



Alumni and Corporate Relations
Indian Institute of Technology Madras

Celebrating the Generosity of Dr. Virupaksha Reddy

Impact of your
Giving in 2024



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Prof. V Kamakoti
Director, IIT Madras

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, 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 ecosphere 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 graduating students will be proud CXOs of their own ventures! The year 2023-24 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 to you 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. Ashwin Mahalingam
Dean, Alumni and Corporate Relations

I wish to extend my deepest gratitude to you for your incredible generosity and continuous support to IIT Madras. An act of giving is much more than just making a donation. It is the manifestation of kindness, compassion, and a deep-rooted empathy within each of us. It is the very essence of being human. And as one of our esteemed donors, you truly exemplify this.

Strong academic institutions play a critical role in today's world - training minds young and old, and by their contribution to research and innovation. Your contributions have had a truly transformative impact, not only on the institute but also on our students, faculty and the broader community. This *"Impact of Giving"* report serves as a testament to the profound influence your contributions have had on the lives of our current students, the advancement of innovation in research, and the infrastructure of the institute.

At IIT Madras, we take great pride in the strong relationships we have fostered over the years. It is through your consistent engagement with us that we've been able to push the boundaries of innovative research, improve our infrastructure, and provide scholarships that have empowered students from diverse backgrounds. These efforts have created life-changing opportunities, ignited new ideas, and elevated IIT Madras to the forefront of global education and research.

Your commitment, as part of our esteemed benefactor network, has strengthened our institute's global reach. It has opened doors to new partnerships, forged collaborations, and helped us nurture the leaders of tomorrow.

We are profoundly grateful for your belief in IIT Madras. Your continued support not only upholds the values and traditions of the institute but also helps us chart a bold and visionary path forward. Together, we are building a legacy of lasting excellence.

Once again, thank you for your dedicated engagement with IIT Madras!





Dr. Virupaksha Reddy

(1972/ MSc/ CY)

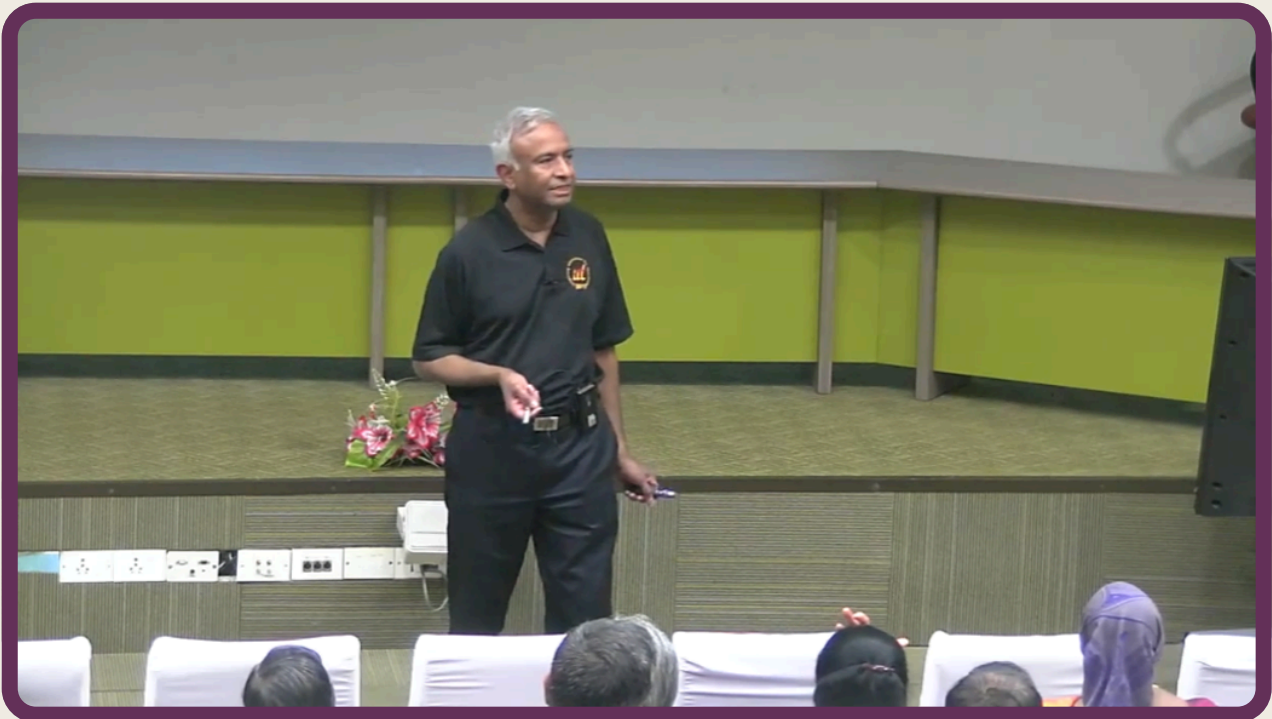
Dr. K Virupaksha Reddy, a distinguished chemist and visionary entrepreneur, has made an indelible mark on chemistry and telecommunications. After graduating from IIT Madras in 1972 with a **Master's degree in Chemistry**, following his Bachelor's degree from the Government Arts College in Anantapur, Dr Reddy embarked on a remarkable scientific exploration and innovation journey.

During his PhD tenure in the Physical Chemistry Department at the **University of Wisconsin-Madison**, Dr. Reddy's groundbreaking research in developing pulsed and continuous wave lasers revolutionised the study of chemical reactions. His pioneering work, employing intra-cavity laser excitation schemes, garnered immense recognition and appreciation from esteemed figures across the scientific community, establishing him as a distinguished researcher in the field.

With a rich portfolio of experience gained from three different corporate research labs in the United States, Dr. Reddy's entrepreneurial drive and quest for technological advancement led him to establish **PriTel, Inc.** in 1994. As the President and Founder of PriTel, he spearheaded the manufacturing of state-of-the-art test and measurement equipment for the fibre-optics telecommunications industry. Today, PriTel's cutting-edge products can be found in every pre-eminent telecom research laboratory worldwide, a testament to Dr. Reddy's unwavering commitment to excellence and innovation.

Beyond his groundbreaking scientific achievements, Dr. Reddy has demonstrated his dedication to his *alma mater*, IIT Madras, by serving as the **President of the IIT Madras Alumni Association of North America** from 2013 to 2015. Dr. Virupaksha Reddy was honoured with the **Distinguished Alumnus Award** in 2017 for his exceptional contributions and profound impact. This prestigious accolade underscores his remarkable accomplishments, and highlights his influential role as the President and Founder of PriTel Inc.

Dr. Virupaksha Reddy addressing the audience at IIT Madras (Feb, 2014)





**Dr. Virupaksha
Reddy
Visiting Chair**

**Virupaksha
Reddy IIT Madras
Chemistry
Research
Endowment**

**Dr.Reddy's
contributions**

**Sampath
Institute Chair**

**K.K.
Balasubramanian
Institute Chair**

Dr. Virupaksha Reddy's Invaluable Contributions to IIT Madras

Dr. Virupaksha Reddy Visiting Chair

Chair Occupant: Prof. S Chandrasekaran

SERB Distinguished Fellow
Department of Organic Chemistry,
Indian Institute of Science,
Bangalore 560 012, India



Srinivasan Chandrasekaran, born in Nov 1945, obtained his **PhD from Madras University in 1972**. Between the years 1973 to 1989, he served as a Research Associate at the **Chemistry department of Harvard, Research Associate Syntex California** and in the posts of Lecturer, Assistant Professor and **Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur**. Subsequently, he moved to the **Indian Institute of Science Bangalore** and held various prestigious positions there. Between Aug 2010 and Jul 2011, he was the **Dean, Faculty of Science IISc** and **Honorary Professor at IISc** from 2011 to 2016. He is a **distinguished fellow of the Science Engineering Research Board (SERB)**, of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India. He has won several awards and recognitions. Notably, in the year 1989, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, the apex agency of the Government of India for scientific research, awarded him the **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize** for Science and Technology, one of the highest Indian science awards, for his contributions to chemical sciences. In the year 2004, IISc Bangalore awarded him the **Alumni Award for Excellence** in Research in Science. He holds several memberships and Fellowships of renowned Societies and Academies, and is chairman and member of several editorial Boards. He is also an elected fellow of the Indian National Science Academy, the World Academy of Sciences and the Indian Academy of Sciences.

He has been chosen as the Virupaksha Reddy Visiting Chair Occupant with effect from July 2024.

Sampath Institute Chair

Prof. Srinivasa Sampath



Introduction

Late Prof. Srinivasa Sampath (1925-1998) served as a professor at the **Department of Electrical Engineering** and **Deputy Director** at IIT Madras. He was instrumental in the academic development and growth of IIT Madras. In 1981, Prof. Sampath became the **Director of IIT Kanpur** and brought in significant changes in the field of computer sciences.

He was an excellent teacher and a role model to his students. He was also a gifted speaker of exceptional caliber in the areas of education, technology, and spirituality. **Mr. Mallik Putcha** was the initiator and major contributor to this Institute Chair; Dr. Virupaksha Reddy has also contributed in support to this Chair.

Chair Occupant



Prof. R. Sarathi

Dean, Planning
Professor,
Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Madras

Academic Background

Ph.D. (1995) from the
Indian Institute of Science,
Bangalore

Research Interests

Development of cryogenic insulation materials

Condition Monitoring of power apparatus using Multi sensor fusion techniques

Understanding the influence of space charge on breakdown process in nanocomposites and elastomers

Development of nano composite insulating materials for outdoor applications

Fault diagnosis in transformers using Acoustic emission and UHF Sensors

Application of Wavelet Technique for condition monitoring of outdoor insulating structures

Fractal Modeling and Simulation of Treeing in electrical Insulation.

Generation of Nano particles by pulsed power techniques

Sterilization of liquid foods using pulsed power techniques

Prof. R. Sarathi has more than 25 years of experience in research and education, and has published more than 269 papers in peer-reviewed, reputed international journals. He has guided more than 33 Ph.D. Scholars and 16+ M.S (by Research) students. He has been instrumental in conceptualizing and developing the state-of-the-art High Voltage Laboratory at IIT Madras. He is currently associated with UKIERI project, an international collaboration initiative on fostering innovation in high voltage insulation for electrical energy networks. He is a Member, Indian Standards on High voltage testing techniques, CBIP distribution system, International Reference Group for SweGRIDS, Sweden and a collaborative member of the green Asia project of Kyushu University funded by Japanese government. He is Vice Chair of IEEE DEIS Outdoor Insulation Technical Committee/New Task Forces.

Awards and Recognition

Fellow of Institution of Engineers, India, 2013

IEEE PES Madras Section Outstanding Engineer Award, USA, 2014

Fellow of Indian National Academy of Engineering, New Delhi, 2016

Fellow of Royal Society of Chemistry, United Kingdom, 2017

**Fellow of Institution of Engineering and Technology, United Kingdom,
2017**

Fellow, The Chennai Academy of Sciences, Chennai, 2023

KK Balasubramanian Institute Chair

The Chair Occupant would be identified on finalization of the Institute Chair professors from the departments of Chemistry, Bio Technology and Chemical Engineering, in May 2025

Dr. Virupaksh Reddy IITM Research Endowment Fund

The Chemistry department would be using the amount in this Fund very soon for meeting its essential needs

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU!

Dr. Virupaksha Reddy and Family



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 relations with IIT Madras and how it has remained steadfastly committed to academic and research excellence. 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!

Here's also wishing you and your loved ones, a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year 2025!



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