

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Divya Dwivedi

Information Systems Area

Institute Research Award 2026



About the award: The aim of the Institute Research Award is to recognize excellence in research work done by Doctoral students at IIM Bangalore. It seeks to inspire the school's Doctoral candidates to achieve greater heights in terms of research quality and productivity.

About the recipient: Divya Dwivedi has recently completed a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the Information Systems area at Indian Institute of Management Bangalore. Her thesis uncovers the effect of Generative AI on Creative Problem Solving (CPS).

She has presented her work at reputed academic conferences, including ICIS and PACIS. Before joining the doctoral programme at IIMB, she earned a Master of Technology degree from Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, India, and spent seven years in the industry, specializing in business intelligence and data warehousing. Her professional contributions include serving as reviewer for reputed journals and conferences, as well as teaching and research assistantships.

Divya's research focus: Divya's research interests lie at the intersection of AI and human behavior, with a specific focus on Generative AI, Creativity, AI Ethics and Governance.

IIMB learning experience: Divya's doctoral journey at IIM Bangalore was shaped by an intellectually stimulating learning environment, she shares, adding, "The Institute fostered a culture of critical thinking. The engaging discussions with professors, peers and other academicians during coursework, webinars, workshops, etc. played a vital role in refining my

thought process. Moreover, opportunities to get involved in diverse types of academic activities contributed substantially to my holistic development.”

Other awards received at IIMB: During her PhD, Divya received the Mirae Asset Scholar Award.

Publications: Divya has published a few papers in academic journals, namely, *Information Systems Frontiers* and *Digital Government: Research and Practice*, and a solo-authored book chapter with Springer Nature.

The future roadmap: Divya aspires to grow as a researcher who makes meaningful contributions to the field, specifically by studying human behavior around technology and exploring how effective use of technology can be leveraged for larger social good. She also plans to examine technology’s darker side and identify ways to address the same. Parallely, she aims to become an educator who goes beyond delivering course content, helping shape students’ thinking and lives.

Family background: Divya Dwivedi hails from Raebareli in Uttar Pradesh. Her late father was an advocate in the district court, and her mother has recently retired from her role as a teacher in the Basic Education department of the Uttar Pradesh government. Her husband, an academician, is an alumnus of the IIMB Doctoral programme and is currently a faculty member in the Finance & Accounting area at IIM Tiruchirappalli. They have a 10-year-old daughter.

Post Graduate Programme in Public Policy and Management (PGPPM)

Anirudh

Post Graduate Programme in Public Policy and Management (PGPPM)

Gold Medallist – Best Academic Performance



Anirudh, aged 33 years, is an Indian Revenue Service (IRS: 2018 Batch) Officer, currently posted as Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax, Gurugram.

Born in Tohana in Haryana, he did his schooling in Chandigarh and was a NTSE Scholar. He completed his BE in Mechanical Engineering from Punjab Engineering College in Chandigarh.

He secured the first position and was awarded the Gold Medal in Mechanical Engineering and Institute of Engineers' Kala Devi Award.

Anirudh had cleared the Civil Services Examination 2014 in the first attempt and was allotted Indian Railway Personnel Service. He was awarded the Director's Gold Medal at the 90th Foundation Course, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie. Thereafter, he served as Assistant Personnel Officer from 2015 to 2018. He cleared CSE-2017 with an All India Rank of 306 and was allocated Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax) in 2018. Since then, he has been serving as Assistant Commissioner, and as Deputy Commissioner after his promotion in 2022. He has been consistently graded 'Outstanding' in Annual Performance Appraisal since 2015.

His key achievements while pursuing PGPPM include being awarded Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax Certificate of Excellence 2024 for outstanding contribution, sustained devotion and commitment to duty in the field of Direct Taxes. Moreover, he detected tax evasion exceeding Rs. 250 crores during search/raid operations; authored two books, '*Fundamentals of Sociology*' and '*Indian Society: Structure and Change*' (KBC Nano); contributed to drafting of the New Income Tax Act, 2025, and received the Certificate of Appreciation from Pr. ADG, NADT for contributions to training programmes.

A government-sponsored candidate of PGPPM, Anirudh says the programme has widened perspectives, enabled cross-learning and strengthened policy-making capabilities of the entire cohort.

His future aspirations revolve around leveraging learning and experience for improving public policy to achieve the government's vision of *Viksit Bharat*.

His family comprises his father (IAS-Retd.), his mother (a homemaker), his elder brother (PCS-Haryana) and his wife (Senior Manager-RPG Group, IIM Bangalore alumna).

Post Graduate Programme in Enterprise Management (PGPEM): Two-year programme for working professionals



Lakshmi R

Post Graduate Programme in Enterprise Management (PGPEM)

Gold Medallist – First Rank Holder

Thirty-three year-old Lakshmi R's achievements during her course at IIMB include winning, as part of the PGPEM 2026 cohort, several national-level case competitions organized by IIM Calcutta, IIM Visakhapatnam, etc. As part of the Student Affairs Committee, she managed the PGPEM LinkedIn page which grew by 3,500-plus followers in under a year. She also served as one of the core organizers of Drishti 2025, the flagship business and entrepreneurship summit of PGPEM. During her tenure at IIMB, she was a recipient of the Merit-cum-Means Scholarship in Year 1 and the Merit Scholarship in Year 2. While pursuing the programme, she was promoted to Principal Engineer at Baxter, a role she took on while simultaneously managing the full demands of the MBA.

Terming her IIMB PGPEM experience as genuinely transformative, she adds, "What stood out most was the calibre of the faculty – the world-class professors brought both academic rigour and deep industry insight into every session. The quality and design of assignments pushed me to think beyond frameworks and apply concepts to real, complex business situations. The programme struck a rare balance between intellectual depth and practical relevance, making it equally valuable for someone already navigating the professional world. It did not just add to my knowledge, it fundamentally sharpened how I think."

Sharing her future plans, she says, "I am deeply passionate about the intersection of technology and healthcare. My goal is to move into the product space within healthcare technology, building solutions that ensure safe, effective patient care while delivering sustainable business outcomes. I believe this is one of the most meaningful spaces to work in, where strategic thinking and human empathy go hand in hand. I hope to contribute to making quality healthcare more accessible and intelligently delivered through well-designed, responsible technology products."

Originally from Kozhikode, Keralam, Lakshmi currently resides in Bangalore with her husband who works in Accenture, and her mother-in-law. Her father retired as Assistant General Manager from Indian Overseas Bank and her mother served with India Post.



Biswaranjan Mishra

Post Graduate Programme in Enterprise Management (PGPEM)

Gold Medallist – Best All Round Performer

While pursuing PGPEM, Biswaranjan participated in several case competitions. He was the winner of Innoventure – Founder's Dilemma and secured the third position in the Finance

case competition in the leadership summit Drishti. He also participated in a plethora of sporting events. He was the captain of the Lawn Tennis team, was the winner of around 15 gold medals across sporting tournaments, was adjudged the Most Valuable Player in the inter-programme event Spardha 2026 and Best Bowler in Spardha 2026. He was also involved with diverse cultural activities. He was one of the mentors during Youth Udyami, the year-long entrepreneurship program which brought together high school students from Classes 10 to 12 to develop and present real-world business solutions. Moreover, during the course of PGPEM, he got promoted to the role of Head of Digital for Aircraft Programs and Delivery at Airbus.

About his IIMB learning experience, the 45-year-old says, “When I joined PGPEM, I already had a good level of experience in leading and managing projects and teams. I enrolled myself into the course with the intent of broadening my horizon from managing teams and projects, to managing an enterprise. That is exactly what I am taking back with me from this course. The programme was rigorous, but very engaging. The format of having classes on Friday afternoons and on Saturdays is well thought out, allowing time blocks to manage professional responsibilities, academics and family life. Case-based discussions in a class represented by colleagues from varying industries and different experience levels encourage multiple perspectives. Additionally, the opportunity to participate in workshops, guest lecturers by industry stalwarts, presentations and programs like HMC, Global Network for Advanced Management, etc., provide the best experience an executive MBA programme can think of.”

Discussing his future plans, Biswaranjan says, “In the short term, my plan is to continue to lead Digital Strategy in my current organization and lead disruptive innovation generating business value for the organization and the industry. My long-term aspiration is to evolve into a strategic leader who can shape an organization’s long-term direction, ultimately driving ethical and sustainable growth. My aspiration after completing the PGPEM is to find a way to help improve the business health of SMEs in India by providing business consulting and advisory services, thereby contributing to the economic growth of the nation.”

Hailing from Odisha, Biswaranjan has five siblings. His father was a compounder in an ESI hospital and his mother is a homemaker. He and his wife are parents to a son about to step into his teens.

Executive Post Graduate Programme in Management (EPGP): One-year fulltime MBA for experienced professionals



Aysha Shaba PP

Executive Post Graduate Programme in Management (EPGP)

Gold Medallist – First Rank Holder

Aysha Shaba PP, 32, has had a plethora of achievements during her course at IIMB. She featured on the Director's Merit List and was awarded the DML based scholarship; represented IIM Bangalore in dance and music at Ekatva hosted by IIMA, and successfully completed the Himalayan Mountain Challenge at Brahmatal. She was also the winner of TVS Ride, a national-level case competition, and of Shark Tank.

"My IIM Bangalore journey has been a series of meaningful firsts", she says, adding, "It was my first time staying away from my six-year-old daughter, my first experience studying at a premier institution, and my first time being surrounded by such an exceptional, inspiring peer group. It also pushed me into completely new experiences – from climbing the Himalayas to learning how to swim. IIMB pushed me far beyond my comfort zone. It did not just challenge me, it taught me how to adapt, persevere and ultimately thrive in demanding environments. The classrooms, group projects, professors and peers reignited a deep curiosity and hunger for learning and I began to see the world more holistically, with a stronger long-term perspective. Excelling in such a competitive and high-caliber environment has given me a quiet but lasting confidence that I will carry forward in life. I am also deeply grateful for the wide range of opportunities IIMB offered – from entrepreneurship and case competitions to arts and cultural experiences – which made this journey not just intellectually enriching, but truly transformative."

Sharing her future plans, Aysha says that she aspires to continue building her career in the industrial transformation space, especially at the intersection of technology and real-world operations. "I look forward to working with emerging and cutting-edge technologies across industries, and gradually developing deep expertise in Industrial IoT. Over time, I hope to contribute to building user-friendly, intuitive solutions which recognize that industrial transformation is not just about hardware or software, but equally about people – how they adapt, interact and create value through these systems. At a more personal level, I feel a strong sense of responsibility to give back and am deeply passionate about supporting women in realizing their potential through mentorship and career guidance. In the long run, I aspire to build or contribute to an initiative that can enable this at scale, creating more

pathways for women to access opportunities, build confidence and shape their own futures.”

Aysha, who pursued her engineering in Electronics and Communication, is a single mother to a seven-year-old daughter. Her father is a cardiologist who runs his own hospital and her mother is a homemaker. She has two siblings, both of whom are doctors.



Rajasilpi SP

Executive Post Graduate Programme in Management (EPGP)

Gold Medallist – Best All Round Performer

Rajasilpi SP, aged 30 years, featured on the Director’s Merit List (Top 5/73). He secured the Merit Scholarship during the programme. He represented EPGP in IIMB’s EQUIS Students’ Report, and led initiatives in Prayaas across entrepreneurship, sustainability and social impact. He secured over 65% volunteering rate from the current EPGP batch for social impact activities. He participated and won in several sporting events such as Sangharsh.

He considers his IIM Bangalore experience as a transformative one, both professionally and personally. “Coming from a core engineering background with no prior exposure to business, the programme helped me build strong foundations in strategy, finance and data-driven decision-making. Beyond academics, the learning extended through peer interactions, group projects and leadership opportunities, which shaped my ability to collaborate, lead and think more holistically. The diverse cohort and rigorous environment pushed me out of my comfort zone and enabled me to grow into a more confident and well-rounded individual. The opportunity to participate in multiple sports competitions, represent IIMB at inter-IIM events, and work with the Prayaas committee to create meaningful social impact, made the experience especially memorable.”

He shares that he is keen to work at the intersection of strategy, product and operations, particularly in sectors such as automotive, mobility, manufacturing and technology-enabled platforms. “With an R&D-intensive background and around 10 published patents, I have developed a strong interest in translating innovation into scalable business impact. In the

long term, I aspire to contribute towards building sustainable and growth-oriented solutions in these sectors by combining my engineering experience with management learning. I am also deeply interested in initiatives that create social impact alongside business value, especially in areas such as sustainability and inclusive growth.”

Rajasilpi hails from Kerala. His father served in the government sector and his mother was an Economics teacher for higher secondary students. His wife is a current EPGP student of IIMB.

Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGP): Two-year fulltime MBA

and

Post Graduate Programme in Business Analytics (PGPBA): Two-year fulltime MBA

Manasi Anju Mertia

Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGP)

Gold Medallist – First Rank Holder

Among her key academic accomplishments at IIMB, Manasi Anju Mertia, aged 27, maintained academic consistency throughout the first year, where she served as the Section Topper for all three terms and was featured on the Director’s Merit List. Beyond the classroom, she was awarded the Charpak Scholarship by the French Embassy for her exchange at HEC Paris and was an OPJEMS Scholarship finalist. She also served as a Senior Coordinator for the Alumni Committee through which she organized ‘Ask an Alum’ and facilitated interactions with alumni and the incoming cohorts. She also got the opportunity of shadowing the CEO of an NGO through the 'Shadow a Leader' program. Additionally, she represented IIMB as a National Finalist in case competitions for BCG and P&G (also received PPIs and internship offers), and as a Campus Finalist for Mahindra Rise.

Terming her IIMB experience as truly transformative, Manasi Anju gives credit for that to the Institute’s faculty and what she calls an “incredible” cohort. “Coming from a management consulting background, classes like Operations Management with Prof. Tarun Jain and Decision Sciences with Prof. Ananth Krishnamurthy were instrumental in teaching me how to optimize complex systems. Strategic Leadership with Prof. Shubha Patvardhan taught me to identify 'artificial trade-offs', the false choices we often feel forced to make between competing priorities. Learning how to bypass these binaries is a skill I know will be vital in higher-stakes professional situations. Most importantly, I found immense inspiration in my peers. The constant motivation from the broader cohort, and the unwavering support of my close group of confidantes, ensured that this experience was as much about personal growth and friendship as it was about academic excellence.”

Regarding her future goals, she says, “In the near term, I am excited to build my career in management consulting, where I can apply the analytical rigor and strategic leadership principles I have developed at IIMB to solve systemic challenges for large-scale organizations. However, my long-term vision is to bridge this professional toolkit with a commitment to the social sector. My dream is to drive meaningful change by building more efficient, scalable systems for social initiatives, ensuring that these organizations have the operational infrastructure needed to achieve their missions effectively and sustainably”, says Manasi Anju, who believes that success is never a solitary achievement, but a responsibility to drive meaningful impact and support the communities one belongs to.

Born in Kolkata, Manasi Anju Mertia’s family includes her younger brother and mother, whose resilience she says provided the foundation for her ambitions.



Dhvit Jayen Mehta

Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGP)

Gold Medallist – Second Rank Holder

Dhvit’s academic milestones at IIMB include securing Institute Rank 1 at the end of Year 1. He was recognized on the Director's Merit List, a distinction awarded to the top performers across the cohort. He received the Merit Scholarship for achieving Institute Rank 1 at the end of Year 1, by PGPO. He has also been a Section Topper on three occasions. Beyond academics, he interned at Arpwood Capital, a leading boutique investment bank, which offered him meaningful exposure to the world of finance and investing.

Twenty-seven year old Dhvit believes that IIM Bangalore offers a truly world-class academic experience, anchored by exceptional faculty whose depth of expertise and passion for teaching elevate every classroom interaction. “The institution rewards intellectual curiosity, fostering an environment where students are encouraged to think critically, challenge assumptions and engage deeply with complex business problems. The breadth and depth of the curriculum is one of IIMB's standout strengths. The programme covers a wide range of disciplines spanning finance, strategy, analytics, sustainability and entrepreneurship, ensuring students develop both functional expertise and a well-rounded management perspective. The carefully curated course material, including industry articles, case studies, simulations and real-world projects, bridges the gap between theory and practice in a

meaningful way. Beyond the classroom, the learning experience is further enriched by peer interactions with a highly accomplished cohort, exposure to live business challenges through projects and competitions, and access to a robust network of alumni and industry leaders. The culture at IIMB strikes a rare balance between academic rigor and collaborative spirit, making it an environment where both personal and professional growth happen organically. IIMB has equipped me with a strong foundation across financial analysis, strategy and quantitative thinking, all of which I see as essential tools for a career in investing.”

Discussing his future plans, he says that his long-term ambition is to build a career at the intersection of finance and investing. “I am deeply drawn to the world of capital allocation, understanding how businesses create value, how markets price risk, and how investment decisions shape industries and economies. Over time, I aspire to develop the analytical rigor and judgment required to evaluate opportunities across asset classes and contribute meaningfully to investment decision-making. IIMB has been instrumental in shaping this direction.”

Dhvit Jayen Mehta’s mother is a homemaker and his father is the MD & CEO of Amul.

Mayur Dattatray Khule

Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGP) and Post Graduate Programme in Business Analytics (PGPBA) Combined

Gold Medallist – Best All Round Performer

Twenty-six year old Mayur Dattatray Khule’s achievements in IIMB include being featured on the Director's Honor List (top 10% of the batch), acquiring Investment Banking internship and PPO at Goldman Sachs, serving as Business Secretary of the Student Affairs Council, participating in and winning various sporting events, and taking part in other cultural activities. He participated in more than 20 case competitions and was selected for the ‘Shadow a Leader Program’ with Ronnie Screwvala – entrepreneur, investor and film producer.

He describes his time at IIM Bangalore as something during which he experienced tremendous growth, both inside the classroom and beyond. “The curriculum's blend of case-based and experiential learning across disciplines, paired with a rich selection of electives, made every class engaging and rewarding. Additionally, learning from some of the best professors in the country made each session invaluable. Beyond academics, my roles as Business Secretary and Dance PoC for ‘Aarambh’ offered valuable lessons in strategy, leadership and people management. Every challenge became a learning opportunity, and the support of both students and the administration helped me navigate those with confidence. My experiences with Taal, the Institute Dance Team, and the Institute Volleyball

Team, further deepened my understanding of teamwork and collaboration. IIMB has provided me with holistic experience – one that has shaped me into who I am today.”

He shares that he will be joining Investment Banking upon graduation, a field he sees as a powerful enabler for raising capital and fuelling growth within the Indian business ecosystem, and adds, “With the Indian economy poised for significant expansion over the coming decades, I am eager to contribute meaningfully by helping corporations make sound strategic and financial decisions. In the long term, I aspire to either build a venture of my own or step into a strategic advisory role within the Indian Government.” Having spent 13 years abroad, Mayur says that his decision to return home was rooted in a deep sense of purpose and a desire to give back. “Whether by building a venture that creates jobs and world-class products out of India, or by influencing policies that shape the lives of over 1.4 billion people, I hope to play a role that truly matters.”

Hailing originally from Nashik in Maharashtra, Mayur Dattatray Khule’s parents moved to Nigeria in 2008. His father is the Marketing Head at Avon Crowncaps, based in Lagos, Nigeria, while his mother was a teacher at both school and college levels for most of her professional life. His younger sister graduated with a degree in Computer Science and is now working at Amazon in Seattle.



Bharat Mundra

Post Graduate Programme in Business Analytics (PGPBA)

Gold Medallist – First Rank Holder

Twenty-six year old Bharat Mundra earned the first rank in the PGPBA cohort in Year 1. He was awarded the Srimati Saraswati Kulkarni Prize for Excellence in Entrepreneurship, the Academic Merit Scholarship (Director’s Merit List) and the PGPBA Rank 1 in Year 1 Merit Scholarship.

Sharing his PGPBA learning experience, he calls IIMB faculty nothing short of exceptional. “What stood out was their openness beyond the classroom. They never turned away a question, whether it was sharp or plainly obvious. That kind of accessibility kept us curious and honest about our own gaps. The peer group was the other big factor – working through projects with people who were genuinely driven, and competing against them in individual

assessments, kept the standard high throughout. My biggest takeaway from these two years is gaining the confidence that I can compete with anyone and anywhere.”

About his future plans, he says that he aspires to build a company. “Not just run one, but build something that means something and outlasts me. I think entrepreneurship is one of the more honest ways to contribute to nation building at scale, and that is the direction I want to go.”

Bharat Mundra comes from a business family, which he says, gave him the practical exposure to how businesses actually work. “It was not classroom learning, it was something absorbed over time. That background shaped a lot of how I think about problems and what I find worth solving”, he adds.