



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MADRAS
OFFICE OF ALUMNI AND CORPORATE RELATIONS



Celebrating Generosity *of*

Mr. Venkatrangan D & Mrs. Jaisri Venkatrangan

Alumni Community Institute Chair

1981 Batch Project

Modernization of CFI

Centre for Innovation

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

Heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Venkatrangan D from IIT Madras

“Our aim to provide continued solutions to social problems on a global scale is realized 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.”

Alumni Community Institute Chair

IIT Madras is immensely grateful for the remarkable support and generous contributions of various alumni and non-alumni donors towards Alumni Community Chair Professorship. This report encapsulates and foregrounds the initiatives that have been taken up in conjunction with the Chair Professorship by Prof. R. Nagarajan

About Prof. R. Nagarajan: After completing his 3-year term as Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering, Prof. Nagarajan has undertaken his sabbatical at Purdue University as Robert T. Henson Distinguished Visiting Scholar in the Davidson School of Chemical Engineering. His appointment started on January 1, 2022 and runs through July 31, 2022.

During this stay, Prof. R. Nagarajan conducted a seminar series on 'Contamination Control in High Purity Manufacturing' for Purdue faculty members and students. He also presented a paper at WOCA 2022 (World of Coal Ash) conference at Covington, Kentucky, and organized a panel at the Deshpande Symposium in Cleveland, Ohio.

He is currently writing a book titled, 'Process Intensification: Faster, Better, Cheaper', commissioned by CRC Press. For about a decade, he has been a prominent face of IITM, with the alumni and corporate community and elevated the institution's presence in alumni's minds to great heights.

He obtained his B.Tech. in Chemical Engineering in 1981 from IIT Madras. He earned his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Yale University. He had worked with IBM Storage Systems Development Laboratory in San Jose, and he joined IITM in 2004.

He served as Advisor, Office of Alumni Affairs at IIT Madras from Feb 2009 - Aug 2012, and he further served as the first Dean of International & Alumni Relations from Sep 2012 - Sep 2018.

He has personally sponsored 10 student awards. He has also established seventeen joint doctorate degree programs with leading global universities. During his tenure as Dean, I & AR, he has brought corporate professionalism to IITM with his approach to work and leadership. He is well-known for his passion towards writing pop fiction and his captivating extempore speeches. As a fitting recognition of his various academic and administrative contributions, the Institute has designated him as Chair Professor in the Department of Chemical engineering.



Prof. R. NAGARAJAN
Chemical Engineering

Achievements:

- Award for 'Distinguished Service to Alumni' in IITMAA Sangam Confluence for Impact on Sep 29, 2018.
- 'Eminent Engineer Award' from the Institution of Engineers (India) in October 2018.
- Outstanding Younger Member Award, Institute of Environmental Sciences and Technology (IEST), April 1990; Patent (# 5,879,578) Issue Award, March 1999 several IBM Innovation & Performance Awards and Team Awards, etc.



[Click here to view the detailed report](#)

1981 Batch Project, Modernisation of CFI

The Centre for Innovation (CFI) is a 'Students Lab' at IIT Madras. It was set up in 2008 with funds donated by the batch of 1981 during their silver reunion. "Walk in with an idea, walk out with the product" is the motto of CFI. The student spends their quality time at CFI. It made many students to become the successful entrepreneurs. A great workspace, a comprehensive inventory, ample guidance from faculty & senior students makes CFI team a gifted asset for IIT Madras students.

CFI is about 10 years old and needs modernization to keep pace with the evolving opportunities. During 1981 coral reunion, the batch decided to contribute towards building the modernization of CFI and subsequently other batches such as 1990, 1991 and 1992 also extended their support for this innovation.

Building Features – Floorwise Details



S.No	Floor	Facilities
1	Ground Floor	Mechanical workspace cum Exhibition hall, testing area, tool room, and rest rooms
2	First Floor	Rooms for various innovation teams, AUV room, Server room, Meeting room, Future Teams room, Electronics room, Tool room, Admin room and Restrooms
3	Second Floor	Centre For Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CSIE), Nirmaan, Gopalakrishnan-Deshpande Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (GDC), Reception, Meeting Rooms, Lecture room, Work stations, Cabins and Restroom
4	Terrace Floor	Mechanical workspace, Recreational space, Terrace Garden, Godown, Tool room and Restroom

Interior View



East Side View



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1981 Batch Project – Centre for Innovation

A **24x7 student-run lab** to nurture the creative output of the budding innovators of IIT Madras by providing an ecosystem complete with mentorship and financial assistance. At CFI, we offer a productive workspace, a comprehensive inventory, and ample guidance from faculty and senior students, making CFI a truly gifted asset for our students.

After more than a decade of the team's zeal and passion, CFI is now a house to 13 clubs, 4 competition teams and counting. These clubs' interests are spread over a wide spectrum primarily fostering innovation and invention in technology, with a focus on technologies aimed at contributing positively to the environment and to the society.

CFI '21- '22 AT A GLANCE

PROJECTS
ROLLED OUT



AVERAGE
FOOTFALL PER
DAY



PEOPLE
INVOLVED IN
CFI



INDUSTRY
PROJECTS

MoU's WITH
INDUSTRIES



NATIONAL &
INTERNATIONAL
AWARDS



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Memories to Cherish: Then and Now

Then



18th Convocation at IIT Madras on 12 August 1981.

Now



Prof. Nagarajan (1981), Mr. Ramkumar (1981), Mr. Sivakumar (1981), Mr. Venkatrangan (1981), Mr. Parasuram (1981) visited IIT Madras Heritage Centre on 29 November 2019.

58th Convocation at IIT Madras



58th Convocation at IIT Madras on 20 November 2021. The event was conducted in mixed reality mode.

59th Convocation at IIT Madras



59th Convocation at IIT Madras on 13 July 2022.

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU!

*Mr. Venkatrangan D
&
Mrs. Jaisri Venkatrangan*



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 since 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!

July 2022



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