

# BFMC TIMES

Dear  
Bens

# YOUR VOTE COUNTS

## BFMC ELECTIONS



Sunday Nov 5, 2017 - 3.00 pm

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### ELECTION VENUE

**SPELLBOUND INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES**  
9-80, Venkateswaranagar, Malkajgiri, Secunderabad,  
Telangana 500047

## Elections 2017 - history in the making

BNS - Nov 4

The Benjamin Franklin Memorial Club is on the verge of a major path breaking event. Possibly, a major make-or-break event!

Well, the stage is set. For the elections to the Governing Board positions for the calendar year 2018. And, a lot is at stake.

No, we are not talking of what is at stake for the contestants. That would be the case if it were any other ordinary organizational election. But we are talking of BFMC 2017.

BFMC 2017 is the story of an organization that came to life after being in hibernation for over a

Therefore, the stakes are high. This event will be the single most momentous event, that will make or break the revival story. Whether BFMC is back to its full life, or whether it will relapse to hibernation, if not a complete demise.

Does the reader sense a certain amount of scepticism in this narrative? Of course, he does. For, we are just a few hours before this issue will see the light, and there is no explicit official information on a single candidate contesting for a specific post. The air is only filled with speculation that several of the young members are expected to nominate themselves.

The names doing the rounds include **Bens Harsha (President), Krishnaveni (EVP), Praharsha (GS), Sriram (JS-T), Utkarsh (President, GS), Tushar, Pooja (AVP), Ayush, Srikanth (AVP, EVP).**

As we said, it is going to be a make or break event. At stake, the revival of BFMC! In other news, for the first time in the 50 year History of BFMC, it is learnt that the efforts are on to telecast the Nomination, Campaigning and Voting Process through a WebEx Session to help members spread all over the world to be a part of the first election after the revival of the Club. The Returning Officer Ben Sunil Naraharinath has informed BNS that Ben Anand and others have come up with this idea of running a WebEx Session for the electoral process so that Bens who are out station as well as unable to make it owing to nu-

### CANDIDATES TO BE ELIGIBLE TO CONTEST MUST

- ◆ Be a Ben (member of BFMC)
- ◆ Have no Subscription dues
- ◆ Have attended at least 1 (one) regular meeting from the last 6 (six) held before the election date

merous reasons can cast their valuable vote. It is not yet confirmed whether a Postal Ballot or an Online Poll would be considered or not. However across the whatsapp groups there is a growing demand for postal / Whatsapp / Online ballot to be used.

Keep watching this space for a detailed coverage on how the Elections have taken place. Or haven't.

### GOVERNING BOARD POSITIONS FOR WHICH ELECTIONS ARE BEING HELD

- ◆ President
- ◆ Vice President (Administration)
- ◆ Vice President (Education)
- ◆ General Secretary
- ◆ Joint Secretary-cum-Treasurer

dozen years. BFMC 2017 is the story of an organization, which was always known for its "young" active members, that now has active members on the wrong side of 50. BFMC 2017 is the story of an organization that embarked on a journey of revival, investing the heart and soul, not to mention the time and effort, of eternally proud members of what was essentially their alter alma-mater.

### Cartoon of the week



# Celebration of Important days

November 1st was always celebrated as AP Formation day, barring the last 4 years – it was always a holiday for schools, colleges, Govt and most private offices. For us in Hyderabad, this was the epicenter of State formation day celebrations. There were lots of activities initiated by the government – cultural shows, competitions and celebrations all around. The formation of Telangana on June 2, 2014 meant a new day for the newest state. The residual state of AP has been left high and dry wondering whether to observe June 2nd as de-formation day or continue with the original date of formation in 1956.

Last Wednesday, in Vijayawada – the interim capital of AP, I was looking out for some telltale signs of remembrances of the Telugu icons. There were no banners eulogizing Tanguturi Prakasam or Alluri Seetarama Raju, no colourful hoardings, no loud speakers blaring music, it seemed like just another day. Sadly, the Telugu Thalli, (yes the

## EDITORIAL - BEN VENKAT

Telugu Mother now belongs to Andhra as Telangana has its own Thalli now) is ignored and is not adorned with garlands and remembered anymore - sorry state of affairs. So why do we observe these special days, what's the big deal in celebrating state formation? It's just like celebrating birthdays of individuals, the birthday – formation day - of the state is equally important. A day to reflect, remember and celebrate.

That brings us to BFMC formation day – well, we have our own nomenclature – we call it the Charter Nite – an evening recalling the vision of the Charter Bens in the creation of the club and reflecting on the years gone by and looking forward to the year ahead. Well, before that we have an Installation Nite (of the new Governing Board) – and before that is the Elections – well, we are there on that Today – let's celebrate democracy, the rest shall follow!

## UNSCRAMBLE

C	A	S	K	T	S

S	O	O	M	E	R

I	N	A	P	T	S

D	W	E	I	L	M

Real Netas do it too so why shouldn't we?

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Answers to the last week's Unscramble

**OVERDO, GIBBER, LAGOON, BLENDE**

The team go over branding differently  
**GOVERNING BOARD**

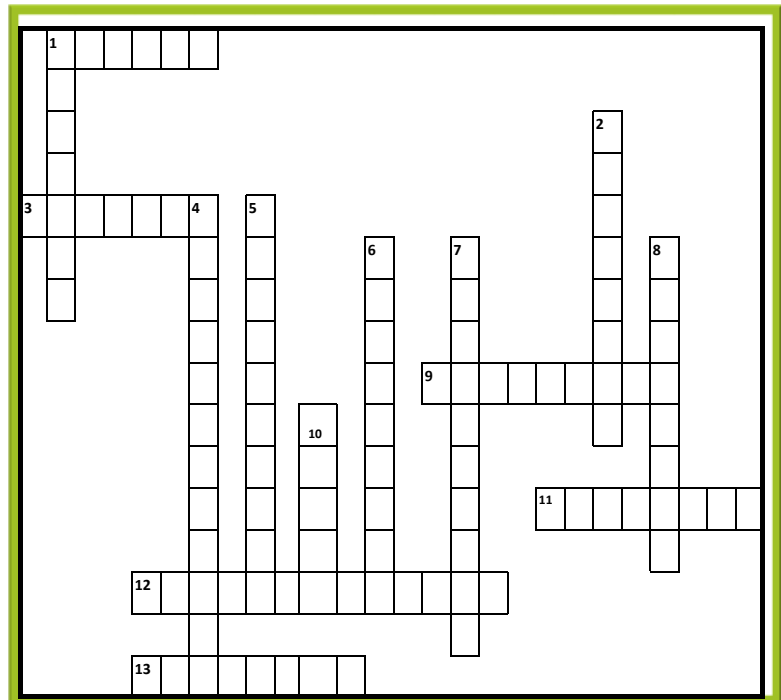
# BFMC Times stays afloat to live another... Ben Sairam is made Publisher

Last Sunday the Editor sent a terse email to all members stating:

*Last night BFMC Times Editorial Board members - the Publisher, Spl Correspondent and the Editor had a discussion and felt that BFMC Times may cease to exist after the November 12, 2017 issue! While alternatives are being explored, we are not sure if we would be able to sustain it. This is just an early call, to keep you all, our dear readers, informed of the impending closure. Thanking you all for reading regularly, responding occasionally and contributing rarely!*

Well, some Bens did respond as usual, a few on the WA group and others through email. We received a few applications for taking up positions—this would ease the burden on the existing team. With the Elections on hand and pressure to get the post-Election issue on point soon after, the Editorial board will address 'Recruitments' in a more elaborate manner in a week or two. In the interim, to ease the pressure on the team a few internal changes have been made. Ben Sairam, the Special Correspondent will take up the role of the Publisher. Ben Sunil Narahari Nath will be Associate Editor and will contribute to the newsletter as needed.

## CROSSWORD



### Across

1. Search the search engine? Almost. And why. Sounds like it anyway, if you want to bamboozle a batsman with it. (6)
3. His name was always the first in the batting order, but this name was always in the middle. (7)
9. Sounds like the slippers both brothers deserved to be beaten with, according to some. (9)
11. The glue is, go on, say it, somewhere in there, what stitched together the most fearsome batting order and bowling line-up for the Windies. (3, 5)
12. Height-challenged bronze medallist (male)? More like a possible fielder during a Power Play. (5,8)
13. Ravi Shastri left a red mark on his kingdom. (5,3)

### Down

1. Vamos, Guru! Or this tall bowling stalwart will do it. (7)
2. Bald lead? Not only is there no hair on it, there is no life in this delivery. (4,4)
4. He's the highest wicket taker in his country's premier domestic championship, but he never played for his country. (8,4)
5. Daft dot to make if you're arguing for this close-in fielder. (5,5)
6. A one-season wonder who was the first overseas player to play for the White Rose club in English County cricket. (9)
7. Jam hit rail? This Hyderabad knows there are better ways to set world records. (7,3)
8. A helping of Tilakarathne ice-cream? That's certainly not in the textbook. (8)
10. He literally swept India out of the 1987 World Cup. (5)



## Interview of the week - Ben Utkarsh

# “I Look forward to BFMC on weekends these days”



### What is your ambition in life?

My ambition in life is to become a business tycoon, and I also know that it can be achieved only through proper short term goals which will slowly mould me towards being what I want.

nothing on weekends, I'd rather waste time, but now I know that I am doing something productive and it's going to lead me somewhere good, by improving my skills and making me more social.

### Know the Ben

#### Ben Utkarsh

Date of Birth :	22/05/1999
Education :	BBA 1st Year
Fav. Personality :	Hrithik Roshan, Warren Buffet
Fav. Movie/book:	The Shutter Island
Fav. Dish :	Red velvet Cheesecake
Dream holiday :	Australia
Autobiography : If ever made	Travelling through Time

### One achievement or event you are proud of

There's actually two and I can't decide which is better. One is my recent winner's cup in the table tennis tournament which was conducted at college, and the other is coming second in IdeaBox, a startup idea competition.

### If you were granted one wish, what would it be?

It would sound clichéd, but I would ask for another 100 wishes under the guarantee that they will be fulfilled. Not just the 'your one wish is over, and I gave you 100 more but need not fulfil them' thing, though!

### What is the one change you want to see in the country?

I would like to see changes in people's mentality, because still in India no one talks about issues such as mental health, sex education, adolescent girl health etc. We try to keep it hush-hush, but come on let's address the elephant, let's talk about it.

### What is your favourite pastime, something that you can't live without?

My favourite pastime would be watching sitcoms. I really can't imagine a day without watching at least one episode of my current series. Even if I have a bad day, just that one episode makes me a lot calmer, and I can put an end to the day on a pleasant or at least neutral note.

### BFMC and impact

It had a huge impact on my routine life. Before joining BFMC I would do

## Anekantavada: Pluralism, Multi-facetedness, and Tolerance

- Ben D Parthasarathy (Bijoy)

**A**NEKANTAVADA is one of the great contributions of Indian philosophy, originating in Jain philosophy. While the word is sometimes simply translated as 'many-sidedness', it is a rich word, full of nuance, meaning, and offering itself scope to be interpreted in many different ways while philosophizing, but also for life practices. At a very basic level it opens up the possibility of science and scientific research, by valuing the importance of doubt - the very opposite of blind faith. Doubting creates the need for research, for thinking, and being open to the discovery of truth, even to the extent of accepting that truth can have multiple aspects. Truth is complex, there can be multiple interpretations, and there can even be multiple truths about the same set of observed facts. By assuming as a fundamental premise that most if not all knowledge is incomplete and partial, it makes the knowing being humble, and open to correction, which means that other knowers can always aspire to add to the knowledge.

chand Gandhi, well read as he was in the teachings of Mahavira. Indian and western philosophers have described Anrktantavada as "intellectual ahimsa" - something that is of essence in countering violence and terrorism born out of bigotry, prejudice and intolerance towards others view.

That reality has many sides and that we cannot hope to know everything, and therefore need to be cautious in arriving at conclusions has been a basic tenet of many arts, social science, and humanities disciplines. Its importance is now being recognized in fields such as physics, engineering (especially the study of risk), planetary sciences (including climate studies), and life sciences. Beyond its unique contribution to philosophy, the concept of Anekantavada is now contributing to enhancing scientific methodology, and thereby generating knowledge in areas which were hitherto not very responsive to standard scientific ways of research.



At a conference I attended, a Jain muni with a Ph.D in physics offered an excellent example of Anekantavada. He defended and supported the theories of modern science, even as he expounded the virtues of Jain philosophy. The concept does not mean that all versions of a fact constitutes the truth. Its significance lies in openness to truth-seeking, openness to admitting that one may be wrong, and openness to multiple methods of seeking knowledge. By accepting and even valorizing pluralism within science, it provides vantage points to search for truth, and it accepts diversity in perspectives, even as it makes us question ourselves and others about the basis for holding particular perspectives, particularly to make us reflexive about the biases and prejudices which may influence our viewpoints, and make us chooses specific sets of data, evidence, and interpretations.

The commonly known story of the blind men and the elephant is an excellent example of how we perceive reality. The true knowledge seeker is always humble assuming that s/he knows little, always aspiring to know more, and ever willing to acknowledge mistakes and correct herself / himself. Adopting Anekantavada as a perspective and philosophical approach almost automatically leads to tolerance, and is said to have deeply influenced Mohandas Karam-

### PAY SUBSCRIPTION ON TIME

### BFMC BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

Update Joint Secretary & Treasurer once you have remitted

All Other Bens  
INR 1,200 PER ANNUM

Students and Unemployed Bens  
INR 25 PER MONTH

FEDERAL BANK- Malkajgiri

A/C. Name: Benjamin Franklin Memorial Club

SB A/C No. 16670100022682 | IFSC Code: FDRL0001667

## WHEN WE MET

- Ben Krishnaveni

The meeting on 29th October began with just enough people to have quorum. While there are almost fifteen active members, not more than five or six were able to make it to the meeting—that too just a week prior to the elections!

The invocation was rendered by Ben Vybhav. In the welcome address, EVP Ben Venkat emphasized the need to make sure we have adequate strength in the house and that it was the responsibility of the members present to make that happen. This was followed by a Noble Thought by Ben Ayush.

The literary session planned had two events: an individual speech and a Pick The Lot session. The Individual Speech was given by Ben Tushar. It was filled with a lot of nostalgia and candor. He spoke about his journey at BFMC and how he realized that however experienced or good you may be at something, you always need to prepare.

The second session, Pick The Lot, was conducted by Ben Krishnaveni, who also doubled up as the evaluator for the day. The theme of the session was abstract and true to the theme, the topics

were abstract indeed! They ranged from colors to bubbles to heights and even to 'No'. Despite a low strength in the house, the session was lively, fun and all the Bens rose to the occasion and did an amazing job with the topics they were given. After one round, Ben Gurumoorthy took over and did a second round—a contemporary one where he assigned topics based on the likes and dislikes of the participants.



*Ben Vybhav receiving the Ben of the Day shield*

In the General Discussion, the Returning Officer gave the nomination forms for the elections and the election process was reviewed.

The Director of Circulation and Librarian's duties and responsibilities were explained to Ben Vybhav. He was also handed over the keys for the Bookcase which he went on to inaugurate after the meeting. In the previous meeting, Ben Sunil said that if an issue regarding a certain committee is addressed in the house, the concerned committee should present a report to the General Body the following week, which did not happen.

Ben Venkat went on to tell the Young Bens how important it is to have an active General Body which questions every aspect of the Governing Board's activities. He encouraged them to ask as many questions as possible, and also to file nominations for the Governing Board Elections.

### OUR TEAM

Publisher	: Ben Sairam
Editor	: Ben Venkat Parthasarathy
Associate Editor	: Ben Sunil Naraharinath
Columnist & Sub- Editor	: Ben D Narayan
Special Correspondents	: Ben Krishnaveni Ben Praharsha

## Bibliophile's dream come true

BNS - Nov 4

The long wait for a Library Bookcase is over. As promised, Ben Guru Moorthy has made sure that the bookcase is delivered at the BFMC venue.

There has been a lot of talk on the WhatsApp Group about donating Books to the BFMC Library. Ben L Ravi Chander, Ben Mouli et al have come forward to donate books to the BFMC Library. As per known sources, the Library Committee is targeting at least 250 books in the first year itself.

For a library of this magnitude to function properly, a Librarian is an immediate need and Ben Vybhav has taken up this responsibility. Ben Guru Moorthy has been instrumental in driving the book reading culture among younger Bens. As Bens might be aware, Ben Guru Moorthy has presented books to the Ben of the Day for the last 6 Weeks.



## Why Climb Mountains?

Ben Durga Prasad

Last week's conversations on the Bens WhatsApp group about the impending demise of BFMC Times and even the weekly meetings (yes, again!) sent me on a trip down memory lane to the times when the Times was originally launched.

The first issue of BFMC Times came to life way back in 1992, when it was printed on a dot matrix printer (I know I am getting old); it was published by Ben Sunil at his startup and was distributed door-to-door by the then Circulation Manager, Ben Anand. After the initial excitement and the overwhelming reception and readership, there came a point when we started to wonder if our luck had run out and if it was time to shut it down. Then, as I do now, I wondered if it was all worth it.

"Because it's there...Everest is the highest mountain in the world, and no man has reached its summit. Its existence is a challenge. The answer is instinctive, a part, I suppose, of man's desire to conquer the universe." These are the famous words British mountaineer, George Mallory, who died in 1924 on his third attempt at scaling Mt.Everest. This was in response to the question, "Why climb mountains?"

So why create a weekly BFMC Times? As the editorial and publishing team has indicated, and I can vouch from my own experience from 25 years ago, there is a lot that goes into bringing the weekly issue to your hands: writing, gathering news and articles, proof-reading and editing,

layout and final production (and thanks to technology, no driving around for circulation). No wonder even the mainstream media outlets are shutting down with the need for this kind of commitment.



So why do we bother then? We do because we as Bens like the challenge. We want to beat laziness, inertia and the demons of writer's block and bring out the creativity and team work that uplifts us, advances us and helps us prove to the universe who we can be as humans. In a lot of ways, we are like the mountain climbers. We can use the summit to inspire us to overcome the hurdles, however self-imposed they may be. So do your bit, however small, in supporting the publishing team. Be a part of it, and enjoy the journey of creating history.

As Sir John Hunt said, "The true result of endeavor, whether on a mountain or in any other context, may be found rather in its lasting effects than in the few moments during which a summit is trampled by mountain boots. The real measure is the success or failure of the climber to triumph, not over a lifeless mountain, but over oneself; the true value of the enterprise lies in the example to others of human motive and human conduct."

### DISCLAIMER

This weekly newsmagazine is published by Benjamin Franklin Memorial Club, Malkajgiri, a registered society with reg. no. 421. Editor: Ben Venkat Parthasarathy, Associate Editor: Ben Sunil Narahari Nath. Publisher: Ben Sairam Chavali (For private circulation only.)