



भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान कोषिकोड
Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode
Globalizing Indian Thought



Kritva

THE ACCOMPLISHMENT



Alumni

NEWSLETTER

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Prof Debashis Chatterjee
DIRECTOR

Director's Message

Dear Alumni,

It's always a privilege to witness the unbreakable bond that ties you to Indian Institute Of Management Kozhikode, transcending time and distance. As we evolve, our collective purpose of fostering excellence in thought and action remains steadfast.

Over the past months, our community has continued to grow, with events that sparked both reflection and reconnection. Grounded in the values of Satyam (authenticity), Nityam (sustainability), and Purnam (fulfillment), we stay committed to globalizing Indian thought.

I am proud to share that IIMK has for the third consecutive year been ranked among the top 3 management schools in the India NIRF rankings, reflecting our dedication to inclusive excellence. As you browse through this newsletter, honoring alumni achievements, events, and activities, I encourage you to reflect on the incredible journey we've taken together. Your continued engagement enriches the next generation of leaders from this institution.



Prof Deepa Sethi
EXECUTIVE CHAIR- GLOBE

Executive Chair- GLOBE's Message

Choose your change!

Change is the only constant of life! Change challenges your comfort zone; it pushes your boundaries. Take charge of it. Choose your change! Whether the change is in a role, location, organization, perspective, or goal, the liberation you receive when you choose it is beyond description. When you choose your change, you take control of your life, steering it through the high points of achievement and success, navigating through the unexpected obstacles of failure and frustration, and finally reaching your ambitions and goals, all the while fuelled by your passion, energy, and inspiration. Enjoy every phase of the journey, document it, narrate it, and live it to the fullest. Ownership comes only when you choose your change. Share the tales of your change with the IIMK Community through this newsletter, which is an initiative to keep you all Konnected!

Activities

of Students' Alumni Cell



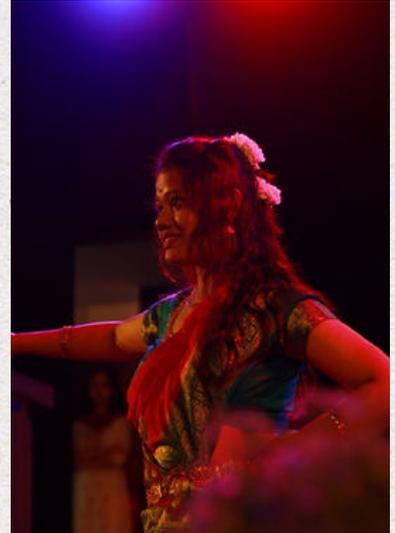
The Students' Alumni Cell has the rare privilege of nurturing enduring relations between our esteemed alumni, their alma mater and the current students through various events. Through our flagship event Nostalgia, we host alumni across batches in the campus to relive their institute days and build new connections. Sangam is an off campus event hosted across cities to facilitate alumni to connect with each other. Additionally we organize the Alumni Clinic, a personalized mentorship program where students receive career guidance from alumni through one-on-one sessions. SAC also celebrates Teachers' Day by honoring faculty members with mementos and messages from alumni, and International Women's Day to recognize the invaluable contribution of women in our life.



WOMEN'S DAY

9th March 2025

CELEBRATION



The Students' Alumni Cell organized Women's Day Celebrations on 9 March 2025 to honor women's contributions across academia and corporate sectors. The event highlighted the importance of gender equality, encouraged meaningful dialogue between students and distinguished leaders, and recognized the invaluable efforts of the women who support the institution behind the scenes. The programme opened with a thought-provoking discussion between Prof. Debashis Chatterjee and Mrs. Lalitiana Accouche, High Commissioner of the Republic of Seychelles, on women's leadership, breaking barriers, and the role of education in promoting gender equality. Mrs. Aditi Chatterjee delivered an inspiring note highlighting the importance of celebrating women's contributions. Six dedicated Chechis from various departments were also honored with special gifts in recognition of their invaluable service.

The second phase moved to the PGP Auditorium, deeply focusing on corporate leadership. Professor Salman Ali opened the session, followed by a panel discussion featuring alumni Ms. Reina Bharadwaj (Associate Director, PwC India, IIMK '15) and Ms. Sukriti Jain (Director, Marketing Science & Optimization, American Express, IIMK '13). They shared key insights on adaptability, data-driven leadership, mentorship, work-life balance, alongside navigating corporate challenges as women leaders, engaging students through an interactive Q&A.

The event progressively shifted to vibrant cultural performances showcasing music, dance, and poetry, highlighting the creativity of IIM Kozhikode students. It then concluded with an energetic quiz on women's empowerment, history, and leadership, where the enthusiastic participants competed for prizes while reinforcing key learnings about gender equality and influential women leaders. The event concluded on a warm note with distribution of pizzas, leaving attendees with fond memories.

ALUMNI TALKS



The Students' Alumni Cell, IIM Kozhikode, orchestrated a series of in-person alumni engagements, connecting the students with distinguished alumni across public service, entrepreneurship, finance, consulting, academia, as well as global leadership. These sessions offered key practical insights, personal reflections, and invaluable lessons that extended beyond career guidance to resilience, purpose, and leadership.

Inspiring Public Service: Session with Mr. Shashank Jaiswal (PGP 2010)

Mr. Jaiswal revealed powerful real-life experiences from public service, emphasizing perseverance, courage, and empathy in leadership. He highlighted the importance of integrating diverse perspectives and learning from every individual. Reflecting on his rich journey, he shared about purpose-driven careers and how IIM Kozhikode sculpted his resilience. His session encouraged students to observe their MBA as a foundation for meaningful societal impact.

Entrepreneurship and Finance: Session with Ms. Shruti Deora (PGP 2015) and Mr. Abhishek Gupta, CFA (PGP 2014)

Co-founders of Abhiyaan Wealth, Shruti & Abhishek Gupta combined practical finance insights with career guidance. Shruti strongly focused on personal finance management, stressed the importance of beginning early and investing wisely. Abhishek demystified equity research with wealth management, and the CFA journey, offering clarity around skills and opportunities in finance. Their session helped the students link classroom learning with real-world financial decisions.



Embracing Authenticity: Session with Mr. Pramendra Singh Tank (PGP 2020)

Currently a PhD scholar at IIM Ahmedabad, Mr. Pramendra spoke about standing out in competitive environments by adding creativity and originality. His candid discourse on failures, rejection, fear, and impostor syndrome created a relatable and honest dialogue. He also wisely introduced academia as a new & rewarding career path, broadening students' perspectives on arising post-MBA opportunities.



A Wake-up Call for Growth: Session with Mr. Shubhesh Pandey (PGP 2009)

Founder of Cornerstone Business Consultants, Mr. Pandey delivered a bold message: "Stop seeking permission to grow." He strongly urged students to focus on building competencies, taking risks, and thinking long term rather than chasing validation. His session reframed MBA as a launchpad for innovation, reinvention and entrepreneurship.

Leadership Across Borders: Session with Mr. Jacob Thomas (EPGP 2006)

As the CEO of Capedge Group of Companies, Mr. Thomas shared noteworthy insights from his outstanding international career in the oil and energy sector. Discussing the investment strategies, global markets, and leadership in cross-cultural settings, he encouraged all the students to step beyond their comfort zones and boldly embrace adaptability in a rapidly evolving world.

Conclusion

The entire alumni series highlighted the core strengths and rich diversity of IIM Kozhikode's alumni network. Starting from lessons about empathy and finance to authenticity, growth, & global leadership, every session reinforced values of resilience, purpose, and continuous learning.

The Students' Alumni Cell expresses heartfelt gratitude to all speakers for inspiring current batches to dream bigger, behave boldly, and pursue their journey with grit, confidence and impact.



TEACHER'S DAY

5th September 2025

The Students' Alumni Cell celebrated the Teachers' Day 2025 with a campus-wide gift distribution initiative celebrating and recognizing the invaluable & remarkable contributions of the female faculty. Their relentless dedication continues to bring distinction and enrichment to both the students and the institute.

All our professors were presented with a specially curated gift package comprising of an eco-friendly Tribe Tote Bag, accompanied by a personalised note from the committee and heartfelt messages from the students of the Batch of 2026 and 2027. The thoughtful combination transformed the gesture into more than a symbolic token of appreciation, with the compiled messages expressing honest gratitude from the student community.



The distribution took place on 10th and 11th September 2025, during which SAC members visited faculty across campus to personally hand over the gifts. This act fostered strong team cohesion among the committee members, as working together with coordination made the act of distribution both efficient and memorable. A deeply touching moment occurred when a professor, surprised to find so many messages from a student section he had not expected, paused to read them aloud on the spot, noticeably moved by the thoughtful words. Several faculty members also appreciated the eco-friendly Tribe Tote Bag, complimenting both its usefulness and the choice of sustainable branding.

The initiative was met with warm smiles, genuine surprise, and engaging conversations. These interactions not only enriched the atmosphere of gratitude but also deepened the bond between students and faculty. For SAC, the experience was profoundly rewarding, as it highlighted the value of collaborative effort and meaningful gestures while creating cherished memories for both the organizers and recipients alike. The Teachers' Day Gift Distribution was a resounding success, truly celebrating the mentorship, guidance, and unwavering support that the faculty provide every day.

BL INITIATIVES: *Light Weight Series*

Prashasti V

Episode 1

BL01, Tech Program Manager – Schneider Electric

Presenter: Sidharth Ganesan



Dharan Chakravarthy

Episode 2

BL04, AVP – Axis Bank

Presenter: Darshil Thadesar



Arpit Jain

Episode 3

BL03, Chief of Staff & SPV Director – Hexa Climate

Presenter: Gagan Dhawan



Shivangi Singh

Episode 4

BL04, Senior Consultant – Capgemini Invent

Presenter: Shubham Sarkar



Sumneet Sethi

Episode 5

BL02, Principal Product Manager – Mint

Presenter: Rakendu Kashyap



Anur Rajiv Dixit

Episode 6

BL01, Manager – Accenture Strategy & Consulting

Presenter: Rakesh Tunk

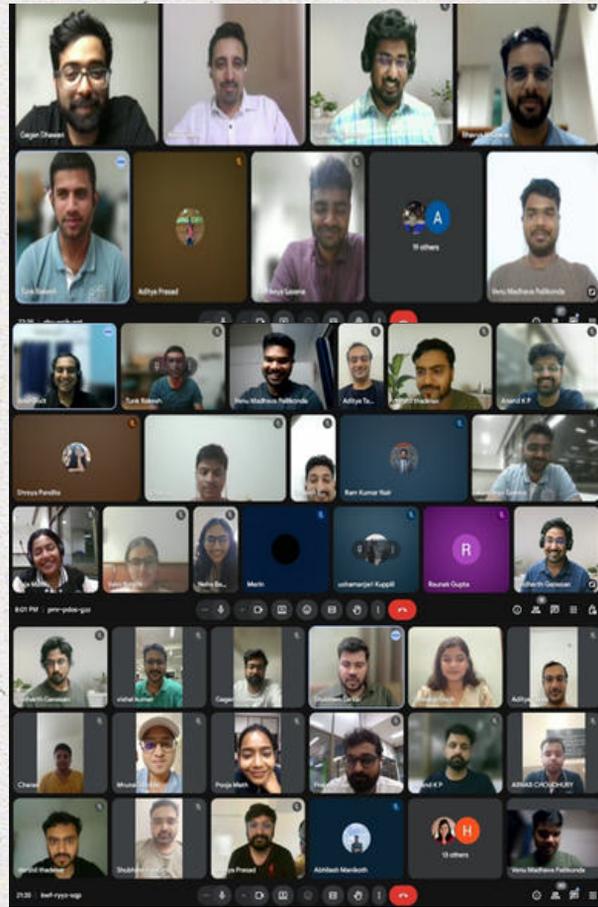


The BL Light Weight Series which was launched by the Students' Alumni Cell (BL SAC) of the PGP-BL programme at IIM Kozhikode, emerged as one of unique student-led initiative aimed at revitalizing alumni engagement through candid, informal, and insight-driven conversations.

Across six well-curated episodes, the initiative reconnected batches BL01 through BL05 with the current cohort, enabling insightful practical career conversations across consulting, banking, product leadership and sustainability.

The BL Light Weight Series reflects how structured informality can create lasting institutional value. By lowering barriers to engagement, the initiative empowered each BL06 member to confidently expand their alumni network making networking collective rather than individual.

As alumni shared their journeys and insights, the BL ecosystem strengthened , not as a directory of contacts, but as a living, accessible community.



To strengthen institutional representation and ensure smooth continuity in decision-making, Sidharth Ganesan (SAC, BL06) constituted the BL SAC Advisory Board

1. Rakesh Tunk Ex-Founder's office, M.Tech IIT Gandhinagar
2. LK Mohamed Aahil Ex-CEO RPN Engineers
3. Aditya Prasad Ex- Telecom Engineer, Ericsson
4. Gagan Dhawan Ex- R&D Senior Manager, MSIL
5. Rakendu Kashyap Ex- Technical Product Account Manager
6. Sidharth Ganesan BL06 SAC Member & Ex-Software Architect

BL SAC Advisory Board



Established to strengthen the single member BL representation within the Institutional SAC, the advisory board delivered key strategic directions across initiative selection, key event coordination, communication oversight, execution planning. This collaborative framework ensured that alumni engagement initiatives were carefully evaluated, all appropriately timed, and smoothly executed, reinforcing collective professionalism, greater accountability, and shared ownership across the broader BL community.

BL 1-1 MENTORSHIP

The Students' Alumni Cell (BL SAC) launched a well-structured 1-1 Mentorship Initiative for the 62-member PGP-BL06 cohort, building on the BL Light Weight Series. Coordinated by Sidharth Ganesan (BL06), the initiative also emphasized precision and personalization over generic alumni engagement.

Students were systematically profiled based on career aspirations, domain interests, prior experience, skill gaps, and short- and long-term goals. Using this mapping, then each student was paired with a closely aligned alumnus.

The response from alumni was strong, with around 30 mentors across batches, offering

diverse cross-domain expertise and thus reaffirming the true strength of the BL alumni network.

The initiative delivered deeper value than the traditional networking by providing tailored career guidance, focused interview and role preparation, and confidence through candid one-on-one discussions. It also encouraged long-term professional relationships.

By institutionalizing a core structured alumni mapping, BL SAC therefore strengthened the BL ecosystem, leading transforming alumni engagement into a more sustainable, better collaborative growth platform and thereby reinforcing the true power of personalized mentorship.

Write Back to Us

As the PGP-BL06 cohort soon entered placement season after the Spain Immersion. BL SAC, thus launched "Write Back to Us," a low-barrier, email-based alumni initiative complementing the BL Light Weight Series.

Instead of live sessions, alumni shared interview experiences, preparation strategies, mistakes, and placement advice asynchronously in more flexible formats. This approach enabled wider broader participation across batches and geographies.

The initiative notably delivered scalable alumni engagement, created a permanent repository of practical insights, and provided timely, experience driven placement guidance for the BL06 cohort.



2025

NOSTALGIA

ANNUAL ALUMNI MEET

DAY 1





DAY 1

7 NOV 2025

7:00 AM	REGISTRATION
2:00 PM	SPEED NETWORKING
3:30 PM	INTERACTION WITH CARE, GYANODAYA, LIVE
4:30 PM	WELCOME RECEPTION
5:00 PM	CAMPUS TOUR
6:30 PM	KERALOTSAVAM
7:30 PM	KOZHIKODE REUNION DINNER
10:00 PM	GAME NIGHT

Nostalgia 2025, was held from 7–9 November at IIM Kozhikode, further welcomed 220+ alumni and families, 1,200+ students, and 50+ faculty and staff. Day 1 featured registrations, and a Faculty–Alumni Speed Networking session, institutional updates from CARE, Gyanodaya, and IIMK LIVE, and the formal inauguration along with the theme reveal “SAIL 2 K – Voyage Back Home.” Alumni also enjoyed a guided campus tour covering new and legacy spaces, plus the cultural showcase of Keralotsavam, reunion dinners across Kozhikode city, and an engaging Game Night with student-led activities and a poker event, thus setting an energetic and nostalgic tone for the days ahead while also strengthening bonds across batches, faculty, and a wider IIMK community.



DAY 2

8 NOV 2025

7:00 AM	RUN WITH CALMAR & PLANTATION DRIVE
11:30 AM	ALUMNI TOWNHALL WITH DIRECTOR
12:45 PM	DA AWARD DISTRIBUTION
1:00 PM	BUDDY LUNCH
3:00 PM	FUNCTIONAL NETWORKING
4:00 PM	REGADUATION
6:00 PM	IIMK'S GOT TALENT
8:00 PM	DINNER
10:00 PM	NOSTALGIA RENDEZVOUS

DAY 2

Day 2 of Nostalgia 2025 began with the 3 km "Run Down the Memory Lane" along with the Calicut Marathon Committee, followed by a plantation drive promoting sustainability. The Alumni Townhall with the Director shared key updates on the institute's vision, which was then followed by the Distinguished Alumni Award Distribution honoring distinguished alumni. The Buddy Lunch also enabled domain-based student-alumni interactions, while the Functional Networking hosted sector-focused panels and mentorship sessions. The celebratory batches also reconnected during the grand Regraduation ceremony. The evening also featured IIMK's Got Talent with very diverse performances by students and alumni. The day concluded with Nostalgia Rendezvous, featuring live music and DJ performance, fostering vibrant camaraderie and best of connections.

DAY 3

Day 3 of Nostalgia 2025 began with Alumni Clinic, also where 80+ alumni mentored 142 students on careers, role transitions, plus industry insights, therefore reinforcing IIMK's mentorship culture. The Kerala Sadhya also fostered nostalgia and cultural bonding. The Women in Management panel then featured Deeksha Senguttuvan, Divya Iyer, Anamika Chaudhary, and Wing Commander Someya Sharma, discussing leadership, resilience, and career growth. Evening events included Komedly Night with Devesh Dixit and the Farewell Dinner & Musical Night by the band-Gandhara, thereby blending entertainment, reflection, and camaraderie. Nostalgia 2025 concluded as a vibrant and successful three day celebration of professional engagement, cultural richness, and lasting connections.



DAY 3

9 NOV 2025

11:00 AM	ALUMNI CLINIC
1:00 PM	KERALA STYLE SADHYA
3:00 PM	WOMEN IN MANAGEMENT
7:00 PM	A KOMEDY RIOT
8:00 PM	FAREWELL DINNER
9:00 PM	LIVE MUSIC WITH BAND

BUSINESS LEADERSHIP

OFFLINE INITIATIVES DURING NOSTALGIA



Building on the success of its digital initiatives, the BL Students' Alumni Cell (SAC) successfully revitalized in-person connections during Nostalgia event, IIM Kozhikode's flagship alumni reunion. By curating two exclusive offline formats: the **BL Alumni vs. BL Cohort** roundtable and the Leadership Clubhouse, the cell transitioned from ceremonial networking toward strategic community building.

These sessions thus provided a candid platform for current BL06 students and alumni across various PGP and EPGP batches to discuss the evolution of the BL brand, to institutionalize mentorship, and explore collaborative opportunities in placements and club engagement.

Also, the **Leadership Clubhouse**, which is designed as an experimental networking lab, facilitated deep, non-transactional exchanges between faculty, students, and seasoned professionals, spanning over two decades of graduating classes. By shifting alumni relations from passive, episodic events into a one "community architecture," the BL SAC has established a sustainable model for multi-batch camaraderie.

This strategic evolution ensures a living ecosystem built on continuity, collective growth, and a shared commitment to the very long-term success of the BL programme.

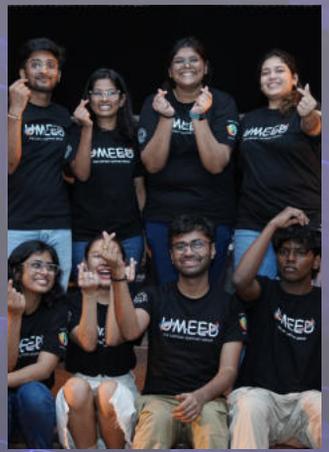


PHOTO GALLERY

CAMPUS VISIT

NAVNEET JHAMB

5th January 2026



The Students' Alumni Cell hosted Navneet Jhamb during his visit to the IIM Kozhikode campus on **5th January 2026**. The visit was designed to provide students with an opportunity to interact with a gifted alumnus and gain insights into his professional journey, which also served as a way to support the promotional activities related to his recent publication.

During the classroom session, the alumnus began by sharing reflections from his time at the institute, including the experiences and activities that contributed to him receiving the gold medal for all-round-performance. He used these reflections to emphasise the need of holistic development and active participation beyond academics. He then presented an overview of his corporate journey, outlining key roles,

transitions across sectors, and experiences that shaped his leadership approach and career trajectory. He also spoke about the motivation behind writing **The Doublespeak Chronicles of Wit and Wisdom**, explaining the core themes explored in the book and the importance of clear communication, ethical decision-making, and adaptability in professional life, drawing from his corporate and entrepreneurial experiences.

The interaction was widely appreciated for its candid tone and the practical nature of the advice shared. Students particularly valued the personal anecdotes and the dual perspectives offered by the alumnus and his spouse, which provided a balanced view of corporate growth, leadership, and career development.

PLACEMENT NITI

SIP KONNECT

Organized by the Students' Alumni Cell at IIM Kozhikode, Placement Niti and SIP Konnect bridged the gap between seasoned alumni and current students, offering vital mentorship for Final and Summer Placement cycles. These programs functioned as strategic platforms, enabling students to refine their preparation by leveraging the specialized expertise of alumni across various professional sectors.

Placement Niti engaged **150 eager participants**, with mentors guiding small groups of one or two students via virtual sessions. SIP Konnect involved **450 students, where 250 received individual mentorship and 200 were paired with two mentors each**. Alumni provided deep insights into industry benchmarks, market shifts, and emerging roles. They also delivered tailored critiques on resumes, interview techniques, and career positioning, equipping students to navigate the recruitment season with poise.

These initiatives profoundly influenced the student body by demystifying hiring workflows, polishing professional profiles, and sharpening their communication skills. Conversely, alumni found the engagement deeply fulfilling, viewing it as a meaningful way to support their alma mater and influence the trajectories of future leaders.

Feedback from both cohorts underscored the programs' efficacy. While students valued the pragmatic advice and encouragement, alumni cherished the opportunity to reconnect with IIM Kozhikode. Ultimately, these initiatives showcased the power of the IIMK network. Future iterations could further evolve by integrating mock interviews, industry webinars, and expanding the alumni mentor pool.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

AWARDEES



**HARISANKAR
RADHAKRISHNAN**

PGP-11

With nearly two decades of leadership spanning Fortune 100 titans like Amazon and Johnson & Johnson, Indian Conglomerates like Tata Group and ITC, and Top-tier Consultancies including Accenture and Cognizant; Mr Harisankar is a seasoned architect of organisational growth. His career is defined by a mastery of blending strategic thinking with technological prowess to deliver execution in both B2B and B2C landscapes. As CEO of ULTS, Mr Harisankar has been the driving force behind the firm's transformation. By focusing on portfolio rationalisation and emerging technologies, he has positioned ULTS as a leader in geospatial systems, application development, IT infrastructure, and cybersecurity, all underpinned by AI, analytics, and IoT.

Mr Shashank is an astute planner, an IIM Kozhikode alumnus (PGDM), and an IPS officer currently serving as a Superintendent of Police, leading district-level law enforcement and maintaining public safety. His role involves overseeing police operations, managing crime prevention, and coordinating district administration and security, combining analytical precision with a track record of diligent execution.

A mechanical engineer from the Delhi College of Engineering (Delhi University), he currently serves as Senior Manager at Jindal Steel & Power Limited. In this pivotal role, he has led high-impact initiatives across Operations, Business Strategy, and Business Development within the Mining and Steel sectors.



**SHASHANK
JAISWAL**

PGP-12



**HARISH
KRISHNAN**

PGP-07

A seasoned veteran of the asset management industry, Mr. Harish Krishnan brings over 21 years of domestic and international experience to his role as Chief Investment Officer – Equity. Prior to his current leadership position, Mr. Harish spent over a decade at Kotak Mutual Fund as a Senior Fund Manager, where he was instrumental in shaping equity strategies. His global perspective is furthered by his tenure at Kotak Mahindra (UK) Limited, where he managed offshore funds across the financial hubs of Singapore and Dubai.



YOUNG ALUMNI

ACHIEVER



**SURBHI
BHATIA**

PGP-15

An innovative entrepreneur and strategic leader, this IIM Kozhikode alumna is the visionary founder of The Mom Store. Her mission is to build a world-class brand for the modern mother, offering a curated range of premium products for both mother and baby. Beyond retail, she has cultivated a supportive platform designed to help expectant and young mothers confidently navigate the complexities of motherhood.

Prior to her entrepreneurial journey, she built a robust professional foundation in Strategy and Consulting. Her career includes impactful tenures at Deloitte Consulting (USI) and Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Pvt. Ltd., where she honed the strategic insights that now drive her brand's growth and customer-centric innovation.

A visionary business leader with over 15 years of experience, this IIM Kozhikode alumnus has been a pivotal force in India's most iconic startup success stories. As the former Chief Marketing and Revenue Officer at Ola and Ola Electric, he was instrumental in securing a 50% market share in the electric two-wheeler segment and steering the company to a successful IPO within just 3.5 years.

His career is defined by high-impact leadership across diverse sectors, ranging from leading revenue and product strategy during Ola's rapid global expansion to driving aggressive growth at upGrad to empower professional upskilling. Furthermore, as part of the founding team at BlueStone, he helped redefine online fine jewelry retail by blending traditional craftsmanship with digital innovation.



**ANSHUL
KHANDELWAL**

PGP-13



VISHWAS ANAND

PGP-16

A world-record holder and international award-winning leader, Vishwas Anand is a Management Consulting Manager (AVP) at Accenture and a recipient of the IIM Kozhikode Young Alumni Achiever Award (2025). He has spearheaded global marketing transformations for Fortune 500 giants like Schneider Electric and Infosys, where his thought leadership platforms earned praise from co-founder Nandan Nilekani.

Recognized as an AMA Top 4 Under 40 and one of The Holmes Report's Top 25 Innovators in Asia Pacific, Vishwas is a prolific Forbes author and global awards jury member. From winning Marketer of the Year to serving as a Stevie® Award honoree and guest lecturer at IIMs, he remains a definitive global voice in strategic brand innovation and digital storytelling.



ALUMNI

ACHIEVEMENTS



Deepak Meena

Class of 2005 alumnus Deepak Meena has taken on a new role as Chief Strategy & Transformation Officer at SHIFT inc. in the Middle East.

Ankur Saxena

Class of 2007 alumnus Ankur Saxena has taken on a new role as Chief Process Transformation Officer at Persistent Systems



Puneet Bhaskar

Class of 2008 alumnus Puneet Bhaskar, Founder & CEO of TyrePlex.com, a B2B tyre marketplace, has raised Rs 20 crore in funding (~USD 2.4 million) round led by PeerCapital, with participation from Titan Capital Winners Fund, Sattva Family Office, and existing investors, including 100 Unicorns



Amudhan M

PGP alumnus, Mr. Amudhan M (PGP 26), has successfully joined as an Assistant Commandant in the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) after completing a year of rigorous training





Ankur Mittal

Class of 2004 alumnus Ankur Mittal has been elevated to Chief Technology Officer and Managing Director - India at Lowe's Companies, Inc

Suraj Prasad

Class of 2003 alumnus Suraj Prasad, has raised INR 1 crore pre-seed to build India's leading childhood wellness platform



Emy Ottaplackal

Class of 2023 alumna Emy Ottaplackal, was in the news for her free app MyLQ, which is a programme designed to improve arithmetic skills of economically disadvantaged children.



Tanya Singh

Class of 2013 alumna Tanya Singh has joined Diageo India as Senior General Manager – Brand Marketing for Johnnie Walker.





Apekshit Khare

Class of 2010 alumna Apekshit Khare has released her book "The time energy toolkit: Design your life, one day at a time"

Sandeep Gopal

Class of 2006 alumna Sandeep Gopal has taken on a new role as Chief Risk Officer – Asia Pacific for AIG, based out of Kuala Lumpur.



Harish Krishnan

Class of 2005 alumna Harish Krishnan, CFA has been elevated to the role of Chief Investment Officer – Equity of Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund (ABSLMF). He has also shared his expert perspectives with ET Wealth



Reuben Philip Abraham

PGP Class of 2012 alumna Reuben Philip Abraham has moved to a new role as Director – Partner Success – Asia Pacific, Middle East & Africa at Ocado Solutions, from McKinsey & Company





Devroop Dhar

Class of 2006 alumnus Devroop Dhar, Co-Founder & CEO at Primus Partners Pvt Ltd recently provided his expert input in a Fortune India article on the semiconductor industry in India. He also wrote a thought leadership piece in The Economic Times on “India’s data goldmine: The key to solving AI’s peak data crisis and global LLM future”

Prateek Didwania

Class of 2014 alumnus Prateek Didwania, Founder at “Snacking Cafe and PICO” in Kolkata was featured recently in The Telegraph



Viral Malvania

Class of 2015 alumnus Viral Malvania, Co-Founder at “Sportomic”, has been recognized as the Best Startup in Sports & Gaming at Startup Mahakumbh - a prestigious platform that saw participation from over 3,000+ startups across India. The recognition was covered by multiple press outlets including The Indian Express



Nitai Utkarsh

Class of 2006 alumnus Nitai Utkarsh has moved to a new role as the Head of Family Office for the Lal Family, promoters of Eicher Motors and the Good Earth group. He was previously Head of Family Office for the Chairman of Hero MotoCorp Ltd.





Kaveesh Thakker

Class of 2010 alumnus Kaveesh Thakker has been elevated to Managing Director at Multiples Alternate Asset Management, a leading Indian private equity firm.

Abhishek Raj

Class of 2011 alumnus Abhishek Raj has been elevated to Head of Marketing, India and South Asia at Udemy.



Revant Bhate

Class of 2009 alumnus Revant Bhate, Founder & CEO at Mosaic Wellness has raised \$20Mn from Think Investment.



Kashyap Chanchani

Bloomberg News interviewed class of 2006 alumnus Kashyap Chanchani, Cofounder and Managing Partner of "The Rainmaker Group (TRMG)"





Sameer Seth

Class of 2005 alumnus Sameer Seth's new restaurant Papa's has made it to TIME's list of "The World's Greatest Places of 2025". He also has 2 restaurants in the Top 10 and 4 restaurants in the Top 50 restaurants annual ranking by Condé Nast Traveller India.

Amit Chopra

Class of 2004 alumnus Amit Chopra has taken on a new role as Chief Operating Officer at Ecotech IT Solutions Pvt Ltd (a Weiss GmbH company).



Jasleen Kaur

Class of 2005 alumna Jasleen Kaur has taken on a new role as Partner, India Desk at Grant Thornton - UAE, based in Dubai.



Aditya Gahlaut

Class of 2000 alumnus Aditya Gahlaut, Managing Director and Co-Head Asia Pacific, Global Trade Solutions at HSBC, has recently been in the news twice. HSBC was recognised as the best trade finance provider in Asia by Euromoney. He was also in the news in Reuters coverage of "HSBC, World Bank's IFC" launch \$1 bln trade finance programme for emerging markets.





Suvish CK

EPGCITMA Class of 2021 alumnus Suvish CK has taken on a new role as Vice President & Head - Tech Infra Project Implementation and Audit Compliance at NSE India.

Uma Kasoji

Class of 2001 alumna Uma Kasoji, Co-founder of "The star in me" has won "Startup of the Year - Gold" award for The star in me at The Economic Times Human Capital Awards 2025.



Nitin Menon

PGP Class of 2006 alumnus Nitin Menon has taken a new role as Head of M&A Execution at SATS Ltd., one of the world's largest providers of air cargo handling services and Asia's leading airline caterer.



Sreevas Sahasranamam

Mr.Sreevas Sahasranamam, alumnus from FPM-06 batch ,has won the prestigious 40 under 40 UK awards for 2025, in the education category and the overall People's Choice Award across all categories. The award was presented at the Institute of Directors, Pall Mall building in London.





Vishwas Anand

Mr. Vishwas Anand AVP, Accenture, an alumnus from PGP-16, is a recipient of the 4 Under 40 Emerging Leaders Award by the American Marketing Association. This award recognizes individuals who have made meaningful contributions to marketing and its sub-fields, while demonstrating leadership, collaboration, and continued service.

Abhilash Nair

Class of 2006 alumnus Abhilash Nair has been recognized as one of the Top 30 Talent Leaders of 2025 by Forbes India and Indeed.



Payal Mehta

Class of 2016 alumna Payal Mehta has been elevated to Managing Director and Partner at Boston Consulting Group (BCG).



Japneet Kaur Sachdeva

Class of 2008 alumna Japneet Kaur Sachdeva has moved to a new role as Executive Vice President and Group Head – Talent Management, Learning & Development, Employee Engagement and Values & Beliefs at GMR Group.





Gautam Basak

Class of 2005 alumnus Gautam Basak has moved to a new role as Chief Data and AI Officer, Global Digital Consumer Bank (DCB) and Santander US.

Smrithi Ravichandran

Class of 2010 alumna Smrithi Ravichandran has moved to Multiples Alternate Asset Management as Principal after 17 years at Flipkart, where she was most recently Vice President - Head of Mobiles & Travel.



Jaskaran Singh

Class of 2008 alumnus Jaskaran Singh, VP of Food at Careem was on Dubai Eye 103.8 to talk about Careem's expansion.

Arpan Biswas

Class of 2010 alumnus Arpan Biswas, Chief Marketing Officer at AJIO.com was in the news recently for the launch of Ajo and Wondrlab's multi-starrer festive film 'This Is How We Festival' featuring Varun Dhawan and Shraddha Kapoor alongside Zeenat Aman, Uorfi Javed, Abir Chatterjee, and Malavika Mohanan.





Sanket Sinha

Class of 2011 alumnus Sanket Sinha, CFA, Managing Director & CEO, Global Asset Management at Lighthouse Canton, joined CNBC's Dan Murphy to share insights from the Super Return Asia event in Singapore and the outlook for private markets.

Rahul Krishnan K

PGP - BL class of 2021 alumnus, Rahul Krishnan K, has taken new role as Chief Financial Officer at Daya Group of Hospitals.



Hiren Dasani

Class of 2001 alumnus Hiren Dasani, CFA has joined White Oak Capital in Singapore as Chief Investment Officer (CIO) - Emerging Markets.



Abhinav Ravikumar

PGP Class of 2012 alumnus Abhinav Ravikumar has been elevated to the role of Chief Marketing Officer, Personal Care India at Unilever.





Hitesh Bhagia

Class of 2009 alumnus Hitesh Bhagia has recently secured ₹1 crore investment from Anupam Mittal on Shark Tank India Season 5 for KILRR Spices, his ready-to-use, meat masala brand.

Siddhartha Roy

Class of 2013 alumnus Siddhartha Roy has taken on a new role as Chief Business Officer at Beardo, a fully owned subsidiary of Marico Limited, where he was previously Business Head, International Business Group.



Paras Prakash

Class of 2021 alumnus Paras Prakash's business Adarth has been acquired by Singapore's Moving Walls.



Jerin Raj

Class of 2007 alumnus Jerin Raj has been elevated to Managing Director and Head of APAC & India for Black & Veatch.





Vishwas Jain

Class of 2002 alumnus Vishwas Jain has joined Zepto as CXO for Pharma, Cafe & Private Labels verticals.

Manoj Agarwal

Class of 2009 alumnus Manoj Agarwal, Co-Founder at Xoxoday, has raised a Series C round backed by its existing investors - Apis Partners & 57 Stars, marking a key milestone as the company accelerates its next phase of global growth.



Navneet Jhamb

Class of 2001 Gold Medalist Navneet Jhamb has moved to a new role as Managing Partner at Privé by Property Station, where he is shaping a new benchmark in trusted, end-to-end real estate services for global client.



Confessions of a Consultant: Tales from the Growth Trenches



By Ravi Radhakrishnan, Class of 2001 (PGP)

These days, I help businesses grow. Sounds fancy, but really, I just talk to people who've been through more ups and downs than a rollercoaster in a thunderstorm. Here's the strange part: most of my clients are over 60. They've seen it all. Recessions, bad hires, worse haircuts. But they've built solid businesses, some in manufacturing, some in tech. All of them have one thing in common: they got here by being exceptionally good at what they do. They also wore every hat possible. CEO by day, HR by lunch, accountant by evening, and janitor on weekends. Impressive? Yes. Scalable? Not even close.

Eventually, they hit a wall. "I'm doing everything, and nothing's moving," they'd say. That's when I show up, usually after they've tried everything else, including yelling at their Excel sheets. Their journey is eerily similar. A decade of chaos. failures. resilience. grit. A little madness. Then, finally, success. They claw their way back, make money, and start breathing again. Then comes the next decade. The "hire one person at a time and hope for the best" phase. They bring in someone for HR. Then finance. Then sales. All while thinking, "I used to do all this myself. Why am I paying five people now?"

Funny thing is, they have zero hesitation hiring more engineers or buying new machines.

But ask them to invest in marketing or HR, and suddenly it's all fluff and overhead. Spoiler alert: you can't scale by cloning yourself, and you definitely can't build a business by only feeding your comfort zone. Eventually, they realise something big: what got them here won't get them there. That's when they call me. Not because I have all the answers, but because I ask the questions they've been avoiding. Here's the real eye-opener: this whole cycle, struggle, success, stall, repeat, can be shortened. A lot. If founders take a step back, look at their business like a machine, and treat every function: sales, marketing, HR, finance, as critical in their own right as per the market they are in, they can scale faster and smarter. And if there's one thing, they all struggle with? Not funds. It's sales and marketing. They can build rockets, but can't sell a pen. Fix that, and they're on their way to either handing the business to their kids or sipping coconut water in Alleppey.

The takeaway? Don't wait till you're 60, exhausted, and wondering why your calendar looks like a mess. Ask yourself two simple questions:

- 1. Am I actually building a sales and marketing engine, or just hoping people will find me?**
- 2. Am I hiring with a plan to scale, or just plugging holes with duct tape?**

If the answer to either is "uhhh... maybe?", it might be time to rethink the playbook.

When I first walked through the hillside gates of IIM Kozhikode, I was every bit the operational manager, efficient and, proud of my ability to “get things done.” My world ran on checklists and KPIs. If a process was broken, I’d fix it; if a target was missed, I’d double the effort. But during one of the first strategy lectures, Prof. K.K. Sharma leaned against the desk and said, “If you’re always busy tightening the bolts, you may forget to ask where the engine is headed.” That line landed like a spark. I realised I had been perfecting without envisioning. I was fine-tuning the parts but never pausing to see the whole machine.

Under Prof. Sharma’s guidance, strategy stopped feeling abstract. Case after case, he nudged us to think beyond frameworks, to sense the ripple effects of decisions. I still remember a late-night dorm debate where we dissected Netflix’s global pricing model. What began as an academic exercise became a revelation: strategy wasn’t about having all the answers; it was about asking better questions.

Then came the X-Culture project, where theory met reality. Our team was a mosaic of nationalities, time zones, and opinions. Midway through, a disagreement nearly derailed us, data didn’t align, and deadlines loomed. I wanted to fix it, fast. But I heard Prof. Sharma’s voice in my head: “Leadership is about creating options, not enforcing them.” So I slowed down. We talked, listened, and eventually built a hybrid approach that everyone owned. For the first time, I experienced influence without authority, a lesson far richer than any textbook could offer.

Prof. Rachappa’s accounting classes anchored that big-picture thinking in hard numbers. He loved to quip, “Strategy without numbers is just poetry.” What seemed mundane at first became magical when I realised that every financial statement told a story, of priorities, risks, and strategic choices. It trained me to see the narrative behind the numbers.

And then there was the Business Project under Prof. Geetha’s mentorship, where everything came together. She had this way of turning our ambitious ideas into actionable realities. “Strategy lives or dies in execution,” she’d remind us, every time we got too theoretical. Under her guidance, I learned the art of translating a vision into movement, aligning people, plans, and passion toward a common direction.

Two years at IIM Kozhikode did not just polish my skills; they reframed my lens. When I returned to my organisation, my team noticed before I did. “You’ve started seeing things three moves ahead,” one colleague said. That is when I knew the transformation was real. Today, I still value operational excellence but I’ve learned that efficiency without direction is motion without meaning. IIMK taught me to zoom out, to connect the dots, and to see not just the task at hand, but the story it’s part of. In short, it turned an operator into a strategist and, more importantly, a lifelong learner.



By Gaurav Singhai,
Class of 2025
(EPGP)

Currently serving as Head, Global Online Customer Experience @Merck. Gaurav blends operational precision with strategic foresight, drawing on lessons from academia and real-world leadership to drive sustainable growth and innovation.

From Operations to Strategy: Seeing the Big Picture





EPGCSM to Global Strategy: Truly Globalizing Indian Thought

By Shubham Rastogi, EPGCSM-06 Batch

In the years leading up to 2014, I was already navigating international roles in healthcare and life sciences. I was managing growth, leading teams, and driving results, but something was missing. I was reacting to change, not shaping it. I knew what I was doing, but I wanted to understand why, and more importantly, how to lead with deeper strategic clarity and purpose. That search led me to IIM Kozhikode.

In 2014, I enrolled in the Executive Post Graduate Certificate in Strategic Management (EPGCSM), a decision that would redefine my trajectory. The program was rigorous, insightful, and transformative. But the real turning point came during a session by Director Debashis Chatterjee, who spoke about "Inner Mastery, Outer Impact." His words challenged me to rethink leadership, not as a title, but as a responsibility rooted in self-awareness and authenticity.

The EPGCSM program didn't just give me frameworks, it gave me clarity, confidence, and conviction. Armed with this new mindset, I stepped into a global leadership role at HORIBA Medical HQ in France. I led worldwide business development, after heading international marketing and communication.

I managed multicultural teams from six nationalities, expanded market share from 4% to 14%, and spearheaded AI-based diagnostic innovations that are now shaping the future of healthcare. Over the years, I've worked across 100+ countries, authored 30+ scientific and strategic papers, and built partnerships that transcend borders.

In 2025, I had the honour of representing innovation at the ICSH General Assembly, advocating for AI in haematology. It was a moment of reflection, realising how far the EPGCSM foundation had taken me, and how deeply the values of IIMK continue to guide me.

Today, I serve as the INSEAD Alumni Lead for the Montpellier Chapter, mentoring global changemakers and exploring C-level strategic roles to drive innovation-led expansion. Looking back, IIM Kozhikode wasn't just a campus, it was a crucible.

The EPGCSM program didn't just elevate my career, it transformed my mindset.

It taught me that true leadership begins with self-awareness and ends with global impact.

From the green hills of Kozhikode to global tech stages, Apoorva Bajaj's journey is a story of intellect, innovation, and impact. A Gold Medallist from IIM Kozhikode's PGP 16 batch (2012–2014) and a CFA Charterholder, Apoorva's career seamlessly blends finance, technology, and education. After working with some of the world's most prestigious financial institutions, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, and D.E. Shaw, he ventured into the world of deep technology entrepreneurship to solve one of education's biggest challenges: the global crisis of fake degrees and unemployability. Today, Apoorva leads Edubuk (<https://edubuk.com>), a globally award-winning AI & Blockchain platform recognised by MIT, Harvard University, G20 Summit, World Economic Forum, NSDC, IITs, and IIMs. His flagship innovation, TruCV, is a 100% verifiable and tamper-proof CV recorded on the blockchain, integrated with Digi Locker (Government of India) and multiple global blockchains like Polygon, Concordium, XDC, Algorand, and Solana. Through Edubuk's suite of products, including TruJobs, eSeal, CETA Certification, MIIT Screening, and Neo-Ed Model, Apoorva has built a 'Neo-Education Ecosystem' that connects education to employment through AI-driven job matching and blockchain-verified credentials using the TruJobs product of Edubuk.

Under his leadership, Edubuk has won 50+ global awards, been part of 10+ international accelerators (including Solana Temple Bali, XDC x Tenity, Algorand Startup Lab, and T-AIM Telangana AI Mission), and forged partnerships with Unstoppable Domains, NSDC, Skill India, NASSCOM, Woxsen University, and CoinDCX OKTO. The company's multi-chain blockchain solution is projected to record over 1 million verified transactions annually, bridging the education-employment divide across India, the UAE, Africa, and Europe in 50+ universities. He is invited as a speaker at the GITEX Global 2025 Tech Conference in the UAE. Beyond entrepreneurship, Apoorva remains deeply committed to mentorship and education, speaking at global tech forums and mentoring startups across AI, Web3, and DeepTech. His vision, aptly summarised in Edubuk's credo, "Neo-Ed: AI-Driven personalised, Verifiable & Rewarded Learning using Blockchain," reflects the next evolution of how learning and employment will converge in the 21st century.

Life Lesson

"True innovation lies at the intersection of purpose and technology. IIM K taught me not just to lead, but to redefine the systems we inherit, that has been the driving force behind every venture I've built."



By Apoorva Bajaj, Gold Medallist,
IIM Kozhikode (PGP 16, 2012–2014)

Hall of Fame Feature – Apoorva Bajaj

Co-Founder & CEO, Edubuk | CFA Charterholder | IIT (ISM) Dhanbad Topper |
Globally Award-Winning DeepTech Entrepreneur | UAE Golden Visa Holder

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/abhishek-gha-5850349/>



Tat Twam Asi

The OG “We Are One” Vibe



“Tat Twam Asi – That is me. From One to Infinity... from self to the universe, it’s all One.”

Sounds deep? It is. But also super practical. Advaita Vedanta said this ages ago, and honestly, it hits even harder today.

I still remember one of my professors, Dr Tushar Jash of Jadavpur University, Environmental Studies, in class, he dropped this line:

“Everything except me is the environment.”

Boom. Suddenly, the whole idea of “universe” made sense in one sentence. Then, in a marketing class back in the ‘90s, another professor asked us to define “market.” We all said “a place.” He smiled and said: “Market is where two people meet.”



By Tapas Kumar Bhattasaly,
Class of 2005 (EMEP 04)

“Think about it, that’s literally how every platform works today: B2B, B2C, D2C, collabs, even dating apps. The “meeting” is the market.

Both those lessons point back to one truth: we’re all connected. In everyone’s universe, I’m there. And in mine, everyone’s there. Once you get that, the whole “me vs. you” ego thing just dissolves. And here is where it gets wild, math actually proves it.

Take numbers 1 to 9. Add the first and last in sequence:

$$1+9 = 10 \rightarrow 1$$

$$2+8 = 10 \rightarrow 1$$

$$3+7 = 10 \rightarrow 1$$

$$4+6 = 10 \rightarrow 1$$

$$5+5 = 10 \rightarrow 1$$

Every pair, no matter how different, reduces back to one.

Individually, we are unique, like avatars with our own skins and powers. But together, we are One massive force.

From One → to Infinity → to the Infinite Universe.

That’s Tat Twam Asi.

For Gen Z/Alpha, this isn’t just philosophy, it’s like the ultimate collab code: You + Me = Us.

Always One.

With the healthcare sector undergoing seismic shifts driven by digital transformation, changing patient needs and global health challenges, I have unveiled in my latest book, "Navigating Changes in Healthcare: Managing Change Effectively for Healthcare Professionals."

Positioned as a strategic companion for healthcare leaders, administrators, and Aspiring professionals, the book addresses the urgent need for effective change management in hospitals, public health organisations, and health systems worldwide. It emphasises the crucial role of leadership in balancing patient care, cost efficiency, and organisational sustainability while navigating uncertainty.

This book equips professionals with not just theoretical knowledge, but practical tools and reflective guidance to manage transformation confidently."



By Bommakanti Girish Babu
Class of 2011 (EPGP 04)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/girix46/>

The following are the key questions and answers about the book by Author, Girish Bommakanti

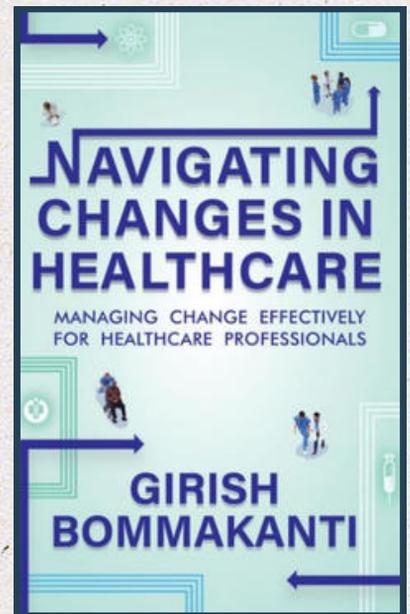
1. Tell us about your book in one or two sentences.

Navigating Changes in Healthcare: Managing Change Effectively for Healthcare Professionals. A comprehensive book with practical tools and insights to navigate the complexities of healthcare transformation, whether it's hospitals, public health and health systems worldwide. It looks at the leadership and change management role in making these changes sustainable and making an impact in your organisation.

2. Why did you choose to write it?

My 24 years of career experience are around these areas, diversified into hospitals, public health and health systems across various countries and leading them through multiple pathways of sustainable change management. Wanted to bring out a practical approach for healthcare professionals to learn from these practical tools, learn and apply them at their workplaces across the globe. It serves as a guidance mechanism, and most importantly, there's not much written about this topic in the healthcare sector, and I wanted to contribute to this area with enough evidence-based literature with case studies and tools.

Book title: Navigating Changes in Healthcare Managing Change Effectively for Healthcare Professionals



3. Who should read the book? And why?

This book is ideal for aspiring Healthcare professionals and healthcare leaders working at the hospital, public health and health systems level. It also serves as a learning tool and career guidance, especially for healthcare Students

4. What does the title actually mean?

Navigating Changes in Health-care: Managing Change Effectively for Healthcare Professionals". When you lead and take any initiatives in healthcare, how do you want to implement these changes that last, are sustainable, and make an impact in your organisation? It talks about practical tools, case studies and experience sharing by experts to bring out these learning in a concrete way to learn and apply.

5. What are the top 3-5 takeaways from the book?

- Practical tools, case studies and insights, along with global experts, bring out what it takes to manage change effectively
- The book comprehensively covers all the areas and challenges we face today,
- Managing Resistance – Practical strategies that address opposition from internal teams and external stakeholders. From context and culture perspective.

- Sustaining Change Over Time – Insights on building transformations that last five to ten years, beyond quick fixes.

- Cross-Functional Alignment – Breaking silos, fostering collaboration, and ensuring common goal orientation.

- Capacity Building – Role of mentoring, coaching, and leadership development programs in creating future ready healthcare leaders.

- Navigating Priorities – Maintaining the delicate balance between cost control, quality of care, and patient access.

- Leadership in Healthcare Transformation – Fostering essential attributes for effective, ethical leadership in complex environments.

6. How should the reader commence reading this book?

- Suggest going chapter by chapter and at their own pace as detailed case studies and its model, applications are very detailed.

- There is a specific chapter covering Career Guidance, especially for healthcare students who can go through it separately and build upon it.

7. After reading the book, what is the next step?

- For application purposes, earmark some relevant case studies, models and their approaches to apply at your workplaces

- Once you learn from the application, you can build upon it further as you gain confidence

8. Please tell us more about you as an author.

With my experiences in the last 24 years with work across all the major regions of the global South Asia, Southeast Asia, Pacific Region, Middle East and Africa in managing, leading, and growing hospitals, building innovative rural healthcare models, micro insurance and technology. I have been in the consulting space of public health systems and private healthcare has given me a wide exposure and understanding of the interconnected healthcare ecosystem, how to build, innovate and grow various initiatives, models and also look at the people side and capacities required to undertake. I brought out my enriched experiences, insights, and learnings into this book.

9. How can a reader reach out to you?

Readers can reach me on LinkedIn or Email me at girix46@gmail.com

Anger, Awareness, and Leadership

Transforming conflict into clarity, transforming emotion into understanding and unity.



By Nikhil Mittal
Class of 2022 (PGP 24)

This idea may develop strength through your knowledge, perception, experiences, learning, encounters, and perception. You might develop an idea that you are not doing justice to your life and become angry at yourself for living the way you have always lived. You might develop the idea that you need to earn more, and then the same anger will push you out of your comfort zone and take you to new heights. From my perception, this is also an expression of anger toward the self for being lazy, unaware, or unskilled. Hence, anger is a neurological response of the mind to safeguard itself and protect something it truly cares for.

Once you recognise that anger arises from conflict, either between your thoughts and your real self, or between you and someone else in this world, you will be able to manage the conflict better. You become the higher personality in the room just by noticing this anger. You will see what is causing it, and instead of reacting harshly, which would only lead to more anger in the situation, you will act with a present mind. You will choose to understand the situation and calm the other person down.

श्लोक 2.62-63

ध्यायतो विषयान्पुंसः
सङ्गस्तेषूपजायते।
सङ्गात्सुंजायतेकामः
कामात्क्रोधोऽविजायते॥ 2.62॥
क्रोधादिभेवत सम्मोहः
सम्मोहात्स्मृतविभ्रमः।
स्मृतवतर्भुंशाद्वपद्धिनाशो
वपद्धिनाशात्प्रणश्यवत॥ 2.63॥

Literal meaning (factual translation):

When a person dwells on sense-objects, attachment to them arises; from attachment comes desire, and from desire arises anger.

From anger arises delusion; from delusion, loss of memory; from loss of memory, destruction of intellect; and through destruction of intellect, one perishes.

Anger. We all have encountered anger in almost all intensities in our lives. We get angry at someone who does not agree with us, someone who is doing something that harms our idea of a perfect or beautiful world, someone who is harming someone else, someone who is not sharing something with us, someone who is speaking loudly and senselessly, someone who is behaving inappropriately in a given situation, someone who is not us, basically.

For all beings in "Kali Yuga," this "bad someone" is always the other person in front of us. We have not looked inside ourselves for centuries now. What if I tell you that this someone is you, and the one getting angry is the self? You are getting angry at yourself for being in conflict about any one idea that is dominating the mind.

You will tell yourself through deep breathing that you are doing okay, that there is nothing wrong, and that you are on the right path.

Breathing allows you to be present in the situation, quite literally.

You will try to listen more to the other person, let them vent out their feelings and emotions, and try to cool them down by remaining calm yourself. This could be done through your actions, words, or simple inaction. Maybe looking away would be the best way to deal with anger in that particular situation. Once the situation subsides, you can work on the real issue with calmness and see that the issue is already solved once you are calm. In calmness resides agreement. You would transform anger into agreement and realise that no one was wrong. Let the divine do its work; let the universal consciousness guide each soul toward divinity. Don't act selfishly.

In the management and leadership fields, people also use anger to stress certain actions that need to be completed. Anger is used as a transformative force. Surely, it gives results, but those are very temporary. The leader will lose their influence, and the listener will lose their self-respect and stop seeing the qualities and the point that the leader is trying to make through aggression.

The relationship would die, the conversation would die, the idea would die.

Anger leads to death. And the death of anger leads to new beginnings, where the conflict is resolved, and everyone is in agreement. Everyone is willing to push their limits for the greater good and accept the organisational objectives. They choose to work extra hours to assist their managers/leaders in achieving the company's growth.

The greatest leaders in the world have led by doing, by showing, and by being present in the situation, helping everyone be present as well. People might be absent from a situation because of personal blockages. The true leader would understand this and enable everyone on the team to move in the right direction. Nothing is more urgent than being in the situation.

Whenever you get angry, practice monism: be quiet and listen. Calm the thoughts that arise in your mind at that moment. No thought of anger or aggression will do any good to the world.

"Be the patient" and be patient. Breathe and observe with calmness. Let your nerves subside into the calmness that the universe offers you at all moments. Act only when you are calm.

Any action in anger will lead to the death of the greater objective.

Every idea that comes to a devoted mind is the guidance of the universal consciousness, and it must come into existence. But that can happen only when the perceiver, the actor, is in agreement with the self and the universe. Otherwise, the idea will die as quickly as it appeared. We must be spiritual toward our ideas and ensure that our anger, aggression, ego, hatred, and biases do not obstruct the path of the universe. Let your ideas come to reality and brighten the world around you.

I have personally started handling anger better by understanding these few things as I observe the world inside me more carefully. Practice yoga to calm your physical body; practice meditation regularly to keep your mind free of unnecessary thoughts. Meditation also allows us to filter thoughts efficiently; it teaches the mind the power of patience. When we begin meditation practices, it is usually very tough to keep the mind quiet, and hence it is said: let the thoughts flow and flow out but refrain from acting on them. Keep sitting, keep focusing on your breathing, and at one moment, only through practice, you can achieve a state where action itself becomes involuntary.

Winds of Sand and Silicon:

My Journey Through the Desert of Digital Transformation



By Dhavaleshwar Puvvati
Class of 2020 (EPGCSM11-010)

When I first packed my bags in Bengaluru, the familiar hum of traffic and the smell of filter coffee in the air felt oddly comforting. The decision to move to Saudi Arabia, a land known more for oil than algorithms, wasn't just a career leap; it was a cultural experiment in motion. I was venturing into the heart of the Gulf, stepping into a world where ancient traditions meet ambitious transformation, and where falcons and fibre optics share the same skyline.

The human side of technology changes in one of the world's most ambitious energy transformations. I was consulting for a leading utility (let's call it "The Grid Company"), which was embarking on a massive modernisation journey, digitalising the desert, one substation and system integration at a time. And what a journey it turned out to be.

From Filter Coffee to Qahwa

The first thing that hits you in Riyadh isn't the heat; it's the hospitality. There's an unspoken poetry in how a Saudi host pours qahwa, the golden Arabic coffee, into your cup, always a quarter full, never overflowing. It's a ritual of respect, not just caffeine. Coming from India's energetic chaos, where meetings are often a verbal wrestling match of PowerPoints and polite interruptions, the Saudi corporate setting felt deliberate, dignified, and steeped in grace. The conversations began with "Inshallah" (God willing) and ended with "Alhamdulillah" (Praise be to God).

The pacing was different, slower, more thoughtful, but beneath the calm exterior, a silent storm of transformation was brewing. What struck me most was the paradox: a society rooted in tradition, yet restlessly modernising. The energy sector, which was once the bastion of conservative, state-controlled stability, was now embracing cloud architectures, IoT grids, and AI-driven dispatch centres. It was like watching a camel learn to sprint, not because it had to, but because it wanted to.

The Boardroom Buzz

Every meeting mostly begins with some mention of Vision 2030, Saudi Arabia's ambitious blueprint to diversify from oil to innovation. But it wasn't just government rhetoric; it had seeped deep into the corporate DNA. The Grid Company had a tag line, "Serving you diligently," and it wasn't just on logos and stationery but rooted in the hallway conversations, even the cafeteria banter. The challenge was monumental; to digitise decades of legacy infrastructure, unify sprawling regional systems, and integrate IT-OT ecosystems spanning across hyper scalers, all while keeping the lights literally on across the kingdom.

What fascinated me was how technology and tradition were negotiating a truce. Engineers in thobes and consultants in suits debated over data models in English and Arabic.



The break rooms alternated between stories of the Prophet's leadership and discussions on machine learning algorithms. It was a surreal but seamless coexistence of the past and the future.

Leadership in the Land of Paradox

One of the first leadership lessons I absorbed came from a senior Saudi executive; let's call him Mr Khalid. He was a man of quiet authority, his manner calm, his words sparse. In one of our first workshops, as a debate over an integration architecture turned heated, he raised his hand and said softly:

"Gentlemen, in this desert, storms are common. But only the palm trees that bend with the wind survive."

That sentence stayed with me. It summed up what leadership in Saudi Arabia and, frankly, in any transformation really is the art of balancing the immovable with the inevitable. The younger Saudi workforce, often educated in the US or UK, brought bold ideas, agile mindsets, and a contagious optimism. The older generation carried deep institutional memory, a sense of purpose, and an unshakable respect for hierarchy. The leaders who succeeded weren't those who chose one side; they were the ones who built bridges between them.

The Humour in Heat

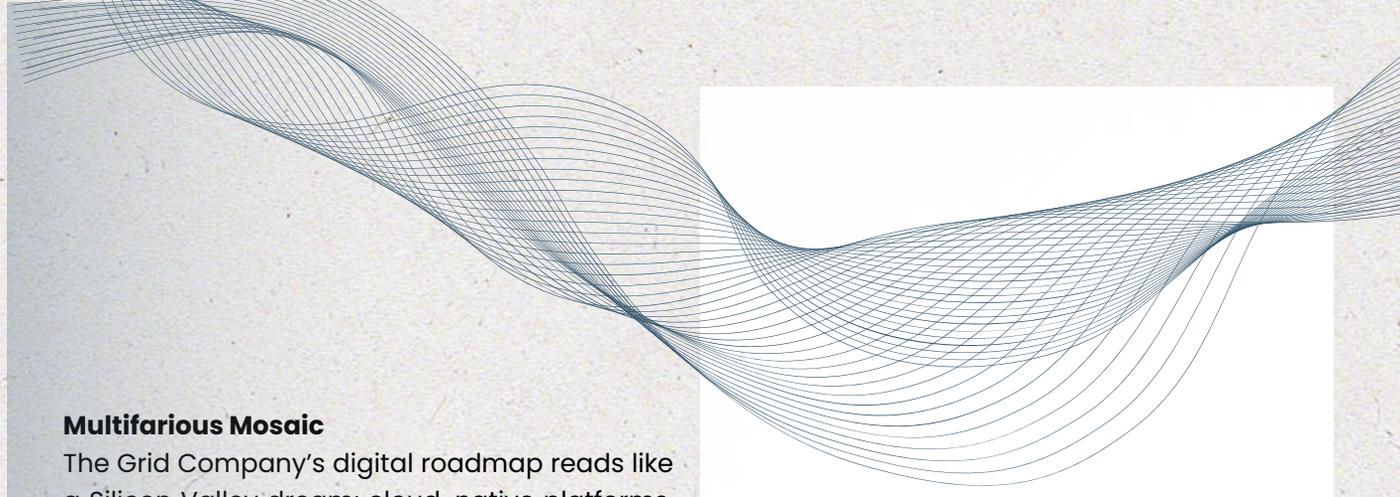
Corporate life in Saudi Arabia has its share of moments that make you chuckle, even in 45°C heat. During one of the workshops on data governance, a senior engineer interrupted my elaborate presentation on metadata standards to ask, with dead seriousness, "Can AI help us reduce sand in the transformers?"

And to his credit, he had a point: sandstorms do wreak havoc on infrastructure. It was a perfect metaphor for the region's challenges. Technology solutions had to be contextual, not copied. You can't just import Silicon Valley to the Sahara. Another day, during a field visit to a substation outside Riyadh, I noticed everyone gathering for Asr prayer. As I respectfully waited, a young Saudi colleague grinned and said, "One of my Indian colleagues told me that in India, you break for chai." Humour here isn't loud; it's subtle, soaked in wisdom. And it often hides profound truths about balance, patience, and purpose.

The Camel and the Cloud

Digital transformation in the energy sector isn't about software, it's about sociology. In India, I had seen change management programs built around speed to get buy-in, roll out, and adapt later. But in Saudi Arabia, I witnessed depth. Before implementing a new ADMS or smart grid interface, leaders would hold majlis-style discussions, "closed open forums" where even field technicians could share their concerns.

It was messy, democratic in its own way, and time-consuming. But it worked. When the system design was finally frozen, adaptation was organic, not enforced. That's when I realised something powerful: change doesn't always need velocity; sometimes, it needs reverence.



Multifarious Mosaic

The Grid Company's digital roadmap reads like a Silicon Valley dream: cloud-native platforms, AI-enabled outage prediction, and blockchain-based asset ledgers. Yet, in the actual execution, everything was localised. When designing dashboards, the colour palettes reflected the national identity; greens and golds. When implementing the AI models, the training data considered Arabic text and regional electrical load patterns. When designing customer apps, the UX team ensured it respected Ramadan time patterns. By being authentically local, the transformation became relatable. And that's the real essence of sustainable globalisation: go global, but sound local.

Desert as a Mirror

There's something about the desert that forces introspection. It strips everything to the bare essentials like heat, sand, silence and in doing so, it actually mirrors your own transformation. When I first arrived, I thought I was there to teach them about integration frameworks, CIM models, and digital grids. But then I realised I have been learning more about people than platforms. Amid endless dunes masked by the scaling infrastructure, I saw a nation beautifully learning to balance the old with the new, and the tribal with the technological. In many ways, their transformation mirrors our own back home, different in context, identical in courage. As I sip my coffee nowadays, somewhere between qahwa and cappuccino, I smile at the irony,

"The desert didn't just teach me technology. It taught me humanity."



LOOKING AHEAD

With the release of the third edition of the Alumni Newsletter, we continue our commitment to deepening the engagement between IIM Kozhikode and its expanding alumni network. What began as an initiative to strengthen connections has steadily evolved into a dynamic platform that reflects the shared aspirations, achievements, and collective spirit of our community.

Driven by the sustained efforts of the IIMK Alumni Association and the Students' Alumni Cell (SAC), this edition once again offers a glimpse into the diverse journeys of our alumni and the vibrant interactions that bridge generations of IIMK. The stories, milestones, and initiatives featured within these pages underscore the enduring impact of the institute and the values that continue to guide its members across industries and geographies.

As our alumni community grows in scale and influence, so too does the opportunity to collaborate, mentor, and inspire. Each edition strengthens this continuum, celebrating accomplishments while encouraging meaningful participation and dialogue.

We look forward to carrying this momentum forward, reinforcing the bonds that define the IIM Kozhikode legacy, and shaping the next chapter together.



Prof Salman Ali
CHAIRPERSON, ALUMNI RELATIONS



SHIKHAR

The Crest of Offering

As we strive to reach new heights in academic excellence and innovation, your contributions play a crucial role in shaping the future of our institution. Shikhar symbolizes the summit of our collective efforts, where every donation and contribution helps us climb higher and achieve more.

Through your support, IIMK can continue to provide world-class education, foster groundbreaking research, and develop future leaders who will make a significant impact on the global stage. Join us on this journey to the crest of offering and be a part of our mission to globalize Indian thought while nurturing the brightest minds of tomorrow.

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OUR TEAM

Students' Alumni Cell



STUDENTS' ALUMNI CELL BATCH OF 2026



Abhijeet Naik

abhijeetn05fin@iimk.ac.in



Akash Kasina

akashk28@iimk.ac.in



Naseef Y

naseefy28@iimk.ac.in



Prajwal Rawat

prajwal28@iimk.ac.in



Ruchit Dhelawat

ruchitd05fin@iimk.ac.in



Saloni Mohan

salonim28@iimk.ac.in



Sarvabouma

sarvaboumar28@iimk.ac.in



Sukhada Deshmukh

sukhadad28@iimk.ac.in



Viswa Laxmi

viswav05ism@iimk.ac.in



Sidharth G

bl25sidharth@iimk.ac.in



भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान कोपिक्कोड
Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode
Globalizing Indian Thought



BATCH OF 2027



**AGNEY MOOKKAN
PUSHKARAN**

mba25agney@iimk.ac.in



**ANUSHKA
RAWAT**

mba25anushkar@iimk.ac.in



**BHARAT
JAIN**

mba25bharat@iimk.ac.in



**DEVIKA
S**

mba25devika@iimk.ac.in



**EESHA
PAI**

fjn25eesha@iimk.ac.in



**KUNAL
KASHYAP**

ism25kunal@iimk.ac.in



**LAKSHMI
HARAKUNI**

mba25lakshmi@iimk.ac.in



**MILLI
DHAR**

mba25milli@iimk.ac.in



**SANTVANA
GANATRA**

ism25santvana@iimk.ac.in



**S
CHARUMITHA**

mba25charumitha@iimk.ac.in

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