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CLASS OF 2023

BATCH 16TH A LEAP IN THE FUTURE!



An Entrepreneur and a Learner for life, who enjoys creative writing, Skating & Yoga

Atul Sethia
MBAEx Class of 2023

Our journey at IIM Calcutta started with a number - 16 - that our batch will always be denoted by. With 16 years in its journey, if the MBAEx program were understood as a homo sapient, it would undoubtedly be ready to take the next leap! Along with the program, the environmental conditions and global business dynamics, and the batch are ready for the times to come. The world is prepping for growth and green together! And, we - the **HOMERS-G** - are certainly raring to get back to our Karma Bhoomi - the world of business! The year passing by makes me reminisce about the wonderful memories and learnings, even more. Let me take you through a path travelled at a speed that can perhaps be outwitted by only that of light.

Human behaviour is strange, to say the least. As the time was nearing to join the course, there was this

constant feeling of uncertainty chasing me – the suspense of how life would be amidst such brilliant people who would be joining the course along with me. Breaking the ice took time, and the time following did the rest. While the repeated exhortation by Prof. Nimruji Prasad – “you’re here for learning, not for placements” - brought solace, an equally powerful and hard-hitting comeback – “what were you smoking” - and the scary question – “why do you want to do an MBA?” - caught us aghast - courtesy Prof. Abhishek Goel. The non-essential peace in the HBW class by Prof. Prasad made learning smooth. While this was happening in the classroom, the hostels were witnessing new renters gradually making hostel spaces their own.

'**O**peration', the word, has many meanings. However, the letter “s” appended to the word will always have primary meaning for people like us who have arrived here to enhance our management learning.

The one-year MBAEx course does not provide leisure time for tactical and strategic planning for how to live a life on campus. The cohort is provided with most of the facilities to ensure focus on the studies. However, aggregate planning is something that needs to be ensured by every batch. Our heroes on this front are Mr. Abhinav Agarwal and Mr. Shounak Das Gupta. Both of them have been steadfast in their responsibilities to manage the key resources - the mess and the hostel respectively. I did not realize the importance of trade-offs by Prof. Peeyush Mehta, at the time the concept was taught, but, with placements around the corner, I sense seeing real-life trade-offs staring at us.

Mathematics and dinosaurs are largely black holes for most of us, except when we miniaturize the creature on a geological time scale. Prof. Sahadeb Sarkar, in statistics classes, used the creature's name to exemplify life's peculiarities. The creature became the most talked about for the whole term.



Economics, my most loved subject, gradually, through the three terms, accompanied us through different aspects of the worlds of demand and supply. Prof. Runa Sarkar's way of testing our knowledge base was enough for us to realize the prestige of the place we are in. Prof. Parthapratim Pal's macroeconomics classes were a zoom through the worlds of interest rates, GDP, and the varied stratosphere of economies. Prof. Mritiunjoy Mohanty's 'Stylizations' and own signature style, initially, took so much of a mystic shape that it transformed economics into a space of exponential self-discovery; gratefully, the exams helped connect the dots, the fruit ripened, and we were back on earth, more mature and stable!

Regulations seldom bind the human mind. However, Mr. Amitabh Bachchan and Mr. Mukesh Ambani could not have imagined how often they would be made relevant in a seemingly unrelated subject discussion - the Law. Prof. Ravindran Rajesh Babu and Prof. V. K. Unni have unique skills that makes complex concepts palatable and easy to comprehend. The curious legal questions of our dear batchmate, Mr. Utkarsh Kashyap, caught us unawares many a time.

Strategizing always had an esoteric meaning for me. However, Prof. Biswatosh Saha's classes rubbed on us what real-life business strategies looked like. We hated the limited duration that we got for each subject, for the strategy it was most discomforting.

GratITUDE is the least I should express to Prof. Pragyan Rath. Her inspiring energy, dynamic working and exhortations helped keep us in good stead. The best part is that I hope Chekov's gun will be used for all civil purposes, at least in Joka. Even, beware handling Deus Ex Machina; Prof. Debashish Saha emphasized the point '*if you cannot measure, you cannot manage.*'

Prof. Manju Jaiswall took us through the financial world and a maze of jargon, and made us confident that we can handle the subject well; mathematical jugglery still requires effort, but we will come out as winners.

With this varied knowledge, memories, and experiences in hand, I sincerely thank all our eminent teachers and wish my batchmates glorious future contributions to global glory and good.

