

XIMB Alumni Meet, September 06, 2003, London



From left to right (seated) Samita Mishra ('00), Jublee (w/o Dibyajit) and Amar Swain ('00).
From left to right (standing) Dibyajit Patnaik ('00), Sankalp Patnaik ('00), Sabyasachi Sahu ('93), Deepa Balasubramanyan ('99), G R Srinivasa ('99), Suvashree Mishra ('92) with baby Aditi, Lalatendu Mohanty ('99), Ruchika Gokarn ('96), Prashant (h/o Ruchika), Mona Dash ('95), Kaustubh Misra ('92), Mayan Bhargava ('00), Seema Ravani ('98), Prashant Jajodia ('98), little Abhisek (s/o Suvashree & Debasis), Banoja Acharya ('96), Saugata Basu ('96) with baby Isha and Debasis Dash ('92).

Missing in the pictures Ashutosh Tripathy ('01) and little Ria (d/o Ruchika and Prashant).

The long due Third XIMB European Alumni Meet was organised at Coconut Lagoon, a South Indian Restaurant in the City of London. The response was good with alumni travelling from across UK as well as from other European cities. So the first thanks are due to **Amar Swain** and **Samita Mishra** both from the **class of '00**, travelling all the way from Vienna to attend the meet and being the official photographer. We also had **Lalatendu Mohanty (class of '99)** making a 5 hour journey from Manchester to meet with the rest of us. The total number of attendees were 21 including spouses.



So started the drinks and the socialising. **Priyanka Sahgal (class of '01)** with hubby Arjun after meeting and catching up with most guys who had arrived had to leave for a pre-committed office do. Though the weight of the more recent batches was more, the class of '96 and before, were not under represented. We had **Debasis Dash** and **Suvashree Mishra** from the **class of '92** with their cute little son Abhisek and 5 month old daughter Aditi driving for 2 hours to get to the venue. Ofcourse, with **Kaustubh Misra** from the same batch organising the meet and monitoring their every move, Debasis & Suvashree had little choice but to attend. As the senior co-ordinator **Sabyasachi Sahu (class of '93)** also made it through the London traffic jams caused by a Rugby match.



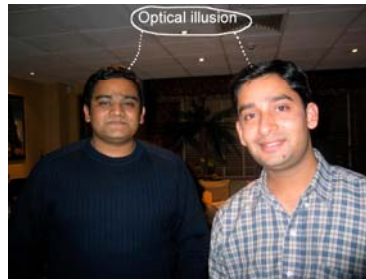
With almost all expected to attend having arrived, there were more people at the bar and a self created smoking corner on the footpath outside, than around the dinner tables. **Mona Dash (Class of '95)**, married to Kaustubh had been eyeing the spread at the buffet counter and not able to control herself started the attack on the food followed by **Banoja Acharya** and **Ruchika Gokarn** from the **class of '96**. With **Saugata Basu**, Banoja's husband from the same batch left to hold their very little two months old baby girl Isha, Ruchika's hubby Prashant and dimpled two year old daughter Ria held each other's attention. When Isha needed to eat and Banoja had no choice but to take her from Saugata, he promptly hit the bar.



Prashant Jajodia (class of '98), the person who had arranged all the food, etc for the evening was at the bar re-filling his and wife **Seema Ravani's (Class of '98)** drink for the nth time, Seema was busy with the Chicken Hyderabadi and Lentil's with Snakegourd. With everyone enjoying the alcohol, tobacco, food or some combination of the three, it was difficult to round them up to do the formal bit for the evening. Though, **Deepa Balasubramanyan (class of '99)** was already inside the restaurant, it was difficult to get her husband from the same batch, **GR Srinivasa** away from the smoking corner. Giving Sreeni company were **Mayan Bhargava** and **Sankalp Patnaik** both from the **class of '00** as well as **Ashutosh Tripathy (Class of '01)**. **Dibyajit Patnaik (Class of '00)**, the newly wed was taking care of his wife Jublee. Pictures are on the next page.



With the introductions over, the discussion centred around Sabyasachi having got XIMB's course recognised by NARIC UK, a body which is in charge in the UK to recognise degrees from abroad. The XIMB degree is now recognised as a post-graduate degree equivalent to a MBA from any UK institution. More information on the subject can be had from Sabyasachi whose contact is sabyasahu@yahoo.co.uk. The possibility of Prof. Ramana coming to the UK created interest among the alumni and it was decided that we should meet once during the professor's stay in London. Matters regarding a more mutually beneficial relationship with the institution was proposed to be taken up after discussions at the meet where Prof. Ramana might be able to update the European chapter on the current position of the institution. It was agreed we have a new co-ordinator Mayan Bhargava (e-mail mayan.bhargava@polaris.co.in) as after two years, it was time for a person from a more recent batch to get involved. Sabyasachi will remain the other co-ordinator for the European Alumni chapter. Mayan's contacts to be put up on the alumni site will be sent by Sabyasachi to the institute.



With that bit over, 13 of the 21 led by Sabyasachi then braved the London parking situation and police to end the evening in a night-club in Leicester Square where it was well past 3 AM before everyone left to catch some sleep, hopefully in their own bed. Unluckily there is no photos at the club else XIM hostels could have had some pin-ups !!