

# Halcyon

VOLUME 4 | EDITION 3

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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- Welcoming Octave
  - Induction Experience
  - Logo Design Competition
  - Udyat
  - Yukti-HR Conclave
  - Sankalp
  - Milaap
  - Independence day celebration
  - Bangalore Chapter Meet
  - Delhi Chapter Meet
  - Synergy Cell
  - Anvesh Cell
  - Alumni Committee
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# PREFACE

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## ABOUT THIS EDITION

The alumni committee proudly presents the next edition of Halcyon, our quarterly newsletter. This quarter started with the induction of MBA08 or Octave, as they are often called. As evidenced by the excellent gender diversity Octave boasts, IIM Amritsar is committed to the inclusion of women in corporate work environments. This diversity inspired the theme – **“Women at Work”**. Along with gender diversity, the new batch also brought new additions to all the clubs, committees and cells. Owing to the various events and activities conducted by the student body organizations, Octave soon found itself ingrained in the culture of the college. The first edition of the ice-breaking event, MILAAP helped facilitate friendships between batches through games and tournaments. YUKTI, the annual HR conclave, engaged students by exploring post-pandemic employee experiences and talent acquisition in the current business environment. To strengthen the relationship between the alumni and the alma mater, the alumni committee organized chapter meets in Delhi and Bangalore. Students of the current batch were also given the opportunity to interact with alums through Udyat – the alumni guest lecture series. The pages that follow endeavour to close the gap between the alumni and the institute by chronicling all the various events and activities conducted by the college.

1

# Welcoming Octave

*Batch of 24'*



IIM Amritsar welcomed the new batch of MBA-08, MBA-BA02 and MBA-HR02 on July 11th, 2022. The new batches were inaugurated by Dr. Nagarajan Ramamoorthy, Director, IIM Amritsar and the ceremony was adorned with the presence of Shri Satya Narayanan R, Chairman - CL Educate Ltd.

Dr. Ramamoorthy shared with the new batch, the responsibilities that rests upon their shoulders being a part of the IIM fraternity and the importance of inculcating an inclusive and ingenious stance within these 2 years.

Shri Satya Narayanan R set the seal on the ceremony by motivating the students to step out of their comfort zone and lace themselves up for the forthcoming challenges they were about to face and wishing them the best stars for their journey ahead.



**Krishna Sindhu Jonnalagadda**  
(MBA-BA-02)

After the first five days of induction which is usually called Stress week, I understood that life at IIM Amritsar is not easy, it can be pretty hectic and demanding and at the same time equally fun and rewarding, anyway slowly and steadily, it got better, Induction helped me to get familiar with existing rules and system and it also helped in getting comfortable with my batch mates. Coming to the institute without much of a preconceived notion, it never ceased to amaze me how supportive and close-knit the IIM student community is and the culture and sense of belonging they create. The moment the classes began it is only juggling between grades, sleep and social life, I could see everyone struggling on and around campus to finish their assignments before the deadline. With so much going on at the same time and with how little I was sleeping, and how much I was able to accomplish in 24 hours I understood that doing MBA at such a prestigious college is not just about learning but more about the experience.

The Induction week aka Stress week was one of the most hectic week of my life which I have never experienced before. As a fresher and coming from a spoon fed environment to a complete revolutionary world brought a drastic change in my life. The Induction week is the forever memory that I had made here starting from 9 am to never checking the clock again and then always checking emails more than Instagram is the phase where my life changed. But there were certain things that I will embrace forever- Punctuality, Discipline are not just the words that we just listen, we actually had to follow it here at IIM Amritsar.



**Pallavi Patel**  
(MBA-08)

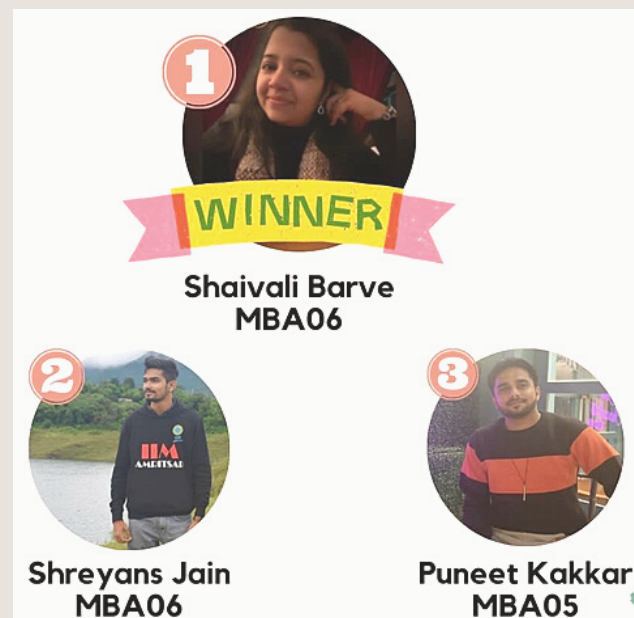
I am writing this piece looking outside of the window where the college bus has been parked. A lot of the part of our days are spent in this bus, so it is a huge part of our college life. Ever since I got the selection mail from IIM Amritsar, I had been waiting for the day I come here and start my MBA life. I had so many fears and many doubts but in the midst of it all, I decided to keep calm and enjoy every moment that has been granted to me. I've gained new friends, new study places, a new place to live and most importantly a community that I can call my second home. I am not going to lie, I've felt homesick, tired and frustrated. People from diverse backgrounds came together and it was a heterogeneous group of people. Initially, it was very difficult for me to be here and do anything. It was very overwhelming. When the first week started, we got many different induction tasks which gave us a chance to talk to many people and gave us a window to network with most of the people. I think the most positive thing that I learned was to multitask and meet short deadlines. However, I can say that little by little I'm going to grow as the person I dreamed of becoming, the person that my parents wished for me – a person who lives to do whatever it is that I love to do and make the best of it.



**Aditi Sood**  
(MBA-BA-02)

# LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION

The Hon'ble Chairperson of the alumni committee had suggested organizing a competition to get a new logo, and since the logo is of the Alumni committee, it was decided that the new logo should come from the Alumni itself. A panel of judges was formed by the Chairperson of the Alumni Committee to select the new logo, and out of all the entries received, the logo designed by Ms Shaivali Barve of the MBA 06 batch was selected to be the new 'identity' of the alumni and was awarded the prize money of Rs 25,000. The runner-up prize went to Mr. Shreyans Jain from the MBA06 batch and the second runner-up goes to Mr. Puneet Kakkar from the MBA05 batch.



The new logo aptly covers the underline objective of the Alumni committee IIM Amritsar, and the same is also reflected in its tagline, "Bridging the Gap". The logo is a symbol of "Golden Kalpavrusksha" which represents the alumni who are achieving their dreams through the opportunities gained from the Holy IIM. While the deep roots showcase the strong knowledge base provided by the Institute that helps them stand still in any circumstances. Just like a tree holds on to the branches as they grow in different directions, the alumni committee, as well, engages with the alumni of IIM Amritsar as they grow in their respective careers by organizing different kinds of activities around the year, like alumni chapter meet, 'Udyat' sessions and many more.

As a tree continues to provide nourishment and a strong foundation through its roots, similarly, the alumni committee continues to provide all possible support to its alumni on behalf of the institute

## Lalit Verma

On 23rd July 2022, Mr. Lalit Verma of PGP01 visited our institute as a part of Udyat – the alumni lecture series. Mr. Verma, a senior consultant for Ernst &

Young addressed the topic of “cultivating self before cultivating a professional career”. He stressed the importance of self-discovery and finding out who you are. The former Franke Faber intern also gave students insight into the summer internship process and busted myths about gaps in a CV. The illuminating experience left students with a new perspective on life post MBA.



Mr. Kiran Olety of PGP02 addressed the topic “How to survive a challenging job” in an interactive online session with the students of IIM Amritsar. Currently working as a Key Account manager for Techmojo, Mr. Olety shared experiences from his own journey to educate students on the importance of hard work, determination, and perseverance. He touched upon taboo topics like abusive work culture and gave students tips on how to navigate complex situations while on the job. The talk was followed by a long Q & A session with students enthused by his words; a further testament to how valuable his insights were.

**UDYAT**

**Kiran Olety**

# Yukti-HR Conclave

IIM Amritsar conducted the seventh annual HR conclave – YUKTI on the 7th of August, 2022. Industry experts from nuanced spheres of the corporate world were invited to enrich the discussions by sharing their perspectives and driving the discussion about the current business scenario. The first-panel discussion focused on Employee Experience: Moving Back from the ZOOMbie Land, where the rich and intriguing discussions spotlight the redefinition of the employee experience in the current business environment.



The panelists' perspectives on technology & quick adaptation, as well as its challenges, provided a new and entirely different perspective. The panelists for both themes included veteran HR leaders from esteemed organizations like Capgemini, Tata Consumer Products, Volvo Group, Genpact, Reliance Industries Limited, JSW Steel Ltd, and KPMG. The industry veterans interacted and reflected with the budding managers, shared insights from their vivid industry experiences, and put their thoughts on the themes.



The panel discussed several pertinent questions, including moonlighting, the authenticity of the workforce environment, reward systems, and, most important, whether we should even go back. The second-panel discussion revolved around the topic & Talent Acquisition 4.0: Winning the War for Talent and featured illustrious panel members highlighting the changing dynamics of the HR industry with the advent of Talent Acquisition 4.0.





# SANKALP

## EVERY HEARTBEAT IS PRECIOUS

Sankalp, the social service club, of IIM Amritsar organised blood donation drive- Up Zing Blood Drive- on Sunday, 13 August 2022 from 10 am to 6 pm at Blessings City. The drive was in collaboration with Youth Blood Donor Organization and Welfare Society Jalandhar Kamal Multispeciality Blood Centre and in association with Hostel and Mess committee, IIM Amritsar. The core objective of the drive was to help the children suffering from Thalassemia in Amritsar and Jalandhar.

The drive observed active participation from the students as well as the faculty of IIM Amritsar.

It was conducted under the supervision of a certified doctor. Due care was ensured by the medical team and Sankalp. The volunteers were asked to register themselves and asked multiple questions regarding their medical history so as to make sure that donating blood is not detrimental to their health. Sankalp provided their support by ensuring suitable resting and waiting place, medical assistance and moral support to the volunteers. Refreshments were also provided to the donors so that they may not feel fatigued after donating blood.

Along with the joy of giving, the volunteers were also awarded with a certificate and medal by Sankalp to appreciate their contribution towards this noble cause.



# The Ice-Breaker Event

"The strength of a team is each member; the strength of each member is the team." This year, the Sports Committee organized the first edition of its Ice-Breaker event, Milaap 2K22. It was an event that encouraged harmony and familiarity among the Institute's students, both senior and junior batches.



The first of the three sports of the inaugural sports ice-breaking event, "MILAAP," was the 'Box Cricket tournament'. This tournament took place over three days, on August 6th, 7th, and 8th, 2022. The competition was held on the Institute's hostel premises, with scoring and record keeping done using the "Cricheroes Application." This event was a huge success, where we saw a participation of around 210+ students.



## The Ice-Breaker Event



"Football tournament" was the second sport of the event, "MILAAP," for the students of IIM Amritsar. The tournament took place over three days, on August 9th, 10th, and 11th, 2022, with 7 teams competing fiercely against each other. It was held on the ground of the Institute's hostel premises at night with adequate flood lighting to make the event even more exciting. This event was a great success, where we saw a participation of around 80+ students.



The last and final phase of the inaugural sports ice-breaking event, 'MILAAP,' and the first only all-female tournament was the 'Throw ball Championship.' This event helped showcase female enthusiasm in IIM Amritsar towards sports. It was a one-day event on the 27th of August, 2022, on the ground of the Institute's hostel premise. There was a cutthroat brawl between the teams, and the matches were thrilling and engaging, attracting many student audiences. This event was a massive success as we saw a participation of around 30+ girls

# Independence Day Celebration



India celebrated 75 years of its Independence with the name "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav". To commemorate the occasion, a flag hoisting was held at the college campus in IIM Amritsar early in the morning. The Cultural Committee hosted several cultural performances including dance, singing, and poetry to make sure that the students and faculty were entertained. The performances displayed a sense of patriotism and represented the culture and freedom that our motherland earned. With a heart full of pride, patriotism and energy.

The Cultural Committee, following the legacy, hosted a spectacular performance at the Attari-Wagah Border later down the day. The performers took to their positions and gave a well-coordinated and energetic performance with their heads held high. Saffron and green gulal in the sky, the performance ended with a bang when the performers formed a human pyramid carrying the tiranga on top. Representing IIM Amritsar, the experience was surreal with cheers and applauses from a sea of crowd.



Following this was the retreat ceremony which was unlike anything, seeing the borders open up for a brief moment of time with the whole area filled up with chants and slogans of "Jai Hind" and "Vande Matram" along with a march by BSF jawans gave goosebumps. It was a proud moment for us, The Cultural Committee, when we were felicitated by BSF as the name of IIM Amritsar was being announced. It was an overwhelming experience that we would cherish within our memories for life.

# Bangalore Chapter meet

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In the Director's Meet - Bengaluru Chapter, alumni got the chance to interact and have an informal conversation with the Director around strengthening the brand image of IIM Amritsar in the industry. The meet started with a discussion on increasing the tenure of the orientation program, followed by the introduction of more electives for the 1st year MBA students so that, they can be well equipped for their upcoming summer internships. Emphasis was given on hosting of International conferences for more visibility in academia and industry. Dr. Ramamoorthy also briefed the alumni about his vision of taking IIM Amritsar to new heights. Alumni also shared their ideas on how those targets could be achieved. The discussion continued over dinner, post which the Director and Alumni chairperson thanked Alumni for their presence in the meet.

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# Delhi Chapter meet

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The Delhi Alumni Chapter Meet reckoned the beginning of IIM Amritsar's Alumni outreach efforts and witnessed enthusiastic participation from Alumni working in Delhi NCR region across batches and industries. Dr. Nagarajan Ramamoorthy, Director, shared his vision for the institute and candidly invited all Alumni's perspectives for the same. The event culminated with a sumptuous dinner where all shared their memorable moments with each other.



# SYNERGY CELL

The World Health Organization defines mental health as the “ability to achieve ones potential, to deal with the common stresses of everyday life, to engage in meaningful work, and to contribute positively to one’s environment.” This is crucial for developing the kind of character that would enable one to be a strong and compassionate leader in the years to come.

## Ideology

IIM Amritsar true to its quest for igniting possibilities for our most important stakeholders, the entire student community has launched a dedicated space called “Synergy” to openly acknowledge and discuss issues related to mental health and psychological well-being. The cell aims to help students discover their best version of themselves by truly finding this deep connection between the mind, body, and soul. This interconnection will help the students gain character strength by understanding their values to navigate various professional and personal challenges.

*“Educating current and future leaders on pressing workplace mental health issues is no longer an option—it’s an imperative. Business schools have an opportunity to equip students with the tools and mindsets they need to run psychologically sustainable organizations.”*

Synergy is built on three pillars Trust, Empathy, and Self-Improvement. Synergy is also striving to inculcate the values and habits of great leaders through seminars, guest lectures, and engagement activities because our students as future leaders will shape our nations, communities, and organizations.

*We strongly believe that – A career is a marathon, not a sprint. We don’t want alumni to get to 35 and burn out!!*

So, we welcome all our esteemed alumni to join hands with us to spread this message to remove the stigma associated with mental health and well-being and to strive to become the BEST VERSION of Ourselves...

# ANVESH CELL

**Research is a manifestation of applying learning in the real world.**

MBA is incomplete without catering to the research acumen of students. IIM Amritsar has come up with a cell that is the first of its kind in IIMs, "Anvesh – The Research Cell." The body aims at producing high-quality research work at the National and International levels. The cell would be working on faculty mentorship-based student collaborations for research papers and projects. Anvesh cell makes an attempt to emphasize more upon making students industry ready with a wide range of applications of their knowledge in solving real-time problems

**Key objectives addressed by cell:**

- Assist students in structuring their research ideas and connecting them to a mentor faculty to clarify their research inquiries.
- Assist faculty members in getting onboard interested students for their research projects/papers.
- Enhancing the opportunities of grabbing central funded research projects for the institution.

Anvesh plans to organize various activities such as conducting paper presentation conferences, project symposiums, and publishing an institute-specific Management Review book.

Anvesh instills the ability to see the light at the end of the tunnel.



# Alumni Committee

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**Prof. Arun Kaushik**  
**Alumni Chairperson**



**Gaurav Jain**  
**MBA-07**



**Himanshu Singh**  
**MBA-07**



**Swanand Waghode**  
**MBA-07**



**Vishal Gupta**  
**MBA-07**



**Ajay Namdeo**  
**MBA-08**



**Nimisha Joseph**  
**MBA-08**



**Priya Goel**  
**MBA-08**



**Shantanu Makh**  
**MBA-08**



**Shivani Gautam**  
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