An Indian Explores Indonesia

A Photographic Journey Through Culture, Landscape & Life!!

– Balachandra



An Indian Explores Indonesia

A Photographic Journey Through Culture, Landscape & Life!!

Dedicated to Beloved SoulDear

CA BV Prasad

Whose kindness ignited this journey

With ♥
Balachandra
Founder
www.abhayafoundation.org

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Introduction

In the warmth of friendship and generosity, I embarked on an unforgettable adventure to Indonesia, courtesy of my beloved friend, CA BV Prasad. His invitation was more than just a travel opportunity – it was a chance to rejuvenate my soul.

With his gracious hospitality, I spent 12 enchanting days (10th - 21st Sep 2024) exploring Medan, Yogyakarta, and Bali, discovering the beauty of Indonesia's landscapes, cultures, and people. From the majestic temples to the serene landscapes, every moment was a testament to the country's timeless charm.

This coffee table book is a tribute to CA BV Prasad's kindness and a celebration of our friendship. Through these pages, I share with you the breathtaking images, captivating stories, and invaluable lessons learned during my journey.

Dedication

To CA BV Prasad, whose selfless spirit and warm heart made this journey possible.

Appreciation

My sincere gratitude to Naga Suresh Kumar, whose exceptional design expertise and passion have made this Coffee Table Book a stunning reality. His dedication, creativity, and perseverance have created a timeless masterpiece. I Thank him for his invaluable contribution and inspiring craftsmanship.

Preparation

Pre-Travel Briefing

Prasad took time and carefully explained me about these many things in advance.

Financial Arrangements
1. Notified about currency exchange (USD/IDR)
2. Enabled credit card for international transactions
3. Advised to carry sufficient cash and credit cards

Communication
1. International roaming activated for phone
2. Informed about local SIM card options

Weather and Clothing
1. Notified about Indonesia's weather conditions
2. Advised to pack suitable clothing (lightweight, breathable)

Food and Beverages
1. Informed about limited vegetarian options
2. Advised to carry ready-to-eat food and snacks

Time Difference
1. India to Medan & Yogyakarta +1.5 Hrs
2. India to Bali +2.5 Hrs

Travel Documentation
1. Valid passport
2. Visa on Arrival (VOA) for Indonesia
3. Travel insurance (optional)

Airport Procedures

Hyderabad Airport
1. Baggage check-in (final destination: Medan)
2. Immigration
3. Security check-in
4. Boarding gate
5. Shopping at Patanjali or other stores (if needed)

Kuala Lumpur Airport (layover)
1. Proceed to boarding gate directly for next flight
2. No baggage transfer required
3. Alternative arrangements in case of missed flight

Medan Airport
1. Immigration (VOA)
2. Form filling on computer
3. Collect baggage
4. IMEI registration at customs counter
5. Connect to airport Wi-Fi (disable mobile data)

Additional Tips
1. Check-in online and print/download boarding pass
2. Verify flight schedules and terminals
3. Pack essential items (adapters, chargers, etc.)
4. Exchange currency at airport or use ATM
5. Familiarize yourself with local customs and regulations

Emergency Contacts
1. CA BV Prasad's contact information
2. Indian Embassy/Consulate contact details
3. Airtel customer care (for international roaming)





Medan

The booming city of Medan, capital of North Sumatra, is an economic hub and commercial center for the region. This is the largest city in Sumatra Island, which has long been attracting tourists from all over globe to come and stay here. Due to these ethnic diversities, Medan is known for scrumptious delectable culinary spots, rich with many flavors.









Met Ravi Shankar, MD, Angakasa Pura and the team

Angkasa Pura Aviasi, located in Medan, Indonesia, is a cutting-edge airport management company born from a strategic joint venture between:

Angkasa Pura II, a state-owned Indonesian airport operator and GMR Group, a leading Indian infrastructure developer

This dynamic partnership leverages expertise from both nations to elevate air travel experiences in Indonesia.

Met Ravi Shankar, MD and had a meeting with the CSR Team over there in the office.

Upon arrival at Medan International Airport, I was warmly greeted by Prasad, who had graciously taken time off to welcome me personally. His thoughtful gesture set the tone for a wonderful stay.

As we stepped out of the airport, Prasad escorted me to his office, nestled within the Angkasa Pura Aviasi complex. I was delighted to meet his team, who exchanged warm smiles and greetings.

Later, around 11 am, Prasad arranged for his reliable driver, Ferry, to transport me to my temporary home. Before bidding farewell, Prasad ensured my comfort by preparing a delicious homemade meal, thoughtfully kept ready for me.

As the time difference began to take its toll, I succumbed to a rejuvenating afternoon siesta, lulled by the soothing ambiance of my new surroundings.His flat is simply superb and clean. Very nicely maintained





Maha Vihara Maitreya

Serene oasis in Medan's heart,
Maha Vihara Maitreya's peaceful start!
Golden hues and crimson skies,
Buddha's wisdom, soul's surprise.







Sikulikap Water Falls

In Sikulikap's misty, emerald shroud,
Water's symphony, echoes allowed.
A 120-foot plunge, awe-inspiring sight,
Medan's secret treasure, pure delight.

Amidst lush greenery, Sikulikap's roar...Echoes through valleys, forever more... A torrent of crystal, wild and free...Indonesia's hidden gem, for all to see!!







Pariban Hot Springs

Hidden oasis, deep within,
Pariban's warmth, nature's kin.
Sulphur waters, healing flow,
Medan's secret, few may know.

Misty mornings, steam ascends,
Nature's spa, where worries end.
Earth's energy, in every pool,
Pariban's magic, serene rule.

Ancient forests, surrounding peace,
Hot springs' solace, soul's release.
A haven from city's busy throng,
Pariban's tranquility, all day long.











Vihara Maha Maitreya

Buddha's peaceful smile
Serenity's gentle grasp
Medan's calm within





Taman Alam Lumbini

Lumbini's peaceful
Buddhist beauty shines
brightly Medan's serene gem



Pantai Putra Deli

Sunset's golden kiss
Waves caress Deli Serdang
Peaceful evening sky





Visit to CSR Initiatives of GMR Group

I had the privilege of visiting PT Angkasa Pura Aviasi, Medan, Indonesia and meeting the CSR Team over there. We had a good time visiting various projects undertaken by the CSR Team on 12th September 24

Govt Primary School “SD Negeri 101915 Aras Kabu, Sidourip village, Beringin Subdistrict, Deli Serdang Regency. I had a great time interacting with 200 students and teachers... motivating, learning to focus on listening, reading, and sharing with others. Made kids learn values through song and games. Here the Co provided a paving block in the school yard.

Later, I visited the Govt High School, SMP Negeri 1 Beringin, Deli Serdang Regency. We had a good time interacting with 200 students and teachers, delivering a HAPPY message (H: Helpful, A: Attitude, P : Powerful, P: Pure, Y: Youthful. Here the Co built 3 classrooms, book donation collaboration with UNICEF Indonesia

Later visited the Community Development Center of PT Angkasa Pura Aviasi located at the Denai Lama Village, Pantai Labu subdistrict, Deli Serdang Regency.
We interacted with the Rural woman empowerment who are engaged in bag making & handicrafts). Also had a good time with rural kids who are getting trained in traditional dancing course. Here the Co has built the infrastructure for Education, Empowerment, Environment and Life Skills. Very satisfying to see how the local communities are being benefited.

In the afternoon, we visited Sanggar Lingkaran located at Denai Lama village, Pantai Labu Subdistrict, Deli Serdang Regency. The beautiful campus which has a spacious building meant for handicraft (tengkuluk making), Library, Coffee Shop, Moral Classes, Guest houses etc., The experience is very much added value to me and abhaya. Happy to witness the good work there at Medan, Indonesia. - With ❤️: Balachandra





Grattitude



Dear beloved Prasad,

Words fail to express my heartfelt gratitude for your exceptional hospitality and care during my stay at Medan. Your pure love and attention to every detail made me feel like home.

Your kindness has touched my heart, and I'm deeply moved by your generosity. Even family members rarely show such care and concern.

Thank you for being a hearty host to me at home. I send my love, wishes, and prayers for your life, family, and prosperity. May God bless you abundantly! **With love & gratitude, Balachandra**



Dear Ms Meta & Ayu Team CSR! Saluting you for the good work carried out here on behalf PT Angkasa Pura Aviasi, Medan. You all made my day here filled with wonderful and beautiful memories for life. I am truly blessed to know our beloved GMR for making a difference wherever possible through people like you. I could sense the passion and compassion in all your work. Keep rocking in the field. I am happy to spend a day's time with you on 12th September 24 at different places where you are doing CSR Projects. Long live kindness. We offer our prayers for your wellbeing and also for the wellbeing of your company. **- With ❤: Balachandra**

Thank you Sir, very happy to hear that you enjoyed our activities and it's an honor for us that it becomes such a memorable moment and good experiences to be involved in seeing you interacting with the community in our CSR program.

Thank you for all the prayers and stay blessed. We are glad that you enjoyed the time during your visit in Medan. **- Meta Harahap, CSR Coordinator, Angakasa Pura Aviasi, Medan**



Dear Shri Swamy Balachandra ji It was pleasure meeting you couple of days back and know about the amazing works being done by your foundation. Your passion was so palpable. Also, thank you for addressing our team and for your kind words. Thank you and look forward more opportunities to meet in the future. **- Regards, Ravi Shankar, MD, Angakasa Pura Aviasi, Medan**



Sipiso-piso Waterfall

Located in North Sumatra, Indonesia, Sipiso-piso Waterfall is a breathtaking natural wonder. Cascading 120 meters down a steep cliff, its misty veil creates a majestic sight. Surrounded by lush tropical rainforest, this hidden gem offers a serene ambiance. A popular spot for hiking, photography, and relaxation. Sipiso-piso's roar echoes through the valley, inviting exploration. Nature's symphony amidst Indonesia's lush landscape.



Lake Toba

Lake Toba located in Northern Sumatra, is the largest lake created within a volcanic crater. Deemed to be one of the greatest natural wonders of the world, the vast area of the lake surpasses the size of Singapore. Its depth of 450 meters also makes Lake Toba one of the deepest lakes across the globe. The exotic greenery and pristine blue waters of the lake make a mesmerising picture that lures thousands of tourists to the site easily accessible from Medan.

Visit to Consulate General of India, Medan



It was pleasure meeting you today. We will be happy to take forward the proposed areas of cooperation. Regards - **Ravi Shankar Goel IFS, Consulate General of India, Medan, Indonesia**



Dear Shri Ravi Shanker Goel, IFS

Our prayers for your wellbeing. It was a honor to meet you today and discuss the potential areas of cooperation between India and Indonesia. We are thrilled to take forward the proposed initiatives and strengthen the ties between our nations.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your warm hospitality and empathetic words of wisdom. Your leadership and vision will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in fostering a stronger Indo-Indonesian relationship.

As a token of our commitment, we are pleased to submit proposals for cooperation in the fields of Education, Healthcare, Yoga, Ayurveda etc., These initiatives aim to promote mutual understanding, exchange knowledge, and enhance people-to-people connections. Thank you once again for your kindness and support. **- Balachandra**





Prambanan Ramayana Ballet

The Prambanan Ramayana Ballet is a traditional Javanese dance performance based on the ancient Hindu epic, Ramayana. The ballet is performed outdoors against the majestic backdrop of the Prambanan Temple complex. The show combines dance, music, and drama to retell the legendary story of Rama and Sita. It was first performed in 1962 to promote Javanese culture and revive traditional dance.

About the ballet

- The ballet features over 200 dancers, musicians, and actors.
- The performance lasts around 2 hours, with intricate choreography and elaborate costumes.
- The Prambanan Ramayana Ballet showcases Indonesia's rich cultural heritage and Hindu-Javanese traditions.
- The performance attracts thousands of visitors worldwide, promoting cultural exchange and understanding.
- The ballet incorporates traditional Javanese instruments, such as the gamelan.
- The performance blends various dance styles, including Javanese, Balinese, and Indian.
- The show's setting amidst the Prambanan Temple complex creates a breathtaking ambiance.












PRAMBANAN

Prambanan

Prambanan Temple was originally named Siwagrha means Abode of Lord Siva Pra means many and Banan means Bramhins. It was the place for many Bramhins centuries ago.



About Prambanan

- It was built in the 9th century during the Sanjaya Dynasty.
- It was built over 200 years ago.
- It is designed to resemble Mount Semeru.
- It is the largest temple dedicated to Lord Shiva in Indonesia.
- It was abandoned after the decline of the Sanjaya Dynasty.
- It was rediscovered by the Dutch in the 18th century.
- Further damaged by massive earthquakes, but stood by the test of time.
- It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- It is the largest Hindu temple in Southeast Asia.
- It is surrounded by a myth involving the legend of Rara Jonggrang.
- More than 240 temples were there, but the Govt restored about 22 Temples.
- Fascinating are the statues of Shiva, Nandi, Saint Agastya, Maa Durga & Ganesha.
- A must see Temple in life!







Sultan Village (Kampung Sultan)

Sultan Village (Kampung Sultan)

Experience Yogyakarta's royal heritage in Sultan Village, where tradition meets elegance. Wander through narrow alleys, discovering historic homes and cultural treasures.

Sultan Palace (Keraton Yogyakarta)

Majestic Keraton Yogyakarta stands proud, a testament to Javanese architecture. Within its walls, secrets of the Sultanate's grandeur and beauty unfold.

Water Castle (Taman Sari)

Taman Sari, the Water Castle, whispers tales of royal leisure. Stroll through gardens, pools, and ancient structures, where Sultan's once relaxed.

Museum at Kraton

Uncover Yogyakarta's rich history within the Kraton Museum's walls. Artifacts, heirlooms, and stories of the Sultanate's glory await discovery.















Yogyakarta

Yogyakarta, the cultural heartland of Indonesia. A city steeped in tradition, where ancient temples meet vibrant streets. Home to the magnificent Borobudur and Prambanan temples. We can experience Javanese hospitality, rich artistry, and culinary delights. The Sultan's Palace, Water Castle, and Museum showcase royal heritage. Yogyakarta's charm is further increased by the warm people, beautiful landscapes, and timeless traditions.







Borobudur

Borobudur is not a single temple, but a complex of 2,672 relief panels and 504 Buddha statues.
The name "Borobudur" comes from the Sanskrit words "Vihara" (temple) and "Buddha-ur" (Buddha's image).
Built in the 9th century during the Sailendra Dynasty, It was hidden for centuries under volcanic ash and jungle growth.
The design represents Buddhist cosmos: the base (world of desire), middle (world of forms), and top (world of formlessness).
Borobudur's 2,672 relief panels depict various aspects of Buddhist philosophy and everyday Javanese life.



Borobudur

- The temple's architecture blends Indian, Chinese, and indigenous Indonesian styles.
- The massive structure is constructed without mortar, using interlocking stones weighing up to 2 tons.
- Borobudur's four levels symbolize the four stages of enlightenment:
- a. Kamadhatu (world of desire)
- b. Rupadhatu (world of forms)
- c. Arupadhatu (world of formlessness)
- d. Nirvana
- The temple's central dome represents the summit of spiritual enlightenment.
- Borobudur was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991.
- Restorations began in 1907 and continued until 1982, involving the Indonesian government and UNESCO.
- Borobudur attracts over 3.5 million visitors annually.

Some additional fascinating facts:

- The temple's stones were carved with incredible precision, with some joints as small as 1 cm.
- Borobudur's design aligns with the cardinal directions (north, south, east, west).
- The temple's base is a square (123x123 meters), while the upper levels are circular.











Vredeburg Museum





Vredeburg Museum, Yogyakarta's historic pride,
Fortress-turned-museum, stories inside.
Dutch colonial past, Indonesian struggle,
National history, in every exhibit's hustle.
Diarama collection, vivid and detailed,
Indonesia's fight for independence revealed.
Satriamandala heroes, patriotic might,
Vredeburg Museum shines, morning to night.

Key features of Vredeburg Museum:

Former Dutch fort (1765)
Diarama collection (32 scenes)
Indonesian national struggle exhibits
Satriamandala heroes gallery
Historical artifacts and documents

Location: Jalan Jenderal Suprapto, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.











Candi Ijo - Sunset

Candi Ijo, Yogyakarta's hidden gem,
Unveils breathtaking sunsets, heaven's whim.
Ancient Hindu temple, perched on a hill,
Bathes in golden light, serenity's thrill.
Soft pink and orange hues dance in the sky,
Nature's canvas, as day says good bye.
Candi Ijo's sunset spectacle, pure bliss,
Spiritual connection, in nature's kiss.



Tebing Breksi

A majestic limestone cliff in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Carved with intricate ancient temples and sculptures...A testament to Java's rich cultural heritage. Panoramic views of lush green valleys, A haven for nature lovers and photographers. Historical significance meets natural beauty. Tebing Breksi stands tall.





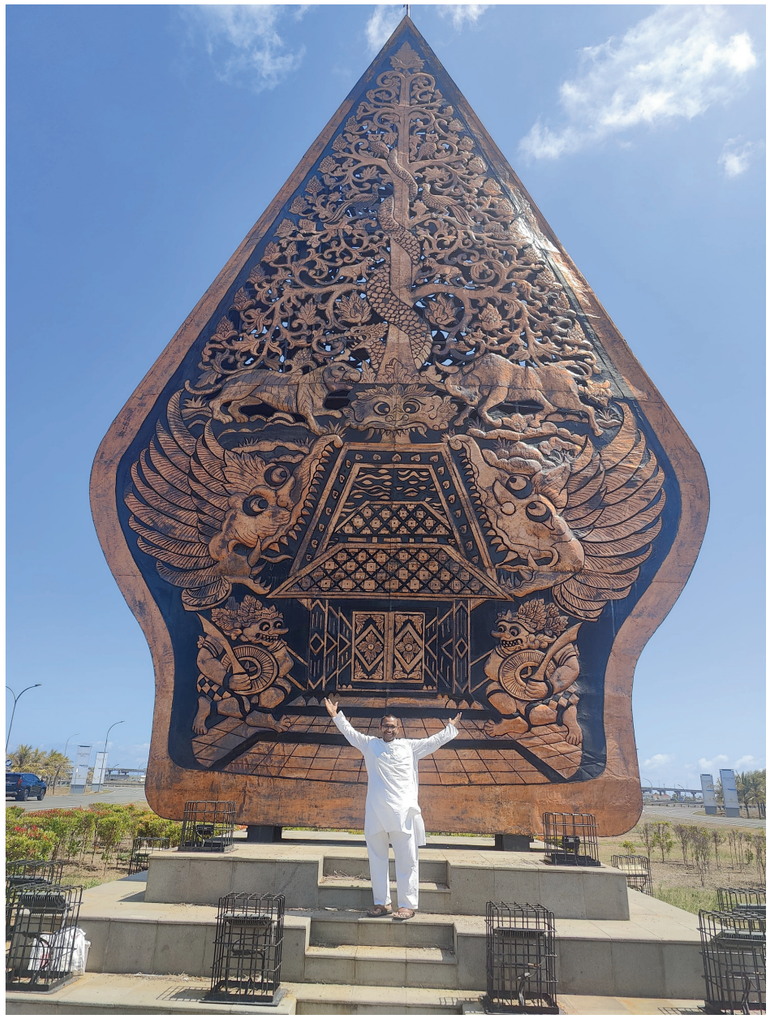
















Dear Nanok,

Words can't express my heartfelt gratitude for your exceptional care and support during my stay in Yogyakarta during 13th - 16th September 2024! Your safe, friendly, empathetic, and hearty driving made every journey a pleasure.

Thank you for being more than just a driver - you were a needed friend for many tourists here. I am happy to have had you by my side.

Keep shining with your kindness and warmth! I wish you all the best and look forward to our next meeting.

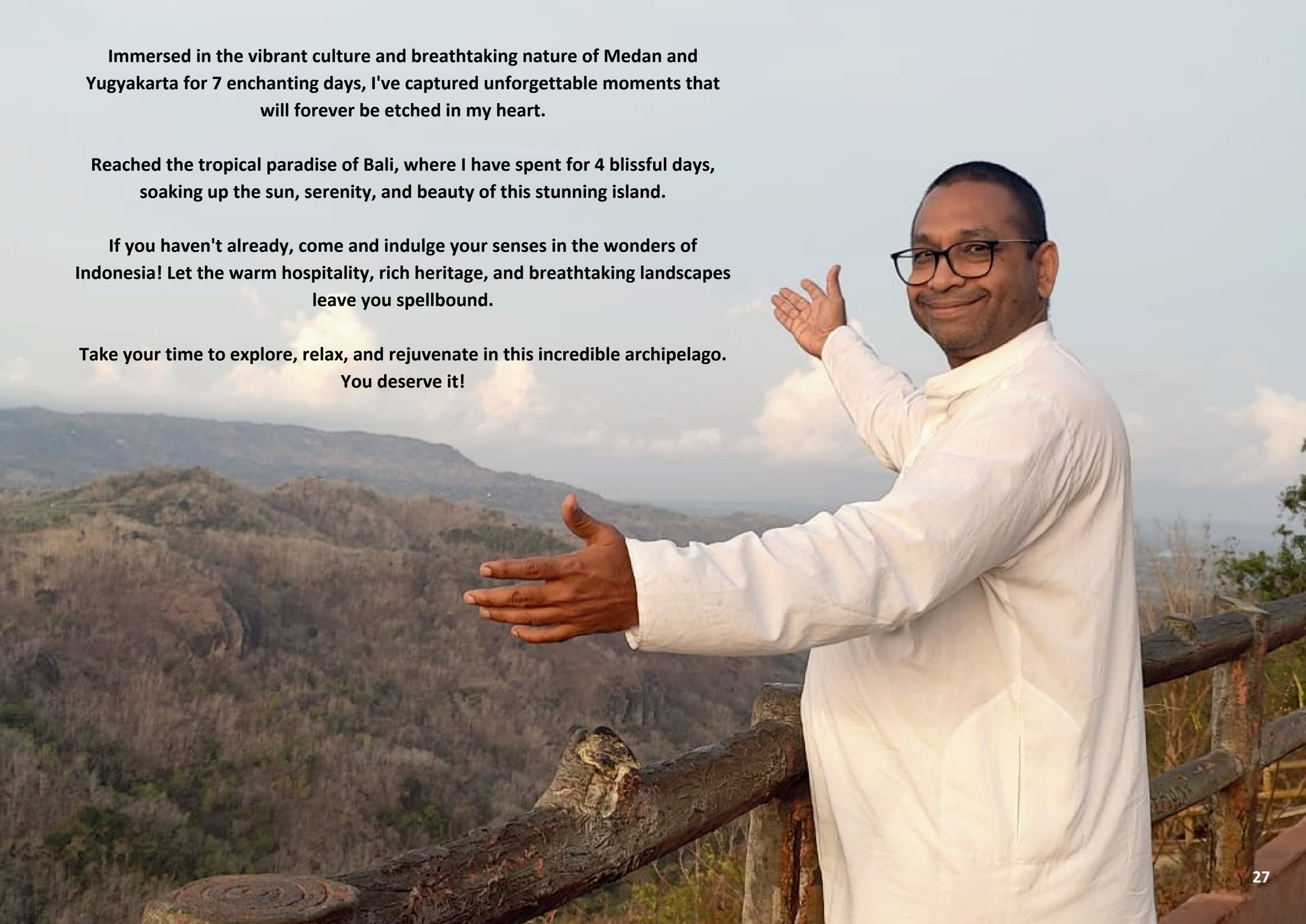
Terima kasih banyak (thank you very much)! Quit Smoking...care for your son!! With love, Balachandra

Immersed in the vibrant culture and breathtaking nature of Medan and Yugyakarta for 7 enchanting days, I've captured unforgettable moments that will forever be etched in my heart.

Reached the tropical paradise of Bali, where I have spent for 4 blissful days, soaking up the sun, serenity, and beauty of this stunning island.

If you haven't already, come and indulge your senses in the wonders of Indonesia! Let the warm hospitality, rich heritage, and breathtaking landscapes leave you spellbound.

Take your time to explore, relax, and rejuvenate in this incredible archipelago. You deserve it!





In Bali's embrace, paradise found,
Island of Gods, where hearts resound.
Turquoise waves, emerald hills,
Spiritual haven, where love fulfills.

Uluwatu's flames, Tanah Lot's gentle tide,
Kintamani's sunrise, Ubud's artistic pride.
Bali's beauty, forever in sight,
Serenity's haven, pure delight.



Barong & Kris Dance

Witness the epic struggle between good and evil in Bali's iconic Barong & Kris Dance. Majestic lions, fierce warriors, and ancient tales come alive.







Bali's Temples

Bali's majestic temples stand as testaments to its rich cultural heritage. The sacred sites are in awe of stunning architecture. Intricate carvings, vibrant offerings, and serene gardens create a spiritual ambiance. These ancient temples weave a narrative of Bali's history, mythology, and devotion. A haven for seekers of serenity, beauty, and spiritual connection.

Batuan Temple

Uncover Batuan Temple's ancient secrets, where Hindu mythology meets art. Intricate carvings, vibrant paintings, and sacred energy entwine.





Goa Gajah

Explore Goa Gajah's ancient elephant cave, a sanctuary of serenity. Buddhist and Hindu relics whisper stories of Bali's rich heritage.



Gunung Kawi Temple

Discover Gunung Kawi's majestic stone temples, carved into the valley's heart. Ancient wisdom, stunning vistas, and sacred waters converge.







Tirta Empul

Purify your spirit at Tirta Empul's sacred springs, where water meets devotion. Holy water, beautiful gardens, and tranquility await."



Bali Zoo (Taman Safari)

Get up close and personal with Indonesia's diverse wildlife at Bali Zoo. Conservation, education, and animal encounters delight. Step into the wild heart of Bali! Encounter majestic animals, explore lush gardens, and discover the island's rich biodiversity. A roar of excitement, a whisper of wonder.









Luwak Coffee & Herbal Tea

Indulge in Bali's renowned Luwak coffee and herbal teas, a taste sensation. Savor local flavors, aromas, and warmth.





Kintamani

Breathe in Kintamani's breathtaking views of Mount Batur and Lake Batur. Nature's majesty, volcanic landscapes, and serenity enthrall.

Garuda Wishnu Kenchan

In Bali's heart, GWK soars high...
Strength, courage, and faith, touching the sky...
Garuda's wings, Wisnu's steady
hand... A cultural icon, on this island land!!









Garuda Wisnu Kencana

Marvel at Garuda Wisnu Kencana's colossal statue, a symbol of unity. Mythology, artistry, and cultural pride shine.

Main Attraction: The 122-meter-high Garuda Wisnu Kencana statue, designed by Nyoman Nuarta.

Symbolism: The statue represents the Hindu god Wisnu riding the mythical bird Garuda, symbolizing spiritual balance and unity.

Design and Construction: The statue took 28 years to complete and is made of 3,000 tons of copper and brass.

Cultural Significance: GWK is a cultural icon, showcasing Indonesia's rich heritage and Hindu mythology.

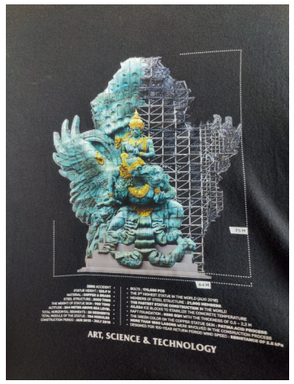
Interesting Facts:

GWK's statue is visible from several kilometers away.
The park's design incorporates sacred geometry
and Hindu cosmology principles.
It is now a symbol of Bali's tourism and cultural identity.















Padang Padang Beach

Escape to Padang Padang's secluded shores, where turquoise waters beckon. Tropical bliss, rock formations, and sun-kissed moments await.



Uluwatu Temple

Perch on Uluwatu's dramatic cliffs, where sunsets ignite the sky. Ancient temples, Kecak dance, and breathtaking views converge.

Uluwatu Kecak Dance

Experience Uluwatu's mesmerizing Kecak fire dance, where rhythm meets ritual. Hundred-strong chorus, flames, and Ramayana tales enthrall.









Taman Ayun

Stroll through Taman Ayun's majestic water gardens, where serenity reigns. Royal heritage, beautiful architecture, and peaceful ambiance delight.

Ulun Danu Temple

Gaze upon Ulun Danu's stunning lake temple, where water meets worship. Scenic views, serene atmosphere, and cultural significance await.













Tanah Lot Temple

Witness Tanah Lot's iconic sea temple, where waves meet spiritual devotion. Dramatic coastline, stunning sunsets, and sacred energy entwine.



Crystal tides caress Bali's shore,
Turquoise waves, forever more.
Gentle lapping, soothing sound,
Serenity found, on this island ground.

Sunset's warmth, upon the sea,
Golden hues, for you and me.
Surfers ride, the morning swell,
Bali's beaches, where dreams dwell.

Deep blue depths, a world below,
Marine life, in vibrant glow.
Coral reefs, a colorful sight,
Bali's underwater, pure delight.

Moonlit nights, with stars above,
Reflections dance, in ocean's love.
Waves whisper secrets, to the shore,
Bali's sea, forever more.







Swinging in Air

Experience the thrill of swinging amidst Bali's breathtaking scenery. Feel the rush of freedom, surrounded by lush greenery and vast skies. Let go, and let the wind carry you away!

Rice Terrace

Walk through Bali's emerald rice fields, where nature's beauty shines. Serene landscapes, gentle breezes, and vibrant green hues soothe the soul. A symphony of tranquility.



Matahari Sunur Beach

The beach where dawn breaks free,
Golden sunrise, serenity's symphony.
Soft waves whisper, seagulls take flight,
Morning's majesty, pure delight.
Sky ablaze with hues of pink and gold,
Nature's canvas, stories untold.
Sunrise at Matahari Sunur Beach,
Heaven's glory, soul's gentle breach.





Bajra Sandhi Monument

It is a monument to the struggles of the Balinese people throughout history.The monument is located in front of the Bali Governor's Office in Denpasar, Indonesia, on the island of Bali. The monument was built in 1987, and inaugurated by President Megawati. Sukarnoputri on 14 June 2003.



Bali International Airshow

It's held on September 17-21 soars to new heights. Indonesia's premier aviation event showcases, Aerobatic displays by global teams. Cutting-edge aircraft and technology exhibits, Business networking and investment opportunities, Aviation conferences and seminars. Bali's stunning landscape provides a breathtaking backdrop.

Airshow attracts Industry leaders and professionals, Aviation enthusiasts, families, Government officials and diplomats. A spectacular display of aerial prowess and innovation.











Titi Banda (Rama Setu Statue)

Cross the iconic Titi Banda Bridge, where engineering meets art. Suspended high above, take in stunning views of the surrounding landscape. A feat of human ingenuity.



Statues on Bali’s Roads

Bali's traffic islands, artistic delight,
Mythological figures, majestic sight.
Titi Banda, Bhima, Varuna, and more.
Hindu gods and heroes, forever in store.
Balinese craftsmanship, intricate design,
Cultural heritage, for all to align.
These iconic statues, a symbol of Bali's soul,
Spiritual connection, making hearts whole.











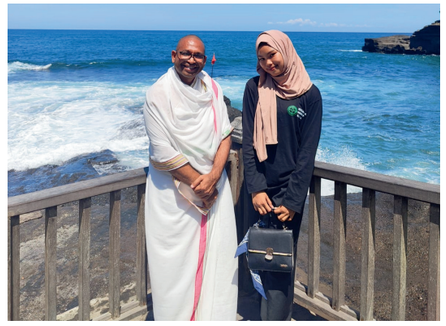


Dear Nyoman
As the Indonesians say, "Terima kasih" (thank you) seems inadequate for the warmth and care you showed me during my visit. Your generosity and kindness made me feel like part of the family during my stay. Offering all my prayers for your wellbeing. We shall stay in touch with you while I keep doing godly work in India. With love,
Balachandra


















Indonesia Impressions

A Land of Warmth and Efficiency

During my visit to Indonesia, I was struck by the country's unique blend of traditional charm and modern efficiency. Here are some notable observations:

People and Culture

1. Indonesians displayed exceptional hospitality and warmth.
2. Citizens actively contribute to maintaining public order.

Infrastructure and Transportation

1. Despite minimal controls, drivers follow rules.
2. Community volunteers efficiently manage intersections.
3. Public spaces and roads are remarkably well-maintained.
4. Horn-honking is noticeably rare.
5. Small but efficient roads facilitate smooth travel.

Bali's Spiritual Heritage

1. Home temples: Nearly every Balinese household has a dedicated temple.
2. Mythological traffic islands: Statues from Indian mythology adorn traffic islands.

Education

1. Institutions boast impressive facilities.
2. Classrooms are well-maintained and organized.
3. Pupils actively participate in keeping their classrooms tidy.

Innovation and Resourcefulness

1. Indonesians skillfully turn small ideas into income-generating ventures.
2. Technology integration: Indonesia seamlessly blends tradition with modern technology.

Culinary Observations

1. Finding vegetarian options proved difficult.

Health Concerns

1. Prevalent smoking: Smoking is a widespread habit across age groups.

Artistry and Craftsmanship

1. Exquisite carvings adorn temples and public spaces.
2. Intricate designs made from coconut leaves.
3. Creative utilization of coconut shells.
4. Unique art pieces crafted from volcanic rock.
5. Colorful murals and sculptures adorn public spaces.
6. Indonesians proudly preserve traditional architecture.
7. Neighborhoods foster a strong sense of community.
8. Indonesians prioritize eco-friendliness and sustainability.

Overall, Indonesia left a lasting impression of warmth, resilience, and creativity. - **Balachandra**

Profiles of True Friends

B.V. Prasad is a Chartered Accountant with over 25 years of experience working with Indian and overseas companies.

He is currently serving as CFO at Medan International Airport, Indonesia, within the GMR Group.

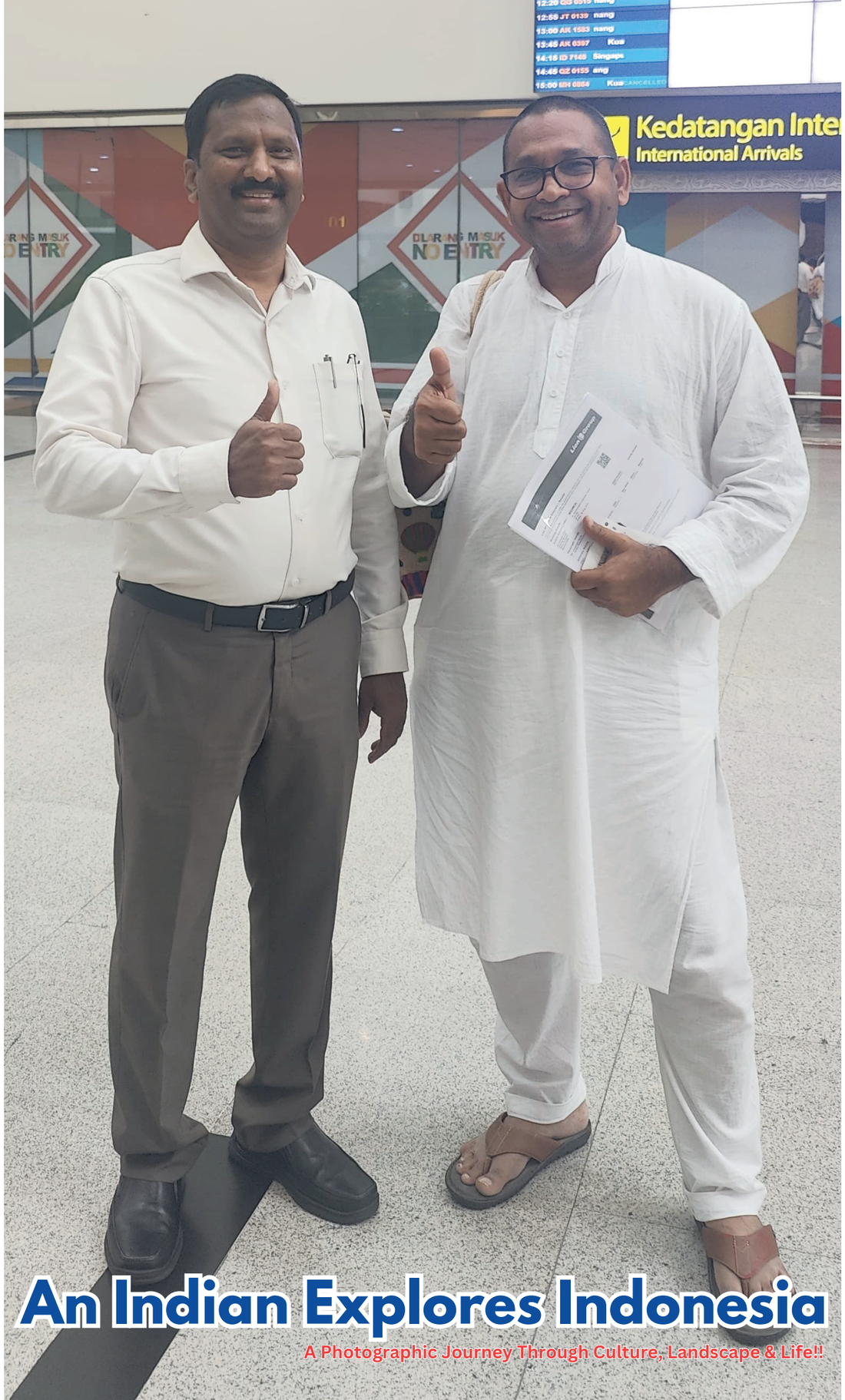
Prasad is known for his commitment to ethical principles, integrity, and high standards of honesty. His significant positive impact on the finance field and his proven ability to contribute to the success of any organisation are truly commendable.

Prasad feels grateful for his noble parents, Dr. Badam Sri Ramulu, who earned his Doctorate in Socio-Political Ideas and Activities of Potti Sri Ramalu, and Smt Badam Ratnamma.

He is married to Sri Lakshmi MBA and is passionate about Yoga. She is currently serving as a Yoga Trainer at IIT College in Hyderabad.

Prasad has been blessed with a son, Vishnu Vardhan, who is pursuing a Master's degree at Carnegie Mellon University in the USA, and a daughter, Poorna Pranavi, who aspires to pursue arts and design.

Prasad's involvement with abhaya Foundation began in 2010 when he was impressed by the organisation's social activities. He expressed his desire to use abhaya as a platform to serve humanity. In 2012, he was appointed a member of the 'abhaya Home of Happiness' Executive Committee and was the project's first donor. His contributions were further recognised in 2013 when he was inducted into the Board of the abhaya Foundation. His commitment and generosity are truly inspiring, and he has kindly agreed to serve as a Board Member of the abhaya Foundation since 2020.



Balachandra, Founder, abhaya Foundation, Company Secretary & Socio-Spiritual Activist, is a transformative leader and passionate community worker driven by serving humanity. With degrees in B.Sc., LL.B., and F.C.S., his illustrious 20-year career includes stints at NCC, ICOMM, Siva Shakthi, and Surana Groups.

Inspired by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Balachandra dedicated 3 decades to Baba's mission. Born in Tadpatri, Andhra Pradesh, he was instilled with values by parents Smt Rajeswari and Sri SS Rangaiah and mentored by Smt Naga Jyothi.

He founded abhaya Foundation (2006, Hyderabad, www.abhayafoundation.org), abhaya Home of Happiness, Telangana in the year 2012 (www.abhayahome.org), abhaya CCL Empowerment Campus, AP and abhaya Yuva Campus, Karnataka in the year 2020. His rural development initiatives empowered 12,000 rural youth nationwide.

A prolific author, Balachandra penned Bharata Darshan, Sunday Thoughts, Grama Seva, Compass (available in 3 languages, reaching 30,000 Govt Schools and all Indian MPs), Driving Manual, Ask Teachers Guide, abhaya Bhavita, and Vimukham. His 180-day Bharat Darshan journey (2019) traversed India via Sankaracharya Margam.

Current initiatives include abhaya Bhavita (Girls Safety) and Breathing Bharat (Awakening the Bharat), inspiring lakhs of youngsters. Drawn to Swamy Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi, Alluri Seetharamaraju, Mother Theresa, and Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's philosophies, Balachandra aims to empower marginalized communities, abandoned elderly, and unemployed youth.

His expertise encompasses Communication Skills, Time Management, Leadership, Personality Development, Spirituality, and Philosophy.