

IIM Indore Interview Transcripts

Transcript 1

Profile: 8/7/8 | 96.19 | SC

Date: 13/02/2024

No. of Students: ~75

Panels: 3 (Mine was P2)

Time: 1:00 PM Document Verification

I was the second last person to give the interview for P2. The room was semi-dark, with only natural sunlight penetrating through tinted windows, unlike the other two rooms.

Panelists:

P1: Male, 40s

P2: Male, 30s

P1: Tell us about yourself.

Me: Told.

P1: Since you are from a mechanical background, let's test your knowledge. Do you know why gas/fuel containers are cylindrical and not square?

Me: Told the reason: even pressure distribution on the walls.

P1: Okay, then why not spherical?

Me: I cannot explain the reason for that.

P1: What are the different types of pumps?

Me: I only knew about centrifugal and screw pumps but wasn't sure what answer he was expecting. I admitted that I wouldn't be able to answer properly and mentioned that during my engineering, I was more inclined towards automobile engineering, engineering graphics, and engineering management.

P1: Are you aware of engines?

Me: Yes.

P1: Explain knocking.

Me: Told.

P1: Tell us the fuel composition of BS6 engines.

Me: I don't know the exact composition, but I know ethanol is added to gasoline.

P1: Do you know the exact percentage?

Me: No.

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P1: Reason for adding ethanol?

Me: Told.

P1: Any more reasons?

Me: Guessed and told.

P1: Since ethanol is hygroscopic, how does this affect petrol if water is mistakenly mixed?

Me: (It was a trick question; I provided my answer.)

P2: Can you tell me any four Indian automobile brands?

Me: Told, including Hindustan Motors.

P2: What did Hindustan Motors make?

Me: Told.

P2: Are you aware of any Indian bike with a dual-piston engine?

Me: (Although I knew RE Continental GT as the answer, I forgot.)

P2: Can you tell us more about dual-piston engines and compare them to single-piston engines?

Me: Told.

P2: What is the CC of a dual-piston engine?

Me: I don't know the exact answer, but since it is used for high-performance vehicles, I guess it must be more than 400cc, though I am not sure.

P2: Can it be 1000cc?

Me: I am not sure about this; I am sorry.

P2: We will give you 1 minute to think on the topic and 1 minute to speak on it.

Topic: Maid service in India is pretty successful.

Me: M-A-I-D, right?

P2: Yes.

(I started to think.)

P2: Wait, let's change the topic.

New Topic: MBA in India is a waste of time.

Me: Told.

Transcript 2

P1- 35; P2- 45 yrs

B. Pharmacy and 3 years govt work ex

P2: Why do you have poor academics? I can't see an upward trend anywhere.

Me: Explained that after scoring well in 10th, I wanted to focus more on extracurriculars and building my personality. Participated in Scout Guide, photography competitions, and won awards.

P2: Tell me about your organisation and role.

Me: Told.

P2: Your education background and the role you are currently working in do not match; what are you up to?

Me: Told that in the final year of graduation, I had some management subjects and am currently working in digital media campaigns as well.

P1: Why are you leaving the government sector and moving to the private sector?

Me: Told.

P1: What is a molecule?

Me: I told that it's present in substances (couldn't remember properly 😊).

P1: What is a substance?

Me: Anything that has mass and occupies space is called matter; hence, a substance (again didn't remember exactly 😊).

P1: Seven sisters?

Me: Told.

P1: Tell me about POCSO.

Me: Initially said it was about women, but later corrected myself and told them it was related to sexual crimes against children.

P1: Tell me about AFSPA.

Me: Told.

P2: Tell me something more about the Northeast.

Me: Told about AFSPA and the situation there.

P1: Extempore – AFSPA and human rights violation. (30 seconds to think and 2 minutes to speak.)

Me: Explained the violation of Articles 19 and 15, rules related to custody, terrorist groups like ULFA, protests by human rights activist Irom Sharmila, and how the government has lifted AFSPA in some areas.

P2: Thank you. You can go.

Transcript 3

P1, P2 (Both female)

BE Electronics and Instrumentation + Minor in Finance + 8 months work experience at ZS

I was the last candidate to be interviewed (reporting time 1 PM, my interview started at 5 PM).

P1: Good evening.

Me: Greeted back.

P1: When did you come here today?

Me: 12 in the noon.

P1: Must be exhausting. No worries, we will wrap this quickly. Tell me about yourself.

Me: Started with a prepared answer but was stopped after explaining my work experience.

P1: Explain your role in greater detail.

Me: Did.

P1: You like Finance, you are working for a service consulting firm, and have done engineering.

Why so?

Me: Told that I liked physics and science growing up but wanted to keep my options open post-grad. Hence, I chose BITS because of the flexibility they offer over a couple of other colleges (convinced them).

P1: Okay. You like math, it seems. What are the two prerequisites for a probability distribution function?

Me: Told that the graph should always be positive or zero and the integral over the entire range must be 1.

P1: Do you remember the normal distribution equation?

Me: I said it was a complex function with mean and variance as the two parameters, but I don't remember it exactly now.

P1: Can you draw the shape for mean = 0?

Me: Did. Drew the bell curve with maxima at 0.

P1: Where is the derivative negative?

Me: Told that after $x = 0$, the graph is decreasing ever since.

P1: And the second derivative?

Me: Told that as x increases, the graph becomes steeper, and hence... (P1 interrupts).

P1: I will give you a function. $Y = ax$. Can this be a probability density function?

Me: Drew the graph and said that if the graph starts at $x = 0$ and terminates at $x = \sqrt{2/a}$, it will be a PDF as the area under the curve will be 1 and there will be no negative values it will take. (The inference took 2 minutes to come.)

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P2: Okay. Who was the oldest industrialist of India?

Me: Answered that possibly Jamshedji Tata.

P2: Okay. His first business?

Me: Told Steel. Out of Jamshedpur.

P2: Sure it wasn't textile?

Me: Yes, Ma'am.

P2: When was Navi Mumbai planned?

Me: Not sure of the exact date, but in the 1990s (answer = 1992). Overpopulation of Mumbai was the biggest trigger, and the integration of the cities is still ongoing.

P2: Okay. You have been in Mumbai for 10 years now. What is Mumbai famous for apart from things like being the finance capital and Bollywood?

Me: Thought for 15 seconds and said the dabbawalas. Their supply chain is unmatched, with 97% accuracy without GPS.

P2: (Looked satisfied) Okay, last question for the day – an extempore since you have traveled a lot. "Urbanization: Pros and Cons."

Me: Gave many pros and just one con that the social fabric and work-life balance have been sacrificed, particularly in cities like Mumbai.

Done!!

Personal Remarks- The most random interview I have ever encountered lol.

Transcript 4

Candidate Profile:

10th: 92.5%

12th: 84.46%

Graduation: 8.36 CGPA (76.1%)

Category: NC OBC

Background: Engineer (Software Development)

Work Experience: 2.5 years at Amazon

Panelists:

P1 (Male), P2 (Female)

P1: You have been with Amazon for quite some time, and you haven't switched. That's very rare.

Me: Explained my reasoning. Started asking questions on OS and Deadlock.

P1: Application of heap and stack in OS?

Me: Gave a few examples and justified their use cases.

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P1: Went deep into a few more technical concepts.

Me: Was able to answer some but not all of them.

P2: So you do mentorship for students?

Me: Told about my initiatives, book, and YouTube channel.

P2: Tell us about the guests you called on your channel.

Me: Told them about a few guests and their backgrounds.

P2: Do you think entrepreneurs in India are doing enough philanthropy?

Me: Asked a clarifying question and gave a diplomatic answer. Mentioned that some are doing it, some are not, but they are creating jobs and value for investors.

P2: Tell us specific names of such entrepreneurs.

Me: Mentioned Tata, Premji, and Nitin Kamath.

P2: Had a few counter questions.

Me: Answered them.

Extempore Topic: *Should business owners give preference to stakeholders or shareholders?*

Me: Asked a clarifying question on what exactly they were referring to by stakeholders. Took some time and started. The answer was diplomatic – focus should be on creating value rather than keeping a particular segment happy. By generating value, both shareholders and stakeholders can be satisfied.

Discussion on Amazon (even after the interview was over):

Me: Asked if I could pitch a few thoughts on Amazon. Mentioned that Amazon prioritizes customers a lot.

Panel: Countered with protests against Amazon and worker conditions.

Me: Tackled it by stating that reforms are happening, but Amazon gives more importance to customers over employees.

Overall: Good interview. Interviewers were impressed with a few answers and eventually aligned with what I said.

Note: IIM Indore does ask questions on academics significantly, so prepare that nicely.

Transcript 5

Candidate Profile:

Engineering in Biotechnology

Work Experience: 40 months in a startup

Panelists:

P1 (Professor, Male)

P2 (Alumni, Male)

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P1: You did B.Tech and M.Tech integrated. Now you want to do an MBA. How many degrees do you want in life?

Me: Answered in a philosophical way. He laughed.

P1: Why MBA?

Me: Gave a prepared answer.

P1: Which college did you pursue your engineering from?

Me: Was surprised by the question but answered.

P1: You won a competition in western music. What is Western Music?

Me: Explained that it is inspired by British and American bands.

P1: Tell me about different types of Coronavirus vaccines.

Me: Answered with examples and discussed future technology.

P1: You have been doing theatre for the last 8 years as a part-time hobby. Would you like to open up a dramatics club at IIM Indore?

Me: Sure, but academics will be the priority.

P1: Then we might have to think again about you. (Laughed)

Me: Laughed along.

Extempore Topic: *Is engineering education a waste of time?*

Handover to P2

P2: Any other hobbies beyond theatre and music? Any sports?

Me: Played hockey in college.

P2: What is the difference between NSD and FTII Pune?

Me: Explained the difference between theatre and cinema.

P2: Government and non-government awards in theatre?

Me: Answered.

P2: Inventory management mini case.

Me: Solved with some hiccups.

P2: Asked a couple of more questions on work experience.

The interview concluded.

Personal Remarks: The interview was a mix of laughter and slight grilling on work experience. The panelists asked specifically about what was written in the form, nothing from outside.

Transcript 6

Candidate Profile:

10th: 96.2%

12th: 88.15% (HSC Top 1% of Board)

Graduation: 8.52 CGPA

Undergraduate College: BITS Pilani, Hyderabad

Degree: B.E. Electronics and Instrumentation

Panelists:

M (Male)

F (Female)

M: Introduce yourself.

Me: Gave a prepared answer and mentioned my interest in Mathematics.

M: Which course do you like the most in Mathematics?

Me: Probability and Statistics.

M: Tell me about geometric distribution.

Me: Explained that it represents the probability of getting the first success on the r -th trial and gave an example of tossing a coin. Mentioned it is a discrete probability distribution.

M: If I give you a continuous probability distribution, what is the probability that x will be exactly 5?

Me: Answered 0 probability.

M: Why?

Me: Because the area under the curve is zero, as a straight line has zero width.

M: What is the correlation of independent variables?

Me: Answered 0.

M: Is the inverse true?

Me: Not necessarily. Zero correlation doesn't mean the variables are independent. It is a required condition but not a necessary condition.

M: Tell me about a probability distribution where the mean and variance are the same.

Me: Poisson distribution.

M: Give an example of Poisson distribution.

Me: Gave an example. The panelist seemed semi-satisfied.

M: I am done. Now ma'am will ask you questions.

F: Good morning. You are from Maharashtra?

Me: No, I have traveled to many places due to my father's job. Currently based in Maharashtra.

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F: Which place did you like the most?

Me: Assam, because of its natural beauty, flora, and fauna.

F: Some festivals specific to the culture of Assam?

Me: Answered Bihu, which is celebrated three times a year.

F: Can you tell me the months in which Bihu is celebrated?

Me: January, April, and October-November.

F: Can you name another regional festival celebrated in April in a particular state?

Me: Gudi Padwa in Maharashtra.

F: Harvest festival of Gujarat?

Me: Uttarayan, celebrated in January.

F: Good. Now, I will give you an extempore topic: "Traveling across India makes one more tolerant and kinder."

Me: Spoke about India being the most diverse place in the world, where culture changes every 50 km. Mentioned that one lifetime isn't enough to explore this beautiful nation. Traveling exposes one to new cultures, helping to appreciate different regions better. It allows interactions with more people, fostering fraternity and national unity. It broadens one's perspective and reduces stereotyping when engaging directly with different cultures.

F: Good. What is the GDP of India?

Me: Answered \$2.9 trillion.

F: Difference between real and nominal GDP?

Me: Answered.

F: What is India's GDP rank?

Me: Answered but accidentally reversed real and nominal GDP rank. Not sure if they noticed. 😞

F: Great. Your PI is over now. Have a good day and all the best.

M: All the best.

Me: Thank you, sir/ma'am. Goodbye.

Personal Remarks: The interview had a strong focus on probability and statistics, which seemed unusual for an electronics engineer. The extempore topic was very general.

Transcript 7

IIM Indore PGPHRM Interview Experience

Candidate Profile:

Sociology Background with 3 years of experience in Sales and Marketing.

Interview Duration: Roughly 18-20 minutes.

Panelists:

P1 - Female

P2 - Male

I wished them as soon as I entered the meeting. As soon as the interview started, I was asked to show my identity proof.

Interview Started:

P1 asked all of her questions together and then handed it over to P2.

P1: Tell me something about yourself very quickly.

Me: Answered.

P1: You mentioned that you follow Formula 1 Racing. Tell me 10 countries that host Formula 1 very quickly.

Me: Answered. (I was happy that this was brought up because I am confident in answering about F1 apart from the in-depth technical aspects.)

P1: What is called as Grand Prix?

Me: Answered.

P1: Name 3 Grand Prix.

Me: Answered.

P1: When was the first Grand Prix held and where?

Me: In 1950 at Silverstone (England).

P1: Isn't Grand Prix sounding like French? Are you sure it's England and not France?

Me: Yes ma'am, it sounds French, but I am not sure.

P1: You mentioned that you had a 1-year outreach academic program. Tell me about that.

Me: Answered. (It's a mandatory program in my college where we conducted research on people residing near Cooum River affected by Chennai floods.)

P1: Was that qualitative or quantitative research?

Me: Answered.

P1: What was your role in that, and which team did you belong to?

Me: Answered about my contribution and mentioned that I was part of the Women and Child Empowerment team.

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P1: Now tell me some government policies and schemes for the welfare of women and children in India.

Me: This question was totally unexpected (oh no, oh no, oh no no no no music running at the back of my mind). Answered vaguely about the 33% reservation for women in companies and a little about the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" campaign.

P1: I think employment reservation is not mandatory, is it?

Me: Yes, ma'am, it was a suggestion from the government and not mandatory.

P1: Also, both of them are merely slogans. I want something concrete and put into action.

Me: Thought for 5 seconds and admitted that I couldn't recall any.

P1: Have you heard of POCSO?

Me: Answered confidently.

P1: What are the biggest problems for women and children in India?

Me: For women, I spoke about freedom and opportunities to work. (Her facial reaction seemed satisfied.) For children, I spoke about the importance of education and awareness about it. (Still thinking about what else to say.)

P1: Isn't malnourishment one of the biggest problems in India?

Me: Yes, ma'am, you are right. I missed that part.

P1: Is India the country with the highest malnourishment?

Me: (I was still thinking—Grrrr, how did I miss the malnourishment part?) Didn't hear the question properly and answered yes bluntly. 😞

P1: So, you are saying Africa is better than India in this aspect?

Me: Sorry ma'am, I was wrong. Africa should definitely be on top of the list. Also, mentioned that physiological needs are primary needs. Quoted "Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs" and how needs are classified.

P1: (With a sarcastic smile) "You know the answer, but it seems like you need some nudge. Right then, we will give you a topic. Prepare for 30 seconds and speak for 90 seconds."

Me: (Oh shit, didn't expect an extempore in this interview.) Asked if I could use pen and paper.

P1: Yes, you can. Your topic is "Growth and Development can be achieved only by the upliftment of the downtrodden."

Me: Prepared for 30 seconds and answered. (Their reaction felt like, "Yeah, okay.")

P1: Why PGP HRM?

Me: Answered.

P1: Alright, I'm done. I'm handing over to my colleague who will quiz you, especially in marketing.

P2: Why are you shifting from Sales and Marketing to HRM? Isn't that contradictory?

Me: Answered. (Mentioned that I like the people-connect aspect as one of the pointers.)

P2: You can do that with your customers in Sales and Marketing. Why HRM specifically?

Me: Tried to manage but seemed like he was not convinced.

Overall:

The interview had a strong focus on my outreach experience and sociology background. The extempore topic was unexpected but manageable. Some of my answers required nudging, but I tried to stay composed.

Transcript 8

Panel 6 – 9:30 AM

(Duration: Roughly 15-17 minutes)

Panelists:

M1 - Male (Middle-aged)

M2 - Male (Middle-aged)

I wished them as soon as I entered the meeting.

Interview Started:

M1: Sabuj, you look like a good candidate, so we're considering shortlisting you. Quickly tell us something about yourself.

Me: Gave my prepared answer.

M2: You're an Economics graduate. You must be aware of the concept of Demand and Supply?

Me: Yes, sir.

M2: So what do the X-axis and Y-axis denote?

Me: The X-axis denotes the quantity, and the Y-axis denotes the price of the commodity at a specific price.

M2: So are these prices Factor Prices or Selling Prices?

Me: Sir, these are Selling Prices.

M2: Why do you say that?

Me: The supplier would always want to sell his goods at a price where he would at least break even, sir. He would never strictly sell at the Cost of Production because one of the four major factors of production is entrepreneurship, and he would want to take his cut, which indirectly represents profits. Hence, these commodities are a markup on the CP.

M2: But the buyer is purchasing the goods at a specific price. So wouldn't that be his Cost Price?

Me: You're correct, sir. I apologize. I was strictly thinking in terms of the supplier here.

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(The cross-questioning was rapid. They were trying to confuse me.)

M2: Do you know about cryptocurrency?

Me: Not in depth, sir, but I have a high-level understanding.

M2: Hmm, so shallow understanding... Go on, what is cryptocurrency?

Me: Explained. Used the term blockchain.

M2: What is blockchain?

M2: You mentioned it is a public ledger that anyone can keep track of. So that way, you can even keep track of SBI?

Me: Apologies, sir. I will not be able to answer that.

M2: Hmm, so shallow understanding.

M2: So, I'll give you a topic. You'll have 2 minutes to talk on it and 15 seconds to think. Are you comfortable?

Me: Sure, sir.

Topic: The Hijab incident that took place—should the Supreme Court ban it or not?

I took the stand that the Supreme Court should **not** ban it in colleges. Spoke of secularism and how it is the essence of the country. Mentioned my college experience and an individual's fundamental right to wear anything they want and practice any religion they want. Used the phrase "**Unity in Diversity**" (it was my school motto 🙄). Then reiterated my point in conclusion based on these arguments.

M2: So you're in Delhi now?

Me: Gurugram specifically, sir.

M2: Close by. Delhi has 7 old cities. Can you name any three?

Me: Sir, I cannot recall them right now. But I will give it a try. The first one is Mehrauli, the second is Najafgarh, and the third is Kotla.

M2: You're right with the first one. Najafgarh is on the UP border, and Kotla has a historical name—I was looking for that name. By the way, do you know what Kotla means?

Me: Sir, I do not exactly know, but based on empirical evidence, I would guess it means a castle.

M2: You're correct with your guess.

M1: So, what is your role as a Business Analyst? You analyze stuff?

Me: Explained (stated Project Management as one of the duties).

M1: So you mentioned Project Management as a responsibility. Do you know what PECT means?

Me: Sorry, sir, I haven't heard of that. We follow the Agile Methodology.

M1: Oh great! So explain Agile methodology to me.

Me: Explained.

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M1: Is there another life cycle apart from that?

Me: Yes, sir, there's the Waterfall method.

M1: Give me one difference, just one, between Agile and Waterfall.

Me: Spoke of rigorous customer feedback.

M1: So why do you want to pursue this course? You're already doing everything a manager does.

Me: Gave my prepared answer.

M2: What do you think we'll teach you differently in this course?

Me: I apologize, sir, I haven't gone through the course structure. But based on my understanding:

- **Analytics**—because it is getting into every department of management.
- **Operations**—to measure the optimum efficiency of supply chain processes.
- **Organizational Structure and Behavioral Economics**—because it is essential for managers to understand team dynamics, motivation, and building a positive work environment for a sustainable business.

M1: Thank you! That's all we wanted to ask.

Transcript 9

Panel 2

Profile: ECE fresher with academics of 97/96/77 and a CAT score of 96.81. Panel consisted of one male (M) and one female (F).

F: Tell me about yourself.

Me: Answered.

F: Extempore on "Magic is not an illusion."

Me: Answered.

F: What are your hobbies?

Me: Answered.

(F hands over to M)

M: What is your branch in engineering?

Me: ECE.

M: How does a triode operate?

Me: I don't know.

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M: Do you know about diodes?

Me: Yes, sir.

M: Different types of diodes?

Me: Answered.

M: Difference between LED and Zener Diode?

Me: Answered.

M: Does an LED emit or absorb light? (*I had previously mentioned wrongly that it takes in light.*)

Me: Corrected myself and said it emits light.

M: What is an LED made of?

Me: Answered in layman terms.

M: No, I want the specific composition.

Me: Explained that different chemicals are used for different light colors.

M: Tell me the chemicals used for different LED colors.

Me: Started answering, but was stopped and asked to think before responding. Took a pause and answered.

M: At what voltage does an LED work?

Me: Answered.

M: If I use a 5V battery but need the LED to work on a 220V supply, is it possible? How can we do it?

Me: Spoke about DC to AC conversion and other components.

M: How does a bridge rectifier work?

Me: Started explaining, but was cut off.

M: What are the components of a bridge rectifier?

Me: Answered.

M: Design a circuit.

Me: Mentioned components like resistors, diodes, and capacitors but was cut off.

M: I need specific values for each component, like resistor and capacitor values. (*At this point, I realized I had messed up.*)

Me: I don't know.

M: What is the color coding of resistors?

Me: Answered.

M: Why are gold and silver colors used?

Me: Answered.

M: What is the value of the gold color?

Me: I don't know.

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(M hands over to F)

F: What are your hobbies again?

Me: Answered.

F: Do you watch or play cricket?

Me: I play cricket.

F: Who is the current No.1 Test team?

Me: Answered.

F: Before India, which team was No.1?

Me: Answered.

F: Which team held the No.1 position in Test cricket for the longest duration?

Me: Answered.

F: Which team held the No.1 position across all formats for the longest duration?

Me: Took a guess.

F: When did India win its first World Cup?

Me: Answered.

F: Name four World Cup-winning Australian captains.

Me: Could name only three.

F: What is OLED? How is it different from LCD and LED?

Me: Answered.

F: That's it from our side. You can leave now.

Transcript 10

Profile:

- **Background:** Non-engineering female
- **Education:** B.Sc. Statistics, M.Sc. Applied Statistics and Analytics (NMIMS)
- **Work Experience:** Since 10th July 2023

Panelists:

- **P1:** Male, in his 40s
- **P2:** Female, early 40s, very pretty and intimidating

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Personal Interview

P2: Tell me about yourself.

Me: Answered.

P2: You already have a master's degree, why do you want another?

Me: Answered.

P2: What will you bring to IIM Indore? Why should we take you? Think about it for 30 seconds.

Me: Answered.

P2: Explain Mean, Median, Mode, and why should I use them?

(A little grilling on this, but overall, they seemed convinced with my answers.)

P1: You mentioned that mode can be used in marketing. How? In what other ways can statistics be used in marketing? Can it be used in production?

Me: Answered.

P2: Let's do some math. Write a Geometric Progression. Tell me how you arrive at the nth term formula.

Me: Answered and explained. She was convinced.

P2: Given $y = x^n$, what will make this a sequence?

(Took a little time to understand what she was asking, but eventually arrived at the answer. She was convinced.)

P2: Which is your favorite city and why?

Me: Answered Pune.

P2: What is Pune culturally known for?

Me: Answered.

P2: More Pune-related questions. Who is the mayor?

Me: Didn't know.

P1: Who is the Chief Minister of Maharashtra?

Me: Answered – Eknath Shinde.

Final Thoughts:

- No WAT, No extempore.
- The interview felt conversational with a slight grilling but was not burdensome.

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