Youngest CA, CS, CWA- Amar Kakaria

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A meritorious student throughout, Pune's Mr. Amar Kakaria has been named the 'Youngest CA, CS, CWA' in India by The Limca Book of National Records in 2007. Here is an interaction with this genius. Before that, please take a glimpse of his achievements:

➢ All India 5th Merit Rank in the CWA Finals (June 2002)
➢ All India 3rd Merit Rank in the CWA Inter (June 2001)
➢ All India 2nd Merit Rank in the CS Final (June 2001)
➢ All India 16th Merit Rank in the CS Inter (June 2000)
➢ Highest score in Advanced Accountancy in S.Y. B.Com in Pune University. (100 %).
➢ All India 32nd Merit Rank in CA Foundation (May 1997)
➢ Merit certificate & award under National Scholarship Scheme for meritorious performance in H.S.C. & S.S.C.
➢ Consolation Prize in Maharashtra Talent Search Exam.
➢ 3rd Merit Rank in Maharashtra State High School Scholarship examination.

How does finding a place in the 'Limca Book of National Records' make you feel?
I am very happy that it has provided me with an opportunity to meet the expectations of my parents and make their dream come true.

Any specific reason you chose to study commerce over engineering, science, etc?
I always had a preference for commerce, particularly in the capital markets. I used to regularly go through investment journals like Dalal Street/Economic Times during my school days. This liking resulted in having a preference for commerce over other streams.

How did you make the decision to do all three professional courses?
I had not thought of doing all three courses initially. I was planning to complete my CA and then start my own practice. However, on completion of CA Inter and graduation in the same academic year, I thought of getting into Company Secretary ship course along with CA final so I could acquire advanced knowledge of corporate laws and secretarial matters. Fortunately, in 2000, at the age of 21, I completed my CA final and CS inter simultaneously. Since, age was still on my side, I decided to try ICWA with the CS final in order to join the coveted 'Triple Crown' club. Indiacom Limited, my then employer, assured me that study leave would be granted for the CS/ CWA exams.

How did you manage your time? Did you have any study techniques?
I had taken three months study leave for the CA final exams and three weeks each for the CS final and CWA final exams. I had relied on study modules/ suggested answers given by all three institutes for most of the subjects and used Bare Acts for Taxation/ Corporate Laws. I studied one subject at a time in reverse order, so that I finished studying the first paper at the end. It helped my memory during the first few papers, which in turn boosted my confidence for the remaining papers. Further, I had also made effective use of the publication, 'Scanner', which helped me understand weightage given to each of the topics and decide my strategy accordingly. However, I had studied all the topics in their entirety without leaving anything to chance.

What are your suggestions for students who face failures in these examinations?
Failure is very difficult to digest for every human being. I have tasted failure twice. I would advise students to do a SWOT analysis and work on to improve their scores.

One must have a positive attitude and should never give up. However, in the event of recurring failures, students should approach a career counselor / teacher to get appropriate guidance for deciding their future action plan.

How can students update their knowledge base besides the course modules?
All three institutes publish monthly journals/ newsletters for the benefit of the students, which provide an array of useful information on professional topics, latest amendments, recent case-laws, etc. Further, the students can also join knowledge sharing forums, yahoo groups, etc to get solutions to their queries and remain updated.

Being qualified in all the three professions, how do you intend to help your juniors / students if any?

I used to be an 'ICSI Career Counselor' in 2006 wherein my focus was to increase awareness about Company Secretary Course amongst the students in Mira - Bhayander region. I am / was co-opted member on few committees like Research & Publications, Placement, CPE, etc of WIRC of ICAI / ICSI which helps me to interact more closely with budding members / students. Besides this, I am also active member of few knowledge sharing portals like CAclubindia, Feeleminds, etc. wherein I get an opportunity to deal with fellow professionals / students from various parts of country and address their queries, if any.

Do you really feel that a person qualified as CA / CS / CWA, needs to pursue Management course?
Though I have not undergone any formal management studies, I had got the privilege of working with some of the best management graduates during my employment with L&T and TATA Group. Though, everyone has his own niche space in the corporate world, formal management education can help to improve their analytical and problem solving skills, besides making him a good leader.

In many recruitment advertisements for a finance position, employers mention CA or MBA Finance as educational eligibility. Are these two equivalents?
Due to technological advancement, job profile has not remained static nowadays, and qualification in relevant only at the time of entry in the organisation. Afterwards, only your performance can build your career.

Quite a few large organisations have been frequently rotating MBAs and CAs across various functions in Finance & Accounts departments to groom them as future business leader who can take more responsibility. Same trend is going to continue in future and would be followed by remaining corporates as well. Hence, you may consistently find more number of advertisements for CA or MBA Finance in the days to come.

What according to you, apart from academics is required in a person to be successful in his career?
The person must have a positive mindset to get success in all parts of life including career.

What is your message for aspirants of CA, CS, CWA?
India is expected to witness a sustained growth over the next 25 years. Obviously, there's always going to be an increasing demand for qualified professionals.

The only thing you need to have is a focused approach with an urge to excel. Go ahead with full confidence, and success will definitely be yours.

To whom you give credit to your success?

Desire to Excel, Faith of Parents, Support of Family, Guidance of Teachers, Co-operation of Friends.

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IT For Professionals

B G Sunil Kumar, B.Com, CS Final

PDF is a common format that has been used widely in both home and office environment but sometimes you may have to deal with its inconvenience of editing and for Professionals like CS/CA/CWA it's been a hard task during Annual Filing when you need to attach so many documents as one file i.e., Boards Report & Auditors Report or P&L A/c & BS, even bigger task when these documents are in so many pieces and that is how some of the online services and paid software comes useful with. In case you are not truly satisfied with any of them, here is another free utility that you can consider. Named as ArduoPdfMerger, it is a free PDF merger and splitter that simplifies the editing process without the need for you to stay connected for merging and splitting capabilities.

Once install and launch the software utility, you will be brought to a simple GUI. Over here, most of the functions are self-explanatory with simplified icons that allow users to add, delete, and move up or down any files or entries in the list. Users can simply browse for any PDF files and there are two pre-processing options with one that allows the files to be split into individual page to ease up the merging process.

As usual, the final modification files can be stored in destination folder predefined during the setup process. After completion, just click on 'Process' button and it will execute the conversion immediately. Currently Arduo PDF merger is still in alpha stage and consumed around 1.4MB of your hard disk space in Windows system, it is quite useful especially when you are dealing a lot with PDF files edition in your daily work.

Corrigendum

In Edition 66, "Winmend" was introduced. The author of the article was Mr. Sunil Kumar B G from Mysore and not Mr. Amit Kumar. Our apologies for this error. - Editor

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