

December 27, 2019

To

Ms. Thamizhachi Thangapandian,
Member of Parliament,
Lok Sabha - South Chennai.

Respected madam,

Regarding - Grievances of concerned stakeholders in closing the Krishna gate at IIT Madras.

We like to bring to your notice a problem of immediate concern which affects the students of IIT Madras. The IIT Madras administration has raised a wall to permanently close one of the institute's gateways leading to Gandhi road in Velachery, called as Krishna gate. This closing of the Krishna gate has been done without any prior notice to students, staffs, residents and other concerned stakeholders. Such a drastic decision has not been consulted with or informed to any of our elected student representatives as well. The gate has been suddenly closed at 12 midnight on Christmas Eve and a wall has been raised in a **clandestine manner** within two hours, after barricading the road leading to the gate under the supervision of the Chief Security Officer.

This gate is of primary importance for the commute of the scholars who reside just outside the gate in the Gandhi road. Staff members and workers who use it for their daily commute and to all the hostel students who use the facilities outside the gate such as photocopy, cafes and eateries will be seriously affected. The longer alternative route, via other gates, goes through main roads which see heavy traffic at peak hours. Research scholars who work around the clock in their labs will need to return to their residences outside Krishna gate in the night hours. Now, closing the Krishna gate will force these students to take a longer route outside the institution in odd hours to reach their homes. This will seriously affect the safety of our scholars, particularly our woman scholars. The move is **discriminatory against woman scholars**, as now they will have to leave their labs early due to safety concerns.

There are two schools functioning inside the campus. Many of the students and staff from these schools use this gate for their daily commute. Now, these school students have to travel an extra 20 to 30 minutes before reaching their morning classes.

The presence of this gate has a busy livelihood for the people who solely depend on the revenues from the student customers. The closure of the gate will seriously ruin their business. We would also miss the warmth and care of the people outside Krishna gate.

In view of the above mentioned concerns, we, the students sincerely request you to take all possible actions as our representative to remove the wall and reopen the Krishna gate.

Thank you.

Students of IIT Madras.