

2024

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ELECTION REPORT

FRESHERS' ELECTION



Student Election Commission
2024-25
IIT Madras

FOREWORD

The Student Election Commission (SEC) of IIT Madras, as guaranteed by the Students' Constitution of IIT Madras is empowered by the provision Chapter V, Section III and Clause VI to conduct free and fair student elections. Being the official election-conducting body of IITM, we are committed to ensure that the highest level of ethical and moral standards is upheld within our democratic model of representation which acts as a force of entanglement that promotes the growth of overall standards of the Institution and the welfare of the student community in IIT Madras. Thus, by promoting a representative model of student governance, a great extension of quintessence is employed from the Indian Constitution, that fosters every form of secular attribution of living which is inclusive of equality in ever known corners of IIT Madras.

Being a part of the Institution which is known for its inventions and innovations, every unit that is a part of any Student Election appertain to the use of most applicable and efficient technologies that proselytize Secrecy of Ballot along with the commemoration of growing digital ethicality in the vicinity of replacing the conservative or traditional task of electing a representative. Thus, we, the Student Election Commission believe that conducting elections and advocating student participation in elections, serves as a dynamic empirical impeccable embodiment of greater future that conjures up an image of scintillating and meliorate India. Through this foreword, we asseverate our sincere gratitude and thanks to Prof. Sudhakar Chandran - Chief Election Officer, Prof. Jeganmohan - Deputy Election Officer, and Dean of Students for their unwavering support in all decisions, stratagems, and initiatives, as well as letting the commission to be imaginative through all means in order for SEC to conduct a portrayal of Democracy and ameliorate students' commonwealth. SEC also reckon, such a method of electing a student

representative would never ever be possible without the active invigoration and participation of every single student of IIT Madras, and thus, we (SEC) always will be for students and their welfare.

Thankfully,

Meenakshi Anoop (HS21H031)

Chief Election Commissioner 2024-25

Karthik Kurimindla (NA22B009)

Election Commissioner 2024-25

Kaushik Raja P (HS22H028)

Election Commissioner 2024-25

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INTRODUCTION

The Freshers' Elections at IIT Madras serve as a vital platform for the students for fostering democratic values and student engagement on campus. These elections provide students with a hands-on experience of the electoral process, enabling them to understand the importance of fair and transparent leadership selection. By participating—whether through voting, campaigning, or observing—students develop political awareness, civic responsibility, and leadership skills, mirroring the larger democratic practices of the nation.

The positions for which elections were conducted are:

1. Department Council posts of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence
 - a. Department Legislator (Academics)
 - b. Department Legislator (Research)
2. Hostel Council posts of Mandakini A, Mandakini B and Swarnamukhi Hostels
 - a. General Secretary
 - b. Hostel Legislator
 - c. Health and Hygiene Secretary
 - d. Technical Affairs Secretary
 - e. Sports Secretary
 - f. Literary Secretary
 - g. Social Secretary

This report offers a concise overview of the Freshers' Election 2024, highlighting key aspects such as electoral process, voter turnout, vote distribution, and also the fairness of the process. It also explores the significant increase in student participation, reflecting a positive shift in campus governance and the active involvement of the student community.

REPORT SCOPE

This report examines every stage of the election process, from initial preparations to the post-election review. Using a data-driven approach, it analyzes key metrics such as voter registrations, ballot counts, and other critical statistics. Furthermore, insights drawn from interviews, emails, and observations offer a broader and more nuanced perspective on the election and its overall execution.

PRE-ELECTION

Briefing Sessions:

The Election Briefing sessions, organized by the Student Election Commission, served as an essential platform to educate and guide potential candidates about the electoral process. Held in the freshers' hostels—Mandakini A, Mandakini B, and Swarnamukhi—the sessions aimed to ensure that first-year students were well-informed and prepared to participate actively in the elections.

Additionally, a special briefing session was conducted for the students of the newly established Department of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, focusing on the department legislator elections under the special elections' framework.

Briefing Session: DSAI (Academic Legislator)

Date: 7 September, 2024

Venue: RJN

Turnout: 10+

Briefing Session: DSAI (Research Legislator)

Date: 8 September, 2024

Venue: Online, Google Meet

Turnout: 10+

Briefing Session: Mandakini A

Date: 30 August, 2024

Venue: 4th Floor of Mandakini Hostel

Turnout: 15+

Briefing Session: Mandakini B

Date: 31 August, 2024

Venue: 9th Floor of Mandakini Hostel

Turnout: 25+

Briefing Session: Swarnamukhi

Date: 31 August, 2024

Venue: Common Floor of Swarnamukhi Hostel

Turnout: 20+



Session Highlights:

The session began with a warm welcome and introduction to the students, setting the stage for an informative session.

A comprehensive explanation of SECC and SEC was presented, encompassing their organizational power structures and pivotal roles within the student governance framework. Attendees gained insights into the various positions within the institute, with a specific focus on the responsibilities of the contesting positions too.

The orientation provided an exhaustive overview of the election process, beginning with the election notification issued by the Office of the Dean Students (DoSt). Detailed coverage was provided for each stage of the election process, including nomination procedures, feasibility reports, submission of statements of purpose, validation of nominations, and the final nominations list.

The intricacies of the election process were elucidated, covering aspects such as casting votes by the student body, the vote tallying process, and the calculation of election results.



Election Preparation Process:

The election preparation process began with the recruitment of election managers. A call for applications was announced to attract suitable candidates, who were then selected based on their applications and performance in interviews. Once the team was in place, they were thoroughly briefed on their roles and responsibilities to ensure a smooth and efficient election process. Overall 20 election managers were selected.

Next, arrangements were made for the necessary laptops. A form was released to solicit volunteers willing to lend their laptops for the election process. After collecting the responses, the volunteers were contacted, who later signed the MoU. All devices were tested for functionality and security to ensure they would be reliable on election day.

In addition to these preparations, the booking of election booths was another critical task. Locations were secured for voting booths at several key sites, including the Swarnamukhi Common Room, Mandakini A, Mandakini B1, Mandakini B2, the Centre for Innovation (CFI), and the Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (DSAI) Classroom facility. Each booth was inspected to ensure accessibility, and necessary signage was arranged to guide voters effectively.



ELECTION DAY

Polling Station Opening -

Polling commenced at 2 p.m. on 23rd September 2024, with the setup of booths and an infrastructure check conducted earlier by the Election Managers, in collaboration with Hostel Staff, to ensure smooth operations.



Reported Incidents or Irregularities -

Any incidents or irregularities that occurred during election day were recorded to ensure transparency and maintain accountability throughout the process.

Balloting Process and Technology -

A dedicated voting portal was developed using the Block-chain technology and made accessible on designated laptops at the polling booths to streamline the balloting process.

Polling Station Closing -

Although polling stations were scheduled to close at 8 p.m., the voting period was extended by an hour and a half, concluding at 9:30 p.m.

POST ELECTION:

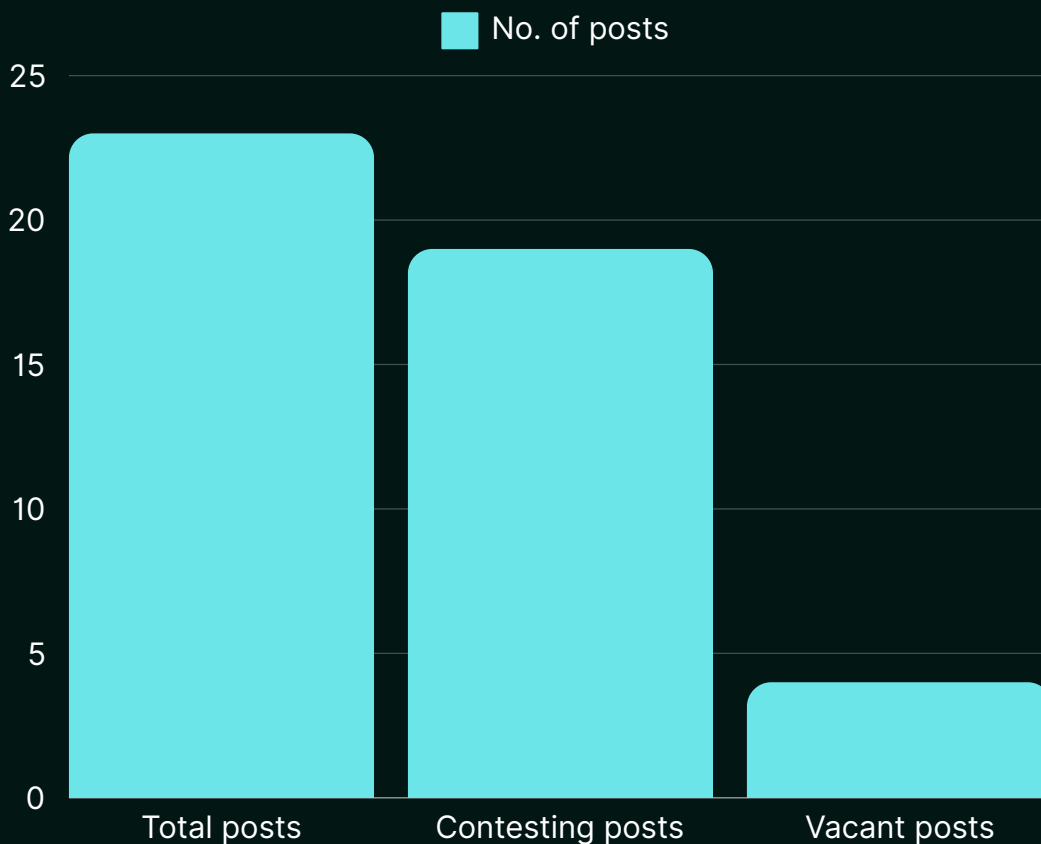
Official Results Announcement -

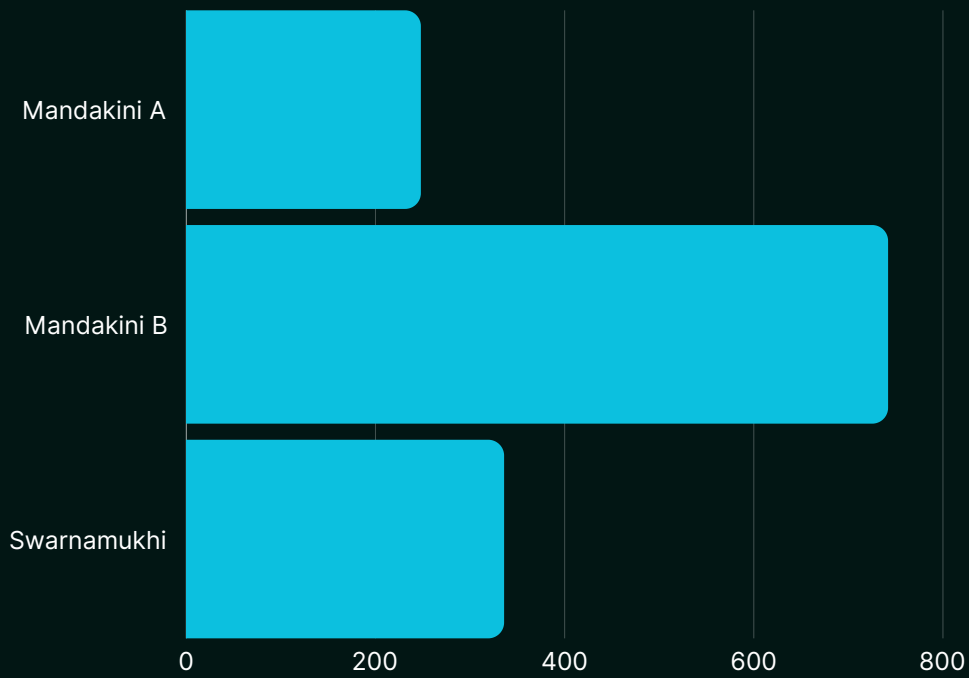
The official election results and the declaration of winners were certified and announced by the DoSt Office via email on Saturday, 27th September 2024, at 12:47 PM, four days post the election.

Link - [Results_FE'24.pdf](#)

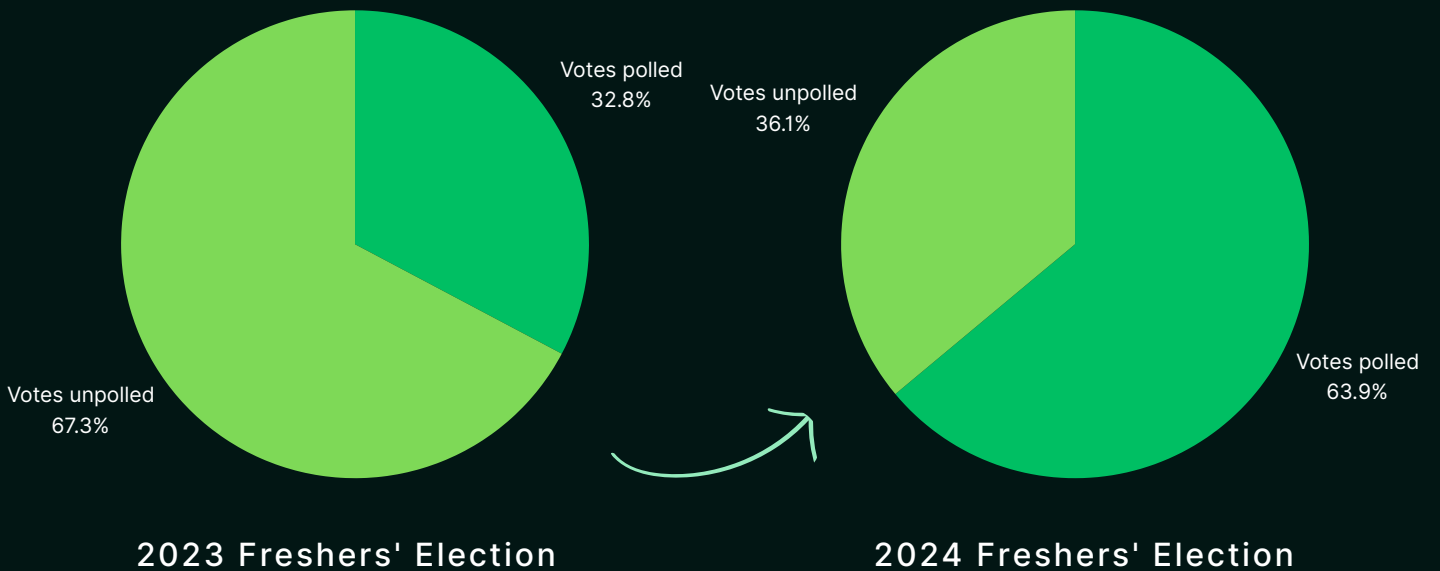
ELECTION STATISTICS

The following presents a detailed analysis of voter turnout across various categories:





Hostel wise no. of votes polled



% Overall Voter Turnout

INFERENCE

Freshers Batch (2024)

The 2024 fresher's batch demonstrated impressive involvement, with a turnout of 63.94%. Out of 2152 eligible students, 1376 casted their votes, showcasing a strong level of engagement.



Freshers Batch (2023)

Comparing it with the 2023 batch, a stellar difference was observed, as the turnout was a mere 32.75% last year.

Earlier Batches (2017 onwards)

In stark contrast, earlier batches, such as those from 2017, exhibited very low participation, with only 7 votes recorded. This significant gap in engagement between freshers and seniors suggests the need for targeted efforts to encourage older batches to participate more actively.

COMPLAINTS

1. Campaigning Before Specified Time: There have been reports of candidates engaging in campaigning activities prior to the officially designated start time. These actions include the early release of posters, door-to-door campaigning, and the creation of WhatsApp groups. Such premature campaigning violates the established election guidelines and may give certain candidates an unfair advantage.

2. Request for Extension to Upload Documents: Some candidates have expressed the need for an extension to upload required documents. Due to various personal or technical reasons, they were unable to meet the initial deadline and are requesting additional time to complete the process without penalization.

3. Inappropriate Campaigning: Concerns have been raised regarding the use of inappropriate campaign materials. This includes the circulation of AI-generated images and unapproved posters, which were not authorized by the election commission. Such materials may mislead voters and undermine the integrity of the campaign.

4. Extension of Polling Deadline Due to Server Overload: Due to a temporary server overload during peak participation hours, students experienced delays in accessing the polling portal. To ensure a fair and inclusive election, there was a request for an extension of the polling deadline, allowing all voters a fair opportunity to participate.

CONCLUSION

This report wraps up by summarizing the key points and findings, stressing their importance. It also underscores the broader impact of the student election within the academic institution and its influence on shaping the overall student experience.



PHOTO GALLERY





THE SEC CORE TEAM 2024-25



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our sincere gratitude to:

- Prof. Sudakar Chandran, Chief Election Officer
- Prof. M. Jeganmohan, Deputy Election Officer
- Prof. Anbarasu M, SECC Faculty Advisor
- Prof. Sathyanarayana N. Gummadi (Dean, Students) and the DOST Office Team
- Prof. Prathap Haridoss (Dean, Academics) and Prof. Shanti Pawan (Dean, Research)
- Prof. B. Ravindran (HoD, DSAI) and the DSAI Office
- Prof. S. Nallayarasu (HoD, OE)
- The CCW Team, including the Chairman, Vice Chairman, John Sir, Hostel Managers, and Staff
- The SEC Secretariat Team
- Election Managers
- CCASH Team
- The Nomination Portal Team and the Voting Portal Team
- CFI
- CSO, DSO, and Security Officials
- RJN Security
- Usha Akka and her team

SEC Secretariat Team:**Heads of Secretariat**

- Alfid K Khader (HS22H011)
- Behjad Yasar (HS22H017)
- Ria Hansda (CH22B091)

Coordinators

- Aslah Yasar (EP23B004)
- Dhruv Jalan (ED24B047)
- Mokshagna Teja (HS24H055)
- Nawin Pragasaran E (ED23B069)
- Smiti Achliya (MM24B053)

Election Managers:

- Abhiram Sulige (AE23B059)
- Adesh Lokare (ED23B001)
- Atharva Joshi (BS24B008)
- Chhatrapal Pal (CE23M104)
- C. Siddu Sriram (AE23B006)
- Dwarakanath Dey (DA23C006)
- Eslavath Anjali (CH23B081)
- Hariharan Devarajan (MD23B011)
- Ishika Tyagi (HS23H050)
- Kubireddi Sai Krishna (AM24M013)
- Maloth Aishwarya (ME23B139)
- Malothu Kirankumar (AM24M010)

Election Managers:

- Nenavath Yugender (NA22B055)
- Nitin Kumar (CH24B077)
- Sahaj Mithra (ME24B140)
- Sanskar Gunde (MM24B005)
- Soumajit Paul (HS22H073)
- Sudhanva Rao (EP24B019)
- Tharun Rishwanth (EE23B082)
- Vamshidhar Reddy Pisati (CH22B017)

We deeply appreciate their invaluable support and contributions towards the success of the Freshers' Election 2024.



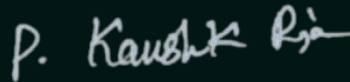
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