

Infocarer

Volume 1 Issue 4 June & July 2022

Bulletin

Sunny in Sierra Leone

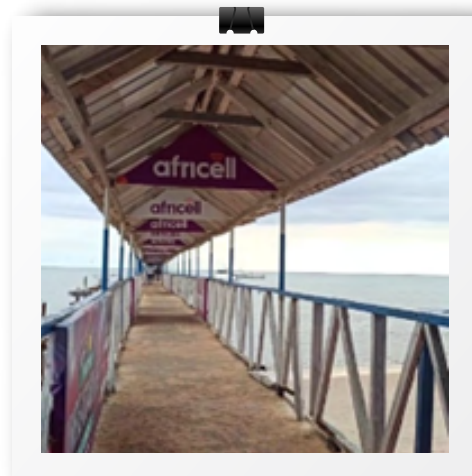


It was always a pleasure for me to re-visit Africa, especially the Western part of North Africa, where I once spent nearly twenty months in Nigeria. Africa to me was a dream from childhood with caricature of Phantom in Denkali forest. It always fascinated me how this lush green land with so much water was yet to be utilized.

When Chandra mentioned that I will have a stint at Sierra Leone, what ran in my mind was blood diamonds and revolution torn land but now democracy prevails. Yogen paved my way to step foot in Freetown to be assigned as the Project Co-ordinator for the NASSIT projects that Infocarer has embarked on for over a year.

It is a long way from home, about 16 hours of travel time with two hops at two airports to reach Freetown, Sierra Leone. As the wheels touched the tarmac, all that I saw was just open fields and reddish sand with patches of lush green. As the aircraft kept rolling the first signs of the terminal building appeared and it took me back forty years,

when the airport in Madras was almost like what I was seeing. Quickly down the ladder, we were whisked by a bus to go to the counters and clear immigration. Just when I heard a person shouting, "NASSIT Guest", I raised my hand and that's it, my luggage was fetched by a porter and taken to meet an energetic and warm lady, Patricia, who quickly assisted me with COVID protocols to show our vaccination certificate (very much appreciated and VALID in Sierra Leone) and then the excitement as we took a van to the jetty. Yes, a boat ride for about 30+ minutes for sure.





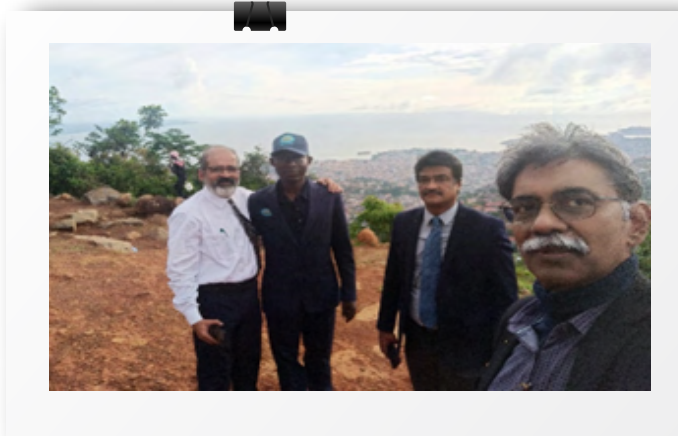
It was as if I was in San Francisco, only that the surroundings portrayed Africa, like in India some 40 years ago. Winding and narrow roads with slopes on one side and sea on the other. It was scenic till I reached our place of stay, Sea View Estate. A fine gated community, safe and quiet from the hustle and bustle of the city centre, about eleven kilometers or so from our office location. It was good to be home with a warm reception by Praveen and Tirumal, who have been holding the fort at NASSIT, on-shore for a good length of time providing the Quality and Professional service that we always deliver to our customers. A warm meal that smells like home put my mind at peace to rest for the day and get set for work the very next.

Our customer has provided a well-furnished apartment for our Infocarers to reside in comfort, and logistics for us to move around in Freetown in a safe and comfortable vehicle, that is available on-call for our professionals.



By now, you must have heard that we are Project Management Consultants to National Social Security and Insurance Trust (NASSIT), that runs the pension scheme for Sierra Leone. The Head Quarters is where we work, is located in the heart of the city next to the Parliament House. We have provided NASSIT our expertise in upgrading their ICT Infrastructure with Praveen being the most sought-after professional for advice, our deftly handled Data Cleansing project by Sripriya Narayanaswamy from off-shore, making several trips earlier to put things in order, the ERP project lead by Tirumal

The opportunities with NASSIT are many as they get set to put the Pension Administration System and Biometrics Implementation with our TEAM, to project manage the entire assignment. Our CEO Chandra and our Partner of Infocareer and Telis Consortium Limited (ITCON), Eugene Nshom have been keeping us all in good spirit to accomplish our tasks. Soon more from our team will visit Freetown, to deliver their expertise. Let's leave some room to pen further in our upcoming issues. Enjoy the panoramic view of the River No.2 Beach with white sand, till we meet again.



Marugan, who interfaces with several departments to ensure no stone is unturned in completing the present migration from a legacy SUN system to a Microsoft Dynamics GP environment. The chief, Yogen Chawla, our Project Director manages several requirements of NASSIT with the team to ensure the due process is met be it Expression of Interest, Request For Proposal, BID requirements, Due Diligence process and much more.



My Hyderabad trip to meet our Infocarers was originally scheduled for May earlier this year. Falling prey to a viral infection (and the horror that it might be COVID all over again; thankfully my fears were unfounded) effectively ensured the cancellation of my travel. Rescheduling this, the Hyderabad visit finally fructified in the third weekend of July.

Rajesh, who travelled from Bangalore, and I met at our hotel in Gachibowli, and we were joined for lunch by our Salesforce trainer, Vijay. Discussing the next steps of the Salesforce training current underway for five of our Infocarers, we discussed the way to prepare for the certification exam.

Vijay also requested Rajesh and I to meet with five students of his who've undergone Salesforce training and see if there could be a possibility of a role for them at Infocareer. After discussions with them, two were shortlisted and the process for further rounds of interviews are currently underway. Apart from providing the in-depth technical know-how which Vijay is doing very well, as a recent customer call proved, we requested the incorporation of a few additional things at a high level. These included the importance of communication, expressing oneself effectively and also having an overall knowledge of the purpose of a CRM, its relationship in the customer ecosystem and what exactly is Salesforce at a high level.!

Despite having been to Hyderabad on previous occasions, I never had the opportunity to taste the celebrated "Irani chai" – Hyderabad's renowned version of tea. Vijay ensured that he took us to a nearby branch of the famed Shah Ghouse Café, where we had piping hot Irani chai along with samosa with deep fried and marinated green chili as a side accompaniment.

I didn't know then that I was to have another cup Irani chai in different circumstances later that night. More about that later! Having deep fried green chili as an accompaniment to samosa was new to me – a standard Hyderabad practice as confirmed by Vijay.

By the time he dropped Rajesh and I back at the hotel (thanks very much, Vijay!), it was close to 6:00 PM. Our Hyderabad Infocarers were due by 7:00 PM and so there was no time for a late afternoon siesta, something which I had honestly been looking forward to!

We met Akhil and Dileep at the hotel lobby and dinner was soon underway. Life at the client site is quite hectic for both of them as we gathered, and both are satisfied with their learning curve as well. Apart from work, Akhil talked about Adilabad, how it is close to the Maharashtra border, and consequently his complete comfort with Telugu and Marathi, along with Hindi and English. Affianced Dileep recounted the prevailing conditions in his native, a village near Sriakulam near the Odisha – Andhra border.

Both Akhil and Dileep came across as professionals with varied interests and it was a pleasure to listen to Dileep having deep and involved discussions on motorcycles and their refurbishments with Rajesh. Rajesh himself is a motorcycle aficionado – that warrants a separate article!

Having arrived in Hyderabad that morning by the Chennai Hyderabad Express and not having slept very well during the previous night in the train, despite a comfortable 2AC upper berth, I was looking forward to hitting the sheets immediately after dinner.

“Would you be willing to come with us to the Charminar after we finish dinner?” asked Dileep.

I just stared at him. Charminar after dinner? From where we were in Gachibowli, which was more than 15 kms away? Glancing at the time, I saw it was past 11:00 PM, and wondered what to reply. Dileep, seeing me hesitate, said hastily, “Of course, I know you are tired sir, so it’s okay...”

Naturally, that decided it. “Of *COURSE* I’m not tired!” I exclaimed immediately. “I would love to come!”

And was I glad of my decision!

Harking back to my college times, Rajesh and I took Dileep’s Bullet with me on the pillion, and with Dileep and Akhil on the latter’s bike, we set out into the night. It had rained throughout the previous week, and consequently Hyderabad’s weather that night was clearly at its best.

It was pleasant, bracing and thoroughly exhilarating, and being on the pillion with a motorcycle pro like Rajesh, was to me an unexpected midnight treat!

After refilling the bikes at a petrol bunk, we stopped at Famous Ice-creams, Anjeer ice-cream selected by Dileep was clearly the best. We then moved on to one of the prominent landmarks of Hyderabad – the Hussain Sagar Lake.

Since the rain had let up after a week, the Hyderabadis seemed to be out in the street with a vengeance. The midnight traffic was choc-a-bloc and there were people in droves having ice-creams and generally enjoying themselves at the Hussain Sagar.

Exiting the lake, I was to experience for the first time, the Hyderabad phenomenon called the Biryani.

Biryani is a common food item in our homes. But in Hyderabad, it was different. Being vegan, I had said I wouldn’t be having any myself, but I was willing to accompany them. The restaurant selected was the acclaimed Shadab, situated in the vicinity of the iconic Charminar. The sheer passion, emotion, and sensation the Hyderabad biryani and the Shadab restaurant arouses in people, was something seen to be believed.

We entered the restaurant post-midnight. As a first-time visitor, to me it was like entering a refugee camp. The crowd was IMMENSE - there were people waiting all over the place, on all the floors, for a place to sit. Outside, because it was past midnight and pitch dark, and the Charminar area being a sensitive zone, the police were clearing away loiterers, with the police siren blaring at full volume. It was a weird feeling. Inside the restaurant, I saw people waiting and scrambling for places as soon as they were vacated by diners who had finished their meal. It didn’t look as if there was any possibility of getting a table anytime soon. Debating whether to just order and take away, Akhil, who was on a different floor scouting for a place, called Rajesh on his mobile declaring that a table was finally available, yay! Immediately we pushed through the crowds and entered the restaurant on the second floor where both Akhil and Dileep were fiercely guarding the just-vacated table!

As they tucked into the Biryani, for my part I tried out the signature Hyderabad sweet dish Qubani Ka Mitha and another cup of Irani chai.

By the time the others finished their meal, it was past 1:00 AM. As we made our way out, I was once again taken aback at the waiting crowd, which had only increased with the hours of the night.

“Don’t look so surprised sir,” said Akhil, smiling at my amazement as we jostled through the throng towards the exit. “The crowd will be like this till at least 4:00 AM!”

That’s Hyderabad biryani and the sheer ardour and excitement it generates.

I think overall that spirit pervades the whole city of Hyderabad, a city of varied flavours and myriad passions (and I haven’t even talked about aavakka pickle and Karachi biscuits). This was evident by the enthusiasm shown by Dileep and Akhil in particular, and also by Rajesh who has lived in the city in the past.

Here’s to Infocareer consolidating its presence in the Deccan city in the years to come!

Mohan Santhanam

Head – TechAgile, Chennai



Mentoring

New PMI Courses are launched



PMI Scheduling Professional (PMI-SP)[®]



PMI Professional in Business Analysis (PMI-PBA)[®]



Portfolio Management Professional (PfMP)[®]

Sakthi Excellence Academy(SEA) Signed MOU with INFOCAREER For PROJECT MANAGEMENT



Mumbai MuleSoft Forum

It was a wonderful opportunity for Mohan and me to participate in the MuleSoft Forum at Mumbai on Wednesday, July 20, 2022. We got to meet and interact with multiple experts from India and around the world, in person.

It was certainly a privilege to meet Arundhati Battacharya, Chairperson and CEO of Salesforce India, and other distinguished professionals like Brian Kealey, Vice President of MuleSoft's Asia Region. The keynote addresses of both Arundhati and Brian hit home, especially with Arundhati asserting how thrilled she was to meet so many people *in person*.

Singapore-based Royston Lobo, Senior Technical Architect @ MuleSoft, presented on how MuleSoft can be used to extract data as an alternative to error-prone manual entering of details. Apisero's Mahesh Kothari and his colleague's depicted how customers in the financial services area are monetizing their APIs.

The forum also comprised of technical sections introducing new technology modules. These included Fantastic MuleSoft Composer, RPA, and API Governance Session Presentation by Royston Lobo and Geoff Bryant.

Last but not the least, me being part of the MuleSoft Certified Professionals group photo taken at the end of the forum, is a memorable experience. I'm proud to be one of them.

Both presentations were extremely interesting and informative. Interactions with other experts like Geoff Bryant (VP Services JAPAC, Digital Transformation Office), Anurag Sharma, Manik S. Magar, and Jitendra Bafna (Jacky), was inspiring and gave a lot of food for thought.



Both Mohan and I showcased and talked about Infocareer to the attendees of the forum in the networking sessions over breakfast, lunch and tea.

Thank you Infocareer, for giving me this opportunity to attend the MuleSoft Forum!

Praveen Kumar K, Certified MuleSoft Developer, Infocareer!



INFO Blast

We had a fun day InfoBlast-1 on July 29, 2022, InfoBlast in our InfoCareer HQ. An event committee with Priscilla, Mohan, Priya, Britto, Karthic, Santosh and Jasmine came up with the agenda. We wanted to start with a fun game involving everyone followed by a talent expo. The important agenda item was the cake cutting ceremony of Infocarers whose birthdays were in July.

The InfoBlast - 1, started with Priya's welcome address. The fun game Musical Chair Pro, conducted by Santhosh was thoroughly enjoyed by InfoCarers. As part of Talent Show, Priya, Jasmine and Ishak sang movie songs. "Uma" and "Sam" were given the book prizes "How to Get Friends and Influential People by Dale Carnegie". The cake was cut by Santosh, Manoj and Daniel. The event ended by Mohan with a Vote of Thanks.

InfoCarers are already looking forward to the August InfoBlast!



Welcome

to Our New Infocarers



Manoj kumar R

Manoj Kumar R has joined Infocareer on 27th of June as a Video Editor. He did his Schooling in Madurai. He learnt Media Technology from iCAT Design and Media College, Chennai. He worked with Giri Trading Agency and Zero Gravity Photography. His hobbies include Photography and Travel.

Sekar S

Sekar S has joined Infocareer as a "Quality Assurance Lead" on 10-Aug-2022. He is under NASSIT. He has pursued his B.Sc. Computer Technology and MCA from Anna University. He has worked with Xerago, HCL and Bahwan Cybertek.



Kesavakannan V

Kesavakannan V has joined Infocareer as a Java Trainee on 4-Apr-2022 and had been absorbed on rolls on 3-Aug-2022 as a "Java Developer". He has completed B.Sc. Computer Science from Devanga Arts College, Aruppukottai.



Marutha Muthu K

Marutha Muthu K has joined Infocareer as a Java Trainee on 4-Apr-2022 and had been absorbed on rolls on 3-Aug-2022 as a "Java Developer". He has completed B.Sc. Computer Science from Devanga Arts College, Aruppukottai.





Mentoring Training Calendar August 2022

PMP Training

Online
**WeekEnd Morning
(Sat&Sun)**

08.30 AM - 12.30 PM IST
06th Aug'22 - 4th Sep'22

Online
**WeekEnd Evening
(Sat&Sun)**

04.30 PM - 08.30 P M IST
13th Aug'22 -11th Sep'22

Online
**WeekDay Morning
(Sat&Sun)**

08.30 AM - 12.30 PM IST
20th Au'22-18th Sep'22

Online
**WeekEnd Evening
(Sat&Sun)**

04.30 PM - 08.30 PM IST
27th Aug'22-25th Sep'22

Online
**WeekDay Morning
(Mon-Fri)**

06.30 AM - 09.00 AM IST
15th Aug'22 - 07th Sep'22

Online
**WeekDay Evening
(Mon-Fri)**

07.00 PM - 09.30 PM IST
22nd Aug'22 - 14th Sep'22

In-Person Session
**WeekEnd Morning
(Sat)**

08.30 AM - 06.30 PM IST
28th Aug'22 - 24th Sep'22

DASM Training

Online
**WeekEnd Evening
(Sat&Sun)**

04.00 PM - 08.00 PM IST
27th Aug'22 - 11th Sep'22

DASSM Training

Online
**WeekEnd Morning
(Sat&Sun)**

09.00 AM - 01.00 PM IST
27th Aug'22 - 11th Sep'22

MSP Training

Online
**WeekEnd Morning
(Sat&Sun)**

08.30 AM - 12.30 PM IST
20th Aug'22 - 21th Aug'22

Primavera P6 Tools

Online
**WeekEnd Evening
(Sat&Sun)**

07.00 PM - 09.00 PM IST
08th Aug'22 - 17th Aug'22



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