



Indian Institute of Technology Madras  
Office of Alumni and Corporate Relations

# CELEBRATING THE GENEROSITY OF MR. KUMAR GANAPATHY



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!

Dr. Kumar Ganapathy is a distinguished alumni of IIT Madras. He graduated with a B.Tech. degree in Electrical Engineering from IIT Madras in 1987, receiving the Siemens Gold Medal for his work. He went on to complete an M.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 1989, then a Ph.D. in the area of novel computing architectures for Digital Signal Processing from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1994.

Apart from his career in industry, Dr. Ganapathy also has over fifty patents along with twelve research articles. This rich academic background, coupled with his expertise in subjects such as cloud computing, SaaS, flash memory, enterprise storage and ASICs, is reflected in more than 20 years of entrepreneurial and leadership experience across start-ups and larger organizations.

Both as a student and as a successful entrepreneur, Dr. Ganapathy has shown an active interest in professional networking, participating in societies associated with fault tolerant computing, digital signal processing, computer architecture and high-performance storage. As a business leader, he is dedicated to the idea of start-ups for disrupting large markets, using the platform of entrepreneurship to create global impact.

## Summary of Your Contributions Towards IIT Madras



IITM Innovation and  
Entrepreneurship Endowment Fund



1987 Batch Silver Reunion -  
Alumni Endowment Fund

# 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).

**Website**



**Avishkar Hyperloop**

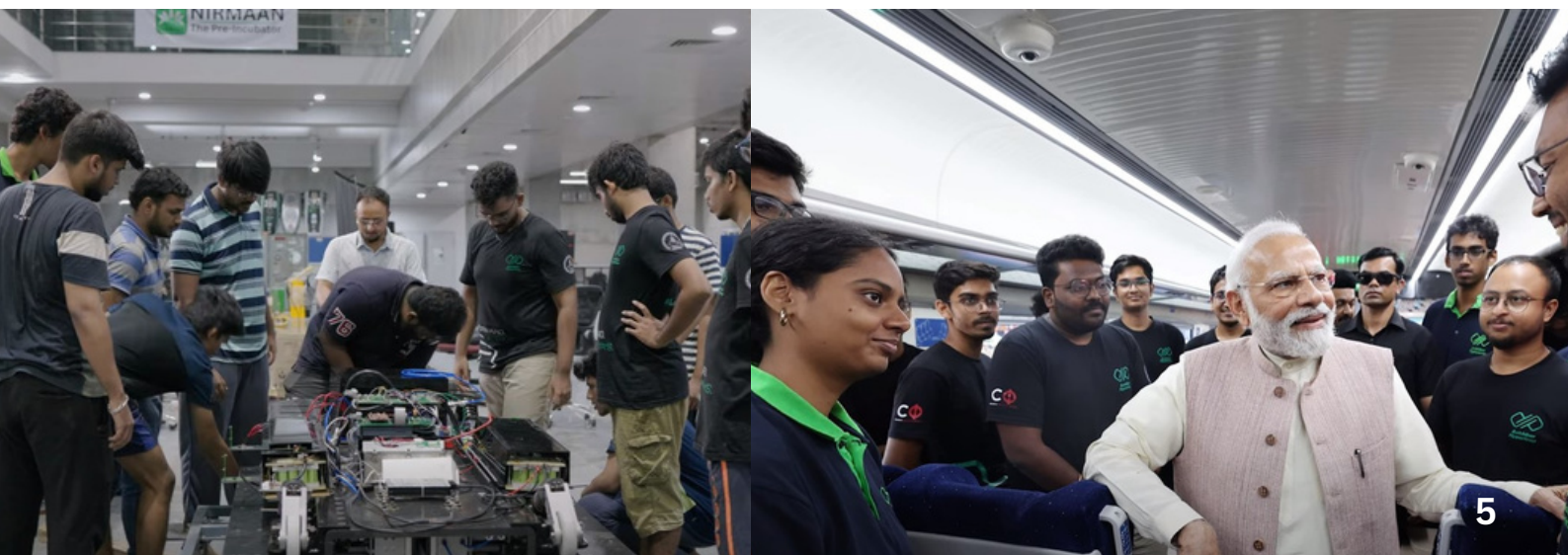


**Press release**



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

**CLICK HERE**



# **1987 BATCH SILVER REUNION - ALUMNI ENDOWMENT FUND**

The 1987 Batch Silver Reunion was held in the year 2012. The batch reunion contributions were used towards the Alumni Endowment Fund. The annual interest from the Alumni Endowment Fund was utilized towards the Travel Grant during the year 2023-2024.

## **Gratitude note from some of the Beneficiaries**

**Name : P. K. Vishnu**  
**Degree : Ph.D.**  
**Department : Physics**

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for the generous grant I received from the Office of Alumni and Corporate Relations for my research visit to Missouri University of Science and Technology, Rolla, United States. This research visit was very crucial for my Ph.D. thesis. I got an opportunity to interact closely with my collaborator, who is an expert in my field of research. The lessons learned, both academically and non-academically, are invaluable in my life. Your kindness and generosity have left a profound impact on not only me but many students at IIT Madras. I feel lucky to be awarded this financial support and am motivated to give back in the future, contributing to the legacy of support and excellence.

**Name: Kishore Rajendran**  
**Degree: B.Tech**  
**Department: Electrical Engineering**

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I would like to thank the alumni of IIT Madras for sponsoring my trip to Istanbul Technical University so that I could participate in Anatolian Rover Challenge 2022.

Participating in the competition was definitely a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that taught me a lot of things, not just technical details, but personal and cultural as well. I learned so much about technology and teamwork, and met people from various academic and cultural backgrounds. All of this inspired me to come back and improve upon our designs with renewed vigor and gave me immense enthusiasm for pursuing my interests in engineering!

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**Name: Prahalad S**  
**Degree: Dual Degree**  
**Department: Biotechnology**

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I would like to thank all the donors for providing me with this grant, which allowed me to attend the Students' Conference on Conservation Science at the University of Cambridge. Being an engineer who is transitioning into wildlife conservation, this conference exposed me to the different facets of research conducted around the world.

In addition, it allowed me to meet and network with like-minded individuals from different parts of the world. This conference has played a huge role in shaping my future career and I would like to offer my thanks to all the alumni for making this possible.

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# WE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY MR. KUMAR GANAPATHY

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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