KALEIDOSCOPE

And the various hues of Deepanam

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THE CIRCUS PERFORMANCE

The circus performance was incredible. I loved being on the aerial yoga and I liked the two dances that we did. One at the beginning of the performance and one at the end. By the way I wasn't nervous on stage, in fact I was very excited. I was also on the "V" position upside down, and I was on the bridge too, which I also liked. A few of the performers were jumping over me when I was on the "V" position and the bridge. But being on the bridge was not easy, I had to wait for everyone to jump over me, and also there was a huge slippery cloth that I was doing the "V" on, and the bridge. Everybody was doing the circus performance for three days. Those days were Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The theme of the circus performance was Cabaret. And on the circus performance we had a lot of dancing, and both of the dances were called jazz. In the performance we chose the twelve qualities of the mother. At the end of the circus performance, Kalou, my circus teacher, presented us to the public, saying our twelve qualities, and she also said her quality. After that everybody including the audience had dinner. And that was my best experience ever!!!

-Mila

Recital of "A god's labour" by Faith and Hope

This performance was something, the hope groupers, including me, had to memorize the poem "A god's labour" by Sri Aurobindo, in English class. While the faith groupers just had to memorize the stanzas that they were in.

We had practice sessions for about two weeks.

We had one rehearsal and our English teacher kept putting the pressure of the entire performance on us, by saying the rest of the performers were horrible, so we would have had to save it.

So when we started the actual performance there was a lot of pressure and unhappy faces, because of all the previous performances.

The starting was a little rough, but I think we got a hang of it by the 4th or 5th stanza, and then after that it was smooth sailing.

There was a small delay in one line though, but the choreography is something that we definitely gotta talk about, the whole walking situation was something.

It was really nerve wrecking having to stand there and wait for everybody to get into their position, well, for me it was nerve wrecking.

After that the end was not the best of what we could have done, so overall this whole experience has been a 6/10, it wasn't the best, but wasn't the worst.

-Ayish

A Visit to Auroville's Elephant Water Tank

Some people wonder, "How does the water reach my tap at home?"

Well, that's the adventure my class and I were on. We visited the Elephant Water Tank on 19th August.

I had seen the tank before, but I never knew that it was actually a water tank. So, when we reached there, I was kind of surprised to know that the big tower made out of bricks was actually a water tank.

I wondered, why is the tank so high?

So, I asked the people who work there. They told me that it was built high for the flow of the water. The height of the tank helps the water flow down because of gravity. And this was only my first question!

I was curious: "How does the water reach our taps at home?"

To answer that, I had to ask a lot of questions. At first, it was difficult to understand the whole system, but slowly I understood it, and now I am going to share it with you.

The whole process starts underground with the groundwater. There is a borewell that goes deep into the ground and reaches the underground water layers. A borewell is a deep, narrow hole drilled into the ground to pump groundwater up.

Then comes the filtration process.

The water first goes into a low pit or basin and is allowed to settle. After the particles settle down, the water automatically flows into the next pit or basin. This settling process happens three times in total.
After this is done, they use UV light to kill the bacteria in the water. This water is tap water and not the fresh water that we drink.

Then they use a pump to pump the water into the huge tank, which we call the Elephant Tank.
This tank supplies water to many communities, but not all the communities in Auroville. Some of the communities it supplies are quite far away. So, there is a sump close to the community.

And just in case you don't know what a sump is, I'll tell you!

A sump is a low pit, well, or basin designed to hold water.

So, this is how the water reaches our taps at home.

-Krisha

Youth festival for youth day

The youth festival was in Kailash, hosted by Youthlink on the 15th of August, and it created ever lasting memories,
So many people came, there was so much going on, they were organized, and it was a very connecting event for youth day.

It started at 4pm, and everyone was playing games to get to know each other, like ice breakers, and it helped with meeting people, and not being awkward the whole time.

Then the youth that was there had a big conversation circle, where a person got a microphone and said something that they think Auroville can improve, and some struggles or good things, and everyone had something to say which was pretty inspirational, because I think everyone learnt something, everyone was very honest and kind, and everyone listened to the person speaking,
And the people who weren't talking also had a chance to play ping pong, or visit the contribution stands.

The stands had cookies, Youthlink shirts, card games, and you could give contributions, and learn about the history and story of Youthlink, and the people running the stands were so passionate, which made it feel like they do really try hard to make the events fun, which they do.

After the conversation circle was over, the food came, and you could also give contributions for the food. Everyone loved the food, it was fully vegan, and it was all homemade, and made with love, and it tasted so good, you could really tell how hard they worked on it. I mean look at how good that looks

While everyone was eating a few youth speakers came up on stage, and talked about youth, Auroville, and their story, and everyone learnt a lot, because youth came up, but also older people came up, and it really made you realize how they see Auroville, and also how differently everyone thinks about everything.

And finally, for the last hour when everyone was done speaking, a DJ came up on stage, "DJ-David", and he started playing some beats. Only a few people started dancing, but after 10 minutes everyone was dancing together, and it was so awesome. I do hope Youthlink makes more events like this, because it was so fun, I met so many people, and I think everyone was genuinely being themselves, which is a great feeling.

-Leoni

INTERVIEW WITH RAVI, A CHEF.

Q *What made you want to become a chef?*

A It was my Aunt who always cooked and explained everything to me when I was young. She taught me many things about cooking and helped me understand how food could be prepared and enjoyed. Her passion for cooking and the way she patiently explained everything to me really inspired me from a young age. Because of her influence and the experiences I had with her, I eventually became inspired to follow my own path and become a chef.

Q *What is your story of getting a sushi restaurant in Auroville?*

A My wife and I have always loved Sushi, and when we moved to Auroville, we noticed that there was no good Sushi available. Because we enjoyed it so much, I started making Sushi many times at home for us to enjoy. After a while, we also started inviting some of our friends over so that they could enjoy the Sushi with us. Our friends and children liked it so much and enjoyed eating it together that their reactions gave me a lot of encouragement. Seeing how much everyone enjoyed the Sushi eventually gave me the confidence and motivation to take the next step and open a Sushi restaurant.

I don't regret anything, because it all worked out.

Q *What were some challenges you faced?*

A Finding a suitable space for the restaurant was quite challenging, and it took time to find the right place. Getting all the right ingredients together was another difficult part of the process. We had to try ingredients from many different places before we were finally able to find ones that were good enough for what we wanted to make. Lastly, finding ambitious and passionate people who were willing to work at Sakura Sushi was also difficult. It was not always easy to find the right people, but in the end, everything worked out. All of these challenges and the fact that we managed to overcome them encouraged us to continue and keep moving forward with the restaurant.

-Leoni

Q *Do you regret anything?*

A I don't regret anything, because everything worked out in the end. Even though there were challenges along the way, I am happy with how everything turned out and with the direction things have taken. Looking at everything now, I feel very proud of what we have achieved and especially of how everything is going at the moment. I am very proud of how far we have come and how the restaurant is doing now.

Interview with Hari, a teacher

1. What made you interested in football?

I don't think I chose football; I think football chose me.
Since childhood, I watched football with my family and friends and watched older players from my hometown. Slowly, I became more interested in the game. My father also supported my passion, and once I started playing, football became a major part of my life.
For me, football is not just a game. It is my passion, my life, and a big part of who I am.

2. What is your most memorable football match, and why?

I have played in many state, national, university, and Super Division League matches, but my most memorable match was on 23 October 2021.
We played against one of the top teams in Pondicherry, and there was a lot of pressure because some of our junior players were playing for the opposition. Despite this, I focused on winning for my team.
We won 1–0, and I was fortunate to score the winning goal. It was also my beloved coach D.C. Nathaniel's birthday. After scoring, I ran to him, wished him a happy birthday, and bowed to show my respect.
That moment taught me the importance of handling pressure, fighting for my team, and appreciating the people who support me.

3. Which position do you usually play, and why do you like it?

I mainly play as a right wincer and sometimes as an attacking midfield. I enjoy these positions because I can be involved in different parts of the game—creating chances, supporting the attack, and helping in defence.
I was inspired by Cristiano Ronaldo while growing up, and my coach also felt these positions suited my style of play.
My jersey number, 11, is very special to me. My coach gave me that number when I played my first match representing Aditya Vidyaashram. Since then, I have carried it with pride because it represents a beautiful memory and a special gift from my coach.

4. How do you balance football with your teaching and coaching responsibilities?

Football has been part of my life since I was six, and I am still actively playing. I started taking coaching more seriously around four years ago, although I had been helping and training younger players in my hometown before that.
I have gained experience at district, state, university, national, and senior levels and have learned from many coaches throughout my journey.
Playing and coaching complement each other. Playing helps me continue learning, while coaching allows me to share my experience with younger players.
I manage both through planning, discipline, and time management. For me, playing and teaching are connected parts of my football journey.

For me, football is not just a game.
It is my passion, my life, and a big part of who I am.

5. Who is your favourite football player, and why?

I have many favourite players, but if I have to choose one, it will always be Cristiano Ronaldo — CR7 forever!

What inspires me most is his talent, dedication, discipline, hard work, and mentality. He constantly works to improve himself and has maintained a very high level throughout his career. He has taught me that with discipline, hard work, and dedication, age does not have to stop you from performing at your best.

I also admire players such as Didier Drogba, Ronaldo Nazário, Ronaldinho, Casillas, Ramos, Marcelo, Roberto Carlos, Modrié, Toni Kroos, Marco Reus, Marco Asensio, and Gareth Bale. But if you ask me for just one name: Cristiano Ronaldo. Forever.

6. What has been the biggest challenge you have faced as a football player, and how did you overcome it?

One of my biggest challenges came after university, when I was trying to reach the Senior Santosh Trophy national level. I attended the trials three times and competed against many talented players. I came close to being selected several times but missed out because of limited spots and registration-related issues. It was disappointing, but I refused to give up.

I continued training, worked on my weaknesses, and believed in myself. Eventually, I reached the top group and got the opportunity to represent my team at the national level. We also finished in the top two in the qualifiers.

This experience taught me that rejection is not the end. Sometimes, success requires patience, hard work, and the courage to keep going.

7. What advice would you give to students who want to become good or professional football players?

My first advice is simple: believe in yourself.

Talent is important, but it is not enough. You also need hard work, discipline, patience, mental strength, and a willingness to learn. Listen to your coaches, respect your teammates, learn from your mistakes, and never give up.

I completed my degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering to fulfil my parents' wishes, but I realised that football was my true passion, so I continued my journey in sports.

My coaching journey also started with challenges. I worked for a year without payment and began training around 20 children. Today, the programme has grown to around 80–90 children, with more coaches supporting different age groups.

One of my proudest moments was taking our Under-14 team to the Goa Open Nationals and winning the championship. It was my first trophy as a coach.

My message to young players is: don't wait for perfect conditions. Start with what you have, work hard, stay disciplined, keep learning, and never give up on your dreams.

This experience taught me that rejection is not the end. Sometimes, success requires patience, hard work, and the courage to keep going.

-Manish

The Lotus Flower

The lotus is a beautiful flower that grows in ponds and lakes. It blooms in muddy water but stays clean and fresh, making it a symbol of purity and strength. The lotus opens its petals in the morning and closes them at night. It comes in lovely colors like pink, white, and blue.

Many insects, such as bees, visit the lotus for nectar. The lotus is also the national flower of India and is admired for its beauty and resilience. It reminds us that we can grow and shine even in difficult situations.

The lotus is a truly amazing plant with many special qualities. Its large, round leaves can float on water and stay clean because water rolls off them, carrying away dust and dirt. The lotus also produces seeds that can remain alive for hundreds of years before growing into a new plant. Almost every part of the lotus, including its roots, stems, leaves, and seeds, is useful and is used in food and traditional medicine in many countries.

The lotus provides shelter for small water animals and attracts bees and other insects that help with pollination. Because of its beauty, usefulness, and unique features, the lotus is admired by people all over the world.

There are also lots of lotus flowers in the Kuilipalayam pond and at Matrimandir. I often see beautiful lotus flowers in Kuilipalayam because I go there regularly for my basketball practice, and I think they look very pretty. At Deepanam School, there was also a small pond where purple lotus flowers grew. When the purple lotuses bloomed, they looked so cute and beautiful!

-Keerthana

Flowers and My Culture

Flowers are in different colors and smells. My favorite flowers are roses, lilies, jasmine, and lavender because I love their smells and colors. Some flowers grow in different seasons and in different places. I love planting flowers in my house. When I wake up and see them, my mind feels relaxed and calm, so I can start my day fresh.

I also give flowers to my family and friends to encourage them or congratulate them for something special. And I love keeping flowers in my hair, they smell so refreshing.

In my culture, we use flowers for decorating houses, funerals, parties, festivals, and more. We use a lot of flowers for decorating places for festivals, and it looks so good with lots of flowers, lights, and sweets. It feels special for me.

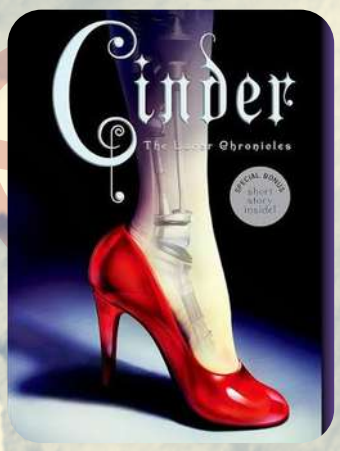
I love celebrating festivals like Diwali, Pongal, and many other festivals. It is like a tradition in my culture to celebrate them with lights and music, traditional clothes, sweets, and flower decorations. It is so fun and special.

-Lakshmi

BOOK REVIEW

"Cinder"

Cinder by Marrisa Meyer, is basically based on the classic story, of Cinderella. It's about a half cyborg half human mechanic named, can you guess? Yeah, Cinder. She lives in New Beijing with (like in Cinderella) her stepmother and two stepsisters. Though unlike in the original, where both the stepsisters hate Cinderella, one of them, Peony, is good friends with her.



Anyways, there's this Queen called Levana. And she's evil.
Can you maybe guess which fairytale this character is from?
Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.
Though Snow White herself doesn't come into the series till like the fourth book, and her name is Winter, not Snow White.

Aaanyways Queen Levana wants to marry the emperor Prince Kai. He was recently crowned emperor as his father (the previous emperor) died because of a plague called Letumosis. Queen Levana wants to marry Emperor Kai, because she wants to take over the world or something? And also, she's not from earth she's from the planet Lunar, which I guess is the moon. I don't know why she hasn't taken over the earth already, a quarter of the planet is dying because of Letumosis, and she has the antidote for the plague. But I guess I'll find out in the next books.

Soo anyways there's a ball that's gonna happen (like in the OG Cinderella!) and as you know Cinder isn't allowed because her stepmother doesn't allow her (why? read the book I don't wanna give any spoilers!) and Queen Levana sees Cinder at the ball (Cinder went to the ball anyways but for different reasons then the OG) and the queen recognizes Cinder and Cinder could ruin all her plans... I can't say anything else about that otherwise imma spoil it sooo.

Anyways Cinder knows about what she is and how her role could affect Queen Levana's plan (whatever that is I don't know) the only reason Cinder came to the ball was to warn Prince Kai about something. Then Queen Levana sees her at the ball (and she HATES Cinder btw) and spots Cinder so she runs away not to get caught, and as she runs away, she trips and falls and her cyborg leg gets busted. Prince Kai runs after her and sees her, mind you he doesn't know she's cyborg. And that's it. She gets imprisoned because she's a shell.
You probably don't know what that means but you will if you read the book. Kai actually broke a rule cause he let her live and his kingdom or whatever made some laws with the Lunars and he broke one sooo. Amway's that's the end of the book.
The next is about Little Red Riding Hood or something I think.
ANYWAYY I hope you read this book, and if you read this all thank you so much!!
ByEEEEE

- Chhavi

Ahana's hummus recipe

Hummus is made by blending 1.5 cups of cooked chickpeas with tahini, lemon juice, garlic, and chickpea water to achieve an ultra-smooth texture.

INGREDIENTS AND MEASUREMENTS:

Cooked chickpeas 1.5 cups (half a cup of dried chickpeas)

Tahini 1/4 cup

Salt Half teaspoon

Cumin (jeera) powder (optional) To taste

Lemon juice 3 tablespoons (or to taste)

Garlic 1 clove (minced) (or to taste)

Chickpea water from the pressure cooker As needed to make smooth paste

STEPS:

1. Soak half a cup of dried chickpeas overnight, and then pressure cook them for 12-15 minutes at high pressure, until they can be easily be mashed between two fingers.
2. Blend the tahini and fresh lemon juice in a mixie for one minute until the mixture becomes whipped and pale.
3. Add the minced garlic, half a teaspoon of salt, and a pinch of cumin, then process for another thirty seconds.
4. Add half of the cooked chickpeas and blend for one minute until smooth, scraping down the sides of the bowl as needed.
5. Add the remaining chickpeas and slowly drizzle in the chickpea water while the mixie runs until the hummus is light and creamy.
6. Transfer the mixture to a shallow bowl, create a swirl on top with the back of a spoon, and finish with a drizzle of olive oil.
7. Garnish with sliced olives, pickles, pickled carrots, olive oil, smoked paprika.

8. Serve with Auroville Bakery foccacia or your favorite bread.

Poems

I leave behind the safety of known shore,
The world where I existed, the familiar floor.
I step away from comfort's gentle hand,
To walk into an unknown and xenic land.

The air grows heavy as the path descends,
Where a new world begins and comfort ends.
I meet the cold whispers of my doubt,
And lost about, to who I should reach out.

A new place, to explore, gain and learn
Mid a zephyr, I found friends and concern
hope found me in a week, by pure serendipity
I belonged, my path to this world was generosity.

Between two worlds I began to exist,
From both world, my life consist
Year past a poem would be wrote
Maybe one day it would be a quote
-Uday

I look ahead and there I see,
The living version I hoped To be.
When I was young and Running free,
Across the hills and dancing Trees.
Trees that blow but never Too strong
Like the outer shell of Passion and love
Here I am where I've always Thought id be
With my friends and Wondered, how would we feel?
Be together or apart
But brought together Through the dark
Through the hatred and not
Would we sort out our stuff?
-Aditi

Meeting Joss Brooks

Introduction

His name is Joss. He is British, who had experienced many difficult and unforgettable events in his life. During our conversation with him, he shared many stories about nature, justice, war, government, and the future of humanity.

At first, Joss was not particularly interested in giving awareness to children. His main interest was beach plants. However, his life changed when he saw the government trying to occupy a beautiful natural place by destroying plants and trees. This made him think deeply about the things he had witnessed in the past, and he decided to give awareness to children by asking an important question:

> *"How is the government destroying our future?"*

Childhood

One of the saddest parts of Joss's story was about his childhood. He told us that he was born and grew up during a difficult period when the world was affected by World War I and World War II. He described how children had to study and write under their benches because of the dangerous conditions at that time. His childhood experiences helped shape the way he thinks about war, violence, government, justice, and humanity.

The Question That Changed His Path

Joss initially started studying law. When his final-year examination came, Britain was involved in political activities and attempts to occupy different states and countries. These events made him question the relationship between justice and law:

> *"What is the link between justice and law?"*

Eventually, he came to believe there was no real connection between the two. The night before his final examination to become a lawyer, he decided he would sleep until the afternoon instead of taking the exam. The next day, he became a lighthouse keeper in Australia.

The Journey and the Vietnam War

Seven months later, Joss travelled to a very small island near Sri Lanka. During the journey, the boat that had taken him there left without him, leaving him stranded. He decided to swim for help. While swimming, he could see another boat and tried to get its attention — but he soon faced another danger: there were many deadly sharks in the water, so he could not continue swimming safely.

After some time, the Sri Lankan police arrived and took him for questioning. When they discovered he was from Australia, he was taken to a refugee detention centre, where he remained for nine years, according to the story he told us.

After his release, he said the government ordered him to shoot innocent people. He refused, and escaped. He asked us:

"What is the point of killing innocent people for no reason?"

He connected this experience to the Vietnam War.

About His Wife

Joss also told us about his wife. She fought to protect the famous Mountain Valley Beach, also known as Lake Pedder. The government wanted to occupy the area and build a dam to support large industries and factories. His wife formed a group and campaigned against the project for several days. Unfortunately, the government eventually took control of the lake and built a huge hydroelectric dam for large companies.

Her story showed us how difficult it can be for ordinary people to protect nature when they are fighting against powerful organizations.

His Garden

Joss has a beautiful garden in Tirunelveli, with more than 200 types of plants that humans can eat. One interesting idea he shared with us was that human beings are also a kind of plant — a thought that made us reflect on how closely connected humans are to nature.

A Fun Fact

Joss told us an interesting fact about the word "utopia" — explaining that it has an interesting and sometimes dark background in history and in some biblical contexts. It was one of the many unexpected ideas he shared with us.

The Final Question

At the end of our conversation, Joss asked us a very important question:

"What will be your future?"

He made us think about whether our future will be shaped by ruthless leaders, violence, and harmful politics. He pointed out that human beings seem to be becoming increasingly brutal — even in movies, we often see wars, violence, and ruthless killing, and in real life, people fight over land, businesses, family problems, money, and many other things.

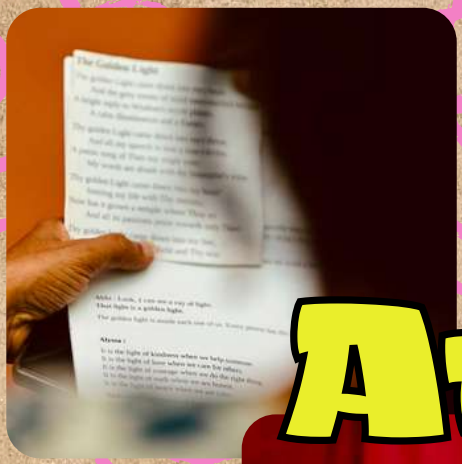
His final question made us think deeply: what kind of future are we going to create? Will we continue choosing violence and destruction, or will we learn to protect nature, respect one another, and build a more peaceful world?

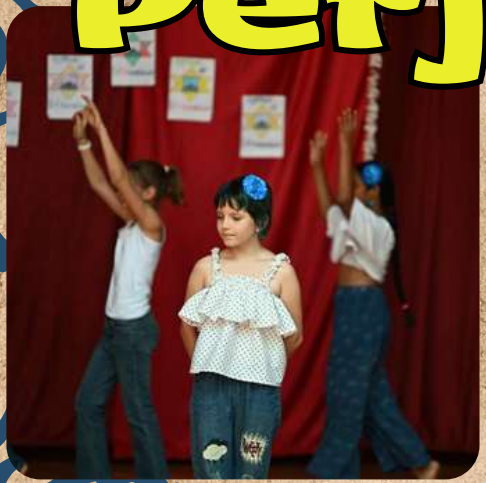
Conclusion

Meeting Joss was a memorable experience because he did not simply tell us stories about his life — he made us question the world around us. His experiences taught us about the importance of protecting nature, questioning injustice, refusing unnecessary violence, and thinking about the future of humanity.

Most importantly, his stories reminded us that one person's experiences can change the way another generation thinks about the world. -**Manish**

12th August Performance





WOOD WORK

HAVING SO MUCH FUN WHILE WORKING HARD