



SIGMA CLUB

NEWSLETTER



CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE

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Sigma, Operations Club : School of Management

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"Sigma Operations Club Shines at PMPC 2025: Leading with Purpose"

Avanthika Josh



On December 13 2025, representing Sigma Operations Club at Prabhanjana – PMPC 2025 felt like stepping into a space where everything we've been learning suddenly came alive. Seven of us MBA students, alongside six NCC students who had the distinct honor of welcoming the chief guest, got to be part of something much bigger than ourselves. The flagship conference of the PMI Bangalore India Chapter brought together some incredible minds—from Group Captain Angad Pratap Singh, an Astronaut Designate, to leaders shaping the future of AI, deeptech, and inclusive leadership. Watching over 500 professionals gather under one vision was genuinely inspiring. Having our Dean, Dr. Subhasree Natarajan, along with Dr. Ramesh Muthuswamy and Dr. Shivaprasad there with us made the experience even more meaningful. It wasn't just about managing logistics or coordinating tasks—it was about absorbing how leadership actually works when the stakes are real. There's something humbling about being in a room where people speak about "leading with purpose" and you realize you're not just witnessing it, you're contributing to it. The energy, the conversations during breaks, the way seasoned professionals engaged with us—it all reinforced why we chose this field in the first place.

Looking back, I feel an immense sense of pride in what our team accomplished and gratitude for being trusted with this responsibility. The PMI Bangalore India Chapter didn't just let us volunteer—they made us feel like valued contributors. To our faculty who encouraged us to take this leap, thank you for believing that the best classroom sometimes has no walls. This experience has left us hungry to do more, to learn more, and to keep building bridges between what we study and the world we're preparing to lead in.

PRABHANJANA

PMPC 2025

HIGHLIGHTS



A Day at Merck Life Science: Experiencing Manufacturing Excellence Up Close

Yogesh G
MBA Fintech



An industrial visit to Merck Life Science, Peenya, Bangalore was organised and conducted by Professor Shivaprasad.S, as part of the MBA curriculum to gain practical exposure to production, operations, and supply chain management practices in a highly regulated life sciences environment. The visit provided insights into the structured production workflow followed at the facility. Raw material handling involved strict segregation, labelling, and controlled movement using pallet trolleys to prevent contamination. Batch-based manufacturing processes were observed in the assembly of Tangential Flow Filtration (TFF) skids and pre-filter cartridges. The use of automated and semi-automated machinery enhanced efficiency, precision, and repeatability. Strong adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), including clean-room management and personnel movement controls, ensured product integrity.

Lean and continuous improvement principles were evident through optimized layouts, smooth material flow, reduced waste, and a Kaizen-driven culture. Employees were highly trained, and cross-functional teamwork between production, QA, R&D, and engineering departments was clearly visible. From a supply chain perspective, Merck follows a robust procurement and vendor management system with globally qualified suppliers. Inventory is managed using ERP systems, ensuring FIFO practices and optimal stock levels. Warehouse operations featured organized layouts, digital tracking, and efficient outbound logistics to meet customer delivery commitments.

The visit highlighted the critical importance of quality, compliance, and safety in life sciences manufacturing. It effectively bridged theoretical concepts from Operations and Supply Chain Management with real-world industrial practices, making it a valuable learning experience.



**PRESIDENCY
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Bridging Classrooms and Industry: Guest Lecture Series at School of Management

Hafis Mohammed P



There's something special about learning from those who've walked the path before us. This season, our School of Management opened its doors to industry leaders and practitioners who brought the real world into our classrooms, transforming theoretical concepts into tangible insights. From lean manufacturing principles tested on metro rail systems to sustainability strategies reshaping modern business, our students had the opportunity to engage with professionals who are actively shaping their industries. These weren't just lectures—they were conversations, exchanges of ideas, and glimpses into the challenges and triumphs that await beyond campus walls.

Inside Defence Manufacturing: A Rare Perspective



Not many of us get to peek behind the curtain of defence manufacturing—an industry shrouded in security protocols and exacting standards. That's what made Mallikarjunayya Hiremath's visit so valuable. As an Independent Management Consulting Professional with deep expertise in this sector, he offered students a window into a world where precision isn't just preferred—it's paramount.

Speaking at the Management Basement Lab, Mr. Hiremath walked students through the unique complexities of "Production in Defence Sector Manufacturing." His presentation balanced the technical with the practical, showing how production management takes on new dimensions when national security is part of the equation.

Supply Chains Made Lean: An Entrepreneur's Take



Later that same day, the energy shifted to Yoga Hall on the third floor, where Mr. Sankar Subrahmanyam brought an entrepreneur's perspective to supply chain management. As Co-founder of InCoBAN Ecosystem, he understands firsthand how lean principles can make or break a growing business. What made this session on "Lean Supply Chain Manufacturing Concepts" particularly engaging was Mr. Subrahmanyam's storytelling approach. He didn't just explain frameworks—he shared real challenges his company faced, decisions that worked, and mistakes that taught valuable lessons. For over two hours, students from batches IMBA03, IMBA05, and IMBA06 explored how to strip waste from supply chains while building resilience. The interactive format, facilitated by faculty coordinators Dr. Ramesh M, Dr. Ranjith P.V, and Dr. Mudassr Raja, encouraged students to think critically about applying these concepts to their own future ventures.

When Data Meets Delivery: Intelligence in Supply Chain



In today's hyper-connected world, supply chains aren't just about moving boxes from point A to point B anymore—they're intricate networks powered by data, analytics, and split-second decisions. That's the reality Mr. Prashant Kumar Thakur brought to life when he visited us on December 6th. As Supply Chain Demand Analytics Manager at Shell India, Mr. Thakur operates at the intersection of massive data streams and real-world logistics challenges.

His session on "Supply Chain Intelligence - Decisions, Data, and Delivery" at E Block Seminar Hall 3 was a masterclass in how global corporations harness analytics to optimize their supply chains. What struck students most wasn't just the sophistication of Shell's systems, but the human judgment required to interpret data and make decisions that ripple across continents. Mr. Thakur walked through scenarios where algorithms provide insights, but experienced professionals make the calls that keep fuel flowing to millions of customers without interruption. Dr. Aurobindo Kiriyakere coordinated this enriching session, and ensured students understood not just the 'what' and 'how' of supply chain intelligence.

Learning Lean from the Metro: Dr. Masood Sharief's Insights



When Dr. Masood Sharief K.E.S., Quality Head at Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd., walked into Seminar Hall 2 on that Thursday morning, students knew they were in for something special. Here was someone who doesn't just talk about lean manufacturing—he lives it, ensuring millions of commuters experience safe, efficient metro services every single day.

Dr. Sharief's session on "Lean Manufacturing and Continuous Improvement" brought the SIGMA Club members and management students face-to-face with real-world quality challenges. He shared stories from the field—how small improvements cascade into major operational wins, and how continuous improvement isn't just a buzzword but a daily commitment in large-scale infrastructure projects.

Jargon Buster: Operations Terms Made Simple

Adnan Ahmed

Reverse Logistics:

The messy, expensive, and increasingly critical process of moving goods backward from the customer to the seller for returns, refurbishment, or recycling.

Last Mile

The final leg of the delivery process (from the local hub to the customer's doorstep), which is famously the most expensive and inefficient part of the journey.

Digital Twin

A virtual replica of a physical supply chain or factory that allows managers to run simulations and stress tests without risking real-world assets.



Building Tomorrow, Responsibly: Sustainability in Focus



As we approached the holiday season, Mr. Santosh Nagasamy, Co-Founder and CEO of Phitons, gave us all something to think about—how do we build businesses that don't just succeed today but contribute to a livable tomorrow? His lecture on "Sustainability in Operations" in the auditorium that Wednesday afternoon felt particularly timely. Climate change isn't a distant threat anymore; it's reshaping how businesses operate. Mr. Nagasamy shared how Phitons integrates environmental responsibility into every operational decision, proving that sustainability and profitability aren't opposing forces—they're partners. The presentation resonated deeply with students who increasingly see themselves as future leaders responsible for more than just bottom lines. Through case studies and candid discussions about the challenges companies face when going green, the session offered both inspiration and practical roadmaps.



"The SIGMA Club: Champions of Change in Operations Management"

Tableau vs. Power BI in Data Storytelling: A Simple Comparison

DR.RAMESH MUTHUSWAMY

In today's data-driven world, storytelling with data has become an essential skill for managers and decision-makers. Tools like Tableau and Microsoft Power BI help transform raw data into meaningful stories using visuals such as charts, dashboards, and reports. Tableau is widely known for its strong visualization capabilities and ease of creating interactive, visually rich dashboards. It allows users to explore data freely and discover patterns through drag-and-drop features, making it especially popular among analysts and professionals who focus on deep data exploration and presentation.

Power BI, on the other hand, stands out for its strong integration with Microsoft products such as Excel, Teams, and Azure. It is cost-effective, user-friendly for beginners, and well-suited for organizations that already work within the Microsoft ecosystem. Power BI supports real-time dashboards, automated data refresh, and powerful data modeling using DAX, which helps in creating structured and consistent business reports. While its visuals may appear simpler than Tableau's, Power BI excels in operational reporting and decision support.

Tableau: Visual Exploration & Artful Storytelling



- Interactive Dashboards
- Advanced Visuals
- Exploratory Data
- Creative Insights

Power BI: Structured Reporting & Business Logic



- Microsoft Integration
- Automated Reports
- DAX Data Modeling
- Operational Decisions

From a data storytelling perspective, Tableau is often preferred for exploratory and visually compelling stories, while Power BI is ideal for structured, management-focused storytelling that supports regular business decisions. Both tools play a vital role in converting data into insights. The choice between Tableau and Power BI ultimately depends on organizational needs, budget, and the level of storytelling depth required. For students and professionals alike, understanding both tools enhances their ability to communicate insights clearly and effectively through data.