

ENDURING VALUES. MODERN VISION.

15  
YEARS

2011

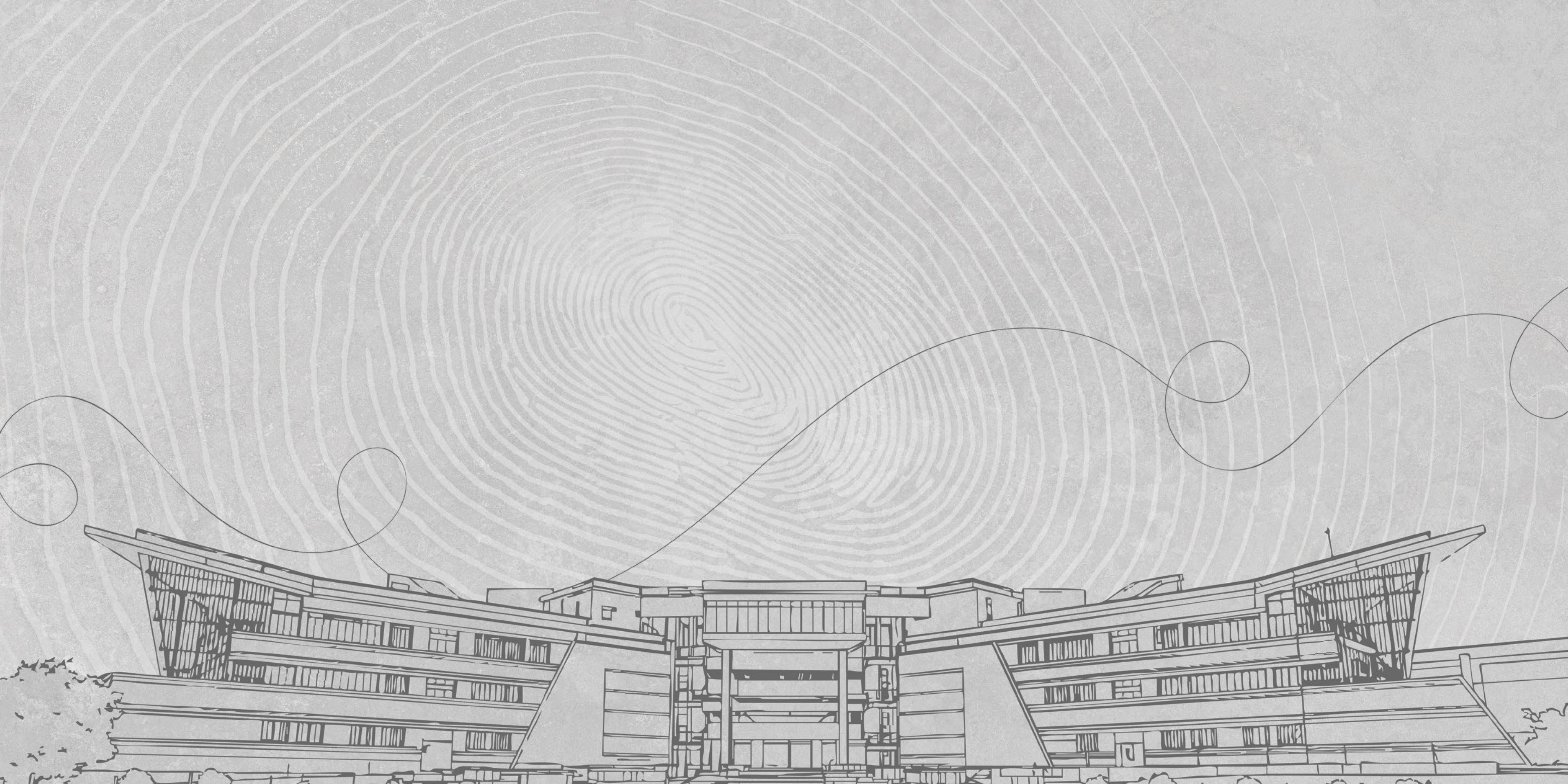
IIM TIRUCHIRAPPALLI

2026

भारतीय प्रबंधन संस्थान तिरुचिरापल्ली  
Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli

16<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day, January 04, 2026







# Editorial Team



Prof. Hari  
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Prof. Abhishek  
K. Totawar



Prof. Upam  
Pushpak  
Makhecha



Dr. Elavazhagan K.



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# Message from the DIRECTOR

Namaskar,

As we gather to commemorate a significant milestone, the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli, I am enveloped in a deep sense of gratitude and pride. Our journey, seeded by the Government of India in 2011, has blossomed into a narrative of relentless aspiration and holistic growth. Like a river that begins as a modest stream and grows into a mighty flow, our Institute started with a cohort of 85 students and now welcomes over 550 learners each year across our degree-granting programmes. Beyond this, we contribute meaningfully to the nation's managerial capacity through certificate programmes and management development initiatives that touch the lives of numerous professionals annually.

Our path is marked by purposeful strides. The conferment of AMBA accreditation and our advancing journey toward AACSB membership reflect our commitment to global benchmarks. Our notable rise in the NIRF rankings to 16<sup>th</sup> serves as a testament to our multidimensional growth in teaching, research, and institutional governance over the years. This year, we have further reinforced transparency through independently audited placement reports, strengthening trust with our students and recruiters.

The institute stands tall in the field of quality research, projects, and translational studies, bridging the space between theory building and impact on the community. Through immersive pedagogies, international exposure, and initiatives such as 'Make a Difference', we sensitize students to social responsibility and entrepreneurial capacity building, especially for the rural sector. Over the years, our vibrant campus has grown with its state-of-the-art library, finance lab, sports facilities, new hostels, and thoughtful faculty-student ratio, fostering an environment where contribution is joyful and continuous.

As Robert Frost reminded us, there are always miles to go. This handbook is not merely a record of the past; it is a tribute to every student, alumnus, faculty member, staff, and partner who has shaped our story. It is said that the impact of a teacher is everlasting. In this spirit, the institute rededicates itself to its own logo that states - ज्ञानम् अनन्तम् ("Gyaanam Anantam"), meaning thereby the Knowledge is infinite. More we know, more we know, that how less we know. Thus, true knowledge leading to humility is a natural phenomenon. This is our humble approach.

May the Almighty lead kindly light in our journey!

With warm regards,  
**Dr. Pawan Kumar Singh**  
Director, IIM Tiruchirappalli



# From the Editorial Team

We in the editorial team have had personal experiences, sometimes within our homes, and sometimes outside, with many teenagers. There is one sort of teenager, the common type – angst ridden, rebellious, confused, and restless. There is also another, rarer type, youngsters who are slowly but surely preparing themselves for adulthood – confident, collected, aware of their limitations but nevertheless trying to learn and improve themselves. Well, our beloved Institute is now fifteen years old, a ‘teenager,’ and we believe that it is the latter type. We sense that IIMT, in its adolescent years is striving to become something not just bigger, but also better. In other words, our Institute, to borrow from the brilliant James Joyce, is not discovering a ready-made self, but rather composing, building, and shaping itself through its choices, affirmations, refusals, and experiences. As insiders, we believe that these choices are taking it in the right direction, to becoming a mature, reflective, and responsible adult, ready to take its place among other great institutions!

It was almost five years ago that we had composed an editorial piece for the previous compendium, the one that commemorated ten years of the Institute. Since then, much has happened, momentous changes, major occasions, and of course the numerous everyday activities that collectively add up to building institutions. Our campus has acquired new facilities and infrastructure. The number of students has increased so much so that many of our students no longer know us personally. Numerous new faculty members have joined, and what used to be a small group has now become quite large. However, over the years, we have still managed to maintain a sense of collegiality, a sense of shared purpose, community, and camaraderie. This sense of community, while fragile, as it has to be in such a large organisation, nevertheless continues, partly by design, and partly by luck. We are immensely thankful for that, and fervently wish it endures.

It is this sense of belongingness, rootedness, connection to the past, along with a modern outlook that we have tried to capture in our theme for this compendium. Like Tiruchirappalli, a town that embodies the old and the new, timelessness and change, tradition and modernity, we wish to be true to our academic values and traditions, and at the same time be committed to progress in every sense of the word. On that note, we invite you to take a look at our Institute over the past decade and a half, through the words and images in this compendium. This has been a labor of love, and we hope you enjoy going through it as much as we did compiling it!

*Editorial Team.*

## About IIM Tiruchirappalli

Established in 2011, the Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli (IIM Trichy/IIMT) is an Institute of National Importance under the Ministry of Education, Government of India. It is governed by the Indian Institutes of Management Act, 2017, which confers statutory status on IIM Trichy. The institute operates from its modern 175-acre campus in Tiruchirappalli (Trichy), a historic temple town in Tamil Nadu. In the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025, IIM Trichy was ranked 16th in the Management category, reaffirming its position among the country's leading business schools.

IIM Tiruchirappalli offers a comprehensive portfolio of programmes, including its flagship PGPM (MBA), PGPM-HR (MBA-HR), PGPM (MBA for Working Executives, Chennai Campus), Ph.D. in Management, and Executive Ph.D. for senior professionals. Its Executive Education suite includes Management Development Programmes, Leadership Management programmes, and industry-focused certificate courses. Guided by its motto “Knowledge is Infinite” (Gñānam Anantam), IIM Trichy fosters a culture of continuous learning, impactful research, and industry engagement.





## Our Logo

Our Logo is born out of the idea of “Celebration of Learning”. It takes the shape of a human form with out-stretched arms signaling the spirit of achievement and fulfillment. The freshness of Orange captures the vibrancy of the Institute’s culture. The subtle shape of the Blue between the arms also indicates a flame - a traditionally recognized symbol of education. The Logo design combines tradition with a contemporary touch. IIM Trichy as the base unit forms the foundation for that learning and growth.



### Mission

To nurture a learning environment for the creation and dissemination of management knowledge of global standards and to develop leaders of enterprises who add value to society and nation building.



### Objectives

- Develop competent, professional and value-oriented management graduates.
- Contribute to management knowledge through research.
- Strengthen existing management processes through executive education and consulting.
- Strive to contribute to national/regional policy making.



### Vision

To be a leading management institution with significant impact on business and society.

What  
we stand  
for, and  
what we  
try to do

## Board of Governors

### Members of Board of Governors, Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli

#### Shri Jalaj Dani

Chairman, IIM Tiruchirappalli &  
Co-Promoter of Asian Paints

#### Shri Purnendu Kishore Banerjee

Joint Secretary (Mgt. & MC &  
Scholarship), Ministry of Education,  
Govt. of India

#### Dr. P. Shankar, IAS

Secretary to Government, Govt. of Tamil Nadu

#### Dr. Malini V Shankar, I.A.S. (Retd.)

Vice Chancellor, Indian Maritime University, Chennai

#### Dr. Ramakrishnan Ramamurthi

Chairman & Managing Partner, Transformia  
Advisors LLP, Mumbai

#### Ms. Aruna Dasari

Founder and Managing Director, Ananya  
Greentech, Hyderabad

#### Dr. Pawan Kumar Singh

Director, IIM Tiruchirappalli





Tiruchirappalli, also known as Trichy, is the fourth largest city in Tamil Nadu, with a population of more than a million. The city is located on the banks of the Cauvery River, and is an ancient agrarian settlement. It has a history dating back to the BCE Period, and has been ruled by the Cholas, Pallavas, Nayaks, Marathas, and the British. Trichy has a number of ancient temples, forts, and other architectural sites. It has emerged as a prominent hub for education in industry, with a number of educational institutes such as the National Institute of Technology, and Indian Institute of Information Technology. It also has large industries such as BHEL, along with numerous small and medium manufacturing and service firms.

# About TIRUCHIRAPPALLI



# 2011 Right at the Beginning

## IIM Tiruchirappalli is Founded

On 4 January 2011, a landmark day in the history of IIM Trichy, the institute's Foundation Stone was laid at Mathur, near Trichy, by the then Minister for Human Resource Development and Telecommunication, Shri Kapil Sibal. The campus came up on 192.35 acres of land allotted by the Government of Tamil Nadu, located between Bharathidasan University and Anna University.

The site is well connected to major parts of Trichy, lying approximately ten kilometres from the airport and about fifteen kilometres from the city centre. With this, the Eleventh IIM in the Country was established. Appropriately founded at the beginning of a new year, the Institute has, since 2011, celebrated its Foundation Day every year on 4 January.



Shri. Kapil Sibal laying the Foundation Stone of the Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli. Also present in the picture are Dr. D. Purandeswari, Minister of State for Human Resource Development and Mr. M. Damodaran, IAS (Retd.), Chairman of Board of Governors, IIM Tiruchirappalli.



Mr. M.  
Damodaran,  
our Founding  
Chairman

Mr. M. Damodaran, IAS (Retd.), was appointed as the First Chairman of IIM Trichy. A Distinguished Officer of the 1971 IAS Batch, he has held several key positions, including Chief Secretary to the Government of Tripura and Chairman of SEBI. He brings to the Institute a wealth of administrative and leadership experience, making him an ideal choice to guide IIM Trichy in its formative years.



Dr.  
Prafulla  
Agnihotri  
Founding Director  
2011 - 2017

The first director of IIM Tiruchirappalli was Dr. Prafulla Agnihotri, a renowned academic and administrator. Dr. Agnihotri holds a Master's Degree in Management Studies (M.M.S.) from the University of Mumbai and Ph.D. in International Marketing Strategy area from Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai. He has over thirty years' experience in the industry - in sales, marketing and training as well as academics. Prior to taking up the role of IIMT's Director, he was Professor of Marketing at IIM Calcutta. He was

also a visiting faculty with Euromed, Marseille Provence (an EQUIS Certified B-school), and CERAM, Sophia Antipolis, France. He has co-authored a book titled Principles of Marketing with Philip Kotler and Gary Armstrong. He is currently the Director of IIM Sirmaur.

Dr. Agnihotri played a critical role in establishing IIM Tiruchirappalli, recruiting the initial faculty and staff members, setting up a major part of the permanent campus, and charting the future path of the young Institute.



# The First Batch of the PGPM

On 15 June 2011, IIM Trichy inaugurated the First Batch of its Post Graduate Programme (PGP). Mr. Gopal Vittal, Executive Director, Hindustan Unilever Limited, was the Chief Guest, and Mr. M. Damodaran, IAS (Retd.), Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Trichy, presided over the function. Mr. Damodaran welcomed the incoming batch and shared thoughtful guidance with the students, while Mr. Vittal drew on his rich industry experience to offer valuable insights. On the same day, the Institute also launched its official website, [www.iimtrichy.ac.in](http://www.iimtrichy.ac.in).

Director Dr. Agnihotri welcomed the students and introduced the faculty members to the new batch. At the time, the Institute had only ten full-time faculty members, including the Director. Although few in number, each member of the faculty was highly qualified and deeply committed. The first batch comprised 84 students from different parts of the country. While the Institute had initially planned for a single section, the response to admission offers was so encouraging that, right from the first year, IIM Trichy was able to form two sections of bright and capable PGP students.

In keeping with its commitment to nature and the environment, IIM Trichy marked the inauguration of its first PGP batch with a tree-planting initiative in the academic block. The saplings planted in 2011 have since grown into trees and stand as a living reminder of the Institute's dedication to sustainability. Over the years, IIM Trichy has continued to undertake tree-planting and other green initiatives, both on the NIT Campus and at its permanent campus site at Chinna Suriyur.



Mr. M. Damodaran, IAS (Retd.), Chairman of the Board of Governors, IIM Trichy inaugurating the first PGP by lighting the lamp. Also in picture are the Chief Guest, Mr. Gopal Vittal (R), Executive Director, Hindustan Unilever Limited, and Dr. Prafulla Agnihotri (L), Director, IIM Trichy



Our Learning Resources Centre, way back in 2011







# 2012 The Second Year

## Another Batch of PGPM Joins

The second batch of the PGP in Management was inaugurated on 13 June 2012, with an intake of 108 students. Mr. Awdhesh Krishna, Managing Director and Global Head of HR, Wholesale Corporate, Nomura Services India Private Limited, formally inaugurated the programme and addressed the new students of IIM Trichy. Drawing on episodes from his professional and personal life, Mr. Krishna shared insights that deeply engaged and inspired the audience. Director Dr. Prafulla Agnihotri also addressed the gathering, and Dean (Academics) Prof. V. Gopal proposed the vote of thanks.

The Institute recognizes and motivates high-performing students by awarding them Certificates of Merit and listing their names in the Director's Merit List, a practice usually followed on the Day of Inauguration. This practice was started in 2012 and continues today.

## Another Flagship Programme (PGPBM) is Launched

In 2012, IIM Trichy reached an important milestone with the launch of the first batch of the PGPBM programme. PGPBM is designed for working executives with at least five years of industry experience, and aims to provide quality management education to those who are unable to pursue a full-time residential MBA such as the PGP.

The programme was introduced to groom professionals in and around Chennai who aspire to take on senior leadership roles. It seeks to develop competent managers capable of contributing to any sector of organised activity, providing effective leadership, achieving excellence, and serving the larger interests of society. PGPBM also strengthens IIM Trichy's engagement with industry and brings fresh perspectives and insights into the classroom.

The programme specifically aims to:

- ♦ Equip participants with strong conceptual and interpersonal skills, along with a sense of social responsibility in managerial decision-making.
- ♦ Develop leadership capabilities so that participants can act as change agents and sources of inspiration within their organisations.
- ♦ Nurture a commitment to high performance while upholding integrity, honesty, and fairness.

The Chennai Centre of IIM Trichy, was initially located in Ekkatuthangal about 9 km from the airport, spanning 14,000 square feet and houses four classrooms, a well-stocked Learning Resource Centre, a Computer Centre, and offices for faculty and staff. (Since then, the centre has shifted to a new, permanent location, which is at K.K. Nagar in Chennai, not too far from the old centre.)

The first batch of PGPBM commenced on 27 August 2012 with an intake of 28 students, who had an average work experience of 10 years.



# Beginnings of the Doctoral Programme

The Fellow Programme in Management (FPM) at IIM Trichy is designed to fulfil this purpose and is widely regarded as equivalent to a doctoral degree. It is a full-time, residential doctoral programme that serves as a premier source of rigorous, interdisciplinary research in all areas of business management.

The programme is committed to developing scholars who excel in their chosen fields by producing high-

quality research of international standards. Students are expected to complete the programme within five years, though it is possible to finish in four; the maximum duration permitted is seven years.

The academic year 2012-13 saw the launch of the first batch of the FPM at IIM Trichy. Following a rigorous selection process, three candidates were admitted to the programme.

*Students from the first PGPM batch walking to classes. Many of these students are mid-level managers. Some are entrepreneurs, and a few are academics!*

# Activities at the Learning Resource Centre

The Learning Resource Centre (LRC), traditionally known as the Library, is the Institute's central hub for knowledge creation. It is led by Dr. K. Elavazhagan, Librarian and Chief Knowledge Officer of IIM Trichy. The Book Exhibition is very much Dr. Ela's initiative and is designed to bring academics, publishers, and their representatives together under one roof. It offers faculty members an opportunity to review the latest publications in their fields and stay updated. Even in the digital era, physical books remain vital because of their ease of

use, portability, durability, and the serendipitous learning experiences enabled by browsing a physical library.

The LRC organised its first book exhibition on 10 October 2012. Around ten reputed international publishers were invited to display their catalogues. On the same day, more than 1,000 titles were selected, at a cost of ₹20,00,000, significantly enriching the LRC's physical collection.



*Director Dr. Agnihotri addresses faculty members and library staff during an event at the LRC*







# 2013

## Our First Batch of MBA Graduates!

The first convocation is a landmark in the life of any academic institution. IIM Trichy's inaugural annual convocation was held on 16 April 2013. It took place at the permanent campus site, so that the graduating students could feel a sense of attachment and connection to what was then still an undeveloped piece of land. The Convocation Committee and PGP Office, supported by many staff members, worked tirelessly to erect an air-conditioned pandal at the venue, with sufficient seating for students and guests.

The event was a grand occasion and an unqualified success. We were honoured to have Mr. Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of the Aditya Birla Group, preside as Chief Guest. A household name in India and one of the world's leading industrialists, Mr. Birla came across as remarkably humble and down to earth, addressing the students with warmth and encouragement. Mr. Damodaran, Chairman of the Board of Governors, conferred the diplomas on the graduating batch, and Dr. Agnihotri presented the Institute's Annual Report. With this first convocation, our young Institute announced its presence, sending its graduates into industry and society to make their mark.



Mr. Birla, Mr. Damodaran, and Dr. Agnihotri with the medal winners of the PGPM



Chief Guest Mr. Kumar Mangalam Birla received a Memento from Mr. Damodaran, Chairman of BoG at the First Annual Convocation



The graduating students of the 2013 batch preparing for the PGPM pledge



# The First HR Conclave

IIM Tiruchirappalli organised its maiden HR Conclave on 20 September 2013 at the Hilton, Chennai. The event, which saw enthusiastic participation from both industry and academia, aimed to create a forum for sharing contemporary knowledge and practices in Human Resource Management. It was inaugurated by Mr. Ashok Thakur, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of HRD, Government of India, with Dr. Prafulla Agnihotri, Director, and Prof. V. Gopal, Dean (Academics), addressing the gathering.

The first panel on “Leadership and Change,” featuring senior HR leaders from firms such as McKinsey, TCS and TAFE, explored how leaders differ from managers and stressed that effective leaders must anticipate and drive change rather than merely adapt to it. Students and corporate participants engaged actively with the panelists, seeking insights on becoming future change leaders.



Prof. V. Gopal, Mr. Ashok Thakur, and Dr. Prafulla Agnihotri at the first HR Conclave

The second panel, on “Talent Retention,” brought together HR heads from organisations like L&T, Motorola Solutions, Capgemini and Mahindra & Mahindra. The discussion highlighted the need to retain talent not just physically, but also mentally and emotionally, the challenges of sustaining technical talent, the importance of emotional connect with work and organisation, and the growing role of flexibility aligned with organisational goals. The panel underscored that HR practices must account for cultural differences and be tailored to contemporary needs.

In the post-lunch session on “Redefining Culture for Employee Engagement,” experts from BCG, industry and HR consulting emphasised that true engagement starts with self-awareness and emotional connection, and should not be confused with mere entertainment. They argued that engagement must help employees



Delegates at the first HR Conclave

build mastery, express themselves freely and find purpose that benefits the individual, the organisation and society. Respectful personal interaction and focused, need-based development initiatives were identified as critical for meaningful engagement.

In the valedictory address, Mr. Awadesh Krishna, MD and Global Head-HR, Nomura Ltd., described HRM as “the profession of the century,” stressing that it is as rigorous a discipline as any other area of management or technology. He highlighted the centrality of managing change and urged young HR professionals to stand up for their function. He also interacted with students, answering questions on driving change, the challenges of HR roles and HRM in public sector enterprises. The conclave concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Mouloud Madoun and Prof. Abhishek Totawar, marking a highly successful first HR Conclave for the Institute.

# Students have some fun at campus



IIMT students participate in sports, dance, and music related activities on and off the campus







# 2014

## The Annual Convocation

IIM Tiruchirappalli held its Second Annual Convocation on 15 March 2014 at the site earmarked for its new campus. Mr. A. M. Naik, Group Executive Chairman, Larsen & Toubro, was the Chief Guest. In his address, he emphasised the importance of values, transparency, and commitment to society, and, drawing on his own life, reminded the graduates that it is one's work and deeds—not the degree or institution—that truly matter.

Mr. M. Damodaran, Chairman of the Board of Governors of IIM Trichy, urged the graduating batch to pursue happiness in both their professional and personal lives, and to live in accordance with their beliefs and potential. Director Dr. Prafulla Agnihotri highlighted the achievements of the Institute's students and faculty, encouraging the graduates to strive for excellence while remaining compassionate to colleagues and juniors. Mr. Damodaran conferred the diplomas, and Mr. Naik awarded the medals. In total, 104 students received the Post Graduate Diploma in Management.



Dr. Agnihotri, Mr. A.M. Naik, and Mr. Damodaran with the medal winners at the 2014 Convocation

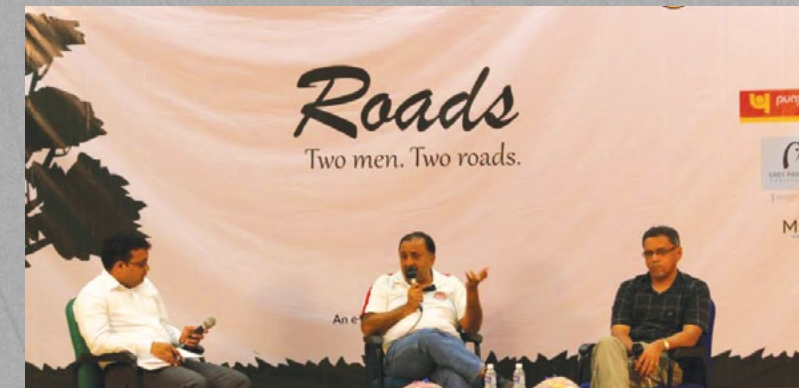
## Language Learning Centre at the LRC

Proficiency in multiple languages is an essential business skill in today's interconnected world. It also broadens one's perspective and opens up richer access to diverse cultures. With these goals in mind, the Language Learning Corner (LLC) at the Learning Resources Centre was inaugurated by Director Dr. Agnihotri on 4 January 2014.

The LLC is part of the larger "Language Lab" at the LRC and functions as a self-learning space equipped with user-friendly digital resources. It offers library users an excellent opportunity to develop their speaking, reading, and writing skills in various Asian and European languages.



Caption: Dr. Agnihotri and Dr. Elavazhagan at the opening of the Language Learning Centre at the LRC



Students engage in discussions, presentations, and lighter activities at the Arcturus 2014 business festival



# Corporate Governance Conference 2014

Corporate Governance has always been a vital part of the joint stock company era. In recent times, it has assumed greater significance in light of the numerous instances of mis-governance and scandals. IIM Trichy believes that an interaction between academia and industry will help to better understand the challenges in Corporate Governance. With this aim, the Corporate Governance Conference was held from 13 to 14 June 2014 at Chennai.

The Conference was inaugurated by Mr. M. Damodaran (IAS, ret'd.), Chairman of the IIM Trichy Board of Governors. As part of the conference, Mr. Bharat Doshi, Director, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., and Board Member of IIMT inaugurated the Center for Corporate Governance at IIM Trichy.

The conference featured paper presentations and panel discussions on various contemporary topics in finance, accounting and governance.

## 2nd HR Conclave 2014

IIM Tiruchirappalli organised the second edition of its annual HR Conclave on 18 September 2014 at Hilton Hotel in Chennai. The event was a huge success with active participation from corporate and academic fronts. The objective of the conclave was to offer a forum for industry and academia to come together and share the latest knowledge and practices in the field of HRM.

The event was inaugurated by Mr. Sunil Kumar, Centre Head, World Bank. Dr. Prafulla Agnihotri, Director, IIM Tiruchirappalli addressed the gathering during the inauguration.

The event featured a panel discussion on "Is Organisational Citizenship Behaviour a Myth?" by Dr. Vishal Shah, VP- Corporate HRD, Wipro Limited; Mr. Yogesh Mariwalla, Executive Director, Index Advisory Pvt. Ltd. and Dr. Deepak Malhotra, VP-HR, IL&FS Environmental Infrastructure & Services Ltd.

The second panel discussion went had the theme "Does Organisational Commitment translate into Personal Growth?" for which the panelists were Ms. Aparna Sharma, Country Head -HR, Lafarge India; Ms. Sindhuja Shankar, Head-HR, World Bank Group and Mr. Prince Edison, VP-HR, Bharti Airtel Ltd.

The post lunch session was equally interesting and interactive with a panel discussion on "Diversity: A Competitive Advantage". The panelists were Mr. Surya Prakash Mohapatra, India Head-Knowledge & Capability, HP GBS, Hewlett Packard; Ms. Rituparna Chakraborty, Senior VP & Co-Founder, TeamLease Services Pvt. Ltd. and Ms. Srimathi Shivashankar, Associate VP- Diversity & Sustainability, HCL Technologies.

The valedictory speech by Mr. Awdhesh Krishna, MD&Global Head of HR, Nomura marked a wonderful finish to the proceedings of the day.

The event was concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Abhishek Totawar, Chairperson, Placement and External Relations from IIM Tiruchirappalli.



Panel discussions and events at the Second HR Conclave, 2014



*Embracing Tradition  
Evolving Knowledge*





The Institute celebrated its Fourth Foundation Day on 4 January 2015 with a panel discussion on "Emerging Paradigms in Marketing." The panel featured Mr. Y. V. Kumar, GM, Marketing and Sales, Rane Engine Valves; Mr. Indranil Chakravarty, Commercial Director, Bausch & Lomb; and Dr. Nalin Shinghal, Chairman and Managing Director, Central Electronics Ltd. The discussion was moderated by Prof. V. Gopal, Dean (Academics), and Director Dr. Prafulla Agnihotri felicitated the dignitaries.



Inauguration and addresses at the Foundation Day. 2015

## The Convocation

IIM Tiruchirappalli held its Third Annual Convocation on 15 March 2015 at the permanent campus site in Chinna Suriyur. The Institute had the honour of hosting Mr. Uday Kotak, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Bank, as the Chief Guest. A total of 106 young women and men received their Post Graduate Diploma in Management. The occasion was especially significant as it also marked the graduation of the first batch of PGPBM students, with 25 working executives being awarded the Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management. It was a proud moment for the Institute to confer diplomas on graduates from two different programmes.

In his Convocation Address, Mr. Uday Kotak urged the new alumni to channel their entrepreneurial energy towards achieving excellence and emphasised the importance of building great institutions that would outlast the individuals who created them. Mr. M. Damodaran encouraged the graduates to view excellence as understanding and realising their own potential, and to remain anchored in the right values while striving for their goals. Director Dr. Prafulla Agnihotri highlighted the Institute's achievements and reminded the graduating batch that they were privileged to be alumni of an IIM. He exhorted them to uphold high professional standards and an unimpeachable sense of ethics.



Mr. Uday Kotak, addressing the audience, being felicitated by the Chairman, BoG, and addressing the audience at Convocation 2015



# Make a Difference Project

Business schools have often been criticised for prioritising corporate profit maximization over social imperatives. At IIM Tiruchirappalli, we believe that organisational leaders must engage with societal issues that affect their communities and apply their managerial expertise to address these complex challenges. Increasingly, corporate leaders also recognise the need to look beyond the immediate boundaries of their firms. As custodians of some of society's most powerful institutions, business leaders are now expected to reconnect business success with social progress.

The Make a Difference (MAD) project was conceived in this spirit. Under this initiative, all students of the Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGPM) work in teams of five or six on an issue of social importance. They may focus on themes such as education or health, or collaborate with organizations such as NGOs. Every project includes a mandatory field component and is carried out under the guidance of a faculty member.

MAD was launched on 25 November 2014 at a function graced by Mr. Chandrakant B. Kamble, IAS, Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Cements Corporation Limited, as Chief Guest.

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Director Dr. Agnihotri inaugurates the Make a Difference Project









# 2016

## Fourth Annual Convocation

The Fourth Annual Convocation of IIM Tiruchirappalli was held on 15 March 2016 at the NIT Campus. Mr. Ajit Balakrishnan, Chairman and CEO of Rediff.com, was the Chief Guest. In a departure from convention, Mr. Balakrishnan chose to speak to the graduates about failure rather than success. He emphasised that in the new economy, one cannot afford to be afraid of failure; instead, one must learn to fail quickly, cheaply, and wisely. This, he noted, enables aspiring managers and entrepreneurs to take risks, learn from setbacks, and move forward.



The medal-winners at the 2016 Convocation with (L to R), Mr. Ajit Balakrishnan, Dr. Agnihotri, and Dr. Karunamurthi

A total of 102 students from the PGP and 24 from the PGPM received their diplomas at the convocation. Dr. Prafulla Agnihotri, Director of the Institute, presented the Annual Report, highlighting the achievements of the students and faculty. Dr. R. Karunamurthi, Chairman of the Convocation and member of the Board of Governors of IIM Tiruchirappalli, awarded the diplomas to the graduates.



Mr. Ajit Balakrishnan delivers the Convocation Address

## Mother Tongue Day

It is often said that people express themselves most powerfully in their mother tongue. Yet, this is a privilege many do not enjoy in their professional lives. To reconnect individuals with their native languages and to encourage the use of relatively less mainstream languages, Matribhasha Diwas was celebrated at IIM Trichy. The event, held at the LRC, was a great success. A variety of books in local languages such as Tamil and Malayalam were displayed, and faculty and staff members delivered speeches in their respective mother tongues.

## First Edition of Dhruva

IIM Trichy concluded its three-day management-cum-cultural festival, Dhruva '16, on 23 October 2016. For the first time, the Institute combined its management and cultural fests into a single large-scale event. The festival drew participation from over 2,000 students representing more than 250 institutes from across the country, along with international teams from Sri Lanka and Iran.



Students engage in music, sports, and fun at IIMT







# 2017

## The Annual Convocation

The Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli held its Fifth Annual Convocation on Saturday, 18th March 2017, at NIT Trichy. Diplomas were awarded for the Post Graduate Diploma in Management (PGDM) and the Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management (PGDBM).

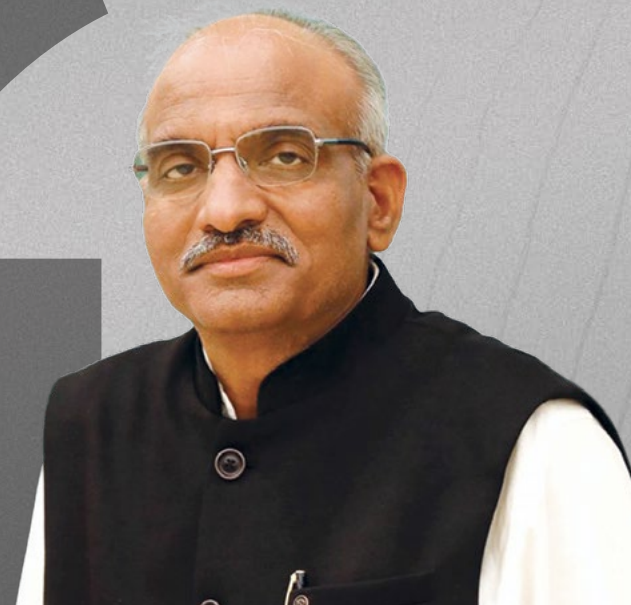
Mr. D. Shivakumar, Chairman & CEO of Pepsico India Holdings Pvt. Ltd., and Mr. Shivendu Nadkarni, Vice President, Asia/Africa Snacks, Kellogg's, were the Guests of Honour. Dr. R. Karunamurthi, Member of the Board of Governors and Chairman of the Convocation, conferred diplomas upon 108 PGDM and 33 PGDBM graduates. Dr. Prafulla

Agnihotri, Director of IIM Tiruchirappalli, presented the Director's Report.

In their addresses, both Guests of Honour shared valuable insights. Mr. Shivendu Nadkarni emphasised the importance of passion, hard work, focus, humility, and maintaining work-life balance. Mr. D. Shivakumar spoke about the rapidly changing world and the need for diverse skills. He offered five key pieces of advice: focus on continuous learning, invest in the community, stay curious, listen more than you speak, and preserve your passion. He concluded by urging graduates to make their teachers, classmates, and parents proud.



Fifth from left onward, Dr. Agnihotri, Mr. Shivakumar, Mr. Shivendu Nadkarni, and Dr. Karunamurthi



## Dr. Bhimaraya Metri

**Second Director**  
2017 - 2020

Dr. Bhimaraya Metri took charge as Director of IIM Trichy in April 2017. He holds a PhD from IIT Bombay and has extensive experience in teaching, research, and academic administration. A renowned expert in project management, infrastructure, quality management, and supply chain management, he has published numerous research papers and books, and serves on the editorial advisory boards of several national and international journals.

At present, Dr. Metri is a member of the Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (INCCU). He is also on the panel of experts for mentoring the Institutes of Eminence (IoE), and serves as Chairman of the All India Board of Management Studies, AICTE, New

Delhi; the Management and Systems Division Council (MSDC); the Human Resources Management and Innovation Sectional Committee of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), New Delhi; and the AIMA Board of Studies, New Delhi.

Dr. Metri has previously served as Dean of the L&T Institute of Project Management in Vadodara. He has also worked as Professor and Dean at MDI Gurgaon and IMI New Delhi, and has been In-charge of PhD programmes at BITS Pilani.

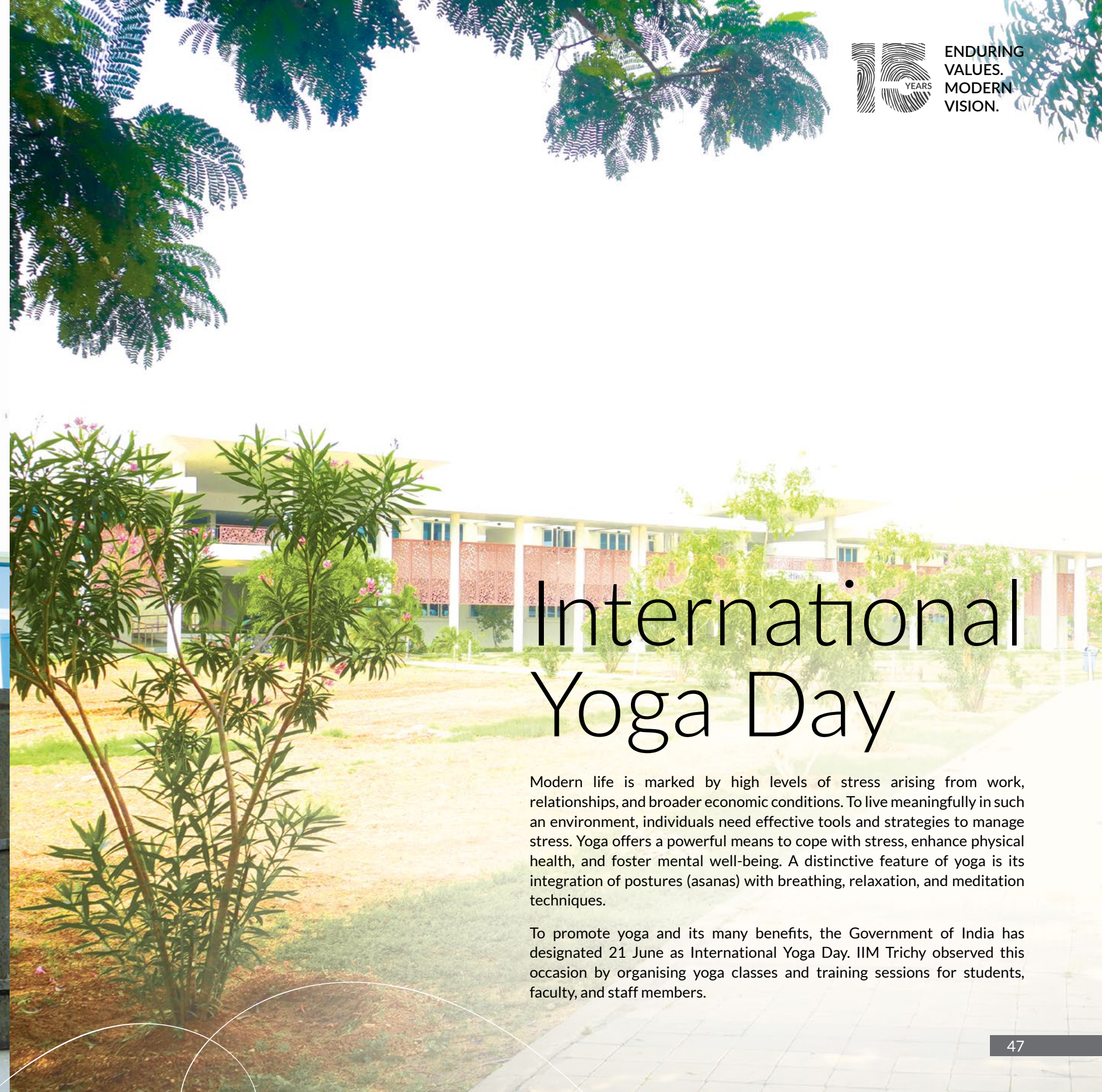


## IIMT Awarded for being a Top-ranked Institution

The Honourable President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, presented the NIRF India Ranking 2017 awards at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, on 10 April 2017. Dr. Bhimaraya Metri, Director, IIM Trichy, received the Top Ranking Institution Award on behalf of the institute.

The event was graced by Shri Prakash Javadekar, Honourable Minister for Human Resource Development; Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, Minister of State for Human Resource Development; and Shri K. K. Sharma, Secretary, Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development and Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Trichy. Dr. Abhishek Totawar, Chairperson, Placement and External Relations, IIM Trichy, was also present.

IIM Trichy was ranked 7th among all IIMs and 13th in the Management Institutions category in the NIRF Ranking 2017.



## International Yoga Day

Modern life is marked by high levels of stress arising from work, relationships, and broader economic conditions. To live meaningfully in such an environment, individuals need effective tools and strategies to manage stress. Yoga offers a powerful means to cope with stress, enhance physical health, and foster mental well-being. A distinctive feature of yoga is its integration of postures (asanas) with breathing, relaxation, and meditation techniques.

To promote yoga and its many benefits, the Government of India has designated 21 June as International Yoga Day. IIM Trichy observed this occasion by organising yoga classes and training sessions for students, faculty, and staff members.





## Independence Day

IIM Trichy celebrated India's 71st Independence Day with a flag hoisting ceremony led by Dr. Bhimaraya Metri, Director, IIM Trichy.

In his address to students and faculty, Dr. Metri paid tribute to the sacrifices of the freedom fighters and urged students to make the most of the various opportunities created by the Government of India—such as Startup India and Digital India—for the nation's development and to help eradicate social evils like corruption and poverty.

He also noted that the PGP 2017–19 batch would be the first to occupy the new campus, while the PGP 2016–18 batch would be the first to graduate from it. Dr. Metri reaffirmed IIM Trichy's aspiration to be among the top five B-schools in the country within the next five years.



Independence Day at IIMT



Mr.  
Jalaj Dani  
Second BoG Chairman

Mr. Jalaj Dani, co-promoter of Asian Paints, and currently Chairman at Addverb Technologies took over as Chairman, BoG of IIMT in 2017. He has driven innovative initiatives and purpose-driven ventures, consistently unlocking value. His commitment to diversity is evident through his board roles at Havells India and Greenlam Industries, along with his recent position as an Independent Director for HDFC Ltd. At Asian Paints, a \$4+ billion enterprise, Mr. Dani led executive roles, driving global expansion over two decades. He played a crucial part in expanding to 16+ international markets, contributing to Asian Paints' recognition among the top 10 global paint brands and the second-largest in Asia.

Mr. Dani's commitment to serving for societal well-being is demonstrated in his roles with the Reliance Foundation, HT Parekh

Foundation, Piramal Foundation, and Pratham Education Foundation. Mr. Dani chairs Asiana, a category II AIF with a defined corpus of 1000 crores. His investments include Addverb Technologies (India's largest robotics company), EndureAir Systems (cutting-edge drone company), and Skillmatics (an award-winning educational games company).

Mr. Dani's passion for sports drives his involvement in Sportscom, a not-for-profit organisation promoting the sports goods industry. He is also co-founder of Dani Foundation, dedicated to creating a self-sustaining society through transformative actions, including education, healthcare, sports training, skill building, and cultural promotion.







## The Sixth Annual Convocation

The Sixth Annual Convocation of the Institute was held in a grand manner at the new campus on Saturday, 24 March 2017, at 7 p.m. Dr. K. P. Krishnan, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, was the Chief Guest, and Mr. C. K. Ranganathan, Chairman and Managing Director, CavinKare, was the Guest of Honour. Mr. Jalaj Dani, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Tiruchirappalli, awarded diplomas to one graduate of the Fellow Programme in Management, 176 graduates of the Postgraduate Programme in Management (PGP), and 18 graduates of the Post Graduate Programme in Business Management (PGPBM). Dr. Bhimaraya Metri, Director, IIM Tiruchirappalli, presented the Director's Report.

In his report, the Director emphasized the special significance of this convocation, as it was being celebrated in the state-of-the-art 175-acre campus. He shared five "mantras of success" for the graduands:

aim high, maintain a laser-like focus on goals, keep learning and unlearning, be early adopters of new ideas and technologies, and uphold the highest standards of integrity.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. K. P. Krishnan highlighted the growing demand for new kinds of skills in contemporary job and occupational markets. He underlined the importance of entrepreneurship and urged the graduating batch to continue learning and to share the joy of discovery, learning, and knowledge with the wider world. The Guest of Honour, Mr. C. K. Ranganathan, congratulated the graduands and encouraged them to measure their success by the number of lives they positively impact. He stressed the importance of emotional intelligence, and of managing oneself and others effectively, and advised the graduates to cultivate the habit of regularly reading relevant and insightful literature.



2018 Annual Convocation



## Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2018

A Jan Andolan for Swachhata was observed in the run-up to the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), i.e. from September 15<sup>th</sup> to October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018. As part of the event, IIM Trichy organised a tree plantation drive, and cleanliness drive on the campus. Students, faculty members and staff enthusiastically participated in cleaning up the campus. The Institute staff and faculty members also took a Swachhata Pledge.



Director, faculty members and staff engaged in tree plantation at the campus



The student body at IIM Tiruchirappalli on 02 October 2018 (Tuesday) witnessed an engrossing Philatelic Exhibition at the IIM Trichy Campus. The three-day long affair, starting 02 October 2018, showcased stamps relating to the life of Gandhiji. The Philatelic Club of Trichy took an active role to enable the exhibition. The inauguration of the exhibition began with the invocation song and lighting of the lamp. This was followed by an introduction to philately by Mr. Kuchitapadam, ADBD, Trichy Head Post Office. He stated that there were mainly two types of stamps: definitive stamps, that are used regularly while sending posts and envelopes; and the commemorative stamps, which are issued for particular occasions, in remembrance or to honour a leader or about the flora and fauna etc. He further explained how rare and commemorative stamps are collected by philatelists as a hobby and through this we acquire knowledge. The stamps are not just meant for exhibition alone, but the main purpose is to disseminate knowledge and to learn more about our socio-economic and cultural condition about the country and about the region. Dr. Bhimaraya Metri, Director, IIM Trichy said that in the digital age people may not use post office services but having his roots in a village, it was a part of life for him. The real internet in rural areas is the post office, where post offices are present even where the concentration of people is small.

The exhibition was coordinated by Mr. K. Karthikeyan, Mr. G. Satheesh Babu and Mr. Maharaja, who are the members of the Trichy Philatelic Club. IIMT faculty member Dr. Nithyananda, who coordinated this event, proposed the vote of thanks.



Students admire the stamp collection put up during the Philatelic Exhibition

## National Unity Day

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was the first Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of India, and is one of the greatest Indian leaders. He is popularly known as the Iron Man of India for his key role in integrating the newly independent nation. In his honor, on his birth anniversary, 31<sup>st</sup> October, India observes National Unity Day. IIM Trichy observed this day with the National Unity Pledge which was taken by faculty and staff members of the Institute.









# 2019

## Annual Convocation

The Seventh Annual Convocation of the Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli was held on Saturday, 30 March 2019, at the IIM Tiruchirappalli campus. For the first time, in accordance with the IIM Act, students of the Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGPM) and the Post Graduate Programme in Business Management (PGPBM) received the degree of Master of Business Administration (MBA) instead of diplomas. Shri M. M. Murugappan, Executive Chairman, Murugappa Group, was the Chief Guest. Dr Bhimaraya Metri, Director, presented the Director's Report, and Shri Jalaj Dani, Chairman, Board of Governors, awarded degrees to 169 PGPM and 41 PGPBM graduands.

In his report, the Director highlighted significant achievements in 2018-2019, including increased student accomplishments, higher research output, growth in executive education, and lectures by over 40 guest speakers. He noted strong improvements in internships and final placements and shared five "mantras of success": becoming comfortable with discomfort, maintaining a laser focus on goals, leading change, excelling in one's field, and lifelong learning.



Chief Guest and Chairman, BoG, with medal winners

The Chairman, BoG, welcomed the greater autonomy granted to IIM Trichy and emphasised its potential to foster pedagogical innovation. Addressing the graduands as future leaders, he urged them to stay anchored in their values, overcome self-imposed constraints, and leverage their unique talents in a dynamic world.

The Chief Guest, Shri Murugappan, called on students to lead efforts to address global challenges such as climate change, global warming, and the water crisis in a sustainable manner. He offered three principles for success: never underestimate anyone, "learn to learn," and build lasting relationships. He encouraged students to develop a personal vision and reminded them that true security lies in one's abilities, which IIM Trichy has helped to shape.

The Chief Guest conferred medals and awards on meritorious students. Members of the Board of Governors, faculty, staff, parents, the media, and other dignitaries attended the ceremony, which concluded with the National Anthem.





# Dhruva 2019

IIM Tiruchirappalli (IIM Trichy) inaugurated the Third-edition of its Annual Business and Cultural Festival, Dhruva 3.0 on 25th January 2019. Dhruva was a 3-day management and cultural festival hosted by IIM Trichy with over 7500 participants from over 212 institutes across the country. The event had 11 management competitions and 5 cultural events attended by many dignitaries and students from premium B-schools. All events and activities were conducted by student-run clubs and committees. There were flagship events conducted across business domains, like Marketing, Operations, Finance, Consulting and HR to name a few. The festival gives students a hands-on experience of management and exposes them to competition from all over the country.

Dhruva 3.0 featured stand-up comedy by Rahul Subramanian and the highly anticipated EDM night featuring renowned DJs Greff and Shiva Manvi hosted by Sunburn. The event was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp by Chief Guests Dr. K. Krishnakumar and Mrs. Binini Krishnakumar, acclaimed Carnatic musicians; Guests of Honour, Commander Anup Thomas, Chief Inspector of Naval Armament (Trichy); Dr. D. Prasanna Balaji, Head and Director Research, Department of Physical Education, National College; Dr. Bhimaraya Metri, Director, IIM Trichy and Prof. Upam Pushpak Makhecha, Chairperson – Student Affairs, IIM Trichy.



Students performing during Dhruva 3.0



## Nishtha – the Annual Management Conclave

IIM Tiruchirappalli (IIMT) conducted its Annual Management Conclave "Nishtha" from 9 to 10 February, 2019. Nishtha is a two-day initiative that facilitates interaction among experts, academicians, business leaders, entrepreneurs and current management students. The event was inaugurated with lighting of lamp by the Chief Guest, Dr. Rohini Sridhar- Chief Operating Officer, Apollo Hospitals; Guest of Honour, Lieutenant General PR Kumar PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd.), Dr. Bhimaraya Metri, Director, IIM Trichy and Prof. Upam Pushpak Makhecha, Chairperson, Student Affairs.



Felicitations and events at Nishtha









# 2020

## INDAM 2020 – The Sixth Biennial Conference of the Indian Academy of Management

IIM Tiruchirappalli (IIM Trichy) inaugurated the 6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Indian Academy of Management (INDAM) 2020 Conference on Thursday, 02 January 2020. The theme of the conference was 'Architecting Indian Management Scholarship in the Era of Disruption.' The conference attracted more than 600 research papers from management scholars of 14 countries. It had about 650 delegates including experts and keynote speakers from the nation and abroad.



Events and delegates at INDAM 2020



## Dhruva 2020

IIM Tiruchirappalli (IIM Trichy) inaugurated the fourth edition of its annual business and cultural festival, Dhruva 2020, on 24 January 2020.

Dhruva is a 3-day management and cultural festival hosted by IIM Trichy with over 11000 participants from over 95 institutes across the country and over 200 students from various schools of

Trichy. All events and activities are conducted by student-run clubs and committees. There are flagship events conducted by various academic and non-academic clubs like Marketing, Operations, Finance, Consulting, HR, E-cell, and Elixir, to name a few. Dhruva 2020 featured a regional conference on Women in Data Science (WiDS), a concert by the renowned band Lagori on 25<sup>th</sup> January and a highly anticipated EDM night by DJ Shameless Mani on 26<sup>th</sup> January.











## Prof. Pawan Kumar Singh

**Takes charge as Director**  
2021 - Present

Prof. Pawan Kumar Singh, an experienced academician and administrator, took over as the Director of IIMT in February 2021. He is also the incumbent Director of the Institute. He has served as Director of Management Development Institute, Gurgaon, and as Director In-charge of the Indian Institute of Management Indore. In his mentoring role for the Indian Institute of Management Sambalpur, he was the First Chairperson of the Academic Committee and the Nodal Officer of the Institute.

Dr. Singh has been in academia for over three decades, including about 15 years as Professor of Organisational Behaviour and Human Resource Management at IIM Indore. He has previously taught at the National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE), Mumbai; Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi; Kanpur University; and Vikram University, Ujjain. Before joining academia, he worked with the Bank of India as an Industrial Relations Officer in Jamshedpur and Ranchi.

He has supervised research, provided consultancy, and trained around 25,000 participants from diverse professions and hierarchical levels. He has published numerous research articles and presented papers at more than 75 national and international conferences. Dr. Singh is the author of several books, including Managing Interpersonal Conflict, Management Sutras from Sanskrit Scriptures, Personality Attributes: Gift of India, Dialogue with Upanishads: For a Meaningful Life, a poetic Hindi translation of Thirukkural, Jeevan Prabandhan kee Shaayaree, Jeevan Vikas kee Shaayaree, and a booklet on Human Resource Management for Technical Personnel.

He has been a member of several high-level government and institutional committees, and his talks and interviews have been broadcast on national television and radio. His hobbies include travelling, music, cricket, poetry, astronomy, and reading quotations. One of his favourite quotes is: "We are always preparing to live but never living."

## Eight and Ninth Annual Convocation

The Eighth and Ninth Annual Convocations for the Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGPM), Post Graduate Programme in Business Management (PGPBM), and the Doctoral Programme in Management (DPM) at IIM Tiruchirappalli were held jointly through an interactive live webcast. Padma Shri awardee Dr. Sridhar Vembu, founder and CEO of Zoho Corporation, was the Chief Guest for the event. In his address, he spoke about the importance of resilience in the face of the Covid-19 crisis, noting how the pandemic tested our inner strength while also creating new opportunities amid chaos and uncertainty.

Director Dr. Pawan Kumar Singh welcomed the Chief Guest, members of the Board, students, parents, alumni, and media representatives. He congratulated the graduates and their families for achieving this milestone during challenging times. Presenting the report for the academic years 2019-20 and 2020-21, he highlighted the launch of the EDPM and PGPM-HR programmes, as well as notable student achievements in sports, corporate contests, and B-school competitions such as TATA Crucible, KPMG Ideation Challenge, Godrej LOUD, HSBC IB League, and the CFA Ethics Challenge, among others.







*"We are TTM Trichy" 2016*





*"We are IIM Trichy" 2026*



# Hindi Diwas 2021

Hindi Day was observed on 14 September 2021. Dr Uma Sanker, Chief Commissioner of Customs (Preventive), Tiruchirappalli, was the Chief Guest, and Mr Ashok Kumar Singh, Assistant Commissioner of Provident Fund, EPFO, Tiruchirappalli, was the Guest of Honour.

Dr Singh spoke about Hindi as a potential medium to unite people, reflected on the history and distinctive structures of India's many

languages, and highlighted the importance of understanding one's mother tongue. The Hindi magazine Sangam was launched on this occasion. While Mr Ashok Kumar Singh encouraged greater use of Hindi vocabulary, Dr Uma Sanker advocated a pragmatic approach to language use to ensure wider acceptance.



Students engage in various cultural and co-curricular activities at Trichy and Chennai campus









# 2022

## Eleventh Foundation Day

Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli celebrated its Eleventh Foundation Day on 4 January 2022. The event was held in hybrid mode, with students, faculty, and staff on campus and the Board of Governors and alumni joining virtually. The ceremony began with an invocation song, lighting of the lamp, and a video on IIM Trichy's journey since 2011. Director Dr Pawan Kumar Singh welcomed Chief Guest Shri Sadish Babu, Executive Director – Human Resources, NLC India Limited, congratulated the community on eleven years, and thanked former leaders and alumni. A memoir, "A Decade of IIM Trichy", was released.

Chairman, Board of Governors, Shri Jalaj Dani, acknowledged the founders' vision, appreciated non-teaching staff for sustaining the

institute during the pandemic, and urged alumni to give back. The Best 'Make A Difference' (MAD) Project award went to PGPM 2020-2022 students for a project on COVID-affected livelihoods under Prof V. Gopal. Faculty and staff completing ten years were felicitated.

In his Foundation Day Address, Shri Sadish Babu stressed data-informed yet intuitive decision-making, ethical and empathetic leadership, humility in success, resilience in failure, and pursuing meaningful work that creates a lasting legacy. The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks, the National Anthem, and tree plantation.



Director felicitates Chief Guest Mr. Sadish Babu



Tree plantation at Foundation Day 2022

## Dhruva 2022

After many years of lockdown and online only events, Dhruva 2022 was held in a hybrid mode, much to the joy of participants. IIM Tiruchirappalli's business and cultural fest, Dhruva 2022, commenced with an inaugural ceremony on 4 March 2022. Mr Rajesh Doshi, CEO of Zebronic, was the Chief Guest and attended virtually. Over 12,700 students registered for the fest, held from 4-6 March, featuring case competitions, quizzes, cultural performances, and a panel on the Age of Entrepreneurship.

The ceremony began with a prayer and lamp-lighting, followed by an address by Student Affairs Council Chairperson, Dr P. Saravanan.

Director Dr Pawan Kumar Singh welcomed the Chief Guest and participants and described Dhruva as a chance to recharge and learn business culture.

Mr Doshi shared lessons from building Zebronic, likened business to a relay race based on trust and effort, and stressed calculated risk-taking, learning, and strategies to make India a manufacturing hub. He also mentioned Zebronic's plans to expand Indian manufacturing. The ceremony ended with a vote of thanks and the National Anthem.



Dhruva 2022 Inauguration



# Tenth Annual Convocation

The Tenth Annual Convocation of IIM Tiruchirappalli for the PGPM, PGPM HR, PGPM and DPM programmes was held on 7 May 2022. The ceremony was presided over by Mr Jalaj Dani, Chairman, Board of Governors, with Mr Ashishkumar Chauhan, Managing Director and CEO, BSE Limited, as Chief Guest.

Director Dr Pawan Kumar Singh welcomed dignitaries, graduates, parents, alumni and media, and congratulated the batch for its resilience through the pandemic. Presenting the 2020-22 report, he highlighted students' achievements in corporate and B-school competitions and stressed social responsibility through the 'Make A Difference' project. He praised the Elixir Club for redeveloping the Panchayat Union Middle School at Chinna Sooriyur with a water purifier, benches, a smart classroom and washrooms.

He reported strong placements with leading consulting, banking and technology firms, including companies such as McKinsey, JP Morgan and Amazon. He also noted student-exchange agreements with nine foreign universities and closed with reflections on Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

Mr Jalaj Dani urged graduates to value resilience, initiate change and leave a legacy, while Mr Chauhan asked them to be grateful, responsible, curious and ethical, and to seek innovative solutions that serve society and the nation.



Second from left, Chairman, BoG, Chief Guest Mr. Ashishkumar Chauhan, and Director with BoG members



Director, Chief Guest and Chairman with medal winners



Mr. Ashishkumar Chauhan delivers the Convocation address

## First Edition of Daksha

Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli conducted its first Leadership Conclave, Daksha, on 24 September 2022 on the theme "Resilience and Adaptation." The conclave served as a platform for eminent leaders to share insights on how organisations anticipate, prepare for, respond to and adapt to disruptions. It was supported by CII Young Indians (Yi), with ICICI Bank as Title Sponsor, VDart as Associate Sponsor, and was powered by SBI, PNB, Axis Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank.

The event hosted 28 industry leaders across panel and round table discussions. Director Dr Pawan Kumar Singh welcomed Chief Guest Mr Sandeep Gupta of J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., and emphasised fluid knowledge, dignified responsibility, the growing importance of HR, and the need for young managers to be assertive yet humble.

Mr Gupta's keynote defined individual and organisational resilience, outlined key resilient traits, and stressed that adversity demanded not bitterness but the capacity to bounce back and adapt.



Delegates and discussions at Daksha 2022







## Republic Day Celebrations

The Institute celebrated the 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day with fervor. The event included flag hoisting, address by the Director, and various cultural events celebrating the nation and the Constitution.



## IIM pressions 2023

Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli organised its three-day Annual Alumni Meet, IIMpressions 2023, from 26–28 January 2023. The meet invited alumni to relive campus memories and renew bonds with batchmates and faculty. It opened with an invocation song and lighting of the lamp, followed by a welcome address by Prof. K. S. Manikandan, Chairperson–Alumni Relations, who thanked alumni for their presence and called them the institute’s most significant stakeholders. Director Dr. Pawan Kumar Singh appreciated the strong turnout, announced the launch of the alumni mentorship programme, and highlighted the theme “Joy of Struggle,” stressing the fulfilment in sharing knowledge and experience with others. The first issue of Alumni Digest, the annual alumni newsletter, was also unveiled.

Across three days, the Alumni Committee organized musical chairs, sky lanterns, pictionary, maze games, treasure hunts and cultural performances, helping alumni reconnect with students and rediscover the campus, making IIMpressions 2023 truly memorable.

Republic Day 2023 celebrations

## Panel Discussion by Finvest

Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli held a panel discussion on the Union Budget 2023 on 5 February 2023, organised by Club Finvest. The session aimed to unpack the Budget’s implications for the Indian economy. The panel comprised Mr Prithviraj Srinivas (Chief Economist, Axis Capital), Ms Rani Agrawal (Director, BSR & Co.), Dr Sudarshan Bhattacharjee (Principal Economist, Yubi), and Dr Avantika Tomar (Partner, EY-Parthenon), moderated by Prof P. Saravanan. Prof V. Gopal welcomed the speakers and urged students to apply the insights to financial decision-making.

Mr Srinivas praised India’s post-pandemic recovery and the Budget’s focus on capital expenditure, while hinting at possible interest rate hikes and the need for foreign funds. Ms Agrawal highlighted the Budget’s tax and inclusivity measures and called for strengthening the insurance sector. Dr Bhattacharjee emphasised the balance between fiscal consolidation and growth, especially for MSMEs. Dr Tomar discussed the Budget’s push for education, digital libraries, and demand-led skilling. The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks and felicitation of the panellists.



Panel discussion on Union Budget moderated by Prof. Saravanan (seated on left)



# International Womens' Day

Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli celebrated International Women's Day on 8 March 2023 on the theme Embrace Equity. The event honoured women's achievements and called for an end to gender bias. It was graced by Chief Guest Ms Ramya Devi, District Revenue Officer, Pudukkottai, Director Dr Pawan Kumar Singh, and Prof Pravin Tambe, Chairperson – Student Affairs.

The programme opened with a short video featuring women of the institute sharing their journeys and messages on empowerment. In her address, Ms Ramya Devi described women as "architects of society,"

urged that their sacrifices be honoured every day, spoke of her own struggles, and encouraged young women to be bold, courageous, and aware of their rights.

Dr Pawan Kumar Singh applauded women's accomplishments, called them God's most precious creation, and urged the audience to build a non-discriminatory society with equal opportunities and access for women, invoking exemplars like Gargi and Maitreyi. The event ended with a vote of thanks by Women Secretary Ms Suvarshitha Dharoor, followed by the National Anthem.



IIMT celebrates Womens' Day



# Eleventh Annual Convocation

The Eleventh Annual Convocation of IIM Tiruchirappalli for the PGPM, PGPM HR, PGIBM and DPM programmes was held on 5 April 2023. The ceremony was presided over by Mr Jalaj Dani, Chairman, Board of Governors, with Ms Soma Mondal, Chairman, Steel Authority of India Ltd., as Chief Guest. Ms Mondal congratulated the institute, graduates and their families, urged students to stay rooted in their values, continuously upskill and reskill, work on their weaknesses, and cherish the lifelong bonds formed on campus.

Director Dr Pawan Kumar Singh welcomed dignitaries and presented the 2022-23 report, highlighting student achievements in sports and major corporate and B-school competitions, as well as strong placement outcomes. He announced nine new international partner universities for student exchange and noted milestones such as AMBA accreditation, the first Daksha Leadership Conclave, Applause alumni meet, and Dhruva fest.

Mr Dani congratulated the graduating batch, welcomed new Board members, thanked outgoing members and the Government for IIM autonomy, and stressed resilience, collective effort, sustainability, and proactive risk management.



Ms. Soma Mondal, Chief Guest addresses the audience



Graduating students at the 2023 Convocation



# Yuva Sangam Phase III

Yuva Sangam, a Flagship Initiative under the Government of India's Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat campaign, aims to foster unity among youth through inter-state cultural exchanges. Under Phase III, IIM Tiruchirappalli hosted Delegates from Rajasthan from 24 November to 4 December, 2023. The visit began with an Inauguration at IIM Tiruchirappalli, graced by Ms D. Nithya, IRS, Additional Commissioner of Income Tax. Delegates enjoyed traditional sports (Silambattam, Kabaddi, Uriyadi), faculty interactions, a campus tour, and a banana leaf lunch.

Their itinerary blended Cultural, Historical and Academic Experiences: visits to ICAR–National Research Centre for Banana, Kallanai (Grand Anicut), Rameswaram (A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Memorial, Pamban Bridge, Dhanushkodi Beach, Rameswaram Temple), Keezhadi Archaeological Site, and the Gandhi Museum in Madurai. They also visited HEPF Tiruchirappalli, NIT Tiruchirappalli (including PARAM PORUL supercomputer), Thanjavur Big Temple, NIFTEM, Thiruvanaikoil, and Srirangam. The programme further included Mahabalipuram, IIT Madras, and an interaction with the Governor of Tamil Nadu, culminating in a valedictory at IIM Tiruchirappalli.









# 2024

## National Youth Day



National Youth Day 2024 in India was observed on 12 January 2024 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, celebrating youth energy and ideals of nation-building. Swami Vivekananda occupies pride of place at IIMT, and his statue is situated at a prominent place, right near the main entrance of the Institute. The statue was garlanded, and other events were held as part of this day.



Events at the National Youth Day 2024

## IIMpressions 2024

IIM Tiruchirappalli hosted its annual alumni meet, IIMpressions 2024, from 26–28 January 2024, bringing together alumni across batches, with a special focus on the 10-year reunion of the Class of 2013. The event opened with an inauguration ceremony featuring the traditional lamp lighting and addresses by Dr Pawan Kumar Singh, Director, and Prof. K. S. Manikandan, Chairperson (Alumni Relations). The Director reflected on the Institute's decade-long journey and urged alumni to act as ambassadors, find purpose, contribute responsibly to society, navigate technology-driven change, and uphold ethical decision-making. The ceremony also saw the release of the bi-annual newsletter Alumni Digest, presentation of mementos, and a vote of thanks by Nikita Mittal, Alumni Committee Secretary. Day 1 ended with alumni-faculty interaction and games. Day 2 included sports, a "Back to Classroom" case discussion, a guest talk by Dr. Rakesh Godhwani, and a cultural evening with lakeside dinner. Day 3 featured a nostalgic visit to NIT Tiruchirappalli.



Alumni and faculty members at IIMpressions 2024



Alumni Digest being released at IIMpressions 2024



# Dhruva 2024

The inaugural ceremony of Dhruva 2024, IIM Tiruchirappalli's flagship business-and-cultural fest, was held on 2 February 2024, with Mr Ranjan Gogoi, Rajya Sabha MP and former Chief Justice of India, as chief guest. Running from 2-4 February, Dhruva brings together case studies, business and cultural competitions, and vibrant presentations: 15 business events, 10 cultural events and three professional shows, plus a panel on entrepreneurship and the startup ecosystem. Over 14,000 participants registered. The programme opened with an invocation song and lamp-lighting. In his

address, Mr Gogoi congratulated students, described management as mastering the five senses, and stressed leadership by example and the importance of integrity in personal and professional life. He praised the organising team. Director Dr Pawan Kumar Singh warmly welcomed guests and highlighted "learning with joy," healthy competition and cooperation. Cultural Committee secretary Ashish Neerati proposed the vote of thanks, and the ceremony ended with the National Anthem.



Mr. Ranjan Gogoi inaugurates Dhruva 2024



Mr. Gogoi addresses faculty members at Dhruva 2024

# Twelfth Annual Convocation

IIM Tiruchirappalli held its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Convocation on 30 March 2024, awarding degrees to 346 PGPM, 37 PGPM-HR, 53 PGPBM and 2 DPM graduates. Mr Jalaj Dani, Chairman of the Board of Governors, presided over the ceremony, and Mr Sandeep Kumar Gupta, Chairman and Managing Director of GAIL, was the Chief Guest.

In his address, Mr Gupta highlighted GAIL's association with IIM Trichy through campus recruitment over the past three years and expressed interest in deeper collaboration. He congratulated the graduating class, acknowledged the support of families, faculty and staff, and urged students to embrace challenges and opportunities. He also shared practical advice on networking, goal-setting, empathy, humility, continuous learning and work-life balance.

Mr Dani welcomed the Chief Guest and described convocation as the culmination of a transformative journey. He urged graduates to uphold the Institute's legacy, bring honour to their alma mater, and draw strength from both individual capabilities and collective purpose. He thanked the Government of India and the Government of Tamil Nadu for supporting the Institute's vision. Director Dr Pawan Kumar Singh presented the 2023-24 Annual Report, highlighting achievements across programmes, growth in doctoral research, industry-linked learning, increasing PGPBM enrolment, improved placements, student competition successes, executive MDPs, new collaborations, and major infrastructure upgrades.



Chairman addresses the audience at the 2024 Convocation



Director, Chief Guest, and Chairman with medal winners at the 2024 Convocation



## Inauguration of the 13<sup>th</sup> batch of the PGPBM

The inauguration of the 13<sup>th</sup> batch of the Post Graduate Programme in Business Management (PGPBM) at IIM Tiruchirappalli's Chennai Campus was held on 7 September. Designed as a weekend MBA for working professionals, the programme focuses on leadership development and prepares participants for senior management roles. The ceremony was attended by Chief Guest Shri Rohit Kumar Agrawala, Director (Finance), Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited, and Guest of Honour Shri Rajagopala Vaidhyathan, CEO and Director, Sakthi Steel Industries India Pvt. Ltd., and a PGPBM alumnus. Dr Pawan Kumar Singh, Director, IIM Tiruchirappalli, along with Prof. Gopal V (Dean Academics), Prof. Godwin Tennyson (Dean Administration) and Prof. Gajanand M. S (Chairperson, PGPBM) were also present.

The programme opened with an invocation and lamp lighting. Shri Agrawala highlighted peer learning and urged participants to apply classroom insights to real-world challenges while appreciating the



Director with Chief Guest Mr. Rohit Kumar Agrawala at the PGPBM Inauguration



interdependence of business functions. Shri Vaidhyathan drew on global experience to stress the value of case studies, cross-functional learning, preparation, participation and communication skills. Dr Singh welcomed the cohort and encouraged self-care, peer learning and ethical, informed decision-making. Faculty members outlined programme objectives, emphasised engagement and concept application, and presented the curriculum vision. The event concluded with merit awards for students from the 2022-24 and 2023-25 batches.









# 2025

## Dhruva

IIM Tiruchirappalli inaugurated Dhruva 2025, its flagship annual business and cultural fest, on January 31, 2025, with great enthusiasm and energy. Air Marshal Anil Khosla, Former Vice Chief of the Air Staff, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Dr. Godwin Tennyson, Director (Acting) IIM Tiruchirappalli, presided over the event. The ceremony began with the Secretary of Team Dhruva presenting bouquets to the Director (Acting) and the Chief Guest. Following this, they lit the ceremonial lamp, symbolising knowledge, enlightenment, and the spirit of Dhruva. In his Inaugural Address, Air Marshal Anil

Khosla shared valuable insights on leadership and management. He emphasised the importance of strategic planning and highlighted how Just-In-Time (JIT) training modules enhance operational efficiency. Drawing from his vast experience, Air Marshal Anil Khosla spoke about the essential qualities of great leaders, including meticulous planning, vision, risk-taking, and decision-making. He also underscored the significance of crisis management, teamwork, and resilience, inspiring participants to embrace challenges with determination and go the extra mile.



In his Presidential Address, Dr. Godwin Tennyson spoke about Dhruva's immense learning opportunities. He highlighted the impact of Industry 4.0 on the evolving business landscape and stressed the importance of adaptability to stay competitive. He encouraged students to engage in Dhruva's events, not just for enjoyment but to gain valuable insights that would contribute to their personal and professional growth. Tejun Verma, Secretary of the Cultural Committee, proposed the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the Chief Guest, Acting Director, administration, faculty, and students for their support and contributions. The ceremony concluded with the rendition of the National Anthem, fostering a sense of pride and unity among the attendees.



Students performing at Dhruva 2025





Panel discussion at Daksha 3.0



Prize winners at Daksha 3.0

## Leadership Conclave, Daksha 3.0

IIM Tiruchirappalli hosted Episode 3 of its 2024 Leadership Conclave, Daksha, on 16 February 2025. The conclave theme was “Leadership Renaissance: Embracing Change, Seizing Opportunities,” and this episode focused on “Evolution of Product Management: Harnessing AI for a Paradigm Shift in Technique & Approach.” The event opened with an invocation and lamp lighting, followed by a welcome address by Prof. Godwin Tennyson, Director (Acting) and Dean Administration, who set the context for the discussion. Ms. Saisha Parab served as Master of Ceremony and introduced the panel.

The session featured leading product-management practitioners: Ms. Priya Singh, Director of Product Management, Salesforce, who spoke on AI-led innovation and strategic decision-making; Mr. Suyash Joshi, Head of Product Management, Ather Energy, who shared perspectives on AI integration in electric mobility and smart EV features; and Mr. Vijayaganesh Sampathkumar, Executive Director of Product Management, athenahealth, who discussed AI-driven transformation in healthcare technology. The programme ended with an interactive Q&A, a vote of thanks by Mr. Shourjya Bhattacharya (Placement Office), and the National Anthem.

## Annual Convocation



Chairman, BoG, and Director felicitate the Honourable Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. R.N. Ravi

IIM Tiruchirappalli celebrated its 13<sup>th</sup> Convocation with the Tamil Thaa Vazhthu, conferring degrees across the Doctoral Programme in Management (DPM), the flagship PGPM, PGPM-HR and the executive PGPB. The ceremony was graced by Thiru R. N. Ravi, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, alongside members of the Board of Governors, faculty, alumni and families. Founded in 2011 as the 11<sup>th</sup> IIM, the Institute noted its global standing through AMBA accreditation for its PGPM, PGPM-HR and PGPB programmes.

In his address, the Governor congratulated graduates, thanked faculty and staff, and urged students to seize opportunities in a transforming India, linking personal ambition with national progress and entrepreneurship, including the rise of startups and self-employment. Chairman Mr Jalaj Dani welcomed guests and shared life lessons on courageous leadership, integrity, curiosity, teamwork, empathy, resilience and giving back.

Presenting the institute report, Director Dr Pawan Kumar Singh highlighted programme growth and inclusivity: 32 full-time and 41 executive doctoral scholars on roll, with doctoral degrees conferred; 355 PGPM, 53 PGPM-HR and 46 PGPB (Chennai campus) graduates; and Differently Abled Person (DAP) graduates, including 14 in PGPM and 2 in PGPM-HR. The ceremony reaffirmed IIM Trichy's commitment to excellence, innovation and responsible leadership for the campus community. The event concluded with the National Anthem.



# International Day of Yoga

IIM Tiruchirappalli marked the International Day of Yoga 2025 with an invigorating early morning community yoga session on campus. Faculty, staff, and students joined to participate in a guided yoga practice, embracing the spirit of wellness and mindfulness that the day embodies. The session aimed to promote physical and mental well-being, encouraging participants to find balance amidst their academic and professional commitments. Following the session, Dr Pawan Kumar Singh, Director of IIM Tiruchirappalli, addressed the gathering. He emphasised the relevance of yoga in everyday life and underscored the importance of integrating practices such as focus, discipline, and self-awareness into one's personal and professional journey. The observance reaffirmed the institute's commitment to a holistic education that nurtures intellectual growth and overall well-being.



International Yoga Day 2025 being celebrated at IIMT

## Godrej LOUD

On 27 July 2025, IIM Tiruchirappalli hosted Godrej Industries Limited for the on-campus launch of its flagship national case competition LOUD (Live Out Ur Dream), in collaboration with the Placement Committee. The event drew over 550 first-year students and opened with a showcase of Godrej's 135-year legacy, including a message from Mr. Nadir Godrej highlighting innovation and social responsibility. LOUD distinguishes itself by asking students to define and pursue their aspirations, rather than solve conventional cases.

Senior leaders Mr. Abhay Parnerkar (CEO, Godrej Foods) and Ms. Vidhi Verma (AVP, OD and Effectiveness, Godrej Agrovet) spoke on purpose-driven leadership, urging students to build authentic, value-centric careers. Former LOUD finalists, now Godrej employees, shared journeys of turning dreams into impact. A lively Q&A covered Agrovet's expansion, sustainable crop protection, cross-vertical innovation, and GMO policy, along with social initiatives such as Sakhi, FarmSakhi, and Godrej Ki Shakti. The session ended with a vote of thanks by M. Swati and Libin Lal, and a memento presented by Dr. Abhishek Totawar, Chairperson (Placements).



Case competition at Godrej LOUD



# IIMT receives AMBA accreditation

IIM Tiruchirappalli (IIMT) has secured re-accreditation from the Association of MBAs (AMBA), reaffirming its commitment to excellence in post-graduate management education. The institute was first accredited in September 2022 for its flagship PGPM and PGPBPM programmes, followed by PGPM-HR in 2023. In September 2025, AMBA renewed accreditation for all three programmes for the maximum term of five years, reflecting strong performance across evaluation parameters. AMBA status enables current MBA students and recent alumni to join AMBA's global community of over 60,000 members across 150+ countries, at no additional cost, for networking, thought leadership and career development. During the review, the AMBA panel commended IIMT's openness and continuous improvement, and praised initiatives such as International Week, the MAD (Make A Difference) Project and the Elixir programme for advancing socially responsible leadership. Based in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, IIMT aims to create management knowledge of global standards and develop leaders who serve society.







Reminiscences

# Alumni





# PGPM



Rathna Kireeti M  
PGPM, 2013-15

My biggest takeaway from IIM Trichy is how my mindset has been moulded through several key experiences. By becoming an early riser, I was able to improve my academic efficiency, while also learning to manage Placecom activities and my studies without de-prioritising either. I have built friendships that will last far beyond the one year and nine months spent on campus, and I was able to dream of a career in consulting and achieve it with the immense support of the students and the institute. Furthermore, learning from differing perspectives has made my thought process more comprehensive.

While these may seem trivial in nature, they represent a significant shift in my mindset, keeping me open to a lifetime of unlearning and learning. I am grateful to my batchmates and faculty for helping with

this transition. I would like to share a special word of mention for the Placecom chairpersons—Prof. Godwyn and Prof. Abhishek—as well as Sruthi ma'am and the Placecom teams across the senior, junior, and my own batches for making this journey so enriching. I also want to thank my dear friend Samuel Pradeep, my teammate on multiple projects and competitions, for giving me such a positive perspective on life. Finally, I offer my heartfelt thanks to my better half, Manjula, for encouraging me to pursue an MBA, as her guidance has had a far-reaching impact on my life.

*Rathna Kireeti is Head, Digital Strategy Consulting at YASH Technologies, prior to which he has worked at Deloitte India and KPMG India.*



Rajarshi Sen  
PGPM, 2013-15

The first day at IIM Trichy, fifteen years ago, was a cauldron of excitement, anxiety, hope, and happiness. And as they say, morning shows the day—those two years mirrored that mix in varying amplitudes. Intense case work, late-night project marathons and professors who pushed us beyond our limits all contributed to shaping the professionals we are today.

In the classrooms, the pedagogy opened doors to new ways of thinking, while the nights came alive in the hostels—endless hours of debate and conversations that galvanized our learning. Ideas collided,

cultures blended. There were healthy rivalries, but also friendships that deepened over time—many sealed during the legendary water party at Beryl!

Each experience honed our leadership, resilience and ability to collaborate. As we celebrate 15 years, I feel immense gratitude—for the knowledge, the memories and the people. Here's to the alma mater that gave us the foundation to dream big and the courage to make it happen. Cheers to many more years of impact and excellence!

*Rajarshi is a Consultant at EY-Parthenon.*





Shipali Jangra

PGPM, 2013-15

IIM Trichy will always feel like the place where life unfolded in the most unexpected and beautiful ways. Joining the institute just two months after my marriage in 2013 meant beginning two journeys at once - building a new home and a new version of myself. The fresher's party, where seniors welcomed us with extraordinary warmth, reflected IIMT's belief in dignity, inclusiveness, and genuine human connection.

My happiest memories are stitched with laughter and chaos- late-night case studies we practically invented, the spirited Inter-IIM sports meet at IIM Kozhikode where teamwork mattered more than winning, and the joy of unwinding with the "Breakfree dance club". The International Student Exchange Program in Hungary broadened my worldview - mirroring IIMT's vision of developing globally aware leaders. Even after moving to the US right after my MBA, the IIMT family stayed close; meeting batchmates recently in New York reminded me that true bonds never fade.

Looking back, IIM Trichy didn't just sharpen my mind- it strengthened my resilience and my ability to balance life's many roles. The friendships, values, and lessons rooted in the belief that "Knowledge is Endless"- continue to guide the way I approach my work and life today.

*Shipali is Director, Digital Product Management at American Express.*



Rakesh Kumar Murugan

PGPM, 2015-17

IIM Trichy was a rigorous grind - but one that reshaped me fundamentally. The Institute strengthened my depth of thinking and gave me a strategic lens that continues to differentiate me as a leader today. One of my defining experiences was the special research project with Prof. Saumen Majumdar. Working on econometrics and smart grid optimisation, presenting at an international conference, and defending our methodology in detail - all of it built a structured, analytical approach that I still rely on in boardrooms and large transformation programs.

IIMT prepared me for the real world in a holistic way: the blend of strategy, marketing, financial acumen, operations thinking, and the

ability to manage difficult people at work. These are the very muscles I use now as a P&L leader driving digital transformation and Industry 4.0 at scale. Winning MAD programme remains a meaningful memory - it shaped how I view decisions in the corporate world, reminding me that impact must include everyone, especially the underprivileged. Beyond the curriculum, IIM Trichy taught me clarity, character, and courage. The lessons, the grind, and the mindset continue to guide me long after graduation.

*Rakesh is Senior Director & Global Head Digital Transformation, Bosch Software & Digital Solutions.*





Anurag Kumar Sankrityayan  
PGPM, 2020-22

My journey at IIM Trichy during the Post Graduate Program in Management was filled with the same camaraderie, challenges, and laughter that every batchmate cherishes. Yet, what makes my memories truly unforgettable is the way intent translated into action whenever inclusion and accessibility were at stake. As a quadriplegic and permanent wheelchair user with a background in disability advocacy, I often raised concerns about accessibility in infrastructure, administration, and student committees. What surprised me was not just the willingness to listen, but the speed and sincerity with which the institution responded.

Within a week of voicing issues, I was invited to audit campus accessibility and share recommendations. To my amazement, ramps were constructed at all identified locations—except one that

was unviable in the short term. The most symbolic gesture was the ramp built on stage for convocation, ensuring that no student would be excluded from that proud moment. That experience was unprecedented for me: being heard, respected, and seeing tangible change unfold so quickly. It remains one of my most cherished memories, bringing both a smile and immense pride whenever I recall it. For me, IIM Trichy was not just an academic institution, but a place where equity was lived, not just spoken.

*Anurag is Senior Associate – Projects at Cognizant Technology Solution*



Sridhar Bathula  
PGPM, 2013-15

*My Trichy Tickles*

It's around 7:30ish in evening when I first stepped into Beryl Hostel at Trichy with a heavy suitcase, huffing & sweating

And then...

a song started playing loud (in fact too loud) in one of seniors' room at Beryl

*Ahaaaa... Aha ahaaa...*

*Hey hey ahaa haa....*

*Tipp. Tipp. Barsaa Paaniii... Paani ne aag lagaai*

Though exhausted & anxious, inner me somewhere started feeling "Whatt-an-Entry!" And that's when it all started... My Trichy tickles

And it went on being...

*Enlightened* with jaw dropping, *Terry Mickey model*, from seniors during initial days

*Danced* with my mates to then Tollywood's top dance no. Kevv Keka at Fresher's party

*Directed* 'kind of flirt story' mocking video in *War of Sections* with love from our section cast and crew for rival sections

Created an accidental recipe *Coke Maggie Puri* in an unprepared cooking event, that grabbed crazy attention of tummies

*Accomplished* feeling inside me, when my friends ramp walked adorning my creative *Modern Mythology costume design @ Sanskriti &*

whole auditorium went gaga over it specially when Lord Han-u-man ramp walked wearing a Hoodie & knee length attire holding 'Gada' on his shoulder

Elated by selling 4 sipping-straws at Rs.500 within 2 mins by implementing customisation concept at marketing event

Locked with many more memories and some special classroom reverberations of phrases like "*Yo-Yo-Yo Nijanthan*" & "*You Tell Me*"

Needless to mention, Professors (each and every prof) and their classroom teaching, learning have been world-class experiences.

Nonetheless, being one of the lasts to get placed, will never forget the mental, emotional support from faculty & whole IIM Trichy family with a special mention of Prof. Abhishek Totawar's motivating not to lose hope till the day I got placed.

Fun Fact: I got placed in a company at campus where my interview went on less of concepts explanation and more of me narrating all the above-mentioned experiences & some more anecdotes which impressed them!

Latest Update (if any): My self-authored novel *#LoveStory99NotOut* is available on Amazon and Flipkart!

*Sridhar is in the Associate Leadership Team at ICICI Bank.*



# PGPM-HR



Aman Srivastava

PGPM – HR, 2020-22

Being part of the very first MBA HR batch of IIM Trichy (Class of 2020-22) felt like stepping into the pilot episode of a series that started back in 2011 as exciting, a little unpredictable, and strangely comforting all at once.

At IIM Trichy, I spent more than half my time in academics, where our curriculum felt like an all you can learn buffet- Organisational Behaviour, Decision Sciences, Finance, Marketing, Operations that seemed unrelated at the time, and outside the curriculum, club activities and sports. Today, these courses and activities quietly guide how I handle real-world situations, both at work and outside it. Some of those learnings slip into my thinking so naturally now that they even surprise my friends and colleagues (and honestly, sometimes they surprise me too). One memory that still makes me smile and re-think

is the Human Process Lab. I remember wondering, “Two full days of introspection? Really?” But looking back, I’d happily take those two days again, just to sit with my thoughts, breathe a little slower, and stop stressing about things that were never that big in the first place. Life has a funny way of making sense in reverse.

IIM Trichy shaped me in ways, I only understood after stepping out into the world; teaching me to lead with empathy, trust my instincts, and stay grounded. I’m deeply grateful to my professors for opening up my perspectives. As the Institute celebrates 15 years, I feel proud to have been part of a milestone within a milestone.

*Aman is Manager, Human Resources at Aditya Birla Lifestyle Brands Limited.*



Preetham Karumuru

PGPM – HR, 2020-22

Remembering my MBA days, I still feel the roller coaster of emotions that drove through me. Being the first COVID-hit batch, we had fewer opportunities to live out moments on the campus. However, the internet and our devices ensured not just that we saw how our fellow MBA mates and faculty looked, but also fulfilled all those valuable moments which could have been missed. If not more, it definitely gave us an equal bonding to what we would have had in an offline mode.

Speaking of my offline campus stay, even now, my eyes traverse our lively hostel blocks, the cool, breezy sports complex where we spent many nights, and the calm lake giving us the much-required peace post tiring days. My mind then goes to the opposite side at the mess

and canteen end, where we had memories ranging from light-hearted chats with friends to dinner parties with club faculty mentors. It then takes a long pause imagining the beautiful LRC, with its multiple knowledge resources and multi-purpose rooms, sometimes broken into by peacocks. Then comes the most attractive part of the campus—the administrative building—which is lingering even today in my LinkedIn profile. If I get an opportunity to revisit, I shall enter the campus with a cheery face and return with a teary one.

*Preetham is Assistant Product Manager at IndiaMART InterMESH Limited.*



# PGPBM



Kapil Suresan  
PGPBM 2015-18

*My time at IIM Trichy marked a quiet but profound turning point in my life. I came to the campus with years of professional experience and a clear technical identity, yet unsure of how far I could truly stretch myself. IIM Trichy gave me that space—to pause, unlearn, and rediscover my own potential. Every classroom discussion challenged the way I thought, every group assignment reminded me of the power of humility and collaboration, and every late-night conversation with peers shaped my perspective far beyond textbooks.*

*What I carry most deeply from IIM Trichy is confidence—not the loud kind, but a steady belief in my ability to lead with purpose and integrity.*

*The faculty did more than teach; they listened, questioned, and nudged me to see leadership as responsibility rather than position. Surrounded by diverse minds and shared aspirations, I learned to value empathy as much as excellence.*

*IIM Trichy didn't just prepare me for the next role in my career; it reshaped how I see success itself. It helped me evolve from being a specialist into a leader who builds, mentors, and serves. For that transformation, I remain deeply grateful.*

Kapil is Director, ESG at Protiviti





Sahana Mohan

PGPBM, 2017-19

#### Myth Buster:

There is a common myth that Executive MBA programmes add little value to career growth and are mere credentials upgrades especially for professionals established in their field. Personally, I can confidently say that this course was a myth-breaker, as it contributed not only to my professional knowledge but also to my personal growth as a leader.

Another myth this program dispelled was the belief that all Executive MBA programmes rely on mundane, age-old management techniques with little real-world relevance or applicability. On the contrary, the curriculum provided a strong foundation across all aspects of management, with a clear emphasis on structured thinking and practical application. The extensive use of case studies brought real business scenarios into the classroom, encouraging analytical thinking, collaborative problem-solving, and the ability to view challenges from multiple perspectives.

#### Expectation Fulfilled:

Each one of us apart from the learning come with certain expectations in terms of networking and I can vouch for the fact that this

programme gave me the opportunity to engage and network with a diverse group of peers from varied industries and professional backgrounds. The peer interactions, discussions, and collaborative learning environment significantly broadened my perspective and enriched the learning experience.

#### Stretched but Fun:

Moving between the corporate boardroom and the campus classroom during the program was fun, blending professional rigour with the joy of being a student again.

#### Transformation - Beyond academics:

The program fostered self-reflection and leadership maturity. It helped me transition from an execution-focused mindset to a more strategic, long-term approach, with greater awareness of governance, responsibility, and impact.

*Sahana is APAC Sales Operations and Campaign Leader at GE Vernova*



Lakshmi Arun Kumaar

PGPBM, 2019-22

Lakshmi Arun Kumaar's journey is a powerful story of resilience, courage, and purposeful leadership. Raised in an orthodox family of nine children, she grew up with severely limited access to food, education, and basic well-being. In an environment where survival itself demanded sacrifice and where opportunities for girls were often constrained. Lakshmi learned early the values of discipline, responsibility, and perseverance.

Education was never assured; it was earned against odds. These formative struggles instilled in her a lifelong belief that birth circumstances should never determine destiny. Years later, embodying this conviction, Lakshmi made a bold and unconventional choice committing to an MBA at IIM Trichy at the age of 49. At a stage when many hesitate to begin anew, she chose transformation. Balancing professional responsibilities, personal commitments, and rigorous academics, her IIM Trichy journey sharpened her strategic thinking and reinforced her belief that businesses must create economic, social, and environmental value simultaneously.

Today, that belief has translated into tangible impact. Lakshmi has built ONRGY Services Private Limited into a purpose-driven enterprise with a turnover of ₹175 crores, employing over 4,500 blue-collar professionals across 23 states in India. Her focus on rural recruitment, first-generation graduates, women participation, and climate-aligned service offerings reflects her lived experience transformed into collective opportunity.

Lakshmi's story stands as proof that it is never too late to learn, never too late to lead, and never too late to change lives at scale.

*Lakshmi is Managing Director, Onrgy Services Private Limited, and Director, Onrgy Foundation*



# FPM (PhD Program)



Dr. Farheen Fathima Shaik  
Fellow of IIMT (PhD), 2021

Even after all these years, IIM Trichy still feels like home—a place that shaped not just my mind, but my confidence, friendships, and the way I see the world.

Some of my most cherished memories live in the small everyday moments: The quiet library aisles, where we pretended to “study” but mostly exchanged life stories... the Foundation Day hall buzzing with energy and pride... classrooms where heated case discussions dissolved into laughter... and our endless group photos, where we squeezed together, exhausted yet joyful. I still remember long evening walks on the unfinished campus roads, dreaming aloud about the futures we hoped to build. Those were some of the purest, happiest days of my life. IIM Trichy gave me more than a degree—it gave me people who became family, a sense of purpose, and the courage to grow. The institute didn’t just prepare me for a career; it prepared me for life.

IIM Trichy is woven into the deepest part of who I am, not just as a campus, but as a place that held my earliest courage, my rawest dreams, and the first quiet proof that I could build a life larger than my fears. I remember the early days of the permanent campus, when the buildings were rising alongside us, and we walked those half-finished pathways knowing we were part of something being built, an institution discovering its soul, even as it helped us discover ours.

The halls, the laughter-filled classrooms, the spirited Foundation Day celebrations, and our countless group photos—tired faces, wide smiles, sparkling eyes became the emotional blueprint of my

becoming. And in the middle of that journey, I was fortunate to find the mentorship of Prof. Upam, whose guidance shaped not just my academic work but the way I think, teach, and hold space for others. Some of my most cherished memories are the hours we spent in deep conversations that expanded my research horizons, sharpened my curiosity, and always left me with a sense of clarity—steadier in my purpose, braver in my ideas, and more grounded in the path I was learning to shape.

These learnings accompany me every day at XLRI, where I try to embody the same humility, sincerity, and warmth that Trichy instilled in me. And perhaps the biggest testament to the institution is this: anyone I meet from IIM Trichy carries the same goodness, the same groundedness, the same quiet pride. In them, and in myself, I see how truly beautiful the institution has always been—because of its people. Additionally, I have observed and appreciated that anyone who knows the institute or its people recognizes the profound character of IIM Trichy—a place made exceptional by those who have quietly built it from within: the directors, professors, librarian, and generations of alumni.

*Farheen is Assistant Professor (Human Resource Management) at XLRI, Jamshedpur.*



Dr. Nidheesh Joseph  
PhD, 2023

So, What? – Lessons from an FPM Journey

“So, what?”

Every time Prof. Manikandan asked this question during my presentations in the Organizational Theory FPM seminar course, my heart sank. After wrestling with dense theories through the previous night, I would walk into class believing I had finally mastered them—only for this single, loaded question to break me down instantly. In one moment, all my pride in understanding and presenting complex concepts would crumble. Yet, with time, that very question came to define the essence of my Ph.D. journey: critical thinking and humility. It is only fitting that the same course eventually helped me discover my thesis topic.

Another unforgettable moment was the “harsh” treatment meted out to us by our senior FPM scholars in the early days—assigning us multiple AMJ and ASQ papers to read overnight and then submit

detailed syntheses. I was so overwhelmed that I genuinely questioned my decision to join the programme. But all that anxiety disappeared when the so-called harsh treatment culminated in a sumptuous dinner. Only then did we learn that it was a carefully planned shock treatment to prepare us for the long, rigorous journey ahead. To this day, it remains the most cherished “harsh” treatment I have ever received.

As the saying goes, “It takes a village to raise a child.” My teaching and research career are not mine alone—I owe it to the village called IIM Trichy. And as I step forward in my career, that one question— ‘So, what?’—quietly travels with me.

So, what?

Maybe everything.

*Nidheesh is Assistant Professor, OB/HRM at IMT Ghaziabad.*



# Faculty members



**Smita Prashant Chattopadhyay**

Associate Professor, Organisational Behavior and Human Resource Management

I joined IIM Tiruchirappalli (IIM Trichy) in 2014, after completing my PhD from IIM Bangalore (IIMB) and a stint at Infosys in Bangalore. The decision to join wasn't difficult – I knew other IIMB doctoral scholars who had already joined IIMT, and they spoke highly of the work culture and student quality. I had also attended a session by the then Director, who visited IIM Bangalore to speak with doctoral students about the value of joining a young, growing institute like IIM Trichy. Among the new generation of IIMs being established then, IIM Trichy had already earned strong appreciation in the academic community. That reputation has only grown stronger over the years.

My early days at IIM Trichy were very warm and welcoming. Conversations over tea happened almost daily. Tea and coffee were served daily in the shade of a tree on campus. We had no chairs there, no shade other than the tree, plenty of insects flying and crawling around, yet with just about twenty faculty members then, you'd see

almost everyone. Today, we have an air-conditioned faculty lounge, comfortable sofas, and vending machines, but with fifty-five faculty members and more program offerings, it's rare to see everyone at once!

Another gathering spot in those early days was the guest house. Deepak, the cook there, made wonderful food, and it became a natural meeting point for faculty colleagues. We'd exchange notes about classroom experiences, discuss research, debate sports and movies, and talk politics. These informal, unstructured spaces were abundant in the institute's early days. They helped us understand the institute's culture, get to know our colleagues better, and create a space where we could share concerns and seek advice freely.

A few years after I had joined, we moved into our permanent campus from our temporary campus at NIT Trichy. The transition period was

quite the adventure! We had started teaching at our permanent campus before residential complexes were made available on campus. So, we'd carpool daily from our residences at NIT Trichy to IIM Trichy campus. It was just a 30-minute commute, on a very scenic road, but we could never predict what we would encounter that day! Those rides were something else! Narrow village roads that could barely fit one vehicle, when a vehicle approached from the opposite side, one required careful manoeuvring to avoid ending up in a pond or paddy field! Occasionally we were stuck in a traffic jam because a herd of goats had taken over the road, errant two-wheeler drivers and their sudden appearances on the road from foliage covered side-lanes were, of course, common!

The institute has grown significantly since then. We've expanded from three degree-granting programmes – PGP, FPM, and PGPM – to five, with the addition of PGPM-HR and Executive PhD. Batch sizes have grown exponentially, and the diversity in student profiles has made classroom sessions more engaging. Students now come with varied educational backgrounds and work experiences, bringing rich perspectives to discussions. Our executive education and consulting wing has also expanded its offerings to include not just management development programmes but long-duration and short-duration blended certification programs as well. This has added another dimension of diversity in terms of interacting with a wide range of professional participants from both private and public sectors.

Over my eleven years here, I've held several administrative roles, most prominently as Chairperson of the Doctoral Program and later the PGP-HR program. These roles gave me deeper insights into how the institute functions and how we continuously work to improve the educational experience by including voices of various stakeholders and strengthening industry-academia partnerships in the process.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the backbone of IIM Trichy, officers and members of the staff, who work dedicatedly towards supporting academic activities. They are the force that ensures that the institute operates like a well-oiled machine. There are innumerable examples where our officers and staff members have gone above and beyond to support academic activities.

What I've particularly enjoyed at IIM Trichy are the conversations with faculty colleagues. Management, by nature, is interdisciplinary,

and I find it enriching to discuss the interfaces and crossovers between our courses, exploring how we can bring these connections into the classroom. Discussions about classroom etiquette, changing student learning styles, and the impact of AI on learning, and so many other very interesting conversations keep us sharp and responsive to our students' needs.

As I look back, what strikes me most about IIM Trichy is the space it gives faculty members to grow and experiment. The culture is open and friendly, encouraging innovation while providing support. In fact, I remember one of the courses I co-instructed, required PGP students to travel to Singapore for a short stay where they worked on a live project with companies based there. This required significant adjustment to the academic calendar, which in fast-paced programmes like ours is administratively always a challenge. It was the first time a course like this was launched at IIM Trichy, but the then faculty council and the administration were very supportive and encouraging. That helped us launch and run this course for many years! I am happy to say that the faculty and leadership's support remains just as encouraging today. Even today we have spirited discussions in the academic council debating pros and cons of every decision, but by and large decisions are taken on the basis of overall consensus.

To my junior colleagues, I'd say this: embrace that space. The institute's collaborative environment is one of its greatest strengths. Don't hesitate to reach out to colleagues within and across areas, engage in those corridor conversations, participate in the informal gatherings. That's where some of the best learning happens.

The institute has evolved from those early days of carpooling and guest house lunches, but the spirit of collegiality and the commitment to excellence remain unchanged. It's been a privilege to be part of this journey, to see students grow and succeed, and to work alongside colleagues who are as passionate about education and research as they are about building something meaningful together. Here's to the next fifteen years of growth, learning, and community.





Prof. V. Gopal  
Professor, Finance & Accounting

Please tell us a bit about your background, and how you came to join IIMT...

After graduating from IIM Calcutta, I joined XIM Bhubaneswar, which was in its second year. From there, I moved to the Goa Institute of Management. By then, I had started taking a liking to new institutions, and I began enjoying the challenges of building a new one. I liked smaller institutes, as the ties formed there are much stronger. Although I spent 12 years in Goa, I was feeling a little restless, as things had become a bit boring due to the highly predictable nature of life there. From Goa I moved to IMT Nagpur. Again, IMT Nagpur was in its second year, and it had faced numerous issues with respect to setting up systems and attracting good, committed faculty. This was the kind of challenge I loved, and I had a great opportunity to build the institute as Dean, alongside the Director and the Board of Governors.

By fostering a culture of trust and camaraderie, we successfully maintained near-zero faculty attrition for six consecutive years. As I had set up the systems, I felt restless again and wanted to move closer to home in Tamil Nadu. That is when IIM Tiruchirappalli was established, and I applied for a job here. Here was a challenge of setting up a new institute under the rules and procedures of the Government. I was lucky to be selected. It was a roller coaster ride for the first ten years, and then things settled, and systems got established.

What are your memories of IIMT? Please let us know your experiences with the Institute, and anything you particularly remember.

The initial days at the NIT Trichy campus were the most memorable. We were six faculty members to start with, and everyone was kind of doing everything. Faculty and students had put their faith in a new

institute, despite its IIM brand. We started at the old library building on the NIT Trichy campus and completely revamped it to create a B-School of sorts.

My most memorable experiences at IIM Tiruchirappalli were dealing with NIT Tiruchirappalli. The then Director asked me to look after the issues with the girls' hostel, as our girls were accommodated alongside the NIT girls. All the rules, such as roll call at night at 9 pm and fines for staying out after 9 pm, were enforced. Group projects were an issue, as the girls had to complete everything by 9 pm. For the first two years, only the boys had access to the backup electricity generator, while the girls did not. This created another set of issues. To be fair, our girls took every challenge in the right spirit and came out with flying colours.

Every day brought new challenges, and the faculty, students, and staff united as one and faced them with courage. There was a much stronger sense of connection among the faculty, and our tea lounge was situated under a tree. People would walk in for tea, sit on the cement benches, and continue discussing everything from the most mundane to the most profound.

Academics had the highest priority. Everyone believed that good fundamentals were the root cause of a successful career. The library was a place where we could take our coffee and laptops and work. The entire institute was vibrant, with young faculty and innovative students who had come together to make it a success.

The greatest memories I have of IIM Tiruchirappalli are the logical mindset our students possessed, their articulation, and the success we achieved in our very first year. Of course, not to speak of the close connection faculty members and their families had in the quarters.

It was an institute where everyone felt wanted, connected and had gathered together to make a success of it.

What according to you is distinct and different about IIMT? Please elaborate.

The students and their sense of independence and willingness to challenge the assumptions and the status quo.

Is there anything else you would like to mention?

Fundamentals are eternal (not Zomato), whether it is a subject or in life.

What is your message/suggestions to your junior colleagues?

The world has become very competitive with challenges galore. You need to keep running to stand still. My best wishes for your bright future!





## Prof. Vinu CT

Associate Professor, Operations  
Management and Decision Sciences

*Please tell us a bit about your background, and how you came to join IIMT...*

For over a decade now, I've called IIM Trichy my professional home. I earned my doctorate at IIM Bangalore, after which I spent about five years in the IT and analytics industry, working close to real-world data and business problems. At heart—and by postgraduate training—I am a statistician who enjoys turning numbers into insight.

During my doctoral days at IIM Bangalore, I first discovered IIM Trichy. A talk by Prof. Prafulla Agnihotri there really brought the institute to life for me, and my IIMB alumni who joined IIM Trichy reinforced that impression by describing it as an ideal place for serious academics.

What are your memories of IIMT? Please let us know your experiences with the Institute, and anything you particularly remember.

The early days of IIM Trichy are especially close to my heart. With fewer students on campus, I knew almost everyone by name, and faculty conversations were livelier and more frequent. As someone who prefers a friendly, less formal atmosphere, those days suited me perfectly.

Through close interactions, I came across some truly inspiring student stories—a student who sponsored under-privileged children

to play in football tournaments, a sudoku champion with a passion for drama, and even an origami enthusiast who created intricate paper art. Now that the institute has grown, it is no longer possible to know every student personally, but this growth has brought a new set of opportunities and experiences for all of us.

What according to you is distinct and different about IIMT? Please elaborate.

IIMT stands out for the richness of academic dialogue among its faculty, which is stronger than in many other IIMs. Although there is always a balance between teaching and research, most faculty here place a strong emphasis on exceptional teaching.

*What is your message/suggestions to your junior colleagues?*

I find the junior faculty to be very promising. Co-teaching across disciplines is an excellent idea, despite the extra prep time involved. This collaboration gave me exposure to diverse viewpoints and new ways to teach.







## Prof. Jang Bahadur Singh

Associate Professor, Information Systems and Analytics

When IIM Tiruchirappalli was established on 4 January 2011 as the Eleventh IIM, it represented not just a new institution but a promise. My own journey with the Institute began on 1 July 2011, just after my Fellow Programme in Management at IIM Bangalore. Having completed BTech to MTech and then having gone through five years of doctoral work, I found myself drawn to this young institute. I had first read about its founding in the newspaper during final year of my PhD. It felt like stepping onto a blank page, an opportunity to be part of the first chapter while still wondering what it meant to join an entirely new institution. With time, those uncertainties settled into a journey that unfolded far better than I had imagined.

Before formally joining, I visited the temporary campus located in the old library building of NIT Trichy. Classrooms were being built as we walked around. I still remember walking into the office and noticing that because furniture was limited, staff members would vacate their seats for visitors and continue their work standing. That simple gesture captured the spirit of the place. It showed humility and warmth. Even today I believe that this early culture of mutual respect continues to define who we are.

I was part of the first cohort of nine faculty members. In those days every meeting and every discussion was foundational. The first Faculty Council meeting, the first Programme Committee meeting, the first set of processes we discussed and drafted together. I realised I was not only observing an organisation form but participating in its formation. Structures developed, roles clarified, and norms slowly stabilised. What seemed like small decisions at the time eventually became enduring features of the Institute. It gave me a front-row seat to how institutions evolve, how the structuration of norms and values gradually unfolds, and how identity takes shape slowly and collectively.

Teaching was the first responsibility for many of us. We prepared together and sought feedback from each other and from senior colleagues, including professors from our doctoral institutes. This created a culture of academic collaboration that continues to be one of IIM Trichy's strengths. Over time, this collective effort developed into the teaching ethos that the Institute is known for. It was not planned explicitly. It emerged through practice, through the choices we made about how to teach, and how to support one another.



Parallel to the academic institution, a community was taking shape. Many of us were young families then. We celebrated the first birthdays of children together. The IIM Family WhatsApp group began simply to share photos from one such birthday celebration, slowly expanded and eventually took on the fitting name of the IIM Family group. Festivals such as Pongal, Diwali, Christmas, New Year, and Holi became occasions that stitched us together. Typically, one colleague would host and everyone would arrive with food and laughter. The Holi photograph from our early years in the NIT campus captures that period beautifully. It reminds me that community often forms quietly, through shared meals, colours, and shared beginnings.

My sense of belonging grew not only within the campus but also around it. Thuvakudi, where the temporary campus was in early years, and Chinna Suriyur, where our permanent campus came up, became familiar landscapes. Living here for fifteen years, I realised that belonging is not only about where one works but also about the places that surround that work, the people one meets repeatedly, and the steady, comforting familiarity of a city that has its own quiet charm.

As I approach fifteen years of association with IIM Trichy, I often reflect on what this journey has taught me. I arrived as a young academic, and both the Institute and the city supported me in ways I had not anticipated. I learned that institutions grow through people, through the values they enact, and through the care they show to each other. Culture is not announced. It is lived. It takes shape every day in the way we teach, collaborate, celebrate, and support one another.

To younger colleagues, I offer a thought from these reflections. Great institutions are not built by single milestones or grand gestures. They emerge from the steady commitment of people who invest in their work, their colleagues, and their communities. Each of us contributes, often in small ways, to the character this Institute continues to develop.

IIM Trichy, its people, and the city of Tiruchirappalli have shaped me in these fifteen years. I hope, in return, that my work and presence have contributed in some measure to the growth of this place that has become my professional and personal home.



# Non-teaching staff members



Suruti M  
Admissions Office

Please tell us a bit about your background, and how you came to join IIMT...

I possess a diverse professional background, having worked in both corporate and teaching roles before joining IIM Tiruchirappalli. At the time, I was actively seeking a transition from my teaching position, as it required extensive daily travel to another district. I was looking for a role that aligned better with my experience, qualifications, and personal circumstances.

During this period, I came across openings at IIM Tiruchirappalli, which offered the opportunity to work within Trichy. I applied for two positions, received interview calls for both, and was fortunate to receive job offers for each. Choosing between them became an important decision, and I ultimately selected the role of Junior Assistant as the right step for my career.

When I joined IIM Tiruchirappalli in August 2012, I was unaware that this institution would become such a significant and lasting part of my professional journey. Over time, I gained a deep appreciation for the Institute's stature as an Institution of National Importance. I began my journey in the Placement and External Relations Office, where I had the opportunity to learn, contribute, and grow professionally.

What are your memories of IIMT? Please let us know your experiences with the Institute, and anything you particularly remember.

My journey at IIM Tiruchirappalli began during its early years at the temporary campus within NIT Tiruchirappalli. That phase remains one of the most memorable periods, as the entire team worked with harmony, mutual respect, and strong rapport. It was my first role in a Central Government institution, and I took great pride in learning about the Institute's culture, work ethics, and administrative procedures. Every day offered a new learning opportunity, and I was fortunate to receive continuous guidance and knowledge from my seniors, Activity Heads, and colleagues across departments. Their support played a significant role in shaping my understanding of government processes and institutional discipline.

The transition to our permanent campus in 2017 marked an important milestone. The pride of having our own state-of-the-art campus was immense. With its vast infrastructure, modern facilities, and a dedicated workplace for every department. The new campus truly elevated the identity of IIM Tiruchirappalli as a leading B-School. Being part of this transformation was both inspiring and fulfilling.



Throughout my career here, the Institute has provided me with numerous opportunities to contribute beyond routine responsibilities. I had the privilege of playing key roles in several inaugurations, events, conclaves, and convocations. One of my fondest memories is serving as the Master of the Ceremony for the very first Convocation of IIM Tiruchirappalli in 2013—an honour I continue to cherish. The Institute has always encouraged staff participation in various competitions and events, which greatly contributed to my personal and professional growth.

Another moment close to my heart is receiving an award and appreciation for completing a decade of service at IIM Tiruchirappalli. Additionally, being promoted to Office Assistant after 12 years of dedicated effort remains a significant and deeply fulfilling milestone in my career.

Even today, I consider my association with IIM Tiruchirappalli a blessing. I remain committed to continuously learning, contributing meaningfully, and serving the Institute with dedication and sincerity throughout the rest of my career until superannuation.

What according to you is distinct and different about IIMT? Please elaborate.

What sets IIM Tiruchirappalli apart is its exceptional work culture, strong professional ethics, and the highly supportive nature of its faculty, officers, and staff. The Institute provides excellent facilities and fosters an environment where collaboration, mutual respect, and

teamwork naturally flourish. This combination creates a workplace with strong rapport, healthy professional relationships, and a sense of belonging that is truly distinct and unique to IIMT.

Is there anything else you would like to mention?

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all my Activity Heads who have guided, trained, and mentored me throughout my journey, enabling me to grow into the role I serve in today at IIM Tiruchirappalli. I also sincerely thank our Director, as well as the former Directors, for their continued support, encouragement, and confidence in my contributions to the Institute.

What is your message/suggestions to your junior colleagues?

My message to junior colleagues is to work with dedication, sincerity, and a commitment to excellence in every aspect of your professional life. Cultivate strong work ethics, remain confident and courageous, and always uphold integrity and righteousness throughout your career. Consistent effort, a positive attitude, and a willingness to learn will guide you towards meaningful growth and success.





Vincent A  
Placement Office

I had worked across diverse roles in administration, operations, technical support, and coordination when one of my close friends encouraged me to apply to IIM Tiruchirappalli (IIMT). I submitted my application and attended the selection process. Around a month later, I received a call from Dr K Selvanathan, CAO, asking me to join at the earliest. That moment marked the beginning of a journey that would shape my professional and personal life in meaningful ways.

My first memorable moment was meeting Mr T.K. Gundu Rao, Manager – Academics, who welcomed me warmly, briefed me about IIMT, and guided me through the operations of the PGP Office. He often shared stories from his years at IIM Bangalore, which helped me understand the culture, values, and standards expected at IIMT. Those early conversations gave me clarity, direction, and confidence as I stepped into this new chapter.

During the tenure of Prof. Suresh Paul Antony, Chairperson – PGPM, I learned one of my earliest and most valuable lessons—good leaders seek suggestions from everyone, regardless of seniority. A minor error was identified in the prepared merit list, and he kindly sought my suggestion on preventing such issues in the future. I suggested that all documents be verified by another person before finalisation. The trust he placed in me, along with the grace and empathy with which

he addressed and guided the students, taught me that leadership is not only about decisions but also about humility, empathy, and shared responsibility.

With Prof. Manikandan K S, Chairperson – PGPM, I learned the importance of acknowledging contributions. While forming an ad-hoc committee to review a student's case, I offered a small suggestion. He immediately took it to the Director, who appreciated it. Prof. Manikandan openly stated that the suggestion came from me. That moment taught me a profound leadership principle—credit should always be given where it is due.

Working with Prof. Godwin Tennyson, Chairperson – PGPM, further deepened my understanding of thoughtful decision-making. His careful and balanced approach showed me the importance of considering every aspect before arriving at a conclusion.

My experience in Stores and Purchase under the guidance of Mr Ravikumar, AO (Stores & Purchase), also left a lasting mark. When a typographical error in the minutes was pointed out, he took responsibility as the signatory, even though the oversight was mine. His gesture taught me that true leaders protect their team members and guide them with kindness and dignity.

A turning point in my journey came during the COVID-19 pandemic, when I was entrusted with managing the Academic Office across PGPM, PGPM-HR, and DPM/EDPM. It was a period filled with uncertainty, challenges, and constant changes. Throughout this period, Prof. Hari Sreekumar, Chairperson – PGPM, guided me with patience, clarity, and unwavering support. From him, I learned a lesson that has stayed with me ever since: when we approach our work with focus, sincerity, and dedication, we must keep our eyes on the goal and not let criticism or pressure shake our resolve. This experience strengthened me, shaping my resilience and guiding me through one of the most demanding phases of my life.

My posting to the Placement Office opened yet another meaningful chapter. Working with Prof. Abhishek Kumar Totawar has been an enriching and transformative experience. His support, feedback, and trust have helped me grow in ways I had not imagined. He encourages me to step beyond my comfort zone, to learn continuously, and to improve with each responsibility. His belief in my abilities has been both motivating and reassuring.

As the years passed, the Institute became more than a workplace—it became a place where I grew, observed, and understood leadership deeply. The Chairpersons and Officers I worked with taught me qualities that shaped me personally and professionally. Their mentorship was not just supervisory; at many moments, they guided me like friends who genuinely wanted to see me progress.

What began as a job slowly transformed into a journey of self-discovery. Every responsibility entrusted to me, every event I helped organize, and every challenge I navigated added something meaningful to my life. IIMT did not just build my career—it shaped my character, confidence, and belief in the strength of teamwork.

As I look back on the years, I feel immense gratitude—for the opportunities I received, the responsibilities I was trusted with, and the people who supported me at every step. The First and the Tenth Convocation after COVID remain especially close to my heart—milestones that represent both institutional achievement and personal growth.

To the Directors, Faculty, Officers, Staff Members, Alumni, Students, and every member of the IIMT community—thanks a lot. Your support and encouragement have been integral to my journey.

If these years have taught me one lesson, it is this: when people come together with sincerity, dedication, and a shared sense of purpose, their collective strength makes anything achievable.

Thank you, IIM Tiruchirappalli, for shaping my life so deeply. The memories, lessons, and relationships I have built here will guide me for years to come.





## Ravikumar R

Administrative Officer, Purchase Department & HR

*Please tell us a bit about your background, and how you came to join IIMT...*

Prior to joining IIM Tiruchirappalli, I served in the Indian Army. Although I had opportunities to join other government organisations, I chose IIM Tiruchirappalli because I was keen to be part of one of the country's premier management institutions.

*What are your memories of IIMT? Please let us know your experiences with the Institute, and anything you particularly remember.*

I joined IIM Tiruchirappalli in January 2013 in a Group B position, and the Institute offered a strong platform for professional growth. In December 2019, I was selected as an Administrative Officer (Group A position) through an open competitive process.

Coming from an Army background, the work culture and job requirements were quite different, but I received excellent support from faculty members, officers, and staff, which enabled a smooth transition. Over the years, I have worked across key functional areas including Academic Administration, Admissions, Purchase, and Human Resources, and contributed to the best of my abilities.

I thoroughly enjoy the cohesive, encouraging, and motivating work environment at the Institute. I feel fortunate and proud to be part of IIM Tiruchirappalli.

*What according to you is distinct and different about IIMT? Please elaborate.*

IIM Tiruchirappalli is located in one of Tamil Nadu's culturally rich cities and is an Institute of National Importance. It offers a unique blend of personalised attention, world-class faculty, state-of-the-art infrastructure, and a green, vibrant campus life, all rooted in the core values of hard work and ethics.

I have experienced a strong spirit of secularism on the campus of IIM Tiruchirappalli, where faculty and students from diverse cultures and religions across India create an inclusive environment that closely resonates with my own experience of unity in diversity during my service in the Indian Army.

*Is there anything else you would like to mention?*

I would like to mention that I truly enjoy my tenure at IIM Tiruchirappalli and feel proud and fortunate to serve this esteemed Institution.

*What is your message/suggestions to your junior colleagues?*

Stay positive, own your responsibilities, work hard, and take proactive initiative. Take pride in being an employee of IIM Tiruchirappalli.









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