

## **Mahindra University Hosts PMI Pearl City Chapter, Expands Project Management Opportunities for Students**

**Hyderabad, 28 February 2025:** Mahindra University hosted the International Student Leadership Day (ISLD) Conference 2025 in association with the PMI Pearl City Chapter (PMIPCC), Hyderabad, on their campus. The event brought together over 134 students, faculty, and industry professionals to explore the intersection of leadership, project management, and innovation. The conference featured keynotes and presentations from distinguished speakers, including **Dr. Bishnu Pal, Dean Academics, School of Engineering, Mahindra University;** **Dr. Pradeep Racherla, Assistant Dean, Professor of Marketing, School of Management, Mahindra University;** **Dr. Pendyala Kiranmai Dutt, Board member, United Way, Hyderabad;** and **Mr. Manohar Yerraguntla, President, PMIPCC & PMO at Amara Raja Group,** as well as engaging interactive sessions on important topics such as leadership traits, human-AI collaboration, and sustainability challenges.

Mr. Yerraguntla introduced the SPARK framework—self or leadership—and emphasised that *"leadership is about impact, not titles."* In a compelling panel discussion, experts highlighted the evolving role of artificial intelligence (AI) in leadership. Ms. Shazia, a psychology student, urged caution in adopting AI technologies. At the same time, other panellists, including Mr. Varunteja, a student at JNTU in mechanical engineering, emphasised the potential for AI to play leadership roles, though human collaboration remains key. The event also featured a 'Pitch for the Planet' session where students presented innovative solutions to global challenges. Akshara Hiranmai, a B.Tech student from BVRIT for women, showcased an eco-friendly water-saving device, while Boppana Sri Neha, a B.Tech student from BVRIT for women, proposed an AI-powered sensor to prevent scooter accidents. Finally, Vinay Jain, a BBA student at Mahindra University, advocated for responsible plastic use & recycling to reduce waste.

**Dr. Yajulu Medury, Vice-Chancellor, Mahindra University, stated,** *"The launch of the student-led APEX PMIPCC MU reaffirms Mahindra University's constant commitment to experiential learning and marks a step forward in emphasizing the criticality of integrating project management into academic learning. This initiative equips students with skills to engage with industry best practices and develop leadership capabilities."*

**Mr. Manohar Yerraguntla, President, PMIPCC, said,** *"ISLD is a platform designed to empower the youth, helping them in developing critical leadership and project management skills. At PMI Pearl City Chapter, we are committed to preparing students for the future by helping them with the right knowledge, skills, and mindset to lead with confidence and drive meaningful changes. It was truly inspiring to witness the curiosity and passion of the students. A big thank you to Mahindra University faculty, management, volunteers, and all the participants for making this event a grand success."*

The event also marked the official launch of APEX PMIPCC MU, a student-led club dedicated to project management education. Under the guidance of **Dr. Debopam Chakrabarti, Professor,**

**School of Management, Mahindra University, and Dr. Mukesh Narmetta, Assistant Professor, School of Management, Mahindra University,** the club aims to provide students with exposure to global project management standards, tools, and methodologies. Through workshops, mentorship, and networking opportunities, APEX PMIPCC MU will bridge the gap between academic learning and industry expectations and help young professionals build practical skills, learn through collaboration, and explore innovative ideas.

The Project Management Institute (PMI), founded in 1969, is a global nonprofit that sets industry standards, offers certifications, and supports professionals across sectors. The PMI Pearl City Chapter Hyderabad (PMIPCC), established in 2001, promotes best practices through mentorship, training, and networking across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, fostering industry connections and leadership development.

### **About Mahindra University:**

Mahindra University, Hyderabad (India), is a multi-disciplinary university. It works towards "Educating future citizens for a better world." It is envisioned to be a private university that will play a significant role in driving quality improvements and innovation in higher education in the coming years. Mahindra University will focus on generating new knowledge through engagement in cutting-edge research, creating a spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship, and undertaking collaborative projects with industry and other academic institutions. The university is backed by Mahindra Educational Institutions (MEI), a subsidiary of Tech Mahindra Ltd., the flagship IT company of the Mahindra Group, a US \$20.3 billion industrial entity that employs more than 2,56,000 employees across 100 countries.