



IIM Ranchi Hosts Insightful Dialogues on Leadership, Academia, and Innovation on the 10th Pan-IIM World Management Conference 2025

Campus Updates

29 Nov, 2025

103

IIM Ranchi witnessed the 10th Pan-IIM World Management Conference (WMC) 2025 on Day 2, unfold with a series of insightful discussions that brought together eminent leaders from Academia, Public Sector Enterprises, Global accreditation bodies, and the MSME ecosystem. The day was marked by thought-provoking exchanges on leadership, institutional development, global standards in management education, and innovation-driven growth.

The day began with the Panel Discussion on Topic - Early Career Faculty Conversation, featuring Prof. Samir K. Shrivastava (Director, IIM Amritsar) and Prof. Deepak Kumar Srivastava (Director, IIM Ranchi). In a conversation with Prof. Amit Sachan (Dean, IIM Ranchi). The discussion focused on how young academics can build meaningful and fulfilling careers without feeling overwhelmed. Prof. Samir highlighted the importance of maintaining a balance between teaching, research, and institution-building. He stated that the classroom is a core, where teaching practices, research and innovation can be nurtured by different thoughts and ideas. Prof. Deepak focused on the '3Rs' - Relevance, Rigor, and Responsibility - as guiding principles for professional excellence.

The conference then transitioned into a high-level discussion featuring leaders from India's Public Sector Enterprises (PSUs), including senior executives from locally established organizations. The session was moderated by Prof. Nitin Singh (Faculty, IIM Ranchi), who shared the dais with Shri U.K. Vishwakarma (Executive Director, Mecon Limited), Shri Shankar Nagachari (Director Technical, CMPDI), Shri Harsh Nath Mishra (Director HR, Central Coalfields Ltd.), Shri Sanjay Dhar (Executive Director HR, MTI-SAIL), and Shri Sandeep Choudhary (Executive Director, IOCL). Centred on the theme "Legacy, Leadership, and Impact: The PSE's Story," the panel explored the pivotal role of PSUs in India's socio-economic development - ranging from transforming rural regions into thriving urban centres, generating large-scale employment, and driving industrial growth across sectors. During the discussion, Shri U.K. Vishwakarma emphasised that PSUs form the backbone of the nation, contributing nearly 10% to the country's GDP. He further highlighted the multifaceted contributions of PSUs, including advancements in green energy initiatives, industrial gas production, Indigenous defense manufacturing, and India's growing space exploration capabilities.

The next session adopted a global perspective on management education. Led by Prof. Angshuman Hazarika (Faculty, IIM Ranchi), the panel brought together Shri Prathap Das (Regional Head, South Asia, AACSB), Shri Nishit Jain (Senior Advisor, Asia, EFMD Global), Prof. Vishal Talwar (COO, University of Southampton, Delhi) and Prof. Varun Nagraj (Dean, SPJIMR). The discussion focused on how international accreditations and global rankings enhance the global visibility, academic quality, and institutional reputation of Indian business schools. The panel emphasised the need for continuous improvements, global benchmarking, and strategic collaborations to strengthen India's standing in the world of management education.

Concluding the first half of the day, Prof. Kushagra Sharan (Faculty, IIM Ranchi) moderated a dynamic conversation on "MSME for Impact", featuring Shri Prashant Taunk (CEO, Newco Auto), Shri Harsh Pamnani (Senior Director & Marketing Head, T-Hub) and Shri Manish Piyush (Director, Puresh Daily Foods). The panel highlighted how innovation, agility, and deep local understanding are reshaping the MSME sector, enabling businesses to create meaningful social and economic impact. Speakers discussed the opportunities and challenges that define the evolving MSME landscape, and how entrepreneurial thinking can drive sustainable growth.

The conference continued with an engaging discussion focused on the role of case-based learning in shaping managerial thinking and decision-making. Speakers highlighted how well-crafted cases enable students to understand real-world complexities, analyze challenges, and apply theoretical frameworks to practical business scenarios. They shared insights on designing impactful cases, collaborating with the right team, and aligning

classroom learning with industry realities. The session, moderated by Prof. Anand, underscored how experiential learning strengthens students' ability to think critically and solve business problems creatively.

The day further progressed with a meaningful conversation on entrepreneurship and purpose-driven leadership. Experts discussed how entrepreneurs can create lasting social and economic value by embracing innovation, overcoming early-stage challenges, and leveraging their unique strengths. They emphasized the need for resilience, strategic thinking, and building ventures that are not only profitable but also sustainable and socially relevant. The discussion, moderated by Prof. Rajeev Verma, encouraged participants to view entrepreneurship as a catalyst for inclusive development.

A subsequent dialogue explored how Indian business practices continue to evolve through innovation to remain relevant in a rapidly changing global environment. Speakers highlighted the importance of ethical leadership, community-centered strategies, and long-term value creation. They reflected on how the "Indian way of doing business"- rooted in resilience, adaptability, and a strong sense of collective progress offers important lessons for global industry leaders navigating uncertainty and transformation.

The day's series of discussions concluded with a vibrant Cultural Night, adding a colorful touch to the academic proceedings. The Sur Singaar troupe, comprising 22 artists, presented Jharkhand's traditional Pika dance, a martial folk form that showcases themes of battle, valor, and the historic warrior spirit of the region's foot soldiers. Following this energetic performance, the IIM Ranchi - Sodexo team enthralled the audience with an enthusiastic presentation of Nagpuri dance, celebrating the rhythm, diversity, and cultural richness of the state.

The conference will conclude on November 29, 2025, with Shri Suresh Prabhu, Former Union Minister for Railways, Commerce & Industry, Civil Aviation and Power; Prof. Rajendra Srivastava Novartis Professor of Marketing, Strategy & Innovation, and Former Dean, Indian School of Business (ISB), Prof. Bharat Bhasker, Director, IIM Ahmedabad; Prof. Shailendra Singh, Former Director, IIM Ranchi; along with other distinguished leaders, who will engage in a series of impactful discussions.



IIM Ranchi Inaugurates the 10th Pan-IIM World Management Conference 2025

Campus Updates

28 Nov, 2025

63

The 10th Pan-IIM World Management Conference (WMC) 2025 commenced on November 27th, 2025 at the IIM Ranchi, bringing together leading academicians, industry experts, policymakers, and practitioners to deliberate on the theme “Driving Social Impact through Management Research.” The inaugural day of conference witnessed thought-provoking sessions, transformative dialogues, and a collective commitment toward shaping a socially impactful management ecosystem for the future.

Conference Chairperson, Prof. Manish Bansal, opened the conference by welcoming all dignitaries and delegates. Emphasizing the crucial role of management research, he stated that research-driven insights are essential for social transformation and addressing urgent global challenges. He also highlighted that the conference theme aims to strengthen research–practice linkages and foster impactful collaborations spanning the next three years. Conference Chairperson, Prof. Subhro Sarkar, highlighted the three-day lineup of sessions, noting that the meaningful discussions offered a fresh narrative on social impact - one that inspires others to adapt, innovate, and deepen their engagement with research.

Conference Patron & Director, IIM Ranchi, Prof. Deepak Kumar Srivastava, congratulated all participants and reiterated the Institute’s commitment to meaningful research. He noted that IIM Ranchi produces 1,300–1,400 research papers annually, supported by a strong doctoral community of around 72–80 scholars. Two years ago, the Institute initiated a conscious shift toward research in social and sustainable development domains, turning challenges into opportunities for innovation through collective academic effort.

Guest of the inaugural session, Entrepreneur, Investor, Philanthropist, and Co-Founder of upGrad, Shri Ronnie Screwvala, delivered a powerful keynote message. He stated that IIMs are institutions that build global citizens,

and that innovation and excellence form the foundation of leadership. Linking his insights to India's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, he encouraged scholars and faculty to:

- Ask deeper questions, as “zero-announcement solutions” emerge from inquiry.
 - Trust authentic peer review to refine meaningful research.
 - Pursue innovation without hesitation and embrace new ideas fearlessly.
 - Prioritize impact over profit-philanthropy, value systems, and scale of thought are key to nation-building.
- He urged India's academic community to think originally rather than replicate external models, emphasising that true impact is born from visionary thinking and a holistic approach.

Distinguished Guest of inaugural session Shri Paul Procee, Country Director, World Bank, highlighted the importance of completing tasks with the same seriousness as solving challenges. Observing current market needs, he stressed that:

- Small-scale projects need structured financing, and innovative minds can create viable solutions.
- Private sector potential grows significantly when supported by enabling government frameworks.
- Technological and AI advancements must be internalized meaningfully.

He emphasized four essential pillars for the coming years: Learn - Adapt - Develop - Skill, urging India's youth to focus on capacity building to collectively fulfill the vision of a developed nation.

In his concluding remarks for the inaugural session, Conference Chairperson, Prof. Krishna Kumar Dadsena, congratulated all selected participants for their research contributions. He highlighted that the conference received over 1,400 research paper submissions from across India and several international destinations, including the USA, South Korea, and countries in Europe. Out of these, 1,000 papers have been selected, representing diverse fields of management and interdisciplinary studies. Notably, 20% of the selected submissions come from practitioners and policymakers, reinforcing the conference's mission of bridging academic theory with real-world application and impact.

The first day of the conference featured a series of insightful panel discussions and keynote sessions. In the opening panel, Prof. Deepak Kumar Srivastava, Director, IIM Ranchi, brought together six Directors from premier IIMs to explore how these institutions can lead India's development agenda. The distinguished panel included Prof. Ashok Banerjee (Director, IIM Udaipur), Prof. Pawan Kumar Singh (Director, IIM Tiruchirappalli), Prof. Prafulla Agnihotri (Director, IIM Sirmaur), Prof. Nalini (Director-in-Charge, IIM Shillong), Prof. Neeraj Dwivedi (Director, IIM Kashipur), and Prof. Samir Kumar Srivastava (Director, IIM Amritsar). Together, they emphasized strengthening research practices that can meaningfully influence national policy and industry. Prof. Ashok Banerjee highlighted the importance of translational research by sharing how faculty at IIM Udaipur work directly with companies to solve real-world problems. Prof. Neeraj Dwivedi further stressed the need to nurture entrepreneurship across IIMs by equipping entrepreneurs with research-driven insights to help them identify genuine industry challenges and develop practical, high-impact solutions.

In the Keynote Address, Shri Geoff Perry, Executive Vice President and Managing Director (Asia Pacific), AACSB International, spoke on “Leveraging AI for Social Impact.” He explained how AI enables scaled, data-driven solutions to societal issues by enhancing accessibility, precision, and reach, while also empowering institutions to accelerate social innovation through predictive analysis and informed decision-making.

Prof. Subhro Sarkar, moderated a panel discussion focused on the theme “Influence for Impact.” The session featured insights from Shri Gunjan Sharma (Assistant Editor, Press Trust of India), Shri Amit Gupta (Founder,

The Reppro), and Prof. Rohit (Faculty, IIM Ranchi). The speakers emphasized the crucial role of responsible information dissemination and discussed how incorrect messaging or misguided branding can adversely influence public perception. They highlighted the importance of integrity, accuracy, and thoughtful communication in ensuring that information creates a positive and constructive impact on society.

Prof. Manish Bansal, moderated panel discussion on “Research Methods,” where experts such as Prof. Arvind Sahay, Prof. Sari Mattila, and Prof. Ajeet Mathur shared their perspectives on innovative research approaches. They emphasized that robust research methods enable deeper inquiry, broaden understanding, and open new dimensions for academic learning and exploration.

In the series of panel discussions, Prof. Krishna Kumar Dadsena moderated an engaging session on the theme “Internationalisation for Impact.” The discussion featured distinguished speakers - Prof. M.J. Xavier (CEO, DFT Group of Institutions and Former Director, IIM Ranchi), Prof. Pallavi Srivastava (Professor, Jaipuria Institute of Management), and Prof. Swarup Kumar Dutta (Faculty, IIM Ranchi) - who shared their perspectives on creating management education that is globally oriented yet deeply connected to local realities. They highlighted the significance of fostering cross-border learning, developing culturally grounded research collaborations, and pursuing international partnerships that contribute to strengthening local communities. The panel collectively emphasized that while global engagement is essential, it must be aligned with national priorities to ensure meaningful and sustainable societal impact.

The first day concluded with vibrant participation across discussions, paper presentations, and knowledge-sharing platforms. The cultural programme in the evening, followed by the Director’s Welcome Dinner, further enriched the experience by fostering meaningful networking among delegates. The conference will continue on November 28th, 2025, with engaging sessions on public sector enterprises, international accreditation, MSME development, case pedagogy, entrepreneurship, and the Indian business system.