

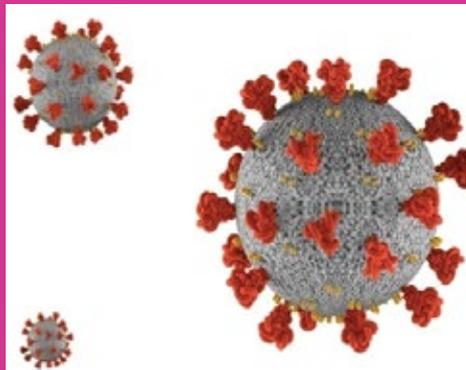


**Indian Institute of Technology Madras  
Office of Alumni and Corporate Relations**



## **Impact of Your Giving**

**Padma Shri Prem Watsa & Smt. Nalini Loganadhan Watsa**





**Prof. KAMAKOTI VEEZHINATHAN**

*Director, IITM*

***Our Gratitude to Padma Shri Prem Watsa and Smt. Nalini Loganadhan Watsa from IIT Madras.***

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 vigor 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!



**Prof. MAHESH PANCHAGNULA**

*Dean, Alumni & Corporate Relations, IITM*

***Heartfelt thanks to Padma Shri Prem Watsa and Smt. Nalini Loganadhan Watsa from IIT Madras.***

“Our aim to provide continued solutions to social problems on a global scale is realized through the sustained support of well-wishers 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 endeavors to take IIT Madras to the global stage.”



### **Shri V. Prem Watsa**

**B. Tech, Chemical Engineering- 1971 Batch**

**Shri V. Prem Watsa [1971/BT/CH]** is an illustrious alumnus of IIT Madras. He is the Founder, Chairman, and Chief Executive of Fairfax Financial Holdings based in Toronto, Canada and is commonly known as **“the Warren Buffett of Canada”** for his exceptional investing skills and business acumen. He won the Distinguished Alumnus Award from IIT Madras in 1999. Shri Prem Watsa's name floods into the news headlines for his achievements and philanthropy. Shri Watsa also holds an MBA from the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario. For his exemplary achievements, the Government of India recently conferred the **‘Padma Shri’** on him, the fourth highest civilian award in India

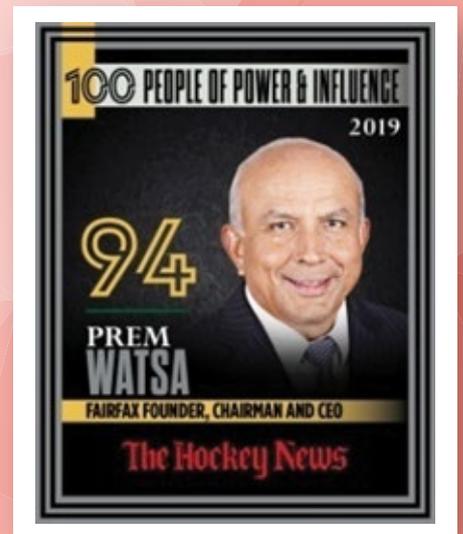
IIT Madras extends its heartfelt gratitude to **Shri Prem Watsa and Smt. Nalini Loganadhan Watsa** and conveys its regards to his children Stephanie Watsa, Christine Watsa, and Benjamin Watsa.

Shri Watsa grew amidst hardships and rose above all the hurdles. His parents Shri Manohar Clarence Watsa and Smt. Irene were great inspirations in his life. Much of Watsa's life has been influenced by his father's tenacity, and the advice he passed to his son: *“Work as hard as you can, as though everything depended on you. Pray as hard as you can, as though everything depended on God.”* Watsa's inspirational journey from a migrant to a millionaire can be attributed to his hard work and his rigid adherence to the principle of his father's golden rule.

*“I won the lottery,” Watsa says, “A billion people in India and I have two great parents.” - Prem Watsa*

**“Tend to work harder, because you're at the bottom and the only way to go is up” – Watsa**

The humble and sincere human being, Shri Watsa has achieved this echelon with hard work, sincerity, love, culture, care, and gratitude. He admired the author Benjamin Graham, a Columbia business school professor and investment manager, who wrote the book *Securities Analysis* so much that he named his son as Benjamin Watsa in his honour.



## Various honours and accolades of Shri Prem Watsa

Board of Trustees

**SickKids**

SickKids



Advisory Board

**IVEY**

Richard Ivey School of Business  
The University of Western Ontario

Richard Ivey School of Business



Board of Directors



Royal Ontario Museum Foundation



Chairman of the Investment Committee



St. Paul's Anglican Church



9th Chancellor



University of Waterloo



1st Chancellor



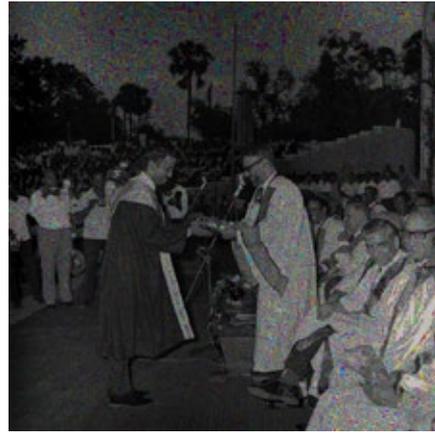
Huron University College



## Then



IIT Madras receiving the Inter IIT Trophy during the tenure of Shri Prem Watsa as the Institute Sports Secretary



8th Convocation – 31-July-1971

## Now



IIT Madras receiving the trophy for the Inter IIT Aquatic Meet - 2015



58th Convocation – 20-November-2021



Shaastra Magazines, Science, Technology and Innovation.  
Online versions of the magazine can be found using this [link](#).

Office of Alumni & Corporate Relations, IIT Madras

## 64 Foundation Freeship Scholarship

Shri Prem Watsa's contribution towards the '64 Foundation Freeship Scholarship' is named after the first graduated batch of IIT Madras. In every way, Shri Prem Watsa's contribution touches the parents, predecessors, and mentors with gratitude.

*"I benefited myself from a good education," - Watsa*

### Criteria of the Scholarship

- B.Tech / DD students belonging to all categories with parental income from 4.5 lakhs to 8 lakhs will get a support of Rs.17,000/- per annum; (SC/ST) and other students will get support of Rs.9000/- per annum.
- M.Sc. students who are provided with merit scholarship support of Rs.6,000/- (partial tuition fee waiver) will be eligible for additional support of Rs.12,000/- per annum.
- M.A. students who are provided with Institute Merit cum Means (MCM) Scholarship will be eligible for additional support of Rs.12,000/- per annum.
- M.Sc. students who are provided with 50% Free Studentship will be eligible for additional support of Rs.15,000/- per annum.

So far, 900+ students have been benefitted through this scholarship. A few student testimonials are given below:

	<b>Joshi Subodh Santoshrao</b> CE18B008	"Living away from home is a huge financial burden, especially coming from a middle class family. This scholarship helped covering extra costs of living in a metro city. It gave financial freedom to pursue different things in IIT Madras."
	<b>Afeef P</b> CE18B107	"It helped me very much."
	<b>Chokkaku Chakradhar</b> CS18B008	"Made me study without any tension and be independent."

	<p><b>G. Deepak</b> ME18B046</p>	<p>“This scholarship helped me support my miscellaneous expenditures on technical equipment that were highly essential for my academic studies at IIT Madras. It also allowed me to invest more time on online courses which helped me to develop technical skills for placements and higher studies.”</p>
 <p>M.CHANDANA SAI SRI</p>	<p><b>M Chandana Sai Sri</b> EE19B093</p>	<p>“This scholarship helped me with my expenses out of institute fee and hostel fee while living in campus. During the pandemic, I used the money to buy laptop for academic purpose.”</p>
	<p><b>Rajath A V</b> ME18B091</p>	<p>“The amount received till now has helped to ease the fee burden to an extent. I thank the alumni and the office for recognizing that there are many students with family income just north of 5 lakh, who benefit a lot from this scholarship, and for selecting me to be a recipient.”</p>
	<p><b>Malay Bhardwaj</b> ED19B052</p>	<p>“It helped me in covering the travel expenses my to and from home. Since trains to my home take almost two days, I need to go via flight. With this scholarship, at least that expense is covered.”</p>
	<p><b>Sameer N. Soni</b> MM18B031</p>	<p>“This scholarship helped me to fulfil all my pocket expenses and reduce the burden on my parents for the same.”</p>
	<p><b>Aswinkumar</b> EP18B014</p>	<p>“The scholarship helped me build projects that I pursued after my tenure in CFI and helped me explore new domains in a practical way and attend events that I was interested in which helped me networks with Industry professionals and learn better about their domain.”</p>
	<p><b>Pusala Sai Vivek</b> CE18b047</p>	<p>“The scholarship helped me payoff interests on student’s loan which is quite a lot!”</p>

## Manohar C Watsa IITM Stadium

By thoughtful contribution of Shri Prem Watsa, who was the then Institute Sports Secretary, the stadium which was fully renovated after the Chennai flood and it was named after his father 'Manohar C Watsa Stadium'.

Manohar C Watsa Stadium is an iconic place in IIT Madras which regularly witnesses larger gatherings. For generations of students, the stadium has been the space for not just exercise and training but also for casual catch-up sessions or just some quiet time. During the evenings, it is not uncommon to see professors strolling with their children as the institute athletics team trains a few feet away.

**"IIT Madras has always been a great place, and provided a really good foundation. The five years that I spent at IIT Madras were undoubtedly the best years of my life." - Watsa**



Shri Prem Watsa inaugurates the Manohar C Watsa Stadium - 2015

### Message from Rudra Sameer Nair – Sports Secretary 2022 & the athletics team member

"The Manohar C Watsa Stadium is one of the best facilities that students have at IIT Madras. Having a proper athletics track within the campus has allowed the Institute's Athletics Team to expand in terms of the events we target at the Inter-IIT Sports Meet which brings us closer to winning the ever-coveted General Championship. It has helped to attract coaches of a high calibre to the institute which supplements our fight at Inter-IIT. Moreover, practising on the synthetic surface helps improve technique and reduces the risk of injury to student-athletes allowing them to maintain the very important balance between sports, academics and other student activities. The surface is such that even during the monsoon season, which happens to fall right before Inter-IIT, our team is able to practice without any hassle. The centre lawns in the stadium are always in use by students playing frisbee, football, cricket and even for martial arts sessions. The gallery area has become a beautiful place for students to sit and relax or work in the mornings and evenings, watching the sunrise, studying, reading, listening to music or just "putting peace", as you would call it in Insti Lingo. The stadium, therefore, is not just a place where sports happens, it has helped bring all spheres of students together unlike any other space in the Institute."





### IIT Madras - Athletics Team 2022



**Ms. Breasha Gupta** – Receiving Institute Blues Silver Award 2022 during 63rd Institute Day held on Apr 26, 2022

### Shri Prem Watsa’s Challenge Grant



**Mr. Girish Muckai [1990/BT/ME]**  
President, IIT Madras Foundation

“Prem's Challenge Grant, right at the outset of the formation of IIT Madras Foundation, was the catalyst for raising a significant endowment. This was a phenomenal motivator for many other donors to step forward and commit large and small sums alike. Prem's grant was instrumental in opening the door for a plethora of donors in North America to make a positive impact. We at IITM Foundation are grateful to Prem and his leadership team, in particular Chandran Ratnaswami and Vinodh Loganadhan, in helping advance IITM Foundation's mission forward.”

The interest accrual from Shri Prem Watsa’s Challenge Grant has been used to support various activities of IIT Madras Incubation cell, a part of IIT Madras innovation and entrepreneurship. IIT Madras has the most successful innovation eco-system in Indian academia and IITM Research Park is reputed to be India’s first university based research park that houses industries with significant activities in R&D. IITMRP enables faculty members and student entrepreneurs get critical inputs from the industry which is immensely helpful in product conceptualization and market acceptance.



The [IITM Incubation Cell](#) provides a nurturing environment to nascent start-ups by extending support to start-ups so that they can focus on working on their venture rather than getting hassled by compliance and other requirements. The ecosystem helps the start-ups to interact with like-minded people. More importantly, the ecosystem supports risk taking. This has enabled us to meet and exceed the previous planned target of launching 20 companies in a year.



### Other Innovation and Entrepreneurship Ecosystem at IIT Madras

[Centre for Innovation \(CFI\)](#), India's largest student run innovation lab is the entry point to the ecosystem for students. At CFI, students generate interesting ideas, form teams, implement and test it.



The innovation at CFI are further nurtured, considering the technical and commercial aspects, at [NIRMAAN](#).



[Entrepreneurship Cell](#) at IIT Madras believes that entrepreneurship is not just about starting companies, but a pathway towards India's socio-economic development. The vision of E-Cell is to make students and faculty 'entrepreneurial' in every work that they do. We hope to enable them to solve global challenges as we see students as the greatest capital and intend to nurture them, provide them with opportunities for excellence.



[Gopalakrishnan Deshpande Centre \(GDC\)](#) builds capacity in researchers from STEM universities, incubators, research institutions, and corporates to maximize the impact of deep-tech research through scalable start-ups. By enabling faculty and researchers in STEM universities across India to commercialize their research ideas and innovations, we help them go from lab to market.



[Pravartak](#), a recent addition to the innovation ecosystem, provides a holistic ecosystem for I&E in technology areas of national importance – comprising components for conducting translational research, product development, international collaboration, and then supporting entrepreneurship.



In the upcoming years, we will strengthen the ecosystem through better integration, further streamlining of activities, and engaging students at all levels of study, from undergraduates to research scholars and post-doctoral researchers. We will leverage the 10x initiative of the IITMRP to create more start-ups, develop new technologies and grow human capacity in design and innovation.

As part of our vision, the Institute will give an extensive push to innovation and entrepreneurial initiatives to drive the Institute's leadership position and to encourage the development of pioneering approaches to any challenging task in order to achieve quality, greater scale, and new objectives. We will encourage a broader innovative vision across the spectrum of activities carried out in the Institute. For instance, an online 3-year degree program is a radical innovation in higher education pedagogy. In the upcoming years, the institute will focus on innovation and entrepreneurial activities that will have prominent social impact.

We will chalk out strategies to expand the innovation activities on campus to interact with the larger ecosystem. Some of the facilities shall also be opened to attract individuals outside the campus who have proven records of interest in innovation. Our students in the ecosystem shall be given opportunities and support to visit globally recognised innovation systems to meet similar minds. This will help us to enhance our capabilities. To facilitate these activities, an innovation and entrepreneurship fund will be created with contributions from income generated from such activities and alumni support.

### **Strategic Vision of Innovation & Entrepreneurship in next six years**

- **Give an extensive push to Innovation and Entrepreneurial initiatives** to drive Institute's leadership position.
- **50% of faculty and students to be involved in startups and other entrepreneurial initiatives**
- **Leverage the 10x initiative of IITM RP** to create more startups, pioneering technologies, grow human capacity in design and innovation
- Create an **I&E fund** to support new initiatives

## Covid Relief Fund

The second wave of COVID-19 in India had a disastrous effect on numerous families. Many people lost their lives due to lack of oxygen. In these testing times, the alumni of IIT Madras have come together to raise a focused fund for breathing aids that can help stabilize people in the crucial hours.

### Bestowal of IIT Madras

IIT Madras launched a campaign to raise funds for procuring oxygen concentrators in the United States of America. The institute exceeded its goal of raising \$1 million in 48 hours.

The IIT Madras Alumni in India and abroad have donated more than \$2 million towards covid relief efforts in India that was coordinated by their alma mater. In order to ensure a far-reaching impact of covid-19 relief materials, IIT Madras is using a phased deployment approach.

The fundraising was coordinated by the Office of Alumni and Corporate Relations (ACR), IIT Madras, in association with IIT Madras Alumni Association of North America (IITMAANA), IITM Foundation in the U.S, Canadian friends of IITM, and IITM UK Association.

IIT Madras has been at the forefront providing research & aid support during the pandemic. The institute, alumni, researchers & faculty have been helping the government in various capacities from innovation in health care research to fund raising drives for breathing aids. Few such initiatives were contribution of oxygen concentrators, BiPAP units, and covid medical supplies to various state governments. The IITM Alumni Charitable Trust played a significant role in the logistics and in liaising with the local government. IIT Madras alumni working as senior executives with reputed MNCs were actively involved in evaluating and finalising the options available at various stages throughout the process.



**Dr. Jane Prasad, Registrar, IIT Madras and other officials, handing BiPAP Units to Chennai Corporation officials**

Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Former Director, IIT Madras, handed over 200 oxygen concentrators purchased with the aid of the alumni contributions to Gagandeep Singh Bedi IAS, Commissioner, Chennai Corporation, on June 3, 2021. Further, Dr. Jane Prasad, Registrar, IIT Madras, handed over 74 BiPAP Units to Chennai Corporation Officials recently.



The handover was carried out in the presence of Mr. MA Siddique, IAS, Principal Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu., and Mr. Meghanatha Reddy, IAS, Deputy Commissioner (Works), Government of Tamil Nadu., Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Former Director, IIT Madras., Prof. Mahesh Panchagnula, Dean (ACR), Ms. N. Alamelu, Secretary, IITM Alumni Charitable Trust., Mr. Kaviraj Nair, CEO (Institutional Advancement), IIT Madras., and others



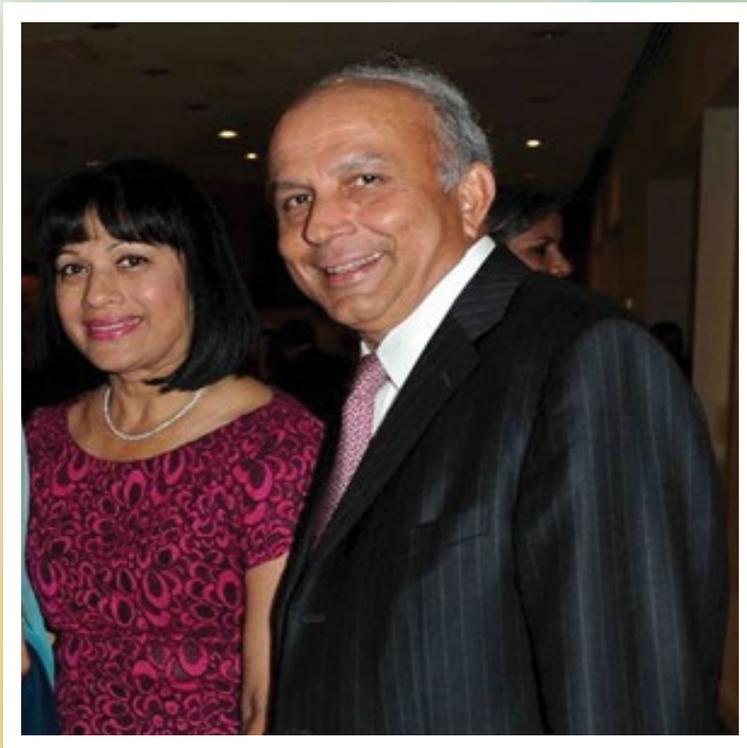
IIT Madras has contributed 1000 units of COVID-19 medicines to Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Science (SVIMS), Chittoor



IIT Madras in coordination with IITM Alumni Association has contributed 200 oxygen concentrators (10 litres capacity) to the Government of Karnataka

# We are grateful to you

Shir Prem Watsa and Smt. Nalini Loganadhan Watsa



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 your alma mater and how it has remained steadfastly committed to academic and research excellence during and after your time here. You and your family 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 and your family walking with us along this trail. We wish you and your family the best always in all walks of life!



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[www.iitm.ac.in](http://www.iitm.ac.in)

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