



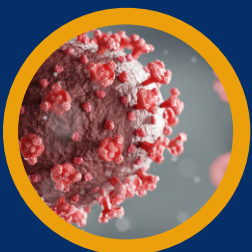
Indian Institute of Technology Madras
Office of Alumni and Corporate
Relations

Celebrating the Generosity of

Padma Shri Prem Watsa & Smt. Nalini Loganadhan Watsa



Impact of your Giving in 2023



Director's Message



Prof. Kamakoti Veezhinathan
Director, IITM

Greetings!

IIT Madras continues to retain her top position for the eighth 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!

Dean's Message



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 utilized. 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 endeavors.

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!





Shri V. Prem Watsa
[1971/BT/CH]

Shri V. Prem Watsa [1971/BT/CH] is an alumnus of IIT Madras and he did his MBA at the University of Western Ontario. He is the **Founder, Chairman, and Chief Executive** of **Fairfax Financial Holdings**, based in Toronto, Canada.

He is commonly known as **“the Warren Buffett of Canada”** for his exceptional investing skills and business acumen. He was presented with the **Distinguished Alumnus Award** from IIT Madras in 1999. Shri Prem Watsa's name floods the news headlines for his achievements and philanthropy. Recently Government of India conferred him with the **‘Padma Shri’**, the fourth highest civilian award in India.



Mr. Ajay Bisaria, former High Commissioner of India to Canada handing over Padmashri to Prem Watsa on behalf of the President of India on 31st May 2022.



Shri Prem Watsa receiving the Patrick McGovern Award for Global Lifetime Achievement on 20th Oct 2022.



Shri Prem Watsa along with Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Mr Piyush Goyal on 10th May 2023.

The report presents a thorough assessment of the impact that your contributions have made towards the causes outlined below:

- 1** **Manohar C Watsa IITM Stadium**
- 2** **1964 Foundation Endowment Fund**
- 3** **Prem Watsa's Challenge Grant**

Manohar C Watsa IITM Stadium

Nestled within the heart of IIT Madras, the Manohar C Watsa Stadium stands as a beacon of inspiration and determination. It is a sacred space where athletes from all walks of life converge to push the boundaries of human potential and leave an indelible mark on the annals of sporting history. With each resounding cheer that reverberates through its stands, the stadium becomes a testament to the unwavering spirit and unyielding dedication of these remarkable individuals.

Within the stadium's walls, the air crackles with anticipation, alive with the palpable energy of competition. Athletes, with unwavering focus etched upon their faces, step onto the hallowed ground, their hearts pounding in rhythm with the collective heartbeat of the crowd. It is here, amidst the roar of the spectators, that records are shattered, personal bests are achieved, and dreams take flight.

The Manohar C Watsa Stadium is a sanctuary that nurtures not only the physical well-being of those who gather but also nourishes the soul, inviting all who enter to embrace the profound interconnectedness of our world. Nature herself has embraced this sanctuary, bestowing her blessings upon its sacred ground. At one of the entrances, the occasional visit of fish symbolises life's eternal cycle, reminding us of the interconnectedness of all beings.



Beneficiaries speak about the Manohar C Watsa Stadium:



Prahalad Srikanthan

Interests:

Football, athletics and Basketball

Achievements:

- 4 th place, Football Schroeter 2019
- 1st place, IIT Madras Sports Fest football tournament 2019
- Football team member, Inter-IIT sports meet 2019
- 4 th place Dean's Trophy football, 2020
- Captain, IITM football team, 2022-2023
- Football team member, Inter-IIT sports meet 2022
- 1 st place, Dean's Trophy Football, 2023
- 4 th place, Football Schroeter 2023
- 4 th place, Long jump Schroeter 2023
- 3 rd place, basketball Schroeter, 2023
- Captain, Narmada Hostel Athletics team, 2022-2023
- Best footballer of the academic year 2022-2023
- Recipient of the Sitara Scholarship for excellence in culture and sports
- Institute blues awardee

“

While my primary place of playing was the football ground, rains would prevent us from practicing in the football ground. It was during this time that the Watsa stadium was the team's saviour. We would run on the track and build our fitness. The track is one of the best I have used and allows athletes and casual fitness enthusiasts to reach their goals.

Additionally, having taken part in the athletics Schroeter, the equipment and tools for multiple sports was beyond excellent, which made the events very professional.

”

Future goals in sports:

I plan to pursue football as a hobby and hope to have a small stint as a player for division team sometime in the near future. Apart from this, I will take part in amateur leagues in my place of residence.

Interests:

Basketball

Achievements:

- Part of the Inter-IIT Basketball team that participated in the Sports Meet 2022 held at IIT Delhi and IIT Roorkee.
- Part of the IITM Basketball team that won bronze at SportsFest 2022, an inter-collegiate tournament hosted by IIT Madras.
- Part of the Inter-IIT Basketball team that participated in the Sports Meet 2019 held at IIT Kharagpur and IIT Bhubaneswar.
- Part of the IITM Basketball team that won silver at SportsFest 2019, an inter-collegiate tournament hosted by IIT Madras.



Shatakshi Sarangi



The facility was great for running exercises and drills to improve our general fitness, speed and stamina. The stadium is very well-maintained and encourages a lot of sporting and fitness-related activities. We also attended a lot of all-contingent sessions at the stadium that boosted our confidence and gave us a lot of good memories associated with this stadium.



Future goals in sports:

I will continue to play sports to maintain a healthy lifestyle as we all graduate to join the fast-paced world outside. Sports have always helped me manage stress and remain calm and energetic, so it is definitely something I will continue to pursue regularly in my free time.





Interests:

Squash

Achievements:

- Placed 4th in Inter IIT Sports Meet (55th Edition) at Roorkee in Squash
- Placed 3rd in Schroeter 2023 in Women's Squash

Jai Santhoshi S



The stadium is well equipped with facilities that help in overall fitness required for squash. Our team overall utilised the facility to conduct regular running and fitness session which is very essential for squash.



Future goals in sports:

I aim to train for the state level competitions in Squash post my graduation







1964 Foundation Endowment Fund

The interest accrued from this endowment supports scholarship for domestic and international students at IIT Madras.

Shri Prem Watsa's philanthropic commitment reverberates through the corridors of IIT Madras, as his benevolence finds its expression in the esteemed '64 Foundation Freeship Scholarship'. A tribute to the trailblazing first graduating batch, this scholarship stands as a beacon of hope, illuminating the path to education and opportunity for deserving students. With heartfelt gratitude, parents, predecessors, and mentors are touched by the profound impact of Shri Prem Watsa's generosity, ensuring that the legacy of knowledge and achievement continues to thrive at IIT Madras.

Criteria of the Scholarship

-  B.Tech / DD students belonging to all categories with parental income from Rs.4.5 lakhs to Rs. 8 lakhs will get a support of Rs.17,000/- per annum; (SC/ST) and other students will get the support of Rs.9000/- per annum.
-  M.Sc. students with merit scholarship support of Rs.6,000/- (partial tuition fee waiver) will be eligible for additional support of Rs.12,000/- per annum.
-  M.A. students provided with the Institute Merit cum Means (MCM) Scholarship will be eligible for additional support of Rs.12,000/- per annum.
-  M.Sc. students provided with 50% Free Studentship will be eligible for additional support of Rs.15,000/- per annum.



So far,

1100+

Students have been benefited from this scholarship

During this year,

181 students

benefited through this scholarship

Student feedback:



Deepak Laxman

BE19B019

“Being my first scholarships I had received from IIT Madras, it was something very special to me. It gave me enormous confidence to excel in my academics and the thought that this scholarship has my back always kept me moving further in my life. I'm grateful for the help that I received from our Alumni and keeping me stay positive in difficult times.”

“The scholarship has reduced the financial concerns and has empowered my academic journey. The scholarship helped me buy a better laptop which has been extremely helpful for my academics - in doing computations, modelling and simulations”



Afeef P

CE18B107

“The scholarship helped me in boosting my confidence in myself. Additionally, it gave me some support to spend on a few extra things related to my academics.”



Sayali Atul Shilaskar

MM18B005

Scholarship for International Students:

This scholarship supports the outstanding international students who are pursuing Masters and Ph.D at IIT Madras. The scholarship provides financial assistance to cover tuition fees, accommodation expenses and a monthly living allowance for the duration of the program. The aim is to attract top talent worldwide and provide them opportunities to excel in their chosen field of study.

24 students have benefitted from this Scholarship for the year 2022, whose gratitude note you can see below

Aakash Sarraf

GE22M008

"I pay the major portion of the scholarship amount for the hostel and mess fees. I use it for necessary expenses like stationary and food. "

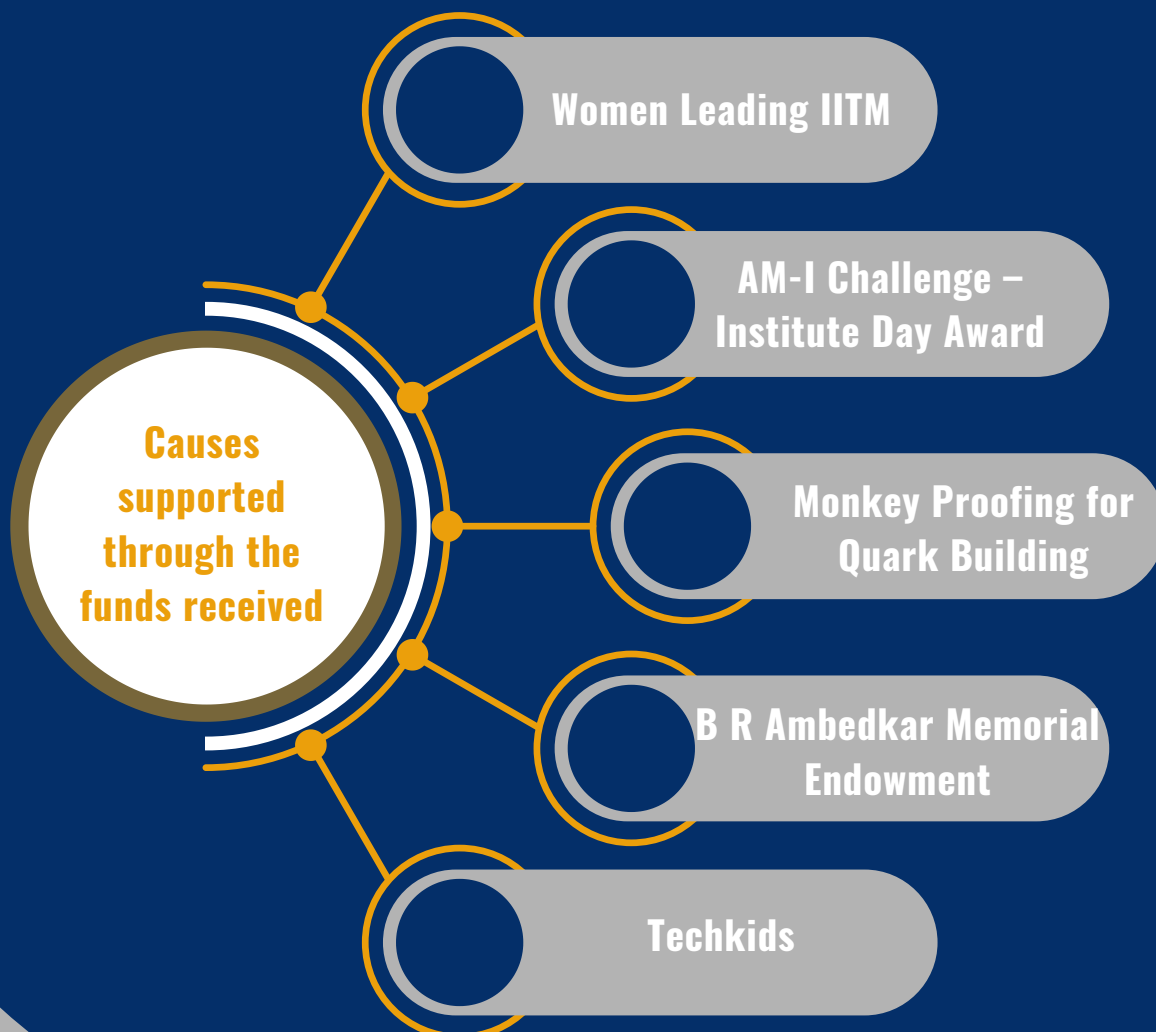
Pankaj Kumar Jayaswal

GE22M013

"This scholarship helped to me in pursuing higher education and helped to focus my academic and personal development at IIT Madras."

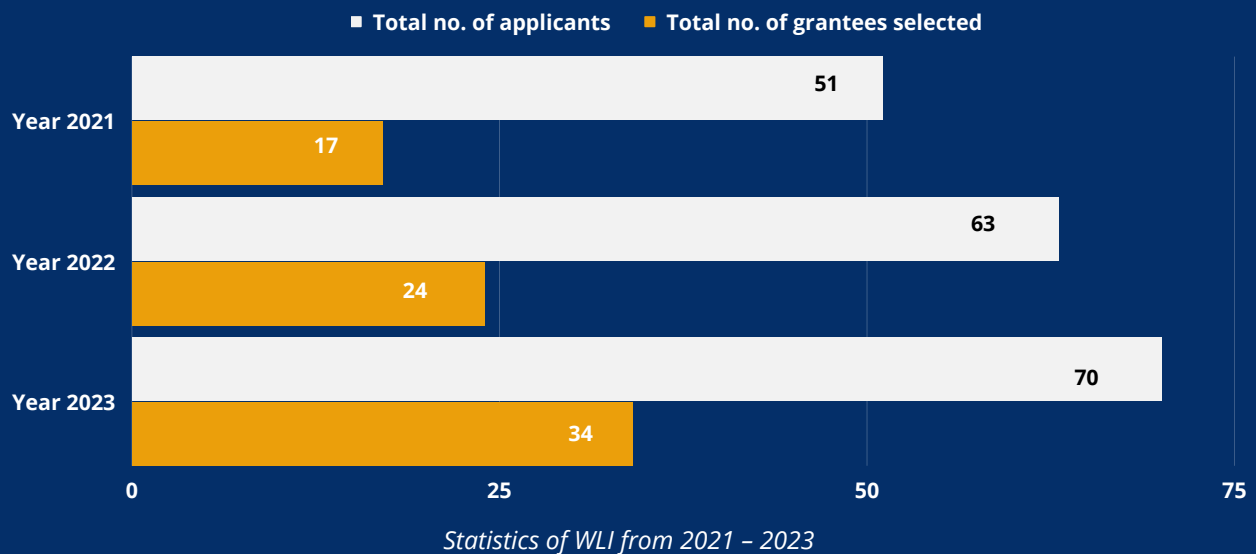


Shri Prem Watsa's Challenge Grant



Women Leading IITM:

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



Some Achievements of WLI Grantees for the year 2022-2023



Ms. Vaishnavi S (Ph.D. Scholar, Dept of Biotechnology) received the Best Presentation Award at the 15th Asian Congress on Biotechnology Conference, Indonesia



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.

Some of the Grantees of WLI 2023



AISHWARYA RAMESH
Ph.D Scholar
Dept of Management Studies

JESNA

Ph.D Scholar
Dept of Civil Engineering



AMBILI B
Ph.D Scholar
Dept of Civil Engineering

K LEENA
Ph.D Scholar
Dept of Biotechnology



ANBUTHANGAM A
Ph.D Scholar
Dept of Metallurgical and
Materials Engineering

SRILAKSHMI K
Ph.D Scholar
Dept of Ocean Engineering



To know more about the beneficiaries [CLICK HERE](#)

AM – I Challenge – Institute Day Award:

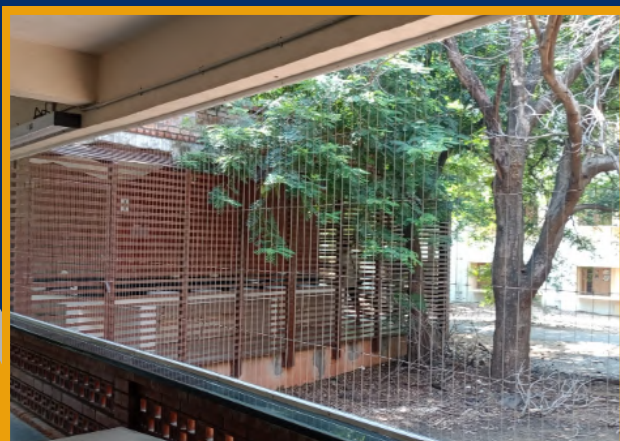
AM – I (App for My Institute) Challenge was started to encourage students to come up with different applications that will be of benefit to the institution in various ways. Winners are honoured during the Institute Day every year. This initiative began in the Year 2023 and the winners of the first App for My Institute Challenge are Team Minty Gang comprising of Abhijit Hota (CE19B033), Rohith Suresh (EP20B029), and Ishaan Jalan (BE20B014).

The problem statement they worked on revolved around the safety of the residents of the campus. They created a security system consisting of a mobile application for the residents, an administrator dashboard for the security personnel and a backend that handles all the computations and data storage.



Monkey Proofing for Quark Building:

Monkey-proofing work was taken up at the Quark building to restrict the entry of monkeys into the cafeteria. A automatic glass door has also been installed at the entrance of the building. The work has been completed with the support of Alumni funding.



B R Ambedkar Memorial Endowment:

B R Ambedkar Memorial Endowment is awarded to meritorious children whose parents are employees of IIT Madras and also part of the SC/ST Employees Welfare. They were honoured during the 132nd birthday celebration of Dr. B R Ambedkar on 19th April at the Central Lecture Theatre (CLT). The students with the highest marks in standard 10 and 12 were identified and awarded certificates and mementos along with cash awards.



Techkids:

The origins of Tech Kids trace back to the 1990s when the staff club ran it. Around 1997, with the initiative of Prof. Natarajan (then the Director), it received official recognition from the Institute. It serves as Daycare for students of faculty, staff, and students of IIT Madras. Some of the initiatives taken up by the Managing committee of Tech Kids are:

- Salary increments for Daycare staff, teaching assistants and Daycare in-charge.
- Annual Day celebrations
- Summer camp



Covid-19 Relief for India:

The COVID-19 pandemic became an emerging global health crisis and required the best of our efforts to overcome it. The sudden outbreak of pandemic had already created an enormous medical and financial burden shattering many lives.

The second wave of Covid 19 immensely affected the public's mental health and well-being in a variety of ways, including isolation and loneliness, job loss and financial instability, and illness and grief. Many organizations, institutions, and individuals came forward to support the nation both financially and socially.

Glimpses of the contributions:

- IIT Madras handed over **200 oxygen concentrators** to the **Government of Tamil Nadu**.



The handover was carried out in the presence of M A Siddique IAS, Principal Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu and Meghanatha Reddy IAS, Deputy Commissioner (Works), Government of Tamil Nadu, Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Director, IIT Madras, Prof. Mahesh Panchagnula, Dean (ACR), N Alamelu, Secretary, IIT-M

- Contributed 200 oxygen concentrators (10 litres each) to the **Government of Karnataka**.



Contribution of oxygen concentrators to the Government of Karnataka

IIT Madras launched a campaign to raise funds for supporting various causes. The Institute exceeded its goal of raising \$1 million in 48 hours. Overall IIT Madras Alumni and other well-wishers have come together and raised more than \$2 million.

Below are the causes for which the funds were used:

1. Purchase of Oxygen cylinders, BiPAP machines, Injections, and Medicines
2. Healthy meals for students who were stranded in the institute during covid.
3. Financial help to more than 150 Ph.D. scholars to pursue their research without any constraints.

- Donated BiPAP units, Injections and medicines.



Dr. Jane Prasad, Registrar, IIT Madras, and other officials handing over BiPAP units to Chennai Corporation Officials

- Contributed **200 oxygen concentrators** (5 litres each) to the **Government of Telangana**

- Contributed **1000 units** of covid medicines to **Sri Venkateswara Institute of Medical Science (SVIMS), Chittoor**



Contribution of covid medicines to SVIMS, Chittoor

» **Provided healthy meals to students** who were stranded during Covid pandemic with the help of a nutritionist. Arrangements were made to serve paneer, banana, and eggs as optional extras.



Meals provided to hostel students

» **Financial support was provided to Ph.D. scholars** as stipend. This helped them to carry out their research without hindrance.

Gratitude notes from some of the Ph.D. scholars



Ajay A P

"I wish to thank all the donors from the bottom of my heart. The relief provided helped me look after my family during that nightmare phase and thereby focus on my research more"



Sunny Sharma

"I am really appreciative of the assistance received from my alumni during my most difficult time. I'm hoping that someday I'll be in a position to help out my fellow students"



Bhadra Hrishikesh

"The pandemic was a tough period for all of us. And it is very stressful for scholars especially when they are on the final stage and the stipend period has ended. I am very grateful to the alumni and non alumni members who contributed in supporting scholars like me. You are inspiration to us by making us understand the importance of giving back to our community"



Dipanjan Majumdar

"I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the alumni and non-alumni donors for generously donating towards the cause of Covid-19 relief with which we were supported with our stipend. I wish to prolong my appreciation to all who worked behind to make the entire process work smoothly. The financial support from you helped me greatly"



We are grateful to you

Padma Shri Prem Watsa
&
Smt. Nalini Loganadhan Watsa



MANOHAR C WATSA STADIUM

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 during and after 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!



Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai – 600036
www.iitm.ac.in

For more information, please contact:
Office of Alumni and Corporate Relations
T: +91-44-2257 8390 | acr.iitm.ac.in



September 2023