



SECC NEWSLETTER



April 2024

[/secc.iit.madras](https://secc.iit.madras)

secc-iitmadrass

secc.iitm.ac.in



*from the
SECC Chief Commissioner 2024-25*

In my second year, I stumbled into the realm of institute politics, a world that both fascinated and intimidated me. Little did I know that I would soon become the Chief of the Students Ethics and Constitution Commission (SECC) for the 2024-25 term. As a child, I always had a keen sense of justice and a fascination with the law, awestruck at the making of the Indian Constitution. Joining the SECC has been an exhilarating journey, one that constantly keeps me on my toes (literally).

Over the past year, our commission has achieved remarkable feats, handling numerous cases, organizing events, and even publishing our very own newsletter. It's gratifying to see the SECC become a household name among the student body, thanks in part to our signature barrage of emails. As I step into the role of Chief, I am inspired to uphold the standards set by the outgoing commission and strive to surpass them.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported us along the way - whether through constructive criticism, valuable feedback, or simply by being there to witness our growth. A special thanks goes out to each member of the SECC team, both old and new, for the tremendous amount of workload they have handled and for staying put and being there through thick and thin. Together, let's continue to actively engage in the business of the SECC, overcoming obstacles and pushing boundaries to make a positive impact on our institution.

-Meenakshi Anoop



Joining the Student Ethics and Constitution Commission (SECC) at IIT Madras was like setting sail on an incredible journey of discovery and impact. It all started when I took on the role of Coordinator of Team Events within the SECC Secretariat in the year 2022-2023. This was more than a PoR; it was my introduction to the world of student governance and student rights. My journey didn't stop there. Over time, I climbed the ranks, eventually serving as the SECC/SEC Commissioner. As I progressed, I watched the SECC grow too, especially the post-pandemic revival of the organization. It has now become a pivotal force for student rights and action on campus. This transformation has been nothing less than extraordinary, marking a significant chapter in both my life and the history of student governance at IIT Madras.

Under the dynamic leadership of the SECC Commissioners for the 2023-2024 term, the SECC and SEC soared to new and unprecedented heights. This period marked a golden era for the organization, distinguished by remarkable achievements and milestones that significantly enhanced its influence and reputation among the General Student Body (GSB) at IIT Madras. The Commissioners spearheaded initiatives to break down barriers between the SECC and the student body. This approachability played a crucial role in building a solid foundation of trust between the students and the Commission.

Perhaps the most defining characteristic of this era was the Commission's fearless commitment to upholding the constitution. This steadfast dedication ensured that student rights were not just advocated for but protected, setting a high standard for ethical leadership and governance.

As the curtains draw on my tenure within this esteemed organization, it is with a heart full of gratitude that I extend my heartfelt thanks to the General Student Body, my co-commissioners, and the entire team of the Student Ethics and Constitution Commission (SECC) and the Student Election Commission (SEC). Each one of you has been a cornerstone in the journey that we have embarked upon together, a journey marked by dedication, challenges, and countless achievements. Reflecting on our time together, I am filled with pride for what we have accomplished upholding 'Bonum Commune Communitatis'. This motto has been our guiding star, leading us through decisions big and small, always with the welfare and betterment of our student community at the forefront of our minds.

As I bid adieu to this organization, it is my fervent hope that the legacy and spirit of this Commission will continue to thrive and be carried forward by future generations. May the principles we have upheld and the strides we have made inspire ongoing dedication to our shared motto. Let the commitment to student rights, ethical governance, and inclusive leadership be the hallmark of SECC and SEC, today, tomorrow, and in the years to come.

-Tejaswini Jagtap



Section /01

As per Chapter V, Section III, Clause VIII of the Students' Constitution of IIT Madras, SECC Commissioners are supposed to periodically inform the GSB members about the voting decisions that are being taken by the Commissioners with respect to the cases that we have dealt with so far. While ensuring transparency, SECC is also accountable to the stakeholders of the cases and has to ensure that the privacy of the concerned parties is maintained. Moreover, a repository of past cases has been made by SECC where GSB members can go through the final rulings of the past cases which have more details than what are mentioned in this newsletter. SECC Website can be used by GSB members to access the repository of past cases.



CASES

Discrepancy in the selection of the delegation among the Parliament Trip Delegate 2023 to meet the Honourable Education Minister of India, along with mismanagement of the allocated funds for the Parliament Trip.

The SLC Speaker on 19th December 2023 received a message from the Personal Assistant (PA) of the Honourable Education Minister of India on the request of the Director of IIT Madras Prof. V. Kamakoti that the students' delegation from IIT Madras should have a meeting with the Minister on 20th December 2023 at 5 PM. Since only 15 students were allowed to meet the Minister as per PA's orders, the SLC Speaker initially refused to meet the Minister. But later on the suggestion of the Parliament Trip Faculty Advisor Prof. Prof Murugaiyan A, the SLC Speaker was asked to choose 2 Executive Council members other than himself and select random students from the Parliament Delegation to ensure representation of all departments of IIT Madras. The SLC Speaker accordingly selected I&AR and RAS from EC members, and chose a couple of Parliament Trip organizing committee members; and a handful of legislators/GSB members from various departments to ensure diverse representation of the IIT Madras.

The SLC Speaker is directed to issue an apology letter to the Parliament Trip Delegation 2023, copying to the SLC Faculty Advisor and the Student Ethics and Constitution Commission (SECC), acknowledging the inconveniences caused to the delegates by the random selection process. The SLC Speaker is mandated to present a detailed financial audit of the Parliament Trip 2023 to the SLC once all transactions are cleared from the STACT Office. This measure aims to enhance transparency and accountability in financial matters related to SLC events.

The SLC Speaker is advised to follow an impartial and transparent procedure in the selection of the Parliament Trip delegates for all the activities throughout the trip, as all the delegates have equal rights to avail the benefits of the trip. So the arrangements and selections should be made accordingly. SECC believes that the given incident and the selection procedure could have been handled in a better manner by employing various ad hoc measures for selection, the procedure employed by the SLC Speaker was ambiguous and led to the confusion and denial of opportunity to the other delegates who were not included in the visit. Considering this, the SLC Speaker is advised to be more proactive and diligent and opt for a consensus-based solution when such situations arise.

Date of Ruling:- 19th January 2024

Case Duration:- 31 days

Votes:- For = 3

Commissioners: - Mr. Sushant Jaswal, Ms. Tejaswini Jagtap, Ms. Meenakshi Anoop

Candidates contesting for various positions in Students' General Elections 2024 have been found using 'General Secretary' Canva Pro account which is only accessible to the students who are currently holding some Position of Responsibility (PoR) under Students' General Secretary for the purpose of designing manifestos or feasibility report for personal uses instead of using the accounts primarily for Students' Government Associated Organisations (SGAOs) outreach and publicity. This particular case deals with General Secretary Canva Pro Account, though there have been other institute funded Canva Pro Accounts as well which have been used for designing either 1 or 2 election documents and those cases are dealt by SEC directly. In short, using gymkhana funds to create election documents (manifesto & feasibility report) by particular candidates is against the spirit of free and fair elections.

Mr. Alpha wrote a mail to SEC Chief Election Commissioner stating that there are certain candidates who are contesting for various legislative positions and have been using 'institute machinery' to design and draft election documents (manifesto & feasibility report). By the term Institute Machinery the complainant meant that the candidates are using Canva Pro Account which is being bought using Gymkhana Funds by various Executive Council members for their respective SGAOs to use it for designing posters for their team related publicity and outreach measures and not for personal/non-organisational uses of GSB members. As per the Annexure I, Model Code of Conduct, General Guidelines of Election Manual 2024 - 'All students and candidates shall conduct themselves in accordance with the Students' Constitution of IIT Madras.' Such an act is in direct conflict with the very spirit of democracy as well as the Students' Constitution of IIT Madras which believes in free and fair elections where all the candidates are contesting elections on a level playing field. Few days later, he wrote a complaint to SEC stating the same issue with addition to the fact that there has been collusion among the candidates contesting for legislator positions, as the candidates are using exact manifestos and feasibility reports irrespective of their departments or hostels. As per request, SEC decided to keep Ms. Tejaswini Jagtap (HS21H049) out of the investigation.

Both the complainants emphasized over the Metadata Information which discloses information related to the software that is being used to design the election documents as well as the account that is being used to draft the same.

From intense examination of all the manifestos of various candidates who are contesting for different legislator positions across the institute it came to SEC's notice that around 9 candidates have used 'General Secretary' Canva Pro Account.

The students who were found guilty were accordingly punished by SECC and the following recommendations were given. The SECC recommends that the Executive Council secretaries closely monitor all activities conducted within the accounts they oversee, particularly those funded by Gymkhana funds. This recommendation stems from above-mentioned incidents where activities were carried out without the knowledge of the Students' General Secretary and Co-Curricular Affairs Secretary. All the Independent Student Bodies' (ISB) Heads are requested to kindly keep close watch over their mail IDs so that candidates do not use the same for non-organizational purposes.

Date of Ruling: - 4th March 2024

Case Duration: - 5 days

Votes: - For = 2

Commissioners: - Mr. Sushant Jaswal & Ms. Meenakshi Anoop

A student filed a complaint against Team Raftar for not having a transparent and fair recruitment process for the upcoming new team.

As part of the PoR Charter, the student's concern was reported to the CFI Head and Team Raftar to seek clarification. As the complainant had raised a concern which SECC Commissioners felt could be solved by mediation as the complainant was seeking clarification regarding him not being selected. He doubted the selection process but was seeking a response from the selection committee which he was unable to get earlier. In response to the same, SECC facilitated a platform where the complainant and the selection committee clarified each other's doubt and both of them were satisfied with the decision that was taken by the selection committee. Therefore the case ended through a mere process of mediation which served justice to all the stakeholders.

Date of Ruling:- 3rd April 2024

Case Duration:- 2 days

Votes:- For = 3

Commissioners:- Mr. Sushant Jaswal, Ms. Tejaswini Jagtap, Ms. Meenakshi Anoop

The agenda was to resolve the differences and issues between the two secretaries because of the recent event, 'Kahanikaar,' that was part of the E-Summit and was held on 8th March 2024.

From the investigation SECC has concluded that the issue arose because of a miscommunication between two secretaries, the Co-Curricular Affairs Secretary Mr. Nithin and the International and Alumni Relations Secretary Mr.Ujjaval. Hence both Secretaries are advised to have better communication related to such matters and are recommended to advise their upcoming secretaries about the same for a seamless upcoming tenure. SECC concludes that there is no copyright issue involved in having the events with the same name as long as the Secretaries and the teams stick to their domains. Therefore, SECC does not find any problem with the use of the name Kahanikaar by the E-Cell Team for their engagement activity which they conducted during E-Summit.

Regarding the incident that happened in the Himalaya Lawns which involved the IITM TV Head and that led to the defamation of the Team E-Cell and hence IIT Madras as the event was witnessed by numerous outsiders. The students involved are advised to use proper channels of communication and grievance redressal. Students shall abstain from doing any act/comment that is detrimental to the prestige of this eminent institution of which we are part of. As this entire incident related to the Event Kahanikaar has created confusion among the General Student Body and some alumni. The Co-curricular Affairs Secretary is directed to send a public mail mentioning the event Kahanikaar that was conducted on 8th March 2024 by E-Cell which is under the CoCAS sphere.

This event is different from the event that IITM TV under the I&AR Sphere usually conducts. This mail shall be first sent to SECC for scrutiny, after receiving approval from SECC it can be sent to GSB. The clarification mail shall be sent to GSB before 16th April 2024, 5:00 PM.

Date of Ruling:- 12th April 2024

Case Duration:- 33 days

Votes:- For = 3

Commissioners:- Mr. Sushant Jaswal, Ms. Tejaswini Jagtap, Ms. Meenakshi Anoop



Section
/02

EVENTS

SECC MOVIE NIGHT

25TH JANUARY 2024



Introduction

Introduction: The Student Ethics and Constitution Commission organized an enthralling movie screening of Roja (1992) coupled with refreshments for the student community on 25th January 2024. The event aimed to foster a sense of camaraderie on occasion of the Republic day among the students while providing an opportunity for relaxation and entertainment.

Movie Selection

A meticulous selection process led to the screening of Roja (1992). The chosen movie was a blend of entertainment, profound storytelling, and patriotism. The movie has been directed by Mani Ratnam who is well known throughout India, and hence, caters to diverse tastes.

Attendance and Atmosphere

The event started at 6:30 pm to give time for students to visit the mess after watching the movie. So, we garnered a footfall of 200 students in Central Lecture Theatre (CLT). The atmosphere was filled with excitement and anticipation as attendees eagerly awaited the commencement of the screening. We capitalized on this enthusiasm and introduced the National Voters' Day pledge which was then thoroughly taken by around 200 students present there.

ENGAGEMENT AND INTERACTION

Throughout the screening, the audience remained engaged, manifesting their emotions through laughter, applause, and occasional chants. The immersive cinematic experience facilitated meaningful interactions among students (especially when it came to a mismatch of subtitles), further strengthening bonds within the community.

REFRESHMENTS

The refreshment offered were a lays chips and a tetra pack of juice. Attendees indulged in these refreshments, enhancing their overall enjoyment of the event.

SECC

**POSTER MAKING
COMPETITION**

18TH JANUARY 2024

INTRODUCTION

The Student Ethics and Constitution Commission organized a stimulating Poster Making Competition centred around the theme of Tableaux Parade. The event aimed to celebrate creativity and artistic expression among the student community while paying homage to the rich cultural heritage associated with tableaux parades.

THEME SELECTION

The theme of Tableaux Parade was chosen to commemorate the tradition of vibrant and visually captivating displays that often depict historical events, cultural motifs, or social issues. It provided participants with a platform to showcase their artistic interpretations while highlighting the significance of the upcoming Republic Day.

EVENT SETUP

The event was conducted online for ease of access of the student. The students were given time from 18th January 2024 to 25th January 2024 to create and make sure their posters are adorned with colourful designs, evoking the festive vibes associated with tableaux parades.

JUDGING PROCESS AND PRIZES

The panel comprised of the events team who meticulously evaluated each poster based on criteria such as creativity, originality, and thematic relevance. Upon completion of the judgement process, the winners of the competition of the competition were rewarded for their creativity and talent. The prizes were Rs 2000, Rs 1000, and Rs 500, for the first, second, and third position respectively.

SECC

VOICES OF THE STATE

28TH FEBRUARY 2024

The poster features the logos of the Student Election Commission (SECC) and IIT Madras at the top. The central text reads 'STUDENT ELECTION COMMISSION IIT MADRAS' followed by 'VOICES OF THE STATE presents'. Below this, it says 'SGE'24 OPERATION 100'. A portrait of V Palani Kumar, the Tamil Nadu State Election Commissioner, is shown on the right. At the bottom, there is a 'JOIN US' button with a right arrow, a location pin icon labeled 'SAC', and a calendar icon indicating '28th Feb' and a clock icon indicating '6pm'.

 **STUDENT ELECTION COMMISSION**
IIT MADRAS 

VOICES OF THE STATE *presents*

SGE'24
OPERATION 100

V PALANI KUMAR
TAMILNADU STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER

JOIN US →

 **SAC**

 **28th Feb**  **6pm**

INTRODUCTION

The Student Ethics and Constitution Commission organized its flagship lecture event featuring the State Election Commissioner of Tamil Nadu, V Palani Kumar. The event aimed to educate students about the electoral process, the importance of civic engagement, and the role of the Election Commission in ensuring free and fair elections.

SPEAKER PROFILE

The esteemed guest speaker, the State Election Commissioner of Tamil Nadu, V Palani Kumar is a prominent figure with extensive experience in electoral administration. His insights and expertise stems from his career as an IAS officer. He was reappointed for another year after his original tenure ended which is a testament to the quality of his provided invaluable perspectives on the electoral system.

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

The event was held just before the scheduled Institute soapbox which meant that active students who demonstrated keen interest in matters of student governance and democracy were largely present at the event. The audience engaged in interactive discussions, and question and answer session was also proposed which saw thought-provoking questions.

KEY POINTS ADDRESSED

During the address, the State Election Commissioner elucidated on several key aspects of the electoral process, including voter registration, polling procedures, electoral reforms, and the role of technology in enhancing transparency and efficiency. They also emphasized the importance of voter education and awareness in promoting electoral participation among citizens. The event exemplified the commitment of the student body to promoting civic awareness and active engagement in governance.



SECC

FELICITATION AND WEBSITE LAUNCH

15TH APRIL 2024



INTRODUCTION

The Student Ethics and Constitution Commission orchestrated an event to felicitate the newly elected legislators and commemorate the launch of the organization's new website. The event aimed to foster a harmonious relationship between the student body and elected representatives while showcasing the technological advancements made as part of steps towards efficiency and welfare by the SECC.

FELICITATION CEREMONY

The felicitation ceremony commenced with a warm welcome extended to the newly elected legislators, acknowledging their commitment to public service and dedication to representing the interests of the community. The measure was meant to acknowledge their achievement but also to highlight the significance the measure they can take, and the need for collaborative efforts between legislators and the student body in addressing pertinent issues and driving positive change.

KEY PEOPLE AND FELICITATION

Distinguished guests, included the Dean of Students, Head of departments, Wardens, and faculty members. The Dean of Students delivered the inspiring main address emphasizing the importance of youth involvement in governance and espousing accountable governance practices. Their insightful remarks resonated with attendees. The key people then distributed the mementos to the elected legislators as they were called over to the stage one by one.

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED

A momentous highlight of the event then came as SECC unveiled its new website, symbolizing a significant leap forward in enhancing communication, transparency, and engagement with stakeholders. The website, meticulously designed and optimized for user accessibility, offers a plethora of features which were all explained in an interactive session conducted with the attendees which displayed the functionalities of the new website.

NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION

The event provided a conducive platform for networking and collaboration between students, elected representatives, and community stakeholders. Informal discussions and networking sessions enabled legislators to exchange ideas, and explore opportunities for collaborative initiatives for student governance whilst exploring the newly introduced website.





SECC NEWSLETTER

Designed by

SECC DESIGN TEAM

Karem Pooja Chandra (ME21B086)
Manuru Nithin Padiyar (ME21B108)
Satharasi Trivikram (AE20B053)