

Heritage Centre, IIT Madras presents

Volume 1, Issue 4

Glass Panels

Nov 2023

 Heritage Centre
IIT Madras



On Butterflies



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The Heritage Centre was formally inaugurated by Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, former Director of IIT Madras, on 3 March 2006. It is a repository of material of heritage value and historical significance to IIT Madras. "Heritage Centre - Reimagined" was inaugurated on 18 December 2022 by Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman, Honourable Finance Minister of India.

Located centrally on campus, the Heritage Centre has an exhibition space that enjoys an abundance of natural light. The centre also has a small theatre and a particularly pleasant reading area that offers incomparable views of the green campus.

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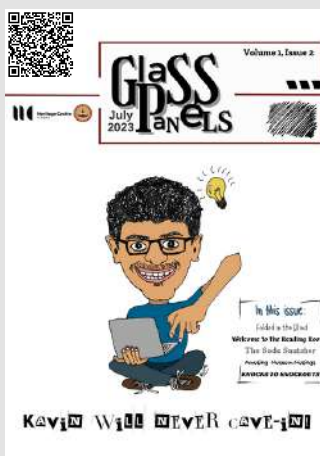
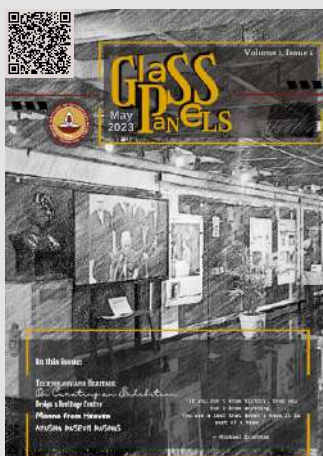
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Check out the previous issues of *Glass Panels* by scanning the QR codes given below.
You can also find the printed copies at the Heritage Centre Library!



Bhuvanesh Santharam
Senior Content Writer
Heritage Centre



EDITORIAL

This is the fourth issue of *Glass Panels*. Previously, we have shared stories about culinary adventures, student volunteers at the Heritage Centre, curating exhibitions, hornet nests and much more.

In this issue, you will find three interesting stories; one about butterflies, the other about a ship and the third about the Heritage Centre pantry. The recent fauna and flora exhibition at the Central Globe of the Heritage Centre called for a series of paintings of the butterflies on campus and Ashlin Deena Mathews, one of the project staff, had the opportunity to create these paintings over several weeks.

The butterflies, which look life-like, have drawn the attention of practically all the visitors to the Centre, most of whom have mistaken the butterflies for real ones. The article 'On Butterflies' contains some behind-the-scenes images of paintings in progress that will undoubtedly interest readers.

In the article 'State of Bombay', we go through a fun story of a ship whose model was tested at IIT Madras sometime in the 1970s. We will also find a comic strip describing the metadata research process implemented for this particular case study.

Lokesh writes about the Heritage Centre pantry that took on a new shape following several months of being in a state of clutter. The humorous piece sends an important message to the readers about the simplicity involved in keeping things clean and tidy in a workspace.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Glass Panels* as much as you did the previous editions. As the year comes to an end, I would like to wish all our readers a Happy New Year and a healthy and happy 2024!



Lesser grass blue - *Zizina otis*
Photograph taken by Mymoon Moghul

Ashlin Deena Mathews
Project Associate
Heritage Centre



ON BUTTERFLIES

Spot swordtail



Butterflies - they fly and die quickly. They are hard to catch; some of them resemble dead leaves. Some of them are unexpected in their beauty and design. Some of them are glassy, some of them have tails, some of them have spots, some of them are white, some of them are black, some of them are metallic - and all of them, despite seeming similar to other butterfly species, have that one small thing that tells you that they all look the same. They are not what I expected and they have taken over my life.

03 GLASS PANELS

In school, I drew butterflies easily: pairs of wings and a cylinder in the centre. When I got older, I just stopped drawing butterflies altogether. During the pandemic, I drew the outlines of butterflies on borrowed paper and admired my handiwork but I forgot about it afterwards. Working at the Heritage Centre, I never assumed that an opportunity for me to draw them again would arise.

I do not know much about their behaviours and characteristics but I know how to understand their appearance better. I see the hope they present in their short-lived lives and the joys they partake in as they flit around. The length of their life is not proportional to the beauty they hold. Perhaps, it leads to the analogy that everything in life is temporary, even the good.

They have taught me to think about life in ways I did not before.



A spot swordtail coming into being

Every butterfly is first drawn by pencil and then the colours are mixed during the painting process.



The line swallowtail and a close-up

04 GLASS PANELS



The progress of the "anomalous nawab" butterfly



Of the two common mormon butterflies in the above image, which is real?



*The common leopard
(spot the common jay and the yellow orange-tip)*



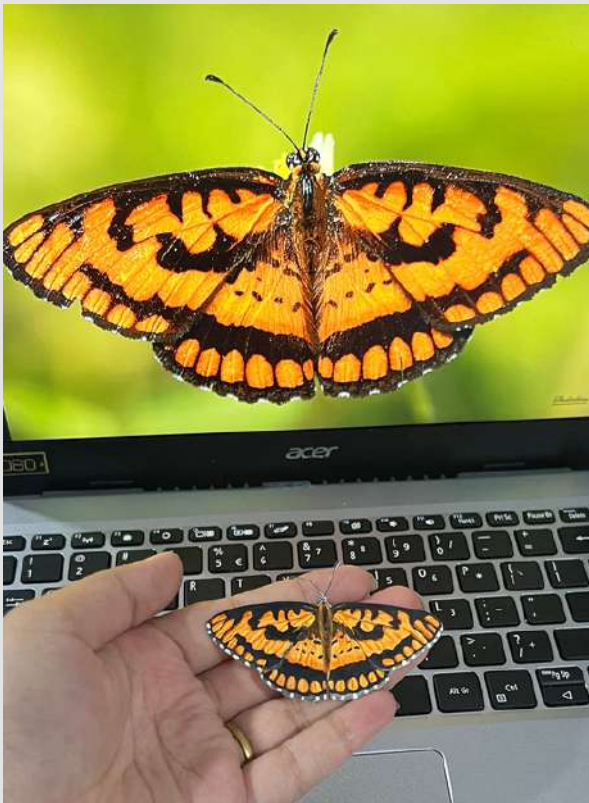
The tawny coster is actually 5.3 - 6.4 cm. It was made to size. All the butterflies were made relative and not always the actual size.

05 GLASS PANELS



Cutting out a common sailer

Cutting the butterfly out was a strenuous task; I always kept the image of the butterfly open to ensure that there was no part I would miss. Often, my eyes screamed at me when I reached the butterflies' delicate antennae. The antennae of two butterflies had to be glued back after they tore while cutting.



Spot my rookie mistake on the common joker



The common mormon and its associated palette

06 GLASS PANELS



Tricolour Pied Flat



The last butterfly made for this exhibit : the common crow

The progress of the yellow orange-tip butterfly and a bonus common jay



A side-angle shot of the display before the lid was screwed into the board enclosing the butterflies until it's opened next, if ever.

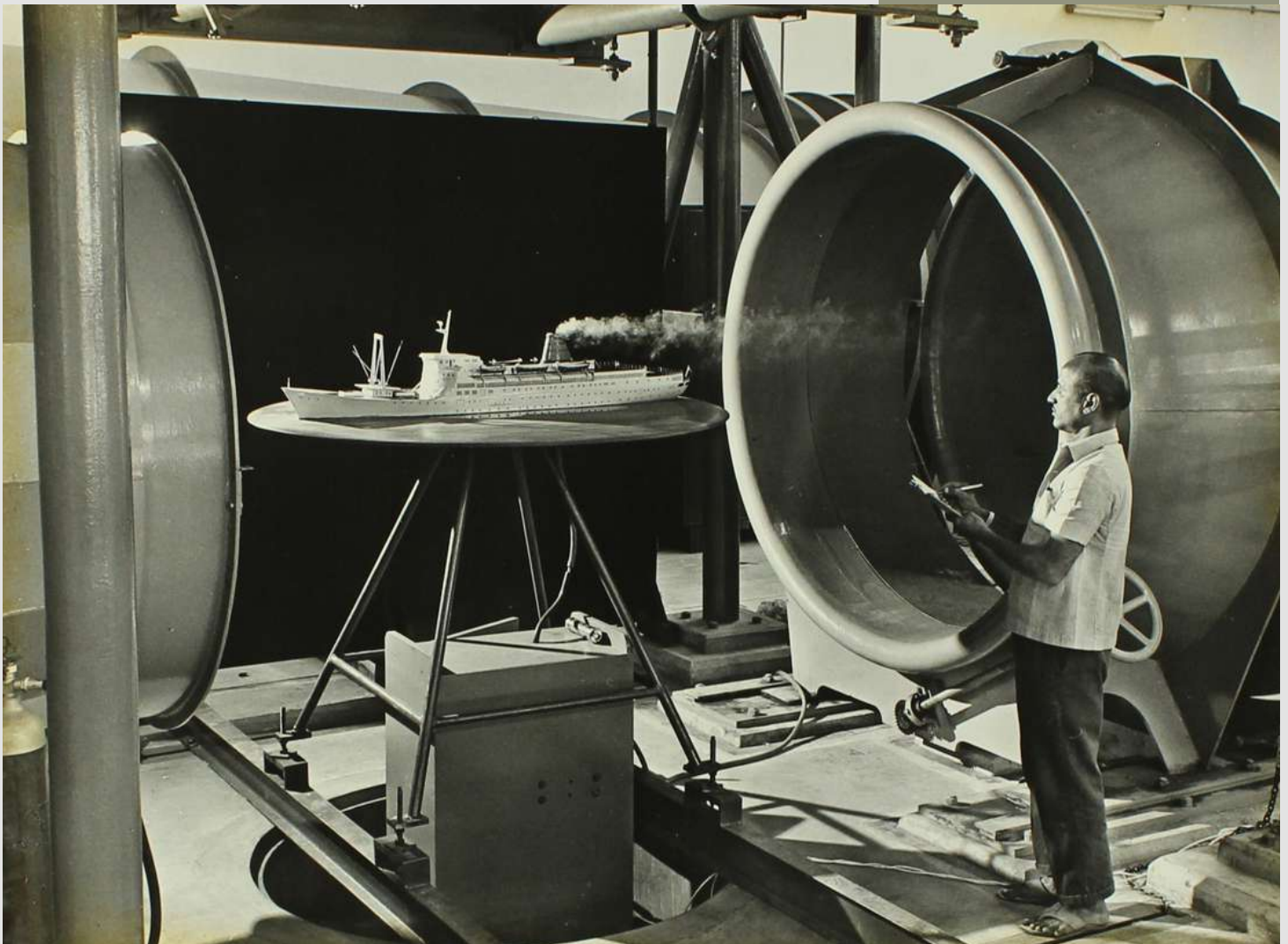
STATE OF BOMBAY

Bhuvanesh Santharam
Senior Content Writer
Heritage Centre



At the Heritage Centre, we have an extensive collection of photographs. Most images belong to the Central Photographic Section Collection, while others are from the Gourishankar Collection. Our other collections consist mainly of contributions from alumni and independent photographers.

A few albums in the collections contain photos from an experiment conducted decades ago at IIT Madras. These are albums 0040, 0041, 0212 and 0321. The albums contain images of two large tunnel-like structures and a model of a ship between them. I also found a note alongside this photograph (please see the next page).



Mr. G. Srinivasan, a staff member at the Applied Mechanics Department (identified by Prof. P. A. Aswatha Narayana), at the wind tunnel facility.
Album_0041/IMG_1271_1



Facing page

A.M.2. Smoke nuisance test on model of 'State of Bombay'

(M/s. Mazagon Locks Ltd.) in the 1.5 m dia test-section of the closed-circuit, low-speed wind tunnel. The tunnel is capable of a maximum speed of 60 m/s and is provided with a semi-automatic six-component balance.
(Department of Applied Mechanics)

A note which was found alongside the photograph
Album 0041 - 1270_1

From this note, I could gather that this experiment took place at the Department of Applied Mechanics (as mentioned in the above image). I decided to check the Annual Report of the Institute for more information. The report published by the Department of Applied Mechanics in the Annual Report of IIT Madras, 1969-70 notes that "The Wind Tunnel erection work including the calibration of the six component balance was completed." This gave me a rough idea of when the wind tunnel was introduced to IIT Madras.

It was just the beginning of an interesting few days, during which I discovered a significant amount of history about IIT Madras and the ship called *State of Bombay*. I would finally be able to put the missing pieces together and find the appropriate captions and descriptions for the photographs in our collection!

I referred to a ResearchGate article* to find out what a smoke nuisance test is. I learned that the test is conducted to find out ways to prevent exhaust smoke from coming back into the ship, which causes inconveniences to passengers. Quite interesting! The wind tunnel blows air, allowing people to test the model of the ship in real-life conditions created by the device. I had a lot of the answers that I was looking for.

I have created a comic strip that briefly explains the metadata-creation process for the photographs of the wind tunnel and the model of *State of Bombay*.



1



2

The comments section was filled with experiences shared by various people who had travelled aboard the many ships which regularly plied between India and East Africa. It was nice to see them interacting with one another after decades.

The screenshots to the right will show you some of the accounts which were shared by former passengers of the *State of Bombay*. The QR code will take you to a web page with an article titled *Voyages between Mombasa and Bombay - SS Khandalla and SS Amra* written by Thomas Joseph.



Joe Kamicheril says:
April 1, 2020 at 12:28 am

I travelled on the SS State of Bombay from Dar es Salaam to Bombay mid December 1963. Reached Bombay on 31st December. I remember Itcha Parekh (Asha Parents cousin from South Africa Annie from Kerala. Anyone still alive from that time ?



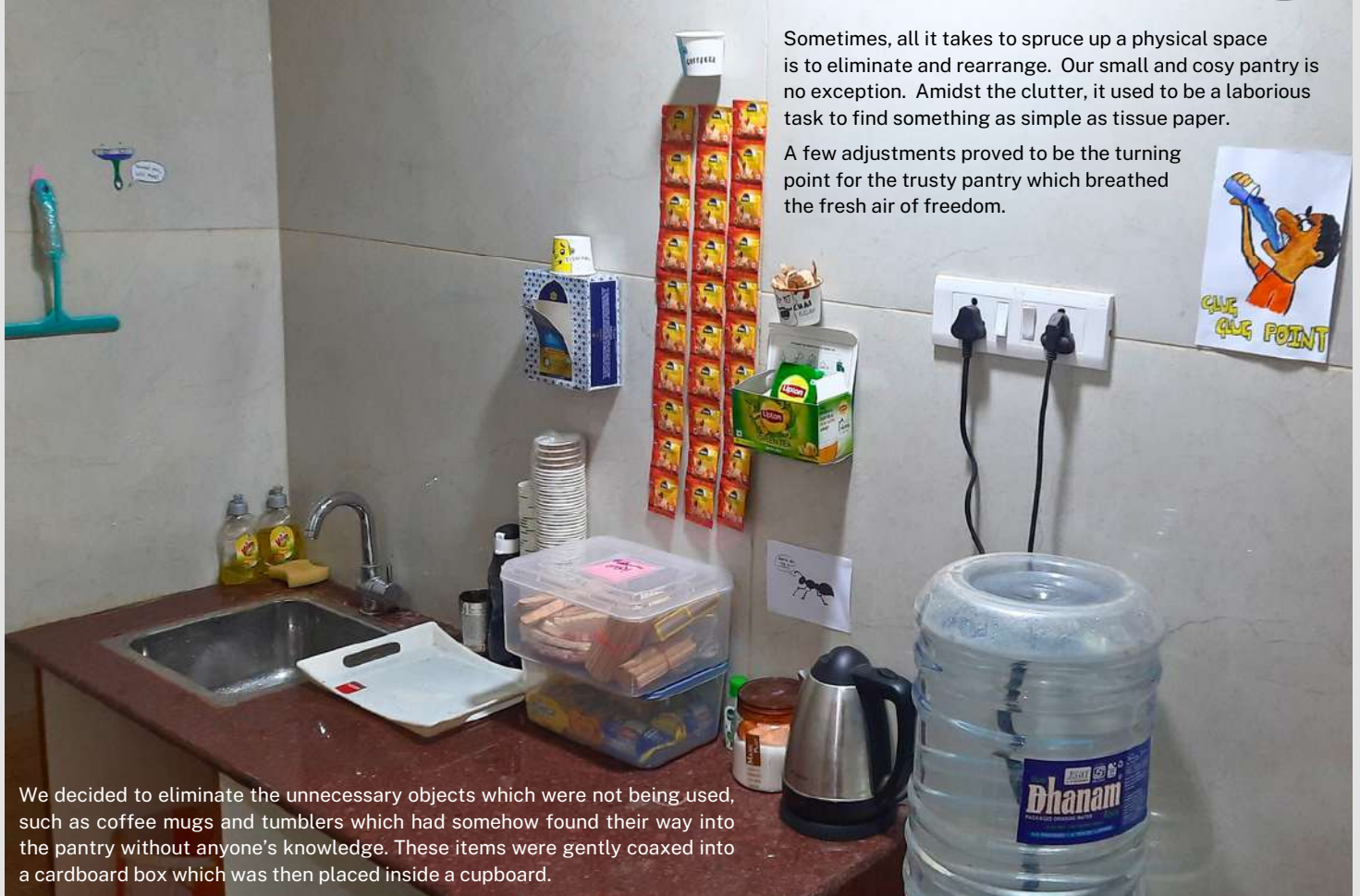
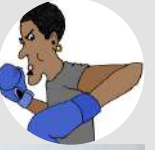
Nutan says:
April 1, 2018 at 7:14 am

Our family had travelled in April 1959 via state of bombay from mombasa to bombay when i was 8 yrs old. we travelled in pup deck class where well equipped cabins were there but wash rooms were common. Deck was common. Journey was for 9 days. Food was good but we all had vomiting sensations except my mother who used to chew le On n ginger. We were from kaliro, uganda.



PANTRY POLISHED

Left Hook Lokesh
Featured Reporter



Sometimes, all it takes to spruce up a physical space is to eliminate and rearrange. Our small and cosy pantry is no exception. Amidst the clutter, it used to be a laborious task to find something as simple as tissue paper.

A few adjustments proved to be the turning point for the trusty pantry which breathed the fresh air of freedom.

We decided to eliminate the unnecessary objects which were not being used, such as coffee mugs and tumblers which had somehow found their way into the pantry without anyone's knowledge. These items were gently coaxied into a cardboard box which was then placed inside a cupboard.



Chai Chai!

Once the elimination was complete, the rest of the objects were rearranged and appropriately stacked, glued or hung. New boxes were purchased and stirrers, paper plates, spoons and forks were invited to occupy the new residences. The snacks were housed on the ground floor and the first floor was occupied by cutlery (see above image).

I am no interior designer, but I thought that we could make use of vertical space in the pantry which meant that the attractive slab which was once a trainwreck could finally see the light. The coffee sachets were suspended from the wall using adhesive putty and a brand-new tissue dispenser was made using a tea box. A green tea box was also used as a tea bag dispenser and made to dangle on the wall.

Some old paper cups were used to demarcate the contents of the reused boxes. The cups were attached above the respective boxes with appropriate signs. Several characters were brought to life on these cups and these characters announced the contents of the boxes.



Coffee



Tissue dispenser (Taj Mahal tea box)

One of the characters is a kitchen wiper which reminds the housekeeping staff and users of the pantry in general that the silent presence of the wiper must not be ignored, especially in case of a cleaning emergency. After all, all it takes is one swipe to remove the grime.

The pantry has become far more approachable now and the inviting aroma of tea and coffee is nothing but a nudge to the staff members to brew their desired drinks.

We must always learn to reuse and recycle what we can, when we can.



The wiper

This angry ant is attached to the wall just above the box where the sugar is stored. I hope that people using sugar won't forget to close the box tight!

Otherwise, the box might be monopolised by a colony of ants.



AMUSING MUSEUM MUSINGS

by bhuva

 @bhuva23



"A person without a sense of humor is like a wagon without springs. It's jolted by every pebble on the road."

– Henry Ward Beecher



THE HERITAGE SQUARE



Scan this QR code to
submit your answers!

Test your Insti GK with this quiz!

1. How many elephants did the first version of Gajendra Circle have?
2. What facility used to occupy the current building in which DOMS is housed?
3. *Macaca radiata* is the scientific name of which mammal on campus?
4. What is the popular film which is screened at the Heritage Centre?
5. How many species of butterfly does IIT Madras have?
6. Something on campus recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. Can you guess what it is?
7. Recently, a large reptile was rescued on campus. Which species did it belong to?
8. What is the official Instagram handle of the Heritage Centre?
9. What sport was the first Registrar of IIT Madras fond of?
10. In the context of IITM, moving mountains and static rivers are a reference to what?
11. The first Inter-IIT Sports Meet to be held at IIT Madras was in which year?
12. This guitarist is an alumnus of IIT Madras. He is also a Distinguished Alumnus Awardee. Who is he?
13. What is the full form of IC&SR?
14. During which convocation was the first woman Prime Minister of India the chief guest?
15. Before the Student Activities Centre (SAC) was built, where did the convocations take place?

Solutions to The Heritage Square (September 2023)

ccnjadealrri - gajendra circle
lvgeartehaey - velachery gate
trerahcieteneg - heritage centre
ricabdozolya - adyar cool biz
alyiamha - himalaya
irumawkanhs - swarnamukhi
pliwosnmoigm - swimming pool
yrleptemara - palmyra tree
iavanavn - vana vani
uaqnetwrradser - warden quarters
nuonrgmasgda - sangam ground
oiantzo - zaitoon
mermtpair - prime mart
ajnmekatrphateawaalsle - jalakanteshwara temple
yaakhgnm - gymkhana

We would like to congratulate:

Saradhambal V
Junior Technical Superintendent
Central Library
IIT Madras

for getting all the answers to
The Heritage Square (September
2023)!



Mamata Dash
Senior Project Officer
Heritage Centre



VISITORS TO THE CENTRE

It is always a pleasure and honour to host important personalities at the Heritage Centre. Ministers, entrepreneurs, authors, Nobel laureates...the Centre is never short of stories of dignitaries gracing it. The past, present and future of the Institute are documented and kept on display here, making it a significant part of any visitor's itinerary. Here is a glimpse of some of the recent distinguished visitors.

Thank you all for your fine hospitality and engaging discussions on how integrative design for advanced energy efficiency can build strong new foundations for India's development.

Prof. Amory B. Lovins
(Cofounder, Chief Scientist and Chairman
Emeritus, Rocky Mountain Institute)

7 September 2023



It's an honour for me to visit IIT-Madras' Heritage Center. I've learnt a lot about the evolution of IIT-Madras, which is such a prestigious institution in India. Thank you.

H. E. Mr. Nitirooge Phoneprasert
(Consul-General, Thailand)

11 September 2023



Absolutely impressive record of the history of IIT Madras and the short documentary on it is really inspirational. The way Mr. Kumaran and Ms. Mamataji explained with tremendous enthusiasm about the history. Thanks to them and best wishes. _ Prakash Amte

**Dr. Prakash Amte and
Dr. Mandakini Amte**
(social workers)

15 September 2023



**Differently-abled persons
from
Forget Me Not campaign of Shaastra's Day Out**

15 September 2023





**The first batch of Department of Management Studies
(DOMS) students (2003)**

16 September 2023



**Prof. Jithin Sam Varghese
(Research Assistant Professor,
Rollins School of Public Health
at Emory University)**

29 September 2023

*Brought back a lot of
memories! Loved it.
Thank you.*



**Ms. Atishi Marlena
(Minister of Education,
Government of NCT of Delhi)**

29 September 2023

*It was wonderful to see
the history of one of
India's oldest premier
institutions. The history
of IIT-M shows what
it took to build such an
Institution of eminence.*



**Dr. Manu S. Pillai
(Author, Historian)**

3 October 2023

*It was a delight to be
back at the Centre and to
see all the changes and
developments. I look
forward to returning!*

*Wonderful to be here and
get such a warm welcome
from Kumaran and
Mamata.*

**Mr. T. S. Ananthu
(1965 Electrical Engineering
Alumnus)**

6 October 2023



*Very well presented and up to
date! Keep it up!
(Ajit Paranjpe)*

*I was very happy to see up to
date facilities which give
opportunities to students to work
on projects of industrial interest
even to lead to commercialization
which was the aim of IITs, I
being the graduate of the first
batch of the first IIT/KGP.
(Promod Paranjpe)*

**Dr. Ajit Paranjpe (1984 IIT
Madras Mechanical
Engineering alumnus) and his
father Promod Paranjpe
(IIT KGP first batch alumnus)**

18 October 2023



*Wonderful to be here and
revisit history of IITM.
Preserving heritage and
nurturing institutional
values keep institutions
sustain excellence. My
compliments.*

**Dr. Anil Kakodkar
(Nuclear physicist)**

21 October 2023





News BITES

V.3.

Latest news from the Heritage Centre

November 2023

SIGNAGE SEASON



The Heritage Centre has recently installed new signs to assist visitors in navigating through the Centre with ease.

Additionally, the Heritage Centre Library now features distinct sections for the books, which are also separated by signs. This makes it easier for you to locate the book you wish to read.



A fun-filled game experience awaits all Heritage Centre visitors as we are developing a series of games about the history of IIT Madras. The game will be released on 20 December 2023.

HERITAGE CENTRE - REIMAGINED TURNS 1!



The central dome's nature exhibition has exciting new exhibits, such as a nature quiz, numerous posters, a display of rare animals and birds found on the IIT campus, and 30 species of butterflies painted by Ashlin Deena Mathews, one of the Heritage Centre Project Associates. These butterflies have been placed on display for visitors to admire.

The Heritage Centre will soon be equipped with augmented reality (AR) technology, which means that visitors will be able to scan certain artefacts with their phones and watch related videos. This will enable you to explore the Centre in a new and exciting way. We would love to hear your thoughts on this upcoming development!



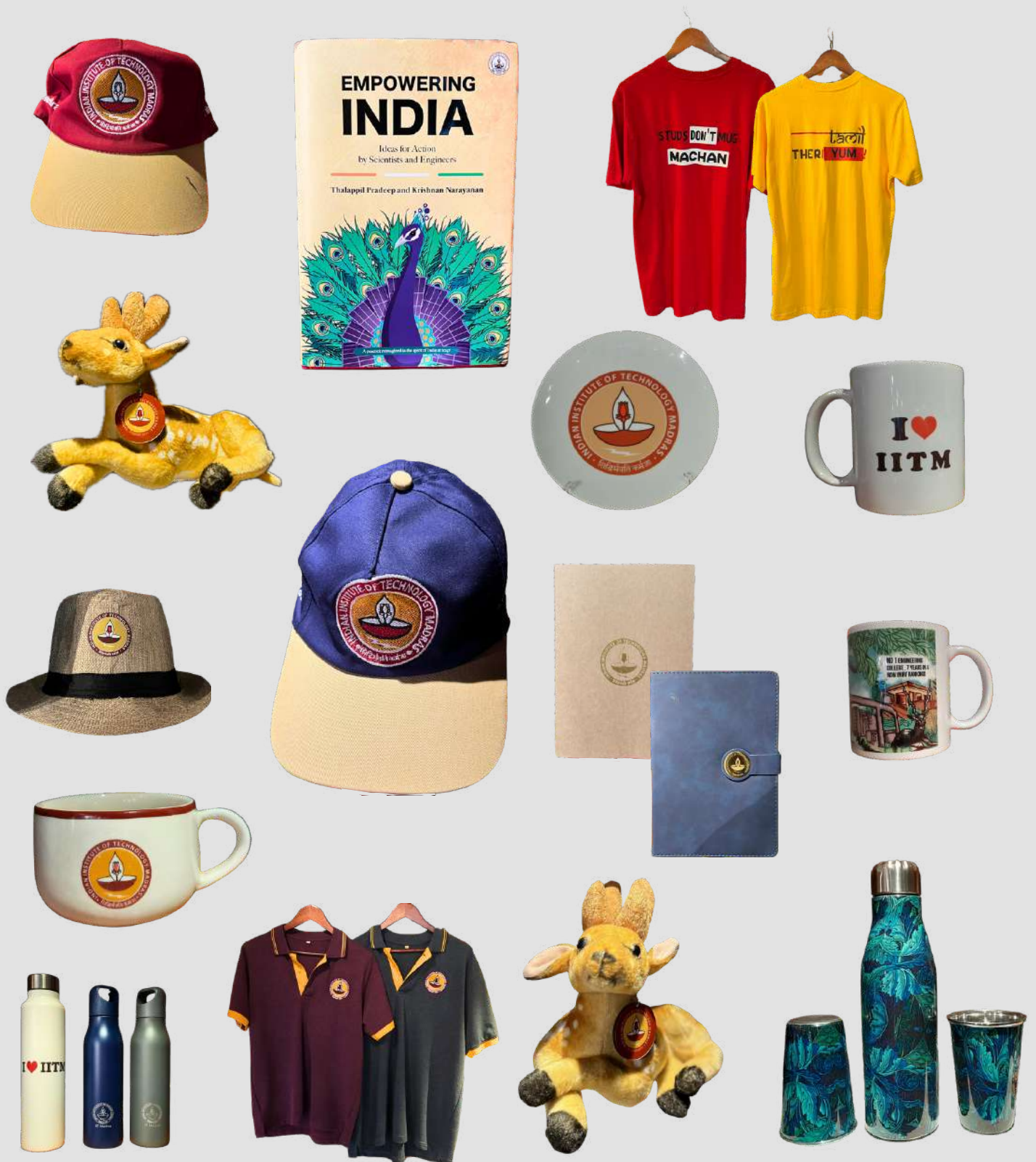
18 December 2023 will mark the first anniversary of the opening of the renovated Heritage Centre. Heritage Centre - Reimagined was inaugurated on 18 December 2022 by Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman (Hon'ble Finance Minister of India).

The Perfectionist, a coffee table book about the photographer C. Gourishankar will be released on 20 December 2023 at the Heritage Centre during a celebration of the renovated Centre's first anniversary.



IIT-M GIFT SHOP

Looking for the perfect tea coaster? The ideal coffee mug? A fridge magnet to remind you of your days at IIT Madras? Then you must not miss this cute little shop tucked away in the Heritage Centre. Come check out our exciting range of products!



"We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty."

— Maya Angelou

Stay up to date with the latest events, activities and exhibitions through our social media pages.
Schedule visits by writing to the official email or by calling us!



Anika from the Archive of IIT Madras braved the cyclone and escaped from her flooded apartment in a boat! She also provided the caption for this cartoon.



To know more about the work we do, SCAN THE QR CODES :



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 **Heritage Centre**
IIT Madras

