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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT

# ALMA MATTERS

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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF IIFM



## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

We are back with the second edition of our very own Newsletter "Alma Matters". The inaugural edition of Newsletter has received lots of acknowledgement and appreciation, both for the initiative taken and for the content. In the second edition we have tried to bring back some old memories of IIFM and who else but Prof. P.K. Biswas could have narrated it better. He is one of those who have seen the institute grow from its infancy. The uniqueness of our institute in terms of its curriculum, field work components, students from diverse geography-culture-backgrounds and the scenic beauty of the campus has been a common thread across batches. In the three articles of this edition you will find same expressions of love and admiration for our alma mater by the alumni as well as by the final year students. Sports has been ingrained in the IIFM culture since its inception. While the campus provides enough opportunities to participate in indoor as well as outdoor sports, it also provides a larger platform in the form of All India Forest Sports Meet. In one of the articles of this edition, an alumnus expresses his gratitude to the institute for enabling him to live his dream through his participation in the event. Since 1988, when the PGDFM course started, many batches of PGDFM, MRM (later converted to M. Phil), FPM, Ph.D. (degree from FRI, Dehradun) have passed out. Every batch has been unique in itself and to celebrate this uniqueness this edition onwards we are starting a new section called "Batch of the Month". This month the PFM 1994-96 is the "Batch of the Month". Hope you like this section and will share similar information about your batch for future editions. On November 8<sup>th</sup> 2020, our Newsletter was launched in an important event of the institute called "E-Coalescence". Prof. Ashish David launched the Newsletter in presence of other faculty members, students and eminent guests. On 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020, the Alumni Association (AA) had an important meeting with the Director of the institute Sri Pankaj Srivastava. The AA was represented by the AA President Mr. Ashish Mishra. Prof. Ashish David (Chairperson, Alumni Affairs from IIFM), Archana Sharma (the Secretary AA) and some alumni also participated in the meeting. The focus of the meeting was to understand the impact of the proposition of the Govt. of India to disengage with IIFM and how the AA can contribute towards the efforts of IIFM to present its viewpoints to the government.

That is about all we have for this edition of our Newsletter. The editorial team look forward to your acknowledgement, suggestions, and support.

Happy Reading.



Avinash Kumar (Editor)

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## Editorial Team

- Avinash Kumar (PFM 1998-2000)
- Avinav Kumar (PFM 1999-2001)
- Dipak Jha (PFM 1998-2000)
- Rajaram Sankaran (PFM 1998-2000)

# INFANCY TO ADULTHOOD OF IIFM: A JOURNEY WELL LIVED

**Prof. P K Biswas<sup>1</sup>**



It was one of the usual hot summer evenings of Bhopal on 27th May 1984 when my tryst with Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) began. A surprise awaited for me as I saw IIFM was housed in an apartment, E-5/120 in Area Colony. Unlike the luxuries of modern days guest house with good amenities, my first night was spent on the verandah of the apartment on a bedding. The reality was very different than what I had imagined while leaving from Hyderabad for Bhopal. I had left Hyderabad imagining a big campus and guest house and I found the institute functioning from an apartment. This was my maiden visit to Bhopal as my interview for faculty position was organized at Indian Institute of Management Ahmadabad (IIMA). At that time, on the request of the Govt. of India, IIMA was incubating and developing IIFM as the first management institute in the Forestry sector

On 28th May 1984, I joined as Assistant Professor, and another pleasant surprise awaited me, the then Director J K Chaturvedi mentioned “Welcome, you are the first faculty member of IIFM!”. He himself had joined as Director in February 1984 with only a handful of staff. The first task assigned to me was to read ‘Ten-Year Perspective Plan of IIFM’ prepared by IIMA, to acquaint myself with the vision and mandate of IIFM. Reading of the Perspective Plan helped me overcome my initial disappointment of spending a night on verandah as the document envisioned great future of IIFM at par with the IIMs.

By August 1984 three more faculty members joined the institute. Interestingly, none of the four faculty members had any exposure to forestry sector except the Director who was an Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer and had joined IIFM on deputation. Our first mandate was to organize Management Development Programme (MDP). In October 1984, I took my first session in MDP. As a 27 year old faculty, I had to impart knowledge to a class of all 40+ years old senior Forest Officers as students. I could do so because I spoke on Social Dimensions of Forestry, which was a new dimension for them, a departure from regulatory and protection functions of forestry. I applied Jack Westby’s concept ‘Forestry is about People, not Trees alone’ (In his seminal book “Purpose of the Forest”). My approach was ‘Putting People First’ as narrated by my good friend Michael M Cernea, World Bank Sociologist.

By 1988, when we launched our flagship programme Post Graduate Diploma in Forestry Management (PGDFM), the faculty strength became 14. During the intervening period we were oriented and sensitized towards forestry sector by making tours to several forest areas, National Parks, visit to Forest Resource Institute (FRI), Dehradun and State Forest Resource Institute (SFRI), Jabalpur. We were introduced to case writing and case teaching methodology by the professors from the Harvard University and IIM Ahmadabad. In 1987, we organized a big International Conference on Forestry Education at Delhi where forestry officials and academicians from eight countries participated and provided inputs to develop curriculum for the courses in IIFM. In initial years, SIDA (Swedish International Development Authority), actively partnered with IIFM and created an endowment for scholarships for all students who joined.

Starting a forestry management course at Masters level was a herculean task before us as there was no such precedence available in the country. At that time the courses were available for either management or forestry or Social Sciences. Nevertheless, we blended all these three streams in our curriculum and developed courses that were unique and novel. The impact of such rich curriculum is now being reflected through the diverse portfolios which our Alumni hold globally. This approach built resilience among the students to face any eventuality in their professional career.

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<sup>1</sup> Former Faculty of IIFM (28th May 1984 to 30th July, 2013), Former Director of LBSIM Delhi, Former Director IFMR Chennai, Former VC of Skyline University Nigeria. Presently Dean at IMT Ghaziabad

In July, 1988, we started PGDFM course with a planned intake of 30 students but finally 27 students took admission with diverse background. 25% of the total students were female students. 'Small is Beautiful'-as the saying goes, we had wonderful students and faculty interactions.. The pedagogy we used was very innovative and interactive. During winter mornings, I remember taking classes in the open area of library lawn with cozy sun light. In one of the open classes we screened Hindi movie "Manthan" (directed by the famous Shyam Benegal), to understand rural society in India. The movie was shown through a 16 mm projector, in the library lawn in the evening. Library lawn used to be the venue for lots of activities, and I believe the legacy continues even today. Those days, reading materials used to be cyclostyled<sup>2</sup> and circulated, Overhead Projector (OHP) sheets were used for presentations. The technologies those days were-a far cry from the present digital age.

Days at IIFM were full of learning for the students as well as for the faculties. Faculties and students used to participate in different co-curricular activities including sports and cultural events. IIFM provided equal opportunities to the family members of faculties and staff to participate in different events. Learning for the students were not limited to classroom teaching only but it was interwoven with fun and frolic as well. As there was no indoor Badminton Court in initial days, Room No.118 was converted into an indoor Badminton court till the actual indoor court was built with other sports facilities. We always had healthy competition among faculties, students and staff in the sports viz. Cricket, Badminton, Table Tennis etc. Sports were inherent in the institute culture from the beginning even when the infrastructural facilities were limited earlier.

Learning for the students at IIFM was predominantly field based. Out of the total 21 months of PGDFM program, seven and half months were spent in field. The field components comprised of Field work, Organizational Training-I (OT-I during summer) and Organizational Training-II (OT-II in the second year of the course). Each component of the field comprised of 10 weeks. Field components provided good exposure and opportunity for the students to visit villages and stay in rural area. While the rural areas were lacking the basic amenities sometimes viz. electricity, proper washroom etc. but living in rural ambience was definitely learning for the students. The richness of field components helped the student to develop a comprehensive perspective. Faculties' engagement in the Field Work components was a Sine qua non. Initially, we had to struggle to find appropriate projects for the students for OT and also for the field work attachment with the Forest Department, Revenue Department, Forest based industries, and NGOs. The faculties used to continuously travel for 15-20 days (leaving the family in Bhopal) to arrange projects for the students.

Placement for the first batch was big a challenge for us with no history of management education in Forestry, moreover IIFM was an unknown entity at that point of time. However, we organized conferences with prospective employers where our students made wonderful presentations. It appealed to the prospective employers and with tough negotiations, we achieved 100% placement for the first batch of PGDFM students. This set the tone for subsequent placements over the years.

Since then, lot of water has flown into lakes of Bhopal. The city, which was already beautiful, developed further bypassing the turmoil of one of the worst industrial disasters in 1984, the Bhopal gas tragedy. Over a period of time, IIFM moved from one apartment to two, then to three and then finally to a 200-acre campus, which is still counted as one of the most beautiful campus in India. I have literally seen it grow from its days of infancy and then attaining adulthood in the three decades that I have spent there. I must say, it has been an exciting journey. My prime youth time was devoted to IIFM; my children grew there along with several batches of students. My farewell at IIFM was on 4th August 2013, a program was organized by the students and it was also participated by the first batch student Anandi. In the farewell program my wife Madhuree mentioned that IIFM is in my blood and due to my passion for the institute I spent good long time with students and faculty colleagues in academic as well as in co-curricular activities.

I can go on unfolding several anecdotes..... I intend to write a book later on Institution Building, especially focusing on IIFM. I have received several requests from the alumni as well to narrate the memories of IIFM in the form of a book. I am very grateful to all my students who provided wonderful opportunity to me, to be part of this unforgettable journey at IIFM. In addition to them, my family members and colleagues (both faculty & staff) have a great role in my spending unforgettable decades at the institute

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2 an early device for duplicating handwriting, in which a pen with a small toothed wheel pricks holes in a sheet of waxed paper, which is then used as a stencil.

## PARTICIPATION IN ALL INDIA FOREST SPORTS MEET: A DREAM FULFILLED



Even before joining IIFM, I was familiar with All India Forest Sports Meet as my father was a forest officer from Jharkhand. I grew watching him participate in table tennis matches in the Forest Sports Meet. I have fond memories of his practice sessions in which I also used to assist him. I always dreamt of wearing his jerseys written “Jharkhand” on the back and participate in the meet. Those jerseys used to be prized possession for me.

Time flies and in 2013 I joined IIFM to pursue PGDFM course. I was very excited to learn that joining IIFM will also fulfill my dream to participate in All India Forest Sports Meet and that too for two successive years. Unfortunately the event got cancelled in 2013 but I could get the opportunity to participate in 2014 at a wonderful venue Goa. By this time my father was retired from the forest services.

Wearing the jersey of IIFM, I was excited to get a glimpse of what my father witnessed for years. During the opening ceremony our team from IIFM was standing next to the Jharkhand team. I could see many familiar faces with whom I used to play during their practice sessions with my father. I had spent good time with them at Ranchi. They were equally happy to see me and could relate with my passion to participate in the meet. I opted to participate in table tennis for singles, doubles and mixed doubles matches.

As the match schedule was announced and the games started I eagerly and anxiously waited for my schedule. My father could not get any medal during his participation in the Forest Sports Meet and probably due to the expectation to get a medal and my first opportunity to participate in a big event, I was feeling a bit nervous. I started with men’s single table tennis match. I could not go beyond second round. I was disheartened but did not lose hope. My next opportunity was to participate in the men’s double and mixed double matches. The match was against Bihar Team. Just before the men’s double match started, a player from the opponent team

came and asked “are you Mahto ji’s son? Yes, I replied”. He was pleased to know and mentioned that he had played with my father in the Sports Meet. We won this match and gradually I started feeling familiar to the ambience of the Sports Meet. It was good to meet many people from different states. In the men’s double match, we lost after progressing to few rounds but the overall experience was very good.

The last event for me was mixed doubles match. This time our match was scheduled with Jharkhand team and I could see familiar faces in the opponent team. I had assisted one of the team members during his practice sessions at Ranchi while the lady member of the opponent team had played earlier with my father in the mixed doubles. It was an exciting match and I had mustered enough confidence by this time to win this match. Our team moved ahead in next rounds and we could reach to the semi-finals. Our opponent team in the semi-finals was too good for us but we put our best in the match but the opponents were superior in terms of experience and skills and we lost the match. At last we had the opportunity to fight for the bronze medal. We had a good match and the audience were thrilled to watch the contest. I was cheered by the crowd for my speedy and flat smashes. Well, we lost this match even after a tough fight. With this, my dream of getting a medal also ended, nonetheless I was very happy to participate in such a big event and perform. Later, we came to know that we missed the medal by a whisker but we were rewarded with one point and we stood at fourth position. The additional point helped improve our overall team ranking. This definitely was some achievement for me as well as for my father. The smile on his face when I told him about it was my biggest prize and the day still remains one of my fondest memories.

Thank you IIFM for giving me the opportunity to live my dream

## A NOTE FOR THE STUDENTS: TIPS TO MAKE YOUR FUTURE BRIGHT



I last visited IIFM campus in November 2019 after a gap of more than a decade. It was a nostalgic moment walking down the memory lane... those Bamboosa parties and our Mahua bar (does not exist officially). While a lot has changed on the campus in terms of infrastructure, the traditions and rituals have survived. The late evening ritualistic “Gyaan session with alumni” I had with the students made me realize that I too once stood on the other side, not so sure about my future, post IIFM.

I started my career in 2002 with Rural Development Department, Govt of MP, implementing development schemes on ground. Next opportunity I got was to work on institutional development of grassroots NGOs with ARAVALI in Rajasthan. Subsequently I jumped into microfinance with CARE India and then to ICICI Bank for Rural & Agri Banking and later Mortgage Finance. In 2011 I joined HDFC Bank into a Brand & Communication role where I have worked on developing Artificial Intelligence (AI) based solutions, dabbling with big data, Behavioral Economics led Marketing to User Interface (UI). All my job opportunities were not just in a different subject area but also a different sector too. In each job I first slogged, failed but bounced back to learn and grow. Today having crossed the ocean, I realize how IIFM had subtly laid the foundation for this journey.

Let me explain my point of view from a few hard truths of life.

- 1. Jobs that existed in 2002 (the year I passed out of IIFM) don't exist today and vice versa:** The subject matter I studied at IIFM didn't help much. It was the exposure through extensive field trips across India, learning to adjust in hostel life with a small yet diversified batch helped develop the right attitude in life. An open mind with acceptance to change, inquisitiveness to learn new things in life and adapt.
- 2. Ability to 'Learn, Unlearn and Relearn' is a skill to be acquired:** Being a bio-science graduate, making an effort to study and appreciate new subjects from Accounts/Economics to Marketing to GIS was daunting. I didn't realize it then that it took the fear of a new subject/unknown, out of me.
- 3. Underdogs stand a better chance to win the race:** The reason is that they do not come with any baggage and give a good fight for survival, hence higher adaptability and agility. Each organization I worked for, hired me for my attitude because they believed that I can quickly learn new skills and deliver.
- 4. Its high EQ and not IQ that gives you success in life:** Ever wondered why the backbenchers often turn out to be more successful in life? Probably because they are able to see the big picture from a distance and are better at understanding and managing people. In your professional world, the success of your project depends upon how well are you able to handle your stakeholders (top bosses to juniors to clients / community) to deliver the outcomes.

Last but not the least.....add **RESILIENCE** to your DNA because it's the failures in life that will reveal your path to success.

Rohit Raina is from PFM 2000-02, presently he is VP & Vertical Head Direct Marketing HDFC Bank, located at Mumbai



## FROM FRESHER TO FAREWELL: A LIFE TO CHERISH AT IIFM

After an average performance in CAT, I knew for sure that my dream to pursue MBA from an IIM was over. For almost a year I had slogged day and night for IIM. However, fate had other plans for me. So without wasting even a minute in grief, I moved on and tried to find some other top-tier colleges. My search stopped at IIFM. Now when I am on the verge of completing my stay at this unique institute I feel happy for the rich experience I got here.

Life at IIFM is amazing. A post-graduate course has its share of exams, quizzes, and mid-terms and though it seems a bit hectic at times, soon one learns to cope up with. The hostels, Aravali, Vidhyanchal, and Nilgiri are as beautiful as they sound. At IIFM, one gains a better understanding of the city, country, and even the world. One comes across all sorts of people, talented, friendly, naïve. IIFM is known for its cultural diversity and the most interesting thing is that all kinds of festivals, be it, Eid, Onam, or Janmashtami are celebrated with the same amount of zeal and enthusiasm. After months of sharing a room, running to “Sanchi Parlour” now and then, adjusting to sleepless nights, washing clothes at 3 in the morning and attending classes at 9, all one could say is that hostel life is the best thing that has happened to me.

The campus is fascinating and never stops surprising us with amazing sunsets. Camping in grassland on Fridays and waking up to the calls of Peacocks, venturing into the wild, unexplored caves of the campus, having bonfires and toasting friendship and Marshmallows together and climbing on top of “India Gate-our gateway to the wilderness”, are the things to cherish forever.

The institute focuses on the all-round development of its students and therefore teachings are not only confined to the classrooms. The open learning (O.L.D.) sessions conducted every other month have a significant impact on students. It is rightly said that at IIFM students graduate but they never leave. One realizes this fact when one sees alums coming over and over again and the respect that they hold for their alma mater.

In a nutshell, IIFM as an institute will open your eyes to a world full of hopes. You will meet a number of people and see different shades of life. You will fall in love with solitude and yet embrace company. IIFM makes me feel happier and crazier. Every part of me knows that I have changed. I have certainly found my voice and dream.



## LIFE AT IIFM: A UNIQUE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

“Trees are the earth’s endless effort to speak to the listening heaven.” The quote given by Rabindra Nath Tagore imparts a perfect definition for our abode, Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM). It has been more than a year now at IIFM and every day has been a heart-stirring experience for me. Its flora and fauna gives me a perfect ambience and the serene environment helps me to explore in diverse ways for the responsibilities and opportunities ahead.

The chirping of birds, the whistling of crickets and light of wisdom entering the architectural award-winning building blocks have been the underpinnings of my early mornings. The process of enlightenment begins right after the breakfast till the dusk followed by various sports, club meetings, guest lectures and cultural events as planned. Throughout the day we are guided by our esteemed and highly competent faculty members. Their extraordinary methodology of teaching through fieldwork and practical exposure determines the unique curriculum of general management blended with the knowledge of forestry. Another major boon is the open learning days and field trips that IIFM has to offer. They have untangled our dilemma of handling market engagements while getting sensitised with social issues.

IIFM has been a home away from home. The first-time experience of hostel life and discussions over any issue in the night canteen while sipping tea will always be one of the memories cherished for the lifetime. Unfortunately, we have been deprived from this warmth from quite some time. Covid-19 has snatched our right of being physically present at the Institute and seized our very moment of contentment. However, the pandemic has not befallen us. The virtual platform has given us another level of exposure to a new world. Our friends, teachers and families have envisaged all the possible alternatives to deal with this physical and emotional unrest. Also, our alumni have helped us to cope up with the predicament. All the interactions with them, namely, “Yaadon ki Baarat”, “Town Hall”, “Shakshatkar” and all the alumni talks, have motivated us to perform better in all the possible ways and prepared us for the future unprecedented situations.

Our journey at IIFM is getting to an end but still, there is a lot to discover and conquer. IIFM has helped me acknowledge my capabilities, strengths and imperfections in a credible sense and also made me seek my areas of interest. This green campus enriched with thrilling stories of our successful alumni will embark you to the different world of thoughts and goals.

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**Shivani Verma** is a student from PFM 2019-21 batch



# BATCH OF THE MONTH

## PFM 1994-96



### Madhavan ADP

Current Location : Kabul, Afghanistan  
Current Place of Work : International Program Advisor, Women's Economic Empowerment Rural Development Project  
Family : Married to Indira, and has a daughter- Ruhi  
Birthday : 22 September  
Past Degree : MA [Hons.] English at BITS, Pilani  
Placement From Campus : Arunachal Plywood Industries Limited



### Archana Sharma

Current Location : Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh  
Current Place of Work : Managing Trustee, Aranya, Bhopal  
Birthday : 03 April  
Past Degree : BA Economics [Hons.] at Ranchi University  
Placement From Campus : Sanket Research & Development Agency, Bhopal



### Ashish Sharma

Current Location : Kitchener, Ontario, Canada  
Current Place of Work : Technical Lead - SAP BW, Bank of Montreal (BMO)  
Family : Married to IIFM batchmate Madhu [Chauhan] Sharma and have son Arnav and daughters Manya and Manvi  
Birthday : 20 December  
Past Degree : B.Sc in Physics & Maths from Lucknow University  
Placement From Campus : Sterling Tree Magnum (India) Ltd.



### Bijoy Pd. Ratho

Current Location : Rayagada, Odisha  
Current Place of Work : General Manager, Fibre Resource Development & R&D, JK Paper Ltd. Unit: JKPM  
Family : Married to Sarita and has a daughter- Mrinal  
Birthday : 21 June  
Past Degree : Chemistry [Hons] Ravenshaw University, Cuttak  
Placement From Campus : Maxworth Orchards



### Bishwadeep Ghose

Current Location : Delhi  
Current Place of Work : Country Director at Water for People  
Family : Married to IIFM batchmate Seema Joshi and have 2 daughters- Eesha and Triparna  
Birthday : 30 November  
Past Degree : BSc Chemistry at Hindu College, Univ. of Delhi  
Placement From Campus : Aga Khan Rural Support Program India



### Ghazala Ali Khan

Current Location : Faridabad  
 Current Place of Work : Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Employees Provident Fund  
 Family : Married to Rehan Khan and has a daughter- Maria and a son- Adil  
 Birthday : 03 August  
 Past Degree : B.Sc. at Barkatullah University, Bhopal  
 Placement From Campus : ORG-MARG, Baroda



### Madhu [Chauhan] Sharma

Current Location : Kitchener, Ontario, Canada  
 Current Place of Work : Research Associate, University of Guelph  
 Family : Married to IIFM batchmate Ashish Sharma and have son Arnav and daughters Many and Manvi  
 Birthday : 30 September  
 Past Degree : B.Tech Dairy Technology from National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal  
 Placement From Campus : Vidya Bhawan Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Udaipur



### Mamta Vardhan

Current Location : Edmonton, Canada  
 Current Place of Work : Research Analyst in Solicitor General's Office, Government of Alberta, Canada  
 Family : Married to IIFM batchmate, Rohit Jindal and have a son- Kartik.  
 Birthday : 12 March  
 Past Degree : BSc Biology at University of Rajasthan, Jaipur  
 Placement From Campus : Seva Mandir, Udaipur



### Manas Ranjan Mishra

Current Location : Bhubaneshwar, Odisha  
 Current Place of Work : Independent Consultant and Trainer  
 Family : Married to Sudatta and has two sons- Upamanyu and Ekalavya  
 Birthday : 06 January  
 Past Degree : BA Economics from Utkal University, Bhubaneshwar, Odisha  
 Placement From Campus : Vasundhara, Odisha



### Mohd. Hasnain

Current Location : Kabul, Afghanistan  
 Current Place of Work : UN Environment Programme, Afghanistan  
 Family : Married to Shruti Sharma, and has a daughter- Aanya  
 Birthday : 04 May  
 Past Degree : BA Sociology at Aligarh Muslim University  
 Placement From Campus : Sewa Mandir, Udaipur



### Neelam Kamble

Current Location : All of us have unfortunately lost contact with Neelam for the last 18 years.  
 Family : Married to Raju and has a son  
 Birthday : 03 February  
 Past Degree : B.Sc Zoology at University of Mumbai  
 Placement From Campus : Vidya Bhawan Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Udaipur



### Suresh Babu Pullela

Current Location : Hyderabad, Telangana  
 Current Place of Work : Set up his own architectural firm- VASHNI InfraProjects Pvt Ltd. in Hyderabad  
 Family : Married to Vimala and has a son Abishai and a daughter Sarah  
 Birthday : 14 January  
 Past Degree : BE Mechanical Engineering at College of Engineering, Guindy, Anna University, Chennai  
 Placement From Campus : Arunachal Plywood Industries Limited



### Prabhat Labh

Current Location : Gurgaon, Haryana, India  
 Current Place of Work : CEO at Grameen Foundation India  
 Family : Married to: Nidhi Bansal and has a daughter, Manori  
 Birthday : 08 January  
 Past Degree : B.Sc at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi  
 Placement From Campus : Vidya Bhawan Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Udaipur



### Pushplata Rawat

Current Location : Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India  
 Current Place of Work : State Manager Uttarakhand, Room to Read  
 Family : Married to fellow IIFMite Santosh Passi [PFM 93-96] and has two son Kartik and Vinayak  
 Birthday : 07 January  
 Past Degree : MA Economics at HNB Garhwal University Dehradun, Uttarakhand  
 Placement From Campus : Appropriate Technology India (ATI) working on NTFP based enterprise, Ukhimath, Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand



### Rajeev Kr. Singh

Rajeev died in 2001  
 Birthday : 24 October  
 Past Degree : BSc Mathematics at University of Rajasthan  
 Placement From Campus : Sterling Tree Magnum (India) Ltd.



### Ramanathan B

Current Location : Yangon, Myanmar  
 Current Place of Work : UNFPA Representative, Myanmar  
 Birthday : 06 August  
 Past Degree : BSc Chemistry from University of Madras  
 Placement From Campus : Sanket Research & Development Agency, Bhopal



### Rohit Jindal

Current Location : Edmonton, Canada  
 Current Place of Work : Associate Professor, School of Business, MacEwan University, Edmonton, Canada  
 Family : Married to IIFM batchmate, Mamta Vardhan and has a son- Kartik.  
 Birthday : 27 January  
 Past Degree : Bachelor of Engineering at Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology, Patiala (Punjab)  
 Placement From Campus : ITC (Indian Tobacco Company)



### Samrat Mukherjee

Current Location : Kolkatta, West Bengal  
 Current Place of Work : DGM at NABARD [National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development]  
 Family : Married to Anindita and has two daughters Kausheeki and Nysa  
 Birthday : 17 August  
 Past Degree : B. Pharma at Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Ranchi  
 Placement From Campus : Sterling Tree Magnum (India) Ltd.



### Seema Joshi

Current Location : Bangalore, Karnataka  
 Current Place of Work : Director of Marketing & Communications at the Association of People with Disability- India  
 Family : Married to IIFM batchmate, Bishwadeep Ghosh and has 2 daughters- Eesha and Triparna  
 Birthday : 08 July  
 Past Degree : M. Sc. Geology at -DSB College, Naintal, Kumaon University  
 Placement From Campus : Aga Khan Rural Support Program India



### Sudin K

Current Location : Budapest, Hungary  
 Current Place of Work : Independent Consultant with organizations in India, involves himself in natural farming.  
 Family : Married to Beena Sudin and has a daughter- Anagha  
 Birthday : 20 April  
 Past Degree : B. Sc. at Barkatullah University  
 Placement From Campus : Sterling Tree Magnum India Ltd.



### Vikas Nath

Current Location : Toronto, Canada  
 Current Place of Work : Currently taken to a retired life. His last assignment was as Associate Director, Future United Nations Development System  
 Family : Married to fellow IIFMite Rati Mehrotra [pfm 96-98] and has a daughter Arushi and a son Artash  
 Birthday : 18 September  
 Past Degree : B.Sc. Maths & Statistics at St. Stephens College, Univ. of Delhi  
 Placement From Campus : Aga Khan Rural Support Program India



### Vikas Singh

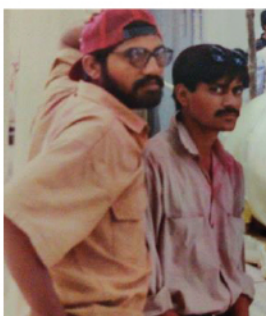
Current Location : Hillsborough, New Jersey, USA  
 Current Place of Work : Associate Professor of Sociology, Montclair State University  
 Family : Married to Indu Singh and has daughter - Jhanvi and Son Shaurya  
 Birthday : 17 August  
 Past Degree : B.Sc. from Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut  
 Placement From Campus : Century Pulp and Paper



### Vikram Lokesh Duggal

Current Location : Dallas, Texas, USA  
 Current Place of Work : Information Technology professional with Bank of America  
 Birthday : 12 October  
 Past Degree : B.Com from Gondwana University  
 Placement From Campus : Krishak Bharati Cooperative's [KRIBHCO] Western India Indo-British Rainfed Farming Project

# FIELDWORK & ORGANIZATIONAL TRAINING (OT)



# CAMPUS LIFE



# CAMPUS EVENTS OF THE MONTH



## CULTURAL CLUB (UMANG)

### Cultural Trifecta

Umang organized an online event 'Cultural Trifecta' on November 21, 2020, it was a fun-filled event that tested the cultural knowledge of the teams and nudged them to do something creative and think out of the box. The teams played a rapid-fire round to showcase their knowledge and they then represented multiple cultures of India through various activities such as folk dance, classical dance, folklores, regional songs and gave information about festivals and artifacts. The event was organized with an aim to bring together people from diverse cultures and show the beauty of Indian art and culture on a virtual screen.

## ALUMNI NETWORK COMMITTEE (ANC)

### saakshatkar

On 22nd November 2020, as a part of the student -alumni interaction, current students had an enriching google meet interaction with Mr. Janmejaya Mishra, an alumnus of IIFM 2008 M.Phil batch.

The attendees got to know about his journey, a life that he never thought of, starting from research and monitoring in Aga Khan Rural Support Program (AKRSP) to a coordinator at WWF, India.

He explained how life unfolded for him, initially having a goal to join civil services to ultimately ending up in the development sector. But the aim remained the same, contribute towards society and bringing some change.

He is a development professional having basic academic training in anthropology and natural resources management. Being a good observer and having an interest in writing, he has published eight research papers in his 12 years of career.

## ADVENTURE CLUB

### IIFMATHON

A virtual marathon was conducted by Adventure Club on 21st and 22nd November 2020. Participants chose their own route, their own start line, and their own finish line. Several students and faculties enthusiastically participated and successfully completed the 5 km, 11 km, and 21km marathon. This event gave an opportunity for participants to explore their surroundings after months of confinement in their homes. They experienced a connection with nature. Participants showed full dedication, focus, and gave their best.



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**AFTER ALL. WE ALL TAKE PRIDE IN  
PROCLAIMING -“IIFM के लिये कुछ भी”**

Photographs by : Bishesh Mahto, Adnan Ahmad (PFM 2019-21) & IIFM Website