

APRIL-JUNE 2021

## Division of Alumni Affairs

While the past one year has challenged us in many unexpected ways, the Division of Alumni Affairs and the Alumni Relations Committee of IIFT have worked swiftly to pivot this into an opportunity to explore new ideas, new ways of doing things, and to strengthen ties with our alumni base even further.

The Institute hosted its first IIFTians' Day on 2 May 2020, celebrating 58 years of IIFT's establishment. The day saw Alumni and students coming together on virtual calls and reminiscing their days at the Institute.

Our newsletter-Aluminati, has found constant support and readership in the alumni base. This bi-monthly newsletter witnessed a design revamp. The newsletter has been strategically shifted to a quarterly edition and continues to witness sizeable readership. A campus diaries section was added to share the recent happenings on the IIFT Campus with the Alumni.

Guest Lectures, which form an important part of student life at IIFT, have been continued online through the Aspire and InVision series, removing the hurdle of alumni having to travel to the campus. We have connected with alumni across the globe, and the students have benefitted immensely from the practical knowledge brought by the industry stalwarts and entrepreneurs alike.

Riding on the wave of virtual, "Tarang", an Alumni video podcast series came into fruition with the first episode hosting Mr. Partha Anbil from the 1982 Batch. The video series is hosted on the official



YouTube channel of IIFT Alumni and the topics revolve around leadership, career highlights, entrepreneurship, and insights into their respective domains. So far, Tarang has been graced by some extremely notable alumni, reaching innumerable people and garnering views and responses on our social media handles.

To keep our alumni apprised of activities undertaken at the Institute, and to streamline the communication among the batches, we kickstarted the Batch Ambassador programme in December 2020. In the first drive, we were able to onboard 32 batches across multiple programmes of IIFT.

Since being set up in 1963, IIFT has created a distinguished place for itself through its academic programmes, training and research productivity, and also through its alumni who have achieved success and laurels in many diverse fields, and its students, who are competent, confident and capable of walking on the paths illuminated by their seniors. The Institute's Alumni hold top positions across sectors and businesses. Mr. Rishi Pardal from the 1996 batch was appointed as the CEO & MD (Designated) of United Breweries in July 2020. Mr. Jaideep Agarwal from the 1996 batch was appointed as the MD of Goldman Sachs. Mr. Shubhranshu Singh (1999), Mr. Balaji Vaidyanathan (2002) and Mr. Mohit Malhotra (2003) ranked among top business leaders in the recently released Impact Digital Power 100, 2020 proving their mettle and inspiring the current students.

The Grand Alumni Reunion, more commonly called GAR, is one of the most anticipated events hosted by the Division of Alumni Affairs. The Pandemic posed a challenge, but the division switched gears, pivoting the opportunity to host "Netritva", a Virtual Rendition of GAR on 7 March 2021. The event was also a tribute to International Women's Day and witnessed a hugely welcomed Alumnae panel discussion with Ms. Anuradha Sehgal, 1995 batch, Business Head at HT Media, Ms. Rashi Gandhi, 1999

batch, Marketing VP of an early-stage health tech start-up, Ms. Manasi Chadha, 2005 batch, Head of Digital Experiences & Strategic Projects, Community Ops, Apac, Uber, Ms. Sujata Biswas, Co-Founder, Suta and Ms. Swati Maheshwari, 2010 batch, Consumer Cluster Manager, Delhi NCR, Unilever. The event was also graced by a video message by Ms. Preeti Sridhar from the 1985 batch. A special edition newsletter featuring Alumnae from across batches was also released at the event. This edition featured IIFT's alumnae views on the changing trends in the industry, and how IIFT has helped them chart their career paths and shape their success stories.

The coveted Alumni of the year awards were conferred to Dr. Anil Jain, PGDIT 1985 Batch, Secretary, Ministry of Coal, GOI in the "Corporate Leadership Category" and to Mr. Sridhar Srinivasan, EMIB 2006 batch, CEO, Web Plastics Company in the "Entrepreneurship Category". The event organized in a hybrid mode observed an audience of over 1000 Alumni and students.

### **Summer Mentorship Programme**

To set the ball rolling for the Summer Internship Programme 2021, in the month of March and April 2021 the Alumni Relations Committee had initiated the Summer Alumni Mentorship Programme which was a hand-holding programme where Alumni who have been working in the organizations where students are to start their internship were mapped to groups which facilitated discussions on the aspects of internship preparation and corporate work life.

### **Executive Council Meeting**

The EC meeting was held virtually on 3 April 2021 in the presence of the Director of IIFT, Head of DAA, Chapter Heads, Alumni Advisory Council Members, Alumni, Faculty and Student members. The council was apprised of the activities done by the college over the past months and the plans

ahead. The Chapter heads also presented the activities done by each of the chapters.

### **IIFTians' Day**

To commemorate the 58th foundation day of IIFT, the Alumni Relations Committee had celebrated the IIFTians' day on 2 May. On this occasion, the committee had prepared posters which were shared on all social media handles.

### **Alumni Achievements**

Mr. Prashant Nagre from the PGDIT 1997 batch, has been appointed as the Managing Director at Fermenta Biotech Limited.

Mr. Suniet Bezbaroowa from the MBA (IB) 2008-11 batch, Weekend Programme, has been appointed as the Marketing Director, India at the Boston Consulting Group (BCG).

### **New and Old Alumni Committee**

The Alumni Relations Committee for the year 2020-21 had completed their tenure in the month of February 2021. The new committee members (2021-22) were selected subsequently from both Delhi and Kolkata Campuses. To bid farewell, the committee had put up posters for all the outgoing senior committee members, thanking them for their contribution. •

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## **Publications by IIFT Faculty**

### **Prof. Manoj Pant, Director**

COVID-19 & the IPR Waiver: Will it Work?, article submitted to Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI), 12 May 2021.

### **Dr. K. Rangarajan, Professor & Head, Kolkata Campus**

Tripathi. S, Talukder. B., Rangarajan. K. (May 2021), Do Supply Chain Performance Influence Firm Profitability? A Predictive Approach in the Context of the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry, IIM Kozhikode Society & Management Review.

### **Dr. Debashis Chakraborty, Associate Professor**

“Prospects for Indian Agricultural Products from proposed India-UK FTA”, (Co-author: B.R. Chaudhuri), in R.S. Ratna *et al.* (eds.), ‘Indian Agriculture under the Shadows of WTO and FTAs’ Springer: Singapore, 2021.

“UNECE Agreements on Harmonization of Vehicle Standards and India: Empirical Results and Policy Implications” (Co-author: B. Nag), in P. Lakhanpal, B. Nag, J. Mukherjee and D. Tuteja (eds.), “Trade, Investment and Economic Growth: Issues for India and Emerging Economies”, Springer: New Delhi, pp. 285-308, 2021.

### **Dr. Ashim Raj Singla, Associate Professor**

Singla, A.R., *et. al.*, “Dynamics of e-Governance in Post COVID Era: India”, *The Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Developing Countries*, ISSN: 1681-4835, Wiley.

Singla, A.R. *et. al.*, “Constructing Definition of Smart Cities from Systems Thinking View”, *Kybernetes*, ISSN: 0368-492X, <https://doi.org/10.1108/K-05-2020-0276>, Emerald Insight.

Singla A.R., *et. al.*, “A Strategic and Adaptive Plan for Resurgence of Food-Tech Delivery Service Sector during and Beyond Public Health Pandemic Crisis”, *Journal of Economics, Management & Trade*, ISSN: 2456-9216, 2020, Article No: JEMT61435.

### **Dr. Kavita Wadhwa, Assistant Professor**

Ahemad, N. and Wadhwa, K. (2021), “Does Firm Performance Impact Top Executive Turnover?”, *Finance India*, Vol. XXXV No. 2, June. •

**FOCUS<sub>WTO</sub>.IB is now ICI (Indian Citation Index) indexed and Foreign Trade Review is Scopus listed.**

## Webinar

FOCUS<sub>WTO</sub>.IB, the Publication Division of IIFT is organizing a Webinar

### “Predatory FDI during Economic Crisis: Insights from Cross-border M&A from China and Host Country Responses”

(28 June 2021)



The Guest Speaker is Dr. Arindam Das, Professor, Strategy and International Business T.A. Pai Management Institute, Manipal, India.

**Objective:** The Webinar aims at outbound investments from China at the time of economic crisis caused due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic, and how target valuation and the host country’s inbound investment policies influence the acquisition intentions. As firms witness low valuations during an economic downturn, they become attractive targets for opportunistic buyers, who may be driven by motives beyond business and influenced by the home country’s political agenda. Such attempts are countered with the adoption of restrictive investment policies in host countries.

## Presentations by IIFT Faculty

### Prof. Manoj Pant, Director

- TPCI invited on an online Panel Discussion on 1 June 2021 on the subject “Has Import Substitution Worked for India? Challenges and Road Ahead.
- Invited as a Speaker for Panel Discussion to address the IFS OTs 2020 Batch on 23 April 2021 by Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) to the Induction Training Programme for Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officer Trainees of 2020 batch and 2 Bhutanese Diplomats.

### Dr. K. Rangarajan, Professor & Head, Kolkata Campus

- Appointed as the Vice President of AIB, South Asia Chapter.
- Invited to deliver a Session on Doing Business through EOU-Challenges and Way Forward, 4 May 2021, FIEO, Eastern Region.

### Dr. Saikat Banerjee, Professor

- Invited as ‘Resource Person’ to offer 4 hrs Sessions (7-8 June 2021) at Learn with FIEO: Building Aatmnirbhar Bharat - Sixteen hours (16 hours) Comprehensive Course on Branding and Market Positioning of your Product Internationally and Nationally, 7-14 June 2021.

- Joined as a member of Research Advisory Committee (RAC) of Great Lakes Institute of Management, Gurgaon to offer research guidance to the faculty members of GLIM in the area of marketing.

## MDPs at IIFT

During April to June 2021, MDP Division has conducted a total 6 programmes for officers/executives of various levels. Out of these, 2 sponsored programmes were conducted including the Professional Training Programme for ITS probationers. Besides, 3 long duration course were via online mode. One programme was delivered under Niryat Bandhu MOOC. A total of 209 participants benefited from these programmes. Due to ongoing Covid-19 crisis and Govt. directives, all the programmes have been conducted via online mode during the period, April-June 2021.

### CATEGORY-WISE PROGRAMME DETAILS

Programmes	No. of programmes	No. of participants
Sponsored Programmes	2	38
Hybrid/Online (long duration)	3	122
Online MDPs (Niryat Bandhu 2.0 & MOOC Programme)	1	49
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>209</b>