

**Shri R. Natarajan Memorial
Endowment Lecture
by
Prof. Vishwanath Baba**



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

September 2022

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 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!

MESSAGE FROM DEAN



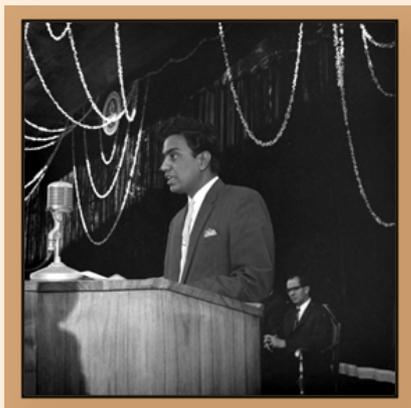
Prof. Mahesh Panchagnula

Dean – Alumni and Corporate Relations (ACR), IIT Madras

*A heartfelt thanks to **Prof. Vishwanath Baba** and
Mrs. Parvatham Natarajan from IIT Madras!*

As we aim to provide continued solutions to global societal problems, it is the support of alumni like you that make it possible. Solutions to these challenging problems are made possible through sustainable benevolent contributions from alumni like you. We thank you for your contributions and present to you a report on the impact of your giving. We seek your help and support in our future endeavours, as we attempt to take IIT Madras to the global stage.

Shri R. Natarajan, the first Registrar of IIT Madras, is one of the key figures who played a significant role in the inception of the Institute during the initial stages. He served as the Registrar from 1959 to 1965. He was known for his “genial and smiling countenance” and was a keen administrator of the Institute. As the photographic records, magazines, and the various annual numbers clearly show, Shri Natarajan played a pivotal role in the functioning of IIT Madras. His unflinching dedication towards the various events and activities on campus is praiseworthy. He was well known for his gift of writing. Some of his articles: My Team to Mars, The Panther from Baroda, The Royal Tiger from Pataudi, The Marvel from Mangalore and The Mantle of Mankad are literary masterpieces, rich in alliteration, and dauntless description, lined with a gripping narrative.



Shri Natarajan speaking during the visit of the German President in 1962



Convocation procession led by Shri R Natarajan



Shri Natarajan with the then Chief Minister – Mr. M. Bhaktavatsalam at the 6th Institute Day celebration in 1965

Shri Natarajan’s humble and genial countenance answers the question as to how the man was able to contribute immensely to the foundation of the Institute, and be an effortless bridge between the Administrative Heads and the student body. At the end of his tenure as Registrar, he mentions in his farewell speech: “My six years stay at this Institute, I must say, has been a garland of golden memories.” It was on the 6th of April 1965 that Natarajan’s “mercurial and memorable innings” at IIT Madras came to an end, with him moving out of the institute, having laid a solid foundation along with his colleagues, one that has withstood the test of time. He was also an accomplished administrator and rose to the rank of the Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.



From the archives – Photos taken during the Farewell ceremony for Shri Natarajan at IIT Madras

Shri R. Natarajan Memorial Endowment

Prof. Vishwanath Baba and Mrs. Parvatham Natarajan, wife of Late Shri R. Natarajan, have established an endowment in the memory of Shri Natarajan. The interest accrued from this endowment will support the lectures in the Department of Management Studies (DoMS). The lectures would be relevant to the advancement of management knowledge through research and/or practice.

The inaugural lecture of this endowment was delivered by Prof. Vishwanath Baba himself, at IIT Madras on the 18th August 2022. The event was attended by Mrs. Parvatham Natarajan also.

Inaugural Lecture

Prof. Baba is a Professor of Management at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. He was the former Dean of the DeGroote School of Business and has also held various other positions like the Chairman of the Management Department, the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies at Concordia University in Montreal etc. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the Canadian Journal of Administrative Sciences (CJAS) and has published extensively in major journals in the field of management. Prof. Baba has taught various aspects of management at ESSEC in Cergy-Pontoise, France, The People's University in Beijing, China, National Economic University in Hanoi, Vietnam, and the University of the West Indies in St. Augustine, Trinidad. He has also conducted management training in the Caribbean, China, Egypt, India, Kenya, and Vietnam.

Prof. Vishwanath Baba spoke on the topic, 'Business Theory and Managerial Competence'. He talked about the institutional model of society, value theory of business, competency theory of management, etc. He also emphasized on how skills and knowledge were required equally to establish competence. The students were enthralled and enriched by the profound knowledge and experience of Prof. Baba.

A few glimpses from the Inaugural Lecture held on 18th Aug 2022



Prof. Richa Agarwal, DoMS welcoming Mrs. Parvatham Natarajan, wife of Late Shri R. Natarajan



A section of the audience



Students in rapt attention



Prof. Vishwanath Baba being felicitated



Mrs. Parvatham Natarajan being felicitated

Memories to Cherish

Then



Shri Natarajan and his family at his farewell party at IIT Madras in 1965

Now



Mrs. Parvatham Natarajan and her family with the team from IIT Madras

We thank Prof. Vishwanath Baba and Mrs. Parvatham Natarajan for their generosity in creating an Endowment which will provide for lectures for the students pursuing Management Studies. This initiative will surely enrich the students in more ways than one.



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