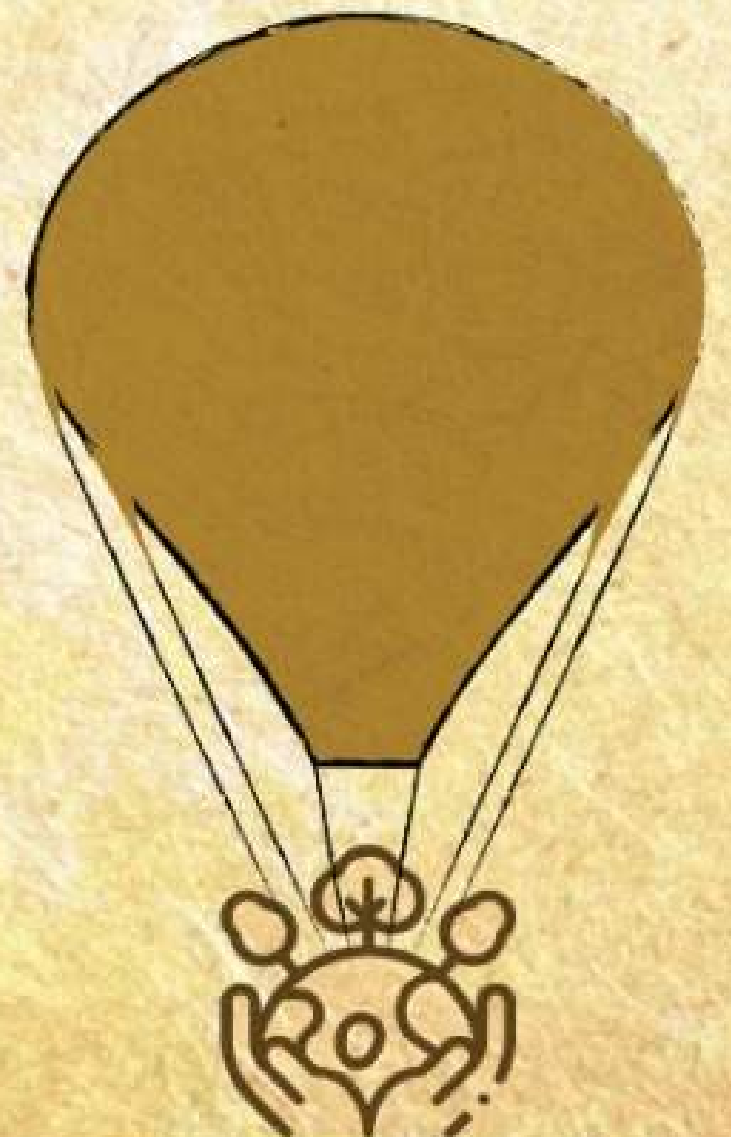
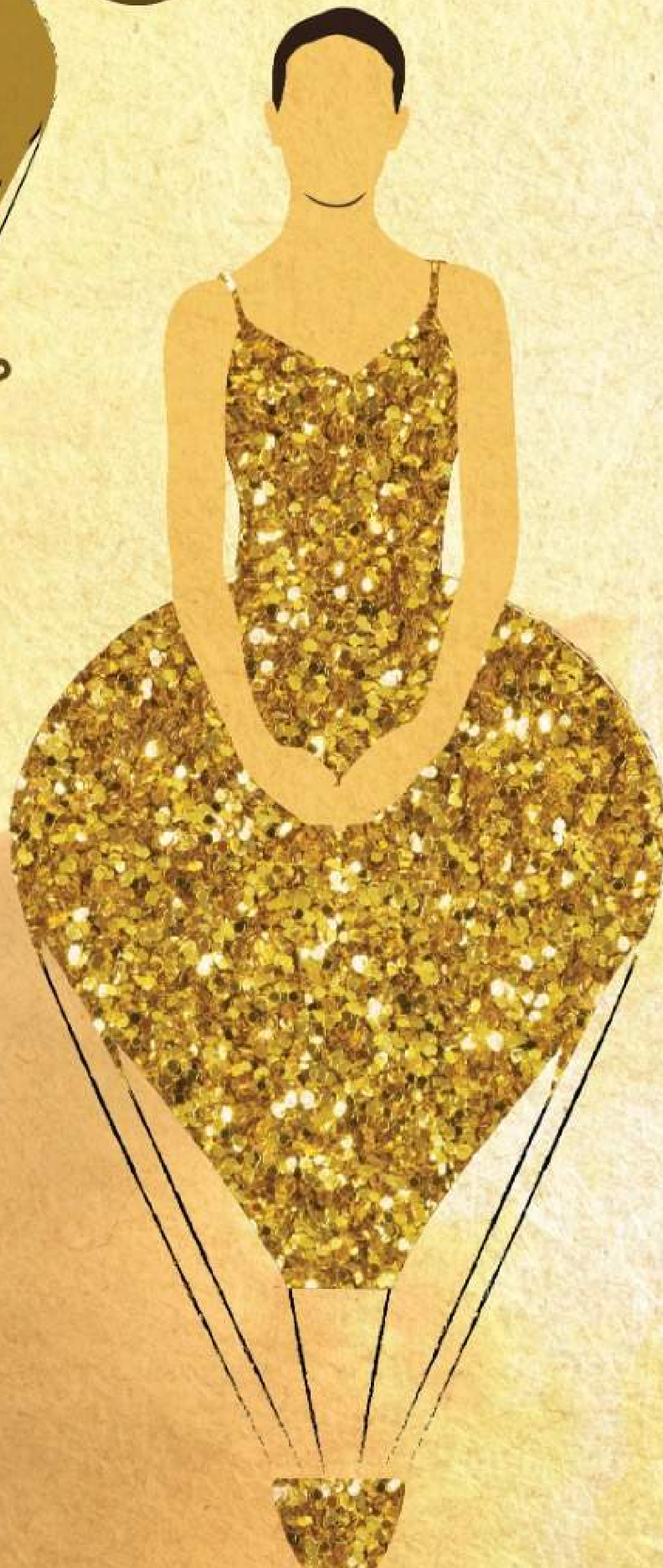
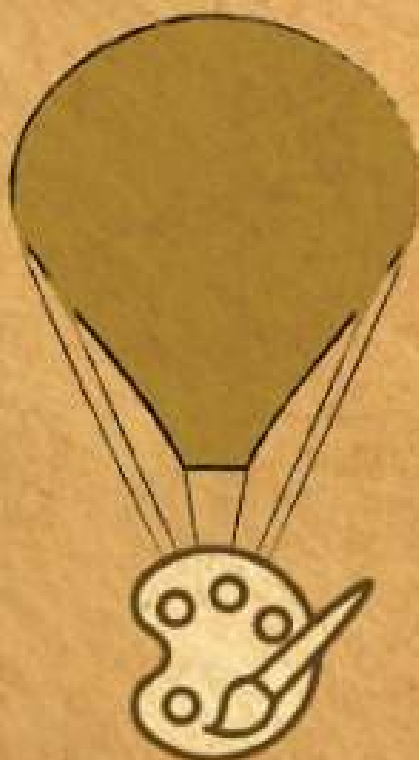
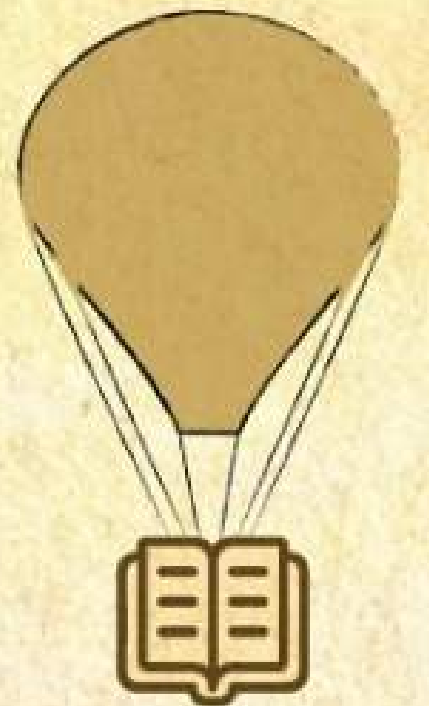
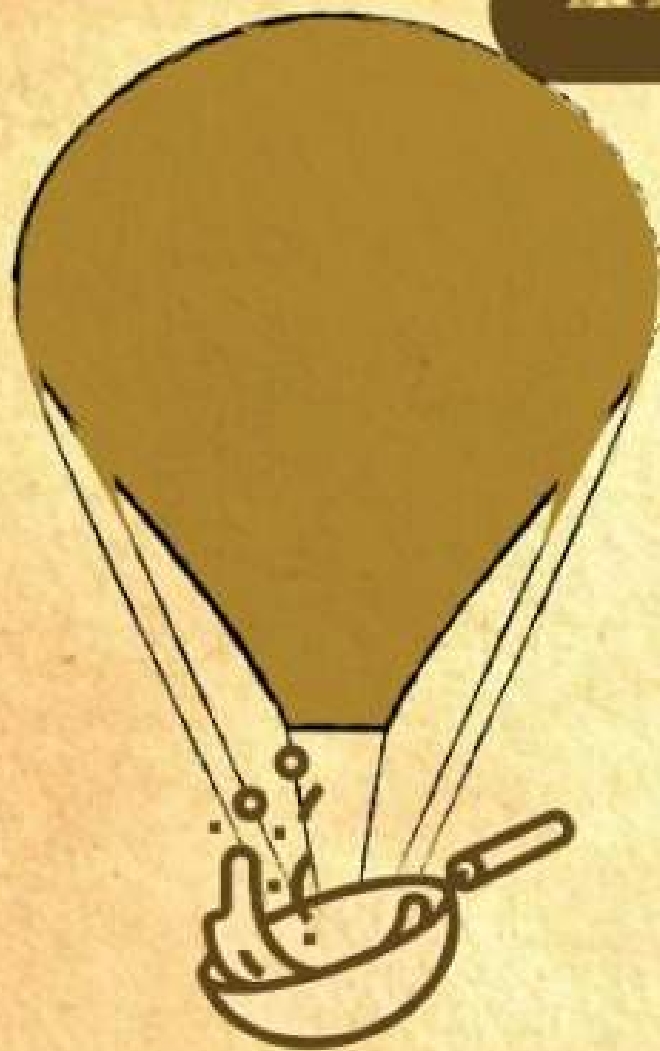
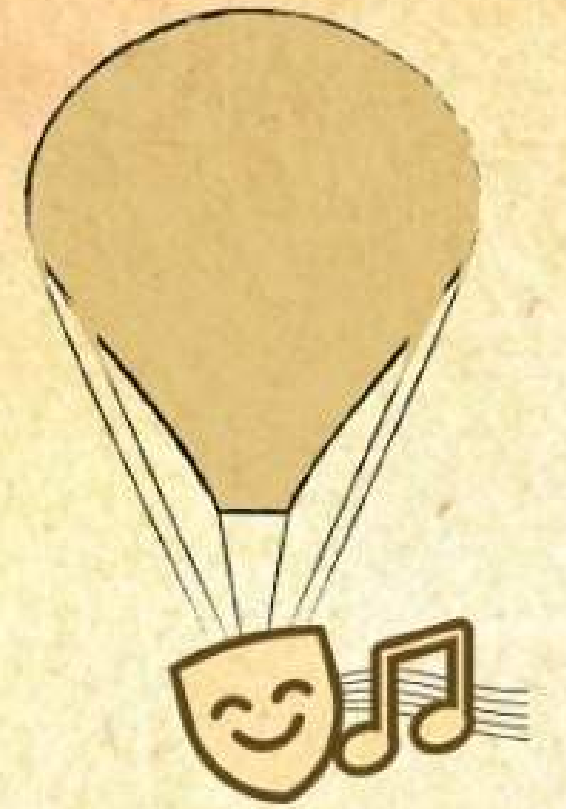
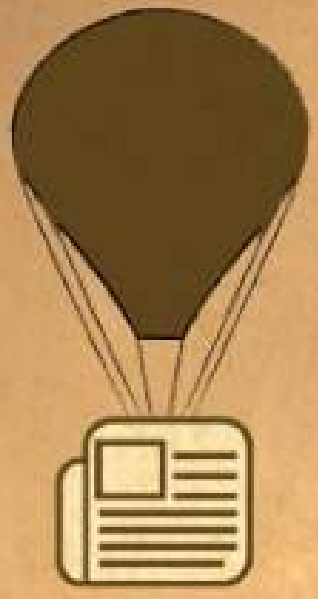




Around the World in 8 Ways



November 2023

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2023-2024

1

Managing Committee

Presidents	Ritu Sahi	93828 81478	ritusahi@hotmail.com
	Sanyukta Gill	98404 15677	sanyukta_g@yahoo.com
Vice Presidents	Sadiya Khaleel	98840 50686	sadiya2yk@yahoo.co.in
	Raylsi R Ballhatchet	+4479384 55591	rayballhatchet@gmail.com
Secretaries	Somna Sachdev	98410 22922	sachdev.somna@gmail.com
	StefanieAndruchowitz	63802 83166	s.andruchowitz@gmail.com
Treasurers	Deepali Goyal	98404 42260	deepali_gyl@yahoo.com
	Swati Reddy	98841 77777	swati_reddy@yahoo.com

Activity Chairpersons

Arts & Handicrafts	Nusrret Cassam	98403 77872	nusrretcassam@gmail.com
	Viraj Thakore	89399 33433	thakoreinc@gmail.com
Book Discussion	Rajshri Sundrani	88702 77779	rajshri.linesh09@gmail.com
	Sushi Goklaney	98401 04822	sushigoki24@hotmail.com
Cooking Swapshop	Shefalii Dadabhoy	97898 89955	shefnochef@gmail.com
	Anjali Sacheti	98840 56000	anjali456@gmail.com
Current Events	Rekha Rangaraj	98407 47561	rangaraj.rekharaman@gmail.com
	Sukhee Lee	8668090691	sukheele702@gmail.com
Health & Ecology	Rinku Mecheri	98400 51172	rinku@chennaivolunteers.org
	Nalini Panday	98849 58629	nalini.panday@gmail.com
History, Culture & Tours	Jaya Mahbubani	98846 87986	jnmahbubani@gmail.com
	Rohini Tummala	99890 98640	rohinigopinath@hotmail.com
Music & Performing Arts	Jyothi Ganesh	98400 97298	jyothi1963@gmail.com
	Jansi Kishore	98415 89896	jansi_k@hotmail.com
Philosophy & Religion	Deepa Ramaprasad	98410 44886	deeparamaprasad@hotmail.com
	Catherine Reddy	63819 77392	catherinecapozzi@gmail.com

1st

Tue 10:00 a.m. **Managing Committee**
11:00 a.m. **Executive Committee**
@ Zoom

BOARD EVENT

3rd

Fri 3:30 p.m. **Deepavali Kondattam**
@ Mayor Ramanathan
Chettiar Hall, MRC Nagar

7th

Tue 3:00 p.m. **Arts & Handicrafts**
@ Zoom
John Ang

9th

Thu 10:15 a.m. **Book Discussion**
@ Sage and Lavender
Hari Baskaran

14th

Tue 10:15 a.m. **Cooking Swapshop**
@ Sage and Lavender
IWA Members

16th

Thu 10:15 a.m. **History, Culture & Tours**
@ Zoom
Raghu Palat and Pushpa Palat

20th

Mon 10:15 a.m. **Health and Ecology**
@ Hanu Reddy Residences
Bhairavi Prakash

23rd

Thu 10:15 a.m. **Philosophy & Religion**
@ Meyyammai Murugappan's Residence
Priyadarsini Govind

28th

Tue 10:15 a.m. **Music & Performing Arts**
@ Savera Hotel
Neha Girish

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Dear Members,

What a wonderful start to the month for those who attended the **International Music Day** on 4th of October. It was fantastic to watch and hear **Steven Samuel Devassy** the fastest child percussionist! We look forward to following his progress in the years ahead.

IWA's **Deepavali Kondattam** is being celebrated on the 3rd of November at the MRC hall and we look forward to seeing all of you there. Our very own members are providing us with a fabulous programme.

We had a fantastic trip to **Egypt**, a trip to remember. Details of the trip are shared in this newsletter.

The South India trip to **Hampi** has been called off due to reduced member participation. This is unfortunate as the team did extensive research and planning to formulate the best itinerary for our members. We look forward to your presence in the North India trip later in the IWA year.

Applications for prospective new candidates were received and the membership committee is processing the same.

As we are getting closer to the end of the calendar year, we request you to **check on your attendance**. The record of attendance will be tabled at all meetings in December.

We are saddened to hear the news of the demise of Past President **Khin Thi Da Lwin** and senior member **Malathi Ramachandran**. We will always remember them fondly.

RITU SAHI

SANYUKTA GILL

Dear Members,

We are almost at the halfway mark of the IWA year, and it's a good time to **check attendance records**.

Members are obliged to attend 10 meetings by March 2024. Please note that attendance for April meetings goes towards the new year. If you have a shortfall, do join in for the excellent meetings planned by the Activity Chairs and the Board in the months ahead.

Members may check their attendance records with **Swati Reddy**.

SOMNA SACHDEV

The Membership Committee met on Friday, October 6th, 2023, to receive applications of new members from their sponsors and co-sponsors.

Photographs and names of the applicants are being published in this Newsletter.

This includes applicants under the Permanent non-Indian Member category.

As per IWA bye law 10G states, “Any written and duly signed objections regarding these applications shall be intimated to the Membership Committee.” **Such written objections are a serious matter**, and should be given due weight and consideration, both by the sender and the Membership Committee. They may be sent by email or by physical mail, to the undersigned latest by Friday, November 3rd, 2023.

Somna Sachdev,
No 20, 4th Lane, Nungambakkam high Road
Chennai-600034
Mobile: 9841022922
Email: sachdev.somna@gmail.com

The Membership Committee will reconvene to meet all accepted candidates on Monday, November 6th, 2023.

SOMNA SACHDEV

CATEGORY - ACTIVE INDIAN MEMBER



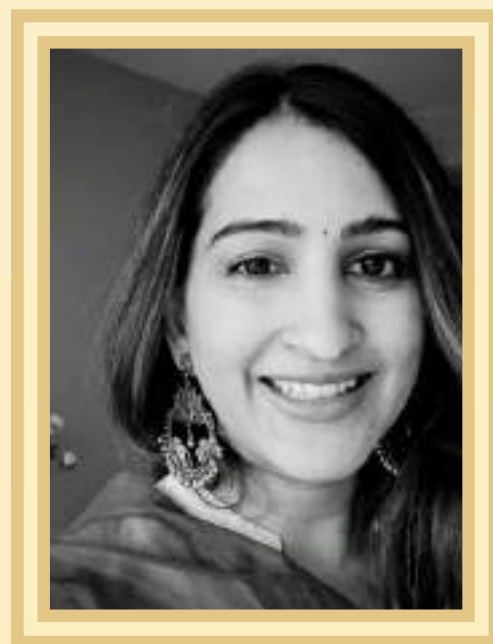
Vinita Bajaj



Bhuvana Bharti



Pooja Chhabria



Rachita Choudhary



Deepti Kankaria



Usha Krishnamurthy



Niyati Mehta



Anisha Nanavati

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY



Shreelatha Narayanan



Renuka Sabanayagam



Sabah Shirazi



Radhika Singh

CATEGORY - ACTIVE INDIAN MEMBER



Arthi Bezwada



Geetha Muthuswamy



Mahima Poddar

FROM THE TREASURERS

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the period 1st April 2023 to 30th September 2023

RECEIPTS	AMMOUNT	AMMOUNT
To Opening Balance -Cash on Hand	27,935.00	
To Opening Balance-Canara Bank SB A/c .1287101014396	4,15,210.00	
To Opening Balance-Fixed Deposits	14,79,869.00	
	SUB-TOTAL	19,23,014.00
To Membership Annual Subscription fee		17,93,100.00
To New Membership fee		19,000.00
To Interest on Fixed Deposits		36,414.00
To Interest on Savings Bank		15,946.00
To Guest Charges		6,000.00
To Telephone Directory & Other Income		31,407.00
	TOTAL	38,24,881.00
PAYMENTS		AMMOUNT
By AGM Expenses 2022-2023		1,05,439.00
By Meetings		2,16,988.00
By Fellowship Morning		73,428.00
By Founder's Day Celebration		90,935.00
By Gift Items		67,396.00
By Printing and Stationary		83,090.00
By Postage and Courier Charges		7,912.00
By Salary to Accountant		75,198.00
By Bank Charges		1,071.00
By Closing Balance-Cash on Hand	15,947.00	
By Closing Balance-Canara bank Savings Bank A/c 1287101014396	8,89,006.71	
By Closing Balance-Fixed Deposit-1287303000572/17(MD.24.01.2024)	5,00,000.00	
By Closing Balance-Fixed Deposit-1287306000014/6(MD.28.06.2024)	1,00,000.00	
By Closing Balance-Fixed Deposit-1287303000572/18 (MD.14.07.2024)	4,24,354.00	
By Closing Balance-Fixed Deposit-1287303000571/9 (MD.29.03.2024)	2,00,000.00	
By Closing Balance-Fixed Deposit-1287401006192/7(MD 28.03.2024)	2,50,000.00	
By Closing Balance-Fixed Deposit-1287303000637/6(MD.26.12.2024)	5,515.00	
By Tax Deducted at Source 2023-2024	3,601.00	
By Short Term Fixed Deposits for 2023-2024	7,15,000.00	
	SUB-TOTAL	31,03,424.00
	TOTAL	38,24,881.00

DEEPALI GOYAL



IN FOND REMEMBRANCE



KHIN THI DA LWIN
PAST PRESIDENT
(1995-1996)



MALATHI RAMACHANDRAN
Member since 1986

**Their beautiful and warm memories
will be cherished by their friends at
IWA**



HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES



Deepest condolences

To Roshan Poncha on the sad demise of her mother in law.

To Anuradha Sachdev on the sad demise of her mother.

NOT RECEIVING NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL OR IDN

Somna Sachdev | 98410 22922 | sachdev.somna@gmail.com

Sadiya Khaleel | 98840 50686 | sadiya2yk@yahoo.co.in

CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP STATUS OR LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST

Somna Sachdev | 98410 22922 | sachdev.somna@gmail.com

ATTENDANCE RECORD OR BYE-LAWS COPY

Swati Reddy | 98841 77777 | swati_reddy@yahoo.com

CHANGE IN DIRECTORY DETAILS

(Address | email | phone | mobile)

Somna Sachdev | 98410 22922 | sachdev.somna@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sadiya Khaleel | 98840 50686 | sadiya2yk@yahoo.co.in

MEETING SUGGESTIONS

Ritu Sahi | 93828 81478 | ritusahi@hotmail.com

Sanyukta Gill | 98404 15677 | sanyukta_g@yahoo.com

HOSTING A MEETING

Ritu Sahi | 93828 81478 | ritusahi@hotmail.com

Sanyukta Gill | 98404 15677 | sanyukta_g@yahoo.com

Sadiya Khaleel | 98840 50686 | sadiya2yk@yahoo.co.in



DEEPAVALI



FRI | 03 NOV | 3:30 P.M
@ MAYOR RAMANATHAN
CHETTIAR HALL

IWA DEEPAVALI KONDATTAM

RITU SAHI

SANYUKTA GILL

THE MANAGEMENT & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

Date: Friday, 3rd November 2023

Time: 3:30 P.M Onwards

Venue: Mayor Ramanathan Chettiar (MRC) Hall
75/2, Santhome High Road,
MRC Nagar,
R.A.Puram.
Chennai-600 028.



DEEPAVALI KONDATTAM

"May the light of Deepavali fill your life with joy, prosperity, and happiness."

Deepavali is a festival that celebrates values and themes, universally cherished and understood, making it a festival that transcends cultural and religious boundaries.

The vibrant and joyous celebrations that take place during the Deepavali festival are showcased by our very own **IWA members**, this evening. Be prepared to see a wonderful entertainment programme!

Do come and join us as we celebrate and enjoy an evening of fun and festivity.

Please remember that **this event is open to all** and so we look forward to having you there with your friends and family.

Our heartfelt thanks to **Visalakshi Ramaswamy** for graciously sponsoring the hall.

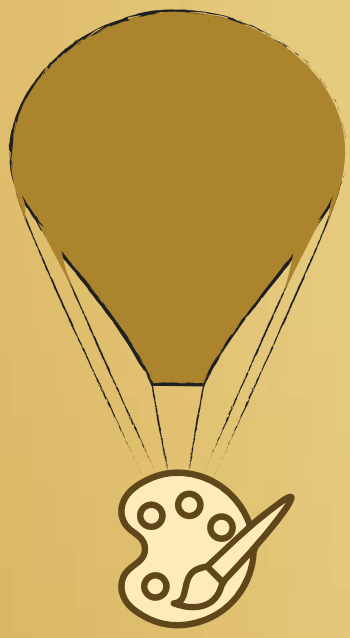
We also thank **Aasha Reddy, Nita Reddy, Parvathi Reddy, Swati Reddy, Tulsi Reddy, Urmila Reddy** and **Bharathi Suresh** for their generosity in sponsoring the High Tea.

Please note this is an evening meeting.

RITU SAHI

SANYUKTA GILL

THE MANAGEMENT & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES



ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS



**TUE | 07 NOV | 3:00 P.M
@ ZOOM**

JOHN ANG

“

**INDIAN INFLUENCE ON
MALAY TEXTILES**

**NUSRRET CASSAM
VIRAJ THAKORE**

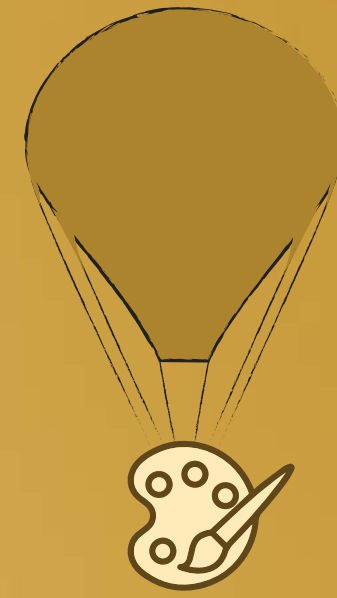


ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS

Date: Tue, 7th November

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Venue: Zoom



INDIAN INFLUENCE ON MALAY TEXTILES

Born in Chicago to Singaporean parents, **John** earned his Asian Art History degrees from the University of Michigan before establishing a renowned gallery in Taipei, showcasing Asian antiques. In 2014, John's encounter with **Malay textiles** sparked a collecting passion, leading him across Asia. His move to Malaysia in 2018 was driven by this fervor. Amidst his journey, he ventured into unexpected realms, from meeting the androgynous Bissu priests of the Bugis people to crashing a rural Indonesian royal party. Notably, he met a Khmer Rouge survivor who shared the tale of a cherished textile. His dedication and discoveries, including the acclaimed "**Splendors of Malay World Textiles**" exhibition, have left an indelible mark, inspiring local designers and encouraging a heartfelt embrace of heritage.

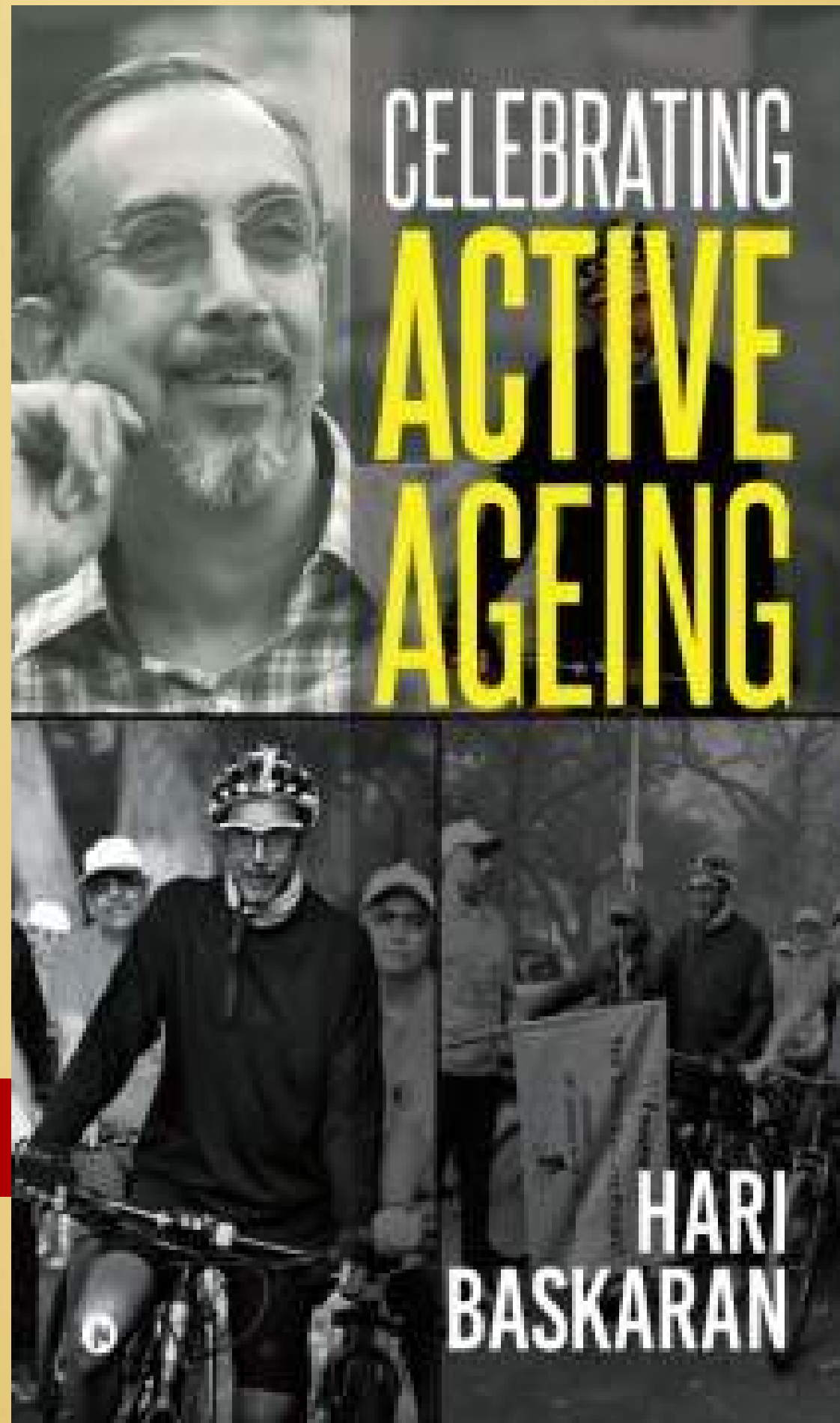
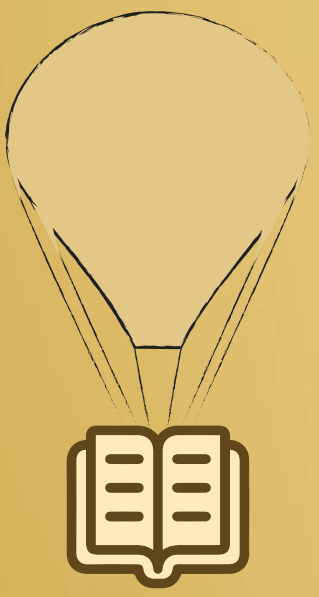
Our talk is going to be on the influence of India and Indian Artisans on Malay textiles, from the Ajrakah in Gujarat to the weavers in Varanasi. While researching Malay textiles, John uncovered some previously unhighlighted intimate connections between Indian and Malay textile traditions. In his upcoming Zoom presentation, he aims to share his findings, with the intent of not only advancing our comprehension of Indian and Malay textiles but also strengthening the cultural ties between the people of these regions.

Do join us on this journey to learn the intertwined history of our two cultures through textiles.

We thank **Roshan Poncha** for being the day facilitator.

NUSRRET CASSAM

VIRAJ THAKORE



**THU | 9 NOV | 10:15 A.M
@ SAGE AND LAVENDER**

HARI BASKARAN

“

WHEN THE SPIRIT WINS OVER THE BODY

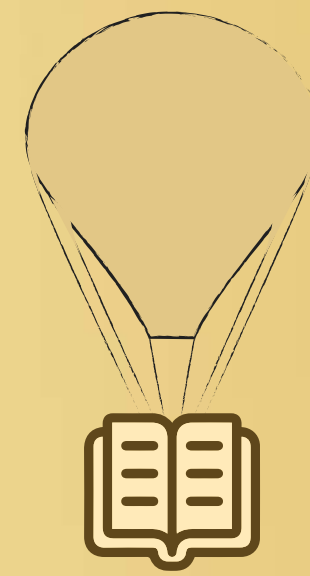
**RAJSHRI SUNDRANI
SUSHI GOKLANEY**



Date: Thu 9th November

Time: 10:15 a.m

Venue: Sage and Lavender,
279,TT Krishnamachari Road,
Next to Old Madras Baking Company,
Chennai-600 018.



WHEN THE SPIRIT WINS OVER THE BODY

Today, we humans live longer until 90 years and beyond. When we look around us we see people in the second innings of their lives beyond 60, either living beautiful and meaningful lives or very mundane and dull lives. What makes them different? How do they deal with all the fears that accompany ageing? How do they feel relevant in the fast-paced world? How will our years ahead be for us?

Answers to these questions lie in the choices we make.

VIBRANCY@80 is an invaluable guide to happy and healthy living at any age, especially post 60. This will benefit all people approaching retirement and those well past it.

The author **Hari Baskaran** walks the talk and uses many inspirational stories from his life and the lives of eminent personalities like Dr. Natrajan, Dr. K RadhaKrishnan, and many unknown heroes. It is book full of interesting anecdotes and experiences that will transform lives.

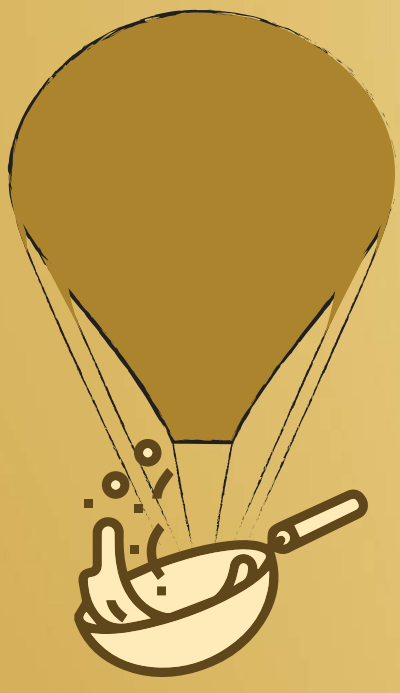
This morning we will go back home with tips on how to age actively so that we at any age can continue to celebrate life daily and fulfil our dreams. We will learn about all the simple yet profound changes we should make in our routine to gain exponentially.

Laughter is timeless, imagination has no age, and dreams are forever – a famous quote by Walt Disney summarizes this book.

We thank **Shirley Verghese** for being our day facilitator.

RAJSHRI SUNDRANI

SUSHI GOKLANEY



**TUE | 14 NOV | 10:15 A.M
@ SAGE AND LAVENDER**

HEIRLOOM FOOD STORIES

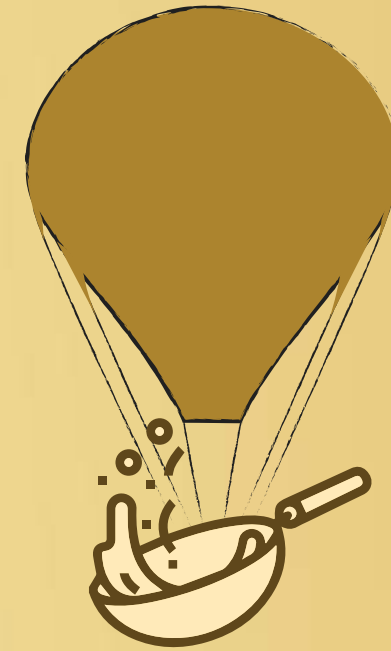
**SHEFALII DADABHOY
ANJALI SACHETI**



Date: Tue, 14th November

Time: 10.15 a.m

Venue: Sage and Lavender,
279, T.T Krishnamachari Road,
Next to Old Madras Baking Company,
Chennai - 600 018.



HEIRLOOM FOOD STORIES

Genealogy isn't only about lineage, it is also about inheritance.

All families have quirks and flavors, (also known as family rituals and traditions), which distinguish one family from another. These are all passed down from one generation to the next and become heirlooms of our heritage.

A part of our inheritance is also family recipes, food that is special to our forefathers and foremothers. Food has always been an important aspect of our culture, bringing people together and bridging the generations. There are recipes which have been in families over multiple generations!

Today we have the privilege of learning some family secrets with IWA members sharing recipes that have been passed down from previous generations.

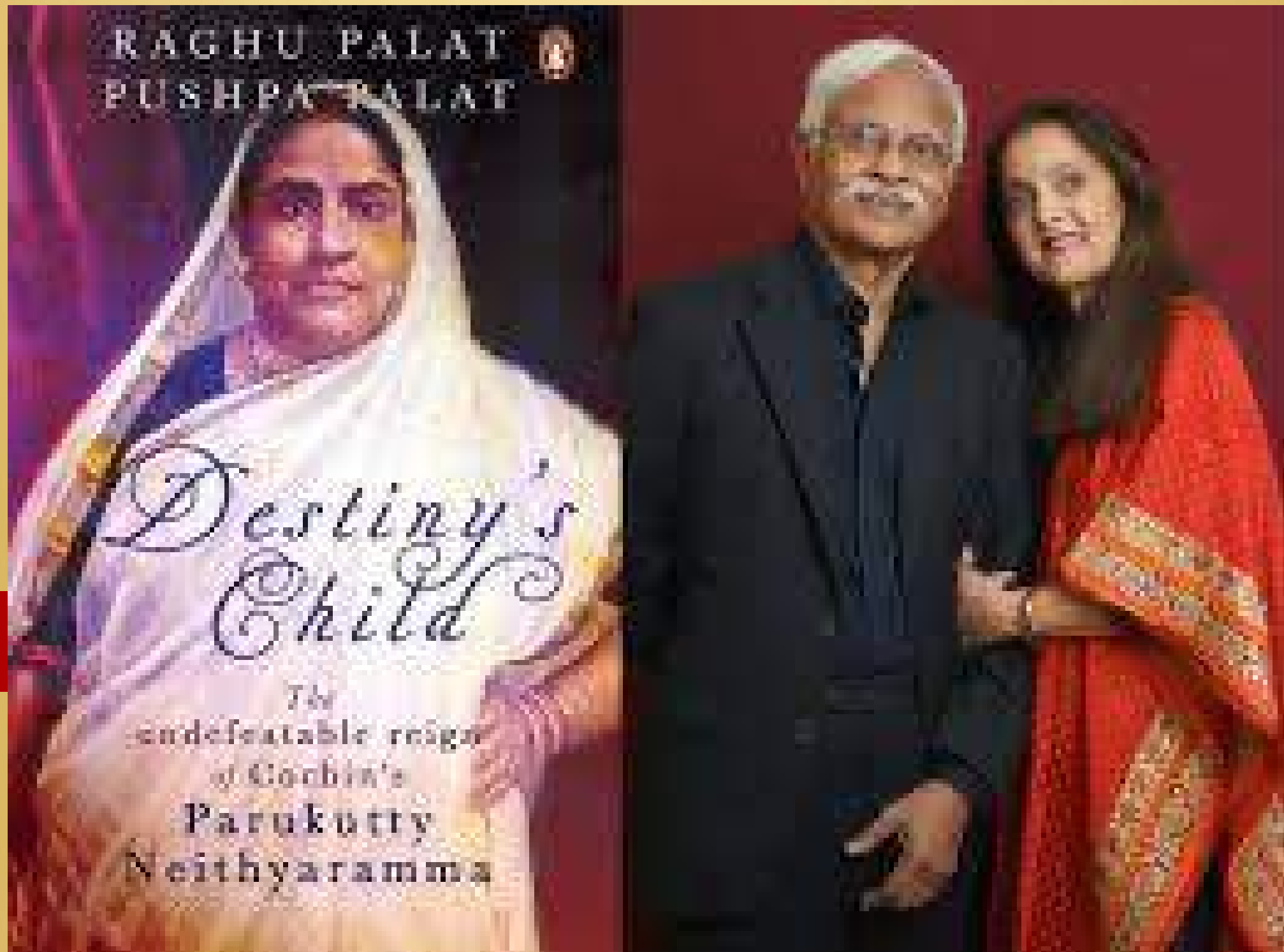
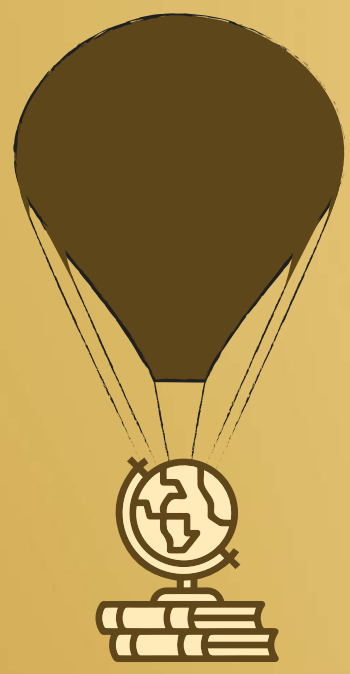
We would like to thank **Nabila Avais, Nusrret Cassam, Fabienne Figuereo, Shobha Jesudasen, Jasmine Kabrajee, Anita Koshy, Meyyammai Murugappan, and Chandra Padmanabhan** for sharing their heirloom recipes in the meeting!

Thank you to **Deepam Ravindran** for sponsoring the meeting and **Parvathy Nayar** for being our day facilitator!

Looking forward to growing IWA's legacy of sharing recipes!

SHEFALII DADABHOY

ANJALI SACHETI



**THU | 16 NOV | 10:15 A.M
@ ZOOM**

**RAGHU PALAT
& PUSHPA PALAT**

“

DESTINY'S CHILD

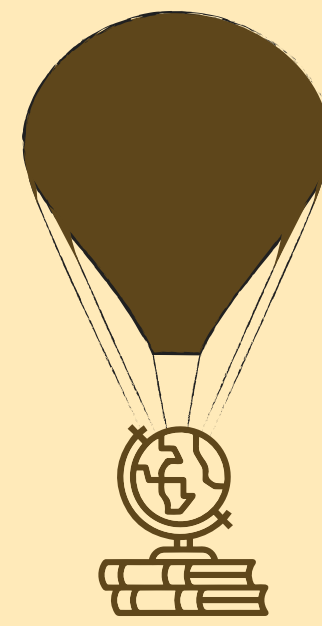
**JAYA MAHBUBANI
ROHINI TUMMALA**



Date: Thu 16th November

Time: 10:15 a.m

Venue: Zoom



DESTINY'S CHILD

'Destiny's child' is a historical biography of a capable, ambitious and ruthless woman who took on the reins of power despite the efforts of the British Government and the Princes, ruled a State with singular success. It is the story of **Parukutty Neithyamma**, who constantly thwarted the attempts of the British to overthrow her and annex her kingdom beginning from the time her husband ascended the throne.

Raghu Palat is a leading writer on banking, finance and investments and his wife **Pushpa Palat**, an author and freelance journalist are the authors of the best-selling book, "Destiny's Child - the Undefeated reign on Cochin's Parukutty Neithyamma" which was published by Penguin. These two writers of such divergent genres, differing styles and unique perspectives, have come together to write a story that is very dear to their heart - a book on Parukutty Neithyamma, the Consort of the Maharaja of Cochin who was Raghu's great grandmother.

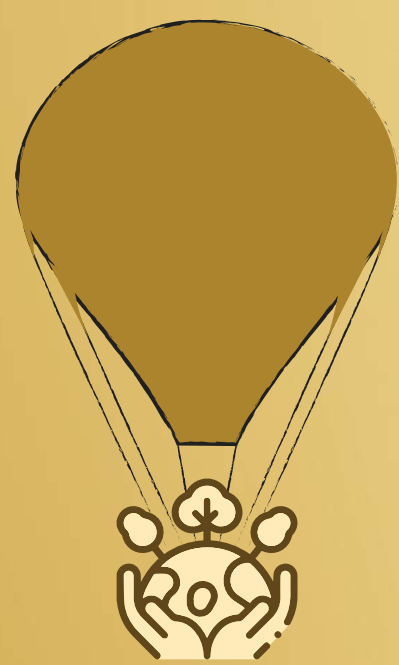
Join us as we unravel the mystery of this enigmatic woman ,who ruled when women had no voice in government, a woman who is even today revered in Kerala as one who set the state firmly on the road to prosperity.

We thank **Nidhi Thadani** for being our day facilitator.

JAYA MAHBUBANI

ROHINI TUMMALA

HEALTH AND ECOLOGY



**MON | 20 NOV | 10:15 A.M
@ HANU REDDY RESIDENCES**

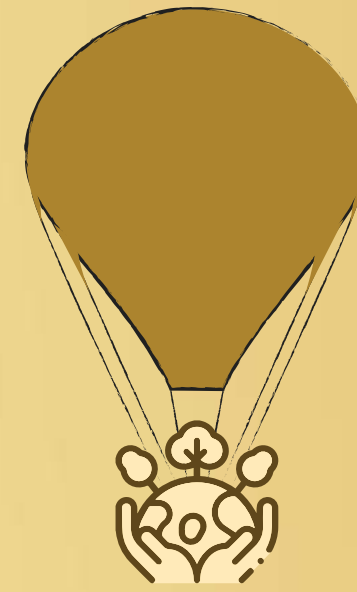
BHAIRAVI PRAKASH

**“
MENOPAUSE AND IT'S IMPACT
ON MENTAL HEALTH**

**RINKU MECHERI
NALINI PANDAY**



Date: Mon, 20th November,
Time: 10:15 a.m
Venue: Hanu Reddy Residences,
39/18, Binny Road,
Poes Garden,
Chennai-600 086.



MENOPAUSE AND IT'S IMPACT ON MENTAL HEALTH

Bhairavi Prakash is a psychologist and social entrepreneur dedicated to transforming mental health in India. **Bhairavi** runs an independent consulting practice and founded **Mithra Trust**, a non-profit that provides mental health information and tools in a way that a trusted friend would.

Bhairavi's innovative approaches to mental health have been celebrated by publications such as BeBadass, Further, The Youth Fund and Restless Development.

A sought-after speaker on mental health and innovation, **Bhairavi** has graced both national and international panels, sharing her insights and knowledge.

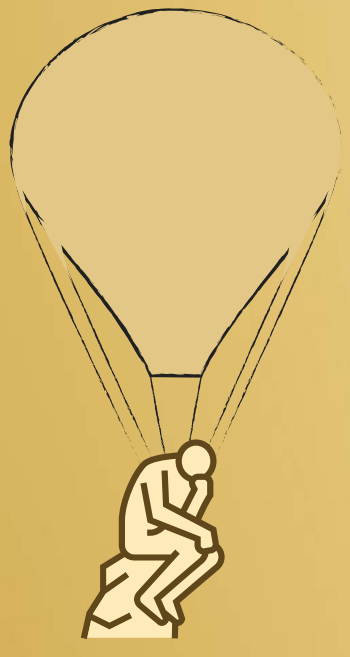
Today she will talk about menopause and its impact on mental health. She will focus on the correlation on the wellness between physical health and mental health.

We thank **Seema Bhargava, Jaya Patwardhan** and **Sheela Sarath** for graciously sponsoring this meeting.

We also thank **Jennifer Ann** for being our day facilitator.

RINKU MECHERI

NALINI PANDAY



PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION



THU | 23 NOV | 10:15 A.M
@ MEYYAMMAI MURUGAPPAN'S
RESIDENCE

PRIYADARSINI GOVIND

“

BHARATANATYAM - BORN OUT OF A RELIGION
 AND IT'S PHILOSOPHY BUT REACHES BEYOND.

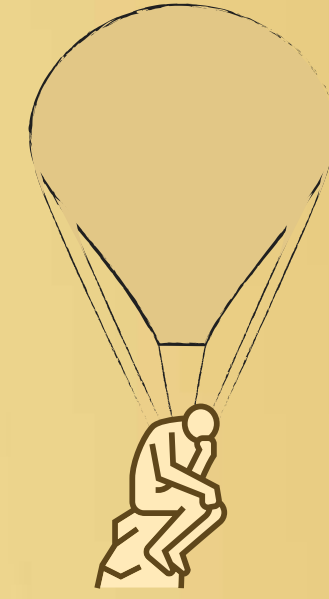
DEEPA RAMAPRASAD
CATHERINE REDDY



Date: Thu, 23rd November

Time: 10:15 a.m

Venue: Meyyammai Murugappan's residence,
The Laurels,
No 9 (old no 4) Chittaranjan Road,
Teynampet,
Chennai 600 018



BHARATANATYAM - BORN OUT OF A RELIGION AND IT'S PHILOSOPHY BUT REACHES BEYOND.

Bharatanatyam - Born out of a religion and it's philosophy but reaches beyond.

"Dance is such a complete line with visuals, poetry, drama, music...you use your whole body to communicate all of this" says Priyadarsini Govind.

Conferred with the title of Kalaimamani by the Tamil Nadu Eyal Isai Nataka Manram, among others, this erstwhile Director of Kalakshetra & one of the leading dancers of India, is a Commerce graduate from the University of Madras, Chennai with a diploma in Mass Communication.

Bharatanatyam has been her first love ever since she was six and from the age of sixteen, she has been performing on stage. She was chosen to be a part of the 'Festival of India in France' when barely 20.

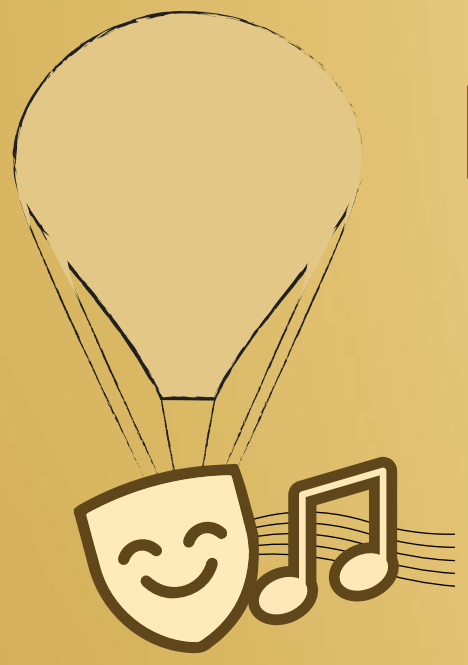
Priyadarsini has not looked back since. She is a much sought- after artist- her recitals have taken her all over India and the world.

A warm thank you to Meiyammai Murugappan for graciously hosting this meeting.

We thank Priya Gopalen for being our Day Facilitator.

DEEPA RAMAPRASAD

CATHERINE REDDY



**TUE | 28 NOV | 10:15 AM
@ SAVERA HOTEL**

NEHA GIRISH

“

CHILD PRODIGY-CHENNAI'S NIGHTINGALE

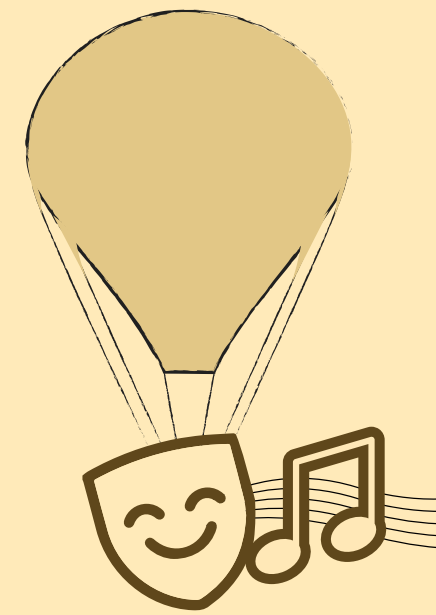
**JYOTHI GANESH
JANSI KISHORE**



Date : Tue, 28th November

Time: 10:15 a.m

Venue: Savera Hotel,
146, Dr.Radhakrishna Salai,
Mylapore,
Chennai 600 004.



CHILD PRODIGY - CHENNAI'S NIGHTINGALE

Neha Girish, now 12 years old, was born in Chennai. She started learning music at the age of 4 and performed in various competitions.

Her talent was spotted by Rajendra Babu, brother of Lathika Teacher with whom Neha started her first Singing Class. Trained and blessed by the legend **P.B.Rangachari** in Carnatic Music, she is now learning Hindustani music from Mrs Madhuvanathi Narayan.

She debuts in singing competitions and steals the hearts of the audience and judges with her euphonious voice. At the age of 6, she was the Judges Choice and 2nd runner up for Golden Voice of Star Vijay TV Super Singer Junior Season 8. Her Thithikkuthe song went viral on social media, garnering 7.2million views.

Neha is ready to enthrall us with her dulcet voice.

We are grateful to **Rathi Nilakantan** for sponsoring this event and **Anita Koshy** for being the Day Facilitator.

JYOTHI GANESH

JANSI KISHORE

IWA TRIP TO EGYPT

“Chalo! Chalo!” That’s Karim, our Egyptologist tour guide encouraging us onwards, upwards and ahead to the next wonder that awaited in the land of sand dunes, sphinxes and shawarma.

Egypt, in a word, was spectacular. Right from the start.

Our first stop was the **Temple of Karnak**, which is believed to be the exact spot where creation began. We wandered in a daze through the vast complex of temples, **pylons** and **ram-headed sphinxes**, marvelling at the sheer massiveness of it all. This sense of scale was a feature that would take our breath away again, the same evening when we visited the **Temple of Luxor**. But it wasn’t just how the enormous statues dwarfed everything around them - equally, we were awed by their serenity and sheer beauty, as well as the attention paid to the smallest detailing of the mysterious hieroglyphics.

Karim assured that we’d be speed-reading hieroglyphics by the end of our tour. Well, not quite, but we did find by the end that more details than we realised had been soaked in. For example, though figures of Gods and God-emperors could look confusingly similar, we knew that a rounded cartouche of hieroglyphics proclaimed the figure to be a king, not a god.

But first, back to Day Two that saw us boarding the **Nile cruise ship**. This would be our home over the next few days as we sailed along the historic river to visit wonders of the past.

Some of us also floated up, as though through water, the very next morning - our **ballooning adventure!** Just as the night sky turned from black to rose, a vast empty field came alive with multicoloured balloons being filled with air. Then we soared up over the landscape, taking in the Nile and glimpses of the **Valley of the Kings** that we would visit later that day.

On board the cruise we had lots of fun, whether eating, chatting and Nile-watching or playing cards and boardgames - including a most appropriate Egyptian board game called Ra. There was dancing, lucky draws, a **Galabeya Party** (galabeya being the traditional, loose-fitting garment of the Nile Valley), even a leisurely riverine ride on the local sailboat called a **felucca**.

Along with ever-more spectacular architectural wonders, we began to acquire an ever-increasing vocabulary of Egyptian gods. The stately falcon god, Horus, fixed us with a knowing eye at his marvellously well-preserved **Temple at Edfu**, while at the **Kom Ombo temple**, it was the more pointed gaze of the crocodile god, Sobek. Another startling detail here was an engraved wall image of medical instruments for performing surgery such as scalpels and forceps. All those millennia ago...

We missed the Nile when we disembarked and headed to the massive rock-cut **temples of Abu Simbel**. This entire complex was relocated, stone-by-stone in 1968 to its present site, to avoid being submerged by the Aswan Dam reservoir. We were instantly hypnotised by the gigantic statues of Rameses II, one of the greatest rulers of all antiquity.

And finally, back to **Cairo**, and its many wonders including the **Coptic Churches** and the fabulous **Mosque of Muhammad Ali** that's modelled along the lines of Turkey's Blue Mosque. There was shopping at the bustling **Khan el-Khalili bazaar** and the cosmopolitan island-district of Zamalek. Cairo offered two amazing Museum visits – the highlight of the **Egyptian Museum** was **King Tutankhamun's treasures** while that of the **National Museum of Egyptian Civilization** was undoubtedly its array of **spooky mummies**. There was also a day trip to **Alexandria**, its **library** and **catcombs**.

Any flies in the ointment? Well, yes, the heat! It was a palpable energy-sapping presence, even for us from warm Madras. What totally balanced out the heat was the warm camaraderie among all of us – IWA ladies, their friends, spouses and daughters. Apart from singalongs and games and posing merrily for photos, everyone also paid attention to the needs of others. Folks helped out, were scrupulously on time – and shared a seemingly endless stream of goodies from trail mixes to chocolate-dates that filled in the non-meal times between **babaganoush** and **koshari**.

Like the tour itself, let's save the best for last, the **pyramids of Giza**. Given the surfeit of pyramid images across media, you'd think there wouldn't be much left to "discover" about them – but you'd be wrong. The pyramids are sensational. Those rows upon rows of massive stones that sit in perfect alignment. Consider that 5,000 years on, our carpenters struggle to get a kitchen shelf right.

We went on to the **majestic Sphinx** and bent double to wiggle our way into a step-pyramid to admire the paintings and hieroglyphics within – what a richly imagined worldview those Egyptians had! Adding masala in our minds were the myths that whirl around pyramids – sadly, though, we cannot report even a single instance of extra-terrestrial contact. Adding still more masala to the mix was the **belly-dancer** at our **final celebratory dinner**, with both the IWA ladies and spouses executing some sensuous shimmies.

You know... I suspect the thirty of us who went on this unforgettable trip to Egypt still stumble out of bed in the morning with "Chalo! Chalo!" ringing in our ears. Or wishing that it did – and waiting for the next time we can go off on a group adventure!

PARVATHI NAYAR

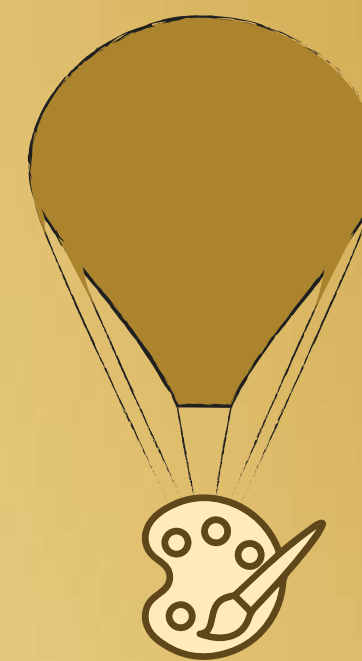
IWA INTERNATIONAL MUSIC DAY STEVEN SAMUEL DEVASSY







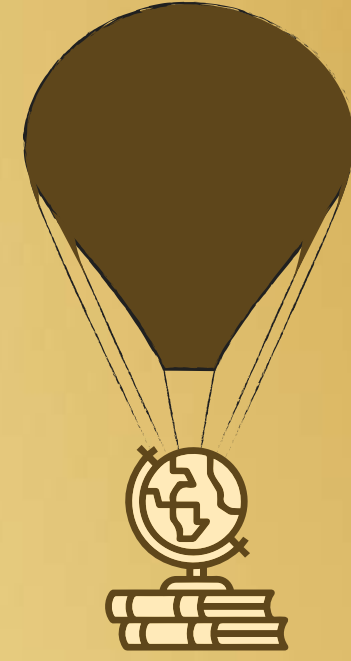
VIRAJ THAKORE



ARTS & HANDICRAFTS



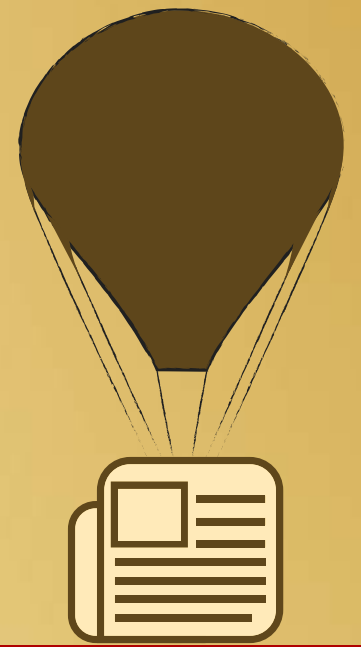
“ PIONEERS - STARS IN THE MADRAS GALAXY”-KAUSALYA SANTHANAM



HISTORY, CULTURE & TOURS



“GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND THE ROLE OF UNITED NATIONS”- T.S. TIRUMURTI



CURRENT EVENTS



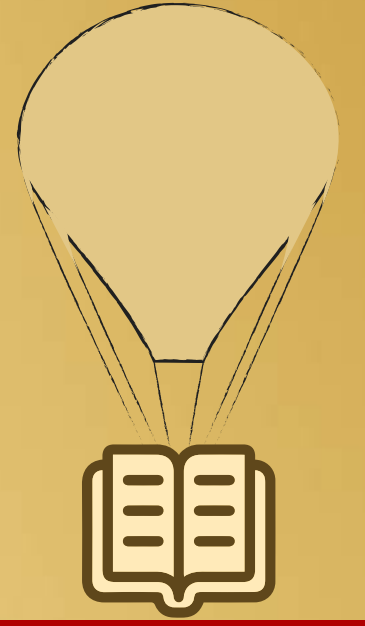
DR. BHAWNA SIROHI



HEALTH & ECOLOGY

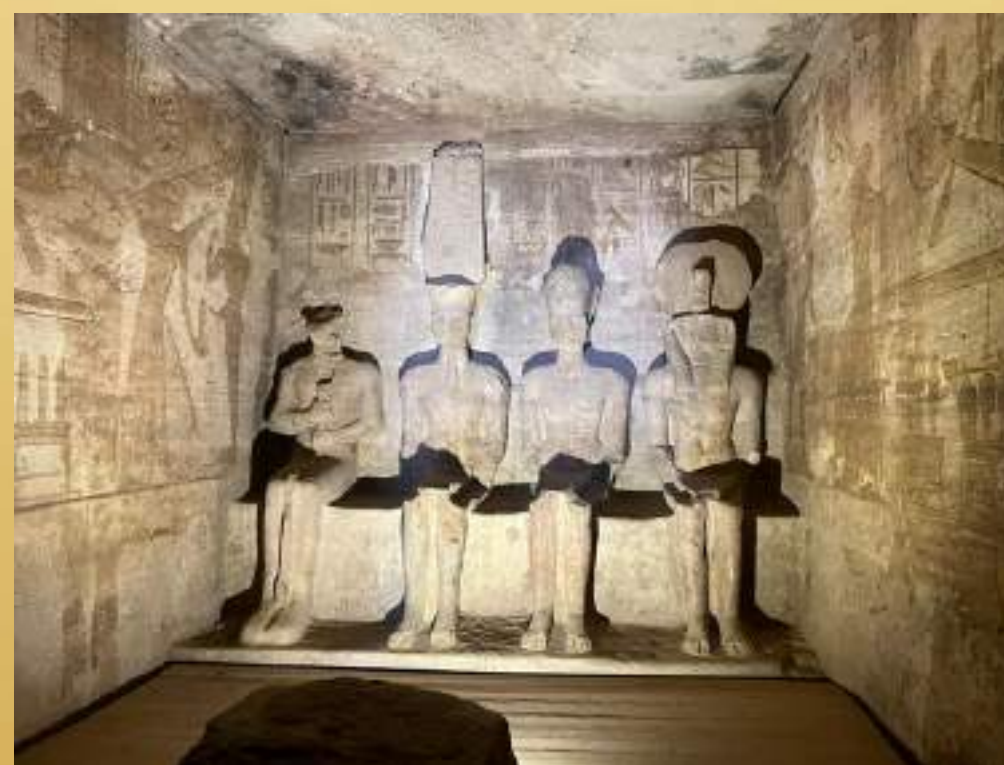


“GOLU ARRANGEMENT-MIXED FLAVOUR OF HISTORY, TRADITION AND CULTURE”- G.S KALPAKKAM



BOOK DISCUSSION





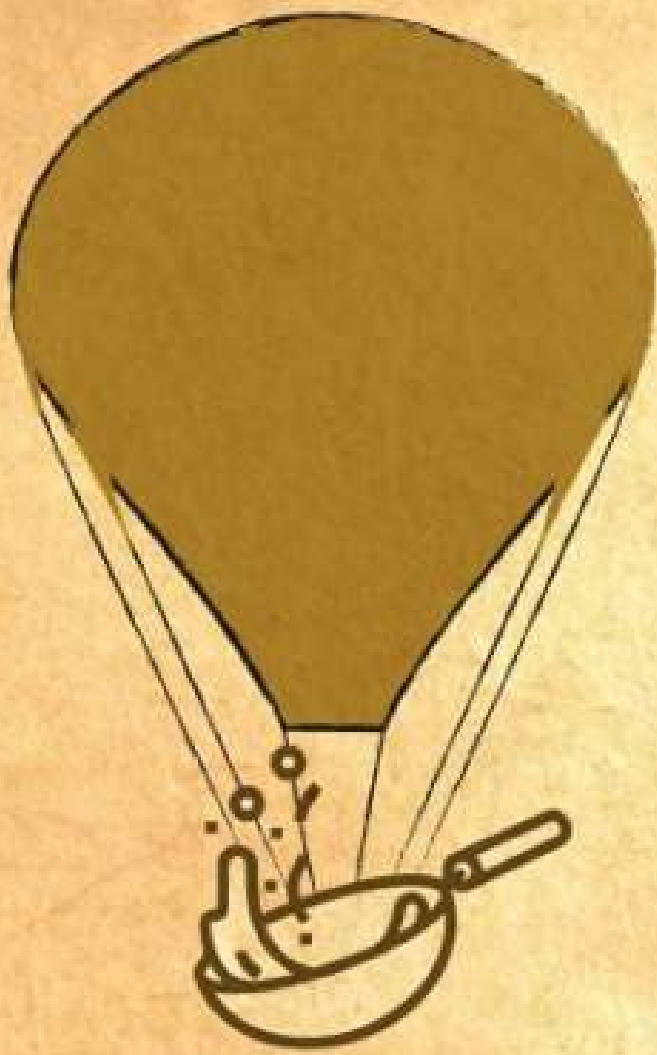
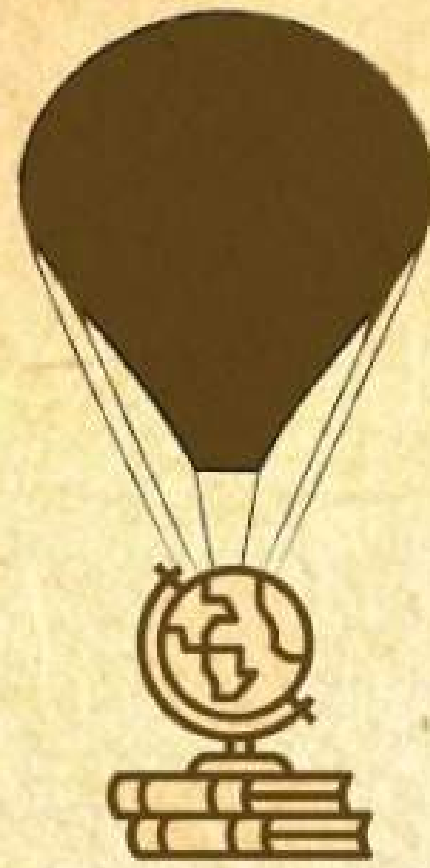
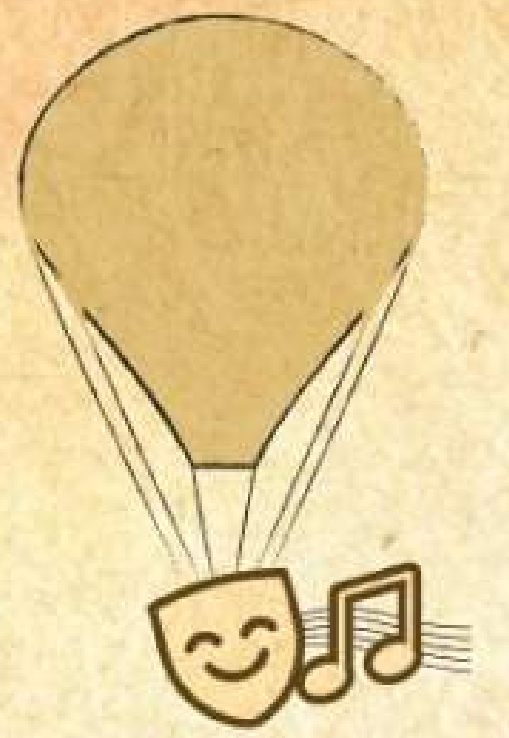
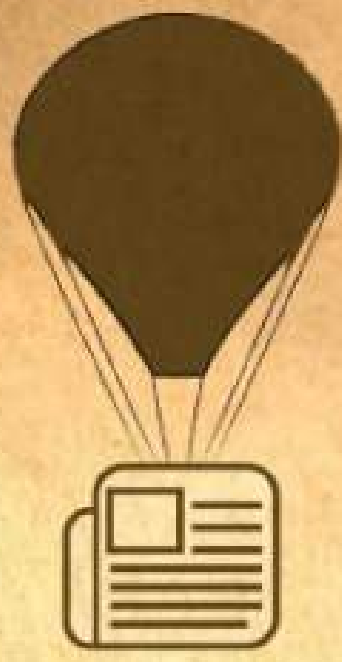






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The Golden Our

