**IIM Ahmedabad launches a multidisciplinary centre for transportation and logistics research**

***~The centre will address critical passenger and freight transportation, and logistics challenges~***

**17th February, 2021, India:** Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA), a premier B-school in the Asia Pacific region has recently established a **Centre for Transportation and Logistics,** co-chaired by **Dr. Debjit Roy** and **Dr. Sandip Chakrabarti**, faculty at IIMA. The initiative comes with a vision to facilitate cutting-edge research in transportation, logistics and allied areas, and thereby contribute to scholarship, practice, and policymaking in India and abroad. Moreover, it also helps to strengthen and scale-up IIMA’s presence and impact in the transportation and logistics sector.

IIMA has a rich legacy in the domain of transportation and logistics, and has immensely contributed to both academic research and practice in this area. IIMA faculty members have written numerous peer-reviewed journal articles and cases in network design, mode choice, warehousing, infrastructure, and transport policy. The institute, through the Centre for Transportation and Logistics (CTL), will offer an integrated, multidisciplinary program of research, post-graduate and executive education, technology transfer, and policy advice for enhancing the mobility of people and goods.

**Speaking about the initiative, Dr. Debjit Roy, faculty and one of the co-founders of CTL at IIMA said**, “*We are delighted to have established a centre that will address existing roadblocks and challenges in the transportation and logistics sector, which is one of the most instrumental sectors for our country’s economic growth. Our objective behind establishing the CTL is to contribute to improving the efficiency of multi-modal transportation systems and supply chain logistics, thereby promoting economic growth and fostering sustainable development. We have faculty coming in from across the institute that have joined the centre as members. A group of internationally-acclaimed professors with outstanding research accomplishments from North American, European and Asian universities have joined the centre’s research advisory committee for providing guidance in centre development and supporting a range of academic activities.”*

Recently, the Centre for Transportation and Logistics organized a virtual inauguration with a panel discussion on the topic “**Trends and Innovations in Transportation and Logistics”** with distinguished panelists spanning academia, industry and government. **IIMA** **Director** **Dr. Errol D’Souza** inaugurated the event and addressed the participants, stressing on the importance of transportation and logistics networks in India's structural transformation, economic growth, and social development. **Dr. D’Souza** added that the tradition of IIMA is to perform cutting edge research not only in the management sciences but also for socioeconomic development. He indicated that the goal of the centre would not only be to find ways of reducing transportation and logistics operating costs, but also to promote social inclusion and to address environmental sustainability issues.

**Sharing his thoughts on the inaugural event, Dr. Sandip Chakrabarti, faculty and one of the co-founders of CTL at IIMA said, *“****The inaugural panel discussion highlighted critical transportation and logistics issues in India that need urgent attention. The panelists provided valuable suggestions on how our centre can address India specific problems, and thereby support the transportation and logistics ecosystem in the country. The experts emphasized the need for research in swappable batteries and charging infrastructure for electrification of road transportation systems. They voiced the need for research in integrated cold chains and multi-temperature vehicles for frozen food transportation. Finding ways to improve customer affordability for vehicle purchase was identified as a key thrust area in the commercial vehicle industry. The panelists underscored the need for creative planning, policy and design solutions and a collaborative approach to promote sustainable transportation in cities, including walking, bicycling, electric mobility, shared transportation, and public transit. They noted that the shift from private mobility to shared mobility has been remarkable, and argued that the pace of electrification in the transportation sector is likely to get accelerated. It was clear from the discussion that prudent transportation and logistics planning is important for meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.”*

The IIMA Centre for Transportation and Logistics plans to organize a series of webinars, workshops and panel discussions periodically throughout the year. The centre will also have rolling opportunities for postdoctoral research and distinguished visiting scholar positions.

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

**About Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA)**

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.

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