

Headline: 'Think in the long term, don't be in a rush'

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'Think in the long term, don't be in a rush'

NSE CEO Vikram Limaye appreciates the ambition among Indian youngsters, but feels they should map out their careers

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Vikram Limaye has a word of advice for youngsters chasing career dreams. Pace yourself, and think about where you will be after 30 years, not two or three.

"I find most youngsters today are impatient. It does not help," says the National Stock Exchange CEO. "It's good to be ambitious, but pace yourself and take the right decisions. You may think, 'Chalo, BCom ke saath CA kar liya toh I will get a job tomorrow'. But where that may leave you five years down the line may be different [from the intended goal]."

Limaye, 50, speaks from experience. He became a CA after his BCom. Later, he got an MBA from Wharton. He did not embark on his CA during his BCom, something which many students do.

He says, "One of the crucial learning experiences of my career was doing articleship with Arthur Andersen. It turned out to be very important for the development of my personality, work ethic and ability to handle pressure. But had I been doing my BCom simultaneously, they wouldn't have hired me. At the time, quality CA firms would

not take article clerks if they were doing CA and BCom together."

Limaye adds, "Perhaps this is something I can tell youngsters. You got to plan your career from a 30-40 year perspective. Trying to save 18-24 months may not serve you that well in the long term."

At Wharton, Limaye benefitted from a style of teaching he had not seen in India, and which, he ruefully says, is missing even now.

"It was an eye-opener in the way how teachers approached a subject," he says. "I recall a course taught by the esteemed professor, Jeremy Siegel, on macroeconomics. He'd bring a Bloomberg terminal to the classroom. The first 20 minutes were spent on current events — looking at political and economic headlines. Then

we'd see what their impact was on different markets — equities, bonds, currencies and commodities."

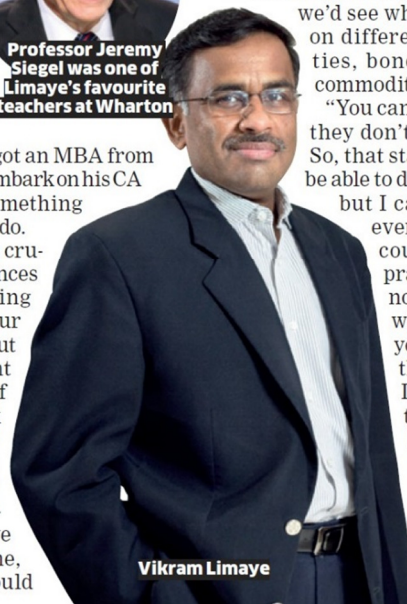
"You can solve equations, but they don't give you intuition. So, that stays with you. I won't be able to do one equation today,

but I can relate to a world event and how markets could react. That's the practical aspect of economics you learn there which unfortunately you don't get here. Yes, there is a rigour in the Indian education system that is important. But it needs to be balanced by the practical aspect of what that subject means and how it relates to the real world," he adds.

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Professor Jeremy Siegel was one of Limaye's favourite teachers at Wharton



Vikram Limaye