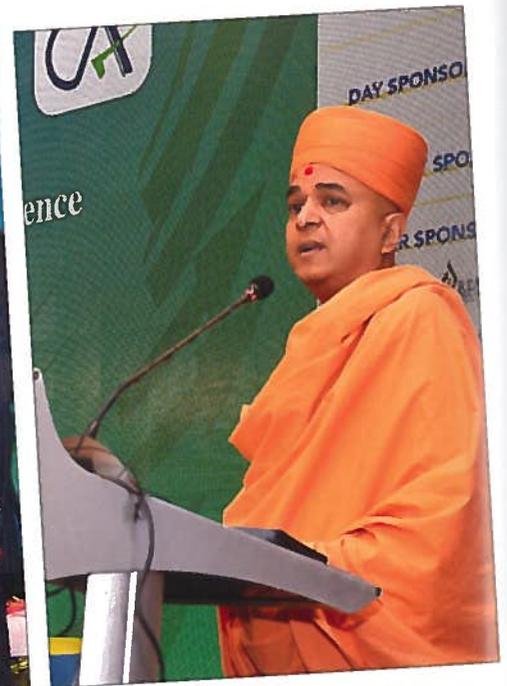


# Change management dynamics focus at international CA meet

*There were serious sector-related gyan, 21st century motivational talk & fan moments for all*



What an energising two days the BCICAI (Bahrain Chapter of the prestigious Institute of Chartered Accountants of India) provided to over 400 delegates from the GCC, Bahrain and India during their recently-concluded 10th annual international conference. Held under the patronage of the Minister of Industry, Commerce & Tourism, Zayed Al Zayani, the event was carefully curated to reflect the theme 'Embrace Change and Grow'.

## Stalwarts

The conference speakers were a mix of CA stalwarts such as N.P. Sharda and CA Santhanakrishnan, speakers from reputed financial and accountancy firms who addressed a wide range of topics as well as speakers who sparked discussion and debate with their new ideas and their motivational talk. The trend was set by the Keynote Speaker Pujya Brahmaviharidas Swami of the BAPS Foundation in the opening session.

What was a sadhu doing at a chartered accountants conference, you may ask? Well, since studies have increasingly shown the correlation between spiritual awareness, a moral compass and material well-being, the conference started on a high note with Swami's talk. He set the template for change, saying that change is inevitable, inescapable and cannot be categorised as good or bad.

"Since change is inescapable, we have to tackle it by adjusting ourselves, anticipating it, attuning ourselves to it and also changing ourselves without giving up on our spiritual and ethical values," Swami said, "As Shadow CEOs/Chairmen and entrepreneurs, accountants must be aware of change and prepared to build it into their lives. Like finding a location on Google, we need to find our own location first and then map our response."

Indian Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha highlighted the transformative impact of the changes that India has embraced such

as GST and said that Bahrain too was poised to benefit from new perspectives on economic and national growth.

"Embracing change and working towards growth is not just an impactful lifestyle choice but its positive effects transcend to policy making and lead to better bilateral relations between Bahrain and India" Ambassador Sinha said.

## Bahraini presence

The role of chartered accountants in Bahrain's progress was underscored by the presence of several high-ranking Bahraini officials such as EDB head Khalid Al Rumaihi who was chief guest for Day 2 of the event, Hameed Yusuf Rahma, Assistant Undersecretary for Domestic Trade at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism (MOIC) who said, "The contributions of the ICAI in the economic growth of Bahrain in these challenging conditions have helped tremendously in working towards



Bahrain Chapter of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India  
(Affiliated to Bahrain Accountants Association)



**EMBRACE CHANGE and GROW**



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stabilization and economic growth in Bahrain. This conference could not have been more timely and appropriate.”

The opening ceremony was attended by Indian Ambassador Alok Kumar Sinha, Hameed Yusif Rahma, Assistant Undersecretary for at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism (MOIC) and Ali Abdulhussain Maki, Assistant Undersecretary for Commercial Registrations and Companies, MOIC and KPMG Fakhro Managing Director and

Shura Council member Jamal Fakhro.

A host of influential speakers from India and Bahrain addressed the international audience on topics that have been chosen to reflect the changing aspirations and career paths of chartered accountants world over, expand the mind and generate new ideas about areas as diverse as AI in the workplace to a fine group of experienced TEDx motivational speakers and insights on harnessing CSR effectively.

“Every year we seek to refine and redefine our topics to reflect the interests and concerns of chartered accountants in a rapidly-changing workplace,” said CA S. Sridhar, Chairperson of the BCICAI, “We believe that this year our line-up of speakers engaged with the aspirations of chartered accountants who want to explore innovation and new career paths as entrepreneurs and also update their understanding of a millennial workplace.”

# the challenger



*One of the most interesting and inclusive aspects of the BCICAI Annual Conference is its series of motivational talks by speakers who are not necessarily chartered accountants or even finance professionals. This year, the star speaker was Major D.P. Singh, who transformed a life-threatening injury and amputation into a life-affirming contribution to society.*

“Nothing lasts forever but the certainty of change” said Bruce Dickinson and it pretty much sums up the life of Major D P Singh.

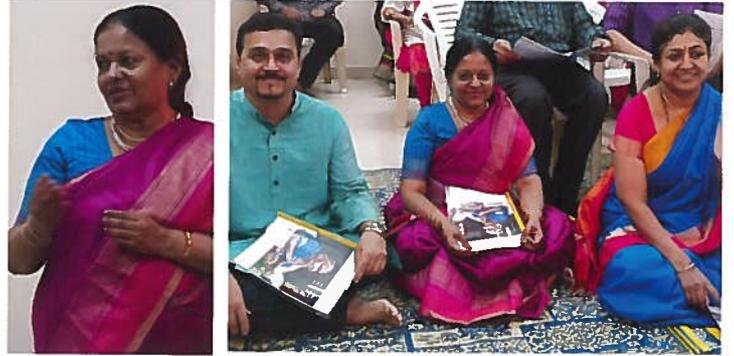
Major D P Singh’s extraordinary story starts with an explosion. Standing just 80 metres away from the enemy post in the midst of the Kargil war at the age of 26, with 30 lives in his command and a mortar bomb with an eight metre kill radius landing just a metre and a half away - the numbers just didn’t add up.

The projectile weapon left his body mangled, in a pool of his own blood. Embedded shrapnel, heavy blood loss, cardiac arrests - doctors at the nearest hospital thought it best to declare him dead. But as luck would have it, a senior specialist at the hospital managed to revive him and a slew of surgeries ensued, Major D P Singh survived - or rather three-quarters of him did. Gangrene formation in his right leg led it to be amputated, Major D P Singh was set to lead his life as a dependant. It’s safe to say that the war took its toll.

### **No bitterness**

Speaking to the BCICAI delegates, Major Singh said that he never gave in to bitterness or self-pity. But there was

## Kalyani's tribute to her genius mom

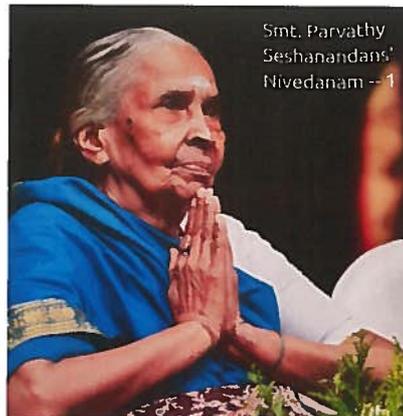


At 96, the general impression is that a person is sleeping most of the day and with creaking bones and wandering mind. Not Kalyani Krishnamurthy's feisty mother Parvathy, who, with her daughter's help, collected her spiritual poems and released a CD of 30 devotional songs. The CD was formally released in July in Mumbai and recently in Bahrain with singers Indu Suresh and Siva in the forefront.

"My mother didn't really write this music for the public but I felt that music lovers must know of these lovely songs," Kalyani said, "At 96, she is still very independent and keeps her interest alive in spiritual matters. She speaks fluent English and Tamil and is well-versed in Sanskrit and Malayalam as well - her generation is one where women of Kerala were educated well in modern curriculum as well as all the traditions of a pious Hindu life. As a creative person and dancer myself, she is my greatest inspiration."

In true Carnatic composing style, the lyrics were strung across the frame of classical *raagas* by the composer herself. However, Bahrain singer and musician Indu Suresh polished the tunes professionally and even co-ordinated the background score in faraway Kerala, sitting in Manama! Indu and Siva then proceeded to give voice to the prayerful lyrics. The recording tracks were combined seamlessly by Prajod and Sashwat, whose sound engineering skills have resulted in crystal clear quality.

The Bahrain release was held at the meditative Chinmaya Mission HQ. More than anything, it was a life-lesson on the intellectual vigour and spiritual strength we should all aspire to in the twilight of our lives.



Smt. Parvathy  
Seshanandam  
Nivedanam -- 1

initially plenty of self-doubt.

"Yes, I did go through the "Why me?" phase but I soon realised that in battles "Fighters discover their potential, while losers seek support", he said, "I understood that disability does not exist in your body, it exists in the mind and that the human body is so beautifully adaptable that I could build a new life."

Major Singh is a great believer in the idea that war is not the solution, but it levels the playing field and leads to a stage where the warring factions can sit and find solutions through discussions, where both parties are equally committed to the best interests of the people they want to protect.

So then, is violence justified? He quoted Guru Gobind Singh, saying, "Chu kar az hama heelte dargujasht, Halal ast burden ba shamsheer daste." "When there's no other course open to man, it is only righteous to unsheathe the sword."

As an amputee in the prime of his life, it was time for Major Singh to unsheath his sword. Searching for a new meaning in life, he trained hard and in 2009, despite an unsuitable prosthetic leg, he completed his first 21 km marathon, turning himself into the weapon of his own choice.

Terminating pitying eyes filled with rejection, the insecurities of heartbreak and self-doubt, the obstacles of his physical limitations, Major D P Singh won a Limca Book Record that day. Then he won another and another.

The story of his first marathon spread like wildfire among his brothers in the Indian army, a Kargil war veteran staying true to the undeterred spirit their alma mater embodied certainly deserved more than recognition. The Indian Army chose to import their first blade and gifted it to Major D P Singh in 2011, making him India's first blade runner.

### Chosen One

The challenges he faced since that first run has only doubled over the years, but they fail to faze him. Not vertigo, the injured stump, the lacking prosthetics, the growing pains of the embedded shrapnel that still remain inside him - nothing fazes him because he believes that he is the chosen one.

He believes that God gives his toughest battles to the toughest soldiers and thus he keeps fighting. He fights towards a world of inclusion. He has inspired many people like himself to take up challenges and leave the sedentary lives that destiny presented them with. "I am not the challenged one, I am the challenger."

Initially his story led 12 men like him, including a 65-year old double amputee to finish a half marathon. From there he started the organization "The Challenging Ones" which has grown to more than 17,000 amputees today. The Challenging Ones have organized many events and runs that send a clear message that no challenge in life is too hard - The only thing worth giving up is giving up.

With an undeterred spirit and unimaginable determination, Major D P Singh is more than an inspiration. He is a Life Coach, a Guru For Change.