



Indian Institute of Technology Madras  
Office of Alumni and Corporate Relations



**CELEBRATING THE GENEROSITY**  
of  
**MR. DEBASHISH DUTTA GUPTA**  
✍  
**MRS. SHOBHA PUNUKOLLU**



**Impact of your  
giving in  
2023**

JUNE 2023

# Message from Director



**Prof. KAMAKOTI VEEZHINATHAN**  
Director, IITM

## Greetings!

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 has been 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. IIT Madras 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 Dean



**Prof. MAHESH PANCHAGNULA**  
Dean, Alumni & Corporate Relations,  
IITM

## Greetings!

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 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 is far more diverse in its set of pursuits, more green and more research-focused. And yet, it remains unchanged over these years, 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 !**





**“Thank you for your support and for your belief in doing good. We simply couldn’t do what we do without amazing people like you.”**



**“None of our success would be possible without generous donors like you. Thank you again for your commitment and kindness.”**



# DEBASHISH DUTTA GUPTA

# Summary of your contributions to IIT Madras

**1990/B.Tech/  
Computer Science & Engineering**  
**Director at Data info Consulting, Singapore, Jan 2019 - Present**



Quantitative decision making in financial markets. Mr Debashish Dutta Gupta was the Managing Director and Head of Investments of the Wealth Management Department at Citibank Asia Pacific.

We are delighted to share the work and impact of the projects enabled by Mr. Sathish Pai and his family. We rejoice in and celebrate their generosity towards IIT Madras and are grateful to him and his family.

- 1990 Batch Silver Reunion - Innovation and Entrepreneurship Endowment Fund
- Women Leading IITM Endowment
- Jamuna – Keep it flowing

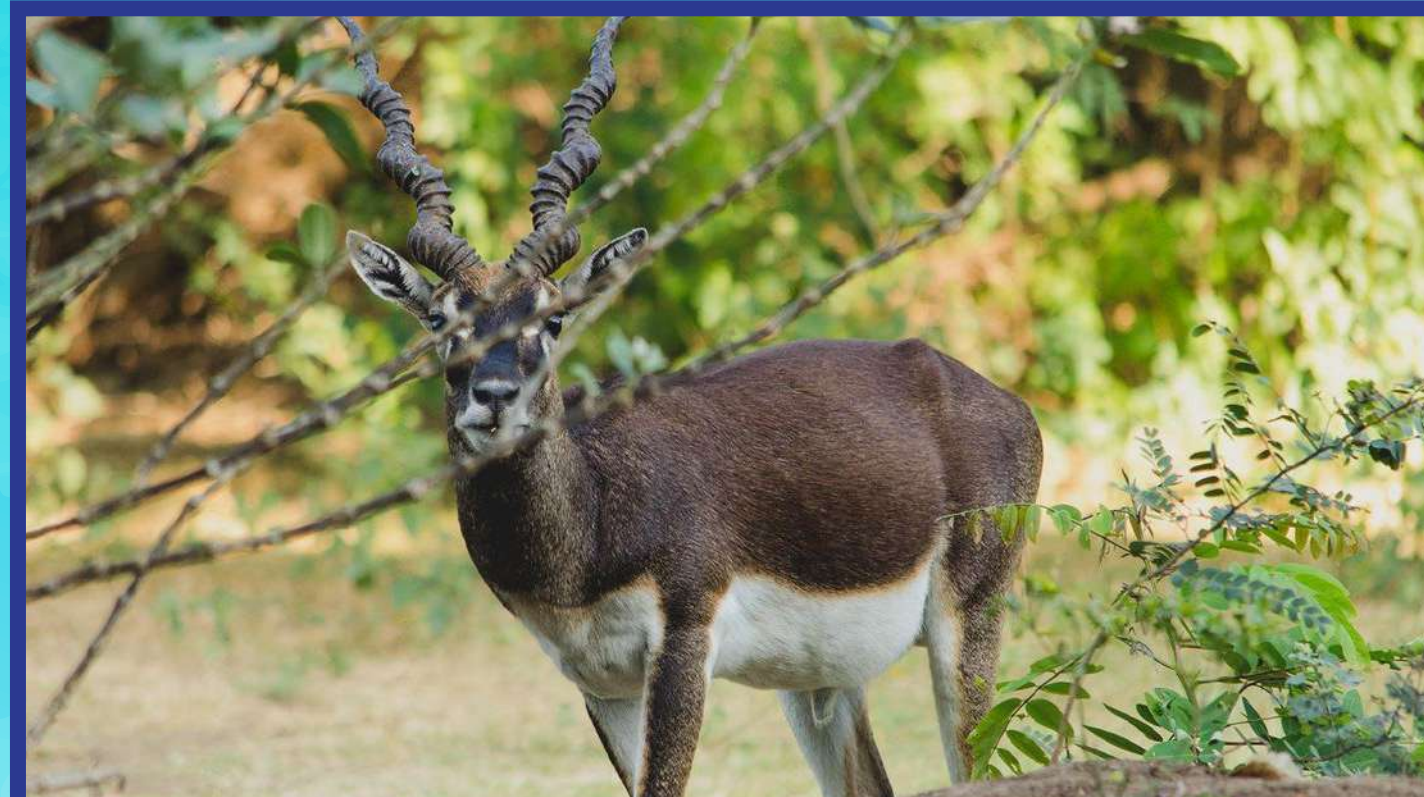
Dear Mr. Debashish Dutta Gupta,

Greetings from your Office of Alumni and Corporate Relations, IIT Madras, Chennai, India!

This report is a follow up to the '**Celebrating your Generosity**' report we had sent you in **April 2022**.

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  - This '**Celebrating your Generosity**' **June 2023 report** encapsulates the following:
- 1990 Batch Silver Reunion - Innovation and Entrepreneurship Endowment Fund
  - Women Leading IITM Endowment
  - Jamuna – Keep it flowing.

We are grateful to you for your continued support to the various projects and endowments at IIT Madras!





# 1990 Batch Silver Reunion - Innovation and Entrepreneurship Endowment Fund

The funds received through the 1990 Batch Silver Reunion – Innovation and Entrepreneurship Endowment Fund is used for two purposes. The Funds received from India were used towards the Modernization of CFI and the funds from IITMF were used towards the E-Cell and E-Summit.

## Modernization of CFI:

The Centre for Innovation (CFI) was seeded in 2008 by the Class of 1981. Later the Modernization of CFI was initiated by the Class of 1990, 1991, and Jamuna Hostel inmates of the 1991 Batch. The funds received from India for the 1990 Batch Silver Reunion – Innovation and Entrepreneurship Endowment Fund were used towards the upgradation of the Centre for Innovation. The new Centre for Innovation in the Sudha and Shankar Innovation Hub was inaugurated by the Hon'ble. Vice President of India, Shri. Jagdeep Dhankar on February 28, 2023. The motto of CFI is “Walk in with an idea, walk out with a product”. The center helps students translate their innovative ideas into working prototypes. The CFI boasts 14 clubs and six teams that will take part in national and international competitions.



## E-Cell:

The Entrepreneurship Cell at IIT Madras enables students and faculty to solve global challenges, nurture them and provide them with opportunities for excellence. It also aims to unlock students' latent inventive potential. Not only do they show them doors of opportunity, but also equip them to walk through them. E-Cell hopes to build a network of entrepreneurial enthusiasts through conferences, social events, lectures, speaker engagements, and workshops.

## E-Summit:

Innovation is getting deep-rooted into our culture with the startup culture blooming in India. Anyone who takes the unconventional path, thinks creatively, and creates ground-breaking innovations to solve problems is a changemaker. With such changemakers present at every corner of our country, trailblazing impact can be created when they are brought together. E-Summit 2023 with the theme of “Assemblage of Changemakers”, is the national flagship entrepreneurship fest filled with 4 conclaves – Youth Conclave, Innovator's Conclave, Startup Conclave, and Sustainability Conclave. These conclaves along with the highlight speakers and networking opportunities are curated to serve the audience in all stages of their entrepreneurial journey.





# Centre For Innovation

**“Walk in with an idea, walk out with a product”.**

Centre for Innovation (CFI) was seeded in 2008 by the Class of 1981 and is supported by the Classes of 1991, 1990 and the Jamuna Hostel inmates of the 1991 Batch.

The CFI was inaugurated by the Hon’ble. Vice President of India, Shri. Jagdeep Dhankar on February 28, 2023.

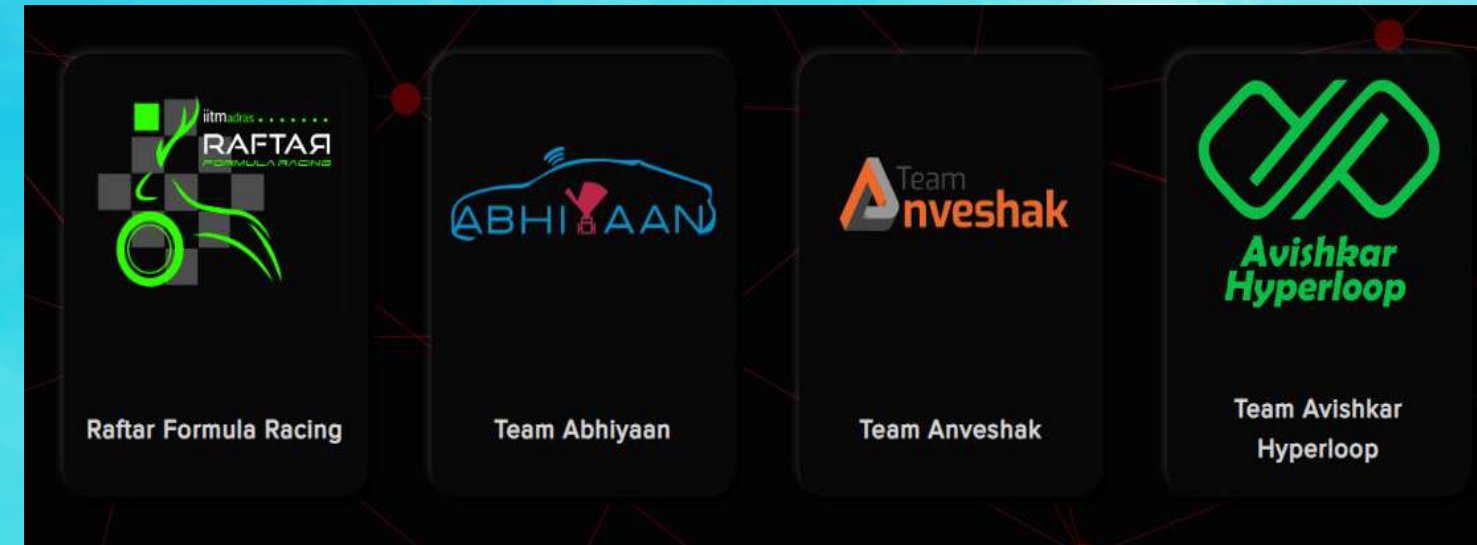


The center will help students translate their innovative ideas into working prototypes. The CFI boasts 14 clubs and six teams that will take part in national and international competitions.



# CFI Teams that Participate in Competitions:

There are various teams of students in the CFI, that work on future-technology. Their innovative creations and inventions regularly compete with those of other similar student-teams from India and abroad. Over the years, the teams from CFI have bagged prizes at the national and international level.



## Team Avishkar



**“Developing technologies for the 5th mode of transportation”**

The team started as a student project at the Center for Innovation, IIT Madras.

To realize the dream of the Indian Hyperloop, the team is working on technologies like Hyperloop infrastructure, pod, magnetic propulsion and levitation, with the scalability of systems as the primary objective.



# Team Anveshak

Since its inception in early 2016, the team brings together a set of highly dedicated & skilled students working on mechanical design, system architecture & control, outreach & business relations. The team has also organized several educational workshops for students of IIT Madras institute on the different aspects of robotics.

## Achievements:

- Bagged 6th position in an International Anatolian Rover Challenge 2022.
- 5th position in the Indian Rover Challenge 2020.
- One among top 12 positions in University Rover Challenge 2019.
- Champions of Indian Rover Challenge 2019.
- Qualified in the European Rover Challenge 2016.



## Achievements:

- The latest pod, Avishkar 5.0, built during the pandemic through relentless effort, emerged in the Global Top 5 in three categories – Electrical Subsystem, Traction Subsystem and the Complete Pod Category in the European Hyperloop Week 2022.
- Competed virtually in European Hyperloop Week 2021 and won the ‘Most Scalable Pod Design’ award by Zeleros Hyperloop.
- The only Asian team at the final of SpaceX Hyperloop Pod Competition 2019.



## Events:

### 2022 Railway Minister Meet

- Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, the Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Communication and Electronics and Information Technology graced with his presence at the Centre for Innovation (CFI) at IIT Madras.
- He has announced his support for BAG (Big Ambitious Goal) of 500m vacuum tube project and sanctioned funding for setting up a Centre of Excellence at IIT Madras, to accelerate indigenous Hyperloop development.



## Events:

The team participated in the System Acceptance Review – University Rover Challenge in the following years with a marked improvement over previous iterations of Mars Rover.

- The first version of Mars Rover – Aurora (February 2017).
- The second version of Mars Rover – Badger (February 2018).
- The third version of Mars Rover – Caesar (February 2019).
- The fourth version of Mars Rover – Dora (February 2022).





# Team Raftar



**“Blood. Sweat. Gasoline”**

Raftar is a team of 40+ students from different disciplines in IIT Madras with a shared passion for automotive engineering and motorsports. Every year, the team takes up the challenge of building a swift Formula Student race car. It aims to become a globally competitive team and promote the Formula Student culture in India.

## Achievements:

- Bagged 2nd place in the Formula Student Electric Vehicle Concept Challenge -2021 conducted by Formula Bharat.
- Heading out of the Pit and onto the racetrack IITM's first electric racecar took the world by storm at its first Formula Student competition, Formula Bharath in 2023.
- Project presentation at the Energy Summit 2022 organized by the Energy Consortium – IIT Madras at the IIT-M Research Park.

35+  
AWARDS

13  
COMPETITIONS

8  
GENERATIONS



# Team Abhiyaan



Team Abhiyaan is an enthusiastic group of multi-disciplinary students of IIT Madras, committed to building intelligent, robust, precise and safe, ground navigation systems. It provides a platform for creative ideas to be realized into ground-breaking product prototypes and revolutionary business models, with mentoring from the industry, faculty and alumni.

## Achievements:

- Developed and released an open-source ROS Software driver for the Septentrio Mosaic X5 GNSS module.
- Project MACRo (Marian Autonomous Core-sampling Rover) in collaboration with ExTeM research group, IIT Madras.



2019-Intelligent Ground Vehicle Challenge  
Michigan, USA  
**2nd Overall**  
Grand Lescoe Trophy



Indy Autonomous Challenge  
2020 -2021 (Event Currently in Progress)  
One of the five Asian teams to qualify for the final simulation rounds



2018-Intelligent Ground Vehicle Challenge  
Michigan, USA  
**10th Overall**



KPiT Sparkle - Finalist  
2020  
One of the 30 Finalists of India's most prospect ideas for mobility and future

## Team Abhiyaan's headway in the field of Autonomous Vehicles:

- IIT-Madras' team Abhiyaan is solving road accident-related deaths in India with autonomous vehicles.
- Read story at: <https://yourstory.com/2020/06/iit-madras-team-abhiyaan-autonomous-vehicle-bolt-virat>
- IIT Madras's Team Abhiyaan is working towards giving brain to car.





# Gratitude Note:



**Prof. Prabhu Rajagopal**  
Faculty and Advisor – Innovation & Entrepreneurship  
Department of Mechanical Engineering

*"We envision that part of our innovation system, Carbon Zero Challenge which focuses on sustainable acceleration, will be supporting the whole ecosystem. I envisage that very soon we should be having 100 startups every year, solving problems in cutting-edge diverse themes and areas that are addressing our national needs and also working on global themes at the same time. All of this is possible because of the Innovation Hub and the ability for the different wings of the innovation sphere to sit together, work together and collaborate".*

# Snippets from student's feedback:



**Abhigyan**  
Student Head CFI (2022-2023)

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



**Sathak Saurav**  
Student Head CFI (2022-2023)

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



# Thank You

*We are grateful to the contributions for your commitment to our organization, and belief in our mission. Your generosity is an inspiration to all of us, and we cannot thank you enough for your support.*

## Glimpses from the Batch Reunion...



**1990 Batch Silver Reunion**

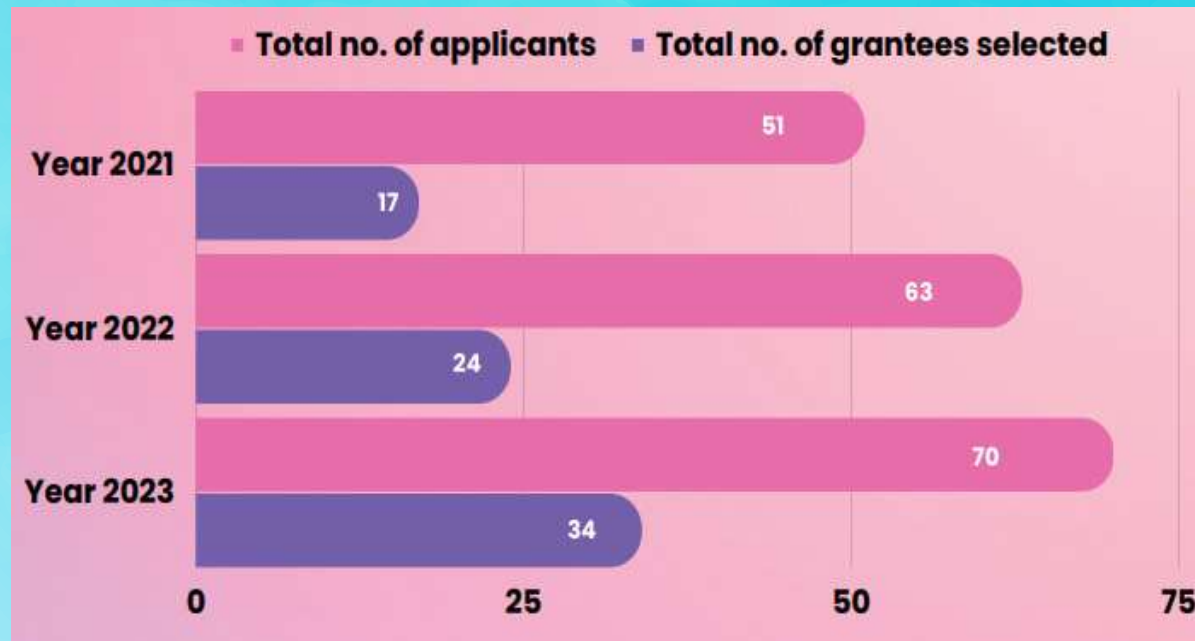


# WOMEN LEADING IITM

# Some of the Grantees of WLI 2023

Education is considered a milestone for women's empowerment because it enables them to face various challenges, confront their traditional roles, and bring change to their lives.

IITM has made considerable progress in improving the number of women students/faculty and creating opportunities for their success. IIT Madras launched the "Women Leading IITM" (WLI) program on March 8th, 2021, to uplift women's leadership in science and technology. WLI is a program to nurture, develop and support women's talent at IITM along with their study/professional careers.



Statistics of WLI from 2021 – 2023

## Some Achievements of WLI Grantees for the year 2022-2023

1. Ms. Vaishnavi S (Ph.D. Scholar, Dept of Biotechnology) received the Best Presentation Award at the 15th Asian Congress on Biotechnology Conference, Indonesia
2. Ms. Harija Harkumar (Ph.D. Scholar, Dept of Chemical Engineering) has won 1st prize in Student Presentation Award at the 15th International Conference on Sensing Technology, ICST'15, Australia.

 <p><b>AISHWARYA RAMESH</b> Ph.D Scholar Dept of Management Studies</p>	 <p><b>JESNA</b> Ph.D Scholar Dept of Civil Engineering</p>
 <p><b>AMBILI B</b> Ph.D Scholar Dept of Civil Engineering</p>	 <p><b>K LEENA</b> Ph.D Scholar Dept of Biotechnology</p>
 <p><b>ANBUTHANGAM A</b> Ph.D Scholar Dept of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering</p>	 <p><b>SRILAKSHMI K</b> Ph.D Scholar Dept of Ocean Engineering</p>
 <p><b>ANUREKA R</b> Ph.D Scholar Dept of Mechanical Engineering</p>	 <p><b>GAYATHRI R</b> Ph.D Scholar Dept of Civil Engineering</p>
 <p><b>ASHNA JOY</b> Ph.D Scholar Dept of Humanities and Social Sciences</p>	 <p><b>JESLIN P ISSAC</b> Ph.D Scholar Dept of Engineering Design</p>
 <p><b>SMRUTI PARIMITA</b> Ph.D Scholar Dept of Mechanical Engineering</p>	 <p><b>SRUTI S</b> Ph.D Scholar Dept of Electrical Engineering</p>

To view a detailed report on Women Leading IITM

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



# Jamuna – Keep it flowing



## Details of the work

Name of the Contractor	: M/s Creators Engineers & Interiors Pvt. Ltd.,
Agreement No	: 35 /2022-23
Agreement amount	:661.94 Lakhs
Bill Paid as on date	: 449.92 Lakhs
Project Duration	: 9 Months
Actual date of Start	: 24.08.2022
Scheduled date of Completion	: 23.05.2023
Provisional Extension of time given up to	: 22.08.2023
Total Billed value as on today	: 450 Lakhs

As the hostels are occupied by the students, both the hostels will not be available for renovation works at the same time. It was decided to execute the renovation works in the above hostels in a sequential manner.

Renovation period of 3 months per hostel is considered. For complete renovation of the 2 hostels 6 months contract period is considered.

Complete renovation of Godavari hostel is commenced, and the work is completed on 16.12.2022

Renovation of one restroom block (Consisting 4 restrooms) in jamuna hostel is completed.

## Renovation of Jamuna hostel

Date of commencement of Work : 26.08.2022

One restroom block (Consisting 4 restrooms) was handed over for renovation works. The above work was completed and handed over on 28.02.2023

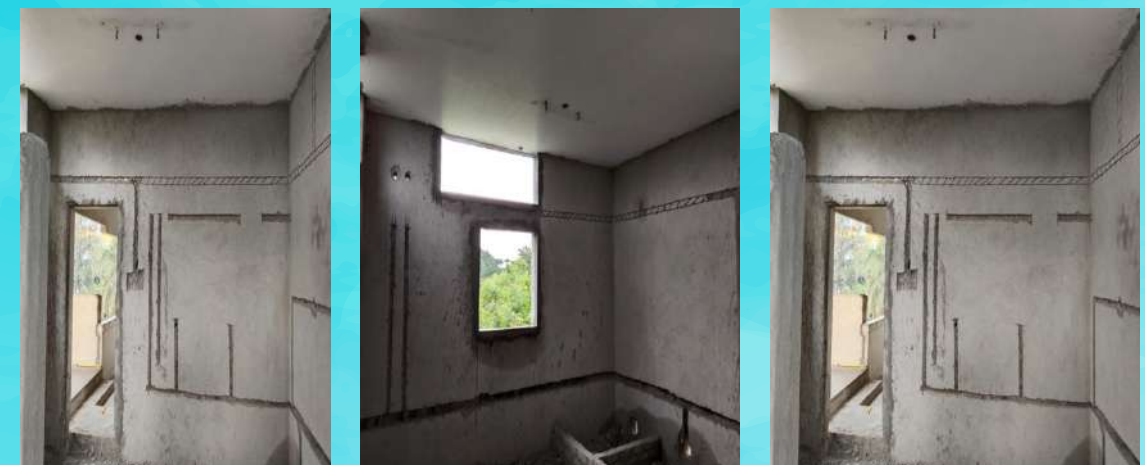
One restroom block (Consisting 4 restrooms) was handed over for renovation works on 02.03.2023 . The above work can be executed during occupation of the students without disturbance

Corridor renovation and other restroom renovation will be taken up after completion of Saraswathi hostel renovation

## Restroom renovation (For one restroom block)



## Restroom renovation (For one restroom block)



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







**WE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU!**

**MR. DEBASHISH DUTTA GUPTA  
&  
MRS. SHOBHA PUNUKOLLU**

We express our heartfelt gratitude for your continued and generous support to IIT Madras throughout the years. We trust that you take great pride in your bond with IIT Madras and the unwavering dedication it has demonstrated towards academic and research excellence since the time of your association.

Your invaluable contributions, alongside the support of your family, have played a pivotal role in facilitating this remarkable growth. We are privileged to have you and your family walking with us along this journey. We extend our best wishes to you and your family. We thank you for your continued support to your alma mater.



**Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai – 600 036**

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