

AlmaMatters

The Planet-1 Newsletter

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IIM INDORE ALUMNI OFFICE

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सिद्धिमूलं प्रबन्धनम्
भा. प्र. सं. इन्दौर
IIM INDORE

Editor's Desk

Dear Alumni,

Warm greetings!

It gives me immense pleasure to present to you this issue of the Alumni Newsletter, which encompasses the news of the campus and alumni events. While we welcomed the new batches this month, we also have good news to share with our recent graduates.

First, the good news for the new alumni, the graduates of 2023. You don't need to join the Alumni Network. You're already in! You are now part of the thriving network of 9,000+ alumni of regular academic programmes.

Here are some of the advantages of being an alumnus and a few ways you can stay connected and engaged with your alma mater and the IIM Indore Alumni community.

- Register free at Alumni Portal using iimidr email id (at present, this portal serves alumni of regular academic programmes)
- Visit the IIM Indore Alumni Page and Alumni Portal to learn, discover, and engage with offerings from the alumni office, alumni committee, interest groups and regional chapters.
- Connect with your regional chapters to get together and network with alumni locally.
- View job postings
- Get involved in a shared interest group.
- Connect with the alumni association.
- Reunions: You can plan a class/section/batch meet, be it online or in person.
- Follow @iim_indore on Instagram, as well as the IIM Indore Alumni Committee on @alumni_iimi
- And most importantly, keep your profiles updated on the Alumni Portal; your profile can help you network with like-minded alumni and may land you a dream job. We encourage you to update your contact information and stay connected with us through our dedicated alumni portal. By doing so, you can receive the latest news, event

invitations, and opportunities to engage with your fellow alumni and the Institute.

This newsletter also contains an update on Rendezvous 2023 (Alumni-Fresher Meet), which was successfully conducted in offline mode after a gap of three years.

This alumni newsletter also features Entrepreneur of Planet-I, where you will see the journey and challenges faced by our gamer alumni, Mr. Sunit and learn from his experience.

I am glad to inform you that our PGP alumnus Mr. Ankur Bhajanka and Mohammad Akhtar (pursuing EFPM) featured in the Economic Times 40 under Forty annual list of India's brightest young business leaders. I congratulate them on their achievements.

As the students are back on campus, we will be resuming the alumni talk series. The Alumni Talk Series holds great importance for current students, faculty, and fellow alumni. It provides valuable insights, industry knowledge, and diverse perspectives from experienced professionals, fostering continuous learning and growth. It strengthens the bond within the community, promotes networking, and facilitates meaningful connections for future collaborations and mentorship opportunities. To date, we have successfully organized 22 enriching alumni talks, which are available at <https://www.iimidr.ac.in/alumni/videos/>

I request interested alumni (with at least 10 years of experience after graduating from the institute) to respond using the link <https://forms.gle/iKSVGKiY7dQss6xw7> by July 15, 2023. Once we receive your response, we will follow up with the selected speakers to finalize the schedule for the event.

This newsletter is distributed through email to nearly 10,000+ alumni. We know our alumni are doing amazing things, including founding and leading promising businesses and pursuing unique personal pursuits. If you have a personal or professional update you want to share in the next edition of the newsletter, please submit a brief update with your photograph and relevant web links.

We also invite our prolific book-writer-alumni to share information about their work. You may share information at alumnioffice@iimidr.ac.in. If you want to share any other significant achievement of yours, please do share it with us for larger dissemination among the community.

We welcome your suggestions at alumnioffice@iimidr.ac.in to make this newsletter a strong connect between the Institute and alumni. All IIMI Alumni Chapters are requested to submit the Alumni office regular updates on events and news that should be shared

with the IIMI community. These updates will be included in future editions of the newsletters.

To update your mailing address, employment and more, please write to alumnioffice@iimidr.ac.in with a cc to alumni@iimidr.ac.in. Remember to add these two email ids to your safe sender's list.

With warm regards,
Dipayan Datta Chaudhuri
Chair, Alumni
IIM Indore

P.S.: Visit us at <https://www.iimidr.ac.in/alumni/newsletter/> for previous issues.

News & Events

News from Campus and Alumni Chapters

Valedictory Function of Certificate Programme in Global Supply Chain Management (CPGSM) for Armed Forces Officers



IIM Indore proudly concludes yet another successful academic endeavor with the completion of its first batch of the Certificate Programme in Global Supply Chain Management (CPGSM), specially designed for armed forces officers. Prof. Himanshu Rai, Director, IIM Indore; Lt Gen PN Ananthanarayanan AVSM, SM, Commandant Infantry School Mhow; Prof. Prashant Salwan, Dean-Programmes, and Prof. Omkar D Palsule Desai, Programme Coordinator, graced the valedictory function, held on June 03, 2023. This momentous occasion marked the culmination of the rigorous and comprehensive programme, equipping the participants with invaluable insights into the complexities and intricacies of global supply chain management.

In a proud moment for all, the first batch concluded with a total of 49 armed forces officers (09 females and 40 males) from the Air Force (17), Army (08), and Navy (29) receiving their well-deserved certificates of completion.

Conference on Excellence in Research and Education – CERE 2023



The thirteenth edition of the most awaited Conference on Excellence in Research and Education – CERE 2023 was held at IIM Indore on June 09-11, 2023. The conference this year focused on the theme 'Organizations in Action: Digitalization and Sustainability in Management Practices.' The event witnessed participation from more than 200 participants. A total of 139 paper presentations, 6 keynote addresses, and 3 workshops were conducted during three days. The conference gathered many academicians, researchers, and experts to share their views on the theme, which was fruitful for everyone.

IIM Indore Celebrates International Yoga Day

IIM Indore has always been dedicated to holistic well-being and cultural preservation. On International Yoga Day, the institute organized two momentous events, highlighting its commitment to fostering a balanced and culturally rich environment.

The first event witnessed the entire IIM Indore community coming together for an enriching Yoga Session. Prof.



Himanshu Rai, Director, IIM Indore, inaugurated the event. He emphasized the significance of yoga, stating that skillfully performing any task is yoga, transforming individuals into yogis. He highlighted the comprehensive nature of Ashtanga Yoga, which encompasses not only asanas and pranayama but also Yama (ethical principles), Niyama (personal observances), and the subsequent stages of pratyahara (withdrawal of senses), dharana (concentration), dhyana (meditation), and samadhi (state of bliss). Prof. Rai also emphasized the five principles of Ahimsa (non-violence), Satya (truthfulness), Asteya (non-stealing), Aparigraha (non-possessiveness), and Brahmacharya (conservation of energy) as integral aspects of yoga. Furthermore, Prof. Rai elucidated the five rules of yoga, namely Shoucha (physical and spiritual cleanliness), Santosha (contentment), Tapa (discipline and perseverance), Swadhyaya (self-learning), and Ishvara Pranidhana (surrendering to the cosmic consciousness). He encouraged individuals to identify their connection with the universe, highlighting that comprehending relationships with parents, siblings, and colleagues is essential, and similarly, understanding the holistic bond with the air, water, land, and environment is crucial to discovering the purpose



of life.

The second event marked the certificate distribution ceremony for the Sanskrit Language Workshop organized at IIM Indore from September 01, 2022, to February 28, 2023. Under the brilliant mentorship of Professor Himanshu Rai, the workshop unraveled the intricacies of the Sanskrit language, while preserving India's cultural heritage. This transformative six-month journey enabled the participants to gain a deeper understanding of the nation's ancient culture, civilization, customs, and linguistic contribution to nation-building. Prof. Himanshu Rai presented certificates to the nine participants for their remarkable dedication and successful completion of the workshop.

IIM Indore Signs MoU with MP Dept. of Technical Education, Skill Development & Employment; and the Dept. of Cottage and Rural Industries



IIM Indore continues its journey of impactful collaborations with the signing of two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) that aim to contribute to the development and growth of Madhya Pradesh. The first MoU was signed with the Department of Technical Education, Skill Development & Employment, while the second MoU was signed with the Department of Cottage and Rural Industries, Government of Madhya Pradesh. The MoU was signed by Prof. Himanshu Rai, Director, IIM Indore, and Mr. Manu Srivastava, Principal Secretary of MP Department of Technical Education, Skill Development & Employment & the Department of Cottage and Rural Industries.

The **inauguration of our Air Monitoring Systems at three locations on our campus** took place in the presence of our Director, Prof. Himanshu Rai, on the occasion of WorldEnvironment Day on June 5, 2023.

How will these help? Well, take a deep breath, because these cutting-edge systems are here to enhance our campus environment in more ways than one!

By closely monitoring the air quality parameters such as Particulate Matter (PM2.5 and PM10), Carbon Dioxide (CO2), Total Volatile Organic Compounds (TVOC), Temperature, and Noise, we're empowering our campus community to:

🌿 Breathe cleaner air, minimizing the impact of particulate matter on our health and well-being.

🌿 Contribute to a sustainable future by keeping an eye on carbon dioxide levels and reducing our carbon footprint.

🌿 Enjoy healthier indoor environments with better control over volatile organic compounds.

🌿 Stay comfortable in well-regulated temperatures, fostering a conducive learning and working atmosphere.

🎵 Experience a peaceful soundscape that promotes concentration and tranquility.



MoUs with M.P. Pollution Control Board (MPPCB) and Madhya Pradesh Building Development Corporation (MPBDC)

Together, we're creating a campus that prioritizes environmental stewardship and the well-being of our community. Let's breathe easier and lead the way towards a greener future!

We are determined to contribute to nation building and environmental preservation, and today we take a giant leap forward. We are delighted to announce our collaboration with M.P. Pollution Control Board (MPPCB) and Madhya Pradesh Building Development Corporation (MPBDC). The MoUs were signed by our Director, Prof. Himanshu Rai, and Mr. Chandra Mohan Thakur, IAS, Member Secretary of MPPCB and Managing Director of MPBDC, on June 22, 2023.



Foreign army officers on campus



It was a privilege to host 21 esteemed foreign army officers, representing Kenya, Cambodia, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, and Cameroon on our campus. Their visit, as part of the Senior Command Course Ser 158 from the Army War College MHOW, focused on fostering international bonds and promoting cross-cultural understanding.

Our Director, Prof. Himanshu Rai, engaged in brief enriching discussions with the officers, highlighting IIM Indore's remarkable contributions to nation-building, research, and education. Furthermore, he shared how we provide specialized courses to facilitate a smooth transition for army officers as they embark on their corporate journeys.

During their visit, the officers also interacted with Col. Dr. Gururaj Gopinath Pamidi (Retd), CAO, and Prof. Prashant Salwan, Dean-Programmes, who provided valuable insights into our diverse academic programmes and shared significant administrative initiatives.

The officers also had the privilege to explore our vibrant campus. From the state-of-the-art Learning Centre to the well-equipped Sports Complex, serene Gardens, and other significant infrastructure facilities, the officers experienced the holistic environment at IIM Indore.

Hosting the foreign army officers on campus was an absolute delight for us. Their presence added an invaluable international dimension to our academic community.

Congratulations to the first batch of Senior Management Programme at IIM Indore!



The valedictory function was held on June 28, 2023, with the graduation of 43 participants.

Prof. Prabin Panigrahi, Dean-Faculty, and Programme Coordinators Prof. Mit Vachhrajani and Prof. Kajari Mukherjee were present on occasion. They commended the participants for successfully completing the 12-month course, highlighting its numerous benefits. The programme coordinators encouraged the graduates to continue their learning journey and stay updated with new skills and knowledge.

Throughout the programme, the participants gained exposure to the latest concepts and real-world experiences through hands-on modules. They were able to enhance their strategic thinking, leadership qualities, and overall competencies. The course equipped them with growth strategies and leadership skills necessary to thrive in today's highly competitive business environment. Moreover, it fostered a global mindset, emphasizing effective decision-making and systems thinking.

In the rapidly evolving business landscape, agility, adaptability, and a futuristic approach are crucial. The SMP at IIM Indore caters to these needs by shaping experienced professionals into dynamic leaders. If you are eager to unlock your leadership potential and elevate your career, seize this remarkable opportunity: <https://www.iimidr.ac.in/executive-programmes/long-duration-online-programmes/senior-management-programme-smp/>

Ullas 2023 - The Annual Cultural Extravaganza

The IIM Indore community came alive at the annual cultural extravaganza, Ullas 2023, held on June 24, 2023. It was a celebration like no other, with staff, families of employees, and children showcasing their incredible talents in singing, dancing, painting, and the art of turning "waste" into wonders!

The event kickstarted with great enthusiasm as Prof. Himanshu Rai, Director of IIM Indore, inaugurated the Creative Corner and the extravaganza, setting the stage for an unforgettable evening.



Our Chief Administrative Officer, Col. Gururaj Pamidi (Retd), lauded the tireless efforts of the organizing committee, whose dedication and passion made Ullas 2023 a resounding success. But that's not all! Our little stars stole the show at the dazzling fancy dress segment, where they transformed into their favorite characters. From Spider-Man to Rani Padmavati, and even Barbie dolls, it was a dream world brought to life!



Ullas 2023 was a magical fusion of Bollywood and Hollywood, where song and dance performances transported us to a realm of pure joy and entertainment. The energy was infectious, and the talent on display left us mesmerized!

We are immensely proud of our community for creating an unforgettable experience and showcasing their incredible abilities. Ullas 2023 truly epitomized the spirit of creativity, togetherness, and the pursuit of dreams.

Delighted to host **Prof. Rahul Telang, Trustee Professor at Carnegie Mellon University**, for a captivating

guest talk at IIM Indore. He emphasized the importance of research design in addressing real-world problems effectively. Prof. Telang shared two fascinating projects with our FPM students. His study on Telemedicine and Atrial Fibrillation highlighted the need for hospitals to enhance their value proposition in telemedicine offerings. The second project explored privacy labels on

Apple's App Store and revealed that self-disclosure by apps doesn't necessarily boost downloads but aids in raising awareness against extreme privacy infringements. Prof. Prashant Salwan, Dean Programmes, IIM Indore, coordinated this insightful session.



New Batch of PGP, PGP-HRM, FPM, and IPM-4th Year Begins at IIM Indore on June 30, 2023

- A total of 659 participants enroll in the new batches for the flagship programmes
- 32 participants from PGP and PGPHRM receive their Certificate of Academic Excellence
- IIM Indore receives "One of the Best Education Brands Award" from the Economic Times



IIM Indore welcomed the new batch of the Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGP), Post Graduate Programme in Human Resource Management (PGP-HRM), Fellow Programme in Management (FPM), and Integrated Programme in Management – Fourth Year (IPM-4th Year) on June 30, 2023. The inauguration took place in the presence of IIM Indore BoG Chairperson, Shri M M Murugappan and Prof. Himanshu Rai, Director, IIM Indore.

In his address, Shri Murugappan expressed his pride in the new batch, acknowledging the hard work they had put in to secure admission to the institute. Reflecting on the diverse backgrounds of

the students, he encouraged the students to make the most of their time, learn from each other, and find ways to contribute to the nation. Applauding the Director, Prof. Himanshu Rai, and the brilliant faculty, Shri Murugappan, said to the students, "Your time at IIM Indore will be a meaningful and rewarding experience. Under the leadership of the Director and the faculty members, you will learn valuable lessons and skills that will help you grow and evolve at personal and professional levels", he said. Shri Murugappan then touched upon the global landscape, describing it as an interesting and challenging time. He acknowledged the prevalence of violence and counter-violence, highlighting the shifting geopolitical dimensions that would impact both the students' future careers and the world at large. "In this changing scenario, make sure to remain curious, continuously learn, and reflect on the implications of these changes. These will also help you admire India's resilience", he said. He recognized India's aspirations as a young nation and the favorable demographic factors that presented significant opportunities for both the nation and the world. "While neighboring regions face difficulties, India has been emerging as a leader, and thus the importance of students like you grows as well, for you will be leading the nation's future once you graduate", he said. He reminded them not to lose their youthful energy and to embrace the joy of learning while contributing to the upliftment of the less privileged with their knowledge and contributions.

Prof. Rai began his address to the new batch by acknowledging the auspicious timing of their arrival. He shared the news that the institute had recently been honored with the prestigious "One of the Best Education Brands Award" by the Economic Times on June 29, 2023. This award was presented by Mr. Temjen Imna Along, Education & Tourism Minister, Govt. of Nagaland. "This recognition solidifies our standing as one of the country's top business schools", he said. He attributed this achievement to the institute's commitment to maintaining a contextually relevant curriculum that aligned with



industry standards. He also highlighted the presence of world-class faculty members who would provide the students with exceptional guidance. "We are dedicated to nurturing socially conscious managers and leaders who would actively contribute to nation-building, environmental protection, and sustainability", he added. He shared with the new batch the importance of being open to new experiences and continuous learning. "Your journey at IIM Indore would be transformative; thus, make sure to embrace each opportunity for growth and development. Find purpose in your pursuits, combining your vision and imagination, for these qualities help unlock the true essence and direction of our lives", he said. He urged the students to make the most of their time at the institution, emphasizing the value of learning and gaining

wisdom. He encouraged them to actively engage with their peers, recognizing that a wealth of knowledge and insights lay within their cohort.

PGP Chair Prof. Shrihari Sohani also warmly welcomed the new batches, acknowledging the beginning of their collective journey. He emphasized that the industry held a high regard for the institute's students due to the incorporation of real-life business cases and the utilization of effective teaching pedagogies. "By embracing the opportunities and putting forth your best efforts, you would be well-equipped to make valuable contributions and succeed in your endeavors", he told the batch.

Details of the batch:

Programme	Male	Female	Total
PGP	329	149	478
IPM	88	42	130
PGP HRM	3	32	35
FPM	10	6	16

On this occasion, the Chairperson and the Director presented the Certificate of Academic Excellence to the Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGP) and PGP in Human Resource Management (PGP-HRM) participants. The Certificate of Academic Excellence is a prestigious recognition awarded to the top 5% of the combined batch of PGP-I and IPM-IV. In total, 32 participants (30 from the PGP and two from the PGP-HRM) received their certificates.



Certificates to the two Best Rural Engagement Programme (REP) Reports presenting groups were also presented. The REP took place from 17th to 22nd October 2022 in collaboration with the Department of Panchayat and Rural Development, Government of Madhya Pradesh. It covered 13 districts and 109 villages, with a total of 649 participants residing in batches of six individuals each. The participants assessed various government schemes, including the social empowerment of women through Self-Help Groups (SHGs), the impact assessment of Pushkar and Amrit Schemes in Madhya Pradesh, and the response of citizens to the implementation strategy and success rate of the PM Awas Yojana. The two groups that prepared reports on Sakad Village in the Barwani district and Kanardee Village in the Ujjain district were honored with their certificates for outstanding work.

The best project groups undertook extensive research, conducted detailed discussions, and presented their findings effectively. "Their reports showcased a comprehensive understanding of the villages, accurately portraying the ground reality and offering valuable recommendations for enhancing government schemes", said Prof. Bhavani Shankar, REP Coordinator. Going beyond their assigned tasks, these groups actively engaged with the community, particularly the Self-Help Group (SHG) women. They facilitated meetings, provided guidance on financial improvement, and explored avenues for micro-enterprises and marketing. Additionally, their initiatives included organizing awareness programs to benefit the local population. "These outstanding efforts distinguished the best project groups and highlighted their commitment to making a positive impact on the rural communities they worked with", he added.

The induction programme concluded with briefings on computing facilities, library, infrastructure, and other significant initiatives, facilities, and services on campus beneficial for the new batch.

Delighted to welcome the 4th Batch of the Advanced Management Programme for Corporate Leaders!

The virtual academic orientation was held in the presence of Prof. Prashant Salwan, Dean Programmes, and also the Programme Coordinator for AMPCL, and Mr. Darayus Mehta, Founder-Director, VC Now.



It was such a delight to host **Mr. Suresh Narayanan, CMD, Nestle India** at our IIM Indore campus. We had a delightful discussion on education, business, geopolitics, and some possible initiatives we will take together!



IIM Indore is determined to contribute to the education sector, and play a significant role in nation-building. **Training the school principals from the CM Rise Programme** is yet another initiative.



The institute is training 94 school principals from the Tribal Department of Madhya Pradesh. The valedictory ceremony for the second batch of 35 principals was held on June 23, 2023, in the esteemed presence of Prof. Himanshu Rai, Director of IIM Indore. With the dedicated efforts of Prof. Shruti Tewari and Prof. Rajhans Mishra, our Programme Coordinators, we are making a tangible impact on education. We are excited to continue

our journey, gearing up to train 100+ CM Rise Principals.

Congratulations to the outstanding graduates of the 13th Batch of the Integrated Programme in Business Analytics, IPBA at IIM Indore!



The valedictory function was held on June 20, 2023, in the presence of Prof. Himanshu Rai, Director, IIM Indore, and Prof. Arnab Koley, Programme Coordinator. Prof. Rai redefined IPBA: Introspect, identify your Purpose, Be compassion, and take conscious Action, he said.

The Institute is delighted to present the report outlining the structural, organisational and procedural direction for the **bamboo scheme of Harda district of Madhya Pradesh**. Our team at IIM Indore developed a "mutual value creation" framework, which will help in improvement of livelihoods of all stakeholders involved in the bamboo economy. The Institute hosted Mr.

Rishi, the Collector of Harda, and Mr. Ankit, the DFO of Harda and discussed regarding how they will take the implementation of this report forward.



It was a delight to welcome **Prof. Ravi Ranjan, Fellow Rajya Sabha, Parliament of India, and Professor in the Department of Political Science** at Zakir Husain Delhi College, University of Delhi, as part of the IIM Indore Seminar Series on June 15, 2023.



Prof. Ranjan's research seminar titled **"Possibilities of Public Interest Legislation in India: An Analytical Probe into Potentialities of Private Members' Bill"** provided valuable

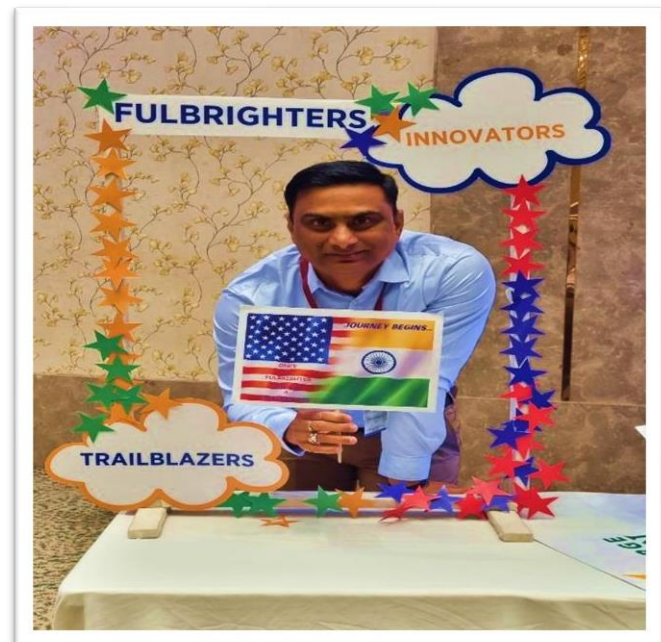
insights into the realm of public interest legislation and the potential impact of private members' bills in India. The talk was coordinated by Prof. Ajit Phadnis, Faculty, IIM Indore, fostering an engaging environment for a meaningful discussion and exploration of the subject matter. The engaging session contributed to the academic growth and knowledge dissemination within the institution.





Curious about #networkdynamics and their #modeling challenges? This insightful study by Prof. Sayantan Banerjee and his co-authors, published in Stat (SJR A Category), introduces a novel approach that divides time into blocks, allowing for smooth parameter evolution. Interested to learn more? Dive into the details:
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/20491573>

Scaling New Heights: IIM Indore Takes the Green Route to Success! Thrilled to be recognized as a Level 4 Transforming Institution in the Positive Impact Rating 2023. Our journey towards a sustainable future is soaring higher than ever!



Congratulations to Prof. Venkat Raman, Faculty, IIM Indore, for receiving the Fullbright Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Fellowship!



Rendezvous 2023

The Alumni Committee organized Rendezvous'23, the annual Alumni-Freshers meet on 3rd June, 2023. The event was held across three metropolitan cities- Delhi, Mumbai, and Bangalore after 3 online editions. This meet-up saw an engagement of more than 240 attendees, including incoming students, alumni, and faculty members across the three cities as well as online via Zoom.

The event started off on an auspicious note, with a video address by Director, Prof. Himanshu Rai welcomed the batch of 2024 and highlighted the importance of the alumni network.



The Chair Alumni, Prof. Dipayan Dutta Chaudhuri also virtually addressed the audience throwing light on some key features of the PGP programme for the benefit of the students. The CAO, Col. (Retd.) Gururaj Gopinath Padimi and Officer (Alumni Activities), Mr. Jigar Kantharia, were also present at Bengaluru and Mumbai venues, respectively and addressed alumni and incoming students.

The Alumni Committee introduced the student activity council and gave the incoming participants an idea of what to expect as they join Planet-I. Following this, a session of ice-breaker games was conducted, allowing the participants to interact with their alumni through fun and interactive activities.

With a jovial air, the informal networking session began. Alumni enthusiastically shared their experiences, stories, and advice with the incoming batch. The event proved to be a highly enriching experience for both groups, creating a unique opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals from different batches of IIM Indore.



Entrepreneurs of Planet-I



Sunit Gajbhiye

Alumni : PGP Batch: 2009-2011

Co-founder, Gamerboard | Co-founder, Chief

Business Officer at

Leo1(Financepeer)|Author of Untamed Origins

Email - sunit@gamerboard.live

Website: <https://www.gamerboard.live/>

LinkedIn Profile:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/sunit-gajbhiye-2aa4b631/>

How did your entrepreneurial journey start?

After IIM Indore, I worked for almost a decade across India and the US. During work, I also ended up traditionally publishing a fiction novel called Untamed Origins. I was at a fork in life of taking up a role in the US (which is a dream too) vs doing something of my own and adding value to the market. I took the leap of faith and started my first company - Financepeer (LEO1). It is there that I realized what entrepreneurship and business is. After gaining this new knowledge, there was never going back to do just a job for money. Today, after earning a decent sum of money, I have chosen to align my passion for gaming (I am happy to know that Arena as a gaming club is still running in our college after I started it in 2009-10) and work with my second venture - Gamerboard. The journey is tough, full of problems and high risk. That's the way I love it because the rewards are exceptional too!

Briefly describe your business and why you chose this particular field?

Gamerboard is a gaming tech business which is a reputation platform for all gamers to get discovered, starting with core, mid core gamers (games like Pubg, Valorant, Free Fire, COD, CS, DOTA, FIFA, etc). Behind the scenes, we are building a platform based dev tool to create and manage gaming tournaments end to end.

During my engineering days, I used to play Counter Strike (CS) at the India level. My first earnings in life were through this game. Of course at that time or even today, Gaming is not seen as a lucrative career option in India. Being a passion and a personal problem, I want to

change it for gamers today to make gaming a way of life and be socially accepted for being what gamers are.

What were the major challenges you faced in starting your business?

Starting a business, especially when you are not from a business background, is hard and it cannot be sugar coated. 3 areas require constant attention and ideas while moving the business ahead - Problem, Market and Scalability. Once that is clear, a tougher challenge emerges - Teamwork. Being intelligent has one major drawback. Intelligent people usually are bad team players. Businesses, like any other game, are all about teamwork - finding the right teammates and even more - aligning with the team to work towards a single goal.

Did you go for external funding for your start-up/ firm? What factors helped you to secure such funding?

Yes, I did secure external funding for both my startups. Here is where we understand the true power of Networking (we talk a lot about it in college but don't really know what it is). Networking is the ability to use your connections to navigate FASTER and reach your goals. This is the single most important factor which helps secure funding fastest.

What would be your advice for an MBA who is considering a startup?

I would advise all IIM I grads to do their own business at a favorable point in time. Isn't that why you did MBA in the first place? Never give up! It is going to be an extremely hard journey, an imbalanced and at times a depressing life. But guess what - hardship makes you valuable. Greatness is all about imbalance. Period. Close your eyes and remember the toughest moments in your life when you cried. After you overcame it, how did you feel?

That's precisely how!

And yes, by the end of it do it for 2 reasons - adding value to the society in some manner and the money! Die rich!

IIM Indore EPGP (One Year Full Time MBA Programme) Alumni Committee



The IIM Indore EPGP (One Year Full Time MBA Programme) presents the Alumni Committee, which aims to provide a platform for #networking, #interaction, and knowledge enrichment with the help of the ever-expanding alum network of Planet-I.

The committee encourages the #Alumni to be #brand #ambassadors and offers a great way to stay connected to the #Alma #Mater!

The committee seeks to foster engagement of the batch through Outreach Programs, Guest Lectures, Workshops, and Mentorship Programs.

We thank the committee for their sincere efforts.

The Economic Times 40 under 40

India Inc's brightest young leaders were felicitated at a glittering ceremony in Mumbai on June 27, 2023. It was the culmination of a rigorous process that saw a marquee jury select the list of ET 40 Under Forty leaders. We congratulate Mr. Ankur Bhjanka (Alumni) and Mr. Mohd. Athar (pursuing EFPM) for their selection in this prestigious award.

Ankur Bhajanka, 39

Partner, McKinsey & Co

PGP Alumni Batch: 2005-2007

And First Rank Holder 2005-2007

Success to me: Making sure you are giving your best to everything you do and for everyone around you.

Career turning point: When I started working on long-term transformation with leading entrepreneurs/ CEOs, being able to make a real difference to organisations helped me rediscover my own energy for consulting.

The best advice I ever got: The best way to broaden your impact is by focusing your energy on helping people around you be more successful.



Mohammad Athar, 40

Partner, Leader Industrial Development & Investment Promotion, PwC

Education: Pursuing EFPM from IIM Indore

Success to me: Positively impacting the lives of many, and being able to celebrate it along with family and friends.

Career turning point: Deciding to move to Ahmedabad from Mumbai to work with the Gujarat government on a strategy and investment promotion engagement promoting Vibrant Gujarat.

The best advice I ever got: Pace your career like a marathon, you may be leading the first few laps, but it's important to finish the race and end on top.

Announcements

Upcoming Executive Programmes

IIM Indore is at the forefront of providing carefully curated programmes that cater to the needs of executives. We help Executives gain new perspectives in an increasingly complex business environment. Our courses deliberate relevant real-world business challenges, and we keep on evolving them with world trends. We impart learning which provides immediate value and impact on the organizations. Executive Education Programmes at IIM Indore consist of a wide array of offerings carefully designed to meet your specific needs. The programmes are conducted at our campuses in Indore and Mumbai, online through technology-enabled platforms, and at specified client locations. We have a diverse portfolio of on-campus and online Executive Education Programmes for working professionals at different levels. Please explore the programmes listed below to find the programme which suits your requirement.

[Customized Programmes](#)

[Short Duration Programmes \(Online and On-campus\)](#)

[Long Duration Online Programmes](#)

[Executive Programmes in UAE](#)

[General Management Programme for Executives \(GMPE\)](#)

[Virtual Learning Programme for Executives \(VLPE\)](#)

[Certificate Course in Business Management for Defence Officers](#)

[Faculty Development Programme \(FDP\)](#)

For more information or assistance, please contact:

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