



# ALMA MATTERS



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## AA Dashboard

Number of members	1426 (As of 2nd November, 2023)
Total Alumni Count (approx.)	2100
Number of Batches	34



## Letter from the President

### Un-presidential Dispatch

From a President, no matter what they preside: a country, a company, an AA or a RWA, the expectation is to hear about broad goals and policy formulations, not nitty-gritty or micro stuff. As the BOD of the AA completes a year, my inclination is to be contrarian and focus on the small things. Many may accuse the BOD and by implication the AA of not delivering on several fronts including placements or OTs and the accusation may be valid, but as we reflect on the past year and prognosticate on the future, a clear definition of what the AA has to do is emerging much like a chrysalis.

2. We started off late last year with three objectives in mind; i) network with the alumni; ii) support the students at IIFM; and iii) support brand IIFM. Providentially, one of our very own, Dr. K. Ravichandran, took over as Director of our alma mater. Observing his passion, dedication and work ethos, to us the importance and the role of objectives ii) and iii) have receded. The Institute under the new leadership is well placed to deliver on them and the Institute has been reaching out to us, both as a collective and individually to support its efforts. This has resulted in a large number of alums climbing up the, now green, Hill. It however deserves mention, that last year and early this year, the AA under the leadership of VP Nikhil Mathur did work on a comprehensive plan for placement support and implemented it successfully with several alums travelling to Bhopal at their own expense to motivate students. We express our gratitude to them. Presently, the need to perform these roles has diminished as the Institute itself is stepping up its role on preparing the students for better placements.

3. The above assessment brings us to our primary goal of bringing the alumni together, networking, supporting, advising and socializing, basically being there for each other. Creating solidarity! For this to happen, what we needed to do, first and foremost, was to bring the alumni under an umbrella. Several models and attempts were made and after many failures we have achieved a modicum of success in terms of creating a database. As of today 1,426 alums have registered with the AA and most of them are included in several Whatsapp groups that have been created. When we started, the membership of the AA was about 160, so a 9x growth has taken place. Almost all are now present in the email list Amrita, our office manager runs with the help of Rishi Prakash. Several regional and international Whatsapp groups have also germinated and it is indeed heart-warming to see that alums are connecting to each other in many ways. It is often that one reads messages such as "I am travelling to London, are there any alums free to meet or I will be Lucknow tomorrow, can we meet up or are there any IIFMights in Geneva?" At many locations alums have connected and gone out together on picnics and trips. I vividly recall alumni whom I have never met before, Shikha, Pranav and Sneha, joining the dinner with Hon'ble Vice President of India at London and when I introduced them to him as belonging to my alma mater, our witty Vice President sardonically remarked looking at me "seeing your alumni colleagues, the Institution cannot be blamed".

4. Alums several batches apart are recognising each other at airports and malls and making the effort to meet up and sharing good times whenever someone is visiting. Frequently, several of our entrepreneurs and managers are posting jobs and others are seeking them. Sometime people are seeking help, contacts or even ideas, and the response is almost immediate. Somehow, the latent pride in our alma mater, of bonding with those who spent time on the Hill and reaching out to help, has surfaced strongly. There are innumerable instances where all of us have chipped in to support each other. A concomitant phenomenon has been all of us taking pride and feeling happy about the accomplishments of others. Such news, happily frequently, is promptly shared and many of us wonder: Wow they are an IIFMight! I have been an IIFMight for more than three decades and I have not seen this happen. A really touching moment was when in an interaction with the incoming students of the current batch organised in June 2023, one of the new students when asked why she chose IIFM said that amongst the reason was an active AA. This is what we see as the real and enduring achievement of the AA. In a short period of three years, the AA has become part and parcel of the lives of the alumni, so much so that some even take the liberty to be harsh. There have also been acrid debates in the group and some have stomped out in exasperation and pleas of moderation are frequently made, as for an organisation such as an AA, the biggest price to pay is excluding anyone. We assumed responsibility last year on a single claim i.e. we will make the AA inclusive and that is the promise to have kept and will keep in the future.

5. Several events and activities have marked the last year. Before enlisting them, here I would acknowledge that we have been able to build on the work done by the previous board led by Ashish and Archana. They laid the foundation stone on which we are trying to edify. Another significant building block is the work of the 'Team IIFMights' whose dedication in regularly bringing out on a weekly basis "IIFMight in Focus" is a herculean task, ably performed. This also helps in bring alums who have chosen to be recluse into our fold.

6. A supremely satisfying development this year, has been the revival of the monthly news letter "Alma Matters". A big shout out to Avinash and his able team for picking up the gauntlet. My request to all alumni is to react to the newsletter with stories and feedback and contributions. Without your active involvement, it will cease to matter. We have also been able to initiate and sustain a monthly talk series, 'Friends of IIFM', which has attracted several eminent personalities from sectors which we feel are relevant for IIFMights. We propose to continue with series and we would welcome suggestions and contacts.

7. Another significant event was the alumni meeting organised by the Institute with Minister of Environment, Forests & Climate Change. Almost hundred of us interacted with the top leadership of the Ministry, and our takeaway was the Ministry is serious about IIFM and investments will be made into making the Institute a Centre of Excellence. The relationship between the Institute and the Ministry couldn't have been better and we saw that the Minister took pride in the accomplished alumni.

8. Organisations run on ideas, human resources and money. While ideas abound, we are constrained by the absence of enthusiastic volunteers. Some alumni of course are very active and keep the counter ticking on a daily basis, but most sadly make the silent majority. We have been recognising those who are active by the regular 'Alumni of the Month' awards. But we need for active volunteers particularly from the recent batches to impart vibrancy to the AA. Here is a plea to all alumni, please pitch in and take initiatives to organise events and get-togethers. Let's have chapters in all major cities. Such chapters are active only in Delhi, Bangalore and perhaps in a few other cities. This certainly needs to expand.

9. On the money front we have been reasonably successful. We promised to remove the condition of paid membership on the grounds that every alum needs to be included unconditionally. That premise has been vindicated by the success of our fund raising. In December 2022 we ran a drive and raised INR 25 lakhs in about 40 days. Big thanks to all contributors. The money is being used judiciously for our routine expenses as well as being invested in FDs. But fund raising cannot be a one off effort. Expenses are corroding the amount we have and we need to raise money on a regular basis. I take this opportunity appeal to all those who have chosen, so far, to not contribute to the AA, to shed their reticence and contribute. The bank details are available in the newsletter.

10. Related to money matters, the Board felt that we should also put in place a facility for emergency support (ESF) to alumni. We established the guidelines and then reached out to the alumni to contribute an initial corpus of INR 5 lakhs. We were supremely gladdened by the incredible response and the ESF was able to raise more than INR 8 lakhs. Harpreet Bhinder and Satyendra deserve special mention for their stellar motivational role in raising funds for the ESF. Till date, in one year in total, we have been able to raise more than INR 34.76 lakhs, which has been possible due to faith entrusted on the BOD by the alumni. We propose to have a second round of fund raising drive in the coming months, and I would request all to contribute generously, as many were not able to do so in the first round of fund raising. The BOD targets to raise INR 1 cr overall by the end of 2024. I hope we have not set an easily achievable target. The AA has income tax exemption under section 80G & 12AA, so your contributions are eligible to 50% tax rebate.

11. I end this rather long litany of small things by first thanking all the members of the BOD for their contributions and support. I would like to thank in particular Advait, Rohit, Varsha and Poojnima for so kindly agreeing to join the BOD when we needed their help the most, due to conditions in the Articles of Association of the AA. Through a GBM we have now been able to amend some of the articles. They have now decided to hand over the baton to a new set of people. So, Swapan has replaced Advait as Secretary, Kallol has replaced Rohit as Treasurer. Poojnima's place will be taken by a FPM/PhD representative, after the necessary change in the articles of association. In Varsha's place we are on the lookout for a possibly a representative of the SM course on the BOD. I thank all those who have been part of the journey in the BOD for their service and also those who continue as co-travellers.

12. On behalf of the BOD, I express our gratitude to the Director of IIFM, who has changed the relationship between the alumni and the Institute into a mutually rewarding equation and we can jointly take the Institute and its alumni to the heights and mountain tops they truly deserve as India transitions into a more nature friendly economy and country. Gratitude to Dipak Jha for maintaining our website and the efforts he has made to enlist the members. In the coming weeks the website will be updated and made more accessible. I also thank our office manager Amrita for her support and dedication, most of the things that we have been able to deliver is due to her making the last mile effort. Last and most importantly, I thank our alumni family for being just that - a family. We hope the family reunion planned as EnSuRe 2024 will see many of us on the Hill on 16-17 March 2024. Looking forward to hearing your ideas in the Open House to be held soon.

Yours affectionately,

  
(Sandeep Chakravorty)

# ALUMNI IN NEWS

## Sankalp Global Summit 2023



At the 15th Sankalp Global Summit 2023 in Mumbai, Pradip Tharakan, a PFM 1992-94 alumnus, delivered a keynote address on 'Climate Action.' The summit, organized by Sankalp Forum, aimed to create a thriving ecosystem for business-driven solutions that support the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the Global South by 2030. With 1,500 participants from 50+ countries, including entrepreneurs, investors, and government officials, the event featured discussions on topics such as financing climate action and impact investments. Additionally, it provided a platform for 100+ global impact startups to pitch their ideas, resulting in over USD 1 billion in investment commitments. Dr. Tharakan's speech emphasized the importance of climate action in the context of the summit's theme, "The Great Transition: Financing Climate Action for the Global South". Sankalp Global Summit, one of the most sought after events in the global development & impact investing, is an initiative of Intellectap (part of Aavishkar Group) which has been promoted by an IIFM alumnus Vineet Rai and there are several alumni in leading positions in the organisation.

## Leveraging Solar Food Processing Technologies for Valorization of Agrifood Systems

Dr. Yogesh D. Jadhav (PFM 1998-2000), currently holds the position of Chief Operating Officer at the Barli Development Institute for Rural Women (BARLI). He delivered a session at the FAO Science and Innovation Forum 2023, focusing on the utilization of Solar Food Processing Technologies to enhance the value of agrifood systems and combat climate change. The presentation emphasized the potential of solar food processing technologies in promoting sustainability and equity, particularly among tribal women farmers in India and worldwide. BARLI, a non-profit organization, empowers rural women farmers and has developed various solar-based technologies, including dryers, cookers, and ovens, which help these women enhance the value of their produce, reduce waste, and augment their incomes.





## Decoding India's Startup Ecosystem: A Comprehensive Analysis by Ayvole'

Through a rigorous six-month journey of intricate data analysis, Ayvole and Outlook Business proudly unveil the pivotal November 2023 issue. This extensive research assesses 4000 growth-stage startups and Indian regions, concentrating on D2C, e-commerce, edtech, fintech, and healthtech, while also spotlighting emerging sectors: cleantech, deep tech, and sustainability. Evaluated by Prof Bhagwan Chowdhry I-Venture @ ISB, with research and data by Ayvole whose founder is an IIFMite Rahul Bharadwaj(PFM 2006-08) and consultancy support from Accenture, this issue promises an unparalleled view of India's startup landscape across diverse sectors.

## Mussoorie: A Mist-Shrouded History



Anmol Jain, a distinguished alumnus from the 1999 cohort of the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), recently presented his latest literary creation, 'Wanderings in the Land of Mist: The complete story of Mussoorie,' to Lt. Gen (retd) Gurmit Singh, the esteemed Governor of Uttarakhand. In this captivating book, Jain delves profoundly into the multifaceted history of Mussoorie, inviting readers to embark on an immersive journey through this picturesque hill town, which bears the marks of its British colonial past. Within its pages, Jain skillfully unveils enchanting narratives that time had shrouded beneath layers of obscurity, offering readers a chance to rediscover the hidden treasures of this charming destination.



Question: "He was the first faculty member of IIFM; he took keen interest in encouraging students to participate in sports activities inside the campus and in Forestry Sports Meet; he is....."

Last quiz answer: Wallace Line. This answer in next edition :)



## Kalpana Kashyap PFM (2006-08) crowned as the 1st Runner Up for Mrs. India Telangana



In a remarkable achievement, Kalpana, an alumna of the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), has made waves in the world of beauty pageants. Kalpana, who graduated from the Postgraduate Diploma in Forestry Management (PFM) batch of 2006-08, recently achieved an exceptional milestone by participating in a prominent beauty pageant. Her remarkable performance in the competition not only garnered attention but also earned her the prestigious title of "1st Runner Up for Mrs. India Telangana."

Kalpana's journey from her days at IIFM to this significant recognition has been nothing short of inspirational. Her dedication, passion, and talent have shone brightly on the beauty pageant stage, making her a shining example of the potential that IIFM alumni possess.

## An IIFM Alumnus on the Frontlines: Abhisekh Kar's Insights on Mumbai's Pollution Crisis



Abhisekh Kar, an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), has continued to make meaningful contributions in the field of environmental and climate awareness. Currently associated with the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), he recently participated in a significant discussion on NDTV focusing on Mumbai's escalating pollution and the pressing climate crisis.

Mr. Abhisekh Kar's insights during the discussion were highly informative and eye-opening. He shed light on the alarming surge in air pollution levels in Mumbai during the month of October, which reached a four-year peak. His emphasis on the role of unclean fuel usage in restaurants and eateries as a significant contributor to this pollution problem brought attention to an often-overlooked aspect of urban environmental challenges.

# ALUMNI WORLD

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## City Meets



**TMRE, Denver**



**Mumbai, India**



**Kolkata, India**

# Dancing Ferns of Sumatra

-Dr. Taruna & Sandeep Chakravorty



(courtesy Neeraj Prasad, PFM 88-90)

*“Those who don’t believe in magic will never find it.”*

- Roald Dahl

From the moment we learnt that we would be moving to Indonesia, we felt a magnetic pull towards it. How absolutely blessed we are we thought to ourselves as we set about reading about the country which was going to be our home for 3 years. Indonesia, an archipelagic nation of more than 18,000 islands and islets, of which only around 6,000 are inhabited, is also widely diverse in terms of traditions, languages, ethnicity and religion. In India, however, mostly Bali is known and our friend circle reacted as if we were getting posted to Bali itself. Hardly, anyone said, “see you in Jakarta”, everyone said, “we are coming to Bali”.

But Indonesia is much more than Bali. We knew that it is a Muslim majority country, but we were also aware of civilizational and cultural links with India. What fascinated us the most were suggestions in our readings about lingering prevalence of mystical traditions in the country.

No prizes for guessing that our first destination was Bali, which charmed us with its mesmerizing shoreline, captivating mountains and cultural extravaganza evident in the lives of the ordinary Balinese people. If you are sensitive, there is without a doubt a vibe, an energy that soothes, that is impossible to miss. Hinduism in Bali is manifest everywhere. On exiting the airport, at the roundabout, there is a magnificent statue of Karna and Ghatotkacha, reminiscing Mahabharat depicting Ghatotkacha sacrificing his life for Arjuna as he made Karna use the Vasavi Shakti that he was saving to kill Arjun. On every street, in front of every shop or house, floral offerings to divinity are ubiquitous.

Our next destination was Lake Toba, the largest volcanic crater lake in South-east Asia in the island of Sumatra. We went hiking in the forests of Sibuat on the slopes of the volcano. As we walked in silence just listening in awe at the sounds of the jungle, a sense of peace and contentment started pervading our senses. The guide had done this for 30 years and showed us time and again various leaves, stems, roots and explained the medicinal properties they contained. We were walking spell bound, watching our steps on the mossy stones of the trail, trying to make no noise. Suddenly, the guide who was a good 10 steps ahead of us pointed to a tree and exclaimed in a hushed tone “This is a Bird Nest Fern on a tree. It is absolutely still at the moment but sometimes if you are the lucky you can see it dancing.” We were a little surprised by what we said and walked on ignoring his proclamation”. Lo and behold, as soon as we came closer to the tree, the leaves started to move, quite strongly, as if they were waving at us. There was no breeze in the forest and not a single leaf on any other tree or shrub was moving. The guide looked at us, astonished and then he smiled and said, “Mother nature is welcoming you.” One felt much gratitude at this connection with the energy of the great mother and her display of the warmth that she always has for her children. Fortunate we indeed were. At the next turn, barely 20 metres away we saw two large gibbons frolicking in the trees. We watched them silently in awe, reconciling the emotions arising from the dancing ferns on the tree we crossed and gibbons dancing on the trees in front of us.

The recording of this can be seen at

<https://youtube.com/shorts/ecaCI5tMHW0?si=ZGLpIXdAc5noaHIX>

Our heart is full of gratitude that we have been welcomed in ‘Wonderful Indonesia’, not only by its lovely and kind people but even by the land and nature. We are already looking forward to many more connections with these islands and the lovely beings that inhabit them.

# ALUMNI OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER 2023

This certificate recognises the contribution of

## TEAM IIFMIGHT IN FOCUS

The IIFM Alumni Association feels proud to award the Alumni of the month to 'Team IIFMight in Focus'. This team has played a pivotal role in bringing the Alumni together and galvanising the AA by ensuring that the larger community gets to know about the journeys, milestones and insights of one alumni achiever every week. Such profiles have now been published for more than two years, without a single gap, and have become an essential part of IIFM alumni weekends. This incredible endeavor has been conceived and executed by Santosh Singh - PFM 06, Rishi Prakash - PFM 07 and Sreyamsa Bairiganjan - PFM 08. More recent alumni have joined the team as well. Importantly, every year students are added to this team as volunteer as well. The AA, on behalf of all alumni, salutes the vision, the generosity and the tenacity of Team IIFMights in Focus.



PRESIDENT



## Emergency Support Fund (ESF)

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

### Scope of Financial Support:

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

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

### Support Us

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



merchant398635.augp@aubank

# IIFM THIS MONTH



## Strengthening Institutional Partnership for Mission LiFE: MoU Signing between IIFM Bhopal and XLRI Delhi

On October 12, 2023, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed at the Indira Paryavaran Bhawan in New Delhi between the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, affiliated with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and XLRI – Xavier Labour Research Institute in the Delhi NCR region. This agreement aims to enhance their institutional partnership in support of advancing the goals and principles of Mission LiFE, which stands for Lifestyle for Environment.

## Unifying for Sustainability: IIFM's Inspirational Cleanliness Drive

In a vibrant display of unity and commitment to sustainable living, the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) witnessed an inspiring cleanliness drive organized at the sprawling campus of IIFM and Vanika (Faculty Residence). The event, was conducted under the guidance of Professor Anup Prakash and Mr. Manmohan Yadav, stood as a testament to the institution's dedication to sustainable living. This initiative was brought to life through the collaborative efforts of three clubs at IIFM: C2EC3, Nature and Photography, and Sankalp. It was heartening to see the coming together of enthusiastic juniors and seniors, all aligned with a shared vision of fostering a cleaner and greener environment.



## United Nations Forum on Forests Country-Led Initiative by India: Policies for Integrated Fire Management



Dr. K. Ravichandran, Director of the Indian Institute of Forest Management, addressed the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Country-Led Initiative by India, focusing on policies for implementing Integrated Fire Management (IFM) and transitioning to a new fire prevention paradigm. IFM is a holistic approach encompassing prevention, preparedness, suppression, and recovery, aiming to mitigate forest fire impacts while protecting lives and property. The paradigm shift emphasizes prevention and resilience over suppression due to increased forest fire threats from climate change. The UNFF Country-Led Initiative facilitates international collaboration on IFM, awareness raising, and increased investment in fire prevention.



## Exploring Crisis Management and Biodiversity Conservation



The Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal, arranged an insightful guest lecture on October 6 featuring the distinguished Dr. V.B. Mathur, the former Chairperson of the National Biodiversity Authority. During his presentation, Dr. Mathur provided an in-depth exploration of crisis management and risk assessment, using real-world instances from wildlife management and corporate settings to shed light on various aspects of these subjects. Furthermore, he delved into both the worldwide and national perspectives on conserving biodiversity, emphasizing the need to shift from a production-centered economic model to a more inclusive and equitable one.

## Guest lecture on 'Neurolinguistic Programming and Ethical Behavioral Practices'

On 11th October, IIFM had the privilege of hosting Prof. Smita Jha from IIT Roorkee. Her enlightening session on "Neurolinguistic Programming and Ethical Behavioral Practices" left a profound impact on the students of the Post Graduate Diploma in Sustainability Management (PGDSM). Prof. Jha's insights added a valuable dimension to our students' understanding of sustainable practices and ethical behavior. Her expertise and thought-provoking discourse made



the day memorable for everyone. Such ongoing enlightening collaborations at IIFM, foster a spirit of continuous learning and serves as a beacon of light and knowledge for students throughout their lives.

## Enthralling Model United Nations (MUN) at IIFM



Sunday evenings aren't always placid and tranquil. This was upheld by the Model United Nations (MUN) organized by IIFM's 'C2EC3' on 15th October, 2023; where 10 assigned countries and 2 UN bodies (namely, the 'UNEP' and 'WHO') witnessed fierce dialogue, discussions, arguments and negotiations to tackle agendas and settle international disputes. The riveting interactions were judged and guided by Dr. Yogesh Dubey and Dr. Bhaskar Sinha. Through their wisdom and knowledge, the Professors enriched and encouraged the young minds to work towards the common goal of universal commitment against climate change.



Teaming up with the 'HelpBox NGO,' the dedicated individuals of Team Sankalp have effectively orchestrated a 'Cloth Donation Drive' within the welcoming confines of the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) located in Bhopal. This charitable initiative not only exemplifies their unwavering commitment to making a positive impact on the community but also highlights the spirit of solidarity and altruism within the IIFM campus.

## Festival Celebrations at IIFM Campus



14th October 2023, witnessed a cultural transcendence at IIFM with a flurry of pan-India events conducted throughout the day. "Mahalaya" - the beginning of the Bengali celebration of 'Devipaksha' commenced the celebrations, followed by the amalgamation of flowers, colours and culture of "Bathukamma"; culminating with the true spirit of Navratri through the iconic "Garba Night" under the lights

## Bamboozled'23



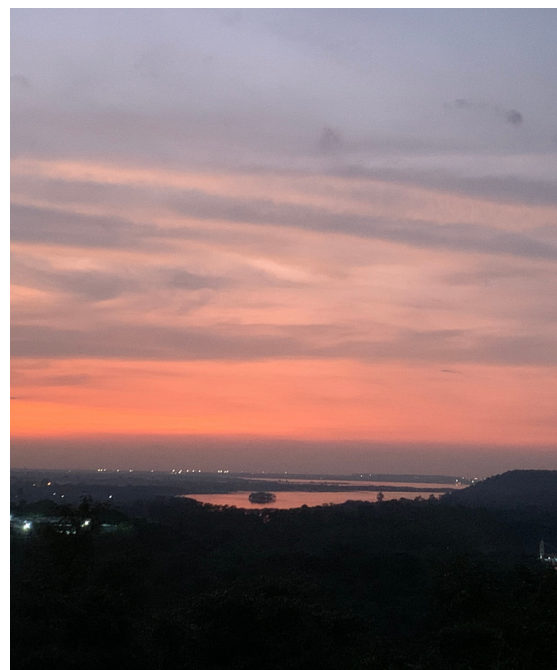
The Literary Club' was a resounding success owing to the vibrant participation and intense competition generated by the binge-watchers, superhero-fanatics and cinephiles of IIFM. The four rounds of tease and tension saw placards and spirits raised to great heights as the winners eventually emerged with enviable cash prizes, shining crowns and smiling faces.

# EXPERIENCE AT IIFM

## OF HIKES, HYENAS AND HINDSIGHT: MY IIFM STORY

-Geetanjali Jain (PSM '24)

It was a summer afternoon when I first visited IIFM. As soon as I entered, I was greeted by a pride of peafowls which quickly rushed into the forest on seeing my car. Within a few seconds, I spotted a small minivet happily perched on an Indian Coral Tree. The birder in me was elated and I smiled to myself thinking, "I can get used to this." It wasn't long before I discovered the sunset point (with a view of the forest, the lake and the Taj Hotel), the grassland, the caves, the bamboo groves, the cliff by the STP and so much more. This Institute was sure to promise exciting adventures and enduring experiences right from the beginning - be it the Orientation at the Satpura Tiger Reserve or climbing the India Gate in the middle of the night (to hide from the guards). The small batch strength coupled with a large forested campus set the stage for a lifetime of indelible memories waiting to be created. The faculty would casually narrate instances of leopard sightings in the premises (thanks to YD) as we listened with wonder. The discovery that the campus also inhabited crocodiles, hyenas and the big 4 venomous snakes only ignited our enthusiasm further. Sure, there were more prestigious Management Institutes, but they couldn't boast of the kind of thrilling adventures that IIFM had to offer.



We were a mixed bag of youngsters: nature-enthusiasts, couch potatoes, procrastinators, nerds, introverts, extroverts, and everything in between, each bringing our unique quirks and interests to the cohort. And we sure had a mixed bag of teachers - some whose lectures we'd eagerly await and some whose class hours weren't any different from serving a sentence in the most boring detention centre. From hiking through the wilderness in nature trails to organising club events, from celebrating festivals to hosting college fests, from representing IIFM at the Forest Sports Meet to being at our wits' end meeting assignment deadlines, from finding the only red sandalwood tree on campus to never studying for quizzes, we navigated it all. My personal favourite memories would always be the early morning birding trips and watching the sunrise from the grassland.

As my journey at IIFM draws to a close with the final term approaching, I reflect on what it is that I'm leaving behind, and what I've gained from being here. For most of us, this is also the end of our student life. In a few months, we would suddenly be too old to play silly pranks on classmates, bargain for extended deadlines, avail student discounts, get away with sleeping in classes etc. etc. But I wonder if there's something more substantial about being at IIFM, something that sets it apart. Is it that it is a melting pot of cultures? But then, every other National Institute is. Is it that it is a birders' paradise? But then, every other forest is. What truly sets this Institute apart is something that cannot be defined. It is the sense of adventure that it instills in everyone here. IIFMites have never been short of enterprising in everything they do. It is the sense of camaraderie in being a part of a small, close-knit community where everyone is ready to help each other grow, even after they pass out of here. And it is the spirit of doing something offbeat, to create a sustainable, better world. I did get used to this. But I would also get used to whatever adventure awaits me next. And I have IIFM to thank for that.



# PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH

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Photo by  
**Prashant Sehrawat (PSM'25)**



Dharmendra Kumar Daukia, a distinguished alumnus from the '91 PGDFM batch of IIFM, recently visited his alma mater whilst also delivering an inspiring lecture on "Social Entrepreneurs Supported by the Paper Industry: Cultivating Quality Wood for Mills" and emphasizing the importance of modern nurseries for higher-quality wood production. His visit left a lasting impact on students and faculty alike; showcasing the untapped potential of the paper industry and empowering the next generation towards a sustainable agro-future.

## Announcements

The Alumni Association of the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) is hosting its **Biannual Open House** soon. The event will be held online via Webex, and all alumni are cordially invited.

The agenda for the open house includes an overview of the association's activities over the past year and plans for the coming year. Alumni will also have the opportunity to network with each other and ask questions about the association and its programs.

To register for the open house, please visit the Alumni Association of IIFM website.

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF IIFM

invites you for the

## Biannual Open House

To be announced soon!

Webex link will be shared closer to the date. All are cordially invited.



**iifm** INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT, BHOPAL  
प्रमत्तः मूलं प्रकृतिः

REGISTRATIONS OPEN TILL DECEMBER 31, 2023

ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR **2024-26**

- Post-Graduate Diploma in Forestry Management (PGDFM)
- Post-Graduate Diploma in Sustainability Management (PGDSM)

**APPLY NOW!**

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Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) is thrilled to announce admissions for the 2024-26 session in our prestigious Post Graduate Diploma in Forestry Management (PGDFM) and Post Graduate Diploma in Sustainability Management (PGDSM) programs!

Embark on an extraordinary journey towards a rewarding career with IIFM's flagship Forestry and Sustainability Management courses.

Students from any stream with valid CAT 2023 / XAT 2024 / MAT 2023 / CMAT 2023 scores can apply.

Apply Now via our Official Website ([iifm.ac.in](http://iifm.ac.in)) or Click on the Link given in the Bio!

Last date to apply: December 31, 2023

## Newsletter Team

Kallol Mandal, Nikhil Mathur, Avinash Kumar, Amrita, Don, Bhavesh, Aditi, Spandan, Mudita, Ashapurna, Geetanjali, Sonali, Mini.