

**Quarterly Newsletter of ASA** 

Volume 31 | Issue 2 April-June 2022

### Road Less Travelled-A Ticket to Bliss

The first thing that comes to our mind when we say "Road Less Travelled" is the poem written by Robert Frost, "The Road not Taken". The poet enlightens us with the idea that, in life, at those moments when it throws choices with contrasting outcomes, sometimes, going your way and following your heart instead of the herd, makes all the difference. There is a constant inclination to follow the crowd. It is easy to follow a path that is already created. Following a road less travelled can be fearful which is why it is no surprise that it isn't the best option for everyone.

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The other theme which we could draw from the title is about 'a path'. The path that has borne the feet of many is barren and clear of grass. Subconsciously, anyone would set the course of their journey in such a path. The destination is defined in that case. The journey is already known to the world. The path less travelled is the one which an adventure lover would take, an explorer would explore, a curious mind would choose, and eventually a day comes when it becomes like the former.

Sometimes, your passion might be a road less travelled, with all the uncertainties and adversities that it has to offer and the already laid path being alluring, you would stand at a point where two roads diverge. Remember, that the path you choose could make all the difference in your journey of life. It is you who is going to walk the path, face the outcomes and learn lessons. So, let the road you take be the one you want to take, no matter whether it is the one more travelled or the less.

"Yet knowing how way leads on to way, I doubted if I should ever come back. I took the one less travelled by, and that has made all the difference."

- Robert Frost in "The Road not Taken"





# A WORD FROM OUR MANAGING PARTNER

Let's begin with the wedding pictures of Pratibha and Ananya. Just lovely! Congratulations both. Kudos and congrats to Sathya and Gaurav too for joining the partnership.

As I move through the quarter's events, I noticed the movie mania gripping all offices. Chennai scored a double century – meeting the legend himself! And then there was IPL fever at offices. The fantastic outing by Bangalore looks so refreshing after the lock up. Others, follow their good example. I love the way we celebrate life - Eid, Pride Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day and even Brother's Day. Keep this spirit ever alive.

Delighted that we remain dedicated to knowledge sharing, as equally learning. Sessions to the outside world and having great teachers over, the hallmark of a true professional services firm. This too should never slip.

Didn't know Umang had a sweet tooth which may explain the need for fast car and bikes. Sugar rush can push you ©. Was also not aware that Rahis shares the same passion as GNR. Connect really does connect!

Keep walking. Keep connecting.

Best regards

Ajay Sottii

AJAY SETHI

THE WINDS MIGHT
BLOW IN THE OPPOSITE
DIRECTION, BUT THE
ONE WHO HAS THE
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TRAVELLED.



### **TECHNICAL EVENTS**

ASA-CCI conducted webinars on topics specially curated by our experts to help our clients navigate smoothly through the essential aspects of their businesses.

### WEBINARS, EVENTS AND ARTICLES

Ajay Sethi was invited to be a panelist by the Gurugram Branch of NIRC at a seminar on Future Perspective - Industry & Practice Panel Discussion.

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Sandeep Khanna conducted a guest lecture on 'Leadership in Action in the 21st Century' in collaboration with Jindal School of Banking & Finance.



Parveen Kumar and Gaurav Bhatia were invited as speakers by the Gurugram Branch of NIRC at a seminar on Internal Audit. The topics covered in the discussion were about the Red Flags that CFOs should not ignore and Key Commandments of Internal Controls and Audit.



Ramaswami GN presented a paper on AS 3 and AS 22 related to "Understanding deferred tax liability, Cash Flow Statement and MAT Computation" for the Refresher Course on 360° of annual report organised by the Corporate Laws and Corporate Governance Committee.

ASA hosted a webinar on ESG Impact – The Road Ahead, where our expert group of panelists discussed ESG framework, valuation, reporting, financing, and legal aspects. The webinar was moderated by Vinay K S. The panel consisted of Anuj Trivedi (Partner - Link Legal), Subir Gupta (Advisor - ESG, ASA), Nutan Zarapkar (Director - RTI) and Ranjeeb Sarma (Head of Compliance, CSR and Plan A for India and Sri Lanka region - Marks and Spencer).



### **TECHNICAL EVENTS**

Ajay Sethi and Giridharan D K had a constructive meeting with Petula Thomas, CEO-Indo-Australian Chamber of Commerce.

Bengaluru office hosted an event with Hosur Industries Association on "Key Changes in CARO 2020 & Schedule III to the Companies Act - Impact on the Financial Statements of FY 2021-22. D Ramprasad and Vinay KS were speakers for the event. The discussion covered new disclosures under the amendments to Schedule III to the Companies Act, new reporting requirements under CARO 2020, and the challenges and action required to meet the new compliances.

Himanshu Srivastava wrote articles on 'New Age Opportunities, Sectoral Potential' and 'Overview of Indian Economy' for Business Guide Israel, India.



Mahindra World City (Chennai) and ASA jointly organized a session for Finance Executives at MWC Club which brought participants from the finance fraternity including CFOs, AGMs, Finance Managers and Executives.

Prominent guests included Sudhakar Viswanathan (India Finance Head, Lincoln Electric Company India) and Bharathy K (CFO, Mahindra World City). The speakers from ASA included K Venkatraman, Giridharan DK, Ramaswami GN, Sathyabama Rangarajan, G Viswanathan and Ramakrishnan Y.







Sunil Arora and Ameet Baid co-authored articles "No Tax in Holcim and Adani Cement Deal - Truth or Dare" for Taxmann and "GAAR probe begins on companies suspected of tax avoidance" and "Foreign Investors from Mauritius likely to keep taxman at bay" for Economic Times.

### INTERNAL TRAINING

### **EXPERT TALK**

SC-TD organised guest sessions providing opportunities to participants to gain expert insights from guest speakers while interacting with them.

### Section 185: Loans to Directors

by CA Punarvas Jayakumar (Corporate Law Consultant)



### Essential Excel Techniques Professionals Must Master and Top 10 Excel Formulas One Must

**Know** by Vijay Agarwal (CA, CS, Big Data Analyst and Automation Expert)



### **Art of Questioning** by Poonam Madaan (Corporate Trainer & Life Coach)



## Cryptocurrency mining – unearthing the mystery by Rajendra Kumar K (FCA, LLB, CISA(USA), CEH(USA), DISA (ICAI), Dip (Comp. Eng.)



### **INTERNAL TRAININGS**

SC-TD conducted "National Assurance Workshop". It was an interactive session taken by Amit Majmudar (retired audit partner of SR Baltiboi for over 15 years), Archana Warty (20+ years of corporate experience and 8+ years of experience in facilitating audit methodology learnings) and Vijita Daru (10+ years of experience working in the audit and assurance department of SR Batliboi). The workshop covered practical traning on various Audit Standards.



### "The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page."

by Saint Augustine

### SC-Connect invited Tavelogues from ASAians to unveil the captivating travel tales of our wanderers.

### Travel leisurely, not as a To Do

You reach the airport, board the flight, land in that desired destination and check-in. Then the machine comes alive. What to see, what and where to eat, shopping... the 'To Do' takes over. I have been lucky to travel far and wide. Last leisure trip was revisiting Barcelona and Amsterdam. Much treasured post a 2 year gap! This time we took a day as it came. We chose restaurants at the go, just as we did as younger couple. We always prefer walking, the best way to truly absorb a city. While visiting any spot, we took longer. We not only saw but observed life around. Like at Amsterdam, I would sit at a bench watching boats pass by, with the famous Dutch French fries giving me company!

Barcelona is wonderful! Historically rich, aesthetically pleasing and fantastic food. We gorged on Paella and seafood. Amsterdam, though equally touristy, draws serenity from the innumerable water canals. No walk is ever boring. The people are green conscious. Everyone cycles. Interestingly, the canals are trawled monthly to remove bikes blown in by strong winds! We even visited a

charming old harbour town (Enkhuizen) which made us contemplative. Another day off to the beach (Scheveningen). But all movements were at our whim and fancy. Best to let the mood guide you, not your To Do.





by Ajay Sethi

### Ladakh - Land worth a Visit!!

Ladakh is a not just a destination, it is an inspiration, a challenge, and a feat that pulls travellers, trekkers, adventurers from all over the world. And we were always fascinated by this place and it had been in our bucket list for a long time.

Our 8-day trip to this heaven started on a rainy Saturday in anticipation of our departure from Delhi.

We had planned the visit in such a way that it would give us ample amount of time for all must-to-do-things. Some of the most popular attractions that we got to visit were Magnetic Hill, Gurudwara Patthar Sahib, Confluence of Zanskar and Indus River. We also got to visit the famous Hall of Fame & all the prominent monasteries. Believe it or not, the magnetic hills defy the law of gravity. We actually observed that the vehicle is parked on neutral gear on this metallic road and it slides up-hill and this was unbelievable.

On our trip, we also visited the Nubra Valley. The road journey to Nubra Valley leads through the Khardung La Pass where we got some beautiful sight of the snow as well. The ride was truly amazing and we were absolutely mesmerised to see the panoramic views of the landscapes. Can you believe there were sand dunes, river, forest and mountains, all in one frame, that's so unreal!!

From Nubra Valley, we drove to Pangong Lake and stayed there for a night. We took a stroll to the lake where we were stunned to see such beauty in the middle of the mountains. The turquoise colour panoramic lake, magnificent mountains and landscapes left us completely awestruck. For the first time in my life I was woken up by sun rays peeping through the windows at 5am.

This place is unbelievably beautiful, I may not be doing justice to the kind of charisma this place carries, with this article. Hence, pack your bags and go explore yourself!!



by Prateet Mittal

### Unforgettable memories in the UK

After a long time post easing travel restrictions, spending time in the UK with family created unforgettable memories. Lovely weather with bright sun-shine and celebrations all around (thanks to The Queen) uplifted our spirits. At Cambridge, enjoying a formal university dinner and running a half marathon with my daughter was like a cherry on

the cake. One wonders how to pen down such a beautiful experience in 4-5 sentences, infact this is more challenging than reviewing a forensic assignment or advising partners on drafting a qualification in a statutory audit report. So I requested connect team to publish few photographs, as they will speak louder than words.



by Parveen Kumar



### Ye Dilli Hai Mere Yaar - Bas Ishq, Mohabat, Pyaar!!

Delhi, the capital of the country, and the dream city for many, is a city that has seen itself evolve over many centuries whilst it faced many hardships in the past – right from rulers trying to gain control of this land to the urban sprawl due to the undying opportunities that this city offers. Needless to mention, it resides in many peoples' heart. Delhi, is not just a feeling of pride but also a symbolism of cultural, gastronomical and historical richness.

Why would someone fall in love with this city? Well, we have captured some of the reasons below:

### Monuments and new age architecture go hand in hand



Red Fort, which was named a UNESCO World Heritage site used to be the main residence of the Mughal emperors. The first Prime Minister of India raised the Indian flag for the very first time at Red Fort, the tradition which still continues to date.



Humayun's Tomb - built in 1570 and is of particular significance since it was the first garden-tomb in the Indian subcontinent. Further, it is located close to the Purana Qila (Old fort), that Humanyun founded in 1533. Sunder Nursery is located opposite to the Humanyun Tomb, adding to the authenticity of the site with its formal landscaped gardens and informal biodiversity zone.

Qutub Minar which stands tall in Mehrauli region of South Delhi is one of the most visited tourist spots. The iron pillar in the courtyard of the Minar is believed to have been built by Chandragupta II. Sanjay Van, situated just near the Minar adds on to the beauty of the place. Another amazing attraction of this place are the lavish restaurants overlooking the Minar, the experience of which is just mind-blowing.



The peaceful Sikh temple Gurudwara Bangla Sahib – known for its reflecting pool, Jantar Mantar – a 1700s observatory with huge astronomical instruments and Jama Masjid – one of the largest mosques in India, are all part of this beautiful city.



### KNOW YOUR CITY



### The age-old bazaars are an absolute treat for a shopping enthusiast

Who would not have heard of Chandni Chowk and 'Parantha Wali Gali'. The market is believed to have been built by Shah Jahan and designed by his daughter Jahanara.

Karol Bagh and it's Gaffar market – could be called as the best area to shop! Offers a long list of items to shop, such as cosmetics, watches, cell phones, footwear, jewellery, clothing, the options to choose from are limitless.

Next in line is Sarojini Nagar market – known for its cost effective collection of garments.

Connaught Place has been a go-to place for people over the years, whether it be corporate events, weekend outings or public events. It offers a wide range of restaurants, food chains, pubs, bars and hotels, It is an attractive destination for foreign tourists, leaving them mesmerized with its beauty! It is centrally located and can be quite pocket friendly too. It was designed by Robert Tor Russell and is based on Georgian architecture.



### **Famous Foods**

North India is famous for its spices and mouth-watering curries and breads. Starting from chole bhature to authentic chaats, from chicken tikkas to soya chaps, from aloo paranthas to papad, lassi and aachaar, the place is buzzing with eating joints. Delhiites love to eat as much as they love to party.



### **Cultural Diversity**

Delhi has welcomed people from all regions who have brought their rich tradition to this city. Although different festivals are celebrated around the year with full vigour, my favourite one is Diwali. Be it, Holi, Lohri, Durga Puja, Ganesh Chaturthi, Eid or Pongal – sweets are a must if you are staying in an apartment in Delhi.

All in all, the city is a mix of cultures and cuisines – all because it belongs to all of us and makes sure that no one is left behind.

Source: Wikipedia



by Pragya Bansal

### LITERARY CONNECT



It's time to take a break and do some leisure reading and watching!

# THE ALCHEMIST APARE MORTERIORIES TOUR BRIDER PANJO COEINO

### The Alchemist

"Tell your heart that the fear of suffering is worse than the suffering itself. And that no heart has ever suffered when it goes in search of its dreams, because every second of the search is a second's encounter with God and with eternity." The Alchemist tells the narrative of Santiago, a young shepherd who left his family in search of his goal. He keeps getting the same dream about treasures that are lying in the Pyramids of Egypt. He embarks on a journey to follow his dream after meeting an old king who offers him magic stones and advice. The central idea of the novel is "when you want something, the entire universe conspires to make it happen." This is a must-read!

by Connect Mumbai

### **Movie Connect**

### Badhaai Do

The plot centres around lavender marriage, which is a marriage of convenience to conceal the socially stigmatised sexual orientation of one or both partners. The film sensitively portrays the immense loneliness and sense of isolation that a gay person feels, especially when they lack a window to communicate openly with their family, and are forced to deal with issues on their own. The film is an attempt to send out the message that sexual orientation should not and does not define who an individual is. Watch the film to see how the main characters deal with their sexualities and how society perceives them.

by Connect Bangalore



### **CELEBRATIONS GALORE**

### **Our Leadership Team Expands**



Sathyabama Rangarajan Executive Partner



**Gaurav Bhatia** *Executive Partner* 



### Wedding Wows



Prathibha A - BLR



Ananya D - BLR

### **SOCIAL CONNECT**

### Be Like Bear Grylls

Edward Michael "Bear" Grylls is a British adventurer, writer, television presenter and a businessman who is famous for his "Man Vs Wild" television show. At a young age, he picked up skills in karate, skydiving, and climbing. Additionally, he is a polyglot who speaks a number of languages, including English, Spanish, German, and French. He worked as a military officer for a short while.

He has avoided death several times throughout his life. He once lost consciousness after falling into a crevasse that was 1,000 feet deep, sprinted through a forest fire while crossing the Atlantic to the Arctic Circle in terrible weather, and even swallowed faeces to stay alive. He underwent a tortuous year of recuperation following a devastating parachuting mishap. Bear worked hard to regain full mobility and with the help of a group of friends, he organised his expeditions, despite times when he was in excruciating agony and feeling hopeless. With his great determination and motivation, he realised his childhood dream of scaling Mount Everest on May 16, 1998 (22,500 feet). We can take inspiration for never giving up from him. Everything depends on how self-assured and focused you are while understanding that comfort zones are never the best places for growth. "When you're going through hell, keep going," he once said. Even for us CA students, our attempts are similar to his accident, which we must overcome through consistent effort and hard work.



### **Bridging Differences**

Fathima and Adhila fell in love while attending senior secondary school in Saudi Arabia. Their names became well-known in Kerala in May 2022. The brave souls revealed themselves to their families as a lesbian couple. This Kerala lesbian couple, like the majority of LGTBQ+ couples, endured emotional and physical abuse as well as death threats for their love by their family members and the society they were part of. Late May, Fathima's family forcibly separated their daughter away from Adhila. Adhila shared her experience on Instagram, where she received immense support. The courageous individuals did not give up but instead sought legal counsel where the Kerala High Court issued a ruling in their favour, allowing them to coexist. It was a significant victory for Fathima and Adhila as well as for the LGTBQ+ community. It served as a strong reminder that India will

always stand by those who experience discrimination due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. Fathima and Adhila became activists for the LGTBQ+ community as a result of these unfortunate events, raising enormous support and sparking widespread awareness. Somewhere, this incident demonstrates how India is evolving and is willing to accept the CHANGE.

by Connect Kochi



### **FUN 'N' FROLIC**

### Movie Night

While munching on sweet and savory snacks, you can completely immerse yourself in a film. SC-RC organised movie nights for 'Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness' in Delhi and Gurgaon, 'KGF- Chapter 2' in Bangalore, 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2' in Mumbai, 'Jo and Jo' and 'Bro-Daddy' in Kochi, and 'Vikram' in Chennai. Chennai was thrilled and fortunate enough to meet movie star Mr. Kamal Hassan - they were truly astounded!



### Eid ul-Fitr

SC-RC Delhi celebrated Eid by distributing delicious sweets.







Nothing beats watching a live match from the stadium, but it would be even more enjoyable if you could watch it with your co-workers over some snacks and coke.



Delhi & GGN

SC-RC Hyderabad conducted "My Best 15 Players" activity in which each participant was asked to name 15 cricket players from any of the ten IPL teams. For each match, the SC-RC team recorded the Dream '11' fantasy points of each selected cricket player. At the end of the IPL 2022, the best three people whose cricket players received the most fantasy points were declared the winners of the activity.



Hyderabad

### **FUN 'N' FROLIC**

### An outing to Remember

SC-RC Bengaluru organised a trip to Guhantara Resort. The day was filled with fun and memorable experiences such as rain dance with DJ, swimming, indoor and outdoor games, welcome drinks, breakfast, lunch, and evening hi-tea snacks while admiring nature's beauty.





### Father's Day

SC-RC conducted Father's Day event called "Catch the match," in which participants from PAN India had to share photos of themselves wearing matching and complementary outfits either with their father, son/daughter, or both.



### Mother's Day

"The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother." SC-RC Kochi arranged a 'Talent Hunt', where an option was given to express feelings about mothers through a statement or poetry. Everyone enjoyed writing about self-sacrificing mothers and were also given chocolates.



### Brother's Day

Every year on May 24, Brother's Day is observed to commemorate the bond between sisters & brothers and brothers & brothers, which is filled with joy, care, concern, fight, and forgiveness. SC-RC celebrated this bond with an exciting contest PAN India to capture some lovely moments and distribute cash prizes. All of the employees actively participated in this contest and had a great time!



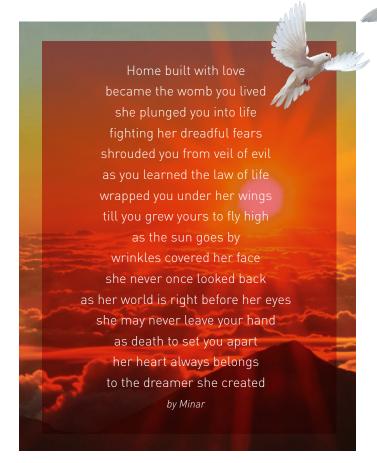
### Some Tributes to Mothers

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किसी कवि की आखिरी रचना हो चित्रकार की अदभूत एक कल्पना हो तुम पहली बारिश की पहली बूंद हो और सूरज की हो पहली किरण जैसे नन्हे पैरों से थिरकता हो बचपन बाग में खिली पहली कली की सौम्यता है तुम में झरने के पानी के कलकल की भव्यता है तुम में किरमत की धनी और मन से अती सुन्दर ऑखें हैं जैसे गहरा समृन्दर सुरत और सिरत से भोली-भाली निश्छल और निष्पाप जैसे पूजा की थाली जैसे गंगा का जल, स्वव्ध और निर्मल उसमें खिला एक पवित्र कमल बच्चे की किलकारी जैसी मधुर हो दोषों से जैसे तुम कोसों दूर हो पावन हो जैसे मां सरस्वती के बोल विधाता की कृती हो सबसे अनमोल

Poem in Malayalam by Effi Francis

by Dewance Jain



# Dear Mother! I'm writing this piece fully aware of not being able to engrave my emotions on these words, but I so do wish! Every time I set my foot home, my eyes wander in distress and my heart prances with an irregular rhythm to sight the presence of the goddess who raised me. I cannot fathom a day without your love. You are the most wonderful mother to us four boys. I have hurt you a countless time, made you weep and even clothed you with embarrassment, but you forgive me every time and poured me with endless love. You believed I could when people around me question if I could. I'm so terrified that every

You believed I could when people around me question if I could. I'm so terrified that every day you are growing weak and weary. You will leave this earth one day. The day my sun will set. The day you rip my heart out, the day I cannot prepare for. The day you will leave me with a void that can never be filled. I'm forever indebted to you I love you ma, my absolute sun!

by Abhishek

### **COFFEE WITH CONNECT**

In conversation with Umang Bhalla
Manager – Admin, Delhi



- When did you start your journey with ASA CCI?
   I started my journey in Feb 2019.
- How has your journey been so far?
   My journey with ASA has been full of learning especially from the leaders of the firm.
- A Leader you follow passionately?
   Mr. Ajay Sethi, I have the opportunity to work with him and he knows how to get the best out of a person. His attention to detail is superb while his leadership style has created many leaders.
- How do you like to spend your free time? I have a passion for cars and bikes. I like to read about the performance upgrades in existing vehicles and apply those concepts practically. I love long drives/ rides.
- What is the first quality that you look for in the people you meet?
   When I meet someone, their appearance and dressing attracts my attention. People with a smile and a firm hand shake are also one of the few qualities that I look for.
- Favourite Holiday destination?
   Kumarakom Lake resort (Kerala) and Baikunth Resorts
   [Kasauli].
- Favourite Food item? Chicken Pizza and Biryani.
- Daily Morning Routine?
   I wake up at 5:30 and go for cycling. I prefer to be in office by 8:30ish. It gives me ample time to do my work.
- What is Better: Certificate or Experience?
   Experience you carry stays with you for lifetime and teaches you how to be a better person. Certificates, in my opinion, are just a piece of paper if not backed by experience.
- Name the things that you would like to pursue post retirement?
   I love cars and bikes and would love to go for road trips while enjoying the beauty of the nature.
- What did you want to become when you were growing up?
   My father always wanted me to be a banker. With God's
   grace, I got that opportunity where I was a banker for 12
   years with HDFC Bank.
- Favourite Ice-Cream Flavour?
  Chocolate is my favourite ice cream flavour.

- If you could travel right now, where would you be? Kashmir is the place I really admire.
- What are your Hobbies?
   I like playing cricket and modifying bikes and cars.
- Favourite book you read?
  The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari by Robin Sharma
- Are you a morning or a night person?
   I am definitely a morning person; infact I am in bed by 9:30-10:00 PM.
- Who do you think has had the largest influence on the person you are today?
   My father has always guided me well and has always

My father has always guided me well and has always stood by me. I thank my parents for my upbringing and I believe that they have had the largest influence in making me who I am.

- What are you most grateful for today?
   My family, come what may, they have always stood by me.
- If you could compare yourself with any animal, what would be it and why?
   Moose - as it always stays true to itself. It is a sign of strength and maturity.
- Favourite actor & movie?
   Vin Diesel is my favourite actor and yes you guessed it right, Fast and Furious is my favourite movie series.
- 3 Places on your wish list that you want to explore next? Kashmir, Darjeeling (Gangtok) and Coorg.
- 3 Words that can express your current state of mind?
   Stable, well balanced and jovial.
- What energizes you and brings you excitement? Thrill and Adventure.
- Most Memorable moment of your career?
  On one of the occasions while I was working with HDFC Bank, we found that there was a difference of Rs 1.30 crores in clearing operations. During the same time, I was hospitalized for 3 consecutive days due to severe stomach pain. However, as the pain got severe, I was shifted to another hospital. During this shifting I went to the office for 3 hours with the drip to tally all the accounts. My country head called me and appreciated my efforts and dedication.
- What is your Favourite Sport?
   Cricket is my favourite sport.
- How would you define growth and progression in your life?
   Growth is always important, both monetary and non-
- How do you maintain a balance between personal and professional life?

  My family lives in a different city so I make sure I meet them every weekend.

monetary. As one says, stagnant water always stinks.

One Piece of advice you would like to share with your colleagues here in this firm?
 Sky is the limit. The efforts may not be paid off immediately but in the long run hardships definitely bear fruits. Don't ever think your efforts are not being appreciated.



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