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# CIMBAG TIMES

A Newsletter of the Council of Icfai University MBA Graduates



Alumni family get-together @ Bengaluru

# A Step Forward

“We must always change, renew, rejuvenate ourselves, otherwise we harden.”

All through our lives we see winds of change around us. It may blow with force or it may be as soft and cool as the morning breeze. Change is 'inevitable' and we should not try to resist it, for, change is always better for us in some form or the other. We may be able to see the goodness sometimes instantly and at times we see its benefits only over a period of time. In other words, change is nothing but the law of nature. We must learn to accept change and in fact look for it around us to embrace it and reinvent ourselves.

In order to look around for opportunities for a change, we should keep our eyes and ears open, be adventurous in exploring something new, look for opportunities where we get to meet others in this world. We should look for opportunities where we not only can exchange and showcase our knowledge, ideas and experiences, but also be able to make a difference in the lives of others.

In this context, CIMBAG TIMES indeed is a wonderful platform for the alumni to meet, share, explore, discover, stay tuned with friends, enjoy and celebrate moments of life and also make a difference.

CIMBAG chapters have always organized exciting reunions, meetings, seminars and much more, and will continue to do so in the future too. The CIMBAG TIMES is a lovely newsletter to showcase our alumni and their achievements in life.

In this issue of the CIMBAG Times we have interviews of some CIMBAG Members, their news and views, happy moments, career moves and coverage on all other alumni events. We hope you will enjoy reading this issue and continue communicating with us regularly through mails and through participation in alumni meets.

Wish you good luck and a happy new year!

**Syed H Maqsood**

Consulting Editor

# CIMBAG TIMES

A Magazine of The Council of  
Icfai University MBA Graduates

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# Interview



**Mr. Amit Navin Thakkar**,MBA  
Deputy General Manager –  
Business Unit Head (Data)  
TATA Tele Services Ltd.  
Ahmedabad

## Tell us something about yourself and your family

I'm a sports lover, a fitness enthusiast, a believer of discipline and fairness, besides a 'family man'. Few passions include reading, making friends, chess and playing with my children. I've always followed a balanced approach in life, given the fact that life is full of options and today one needs to don several hats at the same time. Besides a loving mother, my family consists of two cute naughty boys Keval & Pulse, and my better half Kajal – who rules our lovely world.

## What have been your greatest accomplishments?

I have tried to be a good father, a dutiful son and a resourceful colleague. Besides these, I really don't

believe in materialistic achievements. Success comes through fairness and passion – and I wouldn't label them as 'accomplishments'. On a professional note, I've always believed in over-delivering and under-promising. Expectation Management I believe is the true key to success & happiness.

## What is success according to you?

As I've mentioned before, success is nothing but realizing one's dreams. It is subjective and depends on what your aspirations are. For some it lies in designations, for some it lies in power & position, and for some it's all about doing what you love and doing it in a great manner. The most successful people in the world remain those who are firmly grounded with head held high and a clear vision driven by purpose.

## Can you share with us your mantra for success?

Passion, devotion and belief in yourself. Nothing else matters when you have this combination. No great feat has ever been achieved without passion and drive; and in the journey to success comes many obstacles that

can demoralize the bravest men- which is where 'self belief' comes to play. Never lose your vision and never give up on self-belief – these are the things that keep one going.

## How do you balance work and family life?

Like we manage professional priorities, I make it a point to manage family life in a professional manner. Be it giving time for children, or spending time with family or just planning a vacation collectively, I try to make time for my family; just the way I manage my work bound duties. It's all about understanding the importance of both sides of the coin.

## What are your hobbies and leisure pursuits?

Reading, Play with my children, Gym helps me relax. Rather than calling them hobbies, I would say these are things that I enjoy doing and try to take time out for.

## How has the MBA qualification helped in enhancing your career?

It has helped looking at things in a logical and analytical manner. It has strengthened my basic concepts of

business and business management. It added value to my personality like people management, crisis management and operations. This understanding has helped me deliver professional excellence in my day to day life.

### What would be your advice to young career aspirants?

Always have a vision, a goal in life – however large or small it may be. Pursue that with utmost devotion. Life is full of set-backs and barriers, be it professional life or personal life. The trick is to never lose sight and self-

belief and stay engaged in achieving what you aspire for. Also, in today's digital era, remember everyone has the same access to information. Times will only get more competitive going ahead, so never get disturbed or distracted in the journey called life. Secondly I would also like to touch upon the changing landscape today that has resulted in multiple professional options. Gone are the days when we had a handful of career options to look at. Today, with so many interesting professions to choose from, one needs to really think through the possibilities and decide on a

career option that one loves. There's a saying which I believe in: 'choose a job you love and you'll never have to work a day in your life'.

### Share an unforgettable experience with us

Every experience in your life teaches you a lot. So all the experiences are unforgettable whether nice or otherwise. I must admit that the subjects covered by ICFAI University in MBA program are very practical. I can say this through my own professional experience.



# Interview

**Ms. Ragesri Choudhury**, MBA  
Manager & Team Lead  
ICRA Online Limited  
Kolkata

**Tell us something about yourself and your family**

I am an MBA as well as a CA, presently working as a Manager and a Team Lead in ICRA Online Limited, a 100% subsidiary of ICRA Limited. I am married to an electronics engineer and having a little son who is 5 years old. In view of the fact that my grandfather was one of the first 500 CAs in India and my father is also a practicing CA, it was expected that I would follow their footsteps. I did that but wished to acquire an additional qualification as the pursuit for knowledge in me was still alive, and what could be better than an MBA from Icfai University!

**What have been your greatest accomplishments?**

When I was in the final stage of CA and I was also working as an Industrial Trainee In CESC Limited, all of a sudden in a matter of few days I was almost paralyzed by a massive attack of arthritis. I was undergoing physiotherapy and other



medication but nothing was helping me out. I was totally bed-ridden for about 8 months. However I believe that God supplements every suffering with a lot of other strengths so I decided to make use of my time by studying. Instead of taking painkillers, I tried to divert my mind by concentrating on my studies. My mother or my little sister used to hold a book in front of my eyes or prop me up in front of a low stool placed on my bed and put the book on it as well as turn the pages for me while I would read despite the agonizing pain. I never gave up hope. I finally recovered and also completed CA as well as MBA at once!! I think that this is my greatest accomplishment!

**What is success according to you?**

Success in my opinion is achieving the most desired goal in the best possible way.

**Can you share with us your mantra for success?**

My mantra for success is, Work hard, work smart, use your head along with your heart.

**How do you balance work and family life?**

It is truly very difficult to manage home and job together as both require equal attention. I have a lot of family support from my parents as well as from my in-laws which keeps me going. I cook all meals for my son

early morning, wake him up, and make him take a bath, feed him, send him to school and then go to office with my husband. Again after I return from office I sit with my son for his homework, play with him, feed him etc. So it is really a tight schedule and time management is crucial for me.

### What are your hobbies and leisure pursuits?

Our family has always been music-oriented. My mother was a professional singer (she had to leave her career to make those of me and my sister). My sister is primarily a danseuse though she holds an M.Sc and has completed GNIIT. Music being in my genetic orientation, I love to sing and also listen to music. I also enjoy reading storybooks and writing stories and poetries. A Couple of my writings have been published in newspapers and magazines.

### How has the MBA qualification helped in enhancing your career?

The MBA qualification has assisted me to climb the corporate rungs as it has an added feather to my cap. Basically the added qualification provides an edge over the others.

Studying MBA has also helped me to improve my job performance by applying the different management principles learnt from the course.

### What would be your advice to young career aspirants?

Management is a field of study that not only bestows you with another qualification, but also builds your thought process and mental framework to apply the acquired knowledge into practice. So my advice to career aspirants would be that you should not merely learn, but also think, understand and apply. This will make you sail through all exams, interviews and on-the-job problems.

### Share an unforgettable experience with us.

It was time for my MBA exams and my workload at the job-front was extreme. I was terribly scared of a paper on Marketing Management and was practically spending the time squeezed out of my reduced sleeping hours to mug up as much as possible. And then it was the D-day. I was in the hall, but when the paper arrived I was astounded to find that it was a paper on Financial Management!! I immediately

stood up to complain, but a look at my admit card confirmed that I had actually mixed up the date of the exam in my fixation to clear Marketing Management! I did not even have a calculator and started to panic. Finally when I managed to borrow a calculator from another candidate, I settled down. I looked into the paper and started telling myself that I can crack it. Later on I realized that no one can convince you better than yourself. By implanting the conviction in my mind that I can do it, I restored my cool and could actually solve most of the problems. The happy ending was that I had scored the highest marks in that paper!



# Seminars

New Delhi



Seminar on "Brand Building - Orientation & Insights", Speaker **Mr. V Mukunda Sarma**, MBA, Program Executive, All India Radio receiving a memento from **Mr. Sameer Kumar Gupta** V.P. CIMBAG, New Delhi chapter

Mumbai



Speaker **Mr. Hitesh Motwani** in an Expert's Talk on "Social Media Tools for Career Development"

Chennai



Expert's Talk on "Managing Organizational Politics" by **Prof. Manas Chakravarty** Associate Dean - ICFAI University Group

Ahmedabad



Seminar on "Management Lessons from Bhagavad Gita" by **Brahmachari Arthavana Chaitanya**

Kolkata



Speakers **Mr. Vishal Kumar & Mr. V T Krishna** at a seminar on "Investments - Traditional and Alternative Assets"



Expert's Talk on Financial Control for Delivery Executives  
**Ms. Renu L Rajani, CFA**  
 General Manager - IBM Global Services, Bengaluru

CIMBAG Bengaluru Chapter organized an Expert's Talk on "Financial Control for Delivery Executives". Mrs. Renu L Rajani, CFA, General Manager with IBM was the Speaker. She said that today most organizations function in project-based structure where each project is organized as an entity with independent financial accountability. Financial Responsibility and Accountability of a Delivery Project Executive (DPE) in this environment is similar to that of a Chief Executive of a company supported by a Chief Financial Officer to plan and control financial matters of the organization.

She threw some light on the IBM's CFO survey 2010. World-wide CFOs (across industries / sectors) cited key changes in Industry over next 3 years. These changes would also elevate role of finance in driving decisions across the enterprise. DPEs hold financial responsibility for their projects, should relate to these trends and drive cost reductions, better decision making, transparency of project operations, drive demand growth with satisfactory projects, attract and retain talent and exercise financial control to drive short-term liquidity and better capital utilization for their projects. To proactively measure financial baseline of the projects and take corrective actions, DPE's should use techniques like "Earned Value (EV)" for tracking project progress. EV technique relates cost and schedule performance by comparing the "value" of the work performed, to the "value" of the work planned.



Entrepreneurship: Opportunities Infinite  
**Mr. Vikram Khaitan, MBA**  
 General Manager - Zynke Exports Pvt Ltd - Noida

Young graduates are always in a dilemma when it comes to choosing a right career. Fear of the unknown and hesitation to walk the un-trodden path has prevented individuals from bringing out the best in them. On the other hand, the job market has undergone serious changes and this effect is coupled with a huge supply of educated professionals. Entrepreneurship once again has sprung up as an informed career choice for many professionals and MBAs in particular. In this program, the participants were guided to look forward to understand the vital concepts of Entrepreneurship. It was emphasized that entrepreneurs are not essentially born great but that greatness can be acquired by understanding the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Recognizing the above imperatives, CIMBAG New Delhi chapter organized an interactive and a motivating session where the speaker was Mr. Vikram Khaitan, MBA (Finance, Icfai University), General Manager, Zynke Exports Pvt Ltd; Noida, who addressed the alumni members on "ENTREPRENEURSHIP : OPPORTUNITIES INFINITE".

He explained the concept of Entrepreneurial Ecosystem. According to this, the basic essentials to build a successful enterprise is through, Leadership, Government Support, Social Culture, Success Stories, Human Capital, Financial Capital, Support from NGOs, Role of Educational Institutions, Infrastructure, Economic Clusters, Networks, Support Services, Early Customers, etc.

# Executive Committee Meetings



Kolkata

Executive Committee Meetings were also held in Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, New Delhi and Bengaluru.

# Alumni Get-togethers



Alumni Family Get-together & Dinner @ Ahmedabad



Alumni Family Get-together & Dinner @ Hyderabad



Alumni Get-together & Dinner @ Pune



Alumni Family Grand Saturday Dinner @ Bengaluru



Alumni Get-together & Dinner @ New Delhi

**Mr. Arvind Annu Kamath, MBA**  
General Manager – IBM  
Bangalore

When I was asked to travel to Malmö in south west Sweden on business, I did not even know such a place existed on the globe. I had never travelled to the Nordics before and hence my ignorance could be excused. I later found out that Malmö is a seaside town located at South West Sweden, just 20 miles from Copenhagen as the crow flies, but about 400 miles from Stockholm. Malmö is the third largest city in Sweden after Stockholm and Gothenburg with a population of just under 0.3 million.

Copenhagen airport since is the nearest International airport to Malmö. The train ride from Copenhagen airport to Malmö was really breathtaking. The 20 minutes ride consists of 15 minutes on the Öresund Bridge which links the 2 Nordic Nations. The Öresund Bridge was opened in the year 2000 and offers a new road and rail connection between Denmark and Sweden. It is considered to be one of the greatest structural achievements in Europe, across the Baltic Sea.

After checking in at the Hotel, I ventured out for a long bicycle ride, offered free of charge by the Hotel. I was glad to see people use bicycles extensively on the roads. This way I could cover all the major landmarks at Malmö, pedalling across the city. The Turning Torso building caught my attention immediately. It is the tallest skyscraper in Sweden and the Nordic countries. Upon completion in 2005, it was the tallest residential building in the European Union. Its unique structure cannot be missed since it resembles twisted cubes. The strong chilly windy conditions aborted my journey after seeing this structure.

Next day I was told that I need to move out of Malmö and set up base at Helsingborg since

the client I was visiting scheduled meetings there. Helsingborg is considered to be the fastest growing town in Sweden with a population of just under 0.2 million. This beautiful seaside town has a history dating more than 100 years and is today the eighth largest city in Sweden. I loved the open boulevards and vast greenery of this small town. The Hotel where I stayed offered spacious rooms with kitchen facility overlooking the Gardens. Since the timing of the visit was just right (mid August), I could keep the windows open for fresh and unpolluted oxygen. In the mornings, I often ventured out for brisk walk in the gardens and once I bumped into an old structure, which



looked like an historic monument. The building was a medieval fortress named Kärnan located right in the city centre. It seems this tower like building stood guard for over 600 years and witnessed the change from being a Danish controlled city to a modern city in Sweden. This beautiful town has history written all over the place with majestic statues and castle like structures dotting the landscape. One can easily sight the nearest sea side town located at Denmark from Helsingborg on a clear and sunny day.

People are very warm and friendly and speak good English. There are few Indian restaurants run by Sri Lankans or Bangladeshis, but worth giving them a miss since you can hardly

connect them to the cuisine we are used to back home. However the locals seem crazy about Indian food especially the Spices. Herring (fish) preparation is their National Food but Sweden by itself does not have a cuisine of its own. The public transport system is just extraordinary, be it the buses or trains. They are almost always on time and of course less crowded. Since the traffic is less, I hardly encountered any jams or honking on the streets. Cycles are used extensively for commuting which is also encouraged. Sweden perhaps has the highest Income tax rate structure in the world but the Government makes generous allocation of the funds towards social welfare especially on housing and medical care.

Fortunately I was visiting this country in August-September time frame which is the best period to visit Nordic countries. At the same time, people in India were rallying behind anti corruption crusader, Anna Hazare. While I was visiting a country that is at the bottom of the corruption index. In fact I was surprised that people never bribed to get things done in this country and “corruption” is a word that must not be existing in their lexicon.

Sweden, a unique country with warm and friendly

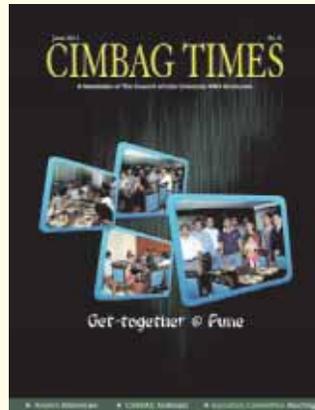
people may not offer much to foreign tourists but certainly a great place to visit if you are looking at “off the beaten track” locations.

The author, Arvind Kamath is an avid traveler and a foodie. He writes his travel blogs on <http://arvind-kamath.blogspot.com>. Arvind is employed with a leading US based I.T. organization and has more than 20+ years of experience behind him. He has travelled a lot partly due to his work assignment and the rest with his family on holidays. He hopes to come out of his corporate lifestyle very soon and start a venture in travel and living. His wife Anita and son Anish also love travelling with him. He can be reached at [arvindakamath@gmail.com](mailto:arvindakamath@gmail.com).

# Reflections | Achievement

It's a great honor to be a member of the prestigious CIMBAG. I have read the June issue of CIMBAG Times. Newsletter has provided a great insight and encouragement in our career. The interview and seminars have helped a lot in providing information of upcoming events and helped in choosing a right career path. Publication of Various alumni events and personal achievements has encouraged us to carry on in our career. I appreciate the good work and efforts by the editing team of the magazine. Keep it up.

- **Alok Tiwari**, MBA, Bangalore



The CIMBAG times is a good initiative taken by the alumni. Those who are working in top position in various Corporate's are inspiration for many. Their interviews etc. are actually motivating. Photographs of all the Alumni meetings helps in relishing those fun moments again. Columns like Happy moments and it's photographs in the end really make you feel connected. Overall it's a good initiative! keep up the good work.

- **Renuka Goyal**, MBA, New Delhi

It is a very good magazine. I liked it very much. Please organize nature treks like the members have done in Mumbai, for the alumni in the eastern part of the country. I have passed out MBA (Marketing) in May 2010. Icfai is a well-known university and i am proud to be a student of Icfai University. Presently i am working at Invida Pharmaceuticals as a team leader. It is a multinational company with HQ at Singapore.

- **Sunny Mukherjee**, MBA, Kolkata

## Congratulations!!



**Anubhav Mishra**, MBA  
Terminal Operation Manager - GVK  
Mumbai

He worked with Mumbai International airport as an operations manager and recently got a service quality award and Service excellence award for appreciations received from the passengers. He worked 'out of the box' to handle the prepaid taxi lost n found cases.

# Career Moves | Happy Moments



**Umesh Bhardwaj, MBA**

New Delhi

Umesh Bhardwaj has been promoted as 'Assistant Manager' with Tata Power, Delhi Distribution Ltd.

**Rohit Pasari, MBA**

Kolkata

Mr. Rohit Pasari, MBA has recently joined as Cluster Head, Wealth Advisory & Investment Services at Edelweiss Capital Ltd. Earlier he worked with Prabhudas Lillahar Pvt. Ltd. as Regional Head, Portfolio Management Services.



**Ms. Anindita Saha, MBA**

Kolkata

Ms. Anindita Saha, MBA has recently been promoted as Assistant Professor at Techno India. Prior to this she was a Lecturer.



**Priyankush Ghosh, MBA, Kolkata** tied the knot with **Debosmita**.

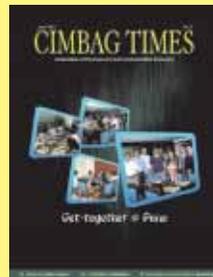
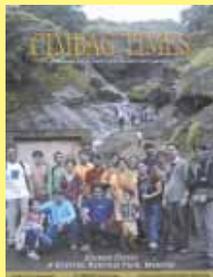


**Alok Tiwari, MBA and Jyoti, Bengaluru** blessed with twins (a baby boy and a baby girl).



| Position  | Company Name                                  | Location                |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| Asst. Marketing Manager   | Gitanjali Lifestyle Ltd                       | Mumbai                  |
| Manager - Sales   | Groz Engineering Tools Pvt. Ltd               | Gurgaon                 |
| DGM-Sales, AGM-Sales, Sales Manager-International, Retail Sales Manager         | Nahar Group                                   | Mumbai                  |
| General Manager - Sales   | Nahid Foils Pvt. Ltd                          | New Delhi               |
| Finance Manager   | Speciality Silica Pvt. Ltd                    | New Delhi               |
| Assistant Manager Finance   | Sujana Universal Industries Ltd               | Hyderabad               |
| Recruitment of Marketing Officers on Contract                                   | CanFin Homes Ltd                              | Bangalore               |
| Business Analyst  | LearningMate Solutions Pvt Ltd                | Mumbai                  |
| Key Account Manager   | Music Broadcast Private Limited               | Hyderabad               |
| Manager HR-Corporate  | Executive Tracks Associates (P) Ltd           | Mumbai                  |
| Senior Manager Marketing  | Client of Busisol Sourcing India Pvt Ltd      | Mumbai                  |
| Assistant Manager-HR, Admin & Industrial Relation                               | SGS India Pvt.Ltd                             | Kolkata                 |
| Pre-sales   | Accel Frontline Limited                       | Chennai                 |
| Senior Manager - Corporate HR   | Client of Executive Tracks Associates (P) Ltd | Chennai                 |
| Business Development Executive  | Usha Martin Education & Solutions Ltd         | Durgapur                |
| Marketing Head  | Amtek Auto Ltd                                | Gurgaon                 |
| Manager - Customer Service - International Sales , Dy. Mgr- International Sales | GROZ  | Gurgaon                 |
| Manager-HR, Sr.Sales Executive, Corporate Communication Sr.Executive            | BCC Infrastructures Pvt. Ltd                  | New Delhi               |
| Manager Training and Development  | Krishidhan Seeds Private limited              | Pune                    |
| Admin Manager   | Finolex Cables Ltd                            | Pune                    |
| HR Trainee  | Brigade Corporation India Pvt. Ltd.           | Hyderabad/ Secunderabad |
| Revenue Assurance Team Lead   | Reliance Communications Ltd                   | Mumbai                  |
| Territory Manager & Area Sales Manager  | Somany Ceramics Limited                       | Chennai                 |

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2012

*Wish you a  
Happy New Year!*