

***FinDrome - The Finance Department Cell of MBA (Tech.)
Mukesh Patel School of Technology Management and Engineering [MPSTME]***

Event Report

During the academic year 2020-21, FinDrome conducted various events for the students at MPSTME, NMIMS University. Following is the detailed description of each of the events:

1. Alumni Talk Series – 01

Organizing Committee: *FinDrome – The Finance Department Cell of MBA (Tech.), Mukesh Patel School of Technology Management and Engineering [MPSTME]*

Date: 19th September, 2020

Venue: Zoom

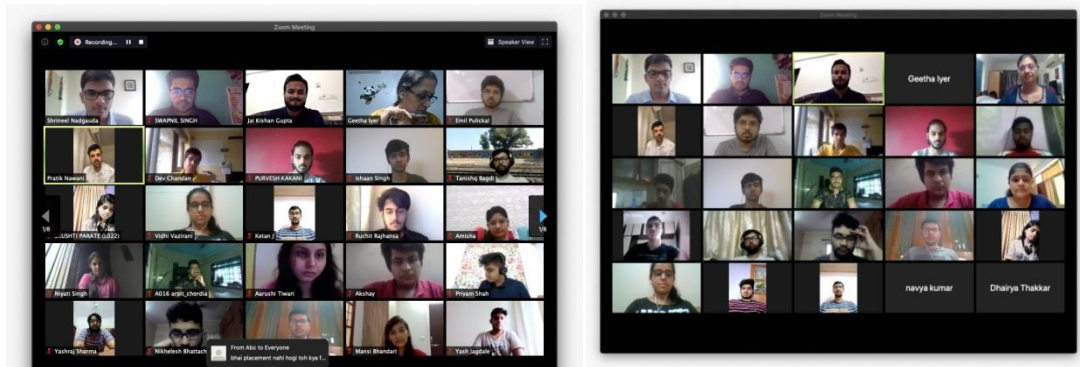
The Alumni Talk Series was an initiative of the committee wherein we invited former students of our very own college who were part of the MBA Tech program, and who are now placed in reputed companies. The motive of the event was to enlighten current MBA (Tech.) students and to teach them the dos and don'ts of the corporate world, especially in the domain of Finance. **Jai Gupta** and **Pratik Nawani** were the alumni invited as our esteemed speakers for the event.

Experience is the best teacher but the fee is high. So, why not just borrow it? And is there anyone better to borrow from, than someone who has been there and done that? Of course, not!

Alumni are assets to any educational institute and successful alumni networks can do wonders for both the students and college, and the alumni themselves.

The Alumni Talk Series – 01 hosted by **FinDrome, the Finance Department Cell of MBA (Tech.), MPSTME** brings the stories and experiences of some

amongst the best of those who were once roamed the corridors of the college. The insightful session helped in creating connections among students and the alumni base to gather knowledge and guidance through great ideas and wonderful anecdotes.



On **Saturday, 19th September 2020, at 4:00 PM**, FinDrome began with the first chapter of Alumni Talks where we brought to you two of the finest and tremendously successful people who graduated from our college. The event was commenced with **Prof. Geetha Iyer (Area Chair, Finance)** and **Dr. Anuja Agarwal (Associate Dean – MPSTME)** welcoming our guest speakers, **Mr. Pratik Nawani** and **Mr. Jai Gupta**.

Further, a brief introduction was given by **Mr. Shrineel Nadgauda (Vice President, Marketing Department, FinDrome)** about our speakers for Alumni Talks, Chapter 01.

Mr. Pratik Nawani graduated from our college in 2016 and has broken every single twig in his way to reach the position of Assistant Vice President of Equity Financing at Barclays in a mere span of 4 years.



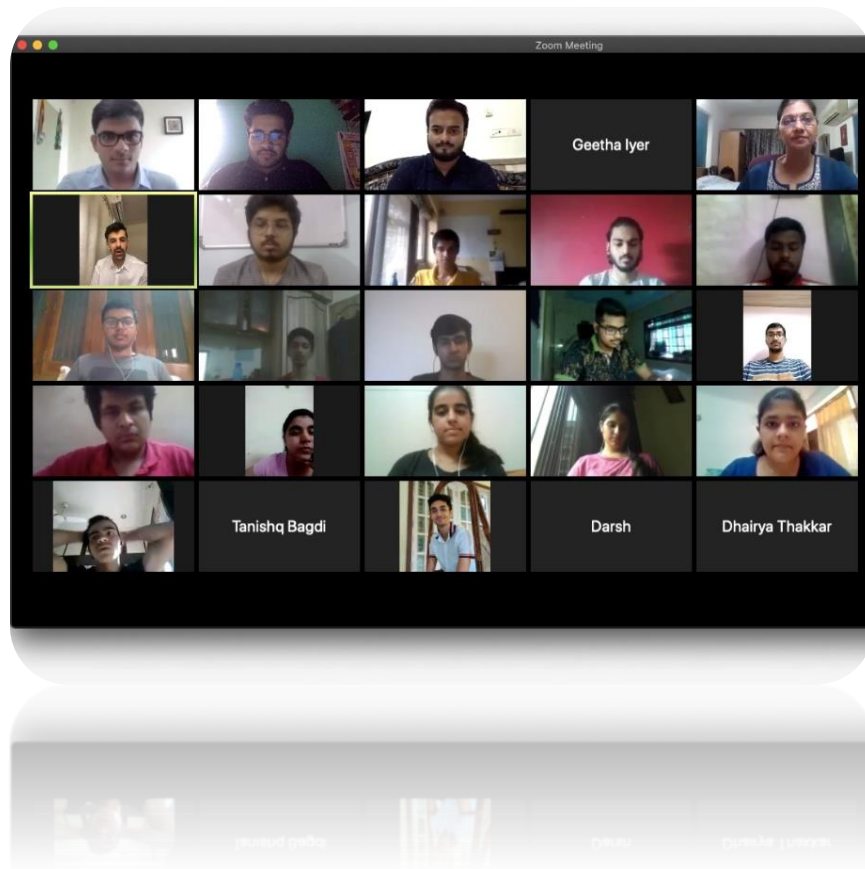
Mr. Jai Gupta, on the other hand, was once part of FinDrome, and kick-started his journey into the world of Finance, at Barclays after graduating from our college in 2018. He is currently working as part of the London Team as a Macro 1D trader at Goldman Sachs.



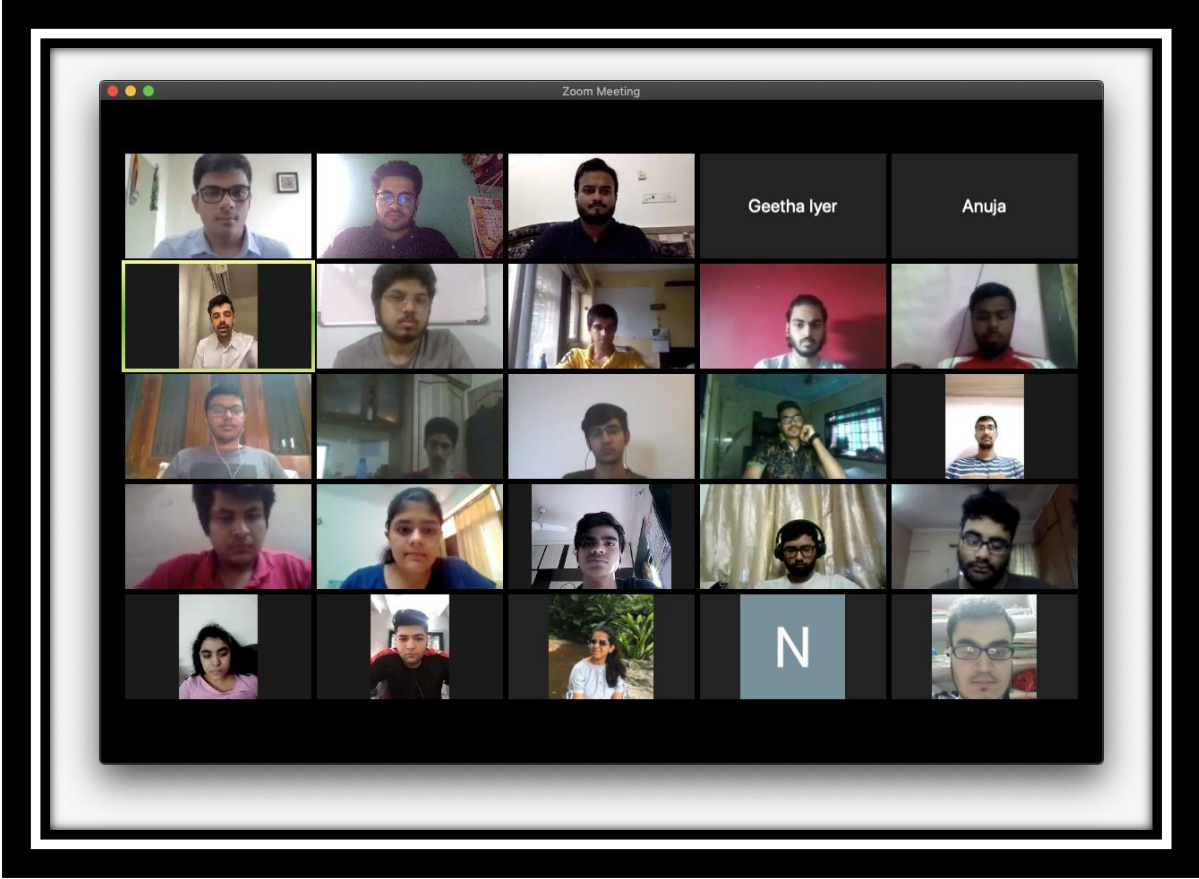
Needless to say, our speakers were the best possible ones to enlighten students on their journey.

Pratik spoke about why having a network with the Alumni is beneficial. He said that there is no one better than the alumni to tell students about the *know-hows* of the journey after college. He also mentions how he got into Barclays and how he worked to achieve the goals he aimed for. Equity being his field of interest, it was easier for him to figure out what he wished to do further. Starting off as an Analyst, he now is at a place where he has multiple responsibilities as Assistant Vice President of the Equity Financing Team. The work majorly involves analyzing financing hedge fund portfolios and risks. He also mentions that learning is the key to forwarding ourselves to better places. Once you have your base set you can take a jump to those better places you aim for.

Further, Jai began narrating his journey which is somewhat similar to what was done by Pratik as they had been working together for two and a half years. He also mentioned that he has always wanted to associate himself with a firm like Goldman Sachs as he was really keen on reading books related to the same and about how he had worked really hard and had always looked forward to be a part. Amidst the lockdown, Jai finally was able to achieve what he had always aimed for, after almost a year's wait.



After having a few words from Jai and Pratik, we moved on to the list of questions that were submitted by the audience.



Overview and Topics of Discussion

Preliminary focal areas:

- **Associating Oneself with Desired Field:** Students must have a desire to get into big firms which should be supported by a vision to understand the complexities involved in getting through all of the struggles to achieve success.
- **Preparation and Patience:** When the right path is followed to achieve something, results are always fruitful regardless of how soon they are obtained.
- **Orientation towards Successful Career:** Students must have an inclination towards learning new aspects of job roles offered by big firms and have the zeal to read voraciously.
- **Shortcuts to Get Success:** In order to achieve success, students must resort to dedication and perseverance as in the long run the profile and core skills of the candidate are valued.

Key Takeaways

Questions & Answers

- What is the preparation level to get into big firms like Barclays and Goldman Sachs at the internship and Placement level?
~ From the preparation point of view, it becomes very necessary to mold the specialization in the initial years of the Degree course and be very clear about the job prospects in which a student wants to pursue a career. Reading about finance to get the basics clear and be thorough with the accounting terms, also focus on coding skills to develop logic and form a strong base.
- Is a Certification a must to crack big firm interviews?
~ Certification is not a degree course, it's good to have an inclination towards doing certificate courses but it is not mandatory. Students who are oriented towards fields like research and portfolio management roles are advised to prepare for the CFA exam – level 1 in the final year.

- What are the different kinds of profiles which companies offer during campus placements?
 ~ Jai: Companies generally look for analytical bend of mind and who'd be good enough to look into the vast changing field of financial analysis. They ask to analyze a situation that is related to the finance knowledge and has application in the real world in order to test the logic building and thinking capabilities of the students. Companies offer equity-related roles and jobs which are related to a mix of technical and managerial side. So, whichever concept you are reading, all of it is useful and that you must always find one amongst it to make it a core skill and also focus on how to act in a particular scenario that might be given by an interviewer during an interview.
- How to understand complex financial terms and which newspapers students must refer to?
 ~ Skimming through news related to the implication of the theory taught during the academic year is advised, and students must foresee the long-term benefits of building this as a habit. Students can look up terms to learn stuff and listen to podcasts. One can also look forward to *Investopedia*.
- How to crack case-study analysis questions?
 ~ A case-study analysis is generally conducted during group discussions after which CV short-listing is done to conduct the interview with four panelists in front who test the knowledge of the interviewee and the strong areas of their knowledge. An appropriate CV must be maintained which contains only true points since the panelists test the candidates on their CV.
- Do Investment Banking Firms only offer jobs to CS students?
 ~ Irrespective of the stream of engineering, candidates can apply for job roles in Investment banking firms, but they must ensure that they have basic coding knowledge and are well aware of SQL, Python, R, Tableau, and other programming languages. The firms see the inclination of students to learn things on their own; therefore, CGPA only plays a minor role in getting selected through the filtering process of these big firms.
- What skills must be incorporated during college time to crack big firm interviews?
 ~ Certification courses required to develop skills are very role-specific but

multilevel interviews test the profile of the candidate in and out. The students, who are inclined towards achieving goals, are extroverted to discuss opinions, and roles are more preferred by the big firms as they show immense potential towards developing a career in the domains which interest them.

- What are the job aspects amidst the Covid-19 pandemic?
 - ~ There have been major disruptions caused by the ongoing pandemic, several sectors have been severely hit and the heat is felt in every job sector. There was a global financial crisis in 2008 but students who had the zeal to read and understand things were able to achieve success and things they desired then.
- How to make an attractive CV?
 - ~ The CV should contain keywords that are specific to the job description and relevant skills required for the job role offered by the big firms. Core competencies must be included.
- What changes are faced in the corporate world when compared to college life?
 - ~ In college life mistakes are forgiven but in the corporate sector they have real-life implications, so it is important to take responsibility for performing several tasks and adapt to this parading shift.

The event was concluded by **Ms. Gayatri Khandekar (Co-ordinator, FinDrome)** who expressed gratitude to Jai Gupta and Pratik Nawani for their precious time and sharing all of their expertise in the field. She further thanked the dignitaries: **Dr. Anuja Agarwal – Associate Dean, MPSTME; Prof. Geetha Iyer – Area Chair, Finance; Prof. Alaknanda Lonare; Dr. Abhay Kumar; Dr. Kunjana Malik and Prof. Ramanan Balakrishnan** for their support and guidance without which conducting the session would have been impossible.



Thus, the Alumni Talk Series - 01, a FinDrome initiative, was brought to an end successfully with more than 200 viewers for the webinar.

2. FinGo!

Organizing Committee: *FinDrome – The Finance Department Cell of MBA (Tech.), Mukesh Patel School of Technology Management and Engineering [MPSTME]*

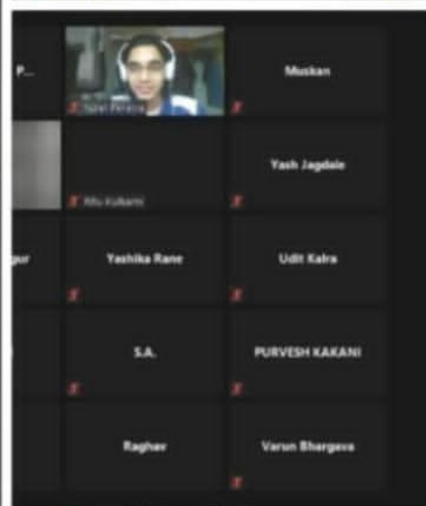
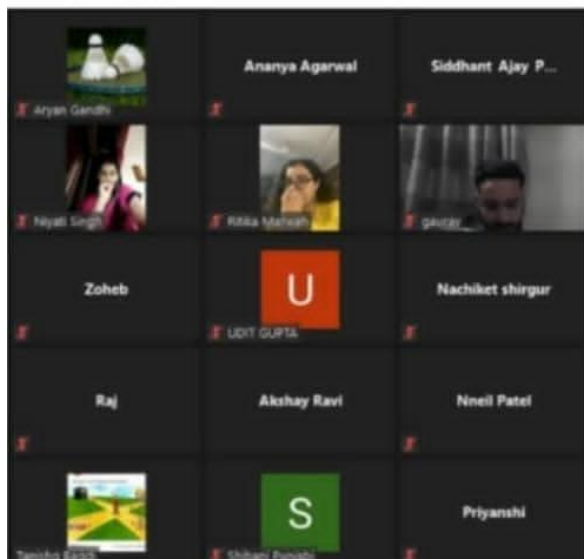
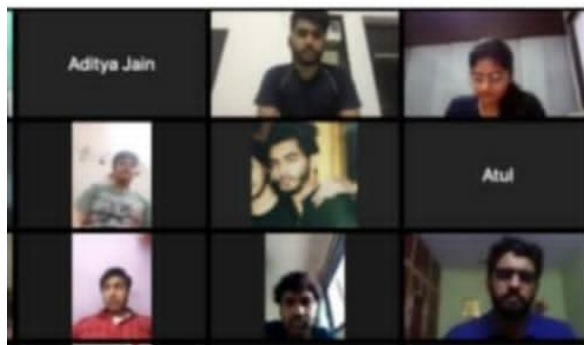
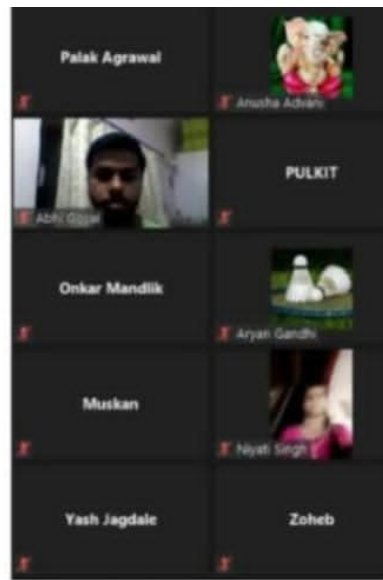
Date: 26th September, 2020

Venue: Zoom

FinGo was the other name for Bingo, but the kind that focuses on Finance.

We had a bundle of students participating in the same. The participants were given a finance-related clue and they were supposed to solve the riddles and mark crosses on the tickets given to them.

The clues focused solely on finance-related terminologies and concepts, and were only cracked by participants who had keen interest in the same field. It was educational yet fun at the same time. It was an event that was making sure the participants not only gained knowledge but also had fun taking part in it. Active participation was the highlight of the event. Every answer led to crosses on the tickets. With every cross they were a step closer to winning the event.



3. *Big Bull*

Organizing Committee: *FinDrome – The Finance Department Cell of MBA (Tech.), Mukesh Patel School of Technology Management and Engineering [MPSTME]*

Date: 6th December, 2020

Venue: MS Teams

Big Bull was an event testing the strategy-making acumen of participants. The event solely focused on the various strategies put forward by our participants in various situations. There were a total of 3 rounds and the best strategies made it to the top.

The participants were allowed to come up with a whole strategy beginning from scratch. It was a tough one for them to figure out every tiny possible thing when it comes to building something from nothing. The participants had their own share of plans. Every round focused on a brand new task and the ones who made it through all of them was the winner of “Big Bull”.



4. GST Council

Organizing Committee: *FinDrome – The Finance Department Cell of MBA (Tech.), Mukesh Patel School of Technology Management and Engineering [MPSTME]*

Date: 6th March, 2021

Venue: MS Teams

GST Council was an event of its kind. It gave a chance to our participants to experience the power of a minister and help find solutions of various solutions for the issues faced by our nation related to GST. They were able to stand against objectionable taxing resolutions and indulge in intellectual conversations and comprehensive resolutions.

A pool of situations was given to the participants and an ample amount of power. The right decisions were to be made. The ones with the wittiest brains made it to the top. The decisions were to be made based on the current scenario of our nation and were pretty difficult when moving ahead. One wrong decision and it could all come down rolling. Many students participated for the event and we had our winner for the same.

