



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT

ALMA MATTERS

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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF IIFM

ALMA MATTERS

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF IIFM

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Friends, welcome aboard for the continued journey of reminiscences, celebration of togetherness, nostalgia of campus, concurrent events of the campus and much more....

In this fourth edition of Alma Matters, Avinav Kumar explains the meaning of adult learning in a best possible humorous way while narrating a memory of an alumnus. Abhinav Sen, in his write up explains about an adventure that began before joining IIFM and that continued during the campus days. Ashwini recounts her memories of seeing the world from the elevated platform of India Gate. For Renuka, the memories of Room No. 26 was no less than the thrills of Harry Potter stories. The reading continues with unique reminiscences of 2019-21 batch with reference to treasured memories of campus, missing the campus during lockdown due to Covid-19 pandemic and the thrill of coming back to the campus during the fag end of the course tenure. Students in the campus took a very meaningful initiative in terms of Cleanliness Drive. The pandemic had created a big uncertainty for the senior students of final year about their placement but as always the institute stood on the side of the students by arranging decent placement this year too in spite of the omnipresent challenges. It was a great moment for the alumni of PFM 1994-96 as they completed 25 years of passing out from the institute. While the celebration was limited to the few attendees the fervor was attuned to the occasion. Our campus has witnessed many changes since it started and we present a few photographs that can give you a glimpse of the same.

It is very unfortunate that the ongoing pandemic has taken two young and bright stars from our fraternity, our heartfelt condolences for the bereaved families. At this time when we all are trying to brave the prevalent tough situation due to the pandemic, the Editorial Board of the Alumni Association wishes you and your families and friends a safe and healthy time.

Feedback and inputs from you means a lot and we strive to be better with every edition incorporating your valuable inputs.

Look forward to hearing from you.

au revoir

Avinash Kumar
(Editor-in-Chief)

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यादों के झरोखे से

ADULT LEARNING

AVINAV KUMAR , PFM 99-01



Avinav Kumar is currently working as Head of Programmes & Fundraising in the Partnering Hope into Action (PHIA) Foundation. He is based at Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh).

(Adult Learning, essentially experiential learning, at times serendipitous, and quite often thrust upon us by forces known and unknown)

IIFM galleries are full of them and here is one narrated as heard with all the distortions and exaggerations that might have crept in while being passed on from one batch to another. No classroom could have taught for life that teak (Tectona grandis) leaves are hairy and thorny on one side compared to the experiential learning one of our fellow alums had, while on the field trip.

The event in question, leading to the valuable learning, happened before 1999 as by the time we entered the campus it was already a part of the standard and valuable advisory passed on to us from our senior batch before we embarked upon our first field trip. We were strongly advised against resorting to teak leaves as an alternative to water or any other substitute in the likely event that we ran out of water while responding to the nature's call in the open.

A high degree of probability was expressed regarding our ability to run out of water as most of the urban bred - 'jet' using janta that we seemed to be, were not used to economizing ourselves to a bottle of water for the task. A high degree of probability was also expressed in finding a teak leaf as the most tempting alternative owing to its suitable size and easy availability as we were in Central India dry deciduous forests.

The valuable learning had emerged from the direct experience of one of the fellow IIFMites who had walked the path before us. The story goes that on a fateful summer afternoon, while on the field trip in the jungles, this gentleman felt the need to relieve himself of the burden of the heavy breakfast that he had had in the Forest Guest House. With half a bottle of water to his disposal, a suitable natural enclosure was identified to safeguard from the overt risks that the jungle presents. Field trips are always early in the IIFM life cycle and the reality that the risks of the jungle are more in little and mundane things rather than the overt and the obvious, was yet to sink in.

Anyways, as expected water, the scarce resource that it is, ran out. As destiny would have it (after all Newton also did not sit under the apple tree by design), a broad green tempting teak leaf presented itself seemingly as the most suitable alternative at that point of time.

The rest as they say is history. Whether it was a history as in a 'fable agreed upon' as Napoleon had said, or an undistorted yet brutal statement of facts, would always be disputed. However, batches thereafter have learnt not to be on the wrong side of a teak leaf.

ADVENTURE

ABHINAV SEN , PFM 11-13

Abhinav Sen is currently working as Field Manager, Lands Programme in The Nature Conservancy. He is based at Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh).



Adventure! A sensation of being alive, being relevant, and much more. One finds it in the most peculiar of things. I found mine at IIFM. 'Life is an adventure' was just a phrase till then. The reality was a 9 to 5 job and the mundane that came with it.

The beginning of this adventure was no less than an adventure itself. It all started with a phone call that I received halfway into my daily commute to the office in Pune. As I sat in my regular BEST bus, little did I know that my life would be changed by the time I got off from it. Such was the call's effect that it remains one of my most vivid memories to date. It was Mr. Sreedharan on the line. In his usual distinctive tone, he said - 'Is this Abhinav Sen? I am Sreedharan calling from IIFM. We have the last seat vacant as one student has not joined. You are next on the waitlist. Please pay fees by tomorrow to confirm your seat or else I will offer to the next candidate.'

My response surprised me. Not because of what I said, but how I said it. An instinctive 'Ok Sir, I will be there' followed (sounds dramatic when I write it). This happened on June 24th, 2011. I mention the date as the session began from June 27th, 2011. So, by the time I got this call, my batchmates had already finished their classroom and field orientation which started from 20th June. They made friends, and settled into the 'Life at IIFM' and I definitely missed the initial euphoria.

What followed the call was thrilling, to say the least. On the remaining bus ride, I informed my parents, my flatmate, and my boss. By the time I reached my cubicle, I already had a mental draft of my resignation letter ready. In what would have been a blink of an eye, I was at IIFM - setting up my hostel room, getting to know my batchmates, and attending the first day of the session. My life had changed and I was living a dream. But there's a twist in the tale.

After having worked for three years at a great MNC, I had suddenly resigned. Absconding wasn't an option, so I rushed to Pune to complete my office formalities. It all happened so rapidly that I could not inform the college about my plans. Not even my new roommate.

By the time I re-joined IIFM, I had missed two weeks of classes and realized that I won't be able to meet the mandated attendance requirement. I was facing rustication and when I went to the administration justifying my case, it was not taken well. I was even told not to unpack my bags. My short-lived dream was about to end in a nightmare.

But then another phrase was to become relevant to me - 'when you really want something, the entire universe conspires in helping you to achieve it.' And thanks to all the considerate folks at IIFM, I got a second chance, but with a small caveat. I was told that if I missed even a single class of the remaining trimester, I would be shown the door. I didn't and here I am!

My IIFM journey has truly been a life-changing experience and a fulfilling one to say the least. I have made friends for life and I am able to make a tiny contribution to address some relevant issues being faced by our country. All thanks to this amazing institution and community.

THAT UNFORGETTABLE CLIMB OF INDIA GATE

ASHWINI YELNE , PFM 12-14

Ashwini Yelne is currently working as Senior Consultant at EY. She is based at Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh).



After working for two years, I realised the importance of higher studies and decided to pursue MBA. It was definitely not a “following the bandwagon” kind of a decision. And, there was the same excitement that a student has when they get into their first college for graduation. I had tried explaining myself that I am a matured professional getting into a B-school, so I need to just stay calm, press the excitement in my stomach and behave like a professional. Essentially, this is what the graduates in MBA do.

But my institute was way different than others. I had a huge campus to stay in, my coursework was different, the pedagogy was unlike other B-schools and the senior-junior relationship was casual and friendly. I had spacious hostel rooms, a mess that served mouth-watering food, award winning gardens and an amazingly diverse batch.

One of the most memorable nights at IIFM was on 14th August 2012. It had been a couple of months after joining and we had our first Independence Day celebration at the institute. It was the first celebration after our fresher's party. By this time, we all had selected our clubs as per our interests and we had all been accepted by the seniors as the “family members” of the IIFM fraternity. Although I wasn't officially a part of the cultural club but out of sheer interest, I went to the reverent room no. 119, now called as Samagam, to check out the preparations. I was both happy and shocked to see the enthu for decoration. I had seen such grandeur preparation at NIFT for four years but it was a USP of that institute and I had not expected the same at IIFM.

Everyone was deeply engrossed in blowing balloons, painting the thermocol sheets, cutting ribbons, and doing some or the other stuff. The ones who were not artistic, were helping with Parle-G biscuits and cold drinks. It was such a pleasant feeling even post-midnight. I started helping with thermocol cutting and installations. We could complete the whole thing by five in the morning. The head of the cultural club had envisioned to make a replica of Red Fort as the background of the stage and we made it happen. The set-up of Red Fort along with the decoration of tricolour balloons and ribbons looked extremely magical and justified the efforts all of us had put.

At 5:00AM, none of us was sleepy so we went for a walk around the campus and few of us came up with the idea of climbing the India Gate. Initially, I was fine with the thought and started climbing. But after four flights, I got scared and it seemed spooky and was stinky because of the smell of the bats. We started with a bunch of ten and I was somewhere in the middle of the line while climbing. Then I realised that people behind me had returned mid-way. I was in dilemma, to climb or not, but then I decided to keep moving. It seemed to be an unending climb with the smell getting stinkier with every step I took. We then reached a platform on the top but there was another high platform which we had to climb without any stairs. One of us took the support of a pipe and the wall to reach the top and helped others to mount. I found it difficult to manage but I was there, finally. Witnessing the sunrise from India Gate was no less than any blessing. The magical colours of the sky and chirping of the birds mixed with the cool breeze could not be matched with any other accomplishment and was definitely worth the efforts. The bikes parked near hostel looked like miniatures purchased from Hamleys – detailed out but not real. I felt like I was at the top of the Maslow's pyramid and nothing else mattered that moment.

Watching sunrise and sunset from different locations at IIFM: the football ground, the roof of the girls' hostel, the mess, the road to the faculty bungalows and indeed from India Gate was a bliss for two years.

Later, we attended the flag hoisting and the celebrations where everyone appreciated the decorations, ate the motichoor ka laddu and relaxed.

CHRONICLES OF ROOM NO.26, GIRLS HOSTEL

RENUKA SAROHA , PFM 08-10



Renuka Saroha is currently working as National Consultant at World Health Organization, India



Hogwarts and Malory Towers set my expectation for a hostel room. Room 26 at the then Girl's hostel was a close match to my dreams, and it also came with a perfect roommate, Vinisha. Our adventure began with being locked out of our room after returning from an induction visit to Panchmari. Nothing brings you closer than successfully breaking a lock at 11 pm in the night. Henceforth, Chacha Chowdhary and the occupants of room 26 never locked their room again.

Our room was soon known as Black Hole. Anything that came to our room never left, be it a borrowed book, Langdu (the rescued dog of the batch) or snakes which visited our room often. It took me three phone calls to convince Vinisha that there was a snake on our bed and that I needed to be rescued. After the first few sightings, a miss call was enough to inform each other that we have a special guest.

Though considerably bigger than the boy's hostel room, our rooms lacked balconies. To overcome this barrier, we did an extensive recce and converted the outer beams to functional patios. From nail spa sessions to midnight parties, those beams witnessed many crazy events.

Our room was filled with friendship and many unknown species of wildlife. Our room's only drawback was the constant noise of glass bottles being thrown onto an old lamp post and us not being able to stop that cruel practice.

I hope the coming batches can enjoy room 26 as much as we did.



A group of students are sitting on the ground outdoors, surrounded by trees. Some are looking towards the camera, while others are looking away. The scene is captured in a slightly desaturated, dark tone. A large, white, bold text overlay is centered on the image, enclosed in a thin white border with arrowheads at the corners.

REMINISCENCE 19-21 BATCH

THE BATCH OF PFM 19-21 PEN DOWN THEIR EXPERIENCES ABOUT THEIR 2 YEARS JOURNEY AT IIFM AS THEY STEP OUT TO BEGIN NEW JOURNEY OF LIFE



MOINAK GOSWAMI
PFM 19-21

I still remember the day I entered the campus, seeing the imprinted name of the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) on the gates and a-kilometer-long ride to our hostel from the gate. I was overwhelmed by the beauty of the campus and more by the thought that I would be spending the next two years here.

I first met my batchmates- Shaon and Rohit, as they were from the same state as mine, and our parents had interacted before. They seemed familiar faces to me amongst the whole new lot. My first friends at IIFM were Arpit and Saurabh, and I got the first experience of exploring the campus at the nature trail. IIFM had a tight schedule throughout the day, starting with classes from 9:30 a.m. lasting till 4:30 in the evening. A daily schedule of waking up, rushing to the breakfast table, and then for the classes was a reality for most of the students throughout the year.

Nightlife at IIFM was the best. As a residential campus, the computer center was open 24/7 and I used to visit the center mostly for completing assignments or because of the good internet speed. The hostel internet wasn't great as is the case usually with most of the hostels. There was a night canteen in our first few months at IIFM. Freedom had a different meaning post 10 p.m as we could wander in the academic and administrative building without any restrictions even during the night. The gang of Saurabh, Arpit, Ankit, Shaon, Aseem, Vipin, Prasenjit, Abhikalp, Amit, and I used to gather at the night canteen for tea or surrender to our midnight cravings with Maggi or pasta.

Call it claustrophobia or my wanderlust, I spent most of my time outside of my room, and roamed around in the terrace or admin block, discovering new corners of the campus every single day, till I was an authority on the same. Friday nights were precious at IIFM for reasons best not to be discussed here but understood universally.

Usually, we learn some of the things the hard way, and one day when Vipin, Saurabh, Arpit, and I went to explore the grasslands in shorts, we came back with cuts on our legs made by thorns and kite strings. Those cuts not only left an impression on the legs but on the mind as well. The best thing for me at IIFM was finding Namrata as my elder sister and not a single day goes, I don't feel thankful to have found her at IIFM. I explored Bhopal cycling along with Saurabh and Arpit and on my own using my sister's scooter. I found a good friend in my roommate Vinay who taught me how to play Table Tennis. Holi at IIFM was great fun if you consider being thrown into a puddle of mud as one. Throughout my ups and downs on the campus, I found Shaon and Tanmay care for me more than a friend. Some bonds are made for good and they last for a lifetime.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted this amazing journey! We never knew it would last for 10 long months. We all somehow managed to keep in contact with each other through regular video calls but those 10 months seemed to be the most infuriating period of my life with a deep longing in my heart to be back at IIFM. When we came back to the IIFM campus as things got better with the pandemic, we all were quarantined. However, these restrictions could never stop us from connecting to our friends and having some fun. I had hoped to meet a few more friends, however, they couldn't return, but I was happy seeing the ones who had managed to come.

Campus placements had got us a bit tense, but we had faith and hope, and things got resolved for all. We played badminton late at night till 2 a.m., roamed around to the caves of IIFM behind our hostel, and even with all the restrictions inside the campus, it couldn't stop me from enjoying the last days here to the fullest. Throughout my life, I would cherish the love and care I got from people at IIFM. Some things shape the way you look at life and bondings and the experience at IIFM was a life-changing experience for me!



SOUMYA GUPTA
PFM 19-21

No wonder, we all feel butterflies in our stomach when we arrive at a place with so many strangers around us, a place that simultaneously gives you the vibes of discovering your career choices as well as exploring yourself. Both these things were presentiments on my first day at IIFM. I was happy to be a part of such an esteemed institute located in my home state itself. I could recall only three or four faces from the registration day while attending our classes on the first day. I missed the opportunity to mingle with my batch mates earlier because I was unable to attend my orientation week, which I later learned was an exciting experience.

As soon as classes began, I started interacting with my classmates and professors, which reawakened the previous strange sensation. The classes began, and I started enjoying studying these subjects and understanding the niche expertise for which I chose this institute. Having the opportunity to learn from professors with a wealth of expertise and experience piqued my interest in learning as much as I could from them. Many of the professors and alumni have earned national and international recognition for their outstanding work in the environmental and wildlife fields. Life at IIFM, like any other management college, appears to be very demanding at first, but as students gain new skills and adapt to the environment, the workload transforms into an interesting learning process.

Apart from academics, the experience of living in a traditional campus was invaluable. Residing in a hostel also gives you a lot of knowledge. As everybody says, the best part of IIFM is the beautiful architecture. The distinct beauty of the campus is the lush green setting with a diverse range of flora and fauna. It's the ideal place for wildlife and nature lovers to learn about and spend time with nature. The campus is massive, so there are many beautiful places to visit, such as India Gate, the grassland area, the long beautiful green streets, and the picturesque view of the water body area near the faculties' residence. And I found myself spending the majority of my time in the library and the badminton court. With time, we all became accustomed to the campus atmosphere, faculty, classes, friends and batch mates, seniors, mess chit chats and the regular events that became part of our after-class schedule. I was a member of two committees: the Mess Committee and the Sports Club Committee. Planning and arranging events was a lot of fun. Over a cup of coffee or a bowl of Maggie, students from different courses and batches can often be found sitting in the IIFM lawns and canteen, sharing their thoughts and experiences.

We all became a part of the IIFM family over time. Alumni sessions focusing on careers and industrial exposures were extremely beneficial. Listening to their stories and having in-depth conversations with them offered a wealth of knowledge.

Unfortunately, we could spend only a year in this beautiful campus. Still, my journey in IIFM means a lot to me for the time I spent there during the first three terms, the Open Learning Day experiences, and the 18-days field trip where we covered nearly half of Odisha was amazing. Another of my favorite memories is competing in the All India Forest Sports Meet (AIFSM) where I represented IIFM at the national level. I had the wonderful opportunity to meet people from all over India from different departments of MoEFCC.

We never imagined that we would have only a limited time to spend at campus, but, at the end of the day, it's perfect because we all have our own memories and lessons to appreciate and cherish. In our second year, we were busy attending Google Meet classes, participating in online tournaments and preparing for placements, assimilation and assignments. It was stressful and daunting for a while because it was very different from what we had imagined our final year would be like. We missed campus life at first, but we grew accustomed to it. Everyone has to move on and live in the real world,



SHASHWAT SHARMA
PFM 19-21

Engineers, B.com, Arts, journalism, MSW graduates constitute the alchemy of IIFM. IIFM – the place where you can grow while learning, where you interact with people from different backgrounds, the place where all the cultures unite and are celebrated, the place which imparts impeccable knowledge with a perfect blend of the scholastic and co-scholastic curriculum.

The people at IIFM don't require alarms to wake up instead chirping of birds and calls of peacock are enough to wake them up. Here, curtains don't open up to the view of skyscrapers and traffic but the picturesque view of nature. Dance practices near 'Medhavi', events at 'Samagam' and the interactions at night canteen are what add to the natural and social diversity of IIFM.

Throughout the day, the problems of QT will perplex you, the caselets of marketing will make you brainstorm and the forest mensuration fieldwork will provide you with hands-on experience of the field. After getting a daily dose of knowledge, when your brain needs a break, the canteen is the place where you can find everyone sipping tea and coffee and munching snacks. As soon as the clock strikes eight in the night, the mess is open for mouth-watering and hygienic food where you can find all the students discussing their entire day with each other, creating an ambience filled with giggles, laughter and chatters.

IIFM campus is always alive and, so are the people at IIFM. The campus never sleeps, you can find students in the library, computer centre preparing for their assignments or at different courts enjoying their favorite sports. Night canteen in front of library lawn is the place where you can find juniors and seniors gelling up with each other over a bowl of Maggie and a cup of coffee. The 236-acre campus is worth a night walk when you can enjoy the cold breeze touching your face, when you can think peacefully about the shortcomings and prepare for the fresh start of the next day. Just like every batch, the current batches too has got a mixture of early risers and night owls due to which the campus never becomes dull and boring.

Definitely, two years of life at IIFM will give you memories for lifetime.



A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of several hands reaching up from the bottom and sides, with their index fingers pointing towards the center. The hands are silhouetted against a dark, slightly textured background, creating a sense of unity and community.

CAMPUS EVENTS OF THE MONTH



IIFM CLEANLINESS DRIVE



At 7 AM on 6th April 2021, 25 IIFMites gathered at the India Gate (IIFM's gigantic water tank). The air was slightly cool, but the sun was strong. The only purpose of this early morning gathering, after pulling an all-night for an assignment, was to clean the campus.

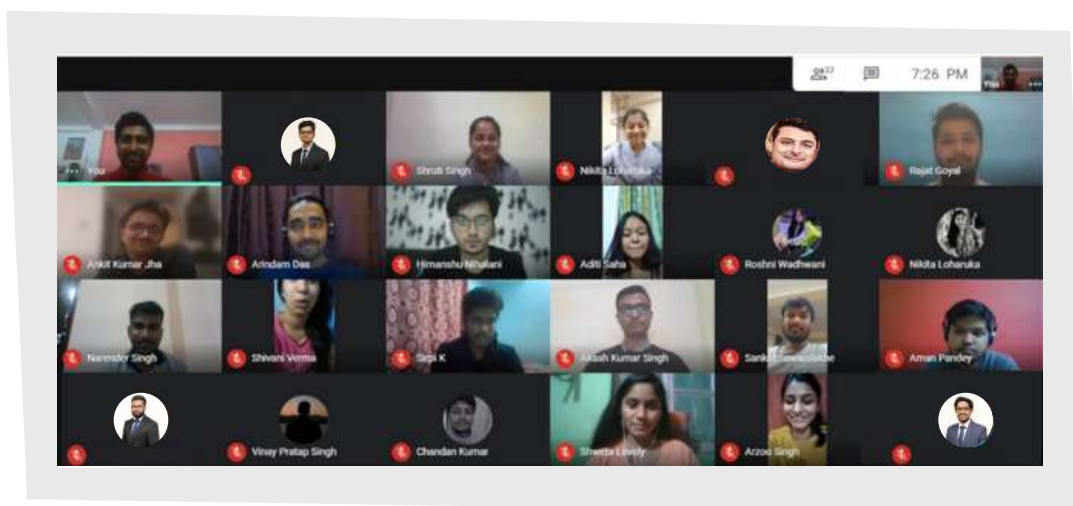
There are a few areas in the IIFM campus which are quite unclean. Garbage had been thrown in those places due to lack of proper management. So, we students decided to do something about it. Climate Change and Environment Core Competency Cell (C2EC3) and Nature and Photography Club collaborated to get volunteers together and clean up whatever we could.

The areas shortlisted were behind the hostels and canteen. We split into three teams and got to work. We believed that one drive would be enough to get the areas cleaned, but soon we realized the extent of the task we had undertaken. Sacks of garbage were emptied into the main dustbins and yet more garbage remained.

We tried our best to clean the areas, but by about 8:30 AM, when the summer sun started beating down on us, we decided to call it a day.

Our efforts weren't completely useless, as we cleaned large patches. But none of us was satisfied. After all, when one starts picking up garbage, one doesn't want to quit unless all of it is gone. Nevertheless, we informed the respective responsible people to keep those places clean and dump garbage in the designated dustbins.

Sweaty and in masks, we headed to the mess, drank cool juice and had our breakfasts. It was decided that the juniors would continue organizing more such cleanliness drives in the needed areas. And most importantly, they would try to build a system where garbage would go to its right place - the dustbin.



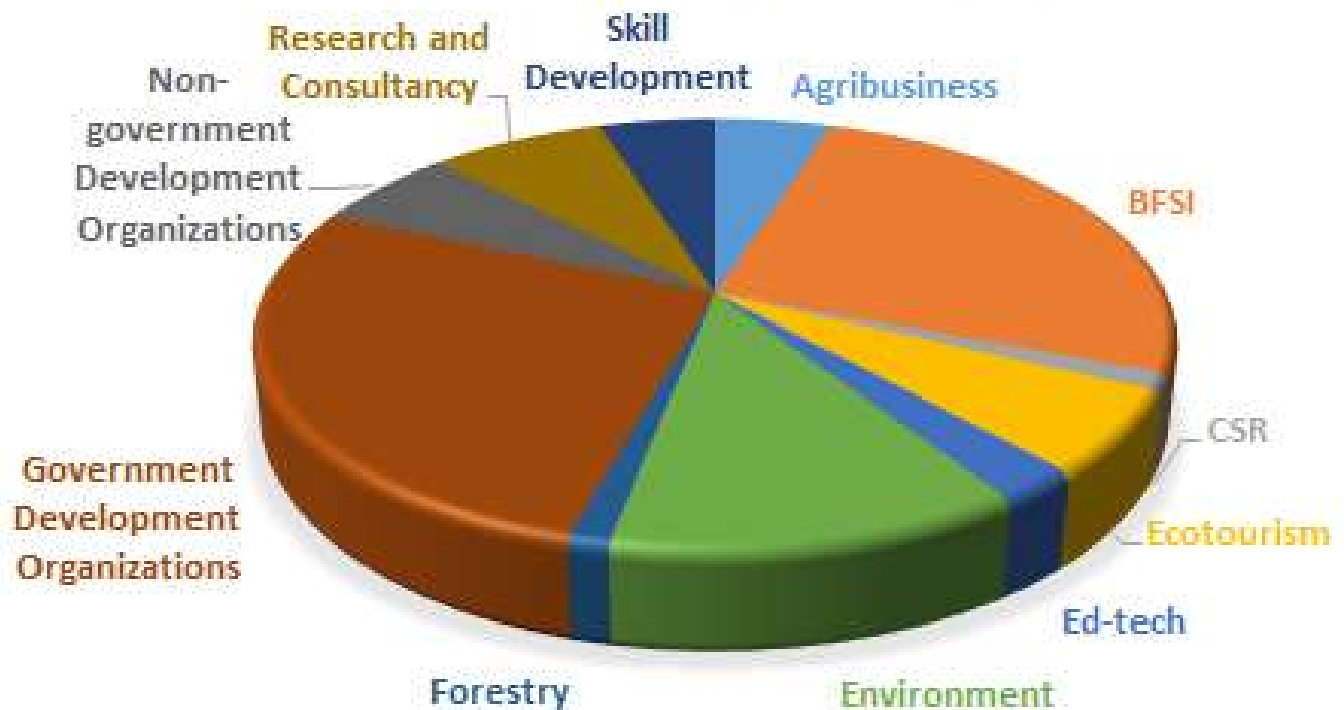
On 16th April, IIFM bid farewell to PFM 19-21 in the presence of the Director, the Dean, and esteemed faculty members. Various awards like the best club of the year, best sportsperson, etc were conferred. Alumni Network Committee (ANC) bagged the award for the best club of the year adding a feather in its cap.

During the pandemic, when everyone was shut at home, the ANC members worked hard to motivate everyone and to keep up the spirit of students through various online events. ANC tried its best to connect with as many alumni as possible and for this, they regularly conducted various events, competitions, and sessions. In one of its kind, for the first time in the IIFM history, ANC prepared a handy Alumni database-ALUMNIPEDIA which helped the students to get acquainted with their valuable alumni base. ANC had come up with its first online competition-ANVESHAN (an online treasure hunt), connecting Alumni and students and de-stressing them in the trying times. There were weekly alumni interactions that provided guidance to the batch in their placement preparation. ANC also came up with a novel idea of ANC SAKSHATKAR under which the ANC members interviewed the alumni and published those videos on various social media platforms. After the success of Anveshan, another competition that ANC organized was- ENIGMA. This competition was intended to hone the decision-making power and endurance of the students through a series of rounds. In a pursuit to increase the knowledge and learning of the students, ANC also carried out 2 Town Hall discussions wherein they invited eminent alumni working in a particular field of Environment, sustainability, and rural development. These Town hall discussions engaged the alumni, students, and faculties in a fruitful discussion. ANC had been active on various social media platforms through its initiatives like “know your alumni”, and alumni achievement posters. In order to de-stress people from the hectic online schedule, ANC also organized “YaadonkiBaarat”- an online reunion event of PFM 2003 and the faculties which reminisced the good old memories. Overall, the committee reached out to 200 IIFM alumni through its various initiatives.

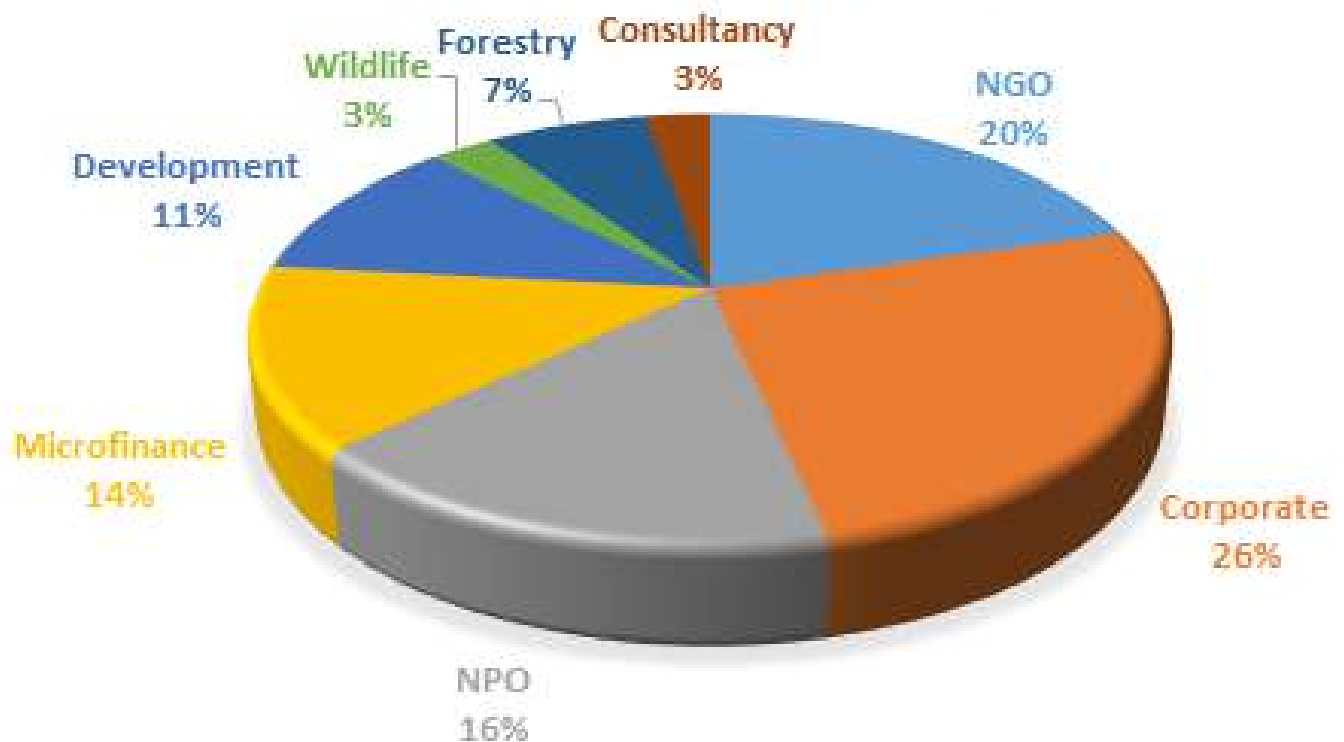
The above log of events clearly justifies the award that has been conferred on ANC. ANC kept up its motto of- “Network is our net worth” even in the trying and testing times.

Team, Alumni Network Committee (ANC)
Indian Institute of Forest Management

PERCENTAGE PLACEMENTS



PERCENTAGE INTERNSHIP





25

YRS OF PFM 94-96



IT'S ALWAYS ECSTATIC TO RELIVE THE GOOD OLD DAYS...

One always loves to visit its alma mater with batch mates. Maybe it is a silly thing, but fun to huddle up with your mates. We all like reminiscing the silly conversations and the feeling that we are able to pick up from the time we left it. Since last year, we from PFM 94-96 had been planning to get back to IIFM. After a number of deliberations, we decided that we will visit IIFM in Reminiscence 2021 - the official annual alumni event of IIFM where our batch will celebrate its 25th Anniversary. IIFM even began planning it and many of us made our bookings. However, due to current COVID 19 situation, IIFM was hesitant and eventually called it off. So, some of us decided that we will continue with our plan and landed up into the IIFM guest house for 3 days from 18-21 March 2021.

From the batch of 23, only 6 of us could make it. While some could not come due to restrictions on international travel, some didn't come because IIFM apparently is planning Reminiscence in May 2021. Nevertheless, in the current situation of night curfew and lockdown, we still can't be sure of the official event so we were glad that at least we six made it.

These three days were very refreshing and rejuvenating for us especially after spending almost a year confined in our homes. Revisiting old haunts and cherishing memories. The trip made us nostalgic but at the same time, created some more lifetime memories for all us.



IMPRESSIONS FROM THE CAMPUS

Like any other IIFMite, we too spent a lot of time going round the campus. The trees are much taller. And other than the lone wise owl and a couple of pythons and mongoose that the campus hosted in our times, the campus now has lots of peacocks. The jackal population too seems to have gone up. Classrooms are much more modern and a lots of sports facilities have come up. The buildings still are a source of great awe and pleasure. However, maintenance is still an issue as junk abounds in all corners.

IN THE END YOU WILL ALWAYS GO BACK TO PEOPLE WHO WERE THERE IN THE BEGINNING.....

Majority of the professors who taught us in 1994-95 have left the campus - either superannuated or shifted to greener pastures. But we were looking forward to meeting those we could. Though the evening and weekend curfew ruined our plan to have a dinner with the faculty but we managed to meet a few of them. It was really an interesting and nostalgic interaction with them.

EXPRESSIONS

I was back on the IIFM campus after a gap of nearly a decade and a half! While the pandemic scuppered the formal silver jubilee celebrations of our batch, it was nevertheless great to get together with my 'aging' batch mates and friends-for-life and relive the good old days, albeit for a brief period, and jog our collective memory. And, we also got an opportunity to give some "life gyaan" to the junior batches!!!

Madhavan ADP
PFM 94-96
International Advisor
World Bank's Women's Economic Empowerment Project
Kabul, Afghanistan

2020-21 has been a unique and challenging year and quite naturally IIFM was apprehensive about hosting its larger flagship alumni event – Reminiscence. But our batch had been planning to meet for almost a year now, and looking forward to the homecoming; so those of us from 94-96 who could make it, turned up on the campus and had a great time reliving the fond memories with our batchmates, revisiting old haunts, eating our favorite dishes at our regular restaurants. We also met up with director and some professors who had taught us and had interesting discussions on the developments on campus since we had graduated. It was a great three days and [in the words of Shakespeare] 'with mirth and laughter we let the old wrinkles come'. I for one am looking forward to the pandemic passing away so that we can meet with greater strength and do all those things that was not possible to do with social distancing.

Archana Sharma
PFM 94-96
Managing Trustee
Aranya

Only the neon sign that greeted us at the gate seemed new at IIFM. A few new buildings (some in ghastly colors), it felt that time had pretty much stood still - 25 years after we had left its shores! Unending gossips with our own bunch who could still make it to IIFM despite covid was special. Ditto for the interactions with the few students, a few faculty members and the mess staff. To know that the challenges, bikerings and the perpetual existential angst about our identity still inhabits IIFM, was weirdly reassuring. Who says familiarity breeds contempt? In this case it only breeds life long love and a sense of gratitude that we were also here...

Bishwadeep Ghosh
PFM 94-96
Country Director
Water for People

CHANGING WORLD, CHANGING IIFM





SHADES OF IIFM

BATCH OF THE MONTH

PFM 98-00



NAME: ADITYA VIJAY PRATAP SINGH
CURRENT LOCATION: NEW DELHI
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: MS EKGAON TECHNOLOGIES (EKGAON GROUP)
BIRTHDAY: 21ST MAY
PAST DEGREE: B.E. (ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING)
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: IIM AHMEDABAD



NAME: AMIT GUPTA
CURRENT LOCATION: BANGALORE
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: ACCION INDIA TECHNICAL ADVISORS
BIRTHDAY: 1ST DECEMBER
PAST DEGREE: M.SC.- SOCIAL POLICY AND PLANNING, LSE, LONDON
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: EKLAVYA FOUNDATION



NAME: ASHISH AGGARWAL
CURRENT LOCATION: NOIDA
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: IIM LUCKNOW
BIRTHDAY: 26TH AUGUST
PAST DEGREE: PHD.
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: SEVA MANDIR, UDAIPUR



NAME: ASHISH SINHA
CURRENT LOCATION: NAIROBI, KENYA
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA IN KENYA, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS INDIA
BIRTHDAY: 22ND JANUARY
PAST DEGREE: BSC.(HONORS) PHYSICS
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: BASIX, HYDERABAD

BATCH OF THE MONTH

PFM 98-00



NAME: ANGSHUMAN MAJUMDER
CURRENT LOCATION: BENGALURU
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES
BIRTHDAY: 17TH SEPTEMBER
PAST DEGREE: M SC. TECH
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: IFFDC



NAME: AVINASH KUMAR
CURRENT LOCATION: RANCHI
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: MITRATULYA SAMADHAN SEVA PVT LTD
BIRTHDAY: 22ND AUGUST
PAST DEGREE: B. SC. (MATHS HONS.), BACHELOR OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION-(RANCHI UNIVERSITY)
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: BHARTIYA YUVA SHAKTI TRUST (BYST, NEW DELHI)



NAME: BITU SHREEVASTAVA
CURRENT LOCATION: KATHMANDU
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: UNDP, EMERGENCY AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT
BIRTHDAY: 17TH NOVEMBER
PAST DEGREE: PH.D. SCHOLAR, TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY, NEPAL
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: FORESTRY RESEARCH & INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM, IDRC, GIZ



NAME: DHARMENDRA CHANDURKAR
CURRENT LOCATION: NOIDA
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: SAMBODHI RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATIONS, NOIDA
BIRTHDAY: 28TH SEPTEMBER
PAST DEGREE: BA (MATHS) (OSMANIA UNIVERSITY)
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: AGA KHAN RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME (INDIA)

BATCH OF THE MONTH

PFM 98-00



NAME: DIPAK JHA
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CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: INTEGRATION ARCHITECT, HER MAJESTY'S REVENUE AND CUSTOMS (HMRC), GOVT. OF UK, LONDON
BIRTHDAY: 19TH OCTOBER
PAST DEGREE: B-TECH, (IIT (ISM), DHANBAD)
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: PENTASOFT TECHNOLOGIES LTD.



NAME: JAMES T KHARKONGOR
CURRENT LOCATION: SHILLONG
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: MEGHALAYA BASIN MANAGEMENT AGENCY, SHILLONG
BIRTHDAY: 10TH JULY
PAST DEGREE: B. SC. (CHEMISTRY)
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: CAPART



NAME: KULTAR SINGH
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CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: SAMBODHI RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATIONS
BIRTHDAY: 2ND JULY
PAST DEGREE: BSC. (MEERUT UNIVERSITY)
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: BYST (PART OF CII)



NAME: KAUSTUV S MUKHOPADHYAY
CURRENT LOCATION: KOLKATA
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: FREELANCE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT / ASSOCIATED WITH ECOCITE CONSULTANTS PVT. LIMITED AS ADVISOR.
BIRTHDAY: 17TH MARCH
PAST DEGREE: B. SC. (ZOOLOGY)
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: CAPART, GOI

BATCH OF THE MONTH

PFM 98-00



NAME: NAVIN VIVEK HORO
CURRENT LOCATION: NEW DELHI
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: GIZ, NEW DELHI
BIRTHDAY: 23RD OCTOBER
PAST DEGREE: MSC IN NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (CRANFIELD UNIVERSITY, UK)
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: CAPART



NAME: NIKHIL MATHUR
CURRENT LOCATION: NOIDA
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: EY / MINISTRY OF MSME, NEW DELHI
BIRTHDAY: 17TH OCTOBER
PAST DEGREE: B.COM
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: SIR RATAN TATA TRUST, MUMBAI



NAME: NITIN GUPTA
CURRENT LOCATION: GURGAON
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: OLAM AGRO INDIA LTD
BIRTHDAY: 26TH SEPTEMBER
PAST DEGREE: BACHELORS IN AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY (PANTNAGAR)
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: ITC PAPERBOARDS LTD



NAME: NITIN SHARMA
CURRENT LOCATION: BENGALURU
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: SAMBODHI RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATIONS, BENGALURU
BIRTHDAY: 22ND OCTOBER
PAST DEGREE: B.SC. (PCM) (BUNDELKHAND UNIVERSITY)
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: PRADAN

BATCH OF THE MONTH

PFM 98-00



NAME: MANEESHA CHADHA
CURRENT LOCATION: MUMBAI
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: J.P. MORGAN
BIRTHDAY: NA
PAST DEGREE: MSC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: MCRIL, GURGAON



NAME: RADHIKA AGASHE
CURRENT LOCATION: NOIDA
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: MICROFINANCE INSTITUTIONS NETWORK (MFIN), DEPUTY HEAD - STATE INITIATIVES, GURGAON
BIRTHDAY: 19TH JUNE
PAST DEGREE: B SC (HONS) MICROBIOLOGY (DELHI UNIVERSITY)
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: EDA RURAL SYSTEMS, GURGAON



NAME: RAJARAM SANKARAN
CURRENT LOCATION: KAMPALA, UGANDA
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: ABACUS PHARMA (AFRICA) LIMITED, A CARLYLE PORTFOLIO COMPANY
BIRTHDAY: 1ST AUGUST
PAST DEGREE: B.SC.
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: PENTASOFT TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED



NAME: RAJNI PRASAD SUNDURU
CURRENT LOCATION: BENGALURU
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: LEASING MANAGER IN WATERS INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED, BENGALURU
BIRTHDAY: 11TH OCTOBER
PAST DEGREE: BACHELORS OF TECHNOLOGY (B.TECH) IN ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING (EEE), (JNTUCE)
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: FIELD EXECUTIVE, BASIX

BATCH OF THE MONTH

PFM 98-00



NAME: ROHIT MAGOTRA
CURRENT LOCATION: NEW DELHI
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: INTEGRATED RESEARCH AND ACTION FOR DEVELOPMENT, N. DELHI
BIRTHDAY: 30TH JANUARY
PAST DEGREE: MSC ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRIES (CII)



NAME: SACHIN DUBEY
CURRENT LOCATION: NOIDA
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: J-PAL AND NSDC, NEW DELHI
BIRTHDAY: 17TH MARCH
PAST DEGREE: BA ECONOMICS AND MATHS
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: RAJIV GANDHI MISSION FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT OF MP



NAME: SARATH KUMARASIRI
CURRENT LOCATION: ATURUGIRIYA, SRILANKA
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS CONSERVATION (SRILANKA)
BIRTHDAY: 29TH JULY
PAST DEGREE: MSC GIS
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: NA



NAME: SONALI CHOWDHARY
CURRENT LOCATION: HYDERABAD
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT, ECONOMIC INCLUSION; LOCATION GLOBAL
BIRTHDAY: 5TH JUNE
PAST DEGREE: MSC, INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (UNIVERSITY OF BATH, UK)
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: BASIX GROUP

BATCH OF THE MONTH

PFM 98-00



NAME: SONIA BAKSHI
CURRENT LOCATION: JAKARTA (INDONESIA)
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT (DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION)
BIRTHDAY: 13TH OCTOBER
PAST DEGREE: CERTIFICATION IN CLIMATE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY FINANCE (FRANKFURT SCHOOL OF FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT) ; PGCE, (UNIVERSITY OF SUNDERLAND (U.K)).
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: BASIX, HYDERABAD



NAME: SUNIT KISHORE
CURRENT LOCATION: MUMBAI
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: NOVARTIS
BIRTHDAY: 23RD MAY
PAST DEGREE: BSC (H).
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: HINDUSTAN LATEX LTD



NAME: SWAPNIL SHEKHAR
CURRENT LOCATION: NOIDA
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: SAMBODHI RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATIONS
BIRTHDAY: 31ST MAY
PAST DEGREE: B.SC.
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: RAJIV GANDHI MISSION FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT



NAME: DR. YOGESH D. JADHAV
CURRENT LOCATION: INDORE
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, BARLI DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE FOR RURAL WOMEN, INDORE
BIRTHDAY: JUNE 6
PAST DEGREE: M.SC. (CHEMISTRY) (GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, NAGPUR)
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: PROJECT FELLOW (EC-FAO PARTNERSHIP-FUNDED PROJECT), RCNAEB, IIFM

BATCH OF THE MONTH

PFM 98-00



NAME: RITU BHARADWAJ
CURRENT LOCATION: LONDON
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (IIED)
BIRTHDAY: 28TH SEPT
PAST DEGREE: BSC HONS, PATNA UNIVERSITY
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OF MP



NAME: NAINA GHATAK
CURRENT LOCATION: BENGALURU
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: SENIOR MANAGER, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES, GLOBAL EDUCATION MANAGEMENT, IBSW
BIRTHDAY: 3RD NOV
PAST DEGREE: BA (ENGLISH HONORS) (BURDWAN UNIVERSITY)
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: IIFM



NAME: ANIKA GULATI
CURRENT LOCATION: MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: DET (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TRAINING)
BIRTHDAY: 4TH MARCH
PAST DEGREE: BSC. AGRICULTURE, (GB PANT UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY (PANTNAGAR))
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: CAPART



NAME: NISHANTHA
CURRENT LOCATION: NOT AVAILABLE
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: NOT AVAILABLE
BIRTHDAY: NOT AVAILABLE
PAST DEGREE: NOT AVAILABLE
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: NOT AVAILABLE

BATCH OF THE MONTH

PFM 98-00



NAME: CHANDRA
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CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: NOT AVAILABLE
BIRTHDAY: NOT AVAILABLE
PAST DEGREE: NOT AVAILABLE
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: NOT AVAILABLE



NAME: SOUMIK BANNERJEE
CURRENT LOCATION: BALAGHAT, M.P.
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: FREELANCE CONSULTANT
BIRTHDAY: 18TH NOV
PAST DEGREE: MSC SCIENCE, IISC (INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE)
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: PRADAN, JHARKHAND



NAME: YUVARAJ MANICKAVASAGAM
CURRENT LOCATION: BANGALORE
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: JUNGLE LODGES AND RESORTS LTD. GOVT. OF KARNATAKA
BIRTHDAY: 5TH NOV
PAST DEGREE: BA ECO HONS
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: JUNGLE LODGES AND RESORTS LIMITED



NAME: JOY SINGHAL
CURRENT LOCATION: MYANMAR
CURRENT PLACE OF WORK: INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS (IFRC), MYANMAR
BIRTHDAY: 20TH SEPT
PAST DEGREE: BSC
PLACEMENT FROM CAMPUS: IFFDC

EULOGY

PANDA - THE SHINING STAR GONE TOO SOON...

BATCH OF PFM 17-19

Abhishek Upadhyay, whom we lovingly call 'Panda', is someone who made his presence felt in every realm that IIFM could offer. A super-fit athlete with a never give-up spirit, and the craziest soul fortified with an amazing sense of humour. Be it academics, sports or parties, our Panda was there nailing everything. He also assumed leadership roles and proactively led all events organised by the SAAC body as the Chief Election Officer.

In all these versatile roles, one thing that remained constant was his captivating and fascinating smile, inflicting positivity among everybody around. Basketball court would resonate with his laughs; classrooms would come alive with his giggles on jokes. Most importantly, in every trouble or crisis our batch got into, he would smile and always boost us up with his, "Arre sab kar lenge, Bhai" or "Don't worry, it will be alright". His silly jokes followed by a rolling laugh was always enough to uplift even the most terrible moods. It is this smile that is lingering in all our minds now and has become everlasting - something that everyone will cherish forever.

Whenever he had any task in his hand, be it a simple routine or any assignment, perfection is the least he ever settled for. Panda on the basketball court, was swift with the ball and cracking jokes while he played. He would divert your attention to his PJs and one-liners while he would sneak the ball past you.

The placements saw people sweating it out, restlessness dripping off their faces but Panda seemed to have maintained his cool at another level and it was nonchalance radiating off his face after converting one of the best opportunities. He flourished in his career, overcoming all the hurdles and taking life as a lesson at every step. He showed empathy for the people around him.

The 'Shukla gali' would be an iconic part of the PFM 2017-19 batch and Panda would remain a shining icon. Our Panda is a real life panda. Chub and eyes, courageous and adorable. We realise 'Panda' is an apt alias for Abhishek because he symbolises friendship, sleepyhead, and a positive outlook towards life. Rare would have been an occasion that somebody had seen him not smiling.

Panda is dear to each and every one of us, and we just wish all of this is a just a nightmare and he'll come back to us when we open our eyes. He has smiled through all his fights and challenges and may his soul rest in peace with that eternal smile on his face.



ABHISHEK LEFT FOR HEAVENLY
JOURNEY ON
16TH APRIL 2021

HE SHALL LIVE IN OUR MEMORIES

He fondly quoted lines of Henry James "Three things in human life are important. The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. And the third is to be kind." This was Saurabh, always happy to help, always ready to listen and always up for a cup of tea. I met him while we were preparing for CAT, and it took me only sometime before we ended up being friends. His positive attitude towards life, always gave you reasons to be happy and have a hearty laugh even in toughest of times. It was only sometime later that we were batch mates in IIFM and that made me realize that he is a friend for a lifetime. Though his soul is now set free, but how can such a happy human being leave. He shall live in our memories as a kind soul who loved to talk and laugh and made you do the same.

DEBAPRIYA ROY
PSM 20-22



"Life is meaningless if we don't appreciate the little things that we come across every day"

I can't fathom the fact that a person with such a positive and high perception towards life is no longer with us. On 11th of April 2021, he finally succumbed to Brain Haemorrhage which he battled for 13 long days.

Sourabh was a wonderful son, a diligent brother and a true friend. My association with him has been a little short than 2 years but it already feels like if I've known the man for my entire life. And as much as I hate to admit this right now, but we all need to find the courage to carry forward his will in the form of our actions and cherish the moments which all of us shared, moments which were a part of our lives, and they will forever be.

May our dear friend find peace in the afterlife and his family and close friends find the strength to cope with this great loss.

RAJESH MAHALINGAMIYER
PSM 20-22



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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
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“

AFTER ALL, WE ALL TAKE PRIDE IN
PROCLAIMING – “IIFM के लिए कुछ भी”