

AlmaMatters

The Planet-I Newsletter



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IIM INDORE ALUMNI OFFICE

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Editor's Desk

Dear Planet-I Alumni,

This month, the campus resonated with the joy of reconnection. The Class of 2014 returned to the hillock to mark their 10-year reunion, reliving the night canteen banter, classroom adventures, and bonds forged in the chaos of deadlines. Meanwhile, the pioneering Class of 2000 celebrated their silver jubilee — a heartwarming homecoming for the PGP Batch of Origin. The Class of 2004, too, came back to the grounds where it all began, proving once again that time may fly, but the ties to IIM Indore only deepen.

These reunions aren't just nostalgic events; they are powerful reminders of who we are — a family spread across the globe, bound by shared dreams and common values. In Prof. Himanshu Rai's words, it's a time to "be fearless, take that first step, and rediscover the strength within." That message echoes through every hug shared and memory relived during these milestones.

Our alumni continue to redefine success across domains. This edition salutes the Entrepreneurs of Planet-I who embody the spirit of innovation and resilience. Khyati Madaan (PGP 2010–12), who once led marketing at Red Chillies and Maddock Films, has now launched her own production house, Not Out Entertainment. From forecasting Bollywood hits as a student to now producing them, Khyati's leap of faith is an inspiring testament to creative courage. Equally compelling is the story of Anmay Sehlot (IPM 2015–2020), co-founder of Atovio, a startup offering wearable and portable air purifiers. Born from his personal experience with urban air quality, Atovio is a solution-driven venture making clean air more accessible — a mission deeply aligned with public health and sustainability.

As you flip through this issue, we invite you to do more than just reminisce. Share your updates, mentor a budding entrepreneur, or simply reach out to an old batchmate. Join the conversations on the Alumni Portal, watch a session from the "Wisdom" (प्रज्ञा) Talk Series, or attend the next informal meetup — like the one in London this April.

We invite you to stay connected by registering on the IIM Indore Alumni Portal: https://alumniportal.iimidr.ac.in/ using your IIM Indore email ID. The portal provides access to networking, career resources, mentorship opportunities, and exclusive alumni events. We welcome your suggestions at alumnioffice@iimidr.ac.in. Alumni Chapters are encouraged to share updates and event highlights to keep our community engaged. We look forward to celebrating your continued success.

With warm regards,

Manish Popli Chair, Alumni IIM Indore

To read earlier editions of the newsletter, please visit https://www.iimidr.ac.in/alumni/newsletter/

Alumni News

Reconnect | Reunions, conversations, memories — it's been a joy reconnecting with our incredible alumni recently!

Here's a heartfelt message from our Director, Prof. Himanshu Rai — a warm call to all IIM Indore alumni to stay connected, share your journey, and keep shaping our story.

We are always here for you — and always delighted to hear from you.



Message for Alumni by Prof. Himanshu Rai, Director, IIM Indore

Alumni Talk Series "Wisdom" (प्रज्ञा)

The Alumni Talk Series "Wisdom" (সরা) — an invaluable and transformative initiative by the Alumni Office. It brings together the rich tapestry of experiences, insights, and innovations of our esteemed alumni, illuminating the path to success for the IIM Indore community. This series is not just another set of lectures; it's a gateway to the future. We are privileged to have our distinguished alumni return to share their remarkable journeys, shedding light on the innovations they've crafted, their trailblazing work, and the reimagining of business models. This is the essence of "Wisdom" - a repository of knowledge and inspiration. We are committed to preserving these pearls of wisdom for posterity. Each session is meticulously recorded and made available on our YouTube Channel. This repository is a treasure trove of knowledge, accessible to all who seek to learn and grow. **For recorded alumni talk series videos**, visit: https://iimidr.ac.in/alumni/alumni-talk-series-wisdom-yat/

Alumni Achievements



We congratulate Kamlesh Koul, an executive education alumnus of our Executive Certificate Programme in Strategy and Leadership for Senior Professionals (Batch 01), for being appointed as the new CEO of Elofic Industries Limited!

Having been an integral part of Elofic for the past 13 years, he brings deep expertise in Engineering & Innovation to his new role, where he will lead the company into its next phase of success.

Ranked 61st in the FT Rankings for Open Executive Education Programmes, our courses continue to inspire leaders and professionals!

Join our world-class programmes to enhance your leadership skills, gain cutting-edge knowledge, and take your career to new heights. Apply now and be part of a globally recognized institution shaping the leaders of tomorrow!

From IIM to Red Chillies and Maddock Films, <u>Khyati Madaan, Alumni PGP 2010-12</u> Launches Her Own Banner, Not Out Entertainment



In a significant move within Bollywood, seasoned film executive Khyati Madaan, who previously spearheaded marketing strategies at major studios including Shah Rukh Khan's Red Chillies Entertainment, Disney India, and Maddock Films, has now turned producer. After 10 years of driving successful campaigns for over 50 films--including

Dear Zindagi, Raees, Badla, Kick, Tamasha, Marvel's Avengers: Age of Ultron, The Jungle Book, and Bhediya--Khyati is now channeling her insights and expertise into producing films audiences truly want to experience on the big screen, under her newly launched banner, Not Out Entertainment.

An alumnus of Indian Institute of Management Indore - Khyati is an outsider who entered Bollywood without any prior industry connections. She first gained attention in the film industry while still a student in 2011, when she developed India's first statistical

box-office prediction model, accurately forecasting the performance of 32 films with an impressive 95% accuracy rate. The Indian film industry rarely sees outsider producers, especially those with strong academic credentials, making Khyati's profile uniquely refreshing.

Mr. Sujay Datta, Alumni PGP 2001-2003 Authored a Book - Data as the Fourth Pillar: An Executive Guide for Scaling

Data as the Fourth Pillar reasons that data should be considered the Fourth Pillar of every enterprise, alongside people, processes, and technology. Aimed at Boards, CEOs, and CxOs, it provides a compelling case for why and how they should treat data as a strategic asset. It presents a comprehensive, success-by-design approach for enterprises, guiding them through a Maturity Framework to accelerate their data-centric journey.

This book addresses the "Why," the "What," and the "How" of achieving this goal in measurable terms. It introduces key performance indicators (KPIs) such as Total Addressable Value (TAV) and Expected Addressable Value through data (EAV) to help measure the impact provided by the data pillar. The book also explores the symbiotic relationship between AI and data, illustrating how both enable and benefit from each other. A case



study by Rüdiger Eck from Audi AG provides practical insights into the concepts and frameworks discussed. This book is an essential resource for business executives in both SMBs and large enterprises, helping them navigate a highly complex and hyper-competitive business landscape while accelerating business value for their stakeholder communities.

Source: https://www.amazon.co.uk/Data-Fourth-Pillar-Executive-Scaling/dp/1032844604

10-Year Reunion: Back to the hillock, where it all began!

April 12–13, 2025, Planet-I echoed once more with the laughter, stories, and spirit of the Class Of 2014 who were reunited for the 10-Year Reunion. A decade may have passed, but the memories from PGP 2012–2014 batch still shine bright — night canteen tales, acads & antics, friendships forged over coffee and chaos. As alumni returned to their second home, hearts were full, hugs were tight, and nostalgia was everywhere. At IIM Indore, the journey never really ends — it just circles back home. Glimpses from the reunion.













Reunion | 25 Years, Countless Memories, One Family!

Planet-I opened its arms to the alumni of the Class of 2000 (The Batch of Origin as they fondly call it – PGP Batch 1998-2000, the first batch of the PGP programme), for a silver jubilee reunion that was nothing short of magical. Time melted away as laughter echoed across the campus and friendships rekindled under the same skies. Our Director, Prof. Himanshu Rai, shared the institute's latest strides, urging the alumni to "be fearless, take that first step, and rediscover the strength within — often hidden in the journey already traveled." The alumni soaked in the nostalgia, sharing stories of old and new. What stood out was not just the joy of looking back, but the excitement of looking ahead — a shared eagerness to stay connected and contribute.

Because once you've called IIM Indore home, your heart never really leaves.













Reunion | 20 Years of bond and a lifetime of belonging - that's Planet-I!

We welcomed the Class of 2004 (PG 2002-2004 Batch) back to where it all began, celebrating 20 years of laughter, memories, and renewed friendships. Under the skies they once knew, it felt as if time had never moved. Laughter filled the air, and every conversation flowed as effortlessly as it did years ago. Prof. Prabin Kumar Panigrahi, Dean- Programmes, shared the Institute's remarkable journey. He encouraged the alumni to stay connected with the institute, cherish their memories, and continue strengthening their bond with the IIM Indore community. Overflowing with vibes of being stronger together, dreaming together, growing together and creating new memories together - that's how this magical weekend at IIM Indore was!

You call IIM Indore home, it stays with you — always.







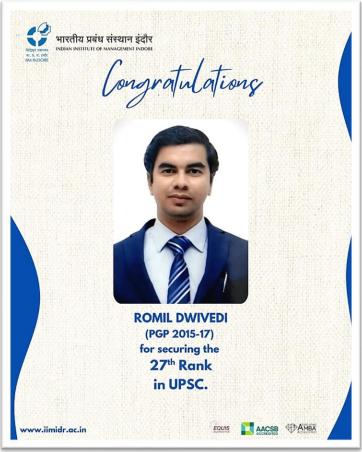






The Three R's of IIM Indore who cleared civil services with flying colours







Informal Alumni Meet-up at London, 24 April 2025



A wonderful evening of reconnecting and reminiscing as PGP alumni came together for an informal meet-up in London on 24 April 2025. The casual setting sparked meaningful conversations, warm laughter, and shared memories from campus days that still resonate.

In the photo (left to right):

Mayur Udernani (PGP 2007), Kapil Bhagya (PGP 2009), Deepak Majumdar (PGP 2009), Kushal Jajoo (PGP 2014), Bharat Garg (PGP 2011), Vincent Felix (PGP 2009), and Kaustabh Joshi (PGP 2008).

It was a joy to see the IIM Indore spirit alive and thriving across batches and years. Here's to more such gatherings and the bonds that time only strengthens.

Keeping the spirit high!

Entrepreneurs of Planet-I

Anmay Sehlot, Alumni IPM 2015-2020 Batch Co-Founder, Atovio - Wearable & Portable Personal Air Purifier LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/anmay-shahlot



1. How did your entrepreneurial journey start?

My journey began with a personal problem. When I moved to Gurgaon for work in 2022, I carried two suitcases and an air purifier. The poor air quality hit me hard, and I realized how underserved the space was, especially when it came to portable, everyday solutions. That's when I teamed up with my co-founders Siddharth & Aditi to build Atovio.

2. Briefly describe your business and why you chose this particular field.

Atovio builds India's most effective personal and portable air purifiers. We're trying to solve one of the country's most urgent but

overlooked problems - air pollution. Current solutions like large home purifiers don't meet the needs of people who move through polluted environments daily. We saw an opportunity to make clean air accessible, anywhere, anytime.

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

Building hardware in India has been incredibly challenging—from sourcing and manufacturing to quality control. Personally, leaving behind a stable, well-paying job was a difficult but necessary step. The startup journey teaches you resilience like nothing else.

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

We're currently bootstrapped. Our focus has been on validating the product, listening closely to customers, and growing steadily before raising external capital.

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

Be thoughtful and realistic. Startups are hard and demand emotional, physical, and mental bandwidth. The best ideas often come from solving problems around you—start there, and build for real people.

For more information visit following URLs:

Website: www.atovio.in

Amazon: https://www.amazon.in/atovio-Wearable-Portable-Purifier-Pollutants-PM0-

01/dp/B0DNMKKYJP?th=1

Entrepreneurs of Planet-I

Khyati Madaan, Alumni PGP 2010-12, Founder: Not Out Entertainment LinkedIn profile: https://www.linkedin.com/in/khyatimadaan786?

1. How did your entrepreneurial journey start?

It stemmed from a deep love for content and years of working within the industry. Having spent over a decade in marketing, I'd developed an instinct for audience preferences and built strong relationships along the way. Eventually, the urge to create films—rather than just market them—became too strong to ignore.

2. Briefly describe your business and why you chose this particular field.

Not Out Entertainment is a film production company focused on creating content that reflects emerging audience tastes and fills noticeable gaps in the mainstream slate. With my background in marketing and audience insights, I saw an opportunity to back films that were being overlooked—not because they lacked merit, but because they didn't fit into a formula.

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



Navigating an industry where credibility often comes after your first success was a big challenge. Convincing people to take a chance on a debut producer, building the right team, and managing the creative—commercial balance from day one were all part of the early hustle.

4. Did you go for external funding for your venture? What factors helped you to secure such funding?

Yes. In films, each project functions like a new startup—with its own P&L, unique risks, and a shelf life shorter than most products. A single Friday decides its fate, and there are no second chances. It's a high-stakes creative business, and what helped was a mix of my market understanding, strategic casting, and a credible slate—along with industry experience that gave investors some confidence.

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

An MBA gives you structure, but startups thrive in chaos. Don't over-plan—start small, stay curious, and build fast. Your instincts will matter more than your decks.

For more details visit following URLs:

Website: http://www.notoutentertainment.com

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/notoutentertain?i

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/not-out-entertainment/?

Twitter: https://x.com/notoutentertain?s=21

News from the Campus

On April 3, 2025 with fresh dreams in their eyes and determination in their hearts, the 17th batch of the Executive Post Graduate Programme in Management was warmly welcomed at IIM Indore, as 71 bright professionals embarked on their transformative journey.



Prof. Himanshu Rai, Director, IIM Indore, inaugurated the batch along with Chief Guest, Mr. Rajnish Sharma, Senior Director at Coca-Cola India.Prof. Prabin Kumar Panigrahi, Dean – Programmes, and Prof. Jatin Pandey, Chair – EPGP, were also present on this occasion. Notably, EPGP at IIM Indore is ranked 69th globally in the FT Global MBA Rankings—a mark of global excellence.

Welcoming the 15th Batch of Future-Ready Educators at IIM Indore!

The Indian Institute of Management Indore is proud to welcome the 15th cohort of participants to its Five-Week Faculty Development Programme (FDP) 2025, inaugurated on April 8, 2025.

A total of 19 participants from across the country have joined this immersive residential programme, designed to strengthen both teaching and research capabilities in management education.



New Batch | Bold beginnings, bright minds, and a journey that will shape tomorrow's leaders!

On April 21, 2025, the second batch of IIM Indore's Executive Management Programme - Master of Management Studies (EMP–MMS) has officially begun—with 203 dynamic professionals, from 24 industries, 17 states, coming together to lead, learn, and transform.

The batch was inaugurated by our Director, Prof. Himanshu Rai. Prof. Manoj Motiani, Associate Dean - Executive Education Programmes; Mr. Sridhar Nagarajachar, Business Head, Times Pro, and Prof. Nishit Kumar Sinha, Programme Coordinator, were also present on this occasion. Here's to pushing boundaries, building connections, and crafting a future full of possibilities.



The inaugural batch of the Chief Digital Transformation Officer Certificate Programme at IIM Indore is now all set to lead the digital revolution!

On April 17, 2025, 36 dynamic participants successfully completed their transformative journey, gaining the expertise needed to drive digital change in their organizations. The valedictory ceremony was graced by Prof. Shruti Tewari, Dean (Research), who shared her thoughts on the importance of digital leadership.



Prof. Saurabh Kumar, Programme Coordinator, and Mr. Darayus Mehta, Founder Director of VCNow by Unified Collaboration Services, congratulated the participants. Prof. Srinivas Gunta was also present on this occasion.

Every successful project begins with a plan—but it's the skill, precision, and adaptability of a project manager that brings it to life.

On April 5, 2025, we celebrated the remarkable journey of 136 participants of the Batch 11 of the Certificate
Programme in Project Management at IIM

With months of immersive learning, real-world case studies, and strategic insights behind them,

Indore.



these professionals are now equipped to lead projects with clarity and confidence. Prof. Rohit Kapoor, Programme Coordinator, graced the valedictory ceremony and congratulated the batch on their transformation into future-ready project leaders.

At IIM Indore, we believe nation-building begins with empowering those who have dedicated their lives to protecting it.



The Certificate Programme in International Business Management (CPIBM), designed in collaboration with the Directorate General Resettlement (DGR), is our tribute to the unwavering spirit, leadership, and discipline of our Armed Forces. On April 17, 2025, we proudly celebrated the valedictory ceremony of Batch 04, comprising 54 distinguished defence officers. The ceremony was graced by Gp Capt Sanjay Roy (Director Training, DGR), and Col Gaurav Dixit (NCC Deputy

Commander), who congratulated them for this achievement. Certificates were awarded by Prof. Rohit Kapoor, Dean – Planning & Development. Programme Coordinator Prof. Kajari Mukherjee also congratulated the batch on this occasion.

This 24-week intensive programme equips officers with a global perspective on business—blending international trade, strategy, HR, and marketing to prepare them for impactful second careers in the corporate world.

We salute their service and are honoured to walk with them on this transformative journey.

In today's fast-evolving world, digital transformation isn't just a strategy — it's a necessity for survival and success.



On April 25, 2025, we celebrated the achievements of Batch 06 of the Executive Programme in Digital Transformation at IIM Indore! Certificates were presented by Prof. Manoj Motiani, Associate Dean - Executive Education, who congratulated the graduating participants. Programme Coordinator Prof. Sanjog Ray, guided this talented cohort through their transformative journey and wished them all the best for their future endeavours.

The Batch 06 participants of the Executive Certificate Programme in Strategy & Leadership for Senior Professionals are now ready to lead with clarity, courage, and conviction.

At the valedictory ceremony held on April 30, 2025, Prof. Himanshu Rai, Director, IIM Indore, inspired the graduating cohort with powerful insiahts leadership and purpose. He reminded them not to fear dreaming big or failing, to break free from self-defeating beliefs, and to see money not as self-worth but as a tool to enable what truly matters. Programme Coordinator, Prof. Sunder, also congratulated the participants on completing this transformative journey.



In today's uncertain business world, effective leadership is not a luxury — it's a necessity. With strategic thinking and human-centric leadership, these professionals are now better equipped to navigate disruption and drive meaningful impact.

Research Seminar | What role does mathematics play in understanding liquid crystals and their industrial applications?



To delve into these ideas, IIM Indore hosted Prof. Apala Majumdar, FRSE, FIMA, from the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK, for a research talk under the IIM Indore Seminar Series on April 23, 2025. Her talk, "The Mathematics of Liquid Crystals and their Applications in Industry and Society," offered fascinating insights into how mathematical models drive innovations across technology and healthcare. The session was coordinated by Prof. Aekta Aggarwal, Faculty in Operations Management & Quantitative Techniques at IIM Indore.

PlanetI Greens | Visiting our campus?



Well, here's another super green and pleasant surprise waiting for you!

The once-dry patch behind Executive Residence - 1 has now blossomed into a vibrant garden space—officially inaugurated by our Director, Prof. Himanshu Rai, on the auspicious day of Akshaya Tritiya (April 30, 2025). What was barren is now blooming, as we are planting purpose, peace, and positivity on campus.

Because a green campus is a great campus!

Read Prof. Himanshu Rai's take in The Economic Times on how the USA tariff turmoil is reshaping global business—and why B-school students must gear up for a world where uncertainty is the only constant.



Chai With Director Rai | Ready for a strategic move? The ultimate game of intellect and leadership is about to unfold!



From boardrooms to chessboards, join us for a conversation full of wisdom, life strategies, and inspiring moments with this latest episode of Chai With Director Rai at IIMI, with our Director Prof. Himanshu Rai, and the Chess Grandmaster, Vishwanathan Anand!

Link to the Episode

We are delighted to share that our Director, Prof. Himanshu Rai, has been nominated as an eminent educationist to the National Service Scheme (NSS) Advisory Committee, constituted by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.

Prof. Rai will contribute to deliberating on policies, initiatives, and strategies for empowering youth, enhancing the outreach of NSS, and strengthening its role in nation-building.



Announcements



For more information visit: https://iimidr.ac.in/announcements/anveshan-startup-challenge-1-0/

Admissions Open:

Master the intersection of data and decision-making with IIM Indore & IIT Indore's MSDSM — a 2-year blended programme designed for future-ready professionals.

Highlights:

- 900 hours of learning
- 14-15 hrs/week live online lectures
- 30 days on-campus
- Taught by top faculty from both institutes

Blend business insight with data expertise.

Learn. Lead. Transform.

For more details visit here



Weekend MBA | Admissions Open!



Ready to take your career to the next level—without hitting pause on your job?

IIM Indore's Weekend MBA (Post Graduate Programme for Working Executives in Mumbai - PGPMX) is designed for working professionals who want to grow, lead, and stay ahead in today's fast-changing business world.

With weekend classes at our Mumbai Campus, expert faculty, and a curriculum rooted in real-world business challenges, it's the perfect blend of flexibility and impact.

Why wait for change when you can drive it? Applications are open—start your journey today!

Apply now: Click here to know more.

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 program that suits your requirement.

<u>Degree and Diploma Programmes</u>

Short Duration Certificate Programmes

Long Duration Certificate Programmes

<u>International Programmes</u>

For more details, visit: https://www.iimidr.ac.in/executive-programmes/

For more information or assistance, please contact:

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