



BFMC Times

HALF YEARLY REPORT

The Weekly News Magazine of Benjamin Franklin Memorial Club

August 11, 2019

Volume IV, Issue 37

8 pages

6 months of the new regime at the club... and what do we have?

- BNS (Aug 10)

February 10, 2019 - A new governing board took the reins of the club with much promise. In her first Presidential Address, Ben Krishnaveni spoke about how the main focus of the year is going to be on bringing the club to a state where meetings are no longer cancelled due to lack of quorum. A plan is being charted out on inducting more and committed members, while also trying to sustain the interest of the current members.

While the EVP said her main focus would be to ensure the interests of all members are catered to, and to make more and more people conduct sessions rather than just participate, Ben Srikanth spoke about the various events being planned, the most significant of which were intraclub competitions. "This, along with the 50th Charter Nite are likely to be the first events under the new governing board's name", he said.

Well, the two listed 'events' the 'Intra Club and the 'Charter Nite' were the only ones conducted during the year. The membership drive, as happened in 2018, yielded no results with hardly any traction seen from the reach out to the



Jt Secretary-Treasurer Ben Srujana has her task cut out, with ample support from the President and 'Convener' Ben Sunil Naraharath, the financial reports have

Progress Report

schools and colleges in and around Malkajgiri. We hear just one new member was inducted in the six month period and there have been only 13 meetings in the period, for an average of two meetings per month. The average attendance has been 8 members, and most regular meetings are not happening due to the eternal problem - 'lack of quorum'. The President, who

was the hub holding the wheel together as the EVP during the previous year, continues to be the only moving force of the club. The AVP Ben Utkarsh, has mooted quite a few 'programmes' - a proposed 'swachchtha' clean-up campaign of the neighbourhood to a 'haritha haaram' sapling plantation programme, we do not have any further details of the modalities of the same, which were to take of last week - on August 4th. Incidentally there was no meeting last Sunday, and from information gathered from our sources, with the President taking a break,

there was no initiative from the other governing board members for conducting the meeting. The EVP Ben Sudha has been putting efforts to bring in the promised change in the sessions. She has been fairly successful in what little meetings have happened with some interesting and creative sessions being introduced. General Secretary Srikanth has nothing to add to his report card during the half year and would do well to improve on the membership issues. The

assumed some semblance, also the membership subscription has been streamlined.

While it is heartening to hear of active participation of two non governing board members Bens Sathwika and Praneeth in the proceedings, the same can't be said of the two other promising members Bens Raj and Adithi, who have been finding it hard to juggle time away from their academic pursuits. Reason why the governing board needs to induct more new members to dedicate their time in running of the club.

An epitaph for the library?



At the beginning of this year, BFMC Times carried a report on how the library nestled in a shelf at Spell-bound Institute has been lying in sleep mode. Well, 7 months later, its still the same. Ben Vybhav, the Director of Circulation is not active anymore in the club, and we do not have a substitute.

Well, the priority is to run the club regularly, it is also important to safeguard and utilise the club's property for the benefit of its members. For the record the Library has over 150 books with generous contributions from Bens L Ravichander, N Shridhar, Guru Moorthy, Bijoy Parthasarathy and a few friends of Bens. We are not sure if there are any records of the books rented out during the year 2019.

The digital era sure seems to have written an epitaph for the printed books. The treasure trove could well kindle many creative minds, if only utilised to the full. Hope the Governing board looks into this.

Ben Toon

No, not Shashi Tharoor. That is our senior Ben who is very active on Whatsapp.



Finding joy in any work

On a Monday morning, getting back to work has been exciting and eventful for many. Such people can't wait to start their week of purposeful action, which nourishes them. For quite a few, this has been so even after decades of working for an organisation. It's just like their first day at work! While the above is true for several people, majority of the population does not carry the same feeling. They fret and fume or wake up with a sense of resignation on Mondays and on other days too of the week.

The running of a non profit organisation is not much motivating either, especially one like Benjamin Franklin Memorial Club where the members - mostly students - have little or no motivation to drag their feet on Sunday afternoons to a classroom to debate, discuss and deliberate on issues that could well... be procrastinated, eternally!

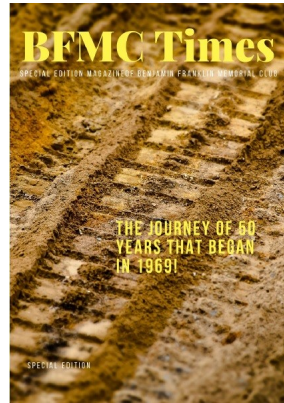
Editorial - Ben Venkat Parthasarathy

Why is this huge difference in the way people see their work life? It's so because the group that sees their work as a drudgery, are disengaged from the purpose of their work. Therefore, they are completely alienated from the outcome of their work. They just see it as a meaningless transaction, a tick box item that's to be only for economic reasons, in the case of BFMC for absolutely no gain. No wonder these people contribute poorly to the unit and many a times are a liability to the team. So what can motivate our Bens to put in their best efforts in running the club?

Dear Young Bens, Learn to make clear choices, and only do those things that bring you satisfaction. The best way to bring joy into what you do, is to connect to the reasons you do things. Joy isn't always fun. If you don't look forward to an activity, see if you can uncover the underlying needs it meets. Is it worth for you to do it? If so, do it with the benefit of this new understanding. If it's not of worth to you, consider other ways to make it more fun.

Once you shift the energy behind an action, you will be more connected to why you do things, and you will feel more joy.

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

This is a fantastic Golden Jubilee edition! Kudos!

It sends us down the memory lane, and yet a colourful and vibrant magazine. The Trio's rich contributions are the bonus!

Best Regards

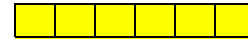
Ben S T Krishna, Dubai

(Via email)

UNScramble

ROHTEO INAPTS DETANT TREEFB

What Bens do best all the time, in the club or in online forum



Answers to the UNSCRAMBLE dt : 10.02.2019

BLITHE, FORAGE, TIRADE, BEAVER

Recurring Orwellian Theme in the current issue.
BIG BROTHER.

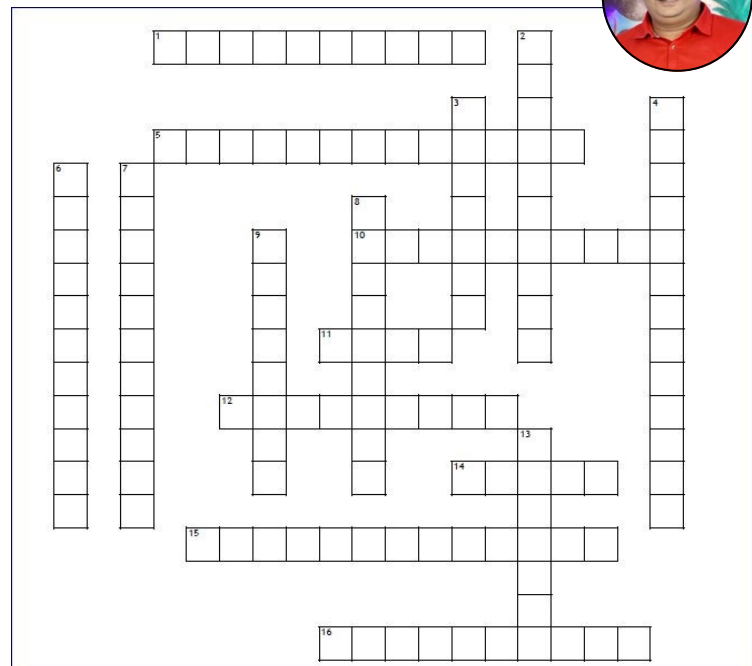


Across

1. Hat-trick was not enough to save the blushes against trans - Tasman rivals (5,5)
5. No, Kamal, Charu and Sruthi are not related to him (6,2,5)
10. Justice Army (10)
11. Captain's Last name spelling mistake, Afghan Spinner (4)
12. Is he the catch word of Virat Kohli? he is not a member but (3,6)
14. Alyssa Healy would be proud of this wicket taker husband (5)
15. Run out and out for not many runs define this first name sake of Crowe (6,6)
16. Henry's Parallel Universe '8055' (5,5)

Down

2. I was celebrating a wicket, looks like i am lost, do I take a tube to reach lords? (5,5)
3. Last name sounds like Mahesh Bhatt movie starring Sridevi & Sanjay Dutt(7)
4. Yaaaawn!!!! Do we say more? (8,5)
6. Rohit 648/9 and sandpaper scored 647/10 (5,6)
7. Hit, is he a Telugo-marathi signing for India? (5,6)
8. Eric Hollies stands single but Drayton Manor comes with the family as edges boss the tons (9)
9. Name sounds like "Big Bang Theory" Protagonist, Don't wait for his salute (8)
13. How is he able to manage such a large bowl of "A Malign" noodles on his head? (7)



Comment: Ben Sairam Chavali

Where is BFMC headed in 5 months?



Towards the end of Charter Nite 2019, we were left with a sense of satisfaction at the same time a fear and anxiousness of how it might progress. It was a conscious decision to stop playing the "Big" Brother to the current governing board and we stuck to it leaving the reins to the young Governing Board.

6 months on, being silent observers of the happenings at the club, we were left to ponder over some uncomfortable questions. We do need to answer these questions, more than we the current governing board needs to understand and answer these questions. Here is my list of questions to the Governing Board – we don't need answers we need them to ponder and act.

When we listened to the pre-election speeches of the Governing Board, they looked like perceivable change from the previous one, they seemed to focussed on what they intended to do. While there was no action plan on how, it still meant that there was a road map. Six months hence the road seems to be broken and map lost. From enhancing membership, bringing in change in how meetings are conducted, to adding professionalism, to organising a permanent podium, to doing activities for the National High School, much was envisaged. But then, there seems to be no headway.

BFMC still survives on ventilator, why have there been no serious attempts to increase the membership? When are you going to remove the ventilator? What are the activities planned to improve membership? Questions the Governing Board needs to answer and address.

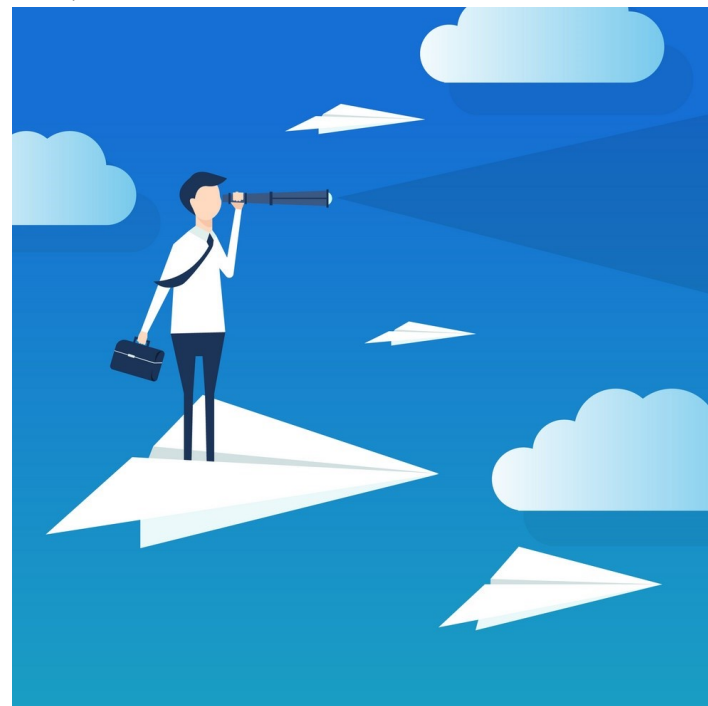
Events – Conducting and participation

In the 1990s, a noted quizzer used to take leave of absence from office to participate in YUVTAL Quiz and so was a certain literary champion who took off from his journalism duties to attend YUVTAL. YUVTAL still has the grace and charisma of being a



premium event, is there an attempt to conduct YUVTAL this year as well? Considering the club is plush with funds, garnered through last year's Yuvtal sponsorships, couldn't we organise one this year with minimal sponsorship and increased exposure to the earlier sponsors? If Yes when and if no why not?

While I talk about the two people above, I would also like to ask as



to why Bens don't participate as a team in events? Did they take part in Bhavanotsav? How many participated in various events and how many prizes were won? Bens used to invade Youth Festivals in Hyderabad – from All – Go – Rhythms to CBIT Youth Festival to Alchemy to Samanvay, Bens actively participated as a group – why is it not

happening now? Apart from an odd Toast Masters, President also does not seem to drive this activity. More questions for the Governing Board to answer.

Social activity

A mere 200 rupees in Bank, BFMC was rich and we wanted to do something to the society. It left me flustered and flabbergasted when the discussion about Weav-

ing Machines came – The Governing Board did not even think of how much do we have in Bank and how best we can make use of it. We suffered with lack of funds to even dream of something like that and with so much money in the Bank, the Governing Board in concurrence with the active senior members of BFMC could have put forth a proposal to buy 3 weaving

machines along with 1 promised on donations... Couldn't we?

Communication lacuna?

Communication of the club's activities to all the members (active and inactive) seems to be lost. The monthly magazine brought by the Club could do more to highlight activities, issues and create a reach out to senior members. The Bens Club WhatsApp Group could be updated of the activities planned and initiatives taken for the same engaging two-way communication between the current and the past members, sadly, we hardly see any communication from the current team.

The much maligned 'Trio' took a side step to give freedom to the governing board from the alleged 'interference' but that does not mean they became incommunicado. While they were there to help, it is the reluctance of the current governing board that is very surprising. On all the above issues that were listed, they could provide suggestions.

While the discontinuance of *BFMC Times* meant these questions stopped coming out in to the open often, they weren't being asked, but these are some questions the administration should ask and answer themselves.

While, it does not stop here, it does stop 6 months later, we are at the same place where we started with the same set of challenges, same approach albeit with different faces. What's the way forward? Do we have a vision 2020 for the club?

While at it, it would seem pertinent to add here that almost all members of the previous Governing board of 2018 and most of the then 'active' members have disappeared from the club's regular meetings, with their own 'valid reasons', what would the next year be like if all the current members too disappear from the radar at the end of the year? Prioritise on a succession plan!

Bens in News

An inspiring tale that moved the Bens

It began with a message in the Bens Club WhatsApp group by Ben Dr VSC Sekhar: Did anyone see the movie 'Mallesham'? Happened to watch it yesterday. It is based on a true story. He is a Padmashri award winner and also spoke on Ted eX . The movie is rustic and simple but very nicely shows the hard village life and problems they face. We need movies like these to give some hope from the otherwise drab and not so encouraging lives we face."

The movie **Mallesham**, is a biopic on Chintakindi Mallesham, a class 6 dropout, who was awarded Padma Shree in 2017 for inventing the 'Asu machine', which processes yarn mechanically, and that bettered the lives of many women in and around Pochampally.

Soon the inspiration was rolled by Charter Ben G V Sethuraman who said that "we Bens can pool money to finance one Weaving machine



costing approx Rs 25 K and donate the same to a needy poor weaver . Thus we also will be helping Mallesham". Soon the Bens got together to pool in money for a wonderful cause. Ben Sethuraman gave Rs 5000, Ben V Krishna Mohan 2000, Ben M Murali Mohan 2000, Ben Sasi Poruri Rs 7500 and Dr Gita Sharma Rs. 10,500 and now we have about

Rs. 27,000 for one weaving machine. The modalities of how to handover the same is being discussed by the senior members of the club.

Meanwhile there is also an idea to invite Mr Mallesham, who has made waves with his talks at TEDx, to the club and address the members on his achievement.

Members who wish to contribute further to the initiative may contribute to the Bank account (given below) and share the details with Ben M Murali Mohan who heads the project account.

Bank Account details:

Name: BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MEMORIAL CLUB
A/c no : 16670100022682
IFSC: FDRL0001667
FEDERAL BANK
Malkajiri Branch

Ben Sethuraman's MVF gifts hearing aids

Bens have an ear for people in distress more so Ben GV Sethuraman who through Meenakshi Venkatraman Foundation (MVF) has embarked on a mission to ensure no child suffers the trauma of not being able to hear. Looks like their prayers are heard.

Ben Sethuraman extended support to Gandhi Hospital to provide free hearing aids to children who are tested deaf.



Speaking at the seminar of the ENT Department Prof Sruvan Kumar, Superintendent of the college commended the efforts of the trust named after the parents of Ben Sethuraman & his brother in providing facilities to the hospital.



Speaking at the event, the Charter General Secretary of the club Ben Sethuraman declared his intentions to set up state of the art hearing and speech testing facilities across various Government Hospitals apart from distributing costly hearing aids free of cost.

Miracle at Goshala



Ben Jayaraman's Goshala at Madanapalle has been blessed with abundance of water from the recent rains. According to him it rained heavily only at their Goshala, for one full night. All the water harvested ponds are full.

His efforts of spending lakhs of rupees was surely worth it. This means, they can now grow their own fodder for the cows. In a message to the members of BFMC, Ben Jayaraman said "We thank you all for your support, blessings and best wishes. I am rushing to Goshala for immediate sowing work".

Ben Jayaraman donates books

Ben Jayaraman, has been doing yeoman service to the society and this year too like every year donated books to the students of schools. As usual he donated 10000 notebooks to various govt. schools.



Recently, accompanied by his wife Uma Jayaraman, Ben Jayaraman donated 1000 notebooks to Sarvodaya School, Gowthamnagar. He also donated 500 notebooks for Addagutta slum children at Sathya Sai Bal Vikas.



The Perils of Entrepreneurship

It all started with Ben Guru Moorthy who expressed that "There are two facets to the VGS story". He went on to elaborate how VGS made a killing when he funded startups, how he got sucked into corporate/personal debt, venturing into plantations and real estate. He concluded with "This talk of tax terrorism is just a red herring. You wanted off balance sheet cash outgo, you wanted off board of directors deals, you wanted political money (to be given or taken) you will get into issues. VGS failed in his entrepreneur startup mode. He looks a great VC."

What really sparked off the debate was another forward from Ben Victor Krupar, which was already viral on the social media, that listed 28



organizations facing tough times in the current political and economic regimen. Ben Sunil promptly made a point by point rebuttal on the post, and what followed was an animated dis-

cussion on the subject of entrepreneurship and how entrepreneurs are made out to be heroes or villains. Read the snippets given captured in the next two pages.

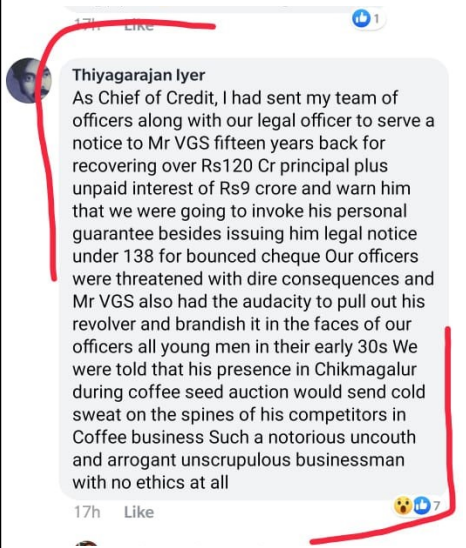
Bens Debate

At one point, Ben Dr. VSC Sekhar summed it up nicely: *Hats off to the Bens for this debate. That's why I tell my other friends that this forum is different from any other.*

They may no longer be the youngsters who eagerly participated in debates at the regular meetings of the club. But thanks to social media (read WhatsApp), the Bens leave no opportunity to get into verbal duels bringing out the best in each other.

We present to you one such debate that the Bens were engaged in the past week.

What the Bens had to say



Ben Dr VSC Shekar: It is important that these kind of posts are also to be encouraged. The death of a person is a tragedy to many people who are friends and family. And the death brings about a lot of outpouring of grief and fond memories as well as grand obituaries. However there is always the other side of the coin. In India almost all if not every success story has a dark side to it.



Ben S Kishore: It is very easy to comment on entrepreneurial failures. Only when one experiences enter entrepreneurship, can and one should comment on it. It is very easy to comment and brand business failures as failure of entrepreneurs. As one writer wrote today - 99 per cent of business ventures will fail but 100 per cent of entrepreneurs will succeed. The basic fault line of entrepreneurship is whether the person involved was enterprising enough or not. Not whether he succeeded or not. In my view, each of us succeed in any work place only on whether and how much enterprising we are. In that sense, any failure to move up the ladder in an organisation is equally a failure in entrepreneurship.



Ben L Ravichander: To push the entrepreneur failure story, it cannot be denied that the numbers are a matter of concern. At an individual level there are heroics and gnaws behind failure. I wonder why we hide it in the first place. I failed in many facets of my life and am more than willing to go to town about it. I made the effort. May not the effective ones. So be it. Thatz life. May be the successful ones have walked passed. I give value to their success with my failure. They may not have me in their distinguished bracket. However I live, U survive. I already have another B plan to survive. So be it!!



Ben Sunil Naraharinath: The only thing we know for certain about entrepreneurship is that some succeed and a far more fail. Any formula for success is always only a necessary condition, never a sufficient one.

On the other hand, I would be stupid if I generalize that every failure is because of "fraudulent, away from good governance practices". Just as for success, there is no formula for certain failure - there are too many variables: many of them outside of the control of the enterprises.

But when there is an ill-concealed campaign to blame the system and regime, I can assume the poetic license of a debating opponent. I need not have done my homework, nor do I need to be an authority on the subject, nor do I need to speak the truth. But neither does my opponent!

It is just what we Bens do. We argue, we learn. What we say when we argue has no meaning. What we take away from the argument is what matters. Which, for me, is the fact that debates of this nature always have two sides. If someone takes a strong position on one side, I will deliberately take the opposing position. It is more an attempt to bring in a balance to the narrative, not necessarily my belief system.

Bottomline: If enterprises fail, it is not necessarily just because the system that failed them. That's building a false narrative. There could be a plethora of reasons. And in the event of false narratives getting built, I'll point out the skeletons in the cupboard. Don't mistake me that I believe that the skeletons are the sole reason for failure.



Ben Girish Neelakant: Isn't entrepreneurship a verb, rather than a noun, a doing, irrespective of occupation? And therefore, I'm an entrepreneur when I can say, I've tried!! Probably success can add to it, a heady feeling, but surely failure takes nothing away?? And the journey itself, can it not be heady?

And therefore, there lots to be said about the CCD,s AMBANIS, Adanis, Satyam and Maytas, Mallyas, and the million chottus in the same realm, who have shown the spirit, run with the tide, seized the moment, shown the drive, and Driven the world, in. Spite of how judgemental the world is in judging them on grounds of mo-

rality, ethics, societal norms and violations.. A lot to be said and praised about the Entrepreneurial Spirit, irrespective of the Ends and the Means.



Bens Debate Cont'd ... What the Bens had to say



Ben ST Krishna: Some achieve 'success' by opting out of the higher rungs of the ladder!

In this discussion, wondering if the elements 'greed' and 'overzealous diversification' were probably overlooked.. these are certainly 'internal factors' that contributed to a number of so called 'failures', including CCD.

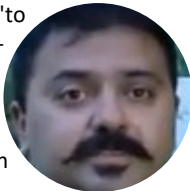
Ben Durga Prasad: Have to echo the karma yoga reference. Success as we typically refer to is a result of your effort AND aligning of various external forces in your favour. Only true measure of success in my view is have you done what was needed the most in your situation (or have you gone out seeking what needed to be done at that time in history) and you have you given your best. This is why we are all on the side of NZ cricket team I guess.



What the Ben Entrepreneurs had to say

Ben Kiran BS: The success of the enterprise and the entrepreneur is probably best seen separated. Like a lot of you have said that enterprise success is dependent on many factors (external and internal) and is not necessarily continuous or final. For companies in the long haul it can be a bad year or two sometimes and then they can have a great couple of years or vice versa. For the entrepreneur I think success means many things like 1. Enjoying the journey 2. Adding value to others and society (includes creating wealth for self and others) 3. Learning and growing as a person along the way. And can be many more depending on how he/she sees it. But points 1 and 3 are critical to feel successful. While a lot feel point no 2 is most important but if 1 and 3 are not happening it might be useless.

Also the word entrepreneur itself, while it is said to have come from French word 'entreprendre' meaning to 'undertake', the other Sanskrit word to which it has close resemblance to is Anthapurna - Self motivation is the best said for an entrepreneur.



Ben Sethuraman: Kiran very well articulated my own thoughts. I cofounded an Engg enterprise with (almost no capital) my college mate in 1981 and fulfilling primarily points 1, 2 & 3 very well listed above. In 2012 after a very successful stint, we felt we are not enjoying the journey any more. We took one more year (2013) to train two key personnel and encouraged them to start their own with our brand, intellectual property, personnel by leasing out our facilities. They too are successful. Happy to share we in fact inspired 3 of our employees to start on their own between 2000-10.

Today I am more into Seva and personally feel outer success (craving and thirst for material wealth) is illusory in nature ,does not make a person happy at all and there is always a longing to realise Sat Chit Ananda . Now thanks to Satsang with learned Masters, I am coming out of my Ignorance and learning the real Art of Living by going Spiritual. Kiran's 'Soul Marg 'helped me in understanding Ramana Maharishi.



Ben Dr. Gita Sharma: Shantha biotech - the start of a whole new area of science, technology n business. Raised funding, convincing, and making investors dream our dreams, setting benchmarks, competing with Big Biotech companies. Genetic Engineering itself was new riddled with fear of the known n unknown ... We had to convince the govt, regulatory n all else that it was not a me too but novel technology n file a US patent.

I moved to Zyduz Cadilla ... lot of hard work creating a world class R&D ctr. obtaining regulatory approvals un-training n training people into a research mindset, documentation to USFDA stds ...

Started Magene Life Sciences. Again a first of its kind in India that offered services in upstream biology to pharma companies doing drug discovery. however there were financial issues, after the promoter passed away. Decided to go slow on doing anything with research and have retired. But to do something novel still invigorates me ...

The qualities that have enabled me are: a good understanding of the science I'm doing . Planning very carefully, setting very realistic goals, building my team like my very own family, giving n demanding too, clarity in communication to all internal and external.



Ben Rao Anand: My journey into entrepreneurship started when I was a banker in India and saw first hand many businesses start and some successful and many also ran or some just failures.

After Me and Indu moved to US, in 1983 ... Then in 1990 with absolutely no capital and a second kid on the way, we ventured in to a small home based Accounting and Consulting practice. Eventually in 2001 we added personal financial planning services. We were in a totally different culture and we had to fight for acceptance as entrepreneurs.

Today, we have settled into a comfortable position ... But for long we had to slug it out and have followed the following guidelines.

1. Start on a shoe string budget and invest only in productive assets.
2. Develop a niche and don't be everything to everyone. Focus on a segment of the market. Become an expert in your field.

3. Hire the best and let go bad employees. Pay the best possible wages, as financial incentive is a major motivator for employees to excel.

4. Honesty and sincerity in all dealings develops trust and confidence in you.

5. Constantly evaluate your growth and realign the business.

6. Every once in way purge your bottom ten percent of the clients who take away too much of your time and yet do not produce much revenue. This is painful, but necessary to bring in new clients and kindle new relationships.

7. A referred client is the best client. So ask your existing clients for referrals.

8. Develop a good work life balance and focus on keeping good health. This is very important. Working crazy hours will diminish your ability to deliver best product/service.



Ben Guru Moorthy: The most intriguing aspects of entrepreneurship I want to highlight is When you start failing, it becomes very lonely and when you start succeeding your arrogance takes over.

The loneliness bites you when you are sitting in your hotel rooms in godforsaken places, in airport lounges, while pacifying your employee or vendor. And when finances is an issue you cut corners ... I have travelled Nairobi to Dar-es-salaam, 18 hours back breaking bus journey, thinking every minute whether entrepreneurship was worth it. Arrogance is when people praise you, respect you. One bravado can screw your years of hard work.

You could be in line begging after 10/12/15 years. One banker can show you how vulnerable you are. But the bug remains. You take a sabbatical and then the itch starts. This is opium consumed by you, fanned by desire to succeed, by sheer ability or inability.



A memorable vacation in the United States



Ben Dr Gita Sharma's

TRAVELOGUE

It's been more than 4 decades of run-run, wake up with the alarm and get to bed when eyes could no longer be open. I decided to take off and just quit my job, bought my ticket and took off to US.

The first time I had left home by myself was in 1984 to USA for pursuing a post doc. Until then it was always with family - for a family wedding or some such event. This time around I chalked out what and when I would do - a bucket list that included attend a



Bridgewater Balaji Temple

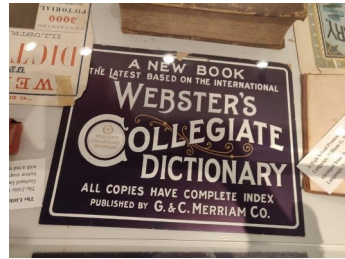
wedding, attend a graduation/commencement and rest was to meet family and friends.

Sometimes a short walk down memory lane is all it takes to appreciate where you are today. At times you will never know the true value of a moment till it becomes a memory. I have visited US very many times since my first landing at JFK in 1984 to this time on May 2nd 2019.

The memory of that day remains etched in my memory. My friend,



a fellow Postdoc - Pramod had come to receive me we dragged my 2 heavy suitcases, to the train station at JFK to go to east side of Manhattan which is where our Institute (Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Institute) as well as our housing was, braving the chill winds. We went to his apartment freshened and went to his lab. I was awed at the lab, its infrastructure in compare to a poverty stricken OU lab. Later we went and spent the night on the banks of river Hudson that was on the



road parallel to our institute. In the dark starlit night, I sat there gazing at the flow of the river, with shimmering waves in the moon light, the statue of liberty in the distant horizon. My mind flooded with unanswered questions, ambitions, opportunities, dreams and an unsaddled feeling of freedom and liberty.



Japanese Garden, San Francisco

My rendezvous did include a visit to Connecticut to meet Pramod and share the years lapsed by. At Connecticut visited Mark Twain house and also the Webster home - each making a historic impact

Then I went to Chicago. Here again moments of Ben meet: Ben Vatsala, Ben Madan Mohan and Ben P.S Mohan who had come all

the way from Connecticut with Mrs Lakshmi, his spouse just for the sake of being together. Met all of Vatsala's family her brothers after more than 3 decades their spouses, her sons with family for the first time. She took 4 days off for my sake. Her son hosted a movie 'Alladin' and a tour of the lake front, seeing the architectural marvel of each sky rise brought me memories of the book 'Fountainhead' by Ayn Rand.



Mark Twain Home

lampposts with hanging baskets. They had day lilies, canna lilies, geraniums, roses petunias etc the geraniums were like huge trees growing wild.

If you are of the opinion that delays, cancellations, luggage going missing is a phenomenon of flights and trains in India, it's even worse in the US. When flights are delayed or cancelled the airport lounges are so crowded, if you get up n go your seat is gone like gone.

In summary, I enjoyed connecting with my long-lost friends, and students seeing a few places. I did taste a few cuisines Thai, Afghani, Mexican etc. Honestly, I enjoy my own curd rice, its ok for a change.

I attended a few functions of our Indian societies there. The kids there learn more about our tradition, culture than our own here. The gen next here is far more carefree than our Indian Kids there. They have a tremendous peer pressure of performance, and competition.

(Pics by: Ben Dr Gita Sharma)



Chicago



Ben Vatsala's Home

Later I visited Washington DC and had a gala time with my students. The traffic was maddening worse than at Blore. Both at DC and Philadelphia you sure do not wish to drive or park. I had also gone to visit one of my mentors who is now settled at Dayton Ohio. He was so overwhelmed at the gesture for no American bothers to meet you if you are retired.

Of course, how can a trip a vacation of mine be without the gardens and parks I visited what



Rose Garden

stood out is the healthy blooms everywhere. Be it California, Boston, Washington DC or Chicago or Dayton Ohio beautiful flowers adorn the side-walks and the



My Favourite sportsmen

I have been a sports buff from my childhood and some of the sportsmen have had an indelible impression on my life. Here I pick five of the most inspiring athletes from five different sports that I follow judiciously. While there are quite a few Indian sports persons, I chose the five greatest, in my opinion, in the sports of my choice.



5. Jurgen Klinsmann: The German footballer had the reputation of being a gentleman off the field and a beast on it. To supplement his pace and finishing skills, he also was a brilliant passer of the ball and in his time was reputed as the most complete striker.

4. John McEnroe: My most favourite tennis player may have won just 7 major title, no comparison to the numbers of the modern ones. But he was full of character as a pundit, one of the greatest stylists on court, as well as famously irascible.



3. Michael Schumacher: I didn't see much of Ayrton Senna, but for me Michael Schumacher is the greatest racing Formula 1 driver I have ever seen. Hallmark of grit, dedication and the passion to win.

2. Sir Viv Richards: The West Indian great who gave "swagger" new meaning in cricket, Richards was the most destructive batsman of his era, few could take on, intimidate, and rip to shreds bowling attacks like he did. The original Master Blaster with a 360 degree approach to batting is quite simply the greatest.



1. Michael Jordan: The Chicago Bull was a mythical athlete. I watched in awe as No. 23 performed on-court sorcery. Every game during the entirety of Jordan's 15-year career was a testament to his absolute dominance, undoubtedly the greatest athlete of all-time.

- Ben Venkat Parthasarathy

Benignly Yours



"Who you were talking on phone to?"

"BFMC Times editor."

"What, again you are going to write? But it is ok. At least one thing you are good at."

But let me give background. In last few months, after BFMC Times was suspended, I had lot of free time. But only thing happened was Appalamma successfully proved that I am most useless man in the world.

For example, one day I decided to surprise her by going to market and buying a saree. Also, I bought some items for drawing room show case. Appalamma looked at them and said, "Your taste is like kakarakai. Look at pakikinti Pankajamma's husband. He buys her beautiful dresses and their house has so many beautiful items."

Another time, I decided to fix the tap in kitchen sink. Long story short, you could ask me did they divert Prakasham barrage water to your kitchen? Appalamma this time compared me to her brother, according to her who was wizard at fixing things, even with his left hand little finger.

Then one Sunday we decided to go out to see a movie and have dinner. Appalamma got ready and was looking like a million dollars. But she gave one look at me and said, "Why can't you be like Suresh Reddy?". (The guy who appears in ads & posters of Anutex and of local super markets.)

There was lot of traffic that day, and you know how wife's can be when you are driving. Appalamma's advice? "You should learn to drive from my sister Subbalakshmi's husband."

I am supposedly bad at many other things also. Like holding door for a lady. Like which glass to use for whisky and which glass for wine. Like doing taxes. Like talking to guests. Like using laptop and mobile. In Appalamma's words: "You are exact opposite of my father".

So, dear Bens, please give me more chance to keep writing. (I tried couple of times to send mail to editorwip@gmail.com but they bounced back like two rubber balls.) If I have free time, I will keep coming in way of Appalamma. She will soon start comparing me with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Donald Trump.

- Ben D Appa Rao

Club's Financial Records Put in Order

- BNS (Aug 10)

In an exercise that has taken several months, it appears that the Club's financial records have finally gained some semblance of an order.

Ever since the club's revival during mid-2017, all financial transactions done by the club, though maintained in bits and pieces all over the place, were not really well organized in terms of records. Of course, the mandatory passing of Financial Reports by the General Body has happened from time to time, thus indicating that things weren't in as bad a mess as has been often made out to be. However, what was missing was a good process, and a good reporting mechanism, which is more or less in place now.

For starters, the passing of Financial Reports which was done for arbitrary periods from time to time has been done away with, and the current Governing Board has been passing the same for monthly periods beginning the Janu-

ary of this year.

For another, the Governing Board has also started maintaining physical "vouchers", a traditional accounting practice that they have adopted, for all transactions after their taking over charge of the club's affairs. Previous transactions were mostly in soft copy "Excel" statements only.

Speaking of Excel, the team has also come up with a reporting mechanism where, while on one hand the periodic Financial Reports to be passed in meetings are created using the MS-Office spreadsheet tool, a separate reporting of accounting of transactions for specific events is also being done. These Reports give a good perspective event-wise,

compared to regular Financial Reports where an event might be spread across monthly reports, or a given monthly report might have multiple events.

Finally, it is expected that all the Financial reports and Event reports will be made available online, in a phased manner, for all to see. Currently, the team is expected to give online access to a few select seniors.

With the Financial Records in order now, on the cards is a meeting of the **Bens Core Focus Group**. The Governing Board will present the protocol adopted to maintain records in the meeting. Also to be taken up will be the plans to manage the funds available with the club.



Financial Report
(Receipts & Payments)



Event Report