



ALMA MATTERS



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Number of members	1611 <small>(As of 9th Feb, 2023)</small>	
Total Alumni Count <small>(approx.)</small>	2100	
Number of Batches	34	

Celebrating 75th Republic Day at IIFM



Marking the 75th Republic Day under the resonant themes “Viksit Bharat” (Developed India) and “Bharat- Loktantra ki Matraka” (India-Mother of Democracy), Dr. K. Ravichandran, Director IIFM, unfurled the National Flag at IIFM Bhopal, reaffirming the institute’s commitment to nation building.

India’s cultural mosaic was manifested through vibrant performance by the students. On this occasion, Samarthya Sports Club ignited the competitive spirit among the students as they participated in cricket and throwball matches for the prestigious “Republic Day Cup”.

In a noble gesture, a blood donation camp was organized, embodying the ethos of service and unity. Together, we honor our nation with pride and benevolence.





Anmol Jain (PFM 1999) addresses senior officers at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie on Mussoorie's rich history:

Anmol Jain recently delivered a captivating talk for the senior officers on the history of Mussoorie at the Indira Bhawan campus of LBSNAA (the civil service training institute on public policy and public administration). His insights enlightened the officers.

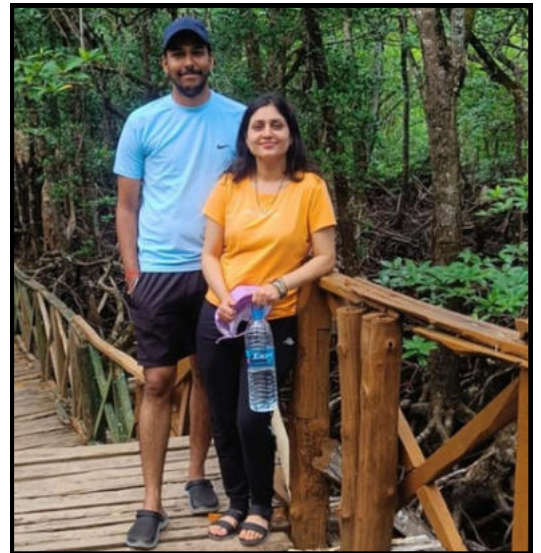
Rahul Kumar (PFM 2006-08) Appointed Business Head: A Triumph for IIFM Alumni



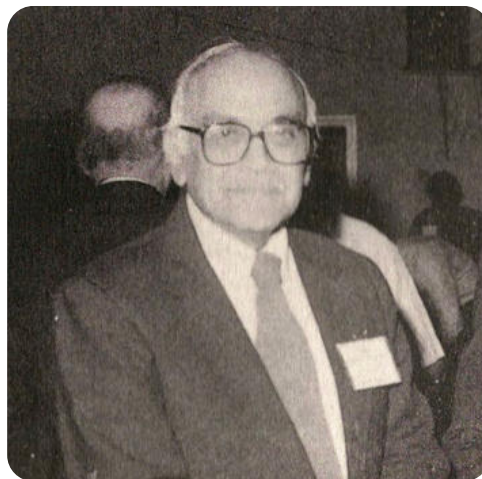
Alumni Association congratulates Rahul Kumar (PFM 2008) on becoming the Business Head in the Operations Team of Midland Microfin Ltd. He has rich experience of 16+ years in micro finance (Micro Energy Credits, Sarla Development & Microfinance Pvt Ltd, Save Microfinance Pvt Ltd etc.)

Atul Sharma (PFM 2018) Emerges as RBI Grade B 2023 Topper from IIFM

Top spot in the RBI Grade B 2023 exam goes to Atul Sharma (PFM 2018) from IIFM. Overcoming challenges, he clinched the All India Rank 1, a testament to resilience and dedication.



Question: Please identify the gentleman and how he is associated with IIFM?



Answer to the Quiz question of January:
PFM 1990 Roll no. 1 Animesh Agrawal

City Meets



Santosh Passi (PFM 1995) at Kaya Learning Center in Dehradun with Jaspal (PFM 2006), Swapan Mehra (PFM 2006) and Prabhat Upadhyay (PFM 2006).



Anurag (PFM 2008) at IIFM with our BELOVED Chandu bhaiya.

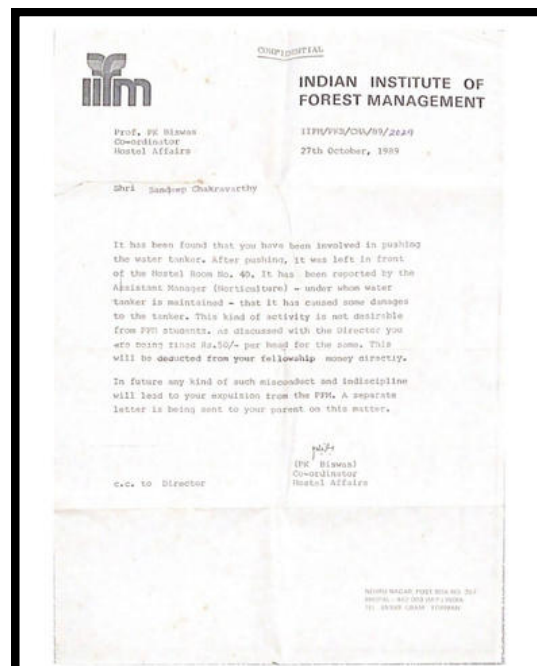


Small coincidental meet for IIFMites at NRLM AAP workshop at Udaipur, Rajasthan. From left to right- Himanshu Sham (PFM 2020), Alice (PFM 1999), Zeeshan (PFM 2020) and Akash Porte (PFM 2018) batch.

THE MEMO

-Sandeep Chakravorty (PFM 1991)

In the last issue we reminisced about the 'short telegram'. I had ended it with the question of whose ideas it was to send the 'short telegram'. Anil Purohit who was party to it being sent says "no idea whose idea it was...may be a collective of inebriated spirits were in tandem for this....". Ravi Gupta, also a signatory, is of the view that "the message author was Shiji, a passionate Goa fan, he prompted us all to send a unanimous telegram without delay". While we can only speculate on the real author of the 'short telegram' and we have no way to reach Shiji who has gone too far away, there is however, no doubt about the author of 'The Memo' dated 27 October 1989. It was our very own Prof. PK Biswas (PKB).



We all remember those were pre-mobile phones and pre-cable TV days. At that time IIFM didn't have any play ground and the only sport we could do was badminton in one of the classrooms and carrom in the mess. There wasn't also much money to go around. So dining out or boozing much were not very common. One Sunday, boredom reached its peak. Some of us, I don't remember exactly who all were involved, spied a water tanker on the helipad, standing there forlorn, alone, immobile and perhaps equally bored. It will be nice if those from the PFM 88-90 and PFM 89-91 batches can shed more light on the conspirators. As we all know, boredom can play tricks with your brain, particularly youthful inactivity. So many of us thought, the tanker is supposed to be mobile. It shouldn't be standstill. So let's push it downhill from the helipad to the mess. Little did we realise that a tanker doesn't have steering capability and is heavy. So what? We were bored and full of youthful energy. Dhakka lagao zor se, hai sha hai sha was the slogan. Several others, watching us from the windows joined in. And lo and behold the water tanker was on its journey, downhill, rushing, galloping, under the water tank and then bang!!!. We had thought of taking it to the mess but couldn't turn it. We were powerless. The tanker seemed to have acquired locomotion of its own. So it ran aground and crashed somewhere near the turning to the mess. Seeing the crash and hearing the bang, we all valiantly disappeared from the scene. We had hoped with some trepidation that being a Sunday, nobody would have noticed our prank, till Monday proved us wrong.

PKB was then our Hostel Coordinator, and he had his spies. Next day, we were summoned to his office. He kept on asking us, why did you do so? What fun did you derive on pushing a harmless water tanker to its destruction? Of course we didn't have an answer. As a result we were served 'The Memo', and had to pay the princely sum of Rs 50/- per person as the price of boredom.

ALUMNUS OF THE MONTH

JANUARY 2024

This certificate recognises the contribution of
NEERAJ PRASAD PFM 88-90



A lot can happen with a post. It takes a lot to initiate a conversation and a lot more to do it regularly and that too with lots of strangers. We put in our lot to recognise Neeraj Prasad for his lots of regular and inspiring posts in the AA group whether they are quotes or news item. They have elicited lots of positive reactions and made us think a lot. Keep inspiring us a lot Neeraj. Inspiration launched lots of ships on lots of voyages of discovery.

PRESIDENT



Emergency Support Fund (ESF)

The IIFM Alumni Association (AA) is proposing the ESF to help IIFM Alumni in the times of distress.

Scope of Financial Support:

Financial help will be extended to the AA members in the following situation:

- AA member facing prolonged/ critical illness, rendering them unable to work
- AA member who has/had a major accident
- AA member who is facing permanent disability.

Support Us

Dear Alumni, thank you for all your open hearted engagement and support to various calls for financial contributions that we made. This has gone a long way in building up the AA and we find ourselves in a reasonable position. However, as you are well aware, finances are required constantly. We request you to contribute generously to the AA. The bank details and QR code is given here.



merchant398635.augp@aubank

Appeal to Alumni for facilitating Placements

February, 2024

Dear Alumnus,

It's nearing that time for all courses at IIFM, when all the learning, experiences, exposure, and the joie de vivre over the period of the respective courses must come together and fructify into good jobs.

The Institute and the students are working on this but as alumni, we need to do our bit as well.

The AA urges all of you to explore and convert the possibilities in your respective organizations of offering the best possible job profiles for students finishing any of the courses in 2024 - PGDFM, PGDSM, FPM.

For the batch of 2023, several alumni had recruited for their organisations.

Let us exceed that this time!

AA OF IIFM



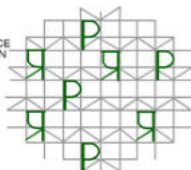
Action for Social Advancement



JEEVIKA



PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT ACTION



सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनाः

IIFM's Glory at the 43rd All India Rose Exhibition organized by The MP Rose Society and Horticulture Department

Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) excelled at the 43rd All India Rose Exhibition, clinching the Late BK Srivastava Memorial Trophy for the best standard rose pot and the Navbharat Trophy for the highest marks in the Government and Institutional category. This accomplishment reflects the unwavering commitment of IIFM's Horticulture Department, marking a proud moment for Madhya Pradesh. The prestigious event, organized by the Madhya Pradesh Rose Society and Horticulture Department, celebrated the outstanding contributions of IIFM amidst India's finest roses.



In Collaboration with IGNA, IIFM conducts its 15th edition of MCT-IV

The 15th Mid-Career Training Programme (MCT-IV) at IIFM, Bhopal, in collaboration with IGNA, Dehradun, commenced with an inaugural session chaired by Dr. K. Ravichandran. Aimed at enhancing leadership and skills for IFS officers in forest management, the program featured sessions on leadership, personnel management, and project management. Prof. Amitabh Pande emphasized the crucial role of negotiation skills in public policymaking, followed by a visit to the tribal habitat exhibition at IGRMS, showcasing the community-oriented nature of exhibitions in fostering cultural appreciation.



IFS Officers undergo five-day training course, focusing on "Value of Ecosystem Services"

The Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal recently launched a five-day training course for 14 IFS officers, focusing on the "Value of Ecosystem Services." Dr Dilip Kumar, PCCF (Protection), M.P, stressed the officers' vital role in environmental conservation. The program, featuring experts and field trips, aims to enhance understanding of ecosystem services valuation and foster efficient forest management. Director Dr K Ravichandran highlighted IIFM's pioneering work in this domain, emphasizing the institute's commitment to aiding tiger reserves.



ENIGMA: The Leadership Challenge

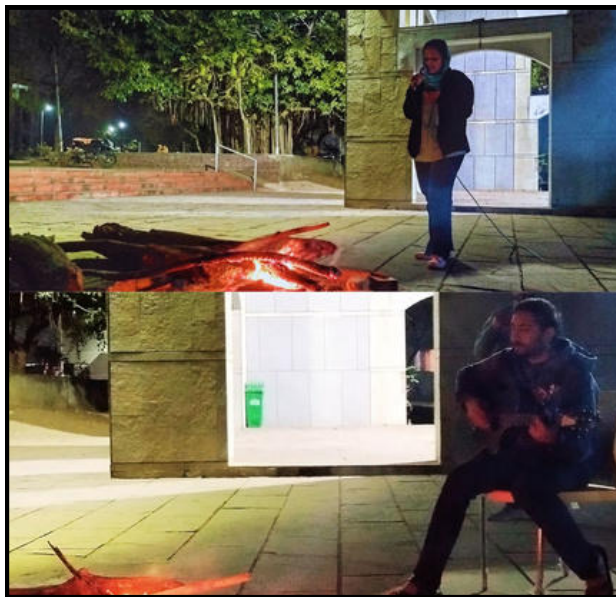
On January 27th, the Alumni Network Committee (ANC) ignited a different kind of fire—the fire of leadership—with their electrifying event, "ENIGMA." The Crucible, judged by esteemed alumni and professors, tested the mettle through three rigorous rounds: minds clashed in group discussions tackling environmental issues and sustainable business practices; extempore rounds saw abstract topics tackled with quick thinking; and personal interviews demanded composure under pressure. While the final interview results await, ENIGMA wasn't just about competition. It was a melting pot of raw talent, unwavering spirit, and a dash of campus nostalgia for alumni returning to relive golden moments.



An evening at IIFM, enriched with soulful jamming and spine-chilling horror stories

Meraki, the literary club at IIFM, orchestrated a memorable evening with "Spirits and Strings," captivating students with spine-chilling horror stories, soulful jamming sessions, and awe-inspiring poetry readings. Amidst the cozy bonfire and warm vibes, attendees reveled in the magical ambience, embracing the spirit of creativity and camaraderie.

The event exemplified the power of storytelling and artistic expression in fostering a sense of community and joy. Kudos to Meraki for curating such an enchanting experience, leaving lasting impressions on all who attended.



IIFM stands out in Science Fiesta 2024

The Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, took center stage at the "Science Fiesta 2024," organized by the Regional Science Centre. Showcasing its commitment to comprehensive education, IIFM highlighted academic courses, research, and training programs. Attendees received insights into the ongoing admission process for the 2024-26 session, gaining a deeper understanding of the institute's diverse activities and educational opportunities.



PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH



"Always a sunny day, when Christopher Robin comes to play"

Photo by -

DAKSH MOHAN RAWAT (PSM'25)

FRIENDS OF IIFM

BREAKING THE BACK OF POVERTY
In Conversation With Chandrashekhar Ghosh

**Wednesday
24 January 2024
7:30 PM IST**

Moderator: Vineet Rai, Founder & Managing Partner, Aavishkar Group

Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, is the Founder, MD & CEO of Bandhan Bank. He has been one of the foremost proponents of financial inclusion in India. He has more than 30 years experience in the microfinance and the development sector.

Webex Link will be shared along with the text message.

CONTACT US AT:
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24th January 2024 marked the first session of “Friends of IIFM” series for the year 2024. The session was very apt to begin the year with the positivity, hope and inspiration by listening from a person who lived the dream to help many poor families to come out of poverty. Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh (Founder, MD & CEO of Bandhan Bank) shared his journey which started as an NGO worker to realise the actual need of the poor people which is to secure three meals a day through income generating activities. The initial insights from a market at Kolkata and prevalent lending practices helped him to understand the huge potential for large number of small entrepreneurs to get fund through institutional lenders. He realised very early that “while small is beautiful, big is necessary”.

The session was introduced by our Alumni Association President Mr. Sandeep Chakravorty (PFM 1990) and it was moderated by our distinguished alumnus Mr. Vineet Rai

(PFM 1994). Our AA President had the opportunity to meet and interact with Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh some time back and was very impressed with the story behind Bandhan Bank. Mr. Vineet Rai also knows Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh very well and has seen the emergence of Bandhan Bank from its microfinance days. This along with the very interesting narration by Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, helped the participants to thoroughly enjoy the session. The number of participants was highest for the “Friends of IIFM” series, which was around 150.

It was not easy for Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh to convert his dream into reality as it required to convince the banks that financing the poor for business is possible. He started the journey by demonstrating small business model with his own fund then with support from banks the scale started increasing till it required him to convert the NGO to NBFC to avail the scale of fund from the banks to be able to support larger number of people. In 2015, Bandhan Bank came into existence by opening 501 branches in a single day.

Ghosh Dada always believed in reducing the operational cost and that has helped the organization to survive from many difficult times, be it microfinance crisis of 2010 (which erupted in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh in October 2010), or demonetisation in 2016 or the impact of pandemic COVID-19 during 2020-21. Today, Bandhan bank has turnover of more than 2 lakh crores, it has 3 crore 20 lakhs customers—out of which 2 crore customers are women, it has 75,000 employees, it has an asset of around 1 lakh 7 thousand crores. Although Bandhan Bank has grown big but around 75% of its portfolio is from core client base which is evident from the fact that 73% of its branches are situated in rural and semi-urban areas. No doubt, Bandhan Bank is a Bank with Difference. The story of a person, son of a sweet shop owner, starting the journey as an NGO worker to now leading a bank which is bringing positive changes in the lives of crores of people is very-very inspiring.

During the question-answer session, the participants of “Friends of IIFM Series” received enriching answers from Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh. The response and enthusiasm from the participants only call for a follow up session some time soon.

ALUMNI IN CAMPUS



Navneet Bhatt (PFM 2012)



Amazing combination of our 1st Batch (PFM 1990)-Manoj and last Batch (PFM 2023)-Alisha who came together and selected 5 students for CIFOR-ICRAF.



P D Jose (PFM 1990) at present Faculty IIM Bangalore, an esteemed IIFM alum, delivered an enlightening talk on January 24th, 2024. Focusing on organizational strategy, he emphasized customer value creation, cost leadership, and competitive advantage. He delved into the significance of innovation and the need to balance a cash-burning culture through effective portfolio management, providing a holistic perspective on strategic management.



Varun & Aniruddh(both PFM 2017) coming back to IIFM as recruiters , their pre-placement interaction inspired many to apply and finally 6 got selected for TERI.

INVITATION TO COALESCENCE 2024 AND PARWAAZ 2024

Dear Esteemed Alumni,

We are thrilled to extend a warm invitation to you for the much-anticipated annual business fest, Coalescence 2024, hosted by the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal. This three-day extravaganza, taking place from 22nd Feb 2024 to 24th Feb 2024 is set to be an enlightening and engaging event, centered around the theme "Climate Dash: Way to Net Zero."

Coalescence 2024 will serve as a dynamic platform for discussions, competitions, and networking opportunities, focusing on sustainability, ESG, forestry, and natural sciences. With a rich lineup of leadership talks, panel discussions, and competitions, including ones highlighting marketing, supply chain management, and innovative business models, there's something for every business enthusiast.

As esteemed members of our alumni community, your presence and insights would greatly enrich the discourse and contribute to the success of Coalescence 2024. Join us as we explore pathways towards a more sustainable and environmentally responsible future.

But wait, there's more! Don't miss out on the enchanting world of storytelling at Parwaaz'24, a street play competition hosted by IIFM, Bhopal. Scheduled for 25th Feb 2024 from 10 AM to 6 PM IST at the IIFM Campus, Parwaaz'24 promises to be a journey of self-expression and creativity, with exciting rewards awaiting the most captivating performances.

Mark your calendars and get ready to be inspired! For more details and registration, please reach out to our dedicated team members listed below.

Let's come together and make Coalescence'24 and Parwaaz'24 unforgettable experiences.

Newsletter Team

Kalol Mandal, Nikhil Mathur, Avinash Kumar, Amrita Bhama, Don Mani Paul, Bhavesh Chouhan, Aditi Dusane, Spandan Chattopadhyay, Mudita Shukla, Geetanjali Jain, Ashapura Adhikari, Sonali Dash, Mini Niraj, Sumedha Mondal, Navya Singh, Kajal Soni.

