always come in groups and you will find yourself helpless at that moment.

Such incidents are continuously happening. If you are alone they will chase you

and most probably will bite you. Such things have happened with me. So, I am requesting the authorities to take action as soon as possible. Make it free from dogs and please provide us better environment to continue working in the evening and night."

While many researchers work during nights, many have tried to change their schedules as the stray dog menace looms large at night.

A researcher from IIM said, "We have tried to shoo strays away many times. But they invariably come back. Nobody can stop them."

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