



ALMA MATTERS



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AA Dashboard

Number of members	1615 <small>(As on April, 2024)</small>
Total Alumni Count <small>(approx.)</small>	2100
Number of Batches	34
LinkedIn Followers	1056
X(Twitter) Followers	204
Instagram Followers	621
Facebook (IIFM Alumni Endowment Fund) members	730

TEAM "ALMA MATTERS" - (2023-24)



From the left: Kallol Mandal (PFM'08), Kajal Soni (SM'25), Aditi Dusane (SM'24), Don Mani Paul (FM'24), Mudita Shukla (FM'25), Ashapurna Adhikari (SM'25), Spandan Chattopadhyay (FM'25), Sumedha Mondal (SM'25), Mini Niraj (FM'24) and In-frame (L to R): Sonali Dash (SM'25), Navya Singh (FM'25) and Geetanjali Jain (SM'24).



KALPATARU 2024: A GLORIOUS CELEBRATION AT IIFM

April, 2024



IIFM's annual day, "Kalpataru 2024," concluded with resounding success, highlighted by a mesmerizing cultural extravaganza. Esteemed Bharatanatyam virtuoso Sushri Dr. Lata Singh Munshi graced the occasion as Chief Guest, alongside Mr. Anil Kumar Yadav, IPS, as Guest of Honour. Notable dignitaries included ex-faculties Dr. P.K. Biswas and Dr. B.P. Pethiya. Dr. K. Ravichandran reflected on IIFM's milestones, including Deemed-to-be-University status and a new campus. Cultural performances, from mime acts to Bharatanatyam, enthralled the audience. Dhvani, IIFM's band, and diverse musical and dance presentations added to the evening's splendor, showcasing our vibrant talent and cultural richness.

Question: What is the room number of Alumni Association Office?



Previous edition question: Which piece in this issue of Alma Matters is not written by a human?

Answer to the Quiz question of March:

EXTRA CLASS FOR ALUMNI: Elevating Skills for the Future: The Inaugural "Extra Class" Series Workshop



Gulls for weather updates TH PREMIUM

The annual return of gulls and terns are a sign of calmer waters and better catch. And proof that urban spaces can be unexpected sanctuaries for wildlife

March 01, 2024 10:08 am | Updated 03:32 pm IST

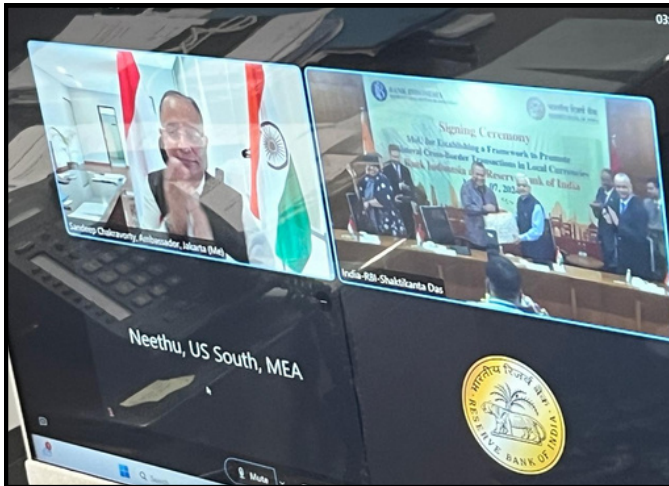
SUNIL RAJAGOPAL

COMMENTS SHARE

READ LATER



IIFM alum published in The Hindu : Sunil Rajagopal (PFM 2006-08) Authors "Wild in the City"



Rupee Rupia Reunion : Sandeep Chakravorty (PFM 1989-91) witnesses Epoch-Making Occasion



Vineet Rai (PFM 1992-94) being awarded the "Changemaker of the Year" Award in Leadership Awards 2024

IIFM alum at NABARD Plenary Session



Vineet Rai (PFM 1992-94), Mohan Das Pai, Chairman NABARD at the plenary session



TRI-Transforming Rural India Foundation is among the first 5 listings on Social Stock Exchange of NSE. It will go a long way in building the trust which is needed for this sector to tap market/investors to support the wonderful initiatives.

It is a proud moment for all alumni of IIFM to see TRI being a leader here by raising the highest amount(2 Cr) and also a pioneer in being a change maker through their innovative idea of 'Samaaj-Sarkar-Bazar'. Salute to the champions of TRI which has one of our stalwart - Anish (PFM 1992-94), along with many other alumni of IIFM.



Positive Outlook on India's Growth: A Sunrise Era for Energy Sector with Renewable, Ethanol, Solar, CBG, and Hydrogen. Ravi Gupta (PFM 1989-91) with Mr. Børge Brende, President of the World Economic Forum.



Grantee Meeting Highlights: Chandan Khanna (PFM 2008-10), Abhishek Kar (PFM 2005-07) and Afreen Fatima (PFM 2018-20) at the Clean Air Fund



With Madhu Verma Ma'am at Sustainable Futures Collaborative Gathering: Prabhat Upadhyay (PFM 2004-06), Manjit (PFM 2002-04), Aatish (PFM 2007-09)



PFM Alumni Gathering at Embassy: Vikash (PFM 2006-08), Vikas Chowdhary (PFM 1996-98), Sridhar (PFM 1995-97), Sandeep Chakravorty (PFM 1989-91), Sonia Bakshi Sud (PFM 1998-00), Swati Mehta (PFM 2006-08)



In Conversation: Seyed Faiz (PFM 1997-99) and Nitin Bagla (PFM 2004-06)



**At Start Up Mahakumbh
Bharatmandapam, New Delhi:
L to R: Vineet Rai (PFM 1992-94), Prabhat
Labh (PFM 1994-96), Sidharth (PFM 2018-
20), Jimmi (PFM 2017-19)**



**Mr. Vijay Pratap Singh Aditya (PFM 1998-00), at IIFM
Kurseong**



**At Start Up
Mahakumbh
Bharatmandapam,
New Delhi:
L to R: Sidharth (PFM
2018-20), Jimmi
(PFM 2017-19), Amit
Kumar (PFM 2016-18)**



**IIFM alum get together in Delhi: Ajay Rai (PFM
1990-92), Neeraj Subrat (PFM 1991-93), Advait
Edgaonkar (PFM 1991-93), Puneet Budhiraja (PFM
1991-93), Harpreet Bhinder (PFM 1990-92), Varun
Singh (PFM 1991-93), Pooja (Puneet's wife),
Rohini Arora, Vanita Suneja, Harpreet's wife,
Aradhana Rai**



Kanchan Ghoshal, Anish Kumar, Ruben Banerjee former Managing Editor Outlook Group (not an alum of IIFM), Manish Shankar, Pradeep Tharakan, Manish Verma (PFM 1992-94)



An ever-energetic interaction: Prabhat Upadhyay (PFM 2004-06) and Pranay Lal (PFM 1991-92).



At Ranchi: Bishnu Parida (MRM 2005), Joy (Consultant with Ekgaon), Avinash Kumar (PFM 1998-2000), Vijay Pratap Singh Aditya (PFM 1998-2000), Daniel Anand Raj (PFM 1991-93)

Annual General Meeting of the Alumni Association of IIFM was organised on 24th March 2024

Kurseong campus



“Friends, we have established our second campus at Kurseong on 6.3.2024. It is a proud moment for all of us. It is a beautiful campus spread over an area of 30 odd acres. The iconic building faces the majestic Kanchanjunga peak of Himalayas. The renovation and restoration of the campus will be taken up at the earliest. The first formal Management Development Programme for IFS officers will be conducted at Kurseong campus from 22-26 April 2024. Need to work hard to roll out the academic, training and research programmes in a smooth way. Look forward to host you there. The handing over and taking over of Kurseong campus was held in presence of two of our alums, Sudeep Deb from PFM 1990-92 batch and Pranjal from 2021-23 batch.”

-Message from the Director (Dr. K Ravichandran)

IIFM TRADITIONS

Distribution of Holi gifts with the fund raised by the Alumni



Students gifting the funds raised through Alumni to the IIFM's Mess Staff



Students gifting chocolates and toffees to the kids of the construction workers at IIFM



Students gifting chocolates to the guard bhaiya at IIFM



Students gifting funds and chocolates to the cleaning staff didis



Arun bhaiya (Mess incharge) handing over the Holi gift to the gardeners at IIFM

Group photo with the cleaning staff didis



ALUM OF THE MONTH

MARCH 2024

This certificate recognises the contribution of
ROHIT RAINA PFM 00-02



Rohit Raina is a seasoned professional in behavioral economics & technology. He is a genuinely supportive member of this alumni community as he goes above & beyond to make sure his fellow alums stay up-to-date with the latest advancements in AI and GenAI. He is constantly pitching in with advice in the group "Focus Group on Tech". He conducted a masterclass and brought in fellow colleagues to answer technical questions. He also proffers investment advice. Rohit's passion for sharing knowledge shines through as he patiently guides the group through complex topics, making them accessible and engaging for everyone involved. His dedication to helping others succeed exemplifies the spirit of our alumni community and collaboration within this network.


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

Empowering the Future: IIFM's "Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye" Campaign

IIFM Bhopal took a significant step towards civic engagement by hosting an event under the "Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye" campaign. First-time voters were encouraged to pledge their participation in the upcoming elections, recognizing the pivotal role their votes play in shaping the nation's future. The event served as an enlightening platform, emphasizing the importance of active participation in the democratic process and the profound impact of individual contributions to nation-building. It reflects IIFM's commitment to nurturing responsible citizenship and empowering the next generation of leaders.



Sharpening Skills: ENIGMA Champions Emerge

The much-awaited results for ANC's electrifying leadership challenge, ENIGMA, are out! Designed to simulate the placement process, ENIGMA provided a platform for PGDFM and PGDSM students to be evaluated by esteemed alumni and faculty members. It served as a final opportunity to hone their skills before their actual placement season began. After grueling GDs, extempore speeches, and personal interviews, Shiva Shiragannavar (PGDSM'25) emerged victorious, claiming the winner's title. Nirupam Ghosh Chowdhury (PGDFM'25) and Spandan Chattopadhyay (PGDFM'25) were the deserving first and second runners-up, respectively. Congratulations to all the winners!



Emotions Unfold at "Kavyam": A Celebration of Poetry

The Indian Institute of Forest Management's literary club, Meraki, held its annual poetry competition, "Kavyam," on March 10th. Prof. Anirudh K. Dharani and Prof. Parul Rishi set the stage, emphasizing empathy and nature's connection to life's essence.

Poets explored a spectrum of human experiences, from philosophical ponderings to the mother-child bond. Geetanjali Jain (PGDFM'24) and Ashutosh Kumar (PGDFM'25) clinched the top spots, captivating the audience with their heartfelt verses. Their exceptional talent was recognized with certificates presented by Dr. Lata Singh Munshi and Mr. Anil Kumar Yadav, IPS, Director of the Central Academy for Police Training.





IIFM Hosts Landmark Event for 'India's Techade: Chips for Viksit Bharat'

The Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal, hosted a momentous event on 13th March, 2024 as part of the 'India's Techade: Chips for Viksit Bharat' program. The Honorable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, delivered a visionary address via video conferencing. The program also included the laying of foundation stones for three crucial semiconductor projects.

In his address, the Prime Minister emphasized the historic nature of this event, highlighting its significance as a major step towards a brighter future for India. This event marks a significant moment for IIFM and underscores the Institute's commitment to India's technological advancements.

IIFM hosts training session for Forest Range Officers' from Telangana

A group of 47 Forest Range Officers trainees from Telangana State Forest Academy, Dulapally, embarked on a knowledge-rich journey at IIFM. Guided by Sri V. Rama Mohan, Deputy Director, TSFA, they delved into Forest Certification and the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS) through insights shared by Dr. K Ravichandran, Director, IIFM. The visit also featured Dr. Sharadindu Pandey's discourse on innovation and entrepreneurship's nexus with forestry, while Dr. S P Singh explored crucial topics like green budgeting and carbon finance. Such sessions foster a deeper understanding of sustainable forest management and its economic dimensions.



IIFM Hosts Forest Range Officers Trainees from Chandrapur Forest Academy

A cohort of 39 Forest Range Officers trainees from Chandrapur Forest Academy of Administration, Development, and Management recently graced the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) as part of their induction training. Coordinated by Mr. Avinash Kumar, IFS, Additional Director (Admin) and Course Director, CFAADM, Chandrapur, Maharashtra, the visit was a collaborative effort to enhance their learning experience. Dr. K. Ravichandran, Director of IIFM, engaged with the trainees, offering invaluable insights and fostering meaningful interactions. This exchange of knowledge and experiences added significant value to their training, shaping them into competent professionals in forestry management.



NO GUTS, NO GLORY; NO LEGEND, NO STORY

On March 10th, 2024, Adventure Club, Zest's flagship event, Guts & Glory, pulsated with adrenaline at Kalpataru Fest. Director K. Ravichandran and Professor Yogesh Dubey witnessed ten teams of five battle through a challenging obstacle course. From the daring "Walk on Water" and "3-tiered Tyre Swing" to the strategic "Crawling Under Wires" and "Soap Water Slip-off" the course tested agility, balance, and teamwork, echoing the event's motto: "No guts, no glory; No legend, no story." Team Hanuman (Shreyas T, Sumedha Mondal, V. Haritha, Anand Raj, Chekkala Sumanth) emerged victorious, showcasing exceptional spirit and collaboration. Team Maratha Warriors (Himanshu Thapliyal, Avinash Dhikale, Omsai Shinde, Snehal Yadav, Devashree Ghosh) secured a well-deserved runner-up position.



WHO KNOWS, YOU MIGHT STUMBLE UPON THE LEGENDARY KOHINOOR!

The Nature and Photography Club's flagship event, Treasure Hunt, held March 9th & 10th, transformed the IIFM campus into a thrilling playground for 40 teams of three. Fuelled by the tagline "Who knows, you might stumble upon the legendary Kohinoor!" teams raced against time, displaying their collaborative spirit and intellectual prowess. With over 1000 clues cleverly hidden around every corner, the hunt became an exciting exploration of IIFM's hidden gems. These cleverly placed clues tested not just problem-solving skills, but also extensive campus knowledge. The winning team of Shreyas T, Burugu Harika, and S. Sasi Kumar successfully cracked the code and emerged victorious.

Samarthya's Sports Fiesta : Fusion, Faculty and Finesse

The Fusion Championship kicked off IIFM's celebration of Kalpataru 2024 with a sporting extravaganza filled with excitement and competitiveness. After a compelling auction at Samagam, eight teams battled it out in cricket and badminton, showcasing exceptional athleticism and teamwork.

Faculty and students then came together for the much-anticipated Basketball and Volleyball matches. The energy was electric as they displayed not only sporting talent but also the camaraderie that unites our Institute.



PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH



"Painting Pictures of a Picture in-front of a Picture"

Art and photo by -

Preetika Sarkar, PGDSM'24

FRIENDS OF IIFM

LECTURE SERIES BY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF IIFM

Circular Economy Solutions

Blue Planet's Innovative Approach to Sustainability

In Conversation With Prashant Singh
Co-Founder & CEO of Blue Planet Environmental Solutions



26th March '24
7:30 PM IST

Moderator: Neelima Mishra (PFM 13) Founder, Ceiba Green Solutions

Mr. Prashant Singh is a key figure driving global sustainable growth strategies. Co-founding Blue Planet Environmental Solutions in 2017, headquartered in Singapore, his fervent dedication propelled it to become a leading waste management company in just a few years. His focus on building an integrated waste management platform delivering a Net Positive Impact reflects his commitment to people, planet, and stakeholders. Collaborating with Blue Planet's 13 portfolio companies worldwide, Mr. Singh implements groundbreaking technologies, transforming waste management in diverse communities.

His expertise in sales, leadership, and fostering trust-based partnerships has been pivotal to Blue Planet's global success, following a successful career with esteemed organizations like Stone Apple, Mindtree, and AMC Theatres.




In the 14th lecture of the "Friends of IIFM" Series by Alumni Association of the Indian Institute of Forest Management, we had Mr. Prashant Singh, Co-Founder and CEO of Blue Planet Environmental Solutions. The session was moderated by Ms. Neelima Mishra from PFM 11-13 batch, Founder of Ceiba Green Solutions, a waste management startup based in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Blue Planet Environmental Solutions, headquartered in Singapore, is one of Asia's fastest-growing waste management companies. They lead the regional waste management markets, deploying technologies spanning the entire waste management value chain. Blue Planet is leading the transition to a circular economy by upcycling, recycling, and re-purposing end-of-life resources through environmentally friendly solutions. Currently operating in 15 countries, they boast a daily

waste processing capacity of 22,000+ metric tonnes and have avoided 5.5+ million tonnes of CO2 emissions. They are on a mission to achieve Zero Waste to Landfill.

The conversation started with Mr. Prashant sharing how important it is to "have like minded and passionate people for environment in a room". He gave insights on his background and how he spent 2 decades in USA working on different successful ventures before starting Blue Planet Environmental Solutions. The idea was "to do something more going above and beyond the problem and make a positive impact for our environment for our societies at large."

The choice for this venture arose because of the below given points:

- Waste management and climate really stood as an outlier as far as impact is concerned
 - Problem is really really significant today where the lack of right solutions makes it even more critical to address it
 - Scalability aspect of solution would be phenomenal
 - Sector is still fragmented and there is a huge potential to bring efficiency and growth with a focus on technology-driven execution

FRIENDS OF IIFM

(contd.)

The discussion also veered around how waste management is important to meet the SDGs and combating climate change, given the growing economy, population, consumption patterns and rising income levels. It is important to solve the waste problem when it is still manageable otherwise it will become all the more difficult when in the next decade it will exponentially rise.

He spoke passionately about clearing India's largest landfill at Perungudi in Chennai. This had long been a cause for concern due to its adverse environmental impact, stretching its detrimental effects to the nearby RAMSAR wetland. The Greater Chennai Corporation entrusted Blue Planet Environmental Solutions with the task of clearing the landfill, marking a turning point in the region's environmental restoration efforts. He also spoke to India's first integrated waste management in Greater Noida, which used patented technologies like bio-methanation for organic waste, plastic to fuel plant which processes non-recyclable waste, domestic hazardous incineration, landfilling inert waste and recycling through local channels. The by-products like Compressed Biogas (CBG) are used as vehicle fuel, polyfuel is utilized for fueling the domestic hazardous waste incinerator and liquid fertilizer is de-watered to make compost for horticulture applications.

There were also some interesting conversations around Swachh Bharat Mission, Mission LiFE, Waste to Energy plants, ESG and ban on single use plastic products.

He advised young IIFMights who look to enter into the sector to be passionate about the cause and not think of money making as the only objective. There is a lot of scope for R&D, innovation and climate technologies in the coming years, given there is a supply and demand gap of professionals.

Mr. Prashant is a "firm believer that youth, people and consumers should be more engaged and aware, participate in whatever shape or form in activities that will result in a better environment for the next generation, ask the right questions to neighbourhoods, municipalities and will be demanding the right solutions".

-Neelima Mishra (PFM 2011-13)

Market Based Solutions to Extreme Poverty

Dr. Yogesh Ghore made an excellent Masterclass presentation on Market Based Solutions to Extreme Poverty: Typology and Global Lessons.

Ghore presented five entry points to scale up market-based approaches, with case studies demonstrating each pathway. The 'leg up' route focuses on pre-market social protection that support the most marginalized to be in a stronger position to engage in markets. The second entry point was 'making the most of existing assets' that focuses on identifying and linking existing skills and assets of the marginalized with specialized products or labour markets. 'Organizing collectively', that highlights the importance of mutual help and solidarity was identified as the third entry point. This essentially represents a collective response to exclusion. 'Coordinating with other actors across the market system' was presented as the fourth entry point – an approach by which the marginalized can benefit from expanded markets withing a community or region. The fifth entry point to be expl-

-ained was 'employer engagement', with the aim of training to meet market demand, and removing structural barriers to market access.

The example of Maitree Mahila Producer Company presented a 'scale up' route that involved direct investment in an enterprise's operation, aiming to increase its size and impact. The 'scaling out', in other words, horizontal scaling, involves spreading impact through replication, and this was illuminated through example of Street Business School in Uganda that aims to reach 1 million entrepreneurs through replication.

The third route to scale up was through change in rules and norms, that can potentially benefit the entire population – for example, wage increase by unions supported by a 'Business Facilitation Model' that involves business owners and councils.

The final example of achieving scale was through changing the market system by involving multiple actors. The analysis suggests that systemic efforts, such as market systems approaches, hold greater promise for scale. However, it also acknowledges the risk of adverse inclusion in market activities, where individuals may face exploitative conditions or remain trapped in low-value activities.

Ghore's work is particularly significant, and seminal in many ways, because the five typologies he and his colleagues have developed give us some important leads on how we can translate our intention of making markets work for the poor, into practice.

The presentation was followed by a lively and extended Q&A session in which issues like intersectionality between poverty and factors such as gender inequality, ethnicity, disability; climate change impacts; migration / displacement etc were discussed, within the context of creating market access for extreme poor populations.

-Shumon Sengupta (PFM 1989-91)

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESENTS MASTERCLASS

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR ALUMNI

Periodic sessions ♦ Limited class size ♦ Free registration

Market Based Solutions to Extreme Poverty: Typology and Global Lessons

Yogesh Ghore, Coady International Institute at St. Francis Xavier University

Moderator: Shumon Sengupta, Country Director (Bangladesh), Save the Children International

Yogesh Ghore leads the Inclusive Economies thematic area at the Coady Institute at St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia, Canada, where he provides leadership to its educational programs, research initiatives, and capacity strengthening efforts globally. Graduated from IIFM in 2001, Yogesh has over 25 years' experience working as a practitioner and educator in South, East and Central Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and North America.

17 March 2024
5:00 PM IST

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT

ALUMNI IN CAMPUS



Contribution to Indian Forest and Wood Certification Council : Dr. Deepak Khare (PFM 1988-90) Attends Meeting, Provides Crucial Insights



PFM Alumni Gathering : Praveen Khedale (PFM 2008-10), Kallol Mandal (PFM 2006-08), Radhika Agashe (PFM 1998-00), Nikhil Mathur (PFM 1998-00).



PFM Alumni Reconnect : Sameer Kumar (PFM 1999-01), Nikhil Mathur (PFM 1998-00), Avinav Kumar (PFM 1999-01)



Anirudh & Chandni (PFM 2013-15) - The IIFM couple back at their alma mater

Newsletter Team-

Kallol Mandal, Nikhil Mathur, Avinash Kumar, Amrita Bhama, Don Mani Paul, Bhavesh Chouhan, Aditi Dusane, Spandan Chattopadhyay, Mudita Shukla, Geetanjali Jain, Ashapurna Adhikari, Sonali Dash, Mini Niraj, Sumedha Mondal, Navya Singh, Kajal Soni.

