

CELEBRATING THE GENEROSITY OF



MR. KAL BITTIANDA

IMPACT
OF YOUR
GIVING
IN
2024



Indian Institute of Technology Madras
Office of Alumni & Corporate Relations

Director's Message



PROF. V. KAMAKOTI

Greetings!

IIT Madras continues to retain her top position for the ninth consecutive year, in the National Institute Ranking Framework, thanks to the world-class research, unwavering dedication and creative mindset of its faculty and students. The contribution and support of Alumni and well-wishers like you have 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.

IIT Madras is making an indelible mark in promoting and providing education to students from the length and breadth of India to areas beyond Indian territory, through her initiatives in rural developmental educational programs, international, interdisciplinary M.Tech courses, and online diploma courses. The popularity and reach of our online courses can be gauged by the fact that around 25000 students in ages ranging from 17 to 82, have enrolled for these courses across national boundaries, and about 30% are from rural India. The institute, in a first-ever initiative by an IIT, has consolidated its position on the world map by establishing her international campus in Zanzibar, Africa where about 45 students have been admitted to different programs.

Innovation and entrepreneurship are ingrained in all our endeavours – our ambitious ventures in rocket and space explorations, the development of lab-grown diamonds, hyperloop, the Brain Research Centre etc, are a testimony to this. The start-up ecosystem is also a reflection of this spirit, wherein last year, 70 startups came to fruition, successfully nurtured by our centres of excellence, the Centre for Innovation, Nirmaan – the pre-incubator, the Incubation Cell, technology centres such as 'IITM-Pravartak' at the IIT Madras Research Park and others. This year, our target is to incubate at least a 100 Start-ups in various sectors. It is expected that at least 20% of the passing out students will be proud CXOs of their own ventures! The year 2023 also saw 221 national and 105 international patents from our Institute and we are looking to closing this current financial year with 366 patents, to account for 'a patent a day'.

Towards promoting inter-disciplinary research and exploring new frontiers, a Department of Medical Sciences and Technology was launched in May 2023, a School of Sustainability in Oct 2023, a Department of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence in Nov 2023 and a new Interdisciplinary Dual Degree program on Quantitative Finance in Dec 2023 through the synergy of the departments of Management Studies, Computer Science and Engineering and Mathematics. Our School of Sustainability has signed MoUs for collaborations with Tel Aviv University, Israel and Technische Universität Dresden, Germany, with the aim of being recognized as a leader for sustainability teaching and research in the global south.

Lofty ambitions and achievements are impossible without the deep-rooted faith and support of alumni and well-wishers like yourself. We are indebted to you for your bountiful, impactful contributions and the faith reposed on us. On behalf of IIT Madras, I express my 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 seized of tomorrow's needs to be nationally and globally relevant.

Thank you!

Dean's Message



PROF. MAHESH PANCHAGNULA

Greetings from the Office of Alumni and Corporate Relations!

Please accept my sincere appreciation for the unwavering support you continue to provide to IIT Madras. Your generosity is the cornerstone of our success, and we are truly grateful for your commitment to the causes that are important to the students and faculty of IIT Madras. This report is a testament to the profound impact your contributions have had –by transforming the lives of students, supporting research, augmenting Institute infrastructure, enhancing learning or through supporting other myriad causes. Your trust in us propels our ambitions, and we are committed to ensuring that your donations are utilized to their fullest potential.

In a world evolving rapidly in science and technology, we have set ambitious goals for ourselves. Your enduring enthusiasm and support provide fillip to our efforts. IIT Madras stands as a beacon of diversity, sustainability, innovation and research excellence. While we have transformed over the years, our commitment to being a premier institute in the country and abroad, remains steadfast, attracting the brightest minds from across the globe. I cordially invite you to visit the campus, witness first-hand the salutary impact of your contributions, and observe the Institute's growth and evolution over the years. Your generous gifts have made an incredible difference in our Institute's aspirations – Thank you! Your continued partnership is invaluable as we navigate the exciting journey ahead, shaping the future of India and the world together.



Mr. Kal Bittianda

1986/BT/NA

Leadership Advisor to Boards, CEOs & the C-Suite | Partner,
Technology Practice @ Egon Zehnder

Mr. Kal Bittianda is an alumnus of IIT Madras. He completed his B. tech in Naval Architecture in 1986 and went on to Purdue University to complete his MS in Industrial Engineering. He also holds an MBA from Harvard Business School.

As a leader in Egon Zehnder's Americas Technology & Communications practice, Mr. Kal Bittianda is passionate about disruptive technology and digital transformation. He enjoys working with Boards, Family Businesses and C-suites solving their most critical leadership challenges, especially in CEO succession planning, Executive and Board recruiting.

Summary of your Contribution



General Fund



Scholarship Fund



IITM Innovation and Entrepreneurship Endowment Fund

The report presents the impact that your contributions have made for the below cause

» IITM Innovation and Entrepreneurship Endowment Fund

IITM Innovation and Entrepreneurship Endowment Fund



INTRODUCTION

The interest accrued from the IITM Innovation and Entrepreneurship endowment fund is used to support the manpower cost of the full-time engineers who are working with the IITM students for Avishkar Hyperloop prototype for the period of seven months beginning September 2023.

Avishkar Hyperloop is an internationally acclaimed student team of 70+ from IIT Madras focused on revolutionising transportation with sustainable Hyperloop technologies - backed by the Indian Government! Last July, we developed our latest pod which had upgrades such as contactless propulsion with improved efficiency, contactless braking, and was designed for a custom track that supports levitation. We also finished in the global top-5 at European Hyperloop Week (EHW) 2022, bagging nominations in Traction systems, Electrical systems, and the Complete Pod category.

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 CUSTOM-BUILT TRACK

Hon'ble Railway Minister, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, visited the CFI workspace where the team showcased their work and shared their vision of Indian Hyperloop. The Railway Minister announced support for this vision and signed the MoU with the team for building the 500m long Hyperloop testing facility, which upon commissioning will be the World's largest student-run Hyperloop testing facility.

Our latest pod has been designed to run on a custom-track that supports levitation, unlike the internationally renowned I-rail track. With this track design, we aim to set the global standard for a Hyperloop track that is easy to manufacture, cost effective and scalable. We hope to collaborate with international players to refine the Hyperloop track design.



***400-meter long vacuum tube hyperloop testing facility**

The team is currently heading a project of building a 400m long tube at the Discovery Campus of IIT Madras, Chennai in collaboration with the Indian Railways and L&T Construction. The upcoming facility and a Centre For Hyperloop Excellence is being developed as a consequence of Avishkar's persistent R&D for Hyperloop - particularly to optimise the tube's thickness, and thereby, the cost. Upon its commissioning this year, the facility will be the world's largest student-run Hyperloop testing facility, making India a global centre of Hyperloop research.

We are excited to announce that this tube shall play a key role in providing a unique platform for the competitive teams to showcase their pods in the upcoming Global Hyperloop Competition(GHC) that shall be hosted by IIT Madras.

VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS OF STUDENT PROJECTS IN CFI



ACHIEVEMENTS

The team participated in the European Hyperloop Week 2022 in Delft, The Netherlands, showcasing their latest Pod 5.0. They achieved global top-5 rankings in the Electrical, Traction, and Complete Pod categories.



***At the European Hyperloop Week**



***The only Asian finalists**



***Our team with Elon Musk**



***Top 10 finish in the SpaceX Pod Competition**

ACHIEVEMENTS

INTERACTION WITH PRIME MINISTER



The team recently received the chance to interact with the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi about our Hyperloop technology, at the Vande Bharat flagging off event at Chennai! The PM was very excited to hear our progress and to hear details of our revolutionary work - both in pod and infrastructure domains. Here are some pictures from the event. Seeing the PM's enthusiasm for Hyperloop and his faith in our work reinforced our belief that this is indeed going to revolutionise India. The team hopes to get him to see a levitating pod run in our 400m tube this year!

We are grateful to you & your family

MR. KAL BITTIANDA

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



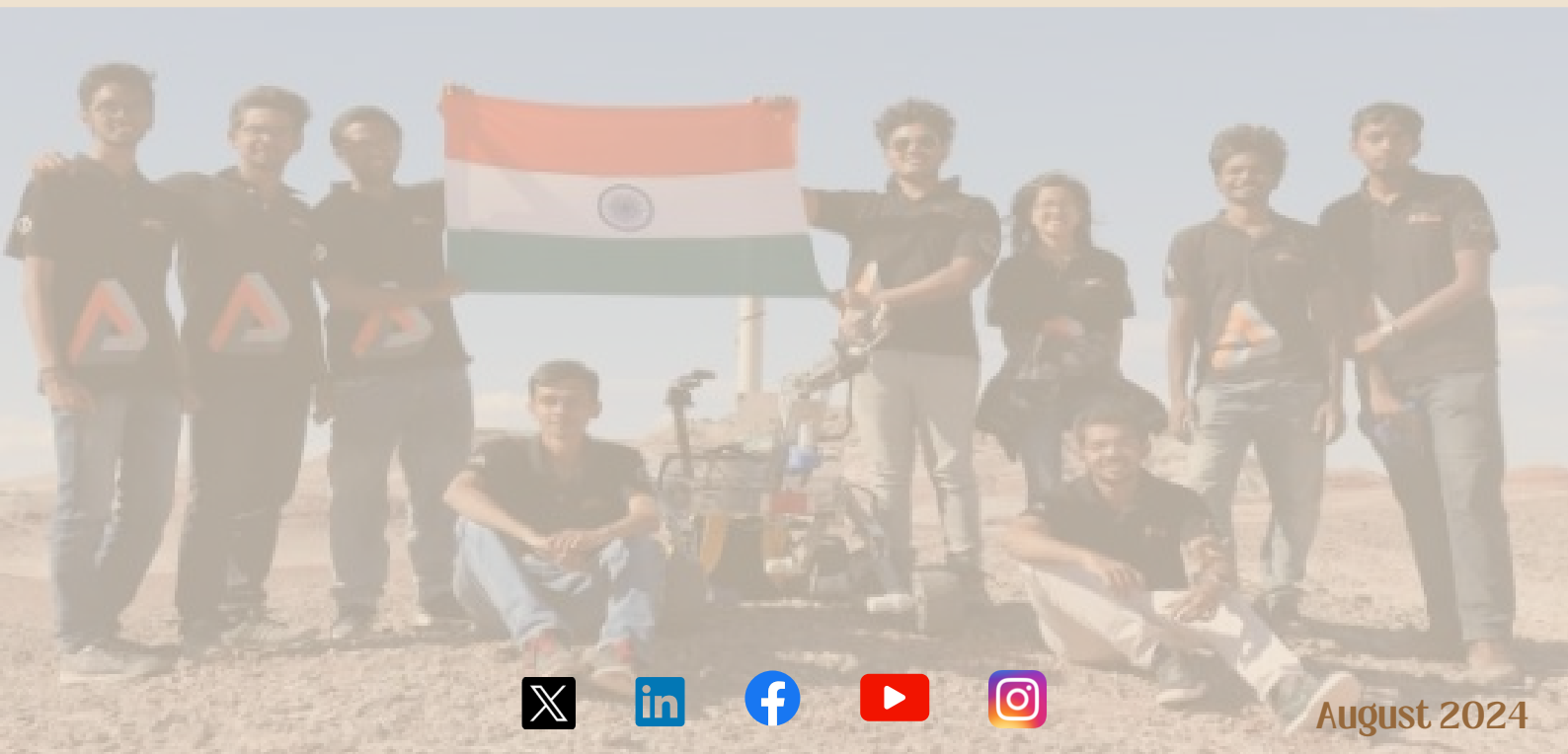
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