

## THE YEAR THAT HAS GONE BY...

- Kunal Vaishnav, Chief Operating Officer

What a year 2017 has been! These are amazing times for Exxat and what we are doing great as a company is that we are gradually moving towards a stable business and more importantly, making a difference in the community around us.

You all rock at what you do and add so much to the experience for all our clients and team members alike. In the last year, we as a team had our share of good and bad news. But, as a team you guys stood by each other and helped in dealing with the incidents.

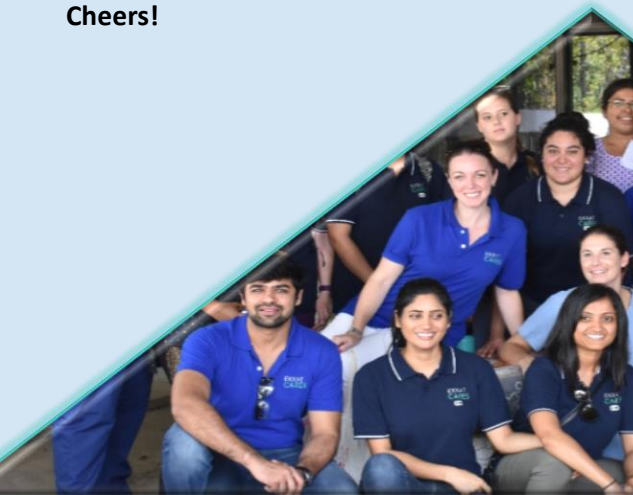
***“Be not afraid of greatness. Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and others have greatness thrust upon them.” – William Shakespeare***

Such an amazing quote Shakespeare wrote. I don't know much about greatness - but I would like to add one small thing to this quote **“Greatness is TEAMWORK!”**

As we transition to 2018, a few things that I wanted to stress:

- Be cognizant of the CORE values that Exxat has come to represent
- Be respectful of all new policies that are being put in place. They are there to help you excel
- Participate and take part in all new activities that the company has to offer - whether it be Toastmasters or Accent Training Program
- Finally, enjoy the work and have FUN along the way.

Cheers!





## Editor's Bottom Line...

- **Sanit Lune**, Editor

Dear Exxatians,



*Sanit Lune*

Welcome to the first edition of Horizon, Exxat's very own newsletter! As the name suggests, we, as a company are on the verge of a renaissance where new possibilities are being explored and with the amalgamation of multiple entities, we are all set to discover new HORIZONS!

In this newsletter, we look back in 2017, review company statistics, articles, and present some amazing displays of the talents our Exxat Family possesses.

A big thank you to those who have contributed to Horizon's success. And, I encourage everyone to come up with their share of contribution going forward. I hope you all are as excited to read the newsletter as much as I am to launch this edition. Wishing everyone a very successful 2018!

## Cohere Conference

- **Jennifer Rothke**, Communications Specialist

We don't want to brag but this year's Cohere User Conference in Columbus was pretty amazing. 65 clients and 12 Exxat team members (including Vivek Nadagouda, Pravin Daware and Rakesh Gupta from the Pune office) gathered in Ohio's capital city for two days of talks, food, and drinks. As usual, though, our clients stole the show.



Presentations from GWash PT, LIU PT, and NAU PT were some of the highlights. We were lucky to have users on hand to share experiences and best practices with everyone.



Users were very excited about the My Requests feature and were looking forward to the live chat functionality. We know none of this is possible without the hard work of the Exxat team in India and the US. The work we do every day really helps our users make their jobs and the experiences of their students better. Their gratitude is evident when we see them in person. Hearing from other users first-hand was one of the great strengths of this conference as our feedback forms indicated.



No Exxat event would be complete without our signature good food and drinks. This year we headed to De-Novo Bistro to kick off up our heels and raise our glasses to the ever-growing Exxat community.

We look forward to next year!

***"A leader is someone who demonstrates what's possible" – Mark Yarnell***



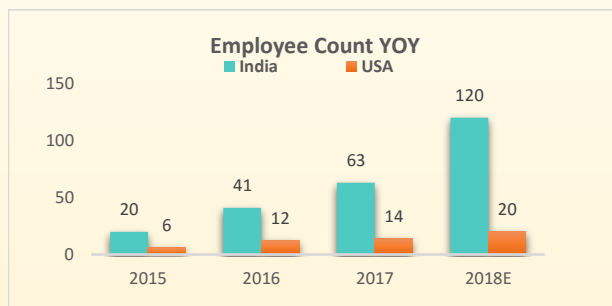
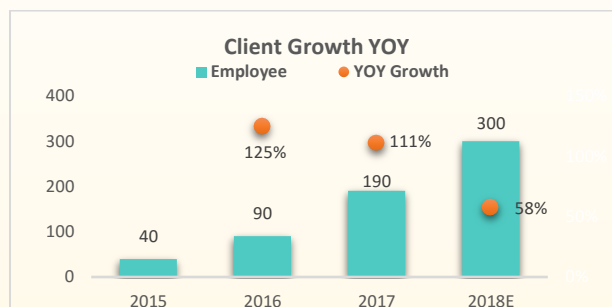
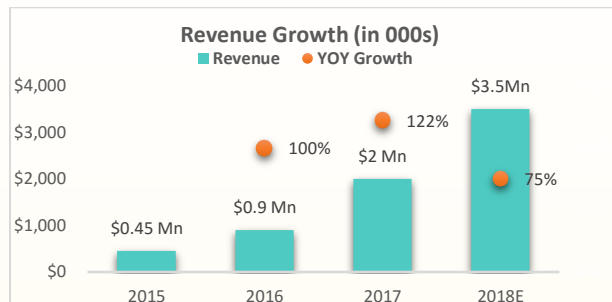
## Human Resource Updates

- **Mayuri Gohil**, Human Resource Manager

The year 2017 turned out to be a game changer for Exxat. With a paradigm shift in our policies and team structure, we march ahead with a fresh and broader outlook to conquer new avenues.

Here are the major highlights of the year:

- Exxat is growing and growing at a brisk pace. On Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, we started a new office in Vadodara, Gujarat and have hired 16 employees so far.
- Starting December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, we implemented new policies and restructured the teams along with assigning Bands to every employee based on their designation.
- We had a successful Exxat Cares trip – Our school partners visited 2 NGOs – Aplaghar and Anandwan and conducted a health awareness and physiotherapy treatment camp. This was the first time they visited the Exxat office.
- Stanford is now our client! **We signed up our 200<sup>th</sup> client in January 2018.**
- The Data team geared up to move to the back office – our first Exxat premise in Pune!
- We started with Voice and Accent training with 10 employees participating.
- A successful Vadodara walk-in drive hosted about 200 candidates.
- We organized a Christmas Party at Aplaghar and Exxat, Pune.



## Announcement

- **Seirra Fred-Lawton**, Sales Representative



Most of you know me as Seirra Fred, which changed to Seirra Lawton in April after I got married 😊

I was on the Exxat team for exactly 1 year before I took a hiatus and am now back. In my previous position I was primarily focused on sales, however I also traveled locally to clients, onboarded a few, as well as helped in support here and there. Now back with Exxat I will primarily be a CSR while also assisting a bit in some sales functions.

As many of you know my husband Rob and I are expecting our first child in early April which we are very excited about! I'm pumped to be back on the Exxat team and look forward to working with you all.

**"I never lose. I either WIN or LEARN" – Nelson Mandela**

## FITNESS as a LIFESTYLE

- **Sanit Lune**, Business Analyst



*“All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.” We all have grown up listening to this phrase. But how many of us have really thought of implementing it in our lives?*

We are living in a fast paced digitally driven world where physical activities are being replaced by machines, where people are stationed, and technologies are mobile; where things are being done at a single button's click! All these advancements have shown the smarter side of life. The way the human mind is being replaced by artificial intelligence tells us how we have evolved when it comes to using our brain! However, every coin has two sides.

Man aspires having a life full of luxury and maps his road to success eyeing the materialistic possessions. But, in the rat race, we lose ourselves behind when it comes to health, which, I believe is the ultimate wealth! Fitness, as we know, is a very important aspect of our day to day life. Yet we manage to gloriously ignore it. But this ignorance is not bliss!

A healthy mind resides in a healthy body, and to keep oneself healthy, we must be involved in activities that involve physical exertion. A consistent workout regimen reduces stress and increases your mental wellbeing. When you work out regularly, your body releases endorphins that enhances your mood. In fact, exercise is one of the most important part of keeping your body at a healthy weight. It helps people lose weight and lower the risk of some diseases, including type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure. It also tackles anxiety, depression and anger.

Who says a gruelling day at work cannot be complimented with a work out session? Time and again we have heard stories of eminent personalities and their love for fitness. To name a few:

- **Anil Ambani** – The corporate czar is a firm believer in fitness and every morning at 5:30 a.m., he goes jogging. He even participates in marathons!
- **Akshay Kumar** - A black belt in Taekwondo and expert in martial arts is well known for his fitness and disciplined life. He is a prime example of how one can be fit at fifty!
- **Narendra Modi** - Despite being a workaholic, he manages to keep himself fit and healthy – all thanks to Yoga. He regularly practises Yoga for an hour daily early in the morning. This proves that you can excel at work and take time for fitness at the same time.



I hope we all are aware that India is known as the diabetes capital of the world with as many as 50 million people suffering from type-2 diabetes. It is a big challenge for us to get rid of this tag and make the country diabetes free! Statistics say that Heart disease is the world's leading cause of death, claiming 17.3 million lives each year. And, over 5 crore people suffer from depression in India! The numbers are baffling!

So, I encourage everyone to take time every day and perform some physical activities like running, swimming, cycling, yoga, weight training, etc. and take a step towards a healthier tomorrow! Personally speaking, I am a fitness freak and cannot do without it! I make it a point to workout at least 5 days a week. This is how I am doing my bit. Will you?

*“Alone we can do so LITTLE; together we can do so much” – Helen Keller*

## The Journey of a Thousand Miles

- **Pravin Daware**, Team Lead-Tech Support

*“All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveler is unaware!”*

Quite like this quote, I was completely unaware of what was to come. The US sojourn, the things surrounding it – And the journey of a thousand miles!

When I first found out I would travel to the US, I was in complete disbelief and it took a while to realize that my dream was about to come true! The things I had only seen in movies were about to get real and I was excited for the things to come. However, gradually, several thoughts and questions started hovering in my mind. First time at the airport, first flight, different people, different culture, different language, etc. the list was long, and nervousness took over me. But, with my fingers crossed, I believed that I could face it all.



Time passed by fast and soon came the day when I had to leave. I bid goodbye to my family and friends who had come to drop me at the airport and thus began my journey. With Rakesh and VB accompanying me, I was quite at ease and the long flight was an exciting experience.

‘Welcome to the United States of America!’ read a billboard at the JFK airport and I realized that I had come a long way, not just in miles, but in life as well.



The schedule was planned very well with ample time allotted for us to work and tour. As we went places and saw new things, I realized that America is very different than what I had imagined it to be. In fact, it was far more amazing and beautiful than I had thought! We were hosted by Jennifer Thomas at her home and words cannot express the warm hospitality she and her family had towards us. Far from our home, she left no stone unturned in making us feel at home. We discussed work and best practices along with the Support processes. However, what stood out for me during my stay at her place was the yummy American food that she cooked for us! I still miss it.

The entire tour turned out to be a life changing one for me as I took back a lot than what I carried with me. The wonderful people and their welcoming nature, the warm hospitality and politeness, the beautiful landscapes and the towering skyscrapers, the vast green fields and the beautiful cities. All in all, the United States of America was an **AWESOME** experience! Witnessing all this, I headed home for another journey of a thousand miles, but this time with many memories and a lot of smiles! 😊

***“No dream is ever chased alone” – Rahul Dravid***



## Lights, Camera, Action!

‘It is what we do in our leisure that determines the person who we are...’



Canine caught on camera by **Shubham Viramgama**, Junior Software Developer



An illustration of how light shines in the darkness by **Shubham Viramgama**, Junior Software Developer

### Neelam ki Kalam se

Parindo ko nahi di jati talim udano ki,  
Vo khud tay karte hain manzil aasmano ki.  
Rakhte hain jo hosla aasman chune ka,  
Unko nahi hoti parvah gir jane ki.  
Cheenti bhi tay karti hain milon ka safar,  
Apni manzil pane ki.  
Tukdo ko jodna hota hain namumkin,  
Par ye umeed hain jo namumkin ko mumkin banati.  
Khwahisho ko jarurat hain pankh laga kar udd jane  
ki,  
Sapno ko such banane ki.  
Chahe raahein ho mushkil,  
Zarurat hain galat ko sahi banane ki.  
Zindgi ki unkahi ghadiyo me kaid hain,  
Un ashko ki kahani si.  
Such keh gaye hain galib...  
“Umeedo se bandha ek ziddi parinda hain insaan,  
Jo gayal bhi umeedo se hain or zinda bi umeedo par hain”  
Antviram kuch is tarah zindagi ka....  
“Kaun puchta hain pinjre mein band parindo ko galib,  
Yaad vo aate hain jo udd jate hain”

-**Neelam Tak**, Product Support Analyst



Research Paper on “**Analysing Recommendations of Universities for Students Using Data Mining Techniques**” by **Shweta Khude**, Junior Software Developer.

- She presented this research paper in **ICAC3 2017**, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers(IEEE) Conference, held in “Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering, Bandra, Mumbai”.
- It is now accepted and recognized by the IEEE Conference and is available in IEEE Digital Library.



A piece of sketch depicting ‘Happiness shared is happiness multiplied’ by **Utkarsha Saswadkar**, Business Analyst