



Office of Alumni and Corporate Relations
Indian Institute of Technology Madras



STUDENT DISTRESS FUND



Annual Report
2024 - 2025

ABOUT THE STUDENT DISTRESS FUND

The Student Distress Fund was set up to lend a helping hand to students who require financial support. When students are faced with unfortunate situations like accidents, loss of family members/ breadwinners of the family, the promising fund has brought light into the lives of students.

These difficulties should not hamper or deprive the education of the bright minds who have worked hard and earned their befitting place in this prestigious Institute. Rightfully, this fund has helped many students in need and have inspired a few of them to carry forward this legacy of helping those in need.

This report carries the stories of the beneficiaries of the Student Distress Fund who benefitted from it during 2024 - 2025.



FEEDBACK FROM A FEW STUDENT BENEFICIARIES



Shradha Suman
Dept. Of Chemistry

Family Background

I come from a very orthodox family from a small town in Jharkhand where women education is considered prodigal. My father is a retired government officer and my mother is a homemaker.

Aspirations @ IITM

I want to pursue a PhD in Chemistry from an European Country and want to become a professor. I also want to contribute to girls' education in my hometown.

Achievements

Despite restrictions I did my bachelors from Banaras Hindu University and cleared IIT Jam exam with AIR 505 and got admission to the prestigious IIT Madras.

Fund Utilisation

Earlier I used to teach online tuitions to pay my own fees but with the help of the funds I stopped tutoring and was able to fully concentrate on my studies due to which my grades increased significantly in 2 semester.

Impact Created

I would like to thank them and soon I will also be donating to the SDF for students like me to study stress free.



Pranati Jana
Dept. Of Physics

Family Background

I come from a supportive and understanding family. My father works as a mechanic, and my mother is a homemaker. I have one sibling.

Aspirations @ IITM

My aspiration is to contribute meaningfully to cutting-edge research in high-energy physics, advancing our understanding of fundamental particles and forces, as well as participating in the development of next-generation silicon sensors. I aim to continue working in a collaborative international academic or research environment. In the longer term, I hope to transition into the field of medical physics, particularly in applications related to PET scan technology, where my expertise can have a direct societal impact.

Achievements

My research focuses on experimental high-energy physics as part of the CMS collaboration at CERN. I have contributed to the development and characterization of next-generation silicon sensors, with results published in EPJ-C. In addition, I have been actively involved in data analysis, particularly in precision tests of the Standard Model and searches for physics beyond the Standard Model.

Fund Utilisation

The funds provided were used to reimburse medical expenses incurred due to a monkey bite inside the hostel. This support was helpful in covering the cost of treatment and recovery.

Impact Created

I thank the donors for their support through the SDF. The monkey bite was an unexpected and unfortunate incident, and it was helpful that the fund helped cover my medical expenses.



Vimal Singh
Dept. Of Biotechnology

Family Background

There are four members in my family – my father, mother, brother, and me. My mother is a housewife. Earlier, my father was the only one earning, but now he is not able to work because he has blood cancer. Now my brother has a small job with a low salary, and he is the only one earning now. Our family's annual income is less than ₹1 lakh.

Aspirations @ IITM

I want to become an AI/ML (Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning) engineer. My goal is to support my family financially and take full responsibility for my father's medical treatment, as it is a lifelong process. I want to work hard to give my family a better life.

Achievements

Coordinator in HMM, SGS executive super coordinator, I have successfully completed my machine learning course from Coursera.

Fund Utilisation

The funds have been mainly used for my father's treatment. A large part is spent on his medicines, especially venetoclax, which is very expensive and comes directly from the USA. The funds are also used for his chemo injections. This support has been very helpful for us.

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I want to sincerely thank all the donors who have contributed to me. Your support means a lot to me and my family. Because of your help, we are able to continue my father's treatment, which is very costly. Your kindness has given us hope during a very difficult time. I will always be grateful and hope to give back to others in need in the future, just like you have helped me.



Megavath Raju
Dept. Of Metallurgical and
Materials Engineering

Family Background

I come from a humble, middle-class family. My father works as an auto driver, and my mother is a homemaker. Growing up in a modest environment taught me the value of hard work, perseverance, and gratitude. My parents have always supported my education and personal growth, and their sacrifices have been a major source of motivation in my life.

Aspirations @ IITM

My aspiration is to build a successful and fulfilling career where I can continuously learn, grow, and contribute meaningfully. I aim to develop both personally and professionally, take on challenging roles, and make a positive impact in my field. Coming from a middle-class background, I also hope to support my family and give back to the community that has shaped me.

Achievements

Leadership & Teamwork, Overcoming Challenges, positive mindset.

Fund Utilisation

The funds provided to me have been extremely helpful in easing the financial burden on my family and allowing me to focus fully on my studies. along with, i could not handle my fee structure.

Impact Created

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the donors who have contributed to the Student Distress Fund. Your support has made a real difference in my life by relieving financial stress and allowing me to focus wholeheartedly on my education



Nancy Veernapu
Dept. Of Humanities and
Social Sciences

Family Background

I am the eldest sibling in my family, with two younger brothers. Sriknob has completed his second year of BBA, and Jai Prakash has finished his first year of B.Com. Our mother is a single parent, supporting the three of us and for our education, by working as an Anganwadi helper in our village. Sadly, our father passed away in 2021. Our family manages on my mother's monthly salary of ₹7,500.

Aspirations @ IITM

I am aspiring to clear the UPSC exam, but at the same time, I have some business ideas that I am very passionate about pursuing.

Achievements

Personal achievements: Building strong friendships and meaningful relationships with professors and peers.
 Professional achievements: Expanding my network on campus, taking on positions of responsibility, actively participating in club activities, gaining valuable knowledge from various talks, enriching my cultural experiences, enhancing my creative thinking skills, and acquiring diverse knowledge.

Fund Utilisation

Those were very useful and I used those to clear my previous hostel dues

Impact Created

My heart felt thanks and gratitude. Means a lot for us it is very great initiative of you for us like those who are facing financial problems.



Nidheesh S
Dept. Of Humanities and
Social Sciences

Family Background

I come from a fisher family with a economically weaker background.

Aspirations @ IITM

Teaching and Research

Achievements

I have presented my research at several international conferences abroad. My PhD thesis received positive feedback from both the doctoral committee members and the external evaluators.

Fund Utilisation

I am grateful for the support I received. The student dean and the entire staff have been incredibly helpful, and I want to especially mention Mr. Vijayakumar. His dedication and assistance are remarkable. Whenever I faced delays in the research processing for my re-registration, he was always there, coordinating with the relevant sections to ensure everything was resolved. His efforts made a significant difference during a challenging time.

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I admire the commendable actions you've taken. I want you to know that I will also be happy to help when I am in a position to contribute.



Smarak Rath
Dept. Of Metallurgical and
Materials Engineering

Family Background

My father used to be an associate professor in Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology, Odisha. He retired in 2022. My mother is a housewife. My parents live in Burla, Odisha.

Aspirations @ IITM

I will be graduating from the Ph.D. programme this year. I want to work in the R&D division of some reputed semiconductor company.

Achievements

During the course of my Ph.D., I have published two research papers in the field of semiconductor materials.

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I am very grateful to all the donors. When I was hospitalized in July 2023, the insurance company refused to settle my claim. The financial support from the Distress Fund and institute health insurance made things easier for my family. My father already faces huge medical expenses because of his neurological condition. I never wanted to burden him further with my own health-related expenses.

OTHER STUDENT BENEFICIARIES

Sno	Name	Department	Utilisation Overview
1	Ganji Rakesh	Ocean Engineering	Hostel fees
2	Anoop Kumar Mourya	Ocean Engineering	Hostel fees
3	Richy Babu Pilli	Ocean Engineering	Hostel fees
4	Kaushik Raja P	Humanities and Social Sciences	Institute fees & Hostel Fees
5	Nihal N P	Engineering Design	Medical Expenses
6	Krithikaa Senthilkumar	Biotechnology	Hostel fees
7	Sachin Kumar Maurya	Metallurgical and Materials Engineering	Internship
8	Shashank Sisodia	Mechanical Engineering	Medical Expenses
9	Durgesh Kumar Yadav	Mathematics	Hostel & Mess fees
10	Rudra Prasad nayak	Physics	Institute fees & Hostel Fees
11	Shailja Prajapathi	Chemistry	Institute fees & Hostel Fees
12	Pallavi Devidas Nimbokar	Chemistry	Institute fees & Hostel Fees
13	Shreyas R	Chemistry	Institute fees & Hostel Fees
14	Avany A Raveendran	Chemistry	Institute fees & Hostel Fees



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We are grateful to the contributors for your commitment to our organization, and belief in our mission. Your generosity is an inspiration to all of us, and we cannot thank you enough for your support.



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