

XLRI DOCTORAL COLLOQUIUM 2026

**A Philosophical Confluence towards
Business for the Greater Good**

**Interdisciplinary Dialogues for
Applied Research on AI, Sustainability,
and Phygital Futures**

Dates: 1st to 5th September 2026

Website: <https://dc.xlri.ac.in/>

**Venue: XLRI Xavier School of Management,
Jamshedpur (INDIA)**



About the Colloquium

The theme “Philosophical Confluence toward Business for the Greater Good” invites scholars, practitioners, and thinkers to explore how the convergence of philosophy and business can shape a more humane and sustainable future. In an era defined by rapid technological advancement, environmental urgency, and complex socio-economic transformations, traditional disciplinary boundaries no longer suffice. This Doctoral Colloquium seeks to foster interdisciplinary dialogues that connect ethics, management, technology, and the human sciences to address the moral, social, and existential questions of our time.

This philosophical confluence describes a shift from viewing disciplines as isolated silos to understanding their inherent interconnectedness. It describes how the field is moving beyond its traditional borders to integrate insights and methodologies from other disciplines, such as philosophy, sociology, and ethics. This convergence is based on a new philosophy of interdisciplinarity that examines how and why fields interact to create new knowledge. This Doctoral Colloquium aims to reimagine business as a transformative force that transcends profit motives, nurtures the human spirit, and contributes meaningfully to the collective, greater good in an interconnected, technology-driven world.

More information can be found at www.dc.xlri.ac.in.

About XLRI Xavier School of Management, Jamshedpur (INDIA)

XLRI- Xavier School of Management (<https://xlri.ac.in>) is a private business school run by the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand, India. XLRI was founded in 1949 in the steel city of Jamshedpur and is the oldest business school in India. The institute, currently in its 77th year, celebrated its Platinum Jubilee in 2024. XLRI is the recipient of two international accreditations, AACSB and AMBA, and holds Rank #83 in the FinancialTimes Global MBA Ranking 2025. It is also the first institution in India to conceive and create a technology-enabled and interactive online executive education program. This enterprising and pioneering spirit can be witnessed throughout the history and legacy of XLRI.

COLLOQUIUM TRACKS

Track 1- Indian Culture and its Business Ecosystem

Focus topics (but not limited to):

AI and Indian cultural contexts, Indian consumption, markets and AI-powered behavioural shifts, Indian economy and digital public infrastructure, start-up India and innovation ecosystems, AI for Bharat: inclusion, sustainability and social impact, Indian business traditions and the AI future

Focus questions (but not limited to):

- How can targeted AI-literacy training programs across India's youth population accelerate workforce readiness and harness India's demographic dividend @ 100?
- To what extent can AI-based mandi-price prediction and demand forecasting reduce post-harvest losses and increase farmers' income in smallholder-dominated Indian states?
- How effective are AI-powered, multilingual tutoring platforms in improving learning outcomes among rural students who study in regional languages compared to conventional classroom pedagogy?
- To what extent can AI-based urban water-management and heat-risk prediction systems improve resilience and reduce climate-related vulnerabilities in Indian mid-sized cities?
- How can the integration of UPI, ONDC, and Aadhaar data with machine learning enable new credit-scoring and risk-assessment business models — while preserving data privacy and user consent?
- Can AI-driven credit scoring using alternative data sources significantly expand formal credit access for underserved micro-entrepreneurs and informal workers in India?
- What design and deployment approaches are most effective for creating vernacular AI tools that are culturally relevant and widely adopted across rural and semi-urban India?
- Can integrating AI-driven demand forecasting and supply-chain optimization tools significantly boost productivity and market reach for Indian MSMEs, especially in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities?
- In what ways can Indic-language Natural Language Processing (NLP) models contribute to documentary, preservation, and increased usage of underrepresented regional languages in India's digital media spaces?

COLLOQUIUM TRACKS

Track 2 - Strategy, Competitive Advantage, and AI-Augmented Decision Systems

Focus topics (but not limited to):

Corporate governance and accountability, business law and policy reform, political economy and democracy, non-profit and social sector management, health, education, and welfare policy, MSMEs and inclusive innovation, family business ethics and governance, social enterprise ecosystems, competitive advantage, alliances, corporate strategy, resource-based view, capabilities, networks, strategy emergence, strategic surprises, startup behavior, venture teams, funding, entrepreneurial strategy, opportunity creation, effectuation, entrepreneurial ecosystems, global innovation, novel venture phenomena, crowdfunding, digital entrepreneurship, responsible and social entrepreneurship, rural and creative entrepreneurship

Focus questions (but not limited to):

- How do leaders determine levels of autonomy between human design teams and AI models—what AI does and what humans decide?
- How can invisible AI systems enable strategic foresight without diminishing human control?
- How can physical AI (robots, intelligent assistants) change leadership workflows and decision speed?
- How should CIO organizations reimagine IT as an enabler of invisible, trust-based AI infrastructure?
- How do governance frameworks ensure algorithmic accountability and strategic fairness?
- How can leadership teams balance strategic innovation with algorithmic accountability in hybrid human-machine systems?
- How do startups and academic spin-offs commercialize AI and robotics-based innovations responsibly?
- How can AI incubators and accelerators (e.g., NVIDIA Inception, AWS Activate) enhance startup scalability?
- How should IP frameworks adapt for co-created human-AI inventions and data ownership?
- How can innovation ecosystems integrate IP protection and AI governance for deep-tech and physical AI ventures?
- How do firms integrate compassionate AI initiatives into strategic objectives, stakeholder expectations, decision-making, and operations to achieve competitive and societal impact?

COLLOQUIUM TRACKS

Track 3- Marketing, Communication, and the Phygital Consumer

Focus topics (but not limited to):

Ethical and sustainable marketing, conscious consumption, service marketing, phygital storytelling and branding, sustainable luxury consumption and tourism, cultural semiotics in branding, corporate and intercultural communication, misinformation and fake news challenges, firm-level, strategic interface, consumer behavior in organizations, sales teams, customer–firm interactions, buyer behavior, market shaping, brand meaning, marketing strategy, market trends, marketing phenomena, digital customer journeys, networks, identity, and organizational discourse, power dynamics, digital communication

Focus questions (but not limited to):

- How do phygital product ecosystems (AR/VR, IoT, digital twins) transform customer journeys?
- How does AI-driven emotional analytics enhance empathy in digital communication?
- How can physical AI (interactive robots, smart stores, AR-enabled environments) create embodied brand experiences?
- How can marketers mitigate AI bias in personalization algorithms and voice/chat interfaces?
- How do marketing teams integrate domain knowledge into generative models for storytelling and prediction?
- How can marketing systems embed compassionate and physical AI to enhance trust, inclusivity, and experiential immersion?



COLLOQUIUM TRACKS

Track 4 - Product, Service, and Servitization Innovation in the AI Era

Focus topics (but not limited to):

Designing experiences for empathy, service quality and co-creation, human–tech interaction in services, experience design and customer journey, service ethics, digital transformation in services, emotional intelligence in service leadership sustainability in service ecosystems

Focus questions (but not limited to):

- How do digital twins and simulation platforms reduce uncertainty in design and operations?
- How do AI-driven robotics and physical automation reshape production ecosystems?
- How do firms decide releasing the products and IP to Open Source and to grow brands?
- How do servitization strategies reconfigure team structures, customer value, and pricing models?
- How can firms protect IP while sharing data in open digital platforms?
- How can AI-driven product–service teams design phygital, autonomous systems that merge engineering precision with human creativity?
- How can AI as a leveller force firms to innovate differently in commoditized environments?
- How do AI-driven empathy, personalization, and emotional intelligence reshape service encounters, customer relationships, experience design, and service recovery in digital and phygital channels?



COLLOQUIUM TRACKS

Track 5 - Governance, Risks and Compliance

Focus topics (but not limited to):

Climate finance and policy innovation, impact investing and ESG frameworks, ethical banking and fintech innovation, public finance and taxation ethics, MSME finance and inclusion, microfinance and empowerment, digital governance, public–private partnerships for development, green macroeconomics, digital economy governance, corporate governance, top management compensation, financial misconduct, risk, capital allocation, shareholder dynamics, investor behavior, crowdfunding, fintech phenomena

Focus questions (but not limited to):

- How can AI-based risk systems ensure fairness in automated decision-making?
- How can physical AI enhance real-time financial monitoring?
- How do finance teams balance AI recommendations with human intuition?
- How can firms ensure data trustworthiness; how do we believe what AI tells us?
- How can RegTech and Explainable AI (XAI) reduce audit complexity and systemic risk?
- How can finance and compliance teams co-develop autonomous but accountable AI systems for global transparency?
- How can organizations integrate model drift, compliance failures, privacy breaches, and algorithmic bias into risk-adjusted ROI calculations for enterprise AI?
- How can AI governance frameworks align innovation with ethical and legal norms?
- How can firms assess the ROI of AI investments made primarily to meet evolving regulatory requirements (e.g., AI governance laws, data protection frameworks)?
- How can organizations build a credible business case for AI by quantifying both financial ROI and risk-adjusted value gains?
- Do regulators fully understand what they are regulating—especially physical AI systems?
- How can federated governance manage cross-border AI risk (e.g., Asia vs EU frameworks)?
- How do AI-based RegTech tools enhance financial and compliance oversight?
- How do policy gaps affect AI development, IP rights, and innovation flows?
- How can governments and regulators co-develop AI literacy and physical AI understanding to close policy–technology gaps?
- How do AI-native ventures ensure ethical data usage and algorithmic transparency?
- How do AI venture analytics improve risk assessment and portfolio management?

COLLOQUIUM TRACKS

Track 6 - Operations, Supply Chain, and Intelligent Infrastructure

Focus topics (but not limited to):

Supply chain relationships, service ops, process improvement, queuing behavior, coordination, information flows, global operations trends, digital operations, supply chain risk

Focus questions (but not limited to):

- How can AI-enabled logistics systems and robotic process automation enhance efficiency and resilience?
- How do human–AI teams coordinate in predictive maintenance, scheduling, and quality control?
- How do AI-powered physical systems ensure safety, transparency, and interoperability?
- How can IoT and AI integration enable “invisible operations” through predictive insights?
- How do AI platforms balance data sharing and IP protection in collaborative supply chains?
- How can operations and infrastructure teams use physical AI and simulation intelligence to design adaptive, self-optimizing networks?



COLLOQUIUM TRACKS

Track 7 - Sustainable Business, Net Zero, and Climate Innovation

Focus topics (but not limited to):

Sustainable business models and ESG frameworks, climate risk and circular economy, pathways to carbon neutrality, carbon accounting and disclosure, decarbonization, green finance and regenerative ecosystems, systems thinking and organizational ecology, food security and agri-innovation, climate change, responsible capitalism, CSR

Focus questions (but not limited to):

- How can AI sensors and physical monitoring systems support real-time carbon accounting?
- How can reinforcement learning optimize energy and resource use in operations?
- How do digital twins of cities and industries enable carbon reduction modeling?
- How can AI analytics enhance circular economy transitions?
- How can firms align data transparency and ethical AI with net-zero targets?
- How can AI-human collaboration accelerate climate-positive, physically intelligent infrastructure systems?



COLLOQUIUM TRACKS

Track 8 - Platform Business, Ecosystems, and Digital Economy Transformation

Focus topics (but not limited to):

Platform governance and trust, data network effects and value creation, ecosystem orchestration and partner alignment, ai-driven platform innovation, monetization and pricing in multi-sided platforms, platformization of traditional industries, digital market regulation and policy, blockchain and decentralized platform models, gig work, platform labor, and workforce transformation

Focus questions (but not limited to):

- How do AI-driven platforms and blockchain ecosystems govern trust, data, and interoperability?
- How do cross-firm AI systems share IP while maintaining competitive differentiation?
- How can autonomous AI systems collaborate with human oversight teams in digital ecosystems?
- How can physical AI enable cross-platform coordination (e.g., smart logistics, urban mobility)?
- How can platform ecosystems design human-AI-physical intelligence architectures for transparency and shared value creation?



COLLOQUIUM TRACKS

Track 9 - Human Resources, Organizational Behavior, and the Future of Work

Focus topics (but not limited to):

Leadership, empathy, and emotional intelligence, Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), employee well-being and psychological safety, academic and institutional leadership, organizational culture and transformation, mindfulness and spirituality at work, remote work and digital well-being, Gig economy and ethics, leadership pipelines and succession planning, motivation, emotions, teams, identity, interpersonal dynamics, recruitment, selection, performance appraisal, compensation, training, talent management, employee lifecycle, skill development, learning, training effectiveness, remote work

Focus questions (but not limited to):

- How do AI copilots and physical AI assistants reshape collaboration and motivation?
- How can AI feedback systems influence inclusion, fairness, and emotional safety?
- How do AI-augmented workspaces (e.g., sensor-enabled offices, AR co-working) affect human experience?
- How can curricula and corporate training prepare workers to coexist with autonomous systems?
- How do we measure what humans truly learn in an AI-supported environment?
- How can HR and learning leaders design AI-human work ecosystems that preserve dignity, purpose, and continuous learning?
- How do AI technologies influence fairness, inclusion, and well-being in workplaces?
- How do public policies, labor regulations, and governmental guidelines shape the ethical deployment and societal impact of AI in workplace practices?



COLLOQUIUM TRACKS

Track 10 - Globalization, Development, and the Economics of Technology

Focus topics (but not limited to):

Emerging markets and economic resilience, trade policy and transnational governance, international ethics and diplomacy in business, ethical globalization, human rights in international business, tech adoption, digital transformation, platform ecosystems, algorithmic management, future of tech, digital disruption, data governance

Focus questions (but not limited to):

- How can AI and robotics drive inclusive development across regions?
- How can emerging economies build AI curricula to compete ethically and strategically?
- How does AI as a leveller redefine global competitive advantage and trade?
- How can AI and physical systems advance sustainable industrialization?
- How can innovation diplomacy foster cross-border ethics and cooperation?
- How can global teams and policymakers co-develop AI–human–physical innovation partnerships that enable equitable growth?
- How do societal values, local traditions, and community norms shape the development, interpretation, and acceptance of compassionate AI?
- How do cultural diversity impact on design choices, emotional resonance, and ethical expectations in digital and phygital contexts?



COLLOQUIUM TRACKS

Track 11 - Business Education, Curriculum Design, and AI-Driven Learning Futures

Focus topics (but not limited to):

Lifelong learning and reskilling, employability and education policy, inclusive career ecosystems, academic leadership and institutional transformation, faculty development, mentorship, and scholarly identity, research assessment, impact, and academic integrity, technology, AI, and digital transformation in higher education, globalization and ethics in management learning

Focus questions (but not limited to):

- How can Indian business schools and startups co-develop an AI-ready curriculum that integrates domain knowledge, digital fluency, and ethical reasoning?
- How can educators ensure authentic learning and assessment in an age of generative AI, plagiarism, and automated problem-solving?
- What knowledge and skills should humans still know, remember, and reason through when AI performs most analytical tasks?
- How can institutions cultivate mindsets that grasp fundamentals deeply enough to innovate and push technological boundaries?
- How can AI-driven learning platforms and analytics promote personalized, fair, and bias-aware education?
- How can physical AI environments (labs, embodied simulations, tangible learning systems) enable experiential and responsible management learning?



Guidelines for Submission

The submissions are invited from (i) PhD / FPM Scholars, (ii) Assistant Professors / Lecturers who completed PhDs / FPMs in or after 2020, and (iii) Academic / Corporate professionals who wish to pursue PhDs / FPMs in 2026 / 2027 / 2028.

Authors wishing to present at the Doctoral Colloquium are requested to submit a research idea or manuscript in APA format not exceeding 5,000 words excluding references OR an extended abstract in APA format not exceeding 1,000 words excluding references on or before 30th April 2026 at dc@xlri.ac.in. Title page should include title of the paper, authors' names, affiliations, email addresses, contact details and track for review.

All the queries may be written to dc@xlri.ac.in, prashant.kumar@xlri.ac.in, or +91-9320-761-777.

Registration and Fees

Participant type	Registration	Accommodation and food
Registration for Doctoral Scholars (affiliated to Schools/Universities in India)	INR 3000 when registered on or before 30 th June 2026	INR 1500 per night
	INR 4500 when registered 1 st July 2026 onwards (<i>limited scholarships available</i>)	
Registration for Doctoral Scholars (affiliated to Schools/Universities outside India)	USD 100 when registered on or before 30 th June 2026	USD 50 per night
	USD 150 when registered 1 st July 2026 onwards (<i>limited scholarships available</i>)	
Registration for Early Career Scholars (affiliated to Schools/Universities in India)	INR 7000 when registered on or before 30 th June 2026	INR 2500 per night
	INR 8500 when registered 1 st July 2026 onwards	
Registration for Early Career Scholars (affiliated to Schools/Universities outside India)	USD 250 when registered on or before 30 th June 2026	USD 100 per night
	USD 300 when registered 1 st July 2026 onwards	
Corporate participants	INR 7000 when registered on or before 30 th June 2026	INR 2500 per night
	INR 8500 when registered 1 st July 2026 onwards	

Registration and payment links are available at www.dc.xlri.ac.in.

Special invitation to industry researchers, scientists and founders

XLRI Doctoral Colloquium 2026 focuses upon applied research, and the Colloquium invites industry researchers, practitioners and innovators to submit their approaches to the solutions to the questions across tracks, the frameworks, the method, the processes, and the appropriate use cases. These submissions, upon selected in the Colloquium, will be further routed towards industrial recognition.

Workshops, competitions, awards, cohort-based events and visits

The Colloquium includes a series of workshops (including paper development workshops), competitions, awards, cultural events, cohort-based events for networking, and mentorship, and visits to sites of historic importance in and around Jamshedpur. For updates on these, please regularly visit <https://dc.xlri.ac.in/>

Venue and accommodation

XLRI Doctoral Colloquium 2026 will be organized at the beautiful campus of XLRI-Xavier School of Management, Jamshedpur INDIA. A moderate number of accommodations is available in the XLRI Campus. For booking accommodation, please write to the conference chair on dc@xlri.ac.in or prashant.kumar@xlri.ac.in.

Organizing committee

Prashant Kumar (Associate Professor, XLRI Xavier School of Management, Jamshedpur)

Ameet Banerjee (Associate Professor, XLRI Xavier School of Management, Jamshedpur)

Chief Patrons

Fr. Sebastian George, S.J, Director, XLRI Xavier School of Management, Jamshedpur

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From the loving memories of Doctoral Colloquium 2024

