

**A** brilliant student. A graceful dancer. And 1st rank-holder of the 2017 batch at IIM Calcutta. **Soumyasree Chakraborty** is all this and a lot more. She spoke about her academic achievements, life on the Joka campus and her crush on Sachin Tendulkar at CMA presents Laureates, in association with **The Telegraph**, at Rotary Sadan on March 29.

The question-and-answer session with Jimmy Tangree took the audience through the brainiac's school days in Bidya Bhaban School, Behala, her time at Jadavpur University where she studied electrical engineering, her four-year stint with Indian Oil before cracking CAT with a mind-blowing 99.83 percentile and a record CGPA (Cumulative Grade Point Average) of 8.97 out of 9 at IIM Calcutta.

Soumyasree is headed for Mumbai, where she will join the Boston Consulting Group as a consultant from June.

Excerpts from the conversation.

## Academic choices

In school, I wanted to be a doctor one day and an engineer the next. I was heartbroken when I didn't get into IIT. But I promised myself I would do better wherever I joined and that's why I could be the gold medallist of my batch at JU. I come from a very middle-class family and my parents had a dream for me. Even I knew there is no alternative to education. I made the most of the resources I had.

## Engineering over medical

I always loved math. Also, engineering was a shorter course and meant quick money. It was a practical choice.

## Aim for F.R.I.E.N.D.S

There is no secret mantra for



**I studied whatever was taught in class the same day. And that's the routine I have followed all my life. At IIM, I would set targets for myself that if I could finish a certain amount of studying within a stipulated time, I could watch an hour of F.R.I.E.N.D.S.**

studying. It is as simple as mathematics. There is no correlation between the hours you put in and your result. Also, there needs to be a hobby. Otherwise, there is no motivation for studying.

I realised early in life that procrastinating didn't work for me. I studied whatever was taught in class the same day. And that's the routine I have followed all my life. At IIM, I would set targets for