

**BCICAI**  
MONTHLY MAGAZINE

MARCH 2021

# CONNECT @ FUTURE

## WOMEN CA CONFERENCE



**FEATURED MENTOR OF THE MONTH**  
**CA MEENAKSHI SUNDARAM**



**FEATURED TITAN OF THE MONTH**  
**MS. ELHAM HASAN**



# Our Services

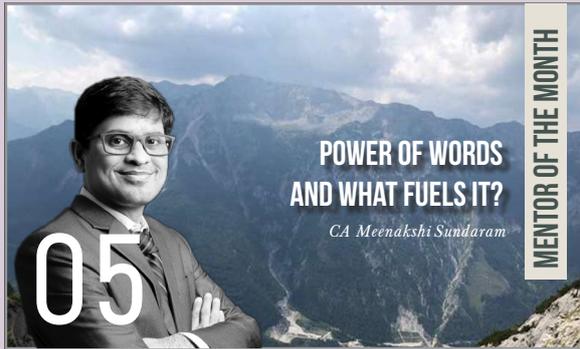
- Audit and Assurance
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- Outsourcing Services
- Corporate & Legal Services



Al Nakheel Tower, Seef District  
Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

Bahrain Financial Harbour, Harbour Gate  
Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

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**WOMEN CA  
CONFERENCE**  
CHOOSE TO CHALLENGE  
20TH MARCH 2021  
Virtual Conference

# ACTING CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

*"Dream with ambition, lead with conviction and see yourself in a way that others might not see you simply because they have never seen it before!" - Kamala Harris*

Hi there! Once again welcome to Connect@Future! During this action pack month of March, we received many opportunities to stay connected. Here lies yet another opportunity to connect with all of you, through this magazine...

This month, it is my honour to address the members through this platform. I take this opportunity to thank our Chairperson CA Ajaykumar for giving me the opportunity to chair BCICAI during this Women's month. Thank you for giving me the chance to partake and lead yet another eventful month of BCICAI. I cannot move forward without mentioning my team of woman members, executive committee members, leaders, and mentors. My Heartiest appreciation to all of you for making this dedicated month to women a grand success!

**"Balance for Better"** a perfect theme dedicated in recognising the contribution of women of BCICAI in line with international women's day celebrated on 8th march. All the events planned were solely managed by the women members of the Chapter and were addressed by noted women speakers.

This woman centric magazine for the month is handled by CA Roanna and CA Natasha as Editor and Co-editor, respectively. "Titan of Month" interview in the magazine features Ms. Elham Hasan, Board member and Business Strategy Advisor, Mumtalakat. Not only this but all the articles, write ups and interviews of the magazine are from our talented women members.

Highlight of the month was First ever BCICAI Women Conference with the theme **"Choose to Challenge"** with a line-up of women dignitaries and speakers from diverse fields who have overcome the challenges and made a difference in their respective field and brought about a change in society. The conference, one of its kind, was highly successful and was attended by over 170 participants from Bahrain and overseas and gathered much praise and appreciation from one and all.

Health and fitness aspect of the women members was taken care of by organising a virtual Zumba session. Our women members came out on the field to experience the latest game in town, the Paddle tennis. Taste of India session gave spotlight to the healthy culinary skills with a live cooking session where healthy, yet delicious recipes were showcased.

Our members were given an opportunity to bring out their artistic talent by conducting the Art Competition with the theme **"Celebrating the Women in our lives"** to bring out the importance of the special women in your lives.

CSR objective was achieved by conducting a CPE event in collaboration with ICRF for creating Cyber Security Awareness among members as well as the general public and at the same time making a donation to ICRF based on the members' attendance for the event.

The month was rounded off with the last CPE event attributed to the mental health and wellness of the Members on retirement planning and happiness coaching.

Overall, the month has been satisfying. We delivered our best work with humility, commitment, dedication, and determination to uphold the interests of the members. I hope you all have enjoyed and benefited from the events as much as we have enjoyed conducting them for you.

As I hand over the reins back to CA Ajaykumar, I will cherish the experience I have received during the month and the skills I have gained will surely help catapult my success, and for that I am truly grateful as I feel more confident and empowered to step on the BCICAI ladder.



WOMEN CA  
CONFERENCE  
CHOOSE TO CHALLENGE  
17TH MARCH 2021  
Virtual Conference

What a splendid month this has been and a perfect way to go down in history with the Bahrain Chapter of The Chartered Accountants of India having their first ever Lady Acting Chairperson CA Sharmila Shet. This month being celebrated as the month dedicated to women has seen the women members not only of the executive committee but a number of members from the Women's wing of the BCICAI rise to the occasion and pitch in to help as well as to participate in whatever way they could. Kudos once again to all the Ladies and a big thank you for helping us make this month something special and different.

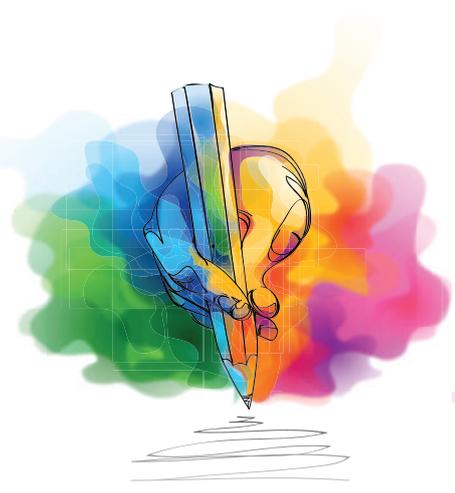
As the editorial team, it gives us immense pleasure to present to you this special edition of the magazine which is aimed to bring to you technical and non-technical articles by our women members, the speakers for the Women's CA Conference, art work and achievements of our Women members as well as the Spouses of the male members of our Chapter, as an effort to promote the women members and bring out their hidden talents.

We Chose to Challenge and definitely came out with a month well spent from the zumba session to the paddle tennis to the Women's CA conference to the artistic works put forth by our members and their families in the Art Competition to the happiness session to end the month - We managed to Balance it for the Better. This magazine brings to you all these events and more to summarize a memorable month.

We hope you enjoy the magazine as much as we enjoyed in compiling and bringing it to you!

Happy reading!!

Sincerely,  
**Editorial Team**  
**CA Roanna Miranda - Editor**  
**CA Natasha Gopalakrishnan - Co editor**



EDITOR'S MESSAGE



# ABOUT MMJS CONSULTING

We started our journey in 2017 in the UAE with a vision to support clients with their tax, management and technology needs. Today, we have expanded our footprint across the GCC and India with over 80 team members, solving complex problems for businesses through tailor-made solutions.

MMJS Management Consulting, our group company launched in 2020, focuses on delivering value through strategy and implementation. The latest addition to our portfolio in 2021, MMJS DataPhi, is our data analytics and machine learning company with a promise to deliver the future to our clients.

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# POWER OF WORDS AND WHAT FUELS IT?

*CA Meenakshi Sundaram*



Words have power. True. This spot from where this beautiful mountain is captured can be either described as the best viewing spot for enjoying nature or the spot where people can take their lives in an instant. How a spot is defined decides the kind of emotion it evokes. You call it the Best Viewing Spot, people rush with cameras. You call it as Suicide spot, people tread the place with caution and miss to enjoy the beauty.

The kind of words you use in your communication can alter the situation. No questions. I can't think of a better example than speech of World Champion of Public Speaking 2015 from Toastmasters International TM Mohamed Qahtani which you can find in Youtube.

I bumped on a research by Elizabeth F Loftus on how our memory works. She made a group of students watch a video of a car crash after which the group was split into two. One group was asked the question "How fast the cars were going when they **hit** each other?" while the second group was asked "How fast the cars were going when they **smashed into** each other?". After one week, both the groups were asked "Did you see broken glass?",

people who answered the question with "smashed into" answered "Yes". This study is done more with the intent of understanding the level of reliance on eyewitness in a crime scene. But I want to see it from another perspective, "**How one word can change the perspective of the situation**".

So, when we define an experience as horrible or learning can make a huge impact in the way the experience impacts our life.

Though it sounds like a cliché, words do have power. It is definitely true that the words have some way of mending our minds. But the question is from where these words derive their power ?

Let me share one customer experience to illustrate my case.

We had a Customer gate crashing into our office and demanding to meet me. I was trying to deflect the issue to the salesperson. Already annoyed customer now turned into an angry customer. I had to agree to meet him.

Let me confess here – the meeting started off with him raising his voice and slowly but steadily the decibel level kept rising and the entire office could hear his voice. While we were trying to get him to see the reason, he was emotionally overcharged.

At one point, he stood and started walking away.

I don't know how I uttered those words but those words changed the direction of that meeting.

I said " I **understand** your emotion. I really **appreciate** that you have taken time to come down for discussion and **apologize** for any action though unintended could have hurt you. We **sincerely** want to help you. But you need to help us to help you"

He stopped for a moment and said "that is exactly why I came down for discussion"

"Let us discuss then" I said.

He sat down. We discussed and arrived at an action plan. I agreed to implement my side of the obligation immediately.

Then I told him "I trust you. I have gone out of my way and put my head into the train track by extending this help. You assure me that you will complete your side of the obligation by next week"

"I will" he said and he did.

Words definitely had the power to calm him down. Words had the means to alter the situation. But more than the words what significantly contributed to the solution was the intention behind the words which reflected in my body language and the action that followed suit.

Words do have the power. But remember it is "**who we are and what we do" that adds fuel to that power.**

The true intention of the person who is uttering those words ignites the power hidden inside any word and the action that follows propels it.

Yes. Word has power. But the Power will remain dormant unless backed by intention and action.

But if the Word is backed by a wrong intention, the world will await disaster.

Opioid Crisis in USA is an example for using the Power of word for wrong intention.

Purdue is a Pharmaceutical company which manufactured

Oxycontin which later was accused of making people addicted to it and resulted in deaths due to overuse. But Purdue Pharma is now accused for using the Data to its advantage and made video with the users and a doctor who prescribed this drug to such gullible patients.

Tobacco Manufacturers had always used to present cigarette as a style statement to lure youngsters to take up smoking until government across the world decided to introduce more graphic depiction of the side effects as part of the pack.

Words have no power if it is not backed up with the intention and fulfilled by the action. Relationships fail because of false promises. Business Partnerships collapse because of the wrong intention behind the colorful words.

Now, ill famous Theronas and its founder Elizabeth Holmes are another example for words backed with no intention and insufficient action. At one point in time Elizabeth Holmes was a poster child for many scientific magazines. Her Promises to make testing economical and fast, shot up the valuation of her company Theronas. Dropping out from Stanford to start this company added more spice to the entire story. Words that defined the company were replete with ill intent and followed up with ineffective action. Result – millions lost their investment in the company and the founder is now facing court cases.

Let us compare this with the words of Bill Gates when he started Microsoft.

"A computer on every desk, and in every home, running Microsoft software."

But this statement was backed up with clear intent and unrelenting action from the Microsoft team. The results are there for us to see.

Words sans intention and action is like

a flower without fragrance

or rocket without fuel

or a mobile phone without charge , it won't serve the purpose.

Yes, Words do have the power to change the world. But the real change happens when the words are backed up with good intention and effective action.

## MS. ELHAM HASSAN

*Chairperson, Taaheel Health Group*

*Read our exclusive interview where BCICAI Acting Chairperson CA Sharmila Shet (SS) interview with Ms. Elham Hassan (EH), Chairperson, Taaheel Health Group*

**SS: From being the first Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in the region to Chairperson of Taaheel Health Group and board of various companies including Mumtalakaat, can you brief on your life journey from where you have started to where you are today ?**

**EH:** The seeds of what I am today were sown in my childhood. I was daughter of the family where I was totally boosted with confidence from my tender age. Today I mentor others on the way my father brought me up and treated me in front of the community. He took pride in all that I did, may be its singing a small song, jumping a rope or scoring a grade at school. My daughter who is going her PHD in fashion designing, has interviewed my mother on how she has brought me up and taught me to carry and conduct myself which I have carried till now.

I got married at very young age. My husband was very supportive throughout my journey even from the time before we got married. When the concept of mentoring was not prevalent in the offices, he was my first mentor who would advise me on everything from personal, professional, career and later even business politics.

Then I was blessed with 3 daughters. They were my aspiration and joy as they reflected back on what I was and how proud they were to have me as their mother and the way they have grown up to be the independent girls doing well in their personal and professional life today.

I always had a good working life. Though I have started very young with a small salary, I started my work with lot of enthusiasm and determination. I was youngest in the region to



graduate from University. I was always the topper in the school and was awarded with scholarship to study aboard. But I was under-aged to travel alone and in spite of all the efforts of my father eventually I ended studying commerce instead of medicine for which I got scholarship.

On how I ended up to be auditor, we had a professor who was teaching auditing who always use to say Auditing is for people with analytical mind. His teaching use to fascinate me and I decided to pursue auditing. Then at one of the interview which I attended with my dad, I was told that Auditing is not a girls job, I have to travel aboard to be qualified as Chartered Accountant as its not available in Bahrain, its requires lot of training and long hours of work. That was the time my dad took the promise from me that I will do my qualification and will become the head of the biggest audit firm in the world. This happened when I was all but 18. During this time my husband and then my fiancée mentored me. He played a big part in getting me on board an audit firm where I worked for 1 year before joining PWC where I was for the longest part of my career and become the first female partner in the region

There was also a story behind becoming the first female CPA in the region. The British firm wanted me to pursue ACCA and were head bent that CPA won't be recognised in this part of the world. But then I did my CPA and was the first CPA in the region. Becoming the first CPA had its own challenges, like women cannot be alone in the meeting room with men, there were reservations giving me the title, the position and the money that come with that because I was female. Again when I became pregnant with the first baby, they thought I will leave the job but I stayed. In fact when I had my second child in January 1991 during the gulf war and invasion of Kuwait, when most of the expats fled the country, I joined back the office within 20 days of delivering the baby and handled the Bahrain office independently for the first time for about 6 months when I was just the Manager. That's the time they realised my potential but realisation came with the reservation, if they make me the partner, will the society, community, and client accept me. I had to fight all these and many other battles. I fought one at a time and held on to my guns till I achieved what I aspired. I became the Head of Financial Services for

22 countries and there after I held several positions like Board member within the region, Country Senior partner and was also in young Board for the Global firm in the New York.

Then came another phase when I was in my middle 40's when I announced my retirement. It's not that I have complaints, I had a very fulfilling career and working life. I had hit all the nodes not only in my company, community or region but also internationally and there was nothing more where I could add value to myself so might as well I do what I feel like and rather be happy.

I was always a hardworking mother so this was my commitment to myself that the day my youngest daughter finishes her school and starts her university I will retire. I wanted to start the new phase in my life where I wanted have better work-life balance and want to work on the initiatives which I believed in.

I even had to fight my retirement. Everybody was in shock including my family. Family thought I was giving up. Company saw my retirement as threat that I might start a new firm or join the competitor. I had to convince all of them that neither I am giving up nor I should be considered a threat to anybody. I am just reformatting and rephrasing my life on my terms. But here it's worth mentioning that I could do this with a help of mentor who saw that strong desire in me to do something else and not only supported but helped me take the decision.

**SS: What's a leadership lesson that you've learnt that's unique to being a female leader?**

**EH:** People always talk about female breaking the glass ceiling. So the first lesson as a female leader is there is no such thing as glass ceiling. The ceiling is created by us due our fear and insecurities. If there is any such thing as glass ceiling it should be for everyone. If it was not for me, it should not be for anyone. If you want to achieve something you just need to be determined and work towards it and make it happen and nobody can stop you.

Second lesson is that Women in leadership are pleasant to work with. There is an incorrect notion that such women are masculine, strong headed and bossy. This notion of stereotyping the working women needs to change.

**SS: Could you name a woman who's inspired you the most?**

**EH:** It is difficult to tell one because in different aspect or walks of life I was inspired by different women.

I got the moral and ethical inspiration from the Granddaughter of our Prophet, Sayeda Zainab.

During my journey of working life, Oprah Winfrey aspired me a lot, in the way she broke all the stereotypes of gender and colour and made a place for herself in the industry dominated by male. May be some where I can relate my journey to hers. She ran the highest rated television show for 25 years and then when her show was in peak of its popularity she reinvented the show entirely and become successful even at that.

Serena William inspired me by her determination and persistence to succeed and not give up under any circumstances.

**SS: What's the greatest risk you've taken as a professional and personal sacrifices have you made throughout your career?**

**EH:** The first risk was accepting my father's challenge to become the head of the biggest audit firm when I was all but 18 and did not even know where I was getting into. It was not only a room full of men, but whole community or industry full of men and continued taking these risk and faced the challenges that came along until I achieved what I aspired.

Then there were some physical risk as well. One of them was going to Yemen for handling the project of unification of two airlines following the union of North and South Yemen. I has giving this job due to my reputation of being a fighter and handling the difficult job. The experience of staying there and the circumstances at times, especially during the conclusion meeting when I was 8 months pregnant was a challenge in itself. But the experience I got during that 2 years of handling the project was so enriching and fulfilling that it was worth taking that risk.

Coming to Sacrifices, the only sacrifices I can tell if at all, are missing on social commitments, family gathering, marriages or birthdays for my youngest daughter. On professional front, I did not do any major

sacrifices, maybe I gave away some job opportunities but then those were conscious professional decisions or you may call it trade-offs at times. In the end what mattered was that I was doing what I liked.

**SS: Your profile says you are involved in various women related activities. Can you brief us more on that?**

**EH:** I am a member of and am actively involved in the activities of Arab International Women Forum. For few years I was a part of Bahrain Businesswomen Society. I am also associated with Supreme Council of women. But I do things selectively. I get involved in the activities with a genuine cause or where I feel I can contribute or add value like I will be hosting a dinner table for Diversity on Board very soon. I along with my daughter was a part of conference which hosted mom – daughter on Board pair were we wanted to drive home the point that there can successful children of the successful parents. Also I do mentoring on adhoc and selective basis but of course not only for women but also for men.

**SS: Can you brief on the initiatives of Bahrain government on promoting gender equality whereby we 'Log in to the future' which is more inclusive and equal and what do you see as impact of these initiatives?**

**EH:** List of the initiatives taken by government can be found on the internet but the point which I want to highlight here is that since the time I can recollect, there was always gender equality. Bahrain was always ahead of other countries in providing equal education opportunities for both men and women. There was never a quota system and scholarships were based on grades and merit. The first female doctor, engineer, lawyer, judge, minister etc in the region were from Bahrain which is testimony of the fact that there was no gender bias.

Women have been working since long but if we want to talk about the representation of women in Board, Top management or Government, the issue is not only in Bahrain but all over. So based on the population of Bahrain it just the proportionate representation of the global numbers.

Now the Supreme Council of Women established under the Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa are taking the work further with more focus on women empowerment such equal salaries, benefits for underprivileged, rights for nationality etc but as far as I can relate gender equality was always there.

**SS: We recently conducted first ever women conference of Bahrain Chapter of ICAI (BCICAI). You too were a dignitary at the conference. Your take on the conference and your first association with Bahrain Chapter of ICAI. Also what advice would you like to give us?**

**AS:** BI am really impressed with the whole arrangement and smooth conduct of the event without any glitch or interruption. The line up and diversity of dignitaries and speakers was amazing. I was especially impressed with the work of and was hooked on to the session by Dr Kiran Bedi

As for advice, times are really difficult during this pandemic as recruitments are going down and there is pressure on the organisation to shrink the workforce.

You may address these issues which comes with pandemic and conduct events and activities which will help members to keep themselves updated and marketable during this time. You can also advise them on other opportunities available including entrepreneurial ventures may be even ahead of time so that they are well-equipped for any upcoming eventuality.



## *Riyyog by Riya Bhansali*

Riyyog was started in 2016, to help break down yoga practices into simple steps and help incorporate yoga in people's lifestyle. CA Riya Bhansali is a certified yoga teacher who teaches yoga to reduce the pain in people's lives. Her YouTube channel has helped more than 3500 people till date.

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# WOMEN CA CONFERENCE

CHOOSE TO CHALLENGE

**CA Riya Bhansali**  
Joint Secretary

## MESSAGE FROM EXCOM

### **First Acting Women Chairperson First Women Conference First Women sponsored Men's Cricket Team**

This month we truly witnessed the ladies special in line with the celebration of the women's month. From the leadership to the sport area, we witnessed feminine strength in all areas. We promise #ChoosetoChallenge ourselves each time for every opportunity will ever be given to us.

As we have seen women evolving in different roles each time over decades and centuries with more confidence and exuberance I would also like to highlight the importance of the great support system that has made this possible. Only those in positions of power can uplift those they want to see as there equal.

The same is true even in BCICAI, our chairperson CA AjayKumar always celebrated the women strength in the committee, always gave us an equal opportunity of being heard and always pushed us to do more than we believed we could. From supporting the Acting Chairperson, CA Sharmila to the entire Women's conference to supporting the formation of Team Riyyog Yogiss, his support always made instilled a self-belief in us.

Only from a place of confidence we were able to achieve what we all that we could making this a remarkable month in the history of BCICAI. Needless to say, the entire ExCom and family support forms support system which we could always easily fall back on s.

This is just the beginning of what will be improvised on the years to come. As we eagerly await the our first chairperson of BCICAI and maybe all women committee in the future I would like to thank all the women in my life who have made me the women strength I am today. Special thanks to my mom, Ranjana Bhansali who has always been my symbol of strength.

With this looking forward for more GIRL POWER in the coming committees.



**CA Rukkaiya Pachisa**  
*Former Chairperson, Doha  
Chapter (2019-20)*

## INTERNATIONAL WRITER OF THE MONTH

# SPORTS: GAME CHANGER FOR WORKING WOMEN

Sports traditionally teaches about teamwork, goal-setting, the pursuit of excellence in performance and other achievement-oriented behaviors—critical skills necessary for success in the workplace. In an economic environment where the quality of our lives is now dependent on two-income families, women cannot be less prepared for the highly competitive workplace than men. It is no accident that 80% of the female executives at Fortune 500 companies identified themselves as former sports women, having played sports.

Women are bringing new strengths to business and organizations that are based on their skills in group processes, preference for cooperation models and sensitivity to human needs. Sport is one of the most important socio-cultural learning environments in our society. Eventually, as women rise to executive positions, the organizational models of business will reflect more female characteristics and become androgynous. However, women who do not know the written and unwritten rules of sport are at a disadvantage in understanding business models of organization based on sports functional theory.

Playing sports teaches us that being “good at a position” is a function of the will to achieve and working on the basic skills required for that position. Thus, sportsmen grow up thinking that they can achieve anything they commit themselves to achieving and, in real life, apply for jobs for which we women may think them underqualified. It is simply that they have been trained to believe that they “can”



meet a new challenge of a new position and can learn by doing. Women, on the other hand, who are not into sports believe that advancing to a new position requires certification, classroom training, degrees, or something tangible that says, "I am qualified," in addition to being confident that they can meet the demands of a new position. If they have not played sports, they have not had as much experience with the trial-and-error method of learning new skills and positions and are less likely to be as confident as their male counterparts about trying something new.

In sports and in organizations, sometimes you win and sometimes you lose. Sport gives you experience so you learn to win graciously and accept defeat without blowing the experience out of proportion. You learn to separate the outcome of a game or your performance in one game from your worth as a person. When trying new things errors are expected, acknowledged, and fixed immediately rather than dwelling on them or taking the criticism of errors personally. This is critically an important lesson for the women workforce.

In sports and in organizations, pressure, deadlines, and competition are commonplace. Sport gives players the experience of dealing with these realities and learning to enjoy and conquer their challenges. When there are only two seconds left on the clock, your team is one point down,

and you go up for that jump shot, you learn what pressure, deadlines and competition is all about and how they can be perceived as exhilarating and fun rather than scary and distasteful. The bottom line is that most organizations want to hire people who enjoy and excel in competitive environments. Women who are not into sports will not learn how to handle these challenges.

Participation in sports teaches players all about the work ethics that hard work, repetition, and constant practice are the keys to successful performance. Athletes know that no matter how tired they are, they can tap into a reservoir of stamina, strength, and good thinking—even under the most difficult of circumstances - and continue to compete successfully.

Ultimately, in sports and in business, being exceptional is leaving no detail unattended to. Every athlete has a precise checklist of details involved in every skill from throwing a curveball to shooting a jump shot. The more you study your opponent and prepare for a game, the more successful you are. Great players are students of their game, and great students are always learning.

"Overpower. Overtake. Overcome." - Serena Williams



# A QUICK LOOK INTO “CLIMATE CHANGE RISK”

CA Aswathy Udayarajan

Several studies have concluded for a long time that GreenHouse Gas emissions, the most dangerous gas being “Carbon” emitted from burning fossil fuels, are leading to Global warming, which in turn is accelerating climate change, defined as the long-term change in climate conditions including extreme weather events and increasing sea level rise.

Studies also indicate that Global temperature today are slightly over 1 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels and each additional degree of warming will be more destructive and damaging on climate whereby weather extremes could be increasingly frequent and intensive. Experts have warned this risk as an existential challenge, requiring immediate action; and Governments across world have already adopted several measures to manage carbon emissions examples being carbon pricing / tax, moving towards low carbon technologies etc. The critical nature of this risk is also evident in the recent risk report by World Economic forum 2021 which has rated “**Climate action failure**” as the most impactful and second most likely long-term risk identified in Global Risks Perception Survey (GRPS), first being “Infectious disease”.

From an organization point of view climate change and climate change actions could affect the organization directly

or indirectly depending on the line of business. Risks which an organization could affect directly due to “Climate change” are referred to as “**Physical Risks**”. “Physical Risks” includes extreme heat, prolonged drought, frequent wildfires, hurricanes, rising sea level - affecting individuals, businesses and economies. Risks which arise due to “Climate change actions” are termed as “**Transition Risks**”. As mentioned earlier several governments have already taken steps for transitioning towards a low carbon economy and risks associated with these changes are termed as “Transition Risks”. Transition Risks include policy changes, changes in technology and laws. Such actions, could lead to shift in asset values (e.g. existing high carbon technologies would be valued less), higher cost of doing business (e.g. carbon taxes), ultimately leading to reduction in investment returns and market capitalization.

Risks identified should be assessed for its impact on organizational goals, followed by establishing a framework to appropriately manage those risks. **Proactive identification and management of climate risk would smoothen the transition of the organization towards building a sustainable business that contributes positively to a low carbon economy.**



# GO GREEN - THERE IS NO PLANET B!

CA Karishma Upponi

The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it! This powerful quote by Robert Swan rings true today more than ever. We always hear these mass conversations around us about how we need to be more environmentally conscious, how we should contribute. Perhaps like me, the persistent thought in your minds has been - will what I do really make a difference? Will it take too much time and effort?

Most of us do care about our Earth and want to do a little better when it comes to making environment-conscious decisions. But all the dos and don'ts can seem a little overwhelming for those of us who have just started their journey towards a greener future. Like all things in life, great things are achieved through small steps.

Over the past couple of years of reading articles, watching documentaries and actually experiencing hotter temperatures and almost non-existent winters, I was keen to contribute whatever little I could in my own way to support this quest.

Here are some of the things I have implemented in my day to day life to do my bit for the Earth.

- 1. No to plastic bags and cutlery** – this past year has been a difficult one to say the least, for each and every one of us. Working from home and not venturing out much led to an increase in my online grocery shopping as well as food deliveries. I choose every time to tick “deliver without plastic bags” or “deliver without plastic cutlery” option. It has drastically cut down the number of spoons and forks clogging that drawer in my kitchen. Carrying a reusable bag on my cold store visits has also helped to reduce the plastic bag mess in the kitchen.

- 2. Turn down the brightness on electronic devices** – with online schooling in full swing a simple step of reducing the brightness down by 20-30% will result in energy savings and our eyes will thank us for it.

- 3. Carry a reusable water bottle** – on all my walks and work outs, I have consciously remembered to carry my own water bottle. There have of course been days when I forgot to carry my bottle and succumbed to buying a bottle. But I have been able to largely stick to my decision.

- 4. Replace water faucets with water saving nozzles** – while working on a project at work for Sustainable Development Goals promoted by the United Nations, I came across a start up in India which was selling water saving nozzles. I ended up ordering a few to test them before making the presentation at work. These nozzles truly are amazing when it comes to saving water and now all the taps in the wash basins at home are contributing towards this goal.

- 5. Plant trees** – my balcony garden has become a green oasis with tomatoes and capsicum vying for attention. It is a great de-stresser and does wonders for the environment.

Just like our bodies, the environment also functions best when it is in balance. As awareness spreads, people are taking active part and putting in efforts towards a greener earth.

After all, Environment is no one's property to destroy, it is everyone's responsibility to protect.



# INVESTING IN DIGITAL ASSETS

CA Khushboo Wagnani

We've all heard our parents and grandparents talking about how one should save and invest timely in land, gold and other physical assets but as we have witnessed these days our entire life has gone digital and so why not the investments too?

## Digital Assets

Digital assets (also called as digital real estate) are any online platform that you fully or partially own, has a regular audience/customers, and can be monetized.

## Types of Digital Assets

**Domain Names:** Domain names (website URLs) become more valuable as they age which is why they're considered a popular digital asset that people frequently invest in.

**Websites/online businesses:** Websites are the most popular type of digital assets because they often serve as the central platform that connects all the other types of digital assets together.

**Mobile Apps:** Mobile applications are harder to create as compared to a website which is why you don't hear as many common people making a fortune by investing in them.

**Digital Products:** People also invest in acquiring digital and info products like video

courses, training programs, and membership programs that have the potential to grow by making small improvements.

**Digital Currencies:** Digital currencies are any currencies, money or money-like asset that are primarily managed, stored or exchanged over the internet. In recent times the cryptocurrencies have prompted interest in investments in digital currencies, with Bitcoin being introduced in 2008, becoming the most widely used and accepted digital currency.

## Why to invest in digital assets?

So after understanding what exactly are digital assets, I'm sure you see the current trend of people in general moving towards the digital universe and hence it becomes even more exciting to identify the reasons to invest in these assets. So here are a few:

## Highly impressive returns:

There are many benefits of investing into digital assets but the biggest and the foremost reason is for the huge financial returns. Digital assets can easily help you make two-digit returns on your investment every month. For example, we invested into a website for \$18,000 and are making about \$400-\$500 per month, which is 25 to 30% per annum.



At this point of time, to get such fantastic results on an investment is definitely a great deal. So as we've learnt that high rewards are always accompanied with high risks, and investing into digital assets is no different but trust me it's completely worth it.

### **A passive stream of income:**

We would always love to see a few extra dollars coming into our accounts every month without much being done from our end. Investing into digital assets, mainly websites, assures you of such passive stream of income. Certain websites, like content websites, do not need much attention from your end as they earn income from displaying advertisements, sponsored posts, affiliate marketing etc. So you put out a lot of content on your website and you get paid when a visitor clicks on an advertisement. The amount of passive income then depends on you as to how much money and effort do you want to put into a particular website.

### **Low overhead costs:**

Investing into a digital asset means there is bound to be lower overhead costs when compared to traditional businesses or assets. Costs like rent, wages, and other fixed costs just do not exist. Instead there

is a set of completely different costs such as SEO, content marketing, social media marketing etc. that need to be taken care of. These challenges would not require as much monetary resource as compared to the time required to invest on your part.

### **Control over your investment:**

Unlike traditional investments that are subject to market volatility, unemployment rates, economic stability, etc., investing in digital assets like websites everything is under your control. You can choose to work on your asset extensively and increase your earnings or leave it as is and still earn a decent return. With a well thought through investment strategy in time and resources one can achieve the desired return quiet easily.

Personally, we have been investing in digital assets for more than 4 years now and have had a wonderful experience so far. If you are a 100% passive investor and you hire a digital assets management company to manage your digital portfolio, these assets are a great way of earning a handsome amount of money.

## Take A Break



CA Radhika Zinzuwadia

While working on a complicated project or when you feel that you have too much to do, it is easy to convince yourself that you do not have the time to take breaks.

However, I believe that taking a break can be very beneficial for you and your work. Micro-breaks, lunchtime breaks and longer breaks, have all been proven to have a positive relationship with wellbeing and productivity. By taking regular breaks you can boost your performance.

Although, taking short breaks throughout the working day may not be as impactful as taking a holiday, but it has many significant benefits. Short breaks can reduce or prevent stress, help to maintain performance throughout the day and reduce the need for a long recovery at the end of the day. It is said that taking lunchtime breaks and detaching from work, increases levels of energy at work and decreases exhaustion.

Relaxing and social breaks have been found to be particularly beneficial. A relaxing break can help to facilitate recovery, by returning your mental and psychical functional systems to their baseline. Additionally, a relaxing break can help to reset your mood, thereby promoting positive wellbeing and reducing stress.

Social breaks, such as connecting with your peers, is also very beneficial. Social interactions allow you to share your experiences and feel part of a group. This feeling of relatedness, during a social break shows a positive association with feeling recovered after the break.

Taking breaks has been shown to be important in recovering from stress, which can, in turn, improve your performance. Recovering from work stress can restore energy and mental resources and decrease the development of fatigue, sleep disorders and cardiovascular disease.

### Tips for Ensuring you Take Breaks

When you get lost in your work or feel frustrated that something isn't going well, you can neglect breaks. Here are some tips to prompt you to regularly step away and rebuild your energy.

- Agree break times with your peers and help each other to stick to the break time you've agreed.
- Set an alarm on your phone to prompt you.
- Plan to do something in your break that you enjoy – the anticipation of pleasure will motivate you to keep to the break.
- Pay attention to any benefits you experience when you take a break – this will lodge in your mind and motivate you to take breaks in future.
- Use post-it notes or drawings in your workspace to remind you that the project is a long-term piece of work – you won't complete it well, if you burn yourself out: so, take a break!

## LIST OF SOME OF THE LEGISLATIONS, RESOLUTIONS ETC., ISSUED DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH 2021

Adv. Madhavan Kallath  
Managing Partner, Kallath & Company WLL.



Resolution No. 12 of 2021 to assign the Crown Prince with responsibilities of the King during his absence

Law No 39 of 2021 amendment of article 1 of Decree No. 1 of 2011 to establish a high commission for natural resources and economic security

Resolution No. 3 of 2020 for management of hazardous medical waste

Resolution 24 of 2021 Acceptance and scope of electronic transactions in the services of criminal law suits

Resolution 15 of 2021 regarding transfer of aviation and travel club under ministry of labour and social development

Resolution No. 22 of 2021 regarding stages of implementation of wage protection scheme

Resolution No. 23 of 2021 addition of new paragraph to article 2 of resolution No. 68 of 2019 concerning Wage Protection Scheme

Resolution No. (5) for the year 2021 regarding the work rules of the Board of Trustees and the limits of its responsibility for managing the affairs of the governmental health institution

Law No. (6) of 2021 ratifying an agreement on air services between the government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the government of the Republic of Maldives between and beyond their territories

Decree No. (35) of 2021 appointing coordinators in the Office of the Prime Minister

Decree No. (37) of 2021 appointing an executive head for the Labor Fund

Decree No. (38) of 2021 amending Article (1) of Decree No. (1) of 2011 establishing the Supreme Committee for Natural Resources and Economic Security

Decision of the Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander No. (1) for the year 2021 to reconstitute the Supreme Commission for the Royal Fund for the Martyrs of Duty

Decision of the Crown Prince and Prime Minister No. (1) for the year 2021 to reconstitute the Economic Development Board

Prime Minister Decision No. (17) for the year 2021 to appoint directors in the Ministry of Transportation and Communications

Prime Minister Decision No. (19) of 2021 amending some provisions of Resolution No. (7) of 2020 restructuring the Board of Directors of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority

Prime Ministerial Decision No. (20) for the year 2021 to appoint a director in the Civil Service Authority

Decision of the Minister of Youth and Sports Affairs No. (19) of 2021 amending some provisions of Resolution No. (155) of 2020 regarding the regulation of rules and procedures for obtaining special licenses for preparing and participating in sports and tournaments

Central Bank of Bahrain Governor Decision No. (6) of 2021 regarding the formation of the Board of Directors of the Compensation Fund for Victims of Vehicle Accidents

Announcement No. (2) for the year 2021 regarding award decisions issued in tenders during February 2021 pursuant to the provisions of Article (37) of Decree-Law No. (36) of 2002 regarding the regulation of tenders, auctions, purchases and government sales

Decree No. (33) of 2021 appointing a general director and two assistant secretaries in the Ministry of Education

Decree No. (34) of 2021 appointing a commander for police aviation in the Ministry of Interior

Decision No. (18) of 2021 of the Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments regarding the removal of lawyers

Decision No. (33) of 2021 of the Health Minister amending some health requirements that must be met in facilities to contain and prevent the spread of the new Corona virus (COVID-19)

Royal Order No. (11) of 2021 amending Article 1 of Royal Order No. (15) of 2018 establishing the King Hamad International Center for Peaceful Coexistence

Decree No. (26) of 2021 reorganizing the Ministry of Health

Decree No. (27) of 2021 appointing an assistant undersecretary at the Ministry of Housing

Decree No. (28) of 2021 appointing an undersecretary and two assistant under secretaries in the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism

Decree No. (29) of 2021 appointing a deputy CEO of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority

Decree No. (30) of 2021 appointing two deputy chief executives of the National Bureau for Revenue

Prime Ministerial Decision No. (13) for the year 2021 to appoint two directors in the Ministry of Housing

Prime Ministerial Decision No. (14) for the year 2021 to appoint a director in the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism

Prime Ministerial Decision No. (15) of 2021 appointing two directors in the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities

Minister of Interior Decision No. (34) of 2021 amending some provisions of Resolution No. (121) of 2007 regarding entry visas and residence permits for family members of the worker and the foreign employer

Decision of the Minister of Health No. (13) of 2021 to issue the executive regulations for the Public Health Law promulgated by Law No. (34) of 2018

Decision of the Minister of Health No. (24) of 2021 amending some provisions of Resolution No. (20) of 2016 regarding determining the categories of fees for private health institutions

Decision of the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism No. 41 of 2021 defining tourist sites

Decision of the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism No. (42) for the year 2021 to establish and form a committee to organize the site of the 338 Tourist Complex

Chairman of the Survey and Land Registration Authority Decision No. (5) for the year 2021 to establish the Special Registry for Jointly Owned Real Estate

Law No. (5) of 2021 regarding the regulation and control of international trade in endangered species from the fungal animal and plant groups

# WOMEN CA CONFERENCE

20TH MARCH 2021

## CHOOSE TO CHALLENGE



Lighting the lamp for the conference was done by Acting Chairperson CA Sharmila, Joint Secretary CA Riya and Excom Members CA Roanna and CA Natasha.

### Keynote Address

**Host :** CA Shubhashree

**Speaker:** Ms. Kiran Bedi, Former Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry and Retired IPS Officer

**Speaker Profile:** Dr Kiran Bedi is the first woman in India to have joined the officer ranks of Indian Police Service

**Summary:** Kiran Bedi shared with us her life from her growing up days, the importance of sports, how important are defining the goals in life as well as the barriers that one will face in their life and how to overcome it.



### My courage is my capital

**Host :** CA Ambika Shetty

**Speaker:** Ms. Chetna Gala Sinha, Indian Social Activist, farmer and Banker.

**Speaker Profile:** Chetna Sinha is the Founder and Chairperson of the Mann Deshi Mahila Bank and the Mann Deshi Foundation. She has been awarded the Nari Shakti Puraskar, India's highest civilian award for women who work in the area of women's empowerment. To date, Mann Deshi has supported over half a million women.

**Summary:** Chetna Gala Sinha, a resident of a rural Maharashtra, shares stories of successful initiatives taken by the women of her village. In her moving speech, she talks about the difficulties they faced, and how these obstacles led to them becoming literate, capable, independent and successful individuals. She shares stories of confident and accomplished women, who made great strides in overcoming injustices and even centuries-old caste-based oppression. Message she shared at the end of session:

"My courage is my capital."

"Never provide poor solutions to poor people."



## Initiatives taken by the ICAI Women Empowerment Committee



**Host :** CA Khushboo Waghani

**Speaker:** CA Kemisha Soni, Chair of the ICAI Women Empowerment Committee and CPE Committee

**Speaker Profile:** CA Kemisha was the first Woman Chairperson of Indore branch of ICAI, CIRC and the Board of Studies of ICAI.

**Summary:** CA Kemisha Soni enlightened us about the various initiatives taken by the ICAI Women Empowerment Committee for Women CAs.



## Smashing down the stereotype - "Women can't be physically strong"



**Host :** CA Radhika Zinzuwadia

**Speaker:** Mrs. Kiran Demla, Celebrity fitness coach and a woman body builder

**Speaker Profile:** Mrs. Kiran Demla has represented India at the World Bodybuilding Championship – 2013 and secured the sixth rank. She is a Disco Jockey (DJ) known by the name DJ Belle and mountaineer who has so far trekked to the Mount Everest base camp thrice.

**Summary:** BCICAI held its first Women's Conference with the theme of "Choose to Challenge" The speaker walked us through her journey of life, where she untiringly accepted challenges. At 33, she was just a nonchalant housewife, but today at 45 she is the woman body builder. She was among the very few women who sports a six-pack body and has represented the country in the World Bodybuilding Championship in Budapest.



## Panel Discussion- 'Breaking the glass ceiling - Leading in challenging times'



**Host :** CA Shribharathi Maheshkumar

**Panelist:** Chitra Shringare, Alice Vaidyan, Rewati Paithankar

**Summary:** The eminent panelist shared their views on the current trends in the banking and insurance industries and the challenges facing the same. They also provided valuable insights into their leadership journey. As women leaders; the insights and knowledge shared by them captivated and inspired our viewers.



## Session on travel challenges amongst pandemics

Host : CA Ankita Nyati

Speaker: Ms. Hardy Oza Patel, Founder & Director of TravelSoul/ velvet escapes. a blogger and an influencer.

**Speaker Profile:** Ms. Hardy is an avid traveller, writer, influencer & entrepreneur. She traveled to more than 90 countries in 11 years. Bangalore Insider listed her in the Top 12 Women Entrepreneurs for 2020 and has also been recognised in SHE Magazine as Travel Influencer of the Year.

**Summary:** Ms. Hardy mentioned the various challenges in travelling during pandemic time while keeping sustainable travelling as topmost priority. She also enlightened the purposeful travelling with a quest to know the culture and history of places. Also she inspired all by sharing her experiences as a woman who started her own venture from scratch in a male dominated industry and became a market leader.



## Climate Change and Environment

Host : CA Karishma Upponi

Speaker: Ms. Elsie Gabriel, Award winning Environmentalist and Global climate change speaker

**Speaker Profile:** Ms. Elsie Gabriel is the Founder of Young Environmentalists Programme. She is also the award winning author of the book - Get Out Get Going Outdoors. She is the founder of My Travel Footprints which documents her anthropological journey across the remote tribal and rural areas over the past two decades

**Summary:** BCICAI conducted its first Women CA conference that was held on 20 March 2021 as a virtual conference. The conference was organised exclusively by women members with the theme Choose to Challenge to celebrate International Women's Day. The speakers were all women from various walks of life and achievers in their own right. This esteemed list of speakers included Elsie Gabriel who spoke passionately about the need to protect our environment and shared great life lessons based on her own experiences.



Quiz and Raffles session for the Women CA Conference were conducted by CA Nisha



CA Garvita conducted the valedictory session for the Women's CA conference

# A TÊTE-À-TÊTE WITH LADY SINGHAM

Dr. Kiran Bedi, Former Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry & 1st Women IPS Officer

by CA Shubhashree Sundaram



There are interviews which provide you with information and then there are interviews which make you think, inspire and motivate you. BCICAI had one such inspiring interview with an icon who refined power and strength to women.

Below are some of the pearls of wisdom from the interview.

## Growing up years – Education & Sports

Dr. Kiran Bedi stressed on the importance of parental support and the schooling which she received during her formative years. Her dreams and that of her parents were aligned. The dream was to grow up to be Self-reliant and Grow up to Give and thus Education became the cornerstone to achieve those dreams.

Dr. Bedi gave credit to sports - playing tennis during her growing up days which had immensely helped her in the police service. Sports gives you an all-round development including stamina, physical endurance, decision making. She encouraged parents to give different opportunities (academics, sports, art, and music) to the children in their growing up years.

## Goals

Goals should always be purpose driven and she endeavors to do her best always. Even though she had different goals depending on the post she was holding during her police service, primarily - Justice, reform, crime prevention and safety were her fundamental goals.

## Barriers

Every barrier is a challenge. An opportunity to improve. As a leader one should find ways of removing the barrier and be a solution-provider. A leader is a remover of obstacles not a complainer.

## Be your own Role model

Be a role model yourself and be visible to empower others. Be an example and show the way to people - Delegate, train, motivate, collaborate, inspire and empower people to find solutions. Spread empowerment.

## Upskilling

To stay ahead and enthused, continue to be a learner all your life. Otherwise a leader gets outdated. To inspire and motivate others, continue to nourish the head (for intelligent quotient), heart (for emotional quotient) and hands (for upskilling) every day.

## Leadership roles and women

People generally relate to women leaders more as they believe she is one amongst them. As a woman she felt she was communicative, accessible which made her journey as a leader effortless.

Leadership role for women now is easy and difficult at the same time. Easy because, women are now equally competent and professional qualified for any chosen role. Difficult because now they have 2 roles, one at the office and the other at home. The challenge for the women comes in when she does not

have adequate support or the means of taking care of her children for which there must be some form of social management system where the children are taken care of in places such as day boarding schools so that the stress on women is reduced.

### Relaxing

Morning workout routine and reading keeps her nourished throughout the day.

On self doubts (Am I good enough? Am I meeting people's expectations?)

Don't depend on acceptance from others. Live life on your own terms. A shared and selfless life does not need others' acceptance.

### Final thoughts

Every woman owes it to herself to do her own SWOT (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats) analysis. Know the strengths and build on them. Work on the weakness. Analyze threats. Convert weakness and threats into opportunities. Seek guidance or mentorship, if required.

Support Women empowerment, support women education, support women upskilling to see a transformation in the society.

## MY JOURNEY

Hardi Patel

And there I lived as a little girl in a small town of Gujarat, who dreamt of stars and faraway places. Everything outside my home was a fairyland that I dreamt of reaching there someday. Coming from a Brahmin family, education was very important and I went onto become a Chemical Engineer. Even after being placed in India's best Chemical company, I wasn't happy, because my heart was still in stars and those far off lands. With a lot of courage and conviction, I told my father that I wanted to travel and make my passion into a business. And there began a journey of 13 long dedicated years to travel, challenges, discouragement, healing and standing back again. I always had a vision that people who travel by my knowledge and guidance should travel to feel the place and simply not touch it. I had set foot in that market where there were big players, specially male players ruling the market and I was a woman who wanted to make my mark, make myself seen and above all guide people in the rightest way when it came to traveling, after all business comes at last when passion stands in front. In order to let people live, breathe and feel the place, I decided to travel first and see it all myself. With 50+ countries and almost every state of my country

visited, with all homework in place, I started the journey of making the world understand the importance of experiential traveling. I started curating experiences like River Lunches, Mountain Dinners, Breakfast in Waterfall, Coffee with Cats, Hi-Tea with Orangutans and the list goes on. Also, started writing for a local newspaper and doing my talk show on radio that helped me reached out to maximum people and letting them understand the importance of place in terms of its culture, food, tradition, clothing, customs. The journey was tough, there were huge stares when tiny me entered any mega exhibition or meeting, there was discrimination but then I never started to go back and run away from my passion. I stood strong, took everything that came to me with a smile, with amazing support from my pillars of support, especially my husband and here I am, reading my little fairy tale story to you all. Thank you for being kind and accepting me and listening to my journey.



# BANKING IN THE FINTECH ERA

CA Dr Rewati Paithankar

Banking is the most traditional, conservative and information intensive industry. Of late the global trend of evolving technologies has led to the entry of fintechs in the arena of financial services resulting in changes in consumer preferences and expectations. Traditional banking is experiencing disruptions in the conventional manner of conducting the business built over a century and services provided exclusively by it hitherto.

Banking has built a large base of loyal & trusting customers, huge network of branches and infrastructure, possess vast customer data (albeit underutilized) and a pool of experienced but mostly non tech-savvy human capital. Banking industry has to follow stringent rules and regulatory requirements, which, if breached, leads to fines, penalties and loss of trust. During the last two decades banking has gone digital by shifting to internet based transactions for providing services which were earlier provided manually. ATM machines, POS, internet & mobile banking are some of the examples which provide automated delivery of standard services and products.

Fintechs, on the other hand are a new generation enterprises, they do not provide entire banking services but unbundle the financial services pack and provide only specific services such as loans, payments, remittances etc. by collecting data using latest data capturing techniques such as speech, image, text and vision processing, besides the conventional methods and use new age technologies such as data analytics, AI, ML and API to process the collected data to give proactive, quick and flexible solutions to their customers. As of now they have fewer restrictions and regulations, but face challenges such as absence of loyal customer base, lack of brand recognition and a relatively high cost of capital.

Both the players are in a situation where banking is staring at competition mainly in its retail segment due to Fintechs, whereas Fintechs are trying to increase their presence in the field of financial services.



Some banks have responded to the challenge by innovating and reengineering some processes themselves. One of the major public sector banks in India has launched its self made digital lending platform in November 2020, which is expected to account for half of its incremental retail loans. The bank claims to be the first bank using a digital lending platform for new customers. Soon other banks may follow suit and come up with their own innovative products.

Some banks may collaborate with the Fintech by way of partnerships and equity investments, where fintech players will come up with innovative products and services on the strong base of customers of their partner banks and economies of scale. Banking, on the other hand, will benefit from both IT knowledge, regulatory arbitrage enjoyed by Fintech players and innovative solutions, to better service their own existing large customer base. Data privacy and security will however be major concerns for the banks in case of collaborations.

There is no doubt that competition and collaborations will bring in efficiencies which will benefit the customers and both the industries.

# THE UNSEEN PLASTICS- OCEAN MICROPLASTICS! - Will you conduct a plastic audit in your home as isolation continues?

**Elsie Gabriel, Ambassador for India Ocean Quest International**

Schools, colleges and communities all over the world have been putting their curriculum and marketing online. The days are filled with digital communications, taking turns with mobile apps, webinars for most people. But there is one cluster of islands in Western India, the Lakshadweep islands which is covid free and declared a Green Zone.

Active islanders have shown great response in collaborating to clean up the plastic menace which pollutes their surroundings and beaches.

Various groups and clubs in association with the Young Environmentalists Programme Trust Mumbai and Climate Reality Project India have been joining forces to utilize the isolation months to conduct Beach and Lagoon cleanup series since February 2020.

Today numerous other Islands have also risen to the need to clean their backyards and keep the islands free from plastics.

Young Environmentalists Programme NGO is known for classically training people in interactive Community development programmes have had a great impact on the citizens to take on the plastic challenge.

Their live Zoom webinars, interactive clay therapy art classes together with lectures on climate change and pollution have been held successfully on Zoom since the lockdown.

She believes that "It was always a two fold approach, done out of necessity to assist the citizens to stay productively active during isolation and to create awareness through on the ground Climate action. Young Environmentalists Programme has collaborated with various community organizations, to not only mentor academics

but conduct Beach cleanups, art, make Eco Ganesha idols with clay from the Powai lake."

She has been recently honoured with the post of the National Coordinator Oceans

for Climate Reality Project India and is researching on Ocean communities as Agents of Change. She believes that besides conducting Eco Ganesha idols in Mumbai, making cloth masks and cloth bags and promoting Sustainable Fashion - Zero waste living and Home Plastics audits programmes have also been on their agenda during the Covid isolation times. They have collaborated with beach communities in Orissa, Chennai, Borneo and Bali, Galapagos islands Ecuador and have plans outlined in Kerala, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

The plastics live forever and they can never be recycled, only downcycled to keep on existing. Breaking down plastics also causes pollution. Enforcing the plastic ban and going biodegradable looks like the only way out. Today MicroPlastics live on sand, fish, marine creature's and even planktons which are the base of the ocean food chain. So next time you buy anything in plastic, think twice.

There is no stopping those committed to Planet Earth, is there? Covid or no Covid. Join us [www.youngenvironmentalists.org](http://www.youngenvironmentalists.org)



A history is written....In golden words. Today's program will beat all the events conducted by BCICAI so far by miles and tonnes. Eye opener and inspiring....Breaking all the reservations that one may have about the abilities of women.....  
**CA Kapil Batra**

Well done Sharmila ad Ajay. First you have created history by winning the coveted Award from ICAI, then by creating the women's international conference which will be annual event from now AND if I may add that Sharmila has been groomed to take up the Championship role. Well done to both of you and the entire team for this wonderful event which has made history This  
**Balasubramanyam PS**

What a wonderful event. Planned and executed to perfection. The speakers were all too good. While motivating for the women, it was a revelation for the men to get insights from the minds of women who decided to succeed. Truly MAD conference and one to remember. Kudos Sharmila and her team from WICAB.  
**CA Ajaykumar**

It was well executed event filled with high quality speakers and excellently hosted by each women members. Congratulations CA Sharmila and all the women team.  
**CA Meenakshi Sundaram**

Great event. Well planned. Well executed. Inspiring speakers. Well done Sharmila and team  
**CA Shaukhat Lokhandwala**

Great initiative and enthusiasm from our women CA leaders  
**CA TD Balraj**

Congratulations Sharmila, Ajay, Santhosh and the full Excom team on yet another successful milestone event.  
**CA Maheshkumar Narayanan**

Amazing .... Kudos Sharmila  
**CA Sridhar**

One of the best event of Ajay's term. Kudos to Women's power. Congratulations Sharmila and team. Well planned, organised and executed event. Amazing speakers.  
**CA Sandeep Gupta**

Great going 🎉🎉 amazing efforts shaping this event so well.  
**CA Priyanka Birla Abu Dhabi Chapter**

Excellent execution to the perfection and lots of take aways. Congrats Sharmila and Ajay. It is really a news to me that BCICAI has 60 female members. Kudos.  
**CA Mani Lakshamanamoorthy**

Great going Sharmila & team - amazing speakers  
**CA Alok Gupta**

Congratulations to sharmila and Ajay for this unique event  
**CA Muralidhar Kommajosula**

Excellent planning... Keep rocking CA Sharmila & team  
**CA Nirlep, Chairman Qatar Chapter**

An excellent conference, very well conducted. The speakers were very good and Apt for the conference. Congratulations once again.  
**CA Shyam Krishan**

I must congratulate the excellent event Bahrain Chapter has organized, and that too all by our female colleagues. I loved the deliberations by Chitra, Ravethi, and Alice - wonderful insights on banking sector in India! I loved the session by Hemisha Soni also very much, she provided great details of professional opportunities ICAI provides to members! Wish I had attended it live!  
**CA Ganesh Sharma, Chairman British Columbia Chapter**

Excellent show Acting Chairperson Sharmila... Way to go to pull it off such a big event so well...Superb team efforts of all the women involved especially Roanna and Natasha... True execution of #ChooseToChallenge  
**CA Nisha**

Gr8 show today with zero hiccups... kudos to the team  
**CA Garvita**



Thank you BICAI and Sharmila Shet for inviting me to be part of your maiden Women's CA virtual conference. It was indeed an honor for me to be part of such an August panel. The 'Choose to Challenge' theme was very well articulated by all the speakers and the thoughts expressed by each and every one of them was very insightful. I was delighted to see the focus on women leadership, challenges faced by women professionals and the various developments of Digitisation that are driving the businesses in the times of pandemic. The 'Choose to Challenge' theme resonated well throughout the conference. Really happy to be part of such a splendid event. **Chitra**

Wonderful conference. Very well conducted. Thoroughly enjoyed listening to each and every speaker. Congrats sharmila and team. **CA Vasanthi**

Wonderful Conference. Congratulations Sharmila & team **CA Deepa**

This is to congratulate you and your team for excellent organisation of the "20th March 2021" program. I appreciate the way you coordinated with us, the selection of other speakers, the questions for the panel discussion, everything. Congratulations **Revathi**

I just wanted to congratulate you and all the women team that organized fabulous event on international women's day! It was just inspiring, in fact I have reached out to Memisha Soni also for the outstanding details of professional opportunities she provided for the benefit of members! Banking insurance session I loved extremely Ravthi, Alice and Chitra are great knowledgeable ladies! Appreciation and thanks again **Ganesh Sharma, Chairman British Columbia Chapter**

Congratulations Sharmila and team bahrain; it was indeed a get event. Exp was similar to annual international conference **CA Neeraj Ritolia Abu Dhabi Chapter**

Congratulations Sharmila, Roanna, Natasha and the entire team. The event was a huge success. Loved all the speakers from Kiran Bedi to Chetna Gala to Hardi Oza all had unique content and life learning lessons. It was very motivating and inspiring to listen to these powerful women who chose to challenge at certain point of time in their life and have successfully achieved their goals and much more. Thank you for having them at the conference and thank you for the opportunity to be a part of it. **CA Khusboo**

It was nice to hear the successful ladies and their determination that led to great achievements. I couldn't attend the entire event. Kudos to bahrain Baharain chapter for bringing such inspirational events specially on international women's day. **Satyamoorthy Rajagopal**

Wonderful conference. Very well conducted. Thoroughly enjoyed listening to each and every speaker. Congrats sharmila and team. **CA Vasanthi**

Excellent conference going on. Congratulations to CA Sharmila and all others. Keep going. **CA Shaiby Paul**

Congratulations to Sharmila and full team. Very well done by all. **CA Clifff Mary Antao**

Awesome speakers, great leadership lessons, a great journey of WICAB...Congrats to the Indian women CAs of Bahrain for putting up this grand show for us under able leadership of the Acting Chairperson Sharmila Shet...Shout out and cheers to Roanna and Natasha for all the hard work and to all the women who worked hard to out up this show...more power to us women... **CA Shubhashree Srinivasan**

Congratulations and we'll done CA. Sharmila Shet and the bahrain Chapter for such an amazing event. **Madhavi Shrivastava**

Excellent conference. Congratulations to Sharmila and the team **CA Bhuvana**

We are having a real landmark event at Bahrain today....Eye opener and inspiring... Breaking all the reservations that one may have about the abilities of women... **CA Kapil Batra**

Avesome conference. Congrats Acting chairperson CA Sharmila and the whole ex-com. Superb hosting by all the Mcs. Very well done girls... **CA Shribharathi**



# EVENTS OF THE MONTH

## Celebrations of 75 years of India's independence

India in Bahrain (Embassy of India, Bahrain) organized a Curtain Raiser event to launch the celebrations of 75 years of India's independence. BCICAI was represented by Vice-Chairperson CA Santhosh TV

On this occasion, a floral tribute was offered to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi; a NEEM sapling was planted by the Chief Guest H.E. Mr. Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala, former Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain.



## Enjoying life all the way, Simply by retirement planning and Happiness skill is the new learning

Host : CA Sunita Gupta

Speaker: Dr. Meera Kulkarni, Retirement Coach and Jolly Kotecha, NLP Practitioner

Summary: As we came towards the end of March 2021, the last CPE event for the month was dedicated to the mental health and wellness of the Members and their spouses.

We were also fortunate to have amongst us Ms. Monika Srivastava, Wife of H.E. Piyush Srivastava, Indian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain as Chief Guest and Ms Nisha Ranga, President Elect, Indian Ladies Association as the Guest of Honour for the Event.

The session was well received by all the members and their spouses and was ended with a traditional sign off of Kahoot quiz which was conducted by CA Vatsala.

CPE Hours: 2 Hours

Commitment points : 500 Points



## Stay Alert! Protect Your Money from online fraud

Moderator: **CA Nisha Sharma Kotwani**

Speakers: **Mr. Suresh Menon**, Managing Partner, Leonis Consultancy

**Mr. Logan Simpson**, Head of Cyber Services, KPMG Fakhro, Bahrain

**Ms. Mauli Shah**, Co-founder & Director, Digital Forensics Make IT Secure Technology

**Speaker Profiles:** Mr. Suresh Menon is a resource person for Police Cyber Cells. Currently, he is also the chief representative in India for US based OEM on adaptive cyber defense zero trust based solution.

Mr. Logan Simpson hails from the US and leads the cyber security consulting practice in KPMG Bahrain. He is passionate about leadership development in future generations of ethical hackers and security professionals.

Ms. Mauli Shah is an Information Security Practitioner and Trainer, Vulnerability Assessor and Penetration Test expert.

**Summary:** BCICAI collaborated with Indian Community Relief Fund (ICRF) to bring a panel discussion with 3 subject experts on awareness about the cyber risks and moderated by CA Nisha.

BCICAI would contribute BHD 1 to ICRF Family Welfare Fund (ICRF FWF) for each member who attends the session. ICRF FWF which has been providing financial assistance of Rs. 1,00,000 to the family of Indian workers who died in Bahrain and were earning a salary less than BHD 100 per month. Based on the attendance, BCICAI contributed BHD 150 to ICRF FWF.



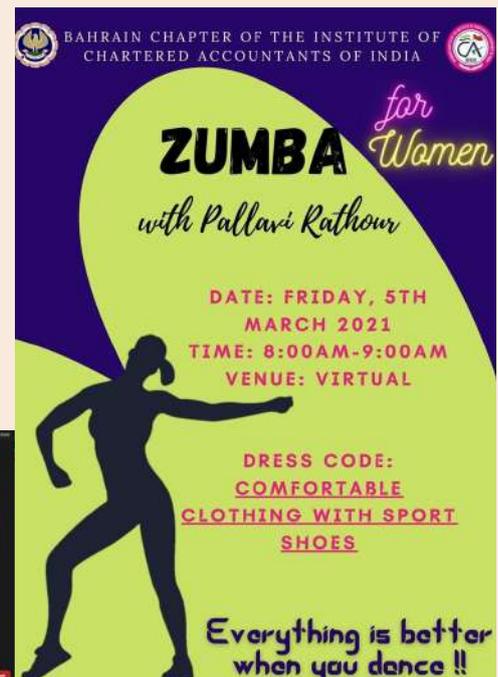
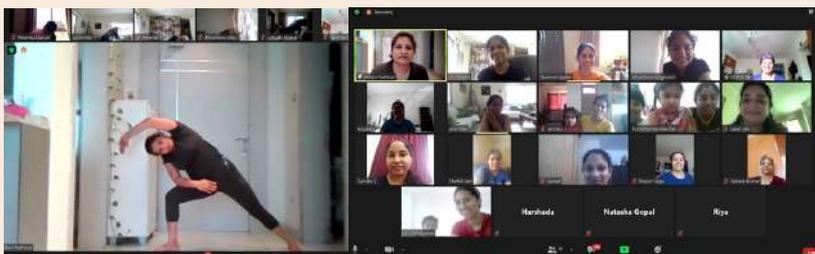
**CPE hours - 2 hours**  
**Commitment points - 500**

## Zumba session

Host : Ms. Pallavi Rathour

BCICAI kicked started the events for the month of March! In keeping with our theme for the month "Balance for the better" and in our efforts to balance our work life with keeping ourselves fit, the Women's wing of BCICAI organized a Zumba Session for all the Women members and spouses of Male Members of the BCICAI fraternity.

The Zumba instructor for the event was Ms. Pallavi Rathour.



## Collection desk

A collection desk was organised by the Women members to hand over the prizes of the Women CA Conference to the winners on 26 March from 10AM to 12PM.



## Padel Tennis

BCICAL organised a Padel Tennis tournament for the women members. Members participated in a series of matches to learn this fun new sport.



## Invitations for Womens CA Conference



*Acting Chairperson CA Sharmila extended Womens CA Conference invitation to HE Piyush Srivastava, Ambassador of India to Bahrain and HE Dr Sawsan Kamal, Member of Parliament, Kingdom of Bahrain*

# MEDIA COVERAGE



Delegates taking part in the conference

## Role of women professionals in focus

**MANAMA:** A virtual conference highlighting the role of women professionals was organised by Bahrain Chapter of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (BCICAI) on a virtual platform last week.

The conference covered a number of technical and inspiring sessions and included a panel discussion.

Attendees included Indian Ambassador Piyush Srivastava, Bahraini parliamentarian Dr Sawsan Kamal, Muntalakat board member Elham Hasan, Bahrain Businesswomen Society president Ahlam

Janahi, ICAI Central Council member and chair of Women Member Empowerment Committee Kemisha Soni and Dr Kiran Bedi, a retired Indian Police Service officer and social activist.

BCICAI chairman Ajay Kumar said the purpose of the event was to bring together women who have stepped outside their comfort zone, made a difference, and chosen to challenge themselves by breaking the glass ceiling.

More than 170 delegates from across the world attended the conference.



ഓപ്പൺ ഹൗസ് ഏറ്റിസ്മസംഗമം 3

364 views • Premiered Mar 11, 2021

13 10 SHARE SAVE

CA Ajay Kumar appeared on a talk show hosted by 4 PM news on the topic of Debt traps faced by expatriates where he shared some insights of things one should take care of while borrowing, how to plan the repayments, restructuring of loans and avoiding debt traps.

## BCICAI holds maiden Women's CA conference

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (BCICAI) held its maiden Women's CA conference on 20th March 2021 on a virtual platform to bring together a few women who have made a difference, as well as those to challenge themselves, by breaking barriers. Over 170 delegates from across the globe attended the conference.

Present at the inauguration were Piyush Srivastava, Ambassador of India to Bahrain, Dr Sawsan Kamal, Member of Parliament of Bahrain, Elham Hasan, Board Member and Business Strategy Advisor of Muntalakat, Dr Kiran Bedi, the former Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry and retired IAS Officer, Ahlam Janahi, the President of Bahrain Businesswomen Society, and Kemisha Soni, a Central Council member of ICAI and the Chairperson of Women Member Empowerment Committee and CPE Committee of ICAI.

The Acting Chairperson Sharmila Shet thanked BCICAI Chairperson Ajay Kumar for allowing Women members to symbolically hold his position for a month to lead from the



Participants during the conference

front.

She explained how International Women Day and the conference's theme "Choose To Challenge" resonated with all the women members during the pandemic.

Piyush Srivastava highlighted the initiatives taken to strengthen the bilateral relations with India. He announced that 20th

March marks the start of India's celebration of the 75th years of Independence, which will continue for the next two years.

Sawsan Kamal, a Member of Parliament, appreciated the integrated and systematic strategy adopted by Bahrain, giving more rights to the Bahraini women.

Elham Hasan viewed the theme of the conference as relevant, saying, "no matter who you are and where you are, you can choose to challenge by showing leadership skills and excelling in your respective field."

Dr Kiran Bedi urged all the Chartered Accountants to explore the possibilities of helping the underprivileged or linking themselves to NGO that help women in need or advance the

cause of women empowerment which can make a transformative revolution in the NGO network and community service.

Ahlam Janahi praised the work of the Supreme council of women and highlighted the role of members of the Bahrain Businesswomen's Society. Kemisha Soni talked about the initiatives taken by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and its Women Members Empowerment Committee for Women Chartered accountants in India and abroad. The event covered several technical and inspiring sessions and included a panel discussion. The speakers included Kiran Bedi, Kemisha Soni, Kiran Dembla, Celebrity Fitness Coach, Chitra Srirangaraj, Ex MD JP Morgan Chase Bank, Deutsche Bank, Alice Vidyayan, Former Chairman-cum-Managing Director at General Insurance Corporation of India, Dr Rewati Pathankar, Vice-Chairperson of Baghini Nivadita Sahakar Bank Ltd, Chetna Gala Sinha, Indian Social Activist, Elsie Gabriel, Award-winning Environmentalist and Global climate change speaker, and Hardi Oza Patel, Founder & Director, TravelSoul - VelvetEscapes.



## BCICAI to mark IWD with balance emphasis

The Bahrain Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants has a good representation of women numbercrunchers and decision makers in finance – 60 women members and a separate wing called WICAB - and it is a tradition with them to mark International Women's Day with a special focus on the female members. This year the theme is "Balance for better – better the balance, better the world" and Chairperson CA Ajaykumar has gone one step further by stepping aside and appointing CA Sharmila Shet as the Acting Chairperson for the month of March 2021.

Top of the celebration list are plans for a Women's Conference on March 20, featuring a networking and sharing of success stories by women icons; the managing



of the monthly BCICAI magazine completely by women members, including the content and focus on the Woman Titan of the Month and the organising of all the chapter events by women members. Several other events and activities - cultural, fitness, sports, seminar, storytelling session, special gifts for women members, social media activities - are being planned which will be announced in due course.



IWD HAPPENINGS

## Greetings of the month



*CA Ambika Shetty wishes the BCICAI family a Happy Holi*



*CA Vatsala Kumar extends her warm wishes on the occasion of Mahashivrathri*



*CA Shaiby Paul extends her warm wishes on International Women's Day*

# ORACLE

## BIG MOVES TO PIVOT FORWARD

### ERP Virtual Summit

Hear from Oracle's Larry Ellison and Top Business Leaders How to Come Out Ahead in a Crisis.

Watch now



# ICAB (INDIAN CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS IN BAHRAIN) TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL CLUB

## Synopsis of activities during the month of March 2021

### 10<sup>th</sup> March: Theme: **Women's Day**

*Feminism isn't about making women strong. Women are already strong. It's about changing the way the world perceives that strength.*

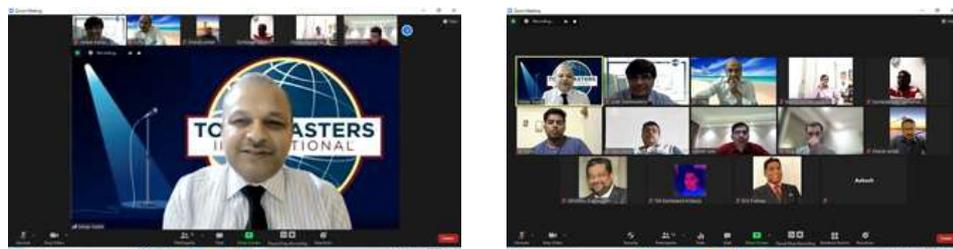
Women are very talented – they can be scientists, writers, politicians. But still, the most important thing for every woman is being a wife and a mother, being a woman. ICAB celebrated this day with great zeal & enthusiasm. TMOD, TM Janki Mehta kept the members engage with the trivia questions on the theme. C2A women members also graced the meeting to celebrate women's day with ICAB. TM Radhika, TM Flenil, TM Nishith and TM Dashanand gave wonderful speeches and also shared their views on the celebration of women's day. TM Kapil Batra shared a beautiful poem on the theme dedicated to women, which was appreciated and enjoyed by all the members.



### 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021: Theme: **Money IQ**

*"If we invest our money properly, it will grow, just like a living organism. But in order to invest properly, we not only require constant cultivation of our Money IQ through enhancing our financial literacy, but development of our Money EQ that is aligned with our investing objective".*

TMOD DTM Sanjay Gupta chose this beautiful theme and asked a series of questions using the Zoom polls and added valuable knowledge about money and investing during the meeting. His choice of questions was enjoyed & appreciated by all the members. TM Maheshkumar, TM Flenil & TM Dashanand gave inspiring and motivational speeches. DTM BVS Pratap came up with a new concept of Table Topics wherein each contestant had to speak for one minute against the topic, it resulted in a really engaging and fun filled session.



## WORD OF THE DAY USED IN THE MEETINGS

Grammarian	Word of the Day	Meaning	WOD used in the sentence
TM Kunjan	extol	To praise highly	His book extolling the benefits of vegetarianism sold thousands of copies.
TM Niraj	gregarious	Sociable, fond of company	She was a really gregarious, outgoing person and thus received a myriad of Valentine's card.

# C2A TOASTMASTERS CLUB

(Communicate 2 Achieve) Sponsored by ICAB Toastmasters Club in June 2019

C2A meetings are held twice a month i.e. on the 2nd and 4th Friday virtually on a zoom platform at present until pandemic situation gets better.

## C2A Milestone Achievements in 2020-21



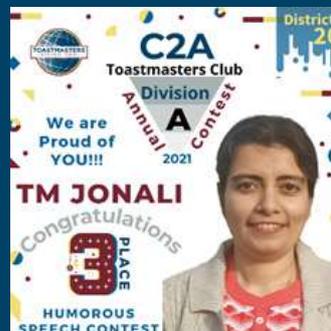
Toastmasters International's DCP Bronze award in February 2021



District 20 Gladiator Award in Sept 2020 and March 2021



Winners of Area Contest 2021



Winners of Division A Contest 2021



**"The secret of getting ahead is getting started" ...Mark twain**

So, ladies what are you waiting for. Join C2A Toastmasters and let's move ahead together. Lead together.

# Healthy in a hurry



## Fruit and Nut Salad

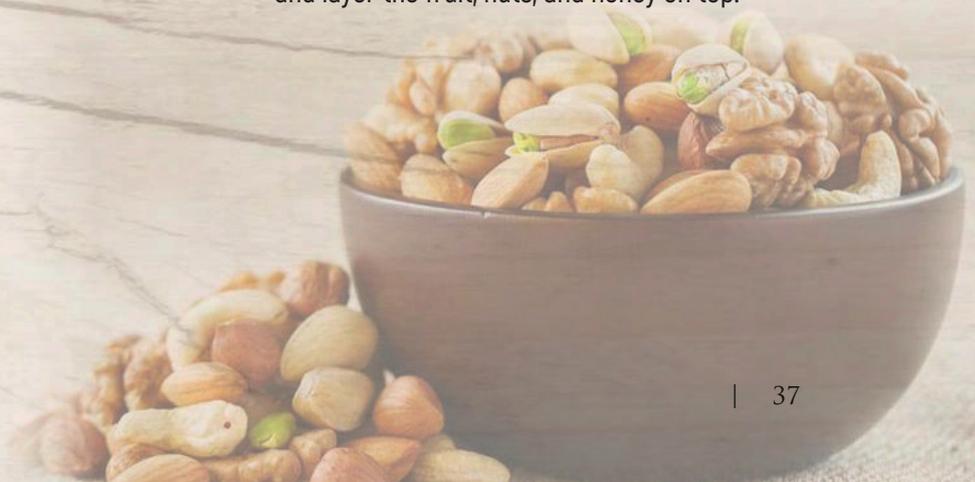
### Ingredients

You can use any fruits you like (melon, pineapple, peaches, etc.)

- 1 Pineapple, peeled and chopped
- 1 cup Grapes
- 1/2 cup Pomegranate
- 1/2 Red apple (any apple will do), chopped
- 7 Strawberries, chopped
- 1 Orange, peeled and chopped
- 1 and 1/4 cup Greek yogurt
- 1/2 cup Roasted Walnuts
- 1/2 cup Black Raisins
- 2-3 tablespoons raw honey

### Instructions

1. Place all fruit on a large plate or in a bowl.
2. Scoop Greek yogurt on top of the fruit and sprinkle walnuts over the top.
3. Drizzle honey over the top of the fruit and Greek yogurt.
4. Mix it well and serve in a salad bowl.
5. Garnish with black raisins over the top.
6. You can also place the Greek yogurt on the plate first and layer the fruit, nuts, and honey on top.



# Multigrain Veggie Wrap



## Ingredients

- 2 cup Multigrain Flour
- 1 cup Chopped Onion
- 1 cup Chopped Tomato
- 1 cup Mashed Avocado
- 1/2 cup Chopped Coriander
- 2 tbsp. Lemon Juice
- 1 cup Chopped Cucumber
- 1 cup Lettuce
- 2 tbsp Mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp Garlic Dip
- Salt (as per taste)
- 1 tsp Black pepper
- 1 tsp Cumin powder
- 1 cup Water

## Instructions

### Step 1: Make the Avocado Dip

- Take a bowl and add chopped Tomato, Onion and mashed Avocado.

- Add lemon juice, black pepper, cumin powder and salt.
- Mix it well and garnish it with fresh coriander over the top.

### Step 2: Make the wrap

- Take Multigrain flour in a bowl.
- Add 1tsp salt and knead the tight dough.
- Roll it in a big size tortilla and put it on the hot saucepan.
- Once it ready fill each quarter with different filling.
- Spread Avocado dip on the one quarter, Garlic dip with some onion on the top in another quarter, Lettuce and tomato in another quarter, Spread Mayonnaise and sprinkle black pepper on it at the last quarter.
- Make a cut in between of the quarters.
- Fold the wrap up, starting from the bottom left quarter, folding it up over the top left, then folding it over to the top right, then folding it down to the bottom right.
- Grill your wrap in a panini press or place it in a pan and cook over medium heat, flipping once.
- Enjoy eating your homemade wrap!

# Beetroot Oats Uttapam & Beetroot Raita



## Ingredients

- 1 cup Beetroot Puree
- 1 cup Chopped Onion
- 1 cup Chopped Tomato
- 1/2 cup Chopped Coriander
- 1 cup Chopped Carrot
- 1 cup Chopped Capsicum
- 1/4 cup Green Chilly
- 1/2 cup Ginger
- 1 cup Yogurt
- 1 cup Roasted Oats
- 1 cup Semolina
- Salt (As per taste)

- 2 tsp Red Chili Powder
- 1 tsp Cumin Seeds
- Oil
- Water

### Beetroot Raita

- 1/2 teaspoon Sunflower Oil
- 1/4 teaspoon Mustard seeds
- 1/2 teaspoon White Urad Dal (Split)
- 1 sprig Curry leaves
- 2 cups Curd (Dahi / Yogurt)
- 1 Beetroot, finely grated
- 2 Green Chilies, finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon Cumin powder
- Salt, to taste

## Instructions

### Step 1: Beetroot Oats Uttapam

- Grind oats and semolina.
- Now add yogurt, cumin seeds, red chilli powder, beetroot puree, ginger and water as required to make a thick batter.
- Keep aside for 10 minutes.
- Add chopped onion, capsicum, tomatoes, green chillies, carrots and salt to taste.
- Mix well.
- Now heat a non-stick pan apply a little oil, spread a ladleful of batter. When it is golden brown, flip it to the other side to cook.
- Serve hot garnished with chopped coriander leaves and accompanied with beetroot raita and coconut chutney.

### Step 2: Beetroot Raita

- To begin making the Beetroot Raita Recipe, first get all the ingredients ready and finely grate the beetroot and keep aside.
- In a large mixing bowl, add the yogurt, salt, cumin powder, green chillies and grated beetroot. Whisk well to combine. Check the salt and spice levels and adjust to suit your taste. Transfer the raita to a serving bowl.
- The final step is to make the seasoning.
- Heat oil in a tadka pan; add the mustard seeds, urad dal and allow it to crackle and the dal to turn golden brown and crisp. Finally stir in the curry leaves and turn off the heat.
- Pour the seasoning onto the Beetroot Raita and serve.

# Gur ka Halwa

## Ingredients

- 1/4 cup Ghee
- 2 tbsp Semolina
- 1/4 cup Chickpea Flour (Besan)
- 1/4 cup Whole Wheat Flour (atta)
- 2 cup Gud (Jaggery)
- 3 Water
- 1/4 cup chopped Almonds
- 1/4 cup chopped Pistachio
- 1/4 cup chopped Cashew
- 1 tsp cardamom powder

## Instructions

### Step 1: Jaggery Syrup

1. Take water in a pan.
2. Add jaggery and let it dissolve completely.
3. Once its ready, sieve it to remove the impurity.

### Step 2: Halwa

1. Take a heavy bottom pan, Add Ghee, once it hot adds semolina and roast till it turns light brown.
2. Add chickpea flour and roast it.
3. Just a quick stir for 30sec. Add whole wheat flour in it and keep it roast.
4. Add a cup ghee in it. Roast it in a low Flame.
5. Once nicely brown color comes switch off the flame and add the jaggery syrup and then switch on the flame and continuously stir the halwa.
6. Let it roast for 3-4min.
7. Add chopped almonds, pistachio and cashew and cardamom powder.
8. Ready to serve. ENJOY!





# BCICAI SPEECHCRAFT - 2021

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Toastmasters Club

Organised by

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Toastmasters Club

Area 6 :: Division A :: District 20

## BCICAI is proud to announce the launch of "Speechcraft Program 2021" starting 23rd April 2021.

This program is for all those members who wish to enhance and upgrade their communication skills and create immense value for themselves by spending just a couple of hours per week, building public speaking and leadership skills with their fellow CAs. The program is conducted by Accomplished and Award winning toastmasters from ICAB and C2A Toastmasters Club where majority are CAs (a toastmaster club formed mainly for members of BCICAI and their spouses).

A participative and hands-on format of the program creates an exciting opportunity to speak your mind, listen and work as a team with your fellow CAs. You can be assured that this program will give immediate results and you feel an elevated level of self-confidence within the first 2 weeks of your participation.

Each participant will be eligible for a total of 12 CPE hours (subject to confirmation from ICAI). The program details are mentioned in the flyer attached to this email. All participants will be awarded a participation certificate

Due to the focus group format of the program, the seats are limited to 15. Hence registration will be done on a First-Come-First-Serve basis. In the past we have received an unprecedented response to this program and the seats get snapped in just a few days from the start of the registration.

Members can register for Speechcraft by redeeming 2000 commitment points.



# BOOK REVIEWS

CA Shubhashree

*I do believe that something very magical can happen when you read a book*  
- J K Rowling

It is indeed magical as I read book after book – to quench my thirst for knowledge, learning, human mystery, suspense and thrills. This month as Bahrain Chapter celebrates the Women’s Day in style with special events and the first ever CA Women’s Conference in Bahrain, I bring to you reviews of 2 books – a fiction and a non-fiction, both books written by women authors. Lets delve :

## Book: **The Lost Apothecary**

Genre: Historical Fiction

Author: Sarah Penner

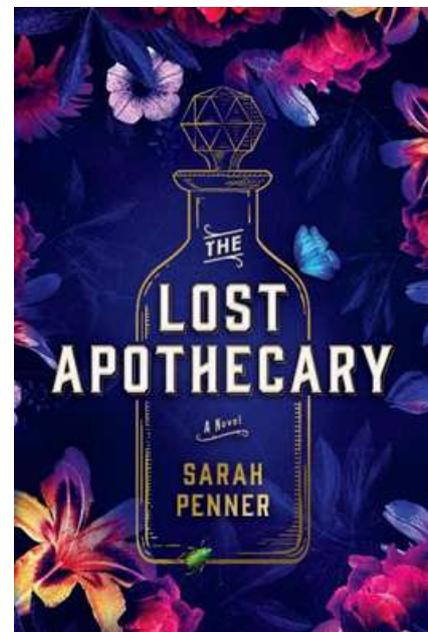
Book published: March 2021

This was one of the most anticipated novel of 2021 and is March 2021 India Next Pick and #1 LibraryReads pick.

The debut novel by the author begins with the protagonist Caroline in the present day struggling to come to terms with her married life and her career – in short- life itself. How her journey through London takes her to darker places and how she discovers the hidden past and in the process discovers herself, forms the crux of the story. The story runs back and forth between the 1790s and the present day where three women try to find their foothold in society. A legacy of poison and revenge prevails.

In a fictional novel, I do not search for life messages. But this novel is unique in the sense it questions the choices made by a woman just to please others and not taking the bold step of being herself.

A new release, a good read for its fast paced narration and bringing in fictional history to keep the readers engaged.



# Book: **The Happiness Project**

Genre: Non fiction, Self Help

Author: Gretchen Ruben

Book published: 2009

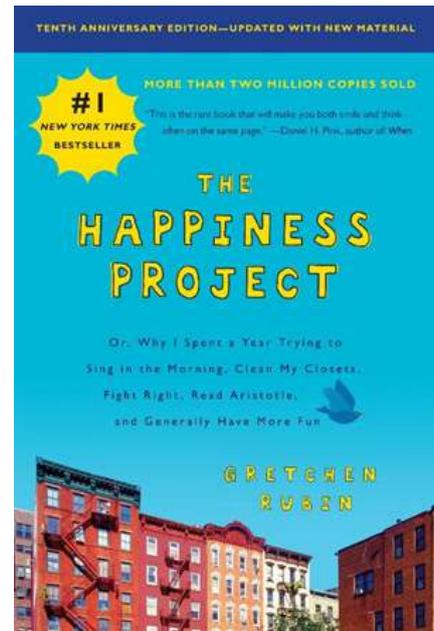
Of the many self help books that I have read, this book stands out as each one of us relates to the term Happiness. This book is all about the journey of a woman who took it upon herself to do a project for a year – the Happiness project.

The author has picked a year to do the project. Each month she considers following certain tasks and goals which she adds on to as she proceeds through the year. The author starts by asserting “Be yourself” in January followed by “Let it go” in February and so on for the next 10 months. In order to achieve these goals she breaks down each goal into smaller tasks.

But the best part of the book is where the author tries something and does not like and drops it from her routine – an indication that we don’t have to like what we take up but can drop it mid way too.

It is not as if the author was unhappy and started this project. But then think about it, do you first need to be unhappy to start a happiness project. Being happy is a practice and happiness is a journey and not an end. This book shows how small things can bring in some changes and how these small changes can make us happy in the long run. Practice being happy.

An excellent read. Don’t wait for a new year to begin to start making resolutions – any day you start to make yourself happy is a beginning of a new chapter in your life.



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CA Shah Nawaz Khan

## Wonder Woman

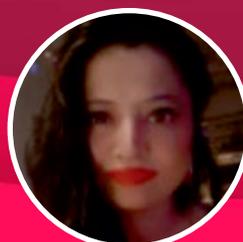
### To a special woman in my life

All others are just woman, but you are a wonder woman  
You are a beautiful song which is yet to be fully sung  
Your heart is full of love, care, share and you are always fair  
Your mind is always fully aware  
You do not let the family imbalance as you are our counterbalance  
Your hands are warm and cosy and your touch give a sense of compassion immense  
We have flaws and needs a lot of corrections, but you are always right, best and perfection  
You made me achieve greater heights but never come in limelight  
You are so special as other are just woman, but you are a wonder woman  
I become C. A. but you are a bigger C. A. as you are a charismatic amalgamation of:  
Love, respect, care, share, honestly, humility, beautify, smile, positively, fragrance, character with a beautiful heart and a kind soul  
You are so special as other are just woman, but you are a wonder woman  
When we were in Rome, you never let me miss our home  
When we were in London, we were not bore for any reason  
When we were in Paris, you saved us from expensive tariffs  
Mrs India, you are Bahrain's pride and my encyclopaedia

You run for family like PT Usha  
You fight for family like Marry Kom  
You protect us like Margaret Thatcher  
You lay path for us like Indra Gandhi  
You teach moral values like Mother Terresa  
You are so special as other are just woman, but you are a wonder woman  
if I am a sentence than you are a full stop  
if I am a paragraph than you are a pause  
if I am a question mark than you are mark of exclamation  
The more I discovered, the more I write and yet I always discover a spot bright  
I could not write your qualities anymore as you are a wonder furthermore

### Lets hear from the wonder woman Shaila Khan

Thanks for calling me a wonder woman  
I am only as good as any one and not different from you  
All women can be a wonder woman if the world is free of gender and there are no hinder  
Every woman can create wonders, but man should not ponder  
Man treats her women at par and she will cross all the bars  
All women are so special, and are absolute wonder...  
Just, don't be a woman that needs a man  
Be a woman a man needs  
All women are wonder woman....  
All women can create wonders..



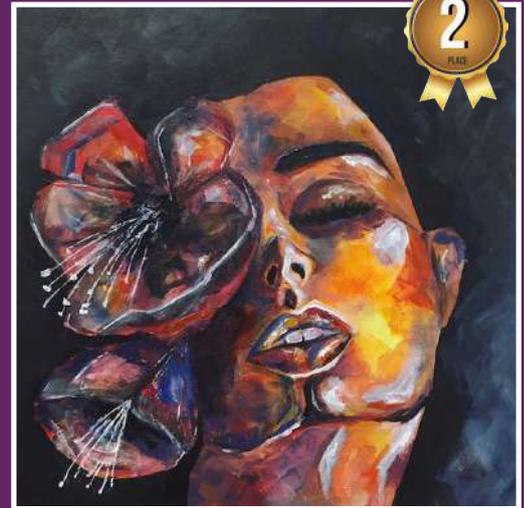




# MY MOM - MY SUPER HERO

Gayathri Nath Wo CA Nath Venkatichallam

*"Mom, a superhero story today please"  
 The little one said  
 As I tucked him in his bed.  
 He looked at me with pleading eyes  
 I know it was an act  
 But still I nodded and said yes  
 "Whose story is it going to be today?"  
 He asked earnestly  
 "We are going to do something different, today"  
 I replied mysteriously.  
 "I will tell the super powers  
 You guess and tell me the name  
 Let's see if that and the one on my mind  
 Are both the same"  
 He rubbed his hands in glee  
 And started to listen carefully  
 "My super hero can smile and endure unimaginable pain"  
 "Captain America", he shouted  
 I said "Wrong, let's try again"  
 "My super hero can carry the heaviest of burden  
 The burden of everybody's wellbeing"  
 "Thor" said he  
 "Wrong again," I replied slowly  
 "My super hero can instantly brighten up  
 Those who are sad and down"  
 "Iron Man" he said excitedly  
 "No" I said and he kept his eyes down  
 He took a while and looked up at me  
 In an excited voice he asked me  
 "What does your superhero wear?  
 Tell me that, I can find i'm sure"  
 "Not all superheroes wear a cape,  
 Mine wears a saree dear.  
 My superhero is my mom  
 Whose superpower is love, my dear"*



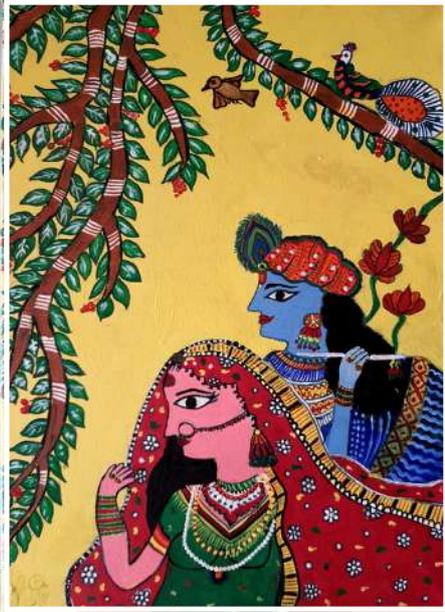
Sejal Sarda Do CA Sandip Sarda



CA Shubhashree



CA Garvita



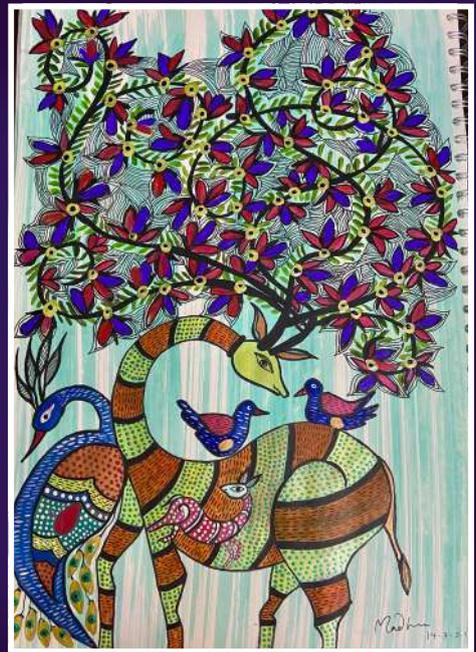
▲ Amruta Gopal Jhanvar  
W/o Gopal Jhanvar



▲ CA Radhika Zinzuwadia



▲ Ms. Priyadarshini W/o CA Sethuraman



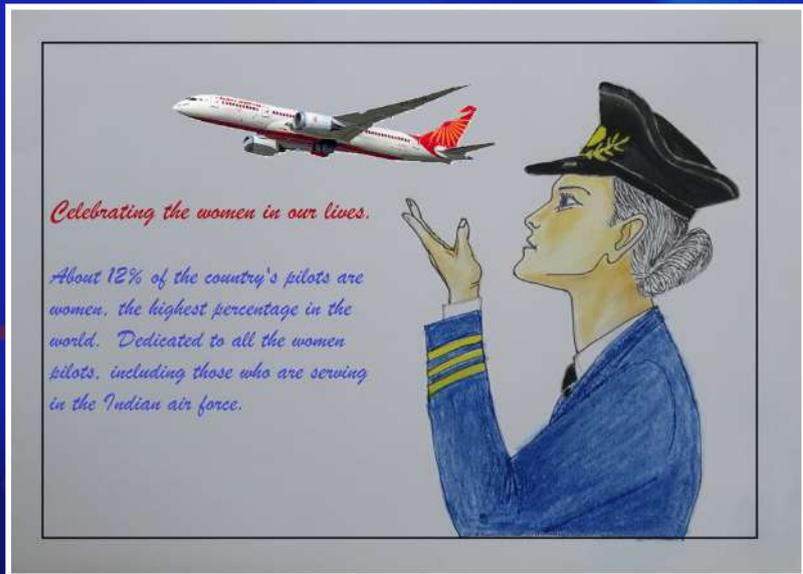
▲ Madhu Sarda W/o Sandip Sarda



CA Nikhil Vyapari



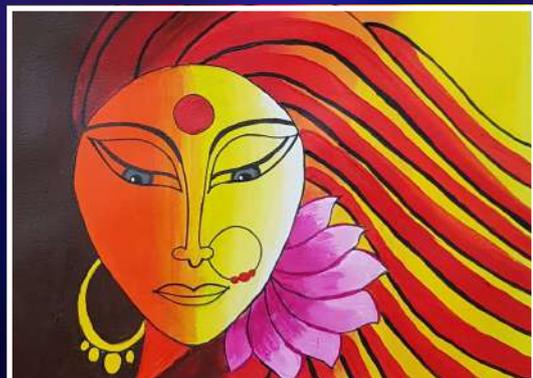
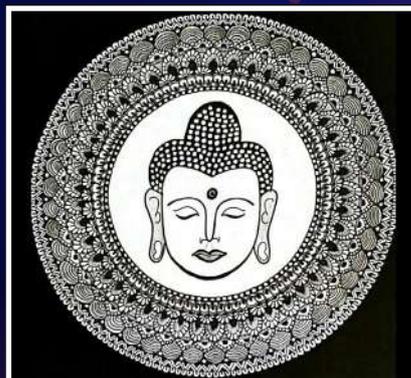
Soham & Shreeja, Son & D/o of CA Nikhil Vyapari



Sumedha Sarda D/o CA Sandip Sarda

CA Manoj Bala

Ms. Rakhi Singvi,  
W/o CA Atul Singvi



# SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS



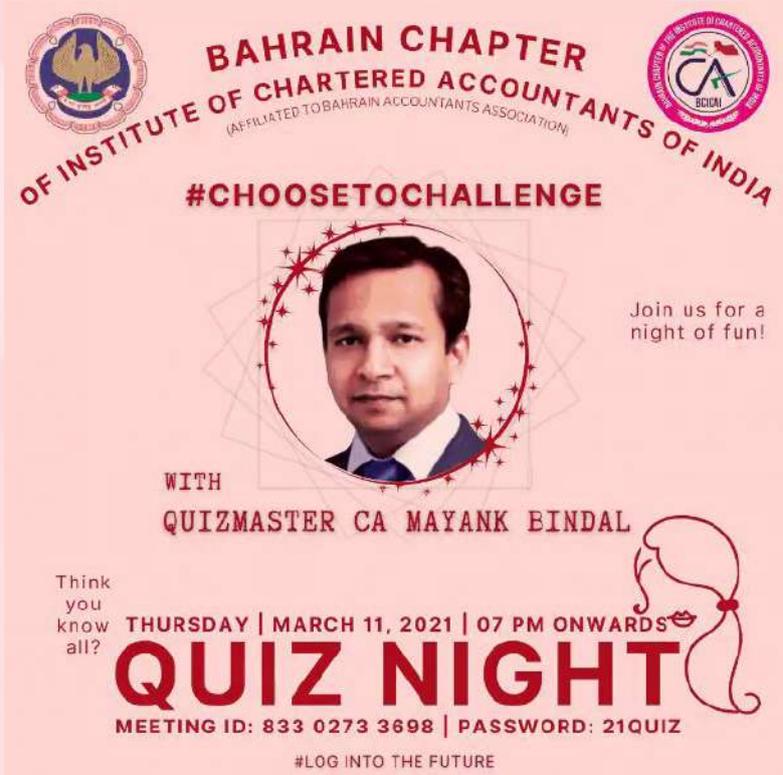
Our member CA Shahnawaz Khan is awarded an honorary Doctorate in Humanity by Theophany University due to his efforts in sharing his wisdom, knowledge and helping the society at large.



BCICAL congratulates CA Alok Gupta, Past Chairperson of BCICAL on being among the top 100 CEOs in the Middle East by Forbes Middle East

BCICAL member CA Shwetank Bhushan Singh appearing on CNN News18 as a political analyst





**BAHRAIN CHAPTER**  
OF INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA  
(AFFILIATED TO BAHRAIN ACCOUNTANTS ASSOCIATION)

#CHOOSETOCHALLENGE

Join us for a night of fun!

WITH QUIZMASTER CA MAYANK BINDAL

Think you know all?

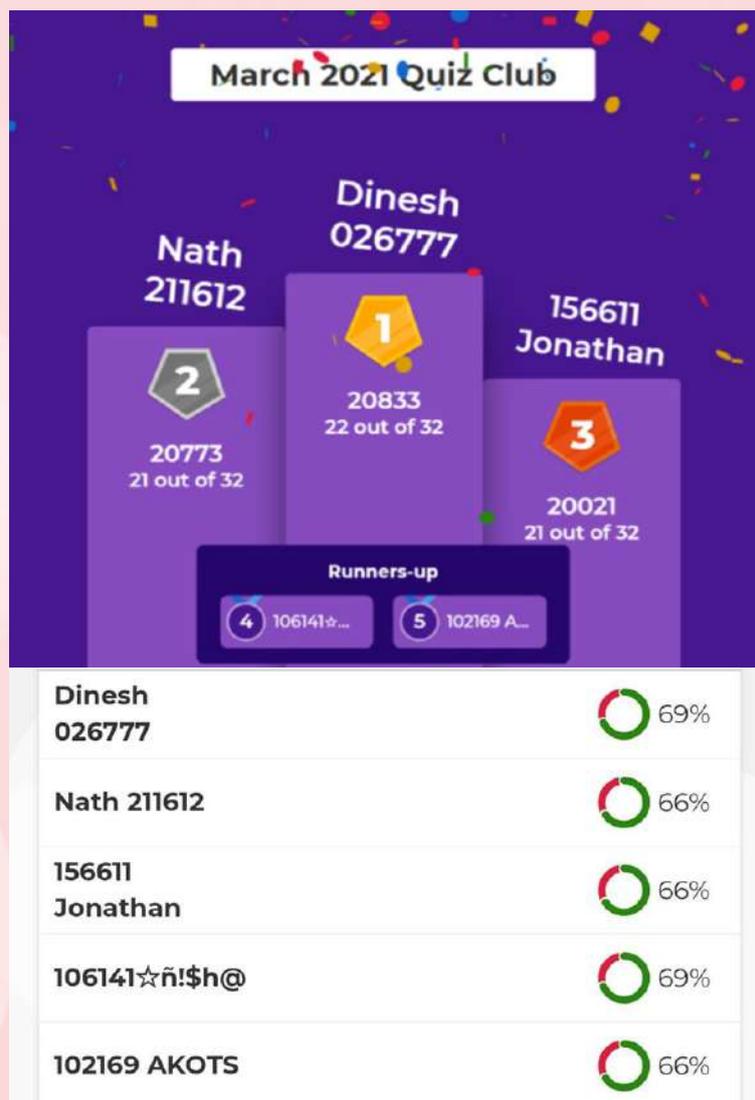
THURSDAY | MARCH 11, 2021 | 07 PM ONWARDS

**QUIZ NIGHT**

MEETING ID: 833 0273 3698 | PASSWORD: 21QUIZ

#LOG INTO THE FUTURE

The quiz night of March 21 was held on March 11, 2021. As quizmaster, CA Mayank Bindal conducted an interesting quiz with questions and trivia that spanned over a variety of genres. The top three champions of the quiz were CA Dinesh Ramu (BCICAI Alumni and Founder of ICAB Toastmaster), CA Nath Venkitachalam and CA Jonathan D'Souza and the runners up were CA Nisha Kotwani and CA Arun Kotwani





# International Women's Day 2021

**Empowering and supporting  
women for an equal future**

**#ChooseToChallenge  
#KPMGbh**