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# IIT Madras launches Sleep Study Facility and Autism Lab

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**To improve access to health services and assist the disabled and elderly**



Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava inaugurated the Sleep Study Facility and Autism Lab at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras and flagged off the e-cart ambulance service at the institute's hospital.

The recently established 'Sleep Study Facility' at the Campus Health Centre, in collaboration with specialists affiliated with Chennai's Kauvery Hospitals, will provide specialised assessment, counseling, and treatment for sleep-related disorders among students, faculty, staff, and researchers.

Subject to institutional ethical approval and informed consent, it will also enable research on sleep patterns and various types of sleep disorders. The faculty also aspires to develop indigenous and affordable sensors for monitoring and analysing sleep.

The e-cart ambulance service, launched under the institute's campus wellness initiative, will help ensure timely medical assistance and convenient movement within the campus. This service will be especially helpful for senior campus members and patients in need of assistance.

As part of the ongoing work towards establishing the Centre for Indian Medical Knowledge (CIMK) at IIT Madras, the 'Autism Lab' initiative studies 'Integrated Varmam Therapy' for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) using traditional Indian medical knowledge, clinical expertise, and technology. The institute has proposed to collaborate with the pediatric neurology team at AIIMS Jodhpur.