**IIM Ahmedabad launches the Ashank Desai Centre for Leadership and Organisational Development**

**~**The Centre aims to be recognised as a high-quality research centre impacting leadership, scholarship and practice in India and around the world**~**

**June 18, 2021:** The Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) announces the launch of the Ashank Desai Centre for Leadership and Organisational Development (ADCLOD). The endowment for the Centre has been contributed by Mr. Ashank Desai, Founder, and former Chairman, [Mastek](https://www.mastek.com/) who is an IIMA alumnus and a member of the Governing Board.

Announcing the launch, **Professor Errol D’Souza**, **Director, IIMA** said, “*We are delighted to announce the launch of the Ashank Desai Centre for Leadership and Organisational Development at IIMA.  Leaders across the world have been facing a multitude of complexities, with the role of a leader and what they are expected to deliver undergoing a transformation over the last few years.  Through the Centre, our faculty will research on the changing dynamics of leadership and translate the outcomes into knowledge that will equip leaders with best practices for improvement.  I would like to thank Mr. Ashank Desai for his generous contribution, which will allow us to advance IIMA’s plans to address this crucial global requisite.”*

Sharing his views on the contribution made, **Mr Ashank Desai** said, “*I was always fascinated by the process of leadership creation, leadership impact and success. I am convinced that it is THE key to nation building and prosperity. I always wanted to give back to my Alma Mater, particularly because my organisation, Mastek's idea was incubated in the IIMA premises along with my other founder colleagues who were classmates. I would like the Centre to organise roundtables with leaders in the wide variety of themes that the Centre plans to work in, seminars on leadership issues, conduct cutting-edge research and create leadership paradigms which are global in terms of relevance yet deeply rooted in Indian context of our history, traditions, and societal values. Also, I hope the work of ADCLOD will enable creation of a leadership curriculum for IIMA long-term courses*.”

The Centre is chaired by Vishal Gupta, Associate Professor of Organisational Behaviour at IIMA. Sharing his views on the purpose of the Centre, **Professor Vishal Gupta** said**,** “*The Centre aims at promoting rigorous research and to initiate dialogue about leadership and organisational development issues in various kinds of organisations: public, private and social sector. Along with research, the Centre also aims to create opportunities where faculty, practitioners and policy makers can come together, brainstorm and find solutions to pressing leadership and organisational issues. We are confident that over time the Centre will create a name for itself as a high-quality research centre.”*

A virtual ceremony is being hosted to launch the Centre and will be attended by leaders from the industry and academia. Distinguished guests and speakers at the event include ***Hayagreeva Rao,*** the Atholl McBean Professor of Organizational Behaviour and Human Resources at Stanford University; ***Mr. Manvinder (Vindi) Singh Banga***, Padma Bhushan, Former Chairman and Managing Director at Hindustan Unilever Ltd, currently a Partner at CD&R LLP; and ***Rama Bijapurkar***, a renowned consultant, and Professor of Management Practice at IIMA.

The Centre has a group of 12 faculty members from varied disciplines such as communication, education, economics, human resource management, law, organisational behaviour, and strategy who are working on leadership and organisational development issues. In order to give opportunities to scholars as well as practitioners to voice their concerns as well as to present possible solutions, the Centre plans to organize various events such as workshops, speaker series, panel discussions and Annual leadership summit. The Centre will also be offering training, research, and consulting services to leaders at various levels in Indian and multinational organisations.

IIMA has been a research-focused organisation with individual members and research centres contributing to its research progress. As a leading management institution, IIMA has close connections with industry and policy makers in India and abroad. These connections arise out of consulting and customized training that faculty do with organizations; they flow from the placements with firms around the world, from the participation of alumni in institute activities, from the sponsorship of industry in research activities and Professorial Chairs in the Institute and others and from the management development programmes that the Institute conducts.

To attend the launch event, please join through the link below

[**Launch of Ashank Desai Centre for Leadership and Organisational Development**](https://youtu.be/tkfOjQQ2ml4)

**About IIM Ahmedabad:**

Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) is a premier B-school in the Asia Pacific region. Globally, the Institute’s programmes have earned high reputation and acclaim, becoming the first Indian institution to receive international accreditation EQUIS. Founded in 1961 as a unique public-private partnership for development through the application of knowledge, today it has an overseas presence in Dubai and associates with over 80 foreign B-schools to offer academically superior, market-driven, and socially impactful programmes, research and consultancy services.

In 2018, IIMA made it to the number four position in the Financial Times (FT) Asia Pacific Top 25

Business School Rank, ahead of all Indian B-Schools. FT conducted the ranking after considering the quality and breadth of all the B-schools programmes.  Currently, the institute’s flagship MBA programme is ranked at 20th position in the FT Master in Management Ranking 2020. IIMA is at number one position in India Ranking 2020 NIRF (National Institutional Ranking Framework), released by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

Over the years, IIMA has benefited more than 38,000 alumni who graduated from its various programmes. Currently, besides its renowned flagship Two-year Master in Business Administration(MBA), earlier known as Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGP); the Institute continues to draw top-quality students to its PhD Programme in Management, MBA in Food and Agri-Business Management (FABM), MBA-PGPX (One-Year Full-Time Post Graduate Programme in Management for Executives), Faculty Development Programme (FDP), Armed Forces Programme (AFP), e-Post Graduate Programme  (MMS), e-Post Graduate Diploma in Advanced Business Analytics (ePGD-ABA), and benefits industry professionals through its short duration Executive Education

Programmes.

**To know more about IIMA, please visit:** <https://www.iima.ac.in>

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