

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

**SANT RAJINDER  
SINGH JI MAHARAJ**

**1967/BT/EE**



**IIT MADRAS**

Indian Institute of Technology Madras



# MESSAGE

FROM THE DIRECTOR, IIT MADRAS

**PROF. V KAMAKOTI**

IIT Madras continues to retain her top position for the seventh consecutive year, in the National Institute Ranking Framework, thanks to the world class research of its faculty and students. The contribution and support of Alumni and well-wishers like you has crucially helped this standing and stature. Our achievements in research, education, innovation and entrepreneurship have also earned us the recognition of an 'Institute of Eminence' as well as the top position in the Atal Innovation Ranking from the Government of India.

The institute is making an indelible mark with her 'research with impact' in several areas including quantum computing, drinking water technology, industrially relevant mathematical models for governance, rendering cancer-cure more effective.

Our centres of excellence, the Center for Innovation, Nirmaan – the pre-incubator, the Incubation Cell, technology centres such as 'IITM-Pravartak' and others, work in unison for not just our nation's building, but societies world-wide. We aspire to be locally impactful and globally relevant through all these efforts. Towards exploring new research frontiers, a Department of Medical Sciences and Technology is being launched to conjoin medicine and engineering. Similarly, a School of Sustainability is on the horizon to research sustainable practices in the Global South. The campus is moving towards 'carbon-net-zero' goal through water conservation by 100% recycling, efficient garbage disposal, and electrification of vehicles. The traditional education system is undergoing a paradigm shift, with our online Bachelor of Science programme in Data Sciences and the National Program of Technology Enhanced Learning, that have won Gold in the 'Lifelong Learning' category and Silver in the 'Best Online Program' category of the Wharton-QS Reimagine Education Awards 2022 respectively. Your alma mater is leading this revolution from the front.

Such achievements are not possible without the deep-rooted faith and support of alumni and well-wishers such as yourself. We are indebted to you for your generous, bountiful, and impactful contributions. On behalf of IIT Madras, I offer you our deepest gratitude for continuing to strengthen the Institute. Together with your support, we are confident of building an IIT Madras that is more inclusive, diverse, and enabled by an ecosystem to be nationally relevant and globally recognised. Thank you!

# MESSAGE

FROM THE DEAN - ACR, IIT MADRAS  
**PROF. MAHESH PANCHAGNULA**



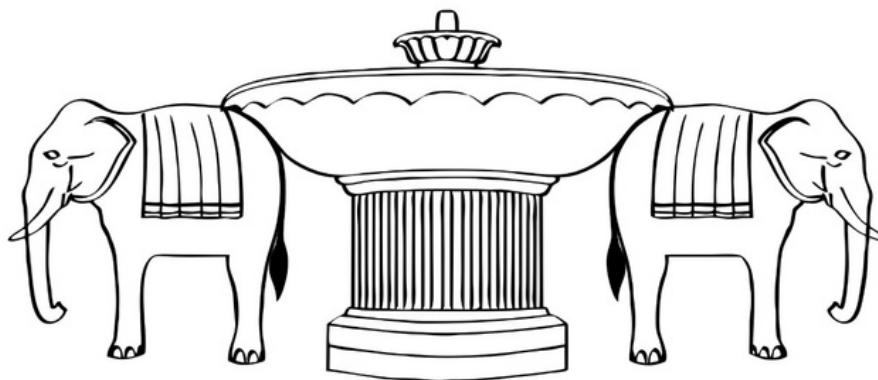
Dear Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj,

I express my heartfelt gratitude to you for your generous support to IIT Madras. We appreciate your passion in supporting the causes you do and I assure you that your contributions will be optimally utilised. This report has been compiled by your 'Donor Relationship Manager', to convey how your largesse has touched lives and made a difference at IIT Madras. In keeping with the rapid, contemporary strides in science, technology we have set ambitious goals for ourselves - your continued enthusiasm and support will help us greatly in these endeavours.

IIT Madras that you left behind as a graduating student is very different from the IIT Madras of today. It is far more diverse in its set of pursuits, more green and more research-focused. And yet, it remains unchanged from your time that, it is still the best Institute in the country, and attracts the best students that India has to offer to come and make a mark. I also cordially invite you to visit your campus to see for yourself, the impact of your contribution, and the growth and transformation the Institute has undergone over the years.

We can never express our gratitude enough for all that you have done.

Thank You!



# SANT RAJINDER SINGH JI MAHARAJ CHAIR PROFESSORSHIP

**Dr. K S KANNAN**  
**CHAIR PROFESSOR**  
**MA, PhD, DLitt (Hon.)**



Prof. Kannan is a renowned scholar of Sanskrit. Formerly the Director of Karnataka Samskrit University, Bangalore, he has a rich teaching experience of over 40 years. He is a Member (nominated by HRD, Govt. of India) of the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla. Amongst the various recognitions, he was conferred the title "Vidyānidhi" by HH Rangapriya Swamiji (Bangalore), and the International Merit Award for a paper on Machine Translation. He is a Member of the Academic Council, Veda Vijnana Shodha Samsthanam, Channenahalli. He has authored/edited over 30 volumes and has several publications.

## **BROAD AREA OF RESEARCH**

His area of research is Sanskrit literature in general including grammar and lexicography. He has authored/edited several books on Sanskrit grammar and literature and continues to work in these areas.

## **CURRENT RESEARCH**

He is currently looking into some aspects of the philosophies of Sāṅkhya, Yoga, and the Upaniṣad-s. He is also writing and developing courses to teach specific aspects of the subjects to students at various levels.

## **HONORS, AWARDS & AFFILIATIONS**

2023 - Adjunct Faculty, Dept. of Heritage Science and Technology, IIT Hyderabad.  
2022 - Nominated Member, Advisory Board, "Prof. A K Singh AURO Chair of Indic Studies", AURO University, Surat.

Nominated Member, Expert Committee for Review of Criticism of Indian Knowledge Traditions, Central Sanskrit University (under MoE, GoI), Ganganath Jha Campus, Prayagraj.

Nominated Member, Expert Committee, Kavi Kula Guru Kalidasa University, Ramtek.

Subject Expert, SSSUHE (Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence).

Subject Expert to review projects by IoE (Institution of Eminence), University of Hyderabad.

### PLANS AHEAD

His interest is in developing material to make learning Sanskrit easier. Towards that end, he plans to bring out a few lexica in Sanskrit, and one is already in the press (about 500 pp.).

### THANK YOU NOTE FROM CHAIR OCCUPANT

I am very thankful to the authorities of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, for inviting me and appointing me to the Chair; and to Sri Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj for instituting the Chair here, in the first place.

This gave me an opportunity to interact with a wide spectrum of students with different backgrounds, coming as they did from different parts of the country; and in turn, give them an exposure to "many a gem of purest ray serene" in Sanskrit literature in particular, and Indian heritage in general.

I am thankful

- to Prof. Devendra Jalihal for first indicating to me the importance of the work here where I could play a useful role.
- to Prof. Umakant Dash who received me here first, and promised all help, and enabled the take-off quite smoothly.
- to Prof. Lakshmana Rao, who guides the Samskrita Samiti, for the cooperation/coordination of/participation in several programmes.
- to Prof. Jyotirmaya Tripathy for the kind encouragement he gave and involving me in many academic activities of the Department.

Most important of all, I am thankful to Prof. Mahesh Panchagnula for coordinating with the Founder of the Chair.

I am thankful to Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthy and Prof. Kamakoti, the two Directors during my tenure here for their great generosity.



<https://sites.google.com/view/kskannan>

# TESTIMONIALS

## FROM THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE SANT RAJINDER SINGH JI MAHARAJ MERIT-CUM-MEANS SCHOLARSHIP



**BIPIN V  
MM19B005**

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for the generous scholarship that you have provided me with. Your generosity has made it possible for me to pursue my academic aspirations without the added burden of financial stress, and for that, I am truly grateful. Your kindness and generosity have given me a renewed sense of hope and determination to succeed in my academic endeavors. With your support, I can focus on my studies and achieve my goals with confidence, knowing that I have the necessary resources to excel.

Thank you for investing in my future and for believing in my potential. I am truly honored and humbled to be a recipient of your scholarship, and I hope to one day pay it forward by helping others achieve their own dreams  
My current CGPA is 8.43.

### ASPIRATIONS

I plan to continue into academia as a researcher. Becoming a researcher can be a rewarding and challenging career path. It requires dedication, critical thinking, and a passion for exploring new ideas and knowledge. As a researcher, one can make meaningful contributions to a particular field and society as a whole by uncovering new insights, developing innovative solutions, and advancing the boundaries of human knowledge.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

Awarded the prestigious MITACS Globalink Research Internship award to pursue research in Canada for 3 months (Summer of 2022)





## **M V S ABHINAV ME20B113**

I am a 3rd year Undergraduate in the department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Madras. I've been a recipient of the MCM Scholarship for the last 2 years.

I sincerely thank my donor for the scholarship, for helping me pay the institute tuition fees. Currently my CGPA is 8.04 and I'm working to improve my scores. I'm also working hard to crack a decent internship. Once again, I thank respected donors for their support.

### **ASPIRATIONS**

I aspire to be a good successful mechanical and interdisciplinary engineer, and I wish to be a part of our Alumni Circle and a part of our IITM family by being able to donate to the future students as well.



## **KS RISHIKESH CH20B087**

Thanks a lot, Sant. Rajinder Singh sir, thank you for providing me with the Sant. Rajinder Singh MCM scholarship. This would be very helpful in financially aiding my education and in supporting my career. I will make sure that I make the best use of it. My current CGPA is 8.76.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

During my 5th semester (July 22 to January 23), I was part of a project called "Cancer Nanotechnology." I wrote a book chapter review, which is expected to be published around May or June 2023. Recently, I gave an interview for the TCS research intern profile, and I got it. Currently, I am part of both the cricket and athletics institute teams.

### **ASPIRATIONS**

Recently, I started liking material science and the control systems area, and I am planning to do a master's in any one of the same. Planning to write the GRE exam during this summer of 2023 and will start applying to universities from November end. I will constantly try to pursue my interest in sports along with academics.

# THANK YOU

for partnering with us



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