

# CONNECT

Volume 21 | Issue 4  
January-March 2018



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## “ MANAGEMENT FUNDA

A little bird was flying south for the winter. It was so cold that the bird froze and fell to the ground into a large field. While he was lying there, a cow came by and dropped some dung on him. As the frozen bird lay there in the pile of cow dung,

he began to realize how warm he was. The dung was actually thawing him out! He lay there all warm and happy, and soon began to sing for joy. A passing cat heard the bird singing and came to investigate. Following the sound, the cat discovered the bird under the pile of cow dung, and

promptly dug him out and ate him.

*Moral of the Story -*

*Not everyone who shits on you is your enemy.*

*Not everyone who gets you out of shit is your friend.*

*And when you're in deep shit, it's best to keep your mouth shut!* ”

# A word from our Founder Partner

Let's begin the new fiscal on a great note. Solid commitments are the right beginnings. Your partners have deeply pondered our past approach, be it work or growth ideas. We have re-structured our approach AND redefined entire operations, and many more are on THE way now. We have re-committed to making our firm far better than ever, in terms of work environment and the quality of work. As the story unfolds, your involvement will be crucial.

My congratulations to SC TD and SC Connect for the splendid job they did which was enthusiastically recognised. I remember the jolly mood in which this was announced on our anniversary, and the pictures in here are a testimonial to that.

I am happy, as are all the partners, to share our core value systems. These, taken together, will give you an insight into the heart of ASA-CCI, as will the caricatures in the end tell you what delights 2 of us partners!

In closing, I share my urge to throw you in hot water, so as to discover your eggness, potatoeness or beaness. Confused? Read on.

Happy Summers!

Best regards



AJAY SETHI

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CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

**CCI**  
CORPORATE CATALYST  
(INDIA) PVT LTD



## 2nd India Korea Business Summit 2018 – Bringing Business Together



Parveen Kumar attended the 2nd India-Korea Business Summit 2018 held in New Delhi which aimed at creating the framework for an open and action oriented dialogue between top business leaders and

government officials from India and Korea with a focus on sectors like Infrastructure, ICT, Power, Smart Cities and Manufacturing. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also addressed the delegation.

## Delhi Budget Seminar for Clients

A Budget Seminar was organized for clients, to discuss the implications of the fiscal budget 2018. Rajiv Arya flagged off the interactive session and Sunil Arora and Subrata Bose took the audience through the implications of the Direct and Indirect Tax proposals.

“ We recently co-hosted a budget seminar in Nihongo with the Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi UFJ. ”



## India Budget Synopsis 2018

Sunil Arora and Subrata Bose addressed the members of the Delhi Management Association at India Habitat Centre. The session, covered the implications of Direct and Indirect Tax proposals as well as an overview of GST and its

## Budget Synopsis – Neemrana Industries initiative

We co-hosted a seminar with the Neemrana Industries Association on the Fiscal Budget 2018. Chief guests included prominent government officials including Sh. Raghavendra Singh Yadav, Commissioner, State Tax, Rajasthan; Smt. Nishi Rani, Deputy Commissioner; and Sh. Pooran Singh – Assistant Commissioner. Rajiv Arya kicked off the session followed by presentations on Direct and Indirect Tax proposals and GST updates by Subrata Bose and Pankaj Aneja.



## Post Budget Panel Discussion with Indo Dutch Chambers

Sunil Arora and Subrata Bose were invited to a post-budget panel discussion organized by the Indo Dutch Chambers of Business & Sciences. The panel included H.E. Alphonsus Stoelinga, Ambassador of Netherlands to India; S Ravi, Chairman of the Bombay Stock Exchange; and Rajesh Srivastava, Chairman IDCBS who moderated the entire discussion. The discussion was following by an interactive session with inputs from each of the panelists on issues ranging from executing change in the European Union to practical implications of raising taxes on investments, to implications of the budget proposals on permanent establishment and transfer pricing and the impact of GST.

## Budget Seminar with BTMU

We recently co-hosted a budget seminar in Nihongo with the Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi UFJ at The Leela Ambience in Gurgaon. The seminar was conducted for the benefit of Japanese firms in India and covered the Union Budget 2018 and its implications.



impact on the recent Fiscal Reforms.



## Walking the Budget 2018 together with FICCI



The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) organized an Interactive Session on the Union Budget 2018-19: 'Critical Analysis and Way Ahead for Indian Economy' on 5<sup>th</sup> February at Hotel Abad Plaza, Kochi in association with our firm. Supporting partners of this event were Geojit and Central Bank

of India. The key speakers were Abhilash S Nair, Chairperson, Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode; Dr. VK Vijaykumar, Investment strategist, Geojit Financial Services Ltd; and our own K Nithyananda Kamath. The event was well attended by entrepreneurs, chartered accountants and financial analysts.

## Annual Partner Manager Meeting at Goa



The firm partners and senior management attended an offsite to review the implementation and achievements of the 2017. And also finalise the 2018-2019 workplan and strategy for the financial year 2018-2019.

We were honored to have Mr Richard Rekhy, the ex-CEO of KPMG as our guest speaker at this offsite. He spoke on subjects from handling innovations to managing growth in today's market.



## A Relationship Beyond Borders

A business meeting was organized by Himanshu Srivastava and Motohide Miyake for few leading Japanese corporates on 30<sup>th</sup> November at the Holiday Inn, Kochi, followed by dinner. P N Ramchandra Kamath and K Nithyananda Kamath along with Shalini R hosted the event which was followed by dinner.



## A Felicitation

The golden jubilee of the Ernakulam branch of the Southern India Regional Council of ICAI was celebrated with much fanfare. The Hon'ble Chief Minister Mr. Pinarayi Vijayan

inaugurated the function in the presence of Prof. KV Thomas, MP, and Nilesh S Vikamsey, president of ICAI. P N Ramachandra Kamath, Ex-chairman of ICAI in 2000 was felicitated at the event.



## Fiscal Budget 2018



Mumbai office organized a technical client clinic session on 7<sup>th</sup> February on the implications of Fiscal Budget 2018. The session taken by our experts Mr. Milind Deshmukh and Mr. Kishor Patel provided a lucid view to our clients explaining the significance of the budget, key takeaways, the hits and

misses of various proposals on both direct and indirect taxes. The session ended with our experts giving their assessment on the proposals in the budget. This detailed insight on the budget was well received by our clients who appreciated the time and effort put in by ASA and team.



# Workshop on Leadership Development

## Making More Leaders



A full day soft skill training on "Leadership Development & Enhancing Managerial Effectiveness" was conducted for the professional staff at Hotel Ramada on 3rd March. Himanshi Awaal, our MIZU and training & development knowledge partner took the audience through an interesting practical session to help our youngsters become the leaders of tomorrow.

# Vidarshana 2.0 Knowledge Showcase

*"Wisdom is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it"*



Our most awaited TD-Fest of the year, "Vidarshana 2.0", was conducted on 20th January. An impressive line up with two technical sessions from guest speakers and four participative rounds, which were 'Minutes-to-win-it', 'Let your voice be heard', 'Think and Speak' and a surprise mock council event to enhance BD and debating skills, were the features of this festival. With a scrumptious lunch in between, the event was a success and a continued legacy to look forward to next year.

## Congratulations Sub-Committee winner!

SC-TD has been awarded the best Sub Committee for the year 2017, with the members of the TD team being awarded for their continuous efforts on taking technical development & knowledge sharing initiatives within the firm. Our very own Connect was declared runner up.



Himanshi Awaal, our MIZU and training & development knowledge partner took the audience through an interesting practical session



## ASA turns 27

The firm commemorated its 27th anniversary with a celebration at NSCI – ‘A Lounge’ at Mumbai for the staff to relive the years passed. Partners reminisced the fond memories, certificates were handed to the wining Sub-Committee for the

Mumbai office to CONNECT and we photographed all the wonderful moments. SC-RC arranged an entertaining mimicry item by the staff ending the wonderful evening with everyone letting their hair down and dancing the night away.



## HAPPY LOHRI

The harvest festival of Lohri was celebrated with the traditional bonfire amid much dancing and eats, at the office rooftop on 12th January.



## Remembering Our Golden Heritage



To commemorate India’s 68th Republic Day, we held an online quiz ‘Remembering our Real Hero’s’ which was

open to all our employees. Chetan (Taxation) from Delhi and Jyoti (BAS) from GGN were declared the winners.

## Fun Day In Office

### Virat Kohli Edition



SC-RC hosted a sports day for the employees of ASA-CCI where more than half the staff participated in various sporting events. The theme of the event was “Start Unknown, Finish Unforgettable”, enthusiastically followed by all the competitors. A special shout out to Pankaj & Subrata for their witty

commentary. The event concluded with a nail biting tie-breaker between the ABS and Assurance teams with the boys from ABS finally lifting the cricket trophy.



## Your India, My India, Our India



The office was decorated with a tri-colour theme to commemorate the 69th Republic Day. The celebrations started with hosting the flag. SC-Admin organized a quiz titled “How well do you know the legendary hero’s of our Country?” and several interesting games.

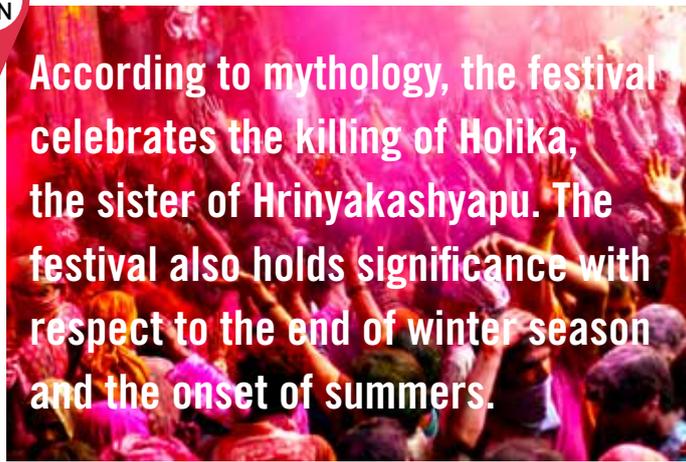


## Smear Your Dear Ones With Gulaal



According to mythology, the festival celebrates the killing of Holika, the sister of Hrinyakashyapu. The festival also holds significance with respect to the end of winter season and the onset of summers.

The colourful festival of Holi was celebrated in the pantry area at our Delhi & Gurgaon offices. In an attempt to be eco-friendly, we avoided use of chemical colours and opted instead for natural sandalwood (chandan). The staff enjoyed the traditional thandai and gujiya and enjoyed the evening immensely.



## Happy 27th!

On the 7th of March this year the firm completed 27 successful years. An event to commemorate this anniversary was held at the Belmond Resorts in Chattarpur and was attended by partners and employees outfitted at their glamorous best! Dance performances by the staff were the highlight of the evening as were the SC results which were announced by Ajay. SC-TD was the national winner while SC-Connect was declared the runner up for Delhi. SC Admin took the titles for Delhi / Gurgaon.



## Ready To Roll!

SC-RC organizes a bowling event at Amoeba Games, Kurla. We had a racuous evening at the Phoenix Market City mall with gutter balls and close calls.

While a deligent few toiled away at the lanes, the rest of us deligently ate every appetizer that came our way!

The fun filled evening drew to a close with a delicious victorious dinner.



## Flyp@ MTV Kamal Ke Moves



SC-RC came up with a most exciting event to bring out the FLYP side of our employees wherein everyone enjoyed the "Kamal Ke" dance moves, at Flyp @ MTV, Kamala Mills (read as "Kamal ke mills"). "Fiddlecraft", an Indie Pop Band, band performed original compositions and all the songs had hidden stories which the audience could relate to, very easily.



# Happy Work Anniversary!



The Ahmedabad office celebrated the firm's 27th anniversary with dance and fun filled activities over an exotic lunch hosted at a theme based restaurant at

the Pride Plaza hotel. The celebrations commenced with a cake cutting ceremony which was then followed by entertaining games.



# Holi on the House!

The staff all took a leap back to their childhood, when they playfully smeared each other with bright colours, danced to Bollywood songs and

enjoyed the festival of Holi with each other. And this picture of our multicoloured faces above, proves it.



# It's time for RAID!

We took a break from our daily routines to watch a special screening of the Ajay Devgun starrer RAID. The film is inspired by the real life IT raids that were

conducted by the officers of the Indian Revenue Service in the 1980s. It was an entertaining evening and a much needed respite from work.



# Congratulations Sub-Committee winner



SC-TD was awarded the best Sub-Committee for this year. The TD team comprising of Mohit Nagar, Parth Solani and Siddharth Shah were applauded for organizing the training program on GST and a course alongwith CFO of Hero Fincorp Ltd, The Importance of Chartered Accountancy course .

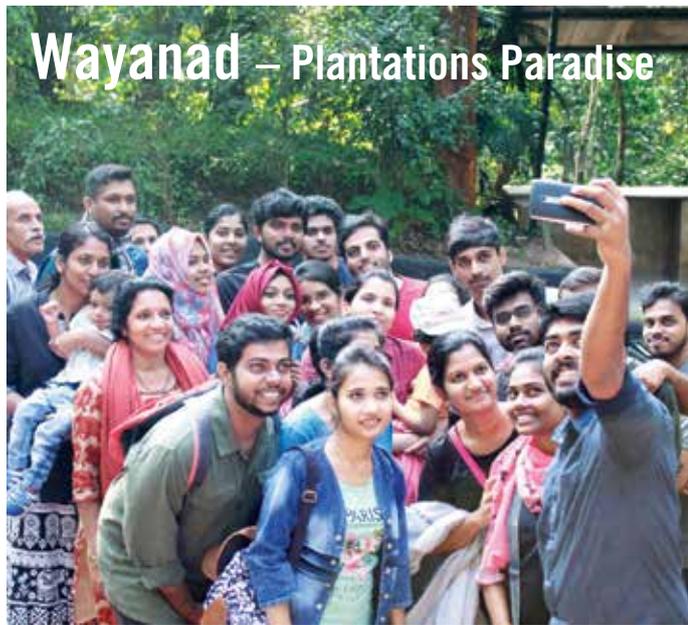


# Pongal – the Harvest Festival



The Chennai office celebrated Pongal with a lot of enthusiasm. The staff were all dressed in traditional attire to suit the occasion and everyone participated in the SC-RC conducted games and quiz that were based on rituals pertaining to the festival.





Wayanad is a hilly area surrounded by tea plantations, situated in the northern part of Kerala. After an 11-hour tiresome journey, we entered the bishopric “Thamarassery Churam” and were rewarded with stunning views and scenic beauty.

We visited the massive Banasura Sagar Dam which included a boat ride, and indulged in sports like bamboo rafting, ziplining and much more during the course of this trip. It truly was an experience to be treasured by all who attended.

## ‘Fun 10’



The 1st and 2nd week of February was planned as ‘Fun 10’ by SC-RC and various games like Dumb Charades, Tongue Twister and Be My Valentine, to name a few, were organized. Active participation of every member in the team was encouraged to emphasize team spirit.



## ASA Premier League 2018



One of the most awaited events of the year is the APL Cricket. The palpable excitement starts with the player auctions and we have eleven champions in each team glittering with designer team jerseys. ASA’s very own Dhoni’s and Kohli’s made the match fun-filled and engrossing. The winning trophy was lifted by Dabang Lakeside and Ayush Varghese was awarded the man of the match.

## Jai Hind

Republic Day was celebrated by a flag hoisting by K Nithyananda Kamath followed by distribution of sweets. The event was immortalized by the usual group selfies that were clicked by the staff.



### “Women are the real architects of society” by Harriet Beecher Stowe

Recently, Forbes listed the most powerful women that included Chanda Kochhar (ICICI Bank), Kiran Mazumdar (Chairman and MD of Biocon) and Priyanka Chopra (Actress). As a token of appreciation to women the world over, SC-RC also organized a Women’s Day celebration on 8th March where we cut a cake and the partners shared encouraging words with us.

### Wonders at WONDERLA

The firm’s 27th Anniversary was celebrated with a glorious day out at “Wonderla”. After a cake cutting ceremony at the office we all headed out to the fun destination. The crazy games, varying from ‘Recoil’, ‘Mission Interstellar’, ‘Wonder Space’ to ‘Crazy Car’ were innovative, thrilling, exciting and totally unforgettable.

After a delicious lunch the lazy ones jumped into the wave pool and ‘Lazy River’ to relax while the energetic enjoyed the Rain Disco, Boomerang, Wavy Fall and other rides. The day ended with the announcements of the Sub Committee winners. Cheers to another year of working together and growing together!





"I will pay it forward"

Others have opened the door of opportunity for me. I will not slam it behind me. I will give others the same chances that helped me succeed.

**AJAY SETHI**  
Managing Partner

If you think you can-  
"YOU CAN"  
If you think you can't-  
"YOU ARE RIGHT"  
Your happiness depends on only one person-  
"YOURSELF"

**PARVEEN KUMAR**  
National Head - Assurance



Always face your fears. Do the most difficult task first.

**SUNDEEP GUPTA**  
Partner - Accounting and Business Support



- Kind friendly, empathetic and supportive.
- Professional objective, informed, ethical.
- Do not make defiance's personal.
- Enjoy your work.

**K NITHYANANDA KAMATH**  
Partner Taxation



Our Firm:  
Reach out to the top in Profession by means of institutionalizing our firm.

Our Team Members:  
Imbibing the sense of belonging in their path of career growth.

**K VENKATRAMAN**  
National Head - Taxation

Spread across diverse locations both within India as well as internationally, there is consistency and standardization in processes and deliverables and yet an integrated and united approach in delivering the highest of brand standards.

Human Relationships - A most important virtue.  
Men & women are equal.  
Honesty is the best policy.  
Smile always- it helps to make you and people around happier.

**RAJIV ARYA**  
National Head - Accounting and Business Support



I would like to lead and be led by example.

**SUNIL ARORA**  
Partner - Taxation and Practice Head



Develop and follow your priorities - a clear action plan with complete focus on it makes it much easier to follow through on what's important!

**BIKRAMJIT SINGH BEDI**  
Executive Partner - Taxation

Never lose sight of your mission. Be mindful. Aim higher than your abilities hard work never fails. Never give up!

**HIMANSHU SRIVASTAVA**  
Partner- Business Advisory & Practice Head



Passionate and determined towards work and gives the power to everyone to share ideas and information instantly, without barriers.

**PRATEET MITTAL**  
Executive Partner - Assurance



My Core Values are “quality of service”, passing of knowledge to whoever works with me and walking together!!

I work hard to deliver quality and value and I believe in training my teams to do the same. I do push my clients and my teams to do their best in the given situation(s) and I participate in the team effort equally.

At the end, it all has to be worth remembering as the entire teams come together to have lots of fun!!

**MS VAIJAYANTIMALA BELSARE**

Executive Partner - Assurance



- Perseverance
- Empathy
- Pursuit for perfection

**NITIN ARORA**

Partner - Transaction Advisory Services



Skill sets upgradation, Integrity & focus on Business

Development which I feel to be core values for overall firm

Development to which I aspire.

**S SUNDAR RAJAN**

Executive Partner - Assurance



A From the angle of Firm, Clients, people (ASA)

- \* Build & give VALUE ADDITION
- + Invest in RELATIONSHIP Share, collaborate, and consult (K word) Be practical

S Foundation- Trust, Ethics, Professionalism.

A (Audit) comfort, safety (Rules), and value/core.

**D K GIRIDHARAN**

Practice Head



- Integrity
- Respect
- Humor

**HEMANT AGNIHOTRI**

Executive Director - Transaction Advisory



- INTEGRITY: Both at profession and personal thoughts /actions.
- CHALLENGE THE LIMITS: Limits are just mental blocks.
- POWER OF TEAM: Submerge, Emerge, Stronger.
- COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY Say what you want the way they want.

**NITISH PARAMESWARAN**

Partner - Accounting & Business support



- Decision Making at Business
- Ethics are followed
- Capability to deliver
- Are we in positivity servicing the client from technical point of view.
- Value addition by taking a client.

**PR JAYAKUMAR**

Senior Advisor

Sincere, Hard-working, Client Driven approach  
Adhere to deadlines but if not possible seek extension with reasons.

Ethics and value system of the firm paramount

Collaborative approach

**SUBRATA BOSE**

Executive Partner - Accounting and Business Support



“Continuously building a sustainable high quality practice across all service lines through and by a great team of motivated colleagues thereby ensuring growth of such team members and of the firm and of course, client satisfaction at the core.”

**RAM PRASAD DEVALLA**

Practice Head



# It's Mahashivarathri



India is a country of innumerable cultures, traditions and festivals. But the one festival that touches my heart the most is Mahashivaratri. This affinity I feel towards the festival, could be because I grew up in Kotappakonda, a holy hill, situated in Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh, famous for its Shiva temple.



8 wheel Ratham with a height of more than 60 feet is the highlight of the occasion.

I visited Kotappakonda after a long gap and was pleasantly surprised to find the Mahashivratri celebrations as they were, many years ago, during my childhood.

I do believe that these festivities bring people together and that spirituality and goodness still live deep within our hearts.

The celebrations, as I remember, start off few days earlier with lots of excitement. A gigantic 'electric prabha' built on an

John Babu



# A Night out on Bikes

The last day of the financial year had left us exhausted and we decided to ride out to ECR to destress a bit. What we ended up doing was that we reached Mahabalipuram - a major tourist destination near Chennai. In many ways the ride turned out to be a stress buster for all of us.

We spent some time at the shores of Mahabalipuram quietly gazing at the stars above and listening to the pleasant lapping of the waves against the beach. The drive back before sunrise was pitch dark, but we did return safe and sound before the first light of the next day.

Ramki



## KNOW YOUR MATE

### Sunil Kumar M N Mr Tender Heart



Sunil is very pleasant, extremely enthusiastic and also down-to-earth with a lot of patience. His motto in life is "Live in the moment". He loves bike-riding and is an avid tennis and cricket buff. His dream is (in this order) to set up a sports academy to aid the talented who are unable to follow the ambition; to watch a Wimbledon Final at the famous Centre-court and



the World Cup Final at Lords. ASA-CCI wishes him luck in achieving all his dreams.



### Some call them Colleagues, We call them Mother & Daughter. ;)

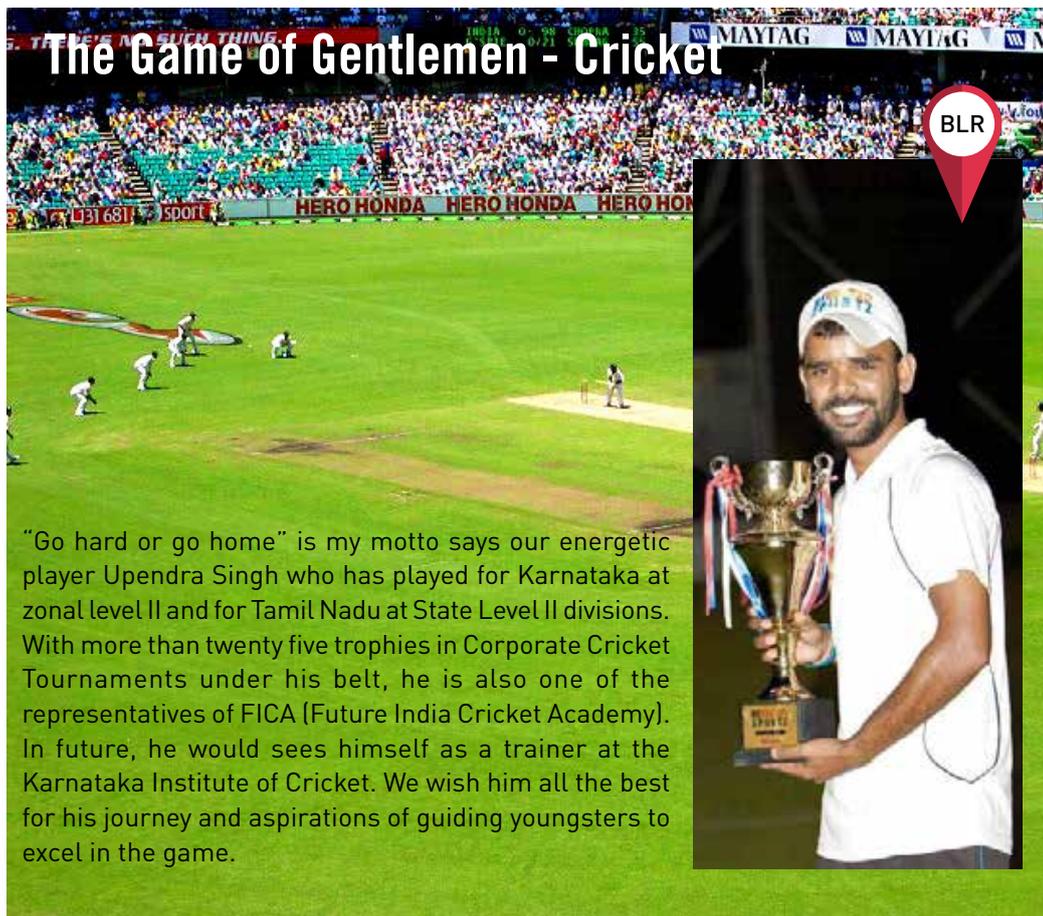


It is said that matches are made in heaven and there is nothing like finding a soul that relates to you. When Manali Madhwani, Deputy Manager joined our team, she instantly bonded with Ishita Jain, a first year trainee thus proving the saying right in many ways. The similarities that they share in their speech and conduct are eerie, and

they are more like mother-daughter than colleagues. They even share birthdays, family businesses and eventually shared rides to and from office. Their relationship makes us believe that we are all born with some connection to another person and its fate that you get to meet that person in this lifetime and that is a true blessing.



# The Game of Gentlemen - Cricket



“Go hard or go home” is my motto says our energetic player Upendra Singh who has played for Karnataka at zonal level II and for Tamil Nadu at State Level II divisions. With more than twenty five trophies in Corporate Cricket Tournaments under his belt, he is also one of the representatives of FICA (Future India Cricket Academy). In future, he would sees himself as a trainer at the Karnataka Institute of Cricket. We wish him all the best for his journey and aspirations of guiding youngsters to excel in the game.



BLR

## Sumaya Our In-house Mehndi designer

Sumaya has been making henna designs as a hobby for about 10 years. Her inspiration and passion for mehndi grew by seeing her mother’s work. Specializing in Indian and Arabic mehndi designs, Sumaya constantly adapts from her surroundings to give a creative, meaningful and beautiful visual.

COK



## Danish Vincent Our Golden Boot

Calicut SICASA organized an All Kerala Football tournament “SUPERBIA ALL KERALA FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT”. Danish Vincent of our Kochi office played defense for COBRAS FC, one of the 8 teams which represented Ernakulam SICASA. The COBRAS FC also went on to win the tournament.



# Australia - Oz was just right

DEL  
GGN

"We travel not to escape life, but for life not to escape us." – Anonymous

Australia was on our travel cards this year, and we visited recently just in time to enjoy the Australian summer. The two glorious weeks we spent there convinced me why it is one of the most popular travel destinations today. The incredible natural beauty, rainforests, pristine white beaches, and of course, the Great Barrier Reef are all to be seen to be believed. Sydney's Harbor Bridge and Opera House are iconic man-made wonders that photographs just don't do any justice to and Melbourne's café culture will transport you to the streets of Europe. It's no wonder you will not

want to leave this stunning country.

During our trip we covered four major cities – Sydney, Gold Coast, Melbourne and Cairns. I realized that the best things about Sydney came free – the sunshine, the harbor and the lively beaches (Bondi and Coogee to name two)! The one thing you do end up paying for (but is totally worth it) is the food.

My favourite moment of the trip was our the drive around the Great Ocean Road. Spectacular views, scenic beauty with the mountains on one side of the road and the wild roaring ocean on the other, make it a memorable drive. Witness the rugged splendour of the famous 12 Apostles, magnificent rock stacks that

rise up majestically from the Southern Ocean on the dramatic coastline. (now only 7 of them remain, the rest have been eroded by waves).

To sum up, every time you will visit, you will definitely find something new to love and explore! I for one, am definitely going back!

**GAURAV BHATIA**

▼ The Great Barrier Reef



Melbourne's Cafes ►



▼ The 12 Apostles





# Sri Lanka it is

Tea Gardens

Ceylon as the British called it, (today, Sri Lanka) is in essence, a blend of cities, mountains, sandy beaches and rich culture. Being one of India's closest neighbor and an exotic yet viable travel option, we took an all girls trip to this island nation.

At the southernmost tip of Sri Lanka, is the city of Galle. One feels transported to a quaint European city with its lineup of outdoor beach view cafes and a string of exclusive boutiques, a veritable shoppers paradise. The thriving night life is an elixir for young souls and the food culture is any foodies dream come true.

We went through the usual touristy routine of visits to the turtle hatcheries, cinnamon gardens and moonstone mines. And 'NO', that's the local answer to every Indian tourist's most asked question about any information on Raavana, or Queen Padmavati for that matter.

The Sinhalese people are all about Buddhism. Their museums and temples and the Buddha statues (one every 5 miles) will remind you of that.

Our 4 days in this beautiful country, were also filled with plenty of coconut water and yummy local fruits like soursop and passion fruit.

**ZAINAB**



Galle Fort



Turtle Hatcheries



Buddhist influence



Our 'all girl' gang

# Under the Waterfalls



This new year we decided to explore Ubbalamudugu Falls (also called Tada Falls), a waterfall located in the Chittoor district, 80 kilometres from Chennai.

The falls, located in a forest called the Siddulaiah Kona, are famous among residents from Chennai for trekking.

The magnificent waterfall provided a scenic backdrop for a memorable get together with colleagues.

Our crew members 'Papa, Manjula and Madhu', cooked up some mouth watering treats for us.

**SABARINATHAN R**

## ADVENTURES GALORE! NAINI LAKE, CORBETT PARK AND RISHIKESH

Living in south India, Uttarakhand has been 'one of the states to visit' on my bucket list for as long as I can remember. The long weekend of Republic Day was a perfect time to plan trip a to Jim Corbett National Park, Nainital and Rishikesh. To actually witness in reality the landscapes and sights I had only seen in pictures before

Our six-day 'adventure' included paragliding in

Nainital, river rafting, bungee jumping and flying fox in Rishikesh. From free-flying in the air; to drowning in the Ganges; to trying out India's longest bungee jumping, this trip was exhilarating as well as overwhelming.

Like all trips this too eventually ended but the memories we brought back will remain with us forever.

**NAVEEN SN**

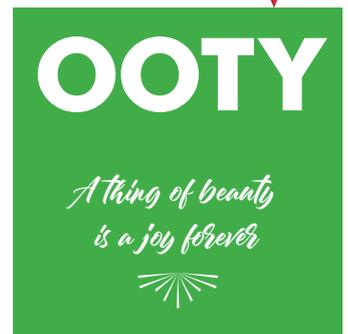


Ooty is indisputably one of the most popular hill stations in India and we found this a perfect holiday destination for our family.

The entire experience of the famous Ooty Tea gardens, the Botanical Gardens and Doddabetta Peak was exhilarating to say the least. The boating trip with my family was the highlight of the holiday.

The memories captured in the countless photos that we took, will always remind me of the wonderful family time spent in this scenic hill station.

**BEENA K A**



With a breathtakingly beautiful coastline, lush tropical forests, fantastic diving possibilities and a far flung location, the Andaman islands are a perfect place to simply chill out on sun kissed beaches.

Landing at the Port Blair Airport felt like we were sandwiched in a world of blue – the sky above and the Indian Ocean below.

We visited the Cellular jail where we attended a sound and light show depicting the gory history of the prison and freedom fighters captured there. It was a chilling reminder of the freedom struggles all over the world.

Scuba diving and snorkeling – both experiences of a lifetime – at Havelock and Jolly Buoy islands, were memorable to say the least. These two picturesque natural paradise with their gorgeous white sandy beaches and lush forests, are to be seen to be believed.

Then there were the museums that educated us about the geography of these beautiful islands and their people and practices.

All in all 'what a delightful experience'.

SMITHA K S



Cellular Jail



Port Blair, a world of blue

# MANALI - THE SNOWLAND!

Our trip to Manali, was a sudden, spur of the moment plan that turned out to be an unforgettable one.

Manali is a valley nestled in the mountains of Himachal Pradesh, near the northern end of the Kullu valley.

It was like a picture postcard to see azure blue skies, white capped mountains and lush green landscapes all in one frame.

While we visited the usual tourist attractions in Kullu

– museums, the Hadimba temple, parks etc. – we also had a rolicking time in the thick snow of the Solang Valley.

We spent two blissful days before we got back to our routine lives in the city.

We came home with memories of the cool climes and the gentle burble of the river Beas, imprinted in our minds.

**ABHISHEK CHOUDHURY**



## SC-ADMIN INITIATIVES

### Acts of Kindness

SC-Admin took the initiative to start the new year by bringing smiles and some warmth to the homeless needy people on the streets by donating woollen clothes, blankets and shawls. The distribution ride took place at South Delhi, Connaught Place and nearby areas.

Boxes were kept in both Delhi and Gurgaon office and the staff was encouraged to donate clothes and blankets which they did in large numbers. Employees volunteered to take part in this drive which was a small contribution by the firm for a noble cause.



### Town Hall Meet

SC-Admin organized a "Town Hall" meeting for the professional staff- Assistant Managers to Senior Managers - which was attended by 49 participants. The meeting was addressed by Ajay Sethi and Rajiv Arya who shared their own thoughts and also interacted with the audience with regard to their individual growth along with the firm's growth.



# Kim Collaço



## STATE AN UNUSUAL THING YOU DO TO OVERCOME STRESS.

I used to row or take a walk. Now I have an 'angry' playlist that makes me happy.

## WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT TO CHANGE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHY?

Nothing. I've spent years getting to where I am.

## NARRATE A FUNNY INCIDENT YOU'VE EXPERIENCED.

My husband and I were on holiday in Edinburg and stayed in a serviced apartment. Suddenly, one morning, the fire alarms began blaring. Turns out he had been trying to make toast with the toaster on its highest setting. I walked into the kitchen to find him engulfed in a cloud of smoke, helplessly trying to get the two slices of bread (that were the purest charcoal by then) out of the toaster. This was Edinburgh so the windows had safety catches on them, which meant that we couldn't air out the kitchen either. We had to explain to the folks running the place that it wasn't a fire, just burnt toast to convince them to finally turn off the alarms.

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SONG AT PRESENT? WHY?

I have several favourites. Swanee River by Hugh Laurie, Blood on My Name by the Brothers Bright, Someone New by Hozier... Something about these songs just transports me to a different time and place

## WHAT DID YOU ASPIRE TO BE AS A CHILD?

I wanted to be a paratrooper for the Indian Army and even picked up the forms to sign up. That freaked my mum out. So I decided to be a marine architect instead, and that freaked my dad out!

## ONE WORD/PHRASE YOU USE MOST FREQUENTLY AT WORK.

Most of what I say is unprintable.

## APART FROM WORK, WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS?

Travel, music and art.

## YOUR IDEA OF AN IDEAL VACATION?

A sunny beach, a good book and a cool drink.

## YOUR THOUGHT ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

Social media is a tool. Like any tool it is only as good as the person or people wielding it. It takes skill, experience and intelligence to properly use social media. I have zero patience with people who get all hot and bothered about the reactions on social media to opinions, instead of facts.

So my thoughts on social media? Be aware of your security settings. be careful about what you post, avoid the idiots, don't engage the trolls and visit your company page regularly.

## WHAT ATTRACTS YOU TOWARDS A PERSON? AND WHAT PUTS YOU OFF?

My closest friends and mentors all have one thing in common – interesting conversation. I always learn something new whenever I speak with them. What puts me off is a 'don't know, don't want to know' attitude. The way I see it, we all have a limited amount of time in this life. I'm not going to waste mine.

## NAME ONE PERSON WHO INSPIRED YOU THE MOST.

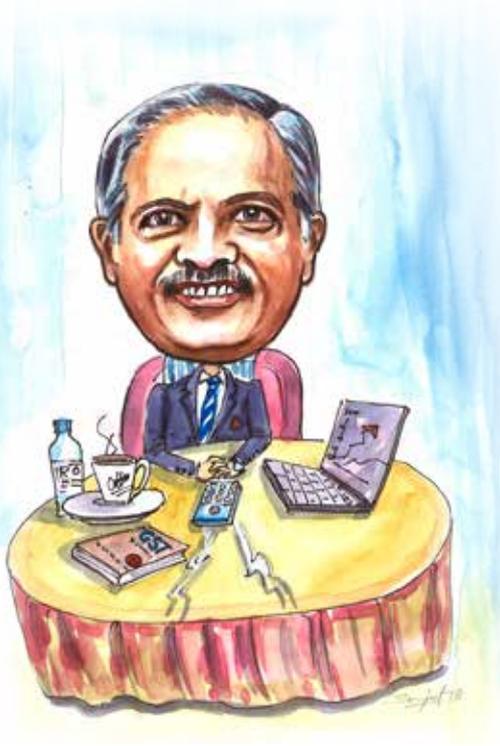
My grandmother. The toughest survivor I have ever known.

## NAME ONE THING YOU'D LIKE TO PURSUE POST-RETIREMENT?

Travel, eat and blog about it. That's my plan.

## ANY ADVICE OR SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR READERS.

When put into boiling water eggs harden, potatoes soften, and coffee beans transform the water into something entirely different. Decide which one you want to be when you find yourself in hot water.



Partner, Accounting and Business Support, Bengaluru

Accounting in DNA; Ginger Tea brings the adrenaline out. Substance and Form; in both, shows his clout.

P Nitish

Sunil Arora

With a charm to enthrall any audience! He is one person who never fails to give guidance!

Partner, Taxation, New Delhi Practice Head Mumbai



Sreevidhya V Pai & Surendranath Kamath were blessed with a daughter, Suparna S Kamath



Vimmi Sachdeva weds Sudesh Yadav

Congratulations!