

CONNECT



bakertilly

ASA

Rise & Thrive...

Quarterly Newsletter of BAKER TILLY ASA India

Volume 33 | Issue 2 | Jul-Sep 2024

Beyond the summit: Sasha's Journey to Thrive

Sasha stood at the foot of the mountain, the icy wind tugging at her jacket. This was the day she had waited for-months of training, self-doubt, and quiet moments of questioning. Could she do it? Climbing the mountain had always been a metaphor in her life, a challenge she never seemed ready to face.

A year ago, she wouldn't have dared. But life had a way of breaking and rebuilding her. When her small business collapsed and her confidence crumbled, Sasha felt defeated. But in that dark moment,

something stirred within her-a flicker of resilience she didn't know she had. She realized it wasn't about avoiding failure but rising from it.

She started small - learning a new skill, connecting with supportive people, and most importantly, silencing the inner voice that said she wasn't enough. Day by day, she built herself back up, stronger this time, until the thought of conquering something as daunting as the mountain didn't scare her anymore.

Now, standing here, she inhaled deeply and began the climb. It wasn't just about reaching the summit; it was about proving to herself that she could rise beyond her limitations and thrive. Each step up the rocky terrain wasn't just physical-it was a reminder of her journey. She had faced her doubts, embraced her fears, and had risen, not just to survive but to thrive.

As she reached the peak, the view wasn't just breathtaking; it was a reflection of her inner strength. She had risen, and she would continue to thrive.

CONTENTS

- 3 Technical Events
- 5 Safety Tips
- 6 Teachers Day
- 8 Celebrations Galore
- 9 Empowered through the Lens
- 10 Olympic Excellence
- 11 Travelogues
- 14 Fun 'N' Frolic
- 19 Coffee with Connect
- 20 Caricatures





A WORD FROM OUR MANAGING PARTNER

We are, but an extension of nature. When we are in sync with it, we are at our mental and physical best. I read Sasha's journey to the summit top. A reflection of our struggles where summit is but a metaphor of our own fears. She started with self-doubt and concludes with joy on achieving her best. She was one with Nature.

I noticed that much of this magazine is about our interactions with Nature. Be it the travelogues, taking us across Hemkund Sahib, Lea's adventures in Borneo, wedding followed elephant camp escapades, GNR on the prowl of the elusive cat in Sundarbans or Monsoon treks – each a story of connecting with nature. Even our winning photographs were similarly themed. It is an indication of what we seek. Harmony with nature, our creator and our teacher.

On the other end, delighted that we continue to share knowledge within and outside the organisation. Pleased too that we are productively reaching out to clients and opportunities across the globe. I am well aware of the effort each places to depict the firm in even better light, and that too with great pride. And it was with that very pride that we celebrated together, be it Independence Day, Ganesh Chaturthi, friendship Day, to name a few. Not to forget, we celebrate Francesca, who got a global recognition for her leadership. Inspiring!

Let me now leave you to discover the real Pankaj, Tarun and Ramakrishnan, where you would note a common thread – the desire to learn, grow and improve.

This walk down the memory lane brought much joy to my heart as I wistfully look forward to what the holiday season has in store before we fly into an action filled 2025.

I wish you all peace within and peace around.

Best regards

Ajay Sethi

Empowerment is not about giving people power, it's about reminding them that they already have it.

Carol Buchner



EVENTS AND WEBINARS

[Sunil Arora](#) shared insights on international tax developments in India at the inaugural of Baker Tilly Asia-Pacific Tax Seminar in Singapore, which brought together partners and directors from across the Asia-Pacific network



Congratulations [Francesca Lagerberg](#), CEO of Baker Tilly International, on being named Personality of the Year at the International Accounting Forum and Awards! Her exceptional leadership deserves this honor.



Dentons Link Legal, in collaboration with ASA, hosted an insightful webinar focused on "Aligning CROs: Integrating Clinical Trials with Forensics and Legal Compliance." The session addressed critical regulatory, data integrity, legal, and ethical challenges faced by the industry. [Bhushan Sharma](#) moderated the webinar while industry experts shared valuable insights on navigating complexities to ensure patient safety, uphold data integrity, maintain ethical conduct, and promote cross-functional collaboration.



ASA held an insightful webinar focused on the key impacts of Budget 2024. Participants explored direct and indirect tax amendments, key policy changes, and their implications. The session concluded with an engaging Q&A, allowing attendees to delve deeper into the topics discussed.



TECHNICAL EVENTS

Ajay Sethi and **Himanshu Srivastava** participated in the Indo-Australian Chamber of Commerce India 21st Business Mission across Australia - Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. Ajay had the incredible opportunity to meet the Honourable PM Anthony Albanese. He launched the 'Doing Business In India Guide' at the Queensland parliament and the Sydney Opera House and made a presentation on India entry strategy. He also met colleagues at Pitcher Partners

While Petula Thomas, CEO IACC moderated the panel on Digital transformation, Ambassador **Deepa Wadhwa**, was a panelist for the session - 'Interwoven Identities: Cultural Synergy and Global Perspectives - Lessons for Australia-India Collaborations.



Parveen Kumar joined 'The Finance Story' for an engaging conversation about what it takes to become an Auditor today. He discussed his career journey at ASA and how he began in the field, highlighting the key qualities needed to become a leader in Assurance. While exploring the evolving role of auditors in India and the trends shaping the future of the profession, he also addressed the impact of stricter regulations from bodies like NFRA on the auditing landscape.

Giridharan DK and **Sathyabama Rangarajan** attended 20th CFO Vision & Innovation Summit & Awards 2024 held in Chennai and shared insights on various topics.



On Audit Day, the Auditing & Assurance Standards Board (AASB) of ICAI organized a conference where **Parveen Kumar** moderated an insightful session on the evolving role of auditors focusing on key topics like Non-GAAP & ESG transformation, audit trails, ICFR, and more.



Congratulations to **G N Ramaswami** on being appointed as vice president of the Society of Auditors, Chennai.

Government-Backed Safety Apps

112 India App

This official app by the Indian government integrates emergency services—police, fire, and ambulance—into one platform. With a tap or shake, you can send an SOS alert, sharing your exact location for a quick response.

Himmat Plus (Delhi Police)

Specifically designed for women's safety in Delhi, it connects to the police control room. The SOS button sends real-time location, audio, and video evidence directly to authorities.

Women-Oriented Safety Initiatives

She Teams (Hyderabad)

Cities like Hyderabad have introduced She Teams, i.e. special police units who take immediate action against harassment cases and create a safer environment for women.



Personal Safety Apps

Raksha - Women Safety Alert

Raksha works without internet connectivity, offering a quick SOS feature that sends your location to pre-set emergency contacts with just one touch.

Safetipin

Safetipin rates areas based on safety parameters like street lighting and public transport. It also allows live location sharing with trusted contacts.

Safety Features in Travel Apps

Ola, Uber and Rapido

- These apps offer SOS buttons that contact emergency services and allow you to share your ride details and live location with friends or family for real-time updates.
- During late-night rides, customer care checks in to confirm if you've reached your destination.
- If your vehicle remains stationary in an isolated area, they call to ensure your safety.

Built-In Smartphone Features for Instant Help

Emergency SOS on Android and iOS

Pressing the power button several times activates an SOS call, alerting local emergency services and sharing your real-time location with your emergency contacts.

Google Maps Live Location Sharing

Share your live location with friends or family directly from Google Maps for real-time tracking.

Community and Social Safety Platforms

CitizenCOP

CitizenCOP allows users to anonymously report suspicious activities or crimes to the local police. It also includes a feature to verify vehicle and driver details, enhancing safety during travel.

Safe City App

Safe City crowdsources harassment reports, helping authorities to identify public safety hotspots and improve community safety.

Tips & Tricks

BE AWARE
& CAUTIOUS

TRACK YOUR
DESTINATION

BE AWARE OF
SCAMS

SECURE YOUR
BELONGINGS

HAVE
EMERGENCY
CONTACT

DON'T
ACCEPT LIFTS

CARRY A
PEPPER SPRAY

CREATE
BOUNDARIES

TAKE SELF-
DEFENSE
CLASSES

AVOID
OVERSHARING ON
SOCIAL MEDIA

DON'T ACCEPT
FOOD FROM
STRANGERS

AVOID
SHORTCUTS

ALWAYS TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

Emergency Contact Numbers

National Emergency Number **112**

Police **100** Or **112**

Fire **101**

Ambulance **102**

Disaster Management Services **108**

Women Helpline **1091**

Women Helpline (Domestic Abuse) **181**

Anti Poison (New Delhi) **1066** Or **011-1066**

Senior Citizen Helpline **14567**

Road Accident Emergency Service **1073**

Children In Difficult Situation **1098**

LPG Leak **1906**

Kiran Mental Health **1800 59 900 19**

Cyber Crime **155620**

TEACHERS DAY



Teacher: A Tribute to the Guiding Light - Alphy Miss

We are all students under the guidance of the ultimate teacher - the Almighty. While we are shaped by this divine force, there are also individuals in our lives who profoundly influence and illuminate our path, helping us see the world in new ways. I believe that the best way to express gratitude to these beloved teachers is by living out their teachings.

Whenever I think of teachers, the image of Alphy Miss from my fifth grade comes to mind. Known as one of the strictest teachers in the school, she was, for me, a nurturing and motherly figure who encouraged me to explore knowledge. As a mischievous and lazy 10-year-old, I found it difficult to focus, but she had a unique way of planting the seed of curiosity and instilling in me a priceless gift - the love for learning. Without her influence, my journey would have been very different.

Although time may have dimmed the intensity of that enthusiasm, the memories of her continue to reignite the flames of curiosity within me.

Sabin C D, TAX [KCH]

On Teachers' Day, we honor not only the educators in our classrooms but also the mentors we discover in everyday life - parents, coworkers, and leaders who guide and inspire us.

From the first lessons of love and discipline imparted by my parents to the wisdom offered by my school teachers who shaped my academic journey, each mentor has left a lasting impact on my life. My parents were my first teachers, instilling values and life lessons, while the teachers at school provided guidance that went beyond textbooks. Even my office seniors served as mentors, helping me grow and succeed professionally. Each of them contributes in a special way to the person I have become. I want to take a moment to remember and thank these guiding lights who have nurtured me with their wisdom, patience, and kindness.

Chahat Garg, TAX [DEL]



Dear Teacher

I can't narrate you in a single sentence. Year by year the thought process may develop because of you. You not only teach me how to inspire change, but also help me to comprehend more than just absorbing facts.

Aalwin George, Admin [KCH]



In grade 12, my accountancy teacher told us that the best people are those who can adapt to any situation. This advice really stayed with me, and for years, I made a strong effort to adapt to whatever came my way. I even encouraged others to follow this approach, thinking it was the best way to handle different situations, whether they were good or bad.

A few years later, however, I began to rethink and realized that trying to adapt to fit every situation might not always be the best choice. It is also important to stay true to our own feelings, thoughts, and career goals rather than just changing ourselves to fit in with every new circumstance. This may make us lose sight of what's truly important. I've learned that staying true to our principles while adapting as needed leads to better growth and fulfilment.

So, I'm very thankful to the teacher for her advice. It led me to this important realization, and it has played a significant role in shaping my future.

Himanshu Prajapati, ABS [DEL]



Stephen Hawking rightly said, 'If you look behind every exceptional person, there is an exceptional teacher.' A mother is often considered a child's first teacher, and I am blessed to say that my mother has been the driving force behind whatever I am able to achieve today. My mother served as a senior secondary English school teacher for over 30 years and recently retired. She not only shaped my future but the futures of numerous students who have become valuable members of this society. A great teacher's influence can be felt beyond the classroom and her professionalism and outlook towards work and life is what I aspire to achieve. She continues to 'guide' rather than just 'teach' and I am fortunate to have my mother and teacher all in one person.

Shivpriya Pasbola, ABS [DEL]

Dear Teachers

I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for all that you do. Your dedication, patience, and passion for teaching have made a profound impact on my life. You have not only imparted knowledge but also inspired me to be curious, to think critically, and to strive for excellence.

Your unwavering support & encouragement have helped me overcome challenges and believe in my potential. You have been more than just educators; you have been mentors, guides, and role models. Your commitment to my growth and well-being is truly admirable.

Thank you for creating a positive and nurturing learning environment where one feels valued and respected. Your efforts often go unnoticed, but please know that they are deeply appreciated. You have touched many lives in ways that words cannot fully capture.

With heartfelt thanks!
Aman Agrawal, ASR [DEL]



CA EXAM RESULTS

We are thrilled to celebrate our newly qualified Chartered Accountants from across India and congratulate our exceptional achievers on this remarkable milestone! Your dedication and hardwork has paid off, and the ASA Family is incredibly proud. This marks the beginning of an exciting journey in your professional career. Aim high and remember to always "Go the Extra Mile!"



Paras Mehta
RAS (GGN)



Heral D Souza
TAX (MUM)



N Anirudh
ASR (CHN)



Rhutu Shah
RAS (MUM)



Anchal Khurana
TAX (DEL)



Preethi J
ASR (CHN)

NEW BEGINNINGS

Tying the knot and becoming a parent each represents a memorable leap forward, symbolizing pivotal moments that demands bravery, adaptability and a willingness to embrace exciting changes, steering life into thrilling new chapters of growth and discovery



S/o Navneet Kaur, HR [DEL]



S Sushmitha, ABS [KCH]

WINNERS OF SC CONNECT QUIZ

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Mani Shankar Ramakrishnan | ASR [CHN] |
| Divya Johny | ABS [KCH] |
| Ashwath Aditya | ASR [CHN] |
| Rupeshrajan P | ASR [CHN] |
| Mary P T | ABS [KCH] |
| Arun Sharma | ASR [DEL] |

WINNERS OF PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION (NEXT PAGE)

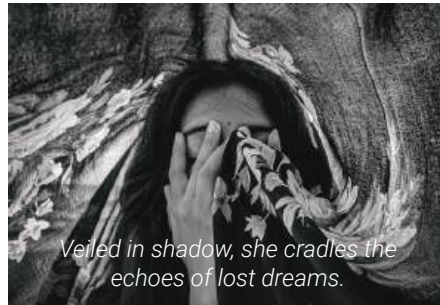
Empowered through the lens: Through the lens we see the world from different perspectives empowering us to express our creativity and view the world in a unique way.

EMPOWERED THROUGH THE LENS

One day, the sun will set and say goodbye, but to reach that moment, you need to remain steadfast and strong like the tower.



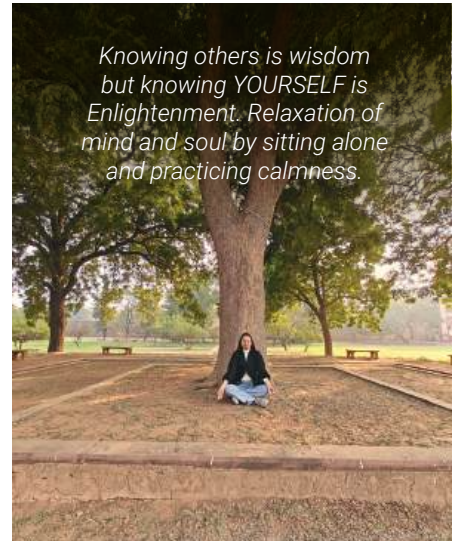
Akash Jagga, ASR [DEL]



Veiled in shadow, she cradles the echoes of lost dreams.

Sachin Manmadhan, ABS [KCH]

Knowing others is wisdom but knowing YOURSELF is Enlightenment. Relaxation of mind and soul by sitting alone and practicing calmness.



Diksha Raj, ABS [GGN]

A moment of Joy & Happiness



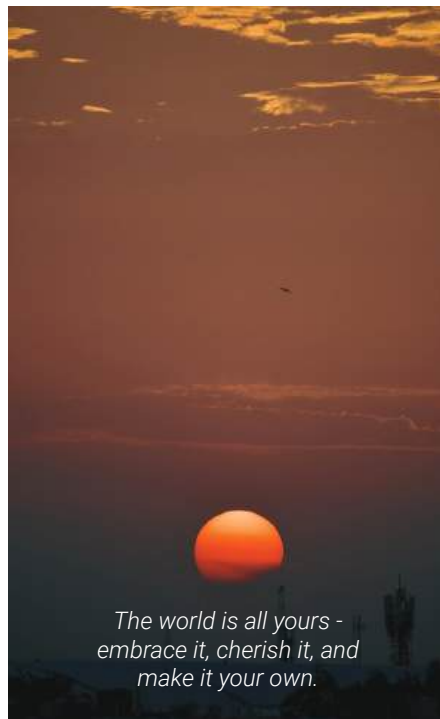
Sri Ganesh Aryasomayajula, RAS [BLR]

Controls may be invisible but act as a base for every structure.



Ravi Kanth Kurella, RAS [BLR]

The world is all yours - embrace it, cherish it, and make it your own.



Himanshu Prajapati, ABS [DEL]

High tides & good vibes, be shore of yourself!!!



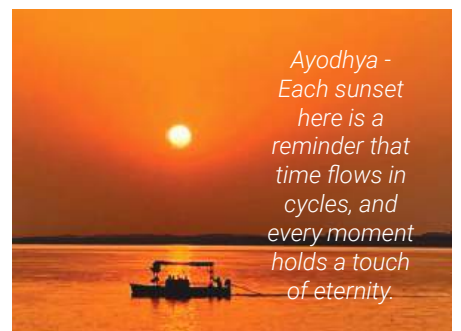
Sneha Anand, ASR [CHN]

Jaisalmer - Serenity in the stillness



Suraj Chopra, RAS [MUM]

Ayodhya - Each sunset here is a reminder that time flows in cycles, and every moment holds a touch of eternity.



Vidushi Gupta, TAS [GGN]

India's Stars Dazzle in Paris: A New Era of Olympic Excellence

India has once again proven its growing stature in global sports with an outstanding performance in the Paris Olympics and Paralympics 2024. The athletes not only brought home a historic tally of medals but also showcased a spirit of determination, resilience, and unwavering grit. From excelling in traditional sports like wrestling and hockey to making remarkable strides in athletics shooting, judo, archery, and badminton, Indian Olympians displayed world-class talent and a winning mindset.



Manu Bhaker's exceptional performances in both the Women's 10m air pistol and the mixed team event with Sarabjot Singh, earning two bronze medals, reflect her relentless dedication to the sport. Swapnil Kusale's impressive achievement in the Men's 50m rifle 3 positions further highlights India's prowess in shooting. The Men's hockey team also brought pride to the nation with their bronze medal, demonstrating teamwork and resilience on the field. Neeraj Chopra's silver medal in the men's javelin throw continues to elevate India's stature in athletics, while Aman Sehrawat's bronze in the men's freestyle 57 kg wrestling exemplifies the spirit of competition and excellence.



The achievements and performances of India's Paralympic athletes have brought immense pride to the nation and stand as a testament to the indomitable spirit of India's Paralympic athletes. Avani Lekhara's Gold in Shooting (Women's 10m air rifle standing SH1) and Nitesh Kumar's Gold in Badminton (Men's singles SL3) stand out as triumphs of skill and determination. Sumit Antil's Gold in Javelin Throw (F64), Praveen Kumar's Gold in High Jump (T64), Harvinder Singh's Gold in Archery (Men's individual recurve open), and Dharambir's Gold in Club Throw (F51) highlight India's prowess across various fields. Silver medalists, including Manish Narwal, Nishad Kumar, and Suhas Yathiraj, excelled across shooting, athletics, and badminton, while Thulasimathi Murugesan and Parnav Soorma earned silver in badminton and athletics. The bronze medal winners have showcased immense talent and spirit in their respective events, with notable achievements in shot put, the 200m sprint, judo, badminton, and other athletic categories.

Behind these remarkable achievements lies the dedication of the support staff, coaches, physiotherapists, and nutritionists, who worked tirelessly to ensure that every athlete performed at their peak. The nation salutes both the athletes and the unsung heroes behind their success, whose collective effort has placed India on the global sports map and inspired future generations.



Journey to Sri Hemkund Sahib: A Trek to Tranquility



As I embarked on my journey to Sri Hemkund Sahib, it felt like I was travelling towards the heavens. The previous night's rain left me with a lingering worry: would the path to the sacred Gurudwara be accessible? The weather in the mountains is notorious for its unpredictability, and the high altitude only heightened my concerns. Yet, determined to reach this haven of faith, purity, and peace, I donned my raincoat and set forth.

Mesmerizing waterfalls cascaded down rocky cliffs, their heavy flow a symphony of nature's power, while rustic bridges added charm to the landscape. Despite the fog that often enveloped the trail, moments of clarity revealed the breathtaking sight of snow-covered mountains standing majestically against the sky.

On a not-so-easy trail, the natural beauty around me provided the motivation. More than a physical challenge, this was a pilgrimage of the heart.

Upon reaching the Gurudwara Sahib, tears streamed down my cheeks, an uncontrollable response to the overwhelming beauty and serenity before me. The sight of the sacred building, bathed in soft light and surrounded by the pristine lake of Hemkund - "Lake of Snow" - was breathtaking. I felt a profound sense of peace, as if all my worries had dissolved into the crisp mountain air, a reminder of the beauty that lies in perseverance and the profound connections we can find in moments of stillness.

My trek to Sri Hemkund Sahib was not just a physical journey; it was a transformative, spiritual odyssey that reignited my connection with the divine and left me with memories of serene beauty that I will cherish for a lifetime.

by Gaurav Arora – TAX [DEL]

Exploring Borneo: A nature lover's Paradise

Time to explore Sabah, in the Malaysian part of Borneo, the world's fourth-largest island.

After a first stop at Manukan and Sapi islands, I headed to Sepilok, where endless palm plantations sadly dominate the landscape due to massive deforestation. My spirits were lifted at the Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre, where these majestic animals are rescued and rehabilitated. Orangutans are found in the wild only in two places on Earth: Sumatra and Borneo! I also got to meet the world's smallest bear, the Bornean Sun Bear.

The adventure really began on the Kinabatangan River. Battling pouring rain aboard a small boat, we cruised along the jungle's edge - no swimming allowed here, as crocodiles lurk below! The early morning boat ride was magical: we spotted a young orangutan, proboscis monkeys (found only in Borneo), and vibrant hornbills - a photographer's paradise.

Next up: Danum Valley, one of the world's oldest rainforests - 130 million years old (dinosaurs disappeared 65 million years ago!). As we trekked through insects, snakes, and leeches (but hey, that's the jungle!), a mother orangutan and her 1-month-old baby swung by. What an unforgettable encounter!

Finally, I hit the coast for diving and snorkeling among stunning coral reefs, colourful fish, and giant turtles. Hiking up Bohey Dulang Island offered the perfect finale: breathtaking views of an ancient volcanic crater.

by Léa Parmentier – ES [DEL]



Unforgettable Moments: A Colleague's Wedding and Our Coorg Adventure

In September, our office transformed from a space of deadlines into a celebration of love as we travelled to Coorg, Karnataka, for our colleague's wedding. This event provided a beautiful opportunity for our team to bond and create lasting memories. Nestled among misty hills and lush greenery, the wedding was a joyful affair, filled with laughter. It was heartwarming to witness our colleague embark on this new journey, surrounded by friends and family in such a breathtaking setting.

After the wedding, our adventures in Coorg began. Our first stop was Abbey Falls, where the cascading waters and stunning landscape captivated us. We then explored the Namdroling Monastery, a peaceful oasis with remarkable architecture that offered a sense of calm. The Dubare Elephant Camp was another highlight, where we interacted with gentle giants and learned about their care. We also enjoyed the Chiklihole Reservoir, where we took in the scenic views and relaxed by the water. Shopping at Nisargadhama allowed us to pick up local handicrafts, with each item serving as a reminder of our time in Coorg. Evenings were spent making fun reels, engaging in pool activities, and indulging in delicious local cuisine, all filled with laughter and camaraderie.

This trip was a perfect blend of celebration and adventure, a cherished memory of love and friendship that will stay with me for years to come. Here's to more adventures together!

by Dheeraj Ahuja - ABS [DEL]



Dreamy Escapades in Singapore: A Journey of Wonder

My visit to Singapore in September felt like a dream. Changi Airport amazed me with its beautiful design and the stunning Jewel waterfall that sparkled like magic.

My first destination was iconic Marina Bay Sands. As the sun set, the sky exploded with colors, and the city lit up in bright hues. From the SkyPark, the view was incredible, with twinkling lights reflecting on the water. The sunset was simply breathtaking! The next day, I explored Gardens by the Bay. The Cloud Forest felt like stepping into another world, with misty waterfalls and lush plants. The Flower Dome was filled with colorful blooms that took my breath away. At night, the light show at SuperTree Grove was unforgettable, showcasing a magical mix of art and technology. A visit to Merlion Park was a must, where the famous statue spouted water against the skyline. I took a boat ride later that night and it was truly magical to see how the city lights shimmered on the water. One of the highlights was Universal Studios Singapore. The adventurous rides were exciting, and I had so much fun exploring the different themed zones. As I left Singapore, I felt a thrill of excitement for my next adventure. This trip inspired me to explore more incredible places around the world!

by Anushree Sethiya - ES [MUM]



Mesmerising Mangrove – Sundarbans

It was April 2024 when I got to know about FIP's proposal for a tour program to the Sundarbans National Park, scheduled for September end, 2024. A visit to the most beautiful mangrove forest, in the world's largest delta formed by the confluence of the rivers, Ganga, Brahmaputra and Meghna! I didn't want to let it pass, and so, registered my participation immediately. The group awaiting the excitement of this expedition, along with me, comprised of two of my friends from my photography club and three other photographers from West Bengal.

The Sundarbans is located 120 kms away from the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport. A 3-hour drive by car from there, would take us to the boat jetty, from where a boat would take us to the mangrove.

'Sundar' means beautiful. And 'ban' or 'van' is forest. As the name suggests, it is one of the most beautiful mangrove forests, sprawling across 10,000 square kilometers of land and water. Sundarbans is a large estuary and mangrove forest, spanning from river Baleswar in Bangladesh to river Hooghly in India, along the coastline of both the countries. It is home to Panthera Tigris Tigris, the famed Royal Bengal tiger, and to a diverse variety of avian species.

We were told that the expedition would be from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. Unlike the mainland, the mangrove would be cloaked in darkness by 5:30 p.m. We were to screen and shoot the animals and the birds only from the boat, within this available time span. The sway of the boat posed quite a challenge to us, photographers.

Day 1 and day 2 were rough due to the cyclone that hit West Bengal. Yet, our boatman and our guide were well-experienced to help us spot the birds. We were also kept nourished by the delicious breakfast, lunch and dinner prepared in the boat's kitchen.

The big cat evaded us on the first two days. We were informed by our guide that on day 3, we would sail the boat into the core tiger area, where tourists in another boat had spotted a tiger, the previous day. We went straight to the spot. But no luck till noon.

A sudden flurry of activity in the boat indicated that our boatman and our guide had spotted a tiger! Our guide pointed to a direction deep in the forest and asked us to take position. The tiger was expected to cross the river near us. Wow! The palpable excitement was electrifying! From nowhere, the big cat entered the water and started swimming to the other end, not alone! It was a tigress with her cubs! Tigress Phuleshwari! The excitement around the several boats was understandable. Unfortunately, our view was hindered by another boat, and we lost the opportunity to get a good close-up angle. But we managed to get a few clean shots.

We had to wait for a good two hours for our ill-luck to change. Our disappointment was soon replaced by the same excitement we felt earlier. Yes! We saw Phuleshwari, alone this time, enter the water again to swim back to the other end! She took less than 2 minutes to swim across the vast 200+ meters distance. We took complete

advantage of the entire 2 minutes the tigress jumped and swam in the river until she walked out of the water and entered the deep forest. Thanks to our boatman and our guide, who took us to the location at the right time.

The state government's commendable initiation towards conservation of the big cats has resulted in the increased tiger population in the mangrove. But they remain deep in the forest. The government has restricted free entry beyond a point. Hence, spotting the tigers near the banks within our access area, is rare. The main attraction among the big cats, is the beautiful tigress Phuleshwari, fondly named so by the locals.

We were fortunate to capture in our lenses, birds like Collared Kingfisher, Common Kingfisher, Brown Winged Kingfisher, Pied Kingfisher, Black Capped Kingfisher, White Throated Kingfisher, Barn Owl, Egrets and Cranes, the amphibious fish Mudskipper, Gangetic Dolphin, Saltwater Crocodile, Deer, etc., in addition to the Royal Bengal Tiger.

I would like to thank Mr.Santhosh Jana, for his meticulous organization of this trip to make our stay comfortable. A special thanks to our guide Mr. Bikramaditya Mandal and our boatman Sridam Gayen, who were our eyes and ears in our quest to capture the beauties in our cameras.

It was a wonderful experience to capture the animals and birds from a swaying boat, with my fellow photographers who made this trip memorable.

by GN Ramaswami - ASR [CHN]



Tigress Phuleshwari watching us



Collared Kingfisher with catch

CA Day - 1st July !!

This day marks the anniversary of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) which was formally established on the same day in 1949. A day to honor our esteemed Chartered Accountants at ASA. SC-RC Mumbai distributed customized bottles featuring the names of each employee. Meanwhile, SC-RC Kochi welcomed CA's with flower distribution, and they shared their experiences and valuable tips with CA aspirants. SC-RC Delhi Gurgaon celebrated the day by distributing sweets in the office while colleagues at Chennai had a delightful chaat experience while participating in fun quizzes. SC-RC Bangalore celebrated the day by cutting a cake in the office.



Marvel-lous Movie Night

SC-RC Mumbai organized an exciting outing for all employees —a much-anticipated movie day. The movie “Deadpool and Wolverine” appealed to a wide range of interests, promoting a sense of inclusivity among all employees. Colleagues greeted each other with smiles and laughter, and enjoyed the enjoyed refreshments and experience of watching a film together.



Independence Day... Jai Hind !!

Jai Hind! Independence Day infused our offices with palpable enthusiasm and vibrant energy, fostering a strong sense of togetherness. The day became a resounding testament to our collective strength and camaraderie as we celebrated amidst the tricolor decorations and engaging activities. It was a remarkable reflection of our unity and patriotism.



Monsoon Trekking

SC-RC Mumbai organized monsoon trek to "The Sondai Fort" has truly been a highlight of the year, offering a much-needed escape into the heart of nature. The serene environment allowed all to reconnect with nature, recharge our spirits, and foster deeper connections with other colleagues. The experience was enhanced by a delicious spread of lunch and snacks



Ganesh Chaturthi

In Mumbai, Ganesh Chaturthi was celebrated with a heartfelt and joyful gathering, embodying the spirit of unity and reverence. The festivities kicked off with an evening Aarti, where employees came together to pay homage to Lord Ganesh, seeking his blessings for prosperity and success in both personal and professional endeavors. Modaks were distributed at Delhi and Gurgaon offices.



Outing to Siri Nature's Valley Resort

SC-RC Hyderabad organised a quarterly outing to Siri Nature's Valley Resort, which was an absolute blast, offering a much-needed break from daily work routines and giving everyone an opportunity to unwind and recharge. The day was filled with laughter, friendly competition, and great memories that brought everyone closer together.



Friendship Day Celebration

SC-RC Kochi celebrated the idea that office friendships create a positive and conducive work environment, offering effective stress relief and fostering a supportive system that enhances engagement and productivity. To strengthen these connections, Kochi RC organized a fun event that encouraged team bonding and brought staff members together.



Onam Celebration

SC-RC Kochi celebrated Onam this year at "The Windsor Castle", Kottayam. Teams actively participated in events like Onam paatu (song), Thiruvathira (traditional dance form), uriyadi, boating and Vadam vali (Tug of War), fostering a spirit of cultural gaiety among staff. The grand Onam feast, Onasadya, was a delight, tickling the culinary senses of one and all.



White Party

SC-RC Delhi & Gurgaon organized a White theme party. An evening filled with lots of fun and brilliant moves on the dance floor. Additionally, a cake cutting ceremony was organized for freshly qualified CA's.



Team Building Activities

SC-RC organized a fun-filled team building evening at Delhi, Gurgaon, Bangalore offices. The event featured a variety of engaging games that participants enthusiastically played through the evening. The evening wrapped up with delicious snacks enjoyed by all.



Movie Night

SC-RC Chennai planned a first day movie show of a much anticipated tamil movie GOAT.



Memorable Trip

SC-RC Bangalore planned a Trip to visit at Wild Valley. The plans were made precise to make the day a Memorable one. The serene environment allowed us to reconnect with nature, recharge our spirits, and foster deeper connections with colleagues.



When did you start your journey with ASA?

I joined ASA in March 2019.

Whom do you consider your inspiration?

Swami Vivekananda.

How do you maintain a work life balance?

With a flexible mindset, I navigate personal and professional challenges with ease.

What is success in your dictionary?

Continuously learning, growing and improving.

Three words that describe you.

Decisive, confident and cheerful.

If you were to amend any Provision/Section of Income tax Act, what would it be?

Considering the impending introduction of new tax laws, it's prudent to wait and assess the changes before recommending any suggestions.

What advice would you offer to someone beginning their career?

Decide your goals and destination, create a roadmap for success.

If you could go back and change one decision in your career, what would it be and why?

My thoughtful decision-making process has led me to where I am today, with no regrets.

How will AI disrupt Tax Service line?

I firmly believe that AI will complement, rather than disrupt the tax service line.

Funny experience you had with your Colleague?

I recall a hilarious moment in an GST appellate tribunal. My colleague sought an adjournment, but the member unexpectedly dove into the case details, arguing with the department representative. To our surprise, the member cited existing precedent and passed an order favourable to our client.

What's one piece of advice you would give to Gen Z?

Focus on work and enjoy learning.

To whom are you grateful?

My teachers throughout my life.

If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

Flying like birds.

What's your take on mental health?

Cultivate reading habits and engage with puzzles to promote mental well-being.

Rapid Fire

- Favourite food – Curd rice with pickles
- Favourite Holiday destination – Kodaikanal
- Hidden talent – Solving puzzles
- Recent favourite Movie/book – KGF, Jailer
- Coffee or tea – Coffee
- Favourite sports – Cricket, Tennis
- Top three things in your bucket list – Nothing as of now
- Online meeting or in-person meetings – Both
- Favourite Quote – Arise, awake, and stop not until the goal is reached

In conversation with
Mr. Y. Ramakrishnan
Executive Partner
Taxation, Chennai



Tarun Sarangi

Manager, Shared Services IT, Gurgaon

In the world of IT, where challenges arise,
Stands a boss with green eyes, sharp and wise.

Punctual, curious, with a smile that's rare,
A straight face, yet always aware.

Seven years strong, his dedication shines,
An expert in tech, speaks in fewer lines.

Fun-loving and chill boss,
who leads with such grace,
Truly the GOAT, in every space.



Pankaj Aneja

Partner, Taxation, Delhi

Known for being enthusiastic and a workaholic,
A disciplined devotee, a non- alcoholic.

Solution for all problems' that's his forte,
Parampara, Pratistha and Anushasan
- words he lives by everyday.

Juniors look up to him for support,
With colleagues, he has friendly rapport.

Grounded, he emanates a respectable reputation,
Indeed the tallest partner in Delhi location.



Editorial and Content Team

Manoj Sharma, Ashima Verma, Ruchika Garg, Aditya Jain, Chahat Garg, Pragya Bansal, Prajakta Surve, Shivam Agarwal, Mina Nagashima, Niveditha. D, Rupa Rajive, Fathima Diya K., Shreenidhi Prabhu, Ann Mary Thomas, R Gururaj, Pavithra I, Sambavi R, Siddharthini S P, C Manya, Karthikeyan S, Aakancha Dixit, Virti Shah, Vijay Shah, Rakshita Neema, Nelluri Shirisha, Pavitra, Meghana S, Abirami S, Harshini S, Prerana R.

Design Team Keshav Mishra & Sandeep Singh