Inauguration Ceremony of the Fellow Program in Management (FPM) 2025 Batch

"Marking a New Chapter in Scholarly Excellence at ISBR Business School"

Date: Saturday, 06th December 2025

Venue: ISBR Business School, Bengaluru



Introduction

Marking the Commencement of Scholarly Excellence

The Inauguration Ceremony of the its AICTE-approved doctoral level program Fellow Program in Management (FPM) – 2025 Batch at ISBR Business School marked a moment of profound academic significance, reflecting the institution's unwavering dedication to fostering excellence in doctoral-level scholarship, interdisciplinary research, and industry-aligned knowledge creation. The event served as a convergence of distinguished dignitaries, eminent academicians, research supervisors, faculty members, and aspiring scholars, all united in celebrating the commencement of a new chapter in ISBR's research legacy.

Since its inception, the FPM program at ISBR Business School has grown into a distinguished academic offering known for its intellectual rigor, structured research pathway, and a holistic environment that nurtures scholarly inquiry. The 2025 cohort represents one of the most promising batches, comprising individuals from diverse academic, professional, and industry backgrounds. Their varied expertise spanning business, technology, policy, management, social sciences, and emerging domains reflects ISBR's commitment to cultivating a rich and dynamic research community.

The inauguration ceremony celebrated not only the arrival of these scholars but also reaffirmed the institution's vision of preparing thought leaders, innovative researchers, and future academicians capable of addressing contemporary challenges with depth, creativity, and analytical precision. ISBR envisions the FPM scholars as catalysts of transformation who will contribute meaningfully to national and global knowledge systems, influence policy and practice, and drive sustainable organizational and societal progress.

The event underscored ISBR's mission of creating an inclusive, forward-looking academic ecosystem grounded in mentorship, multidisciplinary learning, and collaboration. By encouraging scholars to bridge the gap between theory and practice, engage with real-world challenges, and pursue research that holds societal and industry relevance, ISBR continues to strengthen its role as a pioneering institution shaping the future of management education and research in India.

Invocation Song

Ceremonial Opening: An Auspicious Commencement of Scholarly Pursuit

The ceremony commenced on an auspicious and harmonious note with a dignified invocation song rendered by the MBA students of ISBR. Their soulful and melodious performance created an atmosphere of serenity, reverence, and inspiration, setting an ideal prelude to the day's proceedings. The divine rendition not only elevated the spiritual ambience of the auditorium but also symbolized the invocation of wisdom, clarity, and positive energy qualities integral to the commencement of an academic journey of this stature.

This graceful opening underscored ISBR's tradition of blending cultural ethos with academic excellence, marking a fitting beginning to the inauguration of the FPM 2025 Batch.

Lighting of the Lamp

Following the invocation, the dignitaries proceeded with the traditional lighting of the lamp, a sacred ritual symbolizing the dispelling of darkness and the ushering in of knowledge, wisdom, and progress. This ceremonial gesture reflected the institution's unwavering commitment to fostering intellectual growth and nurturing an environment rooted in enlightenment and scholarly pursuit. The dignitaries' participation in this solemn moment underscored ISBR's dedication to academic excellence, collective learning, and the continual advancement of research-driven education.

Felicitation of the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour

The Inaugural Ceremony of the FPM 2025 Batch included a formal felicitation of the distinguished dignitaries, recognizing their esteemed presence and notable contributions to academia, industry, and institutional development. This segment exemplified ISBR Business School's enduring tradition of honoring leaders whose work significantly influences educational and professional landscapes.

The **Chief Guest, Prof. M. R. Gangadhar, Vice-Chancellor, Chamarajanagar University**, was felicitated by Dr. R. Narasimhan, Dean, ISBR Business School. Prof. Gangadhar is a respected academic leader with extensive experience in higher education administration, policy development, and institution building. As Vice-Chancellor under the Government of Karnataka, he has made substantial contributions toward strengthening academic standards, expanding research capacity, and fostering an environment that balances traditional scholarship with innovation. His visionary leadership and profound understanding of contemporary research imperatives have established him as a key influencer in the academic community. ISBR was greatly honored by his presence and his gracious endorsement of the FPM program's scholarly mission.

The **Guest of Honour, Mr. V. Sriram Kumar, President, ELCIA and AGM, FANUC India**, was felicitated by Dr. K. S. Anandaram, Senior Director, ISBR Business School. Mr. Sriram Kumar is an accomplished industry leader with over three decades of experience spanning Facilities & Administration, Corporate Communications, CSR, Sustainability, and strategic operations. As President of ELCIA, he has played a pivotal role in strengthening the Electronics City ecosystem and advancing initiatives such as the ELCIA Skill Development Center (ESDC). At FANUC India, he oversees key strategic functions, contributing significantly to organizational leadership and industry growth. Additionally, he serves as Vice Chairman of the ELCIA Trust and holds membership in both the ELCIA Cluster Management Committee and ELCITA, supporting policy development and infrastructure advancement. His presence reinforced ISBR's commitment to fostering meaningful industry–academia collaboration and promoting research-led solutions to real-world challenges.

Welcome Address

Dr. K. S. Anandaram, Senior Director, ISBR Business School

Dr. K. S. Anandaram delivered a warm and insightful welcome address, extending greetings to the dignitaries, faculty members, and the incoming FPM 2025 scholars. He highlighted ISBR's steadily evolving research culture, emphasizing the institution's commitment to fostering inquiry, innovation, and academic rigor. Dr. Anandaram reiterated that ISBR has built a robust ecosystem that encourages scholars to question deeply, explore meaningfully, and pursue research of high scholarly value through structured academic processes and expert mentorship.

He underscored the unique strength of the ISBR FPM program and its strong integration with industry. Unlike traditional doctoral programs focused primarily on theoretical exploration, the ISBR FPM program enables scholars to engage with contemporary industry problems, design research with real-world relevance, and deliver solutions that contribute to organizational and societal progress. He noted that research today must transcend disciplinary boundaries and address emerging challenges across management, technology, sustainability, policy, healthcare, finance, and related domains.

Dr. Anandaram also acknowledged the notable achievements of ISBR's current scholars, including publications in reputed journals, participation in international conferences, and contributions to multidisciplinary research. He expressed appreciation for the dedication of faculty members and research supervisors whose mentorship strengthens the scholarly community.

Reassuring the new batch, he outlined the comprehensive support system available at ISBR ranging from research methodology workshops, access to data analysis tools, and industry collaborations to professional development initiatives and continuous faculty guidance. He concluded by encouraging scholars to pursue their doctoral journey with curiosity, discipline, and a commitment to creating meaningful impact, reminding them that research is both a responsibility and an opportunity to contribute to knowledge and societal advancement.

Inaugural Launch of the FPM 2025 Handbook

The inaugural launch of the FPM 2025 Handbook marked a significant milestone in the ceremony. The handbook serves as a comprehensive guide for scholars, detailing the academic framework, research protocols, institutional policies, and the guiding philosophy of the Fellow Program in Management at ISBR.

The launch was formally graced by **Prof. M.R. Gangadhar, Vice-Chancellor, Chamarajanagar University**, whose distinguished contributions to higher education and research lent immense credibility to the occasion. By inaugurating the handbook, Prof. Gangadhar symbolically marked the commencement of the scholars' structured academic and research journey.

This event reinforced ISBR's commitment to providing a transparent, well-structured, and supportive research environment, emphasizing excellence, innovation, and research-led learning.

Chief Guest Address

Prof. M.R. Gangadhar, Vice-Chancellor, Chamarajanagar University, Government of Karnataka

Prof. M.R. Gangadhar, esteemed Vice-Chancellor of Chamarajanagar University, was warmly welcomed to address the gathering. He commenced by extending cordial greetings to the newly inducted FPM 2025 scholars, faculty members, and distinguished guests, acknowledging the significance of the inauguration as the formal commencement of the doctoral journey at ISBR Business School.

Prof. Gangadhar emphasized the pivotal role of doctoral-level education in shaping future thought leaders, advancing the frontiers of knowledge, and making meaningful contributions to academia, industry, and society. He commended ISBR's steadfast dedication to fostering a vibrant research culture, highlighting the institution's achievements in nurturing high-quality scholarship, promoting interdisciplinary studies, and integrating research with contemporary industry challenges.

A significant portion of his address was devoted to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which he described as a transformative framework for higher education in India. Prof. Gangadhar highlighted the policy's emphasis on research-led learning, innovation, and holistic development of scholars. He noted that NEP 2020 encourages greater integration of academia with industry, promotes outcome-oriented research, and facilitates multidisciplinary approaches.

Prof. Gangadhar urged the scholars to leverage the unique opportunities provided by the ISBR FPM program, stressing that research should be conducted with integrity, intellectual curiosity, and a commitment to societal contribution. He emphasized that doctoral education today demands a balanced focus on academic rigor, innovative thinking, and industry relevance, inspiring scholars to undertake research that is solution-oriented, interdisciplinary, and impactful.

Concluding his address, he encouraged the FPM 2025 cohort to embrace their research journey with dedication, resilience, and a vision to create knowledge that advances practice, informs policy, and contributes to sustainable development.

Inaugural Launch of the FPM 2025 Academic Planner

The ceremony proceeded with the inaugural launch of the **FPM 2025 Academic Planner**, a carefully designed tool to assist scholars in systematically managing their research activities. The

planner provides a structured framework for planning research timelines, tracking milestones, managing submissions, and reviewing annual progress, enabling scholars to navigate their doctoral journey with clarity and discipline.

The launch was formally graced by **Mr. V. Sriram Kumar, President of ELCIA and AGM, FANUC India**, whose presence highlighted the importance of structured planning and the integration of academic rigor with industry-relevant research.

This launch reinforced ISBR's commitment to equipping scholars with comprehensive resources, fostering a disciplined research environment, and promoting excellence in scholarly output. It symbolizes the institution's dedication to supporting informed decision-making, systematic progress, and impactful research outcomes.

Guest of Honor Address

Mr. V. Sriram Kumar, President of ELCIA and AGM, FANUC India

Mr. V. Sriram Kumar, President of ELCIA and AGM at FANUC India, addressed the gathering and extended a warm welcome to the FPM 2025 Research Scholars. During his address, he engaged with the scholars, encouraging interaction and inquiring about their motivations for choosing ISBR Business School for their doctoral journey.

Mr. Sriram Kumar highlighted the exemplary role of **ELCIA (Electronics City Industries Association)** in shaping Electronics City as a model township, emphasizing the organization's significant contributions to urban management, including traffic regulation, electricity management, and waste management. He discussed how ELCIA's initiatives serve as benchmarks for sustainable development and collaborative governance, underscoring the importance of industry-academia partnerships in fostering practical problem-solving and leadership skills.

His address emphasized the relevance of bridging academic research with real-world industry challenges, inspiring scholars to pursue research that is both socially impactful and practically significant. The interaction provided the FPM 2025 scholars with valuable insights into leadership, strategic management, and the broader ecosystem of industry-led innovation.

Felicitation of Research Supervisors

The Fellow Program in Management (FPM) thrives on the intellectual rigor, dedicated mentorship, and sustained guidance of its Research Supervisors, who play a pivotal role in ensuring research excellence, integrity, and scholarly growth. In recognition of their invaluable contributions, **Prof. M.R. Gangadhar, Vice-Chancellor, Chamarajanagar University**, was invited to formally felicitate the Research Supervisors. Each supervisor was presented with a **sapling**, symbolizing growth, knowledge, and the lasting impact of their mentorship on scholars' academic and personal development.

This felicitation reflects ISBR's commitment to honoring the expertise, dedication, and guidance of its Research Supervisors, whose mentorship sustains a culture of innovation, excellence, and meaningful research within the doctoral program.

Launch of the ISBR Management Journal Book

The ceremony marked a significant academic milestone with the formal launch of the **ISBR Management Journal Book**, underscoring ISBR's steadfast commitment to high-quality research, scholarly discourse, and evidence-based contributions to management knowledge. The journal serves as a credible platform for contemporary academic inquiry and reflects the institution's dedication to fostering a vibrant research culture. **Dr. R. Narasimhan, Dean, ISBR Business School**, was invited to formally release the publication, highlighting ISBR's continuous efforts to promote rigorous scholarship, encourage interdisciplinary research, and strengthen academia–industry engagement.

The launch of the ISBR Management Journal reaffirms ISBR's vision of nurturing impactful research and advancing innovation, thought leadership, and knowledge creation within the management domain.

Welcoming the FPM 2025 Research Scholars

A key highlight of the inaugural ceremony was the formal welcome extended to the **FPM 2025 Research Scholars**, marking the official commencement of their doctoral journey at ISBR Business School. The newly inducted scholars were recognized as future contributors to

management research, poised to generate new knowledge, address contemporary challenges, and exemplify scholarly rigor and innovation.

In recognition of this significant milestone, **Prof. M.R. Gangadhar, Chief Guest; Mr. V. Sriram Kumar, Guest of Honour;** and the leadership team of ISBR Business School ceremonially welcomed the scholars. Each research scholar was presented with a **sapling**, symbolizing growth, academic cultivation, and the promising journey of research that lies ahead.

The scholars were invited on stage to receive this gesture, reflecting ISBR's enduring commitment to nurturing a supportive and stimulating research environment. This symbolic presentation marked a meaningful beginning to the academic and professional pursuits of the FPM 2025 cohort.

Vote of Thanks

Dr. M. R. Jhansi Rani, Professor and Director - Research Centre, ISBR Business School, delivered the Vote of Thanks with grace and sincerity, marking the formal conclusion of the FPM 2025 Batch Inaugural Ceremony. She extended her profound gratitude to the Chief Guest, Prof. M. R. Gangadhar; the Guest of Honour, Mr. V. Sriram Kumar; and all dignitaries for gracing the occasion and enriching the event with their insightful and inspiring addresses.

Dr. Jhansi Rani expressed her appreciation to the faculty members, Research Supervisors, administrative team, alumni, and the newly inducted FPM scholars for their enthusiastic participation and contribution to the success of the event. She reaffirmed ISBR's unwavering commitment to supporting scholars throughout their doctoral journey, emphasizing that the institution remains dedicated to fostering a culture of rigorous research, academic excellence, and holistic scholar development.

In her concluding remarks, she acknowledged the efforts of the organizing committee, student volunteers, event coordinators, and support staff, whose meticulous planning and dedication ensured the seamless execution of the ceremony. She extended her best wishes to the FPM 2025 cohort as they embark on their journey of scholarly inquiry and meaningful research.

Conclusion

The FPM 2025 Batch Inaugural Ceremony at ISBR Business School marked a significant academic milestone, reaffirming the institution's steadfast commitment to promoting rigorous research, scholarly excellence, and continuous intellectual development. The gracious presence of distinguished dignitaries, faculty members, research guides, alumni, and the newly inducted scholars greatly enriched the occasion.

The ceremony effectively set the foundation for a year characterized by academic engagement, scholarly collaboration, and professional growth. Through insightful addresses, the formal welcome of scholars, and the Vote of Thanks, the inaugural underscored ISBR Business School's dedication to cultivating a robust and dynamic research culture. As the FPM 2025 scholars embark on their doctoral journey, the ISBR Research Centre remains committed to guiding them toward impactful contributions to academia, industry, and society at large.

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Sr. Director
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