



Indian Institute of Technology Madras  
Office of Alumni and Corporate Relations  
Annual Report 2020–2021



# CELEBRATING GENEROSITY

Shri. N. Lakshmi Narayanan  
&  
Smt. Lakshmi



## NIRMAAN

*Pre-incubation Cell, IITM*



*Supporting IITM Students'*  
**TRAVEL GRANT**



*Publication Charges in Prestigious*  
**OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS**



## **PROF. BHASKAR RAMAMURTHI**

*Director, IITM*

“ IITs offer a fantastic environment to learn, not only from teachers but also from each other. Every IIT student must use the 4 or 5 years they spend here to realize their full potential and excel, academically and professionally. Our experience shows that alumni who use the opportunities provided here well, go on to flourish in ways we would not even have imagined when they were students.

The Institute, through its Incubation Cell, Research Park, and other bodies such as the Center for Innovation and Nirmaan, will continue to encourage and support students and faculty to innovate and come up with solutions to help the country solve pressing problems, not only in the fight against COVID-19 but in all walks of life.

We at IIT are now focused on not just creating new startups but watching, very carefully, how they are developing, what is coming in their way, and the gaps in their capacity. Alumni and well-wishers play a very important role in this — be it judging the kind of mentoring startups need, how they get it, as well as assessing what will work and what will not.

IIT Madras is proud of its global alumni network and well-wishers who are second to none in terms of their accomplishments. ”



## **PROF. MAHESH PANCHAGNULA**

*Dean, Alumni & Corporate Relations, IITM*

“ *Heartfelt gratitude to Shri. N. Lakshmi Narayanan & Smt. Lakshmi from IIT Madras.*

Our aim to provide continued solutions to social problems on a global scale is realised 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 endeavours to take IIT Madras to the global stage. ”



## SHRI. N. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN

Co-founder of Cognizant Technology  
Chairman, ICT Academy – Imparting ICT Education at the College and Industry level  
Major Investor of The Chennai Angels

### *He has a keen interest in:*

- Education and Skill Development
- Entrepreneurship Development

Because of these, he is an Angel Investor and Growth Investor, encouraging many young entrepreneurs and their projects.

### *He has served the following Institutions and Organisations:*

- Member of the Board of Thiagarajar School of Management, Madurai
- Board of Trustees, Chennai Mathematical Institute, India
- Executive Board, The Chennai Angels
- Member of the Board, TVS Capital Funds
- Member of the Board, Shriram Capital
- Founder Member, United Way of Chennai
- Former Director, Cognizant Foundation
- Chairperson, The CHILDS Trust Medical Research Foundation
- Chairman, NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies), 2007 – 2008
- Brought TiE Global, Fostering Entrepreneurship to Chennai; served on their Board from 2013 – 2014

## SUMMARY OF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

### **NIRMAAN**

*Experience Entrepreneurship*

**Rs. 1 Crore**

2019

### **N. Lakshmi Narayanan Endowment Fund**

*Travel Grant & Open Access Journals*

**Rs. 1 Crore**

2014

# NIRMAAN: EXPERIENCE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

NIRMAAN is about “Experiencing Entrepreneurship at IIT Madras” — a sandbox for students to practice the highs and lows of entrepreneurship with a deferred placement. Out of the 24 teams funded by the generous contributions provided by Shri. N. Lakshmi Narayanan in 2019 – 2020, seven teams have successfully graduated from NIRMAAN and five of them continue with NIRMAAN. The remaining twelve did not make it because of various reasons.

## SUCCESSFUL GRADUATES FROM NIRMAAN

### Athene Science



*Founder:*  
*Mr. Kushal Kumar Reddy*

Athene Science is an initiative for teaching science to students, especially rural students, and making it very interesting through various science workshops. They have been successful, having the Murugappa and Adani groups as their clients, through whom they got to work in multiple schools. They have also expanded their team, and are working on developing new content. [Click here](#) to view their YouTube channel.

### DbyT Dynamics



*Founder:*  
*Mr. Dhairyasheel Deshmukh*

DbyT Dynamics is a Technology and Rental service company operating a fleet of light commercial electric vehicles. The available-on-demand EVs, integrated with a unified digital technology platform, act as an end-to-end transport solution targeted for fresh-Agri & hyperlocal supply chain. The team has fixated on a long-term vision for themselves and have expanded in size multiple-fold, with a regular intake of interns as well. They have entered into a partnership with TI cycles and Tan90 on two separate products since the pandemic. [Click here](#) to view their website.

### EDAR Labs



*Founder:*  
*Mr. Yashwant Kumar*

EdarLabs facilitates teachers to effectively convey conceptual knowledge to students. They focus on hybrid teaching method which is a blend of both teacher-centred and student-centred teaching method. The teacher plays an important role in their architecture, unlike most other digital teaching methods. EdarLabs offers interactive conceptual simulations which helps students to analyze and have a comprehensive understanding. They have registered their company out of Hyderabad, and have been able to generate a sustainable amount of revenue too. [Click here](#) to view their website.

## GalaxEye



GalaxEye is a Space Technology company, building the future of Satellite Image Acquisition by launching an advanced constellation of smart satellites to acquire data from space, thus enabling businesses and governments to make data-driven decisions and perform efficient operations. GalaxEye raised pre-seed funding in a round led by Speciale Invest. [Click here](#) to view their website.

## Ippy Wellbeing



Ippy is an IIT Madras start-up committed to help people lead a more fulfilled and peaceful life. They are on a mission to enable people to flourish at work, school and life. They offer programs, interventions and workshops on topics such as Emotional Regulation, Optimal Performance, Discovering Calling, Personal Mastery, Flow, and managing relationships. [Click here](#) to view their website.

*Founder & CEO  
Mr. Arjuna Venkatesh*

## Prescribe



*Nived Narayanan    Amit Kumar Verma    Sreeshyam C.A.*

Prescribe focuses on 24 x 7 Virtual Receptionist, Generate Revenue and Brand Awareness, Patient- and Doctor-Friendly Tele-Consultations. Operational across multiple hospitals in Kerala. Subscription based model, and making a relatively small revenue. They have a team of 5 full time members and a couple of interns. [Click here](#) to view their website.

## Urban Matrix



*CEO & Co-founder:  
Mr. Rishabh Verma*

*CTO & Co-founder:  
Mr. Ashutosh Kumar*

Urban Matrix manufactures reliable industrial-grade Drones for Survey, Agriculture, Inspection (using AI models), and Defense. They build Industry-grade Drones and provide aerial solutions that elevate efficiency and profitability of industries. Their services include Aerial Land Survey, Infrastructure Development, Mining Security and

Crowd Management. Mr. Rishabh Verma's startup was highlighted in the IIT Madras Foundation's Startup Deep Tech series, as they were doing very well in the manufacturing of reliable industrial-grade Drones for various purposes. [Click here](#) to view their website.

## GRADUATES FROM THE SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS



Mr. Samarth Wagh  
ReVroom



Mr. Dhruv Gajwa  
EventHive



Mr. Pushpak Waskle  
Relnto



Mr. Aditya Ranade  
Compactech



Ms. Meena  
Chockalingam  
Yuvaneeti



Mr. Ayush  
Parasbhai Maniyar  
Eye in the Sky



Mr. A. Seetaram  
Sahu  
FynBITS



Mr. Hemanth  
Homemade



Mr. Akanksh K.  
StrideX



Mr. Ankit Take  
GreenVent Tech



Mr. V.S.S. Anirudh  
Sharma  
Handyman Prosthetics



Ms. Puja Kumari  
Green Wave

## A GLANCE AT OUR NEW TEAMS



AI-based differential diagnosis assistant assisted with a blockchain-based centralized EMR solution



A highly functional and easy-to-use digital PDF reader to help students better consume textbooks and other academic documents



True Side —  
Fighting Misinformation

SignTalk



On a mission to connect the Deaf and Hearing world

OzCare

Ozone based disinfection solutions

Ozone-based disinfection solutions

**PragyWeld**

Welding automation with the incorporation of artificial intelligence for productivity enhancement and meeting quality requirements with cost reduction

⟨Blueye gear⟩

SatD Technologies

A respiratory headware for healthcare workers, and an environmental-safety-controlled system for defence use

**Frinco  
Freelance, Internships  
& Competitions**

A platform to bridge the gap between students, clients and companies for freelancing, internships and competitions

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW TEAMS

Team **Kitab** qualified amongst the top 8 teams worldwide and have made it to the finals of the TiE Global Pitch Competition. Kitab is the only finalist from India.

# ENDOWMENT FUND

The interest accrued from the magnanimous contributions of Shri. N. Lakshmi Narayanan is utilised to support the following:

- Travel Grant
- Publication charges in selected prestigious open-access journals



## TRAVEL GRANT

The goal of this travel grant is to facilitate the professional development of undergraduate and graduate students/research scholars and faculty by supporting their travel for attending professional meetings. This also supports exchange programs, summer schools, and joint doctoral programs which

provide an opportunity for the recipient to present his/her own research. This enables recipients to interact with peers and established scientists, which also helps develop professional contacts to facilitate their career development.

[Click here](#) to view the spreadsheet with the updated details of the Travel Grant's recipients for 2020 – 2021.

## STUDENTS WHO BENEFITED FROM IIT M TRAVEL GRANTS:



*Ms. Parveena Shameem*  
attended the Scientific Conference  
“Crowds: Models & Control”  
3 – 7 June 2019,  
“Centre International de  
Rencontres Mathématiques”,  
Marseille, France.



*Ms. Ajay Piriya V.S.*  
attended the  
236<sup>th</sup> Electrochemical Society  
(ECS) Conference  
13 – 17 October 2019,  
Atlanta, USA



*Mr. R. Sandeep Kumar*  
attended the forum of  
The American Institute of  
Aeronautics and Astronautics  
5 – 12 January 2020,  
Orlando, Florida, USA

[Click here](#) for the details of their visit and their thank-you messages.



## FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PUBLICATION CHARGES IN SELECTED PRESTIGIOUS OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

The publications of faculty members were encouraged, as it is an added advantage to release their research papers in open access journals, instead of having their valuable work being obscured behind paywalls. Thus, IIT Madras encourages and supports its faculty members by providing financial support for publishing in open access journals. The funding

for this was made possible from the generous contributions of Shri. N. Lakshmi Narayanan.

[Click here](#) to view the updated spreadsheet with details of the faculty members who were granted funding for open access journals.

### THANK-YOU MESSAGE BY ONE OF OUR EMINENT PROFESSORS



*Prof. T. Asokan*

*Head, Department of Engineering Design  
IIT Madras*

“ I am immensely thankful to Shri. N. Lakshmi Narayanan for his generous contributions to IIT Madras which have made the open access publications a possibility for many faculty at IIT Madras. The high cost of publication in reputed journals was often a bottleneck for many of us in opting for high impact journals for publication of our research work. The support provided through the Office of Alumni and Corporate Relations has greatly helped us to overcome this problem and make our research work accessible to a wider audience through open access route. I personally benefited from this and could publish three papers in high impact journals. We will be ever grateful to Shri. N. Lakshmi Narayanan for making this possible. ”



# MEMORIES TO CHERISH: THEN AND NOW

## THEN



*Started his career journey from TCS  
Jan 1976 – Apr 1994*



*Co-Founder of Cognizant Technologies*

- President & COO
- CEO & Director
- Vice-Chairman

*Jun 1994 – Dec 2003  
Dec 2003 – Dec 2006  
Jan 2007 – Jun 2017*



*Served as Chairman of NASSCOM,  
2007 – 2008  
Headed NASSCOM, 2013*



*Brought TiE (located in  
IITM Research Park) to Chennai  
Served on the Board of Trustees,  
2013 – 2014*

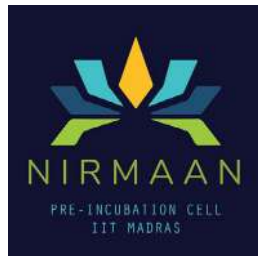
NOW

*Supports several up-and-coming entrepreneurs and their projects*



Co-founder & CEO of Grinntech, Mr. Nikhilesh Mishra from IIT Roorkee, worked as a Consultant at the Centre for Battery Engineering, IIT Madras from April 2017 to March 2018 before launching their startup.

*Glimpses of various projects supported by Shri. N. Lakshmi Narayanan:*



*Received the Business Star Award 2020 from Nanayam Vikatan*



# WE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU, SHRI. N. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN AND SMT. LAKSHMI!



Thank you for your sustained generosity to IIT Madras over the years. Contributors such as yourself enable our students and faculty to dream big and work towards a better and brighter future. We hope you are proud of your ties with IIT Madras and how it has remained steadfastly committed to academic and research excellence through the intervening years. 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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