



CATKing FMS Delhi

WAT PI Workbook

Congrats on Getting an FMS Call!

How to use this workbook?

This is a consolidation of **62 FMS Delhi, WAT PI Experiences**. These are consolidated from various online sources.

FMS WAT and PI is conducted across India at Bangalore / Delhi / Kolkata / Hyderabad / Mumbai.

This Booklet gives you the Candidate Profile also in most cases, for you to understand the Personal Interview and relate to it better.

After reading the entire Document you are required to check on your CATKing IIMWATPI Super 30 Dashboard:

1. Build Your Interview Skills (Videos from IIM and SP Jain Alumni)
2. Functional Dossiers: If you want to pursue an MBA in Marketing, choose that dossier first.
3. SOP / Application Forms (Check out Jagesh Golwala (IIMA), Raj Doshi (IIMA), Jay Gosalia (IIM B))
4. Sample AWT from the dashboard to understand the Structured Approach. WAT / AWT / AWA – All of these are same terms of Writing test assignment conducted across various IIMs.

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Summary- FMS Delhi looks for?

- Excellent Academic Background
- Work Experience is a Good Asset
- Gender and academic Diversity gives an edge
- Personal Interview Evaluates Candidates on Qualities of – Focus, Clarity of Thought, Learnability, Level of Optimism, Ability to handle pressure, Decision making skills, Discipline

Prerequisite

Application Form to be Submitted based on Past academics and Work Experience (Interview)

Resume (not mandate but always good to carry)

Original Documents along with photocopies

Insights - Writing Ability Test

Time Allotted is 10-30 minutes

When given an abstract topic time allotted is less

When given a specific topic for in-depth analysis time is given separately for ideation and writing

Sample WAT Topics -

- 1.Excessive use of digital media.
- 2.People say that money is not important for happiness, but I believe money can buy you things like trips abroad and other things that will make you happy.

Insights - Interview

Interview time - 20-30 Minutes. (Sometimes as low as 10 mints)

Interview Panel Details - Only 2 people (One Professor and One Alumni, earlier it used to be 3-4 Panelists)

Interview Type - NO Stress Interview (Unlike Bangalore / Calcutta) (Detailed Interviews check your through knowledge of subjects (Companies) / Low on Current Affairs (Online if you say)

Interview discussion Pointers – (as per FMS experiences of last five years)

- Be completely prepared with anything and everything on the form.
- They will go into details of everything you speak about in the interview. (level1- what do you know about Indian Economy level2- what do you think about GST, level3- how has GST affected the sector you work in).
- They can ask about how you spent your time while waiting for your turn.
- It is absolutely fine to ask for time before you answer (they often expect you to think about a solution when they ask you about a problem at hand).
- It is fine if you are anxious and you need not portray a brave face being real with your emotions is better.

Be prepared to answer everything about you work experience or about your favorite subjects if you are a fresher.

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Interview Experience – 1

Interview was 12 mins

Tmay

Why low percentile in DILR when others are 99+

What coaching did you join

Are you working

Fav subject in undergrad(+some acads ques on the subject)

Internship questions(work, company, industry)

Greatest achievement

Extempore- topic 1 was dire wolf de-extinction. Did not know. Topic 2 was POTUS

Interview Experience – 2

#FMS

Date: 12/4/2025, Delhi Campus

9/9/6 Mechanical Engineering

2.5 year workex, Steel industry

Panel no.4 (1M & 4F)

Extempore: Steel

1. TMAY

2. Job and responsibilities

3. What's your view on tariffs on Steel? Does India currently have any tariffs? (Told yes but they are insufficient)

4. What kinda market is Indian Steel market? Major Players? Why can't big firms set higher prices to earn more profit?

5. How much should India Gov increase Tariffs to make domestic Steel more competitive?

6. From where does India import maximum Steel and Why? Told it's cheaper so question on the reason it being cheaper than Indian Steel.

7. Compare UK and Indian Steel industry? (Kinda tricky question because recently UK closed all crude Steel industries so answerd that with proper reasoning): Thankfully I read a Hindu piece on this recently so it came handy.

8. Why MBA? (Little bit cross questions relating to Why MBA part on SOP)

Thanks. You may leave.

Kinda intimidating interview. 5 panel members. Trap questions. But more or less was focused only on HR and workex questions. Lasted around 10-12 minutes.

Interview Experience – 3

Profile: 9/9/7 - BTech (ECE) - 2.5 yrs WorkEx in TechConsulting

PI

4 Panelists (F1, F2, F3, M1)

F3: TMAY

(Got cut off halfway)

F3: Your introduction spoke a lot about work, is there nothing else you want to speak about?

F3: We will give you a topic about which you'll have 75 seconds to speak after thinking for 15 seconds.

F1: Your topic is 'Legalising Gambling'

M1: You've mentioned in your SOP that you know an alum. Who and how?

M1: How did she inspire you?

M1: What do you understand by anecdotal evidence?

M1: What is meant by general concept?

M1: What could be the problems associated with anecdotal evidence and how can we mitigate that risk?

M1: Can you tell me about the bullwhip effect? Why it happens?

M1: What are some major supply chain problems that we encountered during CoVID?

F3: What's your stake in the entire tariff fiasco going on?

F2: What measures is India taking towards to solve the problems with the US Tariffs?

F2: Have you heard about FTAs? What are they? With whom does India have FTAs?

F1: What is auto replenishment?

F1: What is band wagon effect?

F1: What is hierarchy based demand consensus planning? (Mentioned in SOP)

F1: Can you tell me the entire hierarchy or value stream from manufacturer to customer in the pharmaceutical industry (work experience in this industry)?

F1: Who are the C&F in this value stream? (Asked what C&F meant - Carrying and Forwarding Agents. Mentioned I knew the abbreviation CFA for the same and answered).

F3: That's all. What other calls do you have from the old IIMs?

Thank you. You may leave now.

(Lasted around 15 mins)

Interview Experience – 4

FMS Transcript - Board 4

TMAY

Why MBA

Why MBA now after 4 years

Tell us about your college life and work life

What exactly do you do at your job

Extempore : people with work ex make better managers

Name 5 companies that make electronics

Are semiconductor manufacturing companies considered to be electronics companies ?

Name a few companies that make semiconductor devices
Give the countries of origins of the companies you mentioned
What is full form of SAP (I didn't know this)
Picked some words in my sop and asked why I used those specific words
How can data analytics be used for candidate selection for a company
Explain how you would do it
(They wanted me to use the word weighted average, i wasn't able to use that word but when they mentioned it i explained what it was and how we can do the weighed average using collected data based on job requirements)
What other calls do you have
Are you still working,
Why did you quit your job
You can leave.

Interview Experience – 5

FMS - 13th April, 2025 - 8.30 AM - Campus (Delhi) - Board 1
Profile: 9/8/8 - BTech (Mech) - 19 month WorkEx in Oil and gas sector.
PI

4 Panelists (M1, M2, M3, F1)

F1: TMAY

F1: We will give you a topic about which you'll have 15 seconds to think and then 90 seconds to speak. You can request a change of topic if you are uncomfortable just once.

F1: Your topic is 'Madhubani Painting'. Are you comfortable?

M3: Ok so do u follow news around the world and how much would you say you are updated.

M3: What is Indias GDP? (answered \$ 3.4 trln)

M3: You have underestimated Indian prowess. Never do that. Always oversell. (Agreed with him politely)

M3: What is trade deficit?

M2: You have written so many subjects on the form. Pick your favorite (Thermo and SOM)

M2: What are the types of stress

M2: What are the stresses that occur in a bridge?

M2: What's enthalpy?

M2: What is Hooke's Law? Give a formula for it.

M1: Suppose you need to distinguish and select a car in the same price range and setting. What engineering criteria would you use?

M1: Not horsepower? (answered yes)

M2: What is hp in Watt? (Answered 720)

M2: 720 or 746? Are u sure? (changed my answer and stuck to 746)

M1: What is brake power?

M3: You have mentioned the knowledge of social sciences in Sop. How would you use social sciences in business management? (Answered social context of product use)

F1: You have quick response. Tell me what do you think about the indigenous knowledge system and their integration in business management. (About to cook an answer but took too long)

F1: Ok read about it and tell us.

F1: That's all. What other calls do you have?

Thank you. You may leave now.

(Lasted around 10 mins)

Interview Experience – 6

FMS 13th april 12pm slot

Board 1

Interview time : 2:50pm

8 month workex AI

4 panelist m1,m2,m3,f1

F1: tmay

F2: mythology is interesting what books have you read (from intro)

Told about mix i like from history and mythology

Named chanakya chant

F1: extempore - the making of chandraguota maurya

Told in the end that more focus should be given on making students aware of Chandragupta maurya

M1: i disagree, i read a lot about him, told it is not much a part of in scl textbooks

M1: okay, piyush goyal just ranted about something on startup explain ur view on that

Gave - seemed convinced

M1: why do you think we arent building deep tech startups? Told india ks more of consumer driven so we have things like zomato zepto etc

M1: so is it good to create gig economy? I told no it isnt but comparing funding of deep tech of china and india is not correct

M2: there are different kinds of unemployment one of them ks tech driven unemployment - what are ur thoughts on this especially with AI coming in.

Told yes there are some entry lvl

Jobs which might not be tjere but many jobs habe also developed like

Prompt engineering etc

M3: you told in your sop that gandhi inspired you in what essence? Told

M3: when did he return to india? Told 1914-15 wasnt sure of the year

M3: name some books he has written couldnt recall except my experiments with truth.

F1: other calls?

About 12 mins of interview

Interview Experience – 7

FMS 14th april 10am slot

Board 5

1st person in the slot

Interview time : 12:30pm

24 month workex associate consultant

4 panelist m1,m2,m3,f1

M1: TMAY

M2: interrupted and asked what my role was in my first job

M2: what is the salary difference between a teacher and content developer.

M3: why mba? Not satisfied with my usual answer of gain formal education as I lack it during my work.

Asked to rephrase it I did, he said my argument is wrong as you can get knowledge from chatgpt also, then I said about the experienced faculty and peer learning can't be learned through online.

M3: stated you don't have clarity in life so you came here, I provide my reason.

F1: extempore - my purpose of life

Ended with a Telugu quote m3 liked it.

M3: what type of business do you want to establish?

M3: go do ma psychology, I reasoned with him for that particular part I have people who will join me but to develop it into a fully functional business I need this degree.

He said thank you

Interview time :17 mins

M3 was grilling

Interview Experience – 8

Panel 8 3f, 2M, mostly male were asking. Overall chill panel, revolving around your profile.

1. Tmay2. extempore - digital economy
3. some ques around my workex
4. future companies you are looking forward
5. in which specialization
6. 5 union ministers and their ministry name

Interview Experience – 9

Date: 15th April

Panel: Board 3 | 2:00 PM

Panel Composition: 3 Females, 1 Male

Profile: B.Tech in Chemical Engineering | 10 months of work experience

Tell Me About Yourself (TMOY)

Extempore Topic: Is failure a result of less hard work?

Interview Questions:

1. What is the Newton-Raphson method and the Gauss-Seidel method?
2. What are the different types of regression?
3. Which government body regulates various financial markets in India?
4. Which non-profit organizations are associated with mutual funds?
5. What are the applicable taxes on mutual funds? (both transaction and institutional level)
6. What is the business cycle?
7. What is the difference between stagflation and hyperinflation?
8. How do the economic impacts of stagflation and hyperinflation differ?
9. What are different types of mutual fund ?

Interview Experience – 10

FMS

15/04/2025 8:30 am Board 8

2 F, 1M

Profile: BTech in Engineering Physics (fresher)

1. What's the meaning of your name
2. TMAY
3. Extempore - Kota Factory

4. What other calls do you have, why didn't you receive from A and B
5. What's your motivation of doing MBA
6. What specialization are you planning to pursue
7. What do you see yourself in 10 years
8. Name some consulting firms
9. Do you know about vikshit bharat - mention 3 hurdles for it
10. Describe manufacturing sector a bit - schemes and all
11. Any relation between physics and any management subjects

Interview Experience – 11

FMS

4 panelists. 1M, 3F. Dean was sitting for a bit too. A lot of movement and people coming in and out for the first few minutes.

- TMAY
- are you nervous ?
- what specialisation?
- extempore : AI in recruitment
- what does an operations manager do ?
- why mba ?
- who is the biggest e-commerce player ?
- who is the biggest retailer in the world ?
- what is their pricing strategy ?
- what is a private label ?
- what are the 4 Ps of marketing ?
- what is a middle income trap ?
- good economics is good politics. Explain
- Trump has a narrow view of imports ?

if you had mentioned an HRM specialisation, this was a good interview

Interview Experience – 12

FMS

17/04/2025 10 AM Board 4

Profile : Btech with 8 months work ex

4F :

Dr.Soma Dey

Dr.Meghana Goswami

Dr.Anshika Agarwal

Dr.Shikha Sachdeva

- 1) TMAY
- 2) Company based question -> Myntra Vs Tata Cliq (around 5/6 questions)
- 3) Why in working in management now?
- 4) Why MBA ?

5) Extempore topic -
Influencer Marketing

4) Virat Kohli New company any idea ?

Over

Around 7-10 mins ig , very candid and conversational wanted to know more about my company and challenges we face in terms of competition as well

Interview Experience – 13

17/4/25 2 pm board 6

Profile : BSc mathematics fresher

extemporary - bilateral trade

4 female 1 male

1) tmay

2) three people, you would like to run a business with (anybody, who is currently alive)

3 any three people from history would like to run business with

(talked about entrepreneurship in my SOP, so I'm guessing it's from that)

4 what are your hobbies?

5 work done in college (I have
organised fest and events) ?

6 why should FMS select you?

7 why can a business fail?

8 CM of Delhi ?

Overall they were very soft spoken and kind make it stressfree and pleasant interview. I was able to answer all the questions, so hopefully it goes well. Best of luck to everyone.

Interview Experience – 14

My FMS Interview was held on the first day, in the first slot (17th April, 8:30 AM).

I was 4th in my panel, though the order was not strictly followed.

Panelists: 4 Senior Female Professors (F1, F2, F3, F4)

F1: Introduce yourself briefly.

Me: Gave a prepared answer mentioning my hometown, school, college, work experience and hobbies. The school bit was intentional as one of the panelists (F3) was from my sister school in Kolkata (I had searched before entering the room).

F1: So you are from Kolkata, your extempore topic is "The political scenario of Kolkata".

Me: Gave a diplomatic answer mentioning all the positives and negatives of the 3 different parties in the fray. Concluded by saying it's a positive that multiple viewpoints are brought to the table, the negative being slower growth than what should have been possible given the academic calibre of the state.

F1: You gave a balanced picture - Why aren't you taking sides? Are people of Bengal like this only?

F3: I disagree, he's correct. We care only about growth, not the who's who.

Me: (Smiled) I agree with ma'am, while politics is something that we Bengalis do love to discuss, I believe ultimately what we care for are growth and development.

F2: Tell me in brief about your work. What do you do?

Me: Explained how we create document processing software for our clients. Also mentioned my experience organizing hackathons, and webinars and taking interviews of interns and recent graduates.

F3: You mentioned NLP models. Recently, ChatGPT came. Don't you think everything can be automated? You will lose your job!

Me: (Smiled) Explained how a model is as good as the data itself. 85% of the tough work is getting the data and cleaning it to train a good model.

F3: What if something like DataGPT comes? Combining with ChatGPT it can train itself, right?

Me: Financial services companies are bound to follow regulatory requirements. They would rather not innovate than risk their data. To build DataGPT, a huge amount of publicly available financial services data is required - something that is completely absent at the moment. Even in the future, they won't be made available without masking the important bits. So something like DataGPT is difficult unless it's built in-house by a company. Even if it is built, we will still need engineers to build, maintain and improve DataGPT.

F4: (Smiles and nods)

F2: Briefly tell me, why MBA and why FMS.

Me: Started with a little background before moving on to the main reason (Cuts in between)

F1: Come to the main point.

Me: Sure ma'am. Went on to give the prepared answer.

F3: And why FMS?

Me: Built my answer around the return on investment, legacy and a different campus experience compared to IIMs.

F3: How old is FMS? Are we older than your parents or not?

Me: (Smiled) Ma'am I don't recall the exact year at the moment, but FMS is definitely older than my parents and even older than IIMs ABC.

F4: Campus life? Aren't we a small campus?

Me: Mentioned how FMS is just a faculty within the entire DU campus. If people want, they can interact with people from any college within DU.

F3: People from FMS are known to not interact with people outside.

Me: (Smiles widely) Ma'am with all due respect, if I am selected, I would definitely like to change that a bit.

(All panellists smile)

F4: One last question before we end - What happened at Ahmedabad?

Me: Unfortunately, I received a direct rejection from them. No waitlist as well.

F3: (Smiles) It's okay, not your loss. Don't be sad. Things will change soon.

F1: Nice interacting with you. All the best.

F3: All the best too.

Me: (Smiles) Thank you, professors.

Verdict: I had a nice feeling throughout the interview. They tried to make me uncomfortable, but I was able to tackle them well. I was expecting a convertible waitlist at worst.

On 22nd April around 1:30 am, FMS declared their results. I was deep asleep at that time, so I had no clue. When I woke up the next morning around 6:30 am, I received a flood of congratulatory messages on WhatsApp.

I had made it in the first list itself:

Interview Experience – 15

Date: April 2023

10/12/Eco hons : 10/96.8/9.01

CAT ~ 99.98

Workex — 14 months in ICICI Bank

Duration : 7–8 mins of interview

19 April 2023 - 10 AM slot , Board 10

Was last in my panel, my turn came at 12:30 pm

2M and 2F in Panel (one M didn't say anything)

As soon as I entered, they started saying ki isko abhi bhaga denge. I saw an intention there to create a false perspective and to put you off the track.

Greetings exchanged with all

F1 — So you are from Hindu College

Me : Yes and it's quite close, just one street away. Tried to explain that I know about the area.

F1 — So you got the motivation to do MBA from FMS by looking at it ?

Me : Told about my interest in pursuing a master degree since class 12th and explained how the red brick building motivated me.

M1 : Extempore round*

Gave the topic “Business cycles and life cycles.” and asked to think about it for 10 seconds and to speak for 1 minute after that. I was already prepared about the topic and started right there, that didn't seem good imo. Panel asked me to think and I didn't once again, was a bit excited but shouldn't be.

I read alot about it recently and correlated both the things and explained the different phases — recessionary, expansion, recessionary trough etc. And also how's the life phases different and involves a lot of human judgement.

They again started gossiping louder as soon as I started with my extempore, again saw a bad intention there.

F2: What are HNI customers ?

Me: Explained how ICICI decides if one is or not.

F2: What are NRIs ?

Me: Explained.

F2: What are overseas citizens ?

Me : Sorry I don't know about it.

F2: Explained a little bit.

Me : Further explained and told the difference between both. Ended it with saying that I am not very sure about who is overseas citizens.

F2: so you have YouTube channel tell us something about it.

Me: explained the USP and other features and what I do there.

F2: What type of content you make ?

Me: It's related to quantitative aptitude for exams like CAT where I teach tricks that help one to save time.

M1: started checking my CAT scorecard.



(Before me there were multiple ST people who might had low percentile, so they were thinking same)

M1: But you only have 48 percentile in Quants. Explain it ?

Me: corrected him that I have 48 scaled score and percentile is 99.93

The whole panel was confused about what's happening.

Sir asked me to explain so I started what's the scaled score and what's normalisation and what's percentile.

F1: No, we don't need this explanation.

M1: Sorry I misinterpreted.

Confusion resolved

F1: tell one difference between oligopoly and monopolistic competition.

Me: explained in detail.

F1: What all calls do you have ?

Me: Mentioned about all IIMs, XLRI, MDI, SPIAIN. Thankfully she didn't ask about converts.

Thanks. Asked to leave.

Verdict — Converted in first list.

Interview Experience – 16

Date: 17th April, 2023

Profile:

Female, General Category

Class 10: 95% (CBSE)

Class 12: 93.17% (CBSE)

Grad: B. Tech (ECE) from SRMIST, Chennai, 91.75%

CAT'22: 99.68%ile

Work Experience: Software Tester for 3.5 years in State Street Corporation, Bangalore.

I was in the 10:30 am slot and I was called in by 11:45 am.

Panel: 2M (Let's call them M1 and M2), 1F

Interview:

Greeted everyone as I entered.

M2: So, Shreyasee, your name is very long. Can we call you Shreya?

Me: Yes.

F: Do you have a pet name? What do your parents call you at home?

Me: I have but it's very embarrassing. My pet name is Munni.

M2: That's a pretty name. Don't worry, we won't call you Munni. So, Shreya, tell us something about yourself.

Me: Gave the prepared answer.

M1: Okay. Time for extempore. Your topic is, "Human beings are selfish by nature." You have 20 seconds to think and 1 min to speak.

Me: I took the stance that humans are indeed selfish and gave the example of a simple friendship which is a selfish transaction at its core. Mentioned that selfishness is a fundamental characteristic of humans but there are many people like Mother Teresa who went against this innate nature and worked for the welfare of the society.

M2: So, according to you, we are all selfish. That's the start of an MBA. Your 50% MBA is done. (Laughs)

You have mentioned a lot of good things about FMS in your SOP. And you have also mentioned that you do a lot of social work. We, here at FMS, are very selfish and don't believe in social work. Tell me how FMS would help you in this.

Me: Mentioned about the silent auction that FMS conducts to raise money for NGOs which is something no other college does as far as I am aware. Also, since, I have only seen silent auctions on TV, I had always wanted to be a part of something like that.

Everyone was laughing.

F: Isne pura website padh dala! (She had read the whole website!)

Me: I did. Because I wanted to understand how I would add value to FMS and vice versa.

M2: You definitely did your homework. M1 here was the highest bidder last year.

F: You mentioned that you want to pursue Finance. Why so? Do you follow any financial news?

Me: Gave the prepared answer that since, I worked in a bank, I would like to increase my domain knowledge which would help me to grow in this sector. Yes, I follow financial news although I find it difficult to understand a lot of things because I am not from this field. But, I did follow the recent banking collapse in the US, inflation, possibilities of a recession to name a few.

F: Do you know who is the head of RBI?

Me: Shaktikanta Das

F: What's his designation?

Me: Governor

F: What are his functions? No, what are the functions of RBI?

Me: Mentioned about setting the repo rate and how it is increased to contain inflation. Also, mentioned about the government bonds which the banks sell in case they want to reduce the liquidity and buy back those bonds to infuse cash in the economy in case of recession.

F: What is recession and its impact?

Me: I gave the prepared answer since I was asked these economy and bank related questions in almost every interview.

F: What is inflation and it's types?

Me: Again gave the prepared answer. For types, I had mentioned Cost-Push and Demand-Pull inflation.

M1: What is supply chain disruption?

Me: Gave the definition and mentioned the supply chain disruption caused by Zero Covid Policy in China. I had also correlated this with demand-pull inflation.

M1: You mentioned that you write poetry.

Me: Yes, Sir.

M1: What is Ballard, Couplet and Sonnet?

Me: Told about Couplet and Sonnet. Did not know about Ballard.

M2: You are from West Bengal, right? Ballard is very famous there. You should check this out after the interview.

Me: Okay, Sir. I will Google Ballard after this interview.

M1: What style of poetry do you write?

Me: I mostly write free style since, there's a little more wriggle space than any other style.

M1: Do you know anyone who wrote English couplets?

Me: No, Sir. But Kabir used to write couplets (doha) in Hindi, specifically Braj bhasha.

M1: Alexander the Great used to write couplets in English.

Me: Oh sorry, sir. I didn't know this.

M2: I think we are done. Thank you, Shreyasee.

Me: Greeted everyone and came out.

Interview lasted for about 10 min. Panel was very friendly and wanted to the point answer because of the shortage of time. Questions mostly revolved around the points mentioned in my SOP.

Verdict: Converted in the first list!

Hope this helps!

Interview Experience – 17

Interview Date — 20th April, 2023

Board 9, 2:00 PM

About me, Architect (graduation from NIT Nagpur) with around 4 years of work experience, currently working with a PSU. Interview transcript —

TMAY — told

Extempore topic- even when the job is half done, one should continue working hard (something of that sort)

Started with contrasing the half empty glass quote and went on with it.

P1—

are you a contractual employee of DMRC? - No I am a permanent employee.

What is PPP- explained purchasing power parity.

What is the free rider problem in economy — told that I am not sure but would like to guess, guessed partially correctly.

What is balance of payment. - told

What is Fiscal Deficit — explained with the formula.

I am done.

P2—

What are credit ratings- explained

Who is the owner of LinkedIn- said that I can't recall.

P3—

Do you know Consumer goods companies — yes ma'am, FMCG companies.

Yes, name some of them and their brands/products — answered ITC, HUL, PnG with their products.

P4—

You have travelled to many countries, which is your favourite building and why. Answered

Over all it was a short interview and the board looked fairly convinced with the answers. Converted in the 1st WL despite low percentile. In FMS, i believe that one's profile matter a lot as the interview is only 7–10 mins long and it is not sufficient to get a complete picture of an individual in those few minutes.

Interview Experience – 18

FMS Interview

Fresher, Dual Degree Aerospace Engineering, IITK

11-2pm slot

2 Panelists : P1(M, 40s), P2 (F, 35-40yrs)

Pleasantries exchanged

P1: Are you a fresher?

Me: Yes sir. I'm going to graduate later this year with a Dual Degree in Aerospace Engineering.

P1: Aerospace is an interesting subject. We'll talk about it later. As a part of the process, you need to talk about a topic for 30s.

Extempore topic- Turbulence.

(Initially I planned to talk about a lot of things but in that 1min I could only finish talking about the scientific aspect.)

P1: What are your thoughts on turbulence in life, business, nation?

Me: Stock market rise and fall is a good example of turbulence in business. In fact, researchers are attempting to model it using turbulence models used in fluid mechanics with some modifications. The highs and lows which we all face during our life journey can be referred to turbulence. Covid 19 is the obvious example of turbulence in nation which has disrupted our life in every possible way.

P1: Okay. Excellent. I was wondering if they teach you to build a plane in your course?

Me: Yes sir. In fact I have designed a full scale model of a 6 seater propeller driven aircraft.

P1: Can you brief about how the materials used to manufacture the plane evolved over time?

Me: Talked about early 1930s, the structure, some historical crashes. Wooden structure then steel, then Al alloys and in future composites. Talked about the advantages and disadvantages of composites.

P1: Okay. Who is the commercial and industrial minister of India?

Me: (Face-palm) Couldn't remember.

P1: Okay. No problem. Why MBA?

Me: Ready Answer

P1: Okay. Over to you P2.

P2: Why MBA? Elon musk is an inspiring figure to you. He didn't do an MBA. So why are you doing?

Me: I don't have any business knowledge which I believe MBA will formally provide. True, Elon musk is not an MBA but almost all his board members are MBA from Stanford, Harvard etc reputed b-schools. And statistics also support that MBA grads' startups are more successful. (she interrupted)

P2: You can always hire people.

Me: Ma'am why shouldn't I do when I have the provisions and capability. By that logic I can hire everyone and be dependent on them for everything.

P2: Hmm. I get your point. But it's something you should think as you have very specific business idea and you are very passionate about Aerospace. It's in your eyes when you were talking about your subject. Anyway, what are your hobbies?

Me: Watching and playing a lot of cricket. Watching movies, playing computer games.

P2: What's your favorite movie?

Me: A beautiful mind (wanted to tell something related to MBA :p)

P2: (laughing) So you have a crush on Jennifer Connelly?

Me: (smiling) No ma'am. (P1 interrupts)

P1: No. Russell Crowe.

P2: (laughing) Arkadip I didn't say that. I told Connelly.

Me: Well not gonna lie, she doesn't seem to be 50yrs old. But now I'm with Katherine Langford.

P2: (laughs) Good choice. But why A Beautiful Mind?

Me: (laughing) I liked the way Russell portrayed John Nash. The craziness, the passion everything.

P2: So you liked the craziness? (laughing)

Me: (smiling) Well ma'am, the passion behind the craziness is something that's remarkable.

P2: He is a mathematician. Still we study about him in every MBA course. Do you know his contribution?

Me: Yes ma'am. A market equilibrium model.

P1: Yes you're right. It's called Nash model. Any other contribution?

Me: (thinking) something about cryptography?

P1: It is okay if you don't know something. You tell that. Otherwise you have already done brilliant.

Me: Thank you sir. I was trying to recall.

P2: So Arkadip. Arka means sun. But you have added a 'dip' at the end.

Me: So it becomes sunlight.

P2: (smiling) The washing powder?

Me: (laughing) No ma'am the sunlight that gives us warmth.

P1: He has 'dip'. Not 'deep'. Its like dipping into the Sun.

Me: (laughing) Didn't see it in this way.

P2: OMG. That's intense.

P2: It was really cool to talk to you. But we are short on time. So tata bye bye.

P1: Bye Arkadip. (still smiling)

Me: Thank you ma'am. Thank you sir. Have a good day.

Overall around 12mins. Pretty cool interview.

VERDICT: CONVERTED

Interview Experience – 19

April 18,2023 (Tuesday)

Venue- The Red Building of Dreams, FMS itself

Acad-96/92/75

Non-Engineering(it doesn't matter for FMS) Female

Disclaimer: Alumnis and people who got in this year will come at me after this but this is my experience and it was not what I thought it would be

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I had 2:00 pm slot. My brother had come to be with me since I am a anxious weirdo. The slot and panel number was written on a printed sheet on board at the entrance. It was 3:00 pm. Panel-00. So, after checking all my documents and asking my brother to wait in the waiting room in the ground floor. I went to first floor into the allotted hall.

Our documents were getting verified here. FYI, I didn't have the time or opportunity to be prepared of what is going to happen. So, i was soaking all in with excitement and enthusiasm as it was happening. I sat next to a sweet human and we were chatting.

Fast forward to 5:00 pm. Apart from our verification nothing has been done. We hear rumours that our panellists are taking like 30 mins interview which is not typical for FMS interviews like everybody knows. We all were getting restless. The whole college was empty. My brother was telling me people in the college are asking him weird questions as he is the only person left sitting in the waiting room, so they are suspicious as he doesn't look like a parent. Obviously.

I was in pain coz i just got my period after 3 months without a knock on the door as i have PCOS. The whole party. At 5:30, they asked us to go to a smaller room near the room where the interview was happening. Then the process was in front of us . It got reduced to 20–25 min interview.

Just before our turn we were asked to sit in a chair in the corridor in front of the window where interview was taken. My turn came after this sweet guy who saw i was nervous and asked me to stay calm. The panelists aren't too scary.

I entered and while i was closing the door they asked me my extempore" my comments on the central Vista project", while my back was still turned towards them. I spoke about it while i took a seat. I then noticed that i had 7–8 panelists. So because every other interview was done. Other panelists have also joined in. LUCKY US.

They asked me the following questions not necessarily in the same order.

What is your comment on the architecture of this building.

Why not IIM AHMEDABAD OR CALCUTTA because they have better buildings

What are SDGs

What's a green building

Can one turn an existing building to a green building. If so, how?

Why mba ? Why you?

Are solar panels a way to add sustainability to the building?

The office spaces that is being demolished under the central Vista project like shastri bhawan etc. What's your opinion on it?

What's your opinion on the demolition of a part of IIMA?

Etc. My opinion on the NHSRCL projects since i have worked with them.

They seemed very impressed with my answers.

While i was closing the door. The main panelist said "she did well"

Boy was i impressed with myself. The headache and cramps that i had almost made me forget the experience because by then i just wanted the interview to end.

I was very disappointed with the administration of the college too, and wondered if they were the people who can teach us management since there ways doesn't work.

Later, my panel people discussed how we were not asked about the SOP. I might have not mentioned but my interview went on for half hour and i was grilled alot. So why not ask about SOP too, i mean there are marks allotted for it.

Verdict: didn't convert.

I guess the SOP thing happened. Since we weren't marked on that, we fell behind. Many of us whose interview went well didn't convert from my panel.

I want to share something as well. Got one panel the best marks could be 9/10 one could give the best candidate 7/10. This can be very subjective since we are very familiar with this kind of difference in marking among professors. So, don't lose heart over this. This reject doesn't mean you weren't worth it. It wasn't your time yet. Continue with a job, do freelance, pursue your hobby and make an earning. Do everything and prepare CAT again if you want.

I stopped living for 18 months and yet i failed because of a technicality. Even during my CAT exam my computer switched off for 15 mins during DILR. because of which i couldn't clear the sectional for that and hence got no call from BLACKI. It's horrible when you are punished when it isn't your fault. I did work a 70/80 he week. Come home at 9/10 and study. I worked Saturday's too. I didn't have time for coaching. I hadn't done maths for 7 years before CAT. I got 98.87 percentile and yet I am heartbroken.

I know people would be in my boat. Since i was preparing alone, i made no friends. But, if no one have said it so far. I am proud of you. Don't let an exam and interview diminish your feelings and make you feel worthless. If not this, something else. You are capable of many things. Keep trying different things until one clicks. I love you. Keep hustling

Interview Experience – 20

Profile: X/XII/Engg - 89.8/84.8/69.1

CAT: 99.93

Panel consisted of 3 members. Let's call them P1(F), P2(F) and P3(M).

Entered

P2: Naman, tell us something about yourself.

I: This interview was after a month my previous interviews had ended. So I was a bit unprepared with my prepared answer. Told them about my graduation and work ex. Forgot to cover my hobbies.

P2: Do you know of any recent M&A in pharma industry?

I: Not very recent but Ranbaxy was acquired by Sun pharmaceuticals.

P2: Why do you think M&A take place?

I: To capture market share and reduce competition. Explained with an example of Flipkart acquiring Ebay India (Happened a day or two before the interview).

P2: Okay, now P1 will give you your extempore topic.

Butterflies in my stomach. What's the topic gonna be. Zada mushkil na ho bas

P1: You have to speak on the topic 'Namaste' for a minute.

I: Yessssss!. Spoke of whatever points came up in my mind. "It is very closely associated with me as it is the meaning of my name. It is the first word that the foreigners learn when they come to India :p. It is used to greet and show respect to others. It is synonymous to hello. That's all I can think of"

P3 spoke for the first time after this and showed his sense of humour.

P3: "Kisi ko bhagana ho toh bhi bolo Namaste"

Lol.All grinned

P1: Tell me 3 women entrepreneurs.

I: Could tell only one. Kiran Majumdar Shaw

P1: Which organisation is she heading?

I: Biocon

P1: Tell me industry experts instead.

I: Indra Nooyi of PepsiCo and Arundhati Bhattacharya of SBI.

P1: How long have they been working in their respective organisations?

I: Don't know, Mam.

P3: Why MBA?

I: Told about my career plan and family business

P3: What is the turnover of your family business?

I: Told

P3: How to judge a company's performance?

I: Talked about financial statements, mainly income statement and balance sheet and what data each of them presents.

P3: Do you know of any financial ratio?

I: Sir, I don't have that much knowledge of finance. While I was speaking this sentence, it suddenly struck me and I blurted out. PE Ratio Sir. The price per earning ratio. *sigh of relief*

IIM Calcutta results were announced the day before. Asked me if I converted.

I: Didn't convert sir.

P3: Why?

I: Didn't answer well a couple of questions and cat score weightage is also less.

P3: And you'll get the benefit of weightage here.

I: Yes sir!

Verdict: Direct Convert!!

Interview Experience – 21

18th April, 2023 FMS Campus, New Delhi

Profile: 99.72 percentile in CAT | GEM Profile | B.Tech in CSE | Work ex of 19 months [considered till date] | 3 months at Infosys and currently working on GeeksforGeeks as MTS (technical content, DSA) | 10th/12th/Grad - 93.43/91.00/83.4

Time: My reporting time was 8:30 am but the interview started at 10:00 am. I went on 8:10 am and got out at 12:00 pm

Interview: (No WAT, It was extempore, SOP, and PI). There were 10 Panels. I was the last person in Panel-3 [11 persons each panel]. There were 3 panelists - 2 male (M1 around 50 and M2 in his 50s) and one female (F middle aged). It was around 10 min interview.

They rang the bell and I entered.

M2: Pointed to seat

M1: Introduce yourself in short.

Me: Introduced myself.

M1: Now my colleague will give you a topic in which you have to speak for 1 min and you will get 10 sec to think before you start saying. (points to M2).

M2: Your topic is "Think before you Speak".

I started to think and arrange my points

[interrupts in between – currently you are thinking before speaking]

Me: Was able to think of few points and spoke and concluded. I caught what M2 said to start talking about the topic. Overall an OK extempore.

M1: Why MBA? (This is the SOP).

Me: Told the well prepared answer. In between came the point where I mentioned that I was part of fest management committee and got interested in management as a whole.

M1: In general management...

Me: Not specifically, what I wanted to say was that the functioning of management

M1: What are the management activities performed in the college fest?

Me: Started saying and the first point I mentioned was how to control expense and receipts and tried to say a bit but M1 interrupted.

M1: You mean budgeting.

Me: Yes, and then for the further ones I mentioned the keypoint and tried to say just one sentence like Marketing for promotion, Organizing to properly arrange the whole event, Analysing for correct account of all works and so on.

M1: So there is no scheduling etc.

Me: Sir this is a part of organizing itself.

M1: Ok, get it, [points to F].

F: Do you follow finance current affairs?

Me: Try to follow

F: How?

Me: Newspapers, but I am not regular in it and also don't follow in daily manners.

F: Who is the current finance minister of India?

Me: Said

F: What is special about her?

Me: I think she is the first female Finance minister of our country.

F: You think or you are sure?

Me: I think so.

F: What post was she in before becoming the finance minister?

Me: I don't know.

F: What is the function of RBI?

Me: Answered.

F: What is open market operation?

Me: Answered.

F: What happens when RBI sells bonds?

Me: The capital size in the economy decreases.

F: Is capital the correct word here, or will it be liquidity?

Me: It will be liquidity.

F: What happens if liquidity decrease?

Me: Helps in controlling inflation.

F: What happens when RBI purchase back bonds from banks?

Me: Answered.

F: Who the bond belongs to?

Me: The central government.

F: So as currently BJP is the ruling party, so the bonds belong to them?

Me: No, not the party itself, but to the country.

F: Do you know in whose name the bonds are issued?

Me: No ma'am.

F: The president of India.

F: What is PSU?

Me: I don't know it ma'am but I can try. [She nods, but I confused it with divestment and answered wrongly].

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F: What is the flow like? Give some examples.

Me: Obviously gave this answer wrong too because of the above mistake.

F: Is Delhi university a PSU university or Central university?

Me: Central.

[F points to M2]

M2: Can RBI print as much money as it wants?

Me: Though it prints money but if it prints money as it wishes will have huge disadvantages [and mentioned some]

M2: Do you know the limit?

Me: No sir.

[doesn't matter and points to M1]

M1: Do you have a twitter account?

Me: No.

M1: Which bird is in the logo of twitter?

Me: I don't know sir.

M1: Is it a bird or Dog?

Me: It was earlier a bird but recently it has been changed to a dog.

M1: So it still was a bird. Any company which has bird in its logo?

Me: Kingfisher (It suddenly strikes in my mind).

M1: What is the logo of Nestle?

Me: I don't know sir.

M1: Do you eat Maggi?

Me: No.

M1: Then you can go, you don't eat maggi (with an outburst of laugh. Everyone else laughed and the mood got lightened).

M2: Nestle has come from the word "nest", It has a bird nest with bird as its logo.

Me: Ok sir, Thank You.

M1: So you can go now. It is Ok.

I thanked them and came out. I think it was an OK interview as I was able to answer several questions though they were way out of my domain.

Edit 1:

Verdict: Waitlisted

Edit 2:

Converted in 9th list

Interview Experience – 22

18th April 2023, FMS Delhi Campus:

99.72 percentile in CAT | GEM Profile | B.Tech in CSE | Work ex of 19 months [considered till date] | 3 months at Infosys and currently working on GeeksforGeeks as MTS (technical content, DSA) | 10th/12th/Grad – 93.42/91.0/83.4

Time: My reporting time was 8:30 am but the interview started at 10:00 am. I went at 8:10 am and got out at 12:00 pm

Interview: (No WAT, It was extempore, SOP, and PI). There were 10 Panels. I was the last person in Panel-3 [11 persons on each panel]. There were 3 panelists – 2 males (M1 around 50 and M2 in his 50s) and one female (F middle-aged). It was around 10 min interview. They rang the bell and I entered.

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M1: Introduce yourself in short.

Me: Introduced myself.

M1: Now my colleague will give you a topic in which you have to speak for 1 min and you will get 10 sec to think before you start saying. (points to M2).

M2: Your topic is “Think before you Speak”.

I started to think and arrange my points

[interrupts in between – currently you are thinking before speaking]

Me: Was able to think of a few points and spoke and concluded. I grabbed what M2 said to start talking about the topic. Overall an OK extempore.

M1: Why MBA? (This is the SOP).

Me: Told the well-prepared answer. In between came the point where I mentioned that I was part of the tech fest management committee and got interested in management as a whole.

M1: In general management...

Me: Not specifically, what I wanted to say was that the functioning of management

M1: What are the management activities performed in the college fest?

Me: Started saying that the first point I mentioned was how to control expenses and receipts and tried to say a bit but M1 interrupted.

M1: You mean budgeting?

Me: Yes, and then for the further ones I mentioned the key point and tried to say just one sentence like Marketing for promotion, Organizing to properly arrange the whole event, Analysing for the correct account of all works, and so on.

M1: So there is no scheduling etc.

Me: Sir this is a part of organizing itself.

M1: Ok, get it, [points to F].

F: Do you follow finance current affairs?

Me: Try to follow

F: How?

Me: Newspapers, but I am not regular in it and also don't follow in a daily manner.

F: Who is the current finance minister of India?

Me: Said

F: What is special about her?

Me: I think she is the first female Finance minister of our country.

F: You think or you are sure?

Me: I think so.

F: What post was she in before becoming the finance minister?

Me: I don't know.

F: What is the function of RBI?

Me: Answered.

F: What is open market operation?

Me: Answered.

F: What happens when RBI sells bonds?

Me: The capital size in the economy decreases.

F: Is capital the correct word here, or will it be liquidity?

Me: It will be liquidity.

F: What happens if liquidity decreases?

Me: Helps in controlling inflation.

F: What happens when RBI purchases back bonds from banks?

Me: Answered.

F: Who the bond belongs to?

Me: The central government.

F: So as currently BJP is the ruling party, so the bonds belong to them?

Me: No, not the party itself, but to the country.

F: Do you know in whose name the bonds are issued?

Me: No ma'am.

F: The president of India.

F: What is PSU?

Me: I don't know it ma'am but I can try. [She nods, but I confused it with divestment and answered wrongly].

F: What is the flow like? Give some examples.

Me: Obviously gave this answer wrong too because of the above mistake.

F: Is Delhi University a PSU university or a Central university?

Me: Central.

[F points to M2]

M2: Can RBI print as much money as it wants?

Me: Though it prints money if it prints money as it wishes will have huge disadvantages [and mentioned some]

M2: Do you know the limit?

Me: No sir.

[doesn't matter and points to M1]

M1: Do you have a Twitter account?

Me: No.

M1: Which bird is in the logo of Twitter?

Me: I don't know sir.

M1: Is it a bird or a Dog?

Me: It was earlier a bird but recently it has been changed to a dog.

M1: So it still was a bird. Any company which has a bird in its logo?

Me: Kingfisher (It suddenly strikes my mind).

M1: What is the logo of Nestle?

Me: I don't know sir.

M1: Do you eat Maggi?

Me: No.

M1: Then you can go, you don't eat Maggi (with an outburst of a laugh. Everyone else laughed and the mood got lightened).

M2: Nestle has come from the word "nest", It has a bird nest with the bird as its logo.

Me: Ok sir, Thank You.

M1: So you can go now. It is Ok.

I thanked them and came out. I think it was an average interview as I was able to answer several questions though they were way out of my domain.

Verdict: Waitlisted

Interview Experience – 23

One of my friends was fortunate enough to appear for the FMS Delhi interview and shared her experience of the same.

Her profile looked like this

Class 10:89.33% ICSE

Class 12:89.33% ISC

Graduation: 9 CGPA with Honors in Sociology

CAT - 99.60

Her interview was conducted offline and she had to reach the campus early. After the documents verification procedure, she was escorted to a room with 2 female panelists, one of which asked her to introduce herself.

She was assigned an extempore topic “City of Chaos” for which she had 15 secs to prepare and 1 minute to speak.

Seeing that my friend was a basketball player, she was asked ‘Is there an NBA in India?’

What is India’s ranking in world basketball?

What have you been doing since 2021?

She was asked about her ambition in life

She was asked if she had any dream organization which she was eager to join and related questions.

She was asked about her other calls

Lastly, they enquired about her reading habits and the message those books gave her.

Luckily, she was waitlisted in 81 and converted to the 2nd Waitlist.

Interview Experience – 24

Date: 18th April, 2022

Time: 10 am slot

Venue: FMS Delhi

Background: 10= 89.33% ICSE, 12= 89.33% ISC, Graduation = 9 CGPA with Honrs in Sociology

CAT%ile - 99.60

FMS conducted the whole PI process offline, at their campus in Delhi. Travelled all the way from Kolkata to Delhi for a 10-mins interview, so much fun :D

We first had to get our documents verified. After the verification process was completed, it was a 2 hour wait before my turn came. 2

2 panelists, both female: F and N. And me (P)

Greeted both of them as I entered the room and took a seat.

F asked me to introduce myself.

They listened as patiently as they could because post this it was a rushed conversation.

N: Okay Prachi. Your extempore topic is “*City of Chaos*”. You have 15 secs to think and 1 minute to speak.

At first, I was kinda baffled by the topic. It was so abstract. Took a second to calm myself down and then *the first thing that struck me was Delhi. Spoke about how it was my first visit to Delhi and it is so different from where I am coming. People there are always on the go. Here I made up a scenario that I experienced in the metro that morning: a group of teenagers creating chaos, talking loudly, munching on food and then another group of teenagers just sitting and thinking and trying to deal with the city of chaos that exists in their mind.*

Overall, not my best extempore. I tried my best and thankfully was cut short when my minute was up.

F: We see that you have been a basketball player for quite a while now. Is there an NBA in India?

Told.

F: What is India’s ranking in world basketball?

Told. *(Actually, I could have made my answer more attractive by mentioning the ranking of both men and women separately but I gave one generalized answer, basically, whatever popped into my head in that moment)*

F: Prachi, what have you been doing since 2021?

P: Ma’am, I graduated in July 2021 and wanted to pursue MBA further. Hence, I decided to prepare for CAT properly. Simultaneously, I also went for regular basketball practices and gave tuitions.

F: You do a lot of MUNs as well. State in bullet points the relevance of UN in today’s world.

P: Ma’am, the UN was established to save the future generations from the scourge of war however the world at the moment is witnessing a grave war between Russia and Ukraine. While imposing economic sanctions is one way to deter a nation from committing grave atrocities on another nation, the focus should be on saving the lives of common people caught in the crossfire.

N: Why do you say so? Hasn’t the UN done anything so far?

P: Yes ma’am, there have been meetings and sessions held at the UNGA, UNSC. However, it is due to the existing structure of the UN itself that has resulted in it not being able to contain the situation. The permanent membership or Russia along with which comes the veto power has been quite problematic.

N: What can the UN do to help the situation on ground then?

P: *(I went blank for a moment here, however, I could not accept defeat, especially when the discussion was in my comfort area. Took a massive risk by talking about something I wasn’t very sure about)* Ma’am, UN has something called the UNCT, i.e. the United Nations Country Team which is functional in all member nations. They can deploy assistance in Ukraine via the neighbouring countries and carry out rescue operations. Saving lives of innocent people should be the topmost agenda right now and UNCT can aid in that very well.

F: Ambition in life?

P: *(Went blank again. Something was off with me that day for sure)* Umm.. Ma'am I wish to contribute to an organisation and become a significant decision maker, leading to both the org's growth as well as mind.

F: Which organisation are you talking about?

P: *(literally crying by this point)* umm, wherever I'd be working.

F: Yes, so you must have some organisation in mind.

P: BCG *(Could have said something like any organisation whose requirements are aligned with my goals, etc but no, I had to dig my own grave!)*

F: Who is the head of BCG in India?

P: I am not aware of that ma'am.

F: What is the business model of BCG in India?

P: Sorry ma'am, I am not aware.

F: These are business related questions. How do we now know that you are into learning about business?!

P: Ma'am, I am very eager to learn about the business world. It is a 2 part reason. *(Spoke about "Why MBA")*

F: Which other calls do you have?

P: Told.

F: Okay I am done.

N: What are your reading habits? Which types of books do you read?

P: Ma'am, I read fiction more than I read non-fiction.

N: Favourite book?

P: Harry Potter! :D

N: Why do you like it? What are the lessons you learnt from it?

P: Ma'am, the most important lesson I learned Harry Potter is that to persevere is important. It is only when you persevere and stand strong during the difficult times that you will be able to experience the good times.

F: What is the key message you learnt from the author of Harry Potter?

P: Umm.. Ma'am JK Rowling never stopped writing even after she was done with the 7 books of Harry Potter. She went on to publish more books on the magical world, many of which have been made into

movies as well. Hence, the message again is that of perseverance. *(I should have talked about how she did what she loved and even after many rejections by publishing houses, she did not give up and finally made it to the top. UGHH)*

N: Okay Prachi, we are done, Thank you!

Verdict - Converted

Interview Experience – 25

Date: 19/04/22

Location: FMS Campus, Prof ND Kapoor Marg, Delhi University, New Delhi-110007 (Offline)

Board 6

Reporting Time: 8:30 AM, Interview Start Time: 10:00 AM (first in my panel)

(Note: I was initially supposed to have my interview around 1:00 PM since my slot was quite late in my panel, but I requested the volunteers and staff there to allow me to go first since I had to rush back to my college (DTU) for an endsem exam which was due to start 11 AM. The staff was very understanding and changed my slot without any issues.)

Duration ~15 mins

Profile: 10th/12th/UG- 9/9/9; CAT 99.69 %ile

B. Tech (IT), GEM Fresher

Two panelists, both male, one in his 40s (P1), the other in his 30s (P2). Friendly greetings.

P1:

1. Be seated and introduce yourself.

Told prepared answer.

2. Let's do an extempore, your topic is- *Novelty* (was given 15 seconds of prep time and had to speak for 1 minute)

Was able to speak well and gave some real-life examples too, panelists seemed impressed

3. You've mentioned entrepreneurship in your SOP, what is the difference between social and business entrepreneurship?

Told, had some idea since I had worked on some social entrepreneurship projects in college

4. What is intrapreneurship?

Guessed, was correct.

5. You're from an IT background, how can technology be integrated into business?

Told

6. Isn't technology making business education redundant?

Told, my stance was that management education will always continue to be important

7. But there are so many CXOs who aren't MBAs, why is MBA important?

Told, but was grilled slightly in this part. The panelist didn't seem convinced by my reasoning.

8. Okay, never mind, my colleague will take over.

P2:

1. What did you do in this Financial Markets Coursera course mentioned in your mark sheet?

Told (I had taken this Coursera course as a MOOC in my 7th semester, he picked it up since he had a copy of my marksheet in front of him)

2. Did Robert Shiller take it?

Told that he did

3. Is he a Nobel laureate?

Said don't know

4. What did you learn?

Didn't really remember a lot from the course, but told general finance knowledge I had.

5. Difference between stock and bonds?

Told

6. Why do companies list on the stock market and not take loans only?

Told

7. Do you have another interview today? (They were of the view that I had requested to go first in my panel for another interview in the afternoon)

Told them that I actually had my 8th semester final exam in a subject in college at 11 AM.

P2 asked me to rush to DTU, they were even kind enough to ask me if I needed any help with transportation.

Thanked them for accommodating my request, rushed to DTU.

Overall it was a good experience, I was slightly grilled on the “why MBA is relevant in today’s technology-driven world” part and wasn’t too aware of my Coursera course. Other than that, it was a really good experience.

VERDICT: Converted

Interview Experience – 26

CAT: 99.63%ile

Date: 19/04/22

Time: 10:00 am slot

Venue: FMS North Campus

Profile: GEM, DTU’20, 9/9/8, 2 years work experience, Mathematics and Computing Engineer

Other calls: IIM Lucknow, XLRI BM, IIT Bombay

Panel: 1 male professor (M1), 1 female professor (F1)

Interview Experience:

My interview started at around 4 pm. I was exhausted and very hungry by then. Moreover, I was among the last to interview, and interviewers seemingly already had enough.

(I entered the room and before I could even sit or greet them)

F1: Quickly tell us about yourself. *(Told)*

F1: Your extempore will be “Application of ML in the education sector”. You have 10 seconds to think and you will have to speak for 1 minute. *(told)*

M1: What kind of changes can you bring in DTU curriculum using ML? *(Got interrupted quite a few times while discussing this)*

M1: How will you build a model to evaluate students on the basis of 3 factors - attendance, marks scored and the number of questions asked by the student. *(told, he seems satisfied)*

F1: Why MBA? *(got interrupted by M1)*

M1: You have played handball nationals and were university captain. Tell us something about the journey. *(again got interrupted)*

M1: Why should we select you? *(again got interrupted)*

M1: Are you sure you want to give such a long answer to a question like this? *(nervousness max)*

F1: We have many IITians interviewing. Why should we select you over them? (*ouch*) Answer in one word.

A: (*After 10 seconds*) "Experience" because... (*again interrupted*)

F1: We don't want the reason. One word was what we wanted. Good.

A: (*in a low voice*) Thanks?

F1: Why do you look worried. We had a good conversation. (*I was like sure*)

A: Nothing like that ma'am. By far this was the best interview I have had. It was really interesting.

F1: (*smiling*) What other calls do you have? (*told*)

F1: Okay. You may leave now and all the best.

I think they were testing confidence and the ability to perform under pressure. They didn't let me finish any answer and kept shooting questions. But overall, it was a good experience. Just know that you have prepared well and be confident with whatever you say.

Interview Experience – 27

FMS (Personal Interview and Extempore Round for Executive MBA)

Background: Xth- 86%, XIIth- 88%, B.Tech- 87%, Work Ex- ABB (2 Years) + DMRC (5 Years)

Venue: FMS North Campus (Physical Interview)

Date: 27/04/2022

Slot: 11:30 AM

Panel: B7 (Two Members Male: M, Female: F)

Process: Document Verification started on time. Got over in 40–45 Minutes. But then the long wait started for interviews to start. April heat was blistering and I was hating my end moment decision of donning a business suit for the interview.

We had lunch in between. Interview process for my batch started by 2:00 PM. My turn came at 3:30 PM (I was the last one to take the interview from my panel :D)

After normal greetings and pleasantries once I entered the room.

F: Yes, Mr. Bharadwaj. Pls take your seat.

Thanks.

F: Talk us through your life.

Gave the prepared Introduction answer. It included the education brief, the jobs brief and a little about my hobbies.

F: Okay. Nice. We will give you a topic to speak now. We will judge your communication skills here. “How does your normal work-day looks like”?

It took me few seconds to realize that this is my Extempore topic. Obviously as we near towards the end of interview schedule, the topic starts getting more abstract. Although the topic was easy and simple; and I did average while delivering the speech but It didn’t provide much scope to gain brownies in Extempore round. Needless to mention, all the preparation on Russia-Ukraine War, Afghanistan Condition, Sri-lankan Crisis, Cryptocurrencies and Elon Musk went futile :p

F: Hmm. You’re doing decently well in your life. NIT, ABB and now with Delhi Metro. Why do you want to do MBA? And, Why FMS.

This was a well prepared answer. Gave the same with some spontaneous changes that came to my mind. I talked about the importance of academic rigor in polishing one’s skillsets and the kind of enriching curriculum along with exemplary faculty FMS has. I also told them about my expectations from myself at the end of finishing two years at FMS (if given the opportunity to). Interviewers looked satisfied with this answer. And, I felt bit relieved.

F: Fine. Now, Sir will ask you some questions.

She looked towards him and Male Interviewer took the charge from here onwards.

M: Your current organization Delhi Metro is a profit earning or loss making?

Fortunately few days back only I had went through last few years of DMRC’s Balance Sheets. So, answered this question with details till the level of EBIT and EBITDA along with bifurcations of revenue/non-revenue models and impact of Covid lockdowns. Although this detailing made an initial good impression, but this also enabled the panelist to delve deeper in finances and I got trapped in his hypothetical question of “interest calculation”. I said sorry on not being able to calculate, but faced his smirk with comment - “Are.. This was such a simple question!” :D

M: You know about Mr. Shreedharan, The Metro Man? What is your take on his attempt of entering politics?

I responded with the importance of having great technocrats and bureaucrats at the helm because it helps in creation of relevant policies with connection to ground level issues of country. I supported the argument by giving example of our current EAM Mr. S Jaishankar.

M: Then why did he lose?

Sir, our politics hasn’t still matured enough to make such choices. We still vote on the basis of Caste Creed, Religion and Language.

M: But he chose the most religious party (read BJP :D)?

Responded with a smile - "Sir, with this choice of party, he didn't choose the right state."

He smiled back and looked towards the female panelist to wrap over the interview. But she had few more questions to ask.

F: Raghav, tell us again about your hobbies apart from work.

"Ma'am, I like reading books and have recently acquired a habit of long distance running. I run whenever I'm stressed out."

F: What kind of books do you read?

I answered- "Ma'am, I read Biographies (recently read Elon Musk by Ashlee Vance), self-help/motivational books (recently read Who Will Cry When You Die by Robin Sharma), and Mythological Fictions also.

F: What mythological fictions have you read recently?

I answered- "Ma'am, quite recently I have read - 3 books of Shiva Trilogy by Amish and by the same author I have read two books (Ram and Sita) from Ramachandra Series.

F: Tell me the message from Shiva Trilogy in 1-2 Sentences.

I answered- "Ma'am. Gods don't take Avataar. Legends are not Born. They are created by the acts they do, the life they live and the examples they set.

F: Very well Raghav. That was all. You may leave now.

I thanked them both. And, left with a smile.

Bottomline-

The interviews at FMS are very short.

Mine went for around 15 Minutes. You can understand how quick-fire that round went.

So, primarily they judge you on the basis of your confidence and spontaneity.

Result: Converted :)

Interview Experience – 28

Panel 8- Three Females, one Male

Profile- 10th/12th/Grad/ Cat- 9/8/7/99.79

GEM

Extra curricular- Script writer for documentaries and stage plays.

F1– Introduce yourself

Me- told about college, PoRs, social hackathon organised by me, internships at IIMC and ISB and work ex at ICICI, then my script writing hobby.

F1– So you are a writer.

Me- Not a writer but script writer

F1–Yeah, so your extempore topic is diary entry of the day.

Me- Sounded very absurd, spoke on what a diary entry is, got cut,

All panelists in unison- don't tell us what it is, speak as if you are writing your entry for the day

Me- told about the ordeal I faced due to flight delay by 5 hours, told about how I didn't sleep in excitement, then how I sat in queue for my interview in the red building of dreams. How I am going to bed now knowing that I have given my best for entering red building of dreams as a student. Overall- unsatisfactory as spoke for 40 seconds only, got cut etc

F1– Now ma'am, will ask a few questions.

F2– What is current account deficit?

Me- answered

F2– Are we in deficit currently?

Me- currently we are in deficit overall, with surplus in services and deficit in goods, gave figures as well

F2(satisfied) - Tell two recent landmark initiatives of RBI (emphasized recent)

Me- Spoke about CBDC and repudiation of FLDG by RBI and its advantage on enhancing the regulatory architecture, breaking petro dollar hegemony, reducing remittance transfer cost as the largest remittance relieving nation.

F1– Sir will ask a few questions now.

M1– What is NPV?

Me- It is net present value.

F1(enthusiastically)- What is that?

Me- Explained the whole concept of DCF with discount rate, growth rate and net present value,

Turned towards F1 and defined NPV

M1– What is the discount rate we generally use?

Me- we use the interest rate prevailing as the discount rate as that is the minimum opportunity cost of investment.

M1(Nodding) - Fine, why is your last sem gpa of grad low?

Me- Told about my placements.

M1– Tell us about your project

Me- told

M1– What is the composition of Steel used for application in daily use?

Me- told.

M1– Industrial Steel?

Me- answered

F1– Ma'am will ask one question now.

F3– Name three digital public goods.

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Me- Jam trinity, UPI, Digi Locker

F3– Okay, thanks.

F1– Any questions for us.

Me- no.

Verdict- Straight Convert

Overall, it was an interview of highs and lows, though I messed up my Extempore and hence, had low hopes as I heard Extempore is the most important part in FMS but it can be compensated with an excellent interview.

Interview Experience – 29

CAT - 99.53

Acads - 95/89.2/80.2

GEM Fresher

1 M and 1 F.

F was very energetic and i guess she was in a rush.

Extempore: "xyz hill" (xyz was the name of the hill that i don't recall)

Just after she gave me the topic, she said if i am not comfortable with this topic i can ask for a different one (as if she knew that's what i was gonna say). I asked for a new topic.

2nd Topic : "abc hill" (she was definately messing with me). I asked for a third topic.

3rd topic : covid and mental health

Gave a decent extempore.

M: So what kind of business leaders do you follow?

-Told.

M: Do you have any interest of starting your own business?

- In the SOP, I had written about my interest in entrepreneurship. So I was ready for this question and gave my well prepared answer.

M: Almost all the famous entrepreneurs do not have an MBA degree. Why an MBA then?

-Told.

F: Okay, let's talk about your extracurriculars.

-Told

F : which bands do you follow and what kind of music do you do?

-Told

M : You are a mechanical engineer. What's your favourite subject?

-Told

F: why can't we use petrol in a diesel engine and vice versa.

- Told

Wished me luck

Verdict – Rejected

Interview Experience – 30

CAT 98.64- 99.63/91.72/94.75

Acads- 89/93/60

Grad- BSc.

14 months work experience.

1M, 1F (23 minutes)

Extempore Topic- MeToo Movement (Started with the background of the movement and how it started in India, further connected it with the problems it has introduced for both men and women at workplace. Concluded with how it is driven by social media verdict)

F- Three cases where MeToo movement came into scene

Told

F- Priya Ramani Case opinion

Told

F- Asked a few legal terms related to this case

- No idea

F- Your opinion on Social Media verdict and how it is affecting the credibility of women's voice.

- Told

F- What is Kanpur famous for?

-Told

M- What were your subject during graduation

- Told

M- Why this switch from BSc to Journalism and now MBA

- Told

M- Favorite Subject

- Physics

M- Gravitation equation and Gravitational Constant?

- Told

M- With the help of this equation, describe trade between two countries

- Told

M- What is Brownian Motion? Relate it to stock market.

- Told

M- Laws of Thermodynamics?

- Told

M- Bernoulli's Theorem

- Told

M- Are you comfortable with Maths?

- Yes sir

M- Gave a matrix and asked me to find inverse and transpose of the matrix.

- Answered

M- AP series sum formula

- Told

M- Infinite GP Series sum formula

- Told

M- Integration of $\sin x$, $\cos x$

- Told

M- What other calls?

- Told

M- How were the interview experiences at B and C

- Told

F- You've answered everything quite well. Why have you scored so low in grad?

- Told

Wished me luck

Verdict -- Selected!

Interview Experience – 31

Thanks for A2A.

Interview Date : 16th April 2019

Background : Engineer (UICET, Panjab University)

10th/12th/BTech/Mtech/CAT : 93.7/91.2/8.23/8.87/98.82

Category : General

I hail from Himachal Pradesh and have been staying there. To appear for the interview I left for Delhi and reached there after a long overnight journey by bus. I booked a cab to reach the interview venue because I thought boarding a metro and then again going from the metro station to the interview location would be a hassle which I can afford after the interview but not before.

Unlike others, FMS didn't issue personal interview letters with an exact address of the venue printed on it. When I booked the cab I typed the drop location as FMS and just selected the first address which appeared over there.

Damn! Struggling through the traffic I reached the FMS gate at around 10:15 AM, 15 minutes late by the reporting time.

As soon as I entered the gate, the security guard asked me the purpose of my visit and I told him about the interview. He said, MADAM AAP GALAT AA GYE. YE SOUTH CAMPUS HAI, INTERVIEW NORTH CAMPUS ME HAI.

I asked him how long will it take from South to North? He said about an hour. I knew then and there that I have lost this golden opportunity in my life because of my lack of awareness. This is perhaps the worst feeling one can ever have.

I rushed towards the road, saw an auto, asked the autowala to take me to the north thing.

With too much chaos inside me, I finally reached THE RED BUILDING OF DREAMS at around 11:20 AM. Mentally prepared to face a rejection from being given a chance to participate in the process.

To my utter surprise, the panel doing the document verification didn't even ask me the reason for being so late. Instead, one of them could sense that I was breathing heavily because I ran very fast to reach that room. He told me to calm down and have some water. This was simply amazing and soothing to my ears and mind as well.

Okay. So, we went inside the GD room. There was a panel of 3 (1 female, 2 male profs) to observe and judge us.

GD topic : What makes you stand out in a crowd of people?

I started the discussion. Pitched in 3–4 times in between. Made some counter arguments. Overall, I was satisfied with my performance.

Score : 8/10

I was the last candidate to be interviewed in my panel. I entered the room when my turn arrived. Wished them one by one and then sat down.

Female prof : Give us a brief introduction about you. (Best question one can have to start an interview)

Me : Came out with a well prepared answer.

Female Prof : Okay. We will be giving you a topic for extempore. You will be having 30 seconds to think and a minute to speak about it.

Extempore topic : My favorite cuisine

I am not a very foody person. Couldn't think of speaking about rajmah and kadi chawal in an interview. Immediately, Himachali dham popped into my head and I just kept talking about it.

They stopped me as the time to speak was over.

Female Prof : I have no idea what you were talking about. What is dham?

Me : Elaborated.

Male Prof 2 : Arrey. They prepare this food on wedding ceremonies and eat it on a leaf with hands. You are from Himachal. Tell me, what is the mythological significance of Manali.

Me : Didn't have much idea about it. Talked a bit.

Male Prof 2 : Tell me why is it named Manali.

Me : I don't know that Sir.

Sir told me about the story.

Male Prof 1 : What is your college name?

Me : Told. (Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar University institute of Chemical Engineering and Technology)

Male Prof 1 : What other calls do you have?

Me : Told.

Male Prof 1 : What is your waitlist number at Calcutta?

Me : 141

Male Prof 2 : There is an IIM in Himachal at Hamirpur. Right?

Me : No, Sir. It is there in sirmaur.

There is NIT in Hamirpur.

Female Prof : Name all north Eastern states.

Me : Told.

Female Prof : Name their capitals.

Me : Told.

Male Prof 1 : Name 5 business houses of India.

Me :Started with Tatas and Ambanis.

Sir himself started adding names to the list.

Female Prof : Name 5 women leaders of India.

Me : Vinita Bali.

Indra Nooyi.

Male Prof 1 interrupted saying she didn't ask you to speak out on business leaders only.

Me : I am sorry Sir.

I started talking about political leaders.

Male Prof 1 : You are very biased. You didn't call out the name of Mayawati. Is it because she belongs to reserved category?

Me : No Sir. I was calling out names of national leaders.

Female Prof : What do you do in your free time?

Me : Showed them an embroidered piece created by me.

Male Prof 1 : What all things you need to create this? And what is special about it?

Me : Told.

Female Prof : What have you been doing since CAT exam (since November) ?

Me : Traveling frequently to Delhi to appear for the interviews.

I follow Buddhism and I talked about my Buddhist practice.

Male Prof 2 : What is your life goal?

Me : I want to create positive change in the lives of people around me.

Male Prof 2 : Okay. We are done.

All the best. Keep doing the good work always.

I thanked all of them and left.

Extempore Score : 4/5

PI Score : 13/15

Verdict : Straight Convert.

The bottomline is to stay absolutely honest with them. Also, never go for an interview with a set goal of clearing it. Interviews are highly subjective. Anything can happen. Don't go under pressure. Stay calm and composed. Give your best and leave the rest.

PS : Be aware of the North-South thing.

Being a non- Delhiite is no excuse to your own lack of awareness.

Interview Experience – 32

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On 14th April 2019, I was interviewing for a top 5 Bschool in India - FMS Delhi. My Profile - X/XII/UG/Workex - 9/94/9/21months in consulting

My CAT Score- 99.21 Percentile (General Engineer Male)

xxx Agarwal is a Mentor at WiseUp Communications. To clear your doubts about pursuing your MBA career, cracking MBA interviews or understanding the placement opportunities after MBA, you can join him for a 1-1 discussion here: www.wiseupcommunications.com/mba-consultation

FMS shortlists 1010 students for 101 General Seats. The initial shortlists for the college has 40 percent weightage to Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension, 30 percent to Quantitative Aptitude, 30 percent to Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning.

Before the interview, I was in the bottom 50 of the 1010 students (I made an excel and saw the marks I'd need to score in Group Discussion and Personal Interview to get admitted. It had to be the best score

possible to have any chance). Anyone I asked would tell me it's not possible to convert FMS before 99.5+ but I'd done the math. However, in my mind they made me convince it was a long shot, if there was a shot.

GD - The Naxalite movement in India since Independence

I spoke well. Put in points from Arundhati Roy (had watched some of her YouTube videos), put in points from Raghuram Rajan's The Third Pillar. Dint cut anyone, added points respectfully. I got a 8/10 which was the shared highest in my group of 10.

I came out of the GD panel and was taken to a room with the other team members. Everyone started talking about the shortlists they had. IIM A,B,C, L. I had none. But I didn't feel bad. My cat percentile had exceeded my expectations. I ate food I'd got from home and relaxed. I checked google news. Read about different things such as the grounding of Boeing 787MAX and went into detail into what was happening for each news I read.

Interview - I was the fourth person to be interviewed. While waiting outside the interview room, I heard the third guy was singing a bollywood number. He sang well. I thought he'd aced the interview.

My chance came. There were three interviewers. Two male professors (M1 n M2) and a female professor (F)

(F) Introduce yourself in a line or two.

(Me) Started answering by saying "For the last 2 years I have worked in consulting at ZS Associates"

(F) [Abrupt interruption] - Okay xxx your extempore topic for one minute is "Consulting is not my cup of tea". You have to speak for the topic even if you feel otherwise.

(Me) Answered.

(F) Alright xxx. Who is your role model apart from Family members.

(Me) I follow business leaders like..

(F) Why only business leaders?

(Me) I am really passionate about business Ma'am.

(F) Ok. Tell us about one business leader and one non business leader

(Me) Sure Ma'am. The business leader who inspires me is Indra Nooyi. She's achieved so much in her professional career for Pepsi but I what I really like is how she takes care of her employees. She made day care centres at Pepsi offices. Working parents can visit their children at office. I really appreciate that employees can balance parenting with their professional careers.

The Non business leader I'm influenced by is the economist Richard Thaler who's written the book Nudge which is on behavioural economics. He's won a Nobel prize for his work.M1) So how did you come to read his book. Was it because of the Nobel prize.

(Me) I happened to read his book because of an earlier book I'd read by Daniel Kahnemann author of Thinking Fast and Slow. His book is in some ways a tough read because of being kind of textbook format, I wanted something more pragmatic and got to know about Nudge.(F1) xxx, tell us about any film leaders you follow.

(Me) Yes Ma'am. I really admire how Ed Catmull the CEO of the animation studios Pixar has built a creative company. He writes about how marketing dept wanted to produce sequel movies while the creative department wanted to produce new characters.

(F1) Okay great. Tell us something from Bollywood. Do you admire anyone.

(Me) Yes Ma'am I really like Aamir Khan. He's taken up movies that challenged the status quo like Rang De Basanti, Taare Zameen Par, 3 Idiots.

(M1) Have you seen his latest movie with Amitabh Bachchan Thugs of Hindustan

(Me) Yes sir I have seen the movie.

(M1) Did you like the movie. Why did it not work at the box office?

(Me) I did not like the movie. It dint work because of the weak script. The movie was supposed to be a commercial masala movie and the audiences realised that.

(F1) xxx I see you've done a lot of extracurricular activities in your college and read books. How did you get time for all this.

(Me) Ma'am I think UG students have a lot of time at their disposal.

(F1) Cutting me short. You din't have attendance requirement ?

(Me) No Ma'am it was 75 percent. I was regular with my studies in college. I used to read before the class. It helped me grasp much more in class. 30 mins a day was all I needed to keep up.

(F1) Please continue that in FMS

(M2) xxx, what time did you come today

(Me) Sir, I was one of the first ones to come today at 7.30A

(M2) But the interviews were from 9. Why did you come early ?

(Me) I came via the Metro sir. I didn't want to take a chance because it was the first time I used the Delhi Metro. In fact my cousin's were teaching me how to reach here..

(M2) What did you see when you came ?

(Me) I noticed I was one of the earlier ones. I was busy arranging my documents.

(M2) What else did you see about the building?

(Me) The architecture is a bit old. And I saw this picture which is right behind you (The FMS building) It was a special moment for me. Infact my desktop wallpaper is the exact same picture. M2) Did you read the newspaper today?

(Me) I didn't read the newspaper sir. But I checked google news on my phone. The most interesting news to me was how there was this airline...yes Southwest airline which is facing a crisis because of grounding of 787Max planes. It's a strange situation the revenue is sitting there and they don't have the capacity to serve it.

(F) xxx you said your family is here right ?

(Me) Yes ma'am. My parents are in kolkata. I have my cousins here.

(F) So when are you leaving for Pune today or tomorrow ?

(Me) Ma'am actually I'm leaving day after tomorrow

(F) So you still want to have fun till then?

I just smiled.

They said we're done. I thanked each of them.

PI 14/15 Extempore 4/5

Waitlisted at 55. Converted. Living my dream. Not taking any day for granted.

I will like to end with these timeless words from Theodore Roosevelt: "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or whether the doer of deeds could have done

them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

Interview Experience – 33

The interview took place in an online setting on 27th April 2021.

The panel consisted of two professors from FMS, I will be referring to them as M and F.

Given that I have worked in a company that focuses on women-related issues, my WAT topic was based on the #MeToo movement. I was given 2 minutes to think and another 3 minutes to share my views on the given topic.

The interview started with document verification. The professors seemed pretty calm and kept a smile on their faces throughout the interview. Overall, it was a very good conversation. The interview started at around 11:15 AM.

M: So Anushika, tell us something about yourself?

Me: Told a prepared answer starting with the meaning of my name, covering a few highlights of my academic scores, achievements, work experience, hobbies and finally ending with a quote, which I referred to as the motto of my life.

M: What were your subjects at Graduation?

Me: Physics, Chemistry, and Maths.

F: Can you tell us something about your work and which was the last story that you covered?

Me: Told her about my typical day at work- right from setting the agenda to interviewing women and looking for stories that can be published. Also told her about the last interview that I covered which involved a businesswoman.

F: You seem to be enjoying your work, why this shift from Science to Journalism and now to MBA?

Me: Told her how initially I have inclined towards science academically but then gradually also developed an interest in writing. This interest in writing helped me bag a job in the initial years of my career, while I

was still in college. Having interviewed women from all walks of life, I realized how my current skills can be put to use for the greater good, and hence I plan to start a venture of my own. MBA will help me with a structured curriculum, peer network, alumni network, and a plethora of opportunities to explore the business world. (It was a good discussion with some cross questions)

M: Anushika, are you comfortable with Maths?

Me: Though I had dropped it in the final year of my graduation, I think I can give it a try

M: Great, so do you know about AP? If yes, what is the general term in AP?

Me: Told

M: What are GP and general terms in GP?

Me: Told

M: Gave me a question to solve on infinite GP

Me: Solved correctly

F: Okay Anushika, you did have physics in your final year, right?

Me: Yes Ma'am, Physics and Chemistry

F: Great, so tell me something about the Energy Mass Equivalence.

Me: Explained the energy-mass equivalence while also stating the rest mass equation.

F: What is Gravitational Force?

Me: Told her and explained it with the help of the formula for Gravitational Force. She then asked me to relate it with the trade between two countries. Told her how the trade between two countries is directly proportional to their size in terms of their GDP and inversely proportional to the distance between those two countries. (This was a guess at that moment, I just used some basic info to relate the two, turned out it was correct)

F: What is Brownian Motion? Connect it with the Stock market?

Me: First started with the definition of Brownian motion and then discussed the randomness of movement of particles in Brownian Motion. Further connected this with the unpredictability of the stock market and how the randomness evolves over time.

M: That's good, Anushika, tell us something about the special theory of relativity?

Me: Told

M explained some financial terms to me and I wrote them as he spoke.

M: You are a bright kid, why only 60% in grad?

Me: Told him about the marking pattern in my university and how 60% is considered a very good score here.

M: Why FMS?

Me: Talked about the legacy of the institute along with the faculty and alumni network. That's all from our side.

M: Do you have any questions for us Anushika?

Me: Asked him what can be the chances of offline classes.

I would suggest the aspirants tackle the interview as a normal conversation. Even if you don't know the answer to a question like I didn't know what is the connection between Gravitational Force and International Trade, I still gave it a guess and it turned out to be correct. They are not really looking for the right answers but for your approach to questions and your thought process behind the same. Because this is what matters the most in MBA- How you approach the problems and then finally, the result. All the best!

Final Verdict

Converted, & Joined

Interview Experience – 34

Profile: General Engineering Male, 20 months work-experience.

10th/12th/graduation/CAT: 10/98.5/8.3/99.76

Date: 23rd April, 2021.

Overall experience: This was an online interview. Although it was scheduled between 9 to 11, my turn came at 11 30. It was a rather short interview. The panel was very hurried and looked to finish the interviews quickly. As I was already experienced in giving interviews, I was calm and confident.

Panel: Male prof (M), female prof (F).

M: Good morning Karthik.

Me: Good morning sir.

M: Start with where you did your graduation? Where are you working? Why MBA and why at FMS?

Me: All in a go sir?

M: yes, don't you know we have marks for your SOP?

Me: yes sir, I will start.

Gave a brief answer touching all the questions.

F: Okay Karthik, let's move on to the extempore. Your topic is "build to last".

Me: *starting to write something on paper".

F: You are not allowed to write anything down. Look at the camera, think for 20s and speak for a minute.

Me: okay ma'am. The things that came to my mind when I looked at the topic are startups and infrastructure. I'll start with startups. We know that more than 90 percent of the startups fail after few initial successes. There may be multiple reasons for this. The founders may be very young and lack expertise to create sustainable businesses. There may be ill-allocation of capital or ill-planned rapid expansion. Also, there may be foraying to non-core sectors which may result in failure. May be the founders need to gain enough experience before starting a company so that they can build companies that last. Coming to infrastructure....

F: your time is up. Did you read the book "build to last"?

Me: No ma'am.

M: okay Karthik, let's go into your core interview. When did you start working?

Me: July 2019 sir.

M: What are the revenue streams for Adobe?

Me: There are three revenue streams for Adobe, document cloud, creative cloud and experience cloud.

M: So how do you think Adobe fights this free PDF tools available in the market.

Me: Sir, Adobe has a suit of tools rather than just one or two features available for free. After a few times, we need to give credit card details etc, for free sites. So after a few times the process is cumbersome. Also, Adobe doesn't focus on retail customers, it's main focus is enterprise clients.

M: who are the enterprise clients?

Me: Mostly government organisations are our clients. They are moving towards paperless governance.

M: How sustainable are the revenues?

Me: Adobe moved to a SAAS (Software as a service model) so revenues are recurring. i.e., clients pay for the service regularly.

M: what's the third revenue stream you were mentioning?

Me: It's experience cloud sir. Basically, we provide a comprehensive product for companies to run their marketing campaigns. It includes analytics, targeting mechanisms and social media campaign management.

M: Interesting, how do they fight with giants like Google and Facebook.

Me: Our competitor is Salesforce. We have an Open Data initiative with Microsoft and SAP to help us have more data and have better insights. With this we may become the leader in the marketing cloud space.

M: How do you propose to increase the revenues of your company?

Me: In document cloud space, we are more or less a monopoly in the organised space. There isn't much room for growth here. In marketing cloud space there is huge market to capture and we are now at less market share and have room for growth. It's prudent to focus here for more revenues.

F: Nice talking to you Karthik, we can take this for some more time, but there is pressure from next candidates. So this is your interview. All the best.

Me: thank you ma'am.

Note: FMS has marks for SOP, extempore, GD (cancelled this year) and core interview. The core interview has less marks when compared to IIMs.

Interview Experience – 35

Profile: X/XII/Engg - 89.8/84.8/69.1

CAT: 99.93

Panel consisted of 3 members. Let's call them P1(F), P2(F) and P3(M).

Entered

P2: Naman, tell us something about yourself.

I: This interview was after a month my previous interviews had ended. So I was a bit unprepared with my prepared answer. Told them about my graduation and work ex. Forgot to cover my hobbies.

P2: Do you know of any recent M&A in pharma industry?

I: Not very recent but Ranbaxy was acquired by Sun pharmaceuticals.

P2: Why do you think M&A take place?

I: To capture market share and reduce competition. Explained with an example of Flipkart acquiring Ebay India (Happened a day or two before the interview).

P2: Okay, now P1 will give you your extempore topic.

Butterflies in my stomach. What's the topic gonna be. Zada mushkil na ho bas

P1: You have to speak on the topic 'Namaste' for a minute.

I: Yesssss! Spoke of whatever points came up in my mind. "It is very closely associated with me as it is the meaning of my name. It is the first word that the foreigners learn when they come to India p. It is used to greet and show respect to others. It is synonymous to hello. That's all I can think of"

P3 spoke for the first time after this and showed his sense of humour.

P3: "Kisi ko bhagana ho toh bhi bolo Namaste"

Lol. All grinned

P1: Tell me 3 women entrepreneurs.

I: Could tell only one. Kiran Majumdar Shaw

P1: Which organisation is she heading?

I: Biocon

P1: Tell me industry experts instead.

I: Indra Nooyi of PepsiCo and Arundhati Bhattacharya of SBI.

P1: How long have they been working in their respective organisations?

I: Don't know, Mam.

P3: Why MBA?

I: Talked about my career plan and family business

P3: What is the turnover of your family business?

I: Told

P3: How to judge a company's performance?

I: Talked about financial statements, mainly income statement and balance sheet and what data each of them presents.

P3: Do you know of any financial ratio?

I: Sir, I don't have that much knowledge of finance. While I was speaking this sentence, it suddenly struck me and I blurted out. PE Ratio Sir. The price per earnings ratio. *Sigh of relief*

IIM Calcutta results were announced the day before. Asked me if I converted.

I: Didn't convert sir.

P3: Why?

I: Didn't answer well a couple of questions and cat score weightage is also less.

P3: And you'll get the benefit of weightage here.

I: Yes sir!

Verdict: Direct Convert!!

Interview Experience – 36

FMS Delhi 16/04/2019

Venue: FMS Delhi

GD Topic: Can India Dream to host the Olympics.

There were 8 of us in the panel but only 3–4 of us spoke for the whole duration. I spoke about infrastructure and its maintenance, commonwealth games, developing a team, influx of visitors, developing a taste and talent for other sports and how currently we must focus on initiatives like Khelo India. I spoke for around 4 minutes out of 9 but also gave chances to other fellow panelists to speak, it wasn't a fish market but a healthy discussion.

PI: Was second in the panel, the bell rings and they call me in

P1: - Female

P2: - Male

P3: - Male

P3 walks out of the room as soon as I enter.

P2: Moinack tell me us about yourself?

Me: Told the well-prepared answer but with some additions at that moment itself so it was sort of spontaneous.

P1: Both your parents are hotel management graduates, so you must be having a lot of exotic food at home.

Me: I smile and say yes, and also that I am sort of a chef myself.

P1: So Moinack your Extempore topic is my favourite dish (Thanked god for this as my friends had topics like "Core "and marketing techniques in elections)

Me: comfortably spoke about my favourite dish, how it's made, the special ingredients (it is poppy seeds here). One minute was over and mam asked me to stop.

P3 enters the room now

P2: Isn't poppy seed made from a drug so you don't have any side effects.

Me: I explained how the industrially processed ones have no such side effects but one can feel hallucinations or extended sleep if they directly get it from the fields and make it at home.

P2 : Why the shift to finance, I mean what was the start point?

Me: spoke about the association with a finance professor at VIT Vellore as we had 5 compulsory management subjects, influence of Benjamin Graham and stock investing.

P2: Tell me the 3 most important ratios according to you

Me: Spoke about return on equity and the 5 step Du Pont analysis, Debt Service Coverage Ratio to check the solvency status and Defensive interval ratio (was in leather goods sector at the moment hence this).

P2: Okay Moinack we are done.

I am shocked for 2 seconds, like what happened, others had such long PI's at least 10–13 mins and I am being sent out in 6 minutes. Also P3 didn't ask me a single question while he was the one who asked everyone else.

Me: I thank them and was about to leave when P1 asks me my calls and results. I mention them, thank them and leave.

Was very nervous about the small PI and a small goof up in the extempore but 24 April 11:30 pm made it vanish.

Verdict: CONVERTED In First List.

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Interview Experience – 37

Interview Date - 20th April 2019 | 11 am Slot

Profile- GEM

CAT 18: 99.70

10th: 93.50

12th: 84.00

Grad: 8.68 (Electronics Engineer from Aligarh Muslim University)

Work Experience: 25 months - Electronics R&D Engineer at Maruti Suzuki (10 months) | QA Engineer at Tata Consultancy Services (15 months)

Category: General

GD Topic: Knowledge-based economy is necessary for the economic development of India.

There were seven people in the group. It was a cordial GD. No fish market. Since the topic was easy, everyone was able to pitch in and give new points. I started the GD, explained the historical significance of the knowledge-based economies and moved onto India's necessity to become one in the 21st century. Later intervened with the advantages that India have and the challenges it might face in achieving this goal. Overall, a good discussion.

Extempore Topic: What's in a name?

Started with William Shakespeare and where he quoted this. Brought in an Indian context about how a person's name is a social issue in India, the caste system in India and how people start finding caste in people's name. Concluded with the latest use of the quote in promotion of IPL season 12.

#Gamebanayeganame

Interview Experience

There was 1 lady professor(L1) and 2 male professors (M1 and M2). All looked like senior professors.

M1: Tell us something about yourself.

Me: Gave a prepared answer. Started with my introduction, took it to my workex, education, background and hobbies.

L1: What is Aligarh (my hometown) famous for.

Me: Ma'am, Aligarh is generally famous for 2 things. First, the Aligarh Muslim University established by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan in 1875. Second, the lock industry of Aligarh. 70% of locks used in India are still manufactured in Aligarh only.

M1: Why? Why did the lock industry setup in Aligarh only?

Me: I researched a lot for this answer. This was asked in my IIFT interview and I couldn't answer there, so I was prepared this time. Told about the history, how Britishers setup a mail carriage manufacturing workshop in 1852 and how the availability of skilled labor gradually led to the development of this industry. In 150 years, it became a 4000 Cr industry.

M2: What do you do in Maruti Suzuki.

Me: Sir, I work on the development of IPC Software for upcoming models. L1: The what? Ma'am the speedometer software. The speedometer is known as instrument panel cluster (IPC).

M1: But what is there to develop in speedometer? Isn't it the same?

Me: No sir, I lot of development efforts and time goes into speedometer development. It is the monitor of the car. Any new feature, any system failure or any safety/warning feature needs to be displayed on the speedometer. So, designing the signal, its byte size, telltale design, and functioning, all need to be worked out during the development process. That is what my team works on.

M2: (abruptly) What happened in IIM Calcutta interview? I don't know where this question was a calculated guess or he knew beforehand. I was waitlisted 39 at this moment in IIM Calcutta.

Me: A bit perplexed. Sir, I got extremely nervous before the interview and it somehow came out in the interview. I wasn't able to portray my best image and given the extremely difficult selection ratio, even a small mistake has large repercussions. M2: Is it happening here? Are you nervous here? Me: A little bit sir. But I guess that's natural. M2: Why? Me: Sir because of no matter how much I practiced and prepared for this interview, yet, the thought about the importance of this interview somehow crept in and unfortunately that is making me nervous.

L1: Tell us about your hobbies again.

Me: Ma'am I like reading books, graphic designing and solving Rubik's cube.

L1: Which genre. Current book you are reading. Why?

Me: I started with fictional but now I prefer historical/truth based non-fictional books. I am currently reading 'A Little History of the World' by Ernst Gombrich. I like reading these books because I get to learn a lot about the world and people in it, just by reading.

M1: Tell me something about ancient Greece.

Me: Told about Socrates, Plato, Aristotle. Philosophy and science. Birth of democracy and Olympics.

M1: Ancient India?

Me: Told about Indus-valley civilization and its uniqueness.

M2: If you have 4 hours to waste, what will you do.

Me: Sir, I will read something. M2: That's a hobby. You have to waste them. Me: Sir, I will travel and explore around. M2: That's again a hobby. Suppose you were called on a date in the cyber hub and the girl didn't show up. What will you do? Me: Sir I will have a good dinner by myself and later spend the time roaming around the cyber hub. M2: (A bit frustrated) Why are you such a boring person? You can't even waste 4 hours! Waste them!! Me: Sir but this is wasting time. Even if I read a bad book or I roam around without any purpose, I am wasting time. Even if I am pursuing my hobbies, for someone, it will be a waste of time.

L1: That's it. We are done. Thank you Tushar, you can leave now.

Me: Thank you, ma'am.

Result: Converted

Interview Experience – 38

CATKing

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FMS, Delhi: -

PG Handle: Madscore

Date: 15 April 2019

10th/12th/Graduation: 9 CGPA/93.8%/77.05%

CAT: 99.73%ile

Profile: Mechanical and Automation Engineer (2018 Pass out)

Work Ex: Maruti Suzuki as a Graduate Engineer Trainee (10 Months)

Out of the 13 people in the panel, 11 were present hence 11+1 minute for the GD.

GD: Voting should be made mandatory

I was the second person to speak and started off with how big the country is and ensuring or mandating voting with huge logistical cost and additional manpower. Also talked about how we first need to facilitate access to voting to every Indian citizen. Then I started concluding the topic but was cut in between. Spoke a total of 3 times.

Expected marks - 6/10

Actual Marks - 5/10

Tip: In GD try to stick with either positive or negative opinion on the topic. For eg: He started here with a negative connotation that India is a huge country, and it incurs huge cost for conducting election. Then he comes back and speak how important it is for every citizen of India to vote.

There were 3 panelists and each asked questions one by one and hence their questions have been clubbed together.

I was the first person to go in.

Interview and Extempore:

1. Tell me about yourself.

M: Gave the age-old mugged up answer.

1a. How did you decide this the right time to do an MBA?

M: Sir, I gave the exam last year as well and converted a few calls but decided that not having any work experience put me at a certain disadvantage as it would have somewhat hindered my learning from the case-based approach of teaching that they have at FMS. Hence, I decided to get a year of experience before pursuing an MBA and understand working in a corporate while still being used to academic rigor that the engineering entailed.

Tip: Too bookish! If you have converted some calls then why you didn't join those colleges. The interviewer was looking for answer around this.

2. Extempore: Corruption in India

Took 10 seconds to think and started off,

"There have been allegations of corruptions against one of the biggest defense deals in the country and have been other scams and cases of corruption. There has been a reduction in corruption during the past few years but for India to develop and grow we need to eradicate corruption at the root level, the bribe that is given to the policeman, traffic police need to be eliminated. For that, we need a change in the mindset of people and make them aware of the negatives aspects of the same on their own lives and the country and economy."

I stopped sensing that the time was about to end.

Expected marks: 3/5

Actual Marks: 3/5

3. Give the consequences of corruption.

M: Started to speak something about the effects of corruption.

4. No, not affects, consequences.

M: Oh, ok sir. So corruption leads to the development of a Black or underground economy in the country. The government loses out on tax revenue. This leads to a rise in our revenue deficit and ultimately, we are forced to borrow money to fund our capital expenditure as most of the capital revenue goes to revenue expenditure. This rising revenue deficit is a big problem for the country.

5. What is capital expenditure?

M: The expenditure for introducing new process and material that adds value and not just for day to day functioning of processes which is the revenue expenditure. For example, procuring a new machine to make something new or add additional value to the product is capital expenditure while replacing an old machine with a new one with no new value added to the process, then it is revenue expenditure.

6. What is flexible manufacturing?

M: Sir, as far as my knowledge goes, when we can make multiple products on a single line then it is termed as flexible manufacturing. For example, at Maruti, we make multiple cars on the very same lines so i believe that can be termed as Flexible manufacturing.

6.a. What is just in time?

M: It's a Japanese philosophy where the requirement of parts is fulfilled as and when required and hence reduce inventory. Usually, the aim is to keep the inventory low around 2–3 days of inventory. It prevents the capital from getting stuck in the inventory and in any case of mishaps, minimal damage to the inventory.

7. Main competitors of Maruti?

M: The main competitors of Maruti are Hyundai, Mahindra and Tata has been gaining ground quickly over the past few years acquiring 7% of the market share. But Maruti having 50% of the market share, only Hyundai comes close at around 25% market share.

8. Is Toyota a competitor?

M: Yes, in the market place, Toyota is surely a competitor but they also have a partnership wherein Maruti will provide cars to Toyota, like Baleno, Ertiga, Brezza. They will make minor changes to the cars before selling them...

Cuts in between

9. Will they modify cars before selling?

M: Yes Ma'am, Toyota will make minor changes to these cars before selling them in India as selling the same exact cars won't serve any purpose and they will sell them under their own brand.

9.a Are you sure they will modify the cars?

M: Yes Ma'am, I am sure.

She replies "Read about it, there's more to it"

I said "Ok ma'am"

9.b. What is rollback?

M: sorry Ma'am, I don't know.

10. What is a recession?

M: Going by the definition, a recession is when a country doesn't grow for 2 quarters in a row.

10.a. what do you mean by growing!?

M: Oh, Sorry Ma'am, I meant that when the economy or the GDP of a country contracts for 2 straight quarters, then it is termed a recession.

11. What is Bloomberg?

M: Honestly the reason I know of Bloomberg is that it is my go-to business news source and I have subscribed to their WhatsApp news update service.

12. Tell me a piece of recent business news.

M: (don't know why I started blabbering these words) Umm, ok, no but that won't count as a piece of business news. Ok, so the Jet airways crisis and their fate will be decided today by the consortium of banks led by SBI for the Rs 1500 crore assistance they have proposed to keep the company afloat.

Ok, Ashish that will be all. I thanked them and left the room.

PI Expected Score: 13/15

Actual Score: 9/15

Not sure what went so wrong here that I feel 4 marks below my prediction.

OVERALL expect Score: 22/30

OVERALL actual score: 17/30

Expected Verdict: Reject

VERDICT: REJECTED

Professor's Comment: I felt the candidate was rushing with the answers. Many a times he globed, and his answers have a typical negative connotation.

Interview Experience – 39

The batch 2021–23 due to the prevailing COVID-19 situation all interviews were held online. Thus, I had a Zoom interview for FMS

Date: 22/04/2021

Panel: 1 Male & 1 Female (Duration ~11 mins)

Profile: I did my undergrad from IIT Kanpur in Economics (M. Sc. Intg. 5-year course) graduating in 2013. I then proceeded to pursue M. Phil. & Ph.D. in Economics from Tilburg University (2013–19)

CAT Percentile: VARC (99.95)/DILR (96.59)/QA (99.08)/OA (99.84)

Work Ex: I taught UG & Masters level courses as a part of my doctorate and also had an opportunity to run a Randomized Control Trial (RCT) in Nairobi in 2015. Duration of my work ex was 45 months (Sep 2015-June 2019)

Extempore Topic: Atmanirbhar Bharat (Pretty straightforward topic with loads to say)

Q1> Introduce yourself?

A> Talked about my educational journey from undergrad in IITK to M.Phil. and then research work in Tilburg University. Mentioned my hobbies and places I have stayed/visited.

Q2> Why didn't you finish your PhD?

A> Explained that my research work was not going so well in the last leg. Although, I had finished two papers the second paper still needed more refinement and I had not started on the third paper.

Additionally, my teaching experience gave me an insight that this was not something I enjoyed doing so much and would like to stop. All this motivated me not to further extend my contract beyond June 2019, and thus I came back home.

Q3> What is work experience in?

A> I have experience in teaching both undergraduate & Masters students in Economics/Finance subjects, guiding Bachelor students in their theses, running a RCT in Nairobi and presentation in conferences apart from my primary job of academic research.

Q4> Will India be 5 trillion USD economy?

A> I believe it's an achievable target but not in the timeframe mentioned, 2025 if I am correct. We will need serious steps in improving our supply chain logistics, road and rail infrastructure, financial inclusion and policies to motivate moving the labor force from agriculture to manufacture as agriculture currently contributes 15% to GDP while employing almost 2/3rd of the labor force.

Q5> What are your hobbies?

A> I enjoy quizzing, debating and reading novels with a strong preference towards mythological fiction.

Q6> What mythological fiction books have you read?

A> I have finished the Shiva trilogy by Amish and am currently reading Ra Chandra series by the same author. I also like books by Ashwin Sanghi like Krishna's Key, Chanakya's Chant and Rozabal Line

Q7> What did you learn from Chanakya's Chant?

A> The book explores two parallel timelines with Chanakya's story of placing Chandragupta Maurya to the throne and a modern day Chanakya -Pandit Gangasagar Mishra doing the same for her female prodigy. The message that I got that in politics ethical & moral rules can be broken as long as the ultimate goal is helping others once you have acquired power. To summarize, "All is fair in love & war"

Q8> What's the difference between Chanakya & Pandit Gangasagar Mishra?

A> IMO there is not much difference between the two as both apply techniques which are morally/ethically wrong but for the right reasons.

Q9> Pandit Mishra allowed for the killing of spouse of his prodigy, Chanakya will never allow that?

A> True, but Chanakya arranged for one of his primary enemies, a Macedonian general to get involved with Saka queen which led to the death of the general and withdrawal of Saka support to his enemies. He also used vishkanyas to assassinate kings and arranged for killing of a surrendered king by proxy. In the end, each used every trick in the book to promote their protege and didn't care about collateral damage. Killing of a spouse might seem distasteful but its no different from any other killings.

(I have read Chanakya's Chant multiple times, so I knew the book inside out. Lucked out in this case)

Q10> You being 31 years old will have significant problems adjusting to MBA college as most of your co-students will be 6-8 years younger than you?

A>I have spent my entire adult life either studying with or working with or teaching students who were from various age groups as I was taking classes for undergraduate as well as masters students. I also took multiple courses during my UG & M.Phil with Masters/PhD students who were much older than me. I believe at the end of the day all MBA students are thorough professionals who will care about my contribution to the team/class and not focus on cosmetic factors like age, corporate experience etc.

(This question was asked in some form or other in may of my PIs. Anyone applying B school with 4+ year of work experinces

Q11> What other calls you have?

A> All IIMs except Indore, and XLRI BM/HRM

All in all, very chilled out panel. No grilling

Status: Converted in 3rd WL

Interview Experience – 40

FMS Delhi

Slot- 2:00 PM

20th April'18

CAT Percentile: 98.44 (Score: 32.986/60)

Profile:

10th: 84.67 (RBSE) (Score: 4/5)

12th: 74.77(RBSE) (Score: 3/5)

Graduation: 7.78- Electronics and Communication Engineering-NIT Trichy

Work Exp: 32 Months-Automobile Sector

GD Topic: Law should be an instrument for Social Change.

9 People in my Panel, two were absent. Three Moderators for the GD.

Time: 8 Mins (7(per person a Minute) +1 Min)

(Spoke about the Land Acquisition law, moved from the 1894 law to 2013 Law. Mention the Benefits of LAAR (Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement) 2013. Mention the IBC (Insolvency and Bankruptcy) Code 2016 and its benefits for development. Spoke about the Anti Rape Law 2013 and punishment provision under this law. Concluded with the role of executives in the implementation of the laws.) (Score: 6/10)

Interview Process:

I was 5th in My Panel.

3 Panelists, 2 Male, and 1 Female Professor. Let's call them P1 (Senior Male Professor), P2 (Young Male Professor), P3 (Female Professor).

Interview Coordinator called my name and I entered the room. I stand near the seat to wait for the permission to be seated.

P1: Sit Down, please.

Me: Thank You, Ma'am.

P3: So, X, Introduce yourself.

Me: After the well-rehearsed introduction where I talked about My Strengths, Work Experience. I also talked about the Patent, Marketing Project.

*Interrupted by P3. *

Its extempore time now.

P3: X, we will give you a topic and you have 10 Secs to think about it and one minute to speak.

Me: Ok Ma'am.

P3: Your topic is "IPR".

Me: Can I have a rough page, please?

P2: No, you construct your thoughts and speak.

Me: Ok Sir.

After 10 Secs

Me: Full form of IPR is Intellectual Property Right. Intellectual Property (IP) is the product human intellectual. It Includes the concepts, Products, Creativity etc. and the rights protected to IP is known as IPR. Patent is one of the form of IPR and it protects the Functional Expression of the product. Like if a company develops a new technology than that company has exclusive rights to use that particular technology, others cannot use that technology without the permission of the company. India follows the IPR Act 1970 and the no of application per year from India is very less compare to China and USA and no of Patents granted to India is also very less compare to China and USA. (Score: 4/5)

P3: Times up.

P2: X, you speak so fast. Did you prepare this for the interview?

Me: Sir It is the natural for me.

P2: In which Quality are you working?

Me: Sir, I am working in Current Quality Department.

P2: What Quality Standards you follow?

Me: Sir we follow the TS Standards.

P2: Which no?

Me: Sir its TS 16949.

P2: It is equivalent to ISO.

Me: Sir ISO 9001.

P2: What is Ford's Quality Standard?

Out of the blue question for me

Blank Face

P2: Ford ingeniously developed a Quality Standard. What is it?

Me: Sir, in my company, another department is looking for the standard. I do not know about this.

P2: It's QA101. Just have a look at it. Now Ma'am will ask you the questions.

P3: X, Name any three Social Entrepreneur.

Me: Ma'am in which field?

P3: Any field.

Me: Ma'am I do not know.

P3: Ok X. We are done. All the best. Thank you.

Me (Smiling): Thank you, Ma'am and left the room. (PI Score: 9/15)

And that was it. NO TOFFEES, NO COOKIES.

*It was the shortest interview, lasted only 5 Mins. *

Cumulative Score: 58.986

Edit 1: List 1: Waitlist 48

Interview Experience – 41

Profile-

10th: 91.69

12th: 69

Grad: 70 (Computer Engineer from MU)

Work Experience: 21 months - Database Developer at Media.net | One of the largest ad-tech companies worldwide

Category: NC-OBC

I have been interviewed at FMS twice.

Direct reject the first time :(

Direct convert the second time :D

First time-

CAT 2016: 92.83 percentile

There were 2 ladies (L1 and L2) and one gentleman(M1)

L2 was the senior most amongst them

L2: X, you're a Computer Engineer. Do you think we have too many Computer Engineers in India?

Me: No ma'am. We're a developing country and we need computer engineers to develop the IT infrastructure of the country. John Adams, a founding father of the US once said, "I need to learn Politics and War so that my son may learn Engineering, Navigation and Architecture and then his son may pursue the nobler aspects of life like Poetry, Music etc." It always happens in stages. We are a developing country and currently we are at a stage where we need engineers. Civil Engineers to build roads and other physical infrastructure. Computer Engineers to build the IT infrastructure and so on.

L2: Okay. What you've just said, draw a graph of that.

Me: (I was befuddled but masked my confusion) Do you mean a tree?

L2: No, a graph with X and Y axis

Me: What do you want me to put on these axes?

L2: Anything that you deem fit.

(I, knowing this wouldn't exactly please them, put investment in education on X-axis and growth on Y-axis)

Me: (Explaining it) Initially when you invest a lot, the growth won't show instantly but it'll start showing over time.

L2: What is this? (Her features conveying that I didn't understand her question)

M1: Shouldn't your graph be an inverted U shape? You start studying Liberal Arts then study engineering and then return to Liberal Arts.

Me: Oh, in that way, yes it can be.

L2: Have we given him his extempore topic yet?

L1: No

(I had my folder on my lap. I believe it is impertinent to place it on the desk without permission)

L2: You can put your folder on the desk. That's what it is there for.

Me: (Placing it there) Thank you ma'am.

L1: Your extempore topic is 'Folder'

Me: Sorry. I didn't get you

L1: (Pointing at my folder) Folder

Me: A folder is used to store documents but with technological advancements, I could just scan my docs and store them in the cloud and access them from anywhere. But for important occasions like this interview, hard copies of important docs are required so a folder is required to encompass these hard copies and also convey professionalism. Also, the word fold means a group of people having similar characteristics or leaning so we could refer to them as a folder of sorts. The verb 'fold' means to give in or warp under pressure so we could refer to a guy who folds, metaphorically speaking, as a folder as in he has folded. He has quit. (I was pretty sure that I had spoken for 1+ minute and was running out of ideas so I just faded and said 'That's all about folder')

M1: Do you know about supercomputers?

Me: Yes, supercomputers are more powerful than your general PCs, possess a large amount of memory and a lot of processing power. They are used in number crunching, weather forecasting, scientific calculations etc.

(M1 grilled me for quite some time about supercomputers)

M1: What's a lot?

Me: Lot is something that transcends what you would deem as normal. It is something that's above average.

M1: Quantify it

Me: Sir, my understanding of supercomputers is limited so I cannot quantify it with authority. I can only guess. Also, nowadays even general-purpose computers are really powerful. We have dual, quad and octa core microprocessors capable of performing parallel processing and thereby processing a large amount of data in a very short time. Data ranging in many TBs.

M1: What comes after TBs? Do you know?

Me: TB stands for Terra Byte. I do not know what comes after that.

M1: How many processors if you were to hook up together would you have a supercomputer?

Me: I am not sure. I could only conjecture if I were to be allowed to do that. And like I said we've come a long way. The first microprocessor Intel 4004 was really weak and today we have powerful 32- and 64-bit octa core processors

M1: Yea try a guess about the number of processors

Me: I suppose 7-8 (This was grossly inaccurate. I looked it up later, the world's most powerful super computer has close to 41,000 processors)

L2: You have an accent when you speak. How did you come to have it? Did you acquire it or something else?

(I have a slightly foreign accent and I always try to mask it in interviews as I don't like to explain it but damn it she caught it :P)

Me: Yes ma'am. I suppose I grew up watching too many Hollywood movies so I might have sub-consciously picked it up. (Nonchalantly) I don't think too much about it though!

L2: Has anybody mentioned it to you?

Me: Yes ma'am, friends have mentioned it. Colleagues have too.

L2: Any converts so far?

Me: No ma'am. I have calls from the new IIMs and they haven't released their lists yet.

L2: So no converts so far?

Me: Yes ma'am. No converts yet.

(The interviewers looked at each other and then told me that the interview was over. I was getting up when M1 interjected)

M1: When you go out, read up about supercomputers

Me: (with a wide smile) Yes sir, I certainly do intend to do so.

(I wore a smile throughout the interview even when I felt I was being put on a spot)

Verdict: Not converted

Interview Experience – 42

CAT 2017: 99.31 percentile

There were 2 ladies (L1 and L2) and one gentleman(M1).

L1 didn't ask anything. L2 was really sweet. M1 could be a little rough at times.

L2: We'll be giving you an extempore topic. You have to speak on it for a minute. You'll have 10 seconds to think. We'll tell you when to start.

Me: Yes ma'am, certainly.

L2: Do you know about X Deshmukh?

Me: Not much ma'am.

L2: Okay your extempore topic is 'My favorite heroine'.

Me: Talked about Mila Kunis (Though my favorite is Alexandra Daddario because she's quite bodacious to say the least :P)

L2: You seem to have done quite a lot of research on her.

Me: Yes ma'am, she not only acts but is also involved in social work along with her husband Ashton Kutcher

L2: Who's your favourite from Bollywood?

Me: Kareena Kapoor ma'am

M1: What about Rani Lakshmi Bai, is she not your favourite heroine?

Me: Yes sir, if we were to interpret heroine in that way, she too is an inspiration to many

M1: What do you know about her?

Me: She's known as Jhansi Ki Rani (was going to elaborate, M1 interrupted)

M1: Who's representing her in a movie?

Me: I'm not sure about it but I if I were to be allowed to guess

L2: Yes try (gesturing assent)

Me: I think Kangana Ranaut

L2: Correct. So, you have 91.69 in 10th, a drop in performance 12th: 69 and then 70 in B.E.

Me: Yes ma'am

L2: You've mentioned your father is a newspaper vendor (in the form), so what do you mean? I mean how does it all work. Could you explain? We don't know exactly which layer a newspaper vendor falls in. Like is he in the middle layer or where? How is it all structured?

Me: It begins with manufacturing of newspapers (L2, with a look on her face that betrayed the feeling that that's not what she was asking)

Me: Also, we have wholesalers who'd aggregate it from multiple newspaper companies and then provide it to us. We're retailers. The last leg that meets the customer.

L2: So, you're the company's customer facing unit.

Me: Yes ma'am. Also, in today's technologically advanced world there's disintermediation happening. So, people are reading news online and people like my father are less and less needed and are becoming redundant.

L2: How much do the various people involved make? Wholesalers, manufacturers, retailers?

Me: My father makes 25%. That's what he's told me. I don't know about the others.

L2: What happens when you have more papers than you can sell?

Me: There are some newspaper companies that allow us to return newspapers back to them that have been unsold. This is part of their reverse logistics process. Since we're their partners, they manage us well.

M1: So, for the manufacturer once it goes to the retailer, my job is done?

Me: No sir, market share is only a reflection of what's happened in the past. You also need to think about future and keep customers happy. From that perspective, the manufacturer obviously cares about (M1 interjected)

M1: That's not what I meant. I'm talking from the perspective of money. Will the wholesaler just take all unsold newspapers back?

Me: Sir, there's reverse logistics. TOI i.e. the manufacturer, for instance takes all unsold newspapers back and not the wholesaler.

L2: Is it credit based? Will they not charge you for unsold newspapers? How will the money be remitted to you?

Me: No ma'am. There is no credit. Daily payment has to be made. For unsold newspapers, money will be credited back. Also, the same newspaper company charges different prices at different places sometimes. For instance, Hindu charges Rs. 5 in Chennai and Rs. 10 in Mumbai

L2: So, you've written you write poetry

Me: Yes ma'am, I pen prose and poetry

L2: Could you recite one of your poems for us? A short one. Whichever language it is in

Me: I pen poetry in English, ma'am.

(Recited one poem of mine verbatim. Also, I later found out that L2 herself is a poet :P)

L2: (smiling) Were you expecting that we would ask you to recite a poem?

Me: (smiling) No ma'am, I had not expected, but it's one of my favorite poems that I have penned so I remember it well!

L2: Do you have any siblings or are you the only child?

Me: I have a younger sister ma'am.

L2: What is she doing?

Me: She's pursuing BBA ma'am. She's in her second year.

M1: Do you have any other calls?

Me: IIM L and K, sir

M1: Why not ABC? You have a good percentile.

Me: It's probably as ma'am mentioned because of my low 12th percentage

(M1 reads my percentage 91.69 in 10th. 69 in 12th and 70 in BE)

M1: So, FMS is your best call (I was amazed he didn't consider L to be at par with FMS but didn't show it)

Me: Yes sir, I knew ABC would not call me. The whole year my preparation has been with one goal in mind- converting FMS. That's the institution that I've been aiming for right from the time I started preparing for CAT.

M1: So why do you want to come to FMS?

Me: (gave a prepared answer) FMS was founded in 1954. It has a decades old legacy and an extensive alumni network, with alumni employed in both public as well as private sector. So, it would be a great opportunity to connect with and learn from them.

Being amongst the top B schools in India and also situated in the Delhi-NCR region, both corporate and government luminaries through their guest lectures provide valuable insights to the students at FMS. It also attracts quality students with high aptitude from various disciplines (Science, Commerce, Arts) that would enable me to learn from them, result in peer learning and also pose challenges in front of me to push myself harder to excel.

Also, every permanent faculty member is a PhD with extensive teaching experience and the faculty to student ratio is high.

All the advantages mentioned above and the structured and rigorous program that MBA is would expand my cognitive capabilities and help me develop a holistic approach when analysing and resolving problems

M1: Why do you need reservation (NC-OBC)? You have a good percentile (99.31)

Me: Sir, it is a right bestowed upon me by the Constitution of India so that people like me who are not economically privileged can rise up. A rich person will provide the right kind of resources to his son. He'll get good tuition, go to a good school and so on. But the economically underprivileged don't have access to quality resources, so it is there to help them rise up. Also OBC reservation is provided based on income. It is not intended for the well to do OBCs. I suppose currently there's a cap at Rs. 8 lakhs for providing reservation.

M1: A salary of Rs. 45,000 per month. How are you economically underprivileged? (with a smirk and then he looked at the other interviewers)

Me: I am the first graduate in my family. Reservation is based on my father's income and not mine. For the first 21 years of my life, I did not have access to proper resources and had to work very hard to rise up.

M1: Are you 21 now?

Me: No sir. But as I said for the first 21 years, I didn't have access to quality resources so my upbringing was such that I was deprived of quality resources.

L2: We see 1 or 2 students who have reservation but choose not to take it. You seem to be having good skills. Would you want it for your son?

Me: If I am well to do and he has access to quality resources, then no ma'am

All 3: Okay, that's it.

(L2 being the sweet lady that she is also informed me that my GD will be conducted once they are done interviewing the others in my panel. She asked me to wait and not leave without giving my GD. I was really looking forward to interacting with and learning from her once college began)

Verdict: Direct Convert :D

Interview Experience – 43

CAT 2017: 99.31 percentile

There were 2 ladies (L1 and L2) and one gentleman(M1).

L1 didn't ask anything. L2 was really sweet. M1 could be a little rough at times.

L2: We'll be giving you an extempore topic. You have to speak on it for a minute. You'll have 10 seconds to think. We'll tell you when to start.

Me: Yes ma'am, certainly.

L2: Do you know about X Deshmukh?

Me: Not much ma'am.

L2: Okay your extempore topic is 'My favorite heroine'.

Me: Talked about Mila Kunis (Though my favorite is Alexandra Daddario because she's quite bodacious to say the least :P)

L2: You seem to have done quite a lot of research on her.

Me: Yes ma'am, she not only acts but is also involved in social work along with her husband Ashton Kutcher

L2: Who's your favourite from Bollywood?

Me: Kareena Kapoor ma'am

M1: What about Rani Lakshmi Bai, is she not your favourite heroine?

Me: Yes sir, if we were to interpret heroine in that way, she too is an inspiration to many

M1: What do you know about her?

Me: She's known as Jhansi Ki Rani (was going to elaborate, M1 interrupted)

M1: Who's representing her in a movie?

Me: I'm not sure about it but I if I were to be allowed to guess

L2: Yes try (gesturing assent)

Me: I think Kangana Ranaut

L2: Correct. So, you have 91.69 in 10th, a drop in performance 12th: 69 and then 70 in B.E.

Me: Yes ma'am

L2: You've mentioned your father is a newspaper vendor (in the form), so what do you mean? I mean how does it all work. Could you explain? We don't know exactly which layer a news paper vendor falls in. Like is he in the middle layer or where? How is it all structured?

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Me: Also, we have wholesalers who'd aggregate it from multiple newspaper companies and then provide it to us. We're retailers. The last leg that meets the customer.

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L2: Could you recite one of your poems for us? A short one. Whichever language it is in

Me: I pen poetry in English, ma'am.

(Recited one poem of mine verbatim. Also, I later found out that L2 herself is a poet :P)

L2: (smiling) Were you expecting that we would ask you to recite a poem?

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L2: What is she doing?

Me: She's pursuing BBA ma'am. She's in her second year.

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Me: It's probably as ma'am mentioned because of my low 12th percentage

(M1 reads my percentage 91.69 in 10th. 69 in 12th and 70 in BE)

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M1: A salary of Rs. 45,000 per month. How are you economically underprivileged? (with a smirk and then he looked at the other interviewers)

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M1: Are you 21 now?

Me: No sir. But as I said for the first 21 years, I didn't have access to quality resources so my upbringing was such that I was deprived of quality resources.

L2: We see 1 or 2 students who have reservation but choose not to take it. You seem to be having good skills. Would you want it for your son?

Me: If I am well to do and he has access to quality resources, then no ma'am

All 3: Okay, that's it.

(L2 being the sweet lady that she is also informed me that my GD will be conducted once they are done interviewing the others in my panel. She asked me to wait and not leave without giving my GD. I was really looking forward to interacting with and learning from her once college began)

Verdict: Direct Convert :D

Interview Experience – 44

Date - April 16 (10:00 AM slot)

Venue - FMS Delhi

Profile

X- 89.50% (Gujarat Board)

XII - 92.62% (Gujarat Board)

BTech (Mechanical) - 81.2% (NITK Surathkal)

CAT - 99.81

General | Engineer | Male | Fresher

GD - Simplicity is the sole reason for success (Not verbatim- it was something along these lines)

GD was arguably the most important part of the selection process because the panelists who evaluate your GD take your interview as well. There were 8 of us and so we were given 9(8+1) minutes to discuss. I began the GD. Spoke for more than a minute, drew contrasts by giving out examples. Pitched in 3-4 times more. Added that though simplicity is one of the most important virtues, it wouldn't be right to call it the sole reason. Talked about Mr. Manohar Parrikar as well. Overall, I felt I did a really good job in the GD.

PI - I was the penultimate person in my panel. Our panel was taking 8-10 minute interviews. Finally my turn came at 11:40.

I entered the interview room and saw 2 female panelists F1 and F2.

Me: Good morning ma'am.

F1: Good morning.

Me: May I? (Pointing to the chair)

F1: Yes please.

P1: So X, you're still studying, is it?

Me: Yes ma'am.

F1(Looking at my form): You're studying in an NIT.

Me: Yes ma'am. I'm in my final year pursuing mechanical engineering from NITK Surathkal.

F1: What have you done in college?

Me: Told

F1: Tell us about the social initiative you've mentioned in your form.

Me: Told

F1: Okay, we'll now give you a topic. You have to speak on it for 1 minute. Your topic is CRY.

I knew FMS often gave weird topics. So I wasn't flustered.

Me: Cry is characterized by flow of tears. A person could cry in a happy situation or in a sad one. Say for a mother, her baby's first cry is extremely special....

I was going on when I was interrupted by P1

P1: Do you even know what your topic is? It's the foundation CRY.

Me: Oh (I was like wtf).
Both of them chuckled.
Me: So should I continue or should I restart with my new topic.
F1: Start again.
I had absolutely no clue of what CRY was, what it did, etc.
Me: Said a few very generic statements none of which were related to CRY.
F1 interrupted again.
F1: Do you know what CRY does?
Me(sheepishly): No ma'am
F1: No problem. Know of any other organization?
Me: I didn't know anything so I said PETA
F1: Okay so PETA is your topic.
Me: I knew what PETA did but I didn't know much about them. But still I spoke for 40-45 seconds and stopped.
F1: You still have time.
Me: Said something rubbish
F1: Okay stop. Do you follow news?
Me: Yes ma'am, I do.
F1: Tell me some recent news.
Me: Right now, elections are going on...
F1: No, not elections. Something else.
Me: Jet Airways crisis.
F1: Anything else?
Me: Some time back, the share price of Tata Motors fell a lot in a single day.
Finally, they found something interesting
F1: Why did the price fall?
Me: Explained well
F1: What did they do to overcome this?
Me: I didn't know and I should have said the same but I still spoke.
Ma'am, when a business isn't doing well, a company must evaluate their target market because businesses cater to consumer needs.
F1: Who taught you all these fancy terms?
Me(smiled): Ma'am, the main aim of any business is profit maximization (Blunder)
F1: No no no. It's not to make profits.
Me (trying to make up): Sorry ma'am, it's to maximize wealth.
F1: Yes. You should read an article (She told some name which I forgot immediately)
Me: Yes ma'am, I'm sorry. I made a mistake.
F1: Don't be sorry. It's fine.
F1: So are you interested in stocks?
Me: No ma'am, not much.
F1: Do you know what Sensex is?

Me: Told

F1: How are these stocks decided?

Me: I don't know.

F1: No issues. We're done. You may leave.

When I was about to reach the door, P1 calls out.

F1: What's the meaning of your name?

Me: Ma'am, Harsh means happiness and Pra means extra. So X means extra happiness.

Both of them smiled.

F1: Okay.

Verdict: Straight Convert

Interview Experience – 45

Interview Date - 20th April 2019 | 11 am Slot

Profile- GEM

CAT 18: 99.70

10th: 93.50

12th: 84.00

Grad: 8.68 (Electronics Engineer from Aligarh Muslim University)

Work Experience: 25 months - Electronics R&D Engineer at Maruti Suzuki (10 months) | QA Engineer at Tata Consultancy Services (15 months)

Category: General

GD Topic: Knowledge-based economy is necessary for the economic development of India.

There were seven people in the group. It was a cordial GD. No fish market. Since the topic was easy, everyone was able to pitch in and give new points. I started the GD, explained the historical significance of the knowledge-based economies and moved onto India's necessity to become one in the 21st century. Later intervened with the advantages that India have and the challenges it might face in achieving this goal. Overall, a good discussion.

Extempore Topic: What's in a name?

Started with William Shakespeare and where he quoted this. Brought in an Indian context about how a person's name is a social issue in India, the caste system in India and how people start finding caste in people's name. Concluded with the latest use of the quote in promotion of IPL season 12.

#Gamebanayeganame

Interview Experience

There was 1 lady professor(L1) and 2 male professors (M1 and M2). All looked like senior professors.

M1: Tell us something about yourself.

Me: Gave a prepared answer. Started with my introduction, took it to my workex, education, background and hobbies.

L1: What is Aligarh (my hometown) famous for.

Me: Ma'am, Aligarh is generally famous for 2 things. First, the Aligarh Muslim University established by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan in 1875. Second, the lock industry of Aligarh. 70% of locks used in India are still manufactured in Aligarh only.

M1: Why? Why did the lock industry setup in Aligarh only?

Me: I researched a lot for this answer. This was asked in my IIFT interview and I couldn't answer there, so I was prepared this time. Told about the history, how Britishers setup a mail carriage manufacturing workshop in 1852 and how the availability of skilled labor gradually led to the development of this industry. In 150 years it became a 4000 Cr industry.

M2: What do you do in Maruti Suzuki.

Me: Sir, I work on the development of IPC Software for upcoming models. L1: The what? Ma'am the speedometer software. The speedometer is known as instrument panel cluster (IPC).

M1: But what is there to develop in speedometer? Isn't it the same?

Me: No sir, a lot of development efforts and time goes into speedometer development. It is the monitor of the car. Any new feature, any system failure or any safety/warning feature needs to be displayed on the speedometer. So designing the signal, its byte size, telltale design, and functioning, all need to be worked out during the development process. That is what my team works on.

M2: (abruptly) What happened in IIM Calcutta interview? I don't know where this question was a calculated guess or he knew beforehand. I was waitlisted 39 at this moment in IIM Calcutta.

Me: A bit perplexed. Sir, I got extremely nervous before the interview and it somehow came out in the interview. I wasn't able to portray my best image and given the extremely difficult selection ratio, even a small mistake has large repercussions. M2: Is it happening here? Are you nervous here? Me: A little bit sir. But I guess that's natural. M2: Why? Me: Sir because of no matter how much I practiced and prepared for this interview, yet, the thought about the importance of this interview somehow crept in and unfortunately that is making me nervous.

L1: Tell us about your hobbies again.

Me: Ma'am I like reading books, graphic designing and solving Rubik's cube.

L1: Which genre. Current book you are reading. Why?

Me: I started with fictional but now I prefer historical/truth based non-fictional books. I am currently reading 'A Little History of the World' by Ernst Gombrich. I like reading these books because I get to learn a lot about the world and people in it, just by reading.

M1: Tell me something about ancient Greece.

Me: Told about Socrates, Plato, Aristotle. Philosophy and science. Birth of democracy and Olympics.

M1: Ancient India?

Me: Told about Indus-valley civilization and its uniqueness.

M2: If you have 4 hours to waste, what will you do.

Me: Sir, I will read something. M2: That's a hobby. You have to waste them. Me: Sir, I will travel and explore around. M2: That's again a hobby. Suppose you were called on a date in the cyber hub and the girl didn't show up. What will you do? Me: Sir I will have a good dinner by myself and later spend the time roaming around the cyber hub. M2: (A bit frustrated) Why are you such a boring person? You can't even waste 4 hours! Waste them!! Me: Sir but this is wasting time. Even if I read a bad book or I roam

around without any purpose, I am wasting time. Even if I am pursuing my hobbies, for someone, it will be a waste of time.

L1: That's it. We are done. Thank you, x, you can leave now.

Me: Thank you, ma'am.

Result: Converted FMS. :D

Interview Experience – 46

Profile:

GEM

X: 85.38

XII: 74.92

Grad: 84.2

CAT: 99.57

I entered the interview room. Panelists were P1 and P2(female), P3(male) sitting from left to right against me.

I greeted them with a good morning and P2 told me to have a seat.

As soon as I sat P3 went out of the room and he didn't come back for the duration of my interview.

P2(Going through my documents) : So you are born in Ahmedabad, did your petroleum engineering in PDPU Gandhinagar and presently work as plant engineer at GSFC, right? What is GSFC?

Me: Yes. Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals. It is a Fertilizer and chemical company.

P2: Is it a state PSU?

Me: No it is a private company promoted by Gujarat government. Started explaining its involvement in Fertilizers and due to heavy regulation in the sector how status of company changes, but was interrupted.

P2: I will get to that soon in your extempore.

I started preparing myself for GSFC as my extempore topic.

P2 told me the rules about extempore and then told me your extempore topic is "Subsidy in Fertilizer sector"

I recently read some portion of the same topic in economic survey 2015-16. So tried to replicate that. But my structure was horrid and the flow was nonexistent. I tried to put every point in one min so, it all got jumbled. (Eg I forgot to state that the current subsidy system in urea is cost based, I went on explaining the NPK method which is ideal, then realised it and went back. Then I realised I have to speak about all Fertilizers not only urea so started talking about DAP and MOP. But time was up before I could get even a word in.)

2/5 would be generous.

Then the interview followed

P2: So what is status of food security in India?

Me: Talked about public food stockholding and PDS, stand at WTO. Leakages and middle man.

P2: So as a policy maker what steps would you take?

Me: The interview was going south very fast, so I went blank for a while.

P2(Had to nudge me a bit): You mentioned leakages right so what steps would you take to curtail them?

Me: Some non-relevant points about middleman elimination, financial inclusion, rural penetration. I completely forgot about mentioning JAM agenda.

P2 to P1: DO you want to ask anything?

P1: So X, What do you do in your free time?

Me: Mentioned Books, Comics and Games?

P1: Which games?

Me: Chess and Civ4,5

P1: You mentioned reading Books, which books?

Me: (Finally!) I mostly read fantasy books. I have read Harry Potter, Mistborn, Wheel of Time, Stormlight Archive, Elantris, Eragon, Warbreaker, ASOIAF series. In fiction I have read All books by Sidney Sheldon, Kane and Abel by Jeffrey Archer, few books by Agatha Christie. In non-fiction I have read Return of Depression Economics by Paul Krugman, I.O.U by John Lanchester and currently reading Thinking fast and slow by Daniel Kahneman.

P1: Ok you can go. (I was disappointed at the lack of any follow up)

Me: I bid them farewell and left.

Again 7/10 would be pushing it.

Overall, I feel, Due to extremely short interviews (5-7min including extempore) all they check for is thinking on your feet, confidence and body language and structure of your content much more than actual content.

Edit: Waitlisted at 117.

Interview Experience – 47

CATKing

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Profile:

CAT percentile: 99.47

10th:94.6

12th:92.4

Grad: 7.69(Btech: Electrical Engineering)

GD topic: Will IT industry create maximum jobs in India in future?

9 minutes for 7 people (including conclusion)

Me: Gave 2–3 generic points. Number of engineers, governments liberalizing rules, cheap manpower available. After everyone spoke once, talked about AI and how it will affect jobs. Discussion started on AI. Some guy spoke about recession and how IT fires most employees. Countered the argument. GD ended. I was pretty confident that I had nailed the GD and it will be easy from now on. (LOL)

P1: introduce yourself

Me: blanked out. Spoke an introduction I had never prepared. Plus was nervous so was speaking a little fast.

P1: Are you in a hurry? Why so fast?

P2: Bht baar rehearse kiya hoga.

Me: *Facepalm* Laughs. Yes sir, it is an important interview.

P1: Ok, extempore topic for you is "Roses are red"

Me: Smiles. Ok

P1: And the line that follows it in the quote. You need to speak on both.

Me: *Wot? * Ok sir. After ten seconds of gazing awkwardly at the table

Talked about roses coming in different colours and so do violets. Talked about generalization, glass ceiling, caste barriers, gender specific roles. Then about modernization and need to change with time.

P3: Time up

P1: But where does this quote originate from?

Me: Sir I don't know

P1: Actual use of this phrase was done where?

Me: Sir I don't know. I picked it up as an abstract topic.

P1: Yeah. What you said was okay.

P2: Which school are you from?

Me: Mt. Carmel

P2: Why?

Me: *WTF! *

P1 cuts in: Yeah. Pretty good English she has.

P1: Tell us why MBA?

P2: Are you fed up of your job, that CRM and all?

Me: Talked about my role and connected it to management. They looked convinced.

P1: You must have prepared for this interview. How did you prepare?

Me: *I didn't use any source actually* Blurted out reading newspapers and forming an opinion on everything. Said Hindu somewhere there.

P1: Who is the publisher?

Me: Sir, don't know

P2: He is south Indian.

Me: Yes sir. It is published in Chennai. But I can't recall his name.

P2: Kasturi

Me: *Confused now* Sir, the owners are the hindu group and Kasturi and sons.

P1 & P2 laughing

ME: *What is happening here*

P1: Content editor btao

Me: Mukund Padmanabham

P2: Says some other random name

P1: What is hindu's business line called?

Me: Sir I don't know

P2: This means you don't pay attention

Me: No sir. I just can't recall the names right now. Besides Hindu was just a bsic framework I used. I did my own research on topics from then on.

P1: Tell us what can we ask you?

Me: Sir I write

P1: *Interrupts* Write what?

Me: Short stories

P1: You must be reading also?

Me: Yes sir *Tried to tell I read novels but was interrupted*

P1: Favorite author

Me: Khaled Hosseini

P1: His works other than Kite runner

Me: Told all three books and the one upcoming in 2018. Als told what the new book is about.

P1: What about Paulo Cohelo?

Me: Told about Alchemist, Zahir, adultery. Told my opinion about the two writers and why I like Khaleed more.

P2: But these are not short story writers. O Henry, a few other names I hadn't heard of, these are.

P1: Ye kahan sune honge. 100 saal pehle waale hai ye toh!

Me: Sir i have read O Henry's works. But I mostly read novels.

P2: Have you heard of *some strange author*

Me: No sir

P2: Read it. He writes good.

P2: Now I'll ask you questions from academics.

P2: What is power factor

Me: Told

P2: Higher/Lower P.F?

P1: Which is better? Why?

Me: *Told*

P2: How do you increase power factor?

ME: Told two methods

P2: Difference between transmission and distribution?

Me: Took a second to think and to frame answer.

P2: What is the difference between generation unit and household.

Me: Told. And told difference between transmission and distribution along with it.

P2: Between substations and houses what is there?

ME: Sir transformers

P2: Nothing else?

Me: *Shit! *

P2: Distribution sub stations

Me: *Smiling* Yes sir. Followed by transformers

P2: % loss in T& D

Me: Around 20%

P2: What? Itna zyada

Me: Spoke about generation capacity of India and available % power thus accounting for 20% loss

P2: That's it. Thankyou

Verdict: Converted!

Interview Experience – 48

FMS 2015-2017 Batch Interview Experience

CAT – 99.68 (Believe me, this is the only thing that matters apart from the extempore and interview)
3 panelists. Two males, one female. M1 was sitting at the left, M2 at the centre guided my interview and F1 was sitting at the right.

Entered

M2: Introduce Yourself.

A: Spoke About Deloitte, working in Cyber Security. Talked about being an Information Technology graduate from Manipal. Then entered Squash. Talked about my prizes in the sport. Went on to Reading and my interest in Fantasy and Mythology.

Awkward Pause. Assumed they wanted me to speak more on this.

Continued about how I am trying to diversify my reading interests and enter into business-oriented books and more mainstream literature.

M2: We want you to speak on Mythology and Management. You have around 10 seconds to compose your thoughts. (This was the Extempore topic)

Scary trying to compose your thoughts in front of 3 people staring at you

A:

1. Mahabharat reference. Related Dharma and Karma propagated in the Mahabharat to Ethics and Results. Talked about how ethical practices (dharma) always leads to good returns for the organization (karma).

F1 is scribbling points on a piece of paper. Probably marking me.

2. Ramayan reference. Related Ram giving up Sita for Ayodhya to a manager having to listen to his team, incorporate suggestions and ultimately sacrifice for the greater good. The Ram Rajya was considered ideal because Ram took into account all inputs of his citizens and established social order.

I looked at them for 2 seconds assuming time was done. They said okay. I was filled with a nagging feeling that I could have added an extra 10 seconds.

M2: Where are you working?

A: Talked about the Cyber Security work done at Deloitte.

M2: What are the recent happenings in this field?

A: GitHub Denial of Service Attack.

British Airways Frequent Flyers Account Compromised.

Talked about withdrawal of Section 66A in the domestic Scenario.

Discussed all the above points a little.

M2: Is 100% cyber security possible?

A: No sir with the speed at which technology is increasing (Moore's law reference) there is a higher incentive to find loopholes in existing infrastructure. As long as the cost associated as reward for an attack is higher than the cost of the attack itself, systems can never rest easy.

M2 asks M1 if he has any questions

M1: Do you think IPL is good for Indian Cricket?

A: The day before the interview, I had read about Hooda having played a tremendous role in the last match. Took his reference to stress how the IPL was the most effective mechanism to bring the spotlight on hitherto unidentified or unappreciated domestic talent.

M1: Okay Aman Thank You!

A: Thank you! (cheerfully)

Felt good after the interview, to be honest, even with those few nagging worries.

Verdict – Direct Convert!

Interview Experience – 49

FMS, Delhi: -

PG Handle: Madscorer

Date: 15 April 2019

10th/12th/Graduation: 9 CGPA/93.8%/77.05%

CAT: 99.73%ile

Profile: Mechanical and Automation Engineer (2018 Passout)

Work Ex: Maruti Suzuki as a Graduate Engineer Trainee (10 Months)

Out of the 13 people in the panel, 11 were present hence 11+1 minute for the GD.

GD: Voting should be made mandatory

I was the second person to speak and started off with how big the country is and ensuring or mandating voting with ensue huge logistical cost and additional manpower. Also talked about how we first need to facilitate access to voting to every Indian citizen. Then I started concluding the topic but was cut in between. Spoke a total of 3 times.

Expected marks - 6/10

Actual Marks - 5/10

There were 3 panelists and each asked questions one by one and hence their questions have been clubbed together.

I was the first person to go in.

Interview and Extempore:

1. Tell me about yourself.

M: Gave the age-old mugged up answer.

1a. How did you decide this the right time to do an MBA?

M: Sir, I gave the exam last year as well and converted a few calls but decided that not having any work experience put me at a certain disadvantage as it would have somewhat hindered my learning from the case-based approach of teaching that they have at FMS. Hence, I decided to get a year of experience before pursuing an MBA and have the understanding of working in a corporate while still being used to academic rigour that the engineering entailed.

2. Extempore: Corruption In India

Took 10 seconds to think and started off,

“There have been allegations of corruptions against one of the biggest defence deals in the country and have been other scams and cases of corruption. There has been a reduction in corruption during the past few years but for India to develop and grow we need to eradicate corruption at the root level, the bribe that is given to the policeman, traffic police need to be eliminated. For that, we need a change in the mindset of people and make them aware of the negatives aspects of the same on their own lives and the country and economy.”

I stopped sensing that the time was about to end.

Expected marks: 3/5

Actual Marks: 3/5

3. Give the consequences of corruption.

M: Started to speak something about the effects of corruption.

4. No, not affects, consequences.

M: Oh, ok sir. So corruption leads to the development of a Black or underground economy in the country. The government loses out on tax revenue. This leads to a rise in our revenue deficit and ultimately, we are forced to borrow money to fund our capital expenditure as most of the capital revenue goes to revenue expenditure. This rising revenue deficit is a big problem for the country.

5. What is capital expenditure?

M: The expenditure for introducing new process and material that adds value and not just for day to day functioning of processes which is the revenue expenditure. For example, procuring a new machine to make something new or add additional value to the product is capital expenditure while replacing an old machine with a new one with no new value added to the process, then it is revenue expenditure.

6. What is flexible manufacturing?

M: Sir, as far as my knowledge goes, when we can make multiple products on a single line then it is termed as flexible manufacturing. For example at Maruti, we make multiple cars on the very same lines so i believe that can be termed as Flexible manufacturing.

6.a. What is just in time?

M: It's a Japanese philosophy where the requirement of parts is fulfilled as and when required and hence reduce inventory. Usually, the aim is to keep the inventory low around 2–3 days of inventory. It prevents the capital from getting stuck in the inventory and in any case of mishaps, minimal damage to the inventory.

7. Main competitors of Maruti?

M: The main competitors of Maruti are Hyundai, Mahindra and Mahindra and Tata has been gaining ground quickly over the past few years acquiring 7% of the market share. But Maruti having 50% of the market share, only Hyundai comes close at around 25% market share.

8. Is Toyota a competitor?

M: Yes, in the market place, Toyota is surely a competitor but they also have a partnership wherein Maruti will provide cars to Toyota, like Baleno, Ertiga, Brezza. They will make minor changes to the cars before selling them...

Cuts in between

9. Will they modify cars before selling?

M: Yes Ma'am, Toyota will make minor changes to these cars before selling them in India as selling the same exact cars won't serve any purpose and they will sell them under their own brand.

9.a. Are you sure they will modify the cars?

M: Yes Ma'am, I am sure.

She replies "Read about it, there's more to it"

I said "Ok ma'am"

9.b. What is rollback?

M: sorry Ma'am, I don't know.

10. What is a recession?

M: Going by the definition, a recession is when a country doesn't grow for 2 quarters in a row.

10.a. what do you mean by growing!?

M: Oh Sorry Ma'am, I meant that when the economy or the GDP of a country contracts for 2 straight quarters, then it is termed a recession.

11. What is Bloomberg?

M: Honestly the reason I know of Bloomberg is that it is my go-to business news source and I have subscribed to their WhatsApp news update service.

12. Tell me a piece of recent business news.

M: (don't know why I started blabbering these words) Umm, ok, no but that won't count as a piece of business news. Ok, so the Jet airways crisis and their fate will be decided today by the consortium of banks led by SBI for the Rs 1500 crore assistance they have proposed to keep the company afloat.

Ok, Ashish that will be all. I thanked them and left the room.

PI Expected Score: 13/15

Actual Score: 9/15

Not sure what went so wrong here that I feel 4 marks below my prediction.

OVERALL expect Score: 22/30

OVERALL actual score: 17/30

Expected Verdict: Reject

VERDICT: REJECTED

Interview Experience – 50

April 20, 2018, Morning slot.

Profile:

X: 9.4/10

XII: 93%

Gard: Electrical and Electronics Engineering from NIT Surathkal (CGPA 7.29)

Cat 2017: 97.59

Category: OBC-NCL

20 months of experience in a technical role from a Big 4 *Firm*.

Final selection criteria:

CAT score: 60%

X: 5%

XII: 5%

GD: 10%

Extempore: 5%

Personal interview: 15%

Group Discussion:

Panel of 6 students

Topic: Regional blocks are against the spirit of Globalization.

Was able to contribute good amount of points and had decent number of entries during the discussion

Personal Interview:

Panel of Two Madams – M1 and M2

Me- R

M1: Tell me about yourself in one minute.

R: Told the prepared answer.

M1: So let us start with your extempore, you have 10 seconds to think and 1 minute to speak on the topic, and the topic is "Sridevi".

R: Narrated from the career beginning of Sridevi to the latest incidents, tried to bring in some motivational perspective on her. Had two abrupt stops in between, felt it could've been handled better.

M1: So you work with *Firm*?

R: Yes ma'am I've got a campus placement there and I am working as a business technology analyst

M1: You are still working?

R: Yes ma'am

M1: So what does *Firm* do?

R: Explained about the firm and main areas of function.

M1: So what is IBC?

R: Sorry ma'am I don't know the term

M1: IBC is Insolvency and Bankruptcy code

R: I am not very sure but can give it a try ma'am

M1: Go ahead

R: Tried to explain about Bankruptcy

M1: So which are the recent companies which filed Bankruptcy?

R: Not able to recall any as of now ma'am

M1: Called out a few company names and asked if I knew about them

R: Sorry ma'am I don't know

M1: You are working in an auditing firm; you should have an idea on all these

R: Yes ma'am I agree, but I work more with the technical area of the firm designing UI

M1: But you need to know these

R: Yes ma'am I agree

M1: So have you designed any websites for *Firm*?

R: Not websites as such, but have designed some web applications and explained why they are used by the firm

M1: Did you see FMS website? What improvements can you suggest?

R: Pointed out few technical details and also told that the website is very fast

M1: So what does Rotary club do? (I was the Secretary of Rotaract Club in college)

R: Started with the origin of Rotary and their main services and explained the activities of Rotaract club in college.

M1: What does Red Cross do?

R: Explained.

M2: Name a few books which you read which show your interest in business

R: Who moved my Cheese by Spencer Johnson and Freakonomics

M2: What is the significance of Who moved my cheese?

R: The idea of happiness changes time to time and it doesn't remain the same

M2: No, what is the significance of who moved my cheese

R: The market conditions change time to time, if we don't adopt to the changing conditions we are going to be left behind

M2: Name an Indian business personality which inspires you the most and why?

R: Mr Raghuram Rajan.

M2: Is he a business personality?

R: Not exactly ma'am, but he has done notable work in the field of finance and worked as the RBI Governor

M2: Name any other business personality?

R: Dr Shiva Kumar, Pepsi Co India CEO

M2: What are the things that inspire you about him?

R: I had an opportunity to see him in person during my convocation

M2: Just because you saw him in person, he inspires you?

R: Nothing like that ma'am, but since I saw him in person I can list out some qualities which I liked in him, like he is always to the point, stuck to his agenda during the convocation speech

M2: So what is the latest strategy of the soft drink companies?

R: Not able to think exactly ma'am

M2: What are the claims against them?

R: That they are not healthy

M2: So what measures are taken against them?

R: *thinking*

M2: Are soft drinks now allowed to be sold in schools?

R: No ma'am they aren't. Measures have been taken to stop their sale in schools.

M2: So what did the companies do to cope up with it?

R: They ventured into the area of fruit juices and health drinks

M2: Are they truthful to that?

R: Not exactly ma'am, even they contain a lot of preservatives and I read an article which claims that the fruit extracts are taken from fruits which are preserved for at least 6 months

M2: Okay, last question, what is the controversy surrounding Tirupati Balaji?

R: Sorry ma'am I don't know

M2: It got a lot of national media coverage, that too very recently

R: Sorry ma'am I haven't heard about it

M1: What other calls do you have?

R: IIM C, K, I and CAP

M1: So did you convert Calcutta?

R: No ma'am I was not able to.

M1: Alright, Thanks

Thanked both of them and came out.

It was a pretty short interview, got over in 8–10 minutes.

Verdict: Direct Convert!

Interview Experience – 51

FMS Delhi 16/04/2019

Venue: FMS Delhi

GD Topic: Can India Dream to host the Olympics.

There were 8 of us in the panel but only 3–4 of us spoke for the whole duration. I spoke about infrastructure and it's maintenance, commonwealth games, developing a team, influx of visitors, developing a taste and talent for other sports and how currently we must focus on initiatives like Khelo India. I spoke for around 4 minutes out of 9 but also gave chances to other fellow panelists to speak, it wasn't a fish market but a healthy discussion.

PI: Was second in the panel, the bell rings and they call me in

P1: - Female

P2: - Male

P3: - Male

P3 walks out of the room as soon as I enter.

P2: Xtell me us about yourself?

Me: Told the well-prepared answer but with some additions at that moment itself so it was sort of spontaneous.

P1: Both your parents are hotel management graduates, so you must be having a lot of exotic food at home.

Me: I smile and say yes, and also that I am sort of a chef myself.

P1: So Xyour Extempore topic is my favourite dish (Thanked god for this as my friends had topics like "Core "and marketing techniques in elections)

Me: comfortably spoke about my favourite dish, how it's made, the special ingredients (it is poppy seeds here). One minute was over and mam asked me to stop.

P3 enters the room now

P2: Isn't poppy seed made from a drug so you don't have any side effects.

Me: I explained how the industrially processed ones have no such side effects but one can feel hallucinations or extended sleep if they directly get it from the fields and make it at home.

P2: Why the shift to finance, I mean what was the start point?

Me: spoke about the association with a finance professor at VIT Vellore as we had 5 compulsory management subjects, influence of Benjamin Graham and stock investing.

P2: Tell me the 3 most important ratios according to you

Me: Spoke about return on equity and the 5 step Du Pont analysis, Debt Service Coverage Ratio to check the solvency status and Defensive interval ratio (was in leather goods sector at the moment hence this).

P2: Okay Xwe are done.

I am shocked for 2 seconds, like what happened, others had such long PI's at least 10–13 mins and I am being sent out in 6 minutes. Also, P3 didn't ask me a single question while he was the one who asked everyone else.

Me: I thank them and was about to leave when P1 asks me my calls and results. I mention them, thank them and leave.

Was very nervous about the small PI and a small goof up in the extempore but 24 April 11:30 pm made it vanish.

Verdict: CONVERTED In First List.

P.S the GD plays a big role in FMS; their selection is done there itself unless you really make a grave error in the PI.

Interview Experience – 52

Profile: B. Tech Planning (Urban and Regional), Work exp.: 9 months

Interview slot: 08:30 hrs. 20 April 2018.

The process started with document verification followed by Group Discussion and finally Personal Interview.

Group Discussion:

As ABC shortlists were out, GDs were just wow! (6-7 people in the group).

The panel consisted of 3 professors, all male.

Topic: Globalization is hampering/ destroying Indian culture. The GD went well with a lot of points covered during the discussion.

Personal Interview- Panels for GD and PI are the same.

P1: Introduce yourself to the panel.

Me: Introduced.

P2: (Interrupted) What is this degree of yours- B. Tech Planning?

Me: Stated that it is Urban/ Town Planning and gave details.

(P1 asked me to continue my introduction. I continued and finished)

P1: Why do you want to do an MBA?

Me: Answered.

P1: One last question from my side, name any 3 international real estate firms in India.

Me: JLL, Knight Frank, Trump Towers

P1: P2 will now give you a topic for extempore.

P2: Rural India

Me: Spoke about the migration of people, need to develop rural areas, government initiatives for the same. (I felt it went well)

P3: Two questions for you-

a. You have said about the haphazard development in urban areas- How will you getting an MBA help you achieve it? (I mentioned about it in my extempore but don't recollect saying my interest in working for it!)

Me: Answered.

b. Which ministry looks after Urban development?

Me: Ministry of Urban Development.

P3: And for connectivity between two cities?

Me: Ministry of Roadways and Transport.

P3: Who are the Cabinet Ministers?

Me: For transport- Nitin Gadkari; For MoUD- I can't recollect! (This was embarrassing! -_-)

P3: Okay!

P2: So your degree is B. Tech Planning, do you have any subjects related to Mech, Civil?

Me: No sir. (Then explained that our college is an Engineering college and hence the degree needed to be a technical one)

P2: Okay Jay! Thank you, you may leave.

Me: Thank you Sir!

Interview Experience – 53

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GD Topic - We should break rules, conventions, laws to make our system better.

1 Min to think, 8 min to discuss, 1 min to conclude.

Pitched in a couple of times, mentioned regarding current scenario of rape cases in Kathua and Unnao, and how Swati Maliwal DCW head was on a hunger strike to change the rules and seeking death penalty for the rapists while asking for other changes in the system.

Also mentioned regarding the global protests on women empowerment, and how even a country like Saudi Arabia has now granted permissions to allow them to go to theatres, amidst global pressures.

(Wanted to add the driving bit as well, but it was too short a GD process where I we didn't get much time to speak)

Concluded in the end amongst others while mentioning that there should some form of changes that the system needs and it is rather a feedback loop where we try to optimize to benefit the masses and it is a continuous process.

PI + Extempore (3 panelists, P1 Male Prof, P2 and P3 Female Professors)

I entered the room, greeted the professors with all my enthusiasm and positivity. Was asked to sit. Was given the topic for Extempore.

Extempore Topic - Full Moon

Spoke at lengths and was eventually asked to stop as the time was up. The challenge was that I didn't get those 10 seconds to prepare, as I was interrupted (They asked me if I wanted to change the topic after giving the topic while my 10 seconds were running, so I had to answer as well as prepare for the Extempore, and immediately they asked me to start). Anyhow I managed to come up with the structure. Mentioned how the Whiteness of the Moon is related to aspirations, and its significance for women on Karvachauth for instance - its auspicious significance. How it has different phases from crescent to full moon, the 28-day cycle and the 14-day half change. Linked that it is a perspective, just as the glass is half full or empty, we see fullness in moon while it also has other forms. Added a different dimension. Mentioned on the other hand just like the full moon has dark spots we also as humans have certain aspects where there are imperfections.

Interview

P1 - Then I was asked questions on the Extempore. Questions like why full moon has significance? What is the govt. doing currently regarding moon programs, what will they yield out of it? Mentioned here, that it has a significance on the high tide low tide concept, and how it impacts the gravitational pull. Was grilled on it. Mentioned about how ISRO has carried out the Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan missions. I was asked whether we (India) have landed on moon. I said yes. But said I am still not sure, as the last I know the mission was in progress.

P1 - Was asked why India is doing it. I mentioned that India will benefit from it psychologically as it will act as confidence booster on capabilities of Indians to further their horizons in outer space explorations like other nations and organizations (NASA, ESA, China). At the same time India will be better equipped in the technological race, and that research on moon will help us go ahead and explore the space with better preparedness.

P1 - I was asked what is the duration of day and night on moon, is it the same as that on earth? -- I had already answered in previous questions that Moon has a 28-day cycle with 14 days to half cycle and then back to full. But due to enthusiasm and overthinking I confidently said it takes the same time as that taken by earth. (Inside I knew I messed it up, but couldn't do much about it as it was a fast-paced interview)

P2 - I was also asked regarding my work ex, and they thought I was working in my last organization as the Head of Business Development currently. I corrected them and told my current work role as a freelancer and working on marketing projects with companies across the globe, and that I had resigned from my earlier organization. Explained how I took those projects through an Indian Company collaboration and that we were into content management and marketing services for clients across the globe.

P2 - They asked if I started my own venture, I clarified and said it was freelancing work which I was pursuing, and that I intend to start my own venture, and that is why I am seeking an MBA, and how my goals are aligned.

P2 - They asked me whether Social Media Marketing and Digital Marketing are the same, what is the difference. Explained comfortably. Told Digital Marketing is a broader concept and social media is just one aspect of it, etc.

P2 - Was also asked regarding the Cambridge Analytica and FB case. Explained. Mentioned how Cambridge Analytica was using FB data illegitimately and influenced the user behaviour for political gains. Added that Mark Zuckerberg addressed the issue in 2-day long Congress Sessions and realized that users should be made more aware on the privacy terms and conditions. I also mentioned that FB was alleged to sell data which they denied, and ultimately Cambridge Analytica used the data illegally.

P3 - Then I was asked to rate my PI and GD by the 3rd panelist who was carefully observing me all throughout and didn't ask me any question till now --

I said 8/ for PI, 9/10 for GD while saying that I am being optimistic and smiled.

P1/P2/P3 - They said thank you. I stood up, but the first panelist (who asked me cross questions on the Moon and Space related questions) asked about other calls from IIMs which I told, and then they asked whether the results were out for those. I told them IIM L and New IIMs are the calls, and expecting results post April End. They wished me all the best and I reciprocated my gratitude to them, with a constant smile and positivity throughout the interview.

Verdict - Didn't convert

Interview Experience – 54

Profile: X/XII/Engg - 89.8/84.8/69.1

CAT: 99.93

Panel consisted of 3 members. Let's call them P1(F), P2(F) and P3(M).

Entered

P2: x, tell us something about yourself.

I: This interview was after a month my previous interviews had ended. So I was a bit unprepared with my prepared answer. Told them about my graduation and work ex. Forgot to cover my hobbies.

P2: Do you know of any recent M&A in pharma industry?

I: Not very recent but Ranbaxy was acquired by Sun pharmaceuticals.

P2: Why do you think M&A take place?

I: To capture market share and reduce competition. Explained with an example of Flipkart acquiring Ebay India (Happened a day or two before the interview).

P2: Okay, now P1 will give you your extempore topic.

Butterflies in my stomach. What's the topic gonna be. Zada mushkil na ho bas

P1: You have to speak on the topic 'Namaste' for a minute.

I: Yessssss!... Spoke of whatever points came up in my mind. "It is very closely associated with me as it is the meaning of my name. It is the first word that the foreigners learn when they come to India: p. It is used to greet and show respect to others. It is synonymous to hello. That's all I can think of"

P3 spoke for the first time after this and showed his sense of humour.

P3: "Kisi ko bhagana ho toh bhi bolo Namaste"

Lol. All grinned

P1: Tell me 3 women entrepreneurs.

I: Could tell only one. Kiran Majumdar Shaw

P1: Which organisation is she heading?

I: Biocon

P1: Tell me industry experts instead.

I: Indra Nooyi of PepsiCo and Arundhati Bhattacharya of SBI.

P1: How long have they been working in their respective organisations?

I: Don't know, Mam.

P3: Why MBA?

I: Told about my career plan and family business

P3: What is the turnover of your family business?

I: Told

P3: How to judge a company's performance?

I: Talked about financial statements, mainly income statement and balance sheet and what data each of them presents.

P3: Do you know of any financial ratio?

I: Sir, I don't have that much knowledge of finance. While I was speaking this sentence, it suddenly struck me and I blurted out. PE Ratio Sir. The price per earnings ratio. *Sigh of relief*

IIM Calcutta results were announced the day before. Asked me if I converted.

I: Didn't convert sir.

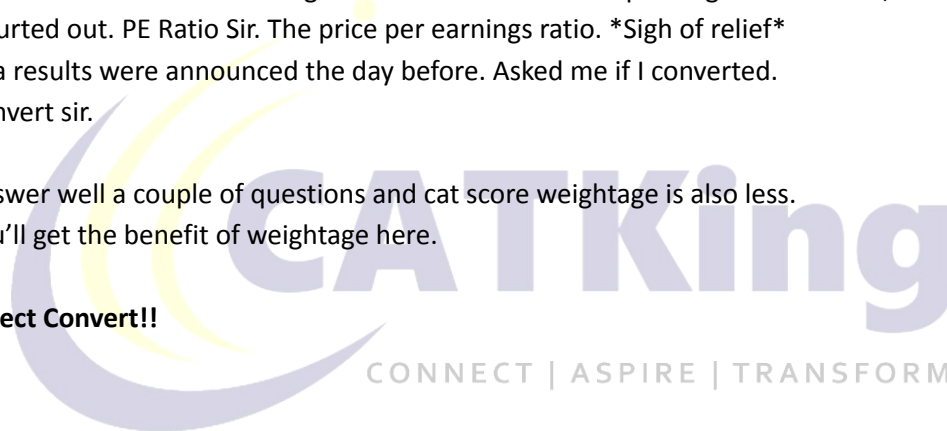
P3: Why?

I: Didn't answer well a couple of questions and cat score weightage is also less.

P3: And you'll get the benefit of weightage here.

I: Yes sir!

Verdict: Direct Convert!!



Interview Experience – 55

17th April 2018

Venue: FMS Delhi

Time: 3:30–5:00 PM Slot

Profile:

CAT- 98.37, Graduation- 82.43, XII- 95.6, X-95, Female, Economics final year student, Fresher, General

GD Topic: Is MBA necessary to be a successful business person?

PI-

Three professors M1, M2, M3, all three males. M3 had left in the middle of the previous interview and came back in the middle of mine, didn't say anything though.

M2: Okay X, tell us about yourself.

Me: Told

M2: Okay now we are going to give your extempore topic, you'll have 10 seconds to think and 1 minute to speak, is that alright?

Me: Yepp

M1: So your topic is "....." (Some phrase I didn't know a thing about, can't even recall)

Me: Urghhh okay... (M1 saw my expressions intently but decided to help me out)

M1: So you don't know... want us to change the topic?

Me: YESS

M1: Speak on "A thing of beauty is joy for everyone" Is this okay?

Me: (haha even if it wasn't I can't ask for a third topic) ... yes sir

after 10 seconds

I spoke about taking morning walks, reconnecting with the nature and surroundings, how simple things in life actually give us the most amount of happiness, the importance of small moments and observation... a few more stuff I cannot remember as of now

M2: You still have 10 seconds to go

Me: (at this point my spontaneity actually hit me)

Pointing to the tissue box kept on the table with half a tissue out of it

Sir look at this tissue for instance, it looks unkempt, not proper or appealing, but still, even this is a thing of joy to me. After all imperfection is perfection.

(quite happy with myself after this haha)

M2: Okay so you are an Economics fresher from IPCW, why not gain some work experience and then pursue masters?

Me: Told my reasons

M2: Okay, justified. You worked with Enactus, explain us how that works and who is the authority

Me: Told about KPMG and CSR, how Enactus works as an organization, our projects.

M2: How have your results been so far, from other interviews? And other calls?

Me: Told (also mentioned the terrible IIMB interview)

M2: Would you be willing to go to L, XL or FMS

Me: FMS

M2: So why do you want to come to FMS?

Me: Told (typical answer)

M2: Is that all?

Me: No sir, I will be very honest, FMS gives everything almost any BSchool has to offer, but I wouldn't need to take an education loan here and that is a lump of pressure off my shoulders

M2: He grinned slyly probably thinking wow she literally just said that XD

M3 walks in now

M1: Okay so let's talk about economics now, what's the difference between economic and financial cost?

Me: Told

M2: there is another major thing you're probably missing out on

Me: ummm ...

M1: Think of impact of actions

Me: Yes sir there is the externality component as well... explained that

M2: Alright X, we are done.

Me: Thank you sir

M2: All the best!

Me: Thanked and walked out.

Verdict: Converted in second list (initial WL5)

Interview Experience – 56

FMS Delhi PI Questions

In which Quality are you working?

Ans: "Sir, I am working in the Current Quality Department."

What Quality Standards do you follow?

Ans: "Sir we follow the TS Standards."

What are your responsibilities in the quality department?

Ans: "Sir if any defects occur at TML then we have to go to suppliers locations and have to review the process. We identify what went wrong in the processes and how it can be improved."

What approaches do you follow for the Defect resolution?

Ans: "Sir, We follow the Brainstorming Technique and 5-Why analysis technique to resolve the issues and this is popularly known as 8-D analysis."

What is capital expenditure?

Ans: "The expenditure for introducing new processes and material that adds value and not just for day to day functioning of processes which is the revenue expenditure. For example, procuring a new machine to make something new or add additional value to the product is capital expenditure while replacing an old machine with a new one with no new value added to the process, then it is revenue expenditure."

What is flexible manufacturing?

Ans: "Sir, as far as my knowledge goes, when we can make multiple products on a single line then it is termed as flexible manufacturing. For example at Maruti, we make multiple cars on the very same lines so i believe that can be termed as Flexible manufacturing."

What is just in time?

Ans: "It's a Japanese philosophy where the requirement of parts is fulfilled as and when required and hence reduces inventory. Usually, the aim is to keep the inventory low around 2–3 days of inventory. It prevents the capital from getting stuck in the inventory and in any case of mishaps, minimal damage to the inventory."

Main competitors of Maruti?

Ans: "The main competitors of Maruti are Hyundai, Mahindra and Mahindra and Tata has been gaining ground quickly over the past few years acquiring 7% of the market share. But Maruti having 50% of the market share, only Hyundai comes close at around 25% market share."

Is Toyota a competitor?

Ans: "Yes, in the marketplace, Toyota is surely a competitor but they also have a partnership wherein Maruti will provide cars to Toyota, like Baleno, Ertiga, Brezza. They will make minor changes to the cars before selling them."

What is a recession?

Ans: "Going by the definition, a recession is when a country doesn't grow for 2 quarters in a row."

Did you read the newspaper today?

Ans: "I don't read the newspaper sir. But I checked google news on my phone. The most interesting news to me was how there was this airline...yes Southwest airline which is facing a crisis because of grounding of 787Max planes. It's a strange situation. The revenue is sitting there and they don't have the capacity to serve it."

What is Aligarh(my hometown) famous for?

Ans: "Ma'am, Aligarh is generally famous for 2 things. First, the Aligarh Muslim University established by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan in 1875. Second, the lock industry of Aligarh. 70% of locks used in India are still manufactured in Aligarh only."

Why did the lock industry set up in Aligarh only?

Ans: "Britishers set up a mail carriage manufacturing workshop in 1852 and the availability of skilled labor gradually led to the development of this industry. In 150 years it became a 4000 Cr industry."

What do you do in Maruti Suzuki?

Ans: "Sir, I work on the development of IPC Software for upcoming models. L1: The what? Ma'am the speedometer software. The speedometer is known as instrument panel cluster(IPC)."

But what is there to develop a speedometer? Isn't it the same?

Ans: " No sir, I put a lot of development effort and time into speedometer development. It is the monitor of the car. Any new feature, any system failure or any safety/warning feature needs to be displayed on the speedometer. So designing the signal, its byte size, telltale design, and functioning, all need to be worked out during the development process. That is what my team works on."

Interview Experience – 57

Date: 2018-19

Excerpt from Interview 1-

Candidate Profile: B.Tech (CSE), Work Experience of 30 months in IT

Extempore: Tell me about your current job role in one minute

What other calls do you have? What is GST? Tell me a few positive and negative points about GST. How can we reduce the issue of black money in the country? In the upcoming elections, which regional parties have formed an alliance? How is entrepreneurship different from working in a company? What is effective communication? How can the speaker know that the listener has correctly understood him?

Interview Experience – 58

Date: 2018-19

Candidate Profile: B.Tech (Electrical), Work Experience of 2.5 years

So, you did your schooling from Bharech? Where is it? And you did your B.Tech from? Why did you leave TCS? It is a big brand. So, which IIMs did you convert? Does B consider work ex? Give me 5 points why would you choose FMS over B? So, in which stream are you interested, marketing, finance or..? Name top 5 consulting firms. So what do you like to read apart from quora and all? Why Panchatantra? Ok, so do you read is in proper book or online? Ok so don't you read newspaper? Which newspaper do you read? So, if you read hindi newspaper you must be fluent in hindi? What is solar alliance? What is the target for the solar energy? Where are we now? Who is the Union Power minister of India? Which is the highest mountain range of the world?

Interview Experience – 59

Date: 2018-19

Excerpt from Interview 3-

Candidate Profile: B.Tech, Work Experience of 2.5 years

Extempore: Kashiyaatra (name of candidate's college cultural fest)

So, you are a musician? Did you take training or are you self taught? So you work in Nvidia, describe your job. Why are there no fabrication factories in India? And yet you want to switch? Are you satisfied with the reforms brought by the government for industries? What changes would you want the Government to make for the semiconductor industry to thrive in India. So there is a subject called Industrial Management here, who taught you this? What were you taught in this subject? But I see that you got an A grade, you still do not remember? Is this your first CAT attempt? What other admission offers do you have?

Interview Experience – 60

Feedback- Personal Interview

No. of Panelists: 3-4

Date: 2017-18

Average Duration: 15 minutes

Candidate Profile: : B. tech in ECE, Working in Automobile Sector from 32 months

Introduce yourself. Extempore-Think for 10-15 seconds and speak for one minute on "IPR". In which Quality are you working? What Quality Standards you follow? Specify the number of TS Standard you follow? What is its equivalent to ISO? What is Ford's Quality Standard? Ford ingeniously developed a Quality Standard. What is it? Name any three Social Entrepreneurs.

Interview Experience – 61

Feedback- Personal Interview

No. of Panelists: 3-4

Date: 2017-18

Candidate Profile: B. Tech Planning (Urban and Regional), Work exp.: 9 months

Introduce yourself to the panel. What is this degree of yours- B. Tech Planning? Why do you want to do MBA? Name any 3 international real estate firms in India. Extempore-Think for 10-15 seconds and speak for one minute on “Rural India”. You have said about the haphazard development in urban areas- How will getting an MBA help you achieve it? Which ministry looks after urban development? And which one is responsible for connectivity between two cities? Who are the Cabinet Ministers? So your degree is B. Tech Planning, do you have any subjects related to Mechanical, Civil?

Interview Experience – 62

Venue - FMS Delhi (Obviously)

Date - 16/04/2018

Slot - 10 - 11:30 AM

CAT Percentile - 99.64 (Composite Score: 59.285)

GEM Fresher Chemical Engineering, VNIT Nagpur

10/12/Grad - 95/89.7/78.7

The GD/PI Process for FMS starts quite late. By the time the interviews were held IIM ABC, XLRI had already released their first list. Probably due to this reason, many people skipped the FMS interviews. My panel had 13 people of which only 8 had shown up.

G.D. Topic- Simplicity is the assured path to success.

The duration for the GD is ((No.ofcandidatespresent)+1)min

A few people were dominating the GD, a few tried to give away their chance to the only girl in the panel, a few were not actively participating at all and the rest were trying desperately to find their opening - so, in short, it was your regular GD.

I made only 1 point in the whole GD, but it was a different perspective which was not discussed yet. Tried to enter the discussion on two other occasions but was overpowered by someone.

PI- Both of the panellists were female professors of the college.

P1 - Tell me something about yourself. Any extracurriculars, etc which is not mentioned in this form (they had my application form with them)

C - Told

P1 - So you are a Chemical Engineer. I want you to talk for a minute or so about 'Spurious drugs and cosmetics'. (That's it. No time to think, no time to prepare. Just start talking)

C - Tried to come up with whatever I could think of on the spot. Tried mentioning the regulatory bodies, recent cases, the sensitivity of the crime as it can jeopardize the health of people, faith of people in the brands etc.

P2 - Okay, but can you come up with some measures that Pharma companies can enforce to ensure this doesn't happen

C - Can I think about this for a minute?

P2 - Yes sure.

C - (Thought for around 40 seconds but could not come up with anything) Sorry ma'am I cannot think of something right now.

P2 - That's totally fine not a problem.

P1 - Okay. Do you follow the news?

C - Yes ma'am I try to.

P1 - Can you tell me something major that happened in the last 1 or 2 days?

C - Told about the Azam Khan, Jaya Prada controversy.

P1 - Something other than General Elections. Tell me something about Business News or World News.

C - Told about Jet Airways case which I was following.

Cross questioning for 3–4 mins. Quite in-depth. Could satisfactorily answer.

P2 - Tell me about your hobbies.

C - I love to read non-fiction

P2 - Tell me the last book you read

C - I recently read Yuval Noah Harari's "Sapiens"

P2 (To P1) - Yar tum sabh ne ek hi book padhi hai kya?

P1 - Arre I tell you, these guys are taught which book's name to tell

C - No no ma'am, I assure you I really have read it.

P2 - Okay if you have read it, tell me what is the author's view on Communism

C - Explained in brief.

P2 - Okay I think you actually have read it.

P1 (to P2) - Arre nahi, kuch websites hai jo books me se probable questions aur answers bhi batate hain.

C - No ma'am I have actually read the book, in fact I read 42 books in 2018. I also maintain a blog on WordPress where I review the books I read and Movies/Series I watch.

P2 - Okay! The book is going to be discussed in our book club this month. I hope you would want to join in if you make it to FMS.

C - Definitely ma'am! I would love to!

P1 - One final question. What other calls do you have?

C - IIM C,...

P1 - Did you convert?

C - No

P1 - Waitlist

C - No, not even waitlist.

P1 - Okay. Thank you so much! All the best!

Verdict: List 1: Waitlist 39

Edit: Converted in first Waitlist movement. Joining the college this June!

P.S: Will now shamelessly promote my blog:



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