

wen NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS NETWORK

Parudeesa Calling! The WEN Carnival 2026 Launch



Celebrating a Decade of
Empowering Her Enterprise



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Note from Founder Chair

The Quiet Strength of WEN: A Decade of Shared Purpose

Sheela Kochouseph

Dear WEN friends,

Over the past few weeks and months, I have had the deep privilege of witnessing our members quietly step up across every chapter. I see women offering their precious time despite demanding schedules, taking on responsibility without hesitation, and bringing forward ideas that continually strengthen the fabric of our sisterhood. They may not always make it into our event photographs, but they are the ones who define who we truly are.

Each simple act of service—no matter how small it may seem—sets off a powerful chain reaction. This is the quiet strength of WEN: an incredible force that multiplies our impact through pure, collective goodwill. It binds us closer, deepens our mutual trust, and turns professional interactions into lifelong friendships. In these genuine connections, we find the encouragement, inspiration, and shared sense of purpose that push us forward every single day.

As we stand on the threshold of celebrating the **10th Anniversary of WEN (WEN X)** alongside Onam, we look to the future with renewed enthusiasm and vigor. While we actively focus on expanding our chapters and welcoming new entrepreneurs into our fold, our core commitment remains steadfastly with our existing members who built this movement.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to:

- **Recognizing Everyday Contributions:** Valuing the behind-the-scenes efforts that drive our community forward.
- **Fostering Deep Sisterhood:** Building lasting bonds of support, mentorship, and genuine goodwill.
- **Sustaining Inclusive Growth:** Ensuring every member finds encouragement and opportunity at every stage of enterprise.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you. Your commitment, enthusiasm, and everyday acts of kindness are the true building blocks of WEN. Let us continue this journey with a warm spirit and open hearts—because when we stand together in goodwill, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

With confidence and solidarity,

Warm regards,

Sheela Kochouseph

Founder Chair, WEN Foundation



President's Note

WEN X: Honoring Our Legacy, Scaling Our Future

Manju Thomas

Dear WENnites,

As we step into another exciting quarter, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride for all that we have accomplished together across our Women Entrepreneurs Network!

We recently completed our Annual Chapter Meetings (ACMs) across all regions. It was truly heartening to witness the seamless transition of leadership as outgoing committees graciously handed over the baton to our incoming teams. My deepest appreciation goes to every outgoing leader for their dedicated service, and my warmest congratulations to our new chapter committees leading us into the future.

This year marks an extraordinary landmark in our journey—WEN X, as we celebrate 10 years of WEN: a decade of dreams, sisterhood, leadership, and enterprise. The year-long celebrations will commence in Kochi, setting the stage for regional events across every chapter before culminating in a grand WEN X Finale.

The months ahead are packed with momentum and high-impact initiatives:

- **WEN Carnival Kozhikode (Parudeesa):** A vibrant celebration of entrepreneurship, creativity, and collaboration designed to amplify women-led enterprise.
- **WEN Elevate Launch:** Our exclusive two-day leadership and business development program, curated to help members pause, reflect, and scale their businesses through expert guidance and peer learning.
- **Cross-Chapter Synergy:** Expanding collaborative avenues and joint learning platforms like the WEN Inspire series to drive business growth.

I warmly invite members from every chapter to participate wholeheartedly. WEN has always been more than a network—it is a community where we inspire one another, learn together, and grow stronger as one. Let us continue to uphold the spirit of collaboration and excellence that defines us as we step into this decade of limitless possibilities!

Warm regards and gratitude,

Manju Thomas

Foundation President



Secretary's Announcement

Driven by Goodwill, Bound by Sisterhood

Marian Paul

Greetings WEN Sisters

Over the past weeks and months, I have had the privilege of witnessing members quietly stepping up to take responsibility, offering their time despite busy schedules, and contributing ideas that strengthen our sisterhood. They may not make it into our reports or photographs, but they are the ones who define who we are, and I have seen many such moments recently.

Each simple act of service, though small, sets off a chain reaction that reaches far beyond what we can see at WEN. This is the quiet strength of WEN, which multiplies impact through collective goodwill. It grows the sisterhood and binds us together. We make friends for life when we come together and collaborate. At WEN, it's in these connections that we find encouragement, inspiration, and the shared sense of purpose that drives us forward. It is the camaraderie and the interactions that stay with us along with the simple satisfaction of knowing you made a difference.

We are set to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of WEN along with Onam and look forward with renewed enthusiasm and vigor ahead. It's important to retain our valuable existing members as we look to increase our membership and grow our chapters. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you. Your commitment, enthusiasm, and your contributions, whether visible or behind the scenes, are deeply appreciated. As we move forward together, remember that it is in the small acts, the quiet efforts, and the everyday kindness that are the building blocks at WEN.

In closing, I invite you to continue this journey with renewed purpose and a warm spirit.

Let us remain inspired by our shared mission with one simple act at a time. Because when we come together with goodwill to one another, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

Warm Regards,

Marian Paul

Secretary-WEN Foundation



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From the Editor's Desk

A Decade of Grit, Growth & Momentum

Dear WENnites,

Welcome to the July 2026 edition of the WEN Newsletter!

As we pause to reflect on the past quarter, one word resonates above all: momentum. This edition arrives at a monumental juncture as we proudly celebrate 10 Years of WEN—a decade dedicated to empowering women entrepreneurs, fostering authentic sisterhood, and driving meaningful economic impact across regions.

Across every chapter, this quarter has been defined by inspiring leadership transitions, strategic learning, and vibrant community engagements:

- **Unveiling Parudeesa:** WEN Calicut set an extraordinary milestone with the official poster release of Parudeesa—WEN Carnival 2026—unveiled by state leadership, setting the stage for our biggest celebration yet.
- **Leadership in Motion:** Our Kochi, Kottayam, and Coimbatore chapters successfully completed their Annual Chapter Meetings and Committee Installations, welcoming fresh leadership energy to drive our 18-month roadmaps forward.
- **Milestones & Mindset:** From Thrissur's multi-faceted events to Coimbatore celebrating its dynamic 1st anniversary, our chapters continue to balance high-impact business masterclasses (on AI, retail, and finance) with holistic wellbeing and family celebrations.

This edition is a tapestry of these shared victories. As you flip through these pages, we hope you feel the collective energy of a network that doesn't just adapt to the future, but actively shapes it.

Thank you to our chapter correspondents, leaders, and members for sharing your stories and successes with us.

Here's to ten years of strength—and to the exciting road ahead!

Warmly,

Sujatha Santhanam

Editor, WEN Newsletter

CALICUT CHAPTER

Driving Leadership, Engagement & Celebration

Following a seamless leadership transition post-AGM, WEN Calicut kicked off the new term with high momentum—focusing on leadership alignment, policy empowerment, and launching the chapter's biggest upcoming milestone.



Official Unveiling of WEN Carnival 2026: 'Parudeesa'

Setting the tone for an extraordinary year, WEN Calicut formally announced the upcoming **WEN Carnival 2026**, titled '**Parudeesa**' (following a member-wide naming contest) with the slogan "**Connect, Compete, Celebrate.**"

In a moment of distinct honor for the chapter, the first official poster for **Parudeesa** was released by **Shri. V.D. Satheesan**, Honorable Chief Minister of Kerala and Home Minister **Shri. Ramesh Chennithala**, officially launching the countdown to this landmark

CALICUT CHAPTER



Chapter-Level Leadership Orientation & Roadmap

To set a strong strategic tone for the upcoming term and align the leadership team, WEN Calicut organized a comprehensive Leadership Orientation session. The Chapter Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer warmly welcomed ExCom members, Buddy Captains, and past captains to clearly map out roles, operational responsibilities, and buddy point procedures.

Adding immense depth to the program, Past Chair and Advisory member **Sandhya Varma** delivered an inspiring keynote training session filled with actionable insights on effective leadership and team synergy. In a bid to foster fair governance and shared responsibility, the leadership unveiled an ambitious 18-month event calendar where monthly execution duties were allocated through a transparent LOT system—ensuring equal ownership, accountability, and opportunity across the board.



CALICUT CHAPTER



Masterclass: Unlocking Opportunities in MSME Schemes & Approvals

Kicking off the term's educational initiatives, **Team Ruh** spearheaded the chapter's first masterclass, centering strictly on practical business expansion and policy navigation. Designed to demystify complex regulatory landscapes, the session focused on helping members navigate crucial government schemes, essential approvals, and state growth policies tailored for micro, small, and medium enterprises.

The masterclass delivered tremendous value to both emerging and established entrepreneurs, providing them with clear, actionable strategies and a practical roadmap to effectively leverage state and national business support frameworks.



KOCHI CHAPTER



WEN Kochi delivered an action-packed period centered around leadership installation, operational excellence, virtual learning, and holistic wellbeing.

Leadership Installation, Business Mastery & Holistic Wellness



KOCHI CHAPTER

WEN Kochi Chapter Committee Installation Ceremony (2026–2027)

Hosted at KMA, Lulu Hall in Panampilly Nagar, Kochi, the chapter organized a vibrant installation ceremony centered on the theme "Stronger Together, Limitless Together."



New Leadership Installation: The official committee for the 2026–2027 term was formally inducted into office:

Chapter Chair: Beena Manoj (Exclusive Furnishers)

Vice Chair: Ar. Deepa Mathai (AISCAPE Global || ARKIND Consultants)

Convener: Dr. Bobby Sarah (Kancare Assisted Living Solutions)

Executive Team: Raakhee Vijay (Vajra Learning Solutions)

Operations Team: Dhanya Praveen (Midhaan Technologies), Bissy Boss (Osaka Group), Bindu Prakash (B-fit Gym), Sandhya John (Place Interiors), and Cynthia Alex (XL Interiors).

Trailblazer Story: Featured an inspiring entrepreneur story by Sabitha M., Co-founder of Nellikka Chain Restaurant.

Fireside Chat – "Manju Vs. Manju": An engaging fireside chat celebrating the entrepreneurial journeys of two standout women founders in business.

Networking & Team Building: Included interactive networking games and focused meet-ups with Buddy Teams and Leaders.



KOCHI CHAPTER

International Yoga Day Special: EMPOWERING THE MINDFUL ENTREPRENEUR



To mark International Yoga Day, WEN Kochi hosted an exclusive virtual morning wellness masterclass titled **"A Daily Yoga Routine for Strength, Flexibility & Balance."** Recognizing that women entrepreneurs constantly balance high-stakes business responsibilities, team management, and family life, the session offered a dedicated space for members to pause and invest in their own physical and mental well-being.



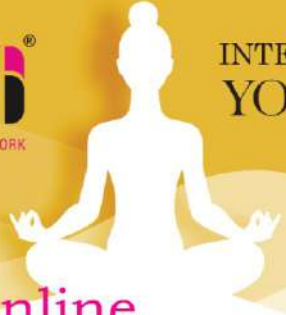
Led by **Ligi Abraham**, Founder of Pranatva and ReMe, the interactive session introduced simple, adaptable daily practices tailored specifically for busy schedules. Participants learned targeted routines to build physical strength, improve flexibility and mobility, enhance focus during

demanding workdays, and effectively manage stress. By prioritizing mindful movement and inner calm, the initiative reinforced WEN's commitment to supporting holistic growth, empowering members as they journey from *Presence to Prominence*.



wen
WOMEN ENTREPRENEUR NETWORK

INTERNATIONAL
YOGA DAY
Special



WEN Online Yoga Session

Dear WEN Members,

As women entrepreneurs, we spend our days building businesses, leading teams, and caring for countless responsibilities. *But how often do we pause to invest in our own well-being?*

A Daily Yoga Routine for
Strength, Flexibility & Balance

By Ligi Abraham of 

Discover simple practices that can help you:

- * Build physical strength
- * Improve flexibility and mobility
- * Enhance balance and focus
- * Reduce stress and boost mental clarity..



LIGI ABRAHAM
Founder - Pranatva, ReMe

 Date: **Sunday, 21st June 2026**

Mode: **Online**

 Time: **7.30am - 8.00 am**



Let's come together to celebrate International Yoga Day and embrace wellness as an essential part of our journey from *Presence to Prominence*

See you online!
Team WEN Kochi

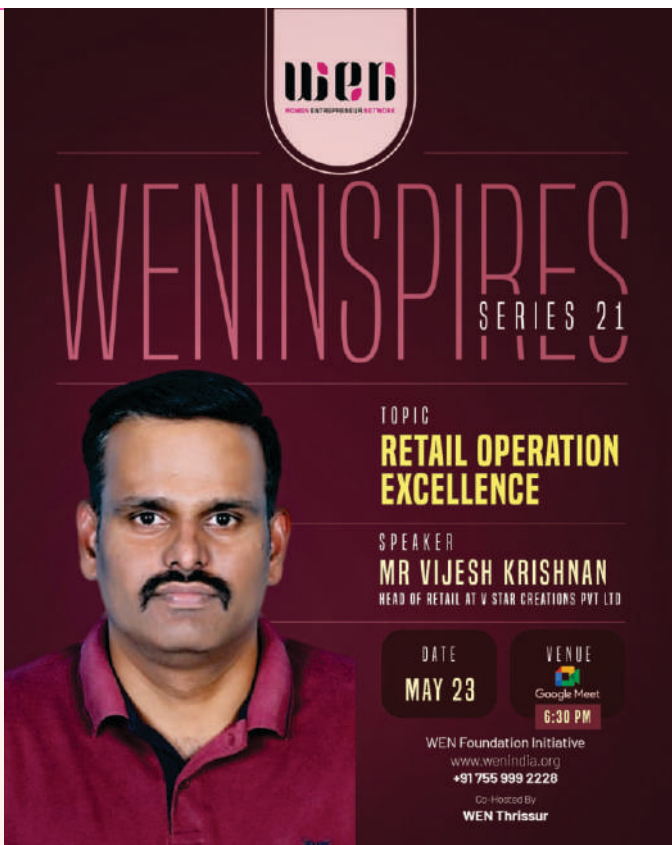
WEN Inspire Series Recap: Operations, Mindset & Productivity

The **WEN Inspire Series** continued its momentum with high-impact masterclasses co-hosted across chapters, designed to strengthen both the business acumen and mental resilience of our members.

Series 21: Retail Operation Excellence

- **Co-Hosted By:**
WEN Thrissur & WEN Kochi
- **Speaker: Mr. Vijesh Krishnan,**
Head of Retail at V-Star Creations Pvt. Ltd.

This session focused on practical strategies for operational efficiency in retail. Participants explored the fundamentals of scaling retail footprints, managing supply chains, and streamlining business workflows to achieve long-term growth and operational consistency.



WEN
WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS NETWORK

WENINSPIRES

SERIES 21

TOPIC
RETAIL OPERATION EXCELLENCE

SPEAKER
MR VIJESH KRISHNAN
HEAD OF RETAIL AT V STAR CREATIONS PVT LTD

DATE
MAY 23

VENUE
Google Meet
6:30 PM

WEN Foundation Initiative
www.wenindia.org
+91 755 999 2228
Co-Hosted By
WEN Thrissur



WEN INSPIRES

SERIES 22

TOPIC

Mindset & Productivity:
Working Smart Without Mental
Fatigue



DR. Robert Lawrence
A Psychotherapist, Transformational Trainer
Founder - Gratia Counselling & Guidance.

DATE

19TH
JUNE 2026

VENUE

Google Meet
06:00 PM



WEN Foundation Initiative
Co-host - WEN Coimbatore



+91 63617 36017



www.wenindia.org

Series 22: Mindset & Productivity:

Working Smart Without Mental Fatigue

- **Co-Hosted By:**
WEN Coimbatore
- **Speaker: Dr. Robert Lawrence,**
Psychotherapist, Transformational Trainer
& Founder of Gratia Counselling &
Guidance

Addressing the unique psychological demands of entrepreneurship, Dr. Lawrence guided members through actionable methods to prevent burnout and navigate decision fatigue. The session highlighted the importance of intentional self-care, quiet reflection, and mindful decision-making—reminding participants that sustainable productivity begins with a clear, well-rested mind.

THRISSUR CHAPTER



Intergenerational Bonds & Tech Innovation

The Thrissur Chapter delivered a dynamic pair of initiatives at Mothi Mahal, seamlessly blending family-centric celebrations with future-focused business upskilling.



WEN Mother's Day Gala: Celebrating Family and Talent

Members gathered for a delightful Mother's Day Gala, bringing their children along for an engaging day filled with laughter, performance, and

meaningful connection. The event featured two standout highlights: a hands-on WEN Non-Fire Cooking Session guided by in-house expert bakers and home chefs, followed by a lively WEN Talent Show showcasing heart-warming performances by members and their children. The showcase offered a wonderful opportunity for members to interact with the next generation while allowing the children to connect with the broader community. The agenda also included the installation of new members, a joyful cake-cutting ceremony with the children, and a celebratory lunch to wrap up the festivities.



THRISSUR CHAPTER



Empowering Her with AI: Modernizing Enterprise Workflows

Focusing on cutting-edge business efficiency, the chapter hosted "Easing the Business of Our Entrepreneurs with AI"—an interactive, practical session led by ACADAI Founders Abhijith K. and Vismaya A. Attendees explored fresh, actionable AI techniques designed for immediate implementation

to streamline operations and accelerate business growth. The evening balanced high-value learning with community warmth, featuring new member installations, networking opportunities, and a birthday cake-cutting celebration that left participants inspired and equipped with real take aways.





Celebrating Milestones & Essential Skills



The Kottayam Chapter marked a season of transition and community growth, balancing leadership milestones with practical, life-saving knowledge sessions.



Annual Chapter Meeting 2026: A Transition of Leadership & Vision

The Kottayam Chapter Annual Chapter Meeting (ACM) 2026 at Raj Regent, Manarcadu, brought together 65 participants—including seven esteemed members of the WEN Foundation—in a vibrant gathering that celebrated the past year's achievements while setting a clear stage for the future. The event commenced with an inspiring Presidential Address by Foundation President **Ms. Manju Thomas**, followed by the installation and oath-taking of nine new members into the growing chapter fold.

A thorough review of annual accomplishments was presented through reports by outgoing Chapter Chair **Ms. Reeba Varughese**, Secretary **Dr. Sheeja Abel**, Treasurer **Ms. Pezey Thomas**, and Buddy Representative



Ms. Teena. The highlight of the day was the formal handover ceremony, where the incoming Executive Committee and Operations Team were inducted. Taking the reins as Chapter Chair, **Dr. Sheeja Abel** shared her strategic vision for the upcoming term in an inspiring acceptance speech. The gathering also recognized exceptional peer contribution, honoring **Lady Tigers** as the Best Buddy Group and **Mary Kurian** as the Best Buddy Leader for their outstanding commitment and leadership.

KOTTAYAM CHAPTER

FLORENS: Stay Calm, Save Lives – Emergency Handling Essentials

Demonstrating the power of internal collaboration, three dynamic buddy groups—**Hustling Honeys**, **Wonder Women**, and **Iron Butterflies**—joined forces to host **FLORENS**, a specialized health and safety learning session at Caesar Palace, Kottayam.

The session was led by **Dr. Vivek R.**, Senior Consultant and Head of Emergency Medicine at Caritas Hospital, who delivered an interactive masterclass on handling medical emergencies with confidence and clarity. Through real-life scenario breakdowns, expert demonstrations, and hands-on guidance, attendees acquired critical skills to manage crisis situations effectively. Beyond equipping members with life-saving tools, **FLORENS** reinforced the paramount importance of remaining calm, taking prompt action, and fostering community-wide preparedness.



COIMBATORE CHAPTER

Milestones, Mindset & Community Bonds



From celebrating its very first anniversary and leadership handover to prioritizing mental wellbeing and member engagement, the Coimbatore Chapter delivered a vibrant and impactful quarter.

First Anniversary Celebration & Annual Chapter Meeting

WEN Coimbatore proudly marked its First Anniversary—a year defined by steady growth, meaningful connections, and inspiring milestones. At the First Annual Chapter Meeting (ACM) on July 3rd, members reflected on a successful maiden year driven by innovative initiatives like the *Know Your Member* series. The landmark occasion featured a

heartfelt leadership transition as outgoing Chair **Mrs. Haripriya** handed over the reins to incoming Chair **Mrs. Amrit Mangat**, ushering in a fresh strategic vision for the term ahead. The chapter also expressed warm gratitude to the Kochi, Calicut, and Thrissur chapters, whose constant guidance and encouragement proved instrumental throughout Coimbatore's foundational year.



COIMBATORE CHAPTER

Membership Growth Milestone

Reflecting its expanding footprint and strong reputation across the region, WEN Coimbatore officially inducted five new members into the fold, bringing its total membership strength to **114**. Each new entrepreneur brings unique expertise, fresh perspectives, and valuable opportunities for collaborative growth within the network.

Member Day Out: Building Sisterhood Beyond Business

On May 23rd, members stepped away from their daily routines for a refreshing day of bonding, laughter, and relaxation. The outing kicked off with engaging outdoor activities amidst nature at Dolphins Resort, followed by a delicious networking lunch at Maya Resort, where conversations flowed effortlessly. Designed to deepen personal connections beyond formal business meetings, the retreat reinforced the true spirit of WEN as an extended family that grows together through shared experiences and genuine sisterhood.



TRIVANDRUM CHAPTER

Leadership Milestones, Artisan Tributes & Holistic Learning

WEN
Thiruvananthapuram delivered an extraordinarily rich and diverse quarter, blending foundational governance with community impact, family initiatives, sustainable living, and practical business masterclasses.



Annual General Meeting: Setting a Vision for Growth

On May 9, 2026, WEN Thiruvananthapuram proudly hosted its inaugural Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Cordial Sopanam. The milestone occasion served as a dual

celebration—honoring womanhood while officially welcoming the incoming committee that will steer the chapter through the 2026–2027 term. Graced by distinguished guests from the WEN Foundation, the

inspiring afternoon fostered deep member connections, setting an ambitious roadmap centered on elevated engagement, peer support, and collaborative growth across the region.

Celebrating the Spirit of Artisan Mothers

In a heartfelt tribute to grassroots craftsmanship, Rural Beads hosted "Hands Behind the Crafts" on May 5, 2026, honoring seven artisan mothers holding official DC Handicrafts credentials for their dedication to preserving heritage art. The occasion was graced by Dr. Divya S. Iyer, Managing Director of Vizhinjam International Seaport Thiruvananthapuram, who presented the artisans with mementos and traditional ponnadas. The celebratory evening concluded with felicitations from Anu Ramachandran (Founder, White Paper Creative) and Bincy Baby (District Chair, CII Trivandrum Chapter).



TRIVANDRUM CHAPTER

Nurturing the Next Generation: SPARK & Healthy Eats

Demonstrating a strong commitment to family and youth empowerment, chapter members spearheaded two vibrant initiatives aimed at children:

SPARK – Igniting Young Talents: Hosted on May 15–16, 2026, at The Homemakers Multibrand Store by Casa Mi Amor, SPARK provided a creative platform for young minds to showcase their talents, share innovative ideas, and build self-expression in an encouraging community environment.

Healthy Eating, Happy Growing: Dreamcatcher's Network (Srija & Aradhana), in collaboration with Brio League (Resmi Maxim), organized a hands-on "Cook Your Own Healthy Eats" workshop during a May summer class series, teaching children the values of nutrition and sustainable food choices.



Mindful Workshops & Conscious Living



On June 14, 2026, Dreamcatcher's Network, alongside Sarah's Soul and community partner Nithyavasantham, hosted a major conscious living convention at the Salvation Army Hall, Kowdiar. The event united green innovators, eco-friendly artisans, and wellness practitioners for interactive workshops, sustainable product expos, and mindfulness experiences. Key WEN collaborations—including contributions from Sarah Koshy (Sarah's Soul), Dr. Sindhu S. Nair (Samayesha), and Prasanna Selvakumar (Mama's Healthy Delights)—enriched the platform's vision for sustainable entrepreneurship.

WEN Elevate – The Learning Club

The chapter successfully rolled out two distinct editions of its newly launched WEN Elevate educational framework:

Series 1: Saree Stories – The Art of Draping: Held on June 14, 2026, at The Jaali Spot, Kowdiar, this interactive cultural workshop celebrated the heritage and versatility of the saree. Facilitated by Srija Santhosh (Dreamcatcher's Network), Shahrah (Zains Boutique), and Meena Vasantha (Mi Estilo Salon & Spa), participants explored historical drapes, styling techniques, and hands-on methods.

Series 2: Essential Tax & Legal Compliance: On July 4, 2026, members gathered virtually for a critical masterclass titled "Business Setup, GST Rules and Income Tax." Led by Adv. Vidhya V. Dev (Zore Up Learning), the session provided practical clarity on entity registration, legal compliance, and tax fundamentals to help entrepreneurs scale with confidence.

Building Leadership & Buddy Synergy

The chapter strengthened its internal support ecosystem through focused leadership and networking meets:

Buddy Captains' First Meet: Held in May 2026 at the Trivandrum Golf Club, the inaugural meet for Captains and Vice Captains featured trust-building and alignment activities facilitated by Anu Ramachandran, establishing a strong framework for peer leadership.

Lucky Charms Buddy Gathering: On June 3, 2026, the Lucky Charms buddy group met for a warm, informal networking session, allowing members to pitch their enterprises, share personal growth journeys, and build deeper friendships.





The Minds Being Made: The quiet work of nurturing thinkers into writers.

Latika Sawhney

Founder, Spaces and Pause Where young writers find their voice
WEN Kochi member

There always comes a moment in my online classroom when I stop speaking. It is not because I have finished facilitating. It is because the students have begun learning.

Reflections ripple across the screen. Ideas collide. Meanings are built, dismantled, and rebuilt. The lesson no longer belongs to me. It belongs to the learners.

It is in that quiet shift that I remember why I started Spaces & Pause.

One afternoon, we were reading *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. A usual & implicit lesson plan could have followed grammar & comprehension, like identifying adjectives, analysing character traits and moving on. But we paused.

"What do you notice about the character?" I asked.

The chat window began to fill within a few moments:

"He is Curious."

"Mr. Tumnus is probing."

"Investigative."

"Maybe he hesitates because he has never seen a human before."

What followed was another round of thoughtful questions to shape their understanding.

Students started noticing repetition in a sentence. Someone observed the pauses in the dialogue. One child argued that the character sounded nervous; another believed he could be mocking Lucy.

Neither answer was dismissed. Instead, they debated, questioned, justified and refined their thinking.

By the end of the discussion, they had discovered (not memorised) that writers often leave clues instead of explanations because stories become powerful when meaning is revealed or shown to them instead of just being told.

That, to me, is education. It's not the transfer of information. It is the construction of understanding.

As educators, we often celebrate children for finding the correct answer. Yet in the real world, innovation begins not with answers but with curious questions. If classrooms are to prepare children for the future, they must become places where curiosity is not interrupted by instruction but extended through dialogue.

This belief forms the foundation of the pedagogy we practise at Spaces & Pause.

Constructivist learning places the learner at the centre of the experience. Instead of beginning with definitions, we begin with thinking. Instead of delivering conclusions, we invite students to discover them.

A grammar lesson, for example, is rarely just about the rules. When we explored adverbs, students did not begin by filling blanks in a worksheet. They explored how changing one adverb could transform an entire scene, alter a character's intention, shift a reader's emotion and even build an entirely different world. They experienced language before naming the rule.

Similarly, during a literature session on classic texts, students were first shown posters from timeless stories. They discussed

which stories had stayed with them since childhood, which they would want their grandchildren to read one day, and why certain narratives refuse to disappear despite changing generations.

Only after they had built their own understanding together did we arrive at the characteristics of a classic.

The definition was no longer something to remember. They had imbibed it by discovery. This simple shift changes everything.

Research across educational psychology consistently reminds us that learning is deepest when students actively construct knowledge rather than receive it passively. International educational frameworks, including Cambridge & IB, increasingly emphasise inquiry, reflection,



collaboration and formative assessment. But these are not fashionable educational terms. They cultivate learners who know how to think.

Our classrooms therefore look very different from traditional ones.

Students discuss before they write. They question before they conclude.

They challenge one another's viewpoints respectfully. They collaborate, debate, assess peers and reflect on their own thinking. Learning is not a passage from teacher to student but a work in progress through different communication channels where students are the active participants.

They learn to notice patterns, justify interpretations and communicate ideas with evidence.

As teachers, our role is not to occupy the centre of the classroom but to design experiences that move students towards independence.

To support this journey, we use globally researched active learning strategies and tools such as KWL chart, Frayer Model, Consequence Wheel, visible thinking routines, live worksheets, Oxford learning resources, quizzes, and formative assessment strategies that provide feedback during learning (not merely after it).

These are not activities for the sake of engagement. Rather, they are carefully designed thinking tools through which students begin developing something far more valuable than just academic scores.

They become reflective thinkers, analytical readers, articulate communicators, and creative problem-solvers. Isn't that the kind of young people we hope to nurture – the ones who can ask difficult questions and confidently defend thoughtful answers?

In an age where artificial intelligence can generate information in seconds, information itself is no longer the greatest advantage. But original thinking, imagination, and reflection are.

The ability to organise thoughts with clarity, analysis and evidence is becoming one of the defining skills of this century. This conviction inspired me to extend this pedagogy beyond the classroom.

Spaces & Pause has launched an online Udemmy course on Analytical and Structured Writing for learners aged 9 to 15+ yrs. Designed for independent learning, the course introduces students to analytical writing through the PEE (Point–Evidence–Explanation) framework using thoughtful worksheets, engaging activities and carefully scaffolded exercises. It allows learners to progress at their own pace

without requiring constant parental supervision. The first 50 learners will also receive personalized feedback on their submitted work.

Education is not simply teaching children how to score better in examinations. It is to make thoughtful learning accessible; it is to help every learner, irrespective of geography, develop the habits of mind that excellent writing quietly demands: observation, reasoning, structure, metacognition, creativity and reflection.

When children discover that writing is not merely putting words on paper but organising thought itself, something remarkable happens. They stop asking, "What should I write?"

They begin asking, "What do I really think?"

I believe this is the most important shift education can offer. Before every meaningful sentence comes a meaningful thought. And before every meaningful thought comes something our classrooms rarely make enough room for – **a pause.**

At Spaces & Pause, we believe that **creativity** begins in **curiosity**, writing begins in **thinking**, and true **learning** begins in the **pause** that gives every child the courage to discover their own **voice.**

Latika Sawhney

Founder, Spaces and Pause

Where young writers find their voice

WEN Kochi member

www.spacesandpause.com

But these are not fashionable educational terms. They cultivate learners who know how to think.

WEN

WEN office: 4th floor, G-287, Panampilly Nagar, Cochin 682 036. www.wenindia.org