

Celebrating the Generosity of
**Padma Shri Prem Watsa and
Smt. Nalini Loganadhan Watsa**

Impact of your giving in 2024

Director's Message

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.

Thank you!



Prof. Kamakoti Veezhinathan

Director, IIT Madras

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!



"GIVING IS NOT JUST ABOUT
MAKING A DONATION -
IT'S ABOUT
MAKING A DIFFERENCE"

Padma Shri 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 won the Distinguished Alumnus Award from IIT Madras in 1999.



Impact of your contributions

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

01

Manohar C Watsa IITM
Stadium

02

1964 Foundation
Endowment Fund

03

Prem Watsa's Challenge
Grant

Manohar C Watsa IITM Stadium

Manohar C Watsa Stadium is an iconic place in IIT Madras. We used to see the larger gatherings here. The Stadium, for generations of students, has been the space for not just exercise and training but also casual catch-up sessions and just some quiet time. Come evening, it is not uncommon to see Professors strolling with their children as the Institute Athletics team trains a few feet away.



Encomium for Manohar C Watsa Stadium



1964 Foundation Endowment Fund

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

Criteria of the Scholarship

01

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

03

M.A. students provided with the Institute Merit cum Means (MCM) Scholarship will be eligible for additional support of Rs.12,000/- per annum

02

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

04

M.Sc. students provided with 50% Free Studentship will be eligible for additional support of Rs.15,000/- per annum

So far, 1281+ students have been benefitted from this scholarship. During this year, 94 students benefitted through this scholarship during the academic year 2023-24.

Feedback from the Beneficiaries



Aadityanshu Abhinav

ME22B088

“This scholarship was truly a helping hand in disguise. It supported my stay here in the campus and helped me contribute more to building myself and innovating. This has very positive implications on the overall state of innovation at IITM.”

"I'm really thankful to the alumni association who helped me this scholarship helped me and my family, I could study without having worry about the tution fees and I got the internship which I will give much credit to alumni association as because of them I could focus in better way again thank you so much and when I will become alumni I will do the same."



Yash Panasara
ME21B135



Chetan Singhal
ME22B038

"I'm very thankful to the donor for giving me this scholarship, it has been helping me since my first year in my academic and extracurricular activities. My family financial condition is not so good and this amount is really helping them in reducing their stress. Thankyou so much and I assure you that I am making full use of this amount for a good purpose."

"I am really thankful for the schoalrship for providing me with the ability to reduce the burden of fees paid. My family really needs this in order to meet other expenses at home."



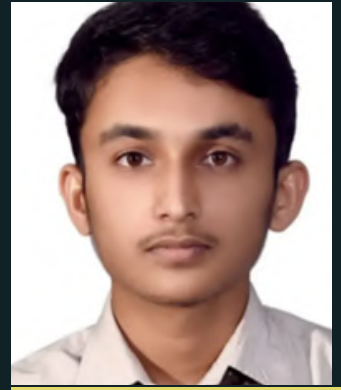
Anvith Reddy N
BE20B004



Siddireddy Keerthan
CE21B120

"The timing of the scholarship is perfect, it was deposited right before the fee paying time. The scholarship amount is a great financial support for me. I am so thankful for the scholarship."

"It helped my family reducing the burden of paying my college fee. It provided me opportunities to enhance my overall educational experience. The scholarship has motivated me to excel academically and contribute positively to my community. Thank you so much for providing me this scholarship."



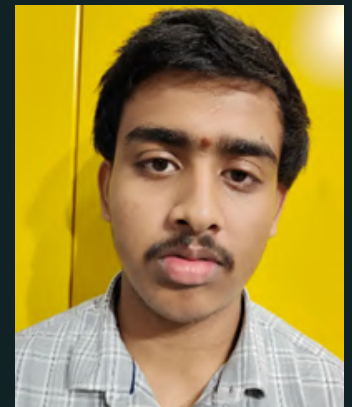
Sheethal K
ME21B190



Akansha Negi
PH22C003

"It helped me to manage my expenses. Thank you."

"Scholarship is helping me a lot because of this my family is not under any sort of pressure due to which I am able to concentrate on my studies and this is giving me a boost to study more. Thanks a lot for this scholarship."

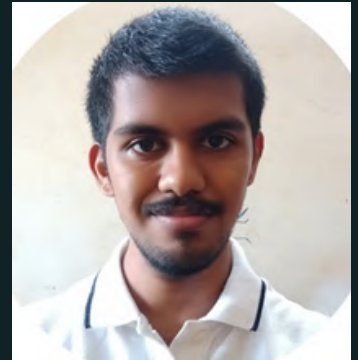


Jasta Tej pavan
ME23B171

"Firstly, I would like to thank you all for providing financial help to students like us. This is very encouraging and very precious to us, students. My father is already so much burdened with his financial problems apart from my fees, I would say this is very helpful to me in lifting some burden my father might feel."

Vudata Jahnvi
EE21B156

“I am really grateful to receive the scholarship, as it helped me and my family to go past our financial woes . Due to this generous scholarship I did not worry about the financial problems and concentrated on my academics and placements. I sincerely thank the donors.”



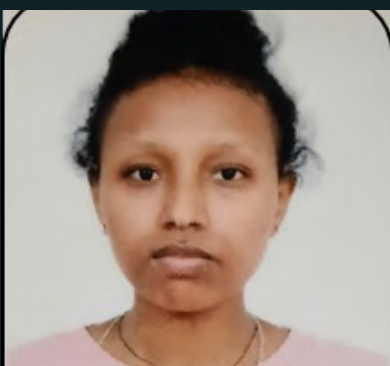
T A Abishek

ME20B010

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 academic year 2022-23 and 14 students benefitted for the academic year 2023-24, whose gratitude note you can see below:



Selamawit Getachew Tekle

I2MP Program,
Biomedical Engineering
Ethiopia

“The scholarship program has been invaluable for my personal, academic, and professional growth, granting me access to opportunities, personal development, and a global perspective. It has allowed me to focus more on my studies without worrying about accessing essential resources and opportunities that might otherwise be out of reach. Despite its limited financial support, the scholarship has greatly facilitated my development through mentorship. However, I believe the stipend amount could be increased, as it currently falls short of covering all necessary expenses.

“

“The scholarship has significantly relieved my financial burden, allowing me to focus entirely on my academics rather than worrying about college expenses. This support has enabled me to fully utilize the time and resources provided to enhance my education. While the scholarship has completely covered my educational costs, additional resources for research would be beneficial.”



Rakesh Sah

M.Tech Program
Computer Science
Nepal



Yonas Alemie

I2MP Program,
Biomedical Engineering
Ethiopia

“The scholarship has been invaluable both academically and financially. It allows me to focus solely on my education without worrying about tuition fees. This has enabled me to dedicate more time to improving my academic and personal skills, ultimately helping me achieve my goals without stress. The financial support is especially crucial since my family can't afford tuition fees. However, the stipend amount could be increased as it currently falls short. “

“The scholarship program's most beneficial aspects include financial support, which reduces the burden of tuition and other educational expenses. It has provided me with access to advanced academic resources, including specialized libraries and research materials, greatly enriching my learning experience.

It has opened up opportunities for me to fully engage in my academic pursuits and pursue my long-term goals without the hindrance of financial constraints. To enhance the program, making it more accessible to a diverse range of applicants, especially students from low income families, would be beneficial. “



Tajudin Abdela Ademe

I2MP Program
Data Science
Ethiopia



Abdul Ahad Ansari

I2MP Program
Data Science
Nepal

“The scholarship has significantly eased my financial burden, allowing me to focus on my studies and personal growth. It has provided better opportunities, boosted my career prospects, expanded my network, and supported my overall development. By relieving my financial concerns, the scholarship has been instrumental in helping me achieve my educational goals.

However, improving fund flexibility to meet diverse student needs and enhancing mentorship would further benefit scholarship recipients. “

“Ethiopia with significant scope in both academia and industry. It has also reduced my financial burden, allowing me to focus more on my studies and personal development.

While the hostel fee is covered by the stipend, the remaining amount is insufficient to cover personal expenses. An increase in the stipend would be greatly appreciated. “



Idiris siyad rage

M.Tech Program
Civil Engineering
Ethiopia



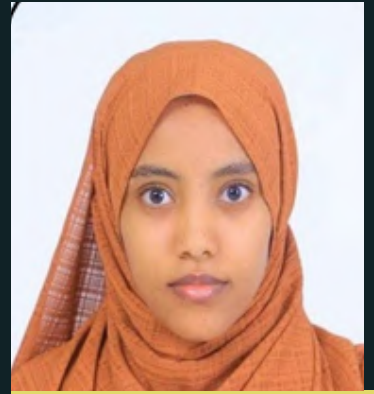
Mustefa Abdella Sultan

M.Tech Program
Electrical Engineering
Ethiopia

“The scholarship has been instrumental in allowing me to fully concentrate on academics by covering tuition and other costs. Studying at IITM, a highly reputed institute known for its quality education, opens up numerous future opportunities, especially as I aim for higher education.

Covering almost 100% of my tuition and hostel fees, the scholarship has alleviated all my financial burdens. While the scholarship is amazing, an increase in the stipend would be highly beneficial. As the hostel fee is covered by the stipend, the remaining amount is insufficient to cover personal expenses. An increase in the stipend would be greatly appreciated. “

“The scholarship has greatly benefited my education by reducing the financial burden and providing access to higher educational opportunities. This support has been crucial in helping me advance towards my academic goals and achieve success in my chosen field. While the scholarship, which covers tuition fees and provides a stipend for living costs, has been immensely beneficial, there are areas for improvement. Although the stipend significantly reduces my financial burden, it is not enough to cover all my living expenses.”



Ekram wendesen

I2MP Program
Biomedical Engineering
Ethiopia



Sujen Shrestha

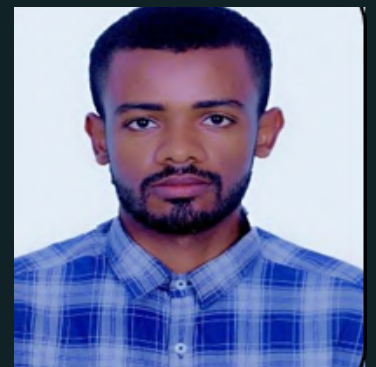
MA Economics
Humanities & Social Sciences
Nepal

“Pursuing an education at IIT is a significant achievement, and the scholarship has provided much-needed financial relief, allowing me to focus on my studies without the burden of financial worries. The ability to pursue any course of interest and the unwavering support from the GE office have made my academic journey smoother and more enriching.

The 100% tuition fee waiver and the stipend have been instrumental in covering my education related expenses, such as stationery and books. While the overall support and accommodation are satisfactory, the periodic increase in hostel fees makes it challenging to manage finances with the current stipend, which is barely sufficient. Increasing the stipend would provide additional support and make studying here more convenient. “

“The interdisciplinary nature of my studies is a significant advantage in pursuing my field of interest, and the tuition fee waiver and unwavering support from the GE office have been crucial. Coming from a developing country, this scholarship has provided me with an opportunity to study at a prestigious institute, which would have been impossible otherwise.

However, I am facing financial challenges, relying solely on the monthly stipend to fund my stay. The financial strain is severe, and I am constantly troubled by reminders from CCW regarding the hostel fee, which I struggle to pay. Additionally, the scholarship does not cover flight tickets and document authentication fees, making it difficult to manage all expenses. I suggest restructuring the stipend and fee structure, using benchmarks like the ICCR scholarships sponsored by the Indian government. This would resolve our financial issues permanently and enable us to fulfil our institutional responsibilities without delay. “



Kaleb Kassa Lafebo

I2MP Program
Robotics Engineering
Ethiopia

Prem Watsa's Challenge Grant

The interest accrued from this endowment is supported to the below causes:

- Techkids
- Ambedkar Jayanthi Celebration
- AM-I-Challenge Institute Day Award
- Monkey proofing work at Quark building
- NASA May day Celebration
- Student Travel Grant
- Arrival kit for Freshers
- Monkey proof waste bin
- Research and Education

02



Ambedkar Jayanthi Celebration

Monkey Proofing work at Quark building

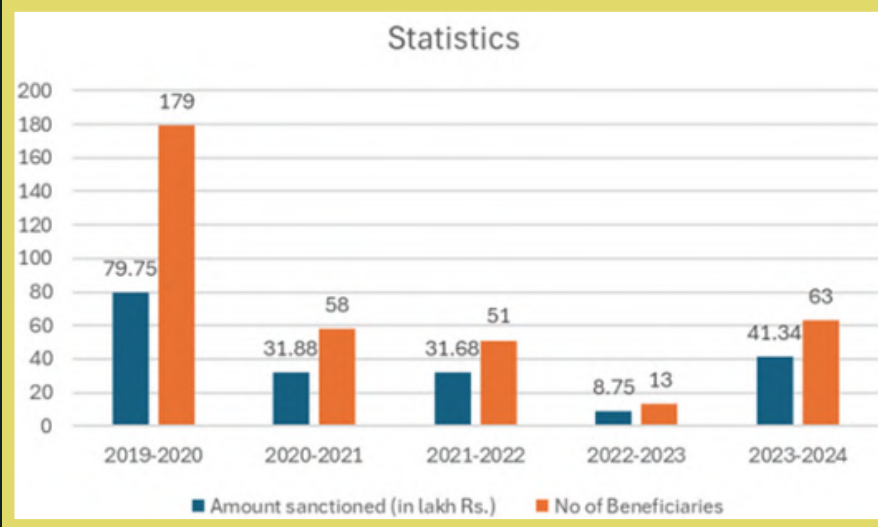


Monkey proof waste bin

NASA May day Celebration

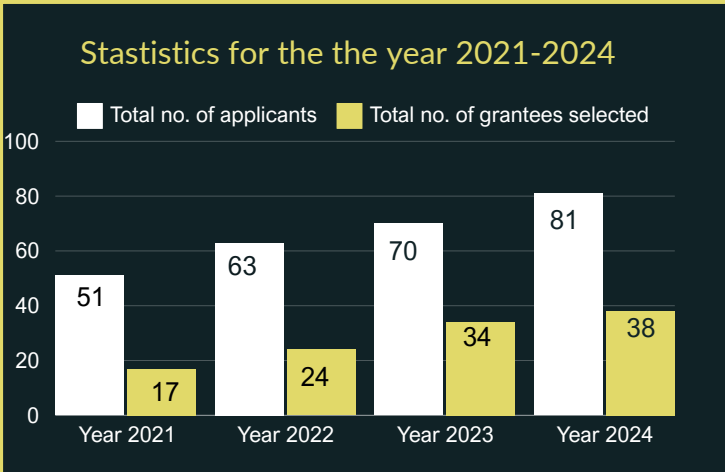


Student Travel Grant



The goal of this travel grant is to facilitate the professional development of undergraduate and graduate students/research scholars and faculty by supporting their travel for attending professional meetings. This also supports exchange programs, summer schools, and joint doctoral programs which provide an opportunity for the recipient to present his/her own research.

Women Leading IITM



The goals of the 'Women Leading IITM' program are:

- Increasing the percentage of women faculty in Assistant Professorships to 20% from the current 15%
- Generating 30% of all faculty applications from Women candidates
- Grantees expected to graduate to leadership roles within IITM
- Next-generation ambassadors for enabling a gender balanced IITM
- Establish an award for Women Faculty in Leadership (Institute already has awards for staff in leadership and given the good presence of women in staff, many have been getting it over the years)

Education is an important factor in empowering women. If women's empowerment in the true sense is ever to be realized, it could be only through education. Education brings prosperity not only to the woman and her family but also to the nation.



We are grateful to you

Padma Shri Prem Watsa and Smt. Nalini Loganadhan Watsa

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!



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