

AlmaMatters

The Planet-1 Newsletter



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IIM INDORE ALUMNI OFFICE

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Message from the Director



It gives me great pleasure to connect with you through AlmaMatters, our monthly alumni newsletter.

The alumni of IIM Indore are the Institute's greatest strengths. Across sectors, geographies, and leadership roles, you carry forward the values of excellence, integrity, and innovation that define our Institute beyond borders. You are our most visible brand ambassadors, and your achievements continue to inspire our current students and the wider community.

As the Institute grows and evolves, our bond with our alumni remains central to our journey. We are deeply proud of the impact you are making and grateful for the many ways in which you stay engaged – with your time, expertise, mentorship, and goodwill. Your continued association enriches the academic ecosystem and strengthens IIM Indore's standing globally.

AlmaMatters is yet another step in our effort to nurture a vibrant, lifelong relationship with our alumni. Through this newsletter, we aim to share institutional updates, celebrate alumni milestones, and create opportunities for meaningful engagement and collaboration.

I encourage you to stay connected with your alma mater – your Planet-i, and participate actively in alumni initiatives, and continue to be part of IIM Indore's ongoing story.

Together, let's continue building a future that reflects our shared aspirations and collective pride.

Prof. Himanshu Rai
Director, IIM Indore

Editor's Desk

Dear Alumni,

The September 2026 edition of AlmaMatters celebrates the achievements, engagement and progress of the IIM Indore community during August.

We congratulate Sameer Tikoo on his appointment as Chief Growth Officer at Hitachi Americas. We are also proud of the strong performance of our alumni at the IIMBAA Badminton Bash in Bengaluru. The 28-member Planet-I contingent was the second largest among the participating institutes and secured third place overall. The participation of alumni across batches, including a member of IIM Indore's first batch, reflected the enduring strength of our alumni community.

On campus, we welcomed the IPM 2026–31 batch and celebrated the academic achievements of our students through awards, scholarships and financial assistance recognitions. Alumni also returned to share their experiences with the incoming batch, helping students understand the opportunities and responsibilities that lie ahead.

Research seminars, Prabodhan 2026, Rashtriya Kartavya 2.0 and interactions with practitioners and international delegations continued to connect academic learning with real-world challenges. The inauguration of the Learning Centre Web Portal marked another step towards making knowledge more accessible to the IIM Indore community.

These achievements reflect the contribution of our alumni, students, faculty and institutional partners. We invite our alumni to remain connected, share their journeys, mentor students and participate actively in alumni initiatives.

Warm regards

Saurabh Kumar
Chair, Alumni
IIM Indore

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

Stay Connected, Stay Engaged – Register Today!

We invite all our alumni to register on the *Alumni Portal* (<https://alumniportal.iimdr.ac.in/>) and also become a member of the *IIM Indore Alumni Association* (<https://iimdr.ac.in/alumni/iimiaa-membership-contributions/>). Being a registered member unlocks a host of benefits including access to exclusive alumni events, networking opportunities across batches and geographies, career advancement support, mentoring initiatives, and updates from the institute. Your membership helps strengthen the IIMI alumni community, fostering collaboration and lifelong engagement. Join us in building a stronger, more vibrant alumni network—register today!

Alumni Talk Series

Alumni Talk Series "Wisdom" (प्रज्ञा)

The Alumni Talk Series "Wisdom"(प्रज्ञा)— 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.

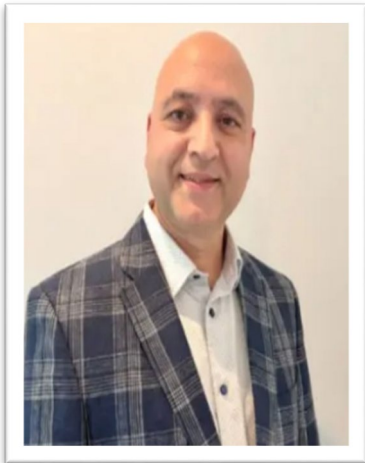
We are committed to preserving these pearls of wisdom for posterity. Each session is meticulously recorded and made available on our YouTube Channel. This repository is a treasure trove of knowledge, accessible to all who seek to learn and grow.

For recorded alumni talk series videos, visit: <https://iimdr.ac.in/alumni/alumni-talk-series-wisdom-प्रज्ञा/>

Alumni Achievements and News

Sameer Tikoo Appointed Chief Growth Officer at Hitachi Americas

We congratulate Sameer Tikoo, alumnus of IIM Indore's Executive Post Graduate Programme in Management, on his appointment as Chief Growth Officer at Hitachi Americas.



With over 28 years of professional experience, Sameer has built a distinguished career in product engineering services and business leadership. During his nearly two-decade tenure at GlobalLogic, he played an instrumental role in developing its Communications, Network and Cybersecurity businesses, contributing significantly to the company's growth and expansion.

We wish him continued success as he takes on this expanded leadership role and leads strategic growth initiatives across Hitachi's businesses in the Americas.

Planet-I Shines at IIMBAA Badminton Bash 2026

IIM Indore's alumni made an impressive showing at the IIMBAA Badminton Bash, held in Bengaluru on 22–23 August 2026.

With 28 participants, Planet-I fielded the second-largest contingent and secured third place overall among ten participating institutes.

More than one-third of the contingent comprised alumni from the 2016 and earlier batches, including Mr. Ananth from IIM Indore's first batch of 1998–2000.



Neha and Avinash emerged as champions in the Mixed Doubles Cup, while Siddhi and Arijit finished runners-up in the Mixed Doubles Plate.

Siddhi, partnering with an IIM Kozhikode alumna, also secured the runners-up position in the Women's Doubles Plate.



Deepti Singh and Sudarshan reached the semifinals in the Women's and Men's Singles categories, respectively.

The enthusiastic participation across batches, supported by alumni-led team formation and practice sessions in Bengaluru, reflected the strong sporting spirit, camaraderie and enduring connection of IIM Indore alumni with their alma mater.

News from the Campus

IIM Indore came together to commemorate the 80th Independence Day with pride, gratitude, and a renewed commitment to the nation.

15 Aug 2026: Our Director, Prof. Himanshu Rai, hoisted the Tricolour and addressed the IIM Indore community, reflecting on the deeper meaning of freedom and the responsibility it places upon every citizen. He reminded us that patriotism is not merely the emotion we feel when the Tricolour rises, but what we do when the ceremony is over.

Through the six commitments of BHARAT: Believe, Harmony, Action, Responsibility, Aspiration, and Tyag, he called upon us to move from asking what India can do for us to asking what we can do for India.



Here's to a celebration of freedom, responsibility, and our collective resolve to build a Viksit Bharat. Jai Hind!

New Batch | Five years, one incredible journey - and it begins today!

10 Aug 2026: We proudly welcomed the newest and youngest cohort of the Five-year Integrated Programme in Management (IPM Batch 2026-31) with a two-day Induction Programme - a vibrant group of 156 students, brimming with fresh enthusiasm and new aspirations!



The batch was inaugurated by our Director, Prof. Himanshu Rai, who welcomed the new batch and encouraged them to stay courageous and curious. He said, "Every time you think something is too difficult, just look back and see how much you have already achieved." He urged them to embrace Openness, Conscientiousness, Empathy, and courage, reminding them that hard work is necessary but not sufficient -

it takes patience, perseverance, and grit to keep walking a path few have ever walked before.

Prof. Aditya Maheshwari, Chair - IPM, highlighted the rigour of the selection journey and urged the students to make the most of the five years ahead.

From inspiring conversations to academic recognitions, the two days were packed with stories, insights, and inspiration - giving the new cohort a glimpse of the incredible community they've just become a part of, and setting the tone for a journey that will shape not just their careers, but who they become.

Proud IIMI | A new chapter began at IIM Indore as we welcomed the IPM 2026–31 batch and celebrated the academic excellence of our current students.

10 Aug 2026: The arrival of the new IPM cohort marked the beginning of an exciting academic journey, while the achievements of current students showcased the dedication, resilience and pursuit of excellence that define IIM Indore.

Heartfelt congratulations to Aditya Bhaskar Iyer, Aryan Dilip Jain, Hirday Khandelwal, Rohan Ravi Saraf, Shujal Kumar Jain, Shreyash Agarwalla, Kushagra Khurana and Vatsal Jain for setting remarkable academic benchmarks through their hard work and determination.



The Late Adya Prabha Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Srishti Chopra for securing the highest CGPA in the fourth year while continuing her IPM degree. The scholarship commemorates Late Adya Prabha (IPM 2015), whose legacy continues to inspire future generations. The Need-Based Financial Assistance Merit Awards were also presented to Cheshta Malik and Lakshya Kriplani, reaffirming the Institute's commitment to supporting deserving students and encouraging them to achieve their aspirations.

New Batch | From being students at IIM Indore to returning as accomplished professionals, our alumni brought their memories, experiences, and lessons back to campus during the Induction Programme of the IPM 2026-31.



11 Aug 2026: The panel discussion on the theme "Planet-I: A Walk Down Memory Lane," featured Niloy Jain (IPM 2012), Ayushi Agrawal (IPM 2013), Siddhi Helwatkar (IPM 2016), Bhavya Kundu (IPM 2017), Mrigesh Dewan (IPM 2019), and Anay Daga (IPM 2020).

The session was moderated by Prof. Siddhartha Rastogi. Their stories of friendships, challenges, growth, and discovery gave the new IPM batch a glimpse into the journey ahead. A

conversation with the past, inspiring the future.

New Batch | The end of the IPM journey is not a full stop, but the beginning of many new directions. For the new IPM 2026-31 batch, those possibilities came alive through the experiences of IPM alumni who have already taken their next steps beyond IIM Indore.

11 Aug 2026: As part of the Induction Programme, IIM Indore hosted an alumni panel discussion on “Life after IPM”, bringing together Niloy Jain (IPM 2012), Siddhi Helwatkar (IPM 2016), Bhavya Kundu (IPM 2017), Mrigesh Dewan (IPM 2019), and Anay Daga (IPM 2020).

Moderated by Prof. Aditya Billore, the conversation explored the transition from campus life to the professional world, along with the choices, opportunities, challenges, and experiences that shape the journey beyond IPM.



For the cohort, the session provided a closer look at the diverse paths an IPM education can open up and the possibilities that extend far beyond the five years on campus. Different paths, diverse possibilities, and a future waiting to be explored.

New Batch | What happens when four distinct disciplines come together to shape one holistic learning journey?



11 Aug 2026: At IIM Indore, the IPM experience is built on Economics, Mathematics, Statistics, and Humanities & Social Sciences.

As part of the Induction Programme for the IPM 2026-31 batch, IIM Indore organised a faculty panel discussion on “Four Pillars of IPM” with Prof. G Venkat Raman, Prof. Nagarajan Krishnamurthy, Prof. Karthikeya Naraparaju, and Prof. Sayantan Banerjee.

Moderated by Prof. Aditya Maheshwari, the session introduced the incoming batch to the role of these four disciplines

in developing analytical thinking, broader perspectives, and a well-rounded approach to learning. Through an insightful exchange of ideas, the faculty shared perspectives that helped students

understand how these pillars come together to shape their academic journey at IIM Indore.

New Batch | Smiles, stories, and a hundred new beginnings captured in a single frame!

12 Aug 2026: Welcoming the youngest batch of Planet - i - IPM 2026-31!

Here's a glimpse of the energy, warmth, and excitement that filled the campus as the participants settled into their new home.

Here's to many more such moments in the five years ahead!



Research Seminar | How can businesses anticipate retailer-initiated order cancellations and build more resilient supply chains?



4 August 2026: Exploring this question, IIM Indore hosted Prof. Suman Niranjana, Associate Professor in the Department of Supply Chain Management at the G. Brint Ryan College of Business, University of North Texas, USA, for a research talk under the IIM Indore Seminar Series on August 4, 2026.

His talk, "Improving Forecasting of Retailer-Initiated Order Cancellations in the Snow Apparel Industry," highlighted forecasting approaches that can strengthen supply chain planning and decision-making.

The session was coordinated by Prof. Prashant Salwan, Faculty in the Strategic Management Area, and chaired by Prof. Tanmoy Kundu, Faculty in the Operations Management & Quantitative Techniques Area, at IIM Indore.

At IIM Indore, we continue to encourage research that addresses real-world managerial challenges through meaningful academic dialogue.

Research Seminar | How can retailers strike the right balance between online convenience and in-store experiences during peak shopping seasons?

5 August 2026: Exploring this question, IIM Indore had the pleasure of hosting Prof. Debabrata Ghosh, Reader (Associate Professor) in the Strategy, Operations, and Entrepreneurship Group and Associate Director of Research and Impact at Essex Business School, University of Essex, U.K., for a research talk under the IIM Indore Seminar Series on August 5, 2026.

His talk, "Assessing the Strategic Value of BOPS in Festive-Season Retail," examined the role of Buy Online, Pick Up in Store (BOPS) in enhancing retail strategy during high-demand festive periods.

The session was coordinated by Prof. Saurabh Chandra, Faculty in the Operations Management & Quantitative Techniques area at IIM Indore.

Through such seminars, IIM Indore continues to foster research that addresses emerging trends and practical challenges in business and management.



Every welcome deserves a space that inspires.



26 Aug 2026: Professor Himanshu Rai, Director, IIM Indore, inaugurated the newly renovated Main Reception of the Academic Block, marking the renewal of an important gateway to the Institute's continually evolving campus.

The renovation goes beyond an infrastructure upgrade. It reflects the Institute's commitment to creating spaces where students, employees, alumni, guests and visitors feel welcomed, valued and inspired from the moment they arrive.

Designed as a central point for welcome, information and institutional engagement, the reception showcases IIM Indore's honoured guests while also recognising the dedicated employees who contribute to the Institute's progress every day. Thoughtfully displayed quotations, ideas and essential information offer visitors a meaningful introduction to the Institute and its values. The renewed reception represents a new beginning while carrying forward Planet-I's enduring spirit of excellence and its commitment to providing an inspiring campus experience.

IIM Indore hosted Rashtriya Kartavya 2.0, an interaction programme organized by the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), bringing together the Indian Army, faculty, researchers, and students to explore how management, technology, and academic research can contribute to national security.

13 Aug 2026: Our Director, Prof. Himanshu Rai, in his inaugural address, emphasised the need to move beyond interaction towards integration, calling for both institutions to identify and solve problems of national importance together.

Major General Gautam Mahajan, Deputy Commandant and Chief Instructor, MCTE, highlighted the importance of connecting military expertise with India's academic and technological capabilities.

The programme featured problem-driven presentations on AI-based supply chain mapping, road traffic management, and health monitoring of armed fighting vehicles, opening avenues for research and innovation.



The Indian Army Weapon Display added a tangible dimension to the interaction, giving our students an opportunity to engage closely with the equipment and capabilities that underpin the courage and readiness of our Armed Forces.

For IIM Indore's students and researchers, the interaction offered an opportunity to engage with real-world challenges and understand how their knowledge can contribute to national capability.



When education transcends borders, learning becomes a truly global experience.

13 Aug 2026: IIM Indore welcomed 30 young minds from around 11 countries on 13 August 2026 as part of the Global BP STEM Academies Programme, organised by The Emerald Heights

International School, Indore, in association with AFS Intercultural Programs India and sponsored by the BP Group.

Welcoming the students, our Director, Prof. Himanshu Rai, introduced them to the idea of “Planet i”: IIM Indore’s unique ecosystem built around being contextually relevant, world-class, and socially conscious. He highlighted the Institute’s commitment to addressing real-world challenges, from sustainability and environmental conservation to rural development and social equity, while encouraging the students to carry this spirit of purposeful learning wherever their journeys take them.

The students also had an engaging interaction with Chief Officer: Administration, Col. Dr. Gururaj Pamidi (Veteran).

The delegation explored the IIM Indore campus and experienced its vibrant academic environment, gaining insights into an institution that brings together excellence, innovation, sustainability, and social responsibility.

A day of discovery, dialogue, and global exchange left young learners with new perspectives, meaningful connections, and a glimpse into the spirit of IIM Indore.

Prabodhan | At IIM Indore, we continually strive to bring cutting-edge ideas and thought leadership to our students and the management community.

16 Aug 2026: Our flagship Leadership Conclave of the Executive Post Graduate Programme in Management (EPGP), Prabodhan 2026, brought this vision to life.

Held under the theme “Leading Through Disruption: From Growth Strategy to Workforce Strategy,” the conclave brought together CXOs and HR Leaders from leading organisations across India for a day of meaningful leadership dialogue and industry insights.

The event was inaugurated by our Director, Prof. Himanshu Rai, who outlined four principles of ethical leadership: know yourself and seek continuous self-improvement, take responsibility beyond designation and authority, use your full capabilities and potential, and make the right choices because they are right.

Prof. Saumya Ranjan Dash, Chair - EPGP, welcomed the gathering and highlighted Prabodhan’s role in bridging academia and industry, noting that change today is continuous and dynamic. The day featured four engaging panel discussions on growth, resilient teams, technology, AI and the future of work, followed by a prize distribution ceremony.



Prabodhan 2026 concluded with insightful conversations, meaningful connections and collective learning.

At IIM Indore, meaningful learning extends beyond the classroom through interactions with distinguished practitioners and leaders who bring valuable perspectives from the field.



18 Aug 2026: We hosted an interaction session for DPM participants with Shri Sriram Taranikanti, IAS (Retd.), Former Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy Of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie.

Drawing on his extensive experience as a former Additional Secretary with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, and across different State Governments, Shri Taranikanti shared valuable insights into the ground realities of public administration, policymaking, and governance.

The discussion highlighted the counterintuitive differences between research and ground-level execution.

The session also explored the emerging role of Artificial Intelligence in practice research, with emphasis on reliability, reasoning, and responsible application. Discussions further highlighted the importance of connecting micro-level and macro-level data and perspectives to strengthen institutional practice and decision-making.

Prof. Ranjeet Nambudiri, Dean - Faculty and Prof. Rajhans Mishra, Chair - DPM, IIM Indore, were also present on this occasion.

The interaction reinforced that effective governance requires not only efficient systems, but also a nuanced understanding of local realities while keeping broader institutional and societal objectives in perspective.

When defence, leadership, and management education come together, the possibilities are truly limitless.

19 Aug 2026: IIM Indore hosted a delegation from MCTE, Mhow, comprising army officers from five friendly nations:

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Sri Lanka, Maldives, Nepal, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ethiopia, on 19 August 2026.

Addressing the visiting officers, Prof. Himanshu Rai, Director, IIM Indore, spoke about the Institute's close and growing engagement with the Indian Army and personnel from friendly countries, including joint initiatives, training programmes, and the Executive Doctoral Programme in Management and Governance for Army officers. He highlighted how the programme enables serving officers to undertake deeper research at the intersection of management, governance, and defence, bringing academic rigour to challenges of national and strategic importance.

The officers also interacted with our Chief Officer: Administration, Col. Dr. Gururaj Pamidi, who spoke about the campus's no-single-use-plastic approach, water conservation, use of renewable energy, and the importance of maintaining a clean and healthy environment.

The visit was a meaningful exchange of perspectives that strengthened bonds of friendship, learning, and international cooperation.

What if an entire library could fit in your pocket, and become a tool for deeper learning?



31 Aug 2026: Learning becomes meaningful when knowledge is not just available, but accessible, connected and easy to apply.

Prof. Himanshu Rai inaugurated the Learning Centre Web Portal at IIM Indore.

The portal brings our learning resources to your fingertips, allowing users to access books digitally, highlight and save insights, and discover relevant excerpts across the library based on what they are

exploring.

A meaningful step towards building a culture where learning is continuous, participative and truly transformative.

Himanshu Speaks | A busy life isn't always a productive one.

Clarity begins when you stop trying to do everything and start focusing on what truly matters. Prioritization isn't about saying no to life. It's about saying yes to what matters most.

[Link](#)



Himanshu Speaks | Boundaries are not walls. They are clarity.

Every yes carries a hidden no. The question is whether we are saying yes to what truly deserves our time, energy, and attention.

Choose consciously. Protect what matters.

[Link](#)



Himanshu Speaks | Not everything urgent is important.

The loudest demands often matter the least. What truly shapes our lives is usually quieter. Choose direction over speed.

[Link](#)



**Himanshu Speaks | Before making an important decision, stretch the timeline.
Ask yourself:**



How will I feel about this in 10 minutes, 10 months, and 10 years?

Sometimes the answer becomes clearer when we stop thinking only about now.

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What does it truly mean to act without attachment to results?

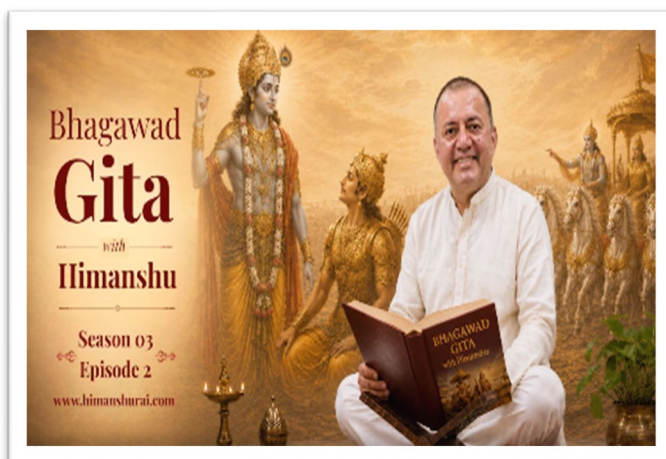
13 Aug 2026 : In the second episode of Season 3 of Bhagawad Gita with Himanshu, we explore Krishna's teaching on why detachment does not mean indifference.

The Gita teaches us to focus on our duty, effort, and integrity while accepting that outcomes are not entirely in our control.

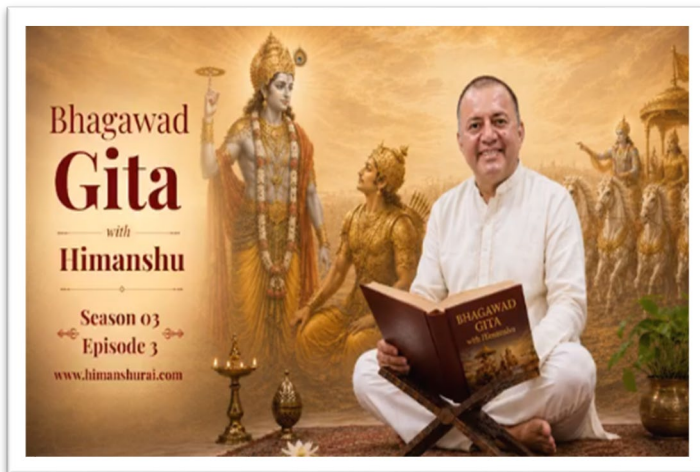
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Spotify:

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What does it truly mean to act without attachment to results?



20 Aug 2026: In Season 3, Episode 3 of Bhagawad Gita with Himanshu, we explore the deeper meaning of Yajna, where action becomes an offering and success is measured not only by what we gain, but by what we contribute.

Perhaps the real question is not "What did I achieve?" but "What became better because of me?"

[Link](#)

We often know what is right, yet still find ourselves doing the opposite.

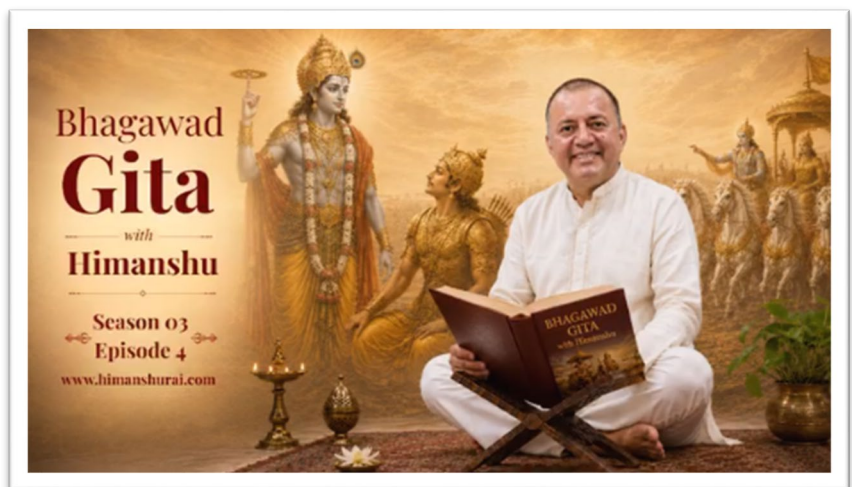
27 Aug 2026: In Season 3, Episode 4 of Bhagawad Gita with Himanshu, we explore Krishna's powerful teaching on desire, anger, and the inner forces that cloud our judgment.

True leadership begins with self leadership. Before we learn to influence the world, we must learn to govern ourselves.

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist...>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/show/033mVXtux9PpfFM16agnkG...>



The Rai Angle is back.



After all the love Season 1 received, I'm thrilled to present the first episode of Season 2.

In a world where criticism is easy, who is actually building? India doesn't need more spectators pointing at problems. It needs people willing to create solutions.

[Link](#)

Upcoming Executive Education 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 address relevant real-world business challenges, and we keep on evolving them with world trends. We impart learning that provides immediate value and impact on the organisations. 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 requirements.

[Degree and Diploma Programmes](#)

[Short Duration Certificate Programmes](#)

[Long Duration Certificate Programmes](#)

[International Programmes](#)

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

For more information or assistance, please contact:

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