

Naveen Prashanth

Gold Medalist for Best All Round Performance - Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGP)

As Head of Events at the Forum for Industrial Interaction (FII), a student society, Naveen worked with a team of 10 club members and 60+ volunteers to conduct 50 events at Vista'14 – the country's most prestigious B-school fest, Shark-Tank – an entrepreneur pitch hosted for the first time in the country at IIM Bangalore, and the Young Leaders Summit, again a first-time event that attracted 350+ outstation participants and allowed them to experience lectures by IIMB professors.

Throughout his time at IIMB, Naveen has contributed to case-solving workshops and mentoring programs that benefited various stakeholders on campus. Further, he participated in several social causes through Vikasana, for example as a 'Team to Transform' volunteer where he took 15+ sessions and was responsible for the Math education of a laundry worker's son on campus. Naveen donated his entire Director's Merit List book grant and travelled with the team to 3 schools to donate the books. He has also donated a small part of his competition winnings to the Vikasana mess workers fund, and is working on an ICON-Vikasana project with an NGO in Bangalore.

Does he have any words of advice for the new batch that will soon arrive on campus? "I would advise them to get involved and try out different activities at IIMB. Time, which is usually cited as a constraint, will make way for activities that you are really interested in. Further, the learning experience is complex and nuanced, and it would be best to avoid restraining oneself only to activities with straightforward results or succumb to peer pressure. The better approach is to try out all activities that interest you and enjoy the learning experience," he offers.

Naveen is also an avid sportsman. As tennis captain, he instituted regular, professional training for the team and introduced Women's medal matches in Sangram'14, an inter-IIM sports meet. "Winning gold medals at Sangram'13 & '14, and a silver medal at Sangharsh'14 have been great memories," he says. He played an important role in instituting Ultimate Frisbee exhibition matches for the first time at Sangharsh'14. Naveen enjoys running and has participated in Twaran'13, Twaran'14 and Flash 5K runs on campus, as well as two half-marathons (21 km) in Bangalore. "My commitment to sport has helped me stay fit and disciplined," he says with a smile.