



# VCG TIMES

PEOPLE AND CULTURE  
**MAGAZINE**

**INTERNATIONAL  
WOMENS DAY**

EDITION

Celebrating Success

WELLNESS CORNER

**VCG** CANVAS

**VCG** Roundup

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# LEADER'S NOTE

**Kanakasubramaniam R Krishnamurthi**

*Executive Director, VCG India*

## Hello Team!

March brings with it a lot of excitement as we close our first quarter on a high note. It doesn't seem like it, but 10 weeks went past us in a jiffy, but much has been done and a strong foundation laid to ensure we achieve all our goals, be in terms of growing revenue, or delivering unparalleled customer experience, or strengthening our employee culture. We also saw the announcement of Sowmyanarayan Sampath assuming the role of Executive Vice President and CEO of VCG. His focus will be on growing the business in a customer first, agile and financially disciplined way - the core values behind sustaining and increasing customer loyalty.

Abby was with us last week from the 6th to the 10th of March, and the emphasis laid on Engineering Excellence remains strong. It was an excellent opportunity for us to get some valuable insights from her.

Also, March is Women's History Month. - Let's celebrate all the wonderful women at VCG by recognizing their contributions and celebrating their accomplishments! As a technological organization, we know technology can break all barriers, so let's ensure we always support DigitALL: "Innovation and technology for gender equality".

I'm also happy that Giving Fridays has been going well so far, and we need your continued engagement with the program. The other pillars shall also see more action starting this month! Much excitement is coming your way - I urge everyone to engage through organizing and participation.

With that, I send you my warmest wishes. Greetings for Women's History Month. Let's work together to make this month a success!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Krishnamurthi'.

## Milestone Achievers!

**Wishing you all a very happy work anniversary.**

We hope you keep growing and keep learning the way you have in the past years. We are extremely proud of how far you've come.

**Here's to another year of success with you right by our side.**

**5**  
**YEARS OF**  
**SERVICE**



**Kishore Bandlamudi**

Princ Engr-Software Devt

**20**  
**YEARS OF SERVICE**



**Anand V Rangachari**

Assoc Dir-Software Development





*Rama S*



## Regardless of age, gender or creed, everyone desires to taste the fruit of success!

The moment we start to put in our efforts when the desired result is not achieved, we often tend to feel depressed. This situation is quite common to lose hope in proceeding further with our consistent efforts. The process is challenging and will stress us at times when we don't see the outcomes which we expect.

But here is how I didn't let the negativities affect my weight loss journey. I continued to see how far I could reach through my efforts to witness my other version.

All I wanted was to try it to prove myself rather than to prove to others that I could succeed in my endeavours. Nowadays, The Weight Loss Journey has become quite common among people. Everyone is making it, but the steps taken to achieve it may be painful for some people and easy for others.

From my childhood days, I was facing overweight problems. When I started my weight loss journey, I was 95 kgs in mid-2017. Even when I went to pick my choice of clothes where sizes won't be available for my favourite dresses and at times, everyone used to think of me as a parent of a kid and many more things, but I never took it to my heart nor as a big deal!!

But slowly, things took a turn when I started to encounter health complications due to obesity, and that's when I began to realize the importance of health and fitness, which plays a vital role in the long run. I started to face criticism more and more as my weight increased rapidly, which made me feel inferior at one point.

To put a full stop to all things, I finally took a step to enroll myself in a gym and followed all things instructed by the gym trainer. It was hard initially to sacrifice my favourite foods, enduring pain in every body part because of my exercise regime.

My entire routine and schedule changed, and I had to strike a balance between my personal and professional life. Even after following all the checklists, I still couldn't see any significant result in my weight past three months. Yet, I didn't quit.

Finally, after **3.5 months**, I slowly noticed very slight changes in my weight. Gradually I started to shed weight as time progressed, and it took me three whole years to reach my **target weight, which was 60 Kg.**

**THEN**



**NOW**



The quote below fits me:

**“You don't get the fruits the day you plant the seed.”**

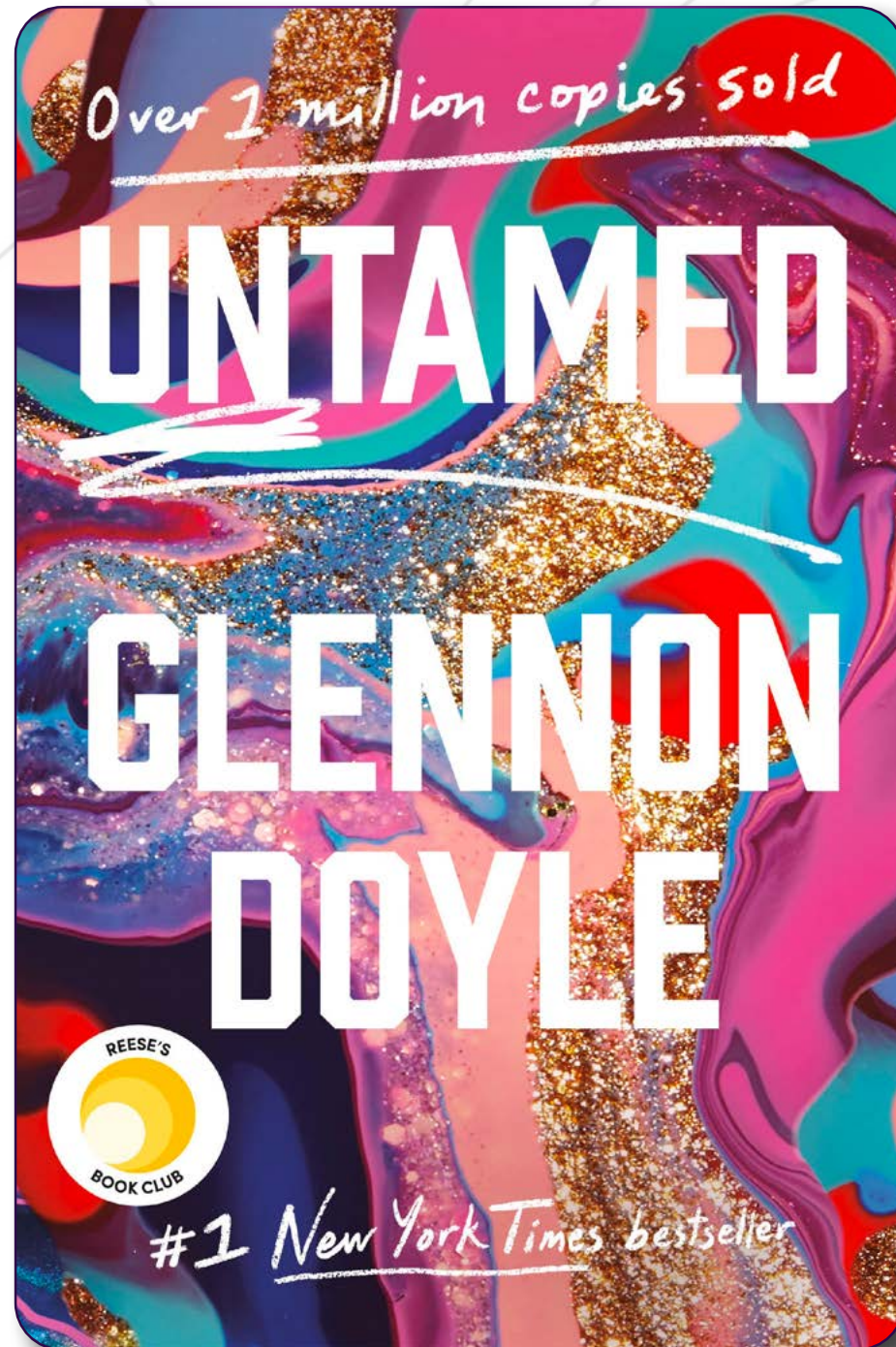
Now that I have lost weight, people reach out to me to ask what the secret is.

Once they get to know the entire process behind my journey, they say it inspires them somehow. I feel delighted and proud that my time and efforts have been worth it.



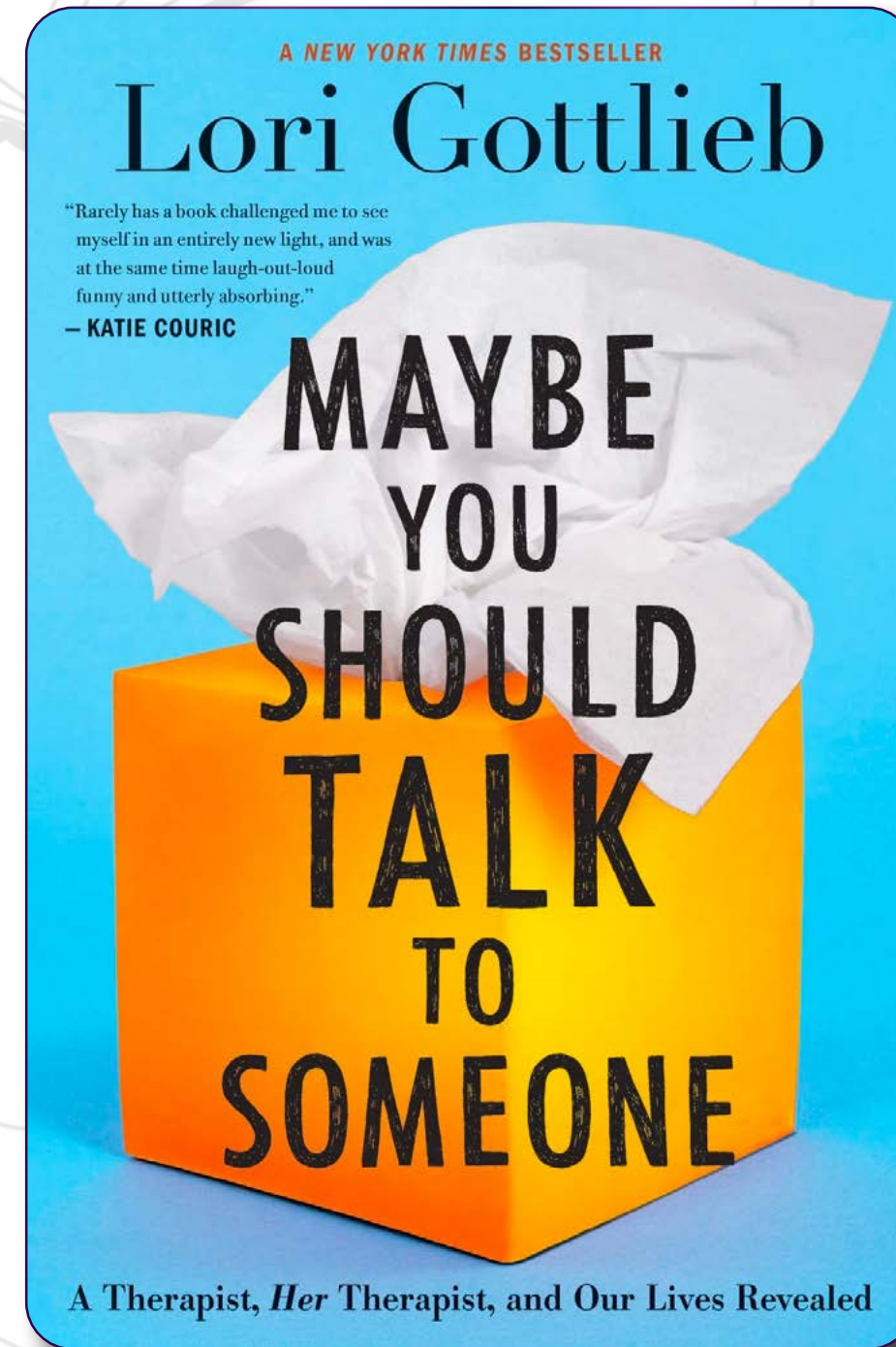
## Book Club Recommendations

### Untamed



Soulful and uproarious, forceful and tender, *Untamed* is both an intimate memoir and a galvanizing wake-up call. It is the story of how one woman learned that a responsible mother is not one who slowly dies for her children, but one who shows them how to fully live.

Good Reads Rating: **4.0**



*A Therapist, Her Therapist, and Our Lives Revealed* is a book by Lori Gottlieb, published in 2019. It is a memoir where Gottlieb portrays a difficult time in her professional and personal life. The dual nature of the book enables Gottlieb to show her world as both a therapist and someone receiving therapy. Gottlieb explores five patients, including herself, and their different scenarios and viewpoints on life.

Good Reads Rating: **4.3**



### Maybe You Should Talk to Someone





## Importance of Taking Breaks

You're probably aware that getting up to move around throughout the workday is a healthy habit. But are you actually doing it? Let's learn why you may want to make more time for breaks during your workday, and learn about tools that can help you schedule them.

## The Pomodoro Technique

The Pomodoro Technique is a time management tool that helps us to work more productively. It's a simple one – it suggests that we break our time up into smaller chunks, work in smaller bursts and take more regular breaks.



### Identify Tasks

Identify a task or a range of tasks that you need to complete. Ideally, your tasks should be short tasks. If you have a bigger task to complete, break this down into smaller tasks that should take no more than 25 minutes to complete.



### Set a Timer

Set a timer for 25 minutes. Do not try to do this in your head. You need something to alert you that 25 minutes is up. Use the clock function on your phone or a stop-clock or some other kind of timer.



### Work on the Tasks

Only focus on this task so avoid any interruptions or distractions. You need to be able to concentrate for this very short period of time.



### Take a Short Break

Take a 5-minute break when the alarm sounds. Do not be tempted to go any longer, discipline yourself to stop when the alarm sounds, move away from what you are doing and take a break. The idea here is to physically move away from your workspace.



### Repeat

Repeat steps 2 and 3 three more times, so you have completed 4 repetitions in total.



### Take a Long Break

Take a longer 30-minute break after your 4 repetitions. If all of your tasks are complete, then take a break anyway before you move on to something else. If your tasks are not complete, take a 30-minute break and then repeat steps 2 to 4 until you have everything done that you need to get done.

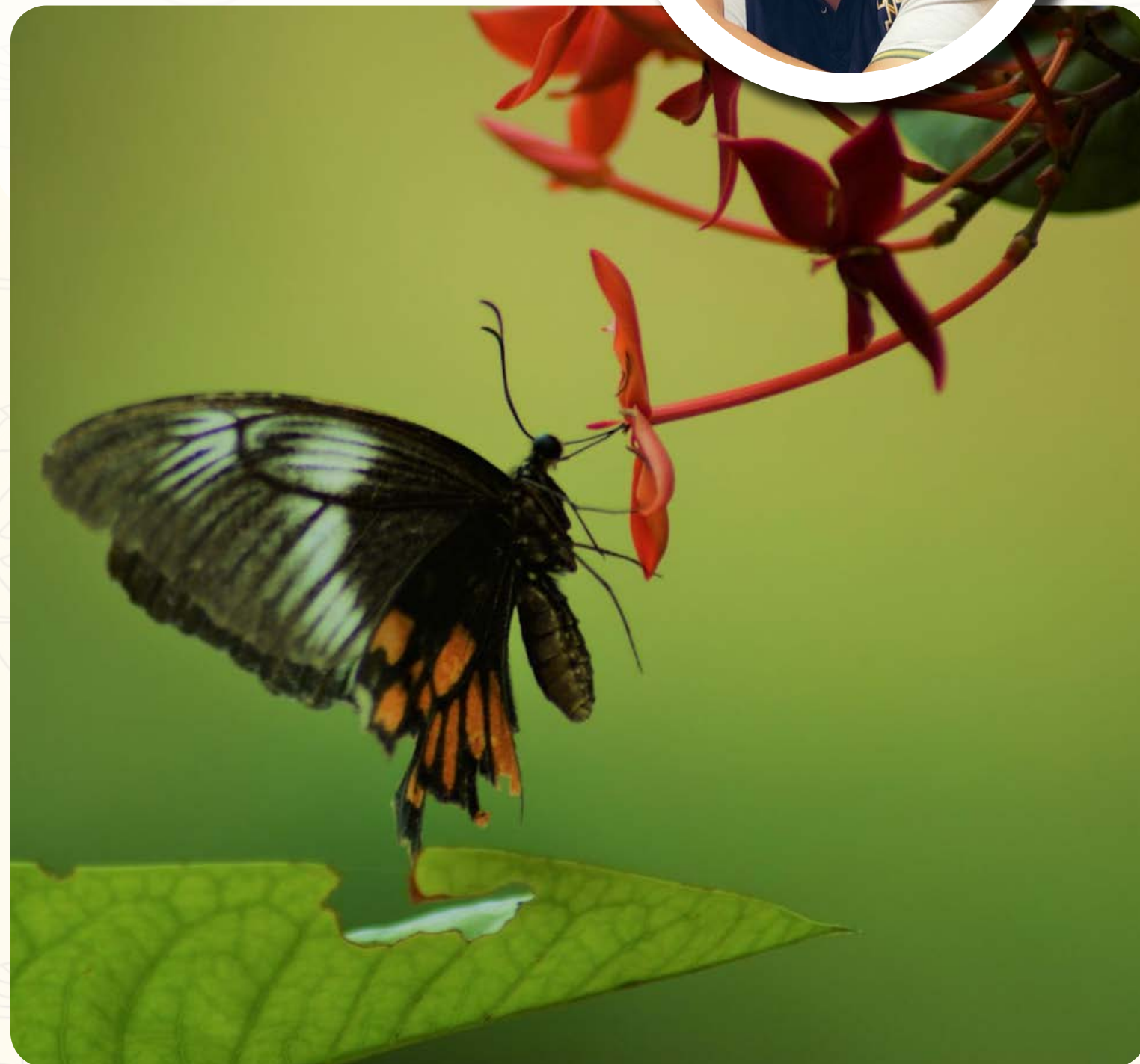




Talent Showcase:

# Photography

Adithya Ketharinathan



This is the moment where I was astonished by the epitome of chola's architecture.  
"Happiness is like a butterfly, the more you chase it, the more it will evade you, but if you notice the other things around you, it will gently come and sit on your shoulder"



# DigitALL

Innovation and technology for gender equality

- Ravi Prakash

## Our lives depend on strong technological integration:

Attending a course, calling loved ones, making a bank transaction, or booking a medical appointment or a person working in the Information Technology Industry. Everything currently goes through a digital process.

However, 37% of women do not use the Internet. **259 million fewer women have access to the Internet than men**, even though they account for nearly half the world's population. When women are unable to access the Internet and do not feel safe online, they will not be able to develop the necessary digital skills to engage in digital spaces, which diminishes their opportunities to pursue careers in science, technology, and engineering. Today, women hold just **22% of positions in artificial intelligence**, to name just one.

According to the UN, bringing women into technology results in more creative solutions and has greater potential for innovations that meet women's needs and promote gender equality. Their lack of inclusion, by contrast, comes with massive costs. This year International Women's Day recognizes and celebrates the women and girls championing the advancement of transformative technology and digital education. The observance will explore the impact of the digital gender gap on widening economic and social inequalities. It will also spotlight the importance of protecting the rights of women and girls in digital spaces and addressing online and ICT-facilitated gender-based violence.

The UN says that **85% of women globally have experienced or witnessed digital violence**. Remember, virtual is real. Referring to equality through words, using gender-inclusive language is a powerful way to promote gender equality and eradicate gender bias. **Only 63% of women used the Internet in 2022 compared to 69% of men.**

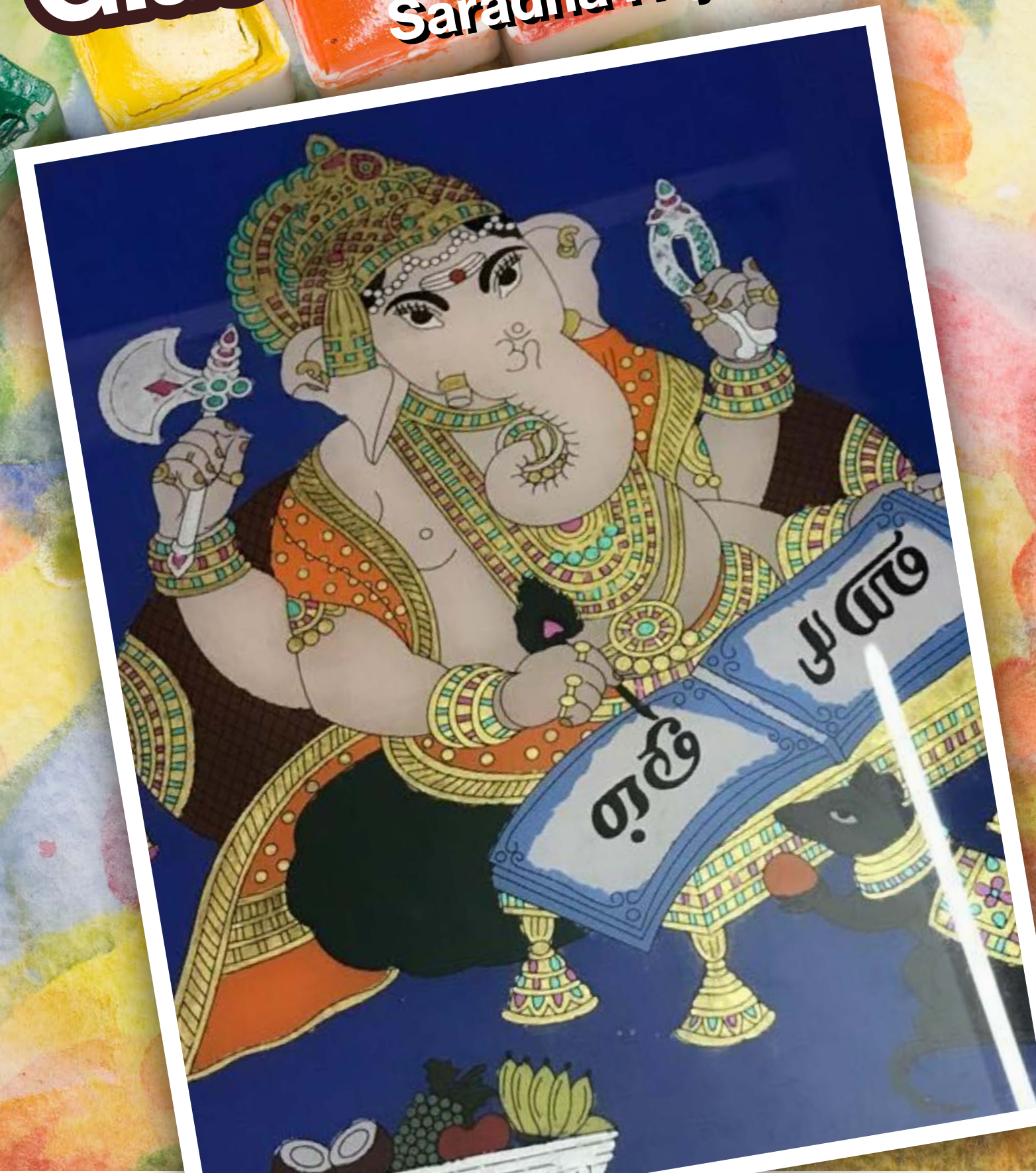
Sri Lanka has the distinction of producing the world's first woman prime minister in July 1960. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, who held this post for twelve years, says, "We are not here only to demolish discrimination but to envision the benefits to the human race of integrating this forgotten half of humanity in development."

Our Country, India, also empowers women by indulging them in technology and Digital Advancement. Now our women are becoming President, Prime Ministers, Cabinets Minister, Pilots, Soldiers, and Entrepreneurs and leading the country through hard work and perseverance.

So, I am closing my article here: **"A man does what he can; a woman does what a man cannot."**

# Glass Painting

Saradha Rajendran







As PEGA developers we generally use mouse clicks to perform several actions in the designer Studio. For PEGA development on a regular basis to perform some navigations to open required rules or basic form actions after opening a rule or for development tools which enables us to debug or further ease our development process, we mostly depend on mouse clicks. Instead of using mouse clicks for most of the operations we can also use some keyboard shortcuts which makes our life easy while trying to perform some set actions which we regularly use. Any Action which generally requires mouse clicks becomes more convenient to do via keyboard shortcuts. These shortcuts are also referred to as hotkeys. Of course, it is tough to memorize all the hotkeys.

The keyboard shortcuts have been divided into **3 categories:**

Basic Actions: Common Navigation Operations within Designer Studio such as opening the home page, logging out, collapsing the explorer panel.

Form Actions: Actions performed on a rule or data instance such as save, checkin checkout, refresh etc.

**Tool Actions: Launch debugging tools such as Tracer, Clipboard etc.**

Category	Sub-Category	Shortcut	What Operation does shortcut perform
	PEGA Help	CTRL+`	Open PEGA Help System
Basic Actions	Home Page	CTRL+ALT+HOME	Navigates to Home page from any rule open tab
	Operator Preference	CTRL+ALT+K	Opens Operator preferences pop-up
	Log Off	CTRL+ALT+END	Logoff PEGA Studio
	Collapse Explorer Pane (left)	SHIFT+LEFT ARROW	Collapses the Explorer Panel (left menu which displays Recents, case type, data type, app, records, favorites pane)
	Expand Explorer Pane (left)	SHIFT+RIGHT ARROW	Collapses the left menu which displays Recents, case type, data type, app, records, favorites pane

Category	Sub-Category	Shortcut	What Operation does shortcut perform
Form Actions	Create/ add new Record	CTRL+ALT+N	To create a new record
	Save Record Currently in focus	CTRL+S	To Save the current record
	Check in, check out, Private Edit	CTRL+ALT+F	To check in or checkout or private edit. These actions can be performed based on current state of the form (locked, unlocked, checkedout)
	Discard a Checked out Rule	CTRL+ALT+D	To discard any rule checkedout
	Delete a Data Instance		
	Delete a Rule in a Branch		
	Save As	CTRL+ALT+C	To Create a new copy
	pzInsKey	SHIFT+F8	To Fetch pzInsKey
	Actions -> View XML	CTRL_ALT+X	To view XML of particular rule
	Actions -> View Java	CTRL + ALT + J	To view pzGeneratedJava code of any rule
	Actions -> View referenc-es	CTRL + ALT + I	To view references or referencing rules of the current rule
	Actions -> View siblings	CTRL + ALT + O	To view the rules which are present in different Ruleset hierarchy
	Actions -> Run	CTRL + ALT + R	To Run rules like activity, data transform, when, flow, case type etc.
	Actions -> Preview	CTRL + ALT + P	To view Rule Description which shows applies to class, Ruleset, Version, instance name, Availability, and general info.
	Actions -> Refresh	CTRL + ALT + L	To Refresh the rule
	Close current focus Re-cord	CTRL+ALT+W	To close any current focused tab
Tool Actions	Launch Tracer	CTRL+ALT+T	To Launch Tracer
	Launch Clipboard	CTRL+ALT+B	To Launch Clipboard
	Enable/ Disable Live UI	CTRL+ALT+U	TO enable or disable live ui
	Launch PAL	CTRL+ALT+G	To Launch performance analyzer tool
	Launch Alerts	CTRL+ALT+A	To Launch Alerts



# The Journey of React and parallels to real life.

## OVERVIEW

React, which was born as part of the Facebook (now Meta) eco-system, is ruling the world with nearly 90 Million new projects being initiated every month, not counting React native downloads. The journey is more challenging.

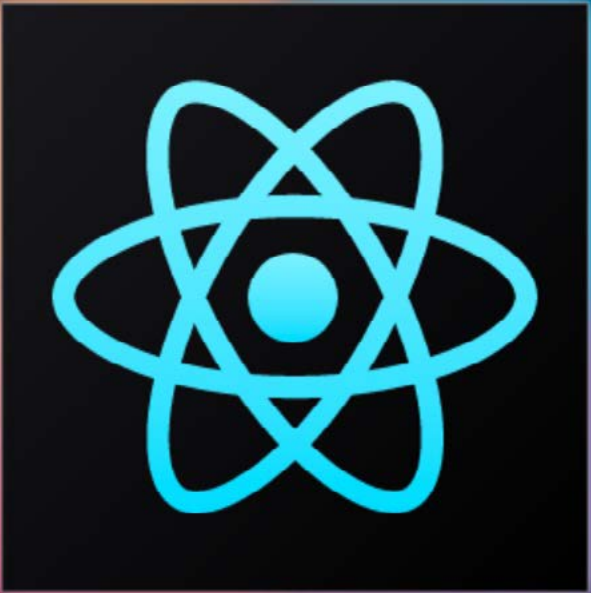
## CREATION

Bolt is a JS framework initially created as part of Facebook to write the logic better. While Bolt is a good framework, developers are hitting roadblocks to understanding why or how the details are rendered (mainly the Ads team). Jordon creates FBolt (Faster Bolt) to remove the Data binding. This simplified the implementation as they could blow the existing rendered part of the UI and reconstruct the component.

React opened new gates for developers as they can Code faster, and the understanding of code is much better. So new feature requests started coming in, and our story began.

# The Journey of React and parallels to real-life

- Sasi Bhushan Veeramachaneni



### DOCUMENTATION AND KNOWING ABOUT SELF

Though React is making waves, it has become challenging for developers to catch up with new features, or they are often unable to utilize the existing features best. The terminology was fresh, and the functionality was different. Documentation was prepared during that time which helped in upping the ante for React.

Once in a while, it is good to revisit and reconstruct what we know. This helps in understanding ourselves better and how to convey ourselves to others.



### 1ST CONFERENCE AND FAILURE

The Facebook team wanted to show the world about React as part of the JS Conference. They have open-sourced React before the conference. The JSX (XML syntax) was explained, and the world laughed. The Facebook team was called insane as well. At that time, no one cared about the Virtual DOM or any problems React was trying to solve. Many people suggested to re-think Facebook's best practices.



### 1ST USER AND CONFIDENCE

Sophie from Khan academy, seeing the React conference, started writing a few of the components in React. It grows along with her team, and they re-wrote the entire Khan academy Down the line, someone comes to believe us, giving us confidence. Work along with them if needed to be a better version of ourselves, just like the facebook team worked with Sophie.



### 2ND CONFERENCE AND SELF-CORRECTION

Having learnt the lessons from 1st conference and having a confidence boost due to the increased user base, the Facebook team hit the right notes this time. Explaining the design decisions, how React is making things faster and better, and what makes React different. Life gives us second chances. Use them to the fullest.



### REACT FIBER AND REINVENTING SELF

In 2017, Facebook announced React Fiber, the change in the internal algorithm which helps in faster rendering. The existing syntax doesn't change. Just what happens under the hood to execute the syntax has been changed.

In life, we do need to reinvent our-self for better purposes. Be ready to unlearn and learn new things. You might still look the same; our thoughts are more driven towards change.



### REDUX AND RAISING THE BAR

Dan Abramov created REDUX based on Time travel. This also changed his life (Dan is from Russia and never completed his studies. He worked for pennies many times. Now he is one of the most reputed members in React and React native space). Redux changed the lives of all the JS developers for good.

Once we are ready, someone lifts us up to the next level. While for others, this might look like luck, I will call it constructed luck.



### SUCCESS

React is a huge success today, with more than 20 million downloads per week and React Native with 1.2 million downloads. One of the most forked libraries in GitHub and the most starred as well. It didn't happen in a day. Few correct decisions, along with few people taking it to the next level, made it what it is today.

Life happens in the same way. Live life to the fullest



## **VERIZON IN THE NEWS**

### **Verizon announces +play, a new platform exclusive to Verizon customers**

Verizon announced that its customers will have exclusive access to +play, a groundbreaking platform that allows users to discover, purchase and manage some of their favorite subscriptions across entertainment, audio, gaming, fitness, music, lifestyle and more – all in one place.

Through new partnerships with Netflix, Peloton, Live Nation's Veeps and featuring leading services like Disney+, discovery+, A+E Networks, AMC+ and many others, the hub will give Verizon customers a simple and efficient way to access and take advantage of exclusive deals for content services.



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### **BlueJeans by Verizon and Sparq to deliver unparalleled virtual event experiences**

Verizon Business today announced an agreement with Sparq Live Limited to deliver professional-grade hybrid and virtual event experiences via the BlueJeans video collaboration and live streaming platform for customers across Europe. Working in partnership with Sparq Live's experienced event professionals and technical specialists, enterprises looking to create and execute exceptional on-brand events that immerse and engage audiences will have a one-stop-shop for their events produced and streamed at scale with BlueJeans Events and Studio.



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