



ACHARYA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

NEXUS-ALUMNI CONNECT

Annual Newsletter
Academic Year 2023–24
May 2024

FROM THE DESK

The Department of Business Administration continues to view its alumni as one of its most valuable stakeholders in shaping the growth of the MBA programme. Across 2023–24, alumni once again stepped forward as recruiters, speakers, mentors and project guides — reconnecting with the campus, sharing hard-won industry insight, and opening doors for the next generation of students. This edition of Alumni Connect brings together the meets, interactive sessions, mentoring engagements, placement support, curriculum inputs and project guidance delivered by our alumni community through the year.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dr. Rajath Hegde, Principal - AIT



An institution's greatest legacy is written not only in its classrooms and achievements, but in the lives of the students it sends into the world. Our alumni are an integral chapter of the Acharya story, carrying its spirit of learning, leadership and excellence wherever their journeys take them. Every achievement of an Acharya graduate adds another beautiful thread to the fabric of our institutional legacy. We remain proud of their accomplishments and hope that the connection between our alumni and their alma mater continues to grow into a vibrant relationship of knowledge, inspiration, collaboration and shared success.

MESSAGE FROM HOD

Dr. Abhishek Venkateshwar, HOD-MBA

Management education is ultimately about creating individuals who can transform knowledge into meaningful action, and our alumni are a wonderful testimony to this journey. From boardrooms and entrepreneurial ventures to leadership positions and emerging professional domains, our graduates continue to create their own distinctive paths. Their stories offer our students something that no textbook can fully provide—the wisdom of lived experience. We welcome our alumni to return, reconnect, mentor, challenge and inspire our students, while together creating a thriving community of management professionals connected by the shared legacy of Acharya.



ALUMNI MEET 2023–24

The department's flagship Alumni Meet is held annually on the AIT campus, timed to coincide with the vibrant celebrations of Acharya

Habba, making the occasion memorable for every batch that returns. The gathering gives graduates a chance to revisit their alma mater, reconnect with faculty and classmates, relive campus memories, and build fresh professional networks with current students. Two editions of the meet were held during this academic year:

Alumni Meet | 17 October 2024

Alumni Present: 24

Students Present: 40

Key Outcome: Networking and reconnection with the department during the Acharya Habba celebrations.



Alumni Meet | 25 March 2023

Key Outcome: Broad-based, cross-batch networking with the current student body.

Together, the two meets brought 39 alumni back to campus to interact with 160 current students, reinforcing the department's belief that lifelong relationships with graduates enrich both the institution and its students.

NEXUS – ALUMNI INSIGHTS

The Alumni-Student Interaction Programme is designed as a platform for knowledge exchange that moves beyond formal lectures — favouring interactive Q&A, panel-style discussion and candid career conversation. In 2023–24 four such sessions were held, covering recruitment, corporate readiness, career planning and emerging HR technology.

Insights on Leadership, Hiring & Campus Recruitment Trends | 10 January 2024

Speaker: Mr. Poonacha A P, Batch 2013–15, HR Recruiter, NetApp India Pvt. Ltd.

Outcome: Students gained a clearer understanding of hiring processes and campus recruitment trends.

Bridging the Gap Between College and the Corporate World | 13 July 2023

Speaker: Ms. Aishwarya Shetty, Batch 2022–24, Team Lead, Amazon

Outcome: Students were better prepared for the transition from campus to corporate life.



Career Readiness & the Entrepreneurial Mindset for Emerging Professionals | 14 September 2023

Speaker: Mr. Byre Gowda, Batch 2014–16, Technical Business Analyst (Payments, Fraud & Banking)

Outcome: Enhanced career-planning skills and a stronger entrepreneurial mindset among students.



Webinar: Trending Software & Skills in the Corporate World |**11 November 2023****Speaker:** Mr. Yugantar Mishra, Batch 2016–18, HRIS Analyst, Gensler**Outcome:** Students learned about emerging HR-technology trends shaping the modern workplace.

Across all four sessions, alumni served as resource persons who supplement classroom learning with emerging industry trends, workplace competencies, recruitment expectations and professional-development pathways — giving students a realistic, first-hand view of the world they are about to enter.

NETWORKING & DIGITAL PLATFORMS

The department maintains continuous, year-round interaction with alumni through digital platforms, ensuring that opportunities and updates reach graduates wherever they are. Batch-wise WhatsApp groups remain the primary channel for sharing alumni meets, placement opportunities, guest lectures and institutional events, while LinkedIn strengthens professional networking, mentorship and career guidance. The department's Instagram alumni page (@acharya_alumni_association) extends this visibility further.

Alumni coordinators and batch-wise groups also carry the day-to-day work of the network — circulating meet invitations, professional achievements, career opportunities, and information on guest interactions — while identifying alumni whose expertise best matches a specific student or curriculum need.

NEXUS FORUM**GOVERNING THE ASSOCIATION**

Byregowda
2014-2016 Batch
President-Alumni
Nexus Forum



Kruthika B M
2012-2014 Batch,
Vice President-
Alumni Nexus
Forum



Jyothi Gopalan
2013-2015 Batch
General Secretary-
Alumni Nexus Forum



Zeeshan Shareef
2012-2014
Joint Secretary- Alumni Nexus Forum

The Alumni Association is led by a small team of office bearers who coordinate communication, plan the annual meet, and match alumni expertise to department needs — the quiet organisational work behind every session, mentorship and placement recorded in this newsletter:

Name	Designation	Branch / Batch
Byregowda	President	MBA, 2014–16
Kruthika B M	Vice President	MBA, 2012–14
Jyothi Gopalan	General Secretary	MBA, 2013–15
Zeeshan Shareef	Joint Secretary	MBA, 2012–14

Alumni mentoring transforms the alumni network into a lasting support system for current students — offering personalised guidance on career planning, skill development and workplace readiness that goes well beyond a single guest talk. Four alumni took on this longer commitment in 2023–24, together mentoring 13 students:

Career Planning |**Mentor:** Mr. Byre Gowda, Batch 2014–16, Technical Business Analyst**Students Mentored:** 5**Outcome:** Helped mentees plan their career paths early and with clarity.**Corporate Skills Development |****Mentor:** Mr. Yugantar Mishra, Batch 2016–18, HRIS Analyst, Gensler**Students Mentored:** 3**Outcome:** Helped mentees build key skills expected in the corporate world.

Placement Readiness |

Mentor: Mr. Zeeshan Shareef, Batch 2012–14, Learnerspoint Academy

Students Mentored: 2

Outcome: Prepared mentees with the employability skills placements require.

Placement Readiness |

Mentor: Mr. Kedar, Batch 2021–23, HomeFirst India

Students Mentored: 3

Outcome: Prepared mentees with the employability skills placements require.

Mr. Yugantar Mishra | Batch 2016–18

Now: HRIS Analyst, Gensler

Contribution: Delivered a webinar on trending HR software and skills (Nov 2023) and mentored 3 students on corporate skills.

Mr. Zeeshan Shareef | Batch 2012–14

Now: AVP Operations, Sales & Operations Leader, Learnerspoint Academy

Contribution: Mentored 2 students on placement readiness, personally facilitated placements for 2 students, and guided a project on organisational operations.

Mr. Kedar | Batch 2021–23

Now: HomeFirst India

Contribution: Mentored 3 students on placement readiness and facilitated a placement opportunity.

Kruthika B M | Batch 2012–14

Now: Business Development Associate, Saara IT Pvt. Ltd.

Contribution: Flagged a Business Analytics and SQL skill gap, leading to an 8-hour Value-Added Course.

Ms. Shwetha A | Batch 2021–23

Contribution: Guided a student research project through literature review and data-collection support.

The department's mentoring philosophy rests on five pillars that every alumni mentor is encouraged to address:

- Professional Skill Development — closing the gap between academic learning and market-ready skills
- Career Path Clarity — helping students weigh specialisations, higher study or entrepreneurship
- Confidence Building — a safe space to discuss goals with someone who has 'been there'
- Industry Networking — introducing students to professional contacts and opportunities
- Cultural Assimilation — preparing students for workplace etiquette and corporate dynamics

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT — 2023–24

A closer look at the graduates who gave their time back to the department this year:

Mr. Poonacha A P | Batch 2013–15

Now: HR Recruiter, NetApp India Pvt. Ltd.

Contribution: Delivered a session on leadership, hiring and campus recruitment trends (Jan 2024).

Ms. Aishwarya Shetty | Batch 2022–24

Now: Team Lead, Amazon

Contribution: Spoke on bridging the gap between college and the corporate world (Jul 2023).

Mr. Byre Gowda | Batch 2014–16

Now: Technical Business Analyst (Payments, Fraud & Banking)

Contribution: Delivered a session on career readiness and entrepreneurial mindset (Sep 2023), then went on to mentor 5 students on career planning.

NEXUS CAREER BRIDGE

Alumni working across organisations of every size continue to be the department's most effective bridge into the job market — understanding both the rigour of their alma mater and the expectations of employers, they act as trusted referrers and talent scouts for current students. In 2023–24 this support translated into five placement opportunities:

Placement Facilitated | AY 2023–24

Alumnus: Mr. Zeeshan Shareef, Batch 2012–14, Learnerspoint Academy

Student Benefited: Mr. Rahul Deora

Organisation: Learnerspoint Academy

Outcome: Developed practical knowledge and employability skills.

Placement Facilitated | AY 2023–24

Alumnus: Mr. Zeeshan Shareef, Batch 2012–14, Learnerspoint Academy

Student Benefited: Ms. Syeda Yasmeen

Organisation: Learnerspoint Academy

Outcome: Enhanced employability and industry exposure.

Placement Facilitated | AY 2023–24

Alumnus: Mr. Kedar, Batch 2021–23, HomeFirst India

Student Benefited: Mr. Poorna Teja

Organisation: HomeFirst India

Outcome: Developed practical skills and workplace competencies.

Organisational Study on AVP Operations |

Guide: Mr. Zeeshan Shareef, Batch 2012–14, AVP Operations, Sales & Operations Leader

Student: Mr. Rahul Deora

Nature of Guidance: Company details and industry insights for the project.

Outcome: Enhanced industry and practical knowledge.

Student Research Project |

Guide: Ms. Shwetha A, Batch 2021–23

Student: Mr. Ashish Menon

Nature of Guidance: Literature review and data-collection support.

Outcome: Improved research and data-analysis skills.

Placement support was also extended, through the same alumni network, to Mr. Ganesh and Mr. Vishnu, further strengthening their professional and workplace-readiness skills.

This engagement is summarised below alongside the department's ongoing internship and placement tracking:

Beyond individual placements, alumni continued to support career-readiness through referrals and recruitment-awareness inputs, reinforcing communication skills, interview performance and overall placement preparedness among students.

NEXUS-FROM EXPERIENCE TO LEARNING

The department actively engages alumni to spot emerging industry requirements and skill gaps, converting their inputs into practical, hands-on value-added courses. One such contribution was delivered in 2023–24:

Business Analytics & SQL | 8-hour Value-Added Course

Contributor: Kruthika B M, Batch 2012–14, Business Development Associate, Saara IT Pvt. Ltd.

Gap Identified: Business analytics and SQL skills among students.

Action Taken: An 8-hour Value-Added Course on SQL was introduced for students.

This input was translated into a practical intervention — a value-added course — strengthening the alignment between curriculum, industry expectations and student employability.

MAKING LEARNING REAL

Alumni also stepped into the role of research and project mentors, sharing practical, industry-tested insight that classroom teaching alone cannot provide:

Such guidance helps students bridge academic concepts with real-world business challenges — refining topic selection, research approach and interpretation of findings from an industry vantage point, and ultimately enhancing the quality and relevance of student project work.

BUILDING BRIDGES, CREATING IMPACT

The department has built a network that acts as a living bridge between the institution, industry, faculty and students. Alumni placed across reputed organisations continue to feed real business practice back into the classroom — through mentoring, project guidance, placement referrals and curriculum inputs — while also modelling, for current students, exactly what a successful transition from campus to career can look like.

Every touchpoint recorded in this newsletter, whether a single guest talk or a multi-session mentorship, helps bridge the gap between academic theory and workplace reality, sharpens students' employability skills, and keeps the MBA curriculum honest about what industry actually needs today.

TRIPLE IMPACT: ONE ALUMNUS, THREE CONTRIBUTIONS

A few engagements this year went well beyond a single interaction. Mr. Zeeshan Shareef (Batch 2012–14), now with Learnerspoint Academy, mentored students on placement readiness, personally facilitated placement opportunities for two students — Rahul Deora and Syeda Yasmeen — and separately guided Rahul Deora through an organisational study project on AVP operations. This kind of sustained, multi-role involvement — from mentoring, to placing a student in industry, to shaping the research she or he produced — is exactly the depth of engagement the department hopes to see more of in the years ahead.

DOCUMENTATION & RECOGNITION

Every alumni meet, interactive session, mentoring engagement, placement referral, curriculum input and project guidance

recorded here is documented through event reports, participation records, feedback forms and other supporting evidence maintained by the department's faculty and alumni coordinators. This documentation ensures that alumni contributions are formally recognised and that the impact of each engagement can be tracked and built upon in subsequent years.

ROLL OF HONOUR — 2023–24

The department places on record its appreciation for the alumni who gave their time this year:

- Mr. Poonacha A P (2013–15) — Interactive session on leadership, hiring and campus recruitment
- Ms. Aishwarya Shetty (2022–24) — Interactive session on corporate readiness
- Mr. Byre Gowda (2014–16) — Interactive session and mentorship on career planning
- Mr. Yugantar Mishra (2016–18) — Webinar and mentorship on corporate skills
- Mr. Zeeshan Shareef (2012–14) — Mentorship, placement facilitation and project guidance
- Mr. Kedar (2021–23) — Mentorship and placement facilitation
- Kruthika B M (2012–14) — Curriculum input on Business Analytics and SQL
- Ms. Shwetha A (2021–23) — Project guidance

FROM LEARNING TO LEADING: A JOURNEY IN HR

Kavya K

MBA Alumna | Senior HR Executive, TESCO

Kavya K has built a rewarding career in **Human Resources**, growing into her role as a Senior HR Executive at **TESCO**. Her professional journey has strengthened her expertise in **leadership, communication and people management**, while giving her opportunities to work with diverse teams and contribute to a positive workplace culture.

Her MBA provided a strong foundation in understanding **business dynamics and strategic decision-making**, which continues to support her professional growth. For Kavya, **continuous learning, adaptability and teamwork** remain the key ingredients for a successful career.

“Keep learning, stay adaptable, and never underestimate the power of teamwork. Every experience is an opportunity to grow and create meaningful value.”

Her journey reflects how an MBA can provide the foundation to grow not only as a professional, but also as a **people-focused leader**. Alumni spotlights commonly highlight this combination of academic foundation, professional growth and continued learning.

OUR NOTABLE ALUMNIS



Abdul Mateen

Student Recruitment Manager-Cardiff University

(2018-2020 Batch)



Shailesh Nair

Head-Government and Institutional Partnerships (SBI Pension Funds)

(2013-2015 Batch)



Rakshith Kumar B Y

Business and Finance Operation Coordinator at Kaplan

(2016-2018 Batch)

LOOKING AHEAD

The department extends its sincere gratitude to every alumnus who returned to campus, mentored a student, opened a door to a placement, contributed to the curriculum, or guided a project this year. As we move into the next academic cycle, we invite even more of our graduates to reconnect through the Alumni Association, our WhatsApp and LinkedIn networks, and the annual Alumni Meet — because every conversation between an alumnus and a current student keeps the Acharya MBA community growing stronger.