

AlmaMatters

The Planet-1 Newsletter

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IIM INDORE ALUMNI OFFICE

Edited by:
Prof. Ganesh Kumar N.
Chair, Alumni



सिद्धिमूलं प्रबन्धनम्
भा. प्र. सं. इन्दौर
IIM INDORE

Editor's Desk

Dear Alumni,

No matter how hard the past, you can always begin again – Buddha.

Let us celebrate the dawn of this new year with gratitude for this new opportunity to live our dreams.

As we head into the new year, I am excited to share our second Newsletter with a new title. The title “AlmaMatters – The Planet-I Newsletter” was selected by the alumni through a two-step online poll. The title was selected based on the maximum votes out of the pool of eight different titles.

In recent years, entrepreneurs have been widely regarded as the driving force behind economic progress. We are starting a new section on Entrepreneurs of Planet-I beginning this month. In this section, we will get to know our alumni entrepreneurs and their businesses. While we learn from their experience, existing students and alumni will also get inspiration to embark on an entrepreneurial journey.

We'd love to hear from any of our alums who've started their businesses and would like to feature them here. We will celebrate their success together in the community. We also invite our prolific book-writer-alumni to share information about their work. You may share information on alumnioffice@iimidr.ac.in.

The newsletter is still in its infancy; we welcome your suggestions on alumnioffice@iimidr.ac.in to make this newsletter a strong connect between 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.

I strongly encourage you to

- participate in local networking to establish mutually beneficial relationships between the IIMI Alumni Association and its alumni within the regional chapters.
- Initiate events that bring value to the Alumni network

I wish you and your families a very Happy New Year, have a great time ahead and stay safe.

With warm regards,

Prof. Ganesh Kumar N.
Chair, Alumni
IIM Indore

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

News & Events

Alumni Talk Series "Wisdom" (प्रज्ञा)

The Institute is hosting a series of alumni lectures to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Institute and to honour the accomplishments of several of our alumni. The Alumni Talk Series "Wisdom" (प्रज्ञा) will invite distinguished alumni to share their work and wisdom (e.g. the innovations they crafted and implemented, reinventing business models etc.) with the IIM Indore community. This series seeks to foster relationships with alumni, existing participants, and faculty.

This year-long series is a part of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations #IIMlat25 on completing 25 glorious years of the Institute. We intend to conduct 25 talks by our alumni in the coming 12 months.

The speakers will share their experience and innovation in dealing with a pandemic or some emerging trends in their domain of expertise to inspire the next generation of graduates. They will share with us a 45-minute live video on Zoom Platform. In addition, we will record the video and keep it in our repository to live talk.

Speakers in December 2021

Alumni Talk No. 4



Speaker:

Mr. Satish Kumar

Batch: PGP 1998 – 2000

Vice President

Leads the Client Engagements in the Commercial Vehicle Segment at KPIT, USA

Topic: Mobility Industry in the Digital Age – Preparing for the future

Date Saturday, December 11, 2021, at 8:30 pm (IST)

Alumni Talk No. 5



Speaker:

Mr. Vikas Bansal

Batch: PGP 1999 – 2001

Productivity Coach, Speaker and Author “Be Your Boss”

Amazon #1 Best Seller in India and the US

Topic: Building Brand YOU

Date and time: Sunday, December 26, 2021, at 4:00 pm (IST)

Earlier talks

1. Mr. Rahul Razdan, Batch: PGP 1998 – 2000 Topic: Future trends in the Indian technology industry: Preparing for the challenges ahead.
2. Mr. Siddharth Sethi, Batch: EPGP 2003 – 2004 Topic: Accessing Capital Market: An Entrepreneur’s Emotional Journey.
3. Mr. Manvendra Gupta, CFA Batch: PGP 1998 – 2000 Topic: Data and AI for Investment Management.

News from Regional Alumni Chapters

We are pleased to share the achievements of our Alumni:

Retail Convenience start-up DroptheQ raises US 1.5 Mn in Seed Round

DroptheQ – a retail and food-tech venture is helmed by our alum, Mr. Vaibhal Singhal, EPGP Batch: 2016-2017. He is the Co-Founder and CEO of DroptheQ. They have the vision to eliminate the Billing Counter Queues from all Retail formats using the latest and best technologies available in the world. DroptheQ has developed the solution, Scan & Go for Modern Retail stores. They plan to bundle it up with AI and ML-based theft prevention technology and introduce this to Indian retailers and customers.

[Read More](#)

Stack raises \$4.5 million in a seed round from a clutch of investors

Mr. Vedit Varshney, our alum from IPM Batch: 2011-2016, is the founding member of Stack, founded in 2021. Stack, an automated investing app for millennials, has raised \$4.5 million in a seed round led by global marquee investors such as Y Combinator, Harvard Management, Goodwater Capital, Soma Capital, Uncommon Capital and Earlsfield Capital. Stack is bringing investing on autopilot experience for everyday retail investors.

[Read More](#)

How An IIM-Indore Graduate from Himachal Connected Dots To Map A New Route

Shimla based IIM-Indore graduate Ms. Oshin Goel, Alum of IPM Batch 2012-2017 had ample opportunities to take up a cushy job with the MNCs. But she opted for a less travelled path believing her venture, Vibrantdots, can set an example for youngsters who believe in creating their market. Vibrantdots, set up in 2017, imparts out-bound learning programmes to youth from schools, colleges and management institutes across India. The programmes are designed to build leadership skills apart from imparting practical training in administrative functions.

[Read More](#)

Genesis '21 (tri-union for the batches of 2019, 2020, and 2021)



The Alumni Committee of IIM Indore organized Genesis 21, the first of its kind tri-union for the batches of 2019, 2020, and 2021, on December 12, 2021. The event saw engagement from numerous alumni coming home to their alma mater to relive their golden days at Planet-i with their batchmates and faculty members.

[Read More](#)

IIM Indore signs MoU with Panchayat & Rural Development Department



The Government of Madhya Pradesh, Panchayat & Rural Development Department (R&RDD), is exploring partnerships to harness Rs. 50,000 crore of business in Madhya Pradesh. As a part of this endeavour, an MoU has been signed with IIM Indore to facilitate the promotion of an ecosystem for the marketing of SHG products to Business Centers.

[Read More](#)

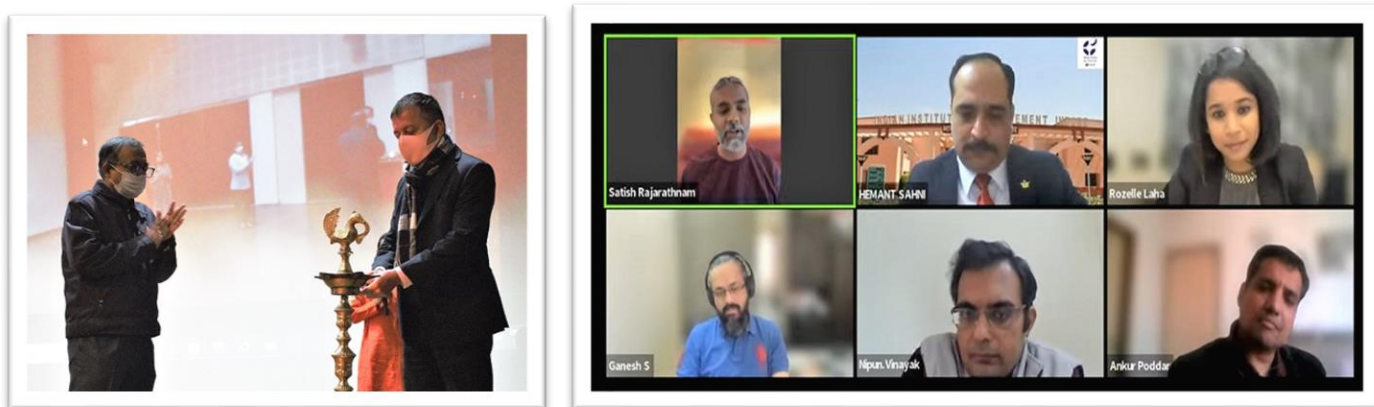
SAMPARK – A guest talk



With an objective to facilitate the participants to gain insights from the industry experts and enhance their knowledge and skills, SAMPARK – a guest talk was conducted online on December 19, 2021. SAMPARK was organized by Aarohan – the student body of the Post Graduate Programme in Management for Working Executives – PGPMX. The session was moderated by Prof. Prashant Salwan, Chair-Industry Interface Office and Faculty, IIM Indore.

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Prabodhan'21



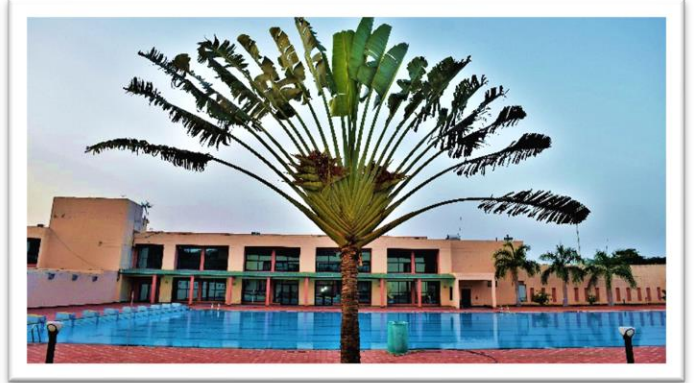
The annual leadership conclave of the Executive Post Graduate Programme in Management (EPGP) – Prabodhan took place at IIM Indore on December 18-19, 2021, in hybrid mode. The event was inaugurated by Prof. Himanshu Rai, Director, IIM Indore. On occasion, Prof. Prabin Panigrahi, Chair-EPGP and EPGP Batch 2021 participants, were also present.

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GLIMPSES OF CAMPUS



Academic Block



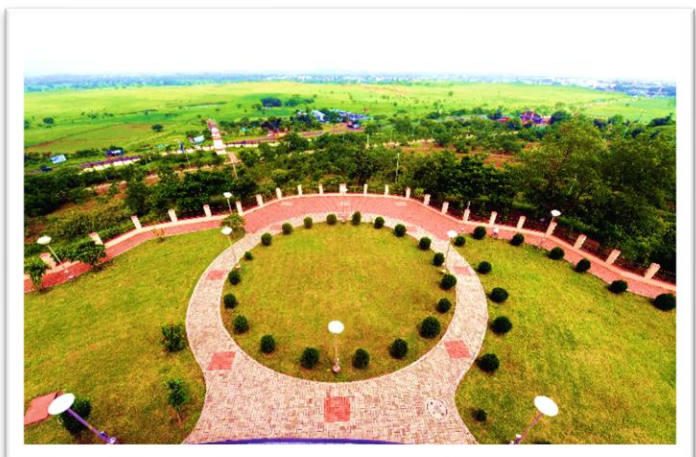
Swimming Pool, Sports Complex



Auditorium - 2



Sunflower Road



Bayview, Executive Residence - 2



Pathway to Library & Admin Block

Entrepreneurs of Planet-I



Kamaldeep Singh Bhatia, Batch: PGP 1999-2001
Co-Founder and Chief Business Officer
www.CollegeDoors.com
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kamaldeep-bhatia/>

How did your entrepreneurial journey start? The thoughts were seeded in IIM Indore itself but I could not bite the bullet then. It took me 11 years of working in the corporate world to explore if entrepreneurial journey was right for me or not. I finally decided to take the plunge in 2012 and started a process consulting company along with two friends. While education was very close to our hearts, we did not have the right team at that point to venture into this space and instead decided to focus on process consulting till the right time arrives. Finally, in 2015, we got the missing links and started Seshat technologies Pvt Ltd which owns the brand CollegeDoors. Whether it was Ask to Solve, the consulting company that we founded or CollegeDoors, I have never regretted being an entrepreneur even once. It has been an extremely exciting and humbling experience.

Briefly describe your business and why you chose this particular field? CollegeDoors is a B2B Edtech platform. We empower small, medium and underorganized coaching institutes through our content and technology. India has a large number of highly capable teachers in supplemental education. But non-core activities eat up a huge time and mindshare of these teachers. We take away the burden of managing these activities so that they can focus on their core job of teaching. Our mission is to enable them to create success stories.

What were the major challenges you faced in starting your business? We were among the first players to enter this market. While there was, and still is, a huge underserved demand in the sector that we operate in, our biggest challenge was to make our customers believe in the power of technology and get early adopters. Our high quality

content, reliable technology and extremely customer centric processes have helped us win the trust of our target segment.

Did you go for external funding for your start-up/ firm? What factors helped you to secure such funding? No, we have not gone for any external funding except for a small friends and family round. We are largely bootstrapped till now.

What would be your advice for an MBA who is considering a start-up? Please focus on creating value and not valuation. Creating value may take time, you may feel like giving up or taking shortcuts but keep persisting. You will most likely not succeed immediately, we all try and fail and try again and fail again multiple times before succeeding. Never stop trying.

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:

Alumni Office

Indian Institute of Management Indore

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