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DISTRICT 105

TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL®

REGION 11

NEWSLETTER VOL.2
SEPTEMBER 2020



FOCUS ON DIVISION B

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CRAZY CONFESSIONS

On August 8th, 2020, the District PR team released the first newsletter for the year 2020-21 amidst a lot of fanfare. A sense of achievement and euphoria prevailed when it was received with rapturous reviews.

Ruminating on its success I went into flashback mode. When I received a call from DTM Deepa one fine day, asking if I would like to be a part of the district newsletter team, I was skeptical. When she sensed that I was floundering, she brought out her trump card, **“DTM Sowmya Rangarajan will be leading the team.”** The name did the magic. With no further thought, I jumped onto the bandwagon to join a fabulous team of 5 ladies and one gentleman. And now, here we are!

After the successful launch of our Division A newsletter, we turned to start work on the Division B newsletter. Soon we realized that it was not going to be easy. Here was a Division which had stalwarts in every bandwidth, and innumerable awards in its kitty, not to mention the landscape of Toastmasters panning generations. It was going to be a daunting task to cover such a magnificent line-up. As we progressed, we understood why this Division stands out as an inspiration.

I love to explore the rustic beauty of villages and its people and enjoy coffee dates with my friends. Though I can have food at any given point of time, cooking spells in the kitchen make me quite restless. I find pure bliss in a sip of South Indian filter coffee.

A heterogeneous mix of professionals across generations work shoulder-to-shoulder harnessing their power of diversity. They seamlessly bridge the gaps that differing work and communication styles can bring in. Division B has built a culture that helps nurture innovation and teamwork. Mentoring is their hallmark and through mentoring they have connected talent pools from different generations and leveraged each other's strengths. This understanding helped us identify **“Bridging Generations”**, as an apt theme for Division B.

We have attempted to capture Division B's alluring essence in its right frame, but what we have covered is a mere drop in the ocean.

We express our sincere and heartfelt thanks to the Toastmasters of Division B, District 105 PR manager DTM Deepa, Division B director TM Harish, Area Directors TM Dr. Muneeba, TM Pragnya, TM Nizar and DTM Shanmugasundaram for lending their unstinting support for this creation.

Happy reading! Do take time out to give us your valuable feedback.



TM PADMAJA DELEEPKUMAR
EDITORIAL TEAM



SOWMYA RANGARAJAN, DTM
CHIEF EDITOR

Flowers and colours fascinate me; can't say the same of fauna though. Animals sure are fascinating, but only when there is the safety of distance between us. I could devour anything sweet starting from sugar, and food for me has to be piping hot.



TM RADHA HARI
EDITORIAL TEAM

Kids are the biggest stress busters, they excite me and I love spending time with them. I dread heights! Even thinking about roller-coasters, bungee jumping or sky diving, has my head spinning. Though I enjoy TV shows slapstick comedy leaves me utterly bored.



TM SHILPA SHREEMANTH
EDITORIAL TEAM

Monotony can kill me and just a mention of adventure sports can excite me. I have fan moments whenever I meet a good vegetarian cook and I suffer from Ophidiophobia to such an extent that I can't watch snakes even on television, which is pretty crazy according to my family.



SARO THARYAN, DTM
EDITORIAL TEAM

I get excited enough to do a jig when I fit into my old clothes. Small talk and gossip bore me to death and I am a huge fan of people who appear as they are. May sound crazy, but even in summer I take hot showers!!



TM RUCHI UNDEVIA
EDITORIAL TEAM

Did anyone say Badminton? Count me in. Any sport, for that matter, is exciting for me, even if I barely know how to play it. I connect better with people through written words and sports. On the other hand, navigating awkward conversations over drinks and loud music have the opposite effect on me. I dive for cover in my fictitious shell and surface talk the time away.



NITIN MEHRA
DESIGNER

Things that excite me are my colorful past, the lively present, and unpredictable future. Wasting time, even for a second bothers me. I want to make every second count.

“Be Positive”

says District Director DTM Nelson Menezes



NELSON MENEZES, DTM
DISTRICT DIRECTOR

What excites and what bores you?

“Nature excites me, I love greenery, mountains and lakes. Serials on television and sitting idle bore me completely.”

The best part of being a Toastmaster is that we are never short of words. It seems just like yesterday when I penned my first message for the Division A newsletter, and here I am communicating with you once again through this second District newsletter that focuses on Division B.

As a District Director, I wish to see our district recognized as one of the best districts in the world, a Smedley Distinguished District. As you all know my motto has always been **“Teamwork will make our dream work”** and I see an abundance of teamwork in Division B.

Meeting online is the new normal and most of the clubs of District 105 smoothly made the transition, but Division B went a step further. They used the situation as an opportunity. Under the dynamic leadership of DTM Vinod Panicker, they held several interesting and informative training sessions last year, from mind mapping to podcasting, and I can see that trend continuing this year too.

Challenges are bound to be there; however, as leaders we must face challenges with positivity. Division B has a rich treasure of several such leaders who have guided the division with their knowledge and positivity. I take this opportunity to congratulate Division Director Harish Krishnan and Area Director Dr. Muneeba Ali for chartering a new club despite the challenging times. I extend a warm welcome to **“Aster Toastmasters Club”**, the first new club joining District 105 this year (2020-21).

I wish every member of the Division B family an exciting year of personal growth, success, and enjoyment. Success will definitely be yours when you work collectively with a definite goal in mind. Keep learning, keep sharing, and keep inspiring. I assure you wholehearted support from the District.

As Henry Ford says, **“Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young.”**

Nelson Menezes, DTM
District Director,
District 105, Region 11

“Listen to Understand” says Program Quality Director DTM Gurbinder Punn

What do you like most about the new generation?

I like them for being a hypercognitive generation, very comfortable with collecting and cross-referencing many sources of information. They demonstrate greater freedom of expression and openness to understanding different kinds of people, with a global perspective.



GURBINDER S PUNN, DTM
PROGRAM QUALITY DIRECTOR

Nobody is perfect; neither our generation nor our parents' generation nor the one before them. Every generation has a set of rules and limitations that they create for themselves, the impact of which could be good or bad for the generations to come. I belong to Gen 'X', grew up with Baby Boomer parents and brought up two Gen 'Z' children.

A generation gap occurs when two generations have contradicting viewpoints on most subjects, and are unable to find a common meeting ground, or make each other understand.

Time spent on social media, choice of career or spouse, spending and saving habits, eating and drinking preferences, socializing, dress code, and just about anything can be matters of controversy in people of different age groups.

Toastmasters provides solutions to bridge this gap.

Listen – Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with an aim to reply. Shift your listening, adopt an open mindset, and listen to the other person's point of view. This necessary skill can save many relationships.

Know your audience – One of the fundamentals that we learn in speaking mechanics is to know our audience, which is the equivalent of understanding the previous or next generation.

Steven Covey's 5th Habit specifies – **“Seek first to understand and then to be understood.”** Communication is an essential skill in life, and we take pride in being a part of Toastmasters, the masters of communication.

In the words of Dr. Ralph C Smedley – **“Understanding comes through communication, and through understanding, we find the way to peace.”**

Let us build bridges to connect generations.
Regards

Gurbinder S Punn, DTM
Program Quality Director,
District 105, Region 11

“Your Boldness Amazes me”

says Club Growth Director DTM Rania Abul-Rub



RANIA ABUL-RUB, DTM
CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR

What excites and what bores DTM Rania?

Traveling, exploring new cultures and meeting new people, nothing beats that excitement. I have not stayed at home without traveling for such a long time and that is because of COVID, and that is killing boring.

It is a great pleasure to address my dear friends and members of Division B, with whom I have interacted on so many occasions over the past 15 years, both during the District official meetings and more closely during the District Annual Conferences. As a consequence, I have built some amazing friendships over these years.

The lockdown period gave me another great opportunity to interact and discover more of the reasons that make your Division particularly unique.

For me, Division B stands for boldness. I have always been amazed at your willingness to be innovative, trying new ideas with a lot of confidence and creativity. I believe the diversity among your members, who come from different backgrounds, age groups, specialties, and professions, is what inspires your innovative projects and ideas.

Regardless of the variety among your clubs, you all share a boldness that allows you to come out of your comfort zone and create your own unique identity. This boldness has also built a bridge connecting different generations of members, resulting in you being one big family sharing one passion and one objective. Each one of you gives the best to your fellow members and raises the bar of quality and service while fulfilling the club mission every step of the way.

I wish my fellow members of ‘Division B’ continuous prosperity and success. Keep doing the fantastic work you do, elevate your members’ experiences, support, and nurture them all the way.

Rania Abul-Rub, DTM
Club Growth Director
District 105, Region 11

“Accept, Adapt and Fight back” says District PR Manager, DTM Deepa Surendran

What do you think is our generation’s greatest strength?

Adaptability. We are sandwiched between the interests of two generations... still we are surviving happily.



DEEPA SURENDRAN, DTM
PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER

Life is all about change, and we are familiar with this fact. Most of us as Toastmasters, would have spoken about change management in at least one of our speeches, but does anyone remember a phase in which change has affected us so much as it is doing presently?

Corona Virus, a tiny organism has impacted human lives by conquering the world; changing the way we live, love, and even talk. Should we succumb to these changes and stop doing what we were passionately doing before? Should we stop developing ourselves, delivering speeches, arranging events, releasing Newsletters, or thinking creatively? Obviously not.

As humans, it’s our nature to fight back and find solutions for the problems that come up. The PR Team is doing the same. We are reminding District 105 that we don’t need to sit idle or cut short our normal activities. In fact, we are now doing a lot more than before to convince our members and non-members that our capabilities have become stronger and better.

All our subcommittees are more energetic; be it Social Media, Infrastructure, Creative Design, Compliance, Communications, Awards or Newsletter, all are in their best forms. You might have witnessed this during the first

of its kind District Public Relations event held on August 8th, where we released our first Newsletter themed “The Melting Pot”, with special focus on Division A.

In addition, our Social media team released the much-awaited interview with DTM Abraham Mathew, a person who personifies knowledge and empathy. If you haven’t watched it yet, please do so by searching for ‘District 105 Toastmasters’ on Youtube.

The journey continues and it is now time to bring out our second newsletter. The focus this time is on a division that has a rich legacy, illustrious leaders, impactful keynote speakers, influential mentors and a diverse array of multilingual clubs.

I am indeed speaking about Division B, the division that calls itself the Best!

To know more about the vivacious Division B, continue on!

Happy Reading! Happy Toastmastering!! Cheers!!!

Deepa Surendran, DTM
Public Relations Manager
District 105, Region 11

“Magic will Happen”

says Division Director TM Harish Krishnan



TM HARISH KRISHNAN
DIVISION DIRECTOR

What do you admire about the current generation?

They are bursting with fresh ideas and perspectives and are least apprehensive when it comes to airing their opinions and expressing ideas. We should empower and allow them to explore their thoughts; after all, they are the ones who are going to take our legacies forward.

It gives me immense pleasure to see Division B featured in a District 105 Newsletter. Efforts invested by the Newsletter team for brilliantly capturing and showcasing the true essence of Division B is praiseworthy. Division B is considered the mother of all Divisions, and at one point in time, the clubs of both UAE and Oman were a part of Division B. Division B is an amalgamation of members of different standing; celebrities, oldest serving Toastmasters of the region, debutants,... you name them, we have them all!

On the personal front, I joined this wonderful organization to build my confidence and have been a Toastmaster for the past five years. Though the primary drivers were stage fright and angst, over the last five years my requirements have changed. I have realized that Toastmasters is not just about Communication and Leadership, but much more than that. It refines you from what you were yesterday and transforms you into a better version of yourself.

As Division B Director, one of my prime goals is to instill unity and a sense of belonging among the Clubs and Areas within the Division. By ensuring this alone, the magic will happen... the magic of growth and success. Division B is blessed with a strong core team and Division Advisor who is a walking talking source of motivation and knowledge. All our Area Directors have unique strengths that will complement and propel us towards achieving what we have set out to accomplish.

As a Division, we are a bunch of ardent Toastmasters, committed to working together by supporting and helping each other, sharing knowledge and experiences for the greater good.

“If serving is below you, leadership is beyond you”

Let's learn and grow together!

TM Harish Krishnan
Division Director

“What WAS and IS, creates what can BE” says Division Advisor DTM Uma Radhakrishnan

What bores you and what excites you?

People who blow their own trumpet bore me. I enjoy being with youth and listening to their ideas.



UMA RADHAKRISHNAN, DTM
DIVISION ADVISER

I have always likened Division B to a busy beehive, sans the dangerous connotation. Just like the bees that live in colonies working together for the good of the hive, Division B has been working together relentlessly since its inception, generating new honey, thriving, and providing sustenance to those around it. Like the smart, social, and supportive bees, Division B has always been a beehive of activity, with leaders buzzing around its clubs and areas trying to make the best honey. The outcome has been a sterling legacy of members and leaders to boast about.

All those leaders who have inspired the power and energy to set the course clearly had the ‘Vision to BE’, and that was possible because they believed in the dictum ‘what WAS and IS, creates what can BE’. Adapting and innovating has become the B-word in our Division.

Anyone who has tasted pure honey will always yearn for more and will always hover around the source. And that is where past leaders like me come in. It is a privilege to serve Division B as an Advisor in 2020, 12 years after my role as a Division Governor in 2008. It has been a pleasure to watch the progress set by the new leaders; the vision is still strong, the efforts magnified, and the ideas phenomenal.

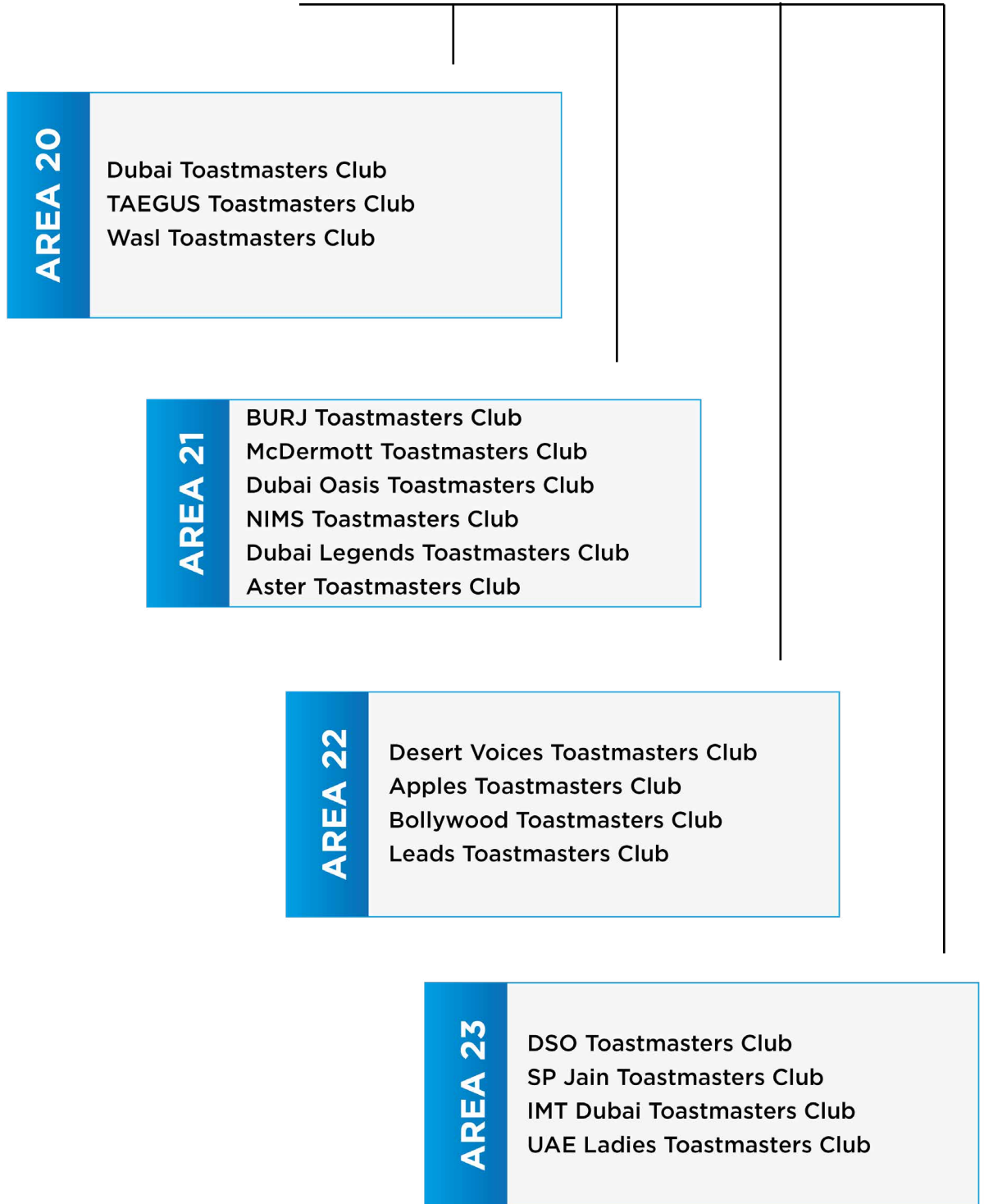
Here’s wishing Division B the vision to **“BE”** whatever it wants to **“BE”**!

Uma Radhakrishnan, DTM
Division Adviser



TM HARISH KRISHNAN
DIVISION DIRECTOR

DIVISION STRUCTURE





TM NIZAR MELHEM
AREA DIRECTOR 20

Children are my source of inspiration. When I listen to them, I change my perspective about life. *“I wish there were no poor people in the world”* was an innocent phrase by a 9 year old child. How inspirational it is and how much work is required to make it come true!



TM MUNEEBA ALI
AREA DIRECTOR 21

I’m a doctor by profession and a Toastmaster by passion. Gratitude of my patients and the unconditional love of my children are my daily inspirations. I feel greatly blessed that I can help alleviate illnesses of my patients. I feel proud that I’m a mother to my beautiful five children.



SHANMUGA SUNDARAM, DTM
AREA DIRECTOR 22

I draw inspiration from magnificent nature and multifarious people. However one individual stands out tall and unique. He is my beloved father. He taught me to wear an irresistible smile always, irrespective of the circumstances. He inculcated in me the fabulous quality of selfless service to the community. He also introduced me to the fascinating world of brilliant books. He remains my Role Model forever.



TM PRAGNYA VENIGALLA
AREA DIRECTOR 23

Belief inspires me! Belief in bigger pictures, endless possibilities and hopeful tomorrows! I see opportunities and chances being given to everyone, every day, and people who seize them are the ones who fill me up with encouragement. They inspire me to think big, outside the box and to take action.



BURJ TOASTMASTERS CLUB
declared by the district as
“The Best Club of UAE for the year 2019-20.”



ASTER TOASTMASTERS CLUB,
The newest club of DISTRICT 105

Timeline of Member Achievements



PATHWAYS AMBASSADORS AND GUIDES - 2017 - 2018



**Cherry Pye
Zablan, DTM**



**Nisha Varghese,
DTM**



**Vinod Panicker,
DTM**



**Milagros Jijie
Zablan, DTM**



**TM Ajmal
Muhammad Atique**

BRIDGING GENERATIONS

Insight into Division B

HOW DOES ONE DEFINE A TRUE COMMUNITY?

Is it just about being geographically close to your peers and being part of the same sociocultural web?

Even if we have definitions and values prescribed for a true community, how many examples can we find of communities abiding by them?

Division B justifies every aspect of not just coexisting, but of thriving amidst diversity, and fortifying the community further by bridging generations across diverse groups.

In the words of Diana Olin, ***“Mentoring isn’t an extracurricular activity. It’s vital for cultivating an enriching, inclusive community”***.

This clan has redefined knowledge sharing and success like no other. At Division B, ‘mentor-mentee’ does not always translate to ‘experienced-novice’, the tables are turned quite often!

An example for generations to come...



Banner March at Division B contest

THRIVING WITH DIVERSITY

“A diverse mix of voices leads to better discussions, decisions, and outcomes for everyone,” says Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google Inc.

The word diversity takes on a meaning with mammoth proportions when we talk about Division B. The variety it boasts of doesn't stop at the kind of clubs functioning under its umbrella - community, corporate, specialty, bilingual, and university clubs, but extends way beyond that. Members of more than a dozen nationalities, who share the passion for public speaking find a common meeting ground in clubs of Division B.

Even more significant is the diversity in age groups both within and across clubs of this division. Division B has bridged generations seamlessly and strengthened cross-culture networking. A healthy mix of senior Toastmasters and newbies lends to the wisdom, experience, spirit, and innovativeness of its clubs. Members have set aside the distinctions of Baby Boomers, Generation X, Millennials, and Generation Z by breaking the stereotypes about how generation gaps are hard to overcome.

At one end of the spectrum are stalwarts who have been Toastmasters for more than two decades, and at the other are the new entrants; Gaveliers turned Toastmasters in their late teens. Not surprisingly, across these generations are professionals from more than 25 different industries ranging from the traditional oil & gas to the new-age digital marketing fields. Speaking, communicating, and sharing views with ease are designers, doctors, finance professionals, university students,... to mention a few.

The experienced Toastmasters and the young guns meet halfway, exchange ideas, learn from each other, forget the age distinctions, and bridge the generation gap...

Division B is a perfect blend of young Toastmasters with a spring in their steps, and seniors who are ever ready to light their paths.



At Div B Club Officers Training 2012-13

THE MOTHER DIVISION

In 1995, UAE had its very first Toastmasters club in Abu Dhabi. The Abu Dhabi Toastmasters Club was chartered by Mr. Vijay Manikoth in 1995, following which the Dubai Toastmasters Club was established in 1996. Those were the days when there wasn't a specific division or area identity allocated to clubs. Instead, we were called the Gulf Territorial Council based on geographical segregation.

In 2001 the Council was reconstructed to form the first divisions combining UAE and Oman as part of Division B. DTM Royston Fernandes, who was a member of the Dubai Toastmasters Club was its first Division Governor. Since then, in the last 25 years, Division B has grown and expanded and undergone several reconstructions too. However, we can safely call Division B as the **'Mother Division'** of UAE because the family tree of UAE clubs can be traced back to Division B in one way or the other.

THE SECRET RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

“A good leader leads the people from above them. A great leader leads the people from within them.” - M. D. Arnold

Division B has a lot to be proud of. It is from Division B that the past International President of Toastmasters International, Lt Col Mohammed Murad, DTM, and the former Region 11 Advisor, the first lady District Governor of GCC, Jordan, and Lebanon, Uma Radhakrishnan, DTM hail.

When the new wave of digital medium took over to replace physical meetings, Division B was quick to prove its adequacy in staying afloat by becoming the first Division to go 100% online. Adding to the list of many firsts, Division B recently chartered Dubai Legends Toastmasters, a club that welcomes senior citizens with open arms.

Members of Division B have consistently bagged awards for being best Area Directors, or Outstanding Toastmasters. Since the last two years, the best clubs of the UAE as adjudged by the District have

been from Division B. Thrusting the Division in the spotlight as the best club for the year 2019-20 was the Burj Toastmasters club.

Several senior Toastmasters of Division B have been catalysts in its growth by being consistent pillars of support. Some leaders have been with the fraternity for decades, and yet are so humble that they leave one spellbound. The wisdom imparted by these successful leaders has been a crucial aspect in the growth of the division. They have always ensured that they pass on the legacy, not only in terms of fabricating new success stories, but also in keeping the learning curve animated. New leaders have learned from the best.

One such high-flyer is Sameera Khan, DTM who catapulted Division B to glory when she represented District 105 at the Toastmasters World Championship of Public Speaking held at Vancouver, Canada in 2017. She credits this remarkable journey to the unwavering support of her division mates.

IN A NUTSHELL...

With members supporting each other, friendships extending beyond meeting rooms, leaders just a phone call away, and meetings that give anyone who attends a sense of warmth and belonging, Division B has always brought the best out of different generations working together.

Division B grows by learning and thrives by sharing...

A hospitality trainer, avid reader and an aspiring writer who believes that we should acquire knowledge as if we live forever!



TM AHANYA LOGAN
BURJ TOASTMASTERS CLUB

DTAC

THROUGH THE EYES OF AN ORGANIZER

ORGANIZING & PLANNING DTAC

DTAC (District Toastmasters Annual Conference) is the most awaited, three day long annual extravaganza, that every Toastmaster looks forward to. It is on the sets of DTAC that the best of the best compete, awards are won, powerful orators inspire, audiences are enthralled, and Toastmasters across countries congregate to share a common passion.

It is not a destination, it is a journey of eloquence, excellence, and courage; a voyage that finds triumph through teamwork.

However, we decided to explore DTAC from a different perspective – the perspective of an organizer.

We picked the brains of two stalwarts of Division B, two determined men belonging to two different generations, DTM Ramesh Anantharaman of Gen X & DTM Deepak Gulati, a Millennial.

As the organizing chairs of DTAC 2015 and DTAC 2019 respectively, both essayed the role to excellence and have set unassailable benchmarks for future organizers.

Kobe Bryant said, **“Leadership is responsibility”**.

Even for a veteran Toastmaster, serving as a DTAC chair could be the ultimate test of Leadership.



DTM RAMESH ANANTHARAMAN

Member of Dubai Toastmasters Club since 2007.

What he fears most is being asked to form a sentence with a weird Word of the Day (like KAKORRHAPHIOPHOBIA)



DTM DEEPAK GULATI

Member of Dubai Toastmasters Club since 2010.

The song he would like to sing at a Karaoke night is **“Lose yourself”** by Eminem.

TEAMING UP



DTAC 2015 Organizing Team

DTM Ramesh Anantharaman, persuaded by mentor DTM Uma Radhakrishnan, took up the overwhelming challenge of organizing the mega event panning 7 countries, and the time he had was a mere 4 months!!! It was the year 2015, when UAE, Oman, Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait were part of District 20. With time a limiting factor, DTM Ramesh's strategy was to quickly form a squad of A-Players; an organizing team of 50 Toastmasters reporting to 8 committee chairs. He believed that when working with committees it was important to understand the dynamics of the people involved and the way they work with one another.

"We had a fantastic team" recalled DTM Ramesh, acknowledging the diligence of his team who worked beyond their call of duty.

"We had a fantastic theme" chipped in, DTM Deepak. Backed by mentor DTM VP Menon, DTM Deepak set out to display his stellar event management skills with a core team of 13 committee chairs and 200 plus volunteers. He banked upon his theme, ***"Communicating Happiness"***, to establish bridges of communication between people of different cultures. As is the way of millennials, the team harnessed the power of social media, to create and maintain the buzz, right up to the event.



GOALS & STRATEGIES



DTAC 2015 Gala Dinner

Both DTAC chairs concurred that their top priority was to provide superior conference content. While DTM Ramesh said that his other key priorities were ensuring quality educational takeaways and facilitating high attendance, DTM Deepak said his focus was on bringing the Toastmaster community closer and increasing the happiness quotient.

To gain momentum in the shortest time possible, DTM Ramesh chose to heavily discount the early-bird registration fees. It garnered huge interest across the region, which resulted in DTAC 2015 being the highest attended event to date. Team 2015 had also decided that they would be considerate and sensitive to people's needs, even if it meant bending some rules. DTM Deepak recalled, ***"We came up with ideas like Finger Art campaign, Vintage pictures, and Fitness Campaign to involve attendees at many levels. The happiness team left no stone unturned."***

INTELLECTUALLY INVIGORATING CHALLENGES



Laughter Yoga session at DTAC 2019

“Each day would bring with it different challenges that would test our confidence, and doubts would follow. But doubts can be overcome by action”, they claimed with calm assurance. Finances and sponsorships were a chief concern at some point or the other, for both of them. It was interesting to see how each of them tackled their concerns.

DTM Ramesh, with his team of hospitality experts, meticulously planned the volumes of food to be ordered for each occasion to avoid any kind of wastage. This miraculously helped him save a lot of money. Quoting an example he said, **“Even though we had close to 900 registrations, we ordered only 100 lunches on the first day of DTAC. We guessed that being a Thursday afternoon, attendance would be low.”**

“To add to the complexities of organizing the event, certain statutory compliances consumed valuable resources”, added DTM Deepak. **“At a club meeting, we came up with the idea of launching a DTAC Magazine to get sponsors. That helped us tide over budget constraints”**.

As we continued chatting with them, they told us about how closer to the date, situations changed by the hour, and several matters big and small demanded their attention. DTM Ramesh opined that empowerment was the key to resolve issues. Though his support was available, Committee Chairs were empowered to resolve issues related to their areas. At that point it was also about prioritizing challenges; some had to be tackled and others ignored.

Mouthwatering food at DTAC 2015



Expressions of Happiness at DTAC 2019

MEMORIES

Both DTACs are applauded for the usual reasons – spectacular contests, amazing keynote speakers, memorable experiences and so much more, but more specifically, DTAC 2015 is remembered by Toastmasters as a spectacular event smoothly conducted by role-players who aced their roles. Amazing mouthwatering food was another aspect no one forgets. For DTM Ramesh, his greatest pride is the record that DTAC 2015 holds as the largest attended DTAC ever.

DTAC 2019 is fondly remembered for its innovative ideas, such as the photo booth, fitness challenges, happiness dance, and fun moments. The audience was kept involved for almost 6 months and the overall happiness that they experienced is what gave DTM Deepak a sense of achievement.

THOUGHTS

“If you are following a dream, take full responsibility for it”, DTM Ramesh, encourages every Toastmaster, to take on a leadership role at DTAC. He believes it is more revitalizing & invigorating than any other role is, be it at the club, area, or division.

“Opportunity hides under challenges and probable failures; success can be ours, if we do not give up,” DTM Deepak nudges us to think big, be different, take action, and thrive.

As DTM Ramesh & DTM Deepak walked down memory lane, we had an opportunity to absorb pearls of wisdom from these inspiring stalwarts of Division B. Their approaches, thoughts, and ideas, may have been different, but they both emerged victorious and District 105 is proud of them.

WRITTEN BY



TM SRIRAM SRIDHAR
DSO TOASTMASTERS CLUB

He describes his sense of humor as spontaneous and off the cuff.



TM PRAGNYA VENIGALLA
DSO TOASTMASTERS CLUB

The three wonders of the world for her are Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.

OUR KNIGHTS IN SHINING ARMOUR

TOASTMASTERS & COMMUNITY

The medical profession is considered very noble, but how often do we take time to appreciate and acknowledge doctors for the service they render.

Even as the world reels under the crisis caused by the outbreak of COVID-19, we have a medical force in our very own Division B, that has rallied around to serve humanity like never before, and done the Toastmasters fraternity proud by rising to the occasion. It has been an uphill task for doctors who have been at the forefront of this battle against the pandemic, but even superheroes need a breather. Toastmasters has provided that respite from a stressful routine to our doctors from Division B.

Why and how do these doctors manage to find time for Toastmasters despite their hectic schedules? Sit back with a cup of coffee to read about the astounding facts that left us awe-struck.



TM DR ABDUL SATHAR
ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON
DUBAI HOSPITAL



DR ZENAB YUSUF TAMBAWALA
GYNECOLOGIST
DUBAI HOSPITAL



DR SURESH GOPINATHAN
ENT SURGEON
AL NOOR POLYCLINIC



R NAEEM MOIDEEN
ORTHODONTIST
SILESIA DENTAL CLINIC, NOA
DENTAL CLINIC, GMC CLINIC



DR PRASHANT
SPECIALIST - HYPERTENSION AND
DIABETES
ASTER JUBILEE MEDICAL CENTRE
ASSOCIATE MEDICAL PROCESSOR,
PARIYARAM



DR SUNITHA SURESH
MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF A US-BASED
HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY



DR MUNEEBA S ALI
GENERAL PHYSICIAN
AL NOOR POLYCLINIC

“There is nothing more inspirational than life,” says Dr. Zenab, who is a whiz at humorous speeches. She loves the encouraging vibes and appreciation she gets from Toastmasters. **“Whether at home or work, funny things happen. I try to look for humor at every opportunity to deal with the humdrum of everyday life,”** says this gynecologist. She recently pulled off a miraculous feat by surgically taking out triplets, from the womb of a comatose mother.

A singer, technophile, and fitness enthusiast, Dr. Abdul Sathar is in Toastmasters to achieve his dream of becoming a versatile public speaker. This orthopedic surgeon is so busy that it could take even two months to get an appointment with him; yet he has been working relentlessly at COVID centers, 8 hours a day, 6 days a week.

Dr. Naeem was a part of the pandemic awareness video that was released by the Dubai government. **“The invigorating energy, which is a hallmark of Toastmasters is what attracts me to this fraternity,”** says this orthodontist.

An eminent Toastmaster doctor couple Dr. Sunitha and Dr. Suresh have had a harrowing experience with COVID. Dr. Suresh, an ENT surgeon who was infected by the deadly virus himself, was featured in Gulf News as an **“extraordinary survivor”**. It couldn't have been easy for Dr. Sunitha, a healthcare specialist, to serve the pandemic hit patients along with caring for her husband. Dr. Sunitha feels that she has become more accepting of different people's opinions and can respect every individual for who they are after joining Toastmasters.

Doctors of our Division B medical community, in true Toastmaster spirit, have upheld the values of Respect, Integrity, Service, and Excellence by putting their own lives at risk

to keep us safe. Dr. Naeem had to balance his COVID duties along with caring for his father who was admitted to Rashid hospital with the same infection.

“Being a mother of five and a sought after doctor, I was never able to make time for myself,” says Dr. Muneeba, who was treating 90 to 100 patients without a break during the pandemic. Along with Dr. Sathar, she collaborated with NGO Norka and provided a helpline for COVID patients to talk about their health status. She has conducted health awareness campaigns widely. **“Toastmasters introduced me to myself, and I make it a point to take out a few hours to attend Toastmaster meetings. My greatest admirers and supporters are my children”**, says this General Physician.

One of the busiest community doctors, Dr. Prashant, is a multilinguist who handles different languages with ease. He joined Taegus Toastmasters a year ago to develop his penchant for speaking in his mother tongue Malayalam. He firmly believes that the communication and leadership skills which he is gaining through Toastmasters can be applied in real life too. During the pandemic, this hypertension and diabetes specialist was working 10 to 12 hours a day.

Having been frontline warriors in the battle against COVID-19, perhaps it's vital now more than ever, that our Toastmasters serving in the healthcare industry take a breather to recharge their batteries.

No doubt, our Division B doctors have set themselves apart with their eximious contribution to society; but they have also managed to integrate their passion for Toastmasters with admirable tenacity. They undoubtedly are the new-age versions of our proverbial **“Knights in Shining Armour.”**

Compiled by the Newsletter Team with information provided by Dr. Muneeba Ali.

CREATIVE CORNER

“The desire to create is one of the deepest yearnings of the human soul.” -- Dieter F. Uchtdorf

Some create on a canvas, some through their lens and some play with words. Creativity is inventing, experimenting, growing, taking risks, breaking rules, making mistakes, and having fun.

Division B’s Creative Corner allowed the members of Division B to unleash their creative forces and they took all of us by surprise as we got to experience their creative side.

In essence, a creative corner can be created anyplace, anywhere, anytime; either with someone or completely

on your own. It is just a place where you are most comfortable and at peace. What gets created there is a reflection of you and is beautiful. Perhaps that is what makes creative corners so personal and unique.

This space exhibits some of the finest works by some creative geniuses in Division B who not only have wooed us with their gift of the gab, wit, and charm but also with their creative work.

We hope you spend a moment and listen to what each piece of art that is featured here has to say, and take away something that may inspire you to create a masterpiece of your own!

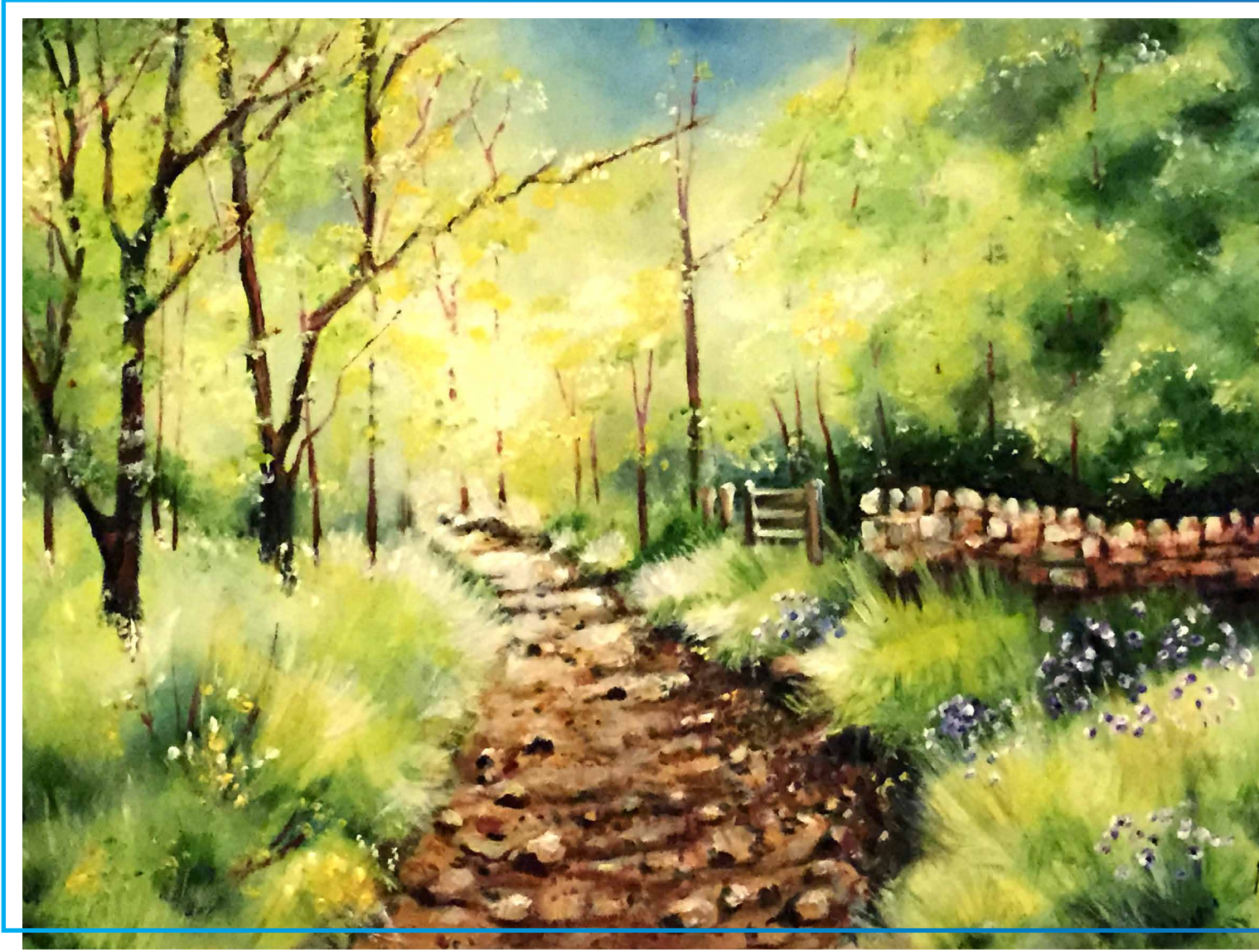


DIVYA RAJ, DTM
BURJ TOASTMASTERS CLUB
DSO TOASTMASTERS CLUB

According to DTM Divya, her mantra is
“Accept yourself, love yourself, and keep moving forward”

CREATIVITY

‘A STUDY OF A LANDSCAPE ARTWORK!’ ACRYLIC COLOUR - IMPRESSIONIST PAINTING

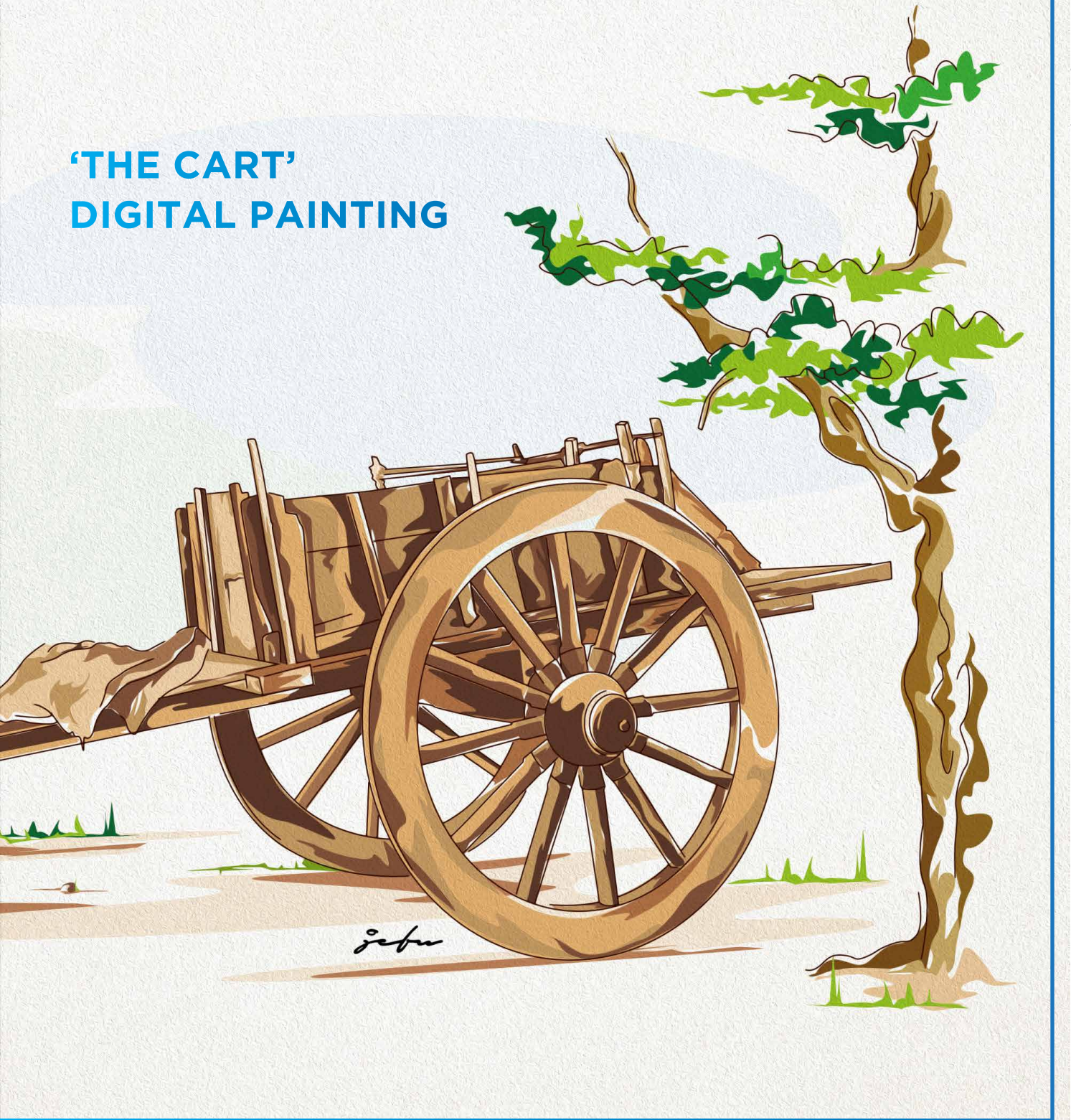


Every artist slowly develops her signature style, a way of rendering something she feels enthusiastic about. I have always been passionate about the colours in nature- the greens, the browns & the blues. I feel inspired by what I see around me especially the play of light & shadow. I attempted this painting as part of my study of other wonderful Landscape Artists!

DR. NISHA VARGHESE, DTM
TAEGUS TOASTMASTERS CLUB



'THE CART' DIGITAL PAINTING



This digital painting is an illustration of a cart. It is an ancient model of a vehicle designed for transport that uses two wheels and is normally pulled by one or a pair of draught animals.

It is a symbol of our life where we are the draught animals of this cart and we have to pull it with our full potential to achieve our targets.

TM JEFU JAILAF
LEADS MALAYALAM TOASTMASTERS CLUB



'HOMEWARDS' ACRYLIC ON CANVAS



This was a photograph taken by my friend when he was on a holiday in Italy. I enjoyed painting the old fashioned door, lamps and cobbled wall. The unseen part of this painting where the stairs land gives this picture an element of surprise and imagination.



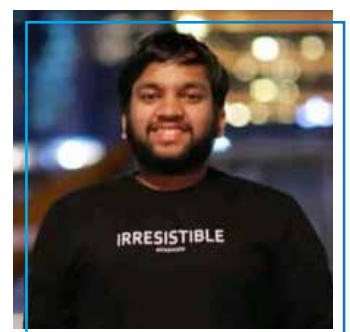
SAMEERA KHAN, DTM
BURJ TOASTMASTERS CLUB

'TODAY'S YOUNG TALENTS WILL BE TOMORROW'S PROFESSIONALS' PHOTOGRAPH

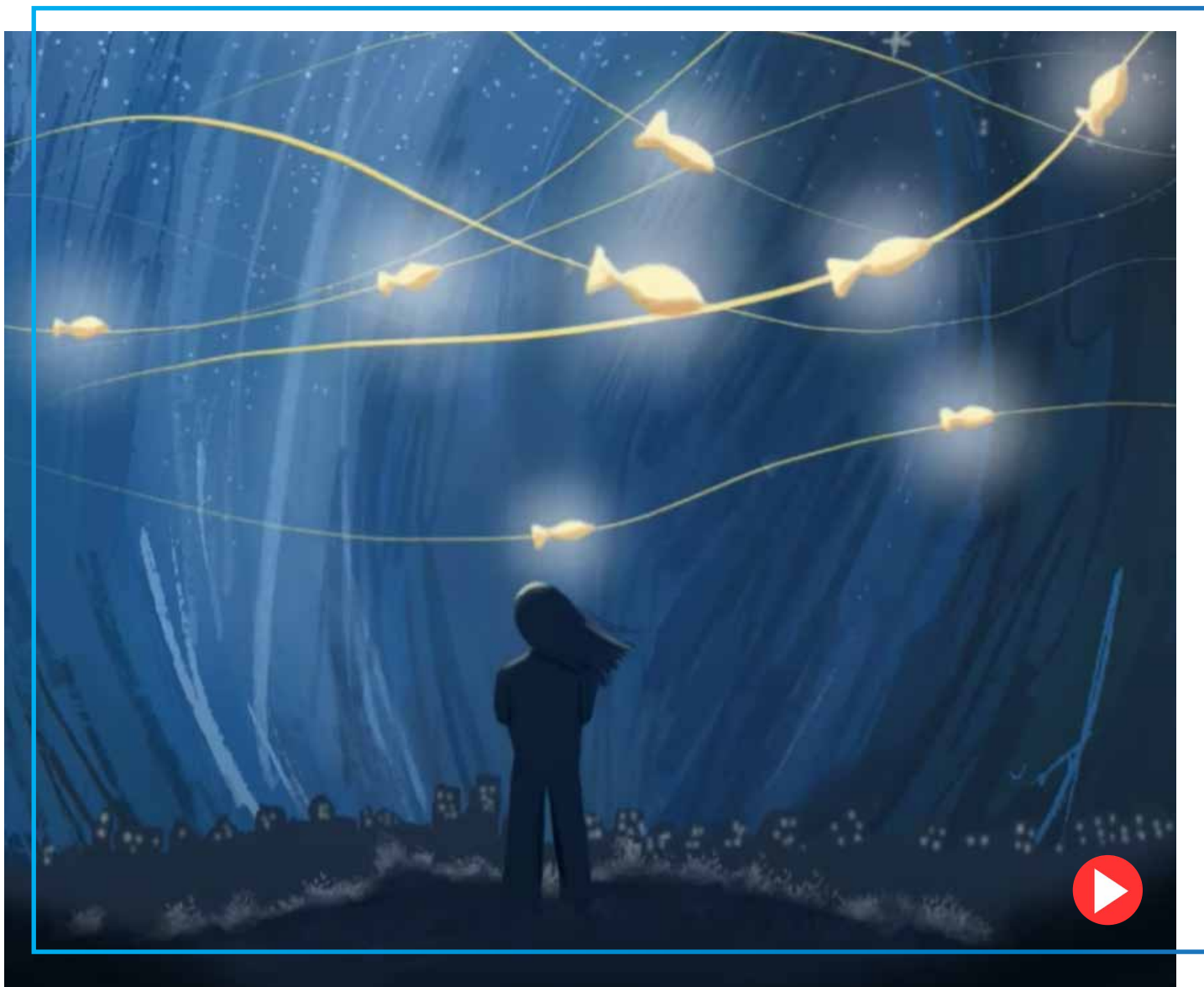


As a photographer, I work with an organization where we provide colleges & NGOs in Kolkata with photo banks of their children, for free. This helps gather funds to promote many more such young talents.

TM DHIRAJ AGARWAL
IMT TOASTMASTERS CLUB



‘WHAT DOES GRIEF LOOK LIKE?’ ANIMATED ART



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gja1GWdH0w>

This piece holds a special place for me. In light of many losing their loved ones, I woke up one morning with this question in my mind.

Putting pen to digital paper, I poured out my creative consciousness to create this piece. While darkness may loom large, hope shines brighter, and that is what the glowing golden fish represent (as to why they are fish, I have no clue either!).



TM NOOR MAJID
DESERT VOICES TOASTMASTERS CLUB

ഭാഷ പാലം കെട്ടുമ്പോൾ

ഭാഷ ഒറ്റപ്പെട്ട് സ്വതന്ത്രമായി വളരുന്ന ഒന്നല്ല. ഇന്നത്തെ കമ്പോളാധിഷ്ഠിത ലോകത്തിൽ എല്ലാം അവനവനിലേക്ക് മാത്രം കേന്ദ്രീകരിക്കുമ്പോൾ, ഭാഷയും അങ്ങിനെയാണ് എന്ന തോന്നൽ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നു. തോന്നൽ എന്ന വാക്കിലാണ് ഊന്നൽ, കാരണം അത് തോന്നൽ മാത്രമാണ്.

ടെലിവിഷനിൽ മൃഗങ്ങളുടെ പലായനവും, കൂടുവിട്ട് കൂടുമാറലും കാടുവിട്ട് കാടുമാറലും കാണുമ്പോൾ നാം വിചാരിക്കുക ഇവയൊക്കെ എന്തുജാതി ജന്മങ്ങളാണ് എന്നാവാം. പക്ഷെ ഇതുകാണുന്ന നമ്മളിൽ പലരും തന്നെ ഒരു പലായനം നടത്തി അന്യനാട്ടിലെ ഇടുങ്ങിയ ഒരു മുറിയിൽ, ഉറ്റവരെയും വേരുകളെയും അറ്റുപോയി ഇരിക്കുന്നവരാണ് എന്ന് മറന്നുപോകുന്നു. ഇത്തരം പ്രവാസവും ഒറ്റപ്പെടലും ഭാഷയിലും, ചിന്തയിലും, സംസ്കാരത്തിലുമൊക്കെ വലിയ മാറ്റങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നു. പതുക്കെ പതുക്കെ ആയതിനാൽ നമ്മൾ അവയെ തിരിച്ചറിയുന്നത് പലപ്പോഴും വൈകിയാണ്, വയസ്സാവുന്നത് അറിയാത്തപോലെ !

നമ്മളും മറ്റുള്ളവരും ചേർന്ന് ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന ഒരുടമ്പടിയാണ് ഭാഷ. താൻ മാത്രമായോ അന്യൻ മാത്രമായോ ഭാഷയില്ല; ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുവേണ്ട നിലനിൽക്കാനും വളരാനും ! ഒറ്റക്കിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ പോലും ഈ ഉടമ്പടിയിലൂടെ മാത്രമേ ഭാഷ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നുള്ളൂ, കാരണം ചിന്തപോലും ഭാഷയിലാണല്ലോ. നാം പൊതുവിൽ സമ്മതിച്ച അർത്ഥങ്ങളും, ഉപമകളും, രൂപകങ്ങളും ഒക്കെ അർത്ഥവത്താകുന്നത് ആ പൊതുസമ്മതം ഒന്നുകൊണ്ട് മാത്രമാണ്. അല്ലാതെ സെൽഫ് മെയ്ഡ്, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ സെൽഫിയോ അല്ല. സെൽഫിപോലും എടുക്കുന്നത് അപരനെ കാണിക്കാൻ ആണല്ലോ ! അപരന്മാർ ഇല്ലാത്ത ലോകത്ത് ഭാഷയുമില്ല, അതിനാൽ ചിന്തയും, സംസ്കാരവും, പ്രവർത്തിയും ഒന്നുമൊന്നുമില്ലാതെയൊവു.

ആഗോളഗ്രാമം എന്ന പ്രയോഗം വിപണിക്ക് വേണ്ടിയാണ് രൂപം കൊണ്ടതെങ്കിലും, അതിന്റെ ഒരുപരിണിതഫലം ഭാഷയിലുമുണ്ട്. ഞാൻ എന്റെ ഭാഷയേയും കൂട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടാണ് യാത്രതിരിക്കുന്നത്. മറ്റുസാമാനങ്ങൾ കെട്ടിപൊതിയുന്നപോലെ തന്നെ; അറിയാതെ എന്റെകൂടെ വരുന്നു ഭാഷയും. ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു ഭൂഗോളകോണിൽ ഒരുഭാഷയെ അകറ്റിനിർത്തി എന്തെങ്കിലും കാര്യമായി ചെയ്യാനാവും എന്ന് ഇന്ന് കരുതുക വയ്യ. അമേരിക്കയിൽ പൊതുവെ സ്പാനിഷ് ഉപയോഗത്തിലുണ്ട്, റഷ്യയിൽ ആംഗലവും, ഗൾഫ്നാടുകളിൽ മലയാളവും ഹിന്ദിയും ഉൾദൂവും, അങ്ങിനെ ഒരുപാട് ഉദാഹരണങ്ങൾ നിരന്തരം, പക്ഷെ അതിനേക്കാൾ വലുതാണ് അവയുടെ സ്വാധീനവും പ്രയോഗവും. മൊത്തത്തിൽ ഉരുകിയൊലിക്കുകയും, തണുത്തുറഞ്ഞശേഷം വീണ്ടും ഉരുകിയൊന്നാവുകയും ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടേയിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു സ്ഥിരം പ്രക്രിയയാണ് ഇത് പരിണമിക്കുന്നു. മൊത്തത്തിൽ ഉരുകിയൊലിക്കുകയും, തണുത്തുറഞ്ഞ ശേഷം വീണ്ടും ഉരുകുകയും, ഒന്നാവുകയും ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടേയിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു സ്ഥിരം പ്രക്രിയയായി ഇതു പരിണമിക്കുന്നു. അവിടെയാണ് മലയാളം ടോസ്റ്റ്മാസ്റ്റേഴ്സ് പോലുള്ള ഭാഷാ ക്ലബ്ബുകളുടെ പ്രസക്തി. മാതൃഭാഷ പരിജ്ഞാനം, അതിലുള്ള മികവ്, എല്ലാം ദൈനംദിന ജീവിതത്തിന്റെ മാറ്റുക്കൂട്ടുന്നവയാണ്. പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് പ്രവാസികളുടെ കാര്യത്തിൽ. അതുകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ ഭാഷാ ക്ലബ്ബുകളുടെ വളർച്ച, പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് പ്രവാസലോകത്തു ഭാഷയെ കൂടുതൽ അടുത്തറിയാനും, ഭാഷാ സ്നേഹികളെ കൂടുതൽ അടുത്തറിയാനും നമ്മെ സഹായിക്കും. അതിനോടൊപ്പം തന്നെ അത് അവന്റെ ചിന്താധാരകളെയും, സംവേദന മികവിനെയും ഉല്കൃഷ്ടമാക്കുന്നു.

ഭാഷയും കോറോണയും ഈയർത്ഥത്തിൽ ഒരുപോലെയാണ്; ഞാൻചെയ്യുന്ന മുൻകരുതലുകൾ എനിക്കുവേണ്ടി മാത്രമല്ല. അപരനും കൂടിയാണ്. ഞാൻ ഭാഷ ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്ന പോലെ, എനിക്കുമാത്രമായല്ല. ഞാനും അപരനും അടങ്ങുന്ന പൊതുകൂട്ടത്തിനാണ്. അല്ലാതെപോയാൽ ഒന്നുമില്ലാതെയായി തീരും, തീർച്ച. അത്തരം മുൻകരുതലുകളുടെ ഭാഗമായിത്തന്നെ വായനയെയും, പ്രസംഗ

കലയെയും, ചിന്തകളെയും മികവുറ്റതാക്കേണ്ട ഉത്തരവാദിത്വം കൂടി നമുക്കുണ്ട്. അതിനുവേണ്ടി പ്രയത്നിക്കുന്നവയായിരിക്കണം പ്രയത്നിക്കുന്നവയായിരിക്കണം ഭാഷാ കൂട്ടായ്മകൾ. അതിനു ജള നല്ല ഉദാഹരണങ്ങളായിമാറണം ഭാഷാ ടോസ്റ്റ്മാസ്റ്റേഴ്സ് ക്ലബ്ബുകൾ.

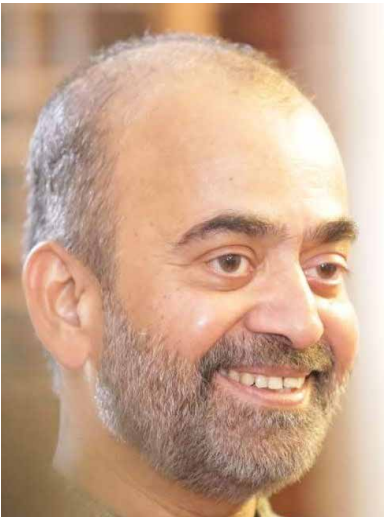
വിപണിക്കും കച്ചവടത്തിനും ഒരു ഏകഭാഷയായി ആംഗലം വളർന്നിട്ടുമെങ്കിലും, സ്വപ്നങ്ങളും ചിത്രങ്ങളും കഥയും കഥയില്ലായ്മയുമൊക്കെ പങ്കുവെക്കാൻ സ്വന്തം ഭാഷാതന്നെ വേണം. അതു കൊണ്ടാണ് കൃത്രിമബുദ്ധി, ഓൺലൈൻ പരിഭാഷ എന്നിവയൊക്കെ ഒരുകാലത്തും മനുഷ്യന്റെ ഭാഷാപ്രയോഗസാമർത്ഥ്യത്തിന്റെ ഒരുഅയല്പക്കത്തും എത്തിനോക്കാൻപോലും സജ്ജമാവാത്ത ത്, കഴിയാത്തത്.

അങ്ങിനെ പറയുമ്പോൾ തന്നെ, ഭാഷ വ്യക്തിപരവും കൂടിയാണ്. അവന്റെ ചിന്തകളെ, വികാര വിചാരങ്ങളെ, ആവശ്യങ്ങളെ, ഭയത്തെ , സ്നേഹത്തെ എല്ലാം അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തി അവൻ സംവേദനം നടത്താൻ ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്ന ഉപാധിയാണ് ഭാഷ. അത് ഉദ്ദേശിച്ച ഫലം കാണണമെങ്കിൽ ഭാഷാ നന്നായെ തീരു. അതിനു അവൻ ഭാഷയെ സ്നേഹിച്ചേ തീരു. വായനയും, ടോസ്റ്റ്മാസ്റ്റേഴ്സ് പോലുള്ള ഭാഷാ ക്ലബ്ബുകളും അതിനൊരു പരിധിവരെ സഹായകമാകും.

അതുപോലെ തന്നെ ഒരുഭാഷ മാത്രമായി വളരുന്ന മനുഷ്യരുടെഎണ്ണവും കുറയുന്നു. മാതൃഭാഷയും വിപണിഭാഷയും, ചിലരൊക്കെ അതിൽകൂടുതലും കൊണ്ടുനടക്കുന്നു, സ്വാഭാവികമായി (അധികസ്വ അധികം ഗുണം) ഉണ്ടാവും. കാരണം ഭാഷാപരിജ്ഞാനം ചിന്തയുടെയും ഓർമ്മയുടെയും ബുദ്ധികൂർമ്മയുടെയുമൊക്കെ മികവ് ഉയർത്തും. ഇതൊരു കുഴപ്പമല്ല, കാരണം ഒരുഭാഷയിലും മിടുക്കില്ലാതെയൊവുന്നു. കാരണം ഒരുഭാഷയിലും മിടുക്കില്ലാതെയൊവുന്നു എന്ന പരാതി അടിസ്ഥാനരഹിതമാകും, കാരണം ഒരുപാടു പാലങ്ങൾ പണിയാൻ ഭാഷകൾക്ക് കഴിയും. ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരുഭാഷയിൽ പ്രാവീണ്യം വേണ്ട എന്നല്ല അർത്ഥമാക്കുന്നത്, മറിച്ച് ഭാഷകൾ കൈകാര്യം ചെയ്യുന്നതിലെ മിടുക്ക് ഗുണമേ വരുത്തൂ എന്നാണ് സൂചിപ്പിക്കുന്നത്. ഒരേയാൾ ഒരുപാട് വേഷങ്ങളിൽ വന്നാലും, വന്നത് ഒക്കെ ഒരാൾ തന്നെയെന്നപോലെ, ഭാഷകൾ തമ്മിലുള്ളപാലങ്ങൾ നിരന്തരം വെളിവാക്കപ്പെടുന്നു ബഹുഭാഷാ ഉപയോഗം.

കാലവും മനുഷ്യരുമാണ് ഭാഷയെയും വളർത്തുക, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഇല്ലാതാക്കുക. നമ്മെ നാം ആക്കുന്നതും മറ്റേന്തോ ആക്കിത്തീർക്കുന്നതും ഭാഷയാണ്, ഭാഷയിലൂടെയാണ്. ഭാഷ നന്നായാൽ പകുതിയലധികം നന്നായി. കാരണം സ്വബോധം, സമൂഹബോധം, ചിന്ത, മനനം, കർമം, തിരുത്ത് - വീണ്ടും ഇതിന്റെ തുടർച്ച - അങ്ങനെയൊന്നല്ലോ കാലം മുന്നോട്ടു പോകുക ? ഇതിന് എല്ലാത്തിനും ഭാഷ വേണം, അതാകട്ടെ പൊതുസമ്മതആശയത്തിലൂന്നിയും. സംസാരിക്കുമ്പോൾ വാക്കുകൾ കിട്ടാതെ വരുന്നത് പോലെ, ചിന്തയിലും ഉണ്ടാവാറുണ്ട്, നാം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കാറില്ല എന്നുമാത്രം. വിട്ടുപോയ കിട്ടാതെ വാക്കുകൾ കൊണ്ട് ചിന്തിച്ചുറപ്പിച്ച് പ്രവർത്തിച്ചാൽ എന്താകുമെന്ന് ഊഹിക്കാമല്ലോ ? കട്ട പോയ പാലങ്ങൾ അപകടങ്ങൾ വിളിച്ചുവരുത്തും. കെട്ടുപോയ വാക്കുകളും അങ്ങിനെതന്നെ.

When Sahasranam Hariharan was enrolled in school for the first time, the then headmaster made it H.S. Nam - and the name stuck ! Introducing himself he says, ***“I am a Malayali trying to eke out a life on the Arabian sands since long. I believe there are only two rules. Rule One is ‘We all have to read and listen and think a lot more’ and Rule Two is ‘don’t forget rule one’.***



TM NAM HARIHARAN
TAEGUS TOASTMASTERS CLUB

ആത്മവിശ്വാസം ടോസ്റ്റ്മാസ്റ്റേഴ്സിലൂടെ

ടോസ്റ്റ്മാസ്റ്റേഴ്സ് എന്ന പ്രസംഗപരിശീലനകളരിയിൽ ആത്മവിശ്വാസം മുർച്ചപ്പെടുത്തിയെടുത്ത് തന്റേതായ വ്യവസായസംരംഭത്തിന് തുടക്കമിട്ട വ്യക്തിയാണ് DTM വിപിൻ ദിവാകർ. അദ്ദേഹത്തോടൊപ്പം ചിലവഴിച്ച കുറച്ചുസമയം തന്റെ ടോസ്റ്റ്മാസ്റ്റർ അനുഭവങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ചും അത്തരമൊരു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ സംഘടന തന്റെ ഇഷ്ടങ്ങളിലേക്കിറങ്ങിച്ചെല്ലാനുള്ള അഭിവാഞ്ചയെ ഉണർത്തി വിട്ടതിനെക്കുറിച്ചും മറ്റും ചുരുങ്ങിയ വാക്കുകളിൽ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി.

സംഭാഷണത്തിനിടക്ക് കടന്നു വന്ന പ്രധാനവിഷയങ്ങളിലൂടെ നമുക്കൊന്ന് കണ്ണോടിക്കാം.

നാട്ടിൽനിന്നും ഗൾഫിലേക്ക് :

നാടിനെ വളരെയധികം ഇഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്ന DTM വിപിൻ ദിവാകർ, കാടും, മഴയും, പുഴയുടെ താളവും, മണ്ണിന്റെ മണവും ആസ്വദിച്ചു കൊതിതീരാതെയാണ് കോർപ്പറേറ്റ് ലോകത്തിലെ ജോലിയുമായി ഗൾഫ് മേഖലയിലേക്ക് യാത്ര തിരിക്കുന്നത്. കൊച്ചു ഗ്രാമത്തിൽ ചിലവഴിച്ച ചെറുപ്പകാലം, കോർപ്പറേറ്റ് ലോകത്തു ശ്രദ്ധിക്കപ്പെടാൻ ഒരു തടസ്സമല്ല എന്ന് ലോകത്തിന് കാണിച്ച് കൊടുക്കാൻ ഈ വ്യക്തിക്കായി എന്നതാണ്.

UAE യിലെ ജീവിതത്തെക്കുറിച്ചും സുഹൃത്തുക്കളെക്കുറിച്ചും :

ഉൾനാട്ടിൽ നിന്നായതു കൊണ്ടായിരിക്കാം, ശകലം ഉൾവലിഞ്ഞ പ്രകൃതമായിരുന്നു അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റേത്.

സ്വഭാവം അങ്ങിനെയായിരുന്നെങ്കിലും, നർമ്മത്തെ സ്നേഹിക്കുകയും, നർമ്മത്തിന് ജീവതത്തിൽ വലിയ പ്രാധാന്യം നൽകുകയും ചെയ്ത വ്യക്തികൂടിയാണ് ഇദ്ദേഹം. ഒരുതവണ പരിചയപ്പെട്ടാൽ, എന്നെന്നേക്കുമായി സുഹൃത്തായിരിക്കാൻ പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നത് അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ പ്രത്യേകതതന്നെ.

ജീവിതത്തെ മാറ്റിമറിച്ച തീരുമാനത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് :

മെക്കാനിക്കൽ എഞ്ചിനീയറിംഗ് ബിരുദധാരിയായ DTM വിപിൻ ദിവാകർ, കുറച്ചു വർഷം ജോലിചെയ്തതിന് ശേഷം മറ്റാരും അത്ര എളുപ്പം തയ്യാറാവാത്ത ചില കർമ്മ മേഖലകളിലേക്ക് എടുത്തു ചാടുകയായിരുന്നു. നിമിത്തങ്ങളെയും, ദൈവ സഹായത്തേയും കുറിച്ചൊക്കെ പറയുമെങ്കിലും, ടോസ്റ്റ്മാസ്റ്റേഴ്സ് എന്ന പ്രസ്ഥാനം ജീവിതത്തെ മാറ്റിമറിച്ച കഥകൂടി അദ്ദേഹം ഇപ്രകാരം വിവരിക്കുന്നു.

നാട്ടിൽ നിന്നും വലിയ സ്വപ്നങ്ങളുടെ ഭാഗ്യവുമായി വന്ന തനിക്കു തന്റെ പല പാഷണ്ഡം നടപ്പിലാക്കാൻ വിലങ്ങുതടിയായി പല കാര്യങ്ങളുമുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അതിൽ എടുത്തു പറയാവുന്നത് ആത്മവിശ്വാസക്കുറവ് തന്നെ. അതിനോടൊപ്പം, ഒരു സംരംഭകനാകാനുള്ള ഭയവും, ഉപദേശകരുടെ പരസ്പര വിരുദ്ധമായ ആശയങ്ങളിൽ നല്ലതേത്, പതിരേത് എന്ന് സ്വയം വിശകലനം ചെയ്തു മുന്നോട്ടുപോകാനുള്ള പരിചയക്കുറവും.

ആയിടെയാണ്, അദ്ദേഹം ടോസ്റ്റ്മാസ്റ്റേഴ്സ് എന്ന പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തെക്കുറിച്ചു അറിയുന്നത്. Al Nahda Toastmasters ക്ലബ്ബിലെ അംഗത്വവും, അവിടുത്തെ സുഹൃത്തുക്കൾ നൽകിയ ധൈര്യവും, പ്രോത്സാഹനവും അദ്ദേഹത്തിന് ഒരു മുതൽക്കൂട്ട് തന്നെയായിരുന്നു. വിലങ്ങുതടികൾ ഒഴിവാക്കി ചിരകാല അഭിലാഷമായ ഒരു ഭക്ഷണശാല എന്ന സ്വപ്നം അങ്ങിനെ സാക്ഷാത്കരിക്കപ്പെടുന്നു. മാമീസ് ഇല്ലം (Mami's Illam) എന്ന ആ കൊച്ചു വെജിറ്റേറിയൻ റെസ്റ്ററന്റ് ഇന്ന് ദുബായിൽ അത്യാവശ്യം പേരുകേട്ട വെജിറ്റേറിയൻ റെസ്റ്ററന്റുകളിൽ മുന്നിൽ തന്നെയാണ്. അതിനുവേണ്ടി പ്രവർത്തിച്ച ആദ്യ വർഷങ്ങളിൽ ടോസ്റ്റ്മാസ്റ്റേഴ്സ് എന്ന പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ നിന്ന് പഠിച്ച പല പാഠങ്ങളും പ്രയോഗത്തിൽ വരുത്തുവാൻ പറ്റിയ കളരിതന്നെയായിരുന്നു മാമീസ് ഇല്ലം . Negotiations, conflict management, motivation, customer satisfaction, evaluations, ഈ വിഷയങ്ങളെല്ലാം തന്റെ സ്റ്റാഫിലും, കസ്റ്റമേഴ്സിലും പരീക്ഷിച്ചു ഫലം കണ്ടു എന്ന് DTM വിപിൻ ദിവാകർ അഭിമാനത്തോടെ തന്നെ ഓർമ്മിക്കുന്നു.

കർമ്മമേഖലയെക്കുറിച്ച് :

തന്റെ കർമ്മ മേഖലയിൽ തീർച്ചയായും DTM വിപിൻ ദിവാകർ വിജയിച്ചു എന്ന് എടുത്തുപറയേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. ഇതിനോടൊപ്പം തന്നെ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ തിരക്കുപിടിച്ച ജീവിതത്തിനിടയിലും, തന്റെ ടോസ്റ്റ്മാസ്റ്റേഴ്സ് ക്ലബ്ബുകളിലെ യോഗങ്ങളിൽ പങ്കെടുക്കുക മാത്രമല്ല, നേതൃത്വസമ്പന്നരായ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വത്തോടെ ഏറ്റെടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിരുന്നു എന്ന് എടുത്തു പറഞ്ഞോടെ. കഴിഞ്ഞ വർഷം തേജസ്സ് ടോസ്റ്റ്മാസ്റ്റേഴ്സ് ക്ലബ്ബിന്റെ അധ്യക്ഷനായ കാലയളവിൽ തന്റെ പ്രവർത്തക സമിതി തേജസ്സിനെ പ്രശസ്തിയുടെ ഉന്നതിയിൽ എത്തിച്ചു എന്ന കാര്യവും DTM വിപിൻ ദിവാകർ അഭിമാനത്തോടെയാണ് ഓർക്കുന്നത്. തേജസ്സ് ക്ലബ്ബിന്റെ ഓണപ്പരിപാടിയിൽ നമ്മുടെ കേരളത്തിന്റെ എല്ലാ തനിമയും നിറഞ്ഞ നാടൻ കലാരൂപങ്ങളെ ഇവിടത്തെ ടോസ്റ്റ്മാസ്റ്റേഴ്സിന്റെ മുന്നിൽ തനിമയൊട്ടും തന്നെ നഷ്ടപ്പെടാതെ അവതരിപ്പിക്കാൻ DTM വിപിനും ക്ലബ്ബ് അംഗങ്ങൾക്കും കഴിഞ്ഞിരുന്നു.

കുടുംബത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് :

ഭാര്യയും രണ്ട് മക്കളുമടങ്ങുന്നതാണ് DTM വിപിന്റെ കുടുംബം. കുടുംബത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് പറഞ്ഞതിലേറെയും മീഡിയയും യൂട്യൂബും പബ്ലിക് റിലേഷൻസും ആകാണാരു കാരണം, ഈ കൊറോണ locked-down കാലത്ത് അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ കുടുംബം സമയവും കൂട്ടികൾക്ക് പ്രചോദനം നൽകാനായി അവർക്കു വേണ്ടി തുടങ്ങിയ യൂട്യൂബ് ചാനലും അതിന്റെ വിജയവും ആയിരിക്കണം. തന്റെ മക്കളുടെ സംരംഭമായ shikkarisanku എന്ന യൂട്യൂബ് ചാനൽ, നിലവാരം പുലർത്തുന്ന കൊച്ചു കൊച്ചു വീഡിയോസിലൂടെ ശ്രദ്ധനേടിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നത് ടോസ്റ്റ്മാസ്റ്റർസ് ക്ലബ്ബ് യോഗങ്ങളിലെ വ്യത്യസ്തമായ പ്രൊജക്ടുകളും അതിലേറെ ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ കഴിവുതെളിയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ടോസ്റ്റ്മാസ്റ്റർസ് സുഹൃത്തുക്കളുടെ സാമീപ്യവും ആയിരിക്കാം എന്നദ്ദേഹം പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. അതോടൊപ്പം തന്നെ, പ്രമുഖ മീഡിയ ചാനലുകളിൽ നടത്തിയ അഭിമുഖങ്ങളും ഷോർട്ട് മൂവിസിൽ അഭിനയിച്ചതുമൊക്കെയും ടോസ്റ്റ്മാസ്റ്റേഴ്സ് എന്ന സംഘടന വഴിതന്നെയാണ് തന്നിലേക്കെത്തപ്പെട്ടതെന്നദ്ദേഹം വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു.

ടോസ്റ്റ്മാസ്റ്റേഴ്സിലൂടെ നേടിയെടുത്ത കഴിവുകൾ:

മേൽപറഞ്ഞ വ്യക്തിപരമായുള്ള എല്ലാ നേട്ടങ്ങൾക്കും അദ്ദേഹത്തിന് കഴിഞ്ഞത് ടോസ്റ്റ്മാസ്റ്റേഴ്സ് എന്ന പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തിലൂടെ ലഭിച്ച വൈദഗ്ധ്യമാണ് എന്ന് നിസ്സംശയം പറയാൻ DTM വിപിൻ ദിവാകറിന് യാതൊരു മടിയുമില്ല. തന്റെ ജീവിതത്തിൽ ടോസ്റ്റ്മാസ്റ്റേഴ്സ് കൂടെയില്ലാതെ മുന്നോട്ടു പോകുവാൻ കഴിയില്ലായെന്നും അദ്ദേഹം അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നു. ടോസ്റ്റ്മാസ്റ്റർസ് ക്ലബ്ബ് യോഗങ്ങളിൽ നിന്ന് ലഭിക്കുന്ന അനിർവചനീയമായ പോസിറ്റീവ് എനർജിയാണ് അദ്ദേഹത്തെ നയിക്കുന്ന ചാലകശക്തി.

അത് തന്നെയാണ് , എന്തും വിനയാന്വിതനായി ജീവിക്കാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്ന, ഏവരെയും പുഞ്ചിരിയോടെ സ്വീകരിക്കുന്ന DTM വിപിൻ ദിവാകറിനെ ഇവിടെ പരിചയപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിന്റെ പ്രസക്തിയും.



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Based on a discussion with the Newsletter Team.

കാർത്ത്യായനി അമ്മയെ കമ്പ്യൂട്ടർ പഠിപ്പിക്കുന്ന കൊച്ചുമക്കൾ അഥവാ അറിവിന്റെ കൈമാറ്റം

"വെറുതെ ടീവി കണ്ടും മൊബൈലിൽ തട്ടിയും സമയം കളയാതെ പുതിയതെന്തെങ്കിലും പഠിക്കാൻ നോക്കൂ. ഞാനിപ്പോൾ കമ്പ്യൂട്ടർ പഠിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്, ഇനി അടുത്തവർഷം പത്താം ക്ലാസും ജയിക്കണം." കേരള സംസ്ഥാന സാക്ഷരതാ മിഷന്റെ അക്ഷരലക്ഷം ലിറ്ററസി പരീക്ഷയിൽ 98 ശതമാനം മാർക്കോടെ ഒന്നാം റാങ്കിന് അർഹയായത് കേരളത്തിലെ ഹരിപ്പാട്ടു സ്വദേശിനി, കാർത്ത്യായനിയമ്മ.

രാഷ്ട്രപതിയിൽ നിന്നും നാരിശക്തി പുരസ്കാർ കരസ്ഥമാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ള ഈ അമ്മ ചില്ലറക്കാരിയല്ല എന്ന് മനസ്സിലായല്ലോ. " ഈ വയസ്സിലും കമ്പ്യൂട്ടർ എന്തിനാ പഠിക്കുന്നത് " എന്നതിന് അകലെയുള്ള മക്കളും കൊച്ചുമക്കളുമൊക്കെയായി ഓൺലൈനിൽ കാണണം അവരുമായി സംസാരിക്കാനും എന്നായിരുന്നു അമ്മയുടെ നിഷ്കളങ്കമായ മറുപടി.

ആളുകളെ തമ്മിൽ ഒരർത്ഥത്തിൽ തലമുറകളെ തമ്മിൽ പോലും ബന്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്ന ടെക്നോളജിയുടെ ഒരു സ്വാധീനം എത്രയുണ്ടെന്നാണ് നമുക്കിതിൽ നിന്നും മനസ്സിലാക്കാം. കൂടാതെ പഠിക്കാൻ പ്രായം ഒരു ഘടകമേയല്ല എന്ന് കാർത്ത്യായനിയമ്മ നമ്മളോട് ഒരിക്കൽ കൂടി പറഞ്ഞുവെക്കുന്നു.

ചക്രം കണ്ടുപിടിച്ച കാലം മുതൽ കൊറോണ വാക്സിനു വേണ്ടി ലോകം മുഴുവൻ കാത്തിരിക്കുന്ന ഈ സമയംവരെ എല്ലാ മേഖലകളിലും പലതരം മാറ്റങ്ങൾ പ്രകടമാണ്.

ഇതിൽ ഏറ്റവുമൊടുവിലായി നമ്മളിപ്പോൾ കണ്ടുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നത് ഇതുവരെ അനുവർത്തിച്ചു വന്നിരുന്ന വിദ്യാഭ്യാസസമ്പ്രദായത്തിലും.

പല കാലത്തും പല രീതിയിലായിരുന്നു നമ്മുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം. ഈ കൊറോണയുടെ നാളുകളിൽ തികച്ചും വ്യത്യസ്തമായൊരു തലത്തിലേക്ക് നമ്മൾ മാറ്റപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നതാണ് വാസ്തവം.

ഒരിക്കൽ പോലും പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കാത്ത തരത്തിൽ സ്കൂളുകൾ മുതൽ ഉയർന്ന വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങൾ വരെ ഓൺലൈൻ എന്ന ആശയത്തിൽ എത്തിനിൽക്കുന്നു.

കുടുംബയോഗങ്ങളും, കലാലയ സൗഹൃദകൂട്ടായ്മകളും എന്തിനേറെ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ഭരണകാര്യങ്ങൾ പോലും ഓൺലൈൻ യോഗങ്ങളുമായി താദാത്മ്യം പ്രാപിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. നമ്മുടെ ടോസ്റ്റ്മാസ്റ്റർ യോഗങ്ങളിൽ പോലും അതിപ്പോൾ പ്രകടമാണ്. ഒട്ടുമിക്ക യോഗങ്ങളിലെല്ലാം മുൻപുള്ളതിലും 50 ശതമാനത്തിലധികം സാന്നിധ്യം കൂടുതലാണിപ്പോൾ. ലോകത്തിന്റെ ഏതുമുലയിലിരുന്നും ഒറ്റവിരൽക്കിടിലുടെ മീറ്റിംഗിലേക്ക് കയറിച്ചെല്ലാം എന്ന സൗകര്യത്തിനപ്പുറം മാറുന്ന ലോകത്തിനൊപ്പം നിൽക്കുന്നു അതുമല്ലെങ്കിൽ അതിന്റെ വളർച്ചയിൽ നമ്മൾ ഭാഗഭാക്കാകുന്നു എന്നതാണ് ശരി.

ഇന്നലെകളെക്കുറിച്ച് പരിഭവിക്കാതെ, നാളെക്കുറിച്ച് ഉത്കണ്ഠാകാതെ ഇന്നിന്റെ യാഥാർത്ഥ്യങ്ങളിൽ ക്രിയാത്മകമായി ഇടപെട്ട് സന്തോഷത്തോടെ ജീവിക്കാനാണ് ഇന്നേറെപേർക്കും ഇഷ്ടം.

**"പരിശ്രമം ചെയ്യുകിലെന്തിനേയും
വശത്തിലാക്കാൻ കഴിവുള്ള വണ്ണം
ദീർഘമാം കരങ്ങളെ നൽകിയത്രേ
മനുജനെ പാരിലയച്ചതീശൻ"**

പരിശ്രമമുള്ളവന് വിജയം എത്തിപ്പിടിക്കാനാകും, ഉയരങ്ങൾ താണ്ടാനാവും. മഹാകവി ഉള്ളൂരിന്റെ വരികൾ നമ്മോട് പറയുന്നതും മറ്റൊന്നല്ല. പലപ്പോഴും വിജയങ്ങൾ ജീവിതത്തിലേക്കെത്തുന്നില്ല എന്ന് തോന്നുമ്പോഴെല്ലാം ഓർക്കാവുന്ന പദ്യശകലം. നമുക്ക് മാതൃകയാക്കാവുന്ന മഹാനാരെല്ലാം തന്നെ നിരന്തരമായ പ്രയത്നത്തിന്റെ ഉദാഹരണങ്ങളാണ്.

അലസന്മാരാകട്ടെ എക്കാലവും സ്വന്തം ജീവിതം പരാജയമെന്ന് വിലയിരുത്തുന്നവരുമാണ്.

കാർത്തായനിയമ്മ പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ, അവസരങ്ങൾ സമർത്ഥമായി ഉപയോഗിച്ച് ഓരോ നിമിഷവും ഓരോ പുതിയ കാര്യങ്ങൾ പഠിച്ച് ലക്ഷ്യം തേടി മുന്നോട്ട് നമുക്ക് യാത്രയാകാം. ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകൾ താൽക്കാലികം മാത്രമാണ്. വിജയത്തിന്റെ വാതിലുകൾ പരിശ്രമശാലികൾക്ക് മുന്നിൽ തുറക്കുക തന്നെ ചെയ്യും.

A Toastmaster since 2006 and a member of 3 different clubs, TM Shanil is an entrepreneur, actor, TV news reader and social worker. He has participated and won in several speech and debate contests and humour is his forte. He has also held a variety of leadership roles, from club to division level.



TM SHANIL PALLIYIL
LEADS MALAYALAM TOASTMASTERS CLUB



**LEO CONRAD D'SOUZA,
DTM**

THE MASTER OF NEW BEGINNINGS

"No matter what, I am the master of my destiny" says DTM Leo. He has not only achieved the DTM Award in the traditional program during his 17 years in Toastmasters, but is pursuing his DTM award under pathways too. A strong personality who can reinvent and reenergize at any point in his life, age is truly just a number for him. His vision to set up an extraordinary club of diverse cultures across borders made him launch Dubai Legends Toastmasters club.

Though at the time of inception, this stalwart had envisioned a novel idea for this club to cater to a senior crowd, he and his team later welcomed members from different age groups thus bridging generations. Additionally, the club under his leadership has made conscious efforts to bring in members from diverse nationalities and educational backgrounds making the club truly international. *Legendary is the word!*



TM EMAN AL SUWAIDI

A STRONG BELIEVER OF UNITY IN DIVERSITY

She believes, *"words have immense power"* and had once told a hesitant club member, *"Just bring out your voice and speak in any language!"*. From helping many find their voices, to being instrumental in launching the UAE Ladies Toastmasters Club, TM Eman has inspired many and continues to do so.

This celebrated, self-driven bundle of energy is the 2017 winner of Division level Table Topics and Evaluation contest in Arabic category. Also, the latest accolade in her kitty is her triple crown award. However, her true success story lies in the way she has rebranded the newly chartered UAE Ladies club with a vision to bring Toastmasters across the world, irrespective of their language under one canopy. Truly a global citizen!



TM PARMITA DEBNATH

A TESTIMONY TO NEW BEGINNINGS

TM Parmita says, *"When we reach the end of our comfort zone, we must refresh, upgrade and begin all over again."* This resilient leader and the Founder President of S.P. Jain Toastmasters club is the backbone of her club and her body of work is a testimony to her thoughts.

Talking about giveaways, she has been instrumental in riding the club through the most turbulent tides by not only getting the Dean, Dr. Gary Stockport on board to strengthen the club leadership but also in relentlessly promoting the club among the new batches.

Past Area Director fondly recalls her diligence during the area contest, where Parmita notwithstanding a grievous injury the previous day, ensured that the contest took place smoothly by dutifully passing on her responsibilities to another member. Take a bow!



TM SHARON KURUVILLA

OUTSTANDING TOASTMASTER OF THE YEAR

A bundle of energy, efficiency and empathy, TM Sharon Kuruvilla has multiple feathers in her cap. She served as the President of 2 clubs in the year 2019-2020 – Burj and Desert Divas Toastmasters clubs, and under her impeccable leadership, Burj Toastmasters club received the **“Best Club in UAE”** recognition and Desert Divas got a Perfect 10 (DCP goals). When virtual meetings took over, this tech-savvy superwoman as Zoom master was a pillar of support to the District.

She lent support for conducting contests, education sessions, and various District events. As a prime mover for DTAC, she performed with the same ease and devotion and earned the District’s Special Recognition for her outstanding service. She was selected as the District’s **“Toastmaster of the Year”** for 2019-2020 from among 5000 members across Oman, Jordan, Lebanon and UAE. No mean feat!



VINOD PANICKER, DTM

THE PATHWAYS TORCHBEARER

When Past Director of Division B, DTM Vinod Panicker says that Leadership is fun and that he feels fulfilled when new leaders emerge, it’s hard not to get inspired. This young torchbearer has conducted trainings on a host of subjects, but is most popular for his interactive Pathways sessions.

He has delivered more than a 100 Pathways training sessions since 2017, not just for clubs and divisions of district 105, but also for a corporate club in Nairobi and a division in India. He was the Pathways Coordinator in 2018-19 for UAE and was responsible for successfully gearing up UAE clubs to adopt Pathways.

Under his leadership, Division B arranged world class speakers to deliver education sessions on topics ranging from Podcasting to Emotional Intelligence. It was also the first division to go 100% online. Indeed a pathfinder!



TM JAY CHANDRAN

THE CREATIVE GENIUS

A digital marketing professional and growth hacker by day TM Jay is a powerhouse of creativity. He served as the VP-Public Relations of Dubai Oasis Club for two consecutive years, and for good reason. He bagged the best flyer award not once, not twice, but thrice! Putting to use his expertise in online PR activities and years of experience in marketing and advertising, TM Jay has been instrumental in his club gaining recognition and visibility among the many clubs in Toastmasters. His creativity has won him awards but he humbly states - *“Awards kill creativity due to the pressure of being looked upon to be the best”*. Fondly referred to as jubilant & jazzy Jay by his club members, Jay is indeed a star VPPR!

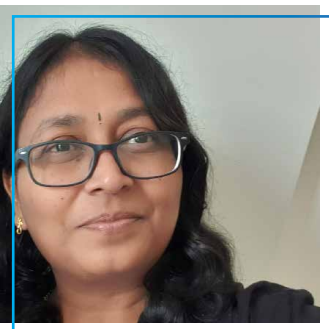


TM ANURADHA KAMATH

A TOASTMASTER FOR ALL GENERATIONS

She is fondly described as a 24x7 Toastmaster in the fraternity. A support player who rises to any occasion, be it to run contests or assist at events, TM Anuradha Kamath is admired for her unassuming demeanor. She has donned many hats of leadership and excelled in all of them and the District's recognition is testimony to her efforts.

However she is most revered for her unwavering commitment towards nurturing Gaveliers. The Gavel club, 'Creative Mines', for which she is the mentor and coordinator since 2016 is a canopy for over 50 Gaveliers. It has produced 3 winners each time, at the division level Gavel contest for the last 2 years. Being her altruistic self, she now co-coordinates a newly chartered gavel club 'Creative Orators', formed to cater to the growing demand. Truly, a leader for all generations!



**TM AJEETHA
SADASIVAM**

ROUND THE CLOCK TOASTMASTER

The most complicated skill is to be simple and TM Ajeetha personifies simplicity to the core. She is Division B's popular go-to person, and troubleshooter who goes beyond her call of duty to complete any task on hand. She has played several roles like that of Club President, Area PQD and Division PQD with aplomb but the best role she has robed is that of a team player!

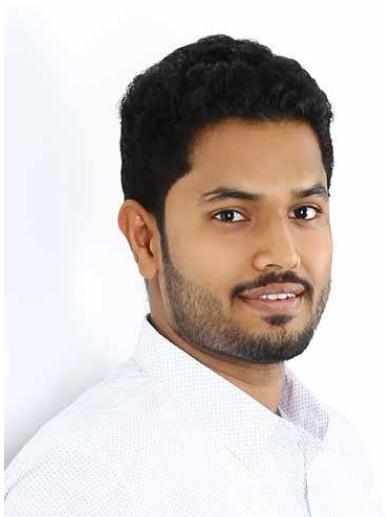
Omnipresent at contests and events both at the area and division level as a mainstay of Area and Division directors, she defies role boundaries with elegance. Her staunch mentorship to DSO Gavel club is just another success story up her sleeve. Indeed a Toastmaster with a halo of honesty and humility!



TM SHAMILI POTLURI

A PRODIGY PAR EXCELLENCE

Talk about starting early and raising the bar high, this young and dynamic Toastmaster fits the description perfectly. A prodigy of IMT and one of the charter members of IMT Toastmasters club, TM Shamili took the club to great heights with her presidentship in 2018 with productive and enthusiastic club meetings. Thanks to her extensive networking with external Toastmasters, the university club was able to offer new and wide-ranging experiences to its members. To date, Division B leaders lovingly reminisce her involvement in many behind-the-scenes activities of Division and Area Annual contests. A year later and an ocean apart, she is still an active member of the club helping with open house meetings, making her the only alumna to do so. She hopes more alumni will follow suit!



TM MUHAMMED ASHIK
SP JAIN TOASTMASTERS CLUB



THAZLEENA SHABEEL
BURJ TOASTMASTERS CLUB

Current VP-Education of SP Jain Toastmasters and an active member since 2.5 years, who loves to be part of any innovative and creative discussion.

An active Toastmaster since 2.5 years who loves to be part of any creative discussion and strongly believes that criticism is the only way to self-development.

WHAT I CANNOT DO ALONE, WE CAN DO TOGETHER –

DIVISION B CLUBS IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

You are lost in a jungle. Ahead lies a fork in the road - which route do you choose? What do you see, what do you hear - and most importantly, what will happen to you?

These were some of the innovative Table Topics at a session conducted by S P Jain Toastmasters Club, incidentally, inspired by the ingenuity of an IMT Toastmasters

meeting. Similar creative threads ran through the conversations I had with three Toastmasters clubs: S P Jain, NIMS, and IMT, all of which are clubs under educational institutions.

As I got to know the clubs, I discovered unique angles and mutual benefits gained by the students and teachers who are all Toastmasters.

SHARED SENTIMENTS

While the three clubs target specific audiences, commonalities bind them together.

Members of the S P Jain Toastmasters Club are either current students of the management school pursuing an Executive MBA programme (EMBA), or its alumni. Their ages range from the late twenties to forties. These Toastmasters juggle work, studies, and personal lives along with Toastmasters.

Having graduated from the EMBA programme, the current V P Education, TM Muhammed Ashik, notes that the knowledge he acquired from the MBA modules pairs well with the soft skills he is mastering through Toastmasters. "Both skills together will help us in our career", says TM Muhammed.

IMT students echo similar sentiments.



SP Jain Toastmasters Club



TM Kriti, the current president, tells me about the benefits that her batchmates have received. She says, ***“Since we are students in the age group 20 to 23, the main purpose for us to join Toastmasters is the enhancement of communication skills that will help us in our MBA as well”.***

What is unique about IMT is that as a part of their 2-year MBA programme, these Toastmasters spend only one year in Dubai. They then go back to the IMT Ghaziabad club to continue their journey there.

With on-screen classes and interviews becoming the norm, these students are adapting to virtual learning. The Toastmasters programme is particularly useful as they get further practice in presenting themselves digitally on a virtual platform.

This also stands true for teachers of the NIMS Toastmasters Club, who have taken e-learning in their stride. TM Debjani, a Primary teacher as well as Vice President Education, speaks about her General Evaluators – or rather, her students.

“In front of the children, I am more confident. It helps me understand the audience well,” she says.

Other staff members have markedly improved as well, quotes TM Supriya, Headmistress of the Primary wing, and founder of the club in 2019. She says, “It has not only added value to their confidence and communication but has also created a strong bonding among the whole team.”

STANDING APART



SP Jain Toastmasters

The difference between the clubs emerges in the way each has devised methods to blend the Toastmasters programme with their curricula.

While the Toastmasters programme is not formally a part of their curriculum, networking which is essential in a student's life is enhanced, for an IMT Toastmaster.

“Toastmasters is an excellent platform for students to improve self-confidence before they step into the corporate world. We all had an opportunity to learn from our senior Toastmasters,” says TM Shamili, the past president of the club.

SP Jain, however, has taken a more concrete step and decided to include Toastmasters into some parts of its curriculum.

TM Parmita, the Global Head of Student Experience at the institution, as well as the founder of the S P Jain club which was formed in 2016, created the Executive Career Acceleration Programme (ECAP),

a programme for EMBA students. This sparked her interest in Toastmasters. ***“As part of the programme, students will be mandated and credited for attending the Toastmasters sessions. The Toastmasters mission, values, objectives, and well-researched modules did help us and are in alignment with what I typically do for the students”***, she says.

Interestingly enough, it is through the persistence of Dr. Gary, the Dean of SP Jain, that Toastmasters has become so big in the college. He believes Toastmasters fits nicely with the curriculum for students, where the process of completing a pathway or playing a formal leadership role at a club or area level, can contribute to building more effective generalist managers and future leaders.

Meanwhile, for teachers at NIMS, TM Supriya has incentivized contribution to Toastmasters. If the faculty members join meetings, they can dock off after-school working hours; a perfect incentive for time-crunched teachers.

FORGING AHEAD



Nearly 300 were seated at the January 2020 Dubai Graduation ceremony. However, TM Amit Kapoor didn't get flustered and calmly presented his 'Student Reflective Speech' on behalf of the graduates at SP Jain.

This was just one success story that Dr. Gary and TM Parmita shared as an example of how students have enhanced their communication skills as a result of Toastmasters.

TM Kriti of IMT further drives the point home. She says, ***"Toastmasters allowed us to enhance and build on those skills because there are multiple levels and opportunities for us to demonstrate them."***

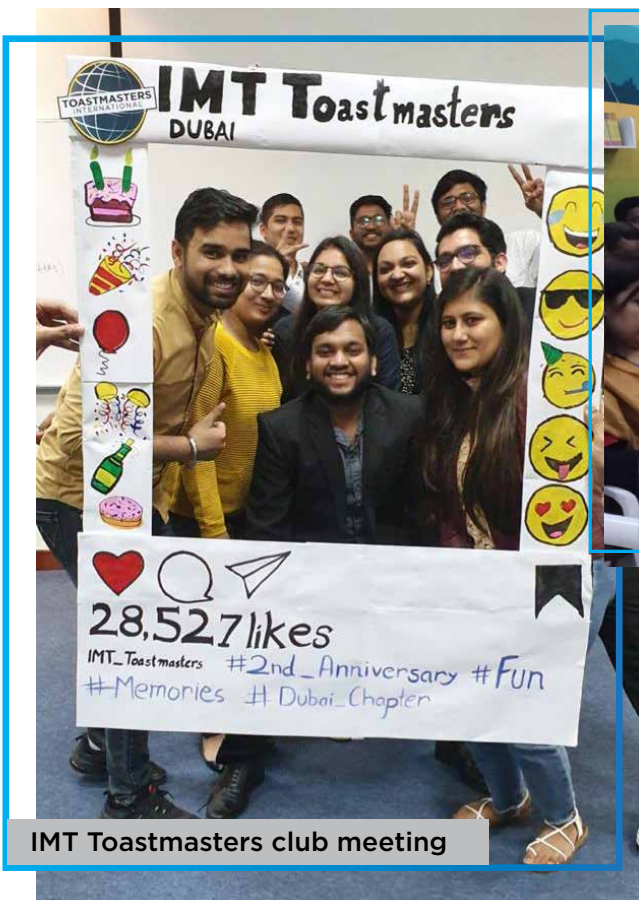
Within NIMS the story is a little different - Toastmasters has brought closer the distinct subsets of the school, which sit under 3 headmistresses and 1 headmaster.

"Our school gets more connected. It is about communication in every way. The mission of Toastmasters helps us in setting our vision. It has added value to their confidence, and communication also. After joining Toastmasters, they have understood what healthy competition is", says TM Supriya.

BRIDGING GENERATIONS

One club with budding young adults getting ready to take on the world, another with middle-aged professionals seeking to climb the career ladder, and yet another with educators wanting to augment their skills - there is an array of Toastmasters clubs carving a niche across the educational sector.

Despite all three clubs being less than 5 years old, each has achieved remarkable success due to enthusiastic members and support from the Division. As TM Parmita nicely summarises, **“a genuine Toastmaster once, remains a Toastmaster for life.”**



IMT Toastmasters club meeting



NIMS Toastmasters club meeting

Professionally a visual designer and a Toastmaster with Desert Voices Club since October 2019 she says **“The previous generation’s zeal to keep learning is what motivates me to do the same!”**



TM NOOR MAJID
DESERT VOICES TOASTMASTERS CLUB

”تمكين المرأة من أجل تمكين الأجيال القادمة“

تلك هي الرؤية والغاية التي تأسس لأجلهما نادي سيدات الامارات للتوستماسترز. تأسس نادي سيدات الامارات في دبي في فبراير ٢٠٢٠، ليضم سيدات من كافة الاعمار و الثقافات والجنسيات في رحلة توستماسترز مميزة ليس فقط لتطوير مهارات التحدث أمام الجمهور و مهارات القيادة، بل الأهم لتمكين السيدات و ايجاد بيئة آمنة و مليئة بالتقبل و الحب و التعاطف؛ فتجد كل سيدة صوتها و تبرز امكانياتها و تطور ذاتها و تتواصل مع سيدات اخريات مشابهات لها في طموحها و تميزها في دائرة تتسع يوما بعد يوم.

يعتمد نادي سيدات الامارات اللغة العربية والإنجليزية كلغتين أساسيتين تستطيع المشاركات التحدث وتقديم المشاريع بأي لغة منهما، مما اعطى النادي مذاقا مختلفا ومناخا مميزا لا يخطئه اي عضو او ضيف يحضر اجتماعات النادي. ترأس النادي التوستماستر إيمان السويدي وهي رائدة اعمال اجتماعية إماراتية، مؤسسه النادي، والرئيس التنفيذي لمؤسسه النور للكوتشينج والاستشارات.

مر النادي بمرحلة تأسيسية امتدت لعام من الاعداد والاجتماعات التمهيديّة حتى انتهى بإشهاره مع بداية العام لينتقل سريعا للاجتماعات الافتراضية في فتره الحظر والكوفيد -١٩ ليكون من أوائل أندية التوستماستر التي تنقل اجتماعاتها للقاعة الافتراضية. وهكذا، ازداد عدد اعضاء النادي وبدأت سلسلة من الاجتماعات المشتركة مع أندية متعددة من داخل الامارات وخارجها، كما في اجتماعات النادي مع أندية توستماستر من البحرين والسعودية وحتى من الصين.

ليس هذا فقط، بل مع بداية الصيف والاجازات، من واقع مسؤولية النادي المجتمعية ورؤيته في تمكين الاجيال القادمة، قام النادي في البدء بالتحضير لإنشاء ناد للفتيات تتراوح أعمارهنّ من ١٠-١٧ عاما يضم مختلف الجنسيات والخلفيات الثقافية وتقوم ه سيدات من اعضاء نادي سيدات الامارات بالإشراف وتشجيع الفتيات وتزويدهنّ بكل الدعم الممكن.



An entrepreneur, pharmacist, personal development expert, and consultant for several organizations, TM Mona joined Toastmasters just a year ago.

TM MONA ELNADI NASSAR
UAE LADIES TOASTMASTERS CLUB

थीम ऑफ़ बॉलीवुड

बॉलीवुड फिल्म उद्योग मूवी, मस्ती और मनोरंजन के लिए जाना जाता है। उसी प्रकार बॉलीवुड क्लब भी मस्ती और मनोरंजन के साथ अपनी गुणवत्ता के लिए पहचाना जाता है। बॉलीवुड एक ऐसा क्लब है जिसको आप शब्दों में व्यक्त नहीं कर सकते। यह एक ऐसा अनुभव है जो 'गुँगे के गुड़' के समान है। जिसे खाने वाला व्यक्ति अनुभव कर सकता है परन्तु उसे बताने में असमर्थ होता है। बॉलीवुड क्लब की खास पहचान उसकी हर एक अनूठी मीटिंग है।

फिल्मों के नाम की तरह क्लब मीटिंग की थीम ही धूम मचा देती है। 'जीवन एक त्योहार, जीरो से हीरो, पहला प्यार, प्यार का पंचनामा, समय की कीमत'- जिनका नाम ही मीटिंग में होने वाले धमाल के बारे में बता देता है। 'असामान्य ही सामान्य है' – बॉलीवुड क्लब दूसरे क्लबों से अलग है, जहाँ सदस्य अपने 'मन की बात' करते हैं। टोस्टमास्टर्स इंटरनेशनल के सभी नियमों का पालन करते हुए भी सामान्य तरीके से असामान्य मनोरंजन करते हैं। बॉलीवुड की हर सभा में होने वाली शेर-ओ-

शायरी और कविताएँ इसके मजे को दुगुना कर देती हैं। 'जीवन एक संगीत' – बॉलीवुड में जिन्दगी के हर पहलू के गीत हम सदस्यों ने मिलकर गाएँ हैं।

हमने प्यार से अपनी 'सरकार' बनाई है। बॉलीवुड के सदस्यों ने कभी 'विचारों की शक्ति' जगाई है तो कभी 'जिंदगी का फ़लसफ़ा' सिखाया है। कभी हमने अपनी 'माँ' को करीब से जाना है तो कभी 'समय की कीमत' को माना है। भिन्न-भिन्न थीमों के माध्यम से हम सब आपस में एक अभिन्नता से जुड़ जाते हैं।

स्वतंत्रता दिवस की संध्या पर होने वाली मीटिंग की थीम 'सरहदें' थी जिसमें भारत, पाकिस्तान दोनों देशों के लोगों ने मिलकर भाग लिया। थीम को ध्यान में रखकर तत्काल भाषण करवाया गया जिसमें सभी ने उत्साह से भाग लिया। भाषणों के विषय में भी थीम को जगह दी गई थी, जिससे एक ऐसा वातावरण तैयार हुआ जिसने दिलों को जोड़ने का काम किया। 'लकीरें है तो रहने दो, किसी ने रूठ कर गुस्से में खींच दी होंगी।' - उक्त



पक्तियाँ कहकर शैक्षणिक सत्र में भी डी.टी.एम. गुरुविंदर पुन्न ने जो समां बांधा उसने वहाँ मौजूद लोगों के दिल में हमेशा –हमेशा के लिए छाप छोड़ दी। सभा में उपस्थित सभी सदस्य व अतिथि यादों के पन्नों में हमेशा नए अध्याय जोड़ कर ले जाते हैं।

हम सिर्फ भारत और पाकिस्तान तक ही सीमित नहीं रहे। बॉलीवुड के स्टार- प्रेसिडेंट सचिन आचार्य ने एक चार देशों के क्लबों की एक सामूहिक सभा कराने का सपना संजोया। देश, काल की भिन्नताओं के बावजूद शुक्रवार 20 जून, 2020 को यह ऐतिहासिक संगम हुआ। चार देश- भारत, नेपाल, पाकिस्तान और संयुक्त अरब अमीरात के चार अलग-अलग क्लब एक साथ, एक मंच पर उपस्थित थे। इस सभा की कमान डी.टी.एम. सुदर्शन शोषाद्वि और टी.एम. माजिद अख्तर ने संभाली। 'बड़े मियाँ-छोटे मियाँ' की इस जोड़ी ने जो समां बाँधा, उसे शब्दों में बयां नहीं किया जा सकता। चार क्लबों के चार चुनिन्दा वक्ता जिनके भाषण की गुणवत्ता जितनी कही जाए उतनी कम है। उस पर उनके मूल्यांकनकर्ता 'सोने पर सुहागा' थे।

'पिक्चर अभी बाकी है'- तत्काल भाषण में डी.टी.एम. अर्चिता तिवारी ने सदस्यों का दिल धड़का के जो मनोरंजन किया, उसे भुलाया नहीं जा सकता। उस सभा की सबसे यादगार बात थी कि हर देश के सदस्य के मन में एक ही भाव था – सौहार्द का, मित्रता का, भाईचारे का।

यह तो मात्र कुछ उदाहरण है, बॉलीवुड क्लब की हर मीटिंग एक से बढ़कर एक होती है। जहाँ लोगों का मात्र मनोरंजन ही नहीं होता बल्कि उनका सर्वांगीण विकास होता है। अंत में इतना ही कहना चाहूँगी – 'एहसास बातों से नहीं, दिल के जज्बातों से होता है।' और बॉलीवुड टोस्टमास्टर्स क्लब उन एहसासों को, जज्बातों को कराने में सक्षम है।



TM ANUSHRI SHARMA
BOLLYWOOD TOASTMASTER CLUB

A Hindi teacher by profession, and a passionate one at that, TM Anushri Sharma has been a Toastmaster since 2017. This braveheart loves attempting Table Topics the most.



ALIFIYA SURA

DUBAI TOASTMASTERS CLUB

As a guest, when I first attended a Toastmaster meeting, the first role player SAA sounded to me like Surgeon de Arms - like in French - a surgeon of arms?? I was forced to think - isn't a surgeon a physician that performs surgical operations. 6 months down, what a co-incidence, I took my 1st Excom role as SAA, and my surgical kit has every trick from the book to set the order for my meeting!

MANI PRASAD

TAEGUS TOASTMASTERS CLUB

I was surprised to be introduced as a **'Humorous Champion'**, during my ice breaker speech. Though I was just describing my childhood days, the audience kept laughing to encourage me.



After the meeting, DTM Deepa Surendran told me, ***"If you had used your native slang, there would have been more laughter."*** I said, ***"It was an Icebreaker speech, Madam.. Not a humorous speech"***.



MARIAM GEBRIEL

WASL TOASTMASTERS CLUB

One of the most enjoyable moments for me in Toastmasters was when I took up the role of Table Topics Master and as a creative idea I decided to act like a teacher and chose ***"students"*** randomly to ask questions. The room was filled with laughter and joy.



TM SAVITA KAMATH

BOLLYWOOD TOASTMASTERS CLUB

I was called upon stage for Table Topics to speak on **“importance of zero”**, on my very first meeting. I spoke impromptu for the very first time, with a mix of love for speaking and fear of public speaking. A thunderous applause and a trophy made this a memorable moment for me to cherish.

TM RISHI

DESERT VOICES TOASTMASTERS CLUB

In my first meeting, the lady addressing the audience, told everyone to dance in some weird steps and everyone did! She was the club President, Jijie and it was so invigorating because she even demonstrated how to have a laughter track in between the speeches. Although I was so tired after a long day of work, it made me laugh hard and the whole experience is a refreshing memory!



TM SUNITA

APPLE TOASTMASTERS CLUB

When I was forced to take the VPM role within two months of becoming a member, I was convinced that my marketing skills were amiss. Following this I recognized my weak points, got mentored and today I have learnt the subtle art of persuasion and have successfully influenced many guests to take up membership. Three years since then, to any potential member, I now confidently say, **“Be my guest”!**



TM SURYA SUSAN BIJOY

LEADS MALAYALAM TOASTMASTERS CLUB

I joined Leads Toastmasters in 2019 reluctantly, persuaded by my husband. I was encouraged by the club members to speak on stage as I had a fear of public speaking.! Be it leadership or mentoring, each club meeting has been welcoming and in hindsight I am glad I took my husband's advice

TM ARJIT PHUKAN

IMT TOASTMASTERS CLUB

I remember the title that I had chosen for the Humorous Speech Contest at the Club Level. It was ***"I love you truly, deeply from the bottom of my heart!"*** and when the Contest Chair, TM Pragnya, the beautiful young lady, read out my name and then the title of my speech, I felt truly blessed cause no one had ever said that to me. Toastmasters is not only a place for leaders to be shaped but for the love to multiply as well.



TM BIJU MATHEW

SP JAIN TOASTMASTERS CLUB



It was the table topics contest that gave me the platform and confidence to come up on the stage. The appreciation that I got motivated me to develop my speaking skills further. I am grateful to SP Jain Toastmaster's club as it plays a major role in my advancement.



TM NAJLA HASSAN

UAE LADIES TOASTMASTERS CLUB

“You can do this, you have the potential, I see that in you. Take one step forward and I’m sure you’ll reach there” were the words of Area Director Harish Krishnan. He encouraged me to take the role of Table Topics contest chair In March 2020. It was my first time in front of the audience, but it was a great experience which increased my confidence, and interaction with others.

TM SHWETA RAVAL

DSO TOASTMASTERS CLUB

It was my second meeting as a guest at DSO Toastmasters and the theme was Ulta-Pulta, meaning the meeting started from the end. I was confused, as it was totally opposite to what I had experienced in the previous meeting. Till half the meeting, I didn’t understand what was going on. Ajeetha our President then explained the theme and said that sometimes we run the meeting from end to beginning to keep the members attentive. I got convinced that I must become a member of this energetic and dynamic group.



AREA 20



Dubai Toastmasters Club



TAEGUS Toastmasters Club



WASL Toastmasters Club

CLUB PHOTOGRAPHS

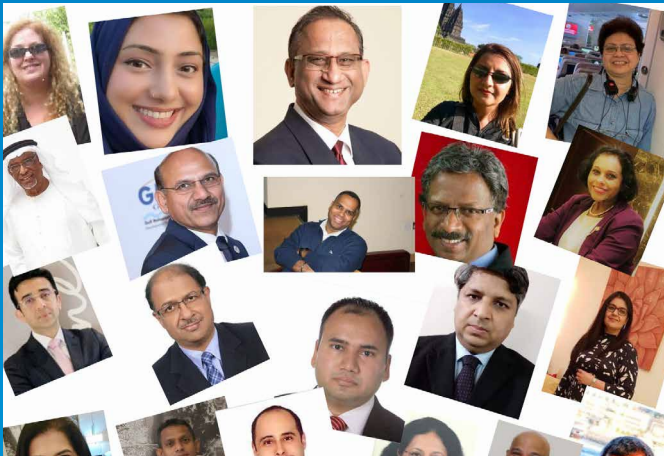
AREA 21



Aster Toastmasters Club



BURJ Toastmasters Club



Dubai Legends Toastmasters Club



McDermott Toastmasters Club



Dubai Oasis Toastmasters Club



NIMS Toastmasters Club

AREA 22



Apples Toastmasters Club



Bollywood Toastmasters Club



Leads Toastmasters Club



Desert Voices Toastmasters Club

CLUB PHOTOGRAPHS

AREA 23



DSO Toastmasters Club



IMT Dubai Toastmasters Club



SP Jain Toastmasters Club



UAE Ladies Toastmasters Club

DISTRICT NEWS

8 August 2020	Moments Of Truth (PQD & CGD)
8 August 2020	PRM event (Division A newsletter release, District PR Award etc)
14 August 2020	Growth Series 1 (CGD)
4 September 2020	Club Coach (CGD)
5 September 2020	Keynote Speech by Champions (PQD)
10 September 2020	District Excom
11 September 2020	1st District Council
19 September 2020	Mentors Workshop (PQD)

August -September- Membership Building Season- Smedley Award Continues

When a game of Scrabble comes to an end, the board is certain to still have gaps and a few letters may remain unused, but each letter on that board is part of a meaningful word, carefully chosen and strategically placed to award the greatest benefit.

We express our sincere gratitude to the following Toastmasters who helped us add context and significance to our Scrabble board.

1. Cherry Pye Zablan, DTM
2. Deepak Gulati, DTM
3. Divya Raj, DTM
4. Leo Cornad D'Souza, DTM
5. Milagros Jijie Zablan, DTM
6. Mohammed Murad, DTM
7. Nisha Varghese, DTM
8. Ramesh Anantharaman, DTM
9. Sameera Khan, DTM
10. Shanmuga Sundaram, DTM
11. Uma Radhakrishnan, DTM
12. Valsakumar P Menon, DTM
13. Vinod Panicker, DTM
14. Vipin Divakar, DTM
15. Zahraa Shaito, DTM
16. TM Ahanya Loganathan
17. TM Ajeetha Sadasivam
18. TM Ajmal Muhammad Atique
19. TM Anuradha Kamath
20. TM Anushri Sharma
21. TM Dhiraj Agarwal
22. TM Dr. Abdul Sathar
23. TM Dr. Suresh Gopinathan
24. TM Dr.Naeem Moideen
25. TM Dr.Prashant
26. TM Dr.Sunitha Suresh
27. TM Dr.Zenab Yusuf
28. TM Eman Al Suwaidi
29. TM Harish Krishnan
30. TM Jay Chandran
31. TM Jefu Jailaf
32. TM Jyothika Shetty
33. TM Mona Elnadi Nassar
34. TM Muhammed Ashik
35. TM Muneeba Ali
36. TM Najlah Hassan
37. TM Nam Hariharan
38. TM Nizar Melhem
39. TM Noor Majid
40. TM Parmita Debnath
41. TM Pragnya Venigalla
42. TM Ruth Fernandes
43. TM Shamili Potluri
44. TM Shanil Palliyil
45. TM Sharon Kuruvilla
46. TM Sriram Sridhar
47. TM Thazleena Shabeel

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Please send us your valuable feedback to districtnewsletters105@gmail.com