

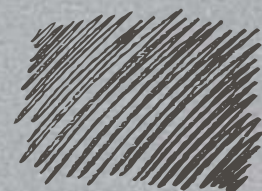
Heritage Centre, IIT Madras presents

Volume 3 - Issue 4

Glass Panels

July
2025

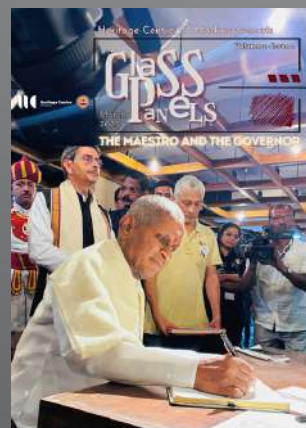
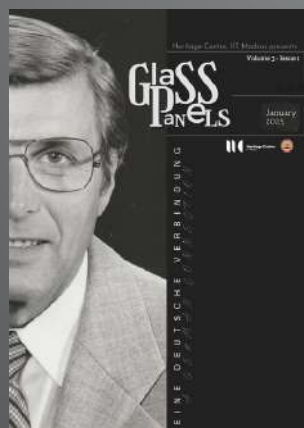
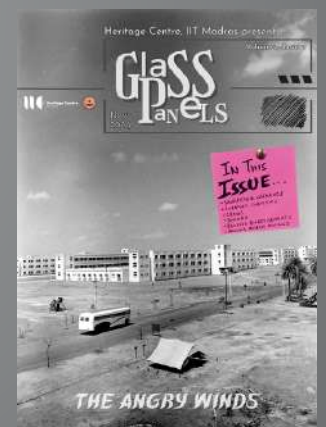
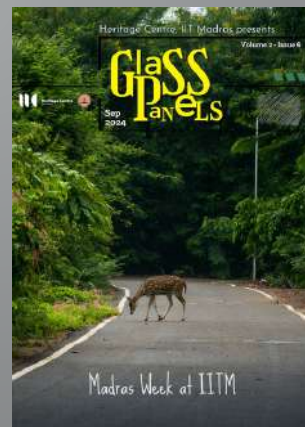
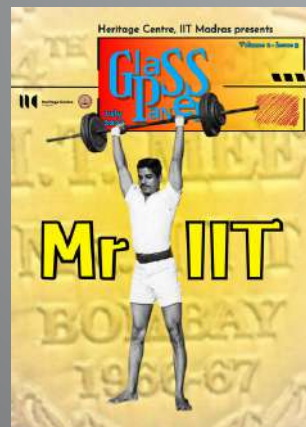
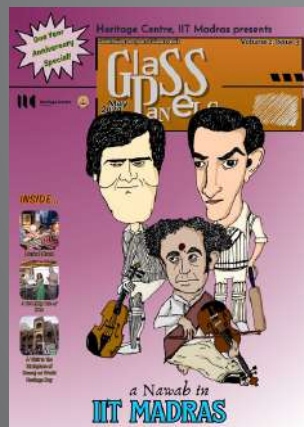
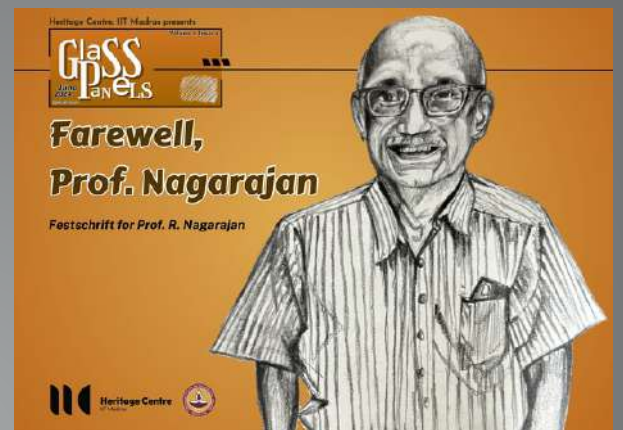
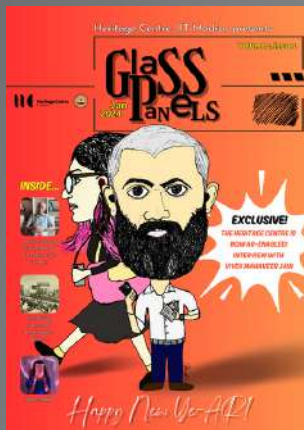
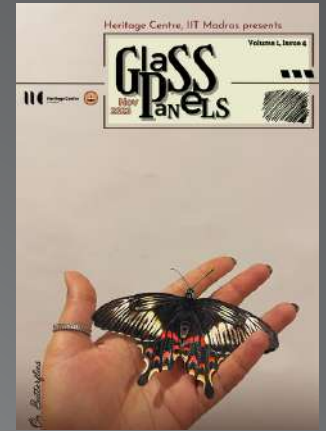
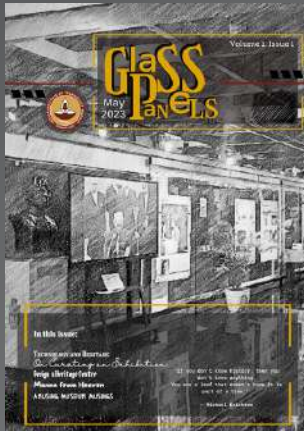
 Heritage Centre
IIT Madras



insti through a
macro lens.

RAVIN CHAKRAVARTHY





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Acknowledgements

Dr. Mymoon Moghul
Mr. Saurav Kumar



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.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Heritage Centre or IIT Madras.



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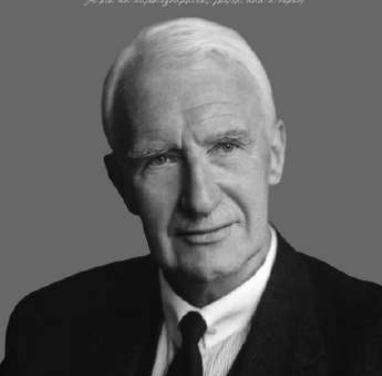
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Education Empowered

Srinivas Jallepalli

"Steady rise in hopelessness among youth, erosion of values like integrity and compassion, declining civic engagement, growing impatience with irresolution and integrative complexity, and dwindling respect for the teaching profession are all symptoms of a deeper malaise within our education systems."





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EXPLORE THE HERITAGE CENTRE VIRTUALLY!



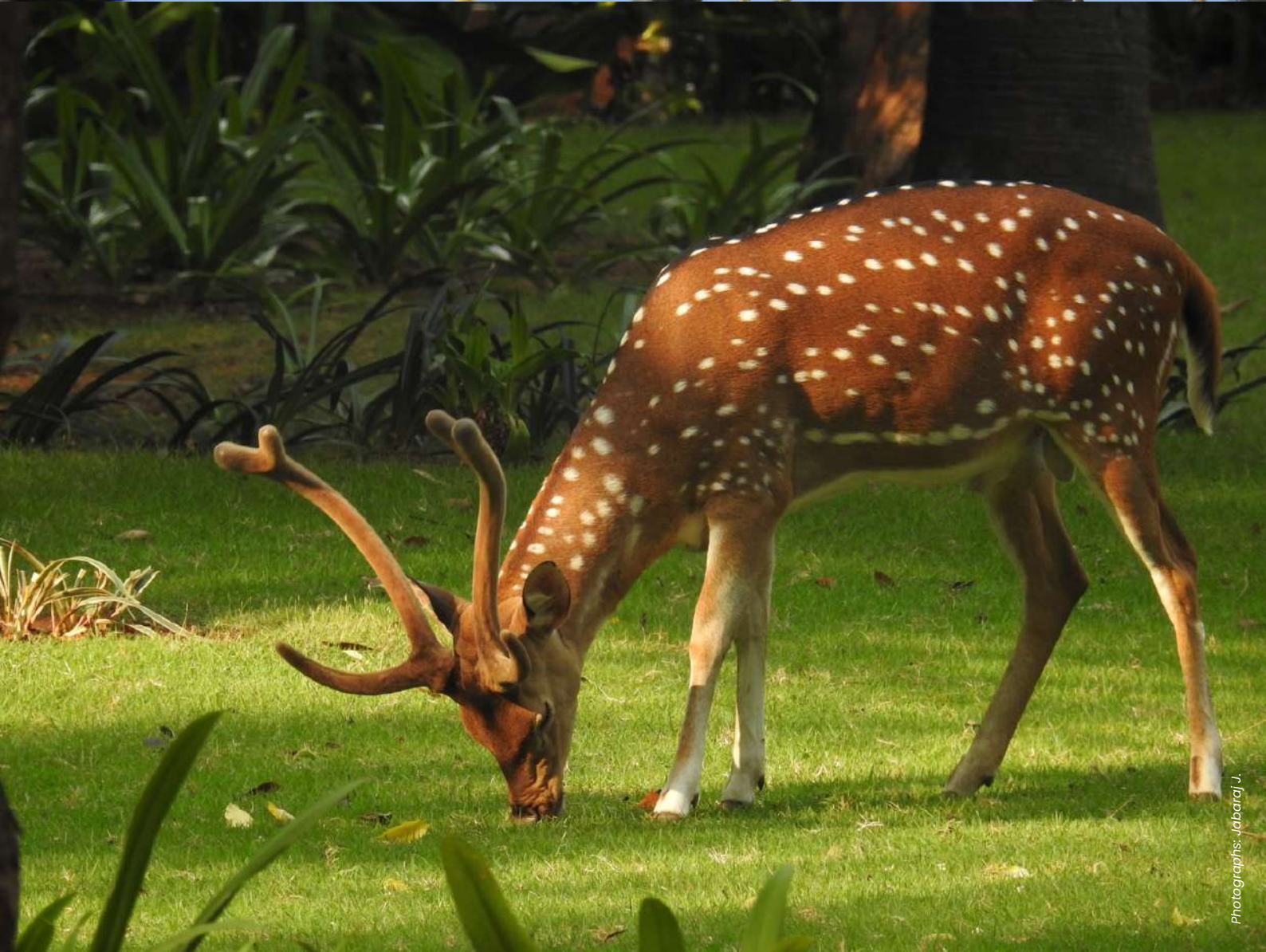
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Explore the Heritage of IIT Madras

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Letter from the EDITOR

I am happy to note that the readership for *Glass Panels* has now increased by a big margin. One of the best parts of releasing the magazine is distributing the hard copies around the campus. The first copies usually go to the Director and the Chief Security Officer. This has now become a tradition. We also make sure to place copies in both the guest houses for all our lovely visitors.

I was pleasantly surprised and humbled when I received a call from Dr. M. K. Ranjitsinh, saying that he had received the copy we had posted to his address in New Delhi! I never imagined I would receive a call from someone so distinguished! Dr. Kathrin Misera-Lang, the German Consul General, also sent me an SMS thanking us for the copy we had sent to the German Consulate here in Madras.

The idea behind *Glass Panels* was inspired by *Campastimes*, a student publication which was in circulation from the 1960s till the mid-1990s. I truly hope that our students will adopt the *Campastimes* tradition and revive the beloved magazine. IIT Madras students are, of course, perennially busy and running after deadlines, but dedicating even a few minutes to writing or creativity, can yield amazing results! I know for a fact that there is no dearth of talent or humour in the student community in this vibrant campus. Kavin's article in this issue is a testament to that. You should also look at his stunning macro photographs. I hope this will inspire more students to contribute to *Glass Panels*.

Maintaining and improving the quality of this magazine is no easy task! We started from scratch, with zero contributors. Soon, our alumni started chipping in, and now we have regular contributors from the IIT Madras community like Mr. H. K. Panigrahi, Mr. K. Sashi Rao, and Dr. Mymoon Moghul.

Team *Glass Panels* is extremely grateful to all the readers, contributors and well-wishers for making this magazine a resounding success! As the old saying goes, "It takes a village to raise a child." *Glass Panels* would not have been in circulation if not for you all, so a big thank you to everyone!

Like any other issue, this issue contains some fun stories — one by Mr. K. Sashi Rao (1969 batch alumnus), another was narrated to me by Saurav Kumar (2003 batch alumnus), and of course, Kavin's nature journey through the macro world of IIT Madras.

Bhuvanesh Santharam



Send us your
feedback!



Our
readers
write...

"Another beautiful and informative edition of *Glass Panels*....I can imagine the efforts being made for the upkeep of the Centre and for the visits by various dignitaries...and the gathering of the priceless memories to put into these issues. Good work team Heritage Centre!!"



Dr. Mymoon Moghul

Former campus resident, alumna, KV—IITM



"I enjoyed reading the *Glass Panels* – May 2025 issue. The CLASSIFIED DIVERTISEMENTS column was fun to read. Great job by your team, Kudos to you all."

Dr. Archana Ghode

Campus Resident



The Gajendras being repainted; late June, early July, 2025.

Insti Through a Macro Lens

EXPLORING THE FASCINATING NATURAL WORLD OF
IIT MADRAS THROUGH A MACRO LENS



March of 2022, right before I came to Insti after two-thirds of my freshie year went online. I got a new phone, and the best part was that it had a dedicated macro lens, which meant I could take close-up shots of objects in great detail. Little did I know that feature would lead me to uncover a whole new world of life and introduce me to my newfound fascination with being a photographer, but not just any regular one.

Photographers usually have a wide range of subjects, people, scenery, streets, objects, etc. Though I started looking at something entirely different with my new lenses, I was photographing insects, mainly the stuff of people's nightmares, spiders! Not many are aware of this family of Spiders called Salticidae, commonly known as Jumping Spiders, which, in my opinion, are one of the cutest little insects out there. So, it's mostly

these jumping spiders for whom I am a free portrait photographer, and these cuties pose so well that I fall in love with them. I did not directly start with clicking insects, I was first using it as a fancy magnifying lens, looking at things around me, like my laptop display, the tip of my pen, and then moved on to plants, and flowers, and then dead insects (you don't need to run behind them) and finally got to clicking live ones.

So here's a bunch of macro shots I've taken across campus, most of them jumping spiders, a few other curious looking crawlers. With each one, I've added a small note about how it happened, because half the fun was in the unexpected run-ins, the random pauses, and the weird poses I had to strike to get the focus right.

29 May 2022



This was one of the first good macro photos I clicked in Insti. It was at the Velachery Gate when I was hanging out with my friends near the bus stop. I found this ant on a Giant Milkweed Flower. It was a tiny ant, and my favourite part of the picture is that you can see the little hairs on the ant. One of the first times I noticed that even tiny insects are hairy creatures.

03 June 2022



It was the start of the third trimester (since the academic year was online, it had been split into trimesters). I was outside the CS Department after my classes, sitting on my cycle, talking to my friends, when I surprisingly saw a fascinating insect resembling a fly-dragonfly hybrid. Google Lens helped me identify it as a Robber Fly (*Ommatius*). These flies are not like our normal houseflies and are the real bandits. They are predatory flies which hunt for prey mid-air and inject neurotoxic enzymes to paralyse their prey before eating them. Pretty scary if you're a small fly.

03 June 2022



And within a few moments, I found this adorable little guy hitchhiking on my cycle with a great view sitting on my brake wire. He's the first jumping spider I clicked (don't ask me if I knew it was a he), and he was less than a cm in length but compensated with how cute he was. I couldn't deny him a ride, so I took him till Nilgiri while he was enjoying the view and trying to find a spot where he could stand without the wind blowing on his face. I really enjoyed that ride till the mess with my new tiny passenger.

06 July 2022



This is one of the most interesting encounters I've had on finding a Jumping Spider, and it is the smallest one I've clicked to date. I was cycling from my hostel to the main gate, and somewhere close to the main gate,



I felt something clinging to the hair on my arm. I still don't remember how I could feel such a small arachnid, but I stopped, found it hanging on the strand of my hair, and immediately took out my phone and started clicking pictures. I then moved it to my thumb; you can see how small it is. It's comparable in size to our fingerprint ridges. I estimate it to be maybe 3 mm in length. What I love about the pic of it hanging on my hair is that we can see the size difference between my hair and the hairs on the spider.

31 July 2022



This is a picture of a wasp I found outside Brahmaputra, when I used to live there in my second year. It's an Indian Paper Wasp (*Ropalidia marginata*), and I have seen its nests in multiple places in Insti. They have a unique nest design, where the nest is attached to a surface on a narrow point on the wall. The 3 triangle-shaped dots on its forehead remind me of the tattoos older people used to get on their faces, which we call *pachai* in Tamil. I've seen grandmothers in my hometown, Tiruppur, have something similar.

05 August 2022



HSB, right after my German lecture, I spotted this guy with a feast in his hand, munching on a dead ant. He gave some amazing poses, looked up at me, and stood still for a moment. It was too weird to stand in the HSB corridor and click pictures of a spider when people are walking past (the fear of judgement is real). But it's all worth it for the shots I got.

10 and 15 August 2022





Biotechnology is the study of biological systems, but it's not Botany or Zoology, and we do not really study insects like the entomologists do. That's my answer for the people who ask me whether I like to click pictures of insects because I am a Biosciences student. And that also doesn't correlate with why I found these beautiful creatures in the Biotech Department (before you ask if we grow insects in our department). They are moths, specifically the first two pictures are of the Brown Tussock Moth (*Olene mendosa*), and the third is probably a Hawk moth. When I saw the Hawk moth up close for the first time, I realised where the makers of *Godzilla* got the inspiration to make a moth their villain. It was intimidating for a moment. On the other hand, the brown one, with its characteristic antenna, looks like it has two tiny TV antennas stuck on its head.

18 August 2022



It was a rainy night in Brahmaputra, and right outside my room, I had this bee take shelter from the rain. He looked drenched and exhausted and stood there quietly till the rain decreased. I took the chance to click a few shots. We can see the features on its face, like its eyes, antennae, and mandibles.

19 August 2022



A fly I met at CRC came and decided to sit on my laptop, for people who have seen this movie called *Eega*/Naan Ee/Makkhi will know precisely what I felt. It was the love of my life reincarnated into a fly who came to me to say hi. This fly also looks the same colour as the one in the movie. How can I deny it's not the one?

23 August 2022



Another beautiful moth I found in the Biotech Department. I wonder why the department has an affinity for moths. This moth had a golden shade with a hairy body. The different shapes of moth antennae never cease to amaze me. This guy was just sitting by a window grill, enjoying the view.

1 March 2023



How can you click a picture of the ventral/underside of an insect? Simple! Get it to stay on glass. In Café Coffee Day (CCD), they have this big transparent glass wall, and just when I happened to go there that night, I found this lizard resting on the outside. On a side note, one might wonder how lizards stick to walls, and one might think they have suction cups built into their feet, but it's actually cooler than that. They have microscopic structures that interact with the surface through tiny forces called Van der Waals forces, which keep them stuck to the surface. This science has inspired tape companies like 3M to make sticky-residue-free tapes. So much magic in those small

feet. We also get to see the scales on their underside. Looks like an albino alligator up this close.

28 March 2024



This white speck is nothing but an ant, to be precise, an ant pupa. It is the penultimate stage in an ant's life cycle. Before this, the ant was a capsule-shaped larva and underwent metamorphosis to develop the body features of a fully grown ant. You can see the fully developed black eye contrasting with the rest of the pale body. This warrior will be born to serve the army of ants and will work towards building a huge ant kingdom.

26 September 2024



Monsoons bring a lot of insects wandering around, and just like that, on a rainy night in Alakananda, I spotted this worm crawling in the corridor and clicked a picture of it. It had a dark body, pitch black and a brownish head. I didn't know its name until I showed Kumaran Sir one day at the Heritage Centre, where he said it's a Hammerhead Worm (*Bipalium kewense*), a pretty apt name for their shape. These worms are predatory and prey on earthworms. They are known to grow up to 35cm, and they reproduce by fragmentation, which means you cut one in half, and after a few days, you'll have two fully grown flatworms!

03 November 2024



This picture is one of the cutest and my favourite shots of all time. It's the eyelashes, and this cutie was looking straight at me. Truly love at first sight. I found that this belongs to a group of jumping spiders called eyelash jumping spiders, which people keep as pets, too. Wow, imagine having tiny spiders as your pets. But I've heard that if you love something, you should set it free, so I left it right where I found it, just after clicking a few shots.

29 April 2025



One day, when I was leaving the Heritage Centre and coming to the parking lot to get my cycle, I saw this tiny insect rolling a ball and running around like an acrobat. He was pushing the ball, then climbing on it and rolling it around. The ball was nothing but rolled-up dung, and our acrobat was none other than a Dung Beetle! They used this dung as food and a breeding ground to grow their larvae. This species is named *Gymnopleurus miliaris*, and it's mostly found in India and the surrounding countries. It was amazing to see one in action. It was specifically hard to click a picture of this guy because of how enthusiastically he was running around with his prized possession.

This experience of clicking pictures of insects from a new angle made me realise that these insects, often feared or overlooked, have unique personalities and behaviours, and I found myself developing a deep appreciation for them. You might wonder how I found these insects and whether I looked around for them. Almost always, I never found them; they found me. They are all around us, living their lives, having a meal, resting on a leaf, exploring the world. You can find them anywhere and everywhere; all you have to do is look at the tiny world we have around us.

Try and identify these!





V. Kavín Chakaravarthý

is a final year dual degree student studying biological sciences. He is a research enthusiast and usually spends his time in the lab working with bacteria and simulating DNA interactions. Apart from research he's very passionate about astronomy, science and science communication. He is also a student volunteer at Heritage Centre associated with the centre from when the reimagined centre was inaugurated in 2022.

Seven Years to Glory and Beyond

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO HISTORIC VICTORY:
THE RISE OF IIT MADRAS HOCKEY

This article was previously published in Chennai36 on 6 May 2014 as 'Seven Years to Hockey Glory.'



First ever Inter IIT Hockey Trophy, IIT Meet, December 1970, Chennai.

Team members seen are (L to R): Raghavendra Rao, Prem Watsa (also Sports Secretary then), Ashokan and D. A. Muthana (Captain).

Then General Secretary, Nauzer Mehta is also seen. Mrs. Iengar, wife of the Chairman, Board of Governors, Mr. H. V. R. Iengar, is seen presenting the trophy.

While this is largely my personal account of the exploits of the very early IITM Hockey teams, many others have contributed to its finer details. I begin this story right from our 1st year i.e. 1964-65. We witnessed our first Inter IIT Sports Meet in Madras in December 1964 (understand that IITM started taking part in 1962). That year, I was just one amongst many hockey hopefuls who started playing daily within a few months of joining IITM after trying to strike a balance between studies and sports. Our sports energy level also depended on if that was an academic or workshop week. During the December 1964 Meet, we had many IITM individual athletes winning gold medals like Anand Swaminathan (110 meters hurdles), Joshy Paul (long distance running) and Minu Kalappa (long jump and hop step jump); while Lionel Paul excelled for us in tennis. But, we were somehow not strong in team games. At that time, the earlier and well established IIT teams from Kharagpur, Mumbai and Delhi performed very well with Madras and Kanpur very new to the family of IITs. I may add that Anand, Joshy and Lionel were also the Governor's Prize holders for their respective outgoing batches.

I got into the Hockey Team in 1965-66 as a left wing-half, but sadly that year, the Inter IIT Meet scheduled in Kharagpur was cancelled due to the Indo-Pak war.

Before I move on, I must mention some names, who I believe were the real forerunners of IITM Hockey Teams. The leading one was **Anand (Andy) Shivaram**, who was not only tall, but had a towering presence in the middle and occupied the pivotal center-half position and captained the team. He was an outstanding player with excellent stick work and game-marshalling skills. He was my role model as I moved later into the center-half position. He passed out in 1966 and sadly the IITM team missed him thereafter. I believe he left the country then for further studies. I do believe that he could have played for India at some point of time.

The other prominent member of those early teams was **Vasu Srinivasan**, who was a very skillful forward and difficult to contain. The other was **Lionel Paul**, who played on and off for the IITM hockey team as he focused more on tennis and became an outstanding

singles player and won the Stanley Cup for Inter Collegiate Tennis in Chennai many times during the 1960s, also beating Anand Amritraj in one year. Lionel returned to IITM after a few years in industry to do his M.Tech. in Industrial Engineering alongside me and continued to dominate the tennis scene at IITM.

One person I cannot miss out is **Basu John Vetteth**, who was the real driving force of those early teams and its one-time captain. He was a bustling aggressive player in the forward line. His significant contribution was also to get more guys to come out of the hostels and play hockey on a daily basis. Later, in life, he used to run a well-known photo studio in Chennai for many years (now defunct). Sadly, he is no more with us today. May his soul rest in peace!

Another guy I like to mention is **Jagdesan (otherwise known as Jack)**, who played in the half-line and captained the 1967-68 team. He was a skilled player but somehow lacked the stamina to last the full time—no thanks to his heavy smoking! Possibly this was the reason why I managed to keep away from smoking and worked hard on developing my stamina to hold the pivotal center-half position. As far as we know, Jack after joining CFTRI, later on went to manage his family spice business and probably lives near Madurai now.

During those early years, IITM used to play Inter-Collegiate Hockey League in Madras and were part of a group which had Madras Christian College (MCC), Guindy Engineering, AC Tech and Jain College, Meenambakkam. Later on, we did manage to play with other teams like Stanley Medical, Pachiyappas at other grounds including the YMCA grounds in Nandanam. Though we were not the strongest of teams then, we managed to put up creditable performances from year to year. MCC was undoubtedly the strongest team, but we really enjoyed playing with them for their generally clean and fast hockey. Talking of the MCC team, they had one guy in their speedy forward line named Monappa, who later on went on to play for India for a few years. Another of them, MB Aiyappa, a weighty full-back, played for many years for the Tamil Nadu State team. These league matches on both home and away basis really helped develop our hockey skills.

Thinking of coaches, we did have our own Institute Gymkhana coach in **Joga Rao**. Though he was sincere and hardworking, he had his own limitations. He was graceful to accept that and arranged specialist

coaches from outside to hone up our hockey skills. I can recollect one Mohammad Ghouse and then Jimmy Carr, both, I think from Southern Railways. Every year before the Inter IIT Meet, they arranged a couple of friendly matches for us with the Southern Railway team to get us into match-readiness. I recall one occasion when we took on this reputed team at the Egmore Hockey Stadium and they had a speedy right winger V.J Philips, who later went on to play for India for several years.

December 1966 took the team to Bombay for the Inter IIT Meet. We came back disappointed and did not make much of an impression. With only 5 teams in the fray, even one loss meant you were out of the tournament. Personally, I felt very bad then, as I missed a penalty stroke against IIT Delhi, which was our Waterloo!

Though the team composition changed somewhat from year to year with passing out seniors, the general skill level of the team was improving, though any wins were still eluding us. December 1967 took us to Delhi for the next Inter IIT Meet. This was again a big disappointment as we got nowhere. We “Madrasis” were not used to the extremely cold conditions, and frequently we guys cramped and even minor knocks became really painful. (I only hope that current teams acclimatize and prepare themselves properly before going to such cold locations to play!)

From the next year onwards, things seemed to be really looking upwards, with a fairly well settled team for the next IIT Meet at Kanpur in December 1968. I thought we performed creditably this time, though reaching the finals still seemed elusive. One of the things at this IIT Meet was the selection of an **All IIT Stars Eleven** to play the Northern Railway team in an exhibition match. If I recall correctly, **4 of us from IITM were there viz. Gurshaminder Singh Gill, Varghese Abraham, D.A Muthanna and yours truly**. It was an entertaining and fast match, but they still prevailed. One memorable incident of this Kanpur Meet was how the whole IITM contingent got stranded at Jhansi junction in the middle of the night. The Railways failed to attach our coach, arriving from Kanpur, to the GT Express bound for Chennai. This we discovered when we got up in the morning and found ourselves still in Jhansi station. After stopping some Chennai-bound trains and thereby upsetting the entire Northern Railway time schedules – we made strong representations to the Railways officials at the Jhansi Divisional HQ Office. Finally, they promised to

attach us to Chennai but only at midnight. Hence, we all ended up spending the whole day and evening in Jhansi. Each of us had our own plans. Personally, along with 2-3 others (cannot recollect who?) we hired an auto and went around the city and then also saw a Hindi movie (Dilip Kumar in "Ram and Shyam"). That night, many of us kept vigil to make sure that we were finally connected and on our way back to Chennai!

Varghese Abraham, our captain in 1968-69, was a speedy forward with excellent stick skills and played in the left-in position and was a part of innumerable attacks on rival goals and made many glorious runs. He and a few others also played for a club in the first division league in Madras. After passing out in 1968-69 and taking up a job at Dunlop India Calcutta, Varghese Abraham played for a Bengal district team in the Beighton Cup tournament.

Gurshaminder Singh Gill, the only Sardar in the team, was our full back then and he was another outstanding player and later captained the team in 1969-70. I believe he was trained at the NIS, Patiala. He was possibly the first one to be awarded the Institute Blue honor for truly outstanding performance in Hockey. As far as I know, he went to Germany after passing out in 1969-70.

It was the turn of Kharagpur to host the IIT Meet during December 1969. By this time, I believe that we still had a decent team (especially in defense) though we lost many players from the 1968-69 pass outs in Varghese

Abraham, Ashok Rao, Vikram Cariappa, Vinay Goel, Daryl Cordeiro and JP Ramappa (and others in Peter Masilamani and (late) Chandy Mathews). Though I belonged to the same batch, my continuing for M.Tech. meant playing on for another 2 years.

Meantime, we got some new talents in the forward line, especially in **Chandrasekhar** (nicknamed Chicky) who was our star center forward. Along with the trusted and reliable **Raghavendra Rao** and others, we now had a more potent forward line. No wonder then, that our performances at the December 1969 Kharagpur Meet were very good and we finally managed to reach the finals after a really hard-fought semifinal. In our first match against Delhi, Chicky just stole the ball from the bully –off, dribbled his way all the way to the goal in Dhyani Chand style and stunned the opposition with a first minute goal! Later, we defended for all we were worth for the whole match and won. Next match, we again won against Kanpur thanks again to Chicky for an opportunistic goal to reach the finals. Meantime, we were the cynosure of all eyes, and also the target for plenty of rough play. I was particularly targeted by the rivals as being one of the key players for IITM and got hit many times so that I couldn't play in the finals. Sadly, we lost the finals to Kharagpur, but at least managed to get the runner-up position for the first ever time. Chicky was the new star of the team (and subsequent IITM teams as well) who brought the goal-scoring thrust into our forward line.



1967-68 Team: Standing (L to R): Raghavendra Rao, Chandy Mathews, Ashok Rao, K. Sashi Rao, G. S. Gill, Vikram Cariappa, Satish Kapoor, Allan Mascarenhas and D. A. Muthana. Sitting (L to R): Vinay Goel, Abraham Varghese, Mr. Lamech, Mr. Joga Rao, R. Jagdesan (Captain) and Nathani. Lying down: Daryl Cordeiro

When I returned home from Kharagpur, I had to seek medical attention for my damaged knees. It took me 3 months of therapy and rest before I resumed playing hockey. My bad knees meant that I had to carefully calibrate my appearances for the team during 1970–71. Meantime, D. A. Muthana had established himself very well in the half line and took over my pivotal centre-half position and also captained the winning 1970–71 team. Interestingly, Muthana and I share a common background in coming from the same military school background (King Georges School, he from Belgaum and me from Bangalore) and both played for our school team. I wish to share two tidbits from my school hockey days. One, I had the opportunity of playing against Vece Paes (father of Leander Paes), then a really dashing centre forward for St Joseph’s European High School, Bangalore. He later switched to centre half position and played for Bengal and India for many years. Secondly, our school hockey team used to play practice matches with the then Mysore State Women’s (yes Women’s!) hockey team before they went to play the Nationals. Their team had two brilliant players in the Britto sisters– Elvira (centre –half) and Rita (left-in), who, you guessed, both played later for India. Their mother Mae Britto was their coach. My right-half job was to police them. It was really comical when we played them for the first time. We boys were all shy and scared about having close tackles and by half time, they were two goals up. Then our coach (still recollect was V. V. Naidu!) told us, “Come on guys, they are playing like boys, and you like girls! So buck up!” Then we played tough and managed to draw this game two all. We slowly got comfortable playing them and had a good many practice games.

My continued participation in the 1970–71 teams was the result of a planned and careful rehabilitation program and playing only key matches throughout the year. This was intensified in preparation for the December 1970 Inter IIT Meet at Chennai, where it all finally happened! I now switched back to my original left-half position and managed to keep all opposing forwards at bay. The team performed very well throughout and won the trophy for the first time beating Kharagpur and making history for an IITM Hockey Team! We put up a splendid all-round team performance both in attack and defense and it was a great team effort and avenged the previous year’s finals defeat. Mine was a really controlled performance and luckily my knees held out well throughout. I must add that our star forward Chicky was later selected from Chennai for the All India Combined Universities

team but he could not participate due to exams.

The trophy winning team consisted of:

Goalkeeper: Ranjan Somiah

Full backs: Ajit Purang and B. Kumar

Half backs: Ashokan, **Muthana (Captain)** and

K. Sashi Rao

Forwards: Ravi Kannan, Prem Watsa, Chandrasekhar, Anantanarayan and Raghavendra Rao

Reserves: Mammen, Victor Paes, David Roby and Khatri

I am so glad that I could savor Inter IIT Meet success for the first time after playing for IITM for 7 long years! Hence, my “SEVEN YEARS TO HOCKEY GLORY”!

The rejuvenation of IITM Hockey then can be clearly linked to having one outstanding centre forward player in B. Chandrasekhar in our midst. Joining in 1969, he made an initial impact itself in the 1969 Meet at Kharagpur where we were runner up. His dominating influence also showed when IITM won the Inter IIT Hockey trophy later in 1970, 1972 and 1973. It must be mentioned here that B. Chandrasekhar was not only the Governor’s Prize Winner in his outgoing 1973 batch and was also given the special IITM Certificate of Merit for Hockey. While being given this Certificate of Merit it was brought out that Chandrasekhar had scored 91 out of 133 goals during his 5 years covering all official and friendly matches!

It is really heartening for us all old timers to know that IITM has done very well in Hockey over the subsequent years and continue to win the Inter IIT Meet Hockey Gold even now. Keep it up guys!!



B. Chandrasekhar receives the Governor's Prize from Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, 1974



1969-70 Team at IIT Meet, Kharagpur, December 1969.

Standing (L to R) : Mr. Joga Rao, Anantanarayan, C. P. Mammen, unidentified person, Satish Kapoor, D. A. Muthana, G. S. Gill (Captain), Ajit Purang, K. Sashi Rao, Raghavendra Rao, IITM officials and K. U. N. Rao. Kneeling (L to R) : Allan Mascarenhas, Ranjan Somiah, Chandrasekhar, Ashokan, and Prem Watsa.



Scenes from a hockey match



B. Chandrasekhar tries to slot a goal past the goalkeeper



Scenes from a hockey match



Hockey players battle for possession



B. Chandrasekhar celebrating with his teammates



Scenes from a hockey match



At the 1969 Batch Reunion at Coorg held in December 2011, here are some Hockey Team Members assembled (left to right): D. A. Muthanna (1971 batch), J. P. Ramappa, Ashok Rao, Peter Masilamani, Abraham Varghese, and K. Sashi Rao.



K. Sashi Rao

is an alumnus of the 1969 B.Tech. and 1971 M.Tech. batches. Keenly interested in sports, he represented IIT Madras in hockey for six of the seven years he spent on campus. He was a member of the gold medal-winning team when IITM secured its first-ever victory at the Inter-IIT Sports Meet in 1970. He went on to have a long corporate career, working with several reputed Indian and multinational companies in areas such as business and strategic planning, project planning and development, and, finally, supply chain management. Giving back to society has been a lifelong passion, and he has been actively involved in numerous societal impact initiatives as an IITM alumnus. This article was written with additional inputs from Abraham Varghese, D. A. Muthanna, Raghavendra Rao and Chandrasekhar, who were all Sashi Rao's team members at some time; and Lionel Paul, a very early IITM Hockey team member.

Going Back in Time with Hugga

UNCOVERING MEMORIES, NICKNAMES, AND
MOMENTS FROZEN IN TIME



Aniket Singh and Saurav Kumar in Aniket's room

On 20 March 2025, I met Saurav Kumar at the Heritage Centre. He was in Chennai for some personal work and happened to drop by at IIT Madras. Saurav, an alumnus from the 2003 Electrical Engineering batch, had scores of pictures to share with the Heritage Centre. These pictures, taken on film cameras during his days as a student here, took me back two decades in time.

Saurav contributed close to 160 images and patiently sat with me for a couple of hours so that he could help me identify the persons in the photographs. One thing that caught my attention was the wild, brazen nicknames Saurav and his group of friends had for one another. I cannot share some of the names here, as it would go against the magazine policy! However, some names that are safe to share are Dhuk Dhuk, Eiffel, Micro, Sweetie, and Rani. Some of the photographs from the collection were taken by 'Rani' Aniket Singh. Saurav was nicknamed Hugga, but I will not tell you why!

The images reflected a simpler time, with hardly any gadgets, save for a couple of assembled computer systems, and a single Nokia mobile phone belonging



Aniket Singh with his computer in his room

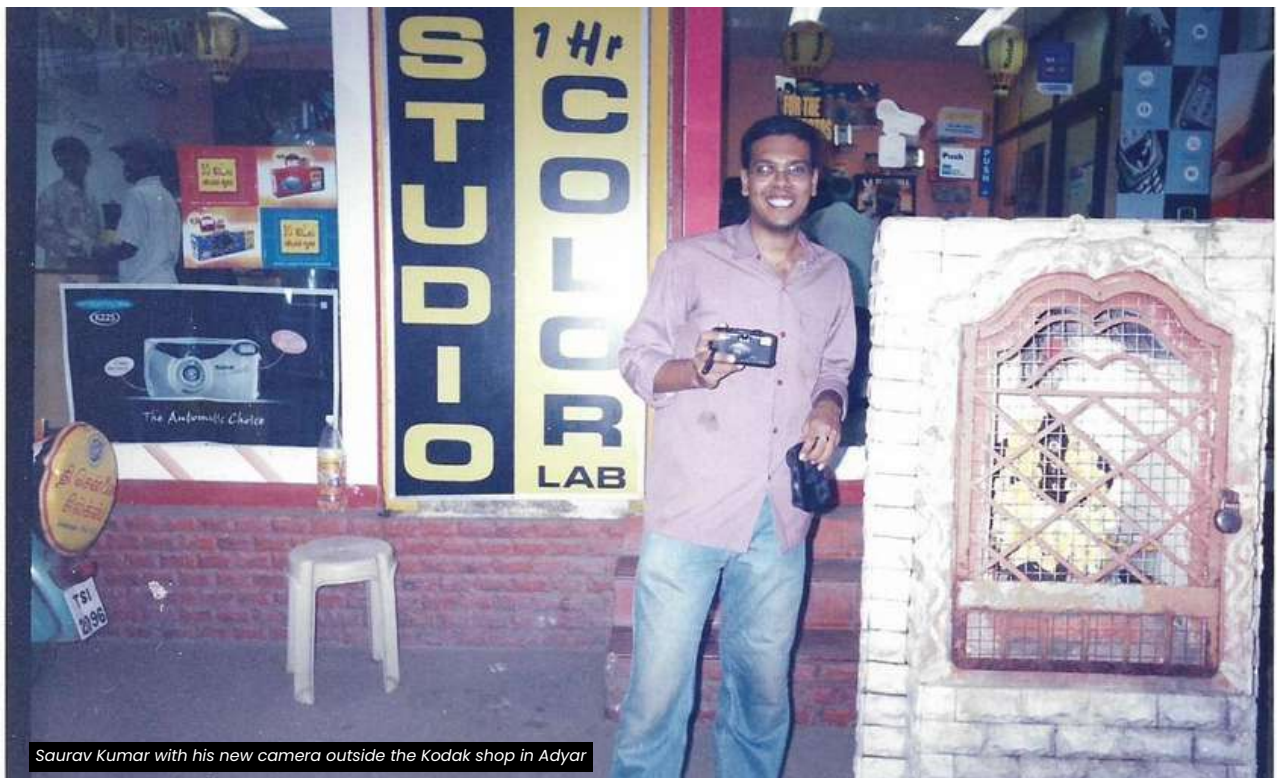
to one of the students at the hostel. It may seem trivial today, but a mobile phone was a big deal back then. Students took pictures striking poses with the phone, which not everyone had access to. Can you imagine what a life without smartphones would have been like? One thing I can think of is that people must have had a much better attention span compared to today!



A photo of Takhat Singh Ranawat with his computer



Saurav Kumar with a Nokia phone and a guitar



Saurav Kumar with his new camera outside the Kodak shop in Adyar

When Saurav and his friend Manish Kumar Jain bought film cameras at the Kodak shop in Adyar, they went on a clicking spree, taking pictures outside the shop, which looks like an archaic building in pictures, and some other spots in Adyar, including Shakes and Creams. I am not sure how many of these shops still remain, but I am certain alumni will fondly remember some of them. I can only imagine the joy they must have experienced while clicking these images. Again, not everyone had access to cameras back in the day. Today, everyone with a smartphone is a photographer!

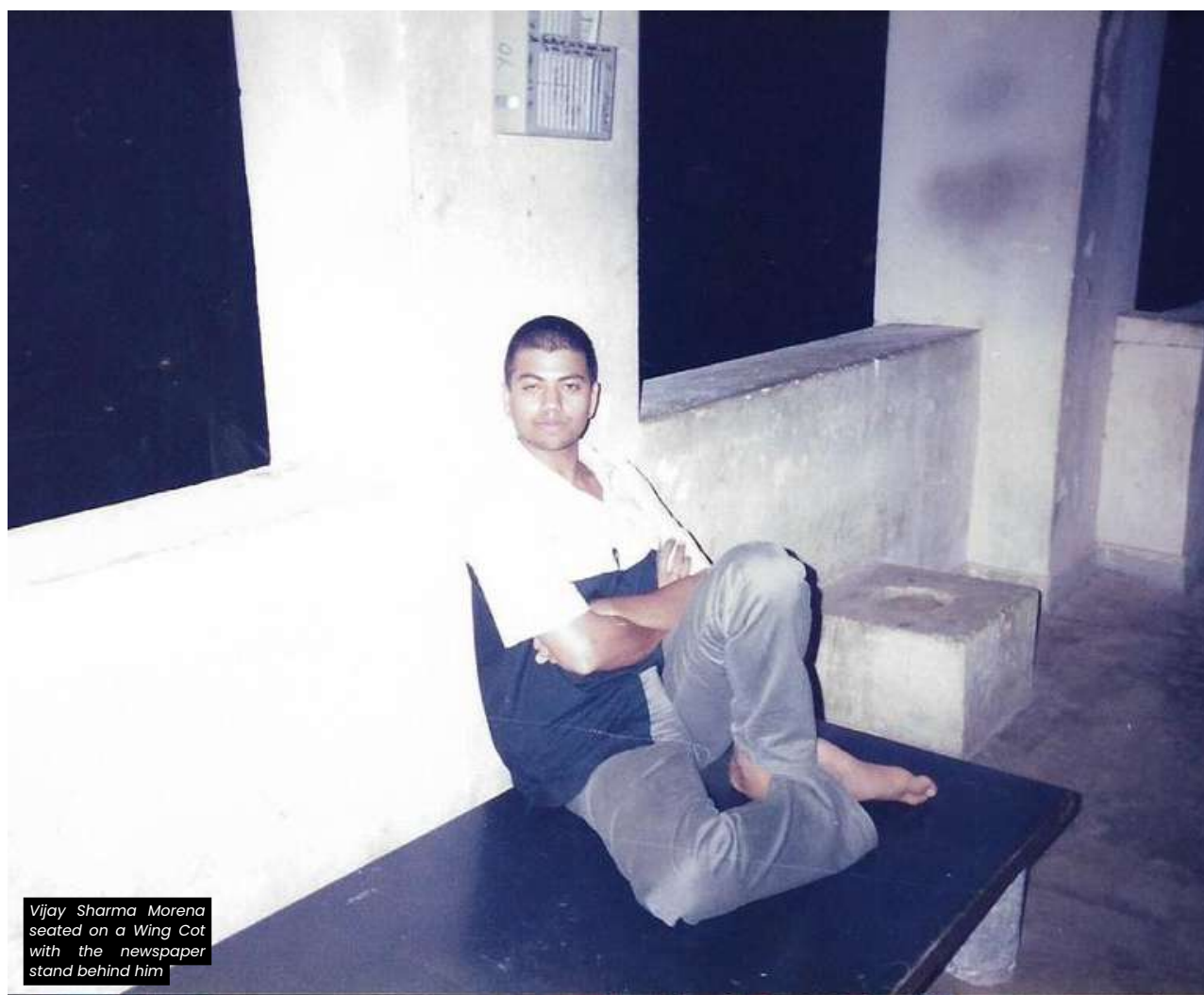
Through my conversation with Saurav Kumar, I also came to know about the 'wing cot', an iron cot (without legs) placed on a raised platform in the corridor of each wing of the hostel. The wing cot was placed next to a newspaper stand on the wall. Students often lounged around the wing cot and read the newspaper, slept on it, or simply indulged in conversations. Saurav's images gave me an insight into boys' hostel life at IIT Madras in the early 2000s. Some pictures also offered me a glimpse into the history of IIT Madras.

A picture of the 1974 Water Tank near Jamuna Hostel under construction is a part of the collection. It shows the tank shrouded by scaffolding; a rare sight indeed! There are also some images taken from the top of the water tank; one that offers a view facing Taramani and Ascendas IT Park, and another that shows an aerial view of Jamuna Hostel.

Quark features in one of the pictures, wherein Saurav



Saurav, Amit Bardar and Vijay Sharma Morena at Quark



Vijay Sharma Morena seated on a Wing Cot with the newspaper stand behind him

and his friends are joyfully enjoying chicken noodles, naan and paneer butter masala. What really caught my attention was the fact that Saurav was able to recall the exact dishes they were gorging on even after two decades!

An IIT Madras hostel tradition I learned about was the profile chart (not a horoscope!), wherein juniors would prepare a chart paper with information about the outgoing seniors. This information included a history of the seniors' exploits and where they were headed to

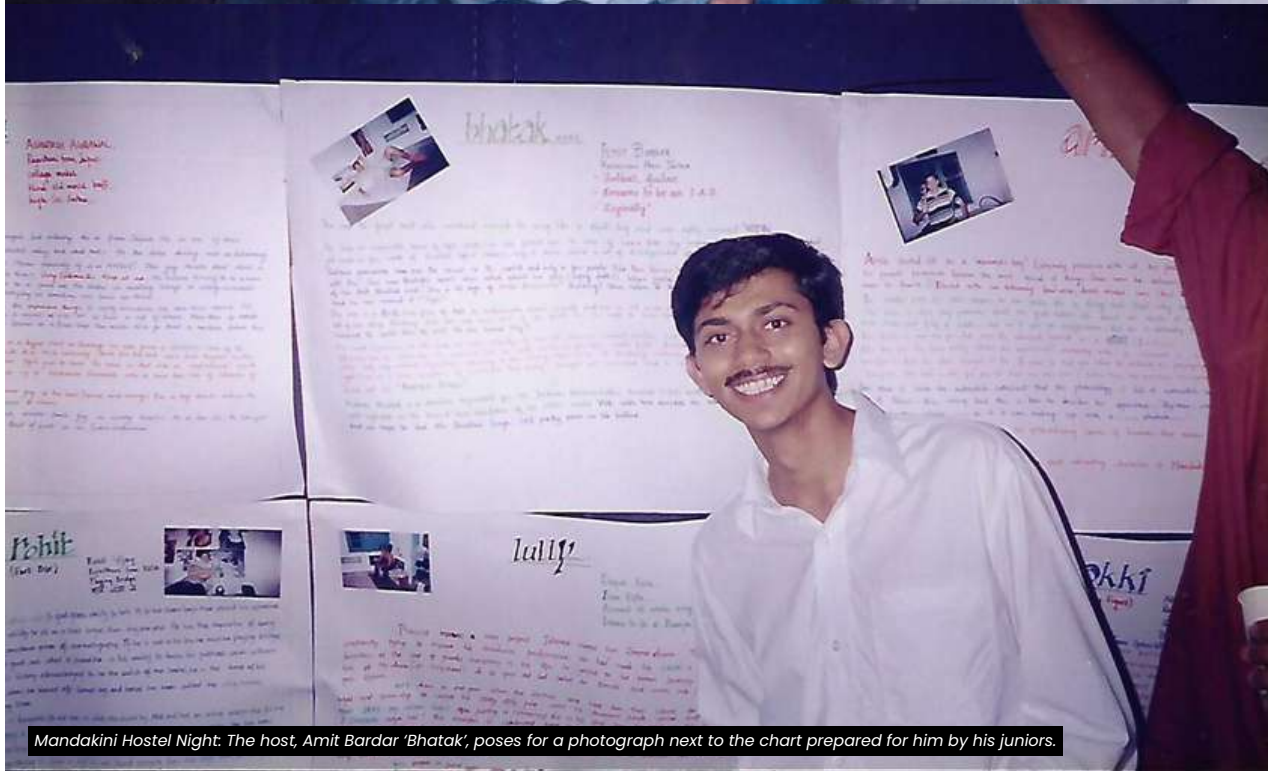
after their B.Tech. This chart paper would be pinned alongside other chart papers at a prominent location during hostel nights.

Saurav's sharp memory helped us record snippets of stories from the early 2000s, which we may have never been able to access. It made me realize that history can come to us in many forms, through various channels. I wonder how many more alumni have stories and images to contribute to the Heritage Centre!



A view of the water tank near Jamuna Hostel under construction

Jamuna 6th wing, from the left - (Standing) Akhil Sharma 'Micro', 'Dada' Chitrarup Saha, Saurav Kumar 'Hugga', Vijay Sharma 'Morena', Kokil Kumari Deuri, Takhat Singh Ranawat, and (Seated) 'Chandu' Chandrabhushan, Aniket Singh 'Rani', and 'Prof' Ashish Kapoor. The newspaper stand can be seen at the back.



Mandakini Hostel Night: The host, Amit Bardar 'Bhatak', poses for a photograph next to the chart prepared for him by his juniors.



Bhuvanesh Santharam

is a Senior Content Writer at the Heritage Centre, IIT Madras. A poet and cartoonist, he published his first collection, *Silence Binds Us*, in 2022 and is working on future volumes. When not writing, Bhuva enjoys boxing, basketball, and long runs that spark new ideas.



bhuva23



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Education Empowered

A COMPREHENSIVE BLUEPRINT –
NOT JUST ANOTHER THEORY

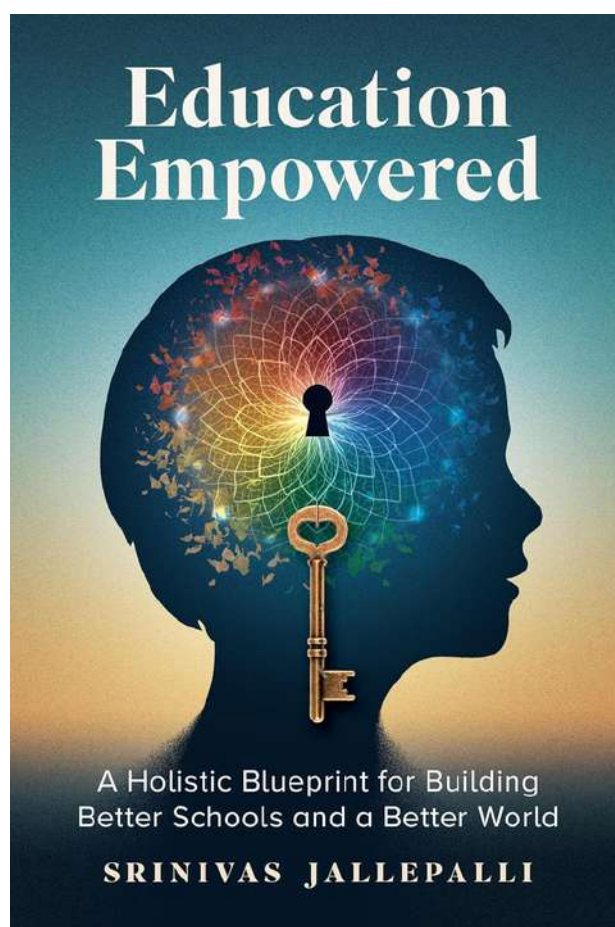
Steady rise in hopelessness among youth, erosion of values like integrity and compassion, declining civic engagement, growing impatience with irresolution and integrative complexity, and dwindling respect for the teaching profession are all symptoms of a deeper malaise within our education systems. While many experts — including John Taylor Gatto (*Dumbing Us Down*), Laurence Steinberg (*Beyond the Classroom*), and Alexandra Robbins (*The Teachers*) — have sounded the alarm, few resources offer a comprehensive set of practical solutions. This gap inspired me to write *Education Empowered*. My goal was to create a book that not only articulates a holistic vision for education but also provides actionable, immediately applicable strategies to address its multifaceted challenges.

Let's start at the very beginning.

Chronic fear — driven by the need to find the next meal without becoming a meal — led to continuous activation of the hypothalamus-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis in most animals, preventing growth and deeper learning. Control of fire, therefore, marked a pivotal evolutionary milestone, offering safety and better nourishment for our expanding brains.

Another key milestone was the emergence of relatively premature births. If human infants were born at a developmental stage similar to chimpanzee newborns, they would remain in the womb for about twenty months instead of nine. Being born earlier required much more nurturing and bonding, favoring genetic selection for higher intelligence and caregiving skills.

Together, these developments paved the way for *Homo sapiens* to prioritize self-regulation, exploration, and purpose and go beyond mere survival. Curiosity, creativity, persistence, risk-taking, and communication then propelled us forward. Our subsequent “progress” has been the result of a delicate dance between restlessness and contentment.



But this delicate balance is now increasingly under assault. Today's “progress” has led to declining emotional security and sharply rising hopelessness. Meanwhile, “chew-and-pour” education has eroded our core human competencies — the very DNA of *Homo sapiens*. Schooling today often even robs children of these gifts. One could argue this misalignment is at the root of existential threats like the climate crisis and challenges posed by artificial intelligence.

Globally, most people agree that education systems are broken and fail to meet children's true needs. Too often, they do not enchant, excite, or engage. This is more than a missed opportunity — it has dire consequences for mental health, civic life, and our collective future. In fact,

we also end up with a vicious cycle, as low-quality education further erodes our thirst for excellence in education.

Education should ideally be woven from the same joyful fabric that underlies humanity's greatest achievements — nurturing curiosity, creativity, critical thinking, empathy, and resilience. Many can recognize what best-in-class education looks like: caring for the whole child; cultivating courageous thought leaders rather than passive followers; honing core competencies; enlisting master educators; and engaging students through purpose and meaning. This is not a pie-in-the-sky dream or an unaffordable ideal.

Education Empowered shows how the three pillars of Holistic Education, Foundational Competencies, and Individualized Learning can meet the timeless aspirations that many parents have for their children. However, a key reason there isn't enough investment in high quality education is that too few of us appreciate the profound future we could create if such education were universal. Inaction is not an option. From rising hopelessness to diminishing critical thinking capacity, to looming existential threats, our future may consume us if we don't act boldly and intentionally.

We can reverse this trend and elevate education into a more joyful, purposeful experience — one that aligns better with the human condition. *Education Empowered* is a wake-up call that shows us how we — and our governments — can truly invest in educational excellence. It offers a clear, powerful blueprint to transform education and unlock more of the human potential in every child, parent, and educator. Reviewers rightly say it is essential reading for parents and educators. But I would add: it is also a must-read for the entire village, because meaningful transformation requires all of us to become ambassadors for educational excellence.

You can learn more about the book at:

<https://sankalpa-education.com/education-empowered/>

<https://www.amazon.in/Education-Empowered-Holistic-Blueprint-Building/dp/1637556799>



Dr. Srinivas Jallepalli

graduated from IIT Madras in 1991 with a B.Tech. degree in Electrical Engineering. He is the founder of Sankalpa Academy, a growth mindset school created to offer gifted-level education to all children and the co-founder of Higher Orbit Foundation, a nonprofit that promotes educational equity. He has worked at AT&T's Bell Laboratories, Motorola, Freescale Semiconductor, and NXP. Currently a technical director at NXP Semiconductors, Jallepalli holds four US patents and has contributed to more than fifty papers in IEEE conferences and refereed journals. He was awarded MS and PhD in Electrical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in 1996. Jallepalli lives in Austin, Texas with his wife, two children, and a German Shepherd.

Why *Education Empowered* is a Must-Read for Parents and Educators

A Comprehensive Blueprint — Not Just Another Theory

Unlike many books and teacher education programs that offer a scatter-shot of fragmented concepts, *Education Empowered* uniquely weaves together a cohesive, deeply researched framework that is based on neuroscience, psychology, evolutionary biology, history, philosophy, and practical pedagogy.

Practical Strategies You Can Use Now

The book provides concrete, actionable steps to transform everyday teaching — fostering curiosity, building core human competencies like emotional intelligence, integrative complexity, empathy, and gratification deferment, all in real classrooms.

Addresses Systemic Misalignments

Educators often enter the field inspired, only to be constrained by rigid, test-driven systems. *Education Empowered* validates these frustrations and equips educators with tools to realign their practice toward more student-centered values.

Connects Education to Broader Societal Impact

Beyond test scores, the book explores how holistic, purpose-driven education can help address wider societal challenges such as mental health, civic engagement, and environmental crises. In other words, it positions educators as catalysts for a better world.

Kirkus Reviews called *Education Empowered*:

"A provocative treatment of one of the most important issues of our time."

And *Foreword Reviews* described it as:

"An eye-opening education manual to tailoring learning curricula to nurture individual strengths."

The Heritage Square

POETRY

May Flower

'May' may come, or may not come
But you do come and make warm welcome
May Flower! my fair May Flower
You do flower, to make the world still more cheer

You laugh full of tree, to prove it May
And greet all birds to whisper for the day,
You arrest all with your red,
And turn our hearts evergreen,- flood

As I passed the road in hurry,
It is you who caught my eyes like cherry,
As I stood gazing and gazing,
Time fled in embracing and ever relaxing.

As you were tossing on the hill top,
I thought it is moving red -sky at gallop
As i came closer and closer in gay,
You proved and made me sure, that it is May,

You may be the Flame of the forest;
But you are the fame of May, for us.
I still believe in you with great trust
Since you give the happiness with your promising - buds.

I can walk thousand miles like a butterfly;
Telling you colourful tales for each petal;
Provided, you must be ever by my side
Leading to ever kindly light as a guide.

'May' may come, or may not come,
But you do come and make warm welcome;
May Flower; my fair May Flower;
You do flower, to make the world still more cheer.



S. Kothandaraman
the poet

*is the father of
Mrs. Srividhya Sridharakumar,
who is an alumna from the
Physics Department of IIT Madras
and a campus resident.*



Photograph: Dr. Mymoon Moghul

The Heritage Square

CLASSIFIED DIVERTISEMENTS

WARNING: TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY MAY RESULT IN RAISED EYEBROWS AND MILD CONFUSION.

INDIA COFFEE HOUSE

I must confess, the *vada* at India Coffee House is quite good. My only wish is that they serve their delicious *sambhar* everyday! *Vada* and *sambhar* is a killer combo.

- Caffeinated Critter

MASSEUSE WANTED

I am looking for someone to massage my face gently, clockwise, in circles during the night so that I can overcome my insomnia and get sound sleep. I will pay 20 rupees per hour.

- Thoonga Moonji

CATS WANTED!

The Heritage Centre is eagerly seeking cats to counter the rat threat in the staff room. Several mangoes have been abducted and decimated from the staff room at night! I know there are a lot of cats wandering aimlessly around the girls' hostels. We request these roadside Romeos, especially the grey one named Kishore to enroll for this post ASAP. Payment will be made on a monthly basis. Starting salary is 20 packets of 1 kg Whiskas per month, with added perks such as extended nap time, lengthy massages and treats from the Heritage Centre staff.

- Anonymous

MAIN GATE WALL

The road extension project has eaten a portion of the campus near the main gate towards Sriram Nagar. We have been eagerly awaiting a pavement for the last few months. How much longer will we need to bear the dust and vehicles invading pedestrian space?!

- A Woeful Walker from Waldorf



SUBMIT

your entries for the next issue!

EARN

₹500 per entry if you get selected!

CATS

Cats are better than dogs.

- Nooneasksformyipinionbutigiveit

LOOKING FOR BOXING BUDDIES

Boxing a.k.a., The Sweet Science, is the only science not taught at IITM. Those interested in learning this science can contact the editor of this magazine.

Venue: Watsa Stadium on select days.

P.S.: Punches will be provided free of cost for all latecomers.

- Ronin

CYCLE WANTED

I am looking for a second-hand cycle with the following features: headlights, number plate, monkey-proof seats, 35 inch tyres, tissue dispenser, in-built smartphone for smoother navigation, round steering wheel, boot space, black tinted windshield, 4K LCD screen, bullet-proof frame and a foldable mini-table for meals.

- Minimalist Guy

UGH

Ugh.

- Ugh

GOODBYE MANGO SEASON

The last mangoes of the season are disappearing fast! This year it felt like the mango season ended before it began! Well, next is *sitaphal* season. From one sweet fruit to the next! Eagerly awaiting :)

- Toothy Fruity

MISSING

The gang. The ones who roamed insti together at 12am be it for Maggi or a cup of *chai*. Last seen in whites, throwing *angavastrams* and making promises to "meet every year." Approach with caution, may trigger nostalgia, long hugs, and slightly wet eyes.

- Kavin Chakaravarthy

ATTENTION

Dual Degree of 2021

This is not a drill.

Repeat: This is not a drill.

They are leaving.

The entire batch is graduating and you still have an 8am class.

Brace for impact.

- Kavin Chakaravarthy

EASY MONEY

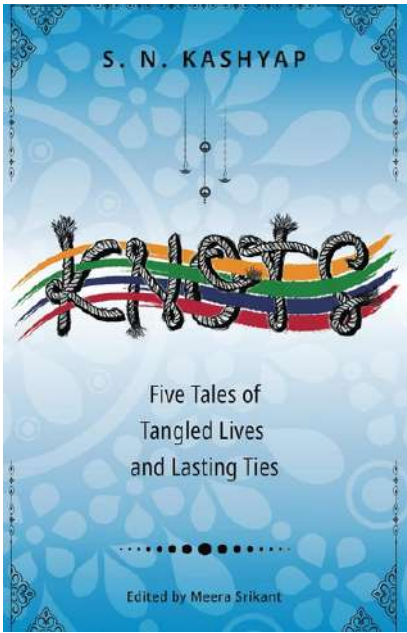
Submit a decent divertisement and earn 500 rupees!

- Glass Panels Marketer

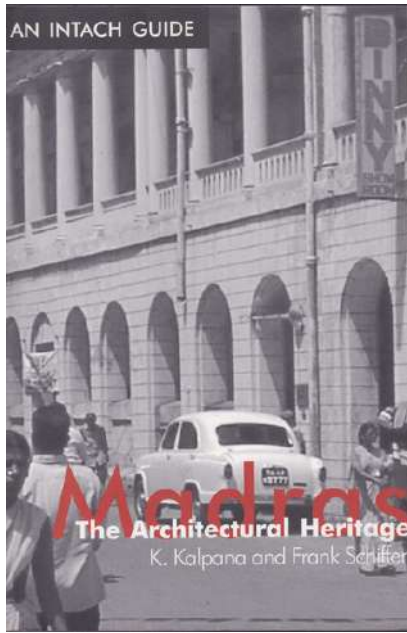




Knots
by S. N. Kashyap

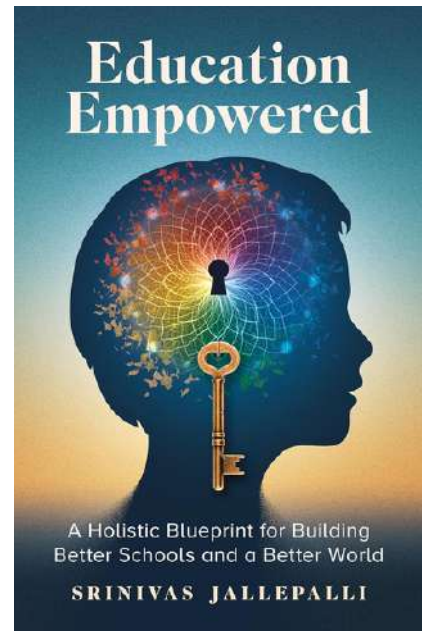
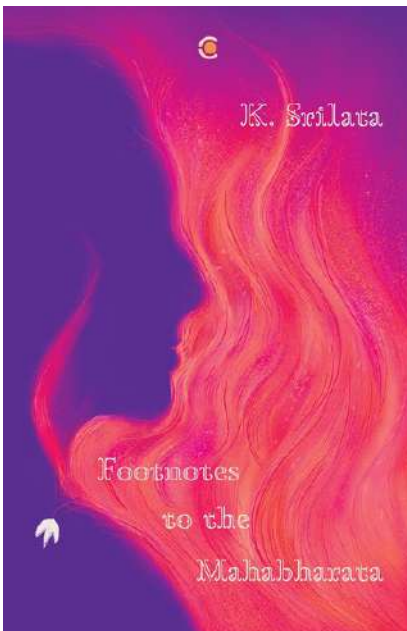


Madras: The Architectural Heritage
by K. Kalpana and Frank Schiffer



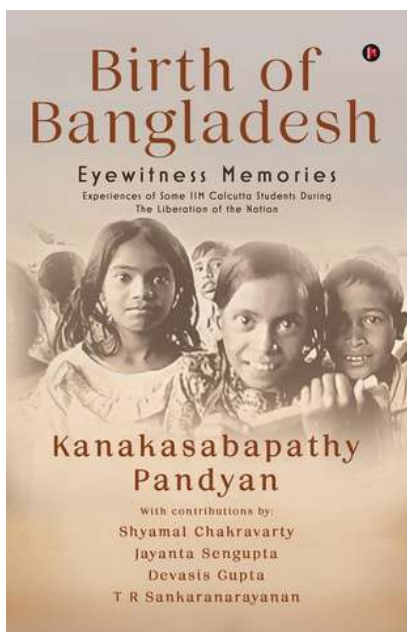
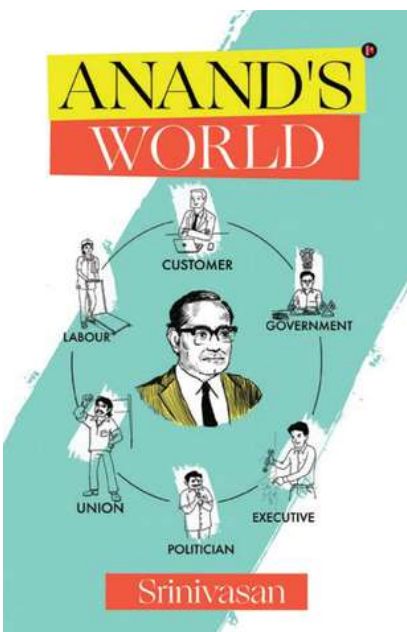
WOE? (War or Epidemic?)
by Shubham Kalra, Ameya Paleja

Footnotes to the Mahabharata
by K. Srilata

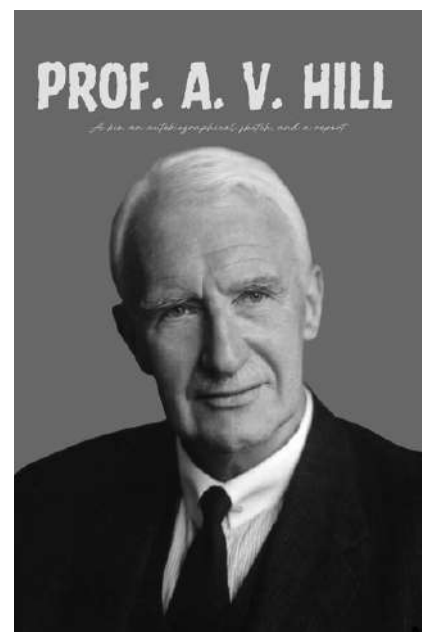


Education Empowered
by Srinivas Jallepalli

Anand's World
by Srinivasan



Birth of Bangladesh
by Kanakasabapathy Pandyan



Prof. A. V. Hill
by Prof. A. V. Hill, Bernard Katz

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. Glimpses of some distinguished visitors.



AGARAM FOUNDATION

02 MAY 2025

”



PROF. V. G. IDICHANDY

*FORMER FACULTY MEMBER AND DEPUTY
DIRECTOR OF IIT MADRAS*

07 MAY 2025

”



FLAME UNIVERSITY DELEGATION

08 MAY 2025

“Great exhibits, great people
& fond memories”

Prof. M. A. Venkataraman
Pro Vice-Chancellor, FLAME University

”

“

MRS. KURIACOSEWIFE OF THE LATE
PROF. J. C. KURIACOSE,
CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT

11 JUNE 2025



“

DR. NEVILLE COMPTONEXECUTIVE EDITOR, PHYSICAL
SCIENCES, WILEY

13 JUNE 2025

“Fantastic place to be and work.

Fascinating history so many
memories awoken. From my time as
student, links to places in Germany
in Bonn, tools used by my father.
Here we are on the other side of the
world and yet so many connections.
The world really is ‘smaller’ than we
realise and we are all more similar
than you think.”



“

KASHI SANGAMAMORGANISED BY THE
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

18 JUNE 2025





News BITES

Latest news from the Heritage Centre

May 2025

Viral video of Blackbucks racing taken by HC staff



A screengrab from the video shared on YouTube by IIT Madras

On 28 June 2025, Mrs. Mamata Dash, Senior Project Officer of Heritage Centre, shot a video of four blackbucks galloping on the track at Manohar C. Watsa Stadium early in the morning. The video went viral, with several newspapers covering the incident from various news angles.

The video showed four elegant blackbucks, including one leucistic, running down the newly-renovated synthetic track. Several edited versions of the video have also been shared on the internet.



via: hindustantimes.com

via: telegraphindia.com



The video can be viewed by scanning this QR code. It is available on Instagram.

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DMKEPKQTSlm/?igsh=MW53OG45bm1vZzVkoA%3D%3DX>

Heritage Centre Reading Room sees upgrade

The Heritage Centre's Reading Room saw a minor upgrade recently. Books were given fresh colour tags and stickers to help organize them more efficiently. A few more books have been added to the collection, and some more are on their way.

With this upgrade, we hope more visitors will spend quality time at the Reading Room and explore our collections.

"The Heritage Centre is currently looking for alumni authored books to add to its collection", a Heritage Centre team member said.

The Reading Room contains magazines, books, reports and much more. It is a repository of information about IIT Madras and its history. It has been functional for more than two years now.



Coloured sticker-tags on books from the Reading Room

Prof. K. Srilata's new poetry book: *Footnotes to the Mahabharata*



Prof. K. Srilata (left), and the front cover of her latest book (right)

*Prof. K. Srilata, Former Professor of English at IIT Madras, released a book of poems in June 2025. The book, titled *Footnotes to the Mahabharata*, contains some of the boldest lines written in recent poetry. It looks at the epic from the perspective of the women in the narrative.*

The poems make us question patriarchy and its impact on women. Here is a short description of the book, taken from the Amazon website:

"Arjuna is the hero of the Mahabharata—but is that how he appeared to Alli, the woman he stripped of dignity to please himself? Krishna is the supreme god and lover—but did he not turn a blind eye to injustice when it suited him? Yudhishtira is the embodiment of truth and humility—but did he have the courage to fight for his wife? Bhishma sacrificed his own needs for his father's happiness—but what of the suffering and violence that was born of his sacrifice?

K. Srilata's poems ask questions of the men in the Mahabharata, whose choices inflicted unimaginable grief and loss on their mothers, wives, lovers, children."

The Heritage Centre has purchased a copy of the book for its Reading Room. It can be found under the Alumni Authored section.

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"Normal is an illusion. What is normal for the spider is chaos for the fly."

- Charles Addams



Heritage Centre did a sample run of a coffee machine. Yes, we all had fun and lots of coffee and tea. For that one day alone, everyone was energetic. Now, we are back to normal.

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