



Indian Institute of Technology Madras
Office of Alumni and Corporate Relations

**CELEBRATING THE
GENEROSITY
OF**

MR. KANNAN GOVINDARAJAN

**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 in May 2023 to conjoin medicine and engineering. Similarly, a School of Sustainability was also created in October 2023 to research sustainable practices in the Global South. The campus is moving towards a '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.



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!



MR. KANNAN GOVINDARAJAN (1991 / BT / CS)

Mr. Kannan Govindarajan, an esteemed alumni of IIT Madras is the Founder of Thetarho Inc. which is based in Sunnyvale, California, USA. He was co-founder of DxContinuum, an ML/AI start-up focused on operationalizing AI in enterprise applications that got acquired by ServiceNow in 2017.

He has an illustrious 15-year corporate career, he held a variety of technical, marketing and strategy leadership roles at Oracle and HP. Mr. Kannan serves on the industrial advisory board for the Department of Computer Science, University of Buffalo (SUNY). He is currently holding the position of a Board Member at IIT Madras Foundation. He is also one of the founding members of IIT Mentors, a pan-IIT organization dedicated to providing mentorship for younger IIT alumni.



SUMMARY OF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS IIT MADRAS

**Class of 1991 Award -
1991 Batch Silver Reunion**

**IITM Innovation and
Entrepreneurship Endowment Fund**

CLASS OF 1991 AWARD IN CSE

Criteria: It was launched in the year 2019. The award consists of an annual return from the endowment that will be awarded to the selected faculty member.

- ❖ 50% to be paid as salary
- ❖ 50% towards PCF (non-commutable to salary) for research expenses
- ❖ Accrued interest can be used in future years and multiple awards can be made during each round based on accrued disbursement fund available.

AWARD RECIPIENT 2023



DR. AKANKSHA AGRAWAL
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Thanks to the Class of 1991 for instituting an award for early career faculties. I feel the award is carefully crafted with its research components, that provides a flexible research fund which is particularly very useful in early stages of careers. Thank you for this award!

A funny anecdote, 1991 is also my birth year.

- Dr. Akanksha Agrawal

IITM INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND

The Avishkar student team at IIT Madras have developed several versions of a sub-scale hyperloop pod and participated in the International Hyperloop Competition every year since 2018. Last year, IIT Madras received a grant of Rs. 8.34 crores to create a 400m sub-scale vacuum tube hyperloop infrastructure at the IITM Discovery campus. Per the direction from Prof. Kamakoti, we have agreed to develop a hyperloop pod prototype with a higher degree of commercialization potential when compared to the Avishkar student team pod for operation in this facility. He also suggested that to achieve this goal, the engineers from TuTr Hyperloop and Avishkar students should work as a single team for the IIT Madras Hyperloop initiative to get this prototype ready by early next year. The material costs for developing this prototype pod are being covered by the funds available in the Railways grant. The Rs. 75 Lakhs received from the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fund is being utilized to meet the manpower cost of the full time engineers who are working with the IITM students for a period of seven months beginning September 2023. Dr. Aravind Bharadwaj (CTO- TuTr Hyperloop) has agreed to mentor, free of charge, the Avishkar student team and the TuTr engineers to develop this prototype pod and the pod for the student competition next year under a common IIT Madras hyperloop initiative - Hyperloop Technology Centre (HyTeC@IITM).

The making of Garuda | A short documentary | Avishkar Hyperloop 6.0

[CLICK HERE](#)

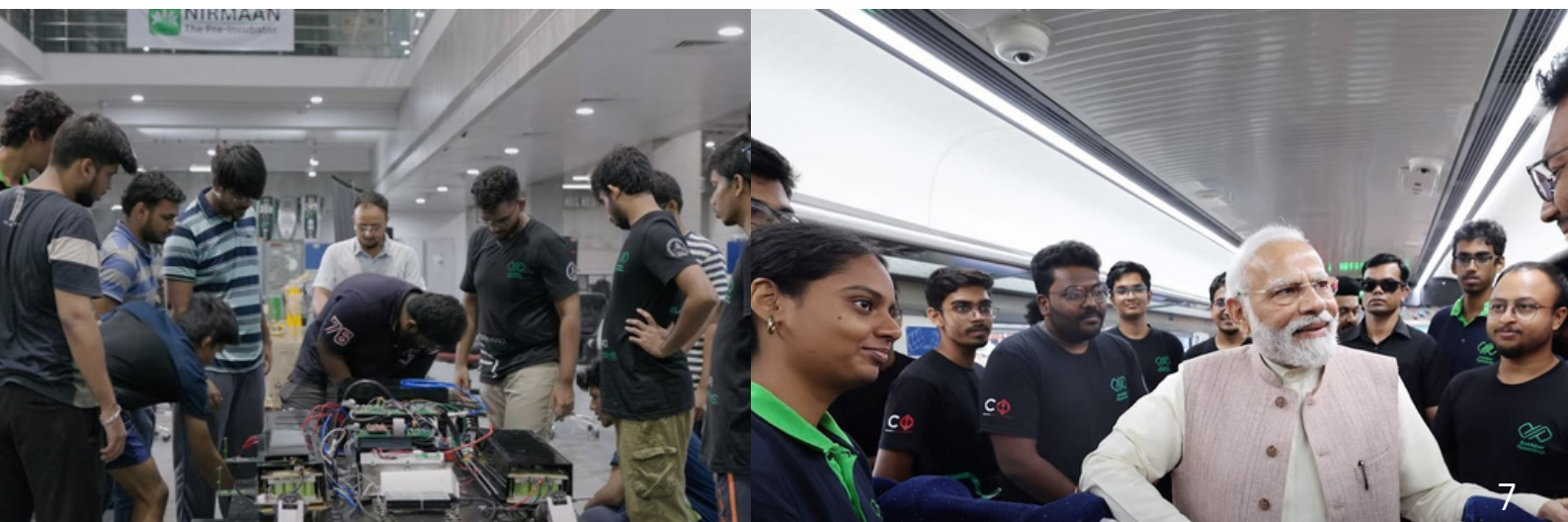
Website



Avishkar Hyperloop



Press release



WE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY MR. KANNAN GOVINDARAJAN

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.



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