

# AlmaMatters

*The Planet-1 Newsletter*



Photo Credit: Manoj, Gardner

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IIM INDORE ALUMNI OFFICE

Edited by:

Prof. Ganesh Kumar N.  
Chair, Alumni



सिद्धिमूलं प्रबन्धनम्  
भा. प्र. सं. इन्दौर  
IIM INDORE

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# Editor's Desk

Dear Alumni,

This issue of the newsletter incorporates the initiatives of the Institute to reach the diverse alumni across programmes. We also update you on the achievements of the students, faculty and alumni and other campus news.

It is that time of the year when the campus is brimming with activity and becomes lush green as you can see in the cover picture of this newsletter. This year is special because we are having a near normal academic year after a two year hiatus.

As the students are back on campus, we have resumed Alumni Talk Series Wisdom (प्रज्ञा). The talk by Mr. Raj Kumar Sharma, PGP Alumni, sheds valuable insights on the topic of Digital Transformation in Finance. You can view the videos of the talk series on the [YouTube channel](#) of the Institute as well as on the website and other social media handles of the Institute.

Alumni of IIM Indore are widely recognized for their social endeavors and inclusive innovation. In this edition, we will learn about the journey of successful Planet-I Alumnus-entrepreneur Dr. Anita Sharma whose venture DriveOnMyOwn provides driving solutions for people with reduced mobility, and her other venture is India's first digital media platform for researchers/ scholars that enriches and celebrates the research ecosystem.

It gives me great pleasure to unveil the IIM Indore Alumni Association logo in this issue. The Institute's board of governors has approved the use of this logo. The Association will use this logo in all of its official correspondence.

As the impact of the pandemic fades, Alumni regional/city chapters are organising face-to-face meetings and reunions. You are encouraged to attend these meets in large numbers.

The Institute has identified numerous unmet corporate and societal requirements. It has successfully developed a variety of courses and programmes to address these

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requirements, many of which will have a long-term impact and help people/ organizations. In this edition, you can see how the Institute works to make MoUs with other Institutes/firms with similar goals and to offer different executive education programmes to meet the needs of corporates.

We are pleased to announce that we have retained our position in the top ten management institutions in the country by achieving the seventh position in this year's NIRF management institutions ranking. We hope to achieve greater success in the coming years.

IIMI 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:alumnioffice@iimidr.ac.in) with a cc to [alumni@iimidr.ac.in](mailto:alumni@iimidr.ac.in). Remember to add these two email ids to your safe sender's list.

With warm regards,

Prof. Ganesh Kumar N.  
Chair, Alumni  
IIM Indore

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

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## 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.

You may watch the Alumni Talk Series videos on:

<https://www.iimidr.ac.in/alumni/videos/>

### Talk(s) during the month

#### Alumni Talk No. 12

**Speaker:**

Mr. Raj Kumar Sharma

Batch: PGP 1999 – 2001

Finance Operations Partner, Finastra

Topic: Digital Transformation in Finance

Date: Saturday, July 23, 2022, Time: 4.00 pm (IST)



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## 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.
4. Mr. Satish Kumar, Batch: PGP 1998 – 2000 Topic: Mobility Industry in the Digital Age – Preparing for the future.
5. Mr. Vikas Bansal, Batch: PGP 1999 – 2001 Topic: Building Brand YOU.
6. Mr. Mohit Verma, PGP 1999 – 2001 Topic: Shifting Sands - A Case for Sustainable Financing.
7. Mr. Roopank Chaudhary, Batch: PGP 1999 – 2001 Topic: The World of Human Capital Consulting and Why Everyone Wants a Piece of It.
8. Mr. Kamaldeep Singh Bhatia, Batch: PGP 1999 – 2001 Topic: De-mystifying EdTech: Opportunities for Start-ups.
9. Mr. Naveen Pandey, Batch: PGP 1999 – 2001 Topic: A Career in Sales: From someone who ended there by accident.
10. Mr. Rohit Chawla , Batch: PGP 1998 – 2000, Topic: Indian Banking: Past trends and the future.
11. Mr. Arvind Kanda, Batch: PGP 1999 – 2001, Topic: Doing good AND doing well in the Pharma industry.

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## News from Campus and Alumni Chapters

### IIM Indore Signs an MoU with IIFM Bhopal



IIM Indore is keen to contribute to nation-building and ensure taking initiatives for environmental protection, nature conservation, and encouraging sustainability. In line with this, the institute has joined forces with the Indian Institute of Forest Management Bhopal (IIFM Bhopal). The MoU that intends to provide opportunities for professional, scholarly, and academic interaction on the relevant issues was signed by Prof. Himanshu Rai, Director, IIM Indore, and Mr. Subhash Chandra (IFS), Director, IIFM Bhopal, on June 29, 2022. [Read More](#)

### GMPe Batch 6 Dubai Concludes at IIM Indore

IIM Indore offers several executive programmes in UAE, Middle East, and GCC nations. One of such programmes is the General Management Programme for Working Executives – GMPe Dubai. The valedictory function of the sixth batch of this programme took place at IIM Indore on July 01, 2022. The event took place in the presence of Prof. Himanshu Rai, Director, IIM Indore. Prof. Subin Sudhir, Chair – Executive Education, and Prof. Manoj Motiani, Programme Coordinator, GMPe, were also present on occasion. [Read More](#)



## Alumni Meet for Six Batches of GMPE Held at IIM Indore



IIM Indore ensures remaining connected with its students even once they graduate. The institute has been conducting annual get-togethers for the alumni of its flagship programmes. However, this time, an alumni meet was conducted for the participants of an executive programme, wherein over 30 alumni came together to relive and recreate their memories. Alumni of six batches of the General Management Programme for Executives – GMPE came together on July 03, 2022. The meet was conducted in the presence of Prof. Himanshu Rai, Director, IIM Indore; Prof. Ganesh Nidugala, Chair – Alumni Affairs; Prof. Subin Sudhir, Chair – Executive Education and Prof. Saripalli Bhavani Shankar, Programme Coordinator, GMPE. [Read More](#)

## New batches of EFPM and EFPMG Inaugurated at IIM Indore



IIM Indore welcomed the new batches of the Executive Fellow Programme in Management (EFPM – 12th Batch) and Executive Fellow Programme in Management & Governance (EFPMG – 2nd Batch) on July 04, 2022. The batches were inaugurated by Prof. Himanshu Rai, Director, IIM Indore. Lt. Gen. Devendra Pratap Pandey, Commandant – AWC, was the Chief Guest for the occasion. Prof. Abhishek Mishra, Chair – FPM; and Prof. Biswanath Swain & Prof. Ajit Phadnis, Faculty, IIM Indore, and Col. Gaurav Rathaur, Army War College, were also present. [Read More](#)

## IIM Indore Team Wins the PwC Whitepaper Competition



Adding yet another achievement to the hall of fame, IIM Indore's team has emerged as the national winner at the PwC Whitepaper Competition #PwCEngage. The team comprising Aveek Choudhury and Ishan Anshul (IPM 2018) competed with over 330 teams from 6 marquee business schools and won the competition. The results were declared on July 12, 2022.

The team has received a prize of Rs. 50,000 along with PwC merchandise. IIM Indore congratulates them for their accomplishment and wishes them all the best in their future endeavors. [Read More](#)

## IIM Indore Receives NIRF Rank #7

The Education Ministry of India Government of India announced the National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) India Ranking 2022 on July 15, 2022. Maintaining its position in the top ten management institutions, the Indian Institute of Management Indore (IIM Indore) received the 7th rank this year. The results were declared by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Education Minister. IIM Indore stands on Rank #6 amongst all the IIMs in the NIRF India Rankings 2022. This year, 7254 institutions participated in the ranking.

IIM Indore's Director, Prof. Himanshu Rai, said that the institute is delighted to maintain a position in the top ten institutions in the management category and receive the 7th position in the NIRF Ranking 2022. 'Celebrating our silver jubilee in the academic year 2021-22, we have added numerous accomplishments to our hall of fame. We continue to enrich our academics and enhance our research through collaborations with top-notch institutions



globally', he said. IIM Indore now has foreign collaborations with over 40 foreign education institutes in 18 nations, providing a platform to our participants and faculty members for student exchange and collaborations. The institute is determined to contribute to nation-building and thus, has associated with several government bodies and PSUs for numerous projects. 'This year has been a journey of learning, hard work, and progress. The credit for this goes to the entire institute, which has worked diligently to make this happen. We intend to do even better in the coming years, said Prof. Rai. [Read More](#)

### **Valedictory function of the first batch of the Certificate Programme in Digital Marketing & Strategy (CPDMS)**



The valedictory function of the first batch of the Certificate Programme in Digital Marketing & Strategy (CPDMS) took place on July 27, 2022. Prof. Saumya Ranjan Dash, Dean - Programmes; Prof. Subin Sudhir, Chair - Executive Education & Prof. Sudipta Mandal, Programme Coordinator congratulated the graduating participants. A total of 94 participants received their Certificate of Completion on occasion. Many congratulations to the graduates!

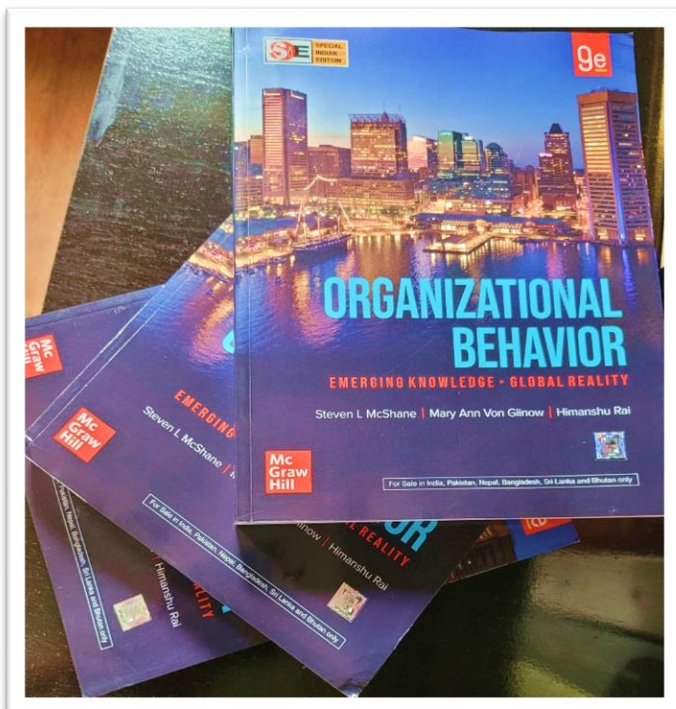
### **Many congratulations to the graduating participants of the first batch of the Executive Programme in Advanced Marketing Management - #EPAMM**

The valedictory function took place on July 20, 2022, in the presence of Prof. Subin Sudhir, Chair - Executive Education; Prof. Sanjeev Tripathi & Prof. Aditya Billore, Faculty, IIM Indore.



## Prof. Himanshu Rai conquered Kilimanjaro

Congratulations to our Director, Prof. Himanshu Rai, for his brilliant Uhuru summit (Mount #Kilimanjaro - the tallest mountain in #Africa, and the highest free-standing mountain in the world)! The entire #IIMI family felicitated Prof. Rai for his outstanding achievement on July 25, 2022. Prof. Rai shared his experience of the entire expedition - the robust preparation before the trek, the challenges he faced, and the lessons learned, and much more. He inspired everyone with his positivity, managerial skills, and his love for mountaineering.



### Book on Organisational Behaviour by Prof. Himanshu Rai

We are delighted to announce that the Indian adaptation of the Classic Organisational Behaviour book by McShane, co-authored by Prof. Himanshu Rai, Director, IIM Indore, has been published by McGraw Hill.

The book contains deep insights from Indian Knowledge Systems that make the OB theories richer and more relevant to the Indian context.

## Entrepreneurs of Planet-I



**Anita Sharma, FPM 2016**

**Founder of**  
Inkpothub and Drive on My Own Foundation

**Email** - [anita@inkpothub.com](mailto:anita@inkpothub.com)

**Company URL:**  
Inkpothub  
Website: [www.inkpothub.com](http://www.inkpothub.com)  
YouTube Channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/INKPOTHUB/about>

Drive On My Own Foundation:

Website: [www.driveonmyown.org](http://www.driveonmyown.org) (to be launched on August 15, 2022)

YouTube Channel: [https://www.youtube.com/c/AnitaSharma\\_0810/about](https://www.youtube.com/c/AnitaSharma_0810/about)LinkedIn

Profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dranitasharma/>

### **1. How did your entrepreneurial journey start? Briefly describe your business and why you chose this particular field?**

Thanks for asking this question.

I run two ventures.

a) Drive On My Own Foundation

Drive On My Own Foundation is a car driving solutions provider for people with disabilities.

I am a person with a disability. My life experience of being dependent on someone else for commutation and mobility was miserable until I started driving my car. It brought a lot of independence and freedom to my life. Watching my drive, a couple of people contacted me to seek help to learn car drive my modified car. I did some research and found that there was no car driving training facility for people with disabilities in India.

I realized the market gap. And started 'Drive On My Own Foundation' to help people with disabilities to fulfil their car driving dreams possible.

b) Inkpothub

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Inkpothub is a digital storytelling platform for research scholars. It shares stories which are inspirational and motivational. Hence, support potential researchers to make their career decisions toward research.

I completed my fellowship at IIM Indore. The FPM journey was very fulfilling. Yet it was at times lonely and difficult. The whole experience remained in silos, family and friends never understood the journey.

I found that no one was talking about researchers, their experiences, their good and bad times.

My co-founder and I decided to curate the stories of researchers. Hence, Inkpothub came into existence. Since 2020, we published more than 200 stories. Inkpothub is now a one-stop solution for scholars in management.

## **2. What were the major challenges you faced in starting your business?**

- Gaining the trust of family

I quit my IIM professorship job to take up an entrepreneurial role full-time. It took a lot of time and external validation to make my family trust the decision of quitting my job.

I came back home, set up my office, and worked tirelessly. The efforts and news/ media attention made everyone believe in me.

- Gender-stereotypes

This is quite common and I am not an exception. I keep on hearing discriminatory remarks. Initially, it affected me but the stories shared by all IIM women groups helped me find the solutions.

As a female car instructor, I am often asked if I could drive a car, leaving aside being an instructor.

- Disability

An entrepreneur with a disability is usually considered a role model or a subject of inspiration. I at times experience mobility and accessibility-related challenges

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

No, I did not go for external funding for my firms. I have bootstrapped it. Built it from the scratch. Enjoyed the journey so far. I may look for external funding for scale and growth.

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#### **4. What would be your advice for an MBA who is considering a startup?**

I have taught 'entrepreneurship' to PGP students for 16 years.

If we split the word 'entrepreneur' in Hindi way then it is अंतर प्रेरणा.

An entrepreneur is someone passionate, intrinsically motivated, and ready to solve a more significant problem.

The entrepreneurial journey is difficult but worth a try.

One must take a leap of faith and take risks to build something of their own.

#### **Articles to know more about Anita and her ventures:**

Yourstory Article:

<https://yourstory.com/socialstory/2019/03/anita-sharma-helping-disabled-persons-drive-9cxacdpoq/amp>

The Better India Article:

<https://www.thebetterindia.com/175407/punjab-woman-driving-school-differently-abled-inspiring-india>

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# Announcements

## Logo of IIM Indore Alumni Association

We are glad to announce that the competent authority has approved the logo of the IIM Indore Alumni Association. Mr. Siddharth Sethi, Alumni EPGP Class of 2004–06 and BoG member of IIM Indore and members of Global Executive Council of IIM Indore Alumni Association, helped us design this logo. We gratefully acknowledge their contribution.



## Junior Alumni Committee

The Junior Alumni Committee selections were made after five rounds of screening that tested the members' communication and presentation skills, teamwork, creativity, and knowledge. Every round was consciously designed to allow applicants to display their skill set. The final team consists of individuals from varied backgrounds across diverse domains and experiences.

Let us welcome members of the Junior Alumni Committee for the year 2022-23:



- Ananya Jadon, PGP 22-24
- Vaisakh Kuruppath Ramesh, IPM 19-24
- Vedant Jain, IPM 19-24
- Gautam Singaraju, PGP 22-24
- Swarnima Anand, IPM 19-24
- Hardik Naresh Waghchaude, PGP 22-24
- Saim Mohit, PGP 22-24
- Shubhrak Prakash, PGP 22-25
- Aakash Verma, PGP 22-24
- Khushali Jain, PGP 22-24



# IIM INDORE ALUMNI DELHI NCR MEETUP!

IIMIAA in association with Delhi NCR Chapter is hosting an  
in-person Meet-up with



OUR GUEST SPEAKER

## MR. RAHUL RAZDAN

CEO, Reliance Jio Messaging Services Ltd.  
& Alum IIMI Batch of Origin(1998-2000)

Join him for a candid chat as he shares his journey that started around two  
decades ago at IIM Indore"


Register below to engage with him personally during the breakout networking sessions.

Registration form link: <https://forms.gle/dihrGEp4TWFYiFWr6>

 **6th Aug**  
4pm Onwards



**Venue  
Partner**

 9th Floor, Welldone Tech Park, Sohna Road,  
Sector 48, Gurugram (Near McDonald's)

**Welcome  
Address**

**Networking  
session & High tea**

**Contact:**

Ashish : +91 9920148814  
Jayvardhan : +91 9811262862  
Vikash : +91 9867010221

**Contribution: INR 500 includes High tea and snacks**

Scan the QR code for payment by: Paytm / Google pay/ UPI alternatively,  
UPI: 9920148814@paytm, Google pay, Paytm @9920148814



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## 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

Prabandh-Shikhar, Rau-Pithampur Road, Indore 453556, Madhya Pradesh, INDIA

Tel: +91 731 2439657/666, Email: [\*\*alumnioffice@iimidr.ac.in\*\*](mailto:alumnioffice@iimidr.ac.in)