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Number of members	1896 (As on September 2025)
Total Alumni Count <small>(approx.)</small>	2295
Number of Batches	34
LinkedIn Followers	1521
X(Twitter) Followers	320
Instagram Followers	890
Facebook (IIFM Alumni Endowment Fund) members	731





QUIZ OF THE MONTH





QUESTION FOR SEPTEMBER:

Who was the first alum who got featured in
“IIFMIGHT in Focus” ?



Answer to the Quiz question of the August Edition:

Q What are two commonalities between Anmol Jain (PFM 1997-99)
and Ruskin Bond?

A) Ruskin Bond and Anmol Jain both are authors and they both live
in Mussoorie

ALUMNI IN NEWS





Dr. Abhishek Kar's(PFM 2005-07) team at CEEW organised a joint event with Mr. Shashi Tharoor on Solutions to Air Pollution. Minister Rao Inderjit Singh inaugurated the event. Shri Naveen Jindal, Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi and 15 other MPs across parties attended the event. They also launched a new report on behaviour change in construction sites, co-authored by Dr. Kar



Insightful post by Nitin Bassi (CEEW/MRM 2006) <https://www.amarujala.com/columns/opinion/environment-crisis-we-have-to-invest-in-ecological-foundation-only-then-can-we-save-cities-2025-08-13>

Ravi Gupta (PFM 1989-91) https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ravipaulgupta_ports-exports-agriexports-activity-7361293896141729793-08k?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_android&rcm=ACoAAAFV_kEBVsSMcgM2k58wnTeFlc4uhSZFylc





स्वतंत्रता विशेष

www.livehindustan.com

नया हिन्दुस्तान

गुरुवार, 22 अगस्त 2025

बुनियादी ढांचे के बल से बड़े देश

भारत को अपने बुनियादी ढांचे के विकास में जलवायु परिवर्तन का विशेष ध्यान रखना होगा। समय की जरूरत है कि शहरों को आने वाले सौ साल के लिए तैयार किया जाए। शहरों और गांवों में मूलभूत सुविधाओं के साथ विकास की नई इबारत लिखी जाए। स्वतंत्रता विशेष श्रृंखला में बुनियादी ढांचे पर डालते हैं एक नजर...

विकास विद्यार्थी/विद्यार्थिनी बनने

भारत में बुनियादी ढांचे के विकास में तेजी से बढ़ावा देना होगा। आने वाले सौ साल के लिए तैयार किया जाए। शहरों और गांवों में मूलभूत सुविधाओं के साथ विकास की नई इबारत लिखी जाए। स्वतंत्रता विशेष श्रृंखला में बुनियादी ढांचे पर डालते हैं एक नजर...

बनानी होगी ठोस योजना

भारत में बुनियादी ढांचे के विकास में तेजी से बढ़ावा देना होगा। आने वाले सौ साल के लिए तैयार किया जाए। शहरों और गांवों में मूलभूत सुविधाओं के साथ विकास की नई इबारत लिखी जाए। स्वतंत्रता विशेष श्रृंखला में बुनियादी ढांचे पर डालते हैं एक नजर...

'कूल सिटीज' की योजनाएं

भारत में बुनियादी ढांचे के विकास में तेजी से बढ़ावा देना होगा। आने वाले सौ साल के लिए तैयार किया जाए। शहरों और गांवों में मूलभूत सुविधाओं के साथ विकास की नई इबारत लिखी जाए। स्वतंत्रता विशेष श्रृंखला में बुनियादी ढांचे पर डालते हैं एक नजर...

पुनर्विद्योग के जरिये जल सुरक्षा

भारत में बुनियादी ढांचे के विकास में तेजी से बढ़ावा देना होगा। आने वाले सौ साल के लिए तैयार किया जाए। शहरों और गांवों में मूलभूत सुविधाओं के साथ विकास की नई इबारत लिखी जाए। स्वतंत्रता विशेष श्रृंखला में बुनियादी ढांचे पर डालते हैं एक नजर...



3.96 लाख फिल्लोमीटर ग्रामीण सड़कें बनाई गईं, पिछले 11 साल में

बड़ा सड़क नेटवर्क

1951	4 लाख फिल्लोमीटर
2025	66.2 लाख फिल्लोमीटर से अधिक (आधेकरोड़)

बड़े राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग (फिल्लोमीटर)

1951	1,46,204
2025	25,170

बड़ा रेलवे नेटवर्क (कि.मी. रेल, फिल्लोमीटर)

1947	6,512
2025	68,512

बड़े एअरपोर्ट

2014	74
2025	160

विजली का उत्पादन (मेगावाट)

1947	1,362
2025	4,76,000

मेट्रो रेल नेटवर्क (फिल्लोमीटर)

2014	248
2025	1,013

03 बंगलादेश से बड़े मेट्रो नेटवर्क, विश्व में भारत का है।

Nitin Bassi (MRM 2006)



Posted on LinkedIn

CEEW celebrating 15 years of excellence, here is a post where they acknowledge the significant contribution of Nitin Bassi (MRM 2006)

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/council-on-energy-environment-and-water_inside-ceew-nitin-activity-7364891732083175425-ZUjx

Ritu Bharadwaj's Post



Ritu Bharadwaj
Director, Climate Resilience and Loss & Da...
3w

Grateful for the support of my colleagues at ALL ACT. Honoured to contribute as a Lead Author for IPCC AR7, and committed to bringing the voices of vulnerable communities into global climate discussions.



Loss and Damage Research Observatory

1,352 followers

Ritu Bhardwaj (PFM 1998-2000)

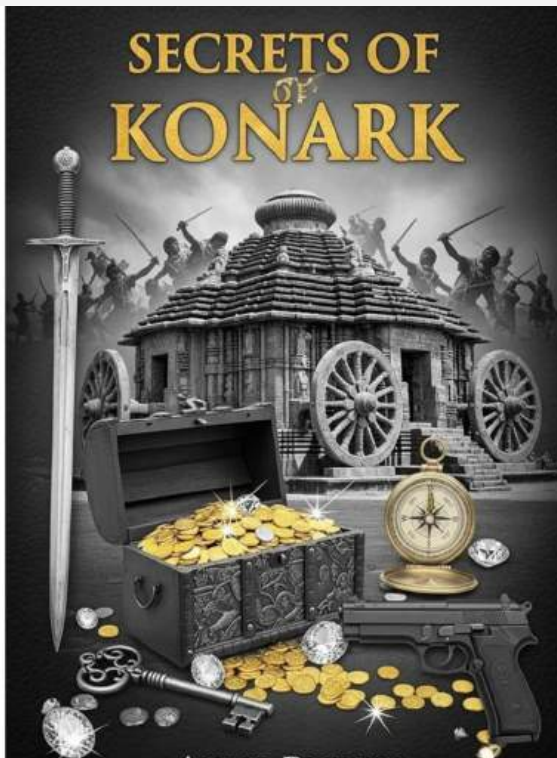
https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ritu-bharadwaj-410130156_we-are-excited-thatritu-bharadwaj-director-activity-7363231698018312193-7s-1?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAAPQhKIB1qiw7X0eChpvPqDYrXylaA9sOps



Delighted to share para from Japanese Prime Minister Speech and mention of JICA investment in Aavishkaar for Africa as part of indo japanese collaboration

"We will promote the development of regional industries and job creation based on co-creation and co-operation, while also advancing strengthened cooperation with Indian Ocean countries. In doing so, we will support collaboration between Japanese companies and African start-ups through the Japan-Africa Industrial Co-creation Initiative, which includes companies from Indian Ocean countries, and encourage integrated efforts between Japanese companies, companies in the Indo-Pacific region, and African companies, such as through JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) investing in Indian investment funds that invest in African companies."

-Vineet Rai (PFM 1992-94)

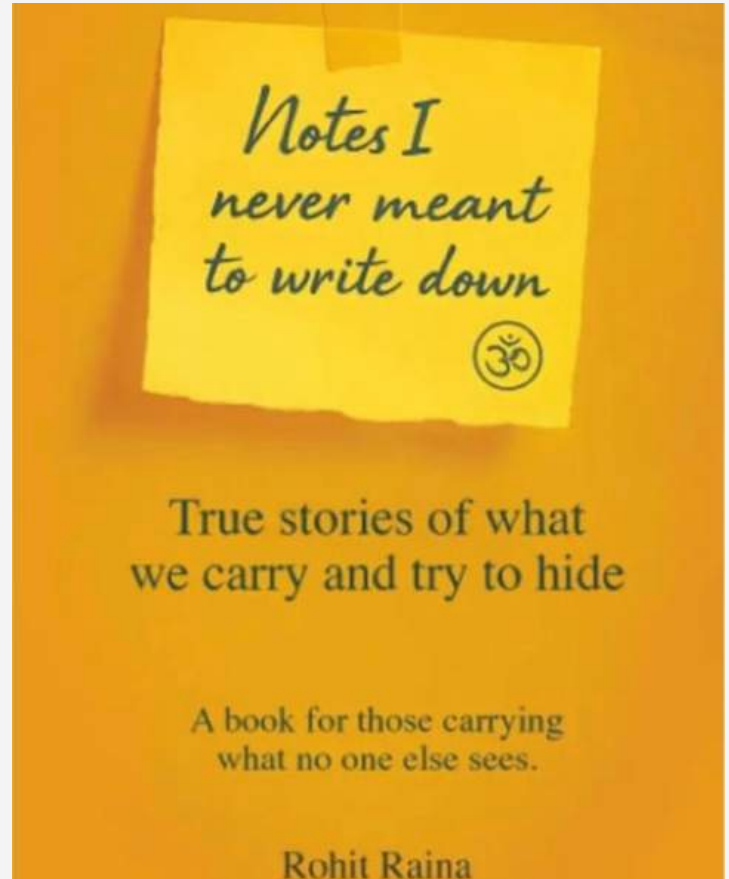


https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ambar-dwivedi-0a6b2a12_secrets-of-konark-activity-7367196726929084419-ltaS?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_android&rcm=ACoAACu6lhkBghg15DIt24CmY9sPJyL1g2mHKnA

Ambar Dwivedi (PFM 2007-09)



Proud Moment!
Avik Biswas (PFM 2021-23) has won the Gold Medal in Air Pistol at the 57th West Bengal State Shooting Championship (Senior Men & Mixed Team) Congratulations Avik



https://www.linkedin.com/posts/rohit-raina-a44a1a5_amazon-notesinevermeanttowritedown-karma-activity-7366352523256852483-s_OA?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_android&rcm=ACoAACu6lhkBg hg15DIt24CmY9sPJyL1g2mHKnA

Rohit Raina (PFM 2000-02)

IFS Sumit Kumar is Empowering Odisha's Rural Communities Through a Forest-Based Livelihood Revolution

IFS Kumar empowers forest communities in Dhenkanal through sustainable livelihood models like cashew processing, honey production, and vermicompost, fostering rural entrepreneurship and ecological conservation under the Kapilash brand.

👤 Ayodhya Prasad Singh 📅 August 28, 2025



<https://indianmasterminds.com/feature-stories-on-bureaucrats-changemakers/ifs-sumit-kumar-odisha-forest-livelihood-empowerment-140349/>
Sumit Kumar Kar (PFM 2014-16)

2h • 🌐

We are proud to share that CEEW's Senior Fellow Dr **Vaibhav Chaturvedi** has been selected as one of the authors for the **IPCC** Seventh Assessment Report!

He will serve as a Lead Author for Chapter 3: Projected futures in the context of sustainable development and climate change, under Working Group III on Mitigation.

Knowledge, when rooted in evidence and lived realities, has the power to shape pathways towards a sustainable and equitable future for all. We wish him the very best as he represents India and the Global South in this critical global effort.



https://www.linkedin.com/posts/council-on-energy-environment-and-water_we-are-proud-to-share-that-ceews-senior-activity-7363834722130546691-Nwfw
Dr. Vaibhav Chaturvedi (PFM 2001-03)

TOI The Times Of India @timesofindia

How is Uttar Pradesh powering the jobs of tomorrow?

At #TOIInfraDialogues, Panel 2 explored how smart investments, MSME growth, and focused skilling initiatives are driving UP's transformation into a future-ready, employment-rich economy.



8:04 PM • Aug 7, 2025 • 5,004 Views

Vineet Rai (PFM 1992-94)



By Neeraj Prasad, IRS(C&IT)



WHAT is common to USA, South Korea, Hong Kong (SAR), Singapore? Well, they have all raced ahead in the recent past by legislating elaborate laws governing the crypto market ecosystem, especially that related to stablecoins.

2. However, before delving into the world of stablecoins some basic understanding is required. Delving into the world of cryptocurrency is now almost synonymous to money sans official recognition in many jurisdictions, including India. Money has three main attributes: it is used as a unit of account, as a medium of exchange, and as a store of value. In most countries, money is issued by a government backed authority (such as RBI in India) and carries sovereign guarantee. Entities authorised to hold money and enable payments (such as banks, credit cards and payment wallets) are licensed by a government agency. This means that there is a government-regulated centralised system of validating transactions and keeping track of money flow.

3. Cryptocurrencies differ from this system in several ways. First, they are only in digital form. Second, there is no central authority that validates and guarantees transactions. Instead, the transactions are validated by other users and then stored in a secure manner.

4. Unlike a physical currency note, it is easy to copy a digital item. Therefore, a digital currency has an inherent challenge of ensuring that there is no double payment with the same currency. Cryptocurrencies address this problem using 'blockchains'. All users in the system have access to the account balance of all other users. When a set of payments happen, they are bunched together in a "block". Other users verify the block by checking whether the person making the payment had sufficient balance. The block is considered valid if all transactions on it are validated by a majority of users. At this stage, the block is connected to the previous block using cryptography, and published on the system. **A chain of such blocks of transactions is called a blockchain.**

5. As this ledger is available to all users and validated by them, it is a form of Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT). The cryptography method used makes it very difficult to change the transactions in a validated block. Further, a change in a block will necessitate change in all subsequent blocks, a near impossible task. Also, as multiple copies of the ledgers are kept, it would be very difficult to simultaneously tamper with all of them. These properties help maintain trust in the system. **The Financial Action Task Force (an intergovernmental organisation to combat money laundering) defines cryptocurrency as a math-based decentralised, convertible virtual currency which is protected by cryptography.**

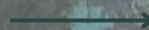
6. The technology underlying cryptocurrencies i.e., DLT, could improve the efficiency and inclusiveness of the financial system. Global regulators (such as IMF) have also noted benefits of cryptocurrencies. These currencies could provide cheaper, faster and more efficient transactions. For example, they can be used for small value cross-border transfers where the cost of sending remittances remains high due to multiple intermediaries. Cryptocurrencies also provide for a more secure payment mechanism (as records cannot be manipulated by a single entity), transparency in transactions, and improved ease of auditing.

7. However, several risks have also been associated with cryptocurrencies. First, they pose risks to consumers. Cryptocurrencies do not have any sovereign guarantee and hence are not legal tender. Their speculative nature also makes them highly volatile. The volatility in the value of BITCOIN is a case in point. A user loses access to their cryptocurrency if they lose their private key (unlike traditional digital banking accounts, this password cannot be reset). In some cases, these private keys are stored by technical service providers (cryptocurrency exchanges or wallets), which are prone to malware or hacking.

To Read full article

<https://taxindiaonline.com/news/details?id=51910&view=news>

ALUMNI WORLD



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF IIFM

Open House



Sunday | 03 AUG 2025 | 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM IST

ONLINE GOOGLE MEET ORGANISED FOR MEMBERS & IIFM FACULTY

www.iifmalumni.com



SUNDAY

04:00 AM - 05:30 PM

AGENDA
OPEN HOUSE 2025

OPENING REMARKS	PRESIDENT SANDEEP CHAKRAVORTY AND DIRECTOR DR. RAVICHANDRAN 4:00 - 4:20 PM IST
Q&A WITH THE DIRECTOR	HOST : SWATI CHAUHAN 4:20 - 4:25 PM IST
AA ACTIVITIES HIGHLIGHT 2025	AMRITA BHAMA 4:25 - 4:35 PM IST
FINANCIAL AND AUDIT SUMMARY	KALLOL MANDAL AND PRAVEEN KHEDALE 4:35 - 4:40 PM IST
ALUMNI SURVEY FEEDBACK SUMMARY	VAIBHAV GORE 4:40 - 4:55 PM IST
THEME BASED BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSION	VAIBHAV GORE AND THEME LEADERS 4:55 - 5:20 PM IST
REPORT BACK FROM BREAKOUT GROUPS & CONCLUSION	THEME LEADERS AND AVINASH KUMAR 5:20 - 5:30 PM IST

This session will serve as a platform to reflect on recent progress, share alumni survey insights, encourage active participation & foster open dialogue.



OPEN HOUSE 2025 | Highlights

Organised by the Alumni Association of IIFM

Date: Sunday, 3rd August 2025
Time: 4:00 PM IST

Opening Remarks by President Sandeep Chakravorty and Director Dr. K. Ravichandran

Sandeep Chakravorty welcomed attendees highlighting:

- The Alumni Association's 6-year journey
- New energy brought in by 4 newly inducted women BOG members.
- No fundraising since 2024; a renewed call for contributions was made.
- Alumni contributions have supported peers and enhanced IIFM's brand.

Institute Updates by Dr. K. Ravichandran, Director, IIFM

- Research & Collaboration: 30+ national projects with govt., industries & multilaterals (UNDP, World Bank)
- Expansion Plans: 2nd IIFM campus under renovation, New campus proposal in Mayurbhanj (Odisha).

Director's Alumni Engagement Proposals:

- Structured Mentorship Program. 52 Expert Talks Annually: 26 alumni + 26 industry experts.
- Call for 200+ positive IIFM reviews on social media
- Request for industry connects, internships & references

QnA with the Director and Suggestions by Alumni.

- Vineet Rai: Merge Impact Investing and VC into a comprehensive module for sessions to be conducted for students.
- Naman Kumar: Asked about pending convocation.
- Shree Kant Kumar: Recommended stronger course branding.
- Concerns raised about website accessibility.

Highlights Shared by Alumni Association Manager

Amrita presented a month-wise overview of key activities from January to July 2025:

- **January:** "Rhythm" musical evening and placement guidance workshop for students.
- **February:** Friends of IIFM talk by Dr. Amit Mallick on big cat conservation.
- **March:** Alumni merch design contest, AA merch pop-up at Reminiscence, President Shri Sandeep Chakravorty's campus visit, and International Women's Day event Panel with "Men of 2001."
- **April:** Rhythm 2.0 saw increased participation and community bonding.
- **May:** Friends of IIFM session with Dr. Shekhar Niraj and National Endangered Species Day panel.

- **Recent Graduates as Mentors:** Newer alumni can connect better with current students and offer more relevant guidance.
- **BOG Role:** The Board of Governors should establish a clear **framework and guidelines** for the mentorship program announced by the Director.

Inclusivity & Alumni Engagement Group

- Student-Led Protocol for Campus Visits: Suggested that current students design a protocol to facilitate alumni visits, including: Designated point persons, Student-alumni interactions & Opportunities for alumni to engage as visiting faculty or speakers.

In-Person Events Group

- Website Revamp: Prioritise alumni visibility and integration on the IIFM website.
- Alumni Directory: Build a searchable directory with current location, organization, and batch info.
- Chapter Meet Notifications: Ensure consistent updates about regional events (noted by Mr. Ninad).
- Campus Engagement: Many alumni expressed willingness to visit IIFM and participate through lectures or sessions.
- Flagship Gathering: Proposal for a large-scale alumni reunion at IIFM Bhopal.

Online Events

- Participation Insights: Initial engagement saw 8 members; dropped to 5 during the session.
- Strengthen Point Persons: Batch-wise point-of-contact system needs reinforcement for better outreach and coordination.
- Event Calendar: Share an annual/quarterly calendar of events in advance to improve planning and turnout.
- Decentralized Online Events: Encourage state-level alumni-led virtual events, supported by the AA.
- BOG-Student Interactions: Organize more virtual sessions between BOG members and current students.
- Awareness Gap: Newly graduated alumni are largely unaware of the role and accessibility of BOG.

Actionable Suggestions

- Revamp IIFM & Alumni websites with: Better interlinking & Social media integration
- Organize an **online faculty-alumni interaction session**
- Geo-restriction matter to be resolved for international access of IIFM website
- Plan for a **bi-annual Open House** to sustain engagement

Closing Note

AA President thanked everyone for their active participation. The meeting concluded with a commitment to increased collaboration and more accessible platforms for alumni.

- **June:** World Environment Day panel, Yoga Day campaign, and chapter meets in Delhi, Patna, and Dehradun.
- **July:** Alumni-student introduction session, alumni feedback survey, and continued placement support.

Additional updates: Social media engagement increased significantly. **Alumni membership** grew through active outreach. Emergency Support Fund was successfully disbursed, with heartfelt gratitude received from beneficiaries' families. The manager thanked all alumni for their contributions and emphasized the importance of continued involvement and feedback in shaping a more inclusive and responsive alumni network.

Alumni Survey Insights by BoG Member, Vaibhav Gore

Survey Objective: Understand alumni engagement, awareness of the association, willingness to volunteer, and guide future planning.

~ 200 alumni responded, Gender: 77% male, 23% female.

Batch: 31% Junior (2020+), 36% Mid-level (2010-2019), 18% Senior (2000-2009), 15% Super Senior (<2000).

Key Insights

- **Awareness:** 42% aware of BoG roles and benefits; juniors least familiar.
- **Participation:** ~67% have attended events; mid & senior batches more active.
- **Volunteering:** 15% ready, 40% conditionally willing—large semi-active base.

Improvement Areas

- Barriers: poor timing, geographical constraints, and communication overload.
- Representation: need better inclusion of women and mid-level alumni.
- Need for more mentoring, upskilling, and career support.

Positive Feedback

- Appreciation for AA's efforts and initiatives like *Friends of IIFM*, *Rhythm*, and mentoring sessions.
- Pride and willingness to engage further.

Actionable Next Steps

- Improve awareness through consistent communication.
- Segment-wise outreach strategies.
- Mandatory AA onboarding during graduation/induction.

Breakout Room Discussions

Topics from the survey were explored in breakout sessions. Findings to be compiled and shared as part of the Open House proceedings. Participants encouraged to engage deeply and share takeaways. Here's a summary of key suggestions:

Mentorship Support Group

- **Personalised Pairing:** Mentor-mentee pairing should consider shared background factors



Catching up in Guwahati (R to L)
Dhruba Jyoti Sengupta MRM 1996
Shiva Shriragannavar PFM 2025
Shivam Telang PFM 2025
Probal Deep Das PFM 2010
Saurabh Shukla PFM 2015

AVINYA

An Entrepreneurship Series

ORGANISED BY THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF IIFM



EPISODE 01

25 AUGUST 2025 | 7:30 PM IST

SPOTLIGHT SPEAKER



Neelima Mishra (PFM 11-13) Founder, Ceiba Green Solutions

Neelima Mishra is the founder of Ceiba Green Solutions, a waste management startup based in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The environmental enterprise focuses on dry waste management, wet waste management and single use plastics.

Neelima is an IIFM alumna from the PFM class of 2011. She has also graduated with an M.Phil in Environmental Policy from the University of Cambridge, UK in 2022, and was a recipient of the Chevening Scholarship. In her previous life, she has also worked in various capacities and roles with the Government of state of Odisha in India. In June 2019, she participated in the Climate Force Arctic Expedition.

OUR CO-HOSTS



Vineet Rai (PFM 94)
Founder, Aavishkaar Group



Shikha Kalra (PFM 03)
Senior Director, FIS SCF



Joining link will be shared soon.

Missed the first episode of our
Entrepreneurship Series, AVINYA?
Don't worry, we've got you covered!

📺 Watch the full recording here:

[https://youtu.be/YigtXSFBKs?
si=ivAU6jsARLdr6DiO](https://youtu.be/YigtXSFBKs?si=ivAU6jsARLdr6DiO)

Avinya: Igniting the Spark of Entrepreneurship

An immersive conversation on entrepreneurship, resilience, and impact from the inaugural Avinya session.

By the Alumni, For the Future

In a vibrant celebration of entrepreneurial spirit, the IIFM Alumni Association launched Avinya, a new initiative designed to spotlight the journeys of alumni who have dared to dream, build, and lead.

A Platform Born from Purpose

The idea for Avinya emerged from alumni feedback, with the goal to create a space where stories of grit, innovation, and impact could be shared and celebrated.

Sandeep Chakravorty, President of the IIFM Alumni Association, opened the session with reflections on the power of community and the need to support entrepreneurship. Avinya, he said, is a sapling born from alumni collaboration, now ready to grow into a forest of ideas and ventures.

Avinya 01 – 25th August, 2025

The session marked the launch of Avinya. It was co-hosted by Shikha Kalra (PFM2003, Senior Director at FIS, Harvard Business School alum) and Vineet Rai (PFM 1994, Founder of Aavishkaar Group). Both are IIFM alumni with global careers in structured finance and impact investing, respectively.

The inaugural session featured an inspiring conversation with Neelima Mishra, founder of Ceiba Green Solutions, a waste management startup in Odisha. What unfolded was not just a discussion, but a masterclass in grit, innovation, and purpose-driven leadership.

Neelima Mishra

The spotlight of the session was on Neelima Mishra, a 2013 IIFM graduate. She is a recipient of the prestigious Chevening Scholarship and holds a Master's in Environmental Policy from the University of Cambridge, UK.. Neelima was featured on the cover of The New York Times as part of the L'Oréal Women Climate Collective and is a passionate advocate for sustainable urban ecosystems. Her venture focuses on diverting waste away from landfills, reducing GHG emissions, empowering low-income youth through waste-tech innovations,

Neelima's journey: From Arctic Ice to Indian Landfills

Neelima's journey into waste management began with a stark realization during an Arctic expedition. Witnessing waste even in the pristine polar regions, she returned to India with a mission: to tackle the mounting garbage crisis.

Her startup, Ceiba Green Solutions, launched RecyclePay, a mobile app that allows users to schedule dry waste pickups and receive instant payments. Starting with just ₹6,000 in revenue, the venture now earns ₹6 lakhs monthly and is expanding to other cities through a franchise model.

RecyclePay includes an AI-based waste recognition feature and is in dialogue with Google CircularNet. Neelima highlighted gaps in India's waste management policies, including the need for better segregation, reduced GST on waste materials, and opportunities in EPR and plastic credits.

Neelima's story is one of resilience. From being shunned by municipal officials to having grown a hundred times since, she has turned adversity into opportunity. She was told by her family that waste was "not her battle to fight," Her work not only addresses environmental challenges but also uplifts informal waste workers, integrating them into the formal economy. Neelima invited other alumni to join her mission by launching RecyclePay franchises in their cities.

Neelima's story is emblematic of a new generation of Indian entrepreneurs—mission-driven, data-savvy, and unafraid to get their hands dirty.

Insights from Vineet: Scaling with Purpose

Vineet emphasized that investors look for conviction, scalability, and unit economics. He encouraged entrepreneurs to attract talent better than themselves and to focus on building robust, cost-positive business models. He also highlighted the unique position of IIFM in producing entrepreneurs, noting its high per capita entrepreneurial output.

Mental Toughness and Community Support

Both Neelima and Vineet spoke candidly about the emotional toll of entrepreneurship. Neelima credited her family, spouse, and the IIFM Women Alumni group for keeping her grounded. Vineet stressed the importance of physical fitness and mental resilience, likening entrepreneurs to ants—focused, persistent, and undeterred by obstacles.

Audience Engagement and Closing Thoughts

The session featured rich audience interaction, with various questions on scaling, mental toughness, and financial models. Avinya01 was more than a conversation—it was a call to action. As Vineet said, 'Entrepreneurship is a fight worth fighting—for a world without hunger, poverty, or inequity.'

Join the Journey

Avinya is your stage, your community, and your inspiration. The next episode will feature another founder, another journey, and another set of lessons. As Shikha put it, “We hope to bring you phenomenal stories of entrepreneurship. This is just the beginning!”

Stay tuned for Avinya02

✉ Want to be featured or collaborate or provide feedback? Reach out to admin@iifmalumni.com

Know the Co-Hosts

Vineet Rai, Founder, Aavishkaar Group

Vineet Rai is the Founder and Vice Chairman of Aavishkaar Group, a pioneering impact investment platform operating across Asia and Africa. With a portfolio that includes Aavishkaar Capital, Arohan, Ashv Finance, and IntelleCap, the Group manages over \$1.5 billion in assets and employs nearly 10,000 people. Vineet has served on advisory bodies for SEBI, OECD, the UN, and the G20, and has twice been invited for consultations by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. An Ashoka Fellow and alumnus of IIFM, he has received multiple accolades including the Impact Investor of the Year by News Corp and the Porter Prize for Strategic Leadership. He lives in Mumbai with his wife Swati, also an IIFM alumna from PFM 1995, and their two children.

Shikha Kalra, Senior Director, FIS SCF

Shikha Kalra is a Senior Director at FIS Supply Chain Finance, based in London. With over two decades of experience in banking and structured finance across global markets, she began her career in microfinance with CARE India and ICICI Bank. She later spent over a decade at Rabobank before joining a fast growing fintech firm Demica in 2019, which was acquired by the global fintech giant, FIS, in 2025. Shikha is also the founder of the Women in Working Capital network and serves as a non-executive director at Age UK. She has an MBA from Harvard Business School and currently serves on the Board of Governors of the IIFM Alumni Association. She lives in London with her husband Pranav, also an IIFM graduate from PFM 2001, their two children and their dog, Budddy. Their first born, Vanya, was named after IIFM!

.....
 #Entrepreneurship #ImpactInvesting #WasteManagement #Leadership
 #Innovation #AlumniVoices

<http://www.iifmalumni.com/>

Vineet Rai: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/vineet-rai-536160/>

Sikha Kalra: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/shikhakalra/>



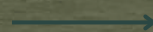
Lovely to catch up with Varun Dudeja (PFM 2007-09) who works for Visa based in Singapore. His work brought him to Jakarta

-Sandeep Chakravorty (PFM 1989-91)



With the Kouls (Anjali Koul, Vijay Koul PFM 1988-90) in Charlotte, North Carolina
-Ravi Vishwas (PFM 1991-93)

ALUM OF THE MONTH





ALUM OF THE MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2025

This certificate recognises the contribution of
PRABHAT LABH (PFM 94-96)



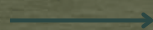
WE ARE DELIGHTED TO RECOGNIZE PRABHAT LABH AS OUR ALUM OF THE MONTH. PRABHAT HAS BEEN A CONSTANT SOURCE OF SUPPORT FOR THE IIFM COMMUNITY, PLAYING AN INSTRUMENTAL ROLE IN STRENGTHENING PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR STUDENTS. BY ACTIVELY SHARING LEADS, CONNECTING WITH ORGANISATIONS, AND PUSHING CONTACTS FORWARD FOR INTERVIEWS, HE HAS OPENED DOORS TO VALUABLE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES.

HIS EFFORTS HAVE NOT ONLY BENEFITTED OUR STUDENTS BUT ALSO EXTENDED TO HELPING FELLOW ALUMNI, FOSTERING A SPIRIT OF COLLABORATION AND SUPPORT THAT DEFINES THE IIFM FAMILY. THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SINCERELY THANKS PRABHAT FOR HIS DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TOWARDS THE COMMUNITY.

PRESIDENT



CAMPUS THIS MONTH





The Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal, has celebrated Independence Day with great enthusiasm, featuring cultural performances, a blood donation drive, and sports activities.



To commemorate National Sports Day on August 29, 2025, Samarthya, the sports club, organized a friendly basketball match, bringing together professors and students in a spirit of camaraderie.



IIFM marked Janmashtami with grandeur, hosting a spectacular Dahi Handi event that showcased the team's spirit.



IIFM celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi with immense zeal, reflecting the vibrant cultural heritage of its community.





Eco-Thrive '25 conducted by SP Jain Global School, Mumbai. It is a national level competition where young changemakers came together to reimagine sustainability through innovation, debate, and dialogue. The top 12 teams were shortlisted from applicants all over India. The teams were asked to pitch business ideas based on different SDGs. The top 3 teams were selected from these 12 and were asked to debate with each other on crucial sustainability topics like "Deep sea mining", "Climate Colonialism and Environmental Reparations", "Consumerism vs Green Washing", and "Biodiversity offsets" assigned on the spot. After 3 grueling rounds of debate, Team SustainaAVision (Arpita, Swayamdeep, and Siddhant) won the first prize and other team Vidwan(Simran Agarwal, Taniya Singh, Aastha Chaudhary) won 3rd prize from IIFM.

SISTERHOOD SERIES





My dear girlies,

A girl needs her girlfriends to survive. I swear by it. My girlfriends - my sisters (couldn't find the girl version of brother from another mother) have been the main chapter of my IIFM journey.

Each girl has been my partner in various fields. My main was Apoorva. Apoorva Singh. I was and still am in awe with her. She was my comfort. When I (spoilt brat) was finding it hard to adjust living in a hostel, she came to me and said "Mini, aja! be with us. You will not miss home" [Home was 11 kms away] and believe me it was a filmy scene in my mind - cut to 3 weeks later - we are creating menace in the whole campus.

Apoorva was my accounts teacher and life teacher. Even after we passed out we couldn't live apart and we lived 1 km away from each other too in Bhopal.

Then there is Richa Singh who came in doubles package. But I realised she had her own personality. She was this strong woman with a lot of entertainment channels fit in 5 ft stature. Her beau and now husband became an inseparable part of our lives too.

#Sisterhood #SupportersForLife

-Nisha Singh (PFM 2017)



Kittu, S Krithika my gorgeous North Indian Tamil girl had such a positive impact in my life. Her words of encouragement gave me such boost to my energy. She was that person who will be the butter to your jam or timon to your pumba.

Then there were my girls Anandita and Ria who were the energy boosters to my day. Me, the girls named above including Sonali Swain used to enjoy each other's company so much. I now realise while reminiscing those days that it was really a great time.

Whenever songs like - Summer of ¹69, Who the duck is Alice and a few more are played i can only visualize these guys. I MUST mention here that we used to set the stage on fire when we used to perform during the Kalpatru group dance competition.

Please dont go back and watch those videos. Those were fun only then. Now those can be termed cheesy. But hey we used to win !! !!!!

Then there was my under the tree partners Navneet and Padma.

During my preparation years, I came to know Smita Roy from my PFM 91 1 Batch was also preparing we contacted each other and then we pushed each other through our prep phase which was a tough one indeed!

- Akanksha Tiwari (PFM 2009–2011)

I found soul sisters in other batches too. Special mention to Priyanka Batra Mam who has been a guiding mentor to me. Her calmness is inspirational.

I still admire Renuka Mam, Manasi Mam and Vinisha Mam who hate me when I suffix Mam with their names. But these three can never be not in my reminiscent stories about IIFM. All these girls remain the same and better version of themselves - Vinisha Mam still being the sporty one, Manasi mam still being the studious one and Renuka Mam still being the tenacious captain.

FINALLY and Fatally I fell in "sister" love with Arpana Tirkey who was in my junior batch. She and I have a sibling relation. We met each other when we were out of IIFM but started working for a UNICEF project. Boy! It was fun. Our project leader hated to see us together because we were always giggling like minions.

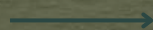
The girls used to not only lift me up in my sad days but also put me in place if I was talking stupidly. They taught me so many aspects of personality which now are ingrained in me. They tolerated me in my irritable times, they scolded me when it was needed, they praised me for no reason. They loved me as I am.

The names mentioned above have started to develop greys. Have gone through life events. Are now called women. But for me they still are the same who would look at me and shout - "Laddu! Kya kar rahi hai bey. Aja chai piyein!"¹

Girls supporting girls is such a beautiful kick.



ALUMNI IN CAMPUS



L to R: Syed Tariq Alam(2005-07)
Abhishek Kar (2005-07)
Dr. K Ravichandran (PFM 1991-93) , Director IIFM
Prof. Advait Edgaonkar (PFM 1991-93)
Rishi Prakash (PFM 2005-07)
Kallol Mandal (PFM 2006-08)



L to R: Prof. Shantanu Das
Rishi Prakash (PFM 2005-07)
Prof. Yogesh Dubey
Syed Tariq Alam (PFM 2005-07)
Prof. Advait Edgaonkart (PFM 1991-93)





L to R: Syed Tariq Alam (PFM 2005-07), Rishi Prakash (PFM 2005-07), Shailendra Chaudhary (ex CAO IIFM), Kallol Mandal (PFM 2006-08), Dr. P K Biswas (former faculty IIFM)

A big thank you to Director Sir for hosting us over a sumptuous lunch and to PKB Sir for taking time to meet us at the campus. Truly grateful for the warmth and hospitality -Tariq, Rishi and Kallol.

Rony with Kallol (PFM 2006-08) at IIFM



Rony M Roy (PFM 2021-23) came from Delhi to visit IIFM on his bike

ALUMNI IN BHOPAL



Waste
to
Wonder





LtoR

Abhishek Kar (2005-07)

Rishi Prakash (2005-07)

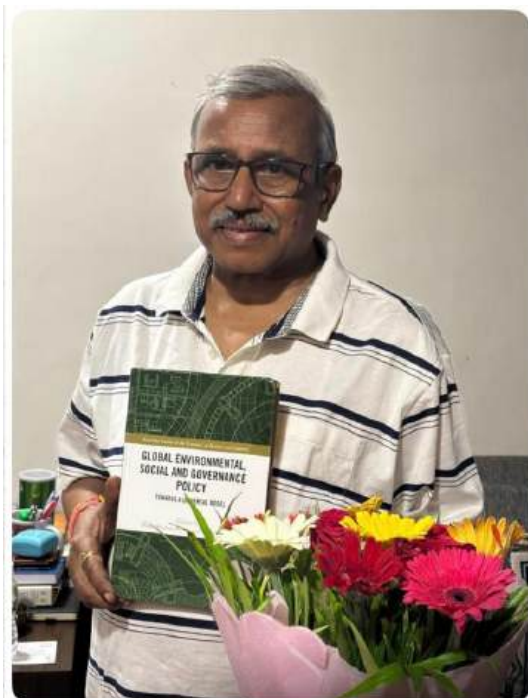
Prof. CS Rathore (former faculty IIFM)

Syed Tariq Alam (2005-07)

“Privileged to be part of the book launch of AsciiDoc for Beginners by our beloved Professor CSR Sir.

Grateful to him for warmly hosting us at his home and so kindly launching it together with his students. A truly special and memorable moment!”

- from Abhishek, Rishi and Tariq



Dr. P K Biswas (former faculty IIFM)

Received the copy of my book today. This is my 4th book with Routledge-World's leading publishers



**Nandini, MRM 2004-05 visited at my home
-Dr. P K Biswas (former faculty IIFM)**



“Heartfelt thanks to Prof. Madhu Ma’am and Sir, for inviting us to her beautiful home and treating us to a delightful meal— especially her signature cake and coffee, which made the evening truly special”

Kallol Mandal (PFM 2006-08), Syed Tariq Alam (PFM 2005-07), Rishi Prakash (PFM 2005-07)

Dr. Madhu Verma (former faculty IIFM), (Retd.) Justice Alok Verma (Madhya Pradesh High Court)

Calling All IIFM Alumni Meet Organisers!

Planning a chapter meet or alumni get-together in your city? 🏢
Whether it's a coffee catch-up or a full-fledged event, we want to know!

Please fill out this mandatory form to register your meet with the Alumni Association.

It helps us:

- ✓ Maintain a central calendar of alumni meets
- ✓ Spread the word and invite alumni in your area
- ✓ Celebrate and amplify the spirit of our growing network!

👉 FORM LINK:

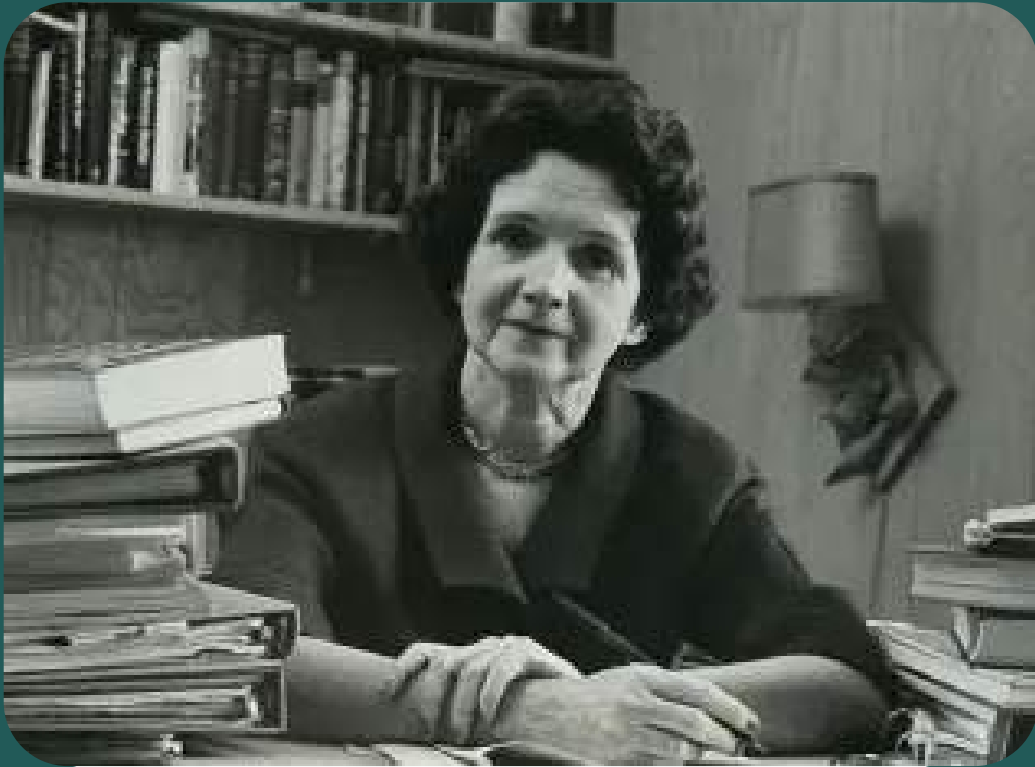
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSciLdOLeCyW8gMlzkVXv9Jr0FV7ihWoiJ1tXpRKT44szOwlJw/viewform?usp=sharing&oid=100202441739566861352>



Scan to fill the form

KNOWLEDGE CORNER





Rachel Carson: The Voice that Launched a Movement

Rachel Carson (1907-1964) was an American marine biologist, author, and conservationist who is widely credited with launching the modern global environmental movement. Although she began her career as an aquatic biologist, her true impact came from her powerful and poetic writing.

Her most famous book, *Silent Spring* (1962), exposed the devastating and far-reaching environmental dangers of synthetic pesticides, particularly DDT. Carson meticulously documented how these chemicals spread through the food chain, killing birds and other wildlife, and posing a serious threat to human health. The book's title itself evokes a grim future where no birds are left to sing.

Despite facing intense opposition and smear campaigns from the chemical industry, Carson's work led to a profound shift in public consciousness. Her research and advocacy directly resulted in a nationwide ban on DDT in the United States in 1972 and spurred the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



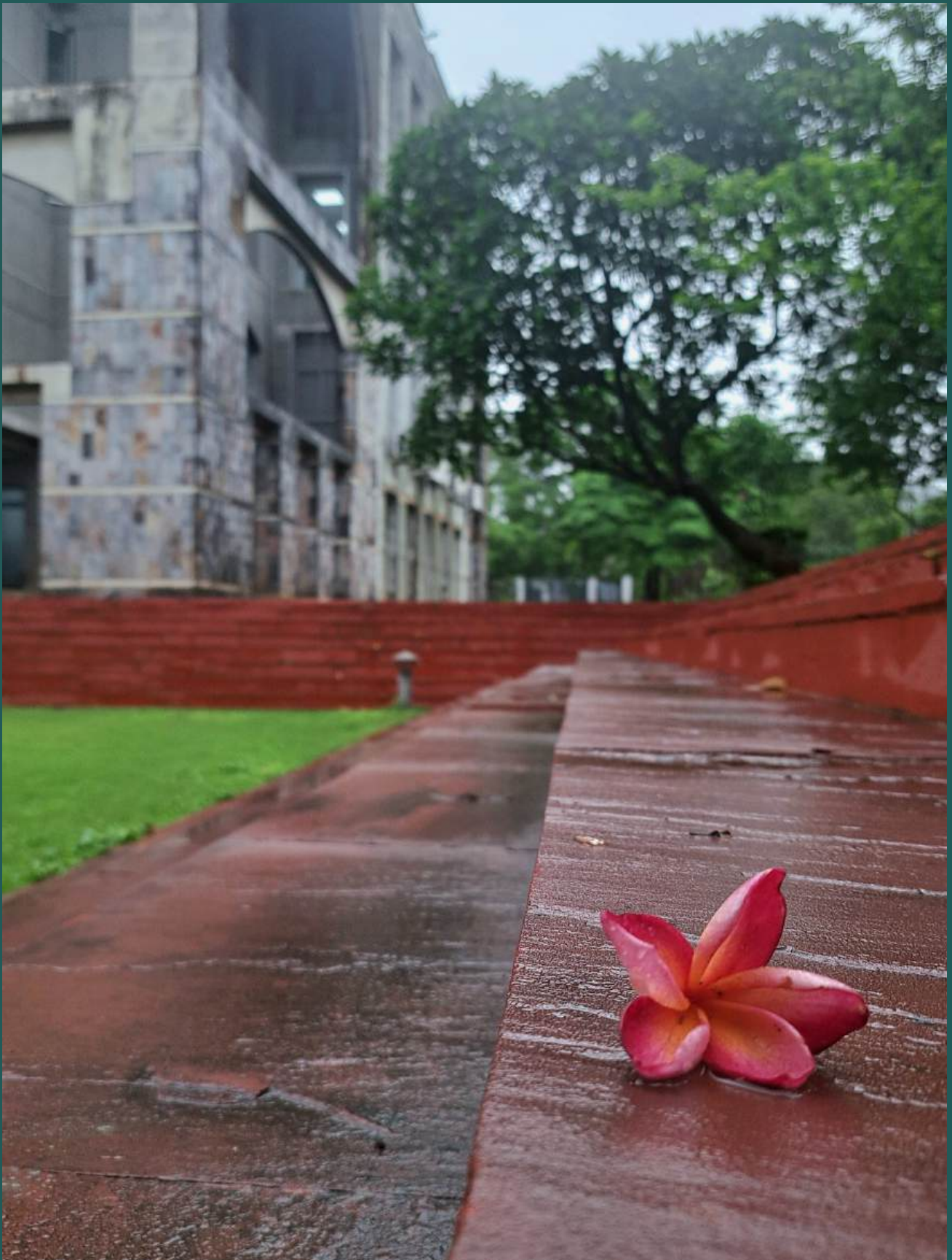
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Before she became a world-renowned author, Rachel Carson was a dedicated public servant. In 1936, she began working for the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, which would later be reorganized into the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Carson worked at the agency for 15 years, rising from a junior aquatic biologist to become the editor-in-chief of all its publications. This role combined her two passions: rigorous science and accessible writing. She wrote many brochures and articles for the public about conservation and the natural world. Her time at the USFWS gave her the deep ecological understanding and access to research that would later provide the foundation for her groundbreaking books, including *Silent Spring*.

**PHOTOGRAPHS
OF THE
MONTH**





Calm after the rains

Photo By-Deepti Jena DSF 2025-27



Ganpati Bappa Morya

Photo By- Mansi Dwivedi MBASM 2024-26



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.



merchant398635.augp@aubank



JOIN US



Scan the QR Code above to join
Alumni Association



PROCESS OF SEEKING SUPPORT FROM EMERGENCY FUND

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUND OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF IIFM AIMS TO EXTEND TIMELY FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO IIFM ALUMNI DURING TIMES OF DISTRESS.



ELIGIBILITY & GRANT CRITERIA

- The applicant must be a registered member of the IIFM Alumni Association.
- Support is provided in the case of: Prolonged or critical illness, Major accident, Permanent disability, etc.
- Maximum support amount is INR 50,000 per request. Disbursement is subject to availability of funds. In cases where needs exceed INR 50,000, the AA may assist in additional fundraising efforts.

SUBMIT A REQUEST

Alumni or their family can reach out to the Alumni Association by email or phone with their request. In medical cases, a report must be attached, and two AA members should support the request. The assistance can be a Grant or Loan.

EMAIL : admin@iifmalumni.com / Contact No. +917648900389

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION & REVIEW

The Board will review the documents, and the Manager will help fill any gaps if needed. The Manager and Secretary submit the proposal to the Board, which then reviews and votes on it.

DECISION & DISBURSEMENT

If approved by majority vote, a decision is made at the earliest and funds are released. The spirit here is to support when in need and, when feasible, return or donate to help replenish the fund for others in the future.

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EXPRESSES HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO OUR ALUMNI NETWORK FOR SUPPORTING A STUDENT IN URGENT MEDICAL NEED

THANK YOU

For Your Support



Together with the students of the batch, our alumni helped raise ₹9 lakh for Sayani, reflecting the strength and compassion of the IIFM community. This support not only provided immediate financial assistance but also reaffirmed the spirit of care and connection that binds us all. We join hands in praying for Sayani's health, well-being, and a speedy recovery.





Newsletter Team (2024-25)

Top line(L to R): Ashapura Adhikari (PSM 2025), Mudita Shukla (PFM 2025), Aakash Bajpai (PFM 2026), Sherin Chacko (PSM 2026), Spandan Chattopadhyay (PFM 2025), Divya Solanke (PFM 2026)

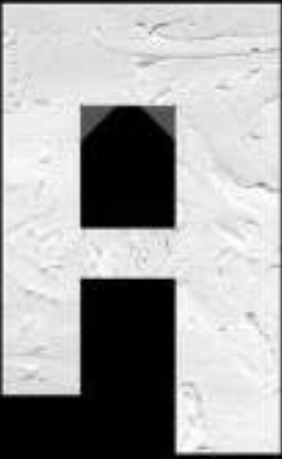
Bottom Line(L to R): Meghna Mishra(PSM 2026), Garima Giri(PFM 2026), Tarjal Kothari(PSM 2026)

On the side (T to B): Avinash Kumar (PFM 2000), Kallol (PFM 2008), Amrita Bhama (Manager AA-IIFM), Shaon Roy (PFM 2021)

Contributors: Tarang Katyayn (MBA-FM 2027), Chandana Addagarla (MBA-SM 2027), Rishabh Sharma (MBA-SM 2027), Dreami Ghosh (MBA-FM 2027), Aishwariya Mohanty (MBA-FM)



प्रगतेः मूलं प्रकृतिः



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT