



Indian Institute of Technology Madras
Office of Alumni and Corporate Relations

CELEBRATING THE GENEROSITY OF Dr. GDS Ramkumar and Mrs. Arunashree Bhamidipati



IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING IN 2024

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Prof. Kamakoti Veezhinathan
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, 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 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 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
Dean, Alumni & Corporate Relations, IIT Madras

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.



Dr. GDS Ramkumar ,1990/BT/CS
Distinguished Alumni Awardee For The Year 2024

Ramkumar is a technology professional and entrepreneur with over 20 years of experience developing innovative mobile applications and software. He co-founded startups SnapTell in 2006 and Swell in 2012. SnapTell developed innovative visual search technologies and was acquired by Amazon subsidiary A9.

Swell developed a podcast recommendation system and was acquired by Apple. Ramkumar is a proud alumnus of IIT Madras, holding a B.Tech in Computer Science, awarded the President of India gold medal. He holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Stanford University.



SUMMARY OF YOUR CONTRIBUTION

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

★
1990 Batch Silver Reunion

★
Women Leading IITM

★
Endowment Fund

★
**IITM Innovation and Entrepreneurship
Endowment Fund**

★
IITMF Operational Fund

1990 BATCH SILVER REUNION

1990 batch silver reunion endowment interest received from the donors of
United States supporting E-Summit every year.
E-Summit 2024



The ninth edition of the annual Entrepreneurship Summit, hosted by the Entrepreneurship Cell of Indian Institute of Technology Madras, marked a significant milestone in fostering innovation on and entrepreneurship. Held from 7th to 10th March 2024, the summit stood as a beacon of inspiration and learning, drawing over 800 founders and 5000+ students participating from 400 colleges across India.

This year's summit distinguished itself by being the first student-run entrepreneurial festival in India to receive ISO, Startup India, MakeInIndia and UNESCO certifications. Supported by esteemed partners including WestBridge Capital, SBI's Startup Branch, and Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India Ltd., E-Summit 2024 featured a stellar lineup of over 35 investors and 40 notable speakers.

Four dynamic conclaves - Youth Conclave, Innovators' Conclave, Start-up Conclave, and Startup Essen also Conclave - provided a platform for knowledge sharing, networking, and exploration of entrepreneurial opportunities. The summit also showcased a Startup Expo, a racing 100 innovative startups to present their groundbreaking ideas to a diverse audience of over 15,000.

With a strong educational focus, E-Summit 2024 aimed to equip attendees with valuable entrepreneurial insights through lectures, workshops, and engaging competitions.

The E-Summit also held multiple sessions to address crucial challenges faced by tech founders, particularly in finance, legal, and tax domains thereby providing startups with the necessary knowledge and resources for sustainable growth and success.

The summit also witnessed the seventh edition of the prestigious pan-India fundraising competition, 'Elevate,' with 30+ VCs offering an investment corpus of 35Cr+ and the ninth edition of the Startup Accelerator Program, Bootcamp, which saw 50+ startups in the cohort. These initiatives, supported by leading venture capital firms and conglomerates, aimed to nurture and elevate promising startups from various domains.



Further, the first ever Incubator's Summit was conducted, with 43 startups receiving incubation offers from top incubators across the country. The Summer InternFair saw over 80 students receiving internship offers from leading startups across the country.

Highlighting the inspirational aspect of the summit were the flagship Inspirit lectures, featuring industry leaders sharing their personal journeys and insights. Notable speakers included Mr. Ankur Warikoo (serial entrepreneur and content creator), Mr. Anand Srinivasan (IIT Madras alumnus and co-founder of Akasa Air), Mr. Abhinandan Sekhri (Co-founder of NewsLaundry), Mr. Ajit Balakrishnan (Founder of Rediff), and Ms. Radhika Aggarwal (Co-founder of ShopClues and the first woman to enter unicorn club).

As the curtains closed on yet another successful edition, E-Summit 2024 left an indelible mark on India's entrepreneurial landscape, inspiring and empowering the next generation of innovators and leaders.





Key moments and Impact created by E-Summit '24:

1. Launch of Entrepreneurship Cell in IITM Zanzibar Campus by Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu

2. Launch of 8th Edition of E-Insider Magazine by Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu

3. Unveiling of Drachen 5K, a 1:4 Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle prototype designed to fly at 200 kmph at an altitude of 5000 feet by Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director of IIT Madras. The UAV is built by Arctus Aerospace, a startup founded by Shreepoorna S Rao, a final year undergraduate student at IIT Madras

4. 100 Startups to display and showcase their products and businesses to top VCs, successful entrepreneurs, professors of IIT Madras and students through Startup Expo 2024

5. 80+ internships offered in leading startups across India to IITM Students through Startup Internfair

6. 43 incubation offers to early stage startups from top incubators across the country

7. 50 Startups selected to be part of Bootcamp, a startup accelerator program, with top 10 startups receiving equity free incubation

8. E-Cells communities established in 25+ colleges including international ones, taking total pool of partner colleges to 100+ through Entrepreneurship Development Drive

9. Workshops conducted in 50+ schools across India to introduce 30K+ students to entrepreneurship as a career pathway through the E-21 program

10. Radio broadcasts and offline visits to 25+ villages in Tamil Nadu to create awareness about government schemes for rural entrepreneurs through E-Cell's social campaign Udaan.

WOMEN LEADING IITM

The goals of the 'Women Leading IITM' program

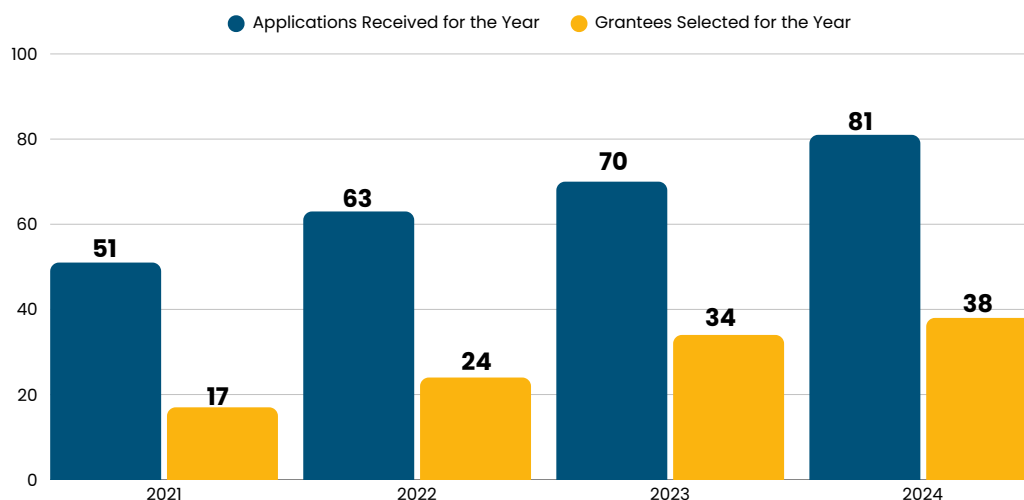
- Increasing the percentage of women faculty in Assistant Professorships to 20% from the current 15%
- Generating 30% of all faculty applications from Women candidates
- Grantees expected to graduate to leadership roles within IITM
- Next-generation ambassadors for enabling a gender balanced IITM
- Establish 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.

IITM has made considerable progress in improving the number of women students/ faculty & creating opportunities for success. IIT Madras launched the 'Women Leading IITM' (WLI) program on March -08th 2021 to boost women's leadership in science and technology. Launched in 2021, Women Leading IITM is a program to Nurture, Develop and Support women's talent at IITM along with their study/professional careers.



Statistics For The Years 2021 - 2024



For the full report, please refer to the below link

[CLICK HERE](#)

ENDOWMENT FUND

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

Techkids

Student Travel
Grant

Ambedkar Jayanthi
Celebration

Arrival kit for
Freshers

NASA May day
Celebration

Monkey proof
waste bin

AM-I-Challenge Institute
Day Award

Research and
Education

Monkey proofing work at
Quark building



Ambedkar Jayanthi
Celebration



Monkey proofing work at
Quark building



Monkey proof
waste bin



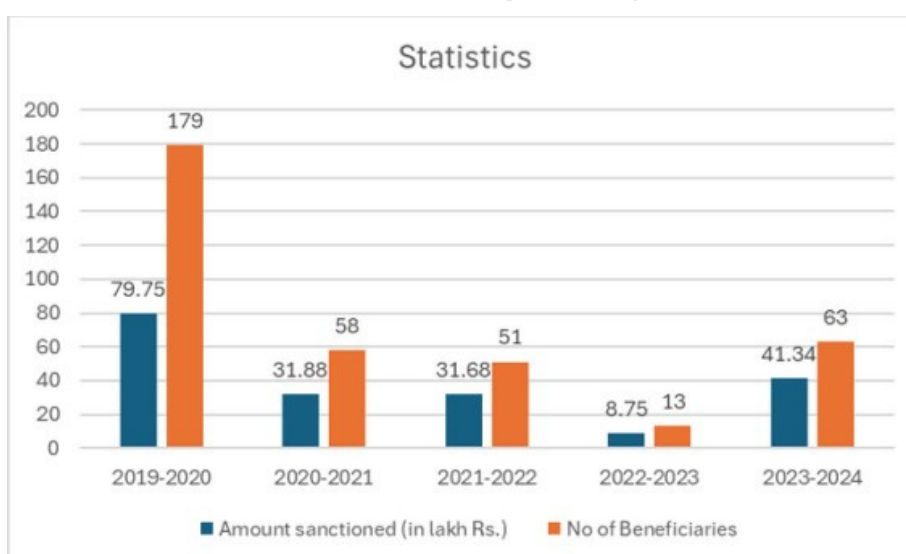
**NASA May day
Celebration**

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. This enables recipients to interact with peers and established scientists, which also helps develop professional contacts to facilitate their career development.

Statistics for the past 5 years



IITM INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND



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).

ACHIEVEMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

The team participated in the European Hyperloop Week 2022 that took place in Delft, The Netherlands with their recent Pod 5.0. The team emerged in the Global Top-5 in Electrical, Traction, Complete Pod Categories.



The only Asian finalists



Top 10 finish in the SpaceX Pod Competition



Our team with Elon Musk



Winner of Most Scalable Design Award



Rank #5 for Complete Pod Design Award

Among Top 5 Nominees for Subsystem Awards



Levitation Subsystem



Mechanical Subsystem



Propulsion Subsystem

Our achievements in the European Hyperloop Week



Winner of the Most Scalable Design Award

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!

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.

THE CUSTOM-BUILT TRACK

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.



THE 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, Thaiyur 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.

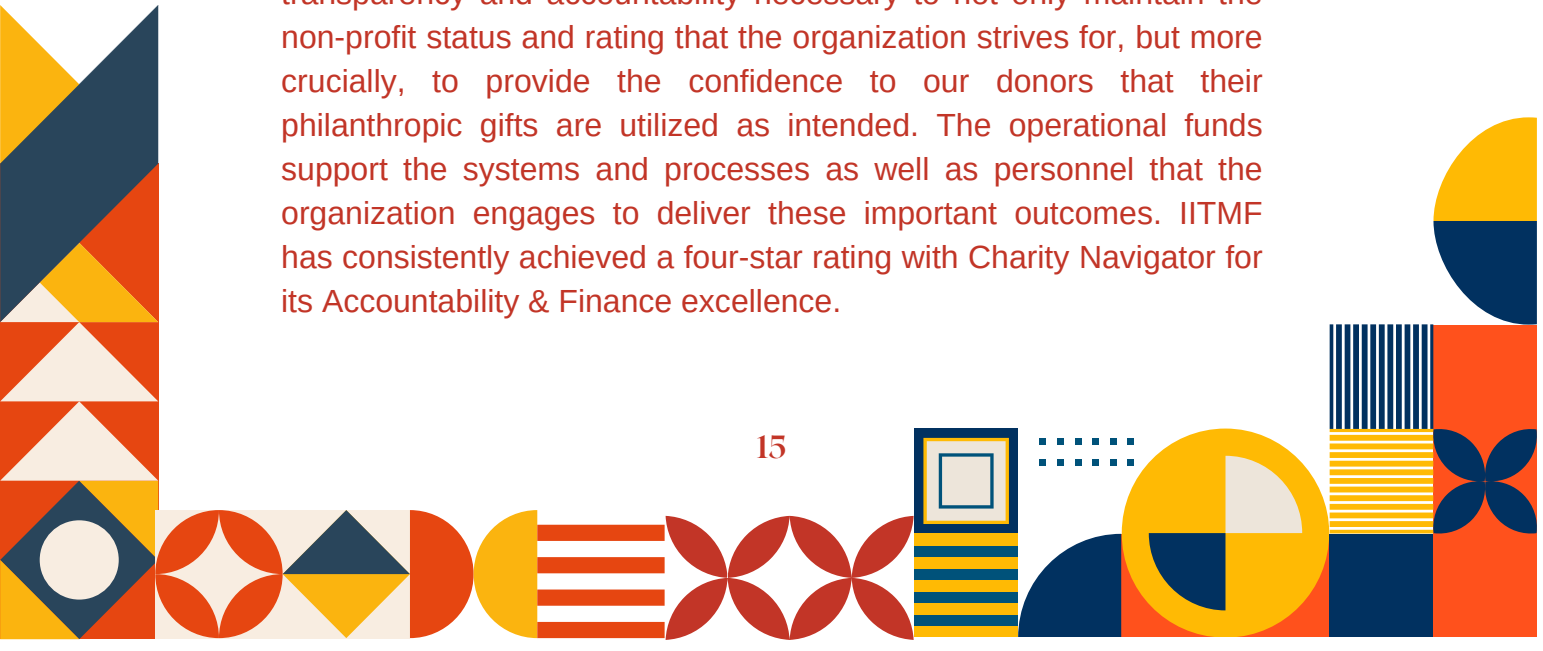


IITMF OPERATIONAL FUND



IIT Madras Foundation Operations manage the confluence of functions needed to achieve the IIT Madras Foundation goals. Critical activities that the Operations delivers include enabling the volunteer driven efforts to raise awareness through marketing and personal engagement of alumni, managing and deploying funds raised, working with IITM.

The Operations at IITMF are managed to provide the level of transparency and accountability necessary to not only maintain the non-profit status and rating that the organization strives for, but more crucially, to provide the confidence to our donors that their philanthropic gifts are utilized as intended. The operational funds support the systems and processes as well as personnel that the organization engages to deliver these important outcomes. IITMF has consistently achieved a four-star rating with Charity Navigator for its Accountability & Finance excellence.



WE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU
AND YOUR FAMILY
Dr. GDS Ramkumar and
Mrs. Arunashree Bhamidipati



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!



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