



# DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN **MANAGEMENT**

Newsletter  
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## ABOUT THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN MANAGEMENT AT IIM AHMEDABAD

The Doctoral Programme in Management at IIM Ahmedabad (IIMA), one of the country's first and most reputed doctoral programmes in management, remains the first choice for candidates interested in a Ph.D. and in pursuing a career in management research. The doctoral programme offers students the option to choose from 11 diverse specializations within the interdisciplinary field of management. IIMA's Doctoral Programme in Management places its graduates in prestigious teaching, research, and consulting roles in world class organizations globally. A total of 493 doctoral students have graduated from the doctoral programme so far. For more details, please visit <https://www.iima.ac.in/academics/phd>.

## ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is an initiative of the students of the Doctoral Programme in Management at IIMA. The newsletter is a celebration of the various academic and extra-curricular achievements of the students. This issue highlights select achievements during the 2024-25 academic year.



## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

We are excited to share select academic achievements of our doctoral students in this edition of the newsletter. We're proud of their success and look forward to seeing even more achievements in the future.

### **Anmol Basant (5<sup>th</sup> Year, Organizational Behavior)**

Anmol presented his paper titled "HEALing my way from stress to happiness: Conceptualizing Awareness, Mindfulness and Helping Behaviours" at the 85th Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management (AOM), held in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 25–29 July 2025. He received the Best Reviewer Award from the OB division and an AOM-MSR travel assistance award of 600 dollars.

### **Anwesha Bandopadhyay (4<sup>th</sup> Year, Marketing)**

Anwesha received the prestigious UNSW India Research Collaboration Grant from the University of New South Wales Business School. Her project was based on protecting impact of green brand positioning. She was awarded AUD 10,000 and hosted as a Visiting Research Fellow at UNSW Business School. She presented her paper "I was not Harmed for Your Pleasure: The Role of Perceived Speciesism on Purchase Behavior for Cruelty-Free Products" at the AMA Winter Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, organised by the American Marketing Association and held from 14–16 February 2025, presenting on 16 February 2025 with co-authors Dr. Tanvi Gupta, Dr. Sourav Bikash Borah, and Dr. Soumya Mukhopadhyay. Anwesha was among the 24 PhD scholars globally and the only one from India to be selected for the MSI Doctoral Seminar on Marketing Strategy. She also presented her work in the ICSSR Conference 2024 (December) and the AIM-AMA Sheth Doctoral Consortium 2025 (July).

### **Christo Sagaya Milton T (5<sup>th</sup> Year, Marketing)**

Christo was awarded the Dr. Lalita Ajay Manrai Doctoral Research Fellowship 2025 on 2 September 2025, funded by Dr. Ajay K. Manrai through the IIMA Endowment Fund. He also presented his paper "Follow-up Questions to Increase Acceptance: The Crucial Role of Perceived Understanding in Consumer-Artificial Intelligence (AI) Interaction" at the 12th AIM-AMA Sheth Foundation International Marketing Conference, held at Management Development Institute (MDI), Gurgaon, from 17–18 July 2025. The paper is co-authored with Prof. Rajat Sharma and Prof. Arvind Sahay.

### **Devpriyo Ray (Beyond 5<sup>th</sup> Year, Operations & Decision Sciences)**

Devpriyo Ray presented his work "Cooperative Adoption of Supply Chain Traceability" at the ISB POMS Workshop 2024, jointly organised by ISB Hyderabad and the Production and Operations Management Society in Hyderabad. The paper, co-authored with Sriram Sankaranarayanan and Sanjith Gopalakrishnan, was recognized with the Best Poster Presenter Award.

### **Dhruven Zala (Beyond Fifth Year, Information Systems)**

Dhruven published his paper "Effect of Crisis Colocation on Online Prosocial Behavior" in Communications of the Association for Information Systems (CAIS) on 23 September 2024. The paper is co-authored with Swanand Deodhar and Mani Subramani and examines how a project owner's colocation during crises influences online prosocial engagement.

### **Divyanshu Jain (5<sup>th</sup> Year, Economics)**

Divyanshu published his paper "No Substitute for Strong Institutions: Impact of Accelerator Selection Criteria on Venture Performance" in Journal of Business Venturing Insights, co-authored with Pramendra Singh Tank and Dibyendu Sharma. His paper examines how accelerator screening mechanisms shape subsequent venture outcomes. His paper "Eyes on the Line: Impact of Monitoring Precision on Firm Productivity" was selected for presentation at several major forums, including the Econometric Society Australasian Meeting at Monash University, the 19th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development at ISI Delhi, and BREW-ESA 2024 at Ashoka University. He also received the prestigious Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) Scholarship.

## Kashinath Murmu (5<sup>th</sup> Year, Information Systems)

Kashinath was awarded the prestigious AIS Entrepreneurial Innovation Fellowship 2025, jointly offered by the Association for Information Systems (AIS) and Ewha Womans University. He presented his paper "New Venture Innovation Novelty: Conceptual Competition Network and Information Theory Perspective" at the Academy of Management (AOM) Annual Meeting 2025 in Copenhagen, Denmark. His paper is co-authored with Prof. Pankaj Setia.

## Khalid Equbal Akhtar (5<sup>th</sup> Year, Marketing)

Khalid presented two of his research papers at leading global marketing and consumer-research conferences in 2025. He presented "Brand Purpose and Customer Incivility Management" at the AMA Summer Conference 2025, organised by the American Marketing Association, held in Chicago, Illinois from August 22–24, 2025, with his presentation on August 23, 2025. He also presented "Managing Customer Incivility through Brand Purpose" at the ACR Annual Conference 2025, organised by the Association for Consumer Research, held in Washington, D.C. from October 10–11, 2025, presenting on October 10, 2025. Both papers are co-authored with Prof. Arun Sreekumar and Prof. Sourav Borah, and together highlight Khalid's growing scholarly contributions at the intersection of brand purpose, customer behavior, and incivility management.

## Krishnapriya V (2<sup>nd</sup> Year, Organizational Behavior)

Krishnapriya's research paper titled "Role of Organizational Conspiracy Beliefs on Employee Outcomes: Organizational Trust as a Mediator" was accepted for oral presentation at 22nd European Congress of Work and Organizational Psychology (EAWOP 2025), held in Prague, Czech Republic.

## Krishnavardhan Narad Yadav (2<sup>nd</sup> Year, Public Systems)

Krishnavardhan's book chapter titled "Critiquing Strategic Essentialism, Identity Politics & Internal Security in India's North Eastern Insurgency" has been accepted for publication in the forthcoming volume of book titled "Strengthening BRICS in Areas of Internal Security, Public Health, Disaster Management and Role of Media". He also published two op-ed articles in The Secretariat: "Rethinking India's Forest Conservation: From Bureaucratic Plantations to People's Forests" and "From Scarcity to Security: India's Water Turning Point."

## Mohd. Abdul Shakoor (2<sup>nd</sup> Year, Innovation and Management in Education)

Shakoor presented his poster "Mathematical Understanding and Learning: An Exploratory Study of the Literature" at the 5th National Conference of MTA(I) held at Azim Premji University, Bangalore. His work highlighted major theories of mathematical understanding and their implications for student learning. He also presented "An Analysis of Activities in Delhi SCERT's Entrepreneurship Mindset Curriculum Through Corbett's Experiential Learning Framework" at MERC 2025 at IIM Kashipur (23–25 May 2025). The study examined how the curriculum aligns with Corbett's framework and identified areas for pedagogical improvement.

## Mithira Siva (Beyond 5<sup>th</sup> Year, Strategy)

Mithira presented his paper "Not Only What But Also Who: Impact of CEO Regulatory Focus on Their Dismissal" at the Strategic Management Society (SMS) Annual Conference held in Istanbul. He also presented his paper "Raging Recommendations: How the CEO's Anger Influences Analysts' Recommendations" at the Academy of Management (AOM) Annual Meeting 2025 in Copenhagen. The paper was coauthored with Prof. Mayank Varshney and Prof. Balagopal Gopalakrishnan. His third paper, "A Mach's Match: How CEO Machiavellianism Impacts Cross-Border Acquisitions," co-authored with Sumit Chakraborty, was also presented at AOM 2025.

## Nirved Kumar (Beyond 5<sup>th</sup> Year, Innovation & Management in Education)

Nirved Kumar was awarded the prestigious Global Early-Career Accelerator for Representation (GEAR) Programme fellowship by the University of Bath. Nirved published his paper "ICTs' Influence on Knowledge Sharing in Higher Education: A Pre-AI Systematic Literature Review" in the European Journal of Education. The paper was co-authored with Elizabeth J. Cook, F. Sehkar Fayda-Kinik, and Lela Maisuradze. He also published another paper "International Centers of Overseas Universities in the Global South: Lessons from India" in International Higher Education, co-authored with Debananda Misra. He also presented his paper "Competing Managerial and Professional Tensions in Fellowship Programmes: Curbing or Promoting Social Change?" at the 40th EGOS Colloquium in Milan (4–6 July 2024), co-authored with Prof. Ankur Sarin. He also presented "The Public-Private Mix of Research in Offshore University Centres in Global South Countries" at the 36th CHER Conference in Luxembourg on 4 September 2024, co-authored with Debananda Misra. He also received the Outstanding Reviewer Award at the Academy of Management (AOM) 2025 in the Public and Nonprofit (PNP) Division.

## Pallavi Rachel George (5<sup>th</sup> Year, Public Systems)

Pallavi Rachel George received for prestigious Regunath Research Fellowship in Social Citizenship and Management from SPJIMR. She has published her paper "Environmental Identity and Perceived Salience of Policy Issues in Coastal Communities: A Moderated-Mediation Analysis" in Policy Sciences, co-authored with Prof. Vishal Gupta. The study examines how environmental identity and disaster risk perception shape the salience of climate and development issues among coastal communities in the United States. She also presented her paper "Urban Resilience Policy Diffusion: Influencers, Learners & Best Practices" at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) Annual Conference held in Seattle from 7–9 November 2024, presenting on 9 November 2024, co-authored with Sandip Chakrabarti.

## Parth Hirpara (5<sup>th</sup> Year, Food & Agri-Business Management)

Parth Hirpara presented his thesis proposal at the Doctoral Colloquium on Management and Development (DOCMAD) 2024 at IRMA, Anand, where he was selected for the Best Proposal Award 2024, jointly presented by IRMA and the International Journal of Rural Management (Sage) in the young scholars category.

## Pramendra Singh Tank (5<sup>th</sup> Year, Strategy)

Pramendra Singh Tank published his paper "No Substitute for Strong Institutions: Impact of Accelerators on New Venture Performance" in Journal of Business Venturing Insights, co-authored with Dibyendu Sharma and Divyanshu Jain. The study uses a generalized difference-in-differences approach to show that accelerators positively influence venture outcomes—such as external equity and revenues—and that this impact is significantly stronger in countries with robust institutional environments. He presented his work "Geographical Dynamics and Cohort Influences: Unravelling the Impact of Accelerators on New Ventures" at the Academy of Management conference. He also presented his work "Everything Everywhere All at Once: Breadth of Executive Attention and Firm Growth" at the Strategic Management Society conference.

## Rohan Kar (4<sup>th</sup> Year, Marketing)

Rohan presented his paper "Neonatal Referral Services by Community Health Workers (CHWs) and Neonatal Mortality in Emerging Nations: Implications for Healthcare Policies" at the AMA Marketing and Public Policy Conference held in Washington, D.C, co-authored with Prof. Sourav Borah and Prof. Amalesh Sharma. He also presented his paper "How Does Clinical Task Complexity Influence the Effectiveness of the CHW Workforce in Reducing NMR and IMR in Emerging Nations? Examining Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) from India" at the Marketing Science Conference organised by INFORMS in Washington D.C. This paper is also co-authored with Sourav Borah and Amalesh Sharma.

## Sagar Verma (4<sup>th</sup> Year, Public Systems)

He presented his paper "Leaving No One Behind: Putting the Disability Inclusion Agenda in the Clean Mobility Transition in India" at Just Transition Knowledge Network (JETNET) Annual Conference held at IIT Kanpur. He received travel grants for the conference. He has been selected to attend the Third Financial Geography (FinGeo) School at the National University of Singapore. In addition, he published a book chapter in Lecture Notes in Civil Engineering, Vol. 417 (Springer).

## Sagnik Sarkar (3<sup>rd</sup> Year, Operations & Decision Sciences)

Sagnik presented his paper "Responsible Menu-Choice Design to Reduce Food Waste and Improve Access for Low-Income Customers" at the POMS India International Conference, hosted by the Production and Operations Management Society at IIM Ranchi. The paper is co-authored with Prof. Debjit Roy and Prof. Tuğçe Martagan.

## Sumit Kumar Jaiswal (Beyond 5<sup>th</sup> Year, Strategy)

Sumit presented his paper "For the Venture or the Self: Deconstructing the Entrepreneurial Failure Journey" at the Babson College Entrepreneurship Research Conference, held in Boston, USA. The paper is co-authored with Prof. Chitra Singla and Prof. K. V. Gopakumar. He received the Best Thesis Proposal Award for his thesis "Rise and Fall: Essays on Survival and Failure of New Ventures". He received the Best Doctoral Research Paper Award at the India Management Research Conference 2024 for "Founding Team Human Capital and Initial Funding: A Legitimacy Perspective". He was also selected for the Babson Doctoral Consortium 2025, one of 25 awardees chosen from 118 applications across 28 countries.

## Taronish Pastakia (3<sup>rd</sup> Year, Innovation & Management in Education)

Taronish presented his paper "How Infographics Enhance Curiosity to Understand Dog Behaviour: A Mixed Methods Survey Experiment" at the Curiosity Conference hosted by the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar on 18–19 January 2025, presenting on 18 January 2025.

## Tanya Ahuja (3<sup>rd</sup> Year, Public Systems)

Tanya presented her work titled "Role of Training Programmes in Leadership Adaptation in Military to Corporate Career Transition" at AOM 2025 held at Copenhagen. She presented her research in various national and international conferences, including AERA 2025, CPP 2025, and FLAME PsyCon 2025. Her work has also been featured at major IIM-hosted conferences such as ICCIG, IMRC, IPPN, and ICPPM. She received the Best Paper Award (1st Prize across all tracks) at the AIM-IIMAD 2024 International Migration Conference for her work "Catching the Coaching Train: Analysing the Impact of Demand for 'Shadow Education System' on Internal Youth Migration in India".

## CONVOCATION

The Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) hosted its 60th Annual Convocation on March 29, 2025. Dr. S Somanath, former Chairman, ISRO, was the Chief Guest. Dr. S Somanath was joined on stage by Mr Pankaj R Patel, Chairperson, Board of Governors, IIMA; Professor Bharat Bhasker, Director, IIMA; the Board of Governors and faculty members. This year's Convocation celebrated the graduation of a total of 22 scholars from the Doctoral Programme in Management, who received their Ph.D. degree certificates from the Chairperson, Board of Governors, IIMA.

The thesis titles and placement details of the graduating students are as follows:

Sr. No.	Area	Name of the student	Thesis Title
1	MKTG	<b>Ahmed Ashhar</b>	Essays on Underdog Brand Positioning and Consumer Value
2	MKTG	<b>Akshay Jyothiram Iyer</b>	Essays on Borrower and Lender Behavior on P2P Lending Platforms
3	CMA	<b>Anam Chaudhary</b>	"I, too, am a victim of discrimination!" Exploration of Consumer Purchase Behavior Towards Ugly Food
4	MKTG	<b>Aparna Kansal</b>	Essays on Customer Retention Strategy on Online Service Platforms
5	PSG	<b>Areiba Arif</b>	Policy Implementation in Practice: A Praxiographic Exploration of Health Workers in India's National Primary Health Reforms
6	MKTG	<b>Athi Karthick V</b>	The Impact of Linguistic Framing on Prosocial Decisions
7	CMA	<b>Bhanu Pratap Singh Choudhary</b>	A Study of Front-of-Package Nutritional Formats' Effectiveness and Consumer Evaluations
8	IS	<b>Dhruven Rajesh Zala</b>	Essays on Understanding Demand-Side Benefits in Crowd-Based Platforms
9	STR	<b>Dibyendu Sharma</b>	Essays on Entrepreneurial Support Organizations, Capabilities, and Digital Sustainability
10	ECO	<b>Janani Rangan</b>	Macroeconomic Shocks, Inflation Expectations and Firms



Sr. No.	Area	Name of the student	Thesis Title
11	CMA	<b>Nikita Gupta</b>	Rise of Alternate Marketing Channels: Impact on Spatial Price Transmission, Stakeholder Profits, Farmer Welfare and Channel Substitution
12	OB	<b>Nitika Arora</b>	Workplace Relational Experiences of Employees with Visual Disability: The Interplay Between Compassion and Bullying
13	IS	<b>Praharshita Krishna</b>	Understanding Developer Behaviour in Open-Source Communities: An Analytics Perspective
14	PSG	<b>Pranusha Kulkarni</b>	Essays on Measuring Meaning Structures in Energy Justice Policymaking in India
15	STR	<b>Priya</b>	Social Entrepreneurial Intention, Behavior and Organizational Form Choice
16	OB	<b>Rya Ray</b>	Multiple Jobholding: Its Relationship with Organizational Citizenship Behavior and the Role of Perceived Organizational Support
17	PSG	<b>Santosh Vishwanath Gedam</b>	Two Essays on Recognition of Community Forest Rights under Forest Rights Act in India
18	RJMCEI	<b>Soni Parth Tusharbhai</b>	Learning Trajectories of Mathematics and Science among Elementary Students: A Multilevel Growth Modeling Approach
19	STR	<b>Sumit Chakraborty</b>	Comparison of Indian Family and Non-Family Firms' Strategic Choices Related to International Expansion and CSR Disclosure
20	CMA	<b>Suruchi Singh</b>	Consumers' Food Choices and Purchase Decisions: Role of Digital Games
21	MKTG	<b>V. K. Sai Siddharth</b>	Essays Investigating the Paradox of Rewards, External Shocks, and Costs on Prosocial Behavior
22	O&DS	<b>Vikas Kukshya</b>	Real-Time Blind Source Separation for Management Applications

## PLACEMENTS

Doctoral students have secured placements at reputed institutions in India and abroad. The following table lists select placement details of the graduating batch.

Sr. No.	Full Name	Full name of the Employer	Designation/position held
1	<b>Akshay Jyothiram Iyer</b>	IIM Nagpur	Assistant Professor
2	<b>Anam Chaudhary</b>	Jindal Global Business School, OP Jindal Global University, Sonipat, Haryana	Assistant Professor
3	<b>Areiba Arif</b>	Jindal Global Business School, OP Jindal Global University, Sonipat, Haryana	Assistant Professor
4	<b>Athi Karthick V</b>	Mahindra University	Assistant Professor
5	<b>Bhanu Pratap Singh Choudhary</b>	BML Munjal University	
6	<b>Dhruven Rajesh Zala</b>	SPJIMR Mumbai	Assistant Professor
7	<b>Dibyendu Sharma</b>	Goa Institute of Management	Assistant Professor
8	<b>Janani Rangan</b>	Mahindra University	Assistant Professor
9	<b>Nikita Gupta</b>	SPJIMR Mumbai	Assistant Professor
10	<b>Praharshita Krishna</b>	Mahindra University	Assistant Professor
11	<b>Pranusha Kulkarni</b>	Goa Institute of Management	Assistant Professor
12	<b>Priya</b>	OP Jindal Global University	Lecturer
13	<b>Rya Ray</b>	Jindal Global Business School	Assistant Professor
14	<b>Sai Siddharth V K</b>	Madison World	Leadership Trainee - Chairman's office
15	<b>Santosh Vishwanath Gedam</b>	IIM Sirmaur	Assistant professor
16	<b>Soni Parth Tusharbhai</b>	ETS India	Psychometrician
17	<b>Sumit Chakraborty</b>	Indian Institute of Management Indore	Assistant Professor

## SPORTS AND OTHER EXTRACURRICULARS

We are proud to highlight the sports achievements of our doctoral students

### Anmol Basant

Anmol Basant won the Gold Medal in Sangharsh 2025 Table Tennis and the Gold Medal in Shaurya 2024 Table Tennis.

### Krishnavardhan Narad Yadav

Krishnavardhan Narad Yadav served as the captain of the tennis team for AY'24 and AY'25. He won the Silver Medal in Tennis (Men's) at the Sangharsh Inter-IIM Sports Festival, and secured wins in Tennis and Pickleball at Yalgaar in AY'25, along with the Tennis title in AY'24.

### Tanya Ahuja

Tanya secured 1<sup>st</sup> position in the IIMA Community 10 km Run (Women) at the Praveg Long Distance Run (December 2025) and finished 2nd in the Puma 5 km Inaugural Run at Sangharsh 2025 (IIM Lucknow). At national inter-IIM tournaments, she won Gold in Football at Sangharsh 2024 (IIM Bangalore) and Silver in Futsal at Sangharsh 2025. She also won Gold in Table Tennis at the Shaurya Inter-College Tournament (November 14–16, 2025) and Gold in Throwball at the IIMA Throwball League (November 28–30, 2025). In addition, she secured 1<sup>st</sup> position at the Aakrosh Meet 2025 across Squash, Table Tennis, and the 2000 m distance run.

Tanya Ahuja achieved a historic milestone by being elected General Secretary of the 61st Students' Affairs Council (2025–26), becoming the first doctoral student and the second woman to hold IIM Ahmedabad's highest student-governance position, elected through a campus-wide electorate across four Programmes.



Source: All details have been submitted by the students or shared by the Doctoral Programme in Management Office.  
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