



# GLIM, GURGAON NEWSLETTER 7TH EDITION

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# DIRECTOR'S DESK

The Institute fosters and nurtures leaders for tomorrow who are capable of making difference in society and I am proud that Great Lakes, Gurgaon is totally aligned with the same. Our institute has been listed among the Top 52 management institutions all over India by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), which places the institute in the *top 7% B-Schools in India*.

Our Culture and Values at GLIM, Gurgaon are at the heart of who we are, the foundation of our growth, and central to how we operate and interact with each other. It inspires us to be part of and contribute to a workplace where everyone can pursue their passions, fulfill their purpose, and empower others.

Our people practices are centered around empowering faculty and non-teaching staff to bring their best selves to work. How we care for our employees, how we remain cognizant of their unique circumstances, and how we foster a sense of community are integral to our people-first approach and we continue to learn each day!

I am excited to share two new sections '**Inspiring Story**' and '**Know your Faculty**' beyond work where you can discover inspiring stories from GLIM, Gurgaon Employees that talk about staying creative, being inspired, and feeling empowered through their personal and professional journey. Ultimately growth comes from each of us in the work we inspire, the people we empower, and the grace we give, to enable each other.

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit

Aristotle

## **INSIDE CAMPUS**



- <u>Convocation 2022</u>
- <u>Sapience 2022</u>
- Lumiere Research Symposium
- <u>Research Exhibition for Faculty</u>
- GLIM, Gurgaon Achievements
- Faculty News

#### **Convocation 2022**

Great Lakes Institute of Management, Gurgaon, held its 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Convocation for the PGPM batch 2020-21 and PGDM batch 2020-22. The event was the largest ever convocation held physically after 2 years on 27<sup>th</sup> August at Hotel Radissson Blu, Delhi.

The ceremony was graced by the Chief Guest, **Mr. Dhruv Agarwala**, Co-Founder & CEO, REA India, the owner of digital real estate platforms Housing.com, Makaan.com, and PropTiger.com. His address to the students in the form of storytelling session was fun, easy and practical way to help students inculcate important life values.

Dr. Debashis Sanyal, Director, Great Lakes Institute of Management, Gurgaon, addressed the graduates and listed the highlights of the institute's developments in the Director's Report. He shared the *importance of 5 R's* with the students and truly displayed the message he gave to the graduates.



In the words of Swami Vivekananda "**All power is within you; you can do anything and everything**". So use your power for the betterment of the world.

Prof. Jones Mathew conveyed the message from **Mr. Mohan Lakhamraju**, Chairman, Great Lakes Institute of Management to the graduating students. He shared his core beliefs with the students "**Play the long game**": that is to optimize for the long term and not for the near term. As it allows you to benefit from the power of compounding – compounding of knowledge, experience, capabilities, networks, credibility and relationships and "**Own your future and your destiny**": that is, you should always take responsibility for what happens to you.



As a part of the convocation ceremony, academic honors were announced for the meritorious students. The gold medalists from PGDM 2022 were **Harkiran Chhabra**, Academic Topper, and **Pujan Das**, Best Outgoing Student. The gold medalists from PGPM 2022 were **Symphony Satpathy**, Academic Topper, and **Surva V**, Best Outgoing Student.

#### Sapience 2022

The Annual Management Conclave '**Sapience 2022**' was conducted as a 2 –day event on 6<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> September, 2022. The theme of this year's conclave was *"Sustainability: Balancing the 3 E's Economy, Environment, and Ethics*" aimed to deliberate upon the three E's that act as a framework that firms can use to develop, test, and evaluate their business strategies also the important question that these strategies should be able to address is "How do we stay ethical and protect the environment at the same time?"

The Keynote Address was delivered virtually by **Dr. Mrityunjay Athreya**, Author, Educationist and Management Advisor, Pioneer of Indian management movement and Padma Bhushan awardee. Dr. Athreya shared his valuable insights on '*Imperative of Sustainability'*, '*Healthy Environment*', '*Growing Economy'*, *Deepening Ethics*' and, what could be students '*Action Plan*'.

Industry leaders from across the six domains namely *Marketing, Finance, Human Resources, Operations, Analytics, and Entrepreneurship* held discussions and examined how each function contributed towards achieving the sustainability goal. The event was attended by 640 students.

#### Lumiere 2022

GREAT LAKES



# Keynote Speaker

Dr. Ivan Zupic Lecturer in Entrepreneurship, Institute of Management Studies, Coldsmiths, University of London

> **ic** Jing a meaningful academic ca arch and scholarship

The second edition 'Lumiere 2.0' was organized in a virtual mode in March 2022. The keynote speaker for the event was **Dr. Ivan Zupic** from the Institute of Management Studies, Goldsmiths, University of London. He delivered an engaging session on "Building a meaningful academic career - Research and Scholarship".





Kevnote Address Making Research **Relevant & Contextual:** Connect to Industry

Dr. Sankarshan Basu Professor - Finance & Accounting, IIM Rangalore

The third edition 'Lumiere 3.0' was organized in a virtual mode in July 2022. The keynote speaker for the event was Dr. Sankarshan Basu from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore. He delivered an engaging session on "Making Research Relevant & Contextual: Connect to Industry".

#### **Research Exhibition**

The second GLIM Gurgaon 'Research Exhibition' was organized to recognize the research contribution of our faculty members on the occasion of the Teacher's Day on 5<sup>th</sup> September. Mr. Mohan Lakhamraju, Chairman, Great Lakes Institute of Management felicitated all the faculty members who have published journal articles, conference papers and case studies.



#### **GLIM, Gurgaon Achievements**

- Great Lakes, Gurgaon, has been listed recently been listed among the Top 52 management institutions all over India by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), which places the institute in the top 7% B-Schools in India
- Great Lakes, Gurgaon 'GLIMS Journal of Management Review and Transformation', is now live with its first issue powered by SAGE Publishing Spectrum.
- Great Lakes, Gurgaon "GLIMS Journal of Management Review & Transformation" is Indexed in J-Gate Logo in June 2022



#### **Faculty News**



Prof. Dr. Umashankar Venkatesh invited by Indian Institute of Public Administration, Delhi to conduct a session for mid-career Indian Telecom Services Officers on Performance Management on 16th June 2022



Prof. Dr. V.P. Singh was invited to take full day MDP sessions on Macroeconomic environment for two companies - United Bank of India and Chola MS on 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022.



Prof. Dr. Jones Mathew invited for ACCE Conference as panel moderator for the session on CSR and Sustainability in Business and Ph.D. RDC at Amity University. He was invited to be a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of IIET journal and delivered the Keynote Address at the 7th International Conference organized by Bhavans Usha and Lakshmi Mittal Institute of Management, New Delhi



Prof. Dr. Umashankar Venkatesh and Prof. Dr. Jones Mathew case study on Kineer was used in the Pride Month (June) by IMD Lausanne to highlight the need for inclusivity and respect for transgenders in India and around the world through the story of Kineer.



Prof. Dr. Ravindra Ojha and Prof. Dr. Jones Mathew attended AACSB Standard 8 Seminar/Workshop on Thought Leadership and Research Impact at OP Jindal University, Sonepat



Prof. Dr. Akhter M. Rather appointed as the new Managing Editor for GLIM Journal 'GLIMS Journal of Management Review & Transformation'.



Dr. Vishal Dagar appointed as Topic Editor for Guest Editing an Issue in Frontiers in Sustainability and as an Associate Editor for a SCOPUS and Web of Science Journal named "International Journal of Agricultural and Statistical Sciences" (IJASS). Associate Editor of "SN Business & Economics", a "Springer Nature" Journal for the section "Economics and Management".



- <u>New Additions</u>
- Promotions

## **New Additions**



**Dr. Jagriti Arora** - She has completed her Ph.D. in Finance and Accounting Area from IIM Lucknow. Prior to that, she has done M. Com from Delhi School of Economics and holds a graduate degree in B. Com (Hons.) from Lady Shri Ram college for women, Delhi University.



**Dr. Bianka Ray Chaudhury** - She is a seasoned academician, researcher and consultant with 18 years of in-depth experience in the field of Business Analytics and Operations. She has completed her Ph.D. in International Business and has also done a double Masters. She was a university rank holder in her Masters in Economics and was also conferred a gold medal for her distinguished achievements in her MBA.



**Dr. Madhulika Saxena** - She is M.A., B.Ed and M.Phil in English from EFLU, Hyderabad and a PHD from IIT Bombay. She has more than 15 years of experience in the academia and the corporate sector, which includes teaching, training and evaluating. She has worked with NMIMS university- School of Business Management (SBM) as an Assistant Professor-Business Communication for 4 years.



**Mr**. **Marimuthu Raju** - He has done MBA in HR from Sikkim Manipal University and Bachelor of Science from University of Mumbai. He has over 23 years of experience in the field of Administration. His last assignment was with National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM). He has also worked in NMIMS University, Mumbai.





**Ms. Muskan Chawla** - She is an ICF credentialed Business Performance Coach, Learning and Development professional and a certified Image Consultant with cross functional experience of more than 16 years into training, developing and assisting people in areas of soft skills and image management.



**Mr. Aashootosh Kumar** - He has done his M.Com. from H.P. University. He has a vast experience of 22 years where he was proactively engaged in designing and delivering learning interventions.



**Mr. Mohit Singh** - He has done his B.Tech. from Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology, Hisar. He is also certified in various management domains from IIM Bangalore and the University of Washington (With Honors) for Marketing Management, work-life balance, and Art of speaking and discussing complex ideas.



**Ms. Mannat Chawla** - She is a graduate in Journalism and Mass Communication from Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi. Her total work experience is of around two years. Her last assignment was as a Communication and Branding Executive with the Indian Institute of Art and Design (IIAD).



**Mr. Rishabh Srivastava** - He is a graduate in Physics from Delhi University and an MBA in marketing and analytics from Great Lakes, Chennai. His last assignment was with SKOCH Consultancy services, where he was responsible for event branding. He has also worked with many IAS officers across India.



**Ms. Keerthi Janardhan Reddy** - She has done her BBA from Jain University, Bangalore and MBA –PGPM from Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai. Her last assignment was with Kwik Glue India as Assistant Manager –Marketing and Sales.





**Mr. Sunil Kumar** - He has done MBA in Marketing from Amity University, Noida. His last assignment was with GD Goenka University as Assistant Manager, where he was responsible for providing assistance and guidance to Ph.D. Scholar. He has also worked as Program Manager in BML Munjal University, Gurgaon. His total experience is 14 years.



**Ms. Chitrakshi Bhutani** - She is a research scholar, pursuing FPM in marketing at Fortune Institute of International Business (FIIB), Delhi. She has close to 3 years of experience including 1.5 year in the industry. Prior to joining GLIM, she has worked as research and teaching assistant at business schools in India.



**Ms. Princee Mishra** - She is a graduate in Electrical Engineering from IIT-RAM. Prior to joining us, she has worked as an Academic Associate at IIM Ahmedabad and IIM Indore.



**Mr. Rounak Malhotra** - He has done masters in Economics from Symbiosis college of Arts and Commerce and PG Diploma in Quantitative Finance from NISM. He has total 5 years of experience. His last assignment was as Research Associate with MICA, Ahmedabad.



**Mr. Naman Jain** - He has done his PGDM in Finance from Fortune Institute of International Business, New Delhi. He has presented working paper on 'Financial Inclusion in India – a study of marginalized segments' at Uniglobe College, Nepal



**Mr. Abhishek Singh** - He has done his schooling from U.P. Board and pursuing B.A. from IGNOU. He has over 9 years of experience in the IT sector. His last job was with Modi Infosol Pvt. Ltd. As System Engineer.



#### **Promotions**

**Congratulations** ON YOUR PROMOTION!









# **RESEARCH & MDP UPDATE**

- <u>Research Seminars</u>
- <u>Research Publications</u>
- MDP Update

#### **Research Seminars**



"Improving citations and visibility/impact of academic research work" by **Dr. Ivan Zupic**, Institute of Management Studies, Goldsmiths, University of London.



"Circularity of EV Batteries - A Study of Patent Information from the EU and UK" by **Dr. Sheetal Menon**, GLIM, Gurgaon.

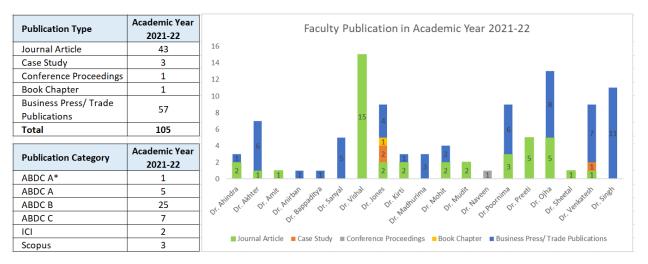


"Efficacy of Online Learning" joint seminar by **Dr. Poornima Gupta** and **Dr. Bappaditya Mukhopadhyay**, GLIM, Gurgaon.



#### **Research Publications**

Great Lakes faculty have been known for their research interests and frequent publications. We had a total of 105 publications in the Academic Year 2021-22 that includes 1 A\*, 5 A and 25 B category journals. Case study published through leading Ivey publishing, John Molson Business School, Canada and JAMR, etc.



## MDP Update

Prof. Dr. Ahindra Chakrabarti and Prof. Dr. Poornima Gupta conducted a MDP for the Senior Executives of Indian Oil Corporation titled: The Art of Influencing at IIPM, Gurgaon from 8-10 June 2022. The program was very well received with a feedback score of 89 out of 100.

# MAURYAS – PGPM 2022-23

- Bidding Farewel to Rajputs
- Welcoming Mauryas (PGPM batch 2022-23)
- Student Sessions
- PGPM Students Award



#### **Bidding Farewell to Rajputs**

We bid farewell to Rajputs (PGPM Batch of 2021 -22), and wish them all the success in their careers and future endeavor.



#### THE MAURYAS

**Dr. Umashankar Venkatesh**, Program Director - PGPM welcomed a fresh batch of PGPM students at the campus on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022. **Dr. Debashis Sanyal**, Director and **Mr. Mohan Lakhamraju**, Vice-Chairman, Great Lakes Institute of Management, Gurgaon addressed the new batch of PGPM students.

As a part of the inauguration ceremony, **Mr. Arvind Jha**, Senior Vice President, Products, Newgen, interacted with the students and shared his insights on the value of investing in and reinventing oneself along with the changes that the world is going through.





### **Student Sessions**



Karma Yoga is a spiritual pursuit that aids the process of growth and self-development. Great Lakers grow not only as professionals but also as human beings by engaging in Karma Yoga activities.

As part of their first initiative towards the same, the students from the PGPM batch of 2023 visited several schools located in villages around the campus. This marked the first visit of the students to the "Karma Bhoomi" since the pandemic hit. The students met the principals, teachers and students at these schools to garner a first-hand experience and identify the existing problems. Students from Great Lakes interacted with the school children through different team-building and creative activities.

#### **CXO Talk Session**

Interacting with the who's who of the industry is a significant part of an MBA program. Great Lakes hosted sessions with the CXOs to share their experiences, wisdom and life lessons-

- CXO Talk 1 Mr. Mike Bechtel, Managing Director and Chief Futurist from Deloitte USI on the topic "Brief History of Future Tech".
  CXO Talk 2 - Mr. Rammohan Sundaram, Country Head & Managing Partner - Integrated Media from DDB Mudraon on the topic "Platforms, Network Effects & Digital Strategy".
- CXO Talk 3 Mr. Shashank Arya, Chief Delivery Officer from Incedo on the topic "Structured Problem Solving - A 7 Step Approach"
- CXO Talk 4 **Mr. Anjan Bhattacharya**, Partner Technology Consulting from Ernst & Young on the topic "Quintessential of Technology Consulting"

#### **Various Other Sessions**

 Panel discussion on the topic "Let's Talk Business - AI & Advanced Analytics Applications in Retail" conducted by Mr. Santhanakrishnan Ramabadran - VP Analytics Consulting, Ms. Priyanka Yadav - Director, Analytics Consulting, Ms. Bhabani Mishra - Senior Manager, Business Development and Ms. Ishita Vishnoi - Analytics Consultant from Tiger Analytics.



- Panel discussion on the topic "Amplifying Human Potential" conducted by Ms. Padma Bhamidipati - Senior Business Manager, Learning, Ms. Thirumala Arohi - SVP and Head – ETA, Ms. Meenakshi S - Senior Business Manager, Learning and Ms. Satheesha - VP and Head of Education from Infosys.
- Webinar on the topic "A Day in the Life of a Gartner Consultant", "Case Study Workshop", "The Power of Storytelling", "The importance of executive presence" and "Tips for standing out in today's competitive environment" conducted by Gartner Leadership Team.
- Webinar on the topic "Managers Today, Leaders Tomorrow" conducted by Ms. Bidisha Sarkhel, Senior Associate Lead – HR, Mr. Siddharth Srinath, HR Business Leader, Ms. Rasmi B, Delivery Manager, Scrummaster and Ms. Sarmistha Pattnaik, Senior Project Manager from Infosys.
- Panel discussion on the topic "Let's Talk Business Analytics in Consumer-Packaged Goods (CPG)" conducted by Ms. Lalima Sudarsan, Senior Director, Analytics Consulting, Mr. Rahul Jain, Director, Analytics Consulting, Mr. Raghavendran Murugan, Senior Consultant Analytics and Ms. Nithya Ganesh, Analytics Consultant from Tiger Analytics.
- Guest Lecture on the topic "Analytics Consulting from Tiger's lens" conducted by Ms. Minu Rachel Phillip, Associate Vice President, Analytics Consulting and Ms. Ankita Dhar, Associate Director, Analytics Consulting from Tiger Analytics

## PGPM STUDENTS AWARD



# CHEVALIERS (2021-23) & ARCHERS (2022-24)



- <u>Bidding Farewell to Warriors</u>
- Welcoming Archers (PGDM batch 2022-24)
- <u>Students Sessions</u>
- PGDM Students Award



#### **Bidding Farewell to Warriors**

We bid farewell to Warriors (PGDM Batch of 2020 - 22), and wish them all the success in their careers and future endeavor.

### THE ARCHERS

**Dr. V.P. Singh**, Program Director- PGDM welcomed a fresh batch of PGDM students at campus on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022. **Dr. Debashis Sanyal**, Director, Great Lakes Institute of Management, Gurgaon, addressed the new batch of PGDM students.

As a part of the inauguration ceremony, **Mr. Rakesh Makkar** – CEO, Bajaj Auto Finance delivered the keynote address and shared his learning on how to excel in the corporate world and create a USP for yourself. The students also interacted with **Mr. Ashish Bhalla** - Associate Director, HR & Head Campus Relations, HCL Technologies, who shared his insights on a journey of a scholar from a student to a professional.





#### **STUDENT SESSIONS**

#### **CXO** Talk Session

Interacting with the who's who of the industry is a significant part of an MBA program. Great Lakes hosted sessions with the CXOs to share their experiences, wisdom and life lessons-

- CXO Talk 1 **Mr. Vishal Shah**, Executive Director from TresVista conducted the session on the topic "Private Equity"
- CXO Talk 2 **Mr. Mike Bechtel**, Managing Director and Chief Futurist from Deloitte USI on the topic "Brief History of Future Tech".
- CXO Talk 3 Mr. Rammohan Sundaram, Country Head & Managing Partner from DDB Mudraon conducted the session on the topic "Platforms, Network Effects & Digital Strategy".
- CXO Talk 4 **Mr. Girish Ganesan**, Senior Vice President, People from S&P Global on the topic "Organizational structure and the services that S&P provides and expectations from a fresh recruit from campus".

#### Various Other Sessions

- Webinar on the topic "A Day in the Life of a Gartner Consultant", "Case Study Workshop", "The Power of Storytelling", "The importance of executive presence" and "Tips for standing out in today's competitive environment" conducted by Gartner Leadership Team
- Webinar on the topic "Managers Today, Leaders Tomorrow" conducted by Ms. Bidisha Sarkhel, Senior Associate Lead – HR, Mr. Siddharth Srinath, HR Business Leader, Ms. Rasmi B, Delivery Manager, Scrummaster and Ms. Sarmistha Pattnaik, Senior Project Manager from Infosys
- Guest Lecture on the topic "Analytics Consulting from Tiger's lens" conducted by Ms. Minu Rachel Phillip, Associate Vice President, Analytics Consulting and Ms. Ankita Dhar, Associate Director, Analytics Consulting from Tiger Analytics
- Guest Lecture on the topics "Kickoff of this year's edition of Infosys Ingenious 2022" and "Engage with the students through pre-event presentations to talk about Infosys" by Mr. Manmeet Sachdeva, Principal Consultant, Digital Automation Consulting, Mr. Shubham Pandey, Associate Lead Talent Acquisition and Ms. Harshita, Associate Lead Talent Acquisition from Infosys
- Guest Lecture on the topic "Importance of a People-First Approach" conducted by **Mr. Girish Ganesan**, Senior Vice President, People from S&P Global



#### **PGDM STUDENTS AWARD**

# Congratulations





#### <u>Alumni session</u>

#### **Alumni Session**



The Mauryas - PGPM 2023 - at Great Lakes Gurgaon had a chance to interact with some of our alumni on 9th July, where they had an opportunity to hear about the career journeys of the alumni and chart their own ahead. The participating alumni represented companies like McKinsey & Co, Deloitte, Paytm and Great Learning. This interaction offered the students perspective in terms of how to make the most out of the program in the professional world, the importance of class participation, peer learning and networking.

## **Motivation Corner**

- Inspiring Story
- Know your Faculty
- Sudoku Challenge

"I would cherish for life the way I was treated given my current health conditions".



The Inspiring story of **Kosaraju Sailaza** Assistant Director –CCS

I am very much overwhelmed with the culture and values of the Institution, which are not only just on paper, on the other hand, have been practically implemented. I have personally experienced this in my case. The Management, the Director, and the entire GLIM family are so kind to have helped me extend my duties and contribute more to student success.

My interaction with corporates used to be for placements of PGDM students. GLIM has given me a platform where I could connect with the corporates even working on lateral or mid-level positions. I learned that corporate connect is not only for campus placements but understanding the various specializations, accordingly creating live opportunities/platforms for the students. At GLIM, I got an opportunity to work on placements of experienced executives.

I enjoyed every bit of my journey at GLIM and have been highly satisfied, fulfilling, and rewarding, both professionally and personally. I came here with mixed hopes and expectations. Am working hard to make this journey more fruitful and rewarding."



# **Bappaditya** Mukhopadhyay

A professor in the area of Analytics and is one of the most loved teachers in Great Lakes, Gurgaon. His best friends would describe him as a nice simple man with a happy soul. If "Teaching" is one thing that motivates him and brings joy and thrill to interact with young and impressionable minds, then "Painting" is his passion. Though, he would not like to change his career or anything in his life but if given a chance to go into the past, he would like to be a fly on the wall in a room that has Ambedkar, Gandhi, Tagore, and Nehru talking about the India they wanted to create!

He is grateful for the beautiful world and for everything he grew with and still growing with.

We asked him a few more questions to know the real Prof. Bappaditya and here is his candid, unfiltered, and straight-from-the-heart response.

#### What do you do in your spare time?

Luckily, and very luckily I find ways to keep myself



occupied... doing things I like and often get appreciated for that. For the last few years, I have actively started painting -mostly pastels and oils. If general opinion and feedback are to be believed, some of the paintings are perhaps decent too. This means that "not only do I paint during my spare time, but I also make time for

painting". Then I have a passion for wildlife and photography. Luckily again, have managed to combine my primary skills (data analysis) with my love for wildlife to even generate some research insight. Then the usual books. I mostly like reading non-fiction-particularly ideas on democracy and its evolution. Music? Yes-can't imagine not

listening to some music for an hour at least a day. It can be rock, film hits-bust mostly Hindustani classical! Finally, I am blessed to have three canine sons- never ever a dull moment with them.





#### What has been your greatest accomplishment?

Honestly-nothing. I can rank order some events in my life in terms of importance, but accomplishments sound too pompous. But here is how I judge myself, each day I wake up



I ask whether I have been happy so far? Will I live the life I have been living so far? And the answer

is always yes and that is the single most "accomplishment"

#### What are you most passionate about?

Difficult to rank them-but let's say teaching has always been at the top and then there are times



I have been very passionate about painting. One way I try to gauge whether am passionate about something or not is often try and answer the following "what is it that I wanted to finish today but couldn't and now I can't wait to have a go at it tomorrow"? It

makes it easier to find the answer-painting and often research ideas.

#### Who has had the greatest impact on you in your life?

Too many people I owe to----I will start with my grandma. My grandfather was a cop serving the British Empire while my grandma was secretly sheltering "swadeshis" in her house, clearly the safest place because my grandfather will never suspect that the very ones he is "hunting" are hiding in his house! Remarkable Lady-Inspiration for me. Then my parents. I always consider myself very privileged. Both my parents used to work. We were financially ok-not rich nor poor. But the fact that both of them worked meant that I could have a long rope—keep on studying. They did have expectations from me but never judged me for not living up to their expectations. Much later they told me that they wanted me to be academically as brilliant as the sons and daughters of their colleagues but quickly realized that perhaps letting me do what I want to be will make me a better human being. My Ph.D. guide, apart from being a great intellectual support, taught me to be relaxed and not take things (including myself too seriously). My partner, a remarkably strong lady-a cancer survivor—

epitomizes the willingness to put things behind and move ahead. These are at personal levels. In terms of intellectual impact-Ambedkar, Tagore, Gandhi, and Nehru. Some remarkable clarity in thought-remarkable people who always had huge respect for each other and massive differences. The sheer ability for them to



disagree as well as agree without much personal animosity is awe-inspiring.

#### What is your favorite place in the world, and why?

Sunderbans! It's a fascinating place. It is intriguing at so many levels. Most of it is unspoiled by development and yet will pay the highest price of development elsewhere. Global warming will ensure that a large part of what is Sundarbans today, will not be there in another fifty years. It's a place



where human beings are at extreme stress - I see hope and despair out-competing each other every day. That's a place where I see the most beautiful and scary nature too.

The world will be a far better place if everyone just wished to be happy and not be the best. Stress comes when you set benchmarks that are not natural to you, often set by others, and then find yourself coming short of them!

# Can you name one professional and personal achievement?

Perhaps being actively involved in conceptualizing and setting up Great Learning! Purely in terms of impactthat is huge. Personal? Difficult to identify -but the fact that I could regularly auction some of my paintings and then raise funds for cyclone victims, help migrant labors during lockdowns or other NGOs-would be something I would look back with pride.

#### What has been your greatest failure?

None. I haven't ever bracketed any outcome as success or failure. There have been happy moments and sad moments-but nothing that I will call success or failure.

#### Tell us about a stressful situation and how you handled it

Frankly, haven't really been in a very out-of-the-way stressful situation-or at least did not feel it was very



stressful at that time. I guess I am a bit happy go lucky guy-I have never set very high bars or goals-just been happy, almost grateful for being who I am...that helps me. No disappointments and hence no stress. Bad days? Yes. But again those are possibly because of things not in my control—easy to get out of stress when you think there isn't much you can do about it. I know a lot

of people believe in the mantra "be the best or give your best"....well, I often ask what is it that I want? To be the best? To give my best or to be happy? I have willingly chosen to remain happy. I may not make any path-breaking contribution that way but as I get to meet hundreds of students every year, perhaps I can assure them that 'it is ok to be yourself and do things just to make yourself happy".

#### If you could give your younger self one sentence of advice, what would you share and why?

The future is awesome---worth living for...at least till 2022! It's awesome

#### What is your greatest fear?

Losing respect. My decision to take up academics was that-a life that will be respected. I think the greatest trait I value most is respect. I would believe that, my students from 25 years back would still have respect for me because I was fair, objective, tough maybe but honest! The only thing I fear is losing that! It might sound strange as to why I fear that---increasingly I realize it is becoming very easy to malign someone and then I am scared that there may be a dark side, unknown to me as yet, that can manifest itself to defend myself in that situation. In a way, afraid of discovering the dark side. That's the beginning of the end.



# Sudoku Challenge

Take a break and try your hand on this hard brainteaser. The first 3 entrants will win exciting prizes.

8								
		3	6					
	7			9		2		
	7 5				7			
				4	5	7		
			1				3	
		1					3 6	8
		8	5				1	
	9					4		