

Visteel Mahila Samiti Quarterly Magazine





Editorial



Dear Readers,

Modern day lifestyle is a disproportionate mixture of hectic work life and a stressful personal life for all adults. For students, it is even more tougher, because they have to cope with gruelling academic work, Projects, assignments, exams and not to mention peer pressure at a very tender age.

To relieve stress, to relax our body and mind and we need to take a small pause called 'vacation' from regular activities . Vacation gives us the space to spend time with ourselves and or our loved ones to discover a healthier self. After a vacation, one returns back to work with renewed energy and vigour.

Continuing the discussion, SPARK has chosen ," holidays'/ Vacation' as the theme for this edition and true to the spirit of the theme, in this edition we have published experiences and stories shared by our readers. We have received some excellent one liners on this theme and have interviewed three persons who are compulsive travellers, smitten by the travelbug.

Team SPARK hopes that all our readers had a nice summer vacation that rejuvenated their body and mind.

Shri P Madhusudan, CMD RINL, demited office in the month of May upon superannuation . As per her wish, a simple yet heart warming farewell was accorded to the first lady of Ukkunagaram, Madam Gouri Annapurna in the VMS office by the Visteel Mahila Samithi . Team SPARK wishes Madam Annapurna and her family a happy, healthy , joyous and peaceful retirement life.

SPARK has introduced a new feature in this edition . An attempt is being made to profile people who have chosen to take the less travelled career paths / Persue passion like - doing Voice Over, Media studies, photography , Fashion designing , Catering etc. Its common for most children to choose a career either in Engineering or in Medicine but selecting career in unconventional fields requires iron grit and unflinching support from parents. SPARK will be a platform for providing information in various career options that are unconventional yet interesting professions.

The SPARK editorial team is in the constant process of making the magazine more interesting . We invite creative and aesthetic contributions from its learned readers. Please come forward to enrich Spark by sharing your writing skill and share-worthy experiences .

keep up the habit of reading and most importantly continue to send us your valuable feedback.

Thank You ...

Bindoo Mohapatra
Editor in Chief & President, VMS





- KVS Valli

JAB WE MET - I love the title of the topic - it inspired me to write for this feature in Spark. Every year during Summer Vacation, we come to Andhra Pradesh to see our paternal and maternal relatives. During our visit in 1984, we came down to attend my cousins wedding at Vizag in 1984 on May 10th. We reached four days before the wedding. The main wedding day came, we girls took the podium place. My mother had a chat with my aunt's neighborhood lady. My mother expressed her view of my wedding proposal to her. She said recently her daughter's proposal got cancelled and that my mother can try for her daughter (which is me!). My mother collected the address and details of the bridegroom from the. neighbourhood aunty and gave it to my uncle to have a visit and discuss with the grooms family.

The very next Sunday i,e. on 13th May, the Bridegroom and his uncle came to see me, as the preliminary preparations like family

details and horoscope matchings were already done. On the spot, the bridegroom expressed his willingness to marry me.

Next, both the side parents met to have discussion regarding marriage in detail and wedding our was fixed for November 1984. At that time the Bridegroom was to complete his M.Tech in A.U. in evening college being MTT in RINL.

In this way, I came from Karnataka State (as my parents settled there) to Andhra State! What was supposed to be a fun filled time for us and a special event for my cousin who was getting married turned out to be a very special and memorable time when I met my soul mate.

In November my wedding took place and I stepped into UKKUNAGARAM. The rest as they say is history. We happily parented two boys who are our pride. We became parents, in laws and grandparents in this parasitise called ukkunagaram.

MOM, WHERE IS MY VACATION?



- Rosni Nayak

The year, 2018. The month, April. It was towards the end of the month and the much eagerly awaited summer vacation was going to start. School children are very happy about the vacation time. The situation was no different in our home-I am a teacher in a preschool and my son Mayank is all of eight years!

While Mayank was making his own leisure plans, I was busy planning to keep him creatively occupied! Our plans were just not in sync. Sad. Read on to have a peep into our situation ...

It was the last day of school (before the school was to close for summer vacation). Mayank came home from school and screamed aloud "Yahoooo!!!!, Mumma my vacation has started and we have 45 days of holidays.". To him, vacation has only one meaning and it simply means being totally off from school and study. And here, his Mumma ignoring the excitement of her child just commanded, "pleeeeease Freshen up and complete your holiday home work as soon as possible because we have to start for our hometown where we will spend 16days and after that you have to start with swimming class, dance class and music classes". Hearing all these he felt overloaded and worried. All of a sudden his excitement went down and his face turned pale teary eyed and a face full of hidden questions. Mustering courage and fighting his tears,

Mayank is asked, "Mumma where is my vacation????". A mother has very important role in a child's life..In the view of a child his/her mother is a super mom. She knows all the solutions to problems of her child, she has valid answers for all questions...But here on that day Mayank'smumma was speechless..The child's super mumma had no answers this time...She was quick to realise how wrong she was, when she simply wanted her child to accomplish every other activity under the sun! Unmindful of the interest, ability or aptitude, we parents burden our innocent children to be "trophy children". This snatches away the very joy of growing up . Mayank taught me a big lesson-study while you have to study, play while you should play ... else all work n no play will make jack dull boy! There is a reason why the school is closed for summer and winter vacations. The child should be spending time with friends and relatives building human relationships. This quality time spent with relatives, will certainly teach our children life lessons. In this fast paced, technology-driven age, we need to inculcate importance of family, relationship and human values to ensure a world which is driven by staying in touch literally and not virtually...





- **Sushma Ekka** Deputy Manager, RINL & Friends of Arunodaya

Life is a never ending journey where our dreams whisper from our soul and give direction to our life. These dreams change from time to time and take a new face. Life at times becomes a rollercoaster ride where we get so caught up in life that we fail to fulfill our dreams. However, there are some moments that etch our life and give us a new dream to live for. Such is the role of Arunodaya which has not just once but countless times filled my life with its rays of happiness.

The day I visited Arunodaya School is still vivid in my mind. Never before had I been to a school for special children, so I was really nervous thinking about how my visit would be. The school which spread over a huge expanse of land had many classrooms and a play area for the children. I remember being warmly greeted by Mrs Vani Deshikachar and Mrs Savitry, who has been the cornerstone of the school. Moving from one classroom to another, my nervousness had slowly vanished as I was welcomed with happy and excited faces. They were the innocent little children from different age groups; packed with energy. The children were very enthusiastic to recite their poems, showcase their musical talent and also gave me a tour of room which was filled with handmade items (candles, diya, paintings, bouquet, etc.) by the children. What caught my attention was the nature of education given to them. They weren't the regular type where the teacher may be dictating notes and the children are writing it down or solving a problem in the classroom, but the school was equipped with various instruments and equipment that facilitate the learning procedure. Such type of training provides the necessary knowledge to the child and helps them to become self sufficient.

I was really happy after my visit to the school but there was always this unhidden sorrow which pointed to the fact that these schools don't just need a one day visit by people to shower their love but there is so much more that we need to do as a society to support and nurture them. Need of the hour was to sensitize as many people as possible that these children are as capable and talented as the other kids and with proper help they can achieve great heights. History has time and again proved that some of the best minds in the world like Albert Einstein, Amadeus Mozart, Sir Isaac Newton and Charles Darwin were autistic but that did not stop them from making their dreams turn into reality. I think it was at that moment that I realized that I needed to do more for creating awareness and to encourage inclusion in the society. This had marked the beginning of my journey with Friends of Arunodaya a group of young and enthusiastic volunteers who diligently work towards creating awareness and raising funds for Arunodaya School. With the guidance of the teachers, friends and colleagues in Visakhapatnam, I was able to channelize my motives by organizing many huge events like Bal Mela, Chalo Chalein, Chalo Chalein Saath Chalein, etc. Such is life that even after shifting to Delhi from Visakhapatnam, I was able to render my services to

Arunodaya by organizing another mega event - Khel Mela. This made me believe that at times even distance cannot stop you from fulfilling your dreams. It gives me immense happiness that I can contribute my bit and make a difference in the lives of these children and the society at large. I also feel proud to be associated with Arunodaya as it has given me the opportunity to attain happiness in the true sense.

The stretch of Arunodaya not just limits to people helping the school children but on many occasions has proven to be a platform for the youth to showcase their talents and thus helped them grow and flourish. Being very passionate about dancing and music, I can only speak from my own example that Arunodaya has been the stage to so many of my dances performances be it a solo dance or group dance with fellow FoAs like Sonal, Ramakrishna, Balaji and Narendar to name a few. Our flash mob which consisted of around 20-25 FoAs (Bahni, Namita, Smriti, Surya, Kiran, Pranay, Jimeet, Ayantiya, Muthu, Prudhvi, etc.) was a super hit among the crowd. I was also lucky enough to lend my voice for the first ever music album of Arunodaya during Bal Mela. The uniqueness of this album is that the lyrics of the songs were written by the students from across the schools of Ukkunagaram.

It was beautifully composed by Arvind Mishra and I along with Abhimanyu, Bharadwaj and Meghana had happily sung the songs. Pradeep, Ashish, Arpita, Akhil, Fahd, Akshay, Pravallika and Soumya were some of the prominent FoAs who had helped in making the various events a grand success. To capture each and every moments of the events, Pratik and Veerakesari had taken the lead on the photography and cinematography front. The eminent VMS members like Mrs Indrani, Mrs Kavya, Mrs Rosni, Mrs Neha, Mrs Geetanjali to name a few had contributed beyond words in all the events. A big thanks to Principal of Arunodaya - Mrs Raja Rajeshwari Varahagiri, who at every step has given her guidance and a special mention of Mrs Bindoo Mohapatra, President of VMS who had faith in the FoA team and constantly supported us by providing the necessary help, whenever needed. The security and helper Mr Anil and his wife have also been very cooperative throughout our journey.

This whole journey was filled with fun, laughter, hard work along with a lot of team effort. New friendship bonds were made not just with FoAs but also with the teachers and VMS representatives and mostly importantly the children of Arunodaya. It has also been a journey of self discovery as it helped me develop as an individual and on many occasions enabled me to follow my passions and use it for a good cause. To sum up in simple words, Arunodaya to me is an epitome of happiness, perseverance, kindness and patience which has always given me happy memories that I will surely cherish for a lifetime.

A SIZE 5 FEVER THAT GRIPPED THE WORLD



- Deepa Vaishnavi

I start with the confession that I don't follow football. Or at least not as much as my schoolmates do.

From the day the FIFA World Cup commenced in Russia this year, these wonderful people from the KVVSP 1991 batch have been discussing each miss and goal, and everything else in between, on our WhatsApp group, and that is invariably the source of information for me when I wake up in the mornings. There have been times when I have looked through 250 to 300 messages at a time - I get to read the gist of the entire match(s) in these messages.

I have enjoyed these conversations while also attempting to understand the game a bit. As also identify the star players of various teams. I got to even see, on live TV, the now famous 'Neymar Roll'.

Most recently, during the Quarter final between Russia and Croatia, many of my classmates supported Russia - one of the reasons was that the Vizag Steel Plant was built in collaboration with the erstwhile USSR. We were all in school at that time. So, we had to support, Russia, right?

I digress though.

At the risk of sounding disdainful, I have often wondered what the joy is in 22 people kicking about one air-filled sphere from one end to another for 90 minutes or more. Do pardon my ignorance in this matter.

During the second fortnight of June though, while I was on my first trip to the North East, I was exposed to this game of skill and perseverance like never before.

If you have been in Sikkim or West Bengal during a World Cup, you will know what I am talking about.

Football is more than a religion here. It is an integral part of people's lives.

I was surprised to see that everyone and his mother was talking (a very mild word - let me assure you - it does not capture the emotions involved in the conversations / debates / discussions) football, be it our cab driver, the hotel staff (be it a star hotel or a roadside stall), my co-travellers (who are Bengalis by the way - wonderful people, I must say), shop owners, school children, parents, or shoppers. Literally everyone! Match replays too were watched as if the match was happening at that moment and not earlier.

I may not be exaggerating if I were to say that these people were breathing, eating and sleeping football.

What amazed me was the extent of love for football here - it was not just at an individual level but at a community level - be it a locality, school, or shop, an open air stadium or a chaat seller's push cart.

During my 10-day trip to this region, I got to see the various country / team flags in so many different places and in so many sizes and materials that, without me being aware of it, I started to recognize some of the teams.

I have seen these team flags next to prayer flags, on vehicles or inside them, as buntings across roads, as 'toranas' on buildings, as t-shirts, as souvenirs... In every galli and nukkad that we passed by, and in every place we stopped. Schedules of the match were put up everywhere, be it in the form of printouts or pamphlets or even big sized notice boards.

Each day, without fail, matches of the previous night were discussed and players' performances analysed. I could see the disappointment writ large on the fans' faces when their favourite team(s) were disqualified. And yet, they would look forward to the next game.

I found this love for a sport, even though our country was not playing, very endearing.

Something about the entire atmosphere touched my heart and I felt like sharing this with all of you. I so wish I had been there to see how they celebrate the finals...



हमारे अपने

उक्कुनगरम की निवासी शोभना सी चंद्रशेखर एक पर्यटनशील महिला हैं। पर्यटन स्थलों पर जाना और वहाँ की विरासत को गहराई समझना इनकी आदत सी बन चुकी है। टीम 'स्पार्क' को खुशी है कि हमारे बीच इस तरह की पर्य टनशील लोग हैं। 'स्पार्क' का यह अंक पर्यटन को समर्पित है। इसीलिए उनका साक्षात्कार पाठकों के समक्ष प्रस्तुत किया जा रहा है:

स्पार्क: आप छुट्टी का मतलब क्या समझते हैं? और छुट्टी पर क्यों जाते हैं?

शोभना: मैं समझती हूँ कि पर्यटन से हमारा व्यक्तित्व निखरता है। जब हम नए लोगों से मिलते हैं या फिर किसी संस्कृति से रूबरू होते हैं, तो बिल्कुल विनम्र होकर ही मिलते हैं। वस्तुत: मेरे पिता जी अक्सर हमें घुमाने ले जाते थे।

धीरे-धीरे इसमें मजा आने लगा और सच कहूँ तो अब यह हमारी खतरनाक लत बन गई है। मतलब यह कि जब एक-दो महीनों के भीतर कहीं घूमने नहीं जाते हैं, तो लगता है कुछ छूट रहा है। हाल ही में फेसबुक पर एक आर्टिकल पढ़ी, जिसमें 'रोमोमेनिया' के बारे में लिखा हुआ था, जो घूमने की एक बीमारी जैसी है। अब वही बीमारी हमें लग चुकी है। अब घूमने के बिना रहा ही नहीं जाता।

स्पार्क: जब आप यात्रा पर जाते हैं, तो वहाँ क्या करते हैं, वहाँ क्या ढूँढ़ते हैं?

शोभना: जब हम कहीं जाते हैं तो मन में एक ही बात रहती है कि जितना हो सके हम कम समय में अधिक से अधिक जान लें। हम वहाँ की संस्कृति, खानपान, विरासतें, कला-संस्कृति आदि सभी विषयों को जानना चाहते हैं।

स्पार्क: क्या कभी आप अपनी माटी को भी वहाँ ढूँढते हैं?

शोभना: हमें किसी से तुलना करने की जरूरत नहीं है। फिर भी कभी-कभी कहीं भारतीयता की महक को हम जरूर ढूँढ़ते हैं। पर्यटन के दौरान ऐसी सांस्कृतिक बातों का परस्पर आदान-प्रदान बहुत आसानी से हो जाता है।

स्पार्क: यात्रा संबंधी आपकी प्राथमिकताएँ क्या होती हैं।

शोभना: हम लोग एक जगह के लिए सात से आठ दिन का कार्यक्रम बनाते हैं और प्रयास करते हैं कि उतने ही दिनों में बनाई गई योजना के अनुसार हमारी यात्रा पूरी हो जाए। हम प्रयास यह भी करते हैं कि योजना में कोई बड़ा बदलाव न हो और कई मामलों को एक साथ नहीं जोड़ कर रखते। इससे प्लानिंग चौपट हो जाने का डर बना रहता है।

स्पार्क: यात्राओं से आपमें क्या बदलाव आते हैं?

शोभना: जैसाकि पहले सवाल में ही मैंने कह दिया है कि भ्रमण से हम मानव बनते हैं। हमारे अंदर मानवीयता का संचार होता है। हम जब भ्रमण पर होते हैं तो दुनिया की सारी खुबसुरती को समेट लेने के मुड में होते हैं।

स्पार्क: क्या आप कोई अनोखी घटना हमसे साझा करना चाहेंगे?

शोभना: हम अमरनाथ यात्रा पर थे। अनंतनाग में तीन दिनों से फँसे हुए थे। हम परेशान थे कि दर्शन होगा या नहीं। तीन दिन के बाद जब हम पंचतरणी पहुँचे तो सिक्यूरिटी वालों ने रोक दिया। उस दिन पूर्णिमा थी। हमें रात वहीं वितानी पड़ी। पर खुले आसमान के नीचे रात विताने का अनुभव अविस्मरणीय और अलौंकिक था। इस तरह से साफ-सुथरा और सुंदर चाँद हमने इससे पहले कभी नहीं देखा था। यह नजारा विल्कुल एक स्वप्न लोक जैसा था। दर्शन करके जब वापस आए तो मेरा और मेरे बेटे के जूते नहीं थे। भारी मुश्किल हो गई। उन पथरीले और वर्ष्मिल रास्तों पर नंगे पैर चलना बहुत ही मुश्किल था। कहीं से मेरे हर्स्वेंड ने प्लास्टिक के चप्पलों का इंतजाम किया। किसी तरह से हमने घोड़े वालों से बात की। घोड़े वालों ने बड़े ही प्यार और विश्वास के साथ हमें आश्वस्त किया कि हम आपको शार्टकट रास्ते से ले जाएँगे और समय से बलताड़ पहुँचा देंगे। हमने उनकी वातें मान लीं और बलताड़ के लिए चल पड़े। हे! भगवान, ऐसे रास्ते कि क्या बताऊँ। घोड़े पर सवार हो जब ऊँची पहाड़ियों से उतरने लगे तो हमारी जान ही निकलने लगी। सीधा स्टीप डाऊन उतरने का अनुभव घातक था। लगता था जान निकल जाएगी। हम सभी डर के मारे चिल्लाने लगे थे। घोड़े वाले हमें सांत्वना दे रहे थे। आर्मी वाले भी घोड़े वालों को डांट रहे थे कि वे हमें कहाँ ले जा रहे हैं? फिर भी हम आगे बढ़ते गए और एक जगह तो ऐसी आई, जहाँ बर्फ की मोटी चादर विछी हुई थी। उस पर घोड़े नहीं चल सकते थे। इसलिए हमें उतरना पड़ा और पैदल ही चलना पड़ा। हमारे जूते जो प्लास्टिक के थे। वे मानो लकड़ी के हो गए थे। इतने फिसल रहे थे कि लगता था कि अब फिसले तब फिसले। किसी तरह से हम बलताड़ पहुँचे तब जाकर जान में जान आई। हम उस घुड़सवारी को न कभी भूल पाएंगे और न कभी फिर से करना चाहेंगे।

स्पार्क: आपकी अगली यात्रा कब और कहाँ की होने वाली है?

शोभना: हम तो अगले ही महीने स्विद्जरलैंड जा रहे हैं। हालांकि यह ट्रिप थोड़ा मँहगा है, पर कुछ खास भी है।

स्पार्क: विस्टील महिला समिति और टीम स्पार्क की कामना है कि 'आपकी यात्रा मंगलमय हो।'

वैसे तो राष्ट्रीय इस्पात निगम में बहुत सी प्रतिभाएँ मौजूद हैं, जो समय-समय पर अपना जज्बा दिखाती रहती हैं। इसी तरह प्रतिभा से संपन्न व्यक्ति प्रतीक भास्कर भोयार जी हैं, जो क्वालिटी एश्योरेंश एण्ड टेक्नालॉजिकल डेवलपमेंट विभाग में असिस्टेंट मैनेजर के पद पर कार्यरत हैं। श्री प्रतीक को पर्यटन का बेहद शौक है। प्रस्तुत है पर्यटन के संबंध में उनसे हुई बातचीत के अंश:

स्पार्क: आप पर्यटन का मतलब क्या समझते हैं और पर्यटन पर क्यों जाते हैं?

प्रतीक: जैसा कि मैडम ने कहा कि पर्यटन से आप सहदय बनते हैं। मैं भी इस बात से सहमत हूँ। साथ ही, जब आप एक ही जगह रहते हैं, तो आप एक कंफर्ट जोन बना लेते हैं और उसी में अभ्यस्त होकर रह जाते हैं। लेकिन जब आप भ्रमणशील होते हैं तो कभी-कभी बहुत नया कुछ देखने व समझने के लिए मिल जाता है, जो आपमें बदलाव लाता है।

स्पार्क: जब आप यात्रा पर जाते हैं, तो वहाँ क्या करते हैं, वहाँ क्या ढूँढते हैं?

प्रतीक: ऑस्ट्रेलिया में भोजन बहुत महँगा था। इसलिए हम यहीं से कुछ रेडिमेड टाइप के खाने के आइटम ले गए थे। उसमें खिचड़ी बनाने का पैकेट भी था। हमारे <mark>साथ हॉस्टल में करी</mark>ब दस से पंद्रह देशों के लोग थे। जब हमने खिचडी बनाकर लोगों को खिलाया, तो जो लोग दूसरे देशों से आए थे, उन्हें वह बहुत पसंद आई और उन लोगों ने पूरी रेसिपी नोट की, कई लोगों ने तो पैकटों का फोटो खिंचा कुछ तो खाली पैकेट भी ले गए। इस तरह से हमारी खिचड़ी ऑस्ट्रेलिया होते हुए कई अन्य देशों तक पहुँच गई।

स्पार्क: यात्रा संबंधी आपकी प्राथमिकताएँ क्या-क्या होती हैं?

प्रतीक: इस तरह के मामले में बजट सबसे महत्वपूर्ण होती है। क्योंकि जब आप कहीं जाते हैं तो वहाँ की परिस्थितियों को ठीक से नहीं जानते। इसलिए स्वाभाविक है कि आप से कहीं कुछ अधिक खर्च हो जाए। हालांकि मैं एक देश में लगभग दस से पंद्रह दिन तो जरूर गुजारना चाहता हूँ। क्योंकि कोई भी ऐसा देश नहीं है, जहाँ की सारी परिस्थितियों को आप दो-चार दिन में समझ लें। अब एक ही देश में कई सभ्यताएँ और संस्कृतियाँ होती हैं। उन्हें समझने हेत् समय तो चाहिए ही।

स्पार्क: क्या कभी आप अपनी माटी को भी वहाँ ढूँढते हैं?

प्रतीक: सबसे पहले तो हम वहाँ के दर्शनीय व प्रसिद्ध जगहों की लिस्ट बनाते हैं और अक्सर उसी के अनुसार घूमते हैं। कभी-कभी कुछ कारणों से कई चीजें छूट भी जाती हैं। जैसे कि जापान में हम एक टूरिस्ट स्पॉट पर घूम रहे थे। वहाँ एक आंटी मिलीं। उनका बेटा आई आई टी बंबई में पढ़ रहा था। इसलिए भारतीयों के प्रति उनके मन में बहुत प्यार था। जब उन्हें पता चला कि मैं महाराष्ट्र से हूँ तो उनका निवेदन और बढ़ गया। वे हमसे आगृह करने लगीं कि हम उनके घर चलें और उनके अतिथि बनें। हमें उनकी बात माननी पड़ी और बदले में एक बेहतरीन ट्रिस्ट स्पॉट डिजनी लैंड छोड़ना पड़ा।

स्पार्क: यात्राओं से आपमें क्या बदलाव आते हैं?

प्रतीक: मैडम से सहमत हूँ पर एक बात और जोड़ना चाहता हूँ कि पर्यटन के समय हमारी मानसिकता सिर्फ कुछ पाने की होती है। हमारे पास खोने के लिए कुछ नहीं होता और हम सारी चिंताओं से मुक्त होकर एक स्वच्छंद परिंदा होते हैं। हमारे मस्तिष्क के लिए यह सबसे सुंदर स्थिति होती है। ऐसे में मस्तिष्क के भीतर विचारों का टकराव नहीं होता और मनुष्य पूर्ण आनंद की स्थिति में होता है।

स्पार्क: क्या आप कोई अनोखी घटना हमसे साझा करना चाहेंगे?

प्रतीक: जी हाँ! वेशक, यह कहानी हिमाचल की है। हम लाहौल स्पीति में थे। वहाँ से बाइक किराए पर लिए और धर्मशाला जा रहे थे। रास्ते में एक मोनास्ट्री मिली, वहाँ पर हम लोग कुछ देर के लिए रूके हुए थे। वहीं पर एक नौजवान मिला, जो बौद्ध भिक्षु था। उसकी उम्र लगभग 30-32 वर्ष के आस-पास रही होगी। उससे बातचीत का सिलसिला भी शुरू हो गया। उसने मुझसे पूछा 'आप कहाँ से आए हो?' मैंने झट से कहा कि 'विशाखपट्टणम से आया हूँ।' वह तुरंत तेलुगु बोलना आरंभ कर दिया। मैं घबरा गया। मैंने उसे बताया कि 'में विशाखपट्टणम से आया जरूर हूँ, लेकिन में तेलुगु भाषी नहीं हूँ। मैं मराठी हूँ। उसने मुझसे मराठी में बातचीत शुरू कर दी। मुझे बहुत अच्छा लगने लगा। इसी बीच उसने मेरे एक मित्र जो गुजरात से था, उससे पूछ लिया कि 'आप कहाँ से हो?' उसने बताया कि 'में गुजराती हूँ', तो वह उससे गुजराती में वात करने लगा। हम आश्चर्यचिकत थे कि यह क्या हो रहा है?

फिर उसने अपने बारे में बताया कि जब वह आई.आई.टी. मद्रास में एम.टेक. कर रहा था। तब कुछ अवसाद (डिप्रेशन) में चला गया था। फिर उसने पढ़ाई छोड़ हिमालय की शरण ली। यहाँ उसे अपने आप को उबारने में बहुत मदद मिली। उसने हमें बताया कि वह 18 भाषाओं में बात कर सकता है। हम ताज्जुब थे, पर वह प्रमाण बन कर साक्षात हमारे सामने खड़ा था।

स्पार्क: आपकी अगली यात्रा कब और कहाँ की होने वाली है?

प्रतीक: मेरी योजना चीन घूमने की है, हालाँकि अभी समय नहीं बता सकता।

स्पार्क: विस्टील महिला समिति और टीम स्पार्क की कामना है कि 'आपकी यात्रा मंगलमय हो।'

MEMOIR-STUPENDOUS SWITZERLAND

- Tulika Prasad



Every year vast majority of tourists visit Switzerland. Undoubtedly it's one of the most beautiful countries of the world. My father-in-law promised my mom-in- law for a holiday to Switzerland before their 50th marriage anniversary (what a beautiful promise, all husbands should make such promises;)), but best part being, he asked me to organize the trip and we all to accompany them. Thanks to him, this was going to be my first trip to a foreign country and that too, the Best of Europe.

One very important thing that has influenced most of us,"The Bollywood Nostalgia of 90s", "Chandni" in lush green Swiss valleys and the game changer "DDLJ", truth be told, always wanted to visit these places...does such beautiful places exist?It was going to be my dream trip.

The best time to visit Switzerland is probably between May to September, the weather is lovely and you also get to experience the romance of European summers.

We landed in Zurich, the place of intensely famous Swiss brand goods, ... Concept of time doesn't exist when you travel and Europe is best seen by road. Wewere in a luxury coach, first destination being Interlaken. Interlaken is quite a picturesque town surrounded by lakes. Also being one of the most famous DDLJ destinations. If you are an Yash Raj fan it will be hard to miss the Interlaken promenade, fountain in the background and can catch a glimpse of the famous Victoria Jungfrau grand hotel. The famous DDLJ cowbell has an intricate connection and the happiness on my face is due to a miniature cowbell Souvenir I could buy.

Next day we visited Jungfroand it takes a whole day to complete the trip till the top of the mountain and back. The Jungfro railway is a sure feet of Engineering. Scenic drive will

start with cogwheel train which will take you to the world's highest altitude railway station in Europe at 11333 feet. The trip takes you to the scenic splendors of the Jungfraujoch in the heart of the wonderworld of glaciers and eternal ice. You get to experience the magic mountains at the sphinx terrace, ice Palace, ice caves or take a photograph at top of Europe. It's indeed Majestic scenery of Alps with breathtakingly clear view.

Next destination was Luzern and Engelberg. Luzern is one of the prettiest City. In Luzern you get to see Lion Monument, Chapel Bridges, lakes. This is the ideal place to purchase branded Swiss watches, Swiss

Chocolates, Swiss Knives, souvenirs etc.

Next we had an unforgettable rideto MountTitlis, the highest Glacier excursion in Central Switzerland at 10000 feet where you could experience the unique "TitlisRotair", world's first rotating cable car where you can see instructions written in Hindi. On Mt.Titlisyou'll have free time to play and enjoy in the snow, visit the ice cave or just relax in the Indian Bollywood restaurant, Enjoy in Glacier Park, in unique snow tubes. May be due to large number of Indian tourists visiting Mt.Titlis, youalso find chai samosa stall at the foot of the mountain.

My Swiss Journey comes to an end, but I will end with a disclaimer, Swiss is much more beautiful seen than read. You can have many more memorable experiences, do a small Hike on your way back from Jungfro, watch snow clad Swiss Alps, admire the beautiful Valleys, lush green pastures, sit back in a cafe and enjoy the street musicians playing... and... make your own fairy tale.



- श्री जगदीश कुमार सर्राफ



जी करता है फिर बच्चा बन जाऊँ
आकर तेरी गोदी में बैठ जाऊँ
धूप लगे तो तेरा आँचल
सिर पर आ जाए
गलती पर कुछ डांट या थप्पड़ मिल जाए
जी करता है फिर बच्चा बन जाऊँ
आकर तेरी गोदी में बैठ जाऊँ

रोज सुबह तू यूँ ही
तैयार कर स्कूल भेज दे
दो रूपयों की पानी-पूरी
शाम को खिला दे
भाई-बहन की तकरार
छत पर लुक्का-छिप्पी और धमाल
बड़े भाई की शर्ट फिर से मिल जाए
जी करता है फिर बच्चा बन जाऊँ
आकर तेरी गोदी में बैठ जाऊँ

आज फिर आँखें नम हो जाती हैं बात करों ना बचपन की तेरा प्यार, मेरा रूठना तेरी पुचकार गालों पर झप्पी जोर से गालों पर पप्पी एक बार फिर मिल जाए जी करता है फिर बच्चा बन जाऊँ आकर तेरी गोदी में बैठ जाऊँ

कभी न थकते तेरे हाथ कभी न लगती तेरी आँख लड़कर दुनिया से मेरे लिए देखा है तुझे हँसते हुए एक बार वह रूप दिख जाए जी करता है फिर बच्चा बन जाऊँ आकर तेरी गोदी में बैठ जाऊँ

लाखों की गाड़ी से तुम्हारी गोद की क्या तुलना जितना भी दूँ तुमको होगा फिर भी कम कह दो ना माँ कैसे उऋण वन जाएं जी करता है फिर बच्चा वन जाऊँ आकर तेरी गोदी में बैठ जाऊँ

దొరకునా....?

'రాత్రి పదుకునేముందు ఇక్కదే ఈ బేబుల్మ్ పేట్వను. ఉదయం నిద్ర లేచేసరికి మాయమైపోయింది. ఈ ఇంట్లో ఏదీ పెట్టినచ్ ట పెట్టినట్లు ఉండదు కదా!' చిరాకుపడిపోతున్నాడు మల్లేశ్వరరావు తనమీద తనే. చిరాకు తనమీదే ఎందుకంటే ఇంట్లో ఉన్న మరో వ్యక్తి మీద చిరాకుపడితే కుదరదు కాబట్టి, తిండీతిప్పలు జరగవు కాబట్టి. ఆ రెండో మనిషి ఎవరో ఈపాటికే మీకు అర్థమైపోయి ఉంటుందిలెండి – ఇంక నేనెందుకు విడమరిచి చెప్పడం?

మల్లే శ్వరరావుకి మతిమరుపు జాస్తి. (వతీ విషయమూ మరిచిపోతుంటాడు. అత్యవసరమైన వస్తుపు కూడా యథాలాపంగా ఎక్కడో పెట్టేసి, తరువాత అది కనిపించక నానా హడావిడిపడిపోతుంటాడు. (ప్రస్తుతం తనకి సంబంధించిన వస్తువేదో కనబడక ఉదయం నుండీ దానికోసం వెతుకుతూ తలక్రిందులపుతున్నాడు. పేపర్ కూడా చదవకుండా వెతుకుతున్నాడు దానికోసం. ఇతని మతిమరుపు చూసి బంధువులూ, చుట్టాలూ అతన్ని మతిమరుపు మల్లన్న అని నిక్ నేమ్ కిలుస్తుంటారు. ఒక్కొక్కసారి ఆ నిక్ నేమ్ కూడా తనదే అని కూడా మరిచిపోయి, ఆ పేరుతో మిత్రులు తనను పిలిచినా, ఎవరా ఈ మతిమరుపు మల్లన్న అని తనుకూడా ఆ వ్యక్తి కోసం ఎదురుచూస్తుంటాడు. టేబులోమీడా, కిందా, సొరుగులోనూ వెతికి చూసాడు. ఉహూ కనబడుతోంది. మన మల్లన్నకి ఎంత మతిమరుపు అంటే – ఓ రోజు నడిచి బజారుకు వెళుతూ సగం దూరం వెళ్ళిన తరువాత సిగరెట్ నోట్లో పెట్టుకుని అగ్గిపుల్ల వెలిగించాడు. గాలికి వెలిగించిన అగ్గిపుల్లలన్నీ ఆరిపోతుండడంతో గాలివాటు ఉండదని వెనక్కి తిరిగి వెలిగిస్టే ఆ అగ్గిపుల్ల ఆరిపోకుండా వెలిగింది.

దాంతో సిగరెట్ వెలిగించుకుని అలా నడుచుకుంటూ వెళ్ళిపోతే కాసేపటికి ఇల్హొచ్చేసింది. సిగరెట్ వెలిగించుకున్న తరువాత మళ్ళీ వెనక్కు తిరగడం మరచిపోవడంతో వచ్చిన ఇబ్బంది యిది. మంచం క్రిందా, మంచం మీదా, పరుపు క్రిందా వెతికాడు. పరుపు చెల్హాచెదురు చేసి వెతికినా కనబడలేదా వస్తువు. పైగా కళ్ళు సరిగా కనబడకపోవడంతో వెదకడం చాలా కష్టంగా ఉంది. మరోసారి ఏమయిందంటే – తనకి జూనియర్ ఆఫీసర్గా డ్రమోషన్ వచ్చిన సందర్భంలో ఫైండ్స్కికి పార్టీ ఇస్తానని చెప్పి హూటల్కి తీసుకువెళ్ళి సుష్టుగా తినిపించాడు. తను తినేసి వాష్టబేసిన్లో చేయి కడుక్కుని రుమాలుతో తుడుచుకుంటూ తిన్నగా ఇంటికి వెళ్ళిపోయాడు. ఇంకా వస్తాడు అని ఎదురుచూసిన మిత్రబ్బందం చివరికి ఎవరిబిల్లు వాళ్ళు చెల్లించడంతో పాటు చందాలు వేసుకుని మనవాడి బిల్లు కూడా చెల్లించి బయటపడ్డారు. మల్లన్న వెతుకుతూనే ఉన్నాడు నిర్విరామంగా దానికోసం. కళ్ళు చిట్లించుకుని మరీ వెతుకుతున్నాడు అది ఉండే అవకాశం ఉన్న ప్రతిచోటాను. అతని ప్రయత్నం ఫలించడం లేదు. కళ్ళు మందుతున్నాయి. ఇల్లంతా చిందరవందర చేస్తున్న భర్తను చూసి విసుక్కుంటోందా ఇంటి యిల్లాలు.

ఇంకో గమ్మత్తైన సంఘటన ఏమిటంటే మల్లన్న తన పెద్దకూతురు కోనం పెట్బిసంబంధాలు చూస్తూ ఓ పెళ్ళి చూపులప్పుడు 'చూడండి బావగారూ! మావాడికి అయిదు లక్షలిస్తామంటూ బోలేదు సంబంధాలు వస్తున్నాయి. కారు కూడా ఇస్తామంటున్నారు. ఆడపడుచు కట్నం లక్ష, అబ్బాయికి బంగారు గొలుసు, బ్రాస్ లెట్, వాచీ, ఉంగరాలు సరేననుకోండి', అంటూ తనకి కొడుకు లేడని, తను అమ్మాయి తండ్రినన్న సంగతి కూడా మరచిపోయి మాట్లాడేస్తూంటే అంతా విస్తుపోయారు. ఇదే సందు కదా అని అబ్బాయి తండ్రి, మల్లన్న అడిగినట్లుగానే ఆరు లక్షల కట్నం, కారు, లక్ష ఆడపడుచు కట్నం, వాచీ, ఉంగరం, బ్రాస్ లెట్ ఇస్తేనే గాని ఈ సంబంధం చేసుకోలేమని ఖరాఖండీగా చెప్పేశాడు. వాళ్ళడిగినవన్నీ ఇచ్చుకోలేక అ సంబంధం తప్పిపోయి ఇంట్లోవాళ్ళతోనూ, బంధువులతోనూ ముక్కచీవాట్లు తిన్నాడు మన మల్లన్న. ఇంత మతిమరుపు మల్లన్న ఏవిషయమైనా జ్ఞాపకం పెట్టుకుంటే అశ్చర్యపోతారు గానీ, మర్చిపోతే మాత్రం అదేం గొప్ప సంగతి కాదని దానికే ప్రాధాన్యతా ఇవ్వరు అతని గురించి తెలిసినవారు. ఇక్కడ మల్లన్న వెతుకులాట కొనసాగుతూనే ఉంది. వెతికిన చోటే వెతుకుతూ, తిరగేసిందే తిరగేస్తూ ఇల్లంతా నానా కంగాళి చేసేన్తూంటే అతని భార్య కాంతం ఒక్కొక్కటే సర్దుకోలేక సతమతమైపోతూ మల్లన్నకు శాపనార్ధాలు పెడుతూ హైరానా పడిపోతోంది.

డ్రెస్సింగ్ టేబుల్ మీద ఉన్న కళ్ళజోదు తీసి పెట్టుకున్నాదు. ఇప్పుదు అన్నీ క్లియర్గా కనబదుతున్నాయి. 'కళ్ళజోదు పెట్టుకుంటే ఇప్పుదు అన్నీ బాగా కనబదుతున్నాయి. ఇప్పుదు చక్కగా వెతుక్కోవచ్చు దానికోసం, అని సంబరపడుతూ మళ్ళీ వెతుకులాట కొనసాగించాదు మల్లన్న.

'మీ మతిమరుపు మండినట్లే ఉంది. ఇంక వెతకడమెందుకు? మీరు ఉదయం నుండీ వెదుకుతున్నదీ మీ కళ్ళజోదు కోసమే మహానుభావా!' కాంతం ఛీత్కారం చేస్తూ అంది. 'అవును కదా! మర్చిపోయాను సుమీ' అంటూ నాలుక్కరుచుకోబోతూ, మరిచిపోయి లెంపలు వాయించుకున్నాదు మల్లన్న. అదే మ...మ.... మల్లన్న.

- కె.ఎన్.వి. అంజనేయులు

HOLIDAYING-

AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY DAYS



- Y. Balaji

"It cannot be done. No siree, it cannot be done!!", said Brackenshaw, thumping his pint of stout on the table of the Baci Bistro and Bar on 500 Main St., between Rose Avenue and Neal Street, Pleasanton, CA, USA. The words, rather than the thumping, shook Shiv out of his reverie. He had been carrying a loving relationship for quite some time with a glass of milk on which he was drunk, but the words shook him up and his head reared like that of a war horse on hearing the bugle.

"Of Korse, it can be done", he said, without even an inkling of what the supposedly impossible task was.

"WHAT?", said Brackenshaw, who was in no mood to have his obiter dictum doubted.

"What, WHAT?", asked back Shiv, cleverly, mimicking the capital letters that Brackenshaw spoke.

"Is it your considered opinion that one can go around the world in eighty days?", asked Brackenshaw.

So, that was what that Brackenshaw thought could not be done, thought Shiv. And for this silly thing, he had overcome that nice pleasant feeling of numbness that drinking milk always induced in him, Shiv rued.

"My dear fellow, it has already been done. Phileas Fogg did it a couple of centuries ago and it has all been chronicled by a chap called Verne, Jules.", said Shiv.

"But not with a wife tagging along.", retorted Brackenshaw triumphantly. "I am saying that you cannot travel around the world in eighty days with a wife along with you", he continued.

Now here I have to give you a background of Shiv. Shiv is my American friend. Shiv is a natural Indian and a naturalized American. Shiv adored his wife and was apt to overlook the many shortcomings that wives in particular, and women in general, seemed to be so amply endowed with. Shiv let his mind wander over memories of his wife's performances when racing against time. He could not recollect any instance where she had acquitted herself favourably (due probably to the fact that his memory was shorter than his temper). In fact, he wistfully recalled, she was apt to be languorous in her stride, and her movements were more likely suited as subjects for still photography. All these thoughts passed swiftly through Shiv's mind. But still, they were not as swift as his tongue which had already uttered,

"I bet it can be done!".

" I wager a \$100,000, otherwise", said Brackenshaw expansively and in a jeering tone.

Never one to back out of a challenge, for the sole reason that

he did not know where the back entrance was, Shiv replied calmly, "I'll take you up on that".

Brackenshaw looked at the wall-clock that adorned the wall. It was striking 12 noon, on the 13rd of March, 2018.

"At this same time, three score and twenty days hence, i.e., on 1st June, 2018, I shall be here back from my journey around the world, to collect my \$100,000", said Shiv.

" And if you ain't,", replied Brackenshaw, " post me a check from wherever you are for a like amount. My bank balance, though not meagre, would surely do well with such a sum."

Shiv gulped down the remaining milk and, having so been invigorated, set off for wife and home.

Reaching home, Shiv called out to his wife, Sunita, "You have been asking me to take you out on a Holiday for the past five years and I couldn't find the time to do it. But today, we two are off on a world tour; book our flight tickets to New York, send our children to your aunt's place in Australia and then pack our suitcases and get ready immediately. In the meanwhile, I shall take a short nap, preparatory to our long journey ahead."

Waking up an hour later, Shiv shouted to his wife, " Are you ready?"

"Just a minute, dear", replied she.

Fifteen minutes later, having donned a fresh set of clothes, Shiv shouted again, "Ready?"

"Just a second, dear", replied she.

Ten minutes later, Shiv climbed down the steps to the ground-floor buttoning up his cuffs asking his wife, " How much longer do you need? If we are delayed, it will only be because of you"

"I am all set and waiting", said Sunita

Shiv looked up and saw his wife sitting on a suitcase, with another suitcase by her side, sunglasses covering her eyes and with her hair in a braid. As Shiv came near her, she handed him the flight tickets with the words New York helpfully highlighted in green colour by her. Shiv took a look at them and put them in his overcoat. He pulled up a chair near the mantelpiece, put on his socks and shoes, all the while detailing to his wife what he thought of Eric Brackenshaw.

Getting up, he asked, "Have you packed my medicines?".

"Yes", came the reply. " And, those that you have to take now are on the table. There is a glass of water beside them." Shiv reached out and took his medicine. "Let's go", he said.

At the door, he suddenly stopped and whirled about,

"But how will we go to the airport?".

"I've booked a cab 30 minutes ago", replied Sunita

"Thank God. Looks like my lessons to her on "Being Prepared" are bearing fruit", thought Shiv.

As they sat in the car, Shiv suddenly shot up and ran back into the house, saying,

"Just a minute".

After about ten times that specified interval, Shiv's wife stepped back into the house to find him frantically rifling the cupboards, and asked, "Is it going to take long?"

"Just a second", came her husband's reply.

A sense of déjà vu dawned on her when she heard these words.

"What are you searching for", she asked

"Our flight tickets", came the harassed reply.

"They are in the coat that you are wearing", replied his wife as she turned back to go to the cab. Wow those memory enhancement lessons I gave her are really effective, thought Shiv.

As their Airbus started taxiing on the runway at the Oakland International Airport, Shiv felt his nose twitching. The plane was taxiing towards the West, while New York, as he knew it, was located Eastwards, 2500 miles behind the local flour mill that was about a hundred feet from his backyard in Pleasanton. He could not be more precise than that. Panic gripped him.

"Where have you the taken the tickets to?", he asked.

"New York", she answered calmly, and continued, " via Singapore."

Shiv was more than a little perturbed at this piece of information, but too tired to talk. So he sank back in his airplane seat to sleep. His dutiful wife, who was sitting, followed in his footsteps. In the cockpit of the taxiing Airbus, however, a very agitated Jr.Asst.Co-pilot gently nudged the Addl. Senior Chief Pilot and pointed at the fuel gauge. The gauge showed the numbers 2500.100. It meant the plane had just about enough fuel to travel from the flour mill behind Shiv's backyard in Pleasanton to New York.

The Addl. Senior Chief Pilot, who was a seasoned man, simply shrugged his shoulders nonchalantly and spoke to the Control Tower, "Insufficient Fuel. Course therefore altered from Via Singapore to Via Shiv's backyard. Proceeding East".

The sudden change of direction by the Airbus confused the other traffic behind. A Cessna which was closely following the Airbus trying to read the latter's bumper sticker had to stop reading, immediately veer and change course from New Delhi to Old Delhi. Another plane, a Gulfstream, following the Cessna, gave a shudder at the near miss and closed its eyes in a fervent prayer. The Airbus then took off.

Over the course of the next ten weeks the couple travelled through Germany, Brazil, China, Argentina, Australia, Japan, Greece, Thailand, Peru, Ukraine, The Sudan, Jamaica, Egypt,

Barbados, Zambia, Denmark, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Cambodia, Spain, Canada, Switzerland, the Hawaian islands, Bangladesh, South Africa, Cuba, Italy, North Korea, Holland, South Korea, Poland, Papua New Guinea and finally reached India. During his travels Shiv was religiously correcting his watch in sync with the Time Zones so as not to make the mistake that Phileas Fogg did. Ardent scholars of Geography may be quick to point out that the above order in which they travelled is definitely not the shortest route to be taken for travelling in the time given. These scholars may come up with such brilliant objections as "Egypt does not come before Barbados, even in the dictionary", or that "Cuba could have been visited before Thailand as their names do not anyhow rhyme." Shiv, however, in a confidential tone, told me that he had charted this itinerary after taking the aid of a sextant, an algorithm on linear programming, a Facit Mechanical Calculator, Marco Polo's map of the world, Magellan's ROAD ATLAS of THE WORLD FROM THE AIR and for added scientific precision, a couple of dice.

Looking at my look of surprise, he modestly added, "Of course, a little bit of Mango pickle also helped.".

Bewildered, I asked, "How?"

"The pickle leaked from the jar and spread over all these navigational aids rendering them useless", he said, sighing.

Shortly thereafter, their tour was completed. Landing at Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport in California, the Shivkumars drove down to the Baci Bistro and Bar. Shiv was frequently and fervently looking at his watch which showed that there was about only thirty-two minutes left for striking 12 noon on the 1st June, 2018.

As the taxi screeched to a halt in front of the steps of the Baci Bistro & Bar where a crowd headed by an exultant Brackenshaw was making loud noise, Shiv, looking at his watch, cried, "Alas, I am undone. It is now One minute past Twelve."

The jet lagged Sunita woke up from her deep slumber at the anguish in Shiv's voice and looking at his watch (Omega make) said, "What do you mean? You still have your watch set two minutes ahead to grab that much extra sleep in the morning when your alarm goes off. It is just 11:59 by my watch (HMT make)."

Shiv grabbed Sunita and declared with relief, "My wife, My life, My saviour". and dashed out to the waiting crowd which squealed in delight at Shiv's accomplishment.

Later, in the bar, a beaming Shiv, caressing the \$100,000 cheque that Brackenshaw had grudgingly handed over, told the populace of his adventures and concluded his narration saying, "This should teach Brackenshaw and the others a lesson not to take women lightly".

Shiv also added, "The experience has taught me too a lesson. Henceforth, you shall not find me drunk on milk. I shall eschew the lactose. I shall switch over to good old Black Coffee. I hope that would help me be as sober as a judge, or at least a lawyer."

XXX

reaching out

April MGT

- Spark released
- Members were asked to come dressed in their respective state attair
- Variety entertainment programme was arranged to observe and usher in the new year as per Indian tradition.

May MGT

It has been a month of farewell. Smt. Gowri Annapurna, honorary president was accorded a farewell at the VMS office premises. Smt.Rejimol Wilson was given a farewell during the months get together of VMS members.

June MGT

- Talk by Dr.Leela Raghunath, oncologist, Tata Memorial Hospital
- Competition for members was organised. The theme was " summer wear".























Project Pratibimba

Organised a rally to create awareness on sexual harassment on women and girls.

This event was organised in association with the steel plant police station.

A new batch of tailoring classes was inaugurated in gontivanipalem.

Training of one batch of trainees concluded . All successful trainees were given certificates.

Project Unnati

Tables, chairs, classroom furniture and sports items distributed to government School, Achutapuram.

Generation Yuva, maripalem, was donated steel almirahs, kitchen utensils, plastic chairs, ceiling fans and grocery items.

Project Aakriti

Four new bore wells were funded in dasaripeta and yelamanhali doddi.









A cycle shed was constructed in the government school premises in ZP high school, despatripalem

Toilets were constructed in Gajuwaka branch of Generation Yuva , an NGO $\,$

Project Sanjeevani

In collaboration with Satya Sai trust, VMS undertook distribution of buttermilk during the peak summer months.

Sanitary napkins were distributed in government high school, aganampudi.

For the June MGT, Dr. Leela Raghunath, oncologist, was invited to share information regarding cervical and breast cancer.

Project Shubrata

Plantation programme was undertaken in Zilla Parishat, Despatrupalem.





India, as a developing nation has thrown up wide opportunities for its population. However, for a nation whose majority population falls under the middle and low income groups, minimum training period and an assured employment of some form at the end of the training have been the only yardsticks to be measured before setting out on a career journey. Scores of neighbouring kith and kin having already embarked upon such journeys with a compromised notion of success, has only reinstated their faith. This is one of the foremost reasons why India finds itself in a situation where it produces 15 lakhs Engineers per year for a \$ 2 Trillion Economy, while USA produces around 1 lakh Engineers per year for a \$ 16 Trillion Economy. Parents invest their lifetimes earnings just to see their children getting degree in engineering. They think that jobs are easily available for engineers, which may once have been true but not anymore.

The earlier mass recruiting sector was Manufacturing. It used to recruit from the core branches like Electrical, Mechanical, Civil etc. But, Manufacturing is relatively stagnant at 17% of the GDP. So the core branch placements have become very difficult. The more recent mass recruiter was the IT sector. It grew from scratch to almost 5% of the GDP in a short time. IT employed millions of engineers but now, IT is also saturating. Only good, skilled IT Engineers are in demand. Tourism which is 10% of the GDP, Financial sector, Trade, Hotels and Restaurants do not require engineers. Requirement of engineers in Health, education, Agriculture is also negligible. More than 50% of the GDP has no role for Engineers, yet more and more engineers are being churned out year after year, the situation is not sustainable anymore.

India needs to replan the whole engineering education system. Government needs to cut down on the number of colleges and improve the quality in the rest. Students should also explore other career options based on their passion rather than following the herd. A multitude of options are available today, ranging from From Aviation to Hotel Management, Short Term Programs to big movie production courses, Data science, Cyber security, Information Security, Cloud Technology Designing, Indian Armed Forces, Medicine, Animation and VFX, Digital Marketing, Film Making, Fashion Designing, Sports, Arts. It's high time we encouraged our children to identify their innate passions and guide them onto a journey of successfully turning their passion into a profession.

For many of us, journeys are just about the transition from one place to another, be it mental, emotional or physical, but the real meaning of a journey lies in the experiences or the lessons learnt in between this transition. No matter how short or long it is, every journey has something to teach, both to the one who undertakes the journey as well as the one who observes it. Hence, if one really cares to learn, every journey is a Teacher waiting to embrace its wards and divulge the knowledge using the language of experience in order to empower them to fulfil their life's purpose...

Beginning with this edition of Spark, we are starting our new feature titled "Junoon ke Raahi", that chronicles the journeys of those people who have dared to tread the less travelled path, their chosen path and are doing very well for themselves, their family and the nation.

So lets get inspired to do something hatke!!!



In this edition of Spark, let us explore the career journey of Ms. Antara Raychaudhury, an Economics Graduate from Delhi University who was selected for the prestigious Young India Fellowship at Ashoka University, to pursue their flagship One year Master's programme in Liberal Arts and is currently employed with Boston Consulting Group as a Management Consultant while simultaneously working upon a Fintech Startup. By virtue of her journey, let's get to know about one of the most promising courses to have emerged in the recent times on the Indian education scenario in the form of Liberal Arts, a course which believes in the efficacy of multidisciplinary education. A course that

caters to the needs of the students with diverse academic interests, by allowing them to exercise their choice from amongst a basket of wide unconventional combinations of subjects in order to usher in a refreshingly new perspective and approach towards problem solving amongst its fellows.

What were the Hatke decisions you took in your early student years?

There are two decisions that I can recount, going into class 11, I knew that I wanted to study Economics, but growing up in Kolkata, there was always an implicit assumption that a good student only studies Science and pursues Engineering or Medicine. In fact, I did join Engineering coaching, but couple of months into it, I knew that it wasn't a path I wanted to go down. So, with the support of my parents, I quit and studied hard for my Boards to make the sky rocket Economics cut-off of Delhi University. Second was the unconventional decision to apply for a master's programme in Liberal Studies rather than pursuing a traditional Master's programme in Economics from a reputed institute.

Please tell us about the Hatke journey these decisions led you onto?

My decisions enabled me to pursue a one year master's programme, a multidisciplinary course in liberal arts - which is a combination of many subjects such as Philosophy, Economics, History, Political Science, Sociology, Math, English, Art, Leadership, and so on which would never have been possible in any of the conventional programs. Also the power of choice conferred upon me to choose any unconventional combination of subjects of my interest greatly appealed to me since it gave me a formal education in many casual subjects of my interest. I have seen people coming from an Engineering background getting to study about Shakespeare and Poetry purely out of passion, just to give you an idea about the range of choices on offer. Liberal arts is just an umbrella, under which we read more nuanced topics in each of the subjects mentioned and also decoded the intersections and dependencies between these subjects.

How has this hatke journey benefited you in your life and career?

Contrary to many of my peers who regularly complain about dissatisfaction in their work life and lack of connect between their education and their career, my career and the subjects I studied are connected on a rather deep level - a matter of utmost satisfaction - my education kind of forms the lens by which I look at different business problems. It's a matter of perspective. Currently, I am a management consultant with BCG. We are in the business of helping businesses - essentially bringing in best practices and outside-in view to solve problems for corporates, government bodies or even non-profits, or to help them set vision and become future-ready. We get staffed on projects on a regular basis (typically 6-12 months long) and work with the client, based out of client location, to co-create valuable solution. For example, when we do a consumer-centric sales project where I bring in my sociology and psychology learnings into the solutions. More conventionally people would rely on excels and other quantitative references, but I also see the more softer aspects of why the consumer is showing a certain type of behaviour - is there an economic factor, is their a societal shift, is it driven by political environment etc. That's the added perspective that my liberal arts background gives me. It has made me knowledgeable about many facets that we often ignore in conventional approach.

Some of the projects I have worked on are HR transformation for a large PSU bank, land monetization and station redevelopment for railways, end-to-end digital strategy for a home furnishing brand, go-to-market strategy for a challenger telecom player, cost optimization for a large life insurer and buy-side due diligence.

What's the way forward in the journey from here?

It's practically everything under the sun. I can do an MBA or Masters in Economics or any other liberal arts subject. I can continue to work at BCG or switch to specific roles in the industry. It is really hard to bound this answer as there is no fixed career path or trajectory, given my background, I can switch to whatever I wish to pursue.

Such a journey would be incomplete without some hatke co-travellers for company?

True that, for the rigorous selection process ensures a great diversity in the batch to draw inspiration from, this in itself contributes a lot to the learning curve. Great partnerships are formed in the confines of the institute's boundaries often leading to potential startups, partnerships in profitable ventures, NGO's or long lasting friendship built upon mutual respect and admiration.

Also at Ashoka, every fellow is profiled and matched to an industry mentor who can guide you through your career/academic choices. My mentor was a professor of Harvard Business School. My mentor was extremely approachable, always providing me a keen ear and the right advice and guidance. He also connected me to his larger network so I could draw from their learning when I was confused with my options and choices. I also found some excellent mentors in the founders of the program. These are extremely well-established and successful people who are role models to many and in any other situation, I would have no access to them. However, at Ashoka, I got to interact with them closely, many times even one on one and even listening to them for five minutes and absorbing their words fully can truly transform one's life - which it did for me.

Finally, my parents since they have always stood by me and supported me like pillars in all my unconventional choices, without questioning them ever. They have also been great sounding boards, always ready to hear my ideas and thoughts and giving their valuable inputs. I decided to not pursue further education in Economics and instead join a Liberal Arts program whose campus was still under construction. Some would say it was a crazy move back then, but my parents believed in me and see how it paid off. Now as a transition from BCG to an early stage fintech startup, again perceived to be a risky switch, I find the courage to move ahead because I know I have my parents through it all. They are my loudest cheering squad!

What's the selection procedure and is it affordable by all?

The application process involves multiple rounds of filtration of applications from across the country only to be followed by essays, professional recommendations and personal interviews by panel of directors. The whole admission process ensures a great diversity and quality in the batch with a view to build potential future leaders of India who are trained in multiple disciplines.

Financial assistance is not at all an issue as scholarships to the tune of full fee waivers are available to the deserving candidates. The course only looks for fellows with future leadership potential, once they believe that you possess them, assistance in all manner will be provided.

Who all can aspire to take up the career path similar to yours?

Any person who is curious and want to challenge the status quo every day and also be challenged themselves in the process. One needs to be passionate about problem solving. This is not a regular 9-5 job where by the end of the year, you pretty much know your task by heart. Here, every few months your client changes, you are thrown into the deep end of a new business problem (possibly in an industry you have limited knowledge in) and within stipulated time, you have to not only create your foundation but also deliver high impact business solutions. One needs utmost motivation, rigour and will to learn to be in a career such as this.

Look up for info:

Various prestigious institutes in the country offering bachelor's and master's courses in Liberal Arts are:

- 1. Ashoka University, New Delhi (www.ashoka.edu.in)
- 2. FLAME University, Pune (www.flame.edu.in)
- 3. Lady Shri Ram College, New Delhi (www.lsr.edu.in)
- 4. St Stephen's College, New Delhi (www.ststephens.edu)
- 5. Symbiosis School Of Liberal Arts, Pune (www.ssla.edu.in)

Feature by C. Bharadwaj



NEIGHBORHOOD STORIES

AN ASTOUNDING MEMORY OF MY BYGONE DAYS IN VIZAG

- IP Chatterji, Retd. DGM(D&E), VSP

I joined Visakhapatnam Steel plant in the month of February, 1983. It was my work at the second Steel plant . The first one being Bokaro steel plant in erstwhile Bihar. Construction of accommo-dation at the township for steel plant employees had just started. We who joined then ,had to stay in company based leased accommodation . After about a month's vigorous search , I could find a house in MVP colony near pylon centre. I liked the location very much . The main point of attraction being its proximity to the sea.

After a month or so,I along with my family started residing there.Almost every Sunday after having breakfast, we all would go to spend time to the nearest beach, which was Appu ghar sea beach. We would stand near the water, looking towards the vast sea upto it's fag end where it appeared to meet the blue sky. We enjoyed a series of high waves rising from the mid sea and rushing towards the beach and finally breaking on shore in ripples with a roaring sound. Small fishermen's country boats engaged in fishing would be sight on the sea. These boats went on appearing and disappearing along with the waves with the seldom chance of getting capsized.

At some far off location on the sea-surface, we could see (though not distinctly) some big ships anchored waiting for their turn for entry to the port. Here, the Appughar beach nested a small fisher man colony spanning towards R K Beach direction .The smoke of burning fuel was used to cook the morning meal of the fisher men's family . It curled upwards from the palm leaf roof top of the conical hut made of palm trees.In between these huts ,some trees mostly planted by them ,and their small kitchen garden were the only eye-soothing green patches in that otherwise barren and shabby colony. Here on the beach , at the end of every catch , fishermen's wives with big baskets on their heads used to run to the net for picking up fishes from the net into the baskets and carrying them to a near by market mainly Purana market for sale or some times bring fishes to their huts for drying in the sun.

My Sunday morning routine went on happily week after week. One particular Sunday morning was very memorable. It was the month of April ,1983, I along with my mother ,wife, little son and daughter, went to the Appughar beach. All of us started walking on the sand. My wife along with the kids began playing with sea waves by dipping their feet in sea water and enjoying touch of every splash of breaking waves. My mother sat on the sand and got completely absorbed in seeing their activities with a smiling face and I was little away from them all.

The Sun shone brightly on the vast blue sea with sparkling waves all over. It was looking beautiful beyond any description. Few yachts with their white colored sails dotted the distant sea. My mind was full of abundant joy and I gazed and gazed at sea enjoying its sublime beauty.

When all of a sudden, some people running on the beach and heading towards Kailash giri side caught my sight. On enquiry, I came to know that the fisher men's had felt some heavy object in their large net.

Immediately we also rushed to that very spot.. we stood observing this breathtaking event from a little distance.

The unknown object in the net was yet be seen ,but by seeing the extra ordinary effort put by the fisher men , no room for any sort of doubt in anyone's mind about its heaviness

At Last our the eagerly awaited came to an end with the sight of a big shark entangled in the net.

But to our-surprise, there was no movement whatsoever of the gignatic fish. In no time one old fisher man identified it dead. But it looked as fresh as a living shark but life had left that poor fish maybe few hours ago .

Finally the big white shark was brought ashore. It lay on the sand bed . It was about twelve feet long , well built and had a magnificient body. It's long charming tail, hideous jaw, red eyes ,long tough tentacles- all gave birth to fear and reverence simultaneously in the minds of the onlookers. The pre noon Sun shone brightly on its body added to the beauty of this master predator.

People there began examining the fish from tail to head and some fishermen even went to the extent of putting fingers in the large ugly jaw to expose the teeth.

I was watching the entire episode with rapt attention. I observed the shark thoroughly and explained to my family, particularly to my kids, about the shark and its behavior in general.

This was a very unforgettable experience to me and to my family and to many of those who stood there at that time. First of all a shark living or dead I and my family have not seen ever before and our familiarity with the sea and marine life was also insignificant.

It was only in Vizag that, I got a chance to live so close to the sea. And in such a short span of our stay, We were lucky enough to have had such an awesome experience - one of the rarest.!

Morning rolled on to noon. I with my family went back home struck dumb. Even to this day, this beach incident is as fresh in my memory as it was in that day.

After a couple of years of our stay in MVP colony, I was provided with a company accommodation in Ukkunagaram in sector 3 and finally in sector 7 where stayed in the beautiful township till my retirement in April 2004. Even though the incident at the beech is unforgettable, We do have many many beautiful memories of our life in ukkunagaram too which I will share another time...



HEALTH 'N' WELLNESS

Homeopathic Remedies for Nausea.....

Nausea can be caused by eating spoiled foods, overindulging in alcohol or eating too much. It can also be a factor during pregnancy, viral infections or emotional upsets. Regardless of what brings on nausea, it can be a very uncomfortable situation. Homeopathic remedies are available to reduce the discomfort associated with nausea in a variety of circumstances. Choose a specific remedy that most closely matches your individual symptoms for the best results.

Arsenicum Album

This homeopathic remedy is useful in cases of nausea and vomiting with diarrhea. Arsenicum is especially useful when symptoms are brought on by eating tainted food. According to Dr. Ellen Feingold, burning pains in the abdomen accompanied by a thirst for small, frequent sips of water may respond to this remedy. This remedy is often used in the treatment of both viral and bacterial intestinal infections. It may also be useful when nausea is a result of consuming too much alcohol.

Carbo Vegetalis

Heartburn and indigestion with flatulence and bloating may indicate the need for this remedy. It may prove helpful in cases of gastroesophageal reflux that leave a sour taste in the mouth. Carbo vegetalis is indicated for children who complain of pain in the middle of the stomach. According to Dr. Carolyn Dean, the stomach will be distended with much gas in burping.

Ignatia

When emotional stressors bring on nausea, this remedy can often help. The person in need of ignatia maybe obviously depressed, though they try to suppress this grief. This person may exhibit indications of hysteria including excessive crying, insomnia and mood swings. Children in need of this remedy may complain of a lump in the throat. Everything will be taken very personally by children who need ignatia.

Ipecacuanha

For nausea that results in continuous vomiting, try ipecacuanha. This homeopathic remedy is beneficial in cases of all-day nausea during pregnancy accompanied by belching and excess saliva. It can also be helpful in cases where watching moving objects brings about nausea. Abdominal pain may be present after eating, smoking or during a headache.

Nux Vomica

Nux vomica is a digestive remedy commonly used to relieve nausea, gas and bloating. During pregnancy this homeopathic remedy may provide relief for the irritable and impatient woman who is nauseous in the morning and after eating. Though the urge to vomit is present, there is often unproductive retching. The child in need of nux vomica has overeaten, leading to nausea, stomach pain and headache. Irritability is also common when this remedy is needed, according to Dr. Don't use any homeopathic remedies without any prescription.



आज हम शुगर (मधुमेह) की रामबाण औषधि के बारे में बताते हैं, जिससे न केवल आपका शुगर लेवल घटेगा, बिल्क आपकी कमजोरी भी खत्म हो जाएगी। चंद्रशेखर वैद्य जी के अनुसार इस खास औषधि में कड़वे स्वाद वाले इंद्र जौ की खास भूमिका होती है। इसमें बादाम गिरी और भुने हुए चने को भी मिलाया जाता है। बनाने की विधि:

कड़वे इंद्र जौ, बादाम गिरी और भूने हुए चने को ढाई-ढाई सौ ग्राम लेकर उसे पीसकर पाउडर बना लें। पाउडर को अच्छी तरह से मिला लें, तािक दवा समान रूप से प्रभावी बन सके। फिर पाउडर को किसी साफ शीशे के बर्तन में रख लें। सेवन विधि:

इसका सेवन दिन में मात्र एक बार ही करें। खाना खाने के बाद एक चम्मच पाउडर सादे पानी के साथ लें। इसका सेवन नियमित करें। कुछ ही दिनों में आपको फर्क नजर आने लगेगा।



SUMMER SMOOTHY

In Summer vacations usually children expect something special from Mom, and if it is cool they enjoy alot. For Mothers they plan for any eatables it should be easy and fast in preperation. Now its time for Summer Smoothy preperation, serving for 2 people.



KVS Valli

Ingredients: One large Mango ripe,

Half Pineapple,

- 1 cm Ginger,
- 1 Table spoon Lime juice,
- 2 Table spoons of Jaggery.

Preperation:

Cut Mango 2 thin wedges to decorate, peel the fruit, cut as much as flesh from around the shell of a Mango, peel and cut Pineapple into peices, peel and cut Ginger into peices, add 1 Tsp Lime juice to jar, add 2 Tsps of



Jaggery (children prefer sweet and enhances the flavour), and a pinch of salt, it helps to trace the real taste of the preperation. Put all peices of Mango, Pineapple, Ginger in to a juicer jar. Fix to Mixy to make into juice. It turns into thick smooth juice. Shift it into a container and Refregerate for 1 hour. Take 2 glassess and serve Cool Summer Smoothy, Don't forget to decorate the glassess with the already cut thin wedges of Mango, it highlights the preperations. Enjoy YUMMY COOL SUMMER SMOOTHY????

SUMMER COOL FRUIT SALAD

4 cup cubed watermelon

2 cup sliced fresh strawberries

2 kiwis sliced

1 cup seedless grapes (halved)

2 cup cubed muskmelon

Fresh lemon juice

1/4 cup minced fresh mint

1 tsp honey (if required)

Black salt (as per taste)



Geetanjali Shailendra

Recipe:

- 1. Combine all fruits in a large mixing bowl.
- 2. Whisk lemon juice, black salt, mint, honey together in a small bowl; drizzle over the fruit mixture and toss to coat.
- 3. Refrigerate 1 hour before serving.



MANGALORE STYLE MANGO & PINEAPPLE CURRY

Preparation Method:

- Peel and slice the pineapple. Cube 2-3 slices
 of pineapple and keep it aside. Chop them
 into bite sized pieces.
- Peel and cube the mango. Chop them into bite sized pieces and keep it aside.

JYOTI PAI

- 3. If you'e using grapes, then wash them well and halve them. You can also choose to add them whole to this dish.
- 4. Heat a tempering pan. Roughly break dried red chillies into pieces. Fry them for 2 minutes using few drops of oil. Remove it off heat and let it cool.
- 5. Grind grated coconut, tamarind, salt, jaggery, mustard seeds and dried red chillies into a coarse paste using just as much water as you need.
- 6. Transfer this ground masala into a mixing bowl.
- 7. Add in about 1/4 cup of water if the masala is too thick. Consistency of this dish (sasam) is in between semi-thick to thick.
- 8. Check and adjust salt, jaggery. Add jaggery according to your palate. Depending on how sweet you would like your sasam to be.
- Then add in cubed pineapple, mango, grapes to the gravy and mix well.
- 10. Seasoning: Heat oil in a tempering pan, add in mustard seeds. When they start popping, add in curry leaves and let them sizzle for few seconds. Remove off heat and pour this seasoning to the gravy in the bowl and mix well.
- 11. Serve it as a side dish for lunch, dinner.

LAUGHTER

ಎప్పడూ ಯಾತ್ರಲಸ್ಪಪ್ಪಿ ಬಯಟೆ ఉಂటುಸ್ವಾಂಗಾ... **ෂ**රదාජනි පලා, భూమి ෂන්න ෂණ්නී න්



ఇదే మా ఇల్లు... వేరే ఇల్టేం కొనుక్కోలేదు అన్నయ్యా...



టూర్ వెళ్తానంటే లీవ్ ఇవ్వమంటే ఇస్తా గానీ... ಡಬ್ಬುಲು ಕೂಡಾ ನೆನೆ ಸರ್ಥಾಲಂಟೆ ಎಲಾಗಯ್ನಾ ಬಾಬಾ...



LEISURE

- 1. Who is the Junoon ke rahi of this issue?
- 2. Which is one of the beautiful countries of the world according to Tulika Prasad?
- 3. What is the name of the International Airport in California?
- 4. What made Mayank's mom speechless?
- 5. What is the difference between Phileas Fogg and Shiv Kumar?
- 6. What was the most unforgettable experience of Mr. Iswari Prasad Chatterji?
- 7. Where in India, Football more a religion?
- 8. What according to Sushma is the need of the hour?
- 9. Why did Deep's classmates support Russia in the FIFA quarterfinals?
- 10. Which interest do Shobhana and Pratik share?

Editorial Team Bindoo Mohapatra Editor-in-Chief

Satyendra Gopal

Vani Deshikachar

V. Suguna

Bharadwaj, Savitry Srinivas, Sushma Ekka,



It's honestly nice to see your team work towards a nice output. I liked the edition this time. Felt something nice while going through the articles. Congratulations and best wishes for the work.

- Pradeep. N Spark Ignites my mind and reconnected me to a different level, today being earth day, think green was in my mindso went through the digital verson but nothing beats the feeling of holding spark in one hand, flipping pages and thanking the editorial team for the best they did to make it. On 6 th birthday dear spark "bar baryeh din ayetum Jiohazarooosaalye hmeriarzooohai HBD to you HBD to you

Dear Readers, Please Note...

Articles for SPARK magazine may be sent to vms.spark@gmail.com or can be put in the drop box at Ukku Club. Articles of Original work with flair of creativity are valued more. While sending articles, please don't forget to mention the name of the contributor along with address and contact Ph. No. Your valuable responses & suggestions are also invited.

Our Favourite Quotes on Holidays....

Stay Offline and say YES to New Adventures

- KVS Valli

Vacation is the treasure of memories spent with loved ones to be enjoyed today and cherished forever...

-Jvoti Agarwal

The holiday season is a perfect time to reflect on our blessings and seek out ways to make life better for those around us.

-Soumi Samaddar

What we do during our working hours determines what we have; what we do in our leisure hours determines what we are.

- Rosini Nayak

Leisure is not the time but some precious moments stolen from your busy schedule meant to be spent only for you unconditionally..

- Agarwal

I need a vacation. Someone please kidnap me!

Nikita

Leisure is the time for doing something useful. This leisure the diligent person will obtain the lazy one never.

- Tanmay Biswal

eisure is not the time but some precious moments stolen from your busy schedule meant to be spent only for you unconditionally..

Brijesh Kumar Agarwal

Better to see something once than to hear about it hundred times.

- Sudesh Das

यात्रा करने से हमारे अंदर नई ऊर्जा का संचार होता है, जिससे हम स्वयं को समझ पाते हैं।

- पूजा

Better to see something once than to hear about it hundred times.

- Geetaniali

भ्रमण से भ्रम दूर होता है।

- रजत शुक्ला

" A little leisure is a great pleasure for body and mind"

- Vidyapangal

"Happiness is not a state to arrive at, but a manner of traveling"

- Shailendra

Change in altitude would help my attitude

- Jayanti Dwivedi

/MS ACTIVITIES







SMART STEEL.



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