The Vinod Gupta School of Management, IIT Kharagpur has introduced a brand-new curriculum for its flagship MBA program which combines traditional classroom learning with real-world business applications. The new curriculum which went into effect this academic session was designed after extensive research into existing courses in premier B-schools across the country and abroad, academia endorsed best practices and emerging trends, and in collaboration with numerous industry experts and alumni of the institute.

The unprecedented changes witnessed in the business environment in the light of disruptive technology and volatile economic and geopolitical landscapes have made it essential to train aspiring managers in a program that is comprehensive in breadth while imparting rigor in the knowledge of specialized subjects.

It was with this objective in mind that the committee chaired by Prof. Barnali Nag, set about revamping the existing curriculum. The entire program has been restructured to include shorter courses tailored to meet changing business needs.  Explaining the rationale behind this decision, Prof. Barnali Nag says, “The business world is changing at a pace faster than the design and development of appropriate course outlines and textbooks to teach the same to MBA students leading to the need for shorter courses, which are contemporary and application-oriented.”

Being the first among a handful of B-schools to be set up within the IIT ecosystem, the institute is uniquely positioned to complement quality management education with technical excellence that is the hallmark of IIT Kharagpur. Recognizing the need for every education system to be multi-disciplinary in nature, the new curriculum leverages the plethora of specialized courses that the numerous departments, centers and schools of IIT Kharagpur have to offer, allowing students to choose electives from departments other than VGSoM. Along with core subjects, students can now select electives from an impressive collection spanning across Business Analytics, AI and law, Intellectual Property Management, Change Management, Algorithm Design and Machine Learning, Conflict Resolution and Management and International Commercial Arbitration.

Another interesting feature of the new curriculum is the addition of micro-specialization and a new project titled “Learning Business outside classroom.”

The micro-specializations – the first one being offered in Analytics - are constructed as combinations of core courses, electives and projects that enable students to gain expertise in an area over and above the basic MBA degree in General Management.

The “Learning Business outside classroom” project aims to familiarize students with the intricacies of running a business at the very start of their academic journey. Students are encouraged to closely observe and understand a local business or a product or a market, preferably belonging to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the vicinity of the institute, and study its value proposition while attempting to apply classroom learning to propose solutions to some of the problems faced by the enterprise. The regular visits to the organizations and interaction with the stakeholders of the business will impart an entrepreneurial dimension to the curriculum, allowing these exchanges to serve as the precursors for business incubation and jumpstart the process of ideation.

With the wheels already set in motion, the institute is confident that the new curriculum will help the students embark on a learning journey that empowers them to become better leaders of tomorrow.