

ALMA MATTERS

Newsletter of the IIFM Alumni Association

September 2026 Edition

“Connecting alumni,
connecting roots (IIFM)”



Highlights



Quiz



Alumni World



Alumni in News



Alum of
the Month



Campus
this month



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Number of members	2030 (As on August 2026)
Total Alumni Count (approx.)	2295
Number of Batches	34
LinkedIn Followers	1795
X (Twitter) Followers	333
Instagram Followers	980
Youtube Subscribers	263
Facebook Members	728



QUIZ OF THE MONTH



**QUESTION FOR THIS MONTH:**

What is the name of IIFM Library:

- A. Vidya Bhawan
- B. Vidwan
- C. Vidya Bharti
- D. Gyan Bhavan

Hint: if you read carefully, you can find the answer in this edition of Newsletter 😊



Answer to the Quiz question of the 39th Edition:

Option 3)- Prime Minister Indira Gandhi

ALUMNI IN NEWS



Two great entrepreneurs together Uday Kotak and our Vineet Rai (Aavishkaar/ PFM 1994)



https://www.linkedin.com/posts/aihumanoftheweek-nervnow-artificialintelligence-share-7489228109607780352-3eOz/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios&rcm=ACoAABZ08dIBjDvITV8yvk8CBJstUotlcqLcds

Vijay Pratap Singh Aditya
(PFM 2000)



https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ritu-bhardwaj-410130156_yesterday-morning-i-joined-bbc-news-live-share-7493238563824799744-6Jjz/?utm_source=social_share_send&utm_medium=android_app&rcm=ACoAAAEB4ugBDnMLHdnrdkW2T15bjfRgeRmzaNI&utm_campaign=copy_link

Ritu Bhardwaj (PFM 2000)



Welcome! You are invited to join a webinar: Webinar: Socio-Economic Impacts of...

Heat stress has emerged as a major economic and social challenge, particularly for the labour-intensive sectors of the economy that the low-income population depends upon mo...

🔗 us06web.zoom.us



International Webinar: Socio-Economic Impacts of Heat Waves in a Warming World. Two IIFM alumni together- Rohit Magotra (IRADe/PFM 2000) Ritu Bhardwaj (International Institute for Environment and Development/PFM 2000)

19 August 2026

3:00–5:00 PM (IST) | 9:30–11:30 AM (GMT)

IRADe in association with the South Asia Heat Health Information Network (SAHHIN) organised a webinar on *‘Socio-Economic Impacts of Heat Waves in a Warming World.’



https://www.linkedin.com/posts/womenintrade-tradearchive-thetradelist-share-7493282196154343424-ZOyF?utm_medium=ios_app&rcm=ACoAAABQmOIBaGHF3uH8VWwX6ejQsHNOZ2-9duM&utm_source=social_share_send&utm_campaign=whatsapp

Shikha Kalra (PFM 2003)



Yogesh Jadhav (PFM 2000) was invited by IIM, Raipur to conduct two specialised sessions for their flagship MBA-PPG program (subject: SSRD; topic: sustainable policy design and implementation).

<https://indianmasterminds.com/feature-stories-on-bureaucrats-changemakers/manish-singh-ifs-pilibhit-tiger-reserve-conservation-225470/?9>

Inspiring work being done by our alumni- Manish (IFS/PFM 2010) in Pilibhit.



https://www.linkedin.com/posts/dalberg-global-development-advisors_dalberg25-leadership-socialimpact-activity-7496409129666801664-24fa?utm_medium=ios_app&rcm=ACoAAAjF5ZkBOHtSj8zfUb75U5cCw-2y-NpCs4k&utm_source=social_share_send&utm_campaign=whatsapp

Jagjeet Sareen (PFM 2005).





https://www.linkedin.com/posts/pensoft-publishers_esa2026-scholarlypublishing-openscience-activity-7488015921186308096-gaOH?utm_source=social_share_send&utm_medium=android_app&rcm=ACoAACu6lhkBghg15Dlt24CmY9sPJyL1g2mHKnA&utm_campaign=whatsapp

Kanchana (PFM 2014-16)
won the Pensoft Publisher's Raffle Prize at
ESA 2026

Placement Support for IIFM Students

Dear Alumni,

We deeply value your contribution to the Institute. As we begin the placement process for the 2024-26 batch and internship recruitment for the 2025-27 batch, we seek your assistance in identifying openings. By sharing opportunities within your network, you directly support the development of the next generation of professionals.

- Please fill out this form to share any opportunities (est. time: 2 mins) - <https://forms.gle/cpPgJQ7WJZJrEzSh8>



For any queries or to share opportunities, please reach out to:

Placement Cell Email: placement@iifmbhopal.edu.in

Internship Cell Email: internship@iifmbhopal.edu.in

Head-Placement: Prof. Sharadindu Pandey, +91 9560076525

Placement Officer: Mr. Dipankar V., +91 9346778199

Placement Secretary: Sarvesh Singh, +91 9793229901

Your engagement can create a transformative impact on the careers of our students. Let us work together to ensure their success!

We thank you for your continued support.

ALUMNI WORLD



IIFMights in Lucknow at an Event of India Rural Colloquy 2026 organized by TRI meeting of IIFMights and IIFM professors

From left to right:

- 1. Richa Raj (PFM 2020)**
- 2. Sital S Routray (PFM 2025)**
- 3. Prof. Anup Prakash Upadhaya (Prof. at IIFM)**
- 4. Prajwal Muke (PFM 2025)**



**Small IIFM get together at IIM
Kozhikode**

L to R:

**Sameer Shukla PFM
(1993-95)**

**Prof M Ravisundar
(former faculty IIFM)
and Rajesh Upadhyayula
(PFM 1995-97)**

**At Van Bhavan,
Ranchi
L to R:
Ashish Raj
(PFM 1999)
Vishwanath Shah
(PFM 1990)
Jogindra Kumar
(PFM 1999)**





IIFMights met in Bangalore
at I SPOC event in Bangalore
Murali Dhar (MRM 2000)
Kiran Kumar (PRM 2010-12)
Prof. M M Yadav
(former faculty IIFM)
Ayushi Pandey (2023-25)



IIFMights met at Nalanda University

Nitish Shankar (PFM 2012-14) met Prof. PK Biswas (former faculty IIFM) on 7th Aug at Nalanda University

Nitish is now an entrepreneur of (Plat-FARM)

Prof. Biswas is a visiting faculty at Nalanda University



**Great meeting Rajiv Manocha (PFM 2007) in Dubai
-Nitin Bagla (PFM 2006)**



At Bhopal

L to R:

Kallol Mandal (PFM 2008),

Rishi Prakash (PFM 2007)

Syed Tarique Alam (PFM 2007)

Prof. CVRS Vijay Kumar

at a restaurant which is favourite of Prof. CVRS Vijay Kumar; Prof. CVRS Vijay Kumar superannuated on 31st August 2026

Dear Alumni, please find the Minutes of Meeting (MoM) and the recording of Alumni Group Insurance Programme webinar for your reference.

Youtube Recording : <https://youtu.be/jTzHfl4PHU>

ALUMNI IN CAMPUS

Dear Seniors, Batchmates, and Juniors during this Independence Day visit to IIFM, it was truly heartening to witness the incredible momentum and visionary transformation being driven across the campus under Director Sir's leadership.



From modernising academic infrastructure to expanding our global and national footprint, the institute is scaling new heights: **Academic & Digital Frontiers:** Launching nationwide digital courses like Mission Life, setting up high-tech multimedia studios, and aggressively pursuing prestigious international accreditations (AACSB) alongside global student exchange programs.

Research & Data Infrastructure: Equipping the campus with state-of-the-art data labs (including Bloomberg terminals), high-speed connectivity, and modernised library resources to foster top-tier peer-reviewed research.





High-Impact Collaborations & MDPs: Successfully hosting landmark global events like the IPCC Lead Author Meeting, rolling out ITEC capacity-building programs, and driving regional entrepreneurship initiatives with state governments.

Campus Upgrades: Significant capital investments underway for new student housing (100-room hostel), enhanced sports amenities, and revamping off-campus assets like Kurseong into premier MDP destinations.

Director Sir's energy, strategic foresight, and hands-on dedication to restoring IIFM's stature as a premier sectoral management institution are truly inspiring. Let us come together to extend our sincere appreciation to our Director Sir and the entire team for steering our Alma Mater into this dynamic new era!

-Syed Tarique Alam (PFM 2007)



Dr. Pankaj Lal (PFM 2004), founding director of Clean Energy and Sustainability Analytics Center and professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Studies @ Montclair State University New Jersey, was at IIFM to meet the students. He had a wonderful interaction session with them

Dr. Pankaj Lal (PFM 2004) with IIFM couple Karan & Richa (both from PFM 2009-11) during his visit to IIFM Bhopal

Karan visited IIFM campus almost after a gap of three years Karan was pleasantly surprised by the development inside the campus





I wanted to express my heartfelt thanks to Director Sir **Dr. K Ravichandran** (PFM 1993) and Prof. Advait Edgaonkar (PFM 1993) for the warm welcome at IIFM. It was wonderful visiting the campus and reconnecting with the faculty, staff, students, and alumni (including Kallol Mandal PFM 2008; Rishi Prakash, Syed Tarique Alam PFM 2007 and Saurabh PFM 2009).

Director sir was kind enough to ask me to jointly inaugurate the newly renovated Computer lab along with former PCCF of Andaman and Nicobar.

IIFM will always hold a special place in my heart, and this visit brought back so many great memories.

Light rain here and there added to the charm of IIFM campus as usual.

Wishing current batches all the very best in their career.

-Munish Sikka (PFM 2009)

SEPTEMBER, 2026

ALUM OF THE MONTH



ALUM OF THE MONTH

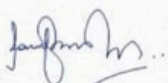
SEPTEMBER 2026

THIS CERTIFICATE RECOGNISES THE CONTRIBUTION OF
RATUL SAHA (MRM 2006)



The Alumni Association of IIFM sincerely appreciates Ratul Saha for his continued support, generosity, and unwavering commitment towards the IIFM community. Ratul has consistently demonstrated a strong sense of connection with his alma mater and a genuine willingness to support the growth and aspirations of fellow IIFMites. His prompt response to students' needs, readiness to extend guidance and opportunities, and proactive involvement reflect the true spirit of giving back to the community.

Thank you, Ratul, for always being there for the IIFM community and for truly embodying the spirit of "Alumni for Alumni."


PRESIDENT
प्रगति: मूल प्रकृति:
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT

CAMPUS THIS MONTH

IPCC Lead Author Meet 4

IIFM Successfully hosted the meeting which was praised by one and all. By hosting LAM4, IIFM has become part of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) history.

Our institute has demonstrated its calibre in organising a big international event, never had an event of such a big scale.

IIFM's visibility has increased in 57 countries and among the lead scientists who work in the multidisciplinary subject of climate change.

Apart from the inaugural programme and the final plenary session, auditorium was never used!!



Meetings were happening from morning 7.30am till 8.00 pm in several venues. 6 Co chairs, many vice chairs, chapter leads, lead authors, chapter scientists, reviewers, editors, members of technical support units and bureau members participated in the meeting.

Seven of our faculty members got an opportunity to know how reports are prepared.

Students had an opportunity to interact with the authors. Four leading scientists formally interacted with the students by delivering full length talk



Vidya Bharti Library, IIFM

A Knowledge Centre for Today and Tomorrow

For generations of students, researchers and faculty, the Vidya Bharti Library of the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal has been an integral part of the Institute's academic and intellectual life. Located at the heart of IIFM's green residential campus, the Library continues to evolve with changing learning and research needs. Today, it brings together a rich physical collection, extensive digital resources, technology-enabled services and a welcoming environment for learning, research and professional development.

Rich Resources, Expanding Horizons

The Library houses 36,400+ physical books and subscribes to 80+ print journals, supported by a dedicated reference collection covering forestry, environment, biodiversity, climate change, natural resource management, conservation, sustainability, economics, finance, management, statistics, geography and allied disciplines.

Its digital collection extends to 4.5 lakh+ e-books. Through the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) initiative, IIFM users have access to 13,000+ e-journals from 30+ leading national and international publishers. The Library also provides 10,000+ digital magazines, journals and newspapers through Magzter, along with reputed databases such as ProQuest, IndiaStat and Prowess. Remote access to electronic resources enables authorised users to continue their academic and research work beyond the campus.

A distinctive institutional resource is the collection of IIFM students' Summer and Winter Internship Reports, preserved from the Institute's earlier batches onwards. These reports are searchable through the OPAC, enabling users to locate the corresponding physical copies. The Library is working towards providing full-text access digitally, creating an important record of IIFM's academic and field-based learning experiences.



Smart Technology, Seamless Access

Technology is central to the Library's continuing transformation. The Koha Integrated Library Management System and OPAC support efficient management and discovery of resources, while RFID technology enables automated circulation, security and tracking of library materials. Two OPAC kiosks facilitate convenient searching, two Book Drop Boxes near the classroom area make returns easier, and a digital entry system enables automated recording of Library visits. With 1 Gbps internet connectivity, users can access digital scholarly resources efficiently.

The recently redeveloped, high-tech Computer Lab on the ground floor complements the Library's digital learning environment and is planned for 24×7 access. The adjacent Bloomberg Lab, equipped with 12 dedicated terminals, further supports data-driven learning, financial analysis and research.

Services that Support Learning and Research

The Library provides a broad range of user-focused services, including reference and research assistance, literature searching, citation and reference assistance, plagiarism support, document delivery, inter-library loan, Current Awareness Service (CAS), new-arrivals services, user orientation, database and e-resource training, and research assistance. These services help users discover, evaluate and effectively use information for academic work and research.



Preserving IIFM's Intellectual Heritage

The Library is implementing DSpace to develop an institutional repository for preserving and providing access to IIFM's scholarly publications, research output, institutional reports, training material and other institutional knowledge. This initiative will help safeguard the Institute's intellectual heritage and make it discoverable for future generations.



A Place to Read, Learn and Reflect

Spread across two floors, the Library currently offers 150+ seats in an air-conditioned reading environment. Its location amid the greenery of IIFM's residential campus, close to both classrooms and hostels, provides a peaceful and accessible setting for study and reflection. The Library remains open from 9:30 AM to 11:00 PM, including Saturdays and Sundays, giving students and researchers greater flexibility beyond conventional working hours.

Connected with the IIFM Family

The Library is not only a resource for current students and researchers; it remains a continuing link with the wider IIFM community. Alumni are warmly welcome to use the Library, and those seeking assistance with library resources, scholarly articles or information services may contact library@iifmbhopal.edu.in.

Looking Ahead

The Library's transformation is an ongoing journey. Its future vision includes increasing seating capacity and creating more attractive, comfortable and engaging learning spaces, including individual reading areas, informal reading/lounge spaces and dedicated discussion rooms. These planned additions aim to support both focused individual study and collaborative learning.

From bookshelves to global digital scholarship, and from generations of internship reports to emerging digital repositories, Vidya Bharti Library continues to preserve knowledge, enable discovery and support the IIFM community. It is evolving not simply as a place to access information, but as a dynamic knowledge centre—connecting the Institute's past, present and future.

LIBRARY AT A GLANCE

36,400+ Books 4.5 lakh+ E-books 80+ Print Journals 13,000+ ONOS E-journals
10,000+ Magzter Resources

150+ Seats 2 Floors 2 OPAC Kiosks 02 Book Drop Box 1 Gbps Internet

Vidya Bharti Library, IIFM — preserving the past, supporting the present and preparing for the future.

Abhiyant Singh Dangi

Library Semi-Professional Gr.II



A warm welcome dinner for the Fresh batch of 2026-28 brought together the IIFM community under the night sky, with faculty, families, and members of all ages gathered on the lawn. The relaxed, festive mood was evident in the smiles and easy camaraderie across the group photo.

Another proud moment for IIFM as Pratibimb – The Dramatic Club bagged the First Prize at the Global Tiger Day 2026 Inter-College Nukkad Natak Competition! From rehearsals to roars, the team's powerful street play left a lasting impression on judges and audience alike.



IIFM at the BRICS 2026 side event on "Integrated Landscape - Based Greening: Sharing BRICS Experiences for Resilient Landscapes and Sustainable Development" at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.



IIFM Bhopal celebrated the 80th Independence Day with great patriotic fervour, marked by flag hoisting and an inspiring address to the community. The campus came alive with vibrant colours as students showcased India's rich cultural diversity through traditional attire and folk performances. A memorable celebration of unity, culture, and the spirit of freedom



Calling All IIFM Alumni Meet Organisers!

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

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

It helps us:

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

👉 FORM LINK:

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



Scan to fill the form

KNOWLEDGE CORNER



Sonam Wangchuk: "The Ice Architect of the Trans-Himalayas"

With a vision to merge ancient wisdom with modern engineering, Sonam Wangchuk came up with the idea for a radical technology that would harness the power of nature - combined with human ingenuity - to heat and cool buildings. In the frosty Himalayan peaks of Ladakh, where glaciers are melting and high-altitude agriculture is under threat, Sonam Wangchuk envisioned a groundbreaking integration of local knowledge and contemporary engineering.

He is a mechanical engineer by training; he set that path aside in 1988 to found SECMOL and reform grassroots education, and do the same for water scarcity. His answer: the Ice Stupa, a conical man-made glacier that turns wasted winter stream-water into ice, which can be released in a slow spring melt when high-altitude orchards and farms need it most.

That effort has now expanded into a broader socio-ecological satyagraha, as climate disruption has accelerated. Wangchuk has organized sub-zero marches and public fasts against unchecked industrial and tourism-driven expansion and is the founder of Himalayan Institute of Alternatives, Ladakh (HIAL), a living campus for sustainable design, in 2022. His journey from ice engineer to institution builder - for which he was honored with the Ramon Magsaysay Award - is proof that community-led, low-carbon innovation is the ultimate barrier a fragile mountain ecosystem has. Wangchuk's activism also involves him in the statehood movement in Ladakh, which is a contentious issue, including his detention in 2025-26.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE MONTH



Where Nature Reflects

Photo by - Prahlad Pratap Singh
MBAFM 2025-27



Under IIFM Skies

Photo by - Manish Awasthi
MBASM 2026-2028



APPEAL



ALUMNI INSURANCE PROGRAMME &

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUND

Your premium protects you.
Your contribution protects all of us.



The Emergency Support Fund is a voluntary community pool for rare, extraordinary situations where an alumnus may need support beyond policy limits or in moments of severe hardship. It reflects the spirit of IIFM - standing by each other with dignity, compassion, and collective strength.

AA-IIFM BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS



NAME : ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT



A/C NUMBER : 2181229936582974



IFSC CODE : AUBLO002299



BRANCH : MP Nagar, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh



Together, we strengthen our
collective safety net.

PROCESS OF SEEKING SUPPORT FROM EMERGENCY FUND

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



ELIGIBILITY & GRANT CRITERIA

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



SUBMIT A REQUEST

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

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

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION & REVIEW

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



DECISION & DISBURSEMENT

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



JOIN US



Scan the QR Code above to join
Alumni Association



Newsletter Team

Top line (L to R): Rishabh Sharma (MBA-SM 2027), Aakash Bajpai (PFM 2026), Tarjal Kothari (PSM 2026), Garima Giri (PFM 2026), Divya Solanke (PFM 2026), Karthik Kodali (MBA-SM 2027), Tarang Katyayn (MBA-FM 2027), Dreami Ghosh (MBA-FM 2027)

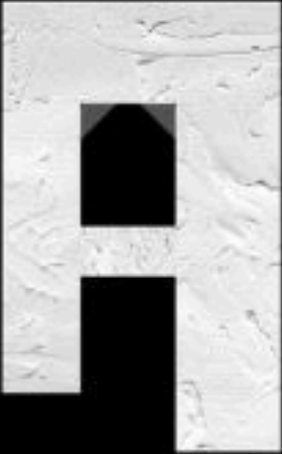
Bottom Line (L to R): Meghna Mishra (PSM 2026), Sherin Chacko (PSM 2026), Aishwariya Mohanty (MBA-FM 2027), Chandana Addagarla (MBA-SM 2027)

On the side (T to B): Avinash Kumar (PFM 2000), Kallol (PFM 2008), Amrita Bhama (Manager AA-IIFM), Shaon Roy (PFM 2021) Prakriti Pandey (PFM 2020) & Prachi Shrivastava (PFM 2018).





प्रगतेः मूलं प्रकृतिः



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT