



# ALMA MATTERS

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## AA Dashboard

Number of members	1575 <small>(As of 9th Jan, 2023)</small>
Total Alumni Count <small>(approx.)</small>	2100
Number of Batches	34

## 2023: The year for IIFM !

Wishing you all a happy new year 2024 filled with joy, happiness, health, prosperity, abundant growth and accomplishments.

Year 2023 belonged to IIFM and witnessed a major turnaround. Some of the major milestones and achievements include 100% placements with average CTC crossing 10 lakhs for the first time, 200 plus students got admission to PGPs, change to original fieldwork program with SFDs, project work and industrial projects with industries, institutions and organizations, more number of MDPs and trained 750 participants, introduced new electives in term 4 and 5, 10% of course inputs of each subject from guest faculty of IIMs/IITs and 10% from industries experts to ensure industries and institute connect, management module of Mid Career Training (MCT) of phase III, IV, and V for IFS officers at IIFM and not in other IIMs, more research and consultancy projects, collaboration with Multilateral agencies viz world bank, GEF, UNCCD, UNDP, ICRAF and JICA, IIFM leading the vertical Capacity Development under NIRANTAR among MoEF&CC organizations, Mission Karmayogi, recognition as a civil service training institution, MoU with SAC, and XLRI, establishing a Centre of Excellence for Landscape restoration, nodal scientific agency for Pachmari Biosphere Reserve under MAB program, active engagement in Environment Climate Sustainability group of G20 under India's presidency, key institution along with ICFRE for Gandhinagar Implementation Roadmap (GIP) and Ganginagar Information Platform (GIP), Scheme Operating Agency for Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme, Key institution in Country Led Initiative under UNFF, engagement in Biennial Transparency Report and 4 National Communication under UNFCCC, achieving Deemed University status and getting a second campus in Kurseong, more infrastructure, reconstitution of IIFM BoG and successful conduct of 105 meeting of BoG.

Above all IIFM improved its visibility with alumni, more engagement with Alumni Association and nearly 25 alumni got associated with teaching and training programs as guest faculty.

2024 will be a true leap year for your Alma mater and is destined to grow in leaps and bounds.

Your alma mater is proud of you and sincerely value your association. Looking forward to your support, cooperation, collaboration and greater engagement.

Cheers to a wonderful new year 2024 🥳🥳

Regards,  
Dr. K Ravichandran  
Director.





## **NABARD's Climate Finance Facility Launched: Alumni Powering Climate Resilience in Partnership with ADB and BMGF**

In a collaborative effort with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has inaugurated its Climate Finance Facility. Serving as the technical partner is Intellecap, an organization contributing to the initiative's success. The facility's primary objective is to enhance resilience in India's agriculture, natural resources, and rural development sector in the face of climate change. Additionally, it aims to substantially boost the volume of climate-smart investments, addressing critical environmental challenges. Notably, the picture features two alumni, Santosh Singh from Intellecap and Sanjoy Ghosh from NABARD, underscoring their influential roles in steering this groundbreaking initiative towards a sustainable and climate-resilient future.

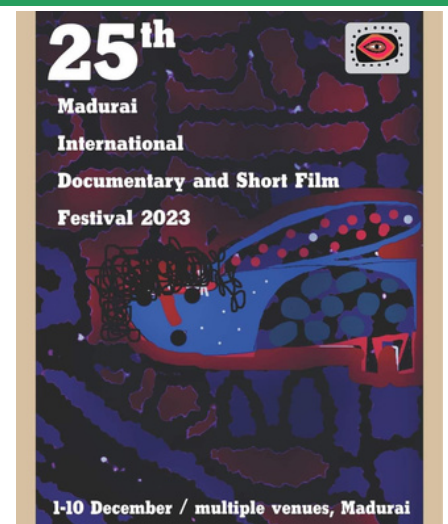
## **Alumnus Anmol Jain's Literary Triumph Garners Nationwide Acclaim**

PFM '99 alumni Anmol Jain has become the talk of literary circles with his acclaimed book, 'Wanderings in the Land of Mist.' Unveiled at the Valley of Words Literature and Arts Festival, the book intricately explores Mussoorie's diverse facets across 16 chapters. Jain dispels historical myths, incorporating anecdotes from luminaries like Ruskin Bond. Delving into the town's etymology and its historical status as the "Pleasure Capital of the Raj," Jain presents nuanced insights. The book's widespread availability at leading retailers and on Amazon, coupled with praise from critics like Yogesh Kumar, highlights its profound impact and Jain's meticulous storytelling.



## **PFM'14 Alumnus Achin Phulre's Documentary "ECHELON THREADS" to Shine at 25th Madurai International Documentary and Short Film Festival 2023**

The documentary film titled "ECHELON THREADS," created by Achin Phulre from the PFM'14 batch, has been chosen to be featured at the prestigious 25th Madurai International Documentary and Short Film Festival 2023. The festival is scheduled to run from December 1st to 10th at different venues in Madurai. It's a fantastic opportunity to showcase and celebrate the work of talented filmmakers like Achin Phulre. Kudos to the entire team!



**Alumna Vanita Suneja (PFM 1991-93) Advocates Climate Resilience at COP28**



CLIMATE CHANGE

**COP28: Leaders in attendance must channel their inner Hatim Tai on Global Goal for Adaptation**

World leaders need to agree with climate finance for adaptation not as a burden, but a force to uplift



By Vanita Suneja  
Published: Wednesday 06 December 2023

Vanita Suneja, an esteemed alumna from the PFM 1991-93 batch, takes the stage at the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) in Dubai, contributing a thought-provoking piece on climate change. Her article emphasizes the crucial role of adaptation in tackling climate challenges, addressing the disparities between adaptation and mitigation efforts over the years. Vanita urges world leaders to embrace a transformative approach, focusing on vulnerability assessments, climate finance, policy changes, and technology transfers. She calls for a clear framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) to enhance resilience and operationalize equity. In the metaphorical spirit of Hatim Tai, known for his generosity and wisdom, Vanita encourages leaders to see climate finance for adaptation as a force for uplifting vulnerable communities. Her insightful perspectives resonate as a call to action for a sustainable and equitable future.

**Vinit Rai (PFM 1994): Aavishkaar Capital's Alumni Driving Growth and Future Initiatives**

In a notable Alumni in News feature, Vinit Rai, a distinguished graduate from the PFM 1994 cohort, took center stage in a conversation about Aavishkaar's growth and future plans on CNBC's Startup Space: What's Brewing. The discussion shed light on Aavishkaar Capital's achievements as it successfully concluded its 6th India Fund, amassing an impressive corpus of \$150 million.

Vinit Rai's pivotal role in Aavishkaar's trajectory reflects the caliber of professionals produced by the program. The CNBC feature not only showcases his accomplishments but also underscores the impactful journey of Aavishkaar Capital in the financial landscape.



**Question: Who was Roll No.1 of first batch of IIFM ?**

Answer to Quiz question of December:  
First address of IIFM-E-5 Arera Colony, Bhopal  
This answer in next edition :)



# ALUMNI WORLD

## City Meets



Suprava Patnaik, Kallol Mandal, Prof. Manmohan Yadav, Prof. Advait Edgaonkar, Dir. K Ravichandran, R.B. Lal sir, Prof.Yogesh Dubey and Prof. Parul Rishi.



Shailesh Nagar (PFM 97), Anmol Jain(PFM 1999), James Kharkongor and Navin Horo(PFM 2000)



Nisha Singh (PFM 17), Navin Horo(PFM 2000), Bharti Joshi (PFM 98), Ashish Raj (PFM 98), Anmol Jain(PFM 99), Shailesh Nagar (PFM 97), Jogindra Kumar(PFM 99), Jayesh Bhati(PFM 94), Varun Grover(PFM 17), Aniruddh Soni (PFM 17)



Vineet Rai(PFM 94) Debashish and Nikesh (PFM 93)



Alisha (PFM 2023) and Ashish Mishra (PFM 93-95)



Ashish (PFM 07) and Manish (PFM 94)



# ALUMNI WORLD

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## City Meets



Reunion at Wipro Kodathi campus (R-L)  
Arindam Das (PSM 22), Aditi Saha (PSM 22),  
Prof PD Jose (PFM 90), Kanishk Negi (PFM  
05), Kunal Sharma (PFM 22)



Lovesh Choudhary (PFM 12), Sampath Gelam  
(PFM 12), Chandan Khanna (PFM 10) and  
Praveen Srivastava (PFM 12)



Delhi Chapter Meet



# FROM THE MEMORY LANE...

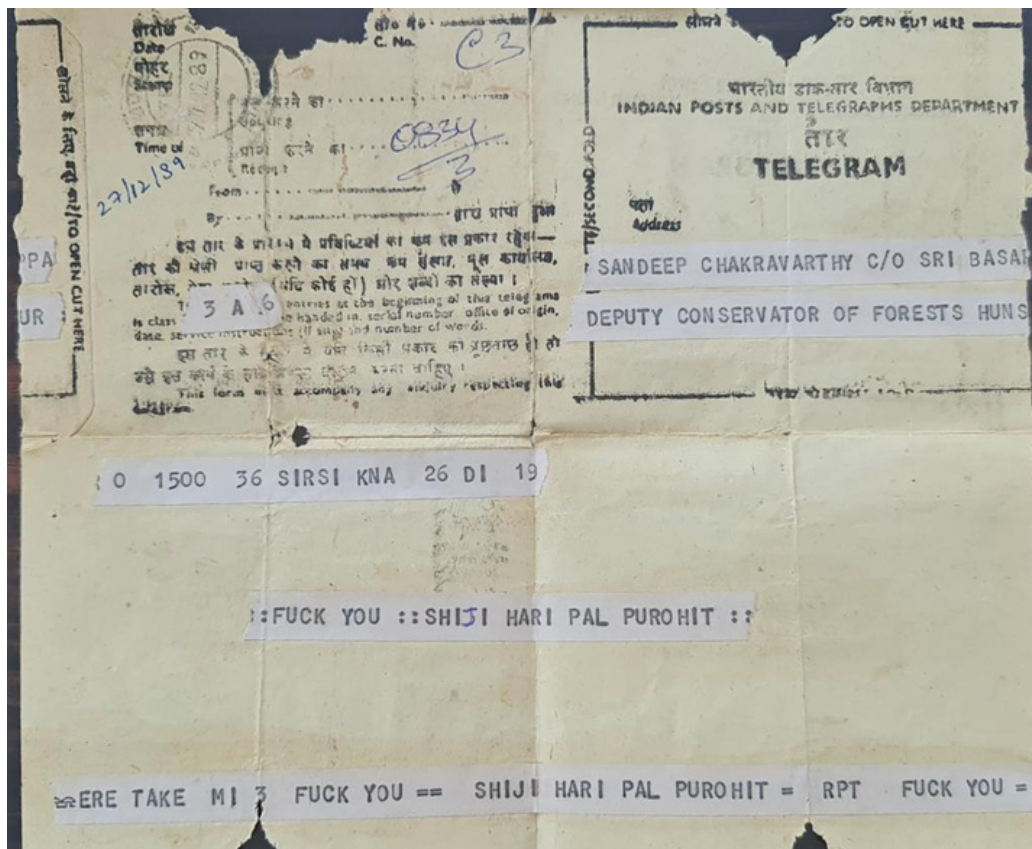
## The Short Telegram

Our batch (PFM 89-91) went on Field Work to several states of India in November-December 1989. Two groups of four each went to Karnataka. My Group of Rajashekhar (he is not in touch), Chandra Kishore (in the US and active), Dharmendra Daukia (in India and active) and Yours Truly, were assigned to Honsur Forest Division and Mysore Social Forestry Division. The other Group comprising Shiji Thankan (who is sadly no more with us), Harihara Nath (in the US/SFO), Ravi Pal Gupta (in Delhi and active, he doesn't use Pal anymore) and Anil Purohit (in Canada and in touch) went to the Sirsi Forest Division. We may recall that this is the pre-mobile phone and pre-Internet/email era, but we managed to be in touch through letters and occasional phone calls.

For the New Year's Eve of 31 December 1989 both the groups decided to go to Goa. Sirsi was close to Goa and the Group there proposed and the Mysore Group agreed.

After reaching this agreement of where we will usher in the new year, there was a change of mind in our Group. From someone we came to know that Hassan was a short bus ride away from Mysore and Hassan had the most amazing Hoysala era Belur and Halebidu temples. DK, our leader, decided not to go on the sinful tour to Goa but be spiritual instead. Innocent, as were then, he was able to convince all of us to go to see the famous temples. Somehow, we made a call to the DFO office in Sirsi and left a message for the group there that rather than Goa, they should also join us in Hassan. The response from the group is contained in the Short (rather Shortest) Telegram ever sent. It has been preserved for posterity. Only Anil Purohit can tell us whose idea it was?

**Sandeep Chakravorty**  
PFM 1991



# ALUMNUS OF THE MONTH

## DECEMBER 2023

This certificate recognises the contribution of  
**SATYENDRA GUPTA PFM 11-13**



It needs lot of passion, positivity and energy to go out of the way to work for the community at large without self-interest. We added 150 new members in Dec. 23 to our expanding Alumni Association. Satyendra Gupta (PFM 2011-13) single handedly connected with 100+ alumni on linkedin and after repeated follow-up ensured that they take time out time to fill the form and get associated with AA. He consistently tallied the newly added alumni names with us to ensure that those who were not able to fill the form were helped. He took ownership of the process in a wonderful and endearing way, setting an example for all of us. We are proud to have Satyendra as ' Alumni of the Month' who wears his heart on his sleeve which always beats for IIFM.

PRESIDENT



## Emergency Support Fund (ESF)

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

### Scope of Financial Support:

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

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

### Support Us

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



merchant398635.augp@aubank

# Appeal to Alumni for facilitating

January, 2024

## Placements

Dear Alumnus,

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

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

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

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

Let us exceed that this time!

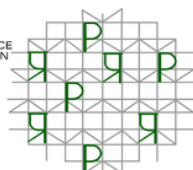
AA OF IIFM



Action for Social Advancement



JEEVIKA



सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः



## **IIFM gets its second campus!**

In a remarkable milestone, the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) celebrates the approval of its proposal to establish a second campus in Kurseong, Darjeeling. This proud moment signifies a significant leap in the institute's expansion and commitment to advancing forestry education. The Ministry's endorsement has set the wheels in motion, with IIFM now actively engaged in the process of operationalizing the new campus. The Ministry is supporting this by giving Rs. 11.37 crores for renovations and building up the campus. This money will make sure the campus has top-notch facilities for learning and research. Once it's up and running, the Kurseong campus will serve the educational needs of the North East and Eastern parts of India. It will also reach out to BIMSTEK countries over time.

This new campus aims to become an International Centre of Forestry. That means it will be a central hub for people from different places to share knowledge about forests. This is not just a win for IIFM but also a big step forward for forestry studies in India and around the world.



## **PRAMAAN: IIFM's Milestone in Sustainable Forest Certification**

The Ministry has unveiled guidelines for the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS), now named PRAMAAN, establishing a national framework for certifying forests. IIFM's tireless efforts in developing Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Standards, integrated into the Working Plan Code 2023, have led to a major milestone. IFWCS encompasses SFM standards, Tree Outside Forest Management Standard, and Chain of Custody Standard, positioning itself as a sought-after certification akin to global standards like FSC and PEFC. Designated as the Scheme Operating Agency, IIFM's achievement is significant.

Seeking expertise in forest certification, IIFM invites individuals to join the implementation process. This initiative is expected to foster collaborations with State Forest Departments, Forest Development Corporations, wood-based industries, institutions, tree growers, and farming communities. Through Forest Certification, IIFM aims to play a pivotal role in promoting sustainable and responsible forest management practices nationwide.

# IIFM THIS MONTH

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## Management of Village Relocation from Protected Areas



The Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal organized a three-day management development programme on "Management of Village Relocation from Protected Areas" sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India from December 11 to 13, 2023. The MDP was attended by 24 participants from a wide range of sectors and geographical locations of the country. The inaugural programme was chaired by Dr K. Ravichandran, IFS, Director, IIFM, Dr C.P. Kala, Chairperson (MDP), IIFM and Dr Ujjal Kumar Sarma, Programme Director, IIFM.

In his inaugural address, Dr. K. Ravichandran emphasized relocation as a viable option to create a win-win situation for wildlife and human beings. He stated that the government guidelines focuses on the social and economic aspects of the affected people, covering every dimension from individual to community levels. He cited the Satpura Tiger Reserve as an example of a successful village relocation, illustrating the potential for harmonizing conservation goals with the well-being of local communities.

As an integral part of this multi-disciplinary programme, the participants visited the Satpura Tiger Reserve to learn about the best practices of village relocation. Dr Ujjal Sarma, Associate Professor, IIFM and Chairperson- Centre for Forest-Based Livelihood and Tribal Studies, IIFM led this training programme.

## INDUSTRY PROJECT- PGDSM 2024 Batch

From October 30th to December 26th, 2023, the PGDSM 2022-24 students undertook an immersive industrial visit, aligning with their diverse interests in sustainability management. This unique initiative empowered students to select a sustainability-focused topic of their choice and delve into the operations of prominent companies. Notable participants included Zomato, Hindalco, KPMG, NUvoco Vistas, MSCI Carbon Markets, TATA Motors, Marks and Spencer, Birla Estates, among others. During this eight-week period, students engaged with real-world challenges, gaining hands-on experience in areas such as sustainability reporting, environmental Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), water security, ESG advisory, research, and analysis. The practical exposure allowed them to bridge theoretical knowledge with practical application, fostering a deeper understanding of sustainable practices within industrial settings.

Each student analyzed data and information relevant to their industry project, and made business reports. These reports will be submitted to the respective industries, contributing valuable insights and recommendations based on their sustainability expertise.

The learnings from this industrial visit extended beyond traditional classroom boundaries. Students grappled with the complexities of sustainability management in diverse sectors, honing their analytical and problem-solving skills. The projects undertaken reflected the contemporary issues faced by industries, emphasizing the importance of integrating sustainable practices into daily operations. The diversity of companies involved in the industrial visit provided students with a comprehensive perspective on sustainability challenges and solutions across different sectors. The experience not only enriched their academic journey but also equipped them with practical skills essential for addressing real-world sustainability issues



## WINTER PROJECT- PGDFM 2024 Batch

The winter project for the PGDFM batch (2022-24) at IIFM transcended conventional boundaries, offering a diverse and enriching experience for every participant. Embarking on a journey across sectors such as forestry, environment, conservation, sustainability, marketing, development, and wildlife, each student encountered a unique professional landscape, contributing not only to their academic growth but also to their personal development. The spectrum of participating organizations was vast, ranging from internationally acclaimed entities like UNDP and IUCN to corporate powerhouses like KPMG and CEEW. This amalgamation provided students with a platform not just to thrive individually but also to offer organizations valuable insights from their distinct perspectives. However, the winter project was more than an exploration of theoretical knowledge; it was a dynamic immersion into the practical facets of fieldwork. The students delved into the intricacies of grassroots-level projects, venturing into the rural landscapes of Central India, the mountainous terrains of Himachal, and the culturally diverse and scenic North-East. This firsthand engagement with varied regions added a practical layer to their learning, fostering a holistic understanding of environmental and forestry management projects.

In summary, the PGDFM batch emerged from their winter internships with a spectrum of achievements and learnings, showcasing not just academic prowess but also a rich tapestry of experiences etched across diverse terrains and sectors.

For details visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/fm24times/winter-diaries?authuser=0>



## INDUSTRIAL VISIT- PGDSM 2025 Batch

The PGDSM 2023-25 batch at IIFM Bhopal embarked students on a whirlwind industrial tour of different parts of India – Gujarat, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu. Forget textbooks; we swapped dusty pages of industries for the real deal.

Picture this: sewage treatment plants became our unconventional tourist spots. Forget the exotic beaches; we dived into the world of waste transformation. It was like turning garbage into gold – not literally, but almost.

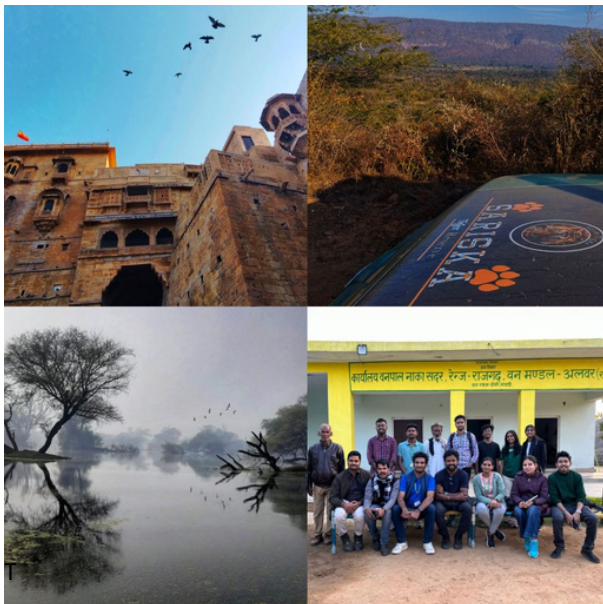
Company visits? Thought of it as an industrial safari. No, we weren't tracking wild animals, but we were chasing the elusive secrets of factories. Suddenly, those textbook diagrams came alive, and machines weren't just illustrations; they were the rockstars of the manufacturing world.

But wait, there was more! State Pollution Control Boards became our environmental superheroes, tackling pollution with bureaucratic capes. It was a real-life Marvel movie, only with fewer explosions and more paperwork. In this practical learning escapade, theories weren't just words on paper; they were the GPS guiding us through the maze of real-world challenges. It was like learning to swim by jumping into the deep end – a bit scary, but we came out realizing we were afloat. So, why settle for a mundane classroom lecture when we could have a front-row seat to the theatre of environmental management? In the grand play of education, practical learning stole the spotlight, and these industrial visits were the director shouting, "Action!" We had entered the blockbuster of knowledge – where textbooks took a backseat. Indeed, it was a bumpy but hilariously educational ride!



## FIELD VISIT- PGDFM 2025 Batch

Embarking on a month-long journey through the 'Land of the Kings', the Rajasthan field study unraveled a treasure trove of indelible experiences. Guided by seasoned experts like Shri Apoorva Srivastava (respected DCF of Alwar), the meticulous efforts in eco-tourism development, watershed management, land records, soil-moisture conservation, nursery management and plantation nurturing were unfolded. Moving south-east, Bharatpur's rendezvous under the esteemed guidance of DCF Shri Manas Singh showcased the marvels of migratory bird management and census in the rich ecological tapestry of India's most enriched bird sanctuary. The jungle safaris within Sariska Tiger Reserve, under the mentorship of Field Biologist Shri N. Gokulakannan, emphasized the enigma of tiger conservation through theoretical sessions and hands-on exposure to camera traps, GIS and radio-collars.



The journey concluded in Jaipur with a comprehensive discourse under the invaluable guidance of DCF Shri Ramesh Kumar Malpani on management practices aimed at preserving our natural habitat whilst catering to the essential upliftment of both the economy and its stakeholders. The trip was a testament to the effective collaboration between academia and revered field practitioners, offering future management professionals a panoramic view of Rajasthan's ecological heritage. As one bid adieu to the sundry landscapes, they took back an inexhaustible wealth of knowledge and an enduring appreciation for how even the toughest topologies can give birth to the greenest terrains; with consistent efforts and perseverance being the secret ingredient.

# PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH

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The Last Sunset of 2023 from IIFM grasslands

Photo by

**Aditi Dusane (PSM'24)**

# FRIENDS OF IIFM

**In Conversation With Vivek Menon**  
(Founder, Trustee and Executive Director of WTI)

**RIGHT OF PASSAGE: Fitting 60% of the World's Asian Elephants amidst the largest human population in the World.**



Vivek Menon is an Indian wildlife conservationist, environmental commentator, author, and photographer with a passion for elephants and birds. He is the Founder and Executive Director of the Wildlife Trust of India. Menon is the author or editor of ten wildlife books including the bestselling *Indian Mammals- A Field Guide*, scores of technical reports and more than 250 articles in various scientific and popular publications. In India, he plays a role in advising the government on natural heritage conservation as a part of several national committees as well as having been part of the Indian delegations to CITES, UNESCO and CMS. Internationally, Menon is the current Councilor of the IUCN, Member of the IUCN SSC and Chairperson of its Governance and Consultancy Committee (GCC) and Asian Elephant Specialist Group (AsESG). He is also the Chairperson of the Amphibian Survival Alliance Global.

In his talk "Right of Passage", Dr Vivek Menon brought alive the issues around human elephant conflict and the conservation of elephants in India with his expertise and anecdotes, drawing upon his vast experience on the subject.

The elephant is recognised as a National Heritage animal of India and has traditionally been an integral element of its culture. The Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) is distributed in 13 countries across South Asia and South East Asia, of which 12 countries overlap with the distribution of the Bengal tiger, with Sri Lanka being the exception.

When working on elephant conservation, it is important to remember that these are large, powerful and intelligent animals who are nomadic in nature; they move in search of fodder and water. Elephants are often referred to as ecosystem engineers because of their role in ecosystem functions: creating water holes, clearing understories and facilitating seed dispersal over large tracts of land.

There are an estimated 30,000 (please check) elephants in the wild in India, whose conservation is threatened by multifarious causes, including land use changes, infrastructure development and shrinkage or degradation of wildlife habitats. The number of human-elephant conflicts is on the rise, with an estimated 400-500 conflicts reported annually. Corridors are a way to expand the available habitat, facilitate genetic exchange between populations and minimise human-elephant conflicts by allowing the elephants access to other areas. Over 12 years, there has been an increase in the number of elephant corridors, which is not a reason to rejoice – it is an indicator of increasing habitat fragmentation.

A case study from southern India was discussed to outline one of the various possibilities for minimizing and managing human-elephant conflict. The key features of the model for creation of a corridor included purchase of land from farmers by WTI and its subsequent transfer to the state forest department, for inclusion in the PA. The families involved were voluntarily relocated, with provision of land for agriculture and resettlement; new houses which were designed along lines of their previous homes; and ensuring availability of all basic amenities, viz., water, electricity and so forth.

Wildlife Trust of India is also working towards empowering local stakeholders through formation of local CBOs, who monitor the health of the corridor, motivate and mobilise local communities to participate in conservation efforts with a sense of pride and ownership, with the aim to institutionalise protection of the corridor in the long-term.

# ALUMNI IN CAMPUS



Dharmendra Daukia (PFM 1990)



Mr. Ashish Sinha, (PFM 2000) IFS visited the institute. He had planned to be there for an hour and eventually ended up spending more than 4 hours at the institute. Delivered an inspiring and motivational speech followed interaction with students. Great learnings and insights for the students. Look forward to have him more often at the institute.

## Newsletter Team

**Kallol Mandal, Nikhil Mathur, Avinash Kumar, Amrita Bhamra, Don Mani Paul, Bhavesh Chouhan, Aditi Dusane, Spandan Chattopadhyay, Mudita Shukla, Ashapurna Adhikari, Geetanjali Jain, Sonali Dash, Mini Niraj .**

