



Diamond

2018



Jubilee

2019

IIT MADRAS



HERITAGE CENTRE

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The Heritage Centre is a unique facility among the IITs. It was created with the vision of collecting and displaying items of IIT Madras heritage value. Inaugurated on 3 March 2006 by **Prof. Arcot Ramachandran**, former Director of IIT Madras, the Heritage Centre is located centrally in the Ground Floor of the Administration Building.



Prof. Arcot Ramachandran
Former Director
IIT Madras

The actual idea of a Heritage Centre was mooted in the year 2000 and it has become a reality due to the efforts of the Professor-in charge **Dr. Ajit Kumar Kolar** and his team. The aesthetic architecture of the Heritage Centre features frequently in visitors' comments. The glazed sides of the exhibition hall provide abundant natural light and afford views of the refreshing green campus around. The visitors' **Heritage Centre** experience often begins with a viewing of an introductory film in the theatre, which seats 40 persons comfortably.



Dr. Ajit Kumar Kolar
Professor
IIT Madras

The Centre will function as a repository of material of heritage value and historical significance of various facets of the Institute. The exhibits include photographs, documents, publications, paintings, portraits, products developed and other articles. Information regarding important events, laboratory development, visits of important dignitaries, Indo-Germanic cooperative activities, and academic achievements of faculty and students also are included. Aspects of IITM campus features and development, campus life and student activities are also included, thus broadening the scope of the Centre in the future to non-academic activities also.

The activities of the Heritage Centre will be of a continuous nature from now on and hence the support and cooperation of all IITians (students, faculty and staff, past and present) is very essential in making the Centre meet its goal of preserving IITM history and culture for the future generations of IITians. By the very nature of the task, the role of the Alumni is crucial in establishing and furtherance the Centre.

On display in the exhibition are items that evoke memories of the early days of IIT Madras, such as the foundation stone laid in 1959, an aerial view of the campus as seen in the early 1970s, a life-size oil portrait of **Prof. B. Sengupto** (first Director), drawing instruments used by students and a workshop bench with tools and student exercises. Thematic exhibitions have been put up at the Heritage Centre in the last few years, and in 2019- 2020, the Diamond Jubilee year provided the opportunity to curate an exhibition of IIT Madras through the decades. A quiet works area for researchers and staff members is available in the space between the theatre and the hall. The IIT Madras Archive team shared this with the Heritage Centre this year, and they propose to continue using it until their own space is ready.



Prof. B. Sengupto
First Director



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The Heritage Centre is visited by guests of the institute, conference delegates, alumni, donors, researchers, students and parents. It has become the first stop in any campus tour organised for school children or college students. The items of nostalgic value at the Heritage Centre and its convenient location, close to the IC&SR auditorium and the Centre Lecture Theatre, make it an important place to visit during alumni reunions. The website of the Heritage Centre (heritage.iitm.ac.in) makes available online digital versions of the collections, the Oral History videos, videos of the campus fauna and more. The Heritage Centre conducts events such as talks and the annual Heritage Centre Day programme, which are of interest to a wide cross section of the IIT Madras community. During 2019-2020, the role played by the Heritage Centre in shaping positive perceptions of the institute continued to grow.

PERSONNEL



Prof. R. Nagarajan, Professor in Charge



Mr. Kumaran Sathasivam, Manager



Ms. Mamata Dash, Senior Executive



Mr. Anand, Office Assistant

Advisory Committee



Prof. M.S. Ananth



Prof. R. Nagarajan



Prof. Koshy Varghese



Prof. Mahesh Panchagnula



Prof. Ajit Kumar Kolar



Prof. P. Sriram



Prof. C.S. Swamy



Prof. S. Santhakumar



Mr. S. Srinivasan



Mr. Kumaran Sathasivam

Thank you!

We would like to take this opportunity again to express our heartfelt gratitude to all those who made benevolent contributions towards the growth and development of IIT MADRAS.



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