

Outlook

Read • Think • Understand



Fr. Dr. Joseph Mathew, SJ



Prof. (Dr.) Anup Kumar Gupta



Dr G Parameshwara



Dr. Davish Jain



Prof (Dr) Jayanthi Ranjan



Dr Fr K. S. Casimir SJ



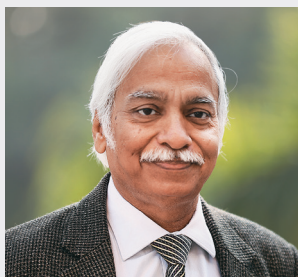
S Rishi Singh



Dr Prabhakar B. Kore



Dominic Tomalin



Prof. Rakesh Mohan Joshi



Dr. Swati Mujumdar



Dr. Grace Pinto



Pradip Agarwal



Prof. V Kamakoti



Sri Sri Dr. Nirmalanandanatha
Mahaswamiji



Dr. Thumbay Moideen

Czars of India's Education Sector

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Czars Of Education Shaping India's Future



Dr Karthick Sridhar
Vice Chairman, ICARE

“Guru Govind dou khade, kake lagu paay; balihari guru aapne, Govind diyo batay” (When both the teacher and God stand before me, whom should I bow to first? I bow to the teacher, for it is the teacher who showed me the way to God.)

The timeless couplet captures India's enduring reverence for the teacher—the guide who illuminates the path to knowledge and shapes generations. In a country where schools and educational institutions are regarded as temples of learning, those who shape them carry an important responsibility.

Education is now no more about

just classrooms, textbooks and examinations. It is now also about preparing young minds for a world transformed by technology, AI, changing workplaces and global competition. At the heart of this transformation are visionaries who understand that institutions must evolve while remaining anchored in values.

As India celebrates another Independence Day, this special edition, “Czars of Education,” brings together such visionaries from across the country's education landscape whether private or public. They represent universities, schools, professional

Czars of education share a common purpose: expanding the horizons of learning and making education an instrument of national development.

education, skilling, research, technology and institution-building.

Their approaches may differ. Some have built institutions from the ground up; others have transformed legacy organisations, expanded access to professional education, strengthened research ecosystems or embraced technology-driven learning. Others have focused on entrepreneurship, employability and taking quality education to underserved communities.

But they share a common purpose: expanding the horizons of learning and making education an instrument of national development.

They recognise that the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 can become a reality only when young people gain not merely degrees, but knowledge, skills, creativity, character and the confidence to innovate.

Through their work, they are helping translate that vision into reality—one institution, one student and one transformative idea at a time.

Architect of learning

Viewing education as the cornerstone of national progress, Prof. (Dr.) Anup Kumar Gupta is building a university that nurtures innovation, ethical leadership and future-ready citizens

As Vice-Chancellor of Mathura-based GLA University, Prof. (Dr.) Anup Kumar Gupta has sought to redefine the very purpose of higher education—transforming it from a system of credentialing into a powerful instrument for intellectual awakening, societal advancement and national transformation.

For Prof. Gupta, a university is not simply a collection of classrooms and laboratories: His philosophy rests on the belief that true education must inspire students to think beyond professional success, equipping them with the wisdom, resilience and moral conviction to contribute meaningfully to an increasingly interconnected and complex world.

Associated with GLA University since its inception in 1998, Prof. Gupta has been among the principal architects of its remarkable transformation into one of North India's leading multidisciplinary universities.

His own academic journey reflects an extraordinary confluence of literature, management and educational leadership. Holding an MBA and an Executive MBA from IIT Bombay—where he graduated as the overall topper—he further enriched his academic perspective through advanced studies in Higher Education Administration at Michigan State University, USA. This rare interdisciplinary

foundation has enabled him to harmonise intellectual depth with strategic institutional leadership, while drawing upon both Indian educational traditions and global best practices.

Deeply aligned with the transformative vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Prof. Gupta's strongly feel that the most enduring solutions to contemporary challenges emerge not from isolated disciplines but from the seamless integration of diverse domains of knowledge.

Recognising that the Fourth Industrial Revolution is redefining the contours of employment and innovation, he has spearheaded the introduction of cutting-edge programmes in artificial intelligence, machine learning, cybersecurity, robotics, data science and sustainable technologies. Yet, he repeatedly reminds students that mastery over technology alone cannot define excellence. The future, he believes, will belong to individuals who combine technical competence with imagination, empathy, critical thinking, emotional intelligence and ethical judgement.

Under his leadership, GLA University has strengthened its research ecosystem by promoting interdisciplinary inquiry, innovation centres, incubation facilities, international collaborations and industry-supported research.

Equally significant is his



Prof. (Dr.) Anup Kumar Gupta
Vice-Chancellor
GLA University, Mathura

unwavering commitment to bridging academia and industry. By fostering strategic partnerships with leading organisations, he has ensured that students gain meaningful exposure through internships, live projects, research collaborations and professional certifications.

Despite embracing digital transformation through smart classrooms, virtual laboratories, artificial intelligence-enabled learning platforms and advanced pedagogical tools, Prof. Gupta remains steadfast in his belief that the teacher is the soul of education. Technology, in his philosophy, is an enabler—not a substitute—for the mentor who ignites curiosity, inspires excellence and shapes character.

His leadership extends beyond academic accomplishment to the larger ideals of institution building. He envisions universities as custodians of civilisation, entrusted with nurturing not merely skilled professionals but enlightened citizens capable of balancing economic progress with social responsibility.

As India aspires to emerge as a global knowledge powerhouse, Prof. (Dr.) Gupta represents a new generation of academic statesmen who view education as the foundation of national resurgence.



Inspiring Futures Leaders

Sri Siddhartha Academy of Higher Education, a multidisciplinary institution driven by excellence, is building a culture of learning, discovery and global impact

The Sri Siddhartha Academy of Higher Education (SSAHE), a 'deemed to be university' and accredited 'A+' by NAAC (2nd Cycle), has emerged as one of Karnataka's leading multidisciplinary universities. Its constituent institutions—Sri Siddhartha Medical College (SSMC), Sri Siddhartha Institute of Medical Sciences & Research Centre (SSIMS & RC), Sri Siddhartha Dental College (SSDC), and Sri Siddhartha Institute of Technology (SSIT)—offer a dynamic learning environment supported by experienced faculty, advanced infrastructure and student-centric education.

A Legacy of Learning

Founded in 1959 by visionary educator Dr H M Gangadharaiiah, inspired by the ideals of Gautama Buddha, Mahatma Gandhi, Acharya Vinoba Bhave, Basavanna, and Dr B.



R. Ambedkar, his vision was carried forward by his sons, Dr G Shivaprasad, an eminent ophthalmologist and the first Chancellor of SSAHE, and Dr G Parameshwara, a distinguished agricultural scientist. Together, they expanded SSES into a premier educational network fostering academic excellence and future-ready education.

Guided by the founding philosophy of accessible, value-based education,

SSAHE nurtures professionals who combine learning with ethical leadership and social responsibility.

Excellence in Education

SSAHE provides world-class education through modern classrooms, advanced laboratories, digital libraries, simulation, research centres, and state-of-the-art clinical facilities that encourage experiential learning. SSMC and SSIMS & RC prepare future healthcare professionals through rigorous academic training, clinical exposure, research and community outreach programmes. SSDC has established itself as a centre of excellence in dental education, combining specialised clinical training with advanced facilities such as Siddhartha Smiles and the Siddhartha Centre of Excellence and Eminence. At SSIT, engineering education is aligned with emerging technologies, entrepreneurship and interdisciplinary learning. Recognised under the World Bank-supported TEQIP Phase II initiative, the institute offers undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programmes while maintaining strong links with industry through collaborations with organisations including Infosys, Tata, Bosch and PROSYM.

Research, Innovation and Partnership

Research forms the cornerstone of SSAHE's academic ecosystem. Faculty members contribute thousands of publications to national and international journals, while students participate in funded projects such as the ICMR-STs programme. Research spans genetics, congenital anomalies, biomedical sciences, renewable energy, nanotechnology, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, electric vehicles and sustainable infrastructure. Innovation is boosted by special centres like the Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Park (STEP), the Entrepreneurship Development Cell (EDC), vocational training programmes, and Centres of Excellence that encourage research across different fields and technology-based solutions. International collaborations with leading universities, including New York University, Florida International University, Saint Louis University and the University of North Dakota, provide opportunities for student exchanges, academic collaborations, international electives and global exposure.

Industry Readiness and Placements

Collaborations with the upGrad School of Technology provide engineering students with specialised training in generative AI, machine learning, quantum computing and full-stack development, alongside internships, startup support and



Dr G Parameshwara

Chancellor, Sri Siddhartha Academy of Higher Education, Tumkur, Karnataka
Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka

"Our vision is to create an academic environment where learning, research, and service come together to produce professionals who are globally competent and socially responsible"

placement assistance.

A dedicated placement cell conducts skill development, career guidance and industry interaction programmes, consistently preparing graduates for leading organisations in healthcare, technology and research.

Complementing academics is a vibrant campus life with world-class libraries, sports facilities, cultural events, leadership programmes and student clubs that foster holistic development.

Community and Nation Building

SSAHE is deeply committed to healthcare services and community engagement. Its teaching hospitals provide quality medical care while serving as centres for clinical training and research. Regular health camps, oral health awareness programmes, blood donation drives, environmental initiatives and rural outreach activities reflect the institution's

commitment to inclusive development. SSAHE continues to shape competent doctors, dentists, engineers, scientists and innovators who are equipped to address global challenges while contributing meaningfully to national development.

A Visionary Educationist and Institution Builder

Dr G Parameshwara, MSc (Agriculture) and PhD from the University of Adelaide, Australia, has played a pivotal role as the visionary leader in enhancing the quality of professional education of SSAHE. He oversees the Deemed University of Medical, Dental and Engineering College and many schools which are part and parcel of the Siddhartha Group of Institutions in Tumkur, which has provided accessible and affordable education to students from rural and economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Dr G Parameshwara serves as Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka (2026-2027). He has earlier served as a Minister for Sericulture (1993-94), as a Minister for Higher Education, Medical Education, Science and Technology, Information and Publicity (1999-2004) and as Minister for Home (2015-2017) and (2022-2026). He was instrumental in establishing Tumkur University.

Dr G Parameshwara promotes the development of advanced laboratories, research facilities, technological advancement and a holistic learning environment towards honing a generation of skilled professionals and responsible citizens.





Padma Shri Awardee Dr Prabhakar Basavaprabhu Kore

Veteran educationist, Cooperative leader and Institution builder

Building institutions, transforming lives

Wearing many hats, Dr Prabhakar Kore has built enduring institutions across education, healthcare and cooperation, shaping generations through visionary leadership and service

Dr Prabhakar Basavaprabhu Kore's life is a remarkable story of vision, resilience and institution-building that has transformed the educational landscape of India. Honoured with the Padma Shri in 2026 under the Literature and Education category, the veteran educationist, cooperative leader and parliamentarian has spent more than four decades creating institutions that continue to shape generations of students, professionals and healthcare providers.

Hailing from a small agrarian village of Ankali in Karnataka's Belagavi district, Dr Kore's rise from modest beginnings to becoming one of India's most respected education leaders reflects the transformative power of purpose-driven leadership. While public life brought him recognition as a Rajya Sabha member and cooperative leader, it is his extraordinary

contribution to education and healthcare through the Karnataka Lingayat Education (KLE) Society that has become his enduring legacy.

When Dr Kore assumed charge of the KLE Society in 1985, it was a respected but relatively modest educational organisation managing only a few institutions. Over the next four decades, his visionary leadership transformed it into one of India's largest educational and healthcare networks.

Today, KLE operates more than 316 educational institutions, hospitals and research centres across Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa, Delhi, Dubai and Malaysia, educating nearly 1.45 lakh students while providing employment to over 18,000 professionals. Few institution builders in India have overseen such sustained and large-scale expansion while preserving academic quality and public trust.

Dr Kore believed education should not merely prepare young people for employment but also nurture ethical leadership, social responsibility and national character.

Among his landmark achievements has been the establishment of the KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research, now a leading deemed-to-be university, and the KLE Technological University, both of which have emerged as important centres for higher education, innovation and research.

Recognising that quality healthcare and education are inseparable pillars of national development, Dr Kore spearheaded the creation of an integrated healthcare network that today serves millions of patients. KLE's hospitals have grown into major tertiary and super-speciality referral centres for Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa and neighbouring regions, making Belagavi an important healthcare destination.

Beyond education and healthcare, Dr Kore has played a significant role in strengthening the cooperative movement and public policy.

His contributions have received wide recognition over the years. Besides the Padma Shri, he was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Indo-American Press Club in 2022 for his outstanding contribution to education and society. Numerous universities and professional bodies have also recognised his leadership in institution-building and public service.

As India advances towards becoming a developed economy, Dr Kore's work offers an enduring model of inclusive growth. By investing in education, research, healthcare and human capital, he has demonstrated that institutions—not individuals—create lasting national progress. His legacy lies not merely in the campuses and hospitals he built, but in the millions of lives transformed through knowledge, compassion and opportunity.

Nine Destinations, One Cohort

At Vantage Hall Girls' Residential School, Dehradun, personalised learning is not a philosophy. It is a system, and it was built in-house.

IT. NEET, and a seat in MBBS. IISER. Cornell. UC Berkeley. The University of Melbourne. Rhode Island School of Design. Lady Shri Ram. Miranda House.

Nine destinations, and no two of them reachable by the same route. A JEE aspirant and a RISD portfolio candidate share almost nothing — not a syllabus, not a timeline, not a definition of what a good year looks like. A school that sends girls to all nine is not running one academic programme well. It is running several at once, and it has to know, girl by girl, which one applies.

That is the harder claim behind the phrase every school now uses. Personalised learning is easy to assert and expensive to actually run, because it means giving up the thing schools are built on: the average. Averages are precisely where students disappear.

So we stopped using them. APEX, our academic excellence programme, identifies scholars across Grades 6 to 11 through a composite scoring model rather than a staffroom consensus about who seems bright. Our

academic monitoring dashboard issues health cards for every class, flags where teaching substitutions have quietly failed, and runs bias detection across teacher assessment — because the most consequential errors in a school are not the loud ones, they are the steady, invisible ones nobody is looking for.

Our three-cup system — Pastoral, Standards and Academic — exists for a related reason. A single house trophy rewards one kind of girl and teaches every other kind that the institution is not really about her. Three separate tracks mean a student who will never top a board exam still has something real to win, and knows the school can see her.

None of this was purchased. It

At Vantage Hall, personalised learning goes beyond promise—an in-house system helps every girl pursue her own path to success.



Sukhdeep Rishi Singh, Founder & Director, Vantage Hall Girls' Residential School, Dehradun

was designed and written here, at the school, against our own problems — which is why it answers questions a bought platform never asks. It is also why our advising can carry a girl through American applications, Australian ones, and India's CUET and CSAS pathways in the same term without any of them becoming the afterthought.

Sukhdeep Rishi Singh read Commerce at Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi, took his MBA at the University of Southern California, and holds a certificate in Education Systems from Harvard University. He founded Vantage Hall with a deliberately unfashionable ambition, and has not revised it since: to nurture happy, independent, unique individuals in a safe and comforting environment.

It sounds gentle. It is in fact the most demanding standard a school can set for itself, because it will not accept a single average as evidence of anything. That is what the list at the top of this page actually records. Not nine admissions — nine girls, each given a different school inside the same one.



Fr. Dr. Joseph Mathew, SJ

Fr. Dr. Joseph Mathew, SJ Chair Professor, JRD Tata Chair for Business Ethics, Coordinator, Centre for Spirituality and Human Development, XLRI-Xavier School of Management

Transformative Management Education for Human Flourishing

XLRI's vision for transformative management education through ethics, spiritual wisdom, and responsible leadership in an era of complexity, change, and purpose

FR. DR. JOSEPH MATHEW, SJ

In an era shaped by technological innovation, economic transformation, climate action, and growing attention to mental well-being, management education must evolve. Business leaders today are expected to deliver not only financial performance but also ethical judgement, emotional resilience, social responsibility, and purpose-driven leadership. Business schools, therefore, have an opportunity to move beyond producing competent managers and instead cultivate wise, compassionate, and socially responsible leaders who can navigate the challenges of a VUCA (Volatility,

Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity) and BANI (Brittle, Anxious, Nonlinear, and Incomprehensible) world with resilience and foresight.

This vision aligns seamlessly with XLRI – Xavier School of Management's enduring mission of "renewing the face of the Earth", a guiding principle since its founding in 1949. Over the past 77 years, XLRI has built a legacy of excellence, resilience, and social commitment, preparing leaders who combine professional competence with integrity and a deep sense of purpose.

In 1949, a junior employee from TISCO (now Tata Steel) brought a Reader's Digest article to Fr. John Holland, S.J., and discussed it with him. The article described the pioneering work of the Labour

School at the Xavier Institute of Industrial Relations, Fordham University, New York, led by Fr. Philip A. Carey, S.J., Professor of Labour Relations and Economics, with Fr. John Corridan, S.J. Inspired by this model, the TISCO extended an invitation to Jesuit educators from the United States. In response, Fr. Quinn Enright, S.J., and six others came to Jamshedpur to help establish a similar initiative. These Jesuit fathers worked closely with TISCO's General Manager, N. J. Haley, and the prominent trade union leader Michael John. Together, they launched evening classes for workers and executives on wages, industrial safety, public speaking, and labour relations. These pioneering efforts introduced a new model of labour-management education in Jamshedpur, fostered constructive relationships between workers and management, and ultimately laid the foundation for XLRI—an institution rooted in collaboration, social justice, and excellence in management education.

A New Horizon in Management Education

At the heart of XLRI is the Centre for Spirituality and Human Development. An academic platform that brings the wisdom of global spiritual traditions into dialogue with the contemporary realities of business, organisations, and society. Rooted in the Jesuit philosophy of holistic education and *cura personalis* (care for the whole person), the Centre explores how inner awareness, spiritual intelligence, compassion, empathy, and reflective practice can strengthen ethical leadership and organisational transformation.

Through interdisciplinary research, executive education, international collaborations, seminars, and conclaves, the Centre convenes faculty, scholars, business leaders, policymakers, and students from India and around the world. It fosters meaningful dialogue on spirituality,

leadership, and responsible management while advancing scholarship that integrates Eastern and Western spiritual traditions with contemporary management thought.

By bringing together perspectives such as mindfulness, interconnectedness, ethical decision-making, and purpose-driven leadership, the Centre has developed a distinctive framework that places human flourishing at the centre of management education.

Ethics at the Core

Complementing this vision, the 'JRD Tata Centre for Ethics in Business' reinforces XLRI's enduring commitment to ethical leadership and responsible management. Named after one of India's most respected industrial visionaries, the Centre promotes ethical decision-making as a core leadership competency in an increasingly complex business environment.

The Centre promotes active involvement in topics like corporate governance, stakeholder responsibility, sustainability, organisational culture, and new Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) challenges through research, executive education, industry partnerships, case studies, and policy discussions. By connecting academic scholarship with real-world business practice, it equips future leaders to navigate ethical dilemmas with integrity, accountability, and sound judgement.

The centre reflects XLRI's enduring belief that business success and ethical excellence are not competing priorities but mutually reinforcing foundations of sustainable and responsible leadership.

Mental Health and Well-being

One of XLRI's significant contributions is its growing focus on mental health, psychological well-being, and human flourishing as essential dimensions of leadership. Understanding the increasing issues of stress, burnout, anxiety, and lack

of engagement at work, XLRI has included well-being in its management education and professional training. This includes offering organisational counselling for doctoral students and special programmes on stress management and well-being for students, leaders, and industry professionals. Through a holistic approach, XLRI prepares leaders who can build healthier, more compassionate, and thriving workplaces.

From Human Capital to Human Flourishing

For decades, management education has emphasised technical competence and organisational performance. XLRI's approach recognises people as whole human beings and emphasises meaningful work, psychological safety, ethical purpose, authentic relationships, resilience, and personal growth.

Rooted in the Jesuit tradition of forming "men and women for others", XLRI integrates spirituality, ethics, emotional well-being, reflective leadership, and organisational development to prepare leaders who combine professional excellence with empathy, social responsibility, and a commitment to the common good.

Building Bridges Between Academia and Industry

XLRI's programmes bring together scholars, business leaders, HR professionals, policymakers, and industry practitioners to address emerging organisational challenges through interdisciplinary dialogue. By connecting research with real-world practice through executive education, collaborations, leadership conclaves, and industry engagement, XLRI advances conversations on ethical governance, organisational well-being, spiritual leadership, and responsible business practices. These efforts support leadership models that balance profitability with sustainability, innovation with ethics, and performance with human dignity.

Global Perspectives on Spiritual Intelligence and Business Leadership

The role of the Centre for Spirituality and Human Development is expanding. The centre will host an international conference on 'Spiritual Intelligence in Leadership - Cultivating Inner Wisdom for Compassionate and Effective Decision-Making' on 5-7 February 2027 at XLRI Jamshedpur in collaboration with leading business schools, spiritual organisations, and industry experts.

To know more about the conference log on to <https://sc-2026.xlri.ac.in/>

Leading the Future of Management Education

The future of management education will be shaped not only by technology and analytics but also by ethical judgement, emotional resilience, spiritual wisdom, and a commitment to human dignity. XLRI bridges performance with purpose through initiatives such as the Centre for Spirituality and Human Development, the JRD Tata Centre for Ethics in Business, and pioneering work in organisational counselling, mental health, stress management, and holistic well-being.

By integrating academic excellence, industry relevance, ethical leadership, and human development, XLRI offers a distinctive model for educating leaders who can balance purpose with performance and compassion with competitiveness. Through this transformative approach, XLRI continues to shape the future of responsible leadership for the greater good.

About the Author:

Fr. Dr. Joseph Mathew, SJ, is the Chair Professor of the JRD Tata Chair for Business Ethics and Coordinator of the Centre for Spirituality and Human Development at XLRI- Xavier School of Management. A Chartered Counselling Psychologist (CPsychol) by the British Psychological Society (BPS) and an Associate Fellow (AFBPsS) of the BPS, UK.



Professor Rakesh Mohan Joshi, Vice-Chancellor
Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)

Global trade education architect

Blending academic scholarship, policy insight and institutional leadership, Prof Rakesh Mohan Joshi is reshaping India's global trade education ecosystem

Professor Rakesh Mohan Joshi has emerged as one of India's foremost academic leaders in international trade, management education and economic diplomacy. As Vice-Chancellor of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), he is steering one of the country's premier institutions towards becoming a globally respected centre for trade education, policy research and executive leadership. At a time when India is expanding its footprint in international commerce and pursuing the vision of becoming a developed economy by 2047, his leadership reflects the growing importance of knowledge institutions in shaping economic competitiveness.

Unlike many academic administrators whose work remains confined to campuses, Prof. Joshi has consistently bridged academia,

government and industry. His career spans teaching, research, policy advisory and institution-building, enabling him to bring practical relevance to higher education. His understanding of international markets, export promotion, global value chains and economic policy has made him a respected voice in trade and management education.

Under his leadership, IIFT is strengthening its position as a national centre of excellence that prepares future business leaders, policymakers and entrepreneurs for an increasingly interconnected global economy. His emphasis extends beyond classroom teaching to developing professionals equipped to understand international trade negotiations, digital commerce, sustainability, logistics and emerging geopolitical realities.

Prof. Joshi believes management

education must evolve alongside changing global business dynamics. Accordingly, IIFT has expanded interdisciplinary learning, strengthened industry partnerships, encouraged innovation-led research and promoted international academic collaboration. His focus is on producing graduates who combine analytical ability with ethical leadership and global competence.

A distinguished academic, Prof. Joshi has authored and edited several influential books and numerous research papers on international marketing, export management, branding, services marketing and global business. His work has become valuable reference material for students, researchers and business professionals, contributing significantly to India's intellectual capital in trade and management studies.

Throughout his career, he has guided doctoral scholars, mentored young faculty and promoted a research culture that addresses contemporary economic challenges, viewing universities as engines of national development capable of producing ideas, entrepreneurs and policy leaders.

Prof. Joshi has represented India at international academic conferences, trade forums and collaborative programmes, strengthening global academic partnerships and enhancing India's intellectual presence. His contributions have earned recognition from academic institutions, industry bodies and professional organisations for excellence in teaching, research and institution-building.

As India accelerates its ambition of becoming a global manufacturing, services and innovation hub, institutions such as IIFT assume strategic importance in preparing globally competitive talent. Prof. Rakesh Mohan Joshi's vision remains closely aligned with this national aspiration.



Prof (Dr) Jayanthi Ranjan, Director, MDI Murshidabad

Leadership that Shapes Learning

Prof (Dr) Jayanthi Ranjan is steering the future of MDI Murshidabad through institutional excellence, digital transformation, and meaningful industry partnerships while honing global achievers for management and leadership roles

Q What is your vision for MDI Murshidabad over the next few years?

MDI has always been synonymous with academic excellence, leadership, and industry relevance. MDI Murshidabad represents an exciting opportunity to contribute to the next phase of growth by strengthening its position as one of India's leading management institutions in eastern India. Having spent over three decades building and transforming higher education institutions, I see this role as an opportunity to create a future-ready ecosystem where innovation, research, technology, and responsible leadership come together to shape the next generation of business leaders.

My vision is to transform MDI Murshidabad into a nationally recognised institution renowned for academic excellence, comprehensive research, industry engagement, and contributions to society, with an initial aim of achieving a NIRF ranking within the top hundred. We will focus on outcome-based learning, interdisciplinary education, digital

transformation, and innovation-driven management education.

We will work towards strengthening the research ecosystem by promoting interdisciplinary research, encouraging industry-funded projects, supporting faculty development, and fostering innovation among students. Collaborations with government agencies, international universities, and industry partners will help generate knowledge that addresses real-world challenges while contributing to national development priorities.

I also envision MDI Murshidabad becoming a preferred destination for students, faculty, industry leaders, and international collaborators who seek excellence and meaningful impact.

Q Industry engagement has always been one of your strengths. How do you plan to strengthen corporate partnerships?

Management education must continually align with the changing demands of both business and society.

We will deepen our engagement with industries across Eastern and Northeastern India while expanding partnerships with national and global organisations. Our focus will include live consulting projects, internships, executive education, leadership conclaves, corporate mentorship, and collaborative research. Stronger industry relationships will ensure that our graduates possess the skills, agility, and strategic thinking required in today's dynamic business environment. I am in the process of tying up with IITs and other coveted institutions for placement interviews, collaborative learning and workshops.

Q How do you see technology shaping management education at MDI Murshidabad?

Technology is redefining every aspect of business. My area of expertise is big data and other tech-led initiatives. The institution needs to be bullish when it comes to artificial intelligence, business analytics, digital transformation, and data-driven decision-making as core managerial competencies. We will integrate these emerging technologies across the curriculum while encouraging students to develop analytical thinking, innovation, and entrepreneurial capabilities. My objective is to prepare graduates who are not only technologically proficient but also ethical, adaptable, and capable of leading organisations through change.

Q What message would you like to share with students and stakeholders of MDI Murshidabad?

MDI Murshidabad possesses significant potential to establish itself as a leading institution that integrates academic rigour with innovation, ethical considerations, and a positive societal impact. My commitment is to build an inclusive, collaborative, and globally connected institution where students are empowered to become responsible leaders, entrepreneurs, and change-makers. Together with our faculty, alumni, industry partners, and all stakeholders, we will create an ecosystem that contributes meaningfully to India's vision of becoming a knowledge-driven and globally competitive economy.



Dr Fr KS Casimir sj, Vice Chancellor, XIM University

Transforming Jesuit education vision

Blending academic excellence with Jesuit values, Dr Fr KS Casimir is shaping XIM University into a globally engaged, socially committed institution

Dr Fr KS. Casimir represents a new generation of academic leaders who believe higher education must produce not only successful professionals but also socially responsible citizens capable of transforming society.

As Vice-Chancellor of XIM University, Bhubaneswar, he has brought together decades of academic experience, administrative leadership and Jesuit educational philosophy to strengthen one of eastern India's most respected private universities.

Assuming office as Vice-Chancellor last year, Fr. Casimir inherited an institution already recognised for excellence in management education. His vision extends beyond academic

rankings. He seeks to position the university as a multidisciplinary centre where innovation, ethics, sustainability and social responsibility become integral to learning.

A Jesuit priest with extensive experience in higher education, Fr. Casimir has devoted his life to teaching, institution building and academic administration. Throughout his career, he has nurtured future leaders while strengthening governance systems within Jesuit educational institutions. His ability to combine scholarship with effective administration has established him as a respected institution builder.

Fr. Casimir believes universities must prepare students for a future shaped by artificial intelligence, digital technologies

and global interconnectedness while remaining firmly rooted in ethics and human values.

One of his key priorities has been advancing multidisciplinary education in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. By integrating management, law, engineering, liberal arts, commerce, healthcare and technology, he envisions graduates capable of solving complex challenges through collaborative thinking.

Research remains central to his vision. He advocates research that not only advances knowledge but also delivers practical solutions for climate change, rural development, healthcare, digital inclusion and sustainable growth. He believes universities must become active partners in national development by generating ideas that influence policy, industry and society.

Equally significant is his emphasis on leadership rooted in integrity. Through value-based education, community engagement and experiential learning, he encourages students to develop empathy alongside managerial and technical competence.

His leadership also prioritises global engagement through international collaborations, faculty exchanges, joint research and student mobility programmes, positioning XIM University among globally competitive institutions while remaining committed to local development.

Students and faculty regard him as an accessible academic leader who values dialogue, innovation and continuous improvement, inspiring academic excellence while encouraging young minds to think beyond conventional career aspirations.



Dr. Swati Mujumdar, Chancellor, Symbiosis Skills and Professional University (SSPU), Pune

Building Capability For India's Next Economy

The SSPU Skill Model: Chancellor Dr. Swati Mujumdar's vision for industry-ready talent, inclusive growth and Viksit Bharat

FUTURE-READY BY DESIGN

As Chancellor of Symbiosis Skills and Professional University (SSPU), Dr. Swati Mujumdar has championed a simple but powerful idea: the value of education lies not only in qualifications, but in the capabilities it creates. Long before future skills became a national priority, she envisioned a university where industry, technology and applied learning would prepare learners for a rapidly changing world. That vision became SSPU, a skill-focused university built around employability, innovation and industry relevance. At a time when India's journey towards Viksit Bharat and a US\$5 Trillion Economy demands future-ready talent, such institutions play a critical role in shaping human capital.

Today, artificial intelligence, automation, digital finance and intelligent supply chains are transforming industries globally. SSPU's academic ecosystem has

evolved around these shifts, preparing learners through domains such as Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, FinTech, Logistics & Supply Chain Management, and Digital Media & Marketing. Exposure to ecosystems represented by Deloitte, TCS, Tech Mahindra, MUFG, Barclays, Maersk, DP World, WPP Media and Dentsu helps connect education with real-world expectations and emerging workforce needs.

- 70% Practical Learning | 30% Theoretical Learning
- 100+ Corporate Collaborations
- ₹30-32 LPA Highest Packages
- 20%+ Students Choosing Entrepreneurship

MANAGEMENT FOR INDUSTRIES IN TRANSFORMATION

The same philosophy drives SSPU's postgraduate ecosystem. Specialised MBA programmes in

FinTech, Logistics & Supply Chain Management, and Digital Media & Marketing are aligned with sectors undergoing rapid transformation. Executive MBA pathways support professionals and organisations seeking leadership development, while the PhD in Management advances research in entrepreneurship, sustainability, digital transformation and AI-led decision-making. For professionals seeking future-ready leadership and organisations investing in workforce capability, continuous learning is becoming a strategic advantage.

GLOBAL RECOGNITION. LOCAL IMPACT.

For Dr. Swati Mujumdar, skilling extends beyond careers to inclusion and social progress. Through Saksham Mahila, Saksham Samaj, more than 7,000 underserved women have received free skill training. SSPU also hosts the UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion and Skill Development and a UNESCO-UNEVOC Centre, connecting local impact with global conversations on the future of skills. Its selection for WorldSkills Skills CoLab 2026 further positions the SSPU model on the international stage.

GLOBAL IMPACT

7,000+ Women Skilled | UNESCO Chair | UNESCO-UNEVOC Centre | WorldSkills Skills CoLab 2026

BUILDING CAPABILITY FOR VIKSIT BHARAT

As India advances towards Viksit Bharat, its most valuable infrastructure will be the capability of its people. Through initiatives such as the SSPU-SIDBI STEM LaunchPad programme, learners have progressed from ideas to startups, patents and employment generation. For corporates, SSPU offers opportunities to engage through talent development, executive education and collaborative skilling initiatives. Through industry-integrated education, global engagement and inclusive growth, SSPU continues to help build the leaders, innovators and skilled professionals who will shape India's next chapter.



Prof Yogesh Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Delhi University, and Officiating Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)

Shaping future universities

Reappointed as Delhi University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Yogesh Singh is redefining higher education through innovation, research, academic excellence and global vision

Barely weeks before the completion of his first term, Professor Yogesh Singh was reappointed as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi last month, an extraordinary endorsement of his vision for transforming one of India's oldest and most prestigious universities into a globally competitive centre of learning.

An accomplished academic, institution builder and education reformer, Professor Singh has consistently championed the idea that a nation's economic rise is inseparable from the quality of its universities. In his view, higher education is not merely about producing graduates but about nurturing innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers and leaders capable of driving India's journey towards becoming a developed nation and a multi-trillion-dollar economy.

A distinguished scholar in Computer Science and Engineering, Professor Singh has devoted over three decades to teaching, research and academic administration. Before assuming office as the 23rd VC of the University of Delhi in 2021, he served as VC of Delhi Technological University (DTU), where he strengthened research, industry partnerships and academic excellence. He also headed the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda and served as Director of Netaji Subhas University of Technology (NSUT). His administrative journey has been defined by institution-building, technological integration and academic innovation. He has also been entrusted with the additional responsibility of Chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), reflecting national confidence in his leadership.

At Delhi University, Professor Singh has led one of the most far-reaching academic transformations in the institution's century-long history.

Under his stewardship, the university became one of the earliest major institutions to implement the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, introducing the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme, multidisciplinary education, flexible curricula, the Academic Bank of Credits and skill-oriented learning.

Research and innovation have remained the cornerstone of his vision. Under his leadership, Delhi University has expanded interdisciplinary research in emerging areas such as artificial intelligence, data science, advanced technologies and innovation-driven entrepreneurship. Stronger collaborations with industry, research institutions and international universities have broadened opportunities for students and faculty while enhancing the university's global academic profile.

A prolific academic, he has authored numerous research papers in leading national and international journals, supervised doctoral scholars and contributed significantly to policy discussions on higher education and digital governance. A Fellow of the Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers (IETE) and several professional bodies, he has received multiple honours for his outstanding contributions to education, research and institutional leadership.

He believes universities must equip students not only with knowledge but also with creativity, critical thinking, ethical values and entrepreneurial capabilities that prepare them to solve complex societal challenges.

As India positions itself as a global knowledge economy, Professor Yogesh Singh, by modernising Delhi University while preserving its rich academic legacy, is laying a stronger intellectual foundation for India's future—one where education becomes the driving force behind economic growth, technological leadership and national progress.



Indian Education Reimagined

Empowering future-ready global leaders through research, entrepreneurship, and multidisciplinary education



Pradip Agarwal
CEO, Heritage Group of Institutions

As India advances towards becoming a global power, the education sector, across all levels, has to be a key driver for inclusive economic growth through innovative teaching and research. NEP 2020 lays the foundation for a learner-centric, multidisciplinary, research-driven, and globally competitive education system, while promoting AI integration across all levels to bridge the digital divide.

Government has significantly helped industry collaboration in higher education through the PM Internship Scheme and AICTE Industry Fellowships, and encouraged student-led start-ups through the PLI Scheme and creation of Institutional Innovation Councils. While the creation of the independent Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) by the Government is a laudable initiative, funding for research in higher education as a percentage of GDP

needs significant improvement for India to aspire to be a developed nation.

India has a goal of achieving a 50% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher Education by 2035. For this to be a reality significant funding is required in school education to enhance the capabilities of current schools, build new schools and increase the pool of dedicated teachers.

At the Heritage Group of Institutions, we have embraced the Government initiative in the higher education sector with conviction. Our educational philosophy is built around nurturing curious minds, ethical leaders, and lifelong learners. We have integrated industry internships from school level onwards, innovation challenges, hackathons, research opportunities, entrepreneurship development, and experiential learning into our academic ecosystem of higher education. Through strong collaborations with industry, research organisations, and global academic partners, we prepare students not merely for employment but for leadership in an increasingly interconnected world.

Research remains the cornerstone of our vision. Heritage has developed a vibrant ecosystem that encourages faculty and students to engage in meaningful research, innovation, and technology development. Our

partnerships with leading industries and institutions, advanced laboratories, and incubation support ensure that students gain exposure to real-world challenges while contributing to solutions that matter. Equally important is our commitment to producing global citizens. Heritage alumni today are making meaningful contributions across the world—as researchers at premier universities, entrepreneurs building global enterprises, civil servants, defence professionals, scientists, academicians, and leaders in multinational organisations. Their success reflects not only academic excellence but also the values of integrity, social responsibility, and purpose-driven leadership that remain central to our institution. At Heritage, we remain committed to our mission of creating responsible global professionals, visionary entrepreneurs, and compassionate leaders for the world.

As international schools and universities establish campuses in India and our education system becomes increasingly global in outlook, Indian institutions must continue to innovate while preserving the richness of our cultural and social heritage.

The coming decade presents an extraordinary opportunity to position India as a global knowledge hub. The future belongs to nations that invest significantly in education, research, innovation, and human capital. By empowering our youth with knowledge, character, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit, we are not only preparing them for global careers but also enabling them to contribute meaningfully to India's emergence as a developed nation by 2047.

About the Author:

An MBA, Honorary Fellow IICChE, Associated with CII, AIMA, ASSOCHAM, ICC, FICCI Arise leading chambers etc. Leadership Executive program certification from Harvard Kennedy School, Wharton University of Pennsylvania, IIMs, IITs etc. A visionary leader in establishing Educational Institutions, Centres of Excellence.



Dr. Nirmalanandanatha Mahaswamiji, the revered seer of the Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Math

Spiritual vision inspires nation building

Rooted in humility and guided by compassion, Dr. Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji has inspired a movement where spirituality, education and humanitarian service flourish together

Dr. Nirmalanandanatha Mahaswamiji, the revered seer of the Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Math, represents a rare confluence of spiritual wisdom, visionary leadership and institution building. As the 72nd Jagadguru of one of Karnataka's most influential spiritual institutions, he has transformed the centuries-old Math into a dynamic centre of education, healthcare, rural development and humanitarian service while remaining rooted in the timeless teachings of Sanatana Dharma.

Ascending to the Peetha after his guru, the revered Balagangadharanatha Mahaswamiji, Dr. Nirmalanandanatha inherited not merely a spiritual legacy but an

expansive social mission. Under his stewardship, the Math has expanded its contribution across education, healthcare, environmental conservation, rural empowerment and cultural preservation, reinforcing the idea that spirituality finds its highest expression in selfless service.

His leadership philosophy is inspired by the ancient Indian ideal of "Manava Seve Madhava Seve"—service to humanity is service to God. This principle guides every initiative, from educational institutions and hospitals to health camps and welfare programmes for underprivileged communities.

Recognising education as the most powerful instrument of social transformation, he has strengthened the vast network of the Adichunchanagiri Shikshana

Trust, comprising schools, colleges, engineering and medical institutions, nursing, pharmacy and management colleges, benefiting thousands of students, particularly from rural and economically weaker sections.

His commitment to affordable healthcare is equally significant. Hospitals and medical institutions under the Math provide quality treatment to lakhs of patients every year, complemented by preventive health initiatives, blood donation drives and rural medical camps.

Environmental stewardship has become another hallmark of his leadership through tree plantation, water conservation and ecological awareness campaigns. He has consistently emphasised that protecting nature is a sacred responsibility deeply embedded in India's spiritual traditions.

Dr. Nirmalanandanatha has also championed youth development by promoting value-based education alongside scientific temper and technological advancement. His discourses advocate universal values of peace, tolerance, truthfulness and mutual respect, transcending religious boundaries.

His contributions have earned him numerous national and international honours from universities, educational institutions, religious organisations and social bodies.

As India advances towards becoming a developed nation, Dr. Nirmalanandanatha Mahaswamiji exemplifies how ethical leadership, compassionate service, quality education and inclusive development can together build a stronger and more humane society.

Fifty Years of Excellence

Ryan Group of Schools' journey from one classroom to a nation-building legacy

A Legacy That Began With 36 Students

In 1976, Dr. Augustine F. Pinto, Founder and Chairman, and Managing Director Dr. Grace Pinto began with a single Mumbai classroom, 36 students, and one conviction — that quality English-medium education is every child's right. That conviction has grown into one of India's largest school networks: 150-plus institutions across 20 states and 40-plus cities, educating close to 2.5 lakh students across CBSE, CISCE, IB, IGCSE, ISC, and State Board curricula, with a footprint in the UAE. As the Group marks its 50th anniversary, its story is one of continuity — the same values, reimagined for every generation.

Leadership Anchored in Purpose

Dr. Grace Pinto's leadership steadied this growth, nowhere more evident than through the pandemic, when her agility and empathy anchored millions of students and parents — enabling the swift rollout of Ryan School OS, a hybrid platform merging live instruction with self-paced learning. Leadership now spans generations: Ryan Pinto, CEO, carries the founders' vision forward, raising AI-ready, globally competent citizens.

Values-Based Education for a New Era

The Ryan motto has evolved to embrace 21st-century skills — critical thinking, creativity, entrepreneurship — without

losing sight of character. The Indian Model United Nations, the International Theatre Festival, and a strong sports and arts ecosystem reflect holistic learning that shapes future-ready citizens.

Initiatives for the Next Fifty Years

- **Borderless Education** — A partnership with Royal Grammar School Guildford, UK, brings four British-curriculum schools to India, debuting in Bengaluru in September 2028.
- **Aligned with NEP 2020** — The Group follows the National Education Policy 2020 framework, embedding its principles across curriculum, pedagogy, and school practice.
- **Sustainability as a Lived Lesson** — With Rotary International, the One Million Saplings Drive spans ten cities, targeting one million saplings by June 2027, including a 50,000-sapling single-day Guinness World Record attempt. In the Sundarbans, a partnership with Upschool.co and Grow-Trees under "Trees for Tigers" has planted 29,530 mangroves, funded by students through the "100 Ways to Earn ₹100" challenge.
- **Sport for All** — With the All-India Football Federation, a football and futsal programme offers grassroots training, FIFA-certified coaching, and a push for girls' football.

A Culture of Recognition

Dr. Grace Pinto was honoured



Dr. Grace Pinto, Managing Director, Ryan Group of Schools

with the Educational Excellence and Impact Award at the 2026 Navabharat Inspiring Women Summit, and the Mahatma Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2025, presented by Dr. Kiran Bedi. Ryan International School, Vasant Kunj, won the World's Best School Prize for Environmental Action 2024 from T4 Education and partners, for its hydroponics and biogas initiatives.

Building Global Citizens for a Knowledge Economy

As India strides towards a Viksit Bharat and a US\$5 trillion economy, the Group's ambitions center on deepening its global standing while staying rooted in its founding values. Fifty years after the first seed was planted in a Mumbai classroom, its story is still unfolding — guided by the conviction that shaping minds shapes a nation's destiny.

From One Classroom Dream to a Deemed University Milestone

How PIMR Rewrote the Story of Higher Education in Madhya Pradesh

In the early 1990s, for thousands of middle-class students in Madhya Pradesh, quality professional education often meant leaving home. Aspirants to management careers looked towards Pune, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, or Delhi. Indore, despite its entrepreneurial energy and growing industrial base, did not yet have a management institution capable of consistently competing with the country's established names. It was in this environment that a quiet but transformative educational journey began.

In 1994, the Prestige Institute of Management and Research (PIMR) opened its doors in Indore with a vision that was both ambitious and deeply rooted in social responsibility. What started as a single management institute has evolved over the past three decades into a diversified educational ecosystem spanning management, engineering, law, mass communication, computer applications, and school education across Indore, Dewas, Bhopal, and Gwalior. The journey reached a historic milestone in 2025, when Prestige was granted the status of a Deemed to be University, becoming Madhya Pradesh's first private institution in the general category to receive this recognition.

This is not merely a story of institutional expansion. It is a story of vision, continuity, and the patient building of credibility—qualities that have enabled Prestige to move from regional prominence to national relevance.

At the heart of this transformation stands Padma Shri Dr. Nemnath Jain—industrialist, philanthropist,



Dr. Davish Jain, Chancellor, Prestige Institute of Management and Research Indore, Deemed to be University
Chairman, Prestige Education Foundation

and educationist. In the early 1990s, when professional education opportunities in Madhya Pradesh were still limited, he recognized a widening gap between industry expectations and academic preparation. His response was not to create an exclusive institution for a privileged few, but to build an institution that could offer quality education with accessibility.

The guiding philosophy of the Prestige Education Foundation—

“Mass with Class”—captured this commitment. It reflected the belief that excellence should not remain confined to metropolitan cities or affluent families. For many students from Indore and surrounding districts, PIMR became the first opportunity to pursue professional management education without leaving their state.

The early years were marked by careful institution-building rather than aggressive growth. Faculty quality, academic discipline, industry

interaction, and student development received sustained attention. Recruiters gradually began to notice the seriousness of the institution, and PIMR earned a reputation for producing graduates who were not only employable but also professionally grounded.

As India's economy diversified and technology began reshaping careers, the leadership recognized that students would need more than a single professional qualification. This realization led to a phase of thoughtful expansion.

Over the years, the Prestige group established institutions in engineering, law, mass communication, computer applications, and school education. The educational network expanded to Dewas, Bhopal, and Gwalior, creating a multi-city presence that today serves more than 15,000 students through nearly a dozen institutions.

Among the major institutions are PIMR Indore, PIEMR Indore, the Department of Law, Atl Incubation Centre, Prestige University, Prestige Public School Indore and Dewas, and PIMR Bhopal, each contributing to a broader multidisciplinary vision.

A defining feature of this growth has been the ability to expand without losing institutional culture. Even as campuses multiplied, the emphasis on discipline, mentoring, industry exposure, and value-based education remained intact.

A new chapter began under the leadership of Dr. Davish Jain, son of Dr. Nemnath Jain. Combining academic training with deep industry exposure, he brought a contemporary perspective to the Prestige movement. His contribution has been less about changing the institution's soul and more about preparing it for the future.

One of his most significant interventions has been the strengthening of the industry-academia connect. Drawing upon the experience of the Prestige Group of Industries, he encouraged internships, live projects, certification

programmes, corporate interaction, and experiential learning. Students were not trained merely to clear examinations; they were prepared to navigate the complexities of professional life.

Equally important was his focus on quality and accreditation. Under this phase of leadership, PIMR achieved NAAC A++ accreditation with a CGPA of 3.57 on a 4-point scale, placing it among the highly rated institutions in the country. National recognition in programmes such as BBA and BCA further strengthened its academic standing.

Alongside Dr. Davish Jain, Dipin Jain has played a crucial organizational role in strengthening the Prestige educational ecosystem. Institution-building on this scale requires more than vision; it demands systems, infrastructure, governance, financial discipline, and long-term planning. His contribution has been integral to ensuring that expansion was supported by robust administrative and developmental frameworks.

The granting of Deemed-to-be-University status in 2025 was therefore not an overnight achievement. It was the recognition of more than thirty years of sustained academic work, institutional credibility, and strategic evolution.

For Madhya Pradesh, the moment carried significance beyond Prestige itself. It demonstrated that a home-grown institution from central India could meet the rigorous academic and regulatory standards required for university status in the private general category. In a state that has often been viewed as a follower in higher education, Prestige emerged as a symbol of regional confidence and capability.

Today, PIMR Deemed to be University represents a new phase of aspiration. It seeks to combine professional education with research, innovation,

entrepreneurship, sustainability, and global engagement. Emerging areas such as artificial intelligence, data analytics, digital business, and interdisciplinary research are increasingly becoming part of its academic conversation.

Yet, the most remarkable aspect of the Prestige story is the continuity of purpose across generations. Dr. Nemnath Jain laid the moral and philosophical foundation; Dr. Davish Jain provided strategic direction, academic modernization, and the university vision; and Dipin Jain, along with the third-generation entrepreneurs of the Jain family, Dr Himanshu Jain and Ketan Jain, helped translate that vision into institutional reality.

In many ways, the rise of Prestige Group of Institutions mirrors the rise of Madhya Pradesh itself—from regional aspiration to national visibility. What began as a single management institute in Indore has evolved into a university-led educational network influencing thousands of students across multiple cities and disciplines.

Educational institutions are often measured by buildings, rankings, and numbers. Those indicators matter, but they do not tell the whole story. The true measure of an institution lies in the confidence it creates, the opportunities it opens, and the values it preserves while adapting to change.

Prestige's journey is ultimately a story of patient institution-building. It proves that world-class aspirations do not always begin in metropolitan corridors. Sometimes, they begin with a single classroom, a social commitment, and a belief that education is not merely a pathway to employment—it is a pathway to transformation.

From one institute in 1994 to Madhya Pradesh's first private general-category deemed-to-be university in 2025, Prestige has not merely grown in size; it has helped redefine what higher education from the heart of India can aspire to become.



Prof V Kamakoti, Director, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras

Engineering India's Innovation Future

Wearing multiple leadership hats, Prof V Kamakoti is driving India's technological transformation through research excellence, innovation, entrepreneurship and nation-building

Under the leadership of Prof V. Kamakoti, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has emerged as one of India's foremost engines of technological innovation, research excellence and entrepreneurship. At a time when India is positioning itself as a global knowledge economy and advancing towards becoming a developed nation by 2047, Prof Kamakoti's vision extends beyond academic rankings. His focus is on transforming higher education into a catalyst for national development by creating technologies that solve real-world problems, nurture entrepreneurs and strengthen India's scientific self-reliance.

An accomplished computer scientist, researcher and Padma Shri awardee, Prof Kamakoti is widely recognised for leading the development of SHAKTI, India's first indigenous RISC-V microprocessor. He graduated in

Electrical Engineering from IIT Madras and later earned his Master's and Doctoral degrees in Computer Science and Engineering from the institute. His research spans computer architecture, information security, VLSI systems, embedded computing and artificial intelligence.

Since assuming office as Director, Prof Kamakoti has accelerated IIT Madras's transformation into a globally respected research and innovation ecosystem. The institute consistently ranks among India's finest higher educational institutions while expanding international collaborations, interdisciplinary research and industry partnerships.

One of his defining contributions has been strengthening the institute's innovation ecosystem. IIT Madras Research Park, regarded as India's leading university-based innovation hub, promotes collaboration between

academia, industry and startups. Technology companies, deep-tech ventures and research laboratories are developing solutions in artificial intelligence, semiconductors, electric mobility, healthcare technologies, robotics, renewable energy and advanced manufacturing.

His vision aligns closely with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, encouraging multidisciplinary learning and research-driven education. IIT Madras has also become a national leader in digital education through its globally acclaimed BS Degree Programme in Data Science and Applications, making quality technical education accessible across geographical and economic barriers.

Research remains central to his philosophy. IIT Madras contributes significantly to India's strategic capabilities in quantum technologies, cybersecurity, indigenous computing, sustainable mobility, space technologies and clean energy.

Prof Kamakoti has consistently advocated indigenous technology development under the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, believing India must evolve from being primarily a consumer of global technologies into a creator of globally competitive innovations. His emphasis on semiconductor research, electronics manufacturing, advanced computing and AI reflects this national objective.

Equally important is his commitment to socially relevant innovation. Under his guidance, researchers have developed affordable healthcare devices, assistive technologies for persons with disabilities, smart agricultural solutions and climate-resilient engineering systems designed to improve lives.

Throughout his distinguished career, Prof Kamakoti has received several prestigious recognitions for his contributions to engineering research, teaching and technology development. Under his stewardship, IIT Madras continues to exemplify how world-class institutions can translate knowledge into prosperity, innovation into opportunity, and education into nation-building.

The Man Who Dared to Dream Big

Driven by the belief that lasting success comes from building institutions, Dr Thumbay Moideen has transformed bold ideas into a global ecosystem that continues to shape healthcare, education, research and innovation



Dr Thumbay Moideen
Founder President, Thumbay Group

Dr Thumbay Moideen, guided by purposeful innovation and an unwavering commitment to excellence, has spent nearly three decades creating an integrated healthcare and medical education ecosystem across the region and beyond. His leadership philosophy has always centred on creating sustainable institutions that generate lasting value for business, communities and future generations.

Shaping the Future of Gulf Healthcare

In 1997, Dr Moideen recognised the UAE's growing need for qualified healthcare professionals. He laid the foundation for a comprehensive academic institution by establishing Gulf Medical College, the country's first private medical college. Today, it has evolved into Gulf Medical University, widely regarded as the leading private medical university in the Gulf, welcoming students from more than 111 nationalities and producing thousands of healthcare professionals serving communities across the world.

Understanding that world-class medical education requires equally strong clinical exposure, Dr Moideen created a fully integrated healthcare ecosystem. Under his leadership, teaching hospitals, specialised clinics, diagnostic laboratories and pharmacies were established to provide seamless

patient care while creating invaluable learning environments for future healthcare professionals.

Innovation and Research Initiatives

Innovation has remained central to his leadership journey. Recognising that the future of medicine depends on continuous discovery, Gulf Medical University invests AED 10 million annually in research grants, supporting scientific advancement, interdisciplinary collaboration and evidence-based healthcare. By strengthening research alongside education and clinical care, Dr Moideen has fostered an environment where innovation thrives.

Today, Thumbay Group has grown into a diversified global enterprise spanning healthcare, medical education, research, diagnostics, wellness, hospitality, media, technology and real estate. Its

IN 1997, DR MOIDEEN RECOGNISED THE UAE'S GROWING NEED FOR QUALIFIED HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS. HE LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR A COMPREHENSIVE ACADEMIC INSTITUTION BY ESTABLISHING GULF MEDICAL COLLEGE, THE COUNTRY'S FIRST PRIVATE MEDICAL COLLEGE

healthcare network alone has served more than 19 million patients, representing over 175 nationalities, reflecting the Group's international reputation for quality, compassion and excellence.

Growth and Diversification

Thumbay Medicity Ajman is a 25-acre integrated medical city that has become a landmark for healthcare innovation in the region. His ambitions continue to expand with the upcoming Thumbay Medicity Dubai, expected to generate approximately 1,000 new jobs. Other pioneering projects include the region's first private integrated psychiatric and rehabilitation hospital in Sharjah, Thumbay Veterinary Hospital and the state-of-the-art Thumbay International Research Center in Ajman, demonstrating his commitment to advancing healthcare infrastructure and innovation.

This strategic, sustained focus has propelled Thumbay Group to a current valuation of US\$2.6 billion. Yet behind every milestone lies the same guiding principle that has defined Dr Moideen's journey: identify tomorrow's needs, act decisively, and build institutions that continue creating value long into the future.

The Legacy of Visionary Leadership

His contributions have earned widespread international recognition, including five honorary doctorates from globally renowned universities. He has been consistently ranked among the Arab world's most influential business leaders, recognised amongst the world's top 100 Muslim businessmen, celebrated as one of the Gulf's most respected NRI billionaires, acknowledged as the richest and most successful NRI from Karnataka in the Gulf, and honoured as the world's leading businessman from the Beary community.

For Dr Thumbay Moideen, success is reflected in the institutions he has built, the professionals he has empowered, the millions of patients whose lives have been touched, and the enduring impact his vision continues to create.