

Grasping Great India: Immersing in the dynamism that defines a nation



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Our students had the unique opportunity to engage with outstanding speakers and top-level experts who shared their personal leadership journeys and provided deep insights into the industries they represent.”



Global Advanced Management Programme

The Challenge

Designing a meaningful learning journey for a group of highly accomplished Russian leaders was a formidable undertaking. Many of the participants were visiting India for the very first time. The learning journey also had to reflect the theme articulated by the school's Programme Architect, Prof. Andy Shishakov— *“Media power and entrepreneurship at the intersection of societies and at the edge of chaos”*.

The Goals

Four key goals guided the design of the experience:

- **Understand India's Complexity** by providing participants with a grounded understanding of India's social, economic, and institutional landscape
- **Explore the Power of Media and Narratives** by examine how media influences public discourse, business environments, and political dynamics
- **Experience Entrepreneurship at the “Edge of Chaos”** by exposing participants to founders, innovators, and institutions operating in a dynamic environment
- **Encourage Discomfort as a Catalyst for Leadership Learning** by intentionally placing participants in unfamiliar contexts

The Solution

By combining intellectual inquiry, experiential learning, field exposure, organisational visits, and cultural encounters, the programme curated diverse voices and unique experiences that revealed India's economic dynamism, social contradictions, and entrepreneurial resilience. Through this multi-layered immersion, the sessions created a holistic learning journey that reflected the country as a complex ecosystem where innovation, inequality, tradition, and transformation coexist at the edge of chaos.

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The Impact

The immersion proved to be one of the most impactful segments of the broader international learning journey for the Russian leaders in the Global Advanced Management Programme (GAMP).

Beyond a study trip: Several participants reported that the immersion sparked new business ideas and conversations around potential partnerships, with exploratory discussions already underway with some of the organisations and thought leaders they met during the programme.

Perception shift: The walk through Dharavi challenged simplistic narratives about poverty and development. Participants witnessed the intense entrepreneurial activity within the community, and were surprised to learn that real estate values in Dharavi can rival prices in some Russian cities, highlighting the economic dynamism embedded even within informal environments.

Embracing tectures of India: Sampling Indian cuisine, navigating the famously chaotic traffic, shopping for vibrant Indian silks, and experiencing the artistry of mehendi, these encounters created shared memories that made the immersion both intellectually stimulating and culturally enriching.

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