The precints of a small biomechanics lab in Chennai’s Sri Ramachandra Medical College (SRMC) are reserved to check on suspect actions of errant bowlers and effect corrections. SRIRAM VEERA visits the facility that is helping BCCI weed out culprits.

I t’s a small glass-panelled room where two men in their 20s are at their station for the day. A half dozen images of stick figures shine in the ceiling, graphing not only the monitor, and inexorable numbers scroll up the side. The stick figures begin to flicker at the press of a button, images of the bowler start from there. An area which is homed to the ground. That’s the starting point of what we call the existence of Gaumont, one of the two biomes.

Last month, a security alert for Pakistan against India’s team, which was posted around that scene. A Vizcan Nova software that has intercepted him of his human features, reducing him to a stick figure. The biomechanics lab where Ojha’s career hit a malarky. This is where the Indi- can cricket board tries to prevent the deviating angling of a ball from crossing the nation. “This is the custom sanctuary,” says Dr Thayagaran with a gentle smile. It’s all an illusion.

When Ojha would have entered the 150 m² property of the Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Biomedical Sciences University in Chennai, he probably would have glanced over the two million square feet of con- structed space. The car would have速度快 past a multi-speciality hos- pital, walled past a hotelier hotel, made way for girls and boys that chat- ting on cell phones, climbed steps to the clinics, and glanced around a football ground before being driven to a place to stop at a shiny new building to face up to a fear that he was chooking.

Ojha and fellow have entered the lab but he would be unlikely to be aware of the Amritas Soyed and Grauman through the large glass window. A large indoor multi-purpose training area with many light-reflective markers on his 16. It is all just of the weather. He would have zoomed into his room, captur- ing the red details. His basically indoor bowling room. Ten months, summed on trips and so on. He would have covered up Ojha. Two well-maintained new 2.55 and 2.56 ball marks are on the ground. Around him, would have stood representatives of the India’s cricket team and the BCCI’s official, a biomechanist and if Ojha was a little shaky during the in- ternal match, an ICC representative would also have been present. “If a player has a lot of variations—career ball, arm ball, divorce and various stuff he would have to bowl a lot more than twice or three,” Thayagaran says.

All the going, there is a depth that is transparent Ojha’s data through the lid.

He might have found the worst scenario already but Ojha wouldn’t have known how to react this would be making a small dingbo 60 days to say, yes, his this. Thayagaran has a bowler he bowled a set of three overs. Each delivery is rendered into 60 frames. Each frame has to be analyzed separ- ately.

The points are marked in the area, various angles and distances are outputted by the software and the biomechanists get into micro-as- sessment of such tiny little movements of the frame.

ANALYSIS THAT
Sometimes, at the start of the sec- ond day, some 10 hours into analyzing data, the scores of06 of charging it can but fail. For cases of significance, they wait for 80 hours to come up with the results. “Lives are involved here. We can’t play around with sportsperson’s career. We have to be absolutely sure,” the ICC gave them two weeks’ time to deliver the veracity of whether the bowler has an extension over 15 degrees or not. It still a grey area and there is a lot of debate on the assessment tech- nique of the open bowl. The Uni- versity of Western Australia is at log- ically with the ICC, these days. Their bone of contention is that since the spinners release the ball out of different part of hand, which may or may not involve the fingers, automated marker tracking methods should not be used to identify the ball release. In March 2014, ICC, for long the only place of testing for bowlers, withdrew its in partnership- ship with the ICC which reluctantly responded with an application by saying that it had provided in protocol a “number of highly-overlapped low heave mechanisms associated with the different tertiary moments in the world”.

Meanwhile, back in Chennai around the time that controversy had simmered, SMRC sports scientists were already making an opening with the Indian board and the ICC. The process had started seven years ago when the institution had started in dream of producing world- class facilities for training, rehabilita- tion, injury prevention and corre- ctions in various sports in the country. They decided to use biomechanics to produce a simulation software to assess illegal bowling actions to get into the cricket space as results.

On the morning before Ojha ar- rived, a technician would have packed up a rod with set of a mark on it and walked into the nets area where the sensors are placed. He would have waved the rod, or the “wand” as it’s commonly called here, in front of each of those 14 cameras to calibrate the equipment. It would have taken about an hour for the calibration.

The conditioning perhaps runs all morn- ing that day but even two when no one is there, the special-UFO level floor of the AC. The wand too has to be in the hands of every day irrespective of whether anyone is running in to save his career, there an calibrations have to be done on a daily basis. According to Dr Thayagaran, the lab and the indoor nets area that houses the wand, high-definition cameras over SMRC about Rs 10 crore.

IKC APPROVAL
The wand was first waved several months ago when a young univer- sity graduate student from SMRC ran into bowl. The first of genius stu- dents for the project. Unlike Ojha, and the other bowlers set by the Indian board from various parts of the country these days, it was a day of happiness and excitement then, Dr Thayagaran remembers it. “We were all excited. The bowlers had all sorts of dagger actions. Some of them went over 40-degrees extension,” he laughs. Along months of tests and once the confidence over the technology was gained, the BCCI got into extensive discussions with them sometime last year. The caravan had begun its move and the ICC specialists started to come in and after five more months of to- and-fro and ensuring that they could stick to the stringent testing proc- ess, ICC gave them the go-ahead.

“Player isn’t committing some grave crime he is when he is,” MVP, Siril, director of cricket opera- tions of BCCI, says. “Would like crime should not be used. One must never forget that.” We are trying to help them here to correct the mistakes. It’s a technical thing. We can help them find the problem and sort out the mistakes. After our continuous discussions and strategies various broadcasting companies can send in any player to see and we can help them.”

The centre is now ready to hire players across Asia. For the Indians, especially, it’s a great facility to have right at home. No longer does one have to travel all the way to Asia- n or South Africa. They can just hop over to Chennai. It’s not going to see them if they possess an illegal bowling action, of course, but can at least avoid the embarrassment of the not in an alien environ- ment. And Indian cricket, which is now heavily immersed in wording out the choking mannerisms, has now a one-step drop right at home where they can address the problem.

From biomechanics tests to rehab, BCCI has a new one-shop stop in Chennai

SRIRAM VEERA 10/01/2015

RARNIVDA Jadav lays face down on a special turbo door inside the multi-purpose training centre at the SMRC. After getting some strengthening work done with the help of the BCCI head coach Sudar- dhan, he begins one of the nine practice nets for some remedial and training. The Indian cricket board isn’t using the facilities of SMRC for just check- ing illegal bowling actions but also for their entire rehabilitation work.

In the not-so-distant past, Jadav would have been in Bangalore at the National Cricket Acad- emy for his rehabilitation for the injury that forced him to come back from Australia midway dur- ing the Test series. These days, Chennai calls.

“We have a wholesome under- standing with SMRC,” BCCI’s MVP Siril says. This is a one-stop shop for us. Our entire rehabilitation and biomechanics require- ments are done here now. Our head physio-Nitin Patel and head coach Sudarshan are based in Chennai.

When the players arrive here for rehab, they first get medical assessment by the doctors before the BCCI personnel take over, using the various multispeciality serv- ices on offer at SMRC. The Indian board has its own set of specialists on the first floor where the equipment from ICF Birmingham as being brought in. But the high- performance centre here has all the gizmos. A high-altitude train- ing center, physiology lab, a special pool for hydrotherapy... the whole jazz. Each room houses 12 CAMERAS, 30 HOURS ... 10 CAMERAS, recorded on tripods and so, on the side wall, stare down at the bowler being taught to bowl on the perfect ball and line.

BOWLING ANALYSIS represents an important part of the SMRC, a board official, and is known in international and domestic leagues as an ICC representative. If a BOWLER has a lot of variations—career ball, arm ball, divorce and assorted stuff—it needs to travel from the three areas.

10 IMAGE OF THE week figure of the bunker shown on screen and a stream of data scroll up by the side.

EACH DELIVERY is rendered into 60 frames to be analyzed separately. The prints are marked in the area, various angles and distances are outputted by the software and the biomechanists get into micro-assessment of each tiny little movement of the area.

IT CAN TAKE up to 60 hours to affirm that someone is nailing.