

Turning of a New Page

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Being in the first or second year of college, this Foundation Week marked the start of a new chapter for all of us. For some of us, it marked the venture into discovering new methods of learning and new perspectives on business. For the others, it marked a shift away from our previous year and looking more earnestly in how to use this information. Both sides could unanimously agree that the learning we experienced this week far surpassed our expectations.

In the session on Entrepreneurship by Mr. Anirudh Pandita, we learnt the value of risk taking. Starting a new venture is akin to a leap of faith, and the journey only begins when you are ready to go forth. He stressed the value of taking criticism, separating the constructive from the unnecessary, and filling those gaps in your business. A business in today's era is a multimodal entity, and it is vital for the modern entrepreneur to focus on all factors with a keen vigilance. The Creative Writing workshop taught us the value of being attuned to our senses and incorporating that in our writing. Avid reading and repeated practice are the best tools in any author's arsenal. Mr. Hersh Shah's session on Risk Management taught us that risk is not something to be perpetually paranoid of. Strategically taken risks are an advantage that only the boldest pursue, and the fruits of the labour are well earned. It is important to stay aware of every risk a business encounters and evaluate them with a clear head. Those who understand the fundamentals of Risk Management can carve out a highly sought-after niche in the market, just as our esteemed speaker had done.

The Finance Workshop's "Mock Stock" activity showed us the value of analyzing and forecasting financial trends in a very practical manner. The importance of portfolio diversification was never explicitly stated, but we felt it all the same. The basics of money management are best introduced with hands-on learning. The Counselling Department of NMIMS provided a much-needed reprieve by talking about something that was just as, if not more important, than the skills we were acquiring. Mental Health is a topic that is slow to destigmatize in Indian society, but it is our responsibility to look out for ourselves and each other. To this end, we were given the tools for basic identification of common mental illnesses seen in students, and the open invitation to seek help from the department. Mr Biju Dominic demonstrated the difference between our conscious and unconscious decisions using his own case studies. He spoke about the brain's affinity for patterns and using that to benefit society and avert catastrophe. Cognitive dissonance is an increasingly common phenomenon in an age where we can choose our own news, and he stressed the importance of remaining well informed. Ms Kshitija Katore concluded the week with a sessional about creativity. She invited us to express ourselves with our doodles, and how sometimes remaining relaxed makes your output better.

The guest lectures mattered a lot to us as it was learning imparted through real-life cases of real entrepreneurs, who also gave us another valuable resource of building our network. On the other hand, the workshop sessions helped us develop our soft skills, which are becoming increasingly valuable in today's world. They also stressed the importance of taking care of our mental health in times of stress. The reason we feel so strongly is because the week focused on us being well-rounded. It wasn't just about business and had something for all of us.

This week has been an enlightening experience for all of us. We fully intend on continuing to develop these skills and taking our work forward in both academics and extracurriculars.