IIFM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT

41st Edition

ALMA MATTERS

Newsletter of the IIFM Alumni Association

October 2026 Edition



Highlights

- Quiz
- Alumni World
- Alumni in News
- Alum of the Month
- IIFM in News

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Number of members	2030 (As on September 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 official startup incubation and entrepreneurship initiative hosted at IIFM to support eco-ventures and green business ideas?



A) IIFM Foundation for Eco-Innovation (I-Hub)
B) IIFM Green Startup Cell
C) E-Cell Kalpavriksha
D) IIFM Forest Venture Lab



Answer to the Quiz question of the 40th Edition:

C. Vidya Bharti

IIFM IN NEWS



IIFM IN NEWS



Union Environment Minister hands over India's first PRAMAAN certificates under the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme to Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation and a Bamboo Farmer from Odisha

PRAMAAN a vital instrument to meet emerging Global Requirements for Responsible Deforestation-free Timber Sourcing and Livelihood Generation: Shri Bhupender Yadav

X: https://x.com/EnvironmentPib/status/2104811389390926054

Press Release: https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2316355&reg=48&lang=2



FROM 1000+ APPLICATIONS TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!

What an incredible journey at Krishi Chanakya 2026 at MANAGE, Hyderabad!

1st Position – NEETIYUDH: The Case Study Competition
Aishwariya Mohanty | Simran Agarwal | Sakshi Hatekar

Top 5 – ARTHASHASTRA, Financial Modelling Competition
Top 5 – ABHINAYAK, Best Manager Competition — Aishwariya Mohanty

Two days of intense competition, strategy, teamwork, analysis and learning, ending with an achievement we're incredibly proud of.

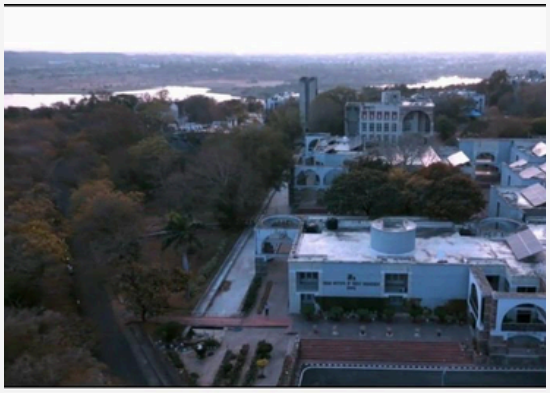


ALUMNI IN NEWS



Co-authored this article which examines the key requirements and compliance implications under the new guidelines issues by CPCB for governing the collection, handling, storage and transportation of waste batteries across the country.
Ashutosh Senger (PFM 2014)

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ashutoshsenger_esglawyer-environmentallaw-share-7500817933506584576-kKmg?utm_medium=ios_app&rcm=ACoAAANS_GIB1tC7_jkqkgfUXmsz0hjPVfXnrJI&utm_source=social_share_send&utm_campaign=whatsapp



IIFM - Where Knowledge Meets Purpose

Established in 1982, Deeme University - The Indian Insti of Fo...

youtu.be

Nicely done by Achin Phulre (PFM 2014)- Quirky Tokri

https://youtu.be/5XkUNFFbVO4?si=nRSffNgEdqia14_k



Bagh Mitra of Pilibhit Tiger Reserve

This is the story about Bagh Mitra program of Pilibhit Tiger Reserv...

https://youtu.be/s_ZBbfUcvE0?si=GVEb-F7l47kM_AmC

Manish (IFS/PFM 2010) in Pilibhit.

https://www.downtoearth.org.in/natural-disasters/when-rock-flows-like-a-river#google_vignette

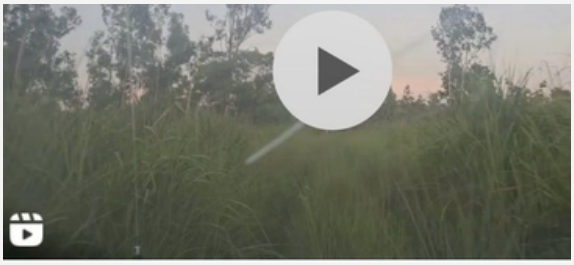
Insight by Pranay Lal (PFM 94) on the tragic flash flood in Nepal which has its roots in the Himalayas' geological story.



When rock flows like a river

On August 26, 2026, an ice-and-rock avalanche tore down the Himalayas near Mount Langtang Lirung, along the Nepal-Tibet border. At about 1...

downtoearth.org.in



Jagruk Yuva

facebook.com

https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1BquDRGUEC/

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

10 COMMENT & ANALYSIS

THE SUNDAY GUARDIAN
06 - 12 SEPTEMBER 2026
NEW DELHI

WWW.SUNDAYGUARDIANLIVE.COM

THE NEPAL DELUGE

Early warning of disasters can save lives

In India, these days there exists a sophisticated early warning system run by the IMD that warns about impending cyclones in the cyclone prone Bay of Bengal, saving countless lives by timely evacuation of people.

OPINION

SANDEEP CHAKRAVORTY



In September 1893, a massive rockfall completely blocked the Birahi Ganga River valley, in the Indian Himalayas, constructing a natural landslide dam that stood over 900 feet high. This created a large, deep body of water called Gohna Lake. Although a massive portion of the dam initially broke in 1894—destroying towns downstream like Srinagar—the lake was not entirely empty and remained a prominent feature for decades. During the severe Himalayan floods of 1924, the remaining landslide dam breached for a second time, unleashing another devastating wave down the Alaknanda valley. However, despite these catastrophic events taking place in highly fragile mountainous regions, in both 1894 and 1924 no lives were lost due to an early warning system being in place, even back then.

In the context of the landslide and horrific floods in Nepal questions are being raised if some early warning system could have been in place. In one case where headmaster Rajendra Dawadi of Tribhuvan Trishuli School, perhaps got a few minutes' early warning, he rang the bell, turned buses back and was able to save 1,643 lives of children.

In India, these days there exists a sophisticated early warning system run by the Indian Meteorological Department that warns about impending cyclones in the cyclone prone Bay of Bengal, saving countless lives by timely evacuation of people. An excellent example of international cooperation in this field is the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOTWMS) that provides real-time alerts and threat assessments to countries in the Indian Ocean Rim to save lives from destructive tsunamis. It was created after the deadly December 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami that killed almost 250,000 people, mostly in Aceh province of Indonesia. Operations rely on three designated national centres—Australia (JATWC), India (ITEWC), and Indonesia (InaTEWS)—which monitor seismic and sea-level activity round the clock. Land-based seismographs and seismic stations detect undersea earthquakes and measure their magnitude within minutes. Seafloor bottom pressure recorders detect pressure changes from passing tsunami waves and transmit data via satellite to warning centres. Coastal tide gauges monitor sea-level changes in real-time to verify whether a tsunami wave has formed. Regional Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs) process this data and issue risk assessments to national warning centres, which then alert local populations. Disasters do happen, but it is an early warning that can save lives.



Flash flood-affected Devighat area in Nepal

The early warning system installed by the British in 1894 at Lake Gohna even worked for the 1924 lake breach. In 1894, faced with a massive 900-foot natural landslide dam that they knew would eventually overtop, Lt. Col Pulford, Lt. Col Crookshank, and geologist Thomas Holland engineered what is widely considered one of the first successful modern early warning systems in the world. The system relied on a highly coordinated mix of latest technology for the era i.e. telegraph and strict infrastructural preparation.

What they did was nothing short of a miracle. They established a dedicated temporary telegraph line running directly from the remote monitoring outpost at Durmi village (near the lake) down to the district headquarters in Chamoli. Engineers stationed at the dam recorded the lake's water levels and structural behaviours continuously. Daily progress reports were telegraphed down the valley so authorities could track exactly how fast the lake was filling up. Ahead of the breach, authorities established a series of observation posts along the entire lengths of the Alaknanda and Ganga valleys. Physical "danger levels" were clearly marked on rocks and posts near downstream settlements. If local watchmen saw the river cross these lines, they had explicit orders to sound immediate local alarms and initiate pre-planned evacuations.

Rather than waiting for a sudden failure, Crookshank and Holland studied the geomorphology of the debris to map out a timeline. On August 22, 1894, Crookshank telegraphed a warning that the dam would fail within 48 hours. They were incredibly accurate—the lake overtopped just past midnight on August 25. Because of the precise timeline, every single vulnerable village, including the major town of Srinagar, was completely evacuated before the wall of water arrived.

Knowing the immense kinetic energy a flash flood holds, the authorities did not just move people; they dismantled suspension bridges in the expected path of the flood to prevent the iron and cables from being turned into destructive battering rams downstream. Major pilgrim routes winding through the Himalayas were entirely diverted to higher ground to ensure travellers were not caught in the valley floors. Thanks to this meticulous system, when 10 billion cubic feet of water were violently released in less than six hours during the 1894 burst, the entire valley was swept clean—yet virtually no lives were lost. This exact blueprint of observation posts and valley-wide telegraph communication remained the foundational network that allowed authorities to quickly spread warnings further downstream when the lake suffered its second massive breach during the monsoons of 1924.

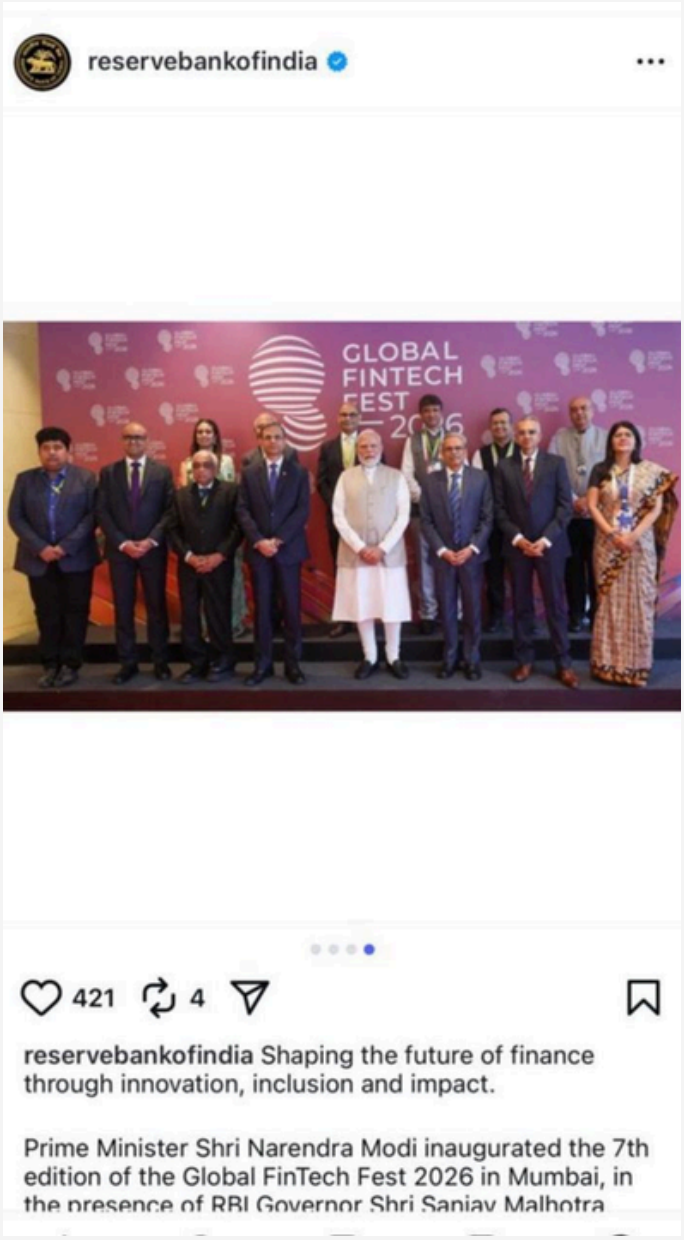
Satisfyingly, the IOTWMS is fully functional and operational. It is continuously tracking seismic activity across the entire ocean basin. The designated TSPs in Australia, India, and Indonesia actively monitor undersea earthquakes and routinely issue automated, public data bulletins. The framework is regularly stress-tested through basin-wide simulations. The comprehensive Exercise Indian Ocean Wave 2025 (IOWave25) successfully tested the end-to-end warning chain—from sensor detection to community evacuations—involving over 320,000 participants across multiple countries, including India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, and the UAE. In 2004, the region had zero real-time basin infrastructure. Today, the system creates computerized impact forecasts within 10 to 30 minutes of a major earthquake, giving vulnerable coastal zones vital time to react.

While the primary detection grid is highly functional, the system faces two ongoing operational hurdles. Firstly, while warning centres receive the data instantly, some countries still struggle to rapidly transmit the alert to remote, isolated coastal villages via local sirens or mobile texts. Secondly, if an earthquake strikes right next to a coastline, the resulting tsunami waves can hit land in less than 5 to 10 minutes. In these scenarios, even the fastest automated satellite network does not replace human education, which teaches people to instantly move to high ground the moment they feel the earth shake. One can only wish that some kind of an early warning mechanism existed between authorities of China and Nepal. The hope is that this disaster will lead to the establishment of one.

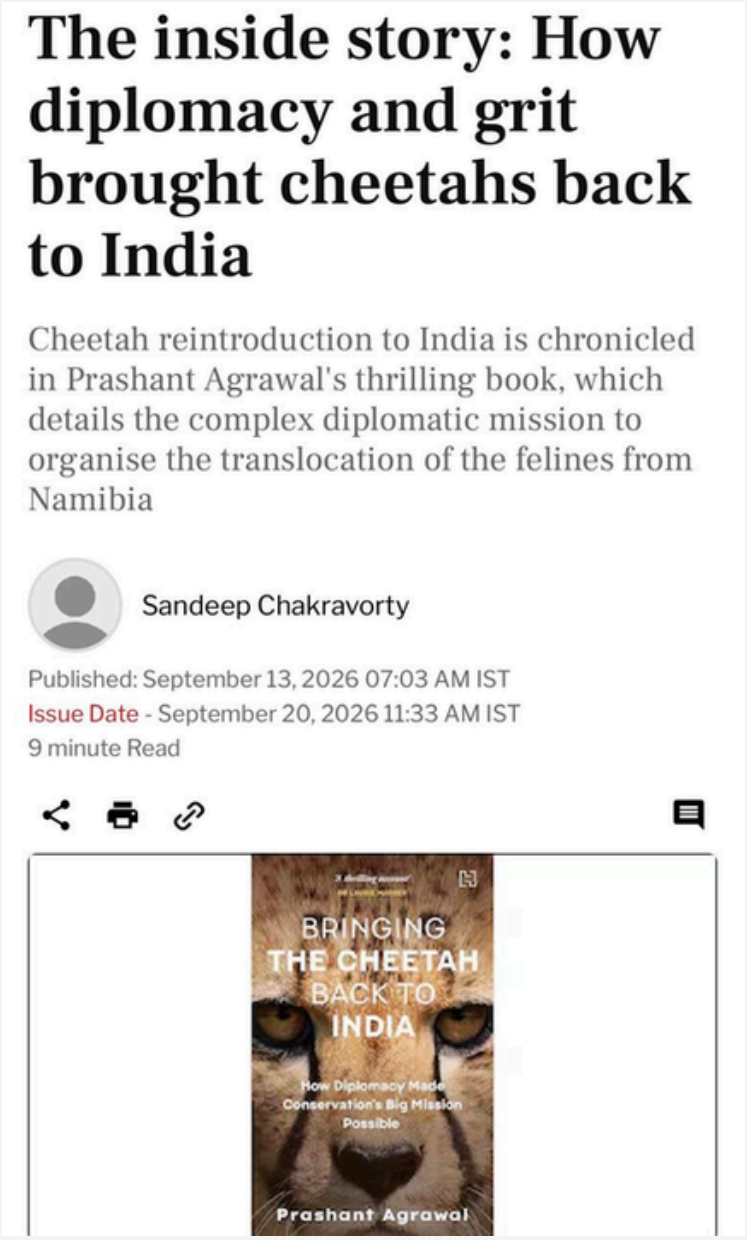
** Sandeep Chakravorty is Ambassador of India to Indonesia.*

DEFENDER OF FREEDOM

Sandeep Chakravorty (PFM 1989-91)



Suvendu Pati (PFM 1993)



https://share.google/fbGiy1YauiMmYno99

Sandeep Chakravorty (PFM 1989-91)

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



A memorable moment at IHC, Delhi, with Prof. P. K. Biswas (former faculty, IIFM) and Sakshi G. (PFM 2008), celebrating connections across generations of IIFM



A little piece of IIFM at the Water Positive India Forum'26, Mumbai. Unable to explain how happy I am to meet all of them at once. Thanks to Ms. Manasi Diwan (2008-10), Mr. Shailesh Nagar (1995-97), and Mr. Bishwadeep Ghose (1994-96).
-Nilanjan Mondal (2024-26)



At Nalanda University:
Left to Right:
Neeraj Singh (MRM 2016-17) faculty Nalanda University
Prof. P K Biswas (former faculty IIFM)
Mukesh Sharan of BRLPS (PFM 1999-2001)



Impromptu meeting at Pekanbaru (Indonesia) where Sandeep Chakravorty was visiting with a delegation of Palm Oil Producers.
Right to Left:
Lalit Kumar (PFM 2012-14)
Sandeep Chakravorty (PFM 1989-91)
Sanjeev Goel (PFM 1990-92)

Left to Right:
Nitin Bagla (PFM 2006)
Prachi Srivastava (PFM 2018)
Bhushan Patil (PFM 2018)

Lovely meeting Nitin here in London! Turns out all three of us share more than one alma mater - IIFM and Navodaya Small world!
-Bhushan Patil





Left to Right:
At New York Climate Week/UNGA
Indrajit Chaudhuri (PFM 2002)
Vineet Rai (PFM 1994))



Ismall meet at an event in Delhi

Left to Right
Shreya PFM 2025
Nimisha Mittal PFM 2001
Varun Grover PFM 2017
Bharati Joshi PFM 1998
Kulranjan Kujur PFM 2001



A short meetup of ASAian IIFMites at ASA's training program.
Left to right:
1) Chaitanya Bokil (Senior Programme Manager, MLE) PFM16-18
2) Anurag Patel (Programme Manager, Operations) PFM18-20
3) Nikhil Tiwari (Senior Programme Manager) PFM16-18
4) Jayanthi Gangana ma'am (Director) PFM89-91
5) Sachinsingh Mandloi (Project Executive), PFM23-25
6) Akashdeep Nath (Programme Manager) PFM21-23



ALUMNI IN CAMPUS



IIFM Bhopal, hosted a one-day workshop on Artificial Intelligence on 12 September 2026, featuring Dipak Jha, Founding Director, Ayutech AI Labs, as the resource person.

A member of the IIFM community from the 1998–2000 batch, Mr. Jha brought his experience in AI and technology to the session, engaging participants in exploring the evolving applications and possibilities of Artificial Intelligence.

The workshop focused on building AI awareness, encouraging hands-on learning, and understanding how emerging technologies can be applied across professional and organisational contexts.

It was a valuable opportunity for the IIFM community to learn, interact, and explore the potential of AI in shaping the future of work and learning.



ALUM OF THE MONTH



ALUMS OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER 2026

THIS CERTIFICATE RECOGNISES THE CONTRIBUTION OF

MANMEET KAUR (PFM 21) & SHUBHAM TYAGI (PFM 22)





Bringing fresh energy, new ideas, and a strong spirit of collaboration, Manmeet Kaur and Shubham Tyagi have been making a meaningful contribution to the Alumni Committee.
Their enthusiasm to take initiative and contribute beyond the usual has added tremendous value to the Alumni Association.

One of their recent contributions has been their exceptional work on the Insurance Programme for AA IIFM. Their efforts, commitment, and attention to detail have played an important role in taking this initiative forward for the IIFM alumni community.

Thanks to Manmeet & Shubham for bringing new ideas, new energy, and a renewed spirit of participation to the Alumni Committee!

PRESIDENT

iifm ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



CAMPUS THIS MONTH

IIFM Hosts Tata Steel Expert for Guest Lecture on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures

The Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal, had the privilege of hosting Jaison Thomas, Head – Sustainability Reporting & Disclosure, Tata Steel, on 17 September 2026, for an insightful guest lecture on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures.

The session provided valuable insights into how nature, biodiversity and ecosystem dependencies are increasingly becoming relevant to business decision-making, risk management and sustainability reporting.

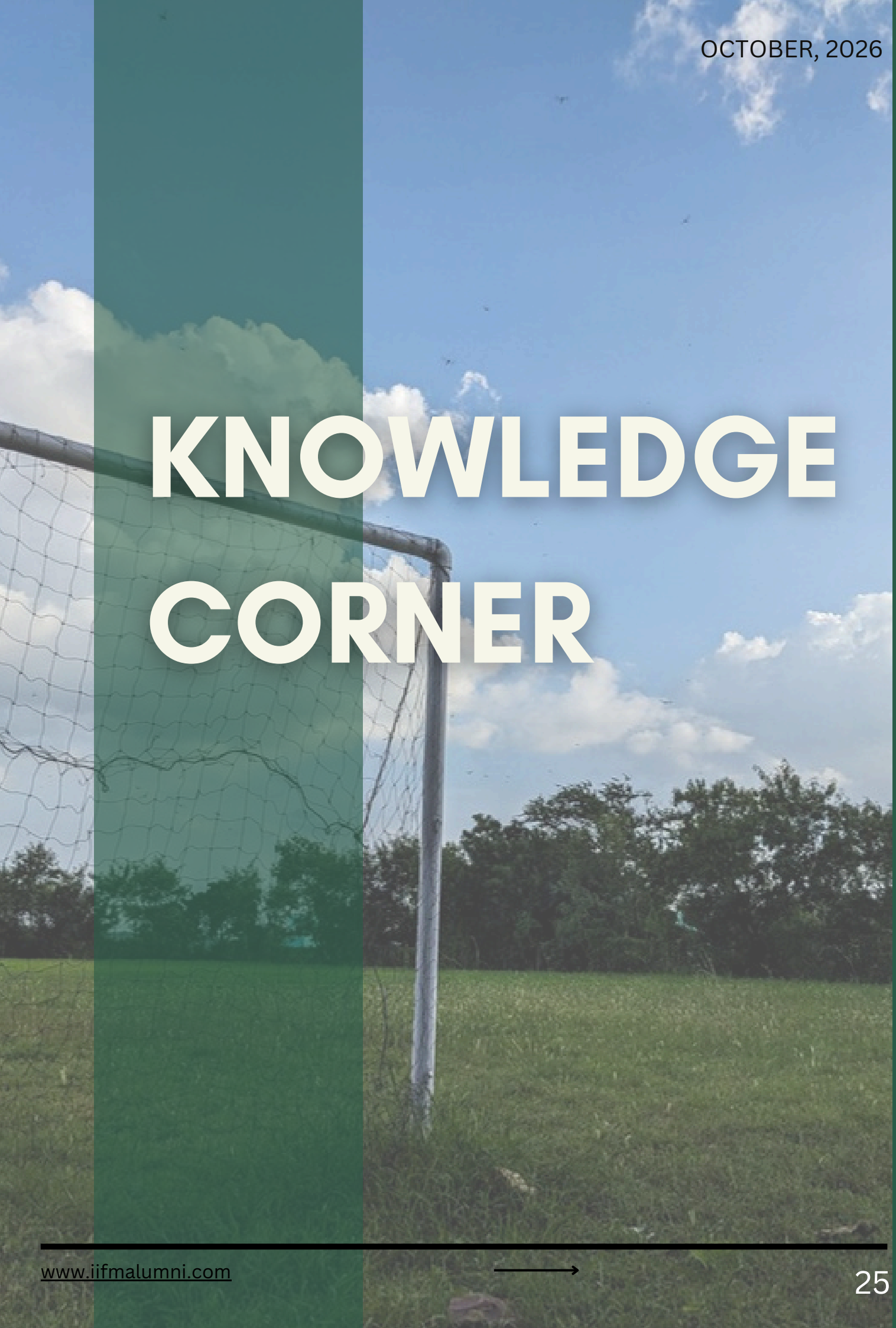


with practical industry perspectives, the interaction helped us understand the evolving landscape of nature-related risks and opportunities, and how organisations can integrate nature considerations into their business strategies and disclosures.



For the students, the session offered an important perspective on how our understanding of forests, biodiversity and natural capital connects with the evolving world of corporate sustainability and business.

A meaningful interaction that highlighted the growing intersection of nature, finance and sustainability.



KNOWLEDGE CORNER

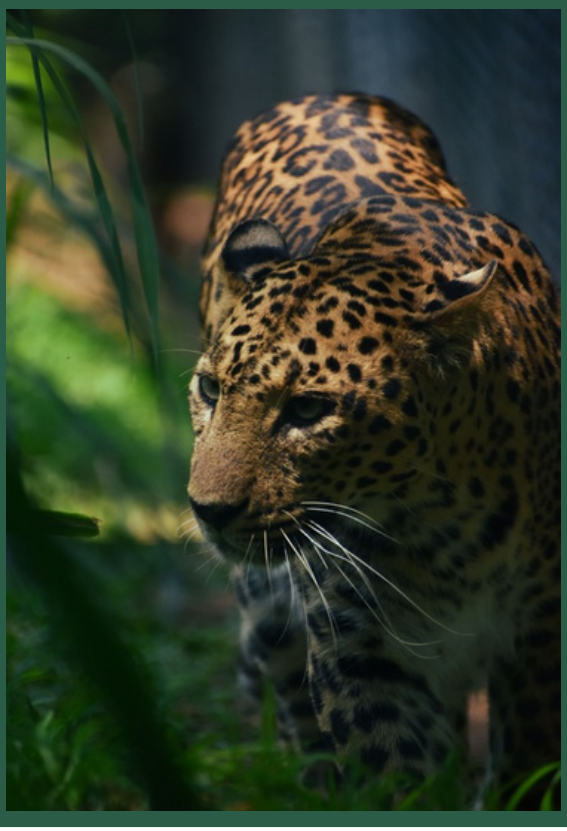
Your Voice Shapes the Rules: How draft rules get written and why you matter

Most laws about India's forests, wildlife and environment never see Parliament. Ministries write them as rules and notifications. Usually they start as drafts. Public gets time to comment. One's happening right now.

A draft you can weigh in on
Early October 2026, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying put out the Draft Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Control and Supervision of Experiment, Breeding and Trading of Laboratory Animals) Rules, 2026. You can comment until around 5-6 November.

What's in it. Applies the "3Rs" (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement). Wants veterinary supervision, proper records, housing standards, inspections and humane endpoints. Experiments need approval from the central committee (CCSEA) or an institutional ethics committee. Severe and non-recovery experiments on animals bigger than rodents and rabbits need central approval. Protected wildlife, wild animals, strays and primates get restricted but not completely blocked if science backs it.

Where people disagree
PETA India and similar groups want it scrapped. Their issue: institutional committees could approve mild and moderate experiments on larger animals, dogs, horses, pigs, cattle, without checking with central authorities. They hate using animals for training and skill development. Exceptions for protected species worry them too, could bring wildlife into labs. Others support it. Point to new welfare rules, staffing, inspection requirements. Even petitions against the draft recognize it has protections.



How you respond
Under the Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy of 2014, ministries publish drafts with reasoning. Window is at least 30 days. They're supposed to share feedback summaries. It's administrative policy, not law. Government argued in court that 30 days is about convenience, not a guaranteed right. Some windows have been shorter. Makes your response urgent and solid.

Steps to take
Read the draft. Mark clauses that bother you.
Get specific. Name the rule. Say why. Suggest what should change instead.
Send comments to the address in the notification. Before the deadline.

Foresters, ecologists, rural management experts, listen up. Your field experience can actually change policy. Now's your shot.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE MONTH



The road to memories, the IIFM way
Photo by - Bivash Nath
MBASD 2025-2027



Between clouds and architecture, moments of calm at IIFM
Photo by -Prahlad Pratap Singh
MBAFM 2025-2027



APPEAL



ALUMNI INSURANCE PROGRAMME &

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUND



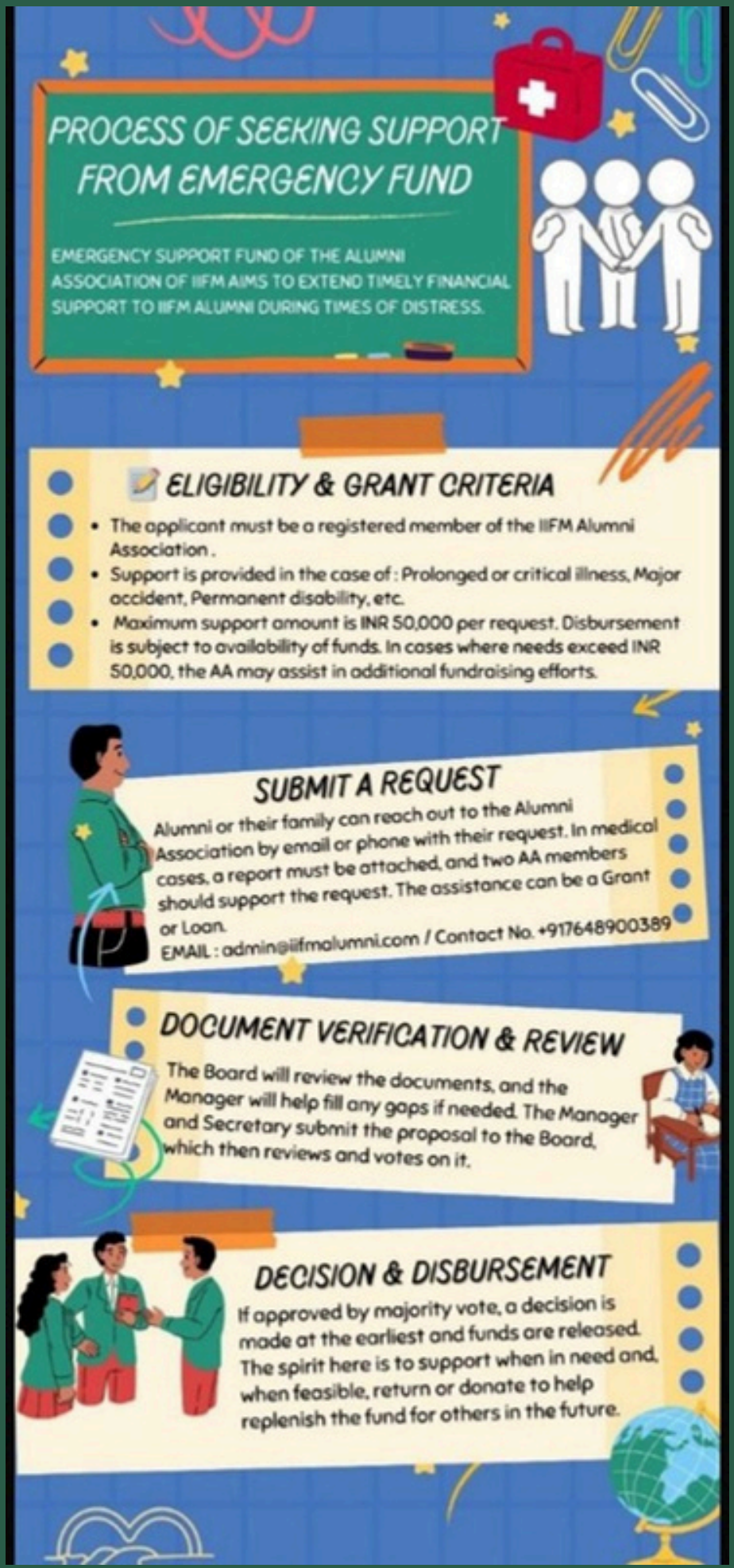
Your premium protects you.
Your contribution protects all of us.

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	: AUBL0002299
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