



**Indian Institute of Technology Madras**  
Office of Alumni and Corporate Relations



“Remembering Ms. Malathi Veeraraghavan  
who asked for so little but gave so very much.”

**CELEBRATING GENEROSITY**  
OF THE FAMILY & FRIENDS OF  
**PROF. MALATHI VEERARAGHAVAN**

YOUR LIFE WAS A **BLESSING**  
YOUR MEMORY A **TREASURE**  
YOU ARE LOVED BEYOND WORDS  
& MISSED BEYOND **MEASURE**



**Mr. SHRIKANT RAMAMURTHY**  
ALONG WITH  
FAMILY & FRIENDS



## MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR

PROF.  
**KAMAKOTI VEEZHINATHAN**  
DIRECTOR, IITM

IIT Madras, in the 63 glorious years of its journey, has been scaling new heights of success and excellence. This is reflected in many ways including in its exemplary performance for six years in a row, on the National Institute Ranking Framework released by the Ministry of Education, Government of India. Chosen as one of the Institutes of Excellence, IIT Madras has established a number of Research Initiatives in various fields of contemporary relevance showcasing the commitment towards fostering world-class research. In this continuing pursuit of academic and research excellence, we will continue to embrace innovative practices while promoting efficient, and effective governance through AI-driven hyper-automation.

The outpouring of generous support we have received in the past year from well-wishers such as yourself has been humbling. On behalf of the Institute, I offer you our deepest gratitude for keeping IIT Madras strong. I am confident that we will continue to make many positive strides and leaps forward with renewed vigour to achieve the goals that we have set out for us. Together, with your support, we are confident of creating an IIT Madras with a diverse group of faculty and staff pursuing nationally relevant and globally recognized research. If this past year has taught us anything, it's that it takes a dedicated and committed community to keep us moving forward — and far beyond. Thank you!



## MESSAGE FROM DEAN

PROF.  
**MAHESH PANCHAGNULA**  
DEAN, ALUMNI & CORPORATE RELATIONS, IITM

**WITH FOND MEMORIES OF MS. MALATHI VEERARAGHAVAN HEARTFELT GRATITUDE FROM IIT MADRAS.**

“Our aim to provide continued solutions to social problems on a global scale is realised through the sustained support of alumnus such as you.

We thank you for your contribution as we present a report of its impact. We hope to receive your help and support for our future endeavours to take IIT Madras to the global stage.”



## **IN MEMORY OF PROF. MALATHI VEERARAGHAVAN**

Dr. Malathi Veeraraghavan, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Virginia, passed away on Monday, May 11th, 2020. Her husband, many friends, and the IIT Madras community at large mourn the loss.

Malathi had an amazing work ethic, and she kept on working until the very end. A highly accomplished researcher, Malathi earned her BTech from the world-renowned IIT Madras in 1984. She was one of only four women in her EE class. She came to the US and earned her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Duke University in 1985 and 1988, respectively.

She then joined Bell Laboratories, where she worked for 10 years, starting as Member of Technical Staff and quickly rising to become a Distinguished Member of Technical Staff. In 1999, she joined the faculty at Polytechnic University, Brooklyn, New York, as Associate Professor. There she won the Jacobs award for excellence in education in 2002. That year, she joined the ECE department at UVA as an Associate Professor of ECE, and was promoted to Professor in 2007. From 2003 to 2006, she served as Director of the Computer Engineering program, where she led the creation of the Computer Engineering graduate program at UVA.



She won over \$17 million dollars in competitive research funding that she brought to UVA, graduated 13 PhD students and 16 Master's students, and mentored six postdoctoral associates and research scientists/engineers.

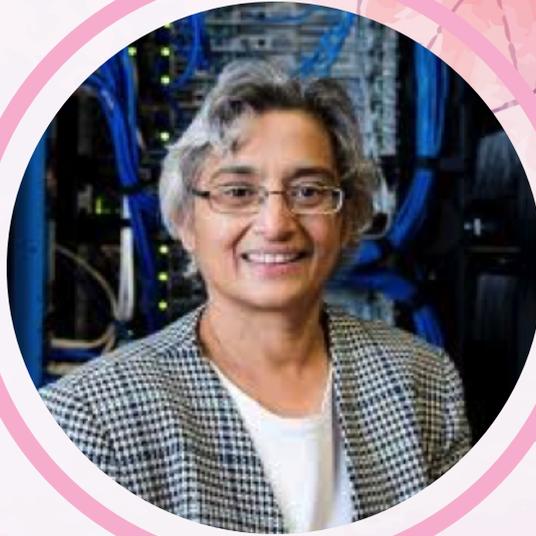
She co-authored 30 patents and over 200 refereed research publications in journals, conferences and workshops, and received six best paper awards, including one last year. Earlier this year, Malathi was elevated to IEEE Fellow, "for contributions to control-plane architectures, signal protocols and hybrid networks".

Malathi lived her life with an incredible and constructive spirit, and never shied away from any challenge. She faced difficulties head on, with an inner strength and conviction that were simply humbling. She was fearless.

She also was an out-of-the-box thinker and one of the toughest and simultaneously kindest people one could ever encounter. In recent years she participated in the NICT/NSF JUNO initiative that facilitated both technical and social interactions between scientists in Japan and the USA.

She helped form strong and lasting ties between the two communities with her frequent visits to Japan, always accompanied by her beloved husband, Mr. Shrikant Ramamurthy. During those visits Malathi served as Visiting Professor at Keio University and contributed to HPSR and iPOP conferences, both held in Japan.

She is especially remembered for her hiking trips to Mt. Takao and visits to onsen natural hot springs and her favorite Japanese restaurant, the Rotating Sushi Bar, where she exclusively enjoyed vegetarian cucumber sushi. She enjoyed traveling the world with her husband and had visited more than 150 countries. All who know Malathi Veeraraghavan will miss her delightful companionship and warm friendship.



## **PROF. MALATHI VEERARAGHAVAN SCHOLAR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM & UNDER GRADUATE PRIZE**

### **ABOUT THE CAUSE:**

Prof. Malathi Veeraraghavan received her B.Tech degree from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras in 1984 and MS and Ph.D. degrees from Duke University in 1985 and 1988. After a ten-year career at Bell Laboratories, she served on the faculty at Polytechnic University, Brooklyn, New York, from 1999-2002.

She won the Jacobs award for excellence in education in 2002. Her research interests were in cybersecurity, computer networks, and most recently in precision oncology using electronic health records. She holds 30 patents, has over 200 publications, and has received eight best paper awards.

Her research has been funded by DARPA, NSF, DOE, DOT, NYSTAR, Verizon, Village Networks, and Cisco. She was named an IEEE Fellow in 2020 in recognition of her “contributions to control-plane architectures, signal protocols, and hybrid networks.” She passed away in May 2020. In memory of her, IIT Madras instituted an endowment in the name of Prof. Malathi and provided an Annual Research fellowship award to a woman Ph.D. scholar.



## **HONORING MALATHI'S MEMORY MEANT ACKNOWLEDGING TWO THINGS**

- ▶ Her strong commitment to encouraging and mentoring women to enter and succeed in STEM fields.
- ▶ Her passion and success as an engineer, scholar, researcher, and role model.

After multiple fruitful discussions of a range of options with folks from the 1984 IITM batch who are presently involved with IITs (Satya, currently director of IITTP after several years as faculty at IITM, David Koilpillai, HoD at the EE department at IITM, and Subra, CEO of the Office of Alumni Relations); some of her distinguished batchmates in LC (Joy Thomas and Murali Subbarao); as well as her husband, Shrikant, decided on the following goals:

- ▶ Provide the award to a woman
- ▶ The award should further a woman's career.
- ▶ The award should have name visibility and uniqueness.
- ▶ The award should serve the current needs of Malathi's alma mater, IITM.
- ▶ The award should be administered with low overhead by IITM, and
- ▶ The award should be finalized quickly to create the momentum to raise funds within a short period.

With these points as direction, the choice was narrowed in providing an annual Graduate Fellowship to be awarded to a Ph.D. woman candidate in her third year of graduate studies in either EE or CS. The awardee would be termed the MV Scholar and will carry that designation always in her resume.

Very briefly, by annually awarding a graduate student in her third year, we hope to incentivize women graduate students working on their dissertation proposals, have annual visibility as an award, help IITM in its goals of becoming a premier graduate research institution.



# RECIPIENT OF THE PRESTIGIOUS **MALATHI VEERARAGHAVAN** SCHOLAR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



**MS. LAKSHMI AREEKATH**  
EE17D014

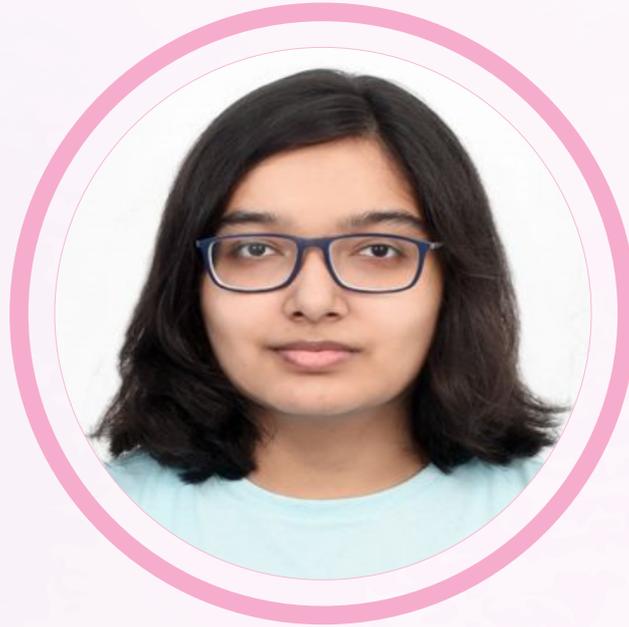
Criteria: Women Ph.D. students during Years 3 or 4 in EE or CSE.

## **AWARDEE VOICE**

"I am grateful for the MV scholarship award 2020. It is a huge honour to be chosen for an award intended to immortalise the legacy of Prof. Malathi Veeraraghavan. I thank the MV scholarship committee, the family and friends of Prof. Malathi for finding me worthy of it.

It has been a huge appreciation for my research journey so far, and an inspiration for me to work further to achieve greater heights. I was recently awarded an Institute Research award too. Once again I wholeheartedly thank everybody involved in setting up the MV scholarship and for giving me this opportunity, especially the MV committee, the EE department, and the Alumni Relations Office of IITM."

# RECIPIENT OF THE PRESTIGIOUS MALATHI VEERARAGHAVAN UNDER GRADUATE PRIZE



**MS. SHIVANGI SINGH**  
ME18B171

Criteria: This prize is Instituted in the year 2021. Award consist of a Gold-plated silver medal and cash award of Rs.25000/- to the 3rd year B. Tech / Dual Degree girl student with top all round performance at the end of her 5th semester.

## **AWARDEE VOICE**

“I'm extremely honored to be a recipient of the MV Undergraduate Prize, and I would like to thank the donors for the same. I'm thankful that a prize like this exists at the level of a third-year student, as it motivates us to strive for the better in the rest of our college lives. I'm extremely grateful to the selection committee for identifying my achievements as worthy of this honor. It is a privilege to be receiving the prize, and I'm highly indebted to IIT Madras for the same...”

Thank you for your most generous contribution! We are so fortunate to have caught the attention of alumni like you with large warm hearts. We greatly appreciate your willingness to be a helping hand.

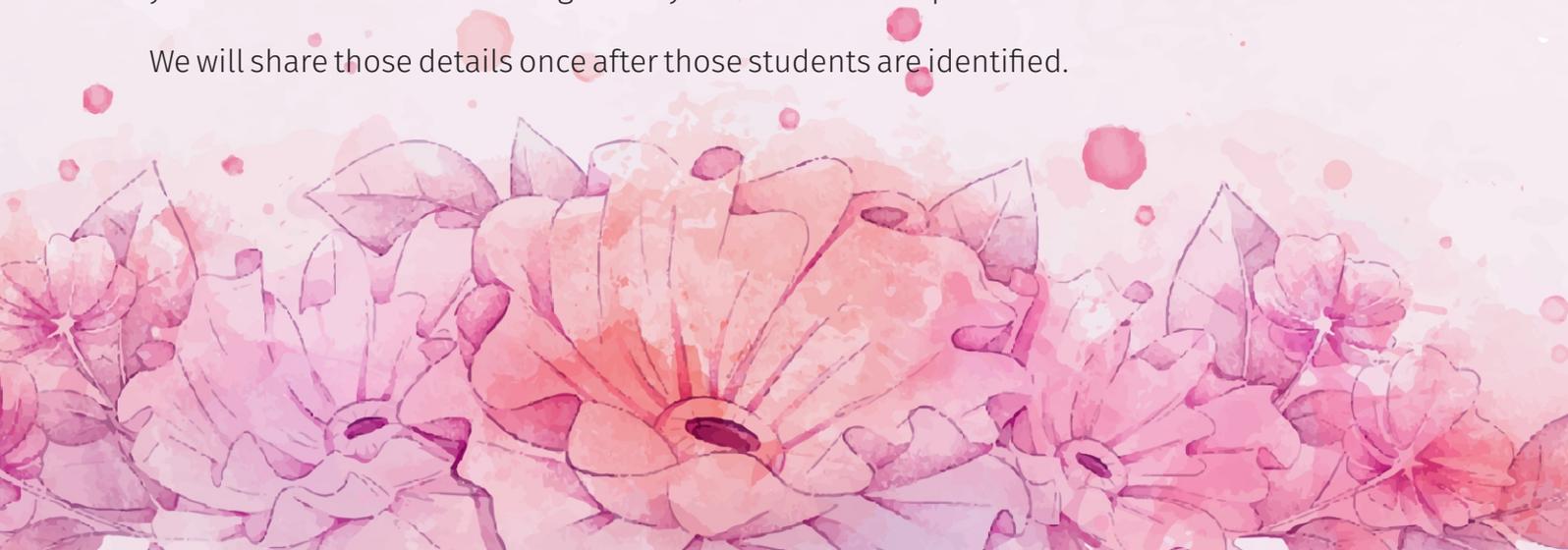


## **MALATHI VEERARAGHAVAN** **SCHOLAR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM &** **UNDER GRADUATE PRIZE FOR** **THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022 & 2022-2023**

The student beneficiaries were identified only for the year 2020-2021. Ms. Lakshmi Areekath was awarded the MV Scholar fellowship program and Ms. Shivanghi Singh was awarded the under graduate prize.

The Department of Electrical Engineering is planning to identify a third year student beneficiary for the academic year 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 which would be combined and identified this year. The procedure of identifying the student beneficiary for the academic year 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 got delayed because of the pandemic situation.

We will share those details once after those students are identified.





## HEART WARMING MESSAGES FROM MALATHI'S BATCHMATES



Malathi was a very special person. As one of the few women in our batch, I got a chance to get to know the person behind that seemingly shy, sweet smile. She had an amazing ability to dedicate herself to whatever she took up. Academics were a constant, but she took up other pastimes with similar fervor: devouring spaghetti Westerns, learning to swim, keeping fish, building a digital score board for the IIT basketball team, and convincing me to take spur-of-the-moment trips with her. After we graduated, her star shone brightly as she garnered academic accolades, patent awards and research funding as well as recognition as a leader in the field of networks. Despite this, she was the same, sweet person that I first met— an avid reader and traveler, and a dear friend. She was devoted to her graduate trainees and a champion of women in science and engineering. So, it is fitting that the awards in her memory recognize promising women engineers at the graduate and undergraduate level.

**- Preethi Verghese, IIT Madras, B. Tech - 1984**

Malathi was in my IITM84 batch of 5 women. There are many things about Malathi that inspire me constantly, but above all, her deep curiosity about things that interested her always resonated with me. In our IITM days of no Google or Internet she would search every possible avenue for the obscure details of a topic when it captured her imagination - be it circuit design or the keeping of tropical fish in her hostel room. Her interests evolved as the world evolved but her passion-filled search to learn more was a true constant! Malathi was a gentle kind hearted person, always partial to a good joke. I miss her deeply, and am thrilled that the MV prizes keep her memory alive.

**- Poornima Balasubramanyam, IIT Madras, B. Tech - 1984**

Malathi cared deeply that women find their well-deserved voice and place as scholars, researchers and entrepreneurs in the sciences and engineering. Her untimely death mobilized the latent energy for this cause among IITM women alumni, faculty and research scholars, resulting in the ongoing STEWARD (STEM women researchers' development) program at IITM, a collective effort of their sisterhood for mentoring and encouraging young women researchers, addressing imbalances and hurdles that hinder women from entering or thriving in the profession, and supporting sister programs at IITM.

**- Meera Sitharam, IIT Madras, B. Tech - 1984**



# WE ARE GRATEFUL TO ALL OF YOU!



Thank you for your sustained generosity to IIT Madras over the years. Contributors such as yourself enable our students and Professors to dream big and work towards a better and brighter future. We hope you are proud of you alma mater and how it has remained steadfastly committed to academic and research excellence since your time here. You, your family and friends have been instrumental in facilitating this significant growth. Our efforts to nurture the culture of academic excellence that is the hallmark of IIT Madras - quality education, cutting-edge research, and unfettered creativity shall continue. We are privileged and humbled to have you, your family and friends walking with us along this trail. We wish you, your family and all those who have contributed for this cause the best always in all walks of life!



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