Sir Benegal Narsing Rau
1988

Smt. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya
1991

Chitrapur Saraswats on Currency notes & Postage Stamps

Guru Dutt (Padukone)
2004
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THE KANARA SARASWAT ASSOCIATION – KALA VIBHAG PRESENTS KONKANI DRAMA FESTIVAL

Dramas in Konkani were regularly held in the first few decades and were well appreciated and patronized by our people. Even before Independence some Saraswat groups were also holding Konkani dramas. In the recent years Konkani stage is in dormant state. The KSA Kala Vibhag would like to revive the old Konkani dramas written by well known Playwrights like Pandurang Talgeri, Venkatrao Talgeri, Sundegopal Golikere, Prabhakar Mudur, Devraj Baindur, Krishna Kurwar, Surkund AnnajjiRao, Ramu Kodange and others.

Kala Vibhag would also like to dedicate the dramas to well known writers, actors, actresses and directors who had dominated the Konkani stage.

It is proposed to hold the festival in the month of May 2008. The details of the venue, the dates names of the dramas etc, will be announced in our next issue.

KANARA SARASWAT Vol. LXXXIX, No.1, January 2008
II Shri Shantadurga Prasanna II
II Shri Gurubhyo Namah II

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Guru P.P. Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji
Shri Satish Gopal Adur
completes 75 years on 2nd January 2008
Our humble and sincere prayers at the Lotus feet
of God and Guruparampara to give him long life
and lasting good health.
Wife: Nandini (Suman)
Children and grandchildren
Sandeep & family Anuradha & family
and all relatives and friends

Ruby Wedding Anniversary
Hearty Congratulations on Ruby Wedding Anniversary of
Ratnakar and Sheela Gersappa (nee Mankekar) - 19th November 2007

We pray to Lord Bhavanishankar and the Holy Guruparampara to grant them
good health, long life and happiness.

With Love and Regards from:
Saroj-Anil Nalkur, Kishore-Asha, Anil-Rashmi Gersappa, Ravindra- Arundhati,
Sanat-Shraddha Gersappa and Family.

Vol. LXXXIX, No.1, January 2008 KANARA SARASWAT
From the President's Desk

The New Year has made a dramatic entry on a red carpet laid down by the old year. Some important events in the last year boosted India's image. In cricket, India won the World Cup in the Twenty-Twenty series. In the test match that followed, India won the match and Tendulkar and Kumble broke a few records in the first match of this series. Vishwanath Anand won the world chess championship, Sunita Williams (an Indian American) the gutsy girl, broke two records in space, Kalpana Chawla made her mark in space and made a graceful exit, Indian actors have made their mark on the Hollywood scenario, and in the world Scrabble competitions, Indian youngsters have surpassed others. Medical tourism is increasing at jet speed. No wonder a red carpet was laid down for the New Year!

Yet, there is a stupendous amount of work to be done to alleviate the miseries of the oppressed, the victimized, and the underprivileged. I do not want to repeat India's gigantic problems and sound like a broken gramophone record!

At the individual level, if each one does a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats), most of us may find that our achievements in the past year were minimal.

The oft-repeated reason is that there is no time. But, as Madhukar and Vilas Samant state in their poem:

"As the years roll by,
The milestones recede fast,
Time races, seasons fly.
None but your Maker knows
The measure of your span.
Hence, treat each day
As if it were the last,
The only chance to make
Amends for the past."
So in the New Year let us treat each day as special.
As my friend said to me:
The past is history,
The future is a mystery,
The present is a gift
From God and
That is why it is called
The "present!"

I pray for peace, prosperity and happiness to one and all in the Saraswat community.

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Letters to the Editor

Konkani Sourabh

Dear Editor: It is very painful to read about the sad demise of Shri Heranjal Gajananmam and also that Konkani Sourabh which was presented by him in an interesting manner to keep Konkani alive among our Chitrapur Saraswat society, is being discontinued.

A real tribute to him could be to continue this column. I am sure there will be a few if not many who could help to keep it going.

Chaitanya Nadkarni, Goregaon (West), Mumbai

KS welcomes enthusiastic proponents of the Konkani language to help us continue Konkani Sourabh. - Editor

Guru Jyoti Pada Yatra

Dear Editor: We, Chitrapur Saraswats, feel proud about the ensuing Tercentenary Guru Jyoti Pada Yatra in February 2008. The preparatory guidelines for the Pada Yatra have been so carefully and elaborately enunciated by Shri Chitrapur Math (KS, October 2007) for the knowledge and advance information of participants that it leaves no doubt or query in the minds of the participants.

It is learnt that the number of participants who have registered for the Guru Jyoti Yatra has already exceeded the expected figure, and that the participants include a number of "amchi" NRIs specially visiting India for the glorious event. It is also learnt that the participants not only comprise able and healthy men and women, and senior citizens, but also devotees and senior citizens who are unable to walk the long distance and will form a "cheering (jaijaikar) group" in a convoy of vehicles. Besides, it is interesting that enthusiastic participants have already started rehearsing the long distance Pada Yatra in groups. The profound interest shown by the members of our community is worth appreciating.

Jayant R. Karnad, Mangalore

Yoga for You

Dear Editor: The articles on yoga by Geeta Mohan Rao (Nallkur) that appeared regularly in KS have inspired many of our community and especially senior citizens. The articles were very informative; the language was simple and the exercises were presented in detail so that they could be understood and performed by anyone. It is true that the techniques that were explained will enable one to bond with the inner self and maintain a balance with the surroundings. Geeta Rao should continue to give such inspiring and beautiful articles on a regular basis through the KS.

Shrikar Talgeri, Vile Parle (East), Mumbai

Thank you for the feedback. We intend to continue the next series on 'Yoga for common health problems' soon. - Editor

Eye Donation

Dear Editor: The article, 'The Vision to Spread Vision' by Lalita M Madiman (KS, December 2007) gives very good information and excellent advice about eye donation. I hope you will soon publish a similar article on organ and body donation. I am 81 years old having a heart-related ailment and wish that it will be convenient, hopefully sooner than later, to donate my body for whatever use can be made of it and anything in it. I am emphasizing 'convenient' because there was a recent report that a certain person's wish to donate his body could not be fulfilled as no hospital was prepared to accept it because there was 'no vacancy' in their morgue! I hope, Central and State Governments will take immediate steps to ensure that this does not happen and also that services for accepting eye and organ
donations are prompt. There are reports about undue delays in this regard too, forcing relatives to carry out the funeral because further waiting is inconvenient/useless.

Some years back, an 80 year-old, who could read a newspaper without glasses, expired. I suggested to his family, that since his eyes were that good, they should donate his eyes. They readily agreed and thanked me for the suggestion as it had not occurred to them in their hour of grief. At their request, the hospital in which he died, called up an eye-bank and his eyes were donated. Some years later, a 74 year-old person expired in the same hospital. On my enquiring about eye donation, a hospital nurse told me that it was not worthwhile donating the eyes of a person over 70 years old as their corneas are not very effective. In November 2003, a Marathi newspaper published my letter in which I had suggested that euthanasia should be permissible initially in the case of persons over 85 years of age (the age limit being reduced to 80 after five years and to 75 after ten years) if the person is keen to die by donating his eyes, organs (including heart), bone marrow (for leukemia patients), skin (for temporary relief to burn victims), cadaver plasma (if the technique to collect and transfuse it is satisfactorily devised) etc. At that time also, a person (I think, he was connected with an NGO which assists in arranging eye donations) informed me (on phone) on the same lines as mentioned by the hospital nurse.

It is, therefore, quite essential to ascertain from surgeons who carry out cornea transplants whether the cornea from the eyes of the aged wear out soon.

D. L. Bijur, Mumbai

---

**Shri Chitrapur Math Tercentenary Event**

**Presentation on ‘Saraswati River’**

An informative presentation on ‘Saraswati River’ by noted scholar from Chennai, Shri D.K. Hari, will be held on Sunday, January 6, 2008, at 9.30 am at Andheri Sports Complex during Poojya Swamiji’s visit. All are cordially invited.
As we approach the Tercentenary of Shri Chitrapur Math in 2008 and the Centenary of the Kanara Saraswat Association in 2011, we need to find novel ways of informing our younger generation of the achievements of our community. In the earlier part of this two-part article, we attempted to make an impact through currency notes. In this part, we do so through postage stamps.

The process of issuing personality-oriented postage stamps i.e. those honouring Indians who excel in the field of politics, administration, leadership, literature, art, culture, education etc commenced soon after India's independence in 1947. The first set of four stamps paying homage to the Mahatma was issued on 15th August 1948. Of the several Chitrapur Saraswats who participated in the freedom struggle and excelled in the cooperative movement, industry, administration, art and culture, the first in whose honour a postage stamp was released in 1988 was Sir Benegal Narsing Rau. He was closely followed by Smt. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya (nee Dhareshwar) in 1991 and thespian Guru Dutt (Padukone) in 2004.

Stamps, First Day Covers and Brochures: Generally, along with the release of a postage stamp, a First Day Cover and a brochure containing a biography of the personality and description of the stamp are also issued. The biographies of all the three above-mentioned personalities have been published in earlier issues of the Kanara Saraswat magazine. For example, Nayampalli Jayavanth Rao had written a masterly piece on Sir B.N. Rau while M.S. Kilpady had lucidly covered the life of Smt. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya. The biographies of all the three personalities in this article are a verbatim reproduction of the philatelic material released with the postage stamp.

SIR BENEGAL NARSING RAU

The First Day Cover and black and white commemorative stamp of Sir B.N. Rau (denomination 60 paise), both bearing his handsome visage, are shown on the cover page. The cancellation is a simple circle bearing his name thus signifying the humility of a great personality. In the case of Sir B.N. Rau, no brochure was issued, but a text of the speech by then Rashtrapati Shri R. Venkatraman which is reproduced below, was distributed to the audience at the release ceremony of the postage stamp.

Address of the President of India at the Release of a Stamp Commemorating Sir B.N. Rau, ICS

"I deem it an honour and privilege to be asked to release the stamp in commemoration of one of India's finest men.

If ever nature produced a perfect man it was Benegal Narsing Rau. Physically attractive, mentally brilliant and morally a giant, B.N. Rau has left a deep and indelible impression on every one he came across. His suave manners, withdrawn nature, philosophic looks and sweet voice marked him out as a class apart in any national and international forum. He was elegant, persuasive and unassuming wherever he was, and whatever position he occupied. His career has been not only a success story but a model for many to follow. I was one of those deeply impressed and greatly attracted by this eminent son of India.

Born in the South Kanara District of the then Madras Presidency in 1887, B.N. had his education in the Presidency College, Madras, and in Cambridge. His father Dr. Raghavendra Rao was an eminent surgeon and his other three sons were equally renowned. BN's elder brother Sanjeeva Rao after graduating from Cambridge dedicated his whole life to the creed of Theosophy and his younger brothers B. Rama Rao and B. Shiva Rao have carved out for themselves a niche in the annals of our country. Narsing Rau himself joined the Indian Civil Service and by sheer brilliance rose to heights undreamt of in those days by Indians. It is superfluous for me to recount the biography of B.N. Rau to an audience of the kind before me.

B.N was a mental phenomenon. Few have matched his academic distinction. Not only did he get a first class in each subject offered but topped the list of successful candidates on every occasion. A master of English prose, his statements in the
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We wholeheartedly invite you with your family and friends to participate in the activities and avail this opportunity to perform Guruseva, and seek Parama Poojya Swami ji’s blessings.

For further details please contact:

Yours in the service of the Math, the Guru and Guruparampara.

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Vice Chairman
Reception Committee
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Mangesh G Chickramane
President & Standing Committee Member
Mumbai (Virar) Local Sabha
0250-2512690
09820876645
United Nations sparkle with purple patches. It is said that the style represents the man. In BN’s case it was one hundred percent true. Clear, crisp and elegant and clothed in a language of utmost decorum, one could hardly distinguish the person from his speeches. A Brazilian colleague of B.N. in the International Law Commission wrote in a journal in his country as follows:

‘After a long discussion during which all members had talked with the exception of one member of the Commission, the second Vice President, Sir Benegal Rau, who had been taking notes, started to speak; and with a very clear voice and melodic accent he read what he had written from the notes he had taken. His language was almost precious due to its perfection. The way of talking was elegant and somewhat remote — as if the speaker was not there — but he was there... And the solution he proposed was practical and, under the circumstances, the only one capable of satisfying everybody.’

B.N. Rau’s contribution to the Kashmir debate and the Hyderabad debate in the Security Council are remembered even today. In particular, the strategy adopted by India of presenting forcefully that India could not afford to have independent islands in the heart of her territory paid dividends and secured the Council’s acceptance of the plea.

It is as the architect of the Indian Constitution that B.N. will be ever remembered by the country. Gifted with an incisive mind, sharpened by experience as a judge of the High Court, and enriched with a deep knowledge of national and international practices and procedures, he was able to provide a framework of the Constitution for legal luminaries like Dr. Ambedkar, Sir Alladi Krishnaswami Iyer and K.M. Munshi to embellish and fashion it. He visited several countries like the United States, U.K., Canada and Ireland and held extensive discussions with ministers, judges, politicians and statesmen. It is interesting to recall that he had suggested that where principles of state policy were in conflict with the fundamental rights of the individual, the former should prevail. In short, public interest and welfare should override individual rights. He had suggested the adoption of practices akin to the American Constitution in the matter of appointment of judges.

If Dr. Ambedkar was the skilful pilot who steered the Constitution through all its stages, B.N. Rau provided him the boat, a solid, sturdy one that could stand any weather, fair or foul. With the skill of a master craftsman, he chiseled the articles of the Constitution in clear precise terms. We are all proud that the Indian Constitution has stood the test of time, a fitting tribute to the architect on his centenary year.

From the position of the Vice President of the International Law Commission, B.N. moved easily to a seat in the International Court of Justice. It was, in a sense, a home-coming because he was by training and temperament a judge. Justice Frankfurter of United States once said: ‘If the President of the United States were to ask me to recommend a judge for our Supreme Court on the strength of his knowledge of the history and working of the American Constitution, B.N. Rau would be the first on my list’.

Justice Manfred Lachs of Poland, a veteran of the U.N. General Assembly and a judge of the International Court of Justice, once told our delegation that B.N. Rau was the finest jurist he had come across.

I cannot do better than quote Jawaharlal Nehru’s speech in the Lok Sabha condoling the demise of B.N. Rau. He said: ‘It is customary in this House for reference to be made when a Member of this House or of the past Assemblies dies. It is not customary for such reference to be made in the case of a non-Member. I venture to make this mention here in regard to a person who was not a Member of this House, but who was nonetheless connected very intimately, if I may say so, with this House, and more especially the Constitution under which this House is functioning. I refer to Shri Benegal Nursing Rau who died at about half past two this morning at Zurich. Shri B.N. Rau was, as the House knows, eminent in many fields and he served the country in various ways. I remember it as a memory of long ago, seeing him as a contemporary at Cambridge in my own college, an exceedingly shy person who almost refused to talk to one because he was so shy. Since then, he accumulated a great deal of learning and experience and scholarship. But he bore that great weight of scholarship always in an unassuming, unobtrusive way. I doubt if anybody saw him ruffled at all. Always, he had that gentle way of approaching questions which surprised very greatly many people during the discussions in the United Nations where he represented India because often, in the United Nations discussions, very hard
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words are said. But whatever was said, B.N. Rau remained his quiet, gentle self without being ruffled or moved in the slightest.

The United Nations paid glowing tributes to B.N. Rau and speaking on the occasion in the Third Committee, I described him as a man of ‘rare charm and erudition’.

We are commemorating the memory of such a great man by releasing this stamp today. May the users recall his qualities and follow his example.”

SMT. KAMALADEVI CHATTOPADHYAYA

The First Day Cover in honour of Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya shown on the cover page bears her impressive profile in black and white. Of the two coloured stamps in her honour, one (denomination Rs.6.50) depicts puppets (folk art) and the other (denomination Re.1.00) depicts handicrafts, both of which she admirably promoted. Her name (in English and Hindi) is displayed on both sides of the stamp. The cancellation mark represents the Bankura horse which became the logo of the All India Handicrafts Board which she founded and chaired. The text of her biography as given in the brochure issued by the Government is given below:

“Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya: Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya was born on 3rd April, 1903, as the fourth child of Ananthiah Dhareshwar and Girja Devi, a wealthy Saraswat family of South Karnataka. She had her early education at a catholic convent and St. Mary’s College, Mangalore, and later Bedford College and London School of Economics. She was married young but became a widow during the marriage festivities itself. She broke from orthodoxy to assert her individuality when she married Hirendranath Chattopadhyaya, brother of Sarojini Naidu, and a man of her choice.

The Rowlatt Act and the atrocities committed by the British in Punjab and other parts of the country, coupled with the influence of Gandhiji, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sarojini Naidu and Kasturba led her to politics and an active participation in the freedom struggle. She even left her college education in England to join the non-cooperation movement, serving her first three terms of imprisonment at Yerawada, Belgaum and Vellore Jails. In 1930, she was once again arrested for breaking the Salt Law. She was also jaled for participating in the Quit India Movement in 1942.

Smt. Chattopadhyaya held many distinguished positions in public life. She was the founder Chairperson of the All India Handicrafts Board; Chairperson, Sangeet Natak Akademi, and Vice-President, World Crafts Council. For her distinguished contribution to nearly every aspect of India’s social and cultural life, she received, among other awards, the Padma Vibhushan, the Wattumull Foundation Award (1962) and the Ramon Magsaysay award.

Smt. Chattopadhyaya played an important role in providing institutional protection for the growth of handicrafts and folk arts. Her most noticeable contribution has been the setting up of an apex body of the All India Handicrafts Board to oversee and foster the growth of handicrafts in the country. Among the folk arts she collected are various items of interest particularly puppets collected from all over the country which are now exhibited at the National Handicrafts Museum.

Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya passed away on 29th October, 1988.

The Department of Posts considers it a privilege to commemorate the memory of Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya by issuing special postage stamps. The set of two stamps depicts a puppet and a horse motif.”

GURU DUTT (PADUKONE)

The First Day Cover and the black and white stamp of Guru Dutt (denomination Rs.5.00) is shown on the cover page. The cancellation mark represents two paper flowers in black and white probably depicting his last directional venture ‘Kagaaz ke phool’. The First Day Cover also depicts the multifaceted achievements of Gurudutt as an actor, director (on chair) and producer. The brochure issued with the first First Day Cover describes the genius of the most eminent film personalities amongst Chitrapur Saraswats.

“Guru Dutt: The 50s was undoubtedly the golden era of Hindi films blessed with directors and artistes who could stamp their individuality on their work. One such personality, who carved a niche for himself as a director, actor, and producer in the decade, was Guru Dutt Shivshankar Padukone, popularly known as Guru Dutt. His films had a uniqueness, a brooding intensity, so much so that a single frame of his work could be identified as his own.
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<td>AREA</td>
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**OUR MARKETING ACTIVITIES**

- TIG Filler / Flux Cored Wires
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- OUR MARKETING ACTIVITIES

**CO2 Wire**

- AHMEDABAD, BANGALORE, BARODA, BHILAI, DELHI, CHENNAI, FARIDABAD, HYDERABAD, JAMNAGAR, KOLKATA, LUDHIANA, PUNE, VISHAKHAPATNAM.
Guru Dutt was born on July 9, 1925, in Bangalore. His father Shivshankar Padukone worked as a school headmaster and then in a bank in Bangalore, and his mother Vasanthi was a school teacher. He had three brothers and a sister.

He had his early education in Calcutta. Financial constraints did not allow him to study further than matriculation which he completed in 1941. His creative instincts were manifest from a young age. He was interested in photography and had a natural inclination for dancing and music especially Hindi and Bengali folk music. He joined the ‘Uday Shankar India Culture Centre’ in Almora. After his dance training, he got a break in films as a dance director on a three-year contract with Prabhat Films, Pune, when along with choreography, he assisted directors otherwise and even acted in some small roles. After his contract with Prabhat was over, he managed to get a job as assistant director to Amiya Chakravarty, a leading film director at the time, in his film 'Girls' School', and in 1950 he assisted Gyan Mukherjee in the Bombay Talkies film ‘Sangram’.

Finally, in 1951, he was called upon by his friend Dev Anand, to honour a promise made when they were working together at Prabhat, to direct ‘Baazi’, a crime thriller. ‘Baazi’ was a huge success and was a trendsetter in the genre of crime films. Most of the songs for the film were sung by Geeta Roy, a star singer at that time. Guru Dutt and Geeta Roy met during the song recordings of ‘Baazi’ and fell in love, which culminated in marriage on May 26, 1953.

The decade of the '50s and early '60s saw him as a director as well as an actor and producer for a number of films. 'Aar Paar' released in 1954 established Guru Dutt as a director to reckon with, followed by some of his best works like 'Mr. and Mrs. '55', 'Pyaasa' and 'Kaagaz ke phool'. But 'Kaagaz ke phool' was a dismal success at the box office and a dejected Guru Dutt never directed a film again, though he continued to produce films and act in both home and outside productions. In fact, soon after, he produced and acted in ‘Chaudhavin ka chand’, which was an instant success and helped Guru Dutt recoup all the losses that he had suffered in ‘Kaagaz ke phool’, and ‘Sahib, Bibi aur ghulam’ won the President’s silver medal as well as the ‘Film of the Year’ award from the Bengal Film Journalists' Association besides going to the Berlin Film Festival.

Apart from his own productions, Guru Dutt acted in outside productions like 'Twelve O’clock', 'Sautela bhai', 'Bahurani', 'Bharosa', etc.

On October 10, 1964, the Hindi film world suffered a great loss with the demise of Guru Dutt.

As a director, Guru Dutt was a perfectionist who never compromised on quality. He created a unique atmosphere through his sense of music, unique picturization of songs, subtle but intelligent dialogues, novel themes, depth of his characters, excellent use of lighting with light and shade, and superb shots sometimes followed by close ups of actors highlighting their expression which went beyond the merely narrative function and made an impression uniquely identified with their creator. He also introduced the use of long focal length lenses, 100 mm as well as 75 mm, for close ups in Indian films. According to his one-time assistant who went on to become a successful director in his own right, Raj Khosla, 'His ambition was not just to make a good film or be one of the top film makers. He aspired to make a great film, a different film and he wanted to be the best film maker. He always wanted things in absolute terms. Be it acclaim or success. He would settle for nothing less. Film making was an obsession with him'.

The Department of Posts honours the unique legacy of Shri Guru Dutt through the issue of this commemorative postage stamp.

Conclusion The world of currency notes is being fast replaced by plastic/electronic credit cards while the universe of postage stamps is being replaced by private courier services and e-mail activities. Therefore, postage stamps, First Day Covers and currency notes are fast becoming scarce thus emphasizing the need for our community to pursue these lucrative hobbies of stamp and coin collection. Properly selected, they provide a good investment opportunity as well. The items mentioned in these two articles will be available for sale at an appropriate Tercentenary event. For enquiries please contact scm300@gmail.com or prakashgokarn@hotmail.com. Profits accruing from the sale of the items will be utilized for Tercentenary activities.

In case any reader has come across any other special philatelic or numismatic material on Chitrapur Saraswat individuals and institutions, kindly share them with us for dissemination to the community.
RAJANNA [PANEMANGALORE RAJARAM RAO]

Rajanna, our beloved brother, Rajamam to the residents of Guruprasad (Vile Parle) and Chaitanya (Virar) Co-operative Societies, Comrade P.R. Rao to thousands of workers of the Greaves Cotton & Allied Companies Union, is no more with us.

On the fateful evening of November 20, 2007, he was snatched from us by God Almighty. His end was silent and peaceful. It is said that God always calls those whom he loves most.

For us, brothers and sisters, he was a father figure. We used to take his advice in all matters such as buying a property, fixing marriage alliances, and so on. He was our final decision-maker. People from our Society and various other places used to take his advice for any legal problem.

For his workers, he was like God. His main advice to them was, “Never go on strike but negotiate and win the case.” Not only the workers but even the management used to respect him. Rajanna being a labour law expert, had won many cases for workers and helped them immensely with his knowledge. He used to tell me, “You must always fight for justice without fear.” That is why this great man achieved so much in life and was loved by all.

Rajanna was a versatile genius, a champion of workers, and also an actor. He used to act in Konkani and Kannada dramas when he was living as a bachelor in Canara House. He used to arrange shadow plays when he was studying in Ruparel College. He was also a prolific writer and used to write articles for the Kanara Saraswat magazine.

A widely traveled man, he had visited many countries like Syria and USSR to participate in world trade union conferences. He had also traveled to the UAE, Qatar, US, UK and West Indies to stay with his daughter and elder brother.

His achievements are so many; it is difficult to describe them here. It is a great loss for us, the members of the Panemangalore family.

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE.

P. Chittaranjan Rao
Milan Naidu named Indian Army Vice Chief

Lieutenant General Milan Naidu, son of Lalitkumar and Shanta L. Naidu (nee Tonse), has taken over as the Indian Army’s Vice Chief, with effect from October 1, 2007.

The General schooled at St Joseph’s Convent, Bhopal, and continuing his family tradition, joined the National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla, where he excelled in marksmanship shooting and was awarded a “Blue”. Commissioned in the Rajput Regiment in December 1967, he has had a long and chequered career having served in all sectors and terrains in India and abroad. As commanding officer of 5 Rajput, he participated in Operation Pawan in Sri Lanka and was awarded the Yudh Seva Medal. He has commanded a brigade in semi-desert terrain, a division in the plains of Punjab during Operation Parakram, and a corps in a high-altitude and glaciated region.

A recipient of the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal for distinguished service, the General has had varied operational and staff experience at all levels including a stint at the Military Operations Directorate at Army HQs. He has had the privilege of being our Defence Attaché in Germany. His forte has been in the field of instruction. Having trained cadets and young officers at the Indian Military Academy and the Infantry School, he has had the distinction of commanding the Army War College - the premier officers’ training establishment for combat. A visionary by nature, he has been instrumental in the successful implementation of the e-learning programme in the Indian Army.

Selected to attend the Defence Services Staff College Course in Canada, his passion for knowledge led him to attend the Higher Command Course at the Army War College and acquire a MSc in Defence Studies, and go on to achieve a postgraduate in Environmental and Ecological Sciences. He is currently aspiring for a PhD in Management of Ecology.

A traditional family man, the General is married to Neeharika (nee Awasthy), an Army Officer’s daughter, and has two children. A keen sportsman, he plays golf, tennis and cricket, and devotes his leisure hours to angling, trekking, reading, photography and music.

(Source: Indo-Asia News Service, October 3, 2007.)

For the love of learning*

[R Edwin Sudhir profiles New York-based ‘knowledge junkie’ Mangesh Hattikudur who followed his dream of creating the ‘perfect magazine’]

He’s the vice president, product development, of MENTAL-FLOSS, a magazine which is “a totally selfish (and completely nerdy) venture”. Mangesh Hattikudur says, “My friend Will Pearson and I were completely obsessed with taking intro classes in college. We loved learning the basics about things, and being able to tell each other strange and useless facts.

“We’re both knowledge junkies. So, one day in our junior year, we started describing the perfect magazine to each other. We wanted it to be hip, and quick, and quirky, but really funny too. At the same time, we wanted it to leave people feeling smarter at the end of every issue. When we couldn’t find what we were looking for on the newsstand, we decided to try and create it ourselves.”

That’s the potted history of a venture born in Duke University and now has a readership of 300,000, not to forget the regular visitors to mentalfloss.com which has daily quizzes and puzzles. Mangesh (28) has reason to be quietly proud; he gave up a consulting job and, early on, did several part-time jobs to pursue his passion.

Mangesh’s family, which speaks Konkani, has links with Hubli and Dharwad. “I visited Bangalore in May earlier this year. I’ve come earlier too and seen the way the city has changed. It used to be much greener then,” he says. Mangesh grew up in Delaware. “Our teachers embraced our creativity and pushed us to be original. That’s largely why I loved going to school so much, and why I ended up doing what I do now,” he says.

Mangesh recalls those days doing B.A. at Duke University. “While I enjoyed classes, what I really loved were the extra-curriculums. I was heavily involved in high school journalism, and Science Olympics and the quiz team. My summers in India had
Rajmam – A Tribute

My first meeting with him happened to be with regard to an alliance for my daughter, Priya, with his son, Vinay. It was my first such meeting, but he could sense my restlessness and, within minutes, put me at ease. He was Rajaram Panemangalore (Mr. P.R. Rao), popularly called ‘Rajmam’. Even for the soon-to-follow marriage, he accompanied me when I went to book the wedding venue, the caterer and the Bhatmar. Yes, a true ‘Raja’ at heart; I respected him as I would a very dear, elder brother.

Rajmam had an incredible knack of making friends, be they young or old. We were fortunate that we soon became a part of the get-togethers and festivals celebrated together in a family of several brothers and sisters and even by third generation family members. He, along with his elder brother, started a rare family helpline to meet the needs of medical treatment, something that is seldom seen in families today. He was truly a ‘Mooladhara’ or ‘Deepstambh’, or a beacon of light for his large extended family. He must probably have been the first Bhanap to research on his family place of origin – Montukkake village, in Mangalore.

Personally, I shared a special bond with him regarding co-operative housing societies. Our views matched, frequencies synchronized. He would phone me to ask, ‘Tugeli society kale mhanta? Sagle sama naven?’ His vast experience in the matters of co-operative housing societies helped me to overcome some of the usual hurdles of the society I lived in. When our granddaughter, Isha, started schooling, Rajmam shifted to Virar. Here too, he made an impact by arranging and adding various facilities like a separate water-line for drinking water, much-needed security at night, and a special inverter for the entire society to illuminate the staircase and the surrounding road during load-shedding. All these required firm decisions. Even during his absence from Virar, he would arrange for the odd water tanker or co-ordinate with Corporators during water crises. He was a true reformist.

Even after shifting base to Virar, he was always in constant touch with relatives, friends, colleagues etc. either on the ‘phone, fax or computer. He was extremely techno savvy - he had a keen desire to learn new technology and discuss it with the youngsters in the family. He learnt all about using a computer and used its intricate features.

Rajmam was of the firm opinion that one should go when one is hale and hearty and not as a burden to others. These words became a reality when he left for his heavenly abode during his afternoon nap on November 20, 2007. For a person who had just crossed 70 and was regular in his habits, his sudden demise was untimely and shocking.

Rajmam was the ex Vice President of AITUC (All India Trade Union Congress) and present General Secretary of the Greaves Cotton & Allied Companies Employees’ Union. His august standing in such a movement and the magnitude of his magnanimity was new even to me, for he was not a man to speak about his achievements. When news of his death spread, a vast gathering of Union workmen, managerial staff and other stalwarts spoke of his various qualities and remembered him as unassuming but great.

Apart from his immediate family, Rajmam leaves behind his large family of friends, union men, colleagues and co-workers. All of us cannot even imagine the extent of our loss. May his soul rest in peace, and may God Almighty give his family strength to cope with his loss.

Anil S Heble (Thane)
quite an effect too. A lot of the humour in the magazine is sort of subtle and sweet, and that really comes from my grandfather (who lived in Dharwad) and my older cousins and relatives. Their love for puns and word play — and they fed me a steady diet of lovely books by P G Wodehouse, Gerald Durrell, and even Don Martin and Asterix comics. It was always the monsoon when I landed up in India, and when I wasn’t playing football in the rain in Dharwad or Bangalore or Bombay, I had my nose in a book,” he says.

He was a double major in anthropology and diplomacy and cherishes the experience: “The university was filled with people who’d accomplished all these incredible things. It was intimidating and inspiring, and it was exactly the kick in the pants I needed. Duke also helped fund the first issue of Mental-Floss and the administration was incredibly supportive,” he says.

So, who reads his magazine? “I think it’s people who love quizzing and general knowledge, and who love to learn. The common denominator really seems to be people who crave facts and knowledge.”

Mangesh would rather not be doing anything else. “I like Mental-Floss because I feel I can do some creative work, but get people hooked on learning. At the end of the day, that’s something I feel good about.”

Nothing gladdens his heart more than a reader telling him that Mental-Floss is his favourite magazine. But they do get their share of brickbats. “Sometimes the magazine gets knocked for making mistakes. I’d say we get two minor things wrong every issue but we acknowledge our errors though. Sometimes, sadly, people dismiss the magazine before actually picking it up. On the whole, readers and critics have been unbelievably kind to us,” he says.

Connecting with people is a rewarding experience. He says, “I love that I can write a short piece on how a blind man invented the cruise control on cars, or write a biography of one of my childhood heroes, and it’ll touch someone. Every day, we get e-mails from Bulgaria and South Africa and distant places we don’t really think Mental-Floss was reaching.”

Where does the magazine go from here? “It’s to make the magazine the backbone of a much larger educational brand. We just signed a 7-figure deal with Harper-Collins to do a children’s series, we’ve got eight books for adults out, we’re putting a lot of effort into building our website (we have about 3.5 million page views a month right now), and we’re looking into things like TV and radio,” he says.

He’d love to make a foray into the Indian market. “We’ve definitely had a few serious conversations about it. I have great plans for India. I’m just waiting for the right partner to come along,” he says. His chemical engineer dad and teacher mom have been “unbelievably supportive” of his efforts.

Now, he prepares to launch his new book, In the Beginning. “It covers the origin of everything. How the dishwasher was made (it was created by a society woman because she couldn’t find good help!), how the waltz came about, to how humans first started kissing. It’s jam-packed with great stories,” he says.

For the moment, he’s busy with bringing out yet another issue of a magazine that could well be must-reading for anyone who wants to be clued into everything.

(Courtesy: DEEP FOCUS, Sunday Times of India, Bangalore, November 11, 2007)

R-Day has a special meaning for him

Republic Day has a special meaning for Sanmesh Kalyanpur who was selected by the President of India for the prestigious Jeevan Raksha Padak 2006 in this year’s Republic Day honours for it followed his winning the Prime Minister’s National Bravery Award on the eve of Republic Day last year. He thus has the distinction of being the first Saraswat and the first from Maharashtra to be conferred both Awards.

Since Sanmesh, who was attending a Shibir organized under the aegis of Shri Chitrapur Math at the time of receiving the intimation, could not attend the presentation function due to the very short notice, the Jeevan Raksha Padak was presented to him later by the Collector of Mumbai at a special function held in the Old Custom House. Listed in the Orders and Decorations of the Republic of India, it consists of a pair of medallions - a miniature medal of the original medal to be worn on uniform for official functions, and the other, the main medal, a 58 mm circular, bronze medal with the figure of a hand stretching out. The reverse of the medal...
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carries the state emblem. The medal has a 32 mm red ribbon with blue edge stripes and three green centre stripes, symbolizing fire (red), water (blue), and life (green).

Sanmesh was also felicitated by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra Vilasrao Deshmukh (see photo) and last year, he was awarded the Maharashtra Gaurav Puraskar.

Sanmesh is a good sportsman as well. As a key member of the cricket team of St. Xavier's High School, he helped his school win the Inter-School Harris Shield Plate Division in 2005. He also won the Best Sportsman of the Year trophy in 2006. He now represents the cricket team of his college, K.C. College, which has reached the finals of the Jai Hind Inter-College Cricket Cup.

**Actress Deepika Padukone wins accolades for debut performance**

Runaway hit *Om Shanti Om* heroine Deepika Padukone recently bagged the Lions Club of SOL Favourite Actor (Female) Award and the All India Filgoers' Association trophy for the Best Debut (2007). The Awards were presented to her at the same event by national award-winning director Madhur Bhandarkar (of 'Chandni Bar', 'Page 3' and 'Corporate' fame). "It's both humbling and overwhelming that both audiences and the jury have considered me worthy of their appreciation for my debut performance in *Om Shanti Om*, but I would like to share the accolades with the entire cast and crew particularly Farah Khan and Shah Rukh Khan. It goes without saying that I still have a long way to go as I strive for higher goals in my acting career. More than anything else, I am enjoying my acting assignments and I guess the success will motivate me to work harder to sustain the new-found glory," said Deepika, on receiving the Awards. Deepika has evidently imbibed her philosophy-mantra from her father Prakash Padukone, former badminton world champion.

Post *Om Shanti Om*, Deepika who actually made her acting debut in the super-hit Kannada movie 'Aishwarya' opposite southside top star Upendra, has signed a couple of movies including 'Made in China' opposite Akshay Kumar. Speaking from Bangalore, Prakash Padukone seemed ecstatic: "It's thrilling to know that she has been accepted and appreciated for her debut performance in such a big way. When I watched 'OSO' at the premiere in London, I was pleasantly shocked because she had surpassed my expectations. But I advised her not to be complacent but always keep improving. 'Never feel satisfied, because you can always be better than before' - is the mantra I shared with her." Recalling his early days. the unassuming Prakash, said, "When I first started my badminton career as a seven year-old kid, I was pitted against an 18 year-old player because there was only a category of 'below 18'. Obviously, I lost the match, but gradually, I acquired the killer instinct to get better and eventually breezed my way to the top."

**Showbiz journalist Chaitanya Padukone honoured**

Senior showbiz journalist Chaitanya Padukone, who is listed in the Limca Book of Records, was honoured with "two awards" for "two decades of outstanding contribution to film and TV (print media) journalism" by SOL Lions Club International and the All India Filgoers Association at the hands of award-winning director Madhur Bhandarkar at the same event in Mumbai, where Deepika Padukone was also felicitated. Earlier, he had been presented the K.A. Abbas Memorial Gold Medal for 'Excellence in Film Journalism' by superstar Amitabh Bachchan.

Chaitanya contributes on Bollywood showbiz to two leading daily newspapers in Mumbai namely, Mid-Day and DNA After-Hrs.

**WE WISH ALL OUR READERS A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS 2008**
5th Death Anniversary
Sukumar Deorao Tracy
22nd January-2003

If only we could bring you back
For a few hours or maybe a day
We would express our unspoken love
And have countless things to say.

Your presence in our lives
Meant more than we ever knew
The tears might have ceased
But the void only grew.

Your wit and humour still bring a smile
Everything you did and said had an inimitable style
Why did you leave us and go dear one
To become one with the moon and the sun?

You are in peace and in a better place
This thought reduces our grief
But you are still with us and amongst us
Is our strong belief.

We love you and miss you
Fondly remembered by:
Wife: Saguna
Children: Kishor-Deepa; Jyoti-Satish; Revati-Rishi
Amar-Suchita; Biraj-Shubha
Grandchildren and great grandchildren
Brother: Somshekar Trasy
Sisters: Uma Bellare and Vasanti Murdeshwar.
Nothing is cherished more than kind and loving words and gestures, be they from relatives, friends, loved ones and, especially from complete strangers. It leaves one with the feeling of being on top of the world with a rainbow round your shoulders. Here are some such much-cherished incidents.

The first indelible encounter that comes to my mind is that of the humble, but by no means small in any way, driver of Mumbai’s local bus transport system, the BEST. A few years back, it was customary for me to change two buses to reach my workplace, both buses reaching the stop where I used to switch buses almost simultaneously. It so happened on one such morning that when the bus on the former route had reached the Aquarium, all of a sudden the bus started speeding up towards the Churchgate end. When it was time for me to alight, the driver confided that had he not stepped harder on the gas, I would have missed the bus on the latter route. A very touching gesture indeed and one that made me concede that while I was familiar with most of the conductors on both routes I had hardly ever bothered to get acquainted with the drivers. It seemed small compensation at that moment when I fervently prayed to God to bless him and his family.

On our first trip to the UK, while visiting Cambridge, we were keen on taking a boat ride down the river Cam. Not knowing where the starting point was, we accosted an elderly English gentleman to ask for directions. He gallantly accompanied us all the way to the river bank, simply because he had served in India for some years during the British regime.

A couple of years back, we joined a day’s bus tour that took us from Amsterdam to Brussels and for company, among others, we had a group of elderly Dutch ladies who seemed to be having a whale of a time, chatting and laughing and thoroughly enjoying themselves. Along the way, the driver who also doubled up as our tour guide started narrating in Dutch, which we could not follow. Suddenly, one of the ladies got up and walked towards the driver to tell him something. It transpired that she told him to switch over to English so that we too could follow what he had to say.

Returning after a day’s sightseeing in Singapore, we decided to have dinner at a joint run by a Tamilian gentleman. It was almost 10 pm and he was getting ready to shut shop for the day. When I enquired in Tamil whether it would be possible to serve us food, he not only readily agreed but only after some persuasion agreed to accept money from us.

Tired and hungry after walking round the Butterfly Park in Malaysia, we stepped into a wayside food joint for a bite before heading for the next place on our sightseeing itinerary. Almost towards the end of our meal, my husband decided to approach the gentleman seated a few tables away for directions. Explanations done with, as we were making our way to the exit, the same gentleman offered to drop us to our destination. Hardly had we walked a couple of yards when he stopped and asked us to get into his car. We were ushered into an air-conditioned Mercedes Benz. During the same sojourn, we were to spend a day with a family acquaintance and hired a cab to take us there. But having lost our bearings, we terminated the services of the cab driver much ahead of our destination. We entered a shop close by to seek help wherein one of the shoppers, a Malaysian national of Tamil origin, not only gave us explicit instructions but, on second thoughts, decided to drop us in his car right up to our host’s doorstep.

After taking in the sights of the Egyptian pyramids and the Sphinx followed by a sound and light show, we were walking down one of the streets when we were accosted by a stranger who first enquired whether we were Indians. On getting an affirmative nod from us, he introduced himself and then proceeded to invite us to a Diwali get-together of the Indian community there which was to be held that night at a five-star hotel nearby. Unfortunately, we had to decline the invitation as we had take a flight back home the same night.

While holidaying in Spain, we decided to take a bus ride to the small town of Mijas on a hilltop, not very far from our resort located on the Costa del Sol. During the half-hour wait at the bus stop, we befriended an elderly Englishwoman who was going to visit her married daughter residing in Mijas. The bus ride proved to be very enjoyable what with
the lady's lively and interesting chatter not infrequently interspersed with tidbits of touristy information. At the journey's end, we parted ways but not before being enveloped in a warm embrace by the kindly and lovable Mrs Gott.

A couple of months back, my cousin decided to have a get-together of relatives so that we could meet her brother and his family who had come down to India from the US. Towards the end of a thoroughly enjoyable evening, we got to meet my US cousin's teenage son for the first time. When it was time to bid our goodbyes, this lovely teenager suddenly gave me a bear hug leaving me feeling so cosseted and loved.

Rates for Classified Advertisements in Kanara Saraswat Magazine

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Chandrashekar S. Puthli

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Dilip Puthli & family
Kausalya Ullal & family
Vidya Gunavanthe & family
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Sunita’s panacea for worldly disputes – a trip to space!

Five years away from taking a joyride into space

Nirad Mudur, Bangalore

A trip into space to experience the view of an undivided earth may just be the ideal medicine to end all hatred and divisions based on communal, political and international lines.

This was the loud and clear message at the 58th International Astronautical Congress (IAC) from Sunita Williams, the US astronaut who stayed on the international Space Station (ISS) for a record-breaking 194 days and 19 hours before returning to earth in June.

“If anyone has a problem on Earth, the right thing to do would be to take a trip into space and view a world without borders, without divisions,” she said at a press conference after her address to the congress delegates on Friday. “The more the number of people going into space to experience the three dimensional effects of darkness and the ‘blue marble’ (that the Earth looks like from space), more will come back realizing that all such divisive elements on this planet are trivial,” she added.

Earlier, addressing congress delegates, Sunita spoke highly of her late colleague and close friend Kalpana Chawla who died in the February 2003 shuttle disaster 16 minutes away from touchdown, and said, “She always said she was a citizen of the universe. I did not get what she was saying until I went up there and realized that it was understanding the borderless world that she was referring to.”

Sunita’s visit to the IAC 2007 turned out to be a gala event with her address to the delegates being hijacked by students asking questions, ranging from how the food on the ISS was to future human colonies on Mars.

A schoolgirl asked whether she felt proud of being an ‘ambassador’ of all women in the world after achieving her record-breaking stay. “It does not matter whether you are a man or a woman. I was just happy doing my work as a human being. The space suit you wear does not recognize whether it is being worn by a man or a woman,” she commented.

The European Aeronautic Defence and Space company, EADS Astrium, plans to offer commercial services and short space trip packages to global customers from 2012 with a fleet of vehicles flying once a week. Those who can afford it will be able to take a ride into a low earth orbit space picnic that could last up to a few hours and return with all the thrills that are mostly experienced by astronauts on scientific missions.

At the 58th IAC, Christopher Chavagnac, Space Tourism Project Manager and Chief Engineer, EADS Astrium, said that the per head ticket at present is tipped at 2,00,000 Euros for the ride in a space plane which would take off like an airplane and then get into hypersonic mode to further climb like a rocket. However, plans are expected to materialize only when development funding for such an endeavour takes shape by 2008, he said. At one of the sessions at the IAC, EADS Astrium presented the full-scale mock-up of the passenger cabin of the brand new vehicle that is being planned for this commercial service.

During 2006 and the first half of 2007, the sub-orbital space tourism project of EADS matured and the concept of a single space plane performing the full mission of sending four passengers to 100 km altitude in a cabin large enough for getting the direct experience of weightlessness emerged.

As of 2007, space tourism opportunities are limited and expensive; with only the Russian Space Agency providing transport. The price for a flight brokered by Space Adventures to the International Space Station (ISS) aboard a Soyuz spacecraft is now $30 million. Flights are fully booked until 2009.

However, the EADS Astrium concept is aimed at short trips to provide a feel for those interested in experiencing space conditions and immediately returning without a stay on board any operational or defunct spacecraft. Such a concept, however, has been envisioned for the future in which a ‘space hotel’ would provide the luxuries while viewing the blue earth from space.

European Space Agency Director-General Jean Jacques Dordain has said that the ticket cost for a space tourist could be brought down as the frequency of fully-booked flights increases.

Space tourism is a recent phenomenon of indi-
individuals paying for space travel, primarily for personal satisfaction. The attractions of space tourism are the uniqueness of the experience, the thrill and awe of looking at earth from space (described by astronauts as extremely intense and mind-boggling), the experience, the notion of an exclusive status symbol, and various advantages of weightlessness.

EADS is an aerospace corporation formed by the July 10, 2000, merger of Aerospatiale-Matra of France, Construcciones Aeronauticas SA (CASA) of Spain, and Daimler Chrysler Aerospace AG (DASA) of Germany. The company develops and markets civil and military aircraft, as well as missiles, space rockets, satellites, and related systems.

(Courtesy: The Indian Express)

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SAD DEMISE

Shri Kolpe Bhaskar Rao
aged 87 years passed away peacefully on 27th October 2007, at Bangalore

Deeply mourned by:
wife, son, daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren, Kolpe and Trikannad families, relatives and friends.

Vol. LXXXIX, No.1, January 2008
KANARA SARASWAT
My heart beats for India

Vaishnavi Noye, Bangalore

Snow-capped mountains, steaming deserts, emerald pastures and icy waters... no, I am not referring to the exotic terrains of some far off country... I am talking about the nation that is India.

INDIA... the very word encapsulates the various facets and elements of our nation. From the rich culture and ethos that is propagated to the burgeoning industries and advancing economy that our country enjoys, India has it all.

Growing up abroad, India held a significant place in my heart. The early years I spent here were not to be eclipsed by the fantasy that many believe ‘abroad’ to be. In the first month I blew up such an enormous phone bill comprising calls to India, that my father discontinued the international connection! Still, I was young, and my parents thought I would gradually inure myself to my new environment. I knew better.

Every July, I would jump at the opportunity of returning to India on holiday to spend the summer days in the scorching Delhi heat with my grandparents, aunt, uncle and cousins. I still cherish those memories...

Quite regularly, I hear others uttering blasphemies against India - the roads, the poverty, the traffic (I’m sure you can relate to that!)... the list goes on. Yet, what are we going to do about it? We can curse, we can blame, we can rant and rave. But, is the system going to improve? Recently, I, along with three others, had to give a speech at the Rotary Club, Bangalore, on who should lead young India. However, what was most surprising was that none of us spoke about a political figure. There are so many young aspirants to lead the country. That means there is still hope.

It is common knowledge that India is likely to be a superpower by 2025. If you had told me this five years ago, I would have laughed. I would have told you to be more practical, given the Indian political scenario. However, today, a difference can be made. There is a wealth of knowledge in this nation, which, if correctly nurtured, can produce extraordinary results to provide for future generations.

So let’s stop the blame game. Let’s get into action! For, remember, united we stand, divided we fall... we’re not going to get anywhere by remaining oblivious to the critical issues that need tending to. Let’s join the revolution... because we have a nation to build!

Seventeen year-old Vaishnavi is a FY B.Com. student of St. Joseph’s College of Commerce, Bangalore.

ANNOUNCEMENT
KANARA SARASWAT ASSOCIATION

Will be honouring women belonging to Chitrapur Saraswat community who have rendered selfless acknowledged social service in various capacities for a minimum period of 15 years. The awards are restricted to those residing in the areas of Thane District and Navi Mumbai. Local Sabhas of Thane District namely Virar, Vasai, Nallasopara Navi Mumbai and Thane etc. are requested to recommend names with their biodata giving details of the social work done by them before 30th January 2008.

The function will be held on 15th March 2008 at 5 p.m. in the Shrimat Anandashram Hall, Talmakiwadi J.,D, Marg, Mumbai – 400 007.

Santosh Sirur
Hon. Secretary

Donations Received
Kanara Saraswat Association is grateful to the following donors

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL FUND
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Chitra R. Haldipur Rs. 5,001/- (In memory of parents-in-law Smt. Kamalabai and Shri Pandurang G. Haldipur and husband Shri Ravindra P. Haldipur)
BIRTH CENTENARY OF SHRI SHANKAR N. MUDBIDRI
(19/01/1908 to 31/08/2000)

Shri (Bhavani) Shankar Rao Mudbidri, popularly known as M. Shankar Rao, was born at Udupi, of parents Shri Narsing Rao and Smt. Rama Bai (alias Bheema Bai), nee Madyar.

He passed the Matriculation examination in 1925. He was a good student of languages and mathematics. However, circumstances did not permit him to pursue higher studies. His elder brothers Shri Shantaram and Gopal were already in Mumbai. So, Shankar and his younger brother Shri Sadanand also migrated to Mumbai in search of jobs. They got employment in the Lloyd’s Bank and Kaiser-e-Hind Insurance Co. respectively, and, thereafter, brought their parents to Mumbai, winding up their establishment at Udupi in the thirties of the twentieth century.

Both shared the responsibility of their joint family with love and dedication and gave shelter to many near and dear ones as long as they needed.

Shankar, in particular, did not spare any effort to nurse the old and sick among his kin, whether at home or at the hospital. He was the first person to boldly wear Indian, khadi apparel in his Bank which was then managed by English bosses. He was equally bold and cut his English superiors to size, from time to time.

After independence, however, he worked earnestly to get uniform, well-deserved service benefits for all his fellow Bank colleagues. In this struggle, he was always above party politics. He hated groupism and also abhorred petty politics.

He never missed his daily 'Sandhya Vandana’ and Poojas. He worked silently for the Math; during that time HH Swami Ananadashram was the Mathadhipati. He offered his service through the Local Sabha of Dadar.

He was one of the co-founders of the Dadar-Matunga Bhajan Group and never missed the Saturday Bhajan for a number of years.

He used to be one of the first to offer condolences whenever there was bereavement in a Chitrapur Saraswat household in Dadar-Matunga area. He would follow it up by personally making arrangements for the funeral.

He lived a long life of over 92 fruitful years. The secret of his longevity perhaps was in his regular long walks from Dadar to Mahim, Worli and King’s Circle. He breathed his last on the Punyatithi of Swami Anandashram on the eve of Ganesh Chaturthi in 2000. He worshipped Swamiji, Shantadurga and Ganesh with regularity for over eight decades.

(Sponsored)
“Health is wealth” is an oft-quoted saying. Should we not then, preserve this wealth carefully? Minor fleeting complaints, seemingly insignificant, are frequently ignored. Instead, a routine examination and a set of investigations can assure the individual about his/her good health.

Laboratory tests form an important part of the health checkup packages offered by most hospitals and diagnostic centres. Today, technologies permit testing on an impressively wide range of samples from the human body. While blood and urine samples are tested routinely, other samples include sputum, stool, semen, and several body fluids and tissues.

Why should laboratory tests be undertaken? Again, oft-quoted adages tell us: “Prevention is better than cure” or “A stitch in time saves nine” and, in fact, are important pointers to preventive health care. Research, worldwide, has established that it is economical to invest in preventive health care. So, the best time to go for a comprehensive health checkup would be when one feels completely healthy.

Laboratory tests
✓ identify changes in one’s health even before any symptoms appear
✓ help diagnose diseases.
✓ help the doctor to plan or revise the patient’s treatment regimen and evaluate the response to treatment.

The following paragraphs provide basic information about laboratory tests that are generally prescribed by doctors and commonly provided by all health checkup packages.

A Complete Blood Count (CBC) is a series of tests that give important information about the kinds and numbers of the cellular components of blood, especially red blood cells (RBCs), white blood cells (WBCs), and platelets.

RBCs are the predominant components. They contain haemoglobin which gives blood its red colour and property of transporting oxygen from the lungs to body tissues and carbon-dioxide from the tissues to the blood. Most anemias are associated with a low RBC count and haemoglobin level.

The differential WBC count determines the percentage composition of five types of mature WBCs - neutrophils, lymphocytes, monocytes, eosinophils and basophils, each of which plays a different role in protecting the body. It provides clues about certain illnesses and helps the physician to monitor a patient’s recovery. An elevated WBC count occurs in infection, allergic reaction, inflammation, systemic illness, leukaemia and tissue injury. A low WBC count is observed in certain viral infections, immunodeficient conditions, and bone marrow depression.

Platelets or thrombocytes help in the clotting of blood. Too few platelets may cause uncontrolled bleeding while too many can result in a clot forming in a blood vessel.

The erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) determines how fast the RBCs settle in one hour. When there is an inflammation, antibodies are produced in the blood which cause the RBCs to clump and settle faster than healthy cells.

Blood Group Test: The blood group of an individual depends on the antigens present on the surface of the RBCs due to his/her genetic make-up, inherited from parents. Blood groups are classified as A, B, AB or O. Most individuals also have another important antigen – the Rhesus antigen which makes them Rh positive. This factor is important during pregnancy. If the mother is Rh negative (Rh antigen is absent), the father is Rh positive, and the unborn baby is Rh positive, the mother’s immune system may produce antibodies against the baby’s Rh antigen and, subsequently, destroy the baby’s blood cells, resulting in anaemia and, in severe cases, can be fatal. However, this rarely occurs during a first pregnancy and with timely treatment, such problems are avoidable in subsequent pregnancies.

It is important to know your own blood group and that of your family members so that precious time is not lost in an emergency requiring a blood transfusion. It also helps the hospital, if required, to arrange for blood. It is just as important that the blood one receives is compatible with or matches one’s own blood group – if it is incompatible, the red blood cells of the patient (donor) clump together, leading to serious or even fatal consequences.

Blood Glucose/Sugar Test: This test measures a type of sugar called glucose which is the main energy source derived from foods containing carbohydrates. Insulin, a hormone produced in the pancreas,
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helps the body to use and control the amount of
glucose. Inadequate production or use of insulin causes diabetes. Blood glucose tests comprise -
- **Fasting blood sugar (FBS)** - often the first test to check for diabetes, measures blood glucose when
a person has not eaten for at least 8 hours.
- **2- hour postprandial test** - measures blood glucose exactly 2 hours after eating a meal.
- **Random blood sugar** - measures glucose regardless of when the last meal was eaten.
- **Glucose tolerance test** - diagnoses pre-diabetes and diabetes. It involves serial blood glucose estimations after a measured amount of glucose-containing liquid is taken.

**Renal Profile:** The two kidneys regulate the amount of water and salts in the body, and excrete waste products from the body in the form of urine. A renal profile helps evaluate how well the kidneys are functioning. It is a range of tests done on urine and blood samples that measure the levels of substances normally regulated by the kidneys. Blood tests include BUN (blood urea nitrogen), a waste product of protein breakdown, creatinine, a waste product produced by muscles) and a more accurate marker of kidney function. Other blood tests measure electrolytes - positively and negatively charged ions, found in cells, blood and other body fluids whose concentrations change during acute and chronic diseases that can have serious consequences. These are often performed as STAT or emergency tests in such cases. The commonly measured electrolytes are sodium, potassium and chloride.

**A Routine Urine Examination** is a simple analysis of urine by a battery of chemical and microscopic tests. Normal urine does not contain any sugar; its presence would indicate diabetes mellitus. Similarly, normal urine does not contain protein but occurs as albumin in malfunctioning kidneys. The detection of impaired kidney function would call for additional tests to determine the specific cause and extent of damage.

**Lipid Profile:** This is a group of blood tests that are used to determine the levels of certain lipids or fats that indicate the risk of coronary heart disease. The two main types are cholesterol and triglycerides. Cholesterol is a waxy fat, 80% of which is produced by the liver; it is also derived from meat, eggs and dairy products. Total cholesterol comprises HDL or high density lipoprotein (often called good cholesterol) and LDL or low density lipoprotein (often called bad cholesterol).

HDLs are beneficial in that they move easily through the blood, do not adhere to the artery walls, and prevent heart disease by transporting cholesterol away from the arteries back to the liver from where it is removed. LDLs contain higher fat and lesser protein than HDL. Rather than being removed from the body by the liver, they stick to and can damage the lining inside the artery walls. Areas of such cell damage attract other fatty substances like triglycerides and blood clotting substances like fibrin, platelets and WBCs which together form a plaque which narrows the arteries causing blockages that ultimately lead to atherosclerosis or coronary artery disease.

Triglycerides, another type of fat, constitutes 95% of the body's fatty tissue. High levels are also risk factors in coronary artery disease.

The Cholesterol/HDL ratio is derived by dividing the total cholesterol by the HDL level. According to the American Heart Association, cholesterol levels should not exceed 5 times the HDL level or a ratio of 5:1.

**Hepatic Profile:** Liver function tests are blood tests that evaluate various functions of the liver such as metabolism, storage, filtration, and excretion. These are often performed by liver enzymes. However, not all liver function tests are measures of enzyme function.

The common enzyme tests estimate serum alkaline phosphatase which detects obstruction in the biliary system, and SGOT (serum glutamic oxaloacetate transaminase) and SGPT (serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase), the latter two being normal constituents of liver cells which leak into the blood stream when the cells are damaged as in viral hepatitis, active cirrhosis, metastatic liver tumour, pancreatitis and myocardial infarction. The commonly estimated non-enzyme constituents are bilirubin which is usually elevated in jaundice, and albumin which, when low, may cause the blood vessels to allow fluid to accumulate in the abdomen (ascities) or elsewhere in the body.

**Routine Stool Analysis:** A stool analysis is a series of tests that diagnose certain conditions affecting the digestive tract. Microscopic examination detects parasites and ova (the egg stage of a parasite's life). Amoeba, giardia and trichomonas are some of the parasites that occur in case of intestinal disorders. A faecal occult blood test detects the presence of hidden or occult blood that may arise from the
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digestive tract and is the first sign that a person may have ulceration of the stomach or intestines such as a bleeding peptic ulcer or colorectal disease.

**Reference Ranges:** Interpretation of a laboratory test compares the patient’s results to the test’s reference range or normal range. However, more recent terminology advocates the use of a reference range. Reference ranges vary for different tests and, at times, for the same test when performed by a different method. Therefore, test methods are indicated on the reports. The age and sex of the individual also influence the reference range in several tests. In the case of values falling outside the range, one should contact one's physician who can interpret the results "once all the pieces are together" that is, correlate the results with an examination of the patient along with other diagnostic tests.

Doctors need a reliable report for assessing a person's health. Most reputed hospitals and diagnostic centres have qualified and trained staff and take care to standardize tests and regularly check with internal and external controls. They would, therefore, perform reliable tests though the methods used may vary, resulting in minor variations in values, at times. Many tests are now automated and human error is minimized. Instructions given prior to testing should be followed carefully especially when fasting is required prior to carrying out certain tests. Any medication taken should also be communicated to the health professional as this may affect laboratory results.

**Other tests commonly included** in health packages are a chest X-Ray, ECG (electrocardiogram) and a stress test (both individual tests assess heart function), a PAP (Papanicolaou) smear and mammography for cancer detection in women, spirometry, and ultrasonography of the abdomen and pelvis.

All health checkup packages include the laboratory tests mentioned above and certain other tests depending on the package offered. The cost would, therefore, vary depending on the tests included. In Mumbai, a package for persons below 45, including a laboratory test panel and chest X-Ray, ECG, PAP smear for women, and spirometry would cost about Rs. 2,000-3,000/-. When ultrasonography and mammography are included for women over 45, the approximate cost would be Rs 3,000-5,000/-; for men above 45, it would be Rs 3,000-4,000/-. It is very important for all adults above 30 to take screening tests as most common and treatable diseases can be detected early. For example, diabetes and hypertension are major causes of end stage renal disease and individuals above 45 can be screened for these conditions. After a health check, one should contact the doctor to interpret the results and he would be the person to advise when the next checkup should be taken.

A test not included in a routine screening program, though now strongly recommended by United States Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is the HIV test. The CDC recommends that voluntary testing for HIV should be a routine part of health care just as a cholesterol/sugar test or a blood pressure check is. This would increase early detection of HIV and help remove the stigma associated with the test.

In conclusion, one should have a health checkup when one feels completely healthy especially because lifestyle-related disorders such as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart ailments and stress are on the rise. Moreover, it would help keep a tab on one’s health and take prompt preventive action or treatment.

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**BIRTH CENTENARY REMEMBERANCE**

**GANANATH ANANTAYYA CHICKERMANE**
(10.01.1908 – 21.09.1975)

**FONDLY REMEMBERED BY**

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Bhavanishanker (Mavinkurve) Anant (Manki – Chittar)
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Gopalkrishna (Manki-Chittar) & Families
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Malati (Appi) M Gulgwadi & Family – Goregaon West
Aparna (Girija) M Bhat & Family – Goregaon West
Sita S Nadkarni & Family – Allanki
&
All members of Shri Bhadrambikeshwar Dev, Manki-Madi, and Friends and Relatives
SHANTA DURGADAS AMLADI
(18th April, 1933 - 21st January, 2004)

Small, Spirited and Ever Smiling
Your memories, inspirations linger on
Even with the passage of time

In fond memory

Durgadas
Anand / Geeta / Aditya
Gautam / Nandita / Amogh
Murli
Vision, Kaizen and Sampana

Dr. Ashok Gokarn, Pune

Recently, our leaders including the past President Dr. A.P.J. Kalam, have been advising both young and old people to develop a VISION for India to become a 'super power' by 2020. Having a vision or dreaming about a bright and ambitious goal is not sufficient to reach the desired objective. It is also essential to act and pursue action relating to the realization of the dream or vision. However, in these competitive days, action alone is not sufficient. Every action should have appropriate support from the heart. This is the essential principle propagated by Mark Twain, the famous American writer of the last century. He has emphatically stated that any task carried out under force is 'work' and that undertaken by one's own free will is 'play'. A playful attitude towards our work guarantees the necessary support from the heart, resulting in the success of the undertaking with the fullest satisfaction. Many people who have achieved success in any sphere of activity or life, always say that they could have done better. That feeling of doing better is the basic principle of Kaizen, which has a Japanese origin. Its meaning is simple - doing better always - it may be related to our work, our speech, our thinking or social interaction.

Who does not like to appear good and do things better? But there should be a strong desire to do so from the bottom of one's heart. Our philosophers and religious heads have preached a very simple technique of always remembering the Almighty in order to achieve success in our endeavours. Similarly, the basic philosophy of modern Japanese life has been Kaizen, that is, doing better always in all undertakings involving work, talking and thinking, on a 24x7 basis. Hence, Japanese civilization has been an example of excellence in all walks of life. Dreaming good and working for excellence is not sufficient in our day-to-day life. Vision and Kaizen should be backed by the six virtues propagated in the following Sanskrit shloka.

उद्द: साहसं धैर्यं बुद्धि: शक्ति: प्रारूढः
पढ़े यत्र कर्त्तने तत्र देव: साहाय्यकृत

It simply states that God always helps those who imbibe virtues like work culture, bravery, courage, intelligence, physical energy and winning attitude. Backed by these virtues, Vision and Kaizen should lead us to the goal of 'sampana' or a perfectly satisfied and fulfilled life.

Towards a glorious sunset

The sun has risen over a new horizon
Heralding a novel concept
A beautiful vision for silverines.
Birds of a feather flock together
In golden nests, our second home
Seeking friendship with our extended family
Of same age group;
Like-minded seniors from different streams
With diverse experiences.
Come, let us pool our resources
And hatch new ideas
For the common good of one and all
And bask in the sunshine of loving smiles.
And so must we strive
To live in peace and comfort
In this haven of security and shelter
And thus look forward
To a glorious, golden sunset
Of our fruitful lives.

Kusum Gokarn, Pune

KANARA SARASWAT ASSOCIATION (REGD.)

KSA MEMBERSHIP FEES

You can become a Life Member by paying Rs. 500/- per annum continuously for eight years.

At the adjourned Annual General Meeting of the 95th Annual General Meeting of the Kanara Saraswat Association held on 24th November 2007, the following amendment regarding Ordinary Members was passed.

Rule 4 (e): Persons paying an entrance fee of Rs. 5/- and an annual subscription of Rs. 500/- shall be styled as Ordinary Members. A new Ordinary Member shall automatically become a Life Member if he or she continues to pay the Ordinary membership fee for eight consecutive years and subject to paying additional fees, if any, on account of an increase in the Life Membership fees during this period.

New Ordinary Members will not be entitled to the concessions enjoyed by Life Members. However, they will be entitled to receive the monthly Kanara Saraswat magazine.
A TRIBUTE TO "ABBI"

For my brother Santosh and me, Savitri was Mummy at first and then became Abbi, a name given to her by Santosh when we were very young. I tried "Maw" for some time, influenced by her favorite TV show "Little house of the prairie" but that was short-lived. She was Abbi to not just us, but to many in Talmakiwadi who knew and loved her dearly. To my children she was G-amma (Grant Road Amma).

I will remember Abbi as someone who was always a kid at heart refusing to let that inner child ever "grow up". I guess that is why she had such a strong connection with children. There was never a time during the last 10-15 years since she started tutoring when she was not surrounded by children of all ages. Hugs and kisses were liberally given and happily received. She was a veritable "akshaypatra" for such affection for everyone, especially children.

When we were in school, I admit I was a bit jealous of my mom. When my friends visited us they would spend more time with my mom than with me. On the first day of vacation, Abbi and I, with my friend Ammani, would walk to Chowpatty stopping on the way to eat bhelpuri and panipuri from the roadside vendors. She was well known at our school as the one mom who came everyday for ten years with lunch for us and stayed at school, reading under her favorite tree until school let out so she could take us home much earlier than the school bus would.

Savitri was more than Abbi - she was also extremely multi-talented, an actress, a Kathak dancer and classical singer. I was always in awe of her talents as an actress and loved to attend drama rehearsals with her. Acting was something that she was very passionate about and enjoyed immensely starting as far back as her college days when she was compared to Bollywood actress Nutan for her looks and talent. A passion for acting in dramas and enjoying classical music were two of the many things that she shared with Pappa ("saan Bhayya"). "Lagna chi bedi", "Diva jaloo de saree raat" are just two of the very long list of dramas that Abbi is known for even today. She worked with many people very active in Konkani dramas such as Talgeri Venkatmaam, Madhubhatt-maam, Anant Nag(arkatti), Mavinkurve "Dada" and many, many more.

She had also spent many years learning Kathak but had given up dancing long before we were born. She was an equally accomplished classical singer having trained with her Guru, Pandit Ginde. While we were privy to her talents as a classical singer, we unfortunately did not get a chance to see her dance.

As "hod Bhayya"'s daughter she continued his legacy and took the lead during the Gokulashtami Celebration Bhajans. There was not one day that she missed in all these years except this year when she was forced to miss a day due to her failing health. She regretted that missed day until the very end.

My friends in the US remember Abbi and Pappa as the "life of the party" with their infectious laughter and ability to make new friends, get along with pretty much anyone and make a party come alive. Pappa, of course is remembered for his linguistic talent and Abbi for making sure everyone felt included during a gathering.

Abbi was a walking encyclopedia of Bollywood trivia - movies, music, singers dating back to the beginning of Hindi "talkies" - very rarely, if at all, was she wrong about a "filmy fact". Her granddaughter, Avanti shares her interest in Bollywood and made it a point to see at least one movie with G-Amma when she visited India.

Abbi had a very big heart, a quality she had in common with Pappa - they never turned away a person who needed help. She and Pappa strongly believed that God always provided for those who helped others.

Her other passion was traveling - visiting new places. She always said she much preferred to spend money on travel than on clothes and jewelry. Even as her end drew near, her spirit was strong - she was making plans to volunteer in December during HH Swamiji's visit to Wadi, visiting Kerala, Dwarka, Ayodhya, and other the places she had not yet visited.

Savitri Ganesh Sthalekar breathed her last on November 27, 2007 at 6:25 pm. Her end was as peaceful as we could have expected it to be given her declining health. I am consoled by the fact that I was able to be with her during her last days as she very much wanted.

Abbi, Maw, G-amma, Aunty, Teacher: your children, your grandchildren, relatives, friends, students and anyone who ever knew you will miss you greatly and remember you always, each in our own way.

Abbi and Pappa, I hope you guys are having a party wherever you are!

Shailaja Sthalekar Gokleri, Boston, USA
Experiences in the Eastern Himalayas

Arundhati J Savkoor, Bangalore

The Indian Airlines flight took us Nadkarnis and Savkoors on the dawn of October 13, 2007, to Kolkata, en route to Bagdogra, full of tea plantations. We board a jeep to Zam-Den Hotel in Gangtok, our home for the next three days. From the hotel terrace we get a panoramic view of the mountains - two peaks topped with snow - fluffy clouds cover the mountains like cotton balls looking like a scene from "The Sound of Music".

Later, on our way to Nathu La Pass which borders India with China in East Sikkim, we meet a young Sikkimese girl selling popcorn and chewing gum whose persuasive tactics we just cannot refuse. The poorer section of Sikkimese live in small houses topped with asbestos sheets and the richer - in tiled houses. In the nights, the lights from all the houses look beautiful like a fairy tale scene. We see a small Buddhist temple on the way with rotating colorful wheels and orange flowers. As we drive into the higher reaches of the mountains, the air became chiller and the land barren and desert like.

En route, we break at a small dhaba with beautiful, huge painted Japanese fans and Chinese lanterns, and colorful posters of the women of Sikkim. Now, we pass by the side of Changu Lake, known by the local inhabitants as Tsomgo Lake, surrounded by hills with Himalayan yaks grazing lazily alongside the waters.

On the border of Nathula Pass we see Chinese soldiers; some tourists even shake hands with them and pose for photographs - not a sign of enmity between the neighboring countries. There is a temple built in the memory of a certain Harbhajan Singh who while taking a pack of loaded mules alongside a fast flowing river accidentally fell into it and lost his life. It is a firm belief here that his spirit protects the entire armed forces during times of war.

The next morning, we set out to visit Yumthang - the Valley of Flowers, but since it is not the flowering season, the colorful rhododendrons are not to be seen. We pass through Phodong, Chungthang and Lachung - small hamlets on the way. We see a group of Sikkimese kids going to school in a row, looking identical with chinki eyes, rosy cheeks and jet-black straight hair. There is a simplicity and innocence among these people that endears them to us. The sun is out and we can see alternate patterns of light and dark green on the hills - step farming and pine vegetation. We take a brief halt along the way at Seven-Sisters waterfalls - a huge fountain of water cascading down sheer cliff with adventurous youngsters trying to get nearest to the falls balancing on huge slippery rocks.

Chungthang is an army base densely populated with lots of tiny houses and a school. In Lachung there is a home-cum-boarding house run by a Buddhist family who give us a hot meal and good beds with razais against the biting cold. Come morning and the view outside our window is heavenly - a row of mountains covered with a white garland of cloud and silver streams; a patch of cabbage waiting to be plucked - one of our group members has a whale of a time photographing the scenes. Two others draw my attention to the poster signs put up by the Border Roads Organization along the roadside, like "Nature has everything to meet man's needs but not his greed". There is a healthy respect and reverence for Mother Nature.

Yumthang Valley is surrounded by the mountains of North Sikkim. Lachung river runs through it - with wild horses and ponies grazing alongside. We spend an hour or so soaking in the mesmerizing scene that unfolds in front of us. After a light breakfast of vegetable momos, we proceed to Zero Point - the farthest motorable road in North Sikkim, 31 km beyond Yumthang and bordering Tibet. The lush greenery of Yumthang slowly gives way to barren rocks, snow-clad mountains with streams gushing by - we are told by our driver-cum-guide that the 17,000+ feet altitude does not sustain vegetation. On finally reaching Zero Point, all of us are happy to be showered by pearl-like snow droplets, a long-cherished dream of witnessing snowfall finally fulfilled, a sign of divine grace, we believe.

We return to our hotel in Gangtok and set off on a local tour next morning. We visit Rumtek Monastery which has a golden Buddha and the main temple decorated with colored cotton and silk chandeliers called thankas and Chinese lanterns. The children quietly follow a guide who is with foreign tourists and get details of the significance of the
colours – white for cloud, blue for sky, red for fire, yellow for earth, and green for water. It was *asthamurthi upasana*. *Aum Mani Padme Hum* is the writing on the Buddhist wheels which when rotated by tourists and disciples bring about immense peace and joy. It means the lotus of the mind should be like a jewel. We visit three Buddhist monasteries in all.

With Sikkim successfully 'conquered', we proceed to Darjeeling by Qualis, reaching the place late at night. Early next morning, we visit *Mirik Lake* – 35 km from Darjeeling, passing a colorful procession of *Navathri Puja* dancers with masks and drums and kids holding plants in their hands. On the return, we make a brief stopover at Nepal, hopping across the border for a good two hours' shopping in *Pasupati Nagar* market.

Next morning, we honor our appointment with *Tiger Hill* at 4 am, with hundreds of enthralled spectators, to witness God painting the most fascinating scene in the sky - at first, there is an orange glow alongside the gray mountains against an indigo sky. Within a short span, the mountaintops catch fire with a brilliant pink color. Suddenly, a pink disc appears below the radiance and soon becomes the golden orb of the sun, to bless the earth and everything in it – accompanied by spontaneous cheers from the crowd. Then the *Kan-Chen-Dzonga peak opposite becomes light pink and white*. I remember Emerson's words "Beauty is God's handwriting".

During local sightseeing, we visit *Ghoom Monastery* and a Japanese Buddhist Temple, *Ganga Maiyya Park* with waterfalls and rhododendrons growing on rocks. The *Rock Garden* has a huge central white lotus in stone with a fountain of water falling on it and a garden. The Himalayan Zoo, which houses endangered species of animals, is a treat that should not be missed. Then there is the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, the only one of its kind in the world which has the distinction of having trained the world's best and most famous mountaineers.

We spend the last day exploring the sights and sounds of Darjeeling. In the center of the town is a clock tower, which chimes every hour and is heard almost everywhere. There is a fabulous shopping center in the Mall near our hotel - we buy pretty cotton and woolen clothes, *Fengshui* items, Darjeeling Tea and souvenirs. Being *Vijayadashami*, we also visit *pooya pandals* around the town to celebrate the triumph of good over evil with the localites.

Our trip to the Eastern Himalayas is over far too quickly and we land at Bangalore on the midnight of October 21, exhausted but blissfully happy.

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**Beloved Guru**

On Monday, November 19, 2007, a young and blooming life was cut short by the cruel hands of fate. Our beloved Guru, alias Guruprasad Shripad Haldipur, aged 41, was snatched away from our midst even as he was on the road to recovery after a short stint in a hospital at Mangalore.

Guru was an amiable and endearing person whose humility and enthusiasm to help everyone visiting our sacred Shree Guru Math at Mallapur made him a very popular and lovable human being.

Despite a crippling health problem, he always put in an extra effort to make the visit as comfortable as possible for all the devotees and visitors. There may be many who remember his effervescent smile which, alas, will never be seen again.

Guru, like his elders from the past three generations, continued to serve our sacred Math and the Guru Parampara with utmost dedication and devotion and earned Divine blessings in his short and sweet life.

He has left behind his heartbroken family and numerous relatives and friends to mourn his untimely demise.

A beautiful flower has withered away but the fragrance is everlasting.

May his noble soul rest in eternal peace!

In grief: Haldipur, Shukla, Chadragiri, Bondal and Sode families.
A convocation to congratulate the several students on their success in the University and Secondary Board examinations was held on 23rd October, 2007 under the auspices of Kanara Saraswat Association.

Lt Col. Manohar S. Karpe (Retd.), Vice President of KSA was ‘At Home’ and introduced Dr. Mohan S. Mankekar who was the Chief Guest on this occasion.

After the introduction speech all the successful students were felicitated by Dr. M. S. Mankekar who addressed the students.

Uday A. Mankikar was at the mike who did the compering in Konkani which is given below.

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KANARA SARASWAT Vol. LXXXIX, No. 1 - January 2008
गुरुचुप, डा. अश्विन फड़के, डा. सेनहल्ता देशमुख, डा. हंडु साहनी, प्राध्यापिका मोहनी मंकिकर, श्री. ज्युल्यो रिबेरो इत्यादी।

१९५७ सालात, साधारण श्रीमतूद्वारा आनंदमानक स्वामीजीनी ह्या समारंभातु विद्याभूमक आश्रितित केलेने आस.

प्रतिभास वशस्वी विद्याभूमिगो निकाल आम्बर केंद्रा शास्त्रवत मासिकातु प्रसिद्ध करतती. अंत, ऑगुस्ट उत्तरार्ध जागरूक्त्वा विद्याभूमिगो गुणमीवक कोर्टक तांकां हंगा आमाटित केल्यां. आघाड मुख्य अतिथी डा. मोहन एस. मंकिकर हंगेल्या हस्ते विद्याभूमिगो गोरुजाळ्यो. मोहनमामाहवलो प्रतिष्ठित, नामाकरण्याच्या आभासी मुख्य अतिथी म्हणून, मेंद्या ह्या आमगेले भारती. डॉक्टर मामु महत्त्वाच ऐक प्रथितमा डॉक्टर. निस्मूह समाजवाद, आभासी आमगेला रोकु गुरुमूर्त म्हणजेच तिथी फरमाफूहे परिज्ञानाश्रम आभासी रोकमूहे शंकाश्रम स्वामीजींगो निमित्तम परम्परा. आमगेल्या व्यवसाय सांभाल्यु, परिज्ञानाश्रम स्वामीजीं विपार सुरु केलेल्या विकल्फ्या लोकगेल्या शाळेचो कार्यालय पट्टी. डॉक्टरकी ह्या ब्रत तांगेले, अनेक सेवावाती आभासी प्रायक संकेत तो कार्य करता. आता हात विविध परिक्षेत्तू पुरुष जालेल्या वशस्वी विद्याभूमक विद्यार्थी म्हणून मंत्र वाचतां, तात्री वेळेशी म्हणून, डा. माम्मागेल्या हस्ते गुलाबपुष्प आभासी पुरस्काराचं स्वीकार केल्यां. आभासी डॉक्टर माम्मागंत्र म्हण निमित्त की तात्ता चॅम्बर्स, तांगेल्या जीवनातु उन्मोचन प्रगती जावो, यश, वानत, किंतु प्राप्त जावो म्हणून आमशावांव दिव्याशां.

आभासी पाण्याचे, संस्कृतीक असरसूतु, आभासी म्हणजेच विश्वास सर्वस्तर बलात, परिश्रम बलात, देवाक गुरु अश्वासी महालगड्या थांब पोणून बनताती, तांगेले आमशावांव पेटाती. कायात यश प्राप्त जायनाश्रम यी तात्री करताती. तामिली तुम्हाले मुख्य अतिथी गेल्या हस्ते कोॅश जायनाश्रम ध्रुवी संस्कृतांचे पालन केल्यां आभासी सर्वांक खुशी जाती.
बिपिन नाडकर्णीची ‘एवढायशा आभाळा’ तील भराई

ले. साधना कामत

‘उत्तरायण’पुढे प्रसिद्धीच्या प्रकाशांतोत्तात आलेले बिपिन नाडकर्णी वाचा हुसरा चित्रपट ‘एवढायशा आभाळा’ प्रकाशित ज्याहीत रोजीत तयारीणाची उद्देश्यता स्वायत्तच नातात होती. बिपिनच्या आमंत्रणानुसार ‘प्लाज्या’च्या सारख्या तत्काल लघु सारकार भाष्यातील ही संधी मिळाली.

यादिवसाच्या खेळाला अंतिम नाडकर्णी-चित्रपटातील बालकलाकार हाय उपस्थित होता. चित्रपट सुरु होण्यापूर्वी समाजाचा उपाध्यक्षा पदार्थी राव यांचा हसते पुढूरुप्पूज वेळाने अंतिमे भरतीत समाजात घ्योपच तत्काळ कल्पना आला.

दर्शवारा कलाकृती सार Vांशिकीच्या बिपिनच्या खेळातील यांची प्रमाणपत्रांनी सारख्या उल्लेखित. त्याची नांग लोकसा साजरीतील फाइल प्रमाणपत्रांनी दर्शविली आहेत. एकेकरांकडून पत्ता नसल्यास सारा जन्म उटावतील कादान्याची वेगळे होणे आणि पुढे वाचे एक अनेक उदाहरणे विद्यालयात. हे नवे संसार सुधारक होतात. मुलेशी नवनारायणी जुलूसने घेतला. परंतु हे कलात्मक यांच्या मनाची काही उत्साह होते याचे मोठे हदयप्रसिद्ध चित्रण या कथेत आहे.

चित्रपटातील नाखिका शकुंक वैद्य नोकरीच्या ठिकाणी उच्च हुक्क्यावर आहे. ऑफिसस्थाने एका जुग्गा अधिकाराच्या निवृत्तीच्या सर्वातीलाच दिसतात. सर्व साकाळीयांच्या ह्वढ आसा निरोप घेतल्या तो म्हणून, ‘विश एकी संपर्क, यु डाय अ लिटर’ हे वाक्य शकुंका काठाला भिडवित. कारण ती असा मूळ्य खासगी हुजूम अनुभवते आहे. अनुभवी प्रत्येक वेळी त्याची उत्साह सारखी हुजूम के त्याने वेळी हवे होते. परंतु शकुंक आणि अजयचा मुलगा बंदी या नव्या बाबांची जुलूस घेतल्या अस्मशाना ठरतो. दोघी ही अजयच्या समजूतीत आणि बंदीच्या त्यांचे तलाने अस्मशान भेटीत. जुलूस बाबांची जाणे नव्या बाबांच्या अनुभूती- वेळा शकात
श्रीयुत ‘विक्रम गोखले’ यांच्या गणपागोष्ठी
या कार्यक्रमाबद्दलचा ‘अभिप्रय’

शनिवार, दिनांक २४-२१-०७ रोजी सायंकाळी ५ वा. ‘श्रीमतू आनंदावराम सभागृह’, श्रीयुत विक्रम गोखले यांच्या कार्यक्रमामध्ये उपस्थित राहणाऱ्या योग आला. गोखले यांना अनेक माध्यममातून पाहण्याची संधी जरी बरेच विषयांत मिळत असली तरी आज प्रत्यक्ष जवळजवळ पाहण्याची संधी प्रथमच आली.

त्यांनी सुरुवातच उतम केली. सहज-सुदृढ़क शब्द ‘गणपागोष्ठी’, माध्यम मेडिया सवारीच्या नसले प्रवेश केला. सहजच आपल्या गणपात तौलिक क्विक्षनेची माहिती, कडकृत बाल, गार्दीत त्यांच्या ओळखांनी प्रस्तुत आणि चित्राचे यश यांची माहिती हदयस्थित भावनाप्रप्राप्त होती. सहजच आपल्या नन्तर त्यांच्या समाध्याय चाहतून एकाच झाले.

अनुवंशीकरणपूर्वी मिळालेल्या नव्हून उपयोग करून नोकरी न करिता ‘अभिनय, नाट्य विद्येंचे यांची शिक्षण संपादन करून या संपादन करते. त्यांच्या गणपातून जारीबां अभिनय हालचाल, प्रसंगप्रमाणे बोलणे यांसाठी व्यावमाणी गरज आहे (उदा. विभेचा व्यावम दोळ्याचा हत्यादे).

गणपातून जुन्या आत्मविश्वासाऊन उतारा, यशस्वीय बाबत्ता.

(आई श्रीयुत गोखले यांना आजी काम्यत वातावरणसाठी फांडके यांच्या स्टूडियात काम करत होता.)

श्रीयुत विक्रम गोखले यांना प्रेमिक विचार आपल्याचे मेंढगेंचे समाधान करून घेतलेले. श्रीयुत गोखले यांची पण संरक्षण उपरे दिली अशांतीने एकाच रा. तासाच्या कार्यक्रमात एकादिनात सहभागी होऊन कठिन न कठिन सर्वी सादोच आनंद कुटोल.

“धन्यवाद.”

श्रीयुत विक्रम गोखले यांनी ‘स्वार्थ्य महिला समाजाच्या (गांवदेवी) सर्व सभासदाचे आभार.

- सुंदरा गंगोघरी, गांवदेवी
तीनि शातक

राज ददारांतु तांका
आशिलो मानुः ९
गुरु नासिकङ्ग समाजक
मान्यता नाशिले
राज ददारांतु तांका
स्थान नाशिले १०
इश्विर लोकानी भलो
रायगो कानू
ना सास्त्वत लोकानं
गुरु स्थानुः १०
गुरुबर्दी दुःख दाकैलि
वस्मणा सराने
गुरुधानान महत्व दाकैले
नगरेचे सराने ११
सास्त्वत द्विज श्रेष्ठ
चिंतित जादे
गुरुवाचि महत्व तांत्रि
जाणु चेलेले १२
लक्ष्मी-सास्त्वत समाजावो
असास जीवू
अध्यात्मिक जीवनाचो
गुरु प्राण घुः १३
सास्त्वत द्विजानी केढळे
अनुष्टान
घार तप उपाससुः केढळे
देवक मानुः १४
गोक्षणकेष स्थान महान
ईश्वर स्थान
श्रीचं प्रगट जादे प्रथम
सदरुग भराण १५

प्रथमगुरु श्री परिजनानाथम
शंकराश्रम द्वितीय गुरु
त्रिगुरु गुरुपाकां चतीवर
बच्चूष शंकर गुरुबर १६
श्रीकेशलाल श्रमण पंचम स्वामी
वामनाश्रम षडस्तानी
साम स्वामी श्री कृष्णाश्रम
गुरु अष्टम पांडुरागाश्रम १७
नवम स्वामण विशालसमान
सदरुग आंदोलाद्रम
तदुपशातुः श्रीपरिजनानाथम
श्रास्त्राश्रम गुरुकुक्क्नी
सास्त्वल जन सुधाराचावो
अध्यात्मिक साधन स्थान
गोकर्ण, मंगलूर महादूरः
काली आणि बिहारुः २०
मेलेको मेलेचा परिश्रममाणे
महालवाहिनी गुरुस्थान
समाजाचे राखुनु वेळवेळा
गुरुआदेशापक दीनू मान २१
...इति...
...गुरुचरणी समविनित...

- चैतन्य नाडकरणी
गोरेगांव (पक्षिम)

नालिक : दि. ३१-१०-२००७ (बुधवार)

आज रोजी श्री संस्थान हल्दीपुर (उत्तर कन्नड) केरले कृष्णाश्रम मठावे व अखिल
भारतीय वैष्णव समाजाचे गुरु परमपूज्य श्री श्री वामनाश्रम स्वामीला यांचे नालिक येथे आगमन
झाले. स्वामीजीने वास्तव लेखणे हालिंदे होम, नालिक येथे होते श्री. नितिन पाठ्ये व
श्री. बाबासाहेब हांचा भावांचा वास्तवासाठी तसेच भक्तगणांचा सोहेरासाठी परिश्रम घेतले,
परमपूज्य जनप्रतिमुः श्री श्री शंकराचार्य हांचा भेदीसाठी स्वामीजींचे नालिक नारोमध्ये
वास्तव होते.

परमपूज्य वामनाश्रम स्वामीजीला नालिक वास्तवाचार्य श्रीकेशलाल तसेच श्री साईनाथा
मंदिर शिरीळे येथे पुजा करून दर्शन घेतले.

KANARA SARASWAT
Vol. LXXXIX, No. 1 - January 2008
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देवी माँ की भजन

जे जे वैष्णव देवी माँ, जे जे वैष्णव देवी माँ,
शतं स्वरुपिणी देवी माँ, जगदोदारिणी देवी माँ,
हृदयं संहिरिणी मां, मनोकोको मुखदारिणी मां,
ज्योतावली देवी माँ, हृदयमणिन्तिनी देवी माँ,
वहांवाली देवी माँ, शेषावाली देवी माँ,
दे दे दर्शन देवी माँ, दे सुख शांति देवी माँ,
जे जे वैष्णव देवी माँ, जे जे वैष्णव देवी माँ,
(सह गाय) पहाड़ वालिदा जयहो। शेषावालिदा जयहो।
ज्योतावलिदा जयहो। वैष्णवी देवीकी जयहो।
सबसंत की जय हो।
जय हो, जय हो, जय हो,
जे जे वैष्णव देवी माँ,
जे जे वैष्णव देवी माँ, (सहगान)

- अरविंद भट
अनंदश्रम, शिरोली

भोपड़ा हंलोविनांतुला

गावांवाहीरी लाइनीतु रातं
एक मंदिर्वाघ्य एक भोपड़वाघ्य
मकी उद्रता ताट माने
पोरीत कार अपार मायेने

बांधां माली संगाती होलटाती
खुर्गीतु चेटुत मरत हासाताती
खुर्गीतु लागी लागी डडटाती
एकमेका साथ थड़नाचा दिवसाचा दिवसाचा

माछं बेंदिशचं भोपड़वाघ्यं शेतातु
नाजूक रणमं जम्मीती सताती
लाल भोपं ताकाला लागाताती
केक्या मण्याच्या माछं दिसताती

शोभे असाती सान उसट
वागी हांड जांचंची पहेलताती बार
शोभे जांचंची तिराणं गोमटे
जो तो पछताना हंलोविनांतु बच्ची बार

आयताकारं काणी सान आसातां
म्हातारामबंधु भोपड़ा घराची
हांड जाबनाचे पलंचां माकारी
होड़स्सस भोपड़ा आकारची त्याची

- अरविंद भट
अनंदश्रम, शिरोली

भजन : श्री परिज्ञानानाथ स्वामी

चाल : विष्णुमुलसे स्पन्दित हो घन
परम्परा दुर्गाशिकि का रथी यती ने जम्ब लियावा
परिज्ञान का रूप लियावा

आनंदश्रम गुरु शिख्यवर

भवानिशंकर के वर पाकर
विश्वारूपे के जनप्रिय बनकर
श्रीबंधज जन को प्यार दियावा
परिज्ञान का रूप लियावा

परम्परा दुर्गाशिकि का... एक
आनंदश्रम आश्रय बनकर
अनाद जन को आश्रय दे कर

गुरु वचन से मुक्ति पाकर

गुरुभक्ति का मार्ग दियावा
परिज्ञान का रूप लियावा

परम्परा दुर्गाशिकि का... एक
अपार शांति सहनशीलता

दया धर्म के यती रेवता
मनसे पूकारे देशन देता

सारस्वतिको चार दियावा
परिज्ञान का रूप लियावा

परम्परा दुर्गाशिकि का... एक

- अरविंद भट
अनंदश्रम, शिरोली
PERSONALIA

Karan S. Hattiangady, a student of Std. IV of Amrita Vidyalayam, Mangalore, is a little talent who is doing wonders. He has won the first prize in the state-level Aloha Abacus and Mental Arithmetic competition held at Bangalore recently.

Karan completed 40 sums of double digits in eight rows, including addition and subtraction, in five minutes. Following this state-level win, he has been selected to participate in the national-level competition to be held in December where he is expected to complete 50 sums in four minutes.

Source: Mangalore Today, November 2007
(Sent by S.N. Surkund)

Nisha Kalyanpur (Grade 4th), won the second place trophy in the Allen ISD international Chess championship held in November 2007. Nisha is the daughter of Gaurang and Archana Kalyanpur of Allen, Texas.

Chikita Kodikal, daughter of Nihal and Anandita Kodikal, stood 3rd (in Auckland), and 4th (in New Zealand), in a competition organized by the New Zealand Herald, for “Designing the front page of a newspaper” in which students from the north and south islands of New Zealand participated. On behalf of the New Zealand Herald, she was presented with a highly commended certificate by her school, Auckland Normal International. A brilliant student, Chikita has won prizes in Science and Mathematics, and excels in sports and dramatics. Currently, she is captain of the school netball team. (This insertion is being repeated as there were certain omissions).

HERE AND THERE

Ahmedabad: The Punyatithi of PP Parijnanashram Swamiji was observed by chanting Trayaodashi stotras and bhajans sung by children under the guidance of Veena Hattangadi. The monthly Anusthan Pooja, also held in October, was well-attended.

Reported by Shubhangi S. Kabard

Bangalore: PP Shrimat Sadyojet Shankarashram Swamiji arrived in Bangalore on November 18 to a joyous welcome. Stotra pathan was held almost every evening during His ten-day sojourn. PP Swamiji conducted swadhyaya on Chapter 14 of the Bhagavad Gita.

On Tulsi Poojan day, the Bangalore Math was lit up with hundreds of divlis. As devotees performed poojan at the tulsi katte, the kids put on a spectacular show of fireworks! Earlier that day, a satsang for PP Swamiji was hosted by the Chitrapur Saraswat residents of Vijayanagar. Devotees also participated in large numbers in Japa Kusumaanjali, an hour-long, interactive session at which several thought-provoking, japa-related queries of the devotees were clarified by Swamiji in His inimitable manner.

On Kartik Poornima, over 150 sadhakas of all ages accompanied PP Swamiji for a vanabhojan at Chitrakoot Farm. The day was packed with fun-filled games, bhajans by tiny tots, a sumptuous lunch, and a superb magic show by Sanjay Balsavar! PP Swamiji even led a band of youngsters on a short trek through hilly terrain. In the evening, Durganamaskaar was performed with great fervor. Later, Standing Committee President Vinod Yennemadi addressed young adults of the Sabha, outlining our Math’s activities in the Tercentenary Year and areas in which youngsters can provide seva. Dr. Anand Koppikar of Pune gave some excellent fitness tips to sadhakas preparing for the Guru Jayot Padayatra.

The following day, over 60 children came together for Makkala Mandira, a variety entertainment show. They presented bhajans, a dance set to ‘Sri Krishnam Vande Jagadguru,’ ‘Bombencho Utsavu,’ and ‘Santaangale Sangat,’ an item on the great saints of India. The programme was enjoyed by one and all!

Every morning, grihastha sadhakas gathered for Samuhika Gayatri Japa, which culminated in a
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Gayatri Homa on November 25. Angaarika Sankashti was also marked by Samuhika Ganapati Atharvasheersha Pathan and Ganahoma.

The Punyatithi of PP Shrimat Vamanashram Swamiji was observed on December 2. The Sanskrit & Gita Study Circle’s Bhagavad Gita recitation competition was held that evening, with children from all over Bangalore taking part enthusiastically. Later that evening, Dr. Anand Paranjpe, Professor of Psychology at the Simon Fraise University of Canada, gave a beautiful audio-visual presentation entitled ‘Appreciating devotional music (bhakti sangeet).’

Reported by Amit G. Kilpady

Bangalore: The Saraswat Mahila Samaj observed its Annual Samaj Day and celebrated the Children’s Day on November 17. The programme concluded with an interesting Konkani skit by its members, besides other items performed by children.

The Canara Union has tied up with Prabaasee Association, Bangalore, which is also engaged in charitable work, for jointly conducting free medical camps on a monthly basis. The camps will include a routine check up with facilities of ECG etc., between 3 pm to 6 pm on an appointed day every month. One such camp was held on November 25, 2007.

(Courtesy: Canara Union Newsletter, Dec.2007)

Mumbai, Andheri: On November 13, the Sabha observed the birthday of PP Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji and the Punyatithi of HH Swami Vamanashram on December 2. Both functions were marked by bhajans, Narayanpad, mangalaarti and prasad vitaran, and were attended by large gatherings.

Reported by Manohar Balse

Mumbai, Dadar: A four-day theatre workshop was conducted for children in November 2007. Jaidev Hattangadi led the team comprising Avinash Trasi, Chandrakant Shenoy, Shashidhar Karopady and Chandrama Bijur; the Sabha’s Prarthana group participated in the workshop.

The Sabha also sent two teams (one main and one supporting) to ‘Bhajo 2007’, the bhajan knowledge competition held by the Grant Road Sabha, to commemorate its Platinum jubilee. Both teams performed satisfactorily, one of them bagging the third place. Revati Gulvady’s encouraging support was appreciated by the organizers.

The Sabha also sent a record 35 participants for the Geeta competition mainly due to the efforts of and tutoring by Shobha Puthli. In their respective groups, the participants bagged two first prizes (Divya Pawar, Sanjana Rao Molhalli), one second prize (Sameer Tagarsee), and one third prize (Savita Nadkarni). The youngest participant was Anusha Karmarkar.

On December 2, PP Vamanashram Swamiji’s Punyatithi was observed with bhajans followed by a fervent chanting of Devi Anushthan. A question-answer session on Devi Anushthan, Guru Poojan, Gayatri Japa, Shrinkhala etc. followed, ending with an aarti to our Guruparampara.

Reported by Sudha Bhat

Mumbai, Goregaon/Malad: With November 13 fast approaching, women members of our Sabha were planning how best to celebrate PP Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji’s birthday. Mangala Nagarkatti and Varada Soukoor suggested that there could be no better way than holding the three Abhyasaasika poojans, beginning that day — thus, Guru Poojan was performed that day, followed by Devi Poojan and Shiv Poojan on successive days.

There were 25 enthusiastic participants, all eager to learn and try to be perfect for the relay. The sessions were ably held by Varadapachi assisted by Vijaya Dhareshwar and myself. It was also a wonderful opportunity for the three of us, who had attended the Shibir at Karla, to move a step further toward fulfilling our promise in the service of the Guru and the Guruparampara.

Reported by Shrikala Kodikal

Mumbai, Vile Parle: On October 13, the Sabha organized a Upanyasa by Dharampracharak V Rajgopal Bhat on Navaratri Durgapooja and Devi Anusthan.

On November 2, Shree Gurupadukastotram, Parijnanashram Trayodashi, chanting of Lalitasahasranama, and Devi Anusthan were performed while on the 13th the birthday of PP Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji was celebrated with bhajans, mangalaarti, and prasad vitaran; a symbolic cake was also made for the occasion. The Punyatithi of PP Vamanashram Swamiji was observed on December 2, with namasmaran, bhajans,
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Naryanapad, mangalpad and prasadvitaran. All the functions were well attended.

The Sabha bagged the second prize in ‘Bhajo 2007’, the contest organized by the Grant Road Sabha to mark its Platinum jubilee. The participants were Aparna Ullal, supported by Mangala Nadkarni, Rujuta Nadkarni and Gurudut Heblekar.

*Reported by Shrikar Talgeri*

**Thane:** Four members of the Sabha namely, Mangesh Madiman, Sudha Manjeshwar, Nirmala Basrur and Kum Shachi Koppikar participated in the Platinum jubilee commemorative ‘Bhajo 2007’ programme organized by the Grant Road Sabha on 18th November. They won the third prize along with the Dadar Sabha.

Guru Poojan was performed on the last Thursday of November at Mulund.

*Reported by Nirmala Basrur*

**Mangalore:** The Young Chitrapur Saraswat Association (YCSA) of Mangalore celebrated the annual Deepavali get-together on November 11. Deepak Gulvady, its President, welcomed the gathering and Brahmanand Kandliur, Secretary, gave a brief report about YCSA and its activities. Anitha Tallur gave away the prizes to winners of the sports, rangoli, music, Bhagavad-Gita recitation and story-telling competitions for children. Various cultural items were presented by women and children, the main attraction being a magic show by Master Tejas Shukla, the upcoming magician of Mangalore. This was followed by dinner.

In the morning, YCSA had organized a seminar on “Challenges faced by Chitrapur Saraswats” at which following an introductory talk by Madan Bondal, Ajit Kalkini of Bouyance, Bangalore, who was the resource person, described the different ways of overcoming the problems and drawbacks faced in daily life in order to be successful entrepreneur. Mahesh Bondal gave the concluding remarks.

The main sponsors of the programme were State Bank of India, Main Branch, Mangalore, and The Shamrao Vithal Co-op. Bank Ltd., Mangalore.

*Reported by Dinesh Damble Rao*

**Sagar:** Samuhik Satyanarayana Vrita and satsang were conducted at Sri Shiva Gopalakrishna Temple, Sagar, on December 2. This was the 12th such samuhik pooja of the year. Chitrapur Saraswats who participated in it, unanimously declared that the programme be continued as it gives every sadhaka an opportunity to participate.

Samuhik Devi Anushthhan Abhyasika was conducted by Geeta Nilekani. Devotees also decided to perform Guru Poojan and Shiva Poojan at the temple on Sundays. The temple’s bhajan mandali was also requested to recite Devi Nitya Patha at the time of its regular Saturday bhajans.

At the monthly meeting of the Sagar Sabha held in the afternoon, various developmental programmes were discussed. The Sabha President, Uday Nilekani, urged all the volunteers to participate in the Tercentenary programmes as well as the Sadhana Shrinkhala.

*Reported by Praveena Basrur*

**Shirali:** As a prelude to the Guru Jyoti Yatra scheduled for February 13 and 15, 2008, the Local Sabha, conducted a trial run on November 26 and 27, 2007 successfully, under the leadership of Lt. Gen. Prakash Gokarn (Retd.).

Eighteen devotees including 12 from Shirali and the remaining from Mumbai, Bankikodla, Mangalore and Sirsi, gathered in Gokarn, the previous evening. The trial yatra commenced at 5.55 am from Shri Bhandikeri Math with jaijalaks for Swamiji, our Math and Guruparampara. A model of the padukas was carried on the head by one of the Yatris. The entourage reached Madangeri at 7.55 am where they had breakfast, continued at 8.30 am and reached Mirjan at 10.45 am where Deepakmam, Turmemam and Col. Anant Masurkarmai;n received them with a warm welcome at Shree Venkataramana Temple. Here, the Yatris had a brief relaxing session with light exercises. They left Mirjan at 11.00 am and reached Kumta at 1.30 pm where H.N. Nayak, a devotee, received and treated them to an appetizing lunch. Bhavanishankar Kailaje, Manager of our Math, along with Pradhan Archak Ved. Haldipur Nagesh Bhatji also came and cheered and encouraged the Yatris at Kumta.

After lunch, the Yatra commenced at 3.00 pm and reached Dhareshwar at 4.15 pm for a brief rest and tea. The team reached Honnavar at 7.15 pm and was received by their host Dr. Sandeep Padubidri and family. They had a bath, a health check-up and treatment for their paining legs, thus feeling refreshed to continue the Yatra the next morning.

The second day’s Yatra commenced from
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Vol. LXXXIX, No.1, January 2008 KANARA SARASWAT
Honnavar on November 27 at 5.55 am. The Yatris reached Gunavante at 8.00 am where, after breakfast at the famous Bhattara Hotel, the Yatris reached Manki Janardhana Temple 9.15 am. The resident devotees of Manki welcomed the Yatris and treated them to light refreshments. Starting from Manki at 11.00 am, they reached Murdeswar Railway station at 1.30 pm and rested for half an hour before starting on the final leg of the Pada Yatra. They reached Manki Mavinkatte around 3.30 pm and were welcomed by the Bhanaps from Shirali. They garlanded the leaders expressing joy at the successful completion of the trial run and congratulated every participant of the party.

The trial run, conducted with the blessings of Poojya Swamiiji, has created a new sense of enthusiasm among the devotees, and will give a definite boost to the actual Guru Jyoti Yatra in February 2008. The volunteers of Shirali, who just a day before had participated in the Palki Utsav of Shri Chitrapur Math, were its mainstay and their efforts and enthusiasm is worth appreciating.

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Reported by Subhas Koppikar

Drama Workshop at Matunga Mitra Mandal

Spearheaded by Chandrama Bijur and Kavita Samuel, under the joint auspices of the Matunga Mitra Mandal and Dadar Sabha, a drama workshop was organized for children aged 6 to 14 years, from 19-22 November, 2007.

Although supervised by Avinash Trasi and Chandrama Bijur, efforts to invite Jaydev Hattangadi resulted in the legendary director spending nearly 5-6 hours with the 14 children, much to their benefit. He attempted to bring the children out of their shells by making them introduce themselves, sing a song, and speak of their hobbies and interests. Dividing them into three groups, he gave each group a topic to be discussed and acted out, according to their understanding. While one group performed, the other two observed carefully and voiced their opinions and observations, thus making the interaction and improvisation a lively method of learning. The next three days were an engaging process, watching the children write their own script for a story narrated to them by Divya Vinekar, Gauri Burma and Aseem Chandavarkar. They wrote their dialogues, drew the exact entry-exists of the characters, spoke of the costumes, lighting, settings, musical interludes, and properties to be used for their play. In the process, they assimilated a complete understanding of stage craft and theatre at large.

With very little help from elders, the children successfully put up a small play on December 1, all with their own efforts. To watch the children flower in the course of learning a new craft was a fulfilling and marvelous experience.

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KANARA SARASWAT
Our Institutions

Saraswat Association Chennai: Sadhana Shrinkala Abhyasika was held from 16th-18th November during which Samuhik Devi Poojan, Navratri Nitya Path, Shri Devi Anushtan, Shiv Poojan and Guru Poojan were conducted under the tutelage of Archana Kapnadak. On the 21st Shayani Ekadashi was observed with bhajans, aarti and prasad, followed by a swadhyaya by Capt. Trikanad Rajkumar.

Reported by Arun Hoskote

Saraswat Cultural Forum: The Saraswat Cultural Forum of Pune is a 20 year-old, non-profit making and non-political institution. Its objectives are to foster educational activities, encourage youth, promote and nurture artistic and histrionic talent, help the aged and needy, provide service and help in emergencies, and in general, to provide facilities for the healthy development of mind and body. The Forum also offers help to Chitrapur Saraswats moving to Pune to settle down. A sub-committee of students formulates all youth activities under the guidance and approval of the Managing Committee.

Between September and November 2007, the Forum organized several activities. On September 29, a presentation on eye donation by a team from the HV Desai Eye Hospital witnessed a very lively discussion between the speaker and the 22 members many misconceptions were cleared and new information was obtained. While some members who were already donors had come to get an update, it was heartening to see that most of the remaining became donors on the spot.

The Forum also arranged a picnic, coinciding with Co-operative Movement Week, to the Katraj Zoo and a co-operative milk dairy, in which 74 senior citizens, adults and children participated. The dairy management treated us royally and everyone had a wonderful time. Nadkarni Rameshmaam, one of our oldest senior citizens, gave an enlightening talk on the co-operative movement, showing us its rainbow-coloured flag and explaining its symbolic importance. He also gave us a rare insight in first person into the important period covering India’s freedom movement. Some members sang for us and made the day even more memorable. Children were given gifts (sponsored) in commemoration of Children’s Day and transport was provided by Kamla Idgunji of Saplings School.

The Forum has prepared a list of blood donors to help locate donors of a particular blood group. It has also set up an Emergency Cell to provide emergency assistance and a relief fund for its members. Besides, it can also arrange to get medical equipment on loan for an in-house patient.

Reported by Mangala V. Kilpadi,
Hon. Secretary

(This being the first report received by KS from the Saraswat Cultural Forum, Pune, we have included the objectives of the Forum. - Editor)

Saraswat Mahila Samaj, Gamdevi, Mumbai: As part of its 90th anniversary celebrations, the Samaj organized a talk in Marathi on “Interesting experiences in my career” by Vikram Gokhale, the renowned thespian.

Organized jointly with KSA on November 24, in a hall overflowing with his fans and admirers, Gokhale said that he had entered this field by accident. He spoke at length about how he had risen, stressed the important role played by hard work and discipline, and acknowledged that he owed his success to the contribution of his family - his father Chandrakant, a well-known senior actor and his uncle Lalji, a talented musician - directors like Vijaya Mehta, and eminent colleagues, playwrights and other senior members in the field. He also lamented the present condition of the Marathi theatre and the lack of serious plays of superior quality.

The meeting concluded with a brief and interesting question-answer session. Gokhale was introduced to the audience by Gita Bijur and the vote of thanks was proposed by the President, Nirmala Nadkarni. The programme was sponsored by Suresh Kare of M/S Indoco Remedies.

The Samaj is grateful for cash donations towards the Samaj Fund received from Geeta Bijoor (Rs.5,000/-), Shaila Hemmady (Rs. 3,000/-), and Prita Raote (Rs. 105/-), and to Anupama Uzgare for donating 12 books to the Samaj Library.

Forthcoming programmes:

09.01.08 Wed.: Cooking Competition at 3.30 pm in the Samaj Hall. Item to be used: any leafy vegetable.

19.01.08 Sat.: Sankranti Sammelan at 3.30 pm in the Samaj Hall - Music programme by Amit Savkur, and Haldi Kumkum.

Reported by Sharayu Kowshik
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GRANT ROAD SABHA MARKS PLATINUM WITH A NOVEL 'BHajan KNOWLEDGE' CONTEST

Kudos to the Grant Road Sabha for the innovative way in which they celebrated their 75 years of Service to the Math, Guruparampara, Guru and the community on Sunday 18th November 2007. The large, kumkum-red backdrop with its surrounding decorations and lighting, gave a festive look to Sirur Square, Talmakiwadi, where the event was held. The golden letters on the red backdrop signifying the occasion were the handiwork of the young brigade led by Jhanavi Mallapur and Pallavi Gangavali.

Banners and colourful posters of Tercentenary events namely, Guru Jyoti Yatra, Gayatri Anushthan, Sadhana Shrinkala and Youth Creative Talent Pool were put up and special leaflets about these events were distributed.

The evening started with Math prayers followed by the traditional lighting of the lamp by the nonagenarian (98 year-old) Shri Atmaram Haldipur, ex-president of the Standing Committee, accompanied by Kalindi Muzumdar, President, KSA, and Gurunath Gokarn, Managing Editor KS magazine. In his welcome speech, Dr. Prakash Mavinkurve, President, Grant Road Sabha, informed the gathering that the Sabha had received a message from Poojya Swamiji blessing this occasion, and a message from Vinod Yennemadi, President Standing Committee, expressing his inability to attend the function. Giving a brief history of the origin of the Sabha, Dr. Mavinkurve stressed that this was an occasion for celebration, not only for the Grant Road Sabha, but for all Sabhas in Mumbai as the Sabha had originally started as an all ‘Bombay Local Sabha’ in October 1932.

The highlight of the evening was 'Bhajo 2007' - a unique bhajan 'knowledge' competition, open to all Sabhas. Six four-member teams - Dadar, Matunga, Santacruz, Vile Parle, Goregaon and Thane participated. As per the rules, at least one of the team members had to be less than 30 years of age. The brain behind the event was the youngest member of the Grant Road Sabha, Ms. Maithili Padukone, who galvanized the entire Sabha to work as a team. Uday Mankikar was the master of ceremonies, assisted by noted singer Ravindra Bijur, who with his flashes of brilliant singing brought colour to the occasion while Dilip Sashital lightened the atmosphere off and on with quiz rounds for the audience.

The Contest had six rounds in all - the first being Bhajan Antakshari. The second was a Dhun round in which the teams had to identify the bhajan tune played by Vivek Halady. The query was passed on to the audience of that particular Sabha in case the team couldn't answer (at the cost of losing some points). The next round was singing the maximum number of bhajans of a given Deity in two minutes.

A break was announced after this round for Deepnamaskar following which, snacks, tea/coffee and sweets were served to the entire audience of almost 300 people.

The contest then resumed with a Filmy bhajan round where the teams had to guess the right bhajan based on film-related clues given, such as the names of the movie, music director, cast, etc. In the fifth round, Ravindra Bijur sang melodious abhangs/bhajans and the teams were required to identify the Saint whose abhang/bhajan was sung. The teams were then required to sing one more bhajan of the same saint. The teams were prompt to recognize and sing a composition of the same saint. This round was also supposed to be passed on to the audience of that particular Sabha in case of inability to answer, however this didn't happen. In the last round, the teams had to identify the bhajan based on its English translation read out by Dr. Suneela Mavinkurve.
The participants faced the challenges with confidence, enthusiasm and speed, keeping the scorers (Deepa Mangalore, Geeta Dholakia, Pushpa Savur, Amrita Yederi) and time-keepers (Nivedita Bantwal, Poornima Balsekar) on their toes. It is to the credit of the organizers that the rounds planned were brisk and the quiz questions apt and intelligent, keeping the lively audience entertained and glued to their seats, with not a single dull moment!

In a nail-biting finish, Santacruz Sabha scored over Vile Parle for the first place. There was a tie between Dadar and Thane for the next place. All the team members were given mementoes followed by a felicitation of the judges and elders. The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Hon Secretary Mahesh Kalyanpur, who also reminded the audience of their duty to participate in the Tercentenary events. The concluding event was a surprise item - melodious bhajans sung by the judges - Geeta Yennemadi and Niranjan Murdeshwar.

The evening ended with the concluding Math prayers.

A special mention must be made of the young children (Prarthana class) of Shri Chitrapur Math Yuva Dhara – Grant Road Sabha, who, like Rama’s squirrels, enthusiastically helped as volunteers in every little way they could - drawing lots, ferrying mementoes, serving snacks, and of course cheering the teams. It was ironic that towards the end of the evening, the digit '5' from the decorated '75' flew off, prompting many to say that it had shown how young in spirit the Sabha was!

'Bhajo 2007' was an event to be remembered and cherished by all. Does the ‘2007’ imply that it will be an annual feature? A welcome thought.

13th November - Bal Divas in Santa Cruz Colony

13th November is a day we all look forward to express our love and respects for our Guru, PP Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji. So, we decided to celebrate this auspicious day by organizing something special for our colony children.

The buzz and excitement among the children began days prior to the 13th! This time, the younger children that is, our colony’s “Yuva Dhara” conducted the entire event and, we must acknowledge that in spite of their hectic working schedules, they did a splendid job in making the Bal Divas a hit!!

The evening began with our Math prayers and Deepanamaskar, followed by the Saraswati Yatra Geet. Then, the children themselves decided the games they wanted to play. Musical chairs was the popular response and they enjoyed it thoroughly. Later, a few children came out to share their experiences during their stay in Shirali and their interaction with PP Swamiji.

The cake was cut later, something all the tiny tots were looking forward to, and snacks were served. While the kids relished their snacks, the women performed the traditional aartis, eleven in all, for our 11th Guru, PP Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji, whose photograph shone radiantly in the reflection of the brightly colored lights and diyas.

The biggest surprise for the children was the fireworks after the party! Each child was given a sparkler to light. But what shone more than the sparkler that night was the joy on their faces! Each rocket that burst open in the dark sky with a rainbow of colours was echoed by loud cheers of “Namah Paravati pataye har har Mahadev!” They were then given return gifts of ‘KitKat’ and a storybook on Shri Adi Shankaracharya. The Yuva Dhara were also given ‘KitKat’ and books on Lord Krishna, amidst loud cheers. It was indeed a memorable occasion to meet and remember our Swamiji.

Kavita Milind Kard, Mumbai
**Classifieds**

**Matrimonial**

*Alliance* invited for Saraswat girl 24, 5'2", B.S. Cardiology. Respond with BHP to Smt. Shyamala, 63, Aadimoola Perumal Koll Street, Vadapalani, Chennai - 600026. (R-8572)

*Alliance*: Proposals are invited for a young Chitrapur Saraswat girl aged 26 5'2" merit holder in Computer Science Engineering, working as Senior Software Engineer in Multinational IT Co. Boy should be either Doctor, CA holder or Computer Engineer willing to settle at Bangalore city in a posh reserved self independent accommodation. Respond with copies of BHP to Box CL-2524, Kanara Saraswat Association, Mumbai-400007. (R-8573)

*Alliance* invited from suitable girls for a fair, handsome boy 25 years, 6'1" Gold medalist in Computer Science Engineering, and working as a Senior Software Engineer in a reputed MNC at Bangalore. Girl should be well qualified, good looking around 20-24 years, preferred height 5-3"-5'7". Girls working in IT preferred but not essential. Interested parties correspond to box CL-2523, Kanara Saraswat Association, Mumbai-400007 along with profile, photograph and horoscope.

**Engagements**

*Nalkur-Pai*: Priya daughter of Meeta (Saroj Gersappa) and Anil Nalkur of Ottawa (Canada) to Roshan son of Jayasheer and Ravi Pai of Toronto (Canada) in Boston on 14th October 2007.


*Kallianpur-Haldipur*: Lt. Chinamy (Indian Navy) son of Chandra (nee Balwally) and Durgadas Kallianpur of Bangalore with Shivan, daughter of Sharayu and Nijanand Haldipur of Borivali on November 17, 2007 at Bangalore.

**Births**

Son (Arjun) to Dr. Jayesh and Dr. Gouri Dhareswar Mumbai on December 6th 2007. Grandson to Shamal and Jeewan Dhareswar and Dr. Shanti and Dr. Himalaya Pantvaidya, great-grandson to Hemlata Dhareswar.

A son (Samvit) to Trupti (nee Kalbag) and Niranjan Kundapur at Boston, USA on November 13th 2007. Grandson to Shanta and (late) Nandakishore Kundapur and Sheetal and Arun Kalbag.

**Acknowledgements**

Anil and Nandita Mudbidri thank all relatives and wellwishers who generously showered blessings and gifts on the occasion of the marriage of their son Aseem with Devyani, daughter of Vithal and Jyoti Haldipur on November 10, 2007 at Bangalore and subsequent reception at Dharwad on November 15.

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**Change of Address**

Mudur Madhukar A and Medha shifted to C/14 Konark Campus Vimn Nagar, Pune 411014 Tel: 020-40038717 Mobile: 9764789129. (R-8586)

Sudhir Ramesh Kumta and family have shifted from Andheri to Pune c/o Gurudutt Padukone 604 'Daisy' Silver Dale CHSL, B T Kawade Road, Ghorpadi, Pune 411001, Phone: 64000222.

Satyendra S. Kalbag, Flat No. 004 Ground floor Shashi Kiran, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore 560055. Tel. No. 080 23567684.

**Domestic Tidings**

**Births**

Sept 11: A daughter (Saadhya) to Seema and Manmay Madiman at Chennai.

Sept 16: A son (Tanmay) to Sneha (nee Jyoti Kadle) and Rahul Narsing Kumble at Pune.

Nov 13: A son (Samvit) to to Trupti (nee Kalbag) and Niranjan Kundapur at Boston, USA.
Nov 14: A son (Avaneesh) to Aniket and Annika Chandavarkar in Pune.

Nov 29: A son (Aryan) to Aditi and Yatin Shirali of Virar at Nagpur.

**MARRIAGES**

Oct 21: Sumalata Bhomkar with Vikram Vasant Kolke at Shri Ganapati Temple, Belke.

Oct 21: Pooja Arun Mavinkurve with Atul Satish Upponi at Mumbai.

Nov 10: Devyani Vithal Haldipur with Aseem Anil Mudbidri at Bangalore.


Nov 25: Dr. Aditi Ravindra Bijur with Dr. Akshay Kishore Nadkarni at Vasai.

Dec 2: Dhanashri Sudhir Koppikar with Shyam Arun Ubhayakar at Mumbai.

**OBITUARIES**

Oct 27: Kolpe Bhaskar Rao (87) of Mangalore at Bangalore.

Sept 22: Gangoli Ganesh Atmaram (84) at Hubli.

Nov 2: Tallur Umanath Pandurang (86) at Grant Road, Mumbai.

Nov 14: Basrur Anant V. (90) at Karwar.

Nov 20: Karnad Sadashiv Shankar (84) at Mumbai.

Nov 21: Kaikini Vijay Sadanand (54) at Udupi.


Nov 22: Chandavarkar Manohar S (75) at Borivali, Mumbai.

Nov 29: Puthli Chandrashekar S (80) at Mumbai.

Nov 30: Udaiver Ramesh Nageshrao (86) at Bangalore.

Dec 15: Bhat Dattatray Mangesh of Shri Gopalkrishna Temple, Mudbhaktal at Bhaktal.

Dec 19: Nadkarni (Keremane) Dinkar Narayan (87) at Deonar, Mumbai.

As we ring in the New Year, we thank all those who have helped us in the year gone by: our contributors who have made it possible for us to offer a wide variety of articles to our readers; our correspondents who have regularly sent in news to keep our members worldwide informed about the happenings in our community; to our donors, advertisers and well-wishers for financial assistance; to our readers for their encouraging and useful feedback; and finally, to the members of the Managing Committee of KSA for supporting us in our endeavour to fulfill the aims of Kanara Saraswat.

- Editorial Committee

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