

IIM-Bangalore Interview Transcripts

1. Transcript

IIM Bangalore - 2 March 2024

3 panelists - P1, P2 (female), P3 (alumni)

My profile - 98.73 percentile. BA (Hons.) Political Science. Fresher.

WAT:

Supreme court did not legalise same sex marriage and gave this responsibility to parliament and state legislatures. Your views on it.

Interview Transcript

P1: you have a unique profile, why do you want to go for an MBA

P1: did you do any marketing courses in college

P1: why did you go for internships different from your graduation domain

P1: one marketing campaign that you really liked. (1-2 cross questions on it)

P1: Do you know about P's in marketing

(I said there are 7Ps so they were acting surprised then I listed those out, made a blunder here and said publicity and promotion both. They caught on this. Forgot the 7th P)

P1: Sell yourself on the basis of these 7Ps so that we give you admission

P3: won't you be at a disadvantage from people who have prior work ex and knowledge about the field

P3: you might lack behind in classes due to no prior knowledge. How will you cope?

P3: won't you feel left out in discussions?

Now the real grilling...

P2: companies are promoting LGBTQIA+ what is the need to do so? What people do in their private sphere has no relation with what my company sells. Why do companies need to get involved?

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K: tried to be diplomatic saying they want to be inclusive and diverse and make their employees feel at ease but they were not having it.

P2: inclusivity is okay but what is the need to bring it to the workplace? Why do companies need to get involved? Your sexuality is your private affair what's the need to shout it to the world (her actual words)

K: talked about customer appeasement. Was cut again

P1: but why do companies need to get involved?

K: talked about making employees feel at ease, tried to give certain links to vishakha guidelines- how there are legal ways for women harassment but nothing for LGBTQIA+ and companies need to step up. They weren't satisfied.

(More cross questioning on this, they were mainly trying to understand why companies get involved and be so vocal about it. Why not make changes in their policy and not tell the world.)

P2: You have mentioned Mandela's quote in your SOP that ultimate glory lies in rising every time you fail. So we should fail you so that you can rise like a phoenix (again, actual words)

K: tried explaining the context of the quote

P2: But then you would come back stronger so won't it be better?

P2: Who gave you an idea to write a quote in your SOP

P2: Why did you feel the need to tell us about Mandela in an SOP that was supposed to tell us about you

P1: you didn't have maths in graduation, won't it act as a hindrance in MBA?

I had also mentioned about cancellation of board examinations and getting a low score through formula in my SOP

P1: What was the formula?

K: It was complex and began to explain but was cut in between

P1: what formula would you have gone with?

K: 40% 10th boards and 60% 12th prelims

P1: Why are 60% 10th boards and 40% 12th prelims not good? Give me an objective answer not subjective.

K: tried explaining how streams are chosen in 11th and 12th and prelims are more based on 12th board pattern was cut in between

P1: this is very subjective give me an objective solution

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P2: Let me give you a hint. Boards are held every year right, prelims are also held every year. Just one year, boards weren't held. Now give me an answer.

K: I don't know

P1: Take a minute and think

K: I can't think of a mathematical explanation

P1: No, tell me objectively

K: At this point I was so confused I started again with the earlier explanation but they cut me in between

P1: we should consider board exam result for previous years

K: tried to explain that's what happened and how it was not right

P1: didn't let me complete even one sentence and said that's all you can go now.

P2: do you have any questions for us

(I was too flabbergasted at this point so said no)

2. Transcript

IIM Bangalore- 7th Feb 2024, 2pm slot.

Venue - IIM Bangalore campus

Document verification went through smoothly, and we were called for the WAT. 10 minutes were given to organise our thoughts and 20 minutes to write. A sheet was provided with the topic/small passage:

A recent survey finds that most of the first-time voting population is concentrated on the social media giants like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Discuss the significance of this in shaping geo-politics and elections at the local and national level.

Candidates started getting called in 15 min after WAT. Each interview was going on for about 25-30 minutes. My turn was 6th in the panel, so I had a good 2.5 to 3 hours to kill before my turn.

My Background

BA (Hons) Communication Studies, Science until 12th. Total 32 months of work experience, 15 months in content development at Byju's, and 17 months as a full-time business owner/founder.

Interview Transcript

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Was called in at around 5:20 - 5:25.

Panelists - 3 persons, all male. 1 seemed to be an alumnus of IIMB (maybe late 30s) and 2 professors (both senior individuals, must be in their 50s). Will refer to them as P1, P2, and P3.

P1: So Akanksha, tell us about your venture. Clarifies the name pronunciation and asks for the meaning.

I explained the meaning and how I started my business as a hobby, then scaled it up and went full-time.

P1: Do you follow business news?

I try to stay updated but don't follow it in much detail.

P1: Okay, so the recent budget, do you know what provision is there for entrepreneurs?

I wasn't aware of the details, so I said I didn't know.

P1: What do you know about it?

I mentioned that capital expenditure was increased to 11.11%, which benefits businesses, logistics, and infrastructure.

P1: Anything else?

No.

P1: Is there any other stone which is as expensive as a diamond?

Diamonds are generally the most expensive in the market, but some rarer stones can be valued higher.

P1: No, are you saying that there is nothing more expensive than a diamond?

I explained how gemstone valuation works and gave an example comparing a ruby and a diamond.

P1: If you're comfortable, can you tell us how much you made in revenue?

Around 10 lakhs, 9.7 to be precise.

P1: And how much was the profit?

Around 4.5 lakhs.

P3 interjected and asked if I was the only one working. I said yes, mostly me. I had hired someone earlier, but it didn't work out.

P1: That's great, but then why do you want to do an MBA?

I gave my prepared answer, aligning it with my business goals.

P1: Can you tell us about the gemstone or jewellery industry in India?

I explained the consumer demand for fine jewellery, the unorganised nature of the industry, and the export market for coloured gemstones.

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He ended his line of questioning here, and P3 started.

P3: So Akanksha, 10 lakhs and 4.5 lakhs profit is great. Why do you want to waste 2 years in an MBA? All you need to do is scale up, and you've got an amazing idea...and so on

Sir, in the 1.5 years that I did this that is exactly what I was not able to achieve.

One of the reasons is that since this started as a hobby based venture, I wasn't able to transfer my skills onto anyone else or able to find someone who could do it in the same capacity as me. Instead I got a tonne of learning from the venture. My background in communication (because of which I was inclined towards marketing comms) was the base, and through the business I got hand-on experience with the moving parts of a business. And I understood that I was lacking in-depth knowledge, and I want to bridge the gap by way of an MBA and equip myself to understand business.

P3: He (referring to P1) already covered this, but can you in some more detail tell us about the different segments of the jewellery market?

Spoke about fine jewellery, semi-fine, junk jewellery, and other alternatives which are in recent trend like enamel, polymer clay, resin, etc.

P3: Can you describe your customer?

Described.

P3: How much do they spend on average?

Told the average order value.

P3: And what is your retention rate?

Told.

P3: Over what time period is this? (P1 expressed mild shock over the number)

Told.

P3: How much do they spend? Do returning customers spend more?

Yes, they either spend as much as the last time or spend more. Since it's a small operation and I personally interact with all my customers, I generally remember what they have ordered before, and my observation is that they spend a higher amount or buy gifts for friends and family.

P3: Alright, and what do you want to do after?

I want to specialise in the marketing domain, and especially the role of communication in marketing and creating brands. I see myself working in the domain and getting really good at it.

P3: So are we to understand that you will not sit for placements?

Sir, I'm looking forward to learning all the subjects as part of the curriculum and then gaining industry experience. I'm also looking forward to the summer internship which would show me

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the reality of the industry and work. Based on those learnings and experiences and the subjects studied, I will be able to take the next steps.

P3: If you were to look for a job now, how much would you be paid?

Sir, Tanishq pays around 40 - 50k as a starting salary to its goldsmiths and karigars. However, I am not suitable for that job because I don't know how to make metal jewellery with its soldering and other processes.

P3: Okay, so where will you be hired?

Clarified whether at the moment or...? He said yes, now.

With my educational background and experience, I would be hired for their digital marketing or social media handling.

P3: So will you continue doing this work or...?

No sir, I'll keep it aside for the time being and come back to it later if need be. (Wanted to say I might hand it over to friends or family, but attention got diverted elsewhere.)

P3 finished and handed over the stage to P2.

Now the real grilling...

P2: Okay, I don't know anything about any of this. So I will not ask you anything related to jewellery. Tell me, are you someone who subscribes to logic or to belief systems?

There was no context, so I thought he was continuing to talk about the business only. So I said both and started to explain—

P2: No no, things have to be either black or white, fair or dark. You know it can't be both.

Sir, but logic and belief systems are not binary opposites like black and white—

P2: No no no no, tell me YOUR preference. (continued in the same vein for 2-3 times; just wanted to elicit a response, I was also low-key flustered, said a few things but had no opportunity to justify.)

Then the context was revealed; he had gone onto my product website and was reading a blog where one of the questions was "Which stone should I buy for my zodiac/rashi?"

So then I said I don't proclaim to cure anyone's troubles, these are belief systems, and people ask questions about it. I don't think it has anything to do with logic, it's people's personal belief.

P3: No, I don't want any justification!! I'm just asking, you are free to give any answer. Okay, what would you choose, a scientific failure or a chance of success?

At this point, I was mildly stressed because of the constant interruption. Was still calm and cool, but a bit flustered nevertheless. I thought about it for 5 seconds and said I would prefer a chance of success. Started to explain my POV—

P3: Okay, well, that's totally up to you. Toss a coin and do business, who am I to stop you...
flustered

P3: Okay, do you know about the NSR cell?
I didn't know.

P3: Hmm, being a woman entrepreneur, that too from Bangalore, you don't know about this?
No sir, I must have fallen short on my research, I will read up about it.

P3: That's okay, we can't know everything.

P3: Name 3 women entrepreneur role models.

At this point, I was a little stressed and couldn't remember anyone!!! I said Vineeta Singh, Falguni Nayar, and that's it.

P3: Okay, so you are from Bangalore, do you know Kannada? Are you from Bangalore?
Yes sir, I can read and write. I have grown up here, but my family is Maharashtrian.

P3: Excellent, so you are one of us, a son of the soil. Do you know more about Maharashtra or Karnataka?

I was like uff, what am I going to be asked now xD
Anyway, I said I know more about Karnataka.

P3: Name 5 women freedom fighters from Karnataka.
I said Rani Chennamma, and I can't recall any others.

P3: Was she a freedom fighter???
I said yes, she stood up against the British—

P3: Everyone stood up against the British, are they all freedom fighters?
She resisted and fought them, so she was a part of the freedom struggle—

P3: How many women presidents has India had?
Again brain freeze moment, IDK how I forgot about Pratibha Patil, but I said I'm not sure, I know that our current president is a woman.

P3: Oh, do you know her name?
Yes sir, Droupadi Murmu.

P3: Okay, I'm done. Everyone else was also done.

P3: By the way, who has designed and made your website?
Sir, I did it myself, it was one of the things I learnt in the year I did this full-time.

P3: Oh, how did you do it? What were the tools you used?

I spoke about Shopify, how I use it, why it's useful for my business.

P3: Okay, by the way, what is happening with Byju's?

Spoke about how and why their problems started in one sentence.

P3: Right, and the pandemic ending sooner than expected didn't help them.

Yes sir.

P3: Okay, you may go now. (Didn't hear the sentence he said after.)

Thank you sir, have a good evening!

Came out at 5:45 pm.

Final Thoughts

Overall, an interesting interview with most of it being right up my alley. Light grilling by P2. Got flustered but it wasn't absolutely terrible.

3. Transcript

IIM Bangalore - 6th March Hyderabad

GEM 9.7 / 96.3 / 8.32

3 Professors (All male): P1, P2, and P3

P1: Where do you work, and what do you work on?

P2: How and why did you shift from electrical to tech?

P2: Why do you want to create a chatbot?

P3: What is the difference between NLP and Conversational UI?

P3: Chatbots are very irritating. Why are you even developing them? They don't even give a response properly.

P2: You are taking jobs away from people by creating these. Why is a chatbot better than a human? Give two advantages and disadvantages.

P1: Why do you want to shift to management?

P2: What is the difference between management and corporate management?

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P3: Do you read any news? Tell me about the panel created by the Supreme Court on the election commissioner.

P2: Do you think it was the right decision for the Supreme Court to interfere in this matter?

P3: If they are interfering like this, where does it even stop?

P2: Do you know what is happening in Israel right now? If the Supreme Court is taking every decision into its hands, will the same happen in India?

P2: Summarize your opinion on this decision.

Mostly, the interview focused on my work, why MBA, and the Supreme Court panel.

4. Transcript

IIM Bangalore - IHC New Delhi

28th Feb, 9 AM

Panel No. 3, Serial No. 2

Panelists: 3 (2 Male, 1 Female)

F1 (Female Panelist)

- What are your learnings from IISER Pune?
- What did you gain from IISER?
- What was your 5th-year project at IIT Delhi about?
- Why not a PhD?
- Why B.Ed.?
- Why didn't you join RRB PO?
- What are the major challenges in the banking sector?

M1 (Male Panelist 1)

- How are you sure that you will like the MBA journey?
- What is your family business and its turnover?
- Suppose you want to list your business on BSE or NSE. What will be your 5-year plan?
- What is the procedure for listing a company?

M2 (Male Panelist 2)

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- You like cricket and kabaddi. How is IKL different from IPL?
- What is the business model of IKL?
- Suppose you are the head of IKL. What would you do to increase its reach further?

Duration: ~20-22 minutes

5. Transcript

IIM Bangalore

Panel: 3 males, Vivanta, Mumbai

Profile: 9 7 7

Work Experience: 2 years

P1 (Icebreaker): So Prafull Prakash Patil, PPP ha, public-private partnership.

Me: Actually sir, both my sisters' names also start with P, so we are 3P³.

(All laughed)

P1: So tell me about your work experience.

P1: So many jargons, explain in simple language.

P1: What is an API? What is a Postman tool? So you have a client-facing job—tell me what you do on a daily basis, what you discuss in daily meetings, and who is involved in these meetings.

P1: So you are from Sinhgad College. Tell me why Sinhgad was in dispute recently?

P1: Tell me about Sinhgad Fort.

P1: Which movie was related to it, and why was that movie in controversy?

P1: Tell me some recent divisions in states.

P1: Why was Andhra divided into two states?

P1: What was the basis—linguistic, administrative, or any other reason?

P1: What were the two big political parties in erstwhile Andhra?

P2: Why were you preparing for defense? And why now MBA? These are two very different things.

P2: Ok, got it. Then why did you prepare for defense in the first place?

Me: (Gave a prepared answer)

P2: You mentioned in your SOP that last year you got waitlisted in TISS. Which course was it?

P3: What do you do in your free time?

P2: How do you remember that you read 25 books last year?

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Me: Told them it was my New Year's resolution.

P3: What did you learn from that?

P2: Okay, that's not learning—it's a belief you've developed. Tell me another very practical learning.

P1: So after some years, do you have plans to go back to your village?

Me: (Told about my NGO plans for education in my village, how education empowered my family, siblings, and me. My sister is the first doctor in my village, and I am going to be the first IIM graduate from my village.)

P1: Ok Prafull, you can go now.

Me: Sir, I have a question. (Asked question)

P1: (Answered)

Me: Thank you, sir. (Left the room)

(No chocolate this time)

Personal Remarks: P1 and P2 were chill, P3 was a bit skeptical. The whole interview, he was observing body language and was typing something very fast on his laptop.

6. Transcript

IIM Bangalore-16 Feb, Morning Slot

Profile: Chemical Engineer with 2 Years of Work Experience

Panel: 2 Males (M1, M2), 1 Female (F)

Duration: 20-25 min

M1: Tell me your job role.

M1: What are the parameters you look at when there is significantly low production?

M2: Any event where you took an unorthodox approach to solve the problem?

F: (I am from Anandwan, famous for Baba Amte. The panelist knew him.) What kind of leader was he, and what did you learn from him?

F: How important is people-handling according to you? Give some examples where you demonstrated these skills.

F: What kind of challenges do you face when dealing with people who are senior in age but lower in hierarchy? Any examples? How did you manage?

M1: Suppose you produce 3000 MT, and now the company CEO wants production to be increased to 4000 MT. You are a plant manager—how would you approach this task?

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M2: What do you want to do in your professional life?

M2: What are the companies you want to get into?

M1: How long is the actual marathon? How did the name come about? Name the most famous marathon.

M2: Because you have also applied for PGPBA, solve this puzzle. (I couldn't solve it.)

Personal Remarks: Overall, a smooth interview—just couldn't solve the puzzle. No Acads, No GK, No questions specific to IIM B. The interview only revolved around what I had written in my SOP and lots of hypothetical situations.

7. Transcript

IIM Bangalore

Profile: Fresher B.Tech in Naval Architecture and Shipbuilding

Panel: 3 Members

M1: 50+ | **M2:** 40+ | **M3:** 30+

Duration: 25 mins

M1: So tell me about your course & why you chose it? How many students in your batch?

Told them about the subject, its scope, and how my batch has 28 civilians and 15 cadets from the Indian Navy.

M1: What are the cadets doing here? Explain the process.

Explained how after NDA and one year of training at INA, they can choose Naval Architecture and chill for a few years in CUSAT (my university).

M1: (since I mentioned about Navy) So what's your take on India's new Agnipath scheme?

Explained the scheme and how it can reduce the portion given to pensions and income in the defence budget (which is half), so more amount can be allotted to defence modernisation.

M1: So the scope of Agniveers after their tenure?

Added the announcements by corporates like Tata and Mahindra to accept Agniveers.

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M1: Do your coursemates in the Navy support it?

Told them they support it.

M1: What's GDP? (since I wrote Indian economy as one of my interests)

Told but didn't add the term 'geographical boundary,' so it was more like the GNP definition. (Screwed up!)

M1: What's GNP then? Ever heard of 'Hindu growth rate'? (since I added how India's GDP grew 10 times in the last 30 years)

Couldn't answer both. Lol.

M1: Heard of G20?

Gave a few words on it.

M1: Why is India President of G20 this year? What can we gain from the presidency?

Told them it's by chance and how we could use it for friendly ties with non-G20 members and showcase newly built infrastructure.

M1 (unsatisfied): Only the President has the power to invite other countries to G20? Are you sure?

Confusedly said yes based on what I had read.

M1: Is India a poor country or not? What's its ranking on the hunger index?

Told them it's almost at the bottom (but couldn't substantiate exactly why) and said a better phrase than "poor" would be "lower middle income."

M1: What's your definition of research? Why do you like it? (since I added passion for research in SOP)

Told something random and mentioned one journal I read on the IIMB website.

M2: Would you be an Agniveer if you had the opportunity now?

Politely declined as my passions were different altogether.

M2: What are your passions?

Told them my passions (they laughed out loud as I named way too many interests lol)

M3: So you've written about stock market trading in your SOP. What are your trading strategies?

Couldn't remember much, so told a simple moving average strategy.

M2: Give me the technical term on why you can profit in trading faster than investing.

Got confused, so repeated "risk-reward ratio" lol.

M2: It's Leverage.

Okay. (Wtf, it was too basic!)

M3: Have you traded options? What are options? Why not just trade a normal stock instead of options and futures?

Defined options and talked about how volatile the premium in options is and high risk vs. reward.

Looked at each other and said, "**We are done.**"

Personal Remarks: Overall, a very chill interview, and all three always had a devilish smile on their face lmao.

8. Transcript

IIM-Bangalore

GEM

Panel 1 - 3 Males

1. Tell us about yourself. (Mentioned cricket as a hobby.)

2. Are you watching the Ind-Aus series going on? What is the score? (I had checked before entering the room lol.)

3. Tell us about your work. Do you think your job can be automated in the future?

4. (Since I work in Nvidia) Most laptops have Intel and AMD chips, even for GPU. Nvidia is mainly used for high-end purposes... Why is that?

5. Why MBA?

6. What is the difference between CPU and GPU?

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7. Why did you go to Pilani instead of Goa? Goa is a more fun place, no?

8. What do you want to do after MBA?

9. Any questions for us?

Personal Remarks: Overall, the interview was chill. The panelists seemed pretty friendly and in a good mood.

9. Transcript

IIM Bangalore Interview

Location: IIM Bangalore

Duration: 15-20 min

Panel 1: P1 (M, late 50s), P2 (M, mid-30s), P3 (M, early 50s)

P1 and P2 were very friendly and chill. P3 was more or less indifferent.

P2: Tell us a bit about yourself.

P2: You mentioned reading in your SOP. What's the last book you read? Give a brief summary.

P2: You mentioned a PoR (Position of Responsibility) in your SOP. What were the actual tasks involved?

P2: What was one issue you faced during that role? What did you learn from it?

P2: How can your core value (from SOP) be implemented in a business?

P3: Tell us about your work experience.

P3: What do you want to do after MBA? Any particular domain?

P3: Do you know any companies that hire for that role?

P3: What projects are you interested in working on within that company?

P3: You mentioned entrepreneurship in your SOP. Do you have any business model in mind?

P1: Who should be held accountable for the mass tech layoffs happening today?

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P1: How would you decide which company within the same sector to join? How would you help somebody else make that decision?

P1: If you got a consulting role (your preferred domain) in your present company and an offer from IIMB, which one would you choose?

P1: Any questions for us?

In general, **80% of the questions were based on my SOP**, and the rest were practical scenario-based questions. **No grilling on current affairs or undergrad subjects.** No counter-arguments to any of my answers.

10. Transcript

IIM Bangalore - Interview Transcript (9th Feb 2023 Afternoon)

B.Tech EEE

28 months of total work experience in Capital Markets and Fintech

Panel: 3 Males

Duration: 40 mins

P1: How's the feeling outside? Are the questions leaked?

(Told it is a relaxed environment and said there was no definite question pattern.)

P1: That's not good, you have to face the brunt of it now?

(Joked about how now there will be no Adani questions.)

(Smiled a bit harder.)

P1: What was the reason for leaving your previous company?

(My previous industry was in capital markets, gave my reasons.)

P1: So you are moving away from investment markets?

(Clarified why that particular role in investment markets is not for me.)

(Further cross-questioned on my first company's work and how I linked it with my career goal—this discussion lasted about 15 minutes.)

P2: So why did you join the first company then?

(Explained my college interests and how I decided there to see if I was a fit.)

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P2: What is a leading indicator?

(Told.)

P2: What are its limitations?

(Told.)

(Some more questions on Nifty, my suggestions on where to invest, and the biggest profit I made personally.)

(I replied **option trading**.)

P1: Satta yaani aur kharab hai yeh toh?

(Explained about organized traders and how I track what metrics I look at.)

P2: What's the entire basket of the budget?

(I could not recall at that instant and said I was unable to recall it.)

P2: Try to estimate.

(Gave an answer that was short of the budget basket.)

P2: Yeh toh 2 saal pehle tha.

(Smiled.)

P3: What are your hobbies and what do you do?

(Told about my volunteering, and we discussed a bit on that.)

[We'll be adding more transcripts here soon. Stay tuned!](#)