



ERNAKULAM BRANCH OF SICASA
THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF
INDIA
E-NEWSLETTER



-Aspired minds, Inspire.

MARCH 2017 EDITION

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Dear Young Friends,

It was a dream beginning for the SICASA activities with the golden hands of the illustrious Past President of ICAI CA TN Manoharan, who inaugurated the SICASA activities for the year 2017-18. In his speech he advised the aspiring professional students to become excellent professionals' as well good human beings. His words were highly motivating, encouraging and inspiring and I do hope and believe that it will linger long in our minds and motivate us all for better performance and success.

The month of March was very busy with many SICASA activities. However, the presence and talk of Ms Malu Sheikha, the young 20 year old wonder, who fought and conquered the struggles in her life and became successful and IG P Vijayan IPS, an upright police officer, who inspite of being an acclaimed police officer, finds time to work for the development of the society and youth, in the bank audit seminar was a refreshing and inspiring experience for all the participants to the seminar. Infact, their presence and words were more rhetoric than the famous words of Wane W Dyer "Change the way you look at things and the things you look at Change."

This newsletter is going to be a different experience for all young readers as we have released a Women's Day special edition with interesting columns. Women are the real architects of our society and their well-being and empowerment is our responsibility. Saluting and respecting every woman and their actions, this edition is dedicated to them.

Friends, it seems we are going to have hectic days ahead with bank audit followed by holy week and Easter and Vishu. Besides, all of us are facing the heat of coming CA exam. Many of you are on study leave now. It is time for you all to prepare well and face the exam with confidence and come out successful.

Wish you all A Very Happy Easter & Vishu.

With warm regards

CA Roy Varghese
Chairman, SICASA Ernakulam Branch

SECRETARY'S REPORT



Dear Friends,

As you are all aware, we observed International Womens' day on the 8th of March. With that in mind we have decided to make the March edition of Ignite a Women's day special edition. I'd like to congratulate the editorial team for coming up with the idea and for their efforts behind making this a reality. We have incorporated some new segments in this edition to make it more interesting. March has been a very eventful as far as SICASA activities have been concerned. We have been able to conduct two seminars during this period. The seminar on Union budget was held on 9th March at the Branch. We had the good fortune of having CA T N Manoharan sir to formally inaugrate our activities for the year at the seminar. The Bank Audit seminar was held on 24th March at the YMCA hall. The occasion was graced by Inspector General of Police Sri P Vijayan. We also had Malu Sheikh, the 20 year old lady who recently conquered the Vembanad lake present during the occasion. The Intra Branch Football was conducted on the 17th March. I would like to thank all the teams for their participation and take this opportunity to congratulate the winners of the tournament. We have also conducted two study circle meetings at the Branch during the month. I wish my very best to the students who will be appearing in the upcoming May examination.

Regards,
Farzeen Fazal



EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello Friends!

“For deep down she knew that sky was the limit.”

We are extremely happy and proud to bring in front of you, the March edition of Ignite, as we have dedicated this issue as a Women's Day special one. Women are symbol of strength and love and their well-being would ensure a society's well-being. In this edition, we have incorporated few columns that added great excitement in this journey and we are extremely thankful to all students who participated by giving us their response for the women's day special topic we had circulated. We would also like to thank CA Sreenivasan Sir and CA Shanthy Sreenivasan ma'am for their contribution and co-operation extended for this issue. Hope you all would enjoy this edition as much as we did in making this. All the best to all students appearing for exam in May.

Regards,
Sreelakshmi Menon

AT A GLANCE

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• Technical Article on Union Budget 2017-18

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• Interview- A glimpse of success tale- CA P. Srinivasan and CA Shanthi Srinivasan

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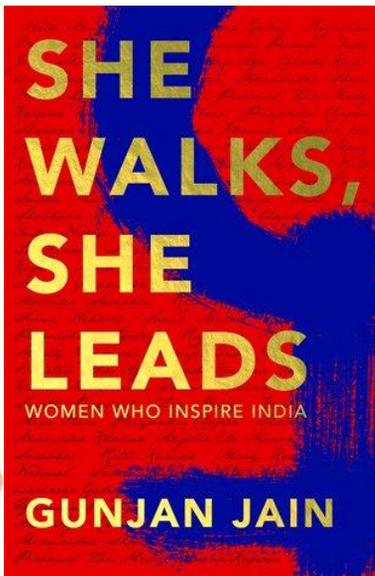
• Women's Day Special- Messages/Views on the topic 'Every limitation a woman tries to conquer is ultimately set by her'.

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• Photo Gallery

THE BOOKWORM!

This being Women's Day special edition, we have chosen a book that's sure to create inspiration all around and celebrate womanhood. Don't miss this one out!



NAME OF THE BOOK: *She walks, She leads*

AUTHOR: *Gunjan Jain*

She Walks, She Leads is an interesting pick which profiles twenty-six iconic women in modern India. These leaders tell their stories, up close and personal. Their relentless ambition to shatter the glass ceiling, their pursuit for excellence and the challenges that came their way - all of this is captured vividly in this exclusive anthology. Each chapter is based on extensive research and has never-seen-before photographs of these luminaries. The women leaders profiled in the book come from different fields like banking, media, cinema, sports, fashion, philanthropy and industry.

UNION BUDGET 2017-18-HIGHLIGHTS

Individuals

Income – Tax rate

Upto 2,50,000 : Nil

2,50,000 – 5,00,000 : 5%

5,00,000 – 10,00,000 : 20%

Above 10,00,000 : 30%

Income Tax Rates for Individuals for FY 2017-18

Super Senior Citizen

Income – Tax Rate

Upto 5,00,000 : Nil

5,00,000 – 10,00,000 : 20%

Above 10,00,000 : 30%

Additional Amendments:

• Surcharge:

If TI > 50 Lacs : 10%

If TI > 1 Cr : 15%

• Educational Cess @3% of Total income tax & Surcharge.

• Relief u/s 87A

If Total Income < 3.50 Lacs

Relief : 100% of Income Tax/2,500

Whichever is lower.

Senior Citizen

Income – Tax Rate

Upto 3,00,000 : Nil

3,00,000 – 5,00,000 : 20%

5,00,000 – 10,00,000 : 20%

Above 10,00,000 : 30%

Co-operative Society

Income – Tax Rate

Upto 10,000 : 10%

10,000 – 20,000 : 1000+20% of
Income > 10,000

Above 20,000 : 3,000+30%
income > 20,000

Firm/Local Authority

• Tax Rate 30%

• Surcharge of 12% of Income
Tax if TI > 1Cr

• Education Cess @3% on Income
Tax & Surcharge

Domestic Company

• If TO/ GR < 50 Cr in PY 2015-16 :
25%

Otherwise : 30%

• Surcharge : 7% of Income Tax if TI
> 1Cr

: 12% of Income Tax if TI > 10Cr

• Education Cess @3% on Income tax
& Surcharge

Foreign Company

Tax Rate : 40%

• Surcharge : 2% of Income tax if
TI > 1Cr

: 5% of Income Tax if Ti > 10Cr

• Education Cess @3% on Income
tax & Surcharge

Business Income

S.40A(3) Applicable from AY 18-19

Cash payment to a single person on a single day is reduced to Rs 10,000.

S.44AD Applicable from AY 17-18

Presumptive Income u/s 44AD shall be 6%(instead of 8%) for amount received through banking channel .

S.44AD applicable from AY 17-18

If total TO/GR < 2Cr assessee is not required to get his accounts audited.

S.43 & 35AD applicable from AY 18-

19 : Any cash payment of capital expenditure > Rs 10,000 shall not be considered to determine actual cost of asset u/s 43(1)

Capital Gain

S.48 & 55 Applicable from AY 18-19 : Base year for computing capital gain is shifted from 1981 to 2001.

S. 2(42A) Applicable from Ay 18-19 : Immovable property held for a period of more than 24 months (earlier 36 months) shall be treated as Long term capital asset.

S.50C Applicable from AY 18-19 : Unquoted shares taxable at FMV when Consideration < FMV,

S.54EC-Applicable from AY18-19 : Investment in any notified bonds redeemable after 3 year is eligible for this exemption.

Income from House Property

Set off of HP loss in any Ay against any other income is restricted to Rs 2 Lacs.

The annual value of house property held as stock in trade shall be deemed to be nil for a period of 1 year from the end of FY in which certificate of completion is obtained.

Income From Other Source

S.56 Applicable from AY 17-18

The scope of the existing provision is proposed to be widened by Introducing a new clause under S.56(2)(x) to cover all taxpayers not only Individuals or HUF.⁶

Losses U/S 79

- Start up companies u/s 801AC, loss shall be c/f and set off if all the shareholders who held the shares as on the last day of the year continue to be shareholders in the subsequent years.

Deduction U/S 80

- S.80G : Threshold limit for cash donation is reduced to Rs 2,000.
- S.80CCG : No deduction is allowed from AY 18-19.
- S.80CCD : Self Employed individual to get 20% deduction under NPS Scheme.
- S.80IAC : 100% deduction in Income for eligible start up for any 3 consecutive years out of 5 years is changed to 3 years out of 7 years.

Political Parties U/S 13A

- No donation in excess of Rs 2,000 shall be received in cash.
- They shall furnish return of Income as per provisions of S.139(4B).

Tax Deducted at Source TDS on Rent

- S.194IB : Any individual/HUF other than a person whose TO in preceding FY > 2Cr, who is responsible for paying a resident an income by way of rent > Rs 50,000 for a month or Part shall deduct 5% of such income as income tax.
- S.194J : Fees for technical / professional services paid to call centres subject to TDS @ 10% is reduced to TDS @ 2%.

Tax Collected at Source

- TCS on sale of Motor vehicle > Rs 10 Lacs is not applicable in following:
- The CG, SG & an Embassy a High Commission, consulate, commission, trade representative of Foreign state, legation or Local Authority or Public sector company doing business carrying passengers.
 - TCS at 1% on cash sale of jewellery exceeding Rs 5Lacs is omitted due to introduction of restrictive provision u/s 269ST.
 - As per new S.206CC, absence of PAN of payee, payer shall deduct tax at twice the normal rate/ 5% whichever is higher.

This article has been prepared by Mohammed Yaseen who is currently doing his articleship at MA Moideen & Associates

A GLIMPSE INTO SUCCESS JOURNEY



This being a Women's Day special edition of the newsletter, it demanded something special. Hence the idea of an interview, and we thought that interviewing not just one, but two would be a better idea. He is one who needs no introduction and she is an inspiration to anyone who meets her. CA P.R. Srinivasan and his wife, CA Shanthi Srinivasan are partners of PSDY & Associates. He is currently the treasurer of the Ernakulam branch of SIRC. We had a wonderful time interviewing them and they were also willing to answer every curious question we had. Hoping that you too will enjoy this lovely session.



Every venture has a beginning. How did your CA careers begin?

Ma'am- I qualified in May 2004, and I had six months of articleship left. My articleship got over on November 19th or 20th. I got married to Sreenivasan on the 9th of December. But unfortunately his father, Late P.S.Ramachandran, who was also a practicing Chartered Accountant, passed away just five months before our marriage. Until then the plan was that I will go for employment and he would continue in practice with his father, but then I wanted to support Sreenivasan straightaway and hence I joined the firm. So, our marriage happened in a bit of an unfortunate time. Just imagine, if on the first day of your articleship you are asked to do whatever you want in your office, it was something like that for me when I first stepped into my new office as a partner. The average age of our office staff was 35-40 then, and I was only 21. So, obviously, there were acceptability issues. But gradually we managed the affairs and also had to take certain bold steps. Thus the first few years of practice was full of struggles and challenges for both of us.

Sir- Students mostly have a notion that having a family with CA background helps you to opt for practice. But it is not always easy, it is still a struggle. I had employment plans and even got placed on two different occasions. However, I ended up changing my decision and opted to join my father in practice. But unfortunately, my dad left us at the most unexpected time and I had to take up the responsibility to ensure the survival of our firm. Moreover, we got married in the same year, we took up this responsibility jointly and that is how our firm stands the place it is today.

We came to know that ma'am attained AIR 49TH back then for CA-Inter in the year 2002. What was the success story behind it?

Ma'am- For getting a rank your study strategy has to be very different. We are Tamil Brahmins and I come from a very conservative family. Considering it was joint family, I was not required to contribute much at the household, so I had nothing else to do than studying. My routine was restricted to office and studies. Generally the trend these days is to start studying during the study holidays. I used to get roughly around 6 hours of study per day during my articleship. I remember, CA.Saravana Prasad sir used to say that study leave is only for revision. And I followed his instruction to the fullest. During study leave it was only revision and last 15 days were used for second revision. After doing all this, by God's grace and blessings of my teachers and elders, I got the 49th rank. So you can imagine how first rank holders would have worked. One important thing I feel is that you should always have a companion to study. Don't study together, but make your timetable together. At least because of the thought that the other person is studying, you will also end up studying. Always choose a companion. One is enough, three is a crowd. And we have someone here who hasn't done any of these and still qualified (*indicating Srinivasan Sir*).

Sir- I was able to clear CA Foundation and Intermediate quite comfortably in my first attempt. For Inter even though I was not as consistent as her, I had started studying at least a month before study leave began. I used to be more of a fan of accounting and taxation. Luckily those two subjects saw me through. But when I reached Final, I didn't realize that it was a different ball game altogether. They say that your arrogance will be your downfall. If you ask me that's what happened in my case. It was my ego that led to my failure; I thought I would pass easily. CA taught me a valuable lesson, it taught me humility. It took me two years to learn that and it changed me totally as a person. Basically it was not because of lack of hard work that I did not clear, neither was it because of a lack of intelligence, it was because of lack of attitude. My parents also were very supportive, even in tough times. The advantage is that now I can proudly say that, the change that came in my attitude then is what is helping me even now.

'Do not worry about the delay in your success. It takes longer time to build a palace than a house'. Was that true in your case, Sir?

Sir- Perhaps it was a lesson for life and not just for CA. In those two years what I learned was something that is not taught at any university, it was a lesson from God. You should respect the course as you would respect your mother. It is an attitude difference that sees you through. That is what I learned during those two years. Else, I would have had to learn it the hard way after I cleared. It was only because of that change in attitude that I was able to take up this profession. During days of turbulence, when I was asked to take responsibility, I was able to take it up as I was ready to try it out. That made me strong. Then of course she had joined after marriage. Then it became easier, because I had someone to work with me.

"Behind every successful man is a woman." What are your opinions on this statement?

Sir- I would say it is vice versa also. See, if she has helped me in my success then, in her success I will have a part to play too. Nothing works without mutual help. It is a teamwork.

Ma'am- I feel men and women both contribute to each other's success. There is a mutual understanding when it comes to this and today if we have come this far, it is only because of that belief and understanding.

CA itself is a very stressful job and being a homemaker is not an easy task too. So how do you manage both, Ma'am?

Ma'am- You actually come to know what multi-tasking really means. After marriage, while I was trying to balance home and office, I used to feel that I had no time at all. But then, later when we had our first child I thought I had a lot of time before. And now after having our second child my schedule is even more packed. I always tell Sreenivasan that if you look at the clock at any given time of the day, you will know exactly what I will be doing. My day starts at 04:15 AM and ends at 11:30 PM. Multi-tasking is something that, in my opinion, women do better than men (in a lighter vein).

Do you help her in her responsibilities, Sir?

Sir-Yes I do, but then there are limitations. You can help in many ways, but then there are certain areas where you can't do anything, even if you want to. That makes you feel little helpless though! We would need to turn a blind eye towards those areas. Whereas in the areas where you can help, you should try to do your best. And my belief is that I am doing my best in those areas.

What is that one advice that you always give each other?

Sir- One advice that we always give each other is "No matter what, let's always stay together". If we stay together we will be able to achieve more. It's simple.

What does CA profession hold for women in future?

Sir: As a CA, clients have a trust and confidence in you. My client believes that whatever he tells me stays inside the four walls of this room. We should never break that confidence and for this aspect, I feel women can contribute a lot. As a child confides in a mother, a client too will have the psychology to confide in a woman more than a man. I believe that if a woman is there in the office, then the confidence factor of a client will definitely increase. It doesn't mean that confidentiality can be ensured only if women are working in office. A woman being there as a part of the system makes the circle complete.

Ma'am: Once you have a family, a woman knows the value of time more than a man. A woman for sure knows to complete all her tasks in the given timeframe, because she, by routine, has to do multi-tasking. I believe that women have the knack of doing quality work in lesser time. Therefore, I feel the presence of women in workplace will lead to better time management.

Sir: Whether it is in Indian Parliament or in our office, the presence of women brings in professionalism and good etiquette. If a woman is working with us, we will be more careful in our choice of words and in what we do. It brings in more quality and accountability.

That one unforgettable moment in your career, which you can recall at any point of time?

Ma'am: I think it should be the same for both of us. When he and I took over, our clientele was what his father had built over a long period of time. We didn't have any new client that we ourselves brought in and we always felt that we are not contributing anything by ourselves. When we were in such a situation, the first client through our own effort, which was a major private sector organisation. They had shortlisted us for an internal audit assignment and we were called to Chennai for an interview by the Head of the Internal Audit Department. Sreenivasan was 27 and I was only 21 and we hardly had an idea about how we should be talking. By God's grace, it all went on well and we were empanelled. And even today we are doing that work. It was a great day from the point of view of our profession, as it boosted our self-confidence.

Sir: It was indeed a turning point in our profession. We learned a lot. Even though we have come a long way ahead now, this one memory will always remain special for us.

We all know inspite of several measures women safety and security is just worsening day by day. Being professionals, what is your view point on this issue?

Sir: See, Women's safety is not only a women's issue. Shanthi's safety is not only her problem. It is also my problem, my son's problem, my mother's problem as well as my family's problem. It's a social issue. In this, it is not the women alone who has to fight against the atrocities against women. As a society we must do it together. See, the girl who is being affected is the daughter of a male. She is a sister of a male. She is a spouse of a male. She is connected to a lot of males in the family who are going to be affected. Ultimately who is it going to be affected? It is the males who are getting affected by their own actions. According to me, women against women itself is wrong. The responsibility should be collectively shared by every member of the society. It is a social issue as well as a big problem.

'EVERY LIMITATION A WOMAN TRIES TO CONQUER IS ULTIMATELY CREATED/SET BY HERSELF'

It is true that 'she' is now allowed to pursue her dreams, be herself, be proud of who she is and celebrate her life the way she wants. But, on a closer look, 'she' still has a restriction line after which she is expected to be silent. But who actually asks her to defy her limits? Here are few among the best views/messages we received that made us think twice. Take a look.

"She built her sky close to her comfort zone believing the lies they told her about what she can do. One day she flew through her sky only to realize that she could soar much more."

George Kurian

Hari Castro Krishnan

"Mom, 've qualified CA final examinations with all Indian rank ONE..!!!!"

"Congratss betii, Mummy is so proud of you.."

"Mom, I want to use this knowledge to serve my country.. I want get into the IRS or C&AG."

"Dreams are good dear.. But all this leads to difficulties in family life..! Nobody will marry a girl who doesn't have time to take care of her husband and family..!!.."

Marriage Market - Were Disenfranchised Women are born...!!!

You may be hushed by loud voices You may have avoided many things for others but ultimately if you look back You should never regret for the decision made ..Its time to ignite the fire in you.

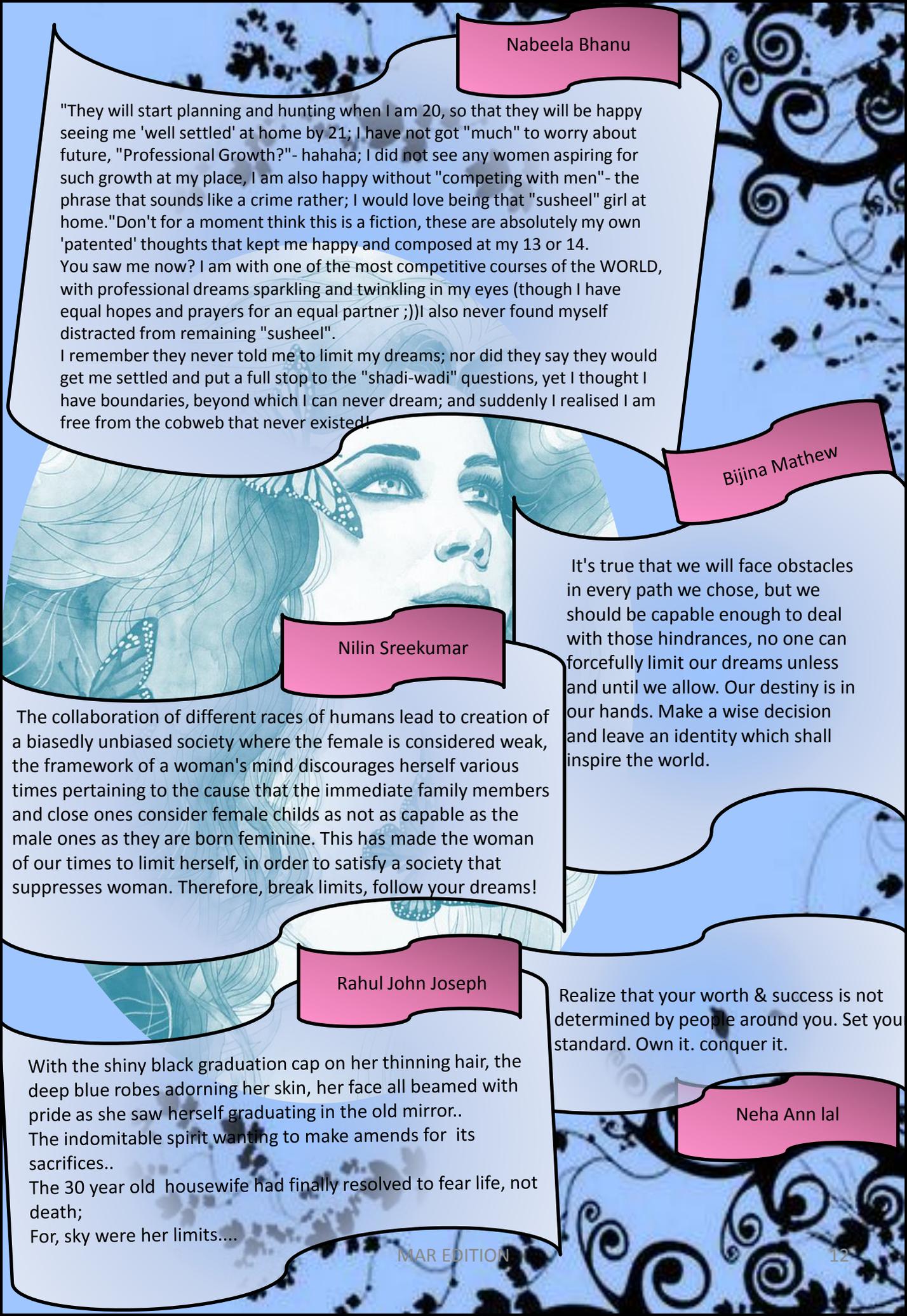
Rinu Treasa Jose

Rohit James Joseph

"Studying science and math is a futile pursuit. Cookery and home-making is all you should master in", she was told.

Domesticated and docile, it took her long to defy conventional wisdom of grandmas and moms. It all happened when her daughter asked, "Mom, why can't I become a female firefighter or a female doctor or a female engineer" ?

Defy the defined limits and march ahead !



Nabeela Bhanu

"They will start planning and hunting when I am 20, so that they will be happy seeing me 'well settled' at home by 21; I have not got "much" to worry about future, "Professional Growth?"- hahaha; I did not see any women aspiring for such growth at my place, I am also happy without "competing with men"- the phrase that sounds like a crime rather; I would love being that "susheel" girl at home."Don't for a moment think this is a fiction, these are absolutely my own 'patented' thoughts that kept me happy and composed at my 13 or 14. You saw me now? I am with one of the most competitive courses of the WORLD, with professional dreams sparkling and twinkling in my eyes (though I have equal hopes and prayers for an equal partner ;))I also never found myself distracted from remaining "susheel". I remember they never told me to limit my dreams; nor did they say they would get me settled and put a full stop to the "shadi-wadi" questions, yet I thought I have boundaries, beyond which I can never dream; and suddenly I realised I am free from the cobweb that never existed!

Bijina Mathew

Nilin Sreekumar

It's true that we will face obstacles in every path we chose, but we should be capable enough to deal with those hindrances, no one can forcefully limit our dreams unless and until we allow. Our destiny is in our hands. Make a wise decision and leave an identity which shall inspire the world.

The collaboration of different races of humans lead to creation of a biasedly unbiased society where the female is considered weak, the framework of a woman's mind discourages herself various times pertaining to the cause that the immediate family members and close ones consider female childs as not as capable as the male ones as they are born feminine. This has made the woman of our times to limit herself, in order to satisfy a society that suppresses woman. Therefore, break limits, follow your dreams!

Rahul John Joseph

Realize that your worth & success is not determined by people around you. Set your standard. Own it. conquer it.

With the shiny black graduation cap on her thinning hair, the deep blue robes adorning her skin, her face all beamed with pride as she saw herself graduating in the old mirror.. The indomitable spirit wanting to make amends for its sacrifices..

The 30 year old housewife had finally resolved to fear life, not death;
For, sky were her limits....

Neha Annalal

PHOTO GALLERY

