

IIM Lucknow Diary (November 2011)

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1. I was invited to deliver a lecture at [E-Summit in the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow \(IIML\)](#) in late November.
2. Entrepreneurship cell – an IIML student managed unit holds an annual event called E-Summit in which they invite students from other B-schools to enter into Business plan (B-plans) competitions and also invite experts from outside to talk on entrepreneurship. My lecture was on social entrepreneurship entitled [“Social entrepreneurship, Nation Building and Happiness”](#). With quite a lively interaction during questions/answers session the lecture lasted for almost 2 hours.
3. IIML campus is about 20-25 km from Lucknow on Sitapur road. It is a beautiful campus with thick forest of teak on a 180 acre plot. With small student and faculty population it is a walker’s delight.
4. It takes almost 45 minutes to reach the campus from Lucknow’s Amausi airport via the Lucknow bypass. However with couple of traffic jams during day time near the unfinished flyovers, it can almost take 1½ hours to reach the destination.
5. The IIML campus is surrounded by farms. In fact the campus itself was a fertile farmland before it was acquired 30 years ago and I was told that the farmers got good compensation for their land.
6. Jackals and an occasional wolf can still be seen on the campus. During my evening walk, just as it was getting dark, I saw the behind of a wolf as it disappeared in the thick campus forest. Initially I thought I saw an Alsatian dog, but the locals told me that sometimes the wolves come inside the campus. Both nights (during my stay) I heard jackals howling most of the night.

7. I hardly saw any student walking or doing outdoor exercise during morning or evening. The campus has excellent sports facilities including tennis courts and indoor gymnasium. The students informed me that the course work is so heavy that they hardly get any sleep and hence try to catch up on their sleep whenever they can. This seems to be a constant theme in almost all Institutes of higher learning like IITs and IIMs. Thus the students spend less time on outdoor activities and most of the times are hunched over their laptops.

8. I was a judge in the B-Plan competition where the entries were from B-schools all over India. I was disappointed with most of them and specially the IIML entries which were very vague, done without any due diligence and more for the sake of submitting something for the competition rather than with any serious plan. Most of the students had no idea of real India and seemed to have picked up ideas from internet and which are fashionable in western countries.

9. The campus is full of two wheelers since the students use them to go in town. With inadequate transport services from campus to town the tourist services like private taxis do a brisk business.

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