

Reflections

JULY

2022

Fingal's Cave, Scotland

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Tell us

What we're doing right and what we're doing wrong and what you think of this issue. We'd love to hear from you.

FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

This July 2022 issue features Newgen's Trailblazers who won the Quality Awards for exceptional work: no feedback for an entire year! The celebration of this event at the Neelangarai office brought some of us together after a long time of working from home. A proud moment for the winners and their managers, it was also a wonderful way of motivating the rest of Newgen to aspire to such excellent standards. Ujwala Vaidya and Dipak Shaw are the spotlight stars in this issue who will inspire you with their life stories. The Nandavanam Center and the EcoTree Project, Newgen's CSR ventures, are back in full form and will delight you with their recent projects and progress on their existing ones.

Snapshots of Jo Bottrill's family vacation to the Isle of Mull, Scotland (the 4th largest island in Scotland) will amaze you as will Joseph Antoine's family vacation to the famous temple towns in Tamil Nadu in the southern regions of India. As it is with every issue, there are some newcomers too who will dazzle you with their creative strokes, be it painting, cooking, or writing poetry. Read the poems 'My Glitches' by Bhuvana and 'Flourish' by Asha Bhaskar. Try out Dhanashree Phadke's simple yet delicious recipes and enjoy the artistic talents of Hina Khaire and Suriya Rajasekar.

Enjoy and tell us what you think.

~ Lydia

NewGen
KnowledgeWorks

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The family together on Mull.

Mull, Scotland

JO BOTTRILL

*Managing Director, Newgen UK
and US*

Everyone in our family is a wildlife fanatic – especially my wife Beth and son William, who often leap from the dinner table announcing the arrival of a rarely seen bird in our garden. And so, it was with the promise of new wildlife spotting opportunities that we embarked on a long journey to the Scottish island of Mull.

Mull, the second largest island of the Inner Hebrides, lies just off the west coast of Scotland, around 500 miles by road from our home in Gloucestershire, England. The island is known for its dramatic scenery, crystal clear (if a little chilly) waters and impressive wildlife – including the rare white-tailed sea eagle, golden eagle, hen harriers, dolphins, whales, sharks, otters and more. This long-planned half-term trip was an opportunity for us to



The view over Loch Tuath from our base for the week.

explore a new place, escape to the peace and solitude of island life and to recharge our depleted batteries.

Mull did not disappoint. From the seclusion of the converted school house we'd rented for the week, the view over Loch Tuath was mesmerising in itself. A short ten-minute walk took us to the Black Beach or Traigh na Cille in Gaelic – named for the dark-coloured sand ground over millennia from the basalt lava that flowed some 65 million years ago. This secluded beach formed a reassuring base for much of our time on Mull – a place for swimming, beach cricket, fishing and the occasional doze.

The quest before us – our prize beyond some relaxation and family time – was to see the highlights of Mull's wildlife, with the white-tailed eagle, otters and dolphins at the top of our list.



William fishing from the Black Beach.

I'm pleased to say, with a combination of luck, tenacity and perseverance we managed to tick off all three. White-tailed eagles are by far the most prized box on the naturalist's checklist, and we were lucky enough to see them soaring above conifer trees, swooping over lochs and majestically sitting atop high branches, surveying the fish-laden waters below.

The otter, spotted fleetingly within some 40 minutes of our ferry docking in Craignure Port, remained elusive for the rest of the week.

We had to take to the water to spot our favourite sea mammal, the common dolphin. Embarking from Ulva Ferry for a five-hour boat trip to the island of Staffa we nervously peered through binoculars, hoping our aquatic friends would soon be frolicking in the bows of our boat. The day trip took us first to the Treshnish Isles, a chain of small islands, where it's possible to see

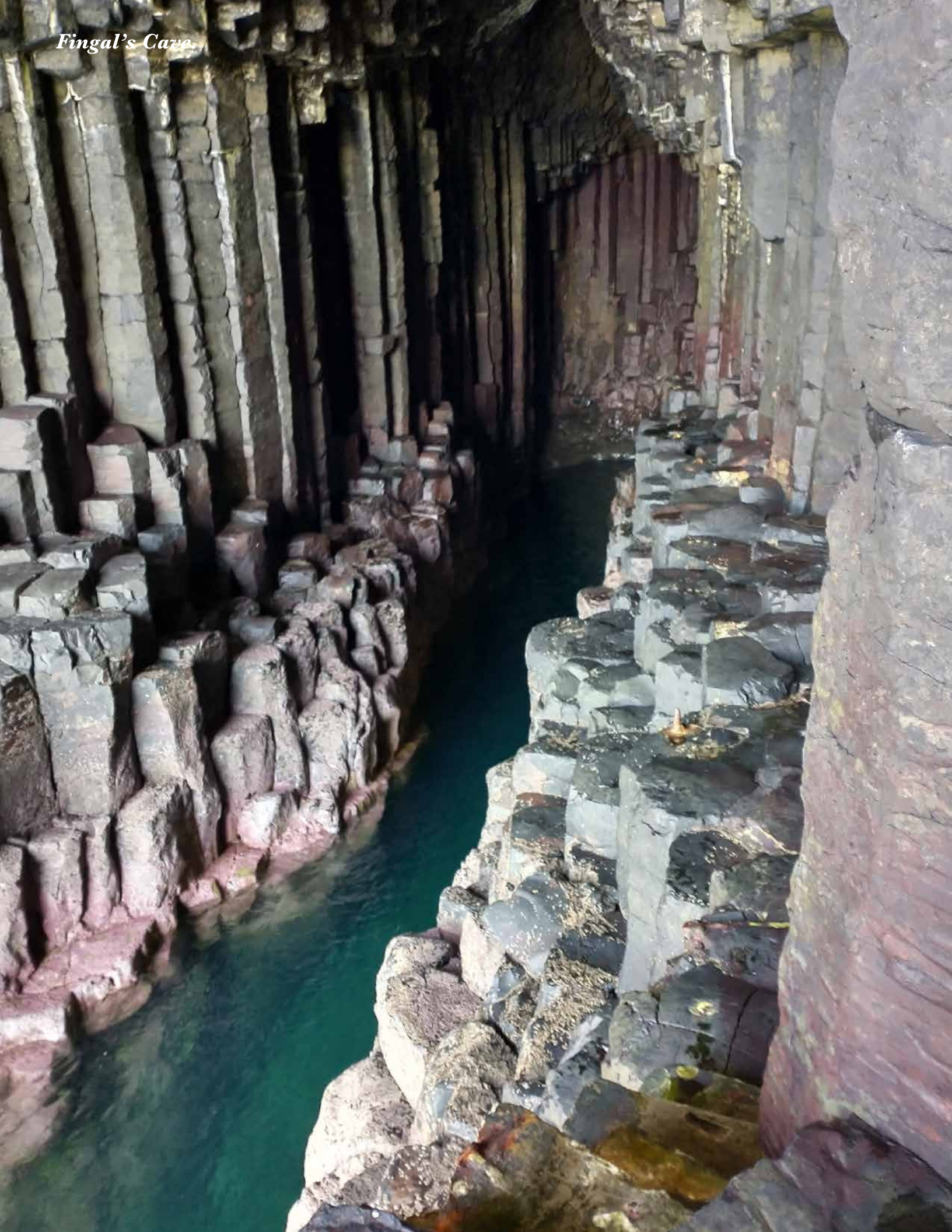
Megan and William beneath a basalt column on the Isle of Staffa.



We were blessed to be able to celebrate our youngest daughter Megan's birthday whilst on the trip, which she marked with a massive ice cream!



Fingal's Cave.



A puffin on the Treshnish Isles.

and get close up to puffins. Following a short lunch stop, the boat took us to Fingal's Cave, a basalt rock marvel on the island of Staffa. The inspiration for Felix Mendelssohn's appropriately named *Hebrides Overture*, Fingal's Cave is a geological wonder to rival the Giant's Causeway.

It was as the boat headed back to port that the dolphins joined us to play in the wake of our boat's engine. A small pod of half a dozen or so common dolphins, leaping and dancing in the churned up water behind our boat gave us lasting memories of a wonderful day at sea.

All in all, Mull turned out to be a wonderful place. From stunning wildlife to great food and mesmerising scenery, we surely hope to return to this magical island getaway.

Summer Vacay '22

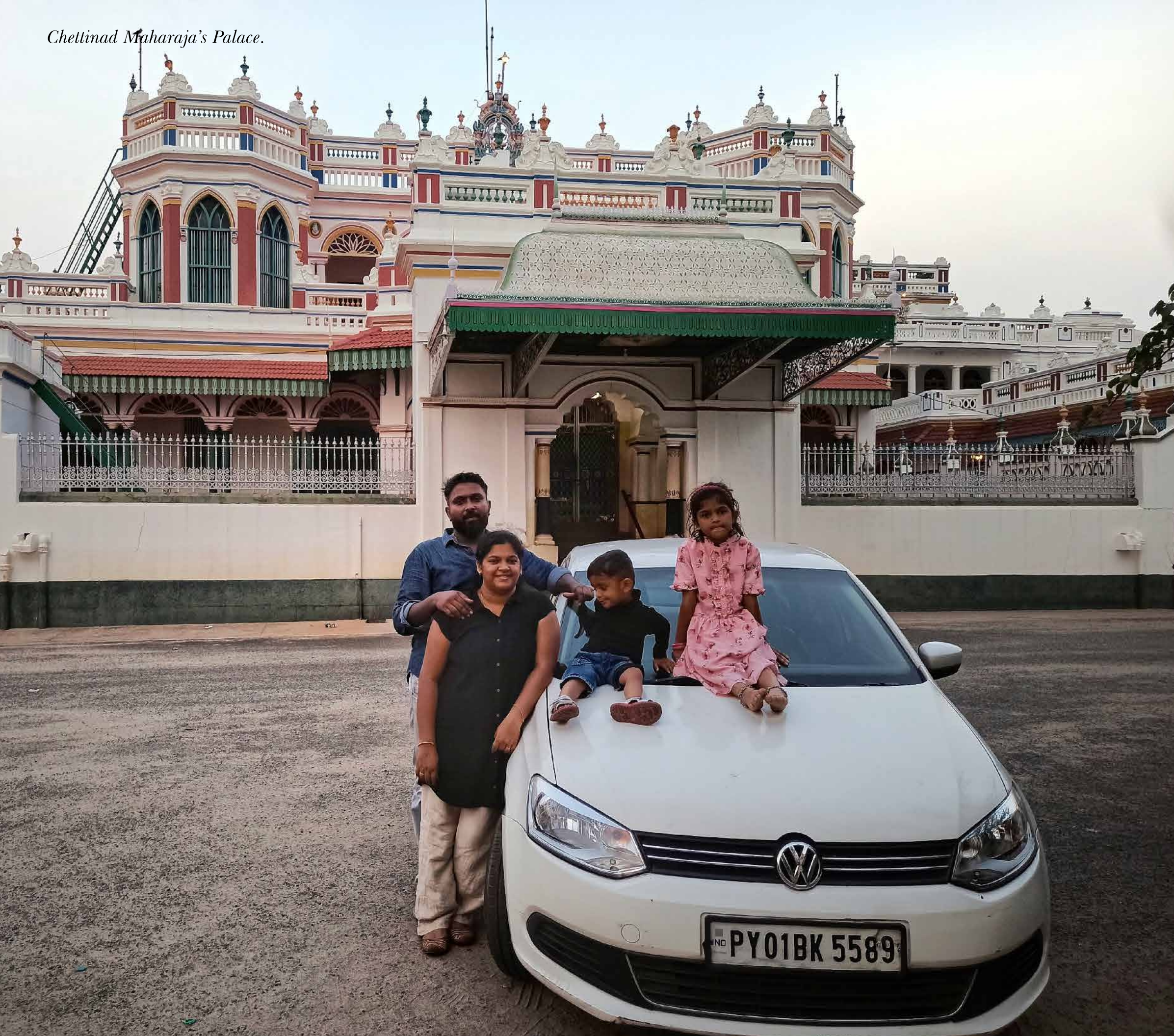
JOSEPH ANTOINE

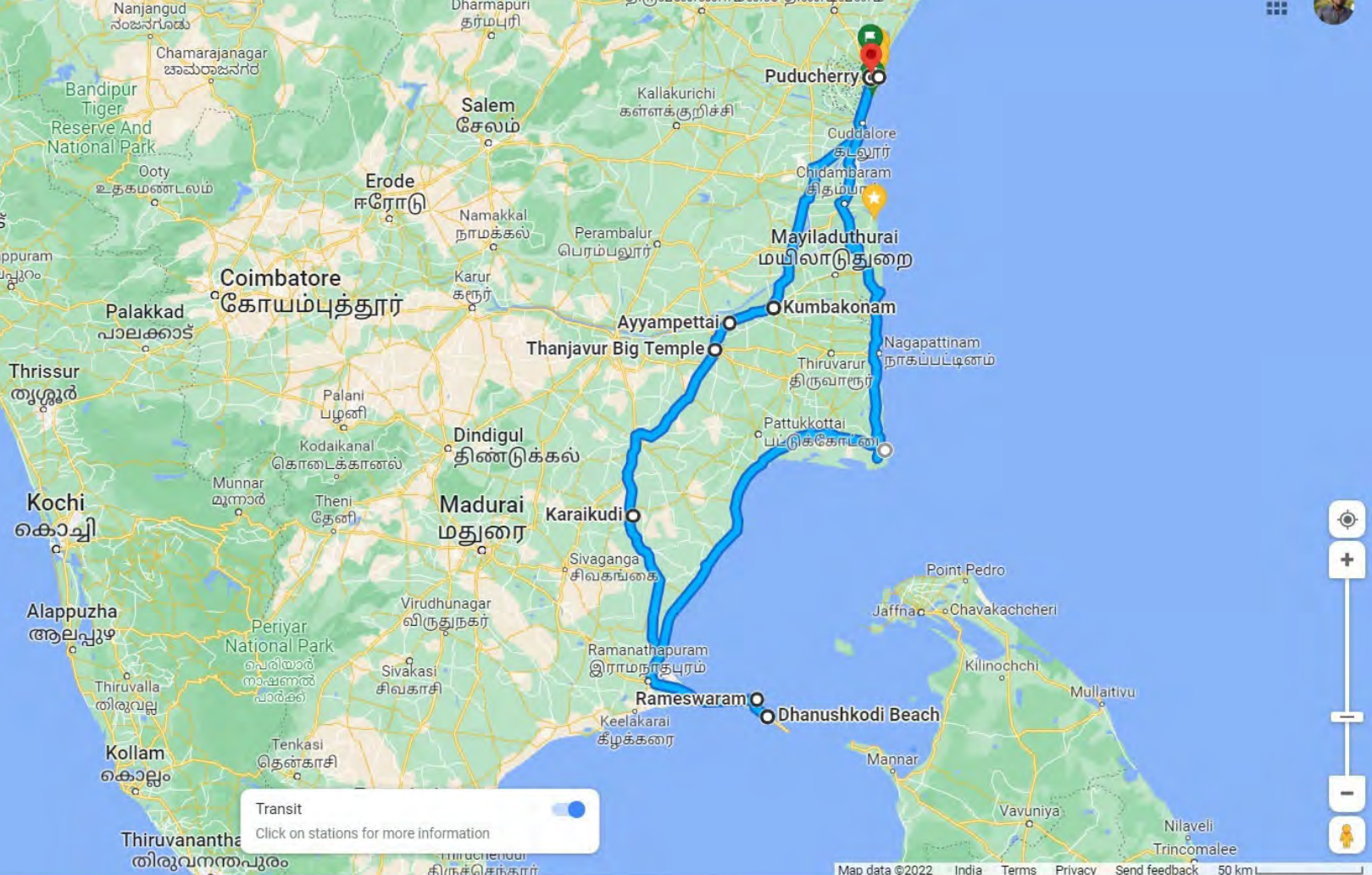
Account Manager, Aspen Legal Education

Summer holidays '22 happened to be a time of overload and frantic schedules, especially when my wife and I were working from home. We managed to get through most of this busy time by engaging our kids with activities and visits to our parents' place.

We usually move out of town for any vacation but this year we had different schedules/commitments and couldn't plan anything till the end of May 2022. It was at that time that the government extended the summer holidays for schools until the mid of June. So we decided to travel out of town for a few days for a respite from the exhaustive month of May.

It was my long-term plan to go for a long drive with my kids from the East Coast Road (Pondicherry) to the West Coast (Kochi,





The route we took.

Alappuzha in Kerala) and then Kanyakumari followed by Dhanushkodi and then finally reach Pondicherry via the East Coast drive. Since there was rainfall in most places of Kerala, I had to change plans and decided to cover instead Kumabakonam, Thanjavur, Karaikudi, Ramanathapuram, Rameshwaram and Dhanushkodi. I planned for it to be a 2-week trip so the kids would get enough rest during all this travel.

KUMBAKONAM

Kumbakonam is known as a ‘temple town’ because of the prevalence of a number of temples. It is a peaceful city and whichever side you take, odds are you will find a temple there. Although we saw a great many temples while temple-hopping, one particular temple stood out, which left us spell bound: Airavateswara Temple. This temple is referred to as the Great Living Chola Temple by UNESCO and was declared a UNESCO heritage site in the year 2004. It was built almost 1,000 years ago by the Chola Kings. The architecture of the temple is noteworthy and it is built in the form of a chariot. The sculptures are beautifully carved out on stone pillars, mandapams (temple porches) and gopurams (usually ornate towers). The carvings on the walls were exquisite though a



At Brihadeeswarar temple and at the Maratha Palace.



few were destroyed by the invaders. Each carving depicts a story. This temple is at a place called Darasuram. If you ever make a trip to Kumbakonam, do not miss this gem of a temple!

THANJAVUR

Also known as the Royal City of the Chola, Nayak and the Maratha rulers, Thanjavur was our next destination.

BRIHADEESWARAR TEMPLE

Popularly known as the Thanjai ‘Periya Koil’ [Big Temple], this temple was built by the great Chola Emperor Raja Raja Cholan I in the year 1010 AD. This temple celebrated its millenium year of existence in the year 2010. It is recommended that you visit this temple during sunrise or early in the morning. Any later and it is too hot to walk around and the evenings are mostly crowded.

THANJAVUR MARATHA PALACE

The palace near the temple is a vast building of brilliant masonry built partly by the Nayaks around 1550 AD and partly by the Marathas, who ruled from 1676 to 1855. Grand buildings with huge



At Dhanushkodi Beach; the Dhanushkodi Emblem seen in the background.

corridors and spacious halls, two palace towers, the armory, the observation towers and the ornate balconies are visible from all parts of the city. The palace is absolutely worth visiting. The Sarasvati Mahal Library, the Art Gallery of Thanjavur and the Rajarajan Manimandapam are some other places to visit in Thanjavur. The Krishna Bhavan and Hotel Kanapa are some good places to try out the local food. A definite must-buy are the famous Thanjavur Dancing Dolls.

KARAIKUDI

Our next destination was to the Land of Chettinad. This town flaunts a wide range of traditional and palatial Chettinad houses and is famous for its architecture, cuisine and Chettinad sarees. A popular and powerful town in its heydays, Karaikudi is now the heritage hub of South India.

The Chettinad Maharaja's Palace, situated in Kanadukathan, is a most visited place but currently, the public are not allowed inside the palace. The Athangudi Palace in Karaikudi, an unmissable mansion of Chettinad, is allowed for entry to the public for an entry ticket of Rs 100. The CVRM Heritage House is also open to the public for a similar fee. The Sri Priya Mess, Indrani Mess, Sri Alagu Mess and the Gourmet Café are good places to try out the local cuisine but most places are



Pamban Bridge.

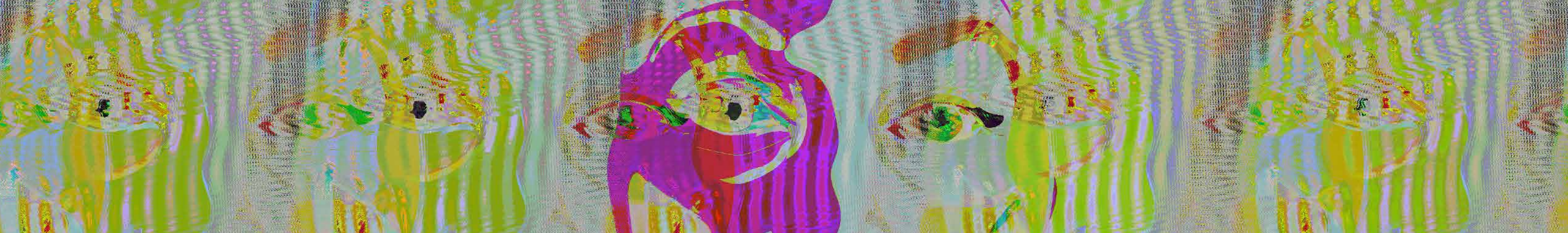
strictly non-vegetarian. The sarees from the Mahalakshmi Handloom Weaving Centre, Kanadukathan, are a must buy as are the fresh cashew nuts sold near Ramnad District.

The **Pamban Bridge** is India's first sea bridge and was one of the longest until 2010. This 2.2-km bridge connects the Rameswaram Island to the mainland. This is also famously called as the Scissors bridge for its unique opening to allow ships to pass through to the sea.

DHANUSHKODI

This is an abandoned town on the south-eastern tip of Pamban Island of the state of Tamil Nadu in India which is also just about 24 km west of Talaimannar in Sri Lanka. You'll find yourself on a beautiful ride throughout the stretch with calming views of the sea on both sides: surface waves on one side of the beach and capillary waves on the other side. The public are not allowed to enter this area after 4 pm and the police start clearing people from the beach after 5 pm.

In total we travelled around 1,340 km and took 2 weeks to complete the trip. It was a wonderful experience for all of us and gave us immense opportunities to bond together as a family.



My glitches...

BHUVANA HARIKRISHNAN

Associate Vice-President

I am in for no fantasies...

It's this at a very young age I realized...

I have no inclination towards reading books

This I decided after reading a couple of great series

Great literature...

Very contrary to the thinking that books are a whole world of knowledge

I want to be real

See the world raw with my own self

Not through the eyes of another writer

Not wanting to be influenced by relating thoughts through their eyes

It may seem to illuminate why people behave the way they do

But still it's from another's perspective

Then I realized that everything is about perspectives

I decided to see it all through my perspectives

See the real me, how I perceive all of these life experiences

I experience this ... the real me...

At the end of the day my understanding is what I go through

No writer will be able to make it

I don't want to be confused

I have done it before...

Probably I'm a whole lot of every writer's bit

Every writer in parts making me whole

Life is never a matter of chances

I don't want to live on their experiences

I am still so raw ...

Not reading full-length stories gives me a fresh look at everything

Be it emotions, perspectives,

I see everything as a glitch...

Everything that will correct itself

I learn from my own glitches in understanding

My own glitches of my perspectives

My own glitches of my emotions

The advantage is I'm a better soul than I was yesterday

I may grow slow but its real...

I may still crawl when I die ...

My glitches give me a natural evolving of self

May be I learnt it hard

This could also be a glitch

I could be arrogant in not seeing through another's eyes

I am more mature at the end of every day

I want to live consciously

Day-in, day-out

I am more me than anything

I could be at a disadvantage

May be this life is not enough

In becoming a better human being that probably I could achieve easily...

with engulfing all that is already available

I am aware I'm on a journey...

A journey of self-realization...

That no soul could fathom so easily

I'm unsure if I'm taking the hard way

I am contradicting so many learned men

So many wise men who have already lived through mine a million times



Who have spread their experiences
But if I'm unique in my own way
my uniqueness doesn't have to stop with
my biometrics
I am in constant quest
I don't need to see a fantasized world
Probably I'm immature to distinguish
Between the perception of others and
what they can give me
I choose to be raw, I choose to be real
I choose not to fantasize
I choose to walk my path alone
unperturbed, I choose to shred the
wisdom I could gain
I choose to ignore the eternal wisdom
It could be definitely ignorance to be
immune to the views of others
I'm on a conscious journey
To stay immune to knowledge
To stay exposed to the world
unequipped
I'm as good as an illiterate from
someone's eyes
Education does not mean to just
read and equip through the
literature
If one man's soul enjoys the wisdom
My soul enjoys experiences
I may need a hundred life times
But I choose to stay open

I have knowledge of the pros and cons
I have weighed them before ... still...
I choose to experience it all myself
I choose this consciously
I am open to what life can give me
I am open to learning it all through my
own experiences
I will weigh this all my life
I do not regret my ignorance
I do not regret my choice
So far, it's good,

So far, I am open to continue this
It's my free will
My tomorrow could still be different
I may become a whole world of
clouded fantasy
I may choose to be the other too...
After all, it's all a journey
A journey of my glitches...
Challenging me everyday...
I recall... I'm not this body...
I'm not even the mind...



அவ்வளவுதாங்க...*

AROCKIA ALEXANDER

Manager, Books pre-editing team

* The poem title translates roughly to That's all there is to it. It says in a light-hearted tone that however much we spend on luxurious materialistic things, they all get left behind when we enter our homes, but from the point of view of the objects: 'I brought him home in comfort and style, but I've been left outside.'

சேரும் இடம் வரை
சொகுசாய் சேர்த்துவிட்ட
சொகுசுக் காரை
வெளியில் நிற்கவைத்துவிட்டு
உள்ளே நுழைந்தான்.
படிவரை சென்று
கழட்டி விடப்பட்ட
செருப்பும் சொகுசுக் காரும்
சிரித்துக் கொண்டன!



Teaching the Teachers

PETER LIVINGSTON

*Social Worker, NCL School –
Nandavanam Center for Learning*

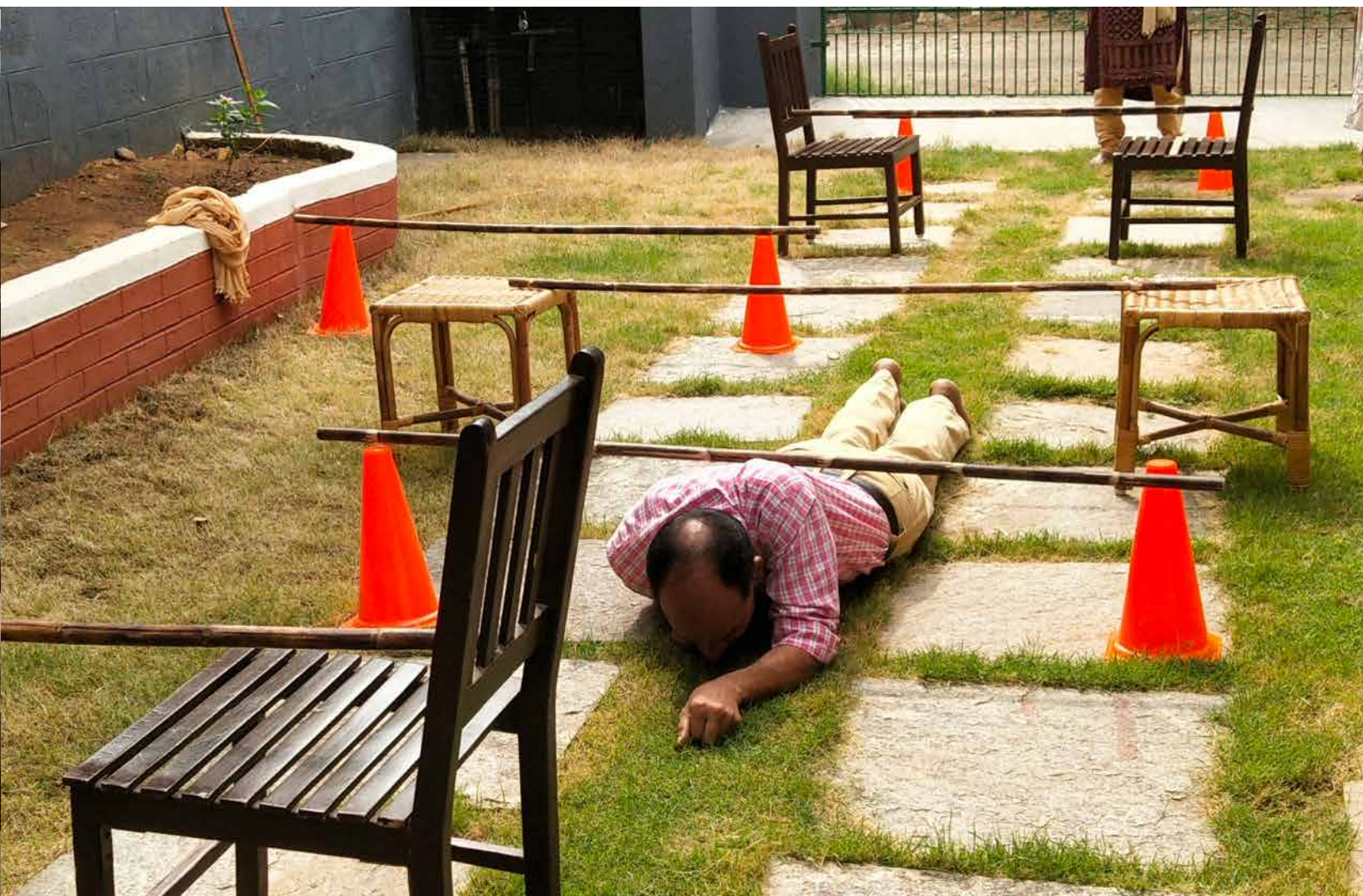
.....

There is always
something new to learn

.....

The Nandavanam Center for Learning conducted a 9-day programme to teach the teachers about handling the differentiated learners in their classes. Twenty teachers from various schools in and around Chennai participated in this training programme. The teachers were from both private and government-run schools in the city.

The aim of the training programme was to understand the process of learning, how to learn to use interventional strategies that can





be employed in and out of the classrooms, exposure to remedial intervention methods; experience the effectiveness of handwork, theatre art, movement in learning; to introduce the participants to the spectrum of learning difficulties and to build an in-depth understanding of learners and the skills of empathetic interaction. The programme made the teachers understand their students in terms of their learning capabilities. The teachers were taught how to screen the children with various kinds of learners and their difficulties. The faculty were experienced and trained professionals in the field of Learning Disability.

FEEDBACK FROM THE PARTICIPANTS

This course on remedial teaching was an eye opener for me. Though I have been in the teaching field for more than 30 years now, I really had no clue how to help the children struggling with learning issues. This course changed my perception of learning problems, and the strategies given for the intervention were explained very effectively. The most important aspect of the course is the way the concepts were presented by the teachers. They were presented in a very systematic and easy-to-follow method and the doubts were cleared and clarifications were made. Of course, hands-on training is very much required to implement these strategies in actual teaching.

~ George

Kendriya Vidyalaya CLRI, Adyar

It's with deep gratitude that I write this note to Nandavanam. The training has been an eye-opener for me in several aspects. It has rekindled my passion for teaching and has imbibed in me the confidence to walk into a classroom. The valuable take away from this learning was that "There is no one method to learn." It was inspiring and resonates with my ideals on education. I am now eager to sow the seeds of my fruitful two weeks, widespread.

~ Prashanti Suresh

As I am a teacher working in a school as a special educator, it helped me a lot to know the requirements of a slow learner. Wonderful teachers Arthi mam, Sudha mam and Jayashree mam. Thank you so much for your amazing teaching methods that too for free.

~ Reji Sara

Olcott Memorial Higher Secondary School, Besant Nagar

I have been a volunteer at an NGO called Madurai Seed where I have come across so many children with learning difficulties. I was lost on how to help them. The nine-day course conducted by the Nandhavanam Learning Centre has enlightened my path for teaching children with LD. The combination of Subha mam, Jayashree mam, Sathya mam and Arthi mam was like a treasure trove of knowledge for me. Their experience, both their teaching methodology and knowledge, has kindled



my own fire of imagination in teaching my children. It has also helped me identify my problem as a child with LD.

I kindly request Nandavanam to continue hosting these awareness seminars for the benefit of teachers, students and the society as a whole. Thanks to one and all involved in this wonderful programme.

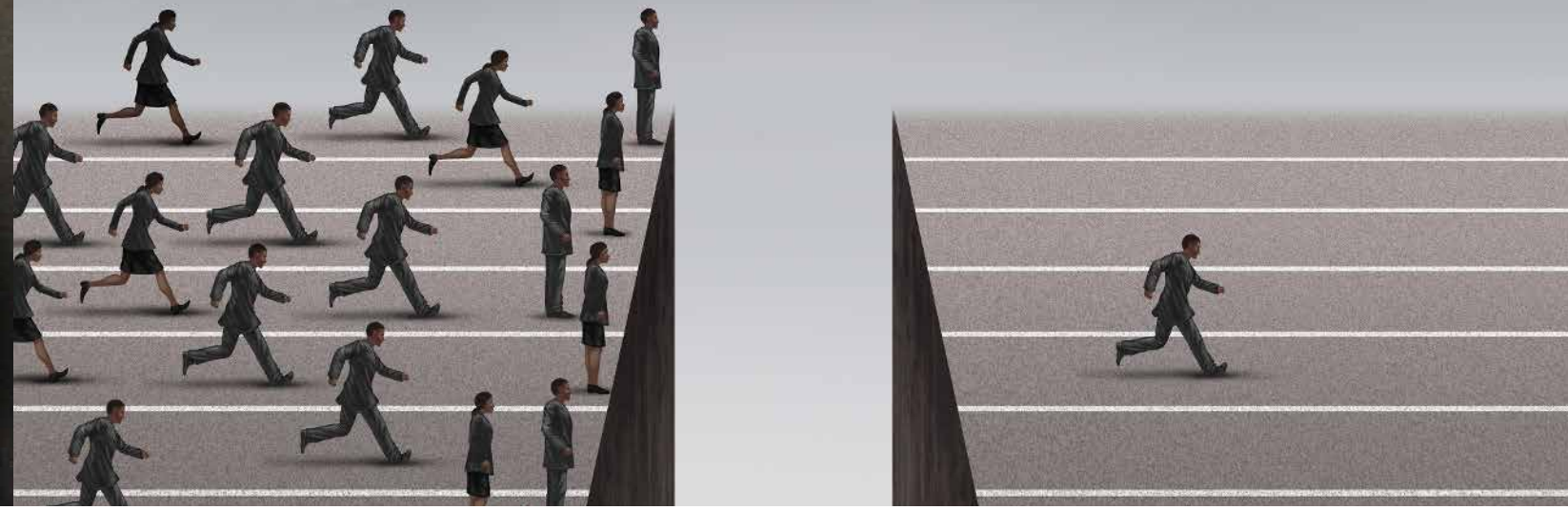
~ Vijayalakshmi, M.
Madurai Seed, NGO

நான் இந்த வொர்க் ஷாப்பில் கலந்துகொண்ட ஒன்பது நாட்களும் அனேக விஷயங்கள் கற்றுக்கொள்வதற்கு உதவிய அனைவருக்கும் முதலில் நன்றி. இந்த வொர்க் ஷாப்பில் கற்றல் தாமதம் உள்ள குழந்தையின் கரண்ட் லெவல் மற்றும் அந்தக் குழந்தையிடம் உள்ள பிரச்சனைகள் என்ன என்பது அதற்கு எத்தனை விதமான நாம் எளிய முறையில் கற்பிக்கலாம் என்பதையும் மற்றும் அந்தக் குழந்தையை எப்படி test செய்வது எப்படி IEP தயாரித்து அந்தக் குழந்தை கற்றுக்கொள்ள எளிய முறையில் உதவி செய்யலாம் என்பதை கற்றுக்கொண்டேன். இந்த வொர்க் ஷாப்பில் கலந்து கொண்டது எனக்கு பெரும் உதவியாக இருந்தது. இதை நான் வேலை செய்யும் என் பாடபள்ளி உள்ள கற்றல் குறைபாடு உள்ள குழந்தைகளுக்கு பயன்படுத்துவதற்கு உதவியாக இருக்கும்.

~Amsavathi, V.
Volunteer

ஒன்பது நாள் பயிற்சி உண்மையில் எனது தனி வாழ்வுக்கும் பொது வாழ்வுக்குமான பாலமாக இருந்தது. "சிந்திக்கத் தூண்டுங்கள், குழந்தைகள் சுயமாக சிந்திக்க தூண்டுங்கள்" இன்னும் எனது கவிதை வரிகளின் இன்னும் அதிகமாக உறுதிசெய்யும் விதமாகவும், கற்றல் என்பது ஒரு கலை அதனை கலை வடிவில் பயிலும்போது எளிதாக புரிந்து, அறிந்து பயில் முடியும் என்பதை இந்தப் பயிற்சி உறுதி செய்திருக்கிறது. இதனை ஏற்பாடு செய்த "நந்தவனம்" அமைப்பிற்கு எனது நன்றிகளும், வாழ்த்துகளும், வாழ்க வளமுடன்!

~Thomas, L.
Carry with Love Trust, NGO



Newgen's Trailblazers

Written for Reflections by
UJWALA VAIDYA

During the first week of June, a pleasant surprise awaited in the mailbox of quite a few employees of Newgen. It was from the Quality team and the mail said that the organization was pleased to recognize their commitment and dedication towards quality during the past year. They were invited for an awards and felicitation ceremony on 11 June 2022, 3 p.m. at the Neelangarai Office in Chennai. On that day, the excitement was palpable as the awardees and managers gathered in the office premises. The excitement was twofold. One was the anticipation of the award itself. The second was the idea of meeting colleagues after such a long hiatus of the lockdown and the pandemic. Stepping into the office and seeing familiar surroundings and faces made the day into a celebration in itself. The senior managers and business unit heads gave away the awards, which consisted of a certificate of recognition, a beautiful medal in the shape of a 'Q' and cash prize. There were felicitation speeches by them applauding the awardees for their constant quest for quality and keeping up the same year after year. For the awardees, it was a day of validation of all the hard work. Some awardees also shared their thoughts and what made them tick. Few said that for them quality was a way of life and how it had become second nature. All in all, it felt as if there was a lot of satisfaction and pride in the Newgenites that the company recognized their efforts to keep up the quality of work despite the pandemic and remote work. The function ended with yummy samosas and tea and a lot of bonhomie.



Newgen’s Quality Award Winners (in Chennai) and their Managers.

LIST OF QUALITY AWARD WINNERS

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| ▶ Aarthi | ▶ Anita S | ▶ Balaji M. |
| ▶ Aarthi M. | ▶ Anjali Babu | ▶ Banupriya B. |
| ▶ Abdur | ▶ Arokia Anthuvan Rani | ▶ Bharathi |
| ▶ Abirami S. T. | ▶ Arokiaraj Prabhakar | ▶ Bharathi |
| ▶ Abraham Mathew | ▶ Arun Kumar | ▶ Bharathi Iyyappan |
| ▶ Akila Mari | ▶ Arun Kumar | ▶ Bharathvasan S |
| ▶ Ambily Sudhakar | ▶ Arun MR | ▶ Bhavana Nair |
| ▶ Anand | ▶ Arun Rajamuthu | ▶ Bhuvaneshwari J. |
| ▶ Anandakumar B. | ▶ Arunkumar Anbu | ▶ Bhuaneswari Ravi |
| ▶ Anandhamanimegalai | ▶ Asmath Begum M. A. | ▶ Bibin Savio |
| ▶ Pakkiri Amb | ▶ Asrar Ahamed | ▶ Brinda |
| ▶ Anandhan V. | ▶ Balachander F. | ▶ Brindha J. |
| ▶ Anees Fathima J. | ▶ Balaji Balakrishnan | ▶ Carolin Dennis |

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| ▶ Carthik Venkat B. | ▶ Hariharan Lakshmanan | ▶ Krishnamoorthy |
| ▶ Clement | ▶ Hariharan Ramalingam | ▶ Krishnaveni Ganta |
| ▶ D Manikandan | ▶ Haripriya | ▶ Kumaran Babu |
| ▶ David Raj M. | ▶ Harish KumarKrishnan | ▶ Lakshmi P. D. |
| ▶ Deepa Gopala Krishnan | ▶ Ilayaraja S. | ▶ Lakshmi Velumani |
| ▶ Deepak Santhosh | ▶ Inbakkavi P. T. | ▶ Lavanya Sathiyaseelan |
| ▶ Deva K. | ▶ Indrabai Lingeswaran | ▶ Loganayagi R. |
| ▶ Devanesan Devasagayam | ▶ Ishwarya S. | ▶ Logesh E. |
| ▶ Dhanalakshmi | ▶ J. Nirmalkumar | ▶ Loshma A. |
| ▶ Dharani Maniezhilan | ▶ Jagadeesan M. | ▶ Madhanraj T. |
| ▶ Dharani P. | ▶ Jagan Rajasekar | ▶ Mahalakshmi |
| ▶ Dharmabalan K. | ▶ Jawahar Babu | ▶ Mahalakshmi Ganesh |
| ▶ Dharmasamvardhini L | ▶ Jayalakshmi P. J. | ▶ Malini S. |
| ▶ Dharsan Raj R. | ▶ Jayanthi D. | ▶ Manikandan P. |
| ▶ Dheepa R. | ▶ Jayashree K. | ▶ Manoj Kumar V. |
| ▶ Dinakaran | ▶ Jayasree Venkatesan | ▶ Marie Therese Albina |
| ▶ Dinesh M. | ▶ Jegadeesan S. | ▶ Meena R. |
| ▶ Divya Guthi Lakshmana | ▶ Joseph H. | ▶ Meenakshi Gayathri S. |
| ▶ Divya M. | ▶ Jothi Basu G. | ▶ Menaka S. |
| ▶ Durgadevi R. | ▶ Kalaiarasi G. | ▶ Mohan A. |
| ▶ Elumalai | ▶ Kalimuthu K. | ▶ Mohan Durairaj |
| ▶ Eswari T. | ▶ Kamalakannan M. | ▶ Monesha Mohandas |
| ▶ Eswari N. | ▶ Kamali R. | ▶ Monica Karunakaran |
| ▶ Felshiya Samuel | ▶ Kamesh K. | ▶ Murali Dharmaraj |
| ▶ Ganesan G. | ▶ Kannan K. | ▶ Muralimohan |
| ▶ Ganesh | ▶ Karthick | ▶ Muthukumaran PM |
| ▶ Gayathri | ▶ Karthik | ▶ N. Raju |
| ▶ Gayathri S. V. | ▶ Karthika Natrajan | ▶ Nalini C. |
| ▶ Geethalakshmi M. | ▶ Karthikeyan A. | ▶ Nalini Velu |
| ▶ Gobivasan A. | ▶ Kaushik Dhar | ▶ Nanditha Devi B. M. |
| ▶ Gokul Raj V. | ▶ Kavi Arasu G. | ▶ Nanthabalaji K. S. |
| ▶ Gomathi Murthy | ▶ Kaviarasi G. | ▶ Narasiman |
| ▶ Gomathy Babu | ▶ Kavitha Dhandapani | ▶ Narayanan |
| ▶ Gowri | ▶ Kaviya M. | ▶ Narayanan K. |
| ▶ Grace Elizebath D. | ▶ Kishorekumar S. | ▶ Naveen Babu S. |

- ▶ Naveen Kumar Palani

▶ Nelson Murugesan

▶ Niessha Sankara Doss

▶ Nirmal Kumar Ramu

▶ Nirupama Murty

▶ Padmavathi G.

▶ Parthiban A.

▶ Parthiban Arumugam

▶ Parvathi G.

▶ Paushally Mozumder

▶ Pavithra Anandan

▶ Pavithra D.

▶ Pavithra Venkateson

▶ Periyadurai

▶ Perumal M.

▶ Ponneelan

▶ Ponraj

▶ Pooja E.

▶ Poongodi C.

▶ Prabakaran S.

▶ Prabha

▶ Prabhakar

▶ Prabhakaran P.

▶ Pradhiba

▶ Prasanna J.

▶ Prasanth P.

▶ Prasath

▶ Pratap Kumar P.

▶ Pravinbabu A.

▶ Premkumar M.

▶ Pritha

▶ Priya K.

▶ Priyanka M.
- ▶ Priyanka Rupak Karnik

▶ Purushothaman S.

▶ Radha Haridoss

▶ Raghu Radhamani

▶ Raghuraman G.

▶ Ragul

▶ Rahul Rajan P.

▶ Raja A.

▶ Rajeshkumar Govindaraj

▶ Rajeshwari R.

▶ Rajitha R.

▶ Rajkumar U.

▶ Rajni M. R.

▶ Ramaraj P.

▶ Rameshkumar M.

▶ Ramya

▶ Ramya Krishnan

▶ Renu

▶ Robin

▶ Rogini Krishnan

▶ Rohini Murugesan

▶ Ruthravel M.

▶ Sachuvwin

▶ Chakravarthy C.

▶ Samathanam Appas

▶ Sambathkumar S.

▶ Sandhanakumar

▶ Duraisamy

▶ Sandhiya Krishnan

▶ Sandhiya P.

▶ Santha Kumari J.

▶ Santhosh Kumar S.

▶ Saranraj D.
- ▶ Saranya A.

▶ Saranya Gandeegan

▶ Sarath Babu K.

▶ Saritha K.

▶ Sasi Rekha Thirunavukarasu

▶ Sasikala U.

▶ Sasikumar Duraikannu

▶ Sathish Vaithiyalingam

▶ Sathishkumar

▶ Sathishkumar M.

▶ Sathiyalatha S.

▶ Sathyavani

▶ Saurav Kumar

▶ Selvakumaran Palanivelu

▶ Senthil

▶ Seran S.

▶ Sethumathi G.

▶ Shameer Viyas

▶ Shangeish Raja D. E.

▶ Shankar

▶ Shankar Sagar R.

▶ Shanmuga Priya

▶ Sharla Samuel

▶ Shenbagam Ekambaram

▶ Shyamala

▶ Shyamala Devi G.

▶ Silambarsan S

▶ Singaravelan Ganesan

▶ Sivanandham A.

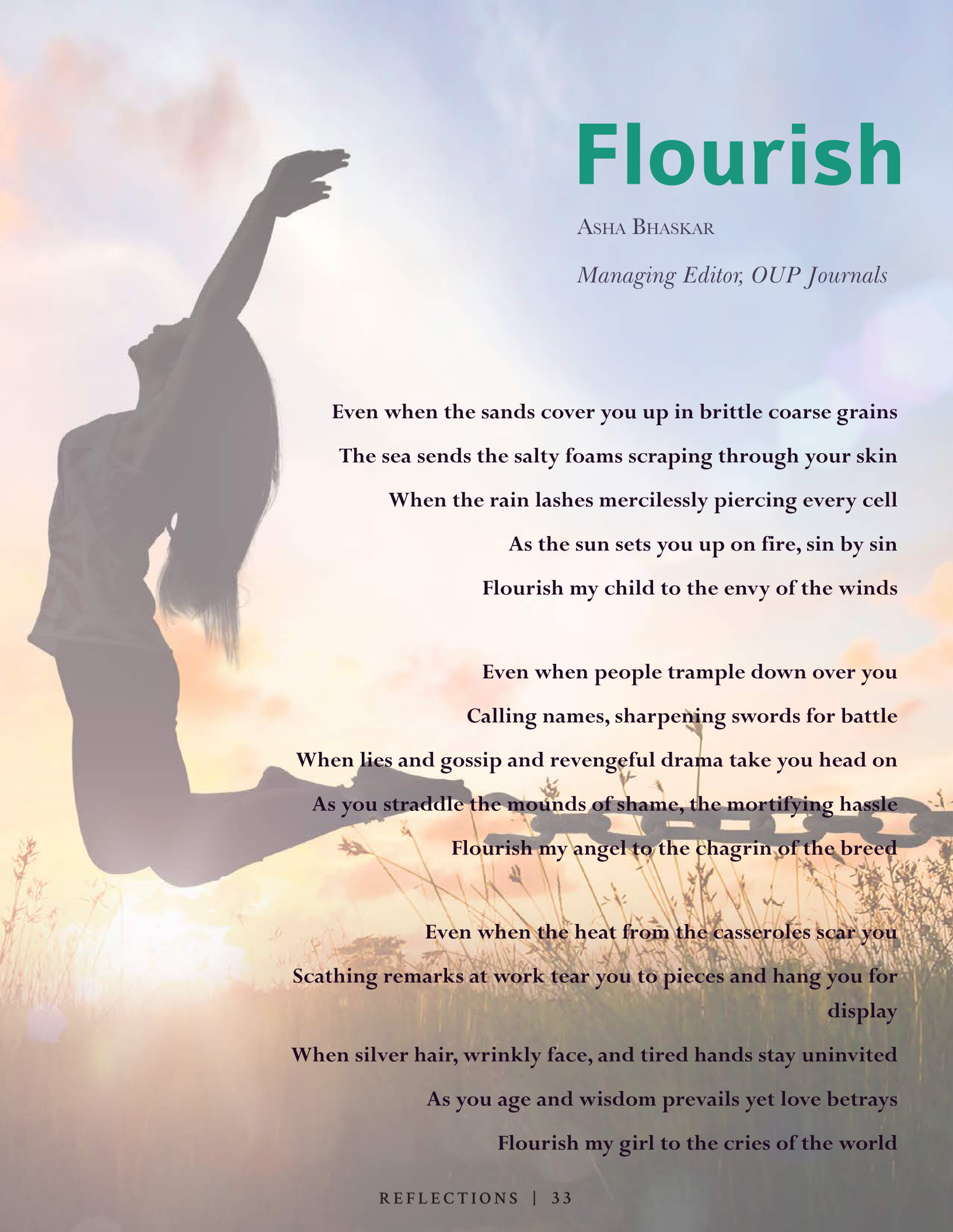
▶ Smilin Raja Thanislaus

▶ Sripriya M.

▶ Suba V.

▶ Subashini

Continued on page 64



Flourish

ASHA BHASKAR

Managing Editor, OUP Journals

Even when the sands cover you up in brittle coarse grains

The sea sends the salty foams scraping through your skin

When the rain lashes mercilessly piercing every cell

As the sun sets you up on fire, sin by sin

Flourish my child to the envy of the winds

Even when people trample down over you

Calling names, sharpening swords for battle

When lies and gossip and revengeful drama take you head on

As you straddle the mounds of shame, the mortifying hassle

Flourish my angel to the chagrin of the breed

Even when the heat from the casseroles scar you

Scathing remarks at work tear you to pieces and hang you for display

When silver hair, wrinkly face, and tired hands stay uninvited

As you age and wisdom prevails yet love betrays

Flourish my girl to the cries of the world



Ujwala Vaidya

Written for Reflections by

BIBI CHRISTA XAVIER

Her father named her with a lot of foresight! Ujwala meaning bright and lustrous!! Never have these predications seemed so accurate as with Ujwala: A family-oriented person who cares for her parents from the core of her heart, Ujwala is very idealistic, outspoken and possesses good oratory power and a towering confidence!!

A lustrous and fabulous person, Ujwala is a senior manager of the books copyediting team.

A pillar of support and inspiration behind the making of the person she is today is her father: “What I am today is because of the wonderful life lessons he taught me. My self-confidence, never-say-die attitude, holding my own in a male-dominated society were all because of his encouragement.”



With her best friends – her sisters (from the left): Deepali, Aarati, Ujwala and Alka.

Her father is no more ... he passed away suddenly when he was out walking. He was only 62! This song by Ned Miller personifies what her Dad was to her:

He couldn't move a mountain
Nor pull down a big old tree
But my daddy became a mighty big man
With a simple philosophy
Do what you do do well boy
Do what you do do well
Give your love and all of your heart
And do what you do do well

Ujwala was the first female engineer in her family and her first job was at a CNC machine tool company, which had no female employees. When others dithered, her father stood his ground to allow her to pursue her job at a hitherto all-male engineering company. Though a doctor by



With her husband, Vaidya.

profession, he was an engineer at heart. She recalls that there wasn't one repair work at home that he did not attempt. When it came to repairing a tube light or bulb, heater or mixer, clock or water valve, he had to try his hand at it himself.

A family of go-getters, Ujwala's husband Vaidya too is an inspiration! She is proud of her husband's achievements as much as she is to be her daddy's girl! Vaidya did his schooling in a mid-size town where resources and exposure were scarce, but has risen up in life and the corporate ladder purely through his own efforts! A self-made man, today he heads the global Data and AI-ML business for a multi-billion dollar IT company. He is also an excellent lawn tennis player. Currently he is eyeing the league cup and the amount of work he is putting toward that by way of fitness amazes and inspires her.

Hard work and dedication, standing one's ground and believing in one's own convictions are bound to inspire. True to it we see it in her son Udith's progress in life—his entry into IIT-Madras, a coveted job at Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and the icing on the cake, his MBA admission into Harvard Business School this year!! And adding yet another feather to her cap is her daughter

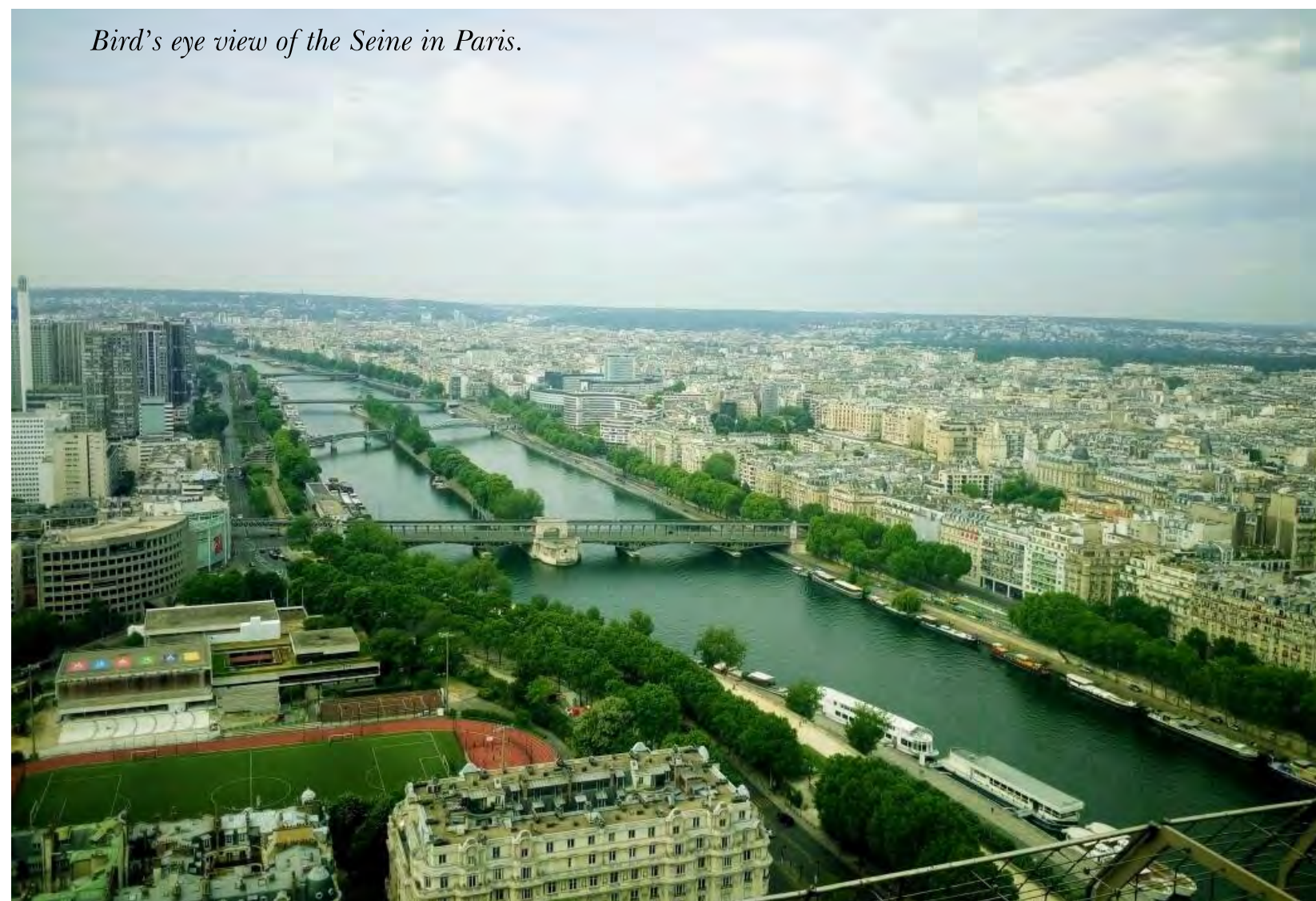


At Amsterdam with the windmills in the background.

(left) Ujwala's son Udith and daughter Shivani; (right) Ujwala and her husband in Amsterdam.

Shivani, whose election as Head Girl of her school she recalls with pride and as an indescribable moment in her life when she was up on the stage taking her oath. We see in Ujwala a loving daughter, a supportive and proud wife and a dedicated mother instilling in her children the values and confidence she had been instilled with.

She has brought in the same values to Newgen through nearly 11 years of committed service. Well-organized and meticulous in work she has risen in the ranks—from editing books to managing teams and zero-error quality checks to being senior manager of the books copyediting team. Though she took to the business of publishing and copyediting like a fish to water, Ujwala had to totally reinvent herself from her earlier job and skills. She did her schooling at Belgaum and BTech (E&C) at Hubli, both in Karnataka. Her first job in 1990 was at Kirloskar Warner Swasey, a hitech CNC machine manufacturing company. She was into software development for the sophisticated CNCs, which produced ultra-precision gun shells and other components for the Indian Ordnance Factory. She happened to be the first female employee and set the trend for others to follow. After moving to Chennai in 1992, she worked in NIIT for eight years and then moved as project manager to Calsoft Technologies. She joined Newgen in 2006, took a break in between, and returned to the fold in 2014.



Bird's eye view of the Seine in Paris.



On vacation with her family: (top left) At Switzerland; (top right) Amsterdam Square; (bottom left) Mount Titlis, Switzerland; (bottom right) at the Louvre, Paris.

Ujwala is a polyglot and is well versed in six languages. A self-made and determined woman, Ujwala has done it all through sheer grit and hard work. She says that it has become fashionable these days to say that “women have arrived,” “women have equal opportunities,” etc., but she believes we are far from that and we still have a long way to go. The fact that women are fighting all odds on so many levels and creating success stories is indeed commendable.

Ujwala resides in one of the most serene and calm localities of Chennai, that is, Valmiki Nagar, about 200 m from the sea. Abundant greenery and a thick canopy of huge avenue trees line the Seaward Roads, with birds chirping away even on the busiest of times, and the soothing sea breeze makes her residential location an envy of every Chennaite! What’s more, she grows a beautiful terrace garden and enjoys the sheer pleasure of watching every new leaf, shoot or flower! She files her own tax returns and she takes pride in that—as she should as only a handful of us can do that! Even Einstein couldn’t understand taxes!!

She loves music, mostly old Hindi and Kannada songs, her favourite though is “Tere bina zindagi se koi” from the film *Aandhi*. Ujwala believes that popular Hindi actress Madhuri Dixit can play her role if a movie of her life was ever made.

The world loves coffee and so does she; her biggest fear though is that the world will one day run out of coffee! Ujwala doesn’t get why some people are so obsessed with their phones and is bewildered by it! But bewildered are we that she journeyed to Iceland for a vacation! She holds within her a desire to travel the world, learn to play the guitar, and settle in a place amid nature, sustaining herself through farming!

For the woman that she is, what brings Ujwala to her knees are sweet treats! All weight loss goals and resolve for a fitness regimen melt at the first sight of a gulab jamoon or a jilebi!

She loves to read, her favourite novels being the Marathi novel *Mrutyunjaya* on the Mahabharata tragic-hero Karna and *The Palace of Illusions*, by Chitra Banerjee, which tells the same story but from a different perspective. She also loves sci-fic, thrillers and whodunits. If there is one thing she would love doing the old-fashioned way, it would be to write letters by hand.

While a good eight hours of sleep relaxes her and a session of yoga or an enthralling book recharge her, it is a good chat with her kids that makes her day.

We see in her a yearning for her father: “I would want to hug my father. I did not get to see him one last time. If I had that superpower I would time travel and do just that,” she says while holding dear a beautiful wine-coloured sari gifted by her mom.

A successful woman is the least one can say of Ujwala. She owes it all to her father: “At every step in life, his voice is the voice of reason in my head,” she says.

Exploring the mystery of locks on bridges on the Seine, Paris.

Dipak Shaw

Written for Reflections by

BIBI CHRISTA XAVIER

Dipak hails from Kolkata, the city of joy. Having done his schooling from St. Xavier's Collegiate School, Kolkata, which is ranked amongst the best schools in India, he went on to complete his graduation in Physics, followed by his engineering degree in Mechanical and then his specialization in Electronics and Telecom Engineering, and finally a stint in management from XLRI.

Dipak is the first person to be working independently as a professional in a family which has an ancestral legacy of businessmen. He recollects his childhood days when West Bengal was going through a lot of political turbulence in the 1970s, fuelled by labour unions, factory strikes and Naxalite movement. At one point of time, the family was forced to



(top) *In San Diego, CA;* (bottom left) *At the Louvre Museum, Paris,* (bottom right) *At Brussels.*



(above) *A birthday party mid-air on the Mumbai–Delhi flight, courtesy of the Jet Airways crew;*
(below) *inside a submarine in San Diego.*



leave Kolkata under life-threatening circumstances and had to remain in hiding for a few months when Dipak was barely 10 years old.

In his early life, his main area of obsession was electronic circuits, and he successfully assembled a transistor radio and other circuitry when he was in class 8. Pursuing his hobby fervently, he used to spend a good amount of time assembling and repairing stereo amplifiers, tape recorders, televisions and guitar amplifiers for his friends and neighbours. He had a room piled up with gadgets, wires and electronic components strewn all over, much to the dislike of his parents.

Dipak was an active member of the students' union in college and was popular for his speeches and social activities. While in college, his other hobbies were playing the guitar and the musical keyboard. His dream was to go abroad and do research in robotics having studied the combination of Mechanical and Electronics engineering. However, his dreams fell short of transforming into reality when he lost his father at the tender age of 26.

Dazzled by the fast life and glamour of the corporate world, he decided to move away from the family businesses and try his mettle in a reputed company named DPS based in Kolkata. His first job was working on the hardware of the IBM Mainframe computer in 1985. He recollects the 64 kb RAM of the computer system which was the size of a deep freezer and the tape drives that were the size of full-sized wardrobes. With thousands of electro-mechanical devices installed in the systems, it used to be a scary affair working with high voltages like 440 volts AC and low voltages like 12 volts DC and 5 volts DC in the same unit.

Dipak then moved to the world of microfilm and its associated computer-controlled equipment. After a thorough training at 3M Singapore, he went on to become an expert in this field and provided solutions and training to a number of public sector undertakings (PSUs) in India and companies in South East Asia. He also completed some very large microfilming projects involving millions of documents and engineering drawings along with their indexing and complex computer-aided retrieval systems. Dipak cherishes in him a passion for digital electronics. He can give impromptu presentations on several topics like digital archives, digitization of books and newspapers, automation workflows, robotic process automation (RPA), etc. However, surprisingly, he says he prefers a wired telephone instrument for a phone call for a long conversation instead of mobiles that are prone to poor signals and call drops.

In 1991, Dipak married Sunita whose culinary proficiency with respect to both Indian and Continental cuisine was widely appreciated amongst his friends, colleagues and relatives. It is no wonder that Dipak and his guests still relish the home-cooked starters, main course and desserts without having to go to a restaurant.

In the early 1990s, document digitization came into existence and so did CD-writers and CR-ROMs. Dipak remembers setting up the production workflow with the hardware and software pieces to successfully complete a pan-India digitization project involving 6.5 million documents that were put on CD-ROMs for the client. The 1X CD writers in those days used to be very expensive and so were the blank CDs. One had to wait anxiously for 40 minutes after inserting a CD into the writer for it to get successfully written. He fondly remembers the decorative pile up of defective CDs in his workplace.

After document scanning, OCR, SGML and XML tagging were soon to follow and Dipak created one of the first split screen computer programs in the late 1990s for semi-automating the tagging process. He went on to set up and subsequently head the business unit for SPI projects, and in the process grew his team to 550 people.

In the interim, he was blessed with his son Rohit and a few years later, with his daughter Rittika. The birth of his daughter was tragic as she did not cry or breathe when she was born. After 20 minutes, a slight movement was seen and her heart started to beat. She was immediately put in an incubator but the tests revealed that she had had a brain haemorrhage and there was a 2 cc clot in her brain. After a few months of treatment, she appeared to be normal but one day the child specialist declared her to be a spastic child with cerebral palsy. It was very difficult for Dipak and his wife Sunita to accept that their daughter could be spastic and they stopped going to this doctor altogether in disbelief. After trying out several doctors in different cities and several types of treatment for several years, they realized that cerebral palsy was incurable and they learned to come to terms with fate and find happiness in their special child.

After having spent 40 years in Kolkata, Dipak decided to explore better opportunities and left Kolkata and moved to Bangalore, and then to Hyderabad and Chennai and finally decided to settle in Delhi in 2007. Gradually he migrated into the publishing industry having worked with companies like Apex, Aptara and Contentra.

Dipak has been very mobile in his career with respect to his places of work and he moved back to Chennai to work with Lumina Datamatics in 2015 and then joined Newgen in 2019. Eventually, Newgen's work from home policy helped him to relocate back to his home in Delhi.

He reminisces his initial days in Newgen and the cultural shifts he could feel immediately after joining: the casual dress code, the open seating arrangement and the working atmosphere being some of them. Taking Newgen's cultural shift into his stride, Dipak was able to attract industry talent to form a good technology team and gradually transformed it into a revenue-earning business unit. Every bit of success for him or for his team makes his day better, he says.



(top) *Being cornered at Universal Studios; (bottom) Dipak with his family.*



(top left) *At Las Vegas; (top right) At Amsterdam; (bottom) In Bucharest, Romania.*



(above) *A young Dipak.*





Rohit in a Flying Club in Lelystaad trying his hand at flying a two-seater Cessna with his trainer.

unanimously nominated as the president of his co-operative housing society. It is no surprise that several friends, colleagues and neighbours go to him pretty often seeking advice on career, children's education, travel, technology, computer hardware and software. Dipak is a good host, loves food and loves to party. He is adept at making cocktails and he usually has guests over the weekends. He recharges by relaxing at home and watching an action movie on a big screen with a home theatre. But one thing he fails to understand is why people are so fanatically obsessed with film stars as they get paid to 'act' as per the directions given to them and are not super heroes in real life as people tend to think. Even the stunts they perform are done by their body doubles.

If money and time weren't an issue he says he would spend time doing research in robotics. Currently he is working on understanding Metaverse and the AR/VR technology. And, if he could have one superpower, he says it would be to make everyone smile and be happy!

With a career spanning over three decades and a half with vast knowledge in electronics and digitization, it is no surprise that Dipak has been a frequent flyer. He had to travel a lot in India and abroad, with the United States being the farthest. He recalls that the highest number of flights in a calendar year was close to a hundred. He fondly remembers having cut cakes during one of his birthdays in 2 different cities and the 3rd one while on a Mumbai-Delhi flight (courtesy the crew of Jet Airways, who used to treat their Platinum customers very well).

He had cherished in him a dream of going abroad to do research on robotics. This he realized by sending his son to the Netherlands for higher studies. Rohit now works as a data scientist in Amsterdam. Along with his office work and family chores, Dipak also takes care of social responsibility having been



குழந்தையாகவே இருந்திருக்கலாம்*

INBAKKAVI PT, *Senior Executive XML, CBPT*

கருவறை இருளும்
கதகதப்பும்,
மொத்த அன்பும்
எனக்கு மட்டுமே
நிரந்திரமாய் இருந்திருந்தால்
குழந்தையாகவே இருந்திருக்கலாம்..

இன்முகம் காணும் நாளை நோக்கி
வரம் என எண்ணிக் காத்திருக்கும்
ஆவலைக் காணவே
குழந்தையாகவே இருந்திருக்கலாம்...

அளவில்லாமல் கொஞ்சும்
அம்மாவும்,
போட்டிப் போட்டு கொள்ளும்
அப்பாவும்,
பாசத்தால் மோதிக்குள்ள
குழந்தையாகவே இருந்திருக்கலாம்..

திருஷ்டிப் பொட்டும்
கண்ணுக்கு மையும்
அலங்காரமாய் வேசமிட்டு

ஒவ்வொரு நாளும்
புதுப்புதுப் பெயரால் அழைக்கும்
பாட்டிக்காவே
குழந்தையாகவே இருந்திருக்கலாம்..

அழுகரல் கேட்டவுடன்
ஆளுக்குகொருப் பக்கமாய்
பதறி அடித்து
தூக்கி அள்ளி
தூளியில் ஆட்டி
நிம்மிதியாய்
உறக்கம் கொள்வதற்காகவே
குழந்தையாகவே இருந்திருக்கலாம்..

என் வாழ்நாளில்
நீயில்லாத "ஒருநாள்" வருமென
முன்னமே அறிந்திருந்தால்
குழந்தையாகவே இருந்திருக்கலாம்..

அம்மா உன் அரவணைப்பில்
குழந்தையாகவே இருந்திருக்கலாம்.....!!!!

* The poet talks about a grown-up woman/daughter missing her mother and longing for the days when she was a child and spent happy days with her mother.

Parents meeting.



Back to Joy in a Healing Space

RAGAVAN

Nandavanam Center for Learning

After being at home for nearly 2 years, spending time with their dear parents and neighbors, online classes to connect with, the friendly home environment, our children were now ready to come back to school. The place where they ran all around with all smiles and the place where they kept learning things. To them it is the garden where they can bloom – Nandavanam is the name of their heaven after all. So, coming back to school and finding out where joy resides and giving it a voice far beyond singing was truly magical. Here we are BACK TO JOY.



(top) Morning circles are a blessing!; (bottom) Coming together again!

(top) The joy of reunion; (bottom) Restarting the kitchen garden.





(left) *Together after a long time;* (right) *Cooking together!*

On 13 June 2022, it was a very pleasant morning when finally the gates of Nandavanam were opened for all the children. There were greetings, hand shakes and high fives all around. So many tales to share with each other. The wait is finally over. Just before the reopening we had a meeting with all the parents regarding the transition and to address the well-being of our community. We had a welcoming session: our morning circle with all the children gathered together in our great hall. Yes, after a long time, the familiar sounds seemed different. The excitement was truly overwhelming. Followed by a small play performed by our staff showing the transition from online to physical schooling, we also sang songs to celebrate the reopening. Children were enjoying themselves and seemed to adapt well to the transition.

A few of our children wanted to share their experiences at home during the pandemic. One particular child said that he went to his father's workshop daily during the pandemic and he wanted to express his feelings towards his work which in turn helped his father. Another shared that he helped his father in cleaning his autorickshaw and that he was also very happy that he was rewarded for his work. And just like that every child had something to share with the rest of us. The reopening of the center has really helped them unfold new dreams for the academic year. The children were very much involved in the activities, especially because they were back in familiar surroundings. They settled with ease with the rhythm at school. We are very grateful to have this environment where children can thrive well.

பிஷ் பிங்கர்ஸ்

SHANTHI S

Project Manager, OUP Books

“அம்மா, நான் வேலைக்கு போயிட்டு வரேன், நாளைக்கு அங்க விசேஷம்
அதனால் இன்னைக்கு வேலை அதிகமா இருக்கும். நான் வரவே
சாயங்காலம் ஆயிடும். அம்மாவ எதிர்பாக்காம கஞ்சி காசி
குடுங்க”ன்னு சொன்னா ராணி.

“சரிம்மா நாங்க பாத்துக்கறோம்”னு மழலை மணம் மாறாத குரலில் பதில்
சொன்னார்கள் ராதாவும் கமலாவும்.

ராணி வேலை பாக்கற அப்பார்ட்மெண்ட்ல பார்ட்டி பண்ணலாமுன்னு முடிவு செய்யப்பட்டு மீட்டிங் ராணி வேலை செய்யற வீட்ல நடந்தது. எல்லா வீட்டு முதலாளியும் அங்கே வந்து இருந்தாங்க.

“ராக் கேஷ்! நீங்க என்ன சொல்றிங்க? நான் வெஜி உங்களுக்கு ஒகே” தானனு கேட்ட ரீட்டா.

“எஸ்! எஸ்! ஒகே! பட் மெனு என்னனு சொல்லவே இல்லையே” ன்னு கேட்டான் ராக் கேஷ்.

“மட்டன் பிரியாணி, மட்டன் சுக்கா, சிக்கன் தந்தூரி, எக்க் கிரேவி, பிரான் பஜ்ஜி, பிஷ் பிங்கர்ஸ், கிராப் ப்ரை அவ்ளோ தான், மெனு ஒகேவா” ன்னு ரீட்டா கேட்டாள்.

“மெம்பெர்ஸ் எத்தனை பேர்?” னு கேட்டான் ராக் கேஷ். “15 பேமிலி பிளஸ் மெய்ட்ஸ் சேத்து டோடல்லி 50” ரீட்டா பதில் சொன்னாள்.

அனைவரும் ஒரு மனதாக மெனுவை ஒப்புக்கொண்டனர். ராணி கிட்சன்ல இருந்து எல்லாரும் சொன்னதை கேட்டுக்கிட்டா. அவ பிள்ளைகள் இதையெல்லாம் சாப்பிட்டா ரொம்ப சந்தோஷ படுவாங்கனு நெனச்சா.

அவ முதலாளி அம்மா ரீட்டா கிட்சன்குள்ள வந்தா. “அம்மா! இவ்வளோ சொல்றிங்களே இதையெல்லாம் ஒரே நேரத்துல சாப்பிடவா?” என கேட்டாள் ராணி.

“ஏன் ராணி? நம்பளா சமைக்க போறோம் குக் தான செய்ய போறாங்க” னு சிரிச்சிகிட்டே போனா ரீட்டா.

ராணி மனசுல பாத்திரத்தை நான் தான கழுவணும்னு நெனச்ச ஆனா வெளிய சொல்லல. மறுநாள் ராணி அவ பிள்ளைகள் கூட்டிகிட்டு அவ வேல செய்யற இடத்துக்கு வந்தா. விழா முடிஞ்சி எல்லாரும் சாப்பிட உட்காந்தாங்க.

கமலா ஒரு மூலையிலேயும் ராதா மறு மூலையிலேயும் உட்காந்தாங்க. சாப்பாடு பரிமாற பட்டது, மொதல்ல பிரியாணி அப்புறம் ஒரு ஒரு பொருளா இலையில வச்சாங்க. இலையே நெறஞ்சி இருந்தது.

ராதாவும் கமலாவும் இதையெல்லாம் கேள்வி பட்டது கூட இல்ல. ரொம்ப சந்தோஷமா சாப்பிட ஆரம்பிச்சாங்க. ராக் கேஷ் ரொம்ப கோபமா ராதாவை நோக்கி ஓடி வந்தான்.

“எந்திரி, உன்ன யார் உள்ள விட்டது? கதவு தொறந்து இருந்தா நேரா உள்ள வந்துடுவியா” ன்னு திட்ட ஆரம்பித்தான். ராதா பயந்து நடுங்கினாள்.

ராணி வேகமா ஓடி வந்தாள். “ஐயா! திட்டாதீங்க, அவ என் மக தா” ன்னு பதட்டத்துடன் கூறினாள்.

“நீ இங்க வேல செய்யறதால உனக்கு தான் சோறு போட முடியும், உன் வீட்ல இருந்து எல்லாரையும் ஓசி சாப்பாடு சாப்பிட கூட்டிகிட்டு வந்துட்டியா” ன்னு கோபமா கத்தினான் ராக் கேஷ்.

ராணி கோபத்தையும் அவமானத்தையும் அடக்கி கொண்டு அமைதியாக நின்றாள்.

“இதனால தான் இந்த பிச்சைகாரங்களை உள்ள விட வேணாமின்னு சொன்னேன்” கொந்தளித்தான் ராக் கேஷ். ராணிக்கு கோபம் பீறிட்டு வந்தது.

“போதும் சார்! நாங்க ஒன்னும் பிச்சைகாரங்க இல்ல, ஏழைங்க. ரெண்டுக்கும் வித்தியாசம் இருக்கு சார். நாங்க ஒழுச்சி தான் சாப்புடுறோம் பிச்சை எடுத்து இல்ல.

தெனமும் நீங்க எவ்ளோ சாப்பாட கீழ கொட்றிங்கனு பாத்துகிட்டு தான் இருக்கேன்.

குப்பையிலே போட்டா கூட சந்தோச பட்றிங்க ஆனா மாடா உழைக்கிற எங்களுக்கு கொடுக்க உங்களுக்கு மனசு வரமெடுத்து. இவ்ளோ பேர் சப்படறாங்க ஏன் புள்ள சாப்படறது உங்களுக்கு புடிக்கல. நான் இந்த அப்பார்ட்மெண்ட்ல 3 வீட்ல வேல செய்றேன், 3 சாப்பாடு சாப்பிட எனக்கு உரிமை இருக்கு. ஏன் பிள்ளைகளை சாப்பிட வச்சா என்ன தப்பு. ஏழைகளை அவ்ளோ கேவலமா நெனைக்காதிங்க நீங்க சாப்பிட இலையை எடுக்க கூட எங்களை மாதிரி ஒரு ஏழைய தான் எதிர்பாப்பிங்க, ஆனா நாங்க அப்டி இல்ல, யாரோட உதவியும் எப்பவும் எதிர் பாக்க மாட்டோம்.”

பேசிக்கொண்டே பிள்ளைகளுடன் வெளியேற ஆரம்பித்தாள் ராணி. வேலை போனாலும் பரவாயில்ல ஏழையோட சுய மரியாதைதான் முக்கியம்னு அம்மா பேசுனாங்கனு கூட புரியாத பிள்ளைகள்,

“கமலா! நீ பிங்கர் பிஷ் சாப்டியா? நான் சாப்பிடவே இல்ல” னு சொன்னா ராதா. “நான் சாப்பிட்டேன்! ரொம்ப டேஸ்ட் டா இருந்துச்சி. முள்ளே இல்ல தெரியுமா” னு சொன்ன கமலா. “சே! அந்த மாமா கொஞ்சம் லேட்டா வந்து இருந்தா நான் சாப்பிட்டு இருப்பேன்” னு சொல்லி ரொம்ப வறுத்த பட்ட ராதா ...



Shahi Tukda (Bread Dessert)

DHANASHREE PHADKE

Lead – Emeritus account Instructional Design team

INGREDIENTS

- ▶ 1:1 water and sugar ($\frac{1}{2}$ cup water : $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar)
- ▶ 6 strands of saffron
- ▶ 3 cups milk
- ▶ 2 pinches of powdered green cardamom
- ▶ 2 crushed black cardamom or elachi
- ▶ $\frac{1}{2}$ cup ghee
- ▶ 5 slices of bread
- ▶ A handful of almonds, cashews, pistachios, chopped

INSTRUCTIONS

- ▶ **Preparing the sugar syrup:** Heat sugar along with water in a saucepan. After the sugar dissolves, add the saffron strands. Boil the syrup till it is of two-string consistency. When you take the sugar syrup between two fingers, like the forefinger and thumb, a two-string consistency is formed when two threads are formed and do not break when the fingers are pulled apart gently. Once done, set it aside.
- ▶ **Making the rabdi or rabri:** In another pan, boil the milk on medium flame till it reduces to about $\frac{1}{4}$ th of its original quantity. Stir continuously. Once the milk is reduced, add cardamom powder and $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the sugar syrup (prepared in step 1) and mix well. Continue to heat it by stirring continuously for 5 more minutes. Once done, remove the pan from the flame and your rabri is ready. Keep aside until required.
- ▶ **Shallow frying the bread slices:** Next, take the bread slices and cut off their sides, and slice them into two triangles. Heat the ghee in a pan and shallow fry the bread until they are crisp and golden brown on each side. Once the bread slices are fried, soak each slice in the remaining sugar syrup (prepared in step 1) for about a minute. Arrange the breads on a serving dish, pour the rabdi over the bread slices and garnish with chopped dry fruits.



(Semolina) Rava Ladoo

DHANASHREE PHADKE

Lead – Emeritus account Instructional Design team

INGREDIENTS

- ▶ 1 tsp ghee
- ▶ 2 cups fine rava/sooji (semolina)
- ▶ 1 cup sugar
- ▶ 3/4 cup water
- ▶ 1/4 tsp cardamom or elachi powder
- ▶ Saffron (optional)
- ▶ Dry fruits (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

- ▶ Heat up a pan and add the ghee.
- ▶ Add rava (semolina) and roast it on a medium flame for about 7–8 minutes. Stir continuously to make sure that the rava does not change its color.
- ▶ Turn off the stove and let the roasted rava cool down.
- ▶ Next, heat the sugar with the water and bring it to a boil. When the sugar dissolves and the mixture boils, reduce the heat to medium. Continue to cook for 7–8 minutes more or until the syrup gets single strand consistency. To check the consistency take some syrup in a spoon and let it cool down. When it cools down, check the consistency by taking the syrup in 2 fingers, like your forefinger and thumb. Pull your fingers apart gently. The syrup should have single-strand consistency and it should be nice and a little thick.
- ▶ Turn off the gas and add the cardamom powder. You can also add saffron or dry fruits if you want.
- ▶ Add the roasted rava to the syrup and mix well.
- ▶ Cover and rest the laddoo mixture for about 1½ hours.
- ▶ Roll into small laddoos and store in an air-tight container.



Recipes by Dhanashree Phadke

A hardcore foodie and a chatterbox, Dhanashree Phadke is a true Cancerian package. She has done her Master's in English Literature and has 15+ years of experience in the Instructional Design and e-learning field. At Newgen, she leads the Emeritus account Instructional Design team and has a team of 12 instructional designers (the majority of whom are women). Women Power!

In her spare time, she likes to spend time in her garden and takes up DIY projects.



- ▶ Sucharitha
- ▶ Sudha
- ▶ Suganthi M.
- ▶ Suganya Srinivasan
- ▶ Suja A.
- ▶ Suma George
- ▶ Suma S.
- ▶ Sumalatha S.
- ▶ Sumitha B.
- ▶ Suprabath S.
- ▶ Suresh Balaji D.
- ▶ Suresh Ramachandran
- ▶ Susidharan R.
- ▶ Sweetlin Ajitha

- ▶ Thamizhkumaran N.
- ▶ Thenmozhi S.
- ▶ Thennavan M.
- ▶ Thirumal M.
- ▶ Thirumaran Manivannan
- ▶ U. Jagan
- ▶ Ujwala
- ▶ Uma A.
- ▶ Uma Nazareth
- ▶ Ushapriya N.
- ▶ Uthayagiri Murugesan
- ▶ V. Suyambu Selvi
- ▶ V. R. Saranya
- ▶ VanaRoja

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- ▶ Vanathi Kaliyamoorthi
- ▶ Vani Vidya Radhakrishnan
- ▶ Vanitha Siva
- ▶ Vasantha Kumar S.
- ▶ Velavan BS
- ▶ Vengatesh Govindaraj
- ▶ Venkat Raman R.
- ▶ Vidhya
- ▶ Vignesh S.
- ▶ Vijay R.
- ▶ Vijayalakshmi N. M.
- ▶ Vinothini
- ▶ Yayathiraju T.
- ▶ Yogeswari J.



Sketches by Hina Khaire

Lead – Emeritus Account Visual Designer

A creative bug since her childhood, Hina Khaire inherited this talent from her mother. She enjoys working on DIY projects at home and got guidance to turn this passion into a profession from her instructor on painting. She completed Commercial Arts from Abhinav College, Pune. Hina has around 9 years of work experience, having worked for different media companies in print media, social media and working in the e-learning sector for the past 3

years. She joined Newgen in April 2021 as a Sr. Associate – Visual Design and currently leads the Emeritus Account as a Visual Designer with a team of 21 video developers. Her team creates videos for corporate learning professionals using Adobe After Effects. Hina is proud to have a bunch of creative and enthusiastic team members and loves working with them!



Phoenix.



6th Miyawaki Urban Forest

An update on

Nammavanam by Nandavanam

FRANKLIN JEBAKUMAR

*Coordinator of Nandavanam
Eco-Tree Project*

The formal inauguration of the 6th Miyawaki Urban Forest by Nandavanam took place on 8 July 2022 on the completion of the plantation drives. The programme started as the chief guest and other dignitaries arrived at the CRPF premises at 10.30 a.m. Mr. M Dinakaran, DIGP of CRPF Avadi welcomed the guests. Dr. Alby John, IAS, the District Collector of Thiruvallur inaugurated the project by planting



tree saplings. The children from the Nandavanam Center for Learning also planted along with him and switched on the automated drip irrigation system initiated at the project area by Nandavanam. Micky Joseph shared his experience of creating the Miyawaki Projects in urban areas. This was followed by Preetha Srinivasan, the Managing Trustee of Nandavanam, who gave the vote of thanks. The volunteers from Botree International Pvt. Ltd. continued with the plantation.

This project is within the CRPF campus, Avadi. The total area is 2.25 acres and 7,500 native tree saplings of 52 varieties were planted densely with proper manure and support sticks. The plants will be cared for by Nandavanam for the next 5 years with the support of volunteers until they become self-sustainable.

