MTS IIT MADRAS STUDENT SECTION

MTS IITM Student Chapter Annual Report – 2026

MTS TECHSYM 2026 & Outreach Activities

Theme – Ideas to impact: Scaling innovations

17 March 2026

Organized by,

MTS IIT Madras student section

Under the guidance of

Prof. S.A.Sannasiraj

Chair professor, Department of Ocean Engineering,

IIT Madras.

Venue

Seminar hall, Department of Ocean Engineering,

IIT Madras

Report prepared by,

Ms. Nivetha S,

MTS – Head outreach and public relations

PhD Scholar, Department of Ocean Engineering,

IIT Madras

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CHAPTER 1

1. Introduction

The Marine Technology Society (MTS) IIT Madras Student Section was established in 2019 under the guidance of Prof. S. A. Sannasiraj, Chair Professor, Department of Ocean Engineering, IIT Madras, with the vision of creating a collaborative platform for students, researchers, and professionals passionate about marine technology and ocean engineering.

Since its inception, the Student Section has played a significant role in promoting innovation, technical excellence, and interdisciplinary collaboration in various domains of marine science and technology. Through technical symposiums, expert lectures, workshops, outreach programs, and industry interactions, the section has continuously encouraged students to explore emerging areas such as offshore engineering, underwater robotics, autonomous marine systems, ocean observation technologies, marine renewable energy, and sustainable ocean development.

By bringing together academia, industry experts, researchers, entrepreneurs, and young innovators, the MTS IIT Madras Student Section continues to bridge the gap between academic research and practical implementation. It provides students with opportunities to develop technical knowledge, leadership skills, and a broader understanding of real-world challenges in the ocean sector.

1.1 Journey of MTS TECHSYM

As part of its mission to encourage knowledge exchange and innovation, the MTS IIT Madras Student Section initiated MTS TECHSYM, a flagship national-level technical symposium dedicated to advancements in marine technology and ocean engineering. The first edition, MTS TECHSYM 2020, established a platform for students, researchers, and industry professionals to discuss recent developments and emerging technologies in the marine sector. Continuing this vision, MTS TECHSYM 2023 focused on “Offshore Renewables for a Blue Economy,” highlighting the importance of sustainable ocean resources, renewable energy technologies, and the role of engineering solutions in achieving a sustainable blue future. The third edition, MTS TECHSYM 2025, conducted under the theme “Transforming the Oceans: Sustainable Energy, Autonomous Systems, and Advanced Marine Structures,” expanded the symposium’s national reach by bringing together over 220 participants from across India. The event featured expert technical sessions, industry interactions, Women in Engineering discussions, Early Career Ocean Professional (ECOP) talks, and the Sustainable Blue Ideathon, strengthening TECHSYM’s reputation as a leading student-driven marine technology symposium.

1.2 List of events organized during 2025-26

1. Technical event
    a. MTS Techsym 2026
    b. International women’s day celebration
2. Outreach programs

a. Gateway of opportunities
b. Oceans of Opportunities

1.3 MTS TECHSYM 2026

Building upon the success of its previous editions, the MTS IIT Madras Student Section proudly organized the fourth edition of its flagship national-level technical symposium — MTS TECHSYM 2026.

The symposium was conducted under the theme of "Ideas to Impact: Scaling Innovations". This reflects the importance of transforming research concepts, technological ideas, and academic innovations into scalable solutions with real-world applications.

The fourth edition was hosted on 17 March 2026 at the Department of Ocean Engineering, IIT Madras, and marked a historic milestone as the curtain-raiser event for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Department of Ocean Engineering, IIT Madras. This special occasion celebrated five decades of excellence, innovation, and contributions of the department towards ocean engineering education, research, and technological advancement.

1.4 Objective of the MTS TECHSYM 2026

MTS TECHSYM 2026 emphasized the growing importance of entrepreneurship, industry collaboration, and innovation-driven solutions in shaping the future of marine technology. The symposium brought together students, researchers, academicians, entrepreneurs, industry professionals, and school students, creating an interactive environment for knowledge sharing, networking, and collaborative learning.

The event featured discussions on:

- Blue Economy startup opportunities
- Marine technology entrepreneurship
- Alumni-led deep technology innovations
- Government funding pathways
- Research commercialization
- Future opportunities in ocean engineering

Through initiatives such as the Alumni Startup Showcase, From Idea to Startup sessions, and Oceans of Opportunity school outreach program, MTS TECHSYM 2026 inspired participants to look beyond traditional research boundaries and explore pathways for converting innovative ideas into impactful solutions. With its continued commitment to academic excellence, sustainability, entrepreneurship, and global collaboration, the MTS IIT Madras Student Section continues to strengthen its role as a catalyst for developing the next generation of ocean engineers, researchers, innovators, and leaders.

CHAPTER 2

2. Leadership, Planning and Organisation

2.1 Executive Committee Structure at MTS IIT Madras Student section

The activities and initiatives of the MTS IIT Madras Student Section were successfully coordinated by a dedicated Executive Committee under the guidance of faculty mentors and senior members. The committee played a key role in strengthening student engagement, promoting technical initiatives, developing professional networks, and creating opportunities for innovation and collaboration in the field of marine technology and ocean engineering. The executive committee members for the period of 2025-2026 is provided in Table 1.

The leadership structure was designed to encourage teamwork, responsibility, and active participation among students while ensuring the effective planning and execution of various chapter activities. Through continuous efforts, the Executive Committee contributed towards strengthening the mission of the MTS IIT Madras Student Section as a platform connecting students, academia, industry, and the global marine technology community.

Table 1 Executive committee members for the period of 2025-2026

S.No	Name	Designation
1	Prof. S. A. Sannasiraj	Faculty Advisor
2	Dr. Krishnavelu Ramachandran	Advisory Chair
3	Mr. Vasanthakumar Singaravelu	Chairperson
4	Mr. Abhinav S. S.	Secretary
5	Mr. Varada Venkata Bhargav	Treasurer
6	Ms. Nivetha Sivasamy	Head – Public Relations & Outreach

Figure 1 Executive committee members for the period of 2025-2026

2.2 MTS TECHSYM 2026 - Planning and Organization

The successful organization of MTS TECHSYM 2026 – Fourth National Level Technical Symposium was achieved through the collective efforts of the Executive Committee and an enthusiastic team of student volunteers from the MTS IIT Madras Student Section shown in Figure 1and Figure 2.

The organizing framework was structured to ensure efficient planning, coordination, and execution of the symposium. The team worked collaboratively across multiple functional areas, including technical program development, invited speaker coordination, startup showcase organization, outreach activities, registration management, publicity, logistics, hospitality, and partnership coordination. The organizing committee worked closely with faculty members, alumni, industry professionals, and partner organizations to create a meaningful platform aligned with the symposium theme: “Ideas to Impact: Scaling Innovations.” Through systematic planning and dedicated teamwork, the committee successfully delivered a symposium that encouraged innovation, entrepreneurship, and knowledge exchange among students, researchers, academicians, and industry experts.

2.3 Student Organizing Team

The broader student organizing team played an essential role in the successful execution of MTS TECHSYM 2026, shown in Figure 2. Their commitment and coordinated efforts ensured the smooth management of various activities before and during the symposium. The organizing committee members are as follows: Mr. Sridhar , Mr. Amal Salam, Ms. Kayalvizhi S., Ms.Bhuvana E., Mr.William Philip Dsouza, Ms. Mariya Benny, Mr. Saravanakumar, Ms.Sathyamalavika P., Mr.Anurag Kumar, Ms.Golda Percy, Mr.Vijayakumar G., Ms.Jeciliya Selva Kiruba, Ms.Srimathy Krishnan, Ms.Vijaya Lakshmi Thiagarajan

All members contributed actively across different organizational domains, demonstrating leadership, teamwork, and dedication toward advancing the objectives of the MTS IIT Madras Student Section. The combined efforts of the Executive Committee and organizing volunteers reflected the spirit of student leadership and strengthened the section's role in promoting innovation and professional development in marine technology.

Figure 2 Members of MTS IIT Madras student section

2.4 Collaborations, Partnerships, and Sponsorship Support

The success of MTS TECHSYM 2026 was strengthened through the valuable support of academic institutions, professional societies, student organizations, and industry partners. These collaborations helped create a multidisciplinary platform bringing together expertise from ocean engineering, marine technology, entrepreneurship, and sustainable innovation. The MTS IIT Madras Student Section collaborated with various organizations to expand technical engagement, encourage interdisciplinary discussions, and enhance the overall impact of the symposium. These collaborations promoted interaction among students, researchers, professionals, and industry experts while supporting the shared vision of advancing ocean science, engineering, and technology.

2.4.1 Sponsorship Support

The symposium received generous support from:

- ABCD Centre, IIT Madras
- ASB Systems

Their contributions significantly supported the successful execution of MTS TECHSYM 2026 and enabled impactful sessions focused on entrepreneurship, innovation pathways, emerging marine technologies, and the future of the Blue Economy

CHAPTER 3

3. Fourth National Technical Symposium MTS TECHSYM 2026

3.1 About MTS TECHSYM 2026

Building upon the success of its previous editions in 2020, 2023, and 2025, the MTS IIT Madras Student Section proudly organized the fourth edition of its flagship national-level technical symposium — MTS TECHSYM 2026. Over the years, MTS TECHSYM has evolved into a prominent student-led platform that brings together researchers, academicians, industry experts, entrepreneurs, and young innovators to discuss advancements and emerging opportunities in marine technology and ocean engineering. The fourth edition of the symposium was conducted under the theme:"Ideas to Impact: Scaling Innovations". The theme emphasized the importance of transforming innovative concepts, research outcomes, and technological ideas into scalable real-world solutions. It encouraged participants to explore the journey from scientific discovery and engineering innovation toward entrepreneurship, commercialization, and societal impact.

3.2 A Curtain Raiser for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Ocean Engineering

MTS TECHSYM 2026 was hosted on 17 March 2026 at the Department of Ocean Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Madras, marking a historic milestone in both the journey of the symposium and the department. This edition held special significance as it served as the curtain raiser event for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Department of Ocean Engineering, IIT Madras, commemorating five decades of excellence in ocean engineering education, research, innovation, and technological contributions. The event celebrated the department's remarkable legacy while looking ahead toward the future of marine technology through innovation, entrepreneurship, and interdisciplinary collaboration. By aligning the symposium with the Golden Jubilee celebrations, MTS TECHSYM 2026 reflected the department's continuing commitment to nurturing future ocean engineers, supporting transformative research, and developing solutions for global marine challenges.

3.3 Inaugural ceremony and Distinguished Guests

The symposium commenced with an inspiring inaugural session attended by distinguished leaders from academia, research, and the global marine technology community, shown in Figure 3. The session was inaugurated by Padma Shri Prof. Kamakoti Veezhinathan, Director, IIT Madras, who officially launched the Golden Jubilee logo of the Department of Ocean Engineering. In his address, he highlighted the importance of innovation-driven research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and technology development in addressing future challenges in ocean and maritime sectors. Prof. Abdus Samad, Head of the Department of Ocean Engineering, IIT Madras, reflected on the department's remarkable 50-year journey and its contributions towards advancing ocean engineering education, research excellence, and technological innovation. Prof. S. A. Sannasiraj, Faculty Advisor of the MTS IIT Madras Student Section, presented an overview of MTS TECHSYM 2026 and highlighted the important role of student-led initiatives in fostering leadership, creativity, and professional

development. He emphasized the contribution of platforms such as MTS in connecting academia, industry, and society while preparing students to address real-world ocean engineering challenges. The inaugural address was delivered by Mr. Chris Ostrander, Chief Executive Officer of the Marine Technology Society (MTS). His address focused on global trends shaping the future of marine technology, highlighting the importance of affordable sensing technologies, marine startups, digital transformation, and lifelong learning for future professionals.

Figure 3 Inauguration ceremony of Golden jubilee curtain raiser of the Department of Ocean Engineering and MTS TECHSYM 2026. The distinguished guests such as Prof.S.A. Sannasiraj, Padma Shri Prof.V. Kamakoti, Mr. Chris Ostrander, Prof. Abdus Samad *(from the left).*

3.4 Participation and Event Impact

MTS TECHSYM 2026 brought together a diverse group of participants, including students, researchers, academicians, industry professionals, entrepreneurs, and school students, shown in Figure 4. The symposium created an engaging and collaborative environment that promoted knowledge exchange between academia and industry while encouraging discussions on emerging advancements in marine technology. Participants had the opportunity to interact with successful entrepreneurs, innovators, researchers, and industry experts, gaining valuable insights into technology development and startup opportunities within the growing Blue Economy sector. By inspiring young students to explore careers in ocean sciences and engineering, the event successfully fostered multidisciplinary interactions and strengthened the

connection between academic research, industry requirements, and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Figure 4 Partcipants of MTS TECHSYM 2026

3.5 Event Details

The fourth edition of MTS TECHSYM 2026 featured a series of impactful sessions designed around innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology translation.

Major highlights included:

1. The Indian Landscape of Blue Economy Startups

Exploring opportunities and challenges in India's growing ocean-based startup ecosystem.

2. Department Alumni Startup Showcase

Featuring successful entrepreneurial journeys of alumni working in marine robotics, autonomous systems, instrumentation, and ocean technologies.

3. Building Scalable Solutions - Government Funding Opportunities

Introducing researchers and innovators to funding mechanisms and support available for transforming ideas into practical solutions.

4. From Idea to Startup - Industry Interaction Session

Providing insights into the process of converting research innovations into successful ventures.

5. Oceans of Opportunity – School Outreach Program

Introducing young students to ocean engineering, marine science, and future career opportunities.

3.6 Continuing the Legacy of MTS TECHSYM

With its focus on innovation, entrepreneurship, and impact-driven solutions, MTS TECHSYM 2026 represented a new chapter in the symposium's journey. From promoting sustainable ocean technologies to encouraging startup culture and interdisciplinary collaboration, the event continued the mission of the MTS IIT Madras Student Section in empowering the next generation of marine technologists. As a Golden Jubilee curtain raiser event, MTS TECHSYM 2026 not only celebrated the achievements of the past five decades of Department of Ocean Engineering but also inspired future contributions toward advancing ocean engineering, marine innovation, and sustainable Blue Economy solutions.

CHAPTER 4

4. Technical sessions

4.1 Transforming Ideas into Impact - Innovation and Entrepreneurship Sessions

Aligned with the theme "Ideas to Impact: Scaling Innovations," MTS TECHSYM 2026 placed a strong emphasis on bridging the gap between research, innovation, and real-world implementation. The technical sessions were carefully designed to demonstrate how emerging ideas in ocean engineering and marine technology can be transformed into scalable solutions through entrepreneurship, industry collaboration, and technological advancement.

The symposium created an interactive platform where students, researchers, and young innovators could engage with successful entrepreneurs, industry experts, and academic leaders. These interactions provided valuable exposure to startup journeys, innovation pathways, and emerging opportunities within the Blue Economy ecosystem.

4.1.1 The Indian Landscape of Blue Economy Startups

Speaker: Prof. Thillai Rajan, IIT Madras

The technical sessions commenced with an insightful talk by Prof. Thillai Rajan, IIT Madras, on "The Indian Landscape of Blue Economy Startups" in Figure 5. The session explored the growing importance of entrepreneurship and innovation in shaping India's Blue Economy.

Prof. Thillai Rajan provided valuable insights into the opportunities and challenges associated with building startups in ocean-related sectors. He discussed the evolving investment ecosystem, commercialization pathways, and the critical role of academic institutions in nurturing technology-driven entrepreneurship. The session encouraged students and researchers to look beyond traditional academic boundaries and explore entrepreneurial approaches for converting research outcomes into sustainable and impactful solutions for society.

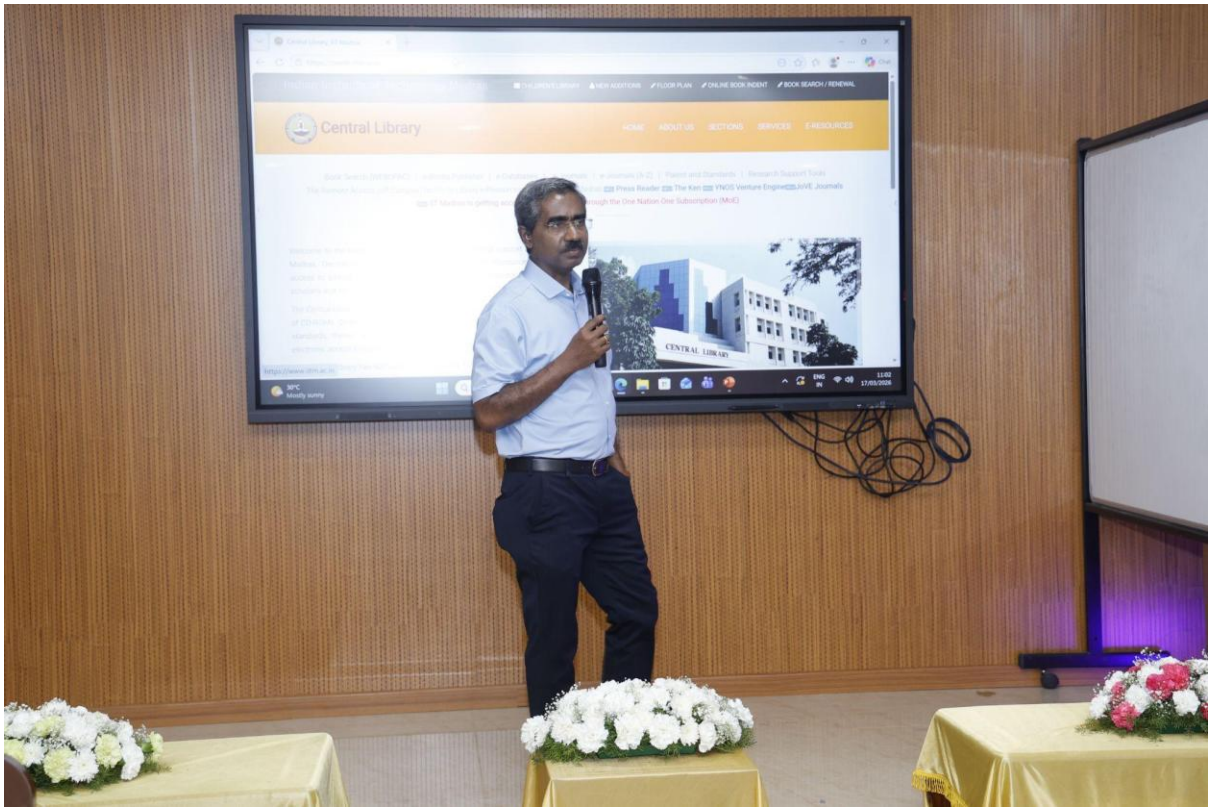

Figure 5 Prof. Thillai Rajan, IIT Madras delivered session on the Indian Landscape of Blue Economy Startups

4.1.2 Building Together

Speaker: Mr. Chris Ostrander, CEO, MTS.

Mr. Chris Ostrander, CEO of the Marine Technology Society (MTS), delivered an insightful keynote address on ocean technology innovation, funding opportunities, collaboration, and the journey from idea to impact. He highlighted the importance of transforming innovative research into scalable solutions that address real-world challenges in the blue economy. He emphasised that successful marine technology innovation requires strong collaboration among academia, industry, government agencies, investors, and entrepreneurs. Such partnerships enable knowledge sharing, technology validation, and the creation of sustainable pathways for commercialisation. He also discussed the growing ecosystem of funding opportunities available for ocean technology startups, including government grants, venture capital, accelerator programmes, innovation challenges, and strategic industry partnerships that help bridge the gap between research and market adoption.

Figure 6 Mr. Chris Ostrander, CEO, MTS delivered session on building together.

4.2 Department Alumni Startup Showcase

A major highlight of MTS TECHSYM 2026 was the Department Alumni Startup Showcase, which featured successful entrepreneurs from the Department of Ocean Engineering, IIT Madras. The session celebrated the achievements of alumni who transformed their technical expertise, research experience, and innovative ideas into successful technology-driven enterprises. The alumni sessions were chaired by Prof. Atmanand, Dept. of Ocean Engineering, IIT Madras and Dr. Venkatesan, Former Chair, MTS India Section, displayed in Figure 7. The showcase served as an inspiration for students by demonstrating how academic learning and research foundations can evolve into practical solutions addressing real-world marine and industrial challenges.

Figure 7 Dr. Venkatesan, , Mr. Chris Ostrander and Prof. M.A. Atmanand Chaired the Alumni session *(from the left).*

4.2.1 Planys Technologies

Mr. Vasantha Raghavan in Figure 8 shared the entrepreneurial journey of Planys Technologies and highlighted the company's contributions to the underwater inspection industry. His session provided insights into advancements in marine robotics, underwater Non-Destructive Testing (NDT), and AI-enabled post-inspection analytics. The presentation demonstrated how deep-tech innovations are transforming offshore infrastructure inspection, maritime operations, and underwater asset management. It also emphasized the growing potential of robotics and artificial intelligence in developing safer, smarter, and more efficient marine technology solutions.

Figure 8 Mr. Vasantha Raghavan from Planys Technologies

4.2.2 Seaconvoy Systems Engineering Pvt. Ltd

Mr. Rakesh NNV Figure 9 presented the vision and technological advancements of Seaconvoy Systems Engineering Pvt. Ltd., highlighting innovations in marine engineering and autonomous systems. His session covered the company's expertise in naval architecture, advanced simulations, prototype development, embedded systems, and robotic solutions. The talk emphasized how multidisciplinary engineering approaches can contribute to solving complex challenges in the marine industry. Through his entrepreneurial experiences, he encouraged participants to pursue innovation-driven solutions and explore opportunities at the intersection of research, engineering, and industry requirements.

Figure 9 Mr. Rakesh NNV from Seaconvoy Systems Engineering Pvt. Ltd.

4.2.3 Kolmotek Instruments Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Gopi Chand Reddy in Figure 10 introduced participants to the advancements made by Kolmotek Instruments Pvt. Ltd. in the field of marine instrumentation and measurement technologies. His presentation highlighted the importance of precision sensors, calibration systems, and advanced testing solutions in supporting marine research, offshore operations, and industrial applications. The session emphasized the significance of reliable ocean data collection and advanced instrumentation technologies in enabling future developments in marine science and engineering.

Figure 10 Mr. Gopi Chand Reddy from Kolmotek Instruments Pvt. Ltd.

4.3 Building Scalable Solutions – Government Funding Opportunities

Speaker: Dr. R. Brakaspathy, R&D Advisor, ICSR, IIT Madras

Dr. R. Brakaspathy in Figure 11 delivered an informative session on "Building Scalable Solutions – Government Funding Opportunities," aimed at helping students, researchers, and startup enthusiasts understand the support systems available for innovation and entrepreneurship. The session introduced various funding opportunities and government initiatives designed to support researchers, PhD scholars, women innovators, entrepreneurs, and technology developers. By explaining different funding pathways and innovation support mechanisms, the session provided participants with practical guidance on transforming research ideas into implementable solutions and scalable ventures.

Figure 11 Dr. R. Brakaspathy delivered session on "Building Scalable Solutions – Government Funding Opportunities".

4.4 From Idea to Startup session for partcipants

Speaker: Mr. Manikanda Bharath K, Aqua Forge Robotics Pvt. Ltd.

The session "From Idea to Startup" by Mr. Manikanda Bharath K in Figure 12 provided participants with practical insights into the journey of building a technology-based startup. Drawing from his entrepreneurial experiences with Aqua Forge Robotics Pvt. Ltd., he discussed the process of identifying real-world problems, developing innovative solutions, and transforming technical concepts into commercially viable products. The session highlighted the challenges and opportunities faced by early-stage startups while emphasizing the importance of persistence, adaptability, and innovation-driven thinking. Reflecting the central theme of MTS TECHSYM 2026 – "Ideas to Impact: Scaling Innovations," the session inspired young researchers and engineers to pursue entrepreneurship and contribute towards meaningful advancements in marine technology.

Figure 12 Mr. Manikanda Bharath K, Aqua Forge Robotics Pvt. Ltd

CHAPTER 5

5. Technical Talk on International Women's Day Celebration

As part of the MTS TechSym 2026, a special technical talk was jointly organized with the IAHR-SI Young Professionals Network (YPN) on March 17, 2026, in celebration of International Women's Day. The session featured Prof. Indumathi M. Nambi, PhD, Fellow INAE, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Madras, who delivered an insightful talk on "Creating a Sustainable Future through Innovation and Entrepreneurship." During the interactive session, Prof. Nambi shared valuable perspectives on innovation, sustainability, and entrepreneurship, highlighting the importance of developing creative and sustainable solutions to address contemporary societal and environmental challenges. Her inspiring interaction encouraged students to explore innovative ideas and recognize the role of entrepreneurship in building a more sustainable future.

Figure 13 Women in Engineering session delivered by Prof. Indumathi M. Nambi, IIT Madras

CHAPTER 6

6. Outreach programmes for school students

6.1.1 Gateway of opportunities on 20th Feb 2026

The Marine Technology Society (MTS) was honoured to host the participants of the National Tamil Science Conference 2026, organised by Arivial Sangam in association with CSIR–Structural Engineering Research Centre, for an academic visit to IIT Madras on 20 February 2026. Around 120 enthusiastic school and undergraduate students pictured in Figure 14 visited the Department of Ocean Engineering and the Centre for Innovation (CFI) show in Figure 15, Figure 16. The visit provided valuable exposure to world-class research facilities, emerging startup initiatives, and a dynamic student innovation ecosystem. Through interactions in advanced laboratories and discussions on ongoing research at the Department of Ocean Engineering and CFI, participants gained meaningful insights. The experience encouraged them to think critically, explore research opportunities, and envision their future contributions to science and technology. MTS is proud to have contributed to this impactful outreach initiative.

Figure 14 Student participants from Tamil Science conference

Figure 15 Student participants visited Department of Ocean engineering, IIT Madras

Figure 16 Students visited Centre for Innovation, IIT Madras

6.1.2 Oceans of Opportunities along with MTS Techsym 2026

Oceans of Opportunity was conducted as a parallel session of MTS TechSym to introduce school students in Figure 17 to the ocean engineering, marine technology, and ocean sciences. Students from various schools visited the Department of Ocean Engineering, IIT Madras, where they were given an opportunity to experience the department's academic and research environment. As part of the programme, the students visited various research laboratories and facilities, where they learnt about the ongoing research and technological developments in the

field of ocean engineering. They also interacted with faculty members, research scholars and entrepreneurs shown in Figure 18 , gained valuable insights into the practical applications of marine technology and ocean sciences. The session included inspiring talks by IIT Madras alumni and startup founders, who shared their entrepreneurial journeys and highlighted the role of innovation in addressing challenges in the marine sector. Students were also introduced to startup incubation, funding opportunities, and the support available for innovators and entrepreneurs in the ocean and marine domain. The programme successfully introduced the students to the diverse opportunities available in marine technology and ocean sciences, while creating awareness about higher education, research, innovation, and career prospects in this emerging field. Oceans of Opportunity inspired the participants to explore the vast potential of the blue economy and encouraged them to consider careers that contribute to sustainable ocean development.

Figure 17 Student visited wave basin at Department of Ocean engineering, IIT Madras

Figure 18 Students interactions with MTS members and Mr. Chris Ostrander, CEO, MTS

CHAPTER 7

7. Summary and conclusion

7.1 Recommendations for Future Events

To further elevate the symposium in future editions, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. Two-Day Symposium Format: Extending the event to two days would provide ample time for deeper technical sessions, workshops, and student research presentations.
2. Hands-on Workshops and Live Demos: Including practical sessions will allow participants to interact directly with emerging marine technologies and tools, enhancing experiential learning.
3. Mentorship and Career Guidance: A structured mentorship program connecting students with professionals and alumni can help guide career paths and research interests.
4. Dedicated Student Research Platform: A poster or project exhibition area should be included to allow students to showcase ongoing or completed research work.
5. Global Outreach and Collaboration: Establishing ties with international MTS student sections and inviting foreign speakers would provide a broader global perspective.
6. Follow-up on Ideathon Projects: Creating mechanisms to support the continuation and potential implementation of winning ideathon ideas will increase the real-world impact of the event.
7. Enhanced Industry Involvement: Proactively involving private companies, startups, and R&D labs will bring new perspectives and increase opportunities for internships and collaboration.

7.2 Long-Term Vision

MTS TECHSYM has positioned itself as a prestigious national platform, nurturing the future generation of ocean professionals. Looking ahead, the vision is to:

- Evolve into an International Symposium: Expand participation and collaborations globally, thereby enhancing the quality and reach of the event.
- Foster Year-Round Engagement: Move beyond a single annual event to a continuous engagement model with webinars, short courses, and technical meet-ups.
- Enable Research Partnerships: Facilitate collaborations between students, faculty, and industry for joint research and development in marine technology.
- Support Innovation Ecosystem: Establish MTS TECHSYM as a nucleus for marine tech innovation in India, connecting academia, government, and industry toward sustainable ocean solutions.

7.3 Conclusion

MTS TechSym 2026, themed "Ideas to Impact: Scaling Innovations," concluded successfully, by the sincere commitment of the MTS IIT Madras Student Section towards fostering innovation, collaboration, and knowledge exchange in the field of marine technology and ocean engineering. The symposium brought together academicians, researchers, industry experts, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and students on a common platform to discuss emerging technologies, entrepreneurial opportunities, and the translation of research into scalable real-world solutions. A defining highlight of the symposium was the inauguration of the Golden Jubilee Logo of the Department of Ocean Engineering, IIT Madras, by Padma Shri Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras, marking the commencement of the Department's year-long celebration of fifty years of excellence in education, research, and innovation. The presence of Mr. Chris Ostrander, CEO of the Marine Technology Society, along with distinguished speakers from academia, industry, and startups, further enriched the symposium through their valuable insights and experiences.

The organising committee expresses its sincere gratitude to Prof. Abdus Samad, Head of the Department of Ocean Engineering, and Prof. S. A. Sannasiraj, Faculty Advisor of the MTS IIT Madras Student Section, for their constant guidance, encouragement, and unwavering support throughout the planning and execution of the event. Heartfelt appreciation is also extended to all keynote speakers, panellists, startup founders, faculty members, volunteers, sponsors, delegates, and participants whose enthusiastic contributions made the symposium a grand success.

The overwhelming participation of students, researchers, school students, professionals, and innovators reflected the growing interest in advancing marine science, ocean engineering, and the blue economy. Through keynote lectures, technical sessions, startup showcases, panel discussions, and student idea presentations, the symposium successfully encouraged interdisciplinary collaboration, promoted entrepreneurship, and strengthened the connection between research, innovation, and industry. MTS TechSym 2026 stands as another significant milestone in the journey of the MTS IIT Madras Student Section towards building a vibrant ecosystem for marine technology and innovation. The symposium has not only inspired the next generation of researchers and entrepreneurs but has also reinforced the importance of transforming ideas into impactful, scalable, and sustainable solutions for the future of the oceans and the blue economy.

Figure 19 Valedictory session of MTS Techsym 2026