IIM Calcutta Interview Experiences

Engineering Background

Transcript 1

Profile- GEM/ CAT- 99.79
10/12/BTech- 92.67/87.54/8.8
CFA L2 cleared.
Work ex- 2.5 years approx. in core.

3 Panelists- 1 M, 2 F.

F1- Hello, so your name is Chaitanya.. what's the meaning of your name?
C- Told.
F2- What's bernoulli's principle?
C- Told.
F2- What are the applications of Bernoulli's principle?
C- Couldn't think of many, said, "Siphoning is one that I can think of rn."
F2- Do you know how spray nozzles in perfumes work?

C- Wasn't sure and gave my reasoning which was quite mediocre. (later found out that my answer was quite off from the actual working mechanism)

F2- What work do you do at xxx?

C- Told. (I was expecting them to ask me more about it but they didn't).

F1- So, you're currently on the second book of the three book series- The Three Body problem. What did you understand from the cultural revolution in China as depicted in the book and how do you relate that with the actual history of China? (Part of the 1st chp in book 1 which I had read over a year ago)

C- I couldn't remember much so asked for some hints. The interviewer obliged. I could answer the qn partially.

F2- You should have known the answer to this as that was an important feature of the book. It seems like you have read about it on wikipedia.

C- Tried defending myself. Was somewhat successful.

F1- What is cost of capital?

C- Told.

F1- Write the formula on piece of paper?

C- Did.

M1- Define what is cost of capital in detail.

C- Told.

M1- We can calculate equity rate of return through couple of models- Gordon growth and CAPM. When will we use which?

C- Tried my best to answer this. Went into some detail of my reasoning.

M1- What's Beta?

C- Told.

M1- How do you calculate Beta?

C- (One of the most silliest and easiest qns of all and I couldn't answer that for some reason). Tried my to answer...

M1- (interrupted me but was kind) It's ok if you don't know..

F1- Why did you do CFA?

C- Told. They didn't cross question much.

F1- You have written that your mother used to work.. where did she used to work?

C- Told that she used to work at a Bank.

F1- So did that inspire you to explore finance?

C- Tried to connect it with my story.

M1- Do you have any questions for us?

C- I had one. Very generic. They were kind enough to respond with a smile.

Interview lasted for around 20 mins or so. It was kind of a stress interview with mild grilling. They didn't let me settle. No GK/ Why MBA/Acads. Minimum workex related discussion. Overall, I have mixed feelings about it as I could not steer the conversation towards my safe area.

Transcript 2

10/98.8/9.06
CAT - 99.96
GEM with 9 months workex

P1 - Prof Ankit Kumar
P2 - Prof Biju Paul Abraham
A - Alumni

P2 - So you work for Amazon
(Answered that I used to, and I was laid off)
P2 - So what have you been up to these days
- Explained
P2 - did you like your work at Amazon
- talked about it, working on customer facing projects etc
P2 - Tell me all the different avenues Amazon has stepped into
- Discussion on Amazon's diverse businesses
P2 - Why do you think these companies like Amazon and Apple are going into video streaming
- Had discussion, my reasoning didn't explain the incentive for Apple

P1 - So you're from Electronics, what is your fav subject
- Solid State Electronic Devices
P1 - Explain what it is about
Explained
P1 - So you have idea of diodes. Explain what is full form of LED. How does it work
P1 - (Cross question on explanation) Why won't the same thing happen with this glass. How about a metal
(Explained, seemed satisfied with answer)
P1 - Puzzle - Find number of rectangles with equal number of black and white squares on a chessboard
- Fumbled in between, was given hints by P1 but didn't give a complete answer
P1 - So you're from IIT BHU, who established it and when
Answered

P1 - Have you been to Lanka in Varanasi? What is the speciality of the area
Answered with few cross questions on the area
P1 - What is unique about Ganga in Varanasi
- Answered

A - What do you know about the current changes in the semiconductor industry and how is India poised to pick up on it
Answered about the supply chain issues and subsequent effort to diversify it, and how India is giving subsidies for setup of these plants in India (could have included technical side but wasn't aware)
A - How can India move forward in the Quantum revolution
- Wasn't aware of what exactly Quantum revolution meant, but explained how our corporate R&D spending is low, and we need to improve on research in our educational institutions
P1 - Handed a graph and asked to explain how graph would shift if Y axis values would increase from past for each X axis value
- perplexed at the simple question but answered
P2 - Do you have any questions for us
- Asked about significance of triple crown and how these accreditations were given, P2 explained the various features that were looked at and how IIMC fared in them
- Thanked them and left the room

It felt like I was in there for only 5 mins, candidate that followed me timed it and said it crossed 15 mins. Overall felt pretty short, no major cross questioning. Panel was very friendly. Interview was kept tangential and no cliche questions asked (didn't even ask for introduction) + achievements in the form weren't probed much.

Transcript 3

IIM C Interview Panel -4 - Bangalore
M1 (old professor) , M2 (Young Professor) and L1 (Alumni)

GEM 9.7/96.3/83.2
Percentile- 99.72

L1 - Do you know that the person just before you is from the same company as well? Do you know him? Do you work in the same domain?

L1 - Where do u work? (Hyderabad) .Why did u choose Bangalore then?

L1 - Tell me about your work and what exactly you do in the company?

P1 - So how does your product help the company?

P1 - What was the reason behind creating this product?

P1 - (gave a pen and paper) Tell the ROI of your product with values.

P1 - That is so less. What is the point of it then?

L1 - Tell me about your company merger. Why did they merge?. What are changes due to it?

L1 - We have a lot of engineers applying for IIM Calcutta, why should we select you?

P1 - Tell me what domain of current affairs do u follow?

P1 - Tell me regarding technology (told chatgpt)

P2 (showed the paper in which 'implications of chatgpt' was written) - I wanted to ask you regarding this since you were talking about chatbot

P1 - We will come back to that chatgpt later. Do you know the news regarding the banking sector(Silicon Valley Bank)

P1 - What happened over there?. Why other banks did not go through the same thing?

P1 - So should US govt decrease the interest rates?

L1 - How are you feeling? Are u hungry(last remaining person on my panel and for the morning slot)

(I asked the P2 that should i tell about chatgpt. He said I know by now that you can answer so its fine)

(We all got up and i was thanking them. P1 also then stood up and asked 'what other calls do u have. Which one would u select B or C. Be honest you don't have to say C because you are here. Ofcourse i will a bias towards C as I chose C' and started laughing)

It was very chill, felt more of a conversation than an interview. Mostly on workex and current affairs
No Acads, No math

Transcript 4

IIM-C, Bengaluru, Panel-6
10/12/Grad: 10/97.9/78.7
GEM, Mechanical, IIT-B
(7 months workex, UPSC prep 3 yrs)
OA: 99.89

WAT: Crimes against women are increasing. What stringent measures must be taken by Police and Legal system to prevent such crimes.

2M, 1F
F: You have graduated from IIT-B and are working in Goa right now?

F: Okay you were preparing for Civil Service, How was your performance?

F: Oh you cleared prelims every time but got stuck in Mains, What was your Optional?

F: Do you think it was because of that? I see Engineers taking up Anthropology - I think they are gaming the system

F: Okay, since you are interested in foreign service, Read this title and tell who is it referring to (Gave some headline regarding China from The Economist - I said no idea,
she said I can understand even we don't have any idea - both names are Lee)

F: Let me ask about Xi, how has he been for China? Please tell your opinion - no need to do any analysis based on principles

F: He even got re-elected recently right? What does that portray for future of China?

F: What about his Covid Policies?

M1: Okay, you have taken Industrial Engineering Operations research courses? Do you remember some topics?

M1: Oh, you worked in R&D? What were you working on?

M1: How do you measure variation?

M1: How do you calculate Std deviation? Say for 10 observations

M1: why 10-1 in denominator?

M1: Okay, if I say that it those observations are exhaustive then?

For More Things MBA Join our Community and Newsletter at
Blog IG YT

InsideIIM.com | TestPrep InsideIIM.com

M2: What was the product? What was the customer requirement?

M2: Why you are interested toward Foreign Service?

F: Apologies, I am taking a completely different track now, you studied in IIT-B, relating to the recent case there, what do you think about the campus culture there? Again I am not casting aspersions on you, I just wanted to know what you think about all this?

F: Any suggestions to improve this condition
(Told both short and long term and told we mustn't extend short term fixes to long term because situation will again perpetuate creating stereotypes)

F: Okay, there are so many creative ideas that IITs are generating, why do you think many of them are not seeing light?

F: How did China deal with this back in the day, they too were in a similar situation to us.

M2: you are saying they didn't have enough enterpreneurs?

F: No, he's saying there was favorable climate for investment

F: Okay, what is your plan B now? I assume you aren't too keen to pursue Civil service after 3 attempts. I understand that you have given your best both here and there, I just want to know if you have a plan B

F: Okay, sounds good.
(Asked if other had more questions - No)

F: You have any questions for us? No, okay, take a toffee.

Transcript 5

9/8/7
99.79
3 P All Male

Panelists 1

TMAY

Iron and Wood, Which will get heated faster, if kept in sun for same time?

I said iron due to specific heat.

Which steel is used in cars?

Stainless Steel, alloy steel, he retorted saying answer in terms of carbon.

I said low carbon steel, with C lower than 0.3 percent.

Why can't we eliminate carbon completely from steel?

Answered in terms of BOF and Blast furnace.

Which monument has no carbon at all ?

I wanted to say Iron Pillar of Delhi but I knew it has carbon of about 0.2 percent, said don't know.

He said it's iron pillar, I mentioned it's carbon content and also mentioned why it is corrosion resistant. He agreed and said carbon is pretty low.

Panelist 2

P-You write plays on political topics, mention one play you wrote.

I told how I enjoyed writing about the alternative discourse debates
Mentioned one play written on gift economy of kula ring islands.

P-How double coincidence of wants is eliminated in gift economy?

A- told about prestations, collectives and reciprocity.

P- so can money be replaced by gift economy

A- told practical difficulties but vouched for coexistence to preserve communitarian bonds.

P- Views on SC collegium

A- told about second judges case, why SC independence has to balanced with accountability. Favoritism, nepotism

P- so supreme Court can do anything

A- mentioned that it's limited by basic structure of constitution.

P- what all is there in basic structure

A- told

p- Views of EC being chosen by collegium

A- ANSWERED how bipartisanship has to come in decisions like these and we do it for CBI director already.

P3

How can I improve my service ranking on CHATGPT?

Told about SEO scores, how CHAT GPT uses similar algorithm and how positive word of mouth is consumed by CHAT GPT FOR future search from clients as well.

P-Asked whether it's ethical

Told No

P- So how to correct it

A- told about sentiment analysis algos used by google to distinguish malafide reviews from bonafide ones, how AI ethics is evolving and how algos will continue to evolve for this, to segregate disinformation from bonafide information.

Okay, thank you.

Transcript 6

95,95,88.6
99.12%ile
3yr+ workex in Coal India Limited (operations)
Btech in Electrical Engineering

Venue :- IHC, New Delhi, 8:00am

WAT :- Is it justified that young people leave their home for better opportunities. How it is affecting family life. Give your views. (25 mins, 300 word limit)

M1

1. Tell me about coal india. (Answered)
2. What is the price of coal in market?? (Answered)
3. On which parameters, price of coal depends?? (Answered)
4. Who are the major customers of the coal india?? (Answered)
5. What are the other methods through which coal india can sell coal?
(I said export, they do we export? I said yes first...... then they said that coal is undersupplied or oversupplied....I said undersupplied but we can sell in future....then they said tell me about present scenario...then I said no)
6. If i am here to buy coal from coal india....what are the criterion we will agree on?? (Answered)
7. What is the share price of coal india?? (Answered)
8. Is it undervalued or overvalued ??(I said fairly valued)
9. Why it is fairly valued?? (Explained about market sentiments and some financial terms)
10. How will you decide the share price value of coal india ?? (Explained but they are not convinced)
11. In which parameters valuation of the company depends?? (told)
12. Is cash flow of Rs 100 is good or bad?? (I said good and i said positive cash flow is good but they kept asking why...not Answered)

F1

13. Patna's rank in cleanest city?? (I said it is last)
13. Who is responsible for this situation?? (Answered)
14. What are the steps government taking?? (Answered)
15. Why MBA?? (Answered)
16. In which sector ?? (I said energy sector)
17. You are already working in a good energy sector company...why you want to go in energy sector after MBA also?? (Answered)
18. Name 3 companies you want to go in energy sector after MBA?? (Told)
19. Tell me something about Renew power?? (told)

M2

20. He asked about my current salary and how much i am going to pay in college and then how much salary i am expecting from energy sector companies ?? (told)

Transcript 7

10th: 10 CGPA
12th: 90.77
Undergrad: 8.79 in Electrical Engineering

Work Exp: 19 months. (Software Engg.)

WAT: Today's Genz is using dating apps like Tinder, Bumble...and believes in short-term relationships. So do you think the traditional notion of romance and marriage is coming to an end in India?

Panel: Two Males P1 and P2, one Female F1

Me: Good afternoon (said to all)
P1: Good afternoon, Can you tell me about yourself, what you have done, and eventually, why you want to do an MBA?

P1: You mentioned something about silicon in your intro, is your company in Silicon Valley?
Me: Explained that I said silicon, as the company designs semiconductor chips(I had told it's a fabless silicon company in the intro). Told him that the headquarters is there, but its R&D center is in Hyderabad.
P1: I have heard that ppl working in Silicon Valley think, that MBA wale log bas gyan dete hai, and they don't know anything, and they think that tech people are superior and that doing an MBA is of no use, etc. So, don't you think like them and decide not do an MBA? (a bit vaguely asked..he covered many points like what they think, do you think an MBA is really needed etc.)
Me: Said that I can't comment on their views, but I feel that currently there are so many discussions about AI and Technology's application in business, so there is a need for ppl in management and leadership, who have also worked in this field, for more practical applications. So, an MBA is surely of use in tech as well (kind of answered based on these points)
(was convinced..no cross ques.)

F1: I saw your transcripts, you have done some courses on machine learning in your final year. Can you tell me what courses you took related to this? (Told the courses names)
F1: So, can you tell what are types of machine learning? (Told supervised, unsupervised, reinforcement)
F1: What is supervised learning and kind of tasks are involved in it? (Told, definition and tasks: regression and classification)
P2 : Is regression more of correlation or causation?
(Never heard of causation, but told him correlation, on asking why? I said don't have much idea abt causation)
P2: What is the difference between correlation and regression? (Was bit blank..but explained the definition of correlation and formula and then explained regression, had some discussions, drew, and explained on paper. Not sure if they were convinced with the answers..the terminologies they used were very different from what I had learned..this discussion was very maths extensive)

P1(suddenly): I see that you have taken a course called "Principles of Finance" in your clg. What did you learn in it? (Was bit confused…it was an elective I had taken.. I told him I learned personal finance in it)

P1: What did you learn abt personal finance?

(Told about equities, mutual funds, and said, I also do SIPs and why I prefer them etc.)

P1: Did they teach you about insurance? (Said NO)

(comments…Kaisa course banaya hai..insurance wagere nhi..direct stocks khareedne sikha rhe hai)

P2: What are stocks and debt funds? (Told)

P2: Asks some questions about debt portfolio modelling etc.(don't know exactly what?!)

(Said, never heard of it)

(P1 interrupts: She has just learned personal finance sir (sarcastically)

P2: Ohh..okay. No issues. I asked because she just explained regression and this is its application.

(Me interrupting: That's what I want to learn sir! Application of what I have learned…. (I don't know why I said this, just came spontaneously))

P2 (laughing): Then IIM Calcutta is the right place for you! (Everyone laughing..)

P1: (Pointing at the economics course, we had in first year) So, you have learned economics also?

P1: Can you draw demand supply curve? (Ik it's the basics of it..but just couldn't remember it, drew axes with demand on x and supply on y..they interrupted saying what should be there in x and y axes? I told them that I didn't remember about this, it was a course in first yr, and I kind of forgot it)

P2 (suddenly): Do you follow your state politics? Can you tell why Shiv Sena got split into 2 parties? (Took some time for the sudden shift from economics to politics..and answered the points I knew about the issue) (P.S: My state was Maharashtra)

 P1: Do you follow any current affairs? Tell me some imp. National issues in recent times (Told India-Maldives Row..expecting him to ask to elaborate, But he suddenly said okay, any other? Told Consecration of Ram mandir..he again said any other? , Told This year we had G20 presidency as well and we concluded it well (asked this yr? I corrected saying 2023…), Then he

asked any international issues you knwo abt? Told Him Red sea crisis and told it has an impact on Indian economy as well.. But he ended it..didn't ask explanation on any of the above..just naming)

–They asked if I had any ques. Told it was nice talking to them. Thank you.

Transcript 8

Profile: GEM, 99.85 %ile, 9/9/6

29th February 2024
Venue: ITC grand Central, Parel east, Mumbai
8:00 AM

WAT topic
Ideally journalists are supposed to be the chroniclists of the times. To what extent do you think modern TV Journalism follows this. Give reasons for your answer.
(300 words, 25 mins)

Interview:
panelists: 3 (2 professors - P1 and P2, 1 alumni - A)
I was the 9th candidate to be interviewed among a total of 10.

 -Entered, greeted them.

P1: Tell us briefly about yourself.
 -Started giving the prepared answer. Interrupted me just before the ending and asked me to give examples from my life where I displayed my quality of working well with a team & leadership qualities.

P2: Have you heard of electoral bonds?
 - told him I wasn't aware of this.

P1: Do you read newspaper? Which social media platforms do you use for getting updated with recent events.
 -I told him inshorts and X (twitter)
P1: (back to back questions.)
    who has recently acquired twitter ?
    why has he acquired twitter?
    What is the amount of money that he paid?

Why did he pay such a high premium of 38 percent over the actual price of the company ?
How do you decide the worth of a company like twitter?
How are share prices determined?

After this there were a few work related questions.

P1: What are the different products coming out of your refinery?
   What is the composition of LPG.
-I told the gases present in LPG but I wasn't aware of the exact composition (percentage of each gas)
P1: what is the weight of domestic cylinder? What is it for a commercial cylinder?
 - told about domestic. Weight of commercial cylinder slipped out of my mind so I said sorry sir I cannot recall at the moment. He told that it is 19 kilograms.
 - Then I remembered and added that along with 19 kilograms we also produce cylinders from 5 kilograms upto 450 kilograms for commercial use.
P1 : How are the weights decided ? Who decides that cylinders will be 14.2 kg for domestic and 19 or 47.5 or 450 for commercial.
 - I wasn't aware of this.

Over to P2.
P2: Do you know what has happened with byjus recently
 -told.
P2: what was the reason behind this downfall?
 - told that the indian e learning ecosystem was not able to cope up with post lockdown situation due to a sudden drop in the number of users. Apart from that byjus had borrowed 1.2 billion dollars from investors in US and failed to pay back which led to a lawsuit being filed and byju's ended up losing the case and lost the control of byju's alpha, US based arm of byju's.
P2: But what is the problem. It is their money, it is not public's money. No one is losing anything due to its downfall then why is there so much news about it?
 - talked about how it is affecting thousands of students and their parents who have paid lakhs of rupees for their courses. Many of the parents had taken loans for paying their fees. Then there are employees whose future is uncertain. More than 5000 of them have already been laid off.
P2: what is the difference between a shareholder and lender?
 -told

Meanwhile the alumni *(A)* went through my form and asked
"Your area of interest is operations and Supply chain and you've mentioned you wish to work for Amazon in future. Why Amazon? "
 - told about the recent innovations in warehouse automation in amazon. Acquisition of keva systems (later renamed as Amazon robotics), use of automated robots for warehouse operations and the resulting improvement in warehouse capacities and reduction in time taken for order processing.

P2: can you tell me what is the difference between logistics and supply chain ?
 - told. He seemed satisfied. No further questions.

A: dont you think the automation systems employed by amazon may lead to unemployment in India if introduced here ? For us wouldn't it be better to have humans working in the warehouses?
 - talked about how these robots make the job of humans easier and are meant to increase their speed and efficiency, not completely replace them. Also talked about how jobs are divided in these warehouses between humans and robots.

A: Are you aware of the entire process that takes place in the refinery right from the start?
 -I started telling the step by step process. He interrupted in between
A: okay. How do you ship the products out of your refinery?
 - told about railway gantry, tanker trucks and pipelines.

P1: Do you have any questions?
 - I have read that IIM Calcutta has an operations club along with many others. Is there any prerequisite knowledge I need to have to get into it ? And what is the selection process?
 P1: Each club has it's own selection process. There are some prerequisites for each club but dont worry you'll be guided by your seniors once you reach there.

P1: asked about my percentile and what other calls I have.
 -told.
P1: No call from Bangalore even after this percentile?
 - No sir.

P1: okay that will be all. Thank you.

No questions on academics, gap years, why MBA. Entire interview felt more like a rapid fire round than a conversation

---

Non-Engineering Background

Transcript 1

Class 10:10 CGPA
Class 12: 89 percent
Graduation: 8.88 CGPA B.A.LL.B (Lawyer)

For More Things MBA Join our Community and Newsletter at
[Blog](#) [IG](#) [YT](#)

Three Panelists P1 (50s Male, Grilled) P2 (Male 30-40s, Maths Ig) P3 (Male Young)

P1: so what is the talk outside ?
Answer: well sir three panels are taking stress interviews and 1 seems to be taking nicer ones.

P1: who told you this ? The one that went out right now?
Answer: No Sir, he seems to believe the interview went just fine. The first candidate who left the interview just ran as fast as he could so…

(All started laughing)

P1: So, Lawyer why do you want to do an MBA ?
Answer: ready made Answer full

P1: but lawyers are legal consultants, rather lawyers can lose cases and they will still get paid consultants wont get paid if they lose the money of the clients
Answers: Sir Lawyers lose their reputation if they lose the cases, which affects the money they are paid

P1: what are you saying if Kapil Sibal today lost a case today his fees would not decrease now would it?
Answer: Sir, the fees of these lawyers are often determined on the basis of the exemplary cases that they have won before.

P1: Can you name any case any case kapil sibal has been a part of?
Answer: sir I am not able to recall any case of significance that he argued off the top of my head.

P1: Lawyers defend all these murders, why should they do that ? If I have seen someone murder and he confesses that he has murdered then why should there be a process ?
Answer: explained the process of Law and the need for legal processes

P1: but what about kidnapping, if today israel-hamas issue, Hamas has kidnapped so many people would you follow process of law ?
Answer: Sir thats international law the process would be different

P1: ok, say then my some relative is kidnapped and they are asking for ransom then ? Should I pay the ransom or should I inform the police ? If I inform the police and all these IPS officers I may never see my child ever again ?
Answer: (tried avoiding the question), tried talking about the uniqueness of the situation etc

P1: Ok, so you know about the ram mandir dispute ? Why did it take so long to decide the title suit ? With so many people claiming ?

Answer: Starting talking about title suits and Land ownership legality.

P1: Ok I understand that we dont have a title system but I even if I have to prove the ownership of a pen I will have only invoice na ? But point is why did it take so long ?
Answer: talked about pendency of cases and how their are several vacancies in the courts,

P1: so if the vacancies are cured then it will be all fine ? How is that ? The math doesn't make sense just some thirty percent vacancy is creating so much issue ?
Answer: Talked about per capita cases of the country

P1: why are you comparing with the west their population is smaller
Answer: Sir but their Case per Judge is 1/10,1/100 magnitude lesser, that is a very significant difference (didnt stand to mention per capita is per person so it doesnt really matter)

P1:

P2: Ok So let me ask a puzzle, 3 Switchs and One light is there how will you find out which is which ?
Answer(Took about a minute) Sir I can do it in two tries, turn two switches on and then check

P2: No only in one try
Answer (though for somemore time) I dont know sir (Keenly looking at him for an innovative solution)

P2: just check the heat of the light bulb

P1: I guess this question proves how much IIM professors watch OTT Platforms.

P2: Asks about Histogram (I talked about Bar Charts)
P1: He is talking about Bar Charts
P2: frequency, range, distribution
Answer: Sir I havent done maths in 5 years now
P1: But I am sure you can learn it
P3: Again asks on why MBA , and he actually listens to the entire set
P1: lawyers And MBA is not a good combination they are generally not very succesful, Engineers have good logical thinking and quantitative aptitude they are better suited, they have gotten into management positions even without an MBA. The Data for all the past lawyer plus MBA combination tells us that the furure set is not going ro be much better either.
Answer: Maybe the normal set of Lawyerers plus MBA is not very good, I would the exception I am confident.
P1: what does it mean by your confident ? Everyone is confidence, it costs nothing to be confident. Let me play the devils advocate (like he was being sweet till then) you are not from NLS why do you think you would be able to succeed ?

Answer: Told him about how I used my knowledge of Law to help the local community, bus shelters, speed breakers, Zebra Crossings, Dormitories

P1: there are so many people who do such kind of public service, you are not the first one
Answer: I definately wont be the last either sir, but we need people like that

P1: you are answering like a lawyer evading the question, P3 question was why MBA

P3: (Smiling and listening)

Answer: sir , I want to be a consultant and i will be able to do because there is lot of similarities in the work, for instance there is a good amount of communication required

P1: you are wrong there is no communication required, you havent done proper research, you just have to put 5 slides and in that tell the entire ramayan in just that
Answer: and that ramayan I can tell better sir

P1& P3 laughing

Answer (talking to P3) Just like P1 said I am not from NLS and that I one more reason I want to do an MBA from IIMC since it will open doors for me and give me a read carpet welcome, (couldnt mention about joka culture or any clubs, mind was too tensed from all that baggering)

On the overall, I think I misjudged the amount and nature of information they would have. (Somehow I though they would know more law, but mostly it was like some old uncles who read the news paper a little too often)

Transcript 2
28/01/2024
GNEF 6 months workex
9/9/8
BA in economics and mathematics from DU

Panel - 2M 1F

F - Hi, how are you. Where do you work
Me - answered

F - What are your roles and responsibilities, how much business have you brought in (since I work in sales and marketing)

Me - answered in numbers, was asked to convert to percentage

F - what do your parents do?
Me - answered

(Now the actual interview starts)
F - okay, so you have studied economics. Can you tell me what is inflation, how does it affect the country, world, how does rbi control it, what are the repercussions (all in the same sentence)

M1- also, please explain BoP while you're at it

Me - explained inflation, repo rate, bank rate, Fed rate

F - (interrupts) how does the fed rate affect the Indian interest rate
Me - explained with respect to outflow of foreign investment

(F passed a comment that I couldn't quite understand, and everyone started laughing. I looked at M1 questioningly, he clarified that it's very clear you don't follow US govt pages on X, everyone laughed some more)

M1 - chalo, now explain BoP
Me - explained how it's the foreign exchange account of the country, etc etc

F - why do you want to do an mba?
Me - started giving well prepared answer

F - (interrupts) you are a maths graduate right?
Me - (oh no, here it comes)
Yes ma'am, I am

M1 - will you solve a problem for me

F - arre, isne toh padha hua hai, let's not ask

M1 - just one question, it's a simple one.

F - there are some shrubs in a pot, and they double every second, and fill the pot in one minute. At what time will the pot be 1/4th full?
Me - answered

F - okay one more question. What is the probability distribution of you getting the final admit for iim c? Draw tha graph for me

Me - thought for a bit. Said it will be a discrete variable, will follow binomial distribution since I can either fail or pass. Not sure how to draw the graph for it. (I think I made a blunder here, not sure)

F - smiled and nodded

F - I see you have mentioned bharatanatyam in your form. Tell me 3 things that you learnt from it that you can apply in a management role.
Me - told

M1 - okay, do you have any questions for us?
Me - no sir, thank you very much.

F - you must have all the calls. Which one will you choose out of ABC
Me- ma'am definitely C only.

M1 - started laughing, in C interview toh you'll say C only.

Me - joined in the laughter, but told my reasoning and gave a personal angle as well.

Transcript 3

India Habitat Centre
Second last in the panel (So my interview started around 12:15 pm)
20- 25 min

Profile: 9/8/9, Non-Engineer

WAT: Would you agree that the rapid advancements in technology has led to an overflow of information? Suggest ways to curb this onslaught of news.

2 male and 1 female [Madhuparna Karmokar (Economics)]

Wished all of them good afternoon.

M1: Very good afternoon. Please take a seat.

I gave the certificates to F. She started glancing through it.

M1: So, what is the talk outside about this panel?
Me: Heard that it is very conversational. (All of them smiled)

M1: Do you want it to be conversational or technical?
Me: I would prefer if it was conversational.

M1: So, you are from an English Literature background? You must have learned about the language as well. This is a serious question. Listen to this carefully. (started giving me a scenario which went on for atleast 2 to 3 min) So there is ambiguity in the English language. For example, when I say 'Get Lost' it can mean different things based on the context, like get out of the room or shit as in an expression of surprise. Considering that you are an expert in this language, I approach you for a task. You will be provided with any amount of money, any number of resource people and anything that you need. I need you to solve a problem for me. You are supposed to write an essay, which can range from 1 page to 1 million pages, I don't care. The essay should analyze and explain the ambiguity in English. A person who reads this essay should be able to use English without ambiguity. Is it possible to eliminate the ambiguity in English using these criteria? (By this time M2 and F were looking at each other and laughing silently)
Me: (I had been staring intently at M1 for all this while trying to comprehend this entire question of 2 min) Asked a couple of cross questions, took 1 min to think and said that I think we can resolve the ambiguity but whether it's possible upto a 100% is questionable. Started on how I would use William Empson's Seven Types of Ambiguity theory to describe on this… (got interrupted)

M1: (Shook his head) I will repeat the scenario…(Went on to repeat the conditions, stressing on the inherent ambiguity in the language) Why do you think it isn't completely possible?
Me: Tried talking about the influences on the language, prolonged history of evolution, gendered terms and lack of cultural equivalencies etc.

M1: Gave further hints on the question.
Me: Was trying hard to think of the right answer to this. By now I realized that the ambiguity cannot be resolved but wasn't able to immediately answer why.

M1: I won't trouble you too much over this language question. So English is inherently an ambiguous language ryt? Even if we write a million pages about the ambiguity in English, the language used is still ambiguous. So we cannot remove ambiguity with ambiguity. Think on those lines.
Me: Replied that I will think about it.

M1: Now I will give you a puzzle. (started giving me a scenario which went on to be a discussion for atleast 2 min) Consider the entire population of the world. What is the world population as of now?
Me: I am not sure of the exact figure sir.

M1: Take a guess. Is it in lakhs, millions, billions?
Me: Billions sir. Might be close to 8 billion.

M1: Close enough. So the entire population of the world is 8 billion. What is a safe figure for the female population? Let's take it as 50%, so 4 billion. Now, what is the probability that atleast 2 other women in this entire world will have the same number of hairs that you have on your head? Explain mathematically.
Me: I was both amused and bewildered by now. And smiling quite much.

M1: Do you think that it is possible for 2 other women to have the same number of hairs? What can be the number of hairs on a woman's head? Thousands, Lakhs, millions?
Me: Ermmm, I think it is possible sir. I don't know the exact number, but I think it can be a few thousands. I only know that a normal hairfall level is upto 100 strands per day.
M1: Okay, so how can we prove mathematically that this happens?
Me: I am not exactly getting the mathematical approach to it. I am not sure, but I think we can approach this through binomial distribution.

M1: (Shook his head) See I am a very old man, all this binomial distribution and mathematical terms, I don't know. Explain using Math how the other 2 people will have the same number of hairs.
Me: I smiled and told that I am not sure.

M1: Okay I will give you a clue. (started giving me another puzzle which went on for 2 min) Do you know what a pigeonhole is? The nest for pigeons. So imagine there are 10 pigeonholes arranged in a straight-line and there are 11 pigeons. Now, is it possible to arrange these pigeons in such a way that each nest will have a unique number of pigeons?
Me: Asked a couple of cross questions such as if the nests can be left empty and any other conditions.

M1: If the nests are left empty, it would mean that the number of pigeons there is 0, and that is allowed. Is it possible to arrange the pigeons in such a way that each nest will have a unique number?
Me: No, it isn't possible that each nest will have a unique number of pigeons. Some repetition will be there.

M1: Okay, so this is your clue. Apply this same logic in the first puzzle.
Me: I understood that 2 other women can definitely have the same number of hairs as me but couldn't explain it mathematically.

M1: Okay, no problem. Over to M2.

M2: So, tell me something about your family, background, schooling etc.
Me: I come from Kerala, parents, schooling etc.

M2: Then why are you in Delhi?
Me: For the interview… (since there is no centre in Kerala)

M2: Explain to me about your role. What is TheMathCompany? Is it related to Math?
Me: Explained in detail

M2: Do you think your role is relevant to the education you have had? How is it applicable to your education?
Me: Explained

M2: What is your dream role?
Me: In the business landscape, a top position of leadership in Marketing. In general. I want to be a published author.

M2: So then why MBA?
Me: Tried explaining that the interest stemmed from my work experience and exposure to the company leadership, how I was inspired by my team lead.

M2: Obviously you were inspired by someone. But what is it that attracted you to this?
F interjected- Since you have a Masters and want to be a published author, you could have gone and done an MPhil or something in the literary arena.
Me: I have a blog; I have carved out a literary journey of my own. Becoming a published author is still my dream and it is one facet of my identity. But people can have multiple facets and my journey in life till this point has inspired me to explore this fresh facet of my identity. I want to learn more about management and for me having an educational qualification, that provides me with structured systematic learning is quite important.

M1: Do you know any authors who passed out from IIM Calcutta?
Me: Amish Tripathi and Ramachandra Guha.

M1: Have you read Amish Tripathi's works? What do you like about this books and writing?
Me: Yes sir, the Shiva Trilogy and one from the Ikshvaku series. The particular period in my life when I read these books also added to the flavour of the reading experience. We used to smuggle these books into our hostel and read them right under the nose of our warden. Personally, I love his reinterpretation of the Indian mythology and representation of deities as warriors.

Over to F.
F- Writes a dataset on a paper and passes it to me. What is a good measure of central tendency for this dataset?
Me: Found the mean.

F: What is it?
Me: Arithmetic mean.

F: Don't you think the data is scattered too much from this?

Me: Then it struck me. I corrected my answer and said that the median is a better measure of central tendency. (But made a silly mistake while calculating the median; was mentally exhausted by now)

F: Is this the median?

Me: Started panicking. (The panel started laughing and told me to calm down. Silly mistakes can happen, it's okay)

F: Gave me a differentiation problem next. Differential of x2 + 8

Me: Wrote 2x + C (Made another supreme blunder, where I added the C which comes in Integration to a Differential problem)

F: What is this C? (basically raised her eyebrows)

Me: Blabbered something about a constant and told that I only have a vague memory of this portion.

M1: Okay, the last question for you. This is a self-assessment question. Suppose we give you admission and you choose to join IIM Calcutta. What are a few thing that you will be active in or can contribute much to and what is something that you will struggle with?

Me: Talked about the Joka culture, how extracurriculars are very important in IIMC, so I will be very active in that.

M1: Singing, dancing, writing, everything you will do?

Me: (Smiled properly) Yes sir, I will do everything.

M1: Struggle?

Me: I will struggle with Mathematics.

M1: So you are aware of that by now? Have you been taking any steps to work on it?

Me: Yes sir, I am aware. It's been some time since I have been out of touch with the subject. I have been doing some Pre MBA Math courses from Coursera to brush it up.

M1: Are you sure that you will be thorough with the subject before joining the classes?

Me: Yes sir, I am very sure.

The panel smiled.

M1: That will be all. Lovely talking to you.

Me: Wished the panel and left.

Overall a very chill, conversational panel. Made me comfortable whenever I was feeling stressed. One of the most interesting interview experiences that I have had.

Transcript 4

3 panelists - P1, P2, P3
My profile - 98.73 percentile. BA (Hons.) Political Science. Fresher. 98/97/71

WAT: After COVID Bollywood industry is struggling to get people back in theatres. Why is it so? What can be done?

Started with basic questions asking what's my graduation stream, where am I from etc.
P2: what all do you study in political science
P2: any theorist that we as layman would've heard of
K: told Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke
P2 and P1 started laughing saying all this is alien to us
K: I'll talk about Indian theorists then, told Raja Ram Mohan Roy
They again started laughing saying iska naam bhi nahi suna. Then I said Gandhi is also considered a political theorist
P2: I only know him because his photo is on the note. Why is he a theorist
K: because of his idea of swaraj
P2: it wasn't the first time this idea was given
K: first time the idea of poorna swaraj was given. Explained it with reference to Aristotle and American war of independence. They laughed when I said Aristotle that I'm gonna confuse them.
P2: How is the election of USA president different from India's Prime Minister
P1: What if NOTA gets majority?
K: either the president would call for coalition govt or re election. Rules not formed yet
P1: will they have elections for just one seat?
K: depends when and how it happens but elections for one seat are held. Explained Bye poll elections
P2: Do they declare the prime minister in india before elections?
P2: are China and North Korea democratic?
P2: but they have democracy in their name
P2: how can they claim so?
P2: how can china criticize Indian democracy?
P3: What all problems have you faced in college?
P3: How can you resolve them?
P3: What if you don't have enough staff for the same?
P1: Do you have any questions for us?

Transcript 5

GNEM, 99.95%ile, 9/9/9
B.Com(H) from Hindu College DU
5 months workex in Audit at Deloitte USI

WAT: Environmental considerations should be looked at while considering developmental and tourism plans in ecologically fragile regions. Silkyara tunnel collapse example was given as context. (25 minutes, 300 words, 2 pages)
Interview: Panel D7
M1(Public Policy), M2(Information Systems), M3(Alumnus)

Duration: 17 minutes

M1: So Arjjan, you are working in Audit, lot of traveling must be involved then?
A: No, since I am working for Deloitte US.
M1: What does your day look like?
A: Answered
M1: For a PE firm, what are the main factors you look for while auditing?
A: Answered
M1: Regarding valuations, there are some companies which are not listed which have a lot of volatile valuations. Can you give a couple of examples from the Indian context?
A: Said Byjus and started explaining valuations for non-listed companies
M1:(cutting in) No don't give me the method. Just examples. So Byjus is one, what is the other?
A: Paused for a bit
M1: In which scenario does a valuation for a non-listed company become important?
A: When they are about to come out with an IPO.
M1: Yes, so does that give you some hint? Which is one IPO which everyone is waiting for?
A: Mentioned a couple, but those were not the ones he was looking for.
M1: That's it from my side.
M2: So Arjjan, I have read your form and your aspirations in Finance. What are you expecting from IIM Calcutta apart from the Finance stuff?
A: Answered along the lines of interacting with top talents, people from diverse backgrounds, new perspectives, ideas, etc.
M2: You talked about diverse backgrounds. As a Bcom grad, you would have a very different skillset to an Engineer. How would you deal with that?
A: Gave some answer which I can't recall
M2: Never thought of building a startup?
A: Gave prepared for answer this.
M2: (nodded) Got it. What other calls do you have? Which one would you choose if you convert all and why?
A: Answered
M2: That's it from me.
M3: So Arjjan, what does your name mean?
A: Answered

M3: You follow lawn tennis? What are the qualities required to be a good player?

A: Answered comprehensively

M3: Of course you can talk a lot about lawn tennis! Since you don't play the sport, what learnings have you taken from it and applied in real life, say to address weaknesses?

A: Answered w.r.t to Djokovic's mental strength and Federer's calmness.

M3: What is happening with Byjus and Nvidia?

A: Gave a high level answer

M3: How do you stay in touch with current affairs?

A: Answered, but said haven't been able to go in-depth in the past 2 months due to busy job.

M3: That's fine. Any questions for us?

A: Asked and answered by M1 and M2.

M1: Thank you, have a good day!

Pretty chill panelists and a general conversational style interview. Was able to answer most questions except the IPO one. No toffee at the end :(