



# ALMA MATTERS

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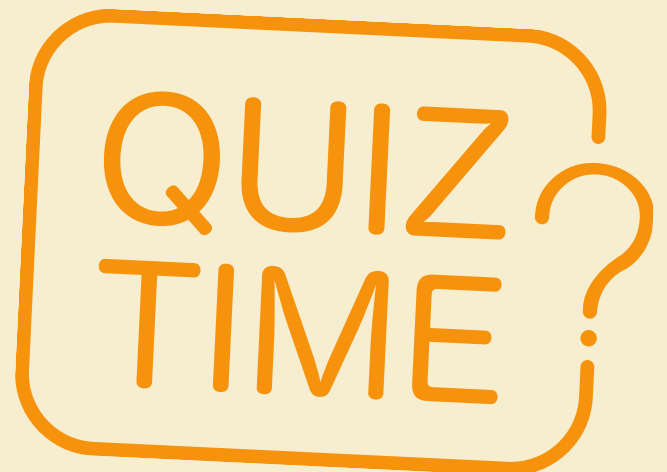
## AA DASHBOARD

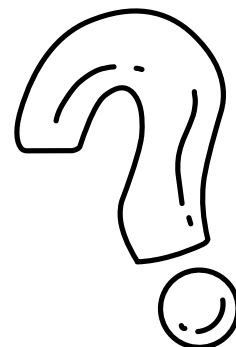
Number of members	1680 <small>(As on June, 2024)</small>
Total Alumni Count <small>(approx.)</small>	2100
Number of Batches	34
LinkedIn Followers	1056
X(Twitter) Followers	204
Instagram Followers	640
Facebook (IIFM Alumni Endowment Fund) members	730





# QUIZ OF THE MONTH





## QUESTION:

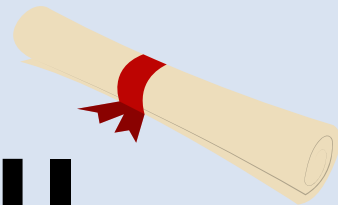
Which commission recommended the creation of IIFM?

- Second Education Commission
- The National Commission on Farmers (NCF)
- National Commission on Agriculture (NCA)
- Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP)

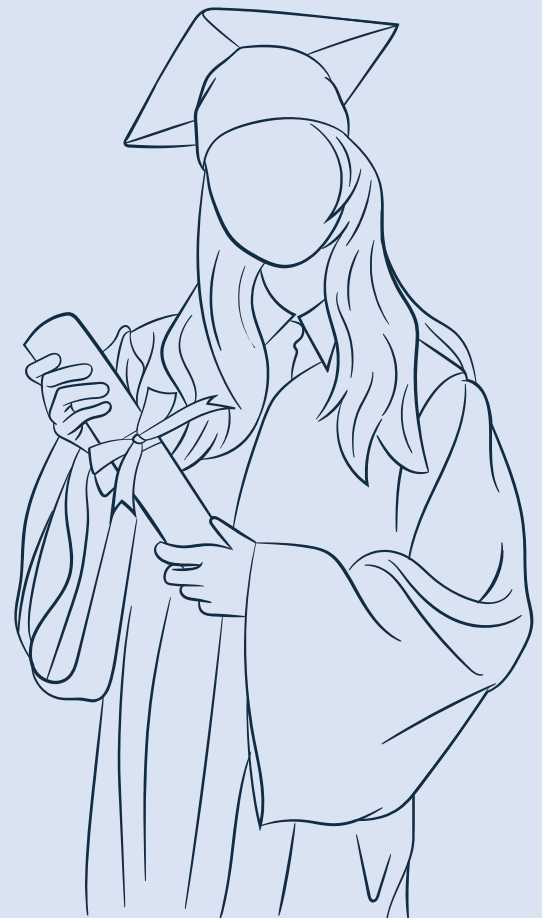


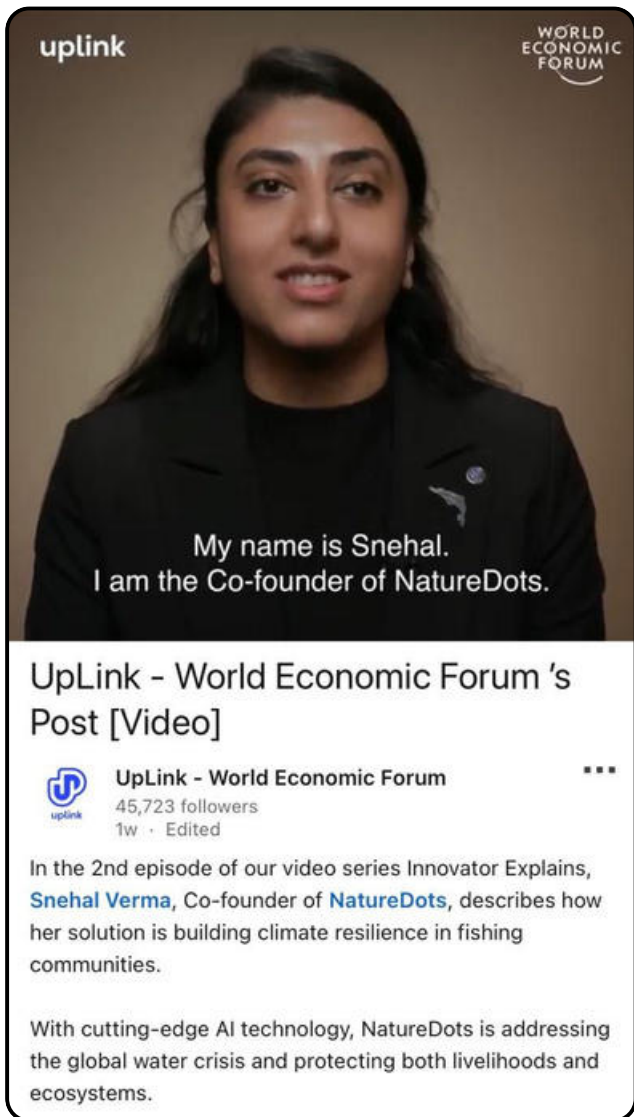
**Previous edition question:** Who suggested the name "Alma Matters" for the AA Newsletter ?

**Answer to the Quiz question of May:**  
Rajaram Sankaran (PFM 1998-2000)



# ALUMNI IN NEWS






uplink WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

My name is Snehal.  
I am the Co-founder of NatureDots.

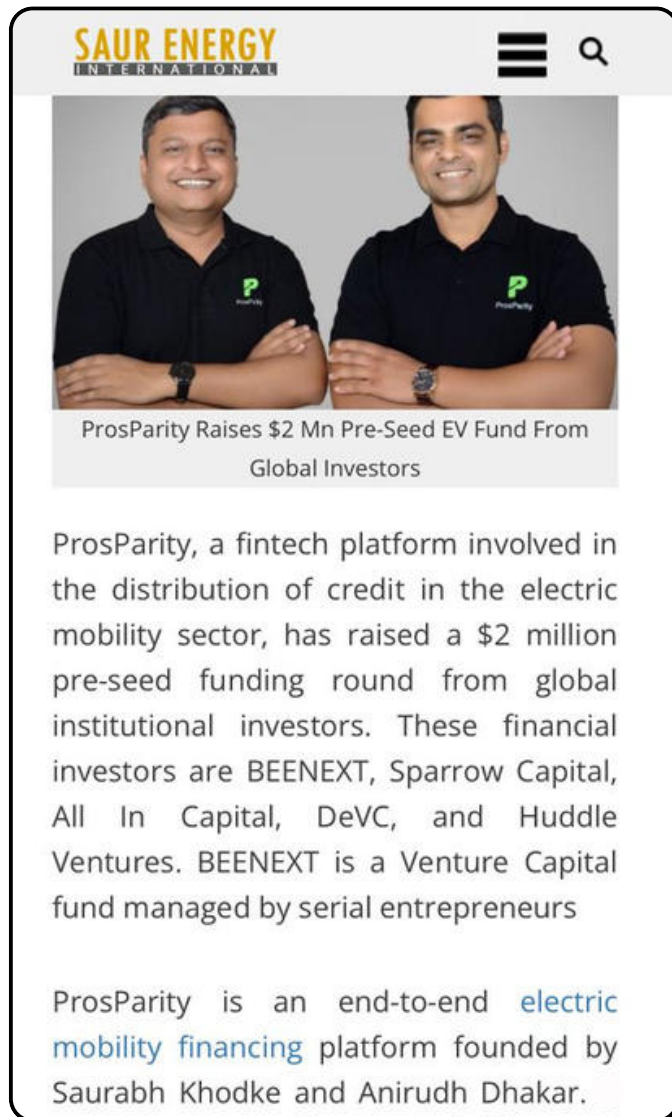
UpLink - World Economic Forum 's Post [Video]

 UpLink - World Economic Forum  
45,723 followers  
1w · Edited


In the 2nd episode of our video series Innovator Explains, **Snehal Verma**, Co-founder of **NatureDots**, describes how her solution is building climate resilience in fishing communities.

With cutting-edge AI technology, NatureDots is addressing the global water crisis and protecting both livelihoods and ecosystems.

**Snehal Verma (PFM 2019)**



SAUR ENERGY INTERNATIONAL



ProsParity Raises \$2 Mn Pre-Seed EV Fund From Global Investors

ProsParity, a fintech platform involved in the distribution of credit in the electric mobility sector, has raised a \$2 million pre-seed funding round from global institutional investors. These financial investors are BEENEXT, Sparrow Capital, All In Capital, DeVc, and Huddle Ventures. BEENEXT is a Venture Capital fund managed by serial entrepreneurs

ProsParity is an end-to-end **electric mobility financing** platform founded by Saurabh Khodke and Anirudh Dhakar.

**Anirudh and Saurabh (PFM-2015)**



 **Jayant Roy**  
Managing Director at Lindstrom India | Leaders...  
2w

I'm thrilled to share that my article on leadership in the services sector has been published by CEO Insights Magazine! 🎉

In this piece, I delve into the key attributes and strategies that effective leaders must embrace to navigate the dynamic and customer-centric landscape of the services industry. From fostering innovation to maintaining a strong organizational culture, I explore how leadership can drive success and resilience.

**Jayant Roy (PFM 2004)**

Pleased to be invited by **All India Radio (AIR)**, Lucknow.

I spoke about the interconnectedness of 5 J's including: Jal (Water), Jungle (Forest), Jamin (Soil), Janvar (Biodiversity) and Jan (People) for maintaining ecological balance and promoting sustainable development.



[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/abhishek-gawande-8560a243\\_pleased-to-be-invited-by-all-india-radio-activity-7195998631538167811-Dh-R?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_android](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/abhishek-gawande-8560a243_pleased-to-be-invited-by-all-india-radio-activity-7195998631538167811-Dh-R?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_android)

**Abhishek Gawande (PFM 2019)**

Sunil Rajagopal got published in THE HINDU. Sunil works with Royal Enfield and heads their Sustainability initiatives.

Link-

[https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/peregrine-falcon-shaheen-highrise-urban-cities/article68071415.ece?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR2gRbhONvx3K9LvCUYQDQWGnf9n4jwWEhoOSVoQGQnIBubco8JtpHA4-HE\\_aem\\_AcpYHUA\\_kWghdD5VSRncIB-qYrhp6qIZ3ddB8XYeNlcv-751qtEGIJPTre7iiiZbfnZ6STPje-f8MC1rneOffy1](https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/peregrine-falcon-shaheen-highrise-urban-cities/article68071415.ece?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR2gRbhONvx3K9LvCUYQDQWGnf9n4jwWEhoOSVoQGQnIBubco8JtpHA4-HE_aem_AcpYHUA_kWghdD5VSRncIB-qYrhp6qIZ3ddB8XYeNlcv-751qtEGIJPTre7iiiZbfnZ6STPje-f8MC1rneOffy1)

**Sunil Rajagopal  
(PFM 2019)**





**Left to Right:** Nikesh Sinha, Dr. K. Ravichandran, Ravi Vishwas, Dr R Sunder Singh (In USA)



**PFM 1989-91 and PFM 1991-93 get together in Princeton, NJ, USA**

**Left to Right-** Dr. Sunder Singh, Sandeep Chakravorty (President AA IIFM), Ramesh Mukalla, Ravi Vishwas

**Right picture-** Prof Pankaj Lal-Prof of Economics and Energy at Monclair State University (PFM-2004) and Sandeep Chakravorty





**At Lucknow (The City of Nawabs)**

**Left to Right-** Arshi (PFM 2015), Vaishali (PFM 2020), Prof Yogesh Dubey, Ashwani (PFM 2014), Jimmy (PFM 2002)



**At Gorakhpur**

**Left to Right-** Sandeep Kumar Rai, Ratul Saha, Shakti Saha (MRM 2005-2006)





# IIFM IN NEWS





**Dr. K. Ravichandran (Director-IIFM) at UN  
headquarters in USA**

Dr. K Ravichandran, Director IIFM, represented IIFM in the 19th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), 06-10 May 2024, at the UN Headquarters in New York. India highlighted its significant advancements in forest conservation and sustainable forest management, leading to a consistent increase in forest cover over the past fifteen years.



Director IIFM Dr. K. Ravichandran with Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya

IIFM organized a training programme for IFS officers at Shillong on EIA and Auditing from 20-24 May 2024.

26 officers from 13 states participated in the training.

## Gov pushes for conservation of forests, biodiversity

**Staff Reporter**  
**Shillong, May 21:** A group of officers of Indian Forest Service undergoing a five-day training on Environment Impact Assessment and Auditing from 20-24 May at Shillong, conducted by Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal an autonomous Institution under the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Government of India today called on Governor, Phagu Chauhan at Raj Bhavan, Shillong.

During the interaction, the Governor raised his concern on the overall improvement of forest and biodiversity in the country and urged the officers to proactively contribute to the conservation of forests and biodiversity.

Dr. K. Ravichandran, Director Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal highlighted the significance of the process of EIA to safeguard the environment and rich biodiversity of our country. He further informed the Governor on the two post graduate programs namely post graduate diploma in forestry Management and post graduate diploma in sustainability management as well as various research and training programs conducted by IIFM for different government agencies. He also apprised the Governor regarding the progress that India has made in the forestry sector in India to increase the forest cover of the country.

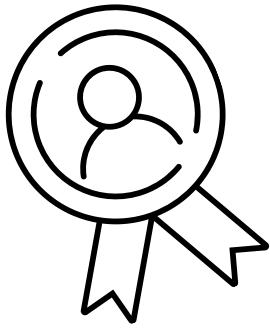
A total of 26 officers from various states of the country are attending this program

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# ALUM OF THE MONTH





# ALUM OF THE MONTH

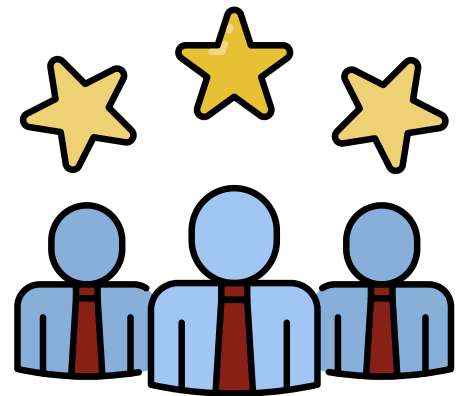
## MAY 2024

This certificate recognises the contribution of  
**BISHNU PARIDA (MRM 04-05)**



The AA is delighted to announce Bishnu Parida, MRM 2004-05 as Alumni of the Month. Bishnu has been sharing enlightening stories and insights every week with the IIFM community through The Sunday Sharing (TSS) for the last several months. In the past, Bishnu has been a member of the Board of the AA and contributed to the publication of Alma Matters newsletter in its first avatar. In a senior position at a large government program in Jharkhand, Bishnu is a constant source of support for the IIFM community in the region. The AA thanks Bishnu for his substantive and consistent engagement and wishes him the very best for all his future endeavors.

PRESIDENT





# CHAPTER MEETS





## BHOPAL CHAPTER MEET

Back Row: Dhaneswar (FM25), Aman Shahi (FM24), Rahul (PFM-2015), Nitin Jangir (FM25), Rohit Modh (PFM-2009), Shrusti (PFM2012), Yogesh (FM-2020), Vikash (FM 25), Tejas (PM-2013), Prakhar Chopde (FM25), Anmol (FM2022), Saaransh (SM25), Shantanu (FM25), Abhishek Kulshresthra (FM25), Vaibhav Agrawal (FM25), Abhishek Bhandekar (FM25), Tathagat Moitra (FM25), Satvik Sharma (FM25), Disha Khoiya (FM25), Celes (SM25), Prajwal (FM25).

Girls Standing Row: Diksha Chowdhary (FM25), Priyanshi (FM25), Shubhangi (FM25), Aditi (FM25), Priya Pandey (SM25), Royalla (FM25), Stuti (FM25), Disha Nihachlani (FM25), Shubhra (FM25).

Second Row: Sudhanshu (PFM2009), Kallol (PFM 2008), Gaura (FM25), Shivam Telang (FM25), Navya (FM25), Vidushi Agrawal (FM25), Sumedha (SM25), Ojasvi Khanna (FM25), Apoorva (FM25).

Front Row: Vaibhav Rakesh (FM25), Nirupam Ghosh (FM25), Sachin Mandoli (FM25), Ayan Ghosh (FM25), Aman Kumar (SM25), Ujwala (SM25), Sibasish (FM25), Vijay (FM25).

**DATE: 12.05.2024**



## JAIPUR CHAPTER MEET

Back Row: Varun Agarwal (2005-2007), Yogesh Sahu (SM 2023-2025), Dharmendra Daukia (1989-1991), Amit Agarwal (2012-2014), Deepak Goyal (2012-2014), Parag Bhide (2012-2014).

Front Row: Khushi Johari (FM 2023-2025), Saumya Kumari (SM 2023-2025), Khushi Maheshwari (SM 2023-2025), Khyati Patwa (FM 2022-2024).

**DATE: 17.05.2024**



## INDORE CHAPTER MEET

Left to Right: Mohit Panwar (PGDFM 2023-2025), Parikshit Dubey (2007-2009), Ujwala Bansod (PGDSM 2023-2025), Sumit Gour (2007-2009), Ayush Jain (2016-2018), Shivam Telang (PGDFM 2023-25), Rajat Shah (2016-18).

**DATE: 18.05.2024**



## GUWAHATI CHAPTER MEET

Alums in Frame: Dhruba Jyoti Sengupta (MRM 1995-96)-Project Manager at EY, Ratul Saha (MRM 2005-06)- Senior Consultant at EY, Shakti Saha (MRM 2005-06)- Senior Project Consultant at EY, Probal Deep Das (PFM 2008-10)- Senior Manager at EY, Kaushik Hazarika (PFM 2008-10)- Program Manager at EDF, Chiteshwar Kumar (PFM 2017-19)- Project Consultant at EY, Mini Niraj (PGDFM 2022-24)- State Associate at CIFOR- ICRAF.

Students in Frame: Shiva Shiragannavar (PGDSM 2023-25), Krishanu Kashyap Hazarika (PGDSM 2023-25), Devashree Ghosh (PGDFM 2023-25).

**DATE: 24.05.2024**



## BENGALURU CHAPTER MEET

Alums in Frame: Prayas Sen Deka (PFM-22), Aravind Bhadrans (PFM-22), Arindam Das (PSM-22), Ishak Mahawar (PFM-22), Sanket Sawwalakhe (PFM-22), Amit Gautam (PFM-16), Kalpana Kashyap (PFM-08), Anil Kumar Singh (PFM-06), Rajni Sundru (PFM-2000). Along with students from PFM'25 & PSM'25 Batch.

**DATE: 26.05.2024**



## MADRAS CHAPTER MEET

Left to Right: Sivakumar Sir, Rounak Chakraborty 2025, Shubham Sharma 2023, Ashish Thakera 2009, Aamir, Pratyush, Chandan 2012, Krithika 2011, Shreecharan 2025, Ananya Ghoshal 2012 MRM.

**DATE: 02.06.2024**



## BHUBHANESHWAR CHAPTER MEET

Front Row: Avik Biswas (PFM 23), Ranjita C (PFM 25), Rishyant Bavisa (PFM 25), Aradhana (PFM 25), Neelima Mishra (PFM 13), Saurav Mohanty (PFM 25), Ashok Anand (PFM 16), Ananya Pan (PFM 13), Sohini Chakraborty (PFM 25), Arnab Mondal (PFM 16), Suchitra Acharya (PFM 20).

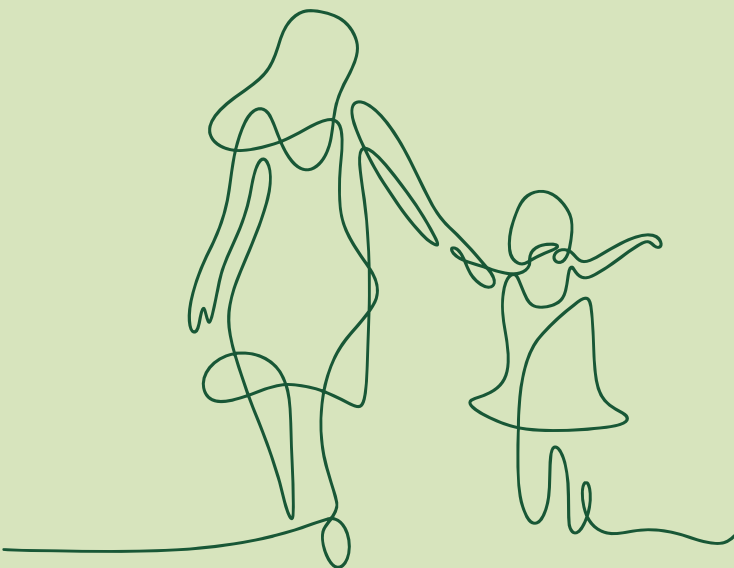
Second Row: Ankit Kumar (PFM 25), Yash Agarwal (PFM 20), Susovan Das (PFM 20), Saurav Dash (PFM 22), Ashwin Verma (PFM 20), Adyut Anjuman (PFM 20), Santul Dwivedi (PFM 25), Priya Mishra (PFM 24).

And, Suprava Patnaik ma'am (ex prof. IIFM, top picture, middle).

**DATE: 02.06.2024**



# MOTHER'S DAY MESSAGES





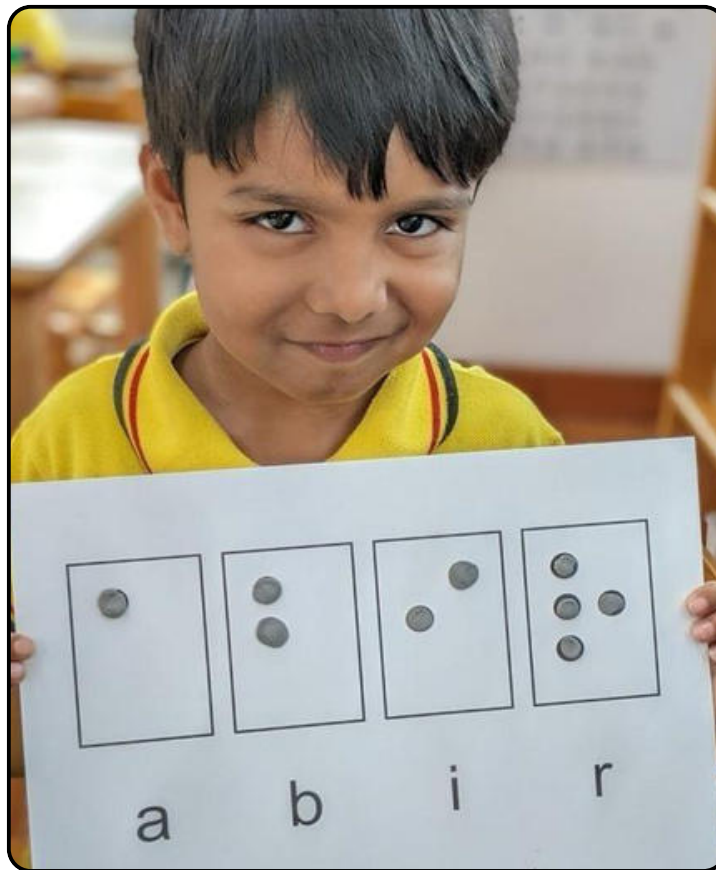
“My mother, a trailblazer in a male-dominated industry, has been my guiding light. Her unwavering determination and ability to overcome obstacles taught me the true essence of equality and resilience. She cherishes every moment and her contentment in life has shaped my outlook profoundly. Her invaluable teachings instilled in me perseverance, humility, and gratitude, guiding me through life's journey with strength and wisdom.” -**Ankit Malani (PFM 2012)**

“My pretty lovely mom, has taught me the power of silence, dedication at work, love, strong relationships and the importance of family bonds. ❤️” -**Nisha Singh (PFM 2017)**



### **“EMPTY NESTS”**

Two little babies...  
So many sleepless nights  
Hours of cooking, cleaning, teaching, caring, scolding  
Between homework, soccer, badminton and swimming  
Bruises, fights, exams and virals  
I watched the babies grow  
Dream their dreams and find their wings  
Today from this empty nest  
I watch them fly  
Parenting tasks are done  
No more of cooking, cleaning, teaching, caring, scolding to do  
No homework, soccer, badminton or swimming  
No more bruises, fights, exams or virals  
I watch my babies fly  
Stretch their wings and reach high  
But I am a mom  
The nest still resonates with love  
It still vibrates with joy and laughter  
It's soaked with unconditional love  
A precious journey indeed!  
My heart wells up with gratitude to my sons  
For giving me the gift of motherhood!  
-**Anjali (PFM 93-95)**



“Motherhood has been an interesting journey of self-discovery, filled with many moments that have truly reshaped my perspectives about the world. One such moment unfolded last October when my four-year-old returned from kindergarten, brimming with excitement about learning ‘sign language’. The theme for that term was centered around peace and justice, and the kindergarten had invited representatives from the ‘Association for the Deaf’ in the city to educate the children about hearing disabilities and sign languages. This emphasis on inclusivity extended beyond mere awareness; they got creative with activities to help kids understand disabilities better. They set up games and exercises that let the children explore ‘Braille’ and provided the kids an opportunity to gain invaluable insights on diversity in the world.

All this had me reflect on my knowledge and experience of inclusion as a child. I became acutely aware of the limited exposure I had to physical and cognitive disabilities. I recognized the discomfort individuals with disabilities often endure due to long stares in public spaces. While these stares may stem from curiosity, they nonetheless contribute to a sense of unease. A truly compassionate community must not only acknowledge these differences but also actively strive to create an environment where everyone feels at home and accepted.

While the activities organized by the kindergarten cannot single-handedly guarantee inclusivity in the future, they serve as vital first steps in fostering a culture of acceptance. Early exposure to differences nurtures empathy and lays the groundwork for a world where every individual is valued and included.

Image Context : Abir used play dough to create his name in Braille!”

**-Swati Chaliha (MPhil 2014)**



“Over the past eight years, it's been more than just a journey; it's been a transformative experience brimming with joy, love, and personal growth. The day my daughter was born marked a profound moment in my life, catalyzing adjustments both personally and professionally. What once seemed insurmountable became manageable, as she imparted invaluable lessons in patience, self-love, and respect.”

**-Manisha Kumari (FPM 2018)**

“My mother’s role in my life transcends words and descriptions. My journey would have been impossible to accomplish without her. Her guidance, influence and love have impacted all segments of who I am today. She has been my unwavering ally, steadfast support, fiercest advocate and greatest inspiration since the time I took my first breath. She has taught me the lessons of life through actions more than words and has instilled in me the values of kindness, resilience and empathy. She has made the impossible possible for me through her sacrifices and endless love. She has made me the person I am today—somewhat strong yet kind of resilient. Her nurturing presence has been a constant source of strength, grounding me in times of adversity and celebrating with me in moments of triumph. This Mother’s Day, I express my gratitude for her deep influence and immeasurable impact beyond words. My heartfelt thanks to the Alumni Association of IIFM for this initiative to highlight the value of maternal influence & honoring motherhood.”

**-Ashutosh Dash (PGDFM’23)**





# KNOWLEDGE CORNER





## Steve Irwin: The Crocodile Hunter's Legacy in Wildlife Conservation

Steve Irwin, known as "The Crocodile Hunter," was an Australian wildlife expert and television personality born on February 22, 1962. Gaining global fame through his show "The Crocodile Hunter" (1996-2007), Irwin's fearless handling of dangerous animals captivated audiences and promoted wildlife conservation.

Irwin co-owned Australia Zoo, expanding it into a world-renowned conservation facility. He established Wildlife Warriors Worldwide, supporting global conservation projects. His innovative methods for capturing and relocating crocodiles significantly contributed to their preservation and influenced conservation policies.

His family, particularly his wife Terri and children Bindi and Robert, have carried forward his mission, maintaining Australia Zoo and engaging in numerous conservation efforts. Steve Irwin's legacy is a testament to his passion and commitment, ensuring that future generations remain inspired to protect the natural world.



# DOWN THE MEMORY LANE





40 years back on 28th May I had joined Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal, being established & mentored by IIM Ahmedabad on behalf of Govt of India. Then I was 27 & Bhopal was a small sleepy city, now of course a vibrant city. It started from one apartment, later developed in a sprawling 200 acre campus.

We ventured into a new subject called Forest Management, unheard of, blending 3 disciplines Management, Social Sciences & Forestry- true multidisciplinary what NEP 2020 emphasises now. It was a challenge & we were uncertain about future of our students. Sheer hard work & Networking paid off. It is a pride for founding faculty members that our students have gone to Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Oxford, Cambridge, London School of Economics, IIM Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calcutta, just to name a few, for higher studies including PhD. They are employed with World Bank, ADB, UNDP, UNICEF, WWF, Many leading environmental organisations, MFIs & banks like ICICI, HDFC...the list can go on.

Here I learnt what it takes to build a good institution. We were groomed in leadership & team work. My learning from students, staff & my peers were invaluable. This helped me to navigate reputed institutions like LBSIM, Delhi, IFMR, Chennai, IMT Ghaziabad, Skyline University, Nigeria. Currently I am Vice Chancellor at Jagran Lakecity University, Bhopal. It is a wonderful multidisciplinary university trying to establish a niche for itself. I am learning, unlearning & relearning from young minds.

Indeed, life is an unending learning process.

**-Prof. PK Biswas**



# ‘जीवनसाथी की नज़रों से’ SPOUSE SPEAKS



# आईआईएफएम के एक पूर्व छात्र मेरे जीवनसाथी के रूप में



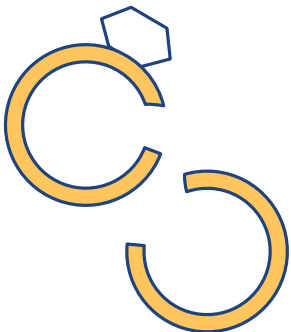
IIFM एक institute ही नहीं एक विचारधारा है जो पहले बैच से अगले बैच तक बहती रहती है। जो वहां रहा नहीं, वह इस सुखद एहसास को नहीं समझ सकता। जीवन के एक खूबसूरत मोड़ ने मुझे अविनाश से मिलाया तो IIFM को जानने का एक मौका मिला। IIFM की सिर्फ इमारत ही खूबसूरत नहीं है, वहां की फिजायें भी मनोहारी है। वहां शांति है, सुकून है। अविनाश के साथ कई बार IIFM में जाने का मौका मिला। जब भी गए तो सौहार्दपूर्ण वातावरण मिला और मैं वहां से प्रफुल्लित मन से लौटी, जिसमें वापस आने की प्रबल इच्छा हमेशा रही। अविनाश हमेशा institute में बिताये अपने दिनों को याद करके आज भी खुश होते हैं। वो इतनी सारी बातें बताते हैं, जो खत्म ही नहीं होती और हम उनके साथ साथ उस वक्त में पहुँच जाते हैं और आनंदित होते हैं। मैं ही नहीं हमारी बेटी भी सब बातों का मज़ा लेती है। आज भी जब अविनाश किसी से बात कर रहे होते हैं, तो उनकी आवाज़ की खनक और लहज़ा ही हमें बता देता है कि वो जिससे बात कर रहे वो कहीं न कहीं IIFM से जुड़ा हुआ है। और अब तक तो हम हमेशा सही रहे हैं। अविनाश का कहना है कि 2 सालों में उन्होंने एक जिंदगी जी ली। हमारे 22 सालों के साथ में मुझे यह बात तो समझ आ गयी है कि अविनाश में जो ऊर्जा है, उसमें IIFM की पढ़ाई, Faculties की सीख, वहाँ के सुकून भरे माहौल और IIFM के दोस्तों, साथियों और seniors का बड़ा हाथ है।

IIFM के बारे में अविनाश हमेशा updated रहते हैं और अपने institute की नित्य नई उपलब्धियों से बहुत खुश होते हैं। Institute को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए हमेशा तत्पर रहते हैं, इसीलिए वो newsletter के काम से भी जुड़े और बहुत से कार्यक्रमों में भी भागीदारी करते हैं, जो उन्हें IIFM, उसके alumni के और करीब ले जाता है।

# AN IIFM ALUMNI AS MY BETTER HALF

I met Avinash in one of the beautiful junctures of my life. Knowing him helped me understand IIFM. IIFM is not only an institute but a thought which naturally flows from the first batch to the subsequent batches. One who has not stayed at IIFM cannot understand this feeling. Not only is the building of the institute beautiful but the overall landscape is mesmerizing. There is peace and coziness in the atmosphere. I visited IIFM several times and the cordial welcome always enthused me to look forward to our next visit. Avinash narrates many stories of his days at IIFM, be it scooter ride with the gang of batchmates to Pachmarhi or the interesting Field Trip of Odisha or the adventures of Organizational Trainings....the story goes on. It is a treat for me and our daughter to listen to him about his interesting anecdotes during his time at IIFM. I can always tell from the tonality of his voice that Avinash is talking to someone connected to IIFM. He always says that he lived a life during his 21 months stay at IIFM. Based on my togetherness of 22 years with Avinash, I can vouch that his life at IIFM which includes studying at IIFM, learning from faculties, time spent with batchmates-seniors-juniors and the overall ambience of the place has important contribution of making him what he is today.

**(Anjali Kumar, better half of Avinash Kumar PFM 1998-2000)**





# PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH





***“The corridors that stood witness to innumerable stories  
across several years”***

***Photo by-  
MD Ashhaduddin FM'25***



# APPEAL



# 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.



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## **Newsletter Team-**

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