

STORY TO READ – 28/SEPT

Ankita's Leap: From Chapra to IIM Bangalore

Chapter 1: The Beginning in Chapra

In the small town of Chapra, Bihar, narrow streets carried the smell of chai and fried snacks from roadside stalls. Amidst this, Ankita lived in a modest home above her father's kirana shop. The evenings were often filled with the sound of her mother's voice reminding her:

“Padhai karo, Ankita. Tumhari zindagi humse alag honi chahiye.”

And Ankita would reply with determination, “Ma, main kuchh bada karungi.”

Her father dreamed of a secure life for her, perhaps as a teacher or in a steady government job. But Ankita's eyes wandered further. She wanted not just survival, but stature.

Chapter 2: The Banking Dream

After graduation in commerce, she decided to attempt banking exams. Nights in Chapra would go silent, but Ankita's room glowed faintly under the flickering lantern. She memorized formulas, solved reasoning puzzles, and read English passages aloud to herself.

Neighbors sometimes mocked:
“Bank exam? Itna tough hota hai.
Chapra ki ladki bank officer banegi?”

But Ankita brushed off the remarks.
She knew failure was possible, but
regret was worse.

Her first attempt ended in
disappointment. She wept quietly that
night, but the next morning, she began
again. On her second attempt, success
arrived. She was selected as a
Probationary Officer in **Punjab and
Sind Bank**.

Her father couldn't believe it. “Meri
beti officer ban gayi!” he said proudly,
showing her appointment letter to
everyone in their mohalla.

Chapter 3: A New World

Ankita's posting took her to Punjab. It was her first time living outside Bihar. The new language, food, and culture initially felt alien. At the bank, customers were impatient, and seniors demanded efficiency.

One day, after a small error in documentation, her manager scolded her in front of colleagues. That night, she sat alone in her small rented room and whispered:

“Main galti se nahi darungi. Mujhe yeh sab seekhna hoga.”

Within months, Ankita adapted. She mastered the systems, won customers'

trust, and earned a reputation as a disciplined officer. Her job was stable, her salary sufficient. For many, this would be the destination. But Ankita's heart was restless.

Chapter 4: The Spark for Something More

It was during a break at the bank when Ankita stumbled upon a magazine article about the **Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs)**. She read about students landing top corporate jobs, becoming entrepreneurs, and leading industries.

That night, she sat staring at the article. "If they can, why can't I?" she thought.

The idea was audacious. CAT (Common Admission Test) was known as one of the toughest exams in the country. People laughed when she shared her dream.

“Arey Ankita, tum bank officer ho. Yahin settle ho jao.”

But she had tasted stability. Now she wanted impact.

Chapter 5: The Double Life

For the next two years, Ankita lived two lives. By day, she was a banker—counting currency, guiding customers, preparing reports. By night, she was a student—solving quant problems,

reading editorials, practicing logical reasoning.

Her routine was brutal:

- . 5 AM: Study.
- . 9 AM to 6 PM: Bank.
- . 7 PM to midnight: CAT preparation.

Loneliness became her companion.

Festivals were missed, movies forgotten. But with every passing day, her confidence grew.

Her colleagues often asked, “Why do you look so tired?”

She would smile faintly and say, “Bas padhai chal rahi hai.”

Chapter 6: Cracking CAT

The exam day came. Sitting in the examination hall, Ankita whispered a silent prayer. The hours passed like minutes.

When results were announced, she refreshed the website on her phone again and again. Finally, the number appeared: **98.4 percentile**.

She froze. Then tears streamed down her face.

“Main kar gayi...” she whispered.

The interviews were tougher.

Professors asked about banking regulations, economic policies, and even grilled her on current affairs. But Ankita’s sincerity, her grounded

perspective from small-town Bihar, shone through.

Weeks later, she received the admission letter: **IIM Bangalore.**

Chapter 7: The IIM World

Stepping into the campus of IIM Bangalore was like entering another planet. Lush green avenues, stone architecture, buzzing classrooms filled with confident, urban students.

Ankita felt small at first. During group discussions, others spoke fluent English with polished accents. She hesitated.

One evening she called her mother:
“Ma, mujhe lagta hai main yahan fit
nahi hoti.”

Her mother replied calmly, “Ankita,
Chapra ki ladkiyaan har jagah fit hoti
hain. Bas apne pair jamake khadi reh.”

Those words became her anchor.
Slowly, Ankita found her rhythm. She
improved her communication,
contributed sharp insights from her
banking experience, and even topped a
few subjects. Professors noticed her
discipline; peers respected her
resilience.

Chapter 8: Transformation

The two-year PGDM program changed Ankita. From case studies on multinational companies to late-night group projects, from internships with corporate giants to leadership workshops, she soaked in everything. She realized her real calling was not just to join another corporate job but to **create something meaningful**. She remembered Chapra—her classmates who never even thought of CAT, her neighbors who believed banking was the final frontier.

“Why should ambition be restricted to metros?” she thought.

Chapter 9: The Startup Dream

After graduating from IIM Bangalore, Ankita rejected lucrative corporate offers. Instead, she launched a startup focused on **career counselling for small-town youth**.

The mission was clear: to provide guidance, mentorship, and resources to students who lacked exposure. She designed online platforms, held webinars, partnered with schools, and built networks of mentors.

Her first seminar was in a small-town college. Nervous students listened as Ankita shared her story. When she finished, a girl in the front row asked softly, “Didi, kya hum bhi IIM jaa sakte hain?”

Ankita smiled, remembering her own doubts years ago.

“Bilkul,” she replied. “Aap bhi kar sakte ho.”

Chapter 10: Full Circle

Within three years, Ankita’s startup grew across multiple states. She was invited to national conferences, featured in magazines, and recognized as a change-maker. But for her, the biggest reward came when parents in Chapra pointed at her and told their daughters:

“Dekho, Ankita ko. Tum bhi bade sapne dekh sakti ho.”

From the dusty streets of Chapra to the elite corridors of IIM Bangalore, from counting notes in a bank to counselling thousands of dreamers—Ankita had come full circle.

Her life became a living proof of a truth she had always believed:

“Background doesn’t decide destiny. Determination does.”

Epilogue

One evening, standing on the terrace of her new office, Ankita looked up at the stars. She thought of her father’s grocery shop, her mother’s endless faith, her own sleepless nights of preparation.

A smile crossed her face. She
whispered, almost to herself:
“This is just the beginning.”

IF YOU FEEL INSPIRED OR
CONNECTED WITH THE STORY
REACT WITH A HEART