The Saraswati Yatra
30 October - 2 November, 2007

Enthusiastic yatris carrying the pratima of Devi Saraswati in a palki

Eminent Chitrapur Saraswat personalities who were felicitated on KSA's 96th Foundation Day with members of KSA's Managing Committee
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Proud parents with cute children

A daughter Sanjali to Suman (nee Kundapur) and Naren Kalbag on 30th Oct 2007 at Austin, TX, USA, sister to Soham, granddaughter to Pramila, Rajaram Kalbag and Prameela, Ashok Kundapur.

Smt. Sushila Gurudatt Nalkur (Age 84 years)

Four Generations

Sitting (In the centre) Sushila Nalkur, flanked by (from left), Vandana Marballi (Grand-daughter), Suresh Kalambi (son-in-law), Siona Kalambi (great grand-daughter), Geeta Kalambi (daughter), Anjana Hosangadi (grand-daughter)

Standing (from left), Ranjendra Marballi (grandson-in-law), Omkar Marballi (great grandson), Nihar Hosangadi (great grandson), Mahesh Kalambi (grandson), Paliavi Kalambi (granddaughter-in-law), Raunak Hosangadi (great grandson), Prashant Hosangadi (grandson-in-law)
Dear Devotees,

The Annual Mahashivaratri Utsav 2008 will be celebrated from 4\textsuperscript{th} to 9\textsuperscript{th} March 2008, at Shri Shivakrishna Mandir, Hubli. P P Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji’s Anushthan Pooja on the occasion of Mahashivaratri is being performed on 6\textsuperscript{th} March 2008, and the Palki Utsav will be held on 7\textsuperscript{th} March 2008.

All are requested to grace the occasion with family and make the function a grand success.

Dormitory accommodation is available on first-come-first-serve basis. Devotees desiring accommodation are requested to bring light bedsheets and chaddar along with them.

Thanking you,

Yours in service of Lord Shiva, Krishna and Guruparampara,

Vikram Sirur  
President

Anand Karnad  
Organising Secretary

Ramdas Bhat  
Treasurer

\textbf{Attention, all diabetics!}

A special blood test camp for diabetics has been arranged at the KSA Health Centre, Talmakiwadi, on Sunday, 10\textsuperscript{th} February, 2008, between 7 am and 2 pm. The following tests will be done at a nominal cost of Rs 500/- only:

1. Urine Routine
2. Blood Sugar: Fasting and post-prandial (post-meal)
3. HgA1C*
4. Lipid screening (Cholesterol, Triglycerides, HDL, LDL, VLDL)

Non-diabetics can also avail this facility.

Contact: Manager KSA for registration & payment of Rs. 500/- before 9\textsuperscript{th} February 2008.

\*HgA1C: Red blood cells in our blood carry haemoglobin (Hb). A small percentage of blood sugar gets adhered to the Hb and forms 'glycosylated Hb' or HgA1C. This bonded HgA1C remains throughout the life period of the RBC, which is about 3 to 4 months. Obviously, the greater the level of sugar in the blood, the greater will be the level of HgA1C. More importantly, it can tell how high the blood glucose level has been, on average, over the last 3 to 4 months. This can be measured, and is a valuable tool for monitoring diabetics. This new test will be done as part of the blood tests for diabetics on 10\textsuperscript{th} February at the KSA Health Centre.
Conflicts in the management of cricket are multiplying. The comments made by a few cricketers earlier and more recently, have sparked off ill feelings. Two umpires have been accused of faulty umpiring. The drug bug has bitten some athletes thus preventing them from participating and / or getting medals. The insatiable desire to win has resulted in cut-throat competition, frustration, depression, and other mentally pathological situations! This is true of India and the world.

What has affected the world of sports, especially in India? Is it the intervention of politicians? Is it the unimaginably high rewards given to sportspersons, especially to cricketers? As children, we were encouraged to play games so as to inculcate in us, the spirit of sports. We were taught to accept gracefully, both victory and defeat. We learnt to applaud our fellow competitors and opponents and to congratulate them when they emerged as winners.

Sports and other physical activities have both entertainment and educational values. Apart from the fun derived from participation, they improve the health of the players. But, more importantly, sports and competitions teach us values such as cooperation, teamwork, discipline and time-management. Alas, these values seem to be vanishing gradually!

A famous cricketer of yesteryear retired when he was at the apex of his career. When asked the reason for retiring, he seems to have replied that one should retire when people ask “why” and not “why not”! Yes, it is indeed difficult to let go the laurels and make way for budding youngsters. According to Ms. Evelyn Duvall, the sociologist, the task of old age is “generativity” that is, encouraging youngsters to come up in life and taking pleasure in their growth. Although some of our cricketers are not chronologically old, they have had their day and it is time to “let go”. The goal of winning and getting rewards needs to be regulated. Although the small poem by Sir Cartland Rice applies to our entire life, it will not be out of place to quote it here.

“When the great scorer comes
To write against your name,
He writes not that you’ve won or lost
But how you played the game.”

 Kalindi S. Muzumdar
GURU JYOTI YATRA

MISSION

The sacred mission of the GURU JYOTI YATRA is to joyfully express infinite gratitude for the continued Guidance and Grace of Lord Bhavānīśaṅkara and our entire Guruparamparā.

The GURU JYOTI YATRA is also a humble attempt, on the part of the entire Chitrāpur Saraswat Samāja, to atone for each and every act that has been disrespectful of the Divine Stature of Parama Pujya Parijñānāshrama Swāmīji III.

Most of all, the GURU JYOTI YATRA is a historic pilgrimage undertaken by devoted sādhakās to collectively and ceremoniously proclaim the Greatness and Glory of our Karuṇāmurti Guru, Parama Pujya Parijñānāshrama Swāmīji III at Shrī Chitrāpur Math, Shīrāli and to celebrate this momentous occasion with the reverent awareness that it is the Guru-shakti Itself that has blessed us with this ‘suvaraṇa-sandhi’ – this golden opportunity!

********

Phase I – by vehicles
07 Feb 2008 Kārlā to Pune
08 Feb 2008 Pune to Goa
09 Feb 2008 Goa to Gokarna

Phase II – Pāda Yatra
13 Feb 2008 Shrī Bhandikeri Math Gokarna to Haldipur
14 Feb 2008 Haldipur to Shri MGM Temple Shirāli
15 Feb 2008 Ceremonial procession to Shri Chitrāpur Math

********

On reaching the Math,
Pratishṭāpana of Devī Bhuvaneshwari, Mahāgaṇapati, Ādi Saṅkarāchārya, the Guru Jyoti, Pādukaś and Portrait of Parama Pujya Parijñānāshrama Swāmīji III will be performed with religious fervour.
Letters to the Editor

Chitrapur Saraswats on currency notes

Dear Editor: I am a Rajapur Saraswat, President of Rajapur Saraswat (RS) Sangh, Mumbai, and Chairman, R.S. Co-operative Bank Ltd. I was also the Chief Convenor of the All India Saraswat Convention 2003 held in Dombivli.

I am a regular reader of Kanara Saraswat. I was impressed and happy to read the first part of the article, “Chitrapur Saraswats on currency notes and postage stamps” by Lt. Gen. Prakash Gokarn (Retd.) and Mahesh Kalyanpur, in the December issue of KS. I was also happy to learn that Chitrapur Saraswats have reached such heights — most Saraswats themselves may not know this. Rajapur Saraswats are also a small community and are unaware of these facts.

I am launching a quarterly magazine called “Konkani Mirror” for Rajapur Saraswats in particular and for Chitrapur and GSB Saraswats in general as I think that we are children of the same mother.

The magazine will probably be out in March 2008. I would like to reproduce this article in my maiden issue, with your permission, so that the achievements of our brothers and sisters become known to all.

Sadananda D. Nayak, Mumbai

Dear Editor: The article, “Chitrapur Saraswats on currency notes and postage stamps” (KS, December 2007) was great — an eye-opener of historical and numismatic value.

I am not a collector but I have a great interest in history, heritage and culture. I was a helping hand, with my brother Santosh who is in Bangalore, at the Chitrapur Math Museum.

Do you know any one who has a collection of Benegal Ram Rau’s signed notes/coins?

Shivarajan Gulvady, Andheri, Mumbai

We have informed Mr. Nayak that we will be happy to see the above-mentioned article in the first issue of his new magazine. Mr Gulvady’s letter has been passed on to Lt.Gen. Gokarn for reply. — Editor

Guruprasad Haldipur

Dear Editor: We know that the Mallapur Chaturmas was a great success due to the excellent teamwork of the committee members and volunteers. One person whom I cannot forget is Guruprasad Haldipur.

In spite of his disability, he used to be in his seat right from the morning to receive devotees, guide them to their place of stay, arrange for their prasad bhojan and vehicles, and sing bhajans. Above all, he used to take his meals last, after everybody else had finished. He never had “No” for an answer and took pains to complete the jobs given to him.

He worked very hard till the end of the Chaturmas and the very next day I saw him in bed with a lot of pain and fever. He had completed his task and then, he left this world, shocking me and most of the devotees who had come for the Chaturmas. We are going to miss his ever-smiling and divine face.

I have lost a dear friend and the Math, and especially Mallapur, will miss this wonderful person. May God give sadgati to his soul.

Mohan Hemmadi, Hyderabad

“Bhajo 2007”

Dear Editor: “Bhajo 2007”, the programme commemorating the Platinum Jubilee of the Grant Road Sabha in November 2007, was very well organised. The enthusiasm of the participants and the audience which responded by encouraging the participants of their respective Sabhas was laudable. I am referring to the Goregaon Sabha in particular, whose participants were very senior citizens.

The trio (Uday Mankikar, Ravindra Bijur and Dilip Sashital) kept the audience spellbound throughout with quizzes etc. The function was appreciated by many. More such functions should be organized to bring about better interaction between local Sabhas.

Shrikar Talgeri, Vile Parle, Mumbai

Eye donation

Dear Editor: I read with interest and concern the Letter “Eye Donation” in the January 2008 issue of Kanara Saraswat.

The author has suggested that euthanasia should be permissible for the purpose of donating organs. This concept, however, is a dangerous one and will surely open a Pandora’s Box. ‘Mercy killing’, as euthanasia is euphemistically called, is a misnomer. While trying to bring a peaceful release from suffering, it has many unhealthy connotations involving wrong-doing for getting rid of a person, with motives other than compassion and altruism. Human nature has many facets besides love - cupid ity, hate, greed - which have been known to misuse euthanasia. It is, therefore, considered to be a practice that comes under criminal law - homicide - and hence should not be legalised. Euthanasia could be
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regardless of motives, and may lead to trafficking in unscrupulous organ transplantation which has already been in the news recently. All relatives may not - do not - have altruistic motives. Even in countries where euthanasia has been legalised, people are of the opinion that with high quality palliative care, there would be no need for euthanasia. Hospices for the terminally ill and dying help such persons towards a natural death on their journey to the dark unknown, with love, care, humaneness and peace.

On the second point, it is true that aged corneas do wear out soon, as the endothelial cells are incapable of regeneration. Although they cannot be used for optical purposes in young patients, they are useful for tectonic (structural) grafts in patients who have fulminant infections with ulceration and are in danger of losing the eye due to perforation. They are also used for research purposes. With the acute shortage of corneas, it is improper of medical/paramedical staff to dissuade donations.

As of now, only one’s relatives can donate eyes or organs of the cadaver of a truly dead or brain dead person. Research and success in stem cell research, where organs can be grown in laboratories, seems to be the answer to these problems.

Dr Hemang D. Kopparikar<br>(Consultant Eye Surgeon), Mumbai

Honouring senior citizens

Dear Editor: When we are closing in on Tercentenary events and celebrations, it is quite inspiring to note that the senior citizens of our Samaj are also contributing to this grand occasion by standing out as examples who inspire others.

One such name and photograph that hit front page headlines in The Times of India of January 15, 2008, was that of Grant Road resident Dattatrey K. Balse, a youth of 94 years, who would be participating in the Marathon of January 20, 2008. He also appeared on various TV channels that week. Balsemaam had also participated in last year’s Marathon and gained television coverage. His achievement lies in encouraging the elderly to live youthfully, as fit and energetic persons, despite an ageing physique.

I would like to mention another name in the same age group – Taranath Kalbag, a resident of Virar, who participates actively in local programs, and has enriched both his own knowledge of Sanskrit by surfing the web, bit that of KS readers as well by contributing articles now and then.

I humbly request the KSA Committee to consider honouring the seniors of our Samaj who contribute to society and the Samaj in their advanced age, thereby serving as an inspiration to others.

Chaitanya Nadkarni, Goregaon (W), Mumbai

Discarding old clothes

Dear Editor: In appreciation and continuation of Shri D.L. Bijur’s letter (KS, January 2008), I request you to publish an article about organ donation. Advance declaration forms for donating one’s body after death are available. Medical colleges accept bodies. But information about organ donation is generally not available except for the well-known, two-hour limit post-death for eyes. I have read about the MOHAN Foundation in Chennai (Reader’s Digest, January 2007). However, more guidance is needed for those living away from Channai.

I have seen instant death by heart attack (pump failure) as if in sleep. Thereby, a sound body with sound organs can be donated for the benefit of many. I wish some medicos writes about inviting well-desired, well-timed death, leaving the body in a position causing the least trauma to look at.

Death is Deliverance from Earthly Affairs and Turmoil towards Heaven. Don’t we change old clothes for the better? I need not elaborate on बासासिं जीणालि यथा विहयः.

Sadanand Burde, Anand, Gujarat

Apologies!

Dear Editor: Meera Sashital was absolutely right when she wrote to say (KS, December 2007) that I had mis-attributed the lines in my article “Krazy kiya re” (KS, November 2007) to the poet Wordsworth instead of William Henry Davies. My sincere apologies to Meeratai, the readers of KS and to poet Davies too! It was indeed a terrible oversight on my part.

Or, was it? I think it has something to do with my subconscious, psychological makeup which tends to associate my favourite things with the favourite people or incidents in my life. Wordsworth has been my favourite poet; hence the error occurred inadvertently though it shouldn’t have. I am tempted to mention a parallel. While commuting by train, the Vile Parle-Andheri stretch is my favourite. I close my eyes and deeply inhale the exotic aroma of freshly-baked biscuits that floats in. Last year, on reaching that point, I said to my husband sitting next to me, that the aroma was so divine! He roared with laughter, and told me that the factory was closed due to a strike, and how in heaven could I get that heavenly aroma at all?

Kunda Kagal, Virar, Mumbai
ALL MUMBAI SABHAS TERCENTENNIAL & EKADASHAM PEEThAROHAN MAHOTSAV AT SARASWAT COLONY, SANTACRUZ (WEST), MUMBAI

23rd February, 2008 to 4th March, 2008

DAY 1: SATURDAY, 23rd February, 2008:
6.00 p.m.: Arrival of H H Swamiji at Linking Road Junction (Malhotra Chowk); Escorting H.H.Swamiji in a ceremonial procession to the Pandal; Poorna Kumbha Swagat & Veda Ghosha; Paduka Poojan by President, Standing Committee; Convenor, Tercentenary Commemoration Committee; Convenor, All Mumbai Sabhas' Reception Committee; President of all Mumbai Local Sabhas; Representative of the Saraswat Suburban Co-op Housing Society Ltd.; Presentation of "Maana Patra"; Welcome Speech by Convenor, All Mumbai Sabhas' Reception Committee. Upadesh by H H Swamiji

DAY 2: SUNDAY, 24th February: Sankashti
8.30 am - Rudra Trishati Homa; 10-11 am - Navaratri Nityapath & Shri Devi Anushthana; 11-12 noon - Bhajans (Thane & Virar);
6.00 pm: Devotional Music by Smt.Ashwini Bhide-Deshpande.

DAY 3: MONDAY, 25th February:
Rudra Trishati Homa - Poornamahuti; Bhajans (Goregaon); 6.00 pm: Cultural Programme by Santacruz & Vile Parle Sabhas.

DAY 4: TUESDAY, 26th February:
ORDINATION DAY; 8.30 am: Laghurudra; Bhajans; Maha Pooja; Kanakabhishek by Presidents of 11 Local Sabhas; 6.00 pm: "Saraswatam" - Dance Recital by Smt.Sushila Ullal-Mehta; "Tercentenary Raga Bhavani-Shankar" by Smt.Lalith J.Rao & disciples; Dharma Sabha; Speech by the President, S.C.; Pravachan by H H Swamiji; Deepa Namaskar; Digvijay Utsav

DAY 5: WEDNESDAY, 27th February:
8.30: Discourse by V. Rajagopal Bhat, Navaratri Nityapath & Shri Devi Anushthana; Bhajans (Bandra-Khar)
5.00 am: Vimarsh; Cultural Programme by Andheri Sabha 7.00 pm: Interaction with Youths (aged 17-35 years).

DAY 6: THURSDAY, 28th February:
8.30: Discourse by V. Rajagopal Bhat; Navaratri Nityapath & Shri Devi Anushthana; Bhajans (Grant Road);
5.00 am: Cultural Programme by Borivli Sabha.

DAY 7: FRIDAY, 29th February:
8.30 am: Saraswati Homa; Poornamahuti; Bhajans (Dadar) 6.00 pm: Cultural Programme by Bandra-Khar Sabha.

DAY 8: SATURDAY, 1st March:
6.00 am: Suprabhatam; Yogasanas & Pranayam; 8.30 am: Swadhyaya By H H Swamiji; Navaratri Nityapath & Shri Devi Anushthana; Bhajans (Vile Parle); 5.00 am: Vimarsh; 6.00 pm: Cultural Programme by Virar & Thane Sabhas; Deepa Namaskar; Palki Utsav.

DAY 9: SUNDAY, 2nd March:
6.00 am: Suprabhatam; Yogasanas & Pranayam; 8.30 am: Swadhyaya By H H Swamiji; Navaratri Nityapath & Shri Devi Anushthana; Bhajans (Santacruz); 6.00 pm: Cultural Programme by Grant Road & Dadar Sabhas.

DAY 10: MONDAY, 3rd March: Ekadashi
6.00 Am: Suprabhatam; Stretching Exercises & Conducted Meditation (Cd); Samuhik Kumkumarchana; Navaratri Nityapath & Shri Devi Anushthana; Bhajans (Andheri); 6.00 pm: Dharma Sabha; Sambhavana to Vaidiks; Vote of Thanks; Kshamayachana; Ashirvachana by H H Swamiji; Deepa Namaskar; Phalamantrakshat.

DAY 11: TUESDAY, 4th March:
11 A.M.: Nirog Geet; Upadesh By H H Swamiji; Departure For Hubli

DAILY PROGRAMMES: 6.00 a.m.: Suprabhatam; 7-8 a.m.: Yogasanas & Pranayam (on 6 days); Stretching Exercises & Conducted Meditation (Cd) (on 3 days) 10-11 a.m.: Navaratri Nityapath/ Shri Devi Anushthana/Bhagya Geeta Pathan/ Lalita Sahasranam; 11-12 noon: Bhajans; 12 noon: Maha Pooja; Paduka Poojan; Teerth Vitaran; Bhiksha Seva (except on 3rd); Prasad Bhojan 6.00 p.m.to 7.30 p.m.: Cultural Programmes by Local Sabhas (except on 24th, 26th & 3rd) 7.30 p.m.: Deeja Namaskar; Ratri Pooja; Ashthnavadhan Seva; Prasad Bhojan

A. REGULAR SEVAS: Shri Paduka Poojan Rs. 50/-; Panchamrit Rudrabhishek Rs. 50/-; Kumkumarchana 50/-; Noon Pooja 300/-; Bhiksha Seva Rs. 350/-; Kanakabhishek Rs. 100/- + cost of Gold Coin (Please contact Secretary to Poojya Swamiji)
B. SPECIAL SEVAS: i) Mahaposhak Rs. 50,000/- (Mahapooja + Shree Paduka Pooja + Bhiksha + Night Kartik Pooja + a special memento from Poojya Swamiji)
ii) Poshak Rs. 25,000/- (Mahapooja + Shree Paduka Pooja + Bhiksha + Night Kartik Pooja + a memento from Poojya Swamiji)
iii) Yajaman Seva Rs. 15,000/- (Mahapooja + Shree Paduka Pooja + Bhiksha + a memento from Poojya Swamiji)
iv) Seva Karta Rs. 10,000/- (Mahapooja + Shree Paduka Pooja + Bhiksha + a memento from Poojya Swamiji)
v) Annadan Seva (Shree Paduka Pooja + Bhiksha) One day Breakfast Rs. 2,500/- One day Prasad Bhojan Rs. 5,000/-

All cheques to be drawn in favour of "All Mumbai Sabhas Tercentennial & Ekadasham Peetharohana Mahotsava Committee".

Ashok Chandavarkar (Convenor) - 2640 2161/98202 26602
Back to the roots: Based on the migratory experiences that came down the generations by shruti and later, in written scrolls, we, Bhanaps, have always believed that we are the descendents of the Saraswat Brahmins who lived on the banks of the sacred River Saraswati that once flowed in northern India. Today, though the Saraswati is not a mighty flowing river of glacial waters whose spate cut across mountains into deep gorges as she made her way down to the plains and into the sea, she is no longer a myth or a flight of imagination. The disappearance of River Saraswati is not a mystery any more. Research done by educationists and historians with the support of the Archaeological Society of India (ASI) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has revealed evidence beyond doubt that a part of River Saraswati is extant in Haryana.

The Guru Sankalpa: It was the Guru Sankalpa that initiated this Saraswati Yatra. It was providential that we Saraswats set out on a Yatra to find our roots just before the start of the Tercentenary commemoration in 2008. Our Adi Guru Shrimat Parijnanashram Swamiji gave us His darshan 300 years ago at Gokarn and saved us from being considered as outcast. On 1st November 2007, we yatris, had the good fortune of receiving the darshan of our “mother”, River Saraswati, at the Udgam-Sthala in Adi Badri, near Yamunanagar in Haryana. At last, with the grace of our Guru Shakti, we have found our roots.

The binding force: The memorable Yatra to the Udgam-Sthala was led by our Guru, Param Poojya Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji, who is our binding force. In the absence of River Saraswati, it was our Gurus who held the community together, nurtured it and gave it stability.

Crossing the threshold: PP Swamiji has always referred to Delhi as the ‘dehali’ or the ‘threshold’ for Saraswats to approach all tirtha sthanas in the north. As soon as He graciously accepted the invitation for the Saraswati Yatra from the Delhi Sabha in April 2007, fervent planning began. No stone was left unturned to make the Saraswati Yatra an unforgettable experience. The Delhi Sabha felt honoured when the Tercentenary Committee accepted the proposal of the Saraswati Yatra as a prelude to, as well as, a part of the Tercentenary programme.

The Yatra begins: The Saraswati Yatra began on 30th October 2007. About 250 yatris arrived in Delhi to join the pilgrimage – they came by train, air and road - from as far-off as Australia, US, UAE, as well as nearer home - Hyderabad, Bangalore, Mangalore, Gokarn, Dharwad, Goa, Pune, Mumbai and Ahmedabad. They assembled at the Nizammudin railway station where a warm welcome from the Delhi volunteers, and eight buses awaited them.

Working together: Despite having travelled long distances, they were very cooperative and waited in the hot sun until all the yatris arrived. After the registration formalities and distribution of identification badges, the volunteers guided them to their respective buses. The bus managers, mainly outstation volunteers, distributed packed breakfast and bottled water and ensured that everyone was comfortable.

Multifaceted display: The enthusiasm of the yatris knew no bounds. During the long five-hour journey to Kurukshetra, including a stopover for lunch on the way, they were bubbling with eager anticipation. Some sang bhajans, some exchanged jokes, while others played antakshari, and some even did mimicry. Each one revealed his/her hidden talent like the dancing peacock (one of the vahanas of Saraswati Devi, the presiding goddess of wisdom, knowledge, arts and culture) shows off the vibrant colours of his feathers.

At Kurukshetra: On reaching Kurukshetra, after Deepnamaskar and Samuhik Dhoombhet, Swamiji gave an introductory address in which he encouraged the yatris to make the most of the opportunity to soak in the grace that was being showered on each one by the Higher Force.

The room allocation was carefully planned. HH and His retinue along with 150 senior yatris were accommodated in the Neelkanthi Yatri Niwas and the 100 younger yatris in the Jat Dharmashala, five minutes away. A Yatra folder containing a small potli of mica-sand from the recently discovered Saraswati river-bed near Kurukshetra along with an article written by Shrikant Talageri and a book, 'Footprints
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of Saraswats', written by Gajananmaam Heranjal was distributed to all the yatris.

**About Gajananmam:** Gajananmam Heranjal was a true sadhaka of Saraswati Devi, the Goddess of knowledge. PP Swamiji explained that knowledge is of two kinds - worldly knowledge that includes arts, music, dance, literature etc, and wisdom or knowledge of the Self. Saraswati Devi has two vahanas - the proud peacock (peacock) denotes worldly knowledge while the sedate and calm swan (hansa) denotes knowledge of the Self. In his lifetime, Gajananmam excelled in the former and was a true aspirant of higher vidya. He had a versatile and sarva-guna-samppana personality, yet was very modest and humble. He was proficient in various forms of art such as drama, music and culture, and had authored several books and directed and acted in many plays. Music was close to his heart. With all this, he had maintained his ekagrata towards his goal in life; he had lived his life in the service of his revered Guru and the Math. He will always remain in our minds as an ideal Saraswat.

**Abhigyan Upakrama:** The morning of 31st October was reserved for Abhigyan Upakrama. Abhi means towards or for, gyan is knowledge and upakrama is activity. The two-and-half-hour audio-visual presentation by D.K. Hari on River Saraswati was an eye-opener. It was arranged in an auditorium at the Science Museum, a walking distance from Yatri Nivas.

The highlights of the presentation were:
- River Saraswati was a full-fledged, mighty river between 6000 and 4000 BC.
- She emerged from the peaks of the massive Banderpooch range at Hari ki Dhun in the Himalayas, flowing across the Rann of Kutch into the Arabian Sea.
- The force with which the Saraswati flowed made deep gorges in the Shivaliks.
- River Saraswati first entered the plains at Adi Badri, in the foothills of the Shivalik ranges.
- This mighty perennial Vedic Saraswati river nurtured a vast civilization.
- The Vedas were written on the banks of the Saraswati.
- Between 2000 and 1000 BC, River Saraswati migrated a number of times and later, was desiccated due to aeolian (aandhi) activity and tectonic changes in the Himalayas.
- The catastrophic events deprived River Saraswati of the perennial supply of Himalayan glacial waters.
- The two major tributaries, Sutlej turned west to join the Indus, and the Yamuna 'pirated' the waters of Saraswati and turned east to join the Ganga – which is why Allahabad is called the 'Triveni Sangam' of Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati.

Proof of the existence of River Saraswati is grouped into four categories: archeological, geological, hydrological and literary.

- **Archeological:** Nearly 2000 excavated sites around the Indus-Saraswati civilization have been found on either side of the banks of River Saraswati. In comparison, the Harrappan civilization on the Indus river, hailed as the greatest ancient civilization in Asia, has only 800 excavated sites. In addition, the government land records agency has actually mapped the entire course of River Saraswati.
- **Geological:** The satellite images of ISRO show underground water channels called 'palaeochannels'. The pictures also show thousands of lakes in the Thar Desert and the unfinished delta of the Rann of Kutch.
- **Hydrological:** Water from artisan wells erupted at Bhuj and Karachi during the earthquakes of 2001 and 2006. This subterranean water was found to be sweet, with a temperature higher than that of the surrounding surface water which when tested was confirmed to be around 3,500 years old.
- **Literary:** The ISRO pictures correlate with the literary description of the course of the ancient River Saraswati given in the Vedas. The Saraswati has been adored in the Rig-Veda as 'Ambi Tame, Nadi Tame, Devi Tame'. She gets her name from 'saras' or lakes, as lake formation occurred during the many changes in her course over centuries.

This proves that Saraswati was the mightiest of all rivers in her time. Even today, there is no other river, not even the Ganga or Indus, whose glory can be compared to that of River Saraswati.

**The site of the river-bed:** The same afternoon, the yatris visited an archaeological site at Bhore Saidan, 13 kms from Kurukshetra. This is one of the latest discoveries of R. Purohit, the curator of Shri Krishna Museum, and his team along with ASI. Here, as recently as November 2006, the actual river-bed of the Saraswati had been identified, and Himalayan minerals and an abundant quantity of mica had been unearthed. Pottery and terracotta artifacts found at the site and tested by the carbon dating method by
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ASL, confirmed their age to be over 3,000 years. The deposition of different layers of alluvial soil, clay, mica-sand, etc could be clearly seen with the naked eye. The 'potli' given to the yatris (mentioned earlier in this article) as memorabilia contained a small sample of this very same mica-sand.

**Geetopadesh site**: On the way back, the yatris stopped for a 'sound and light show' at Jyotisar. There, under an ancient banyan tree, an offshoot of K.A Narasimha Saraswata and 15 of the Bhagavad Gita. The presentation was much greater and older than the Indus valley civilization. He reiterated that the Indo-Saraswati civilization was much greater and older than the Indus valley civilization. He quoted several references to River Saraswati from the Vedas and the Mahabharata and convincingly correlated them with his findings. He gave a beautiful interpretation that the subterranean Saraswati in her gupt form symbolizes the sushumna nadi while the Yamuna and the Ganga represent the ida nadi and the pingala nadi. The yatris soaked up the information that he so passionately delivered. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session with R. Purohit and D.K. Hari.

**The momentous Day**: In the early morning of 1st November, the yatris left for Adi Badri via Yamunanagar and Jagadhri, about 90 km from Kurukshetra. It was a reverent experience to walk on the hallowed ground of Adi Badri where our ancestors had once lived. The sight of the yatris in blue and white attire and sandy-yellow/brown Tercentenary caps seemed as though River Saraswati herself had surfaced and was flowing alongside the sandy banks.

**Shivaliks to Shrivali**: Against the backdrop of the Shivaliks at Adi Badri is the Udgam-Sthal of River Saraswati. The srota of the River Saraswati is in the lower Shivaliks from where the waters trickle down through the ridges to join the Som river in the valley. One of the reasons for going there was to collect the water of River Saraswati in kalashas and carry it to Shrivali to be poured into the Shivaganga - in a way, bringing our 'mother' Saraswati to Shrivali and symbolising the migration of the Saraswats as well.

**Udgam sthal**: The srota of River Saraswati had to be directed and channelled to make it convenient to fill the kalashas, and the idea of installing a gomukh that would bring poornata to the Jalagrahan ceremony came up. A marble gomukh, inset in a marble plaque, was installed in an attractive stone wall. The inscription on the plaque is simply divine:

"Inspired by the Divine Grace of Shri Parijnanashram Guru, this devout offering has been placed at the Holy Feet of Bhurivatshar, on the sacrosanct slopes of the mighty Himalayas, by Sarawats to commemorate the Tercentenary of Shree Chitrapur Math."

**Jalagrahan**: PP Swamiji entered the newly-created kund and performed pooja of the gomukh. He filled three kalashas - two to be taken to Shirali and one for the Delhi Sabha. The kalashas were carried by vaidiks, followed by the yatris, in a procession down to the Saraswati Sarovar half a kilometer down the hill. Throughout this ceremony, the entire valley reverberated with sounds of Vedic mantras and Saraswati suktas.

**The Prateek**: The kalasha of the Delhi Sabha was dressed up as a beautiful prateek of Saraswati Devi. The Prateek - a smiling mukha with long, flowing hair topped with a golden kireet, adorned with abhushana, draped in a lovely white and gold silk sari and holding the veena in her hands, was specially made by Roopali Heblekar for the occasion.

**Saraswati Poojan**: On the bank of Saraswati Sarovar under a massive banyan tree, Swamiji conducted the Saraswati Poojan. During the Saraswati Ashtottara, 108 silver lotuses were offered to Saraswati Devi. What a divine coincidence that the Saraswati Poojan was performed in Yamunanagar and sanctified with Ganga water! Ganga denotes 'purity', Yamuna signifies 'bhakti', Saraswati symbolizes 'knowledge'; and during the Poojan, all three intrinsic virtues were present in a perfect blend.

**The Tercentenary Signature Tune**: After the Poojan, Swamiji released the CD of the Tercentenary signature tune, specially composed for this auspicious occasion by Shailaja Ganguly. The yatris, led by
Meera Balsavar, soulfully sang the tune.

**Badri and Kedar.** From the Poojan sthal, where the mighty Saraswati had flowed at some point in time, the temples of Kedar and Badrinarayan could be seen. It was almost as if the Shankamnarayan Geet had been conceived on this spot. Atop the edge of the cliff overhanging the valley is the temple of Mantra Devi, the sole sakshi to Saraswati’s original grandeur.

**The Palki Utsav.** After the Poojan, the Devi Prateek was placed in a decorated palki. The palki procession led by Swamiji went around the Saraswati Sarovar with joyous singing of bhajans. The song ‘Vidya de Ma, budhi de Ma, sada sanmati de de Ma’ reverberated in the surrounding Shivaliks - it seemed as if, not just 250 yatris, but the entire 25,000-strong Saraswat community was present and participating in the celebrations.

**Vriksharopan.** PP Swamiji planted two mango saplings in the landscaped garden around the Saraswati Sarovar. Vriksharopan signified the paying of homage to the Udgam Sthala. The trees will grow and become a legacy for future generations who visit the sthala. As Swamiji was planting the saplings, a profound thought surfaced - that, as we reap the fruits of the labour of our elders, we, in turn, by doing their anusaran, should do righteous karmas for the benefit of the generations to come.

**Museum and return.** After a sumptuous lunch, some yatris walked half a kilometre to the Saraswati Museum, some others went ahead to the Badri and Kedar temples. At dusk, it was time to get back into the buses and head towards Kurukshetra.

**Fireworks.** At the resort, after a brief round-up of the day’s events by Swamiji, there was a display of fireworks, symbolizing the successful culmination of the Saraswati Yatra as well as the ecstasy of the yatris who had rediscovered their roots. It seemed as though the fireworks were spreading the yatris’ joy worldwide.

**To Delhi:** At dawn, on 2nd November, the parikrama of the Brahma Sarovar was most refreshing. After breakfast, Swamiji gave a concluding address after which, the yatris visited the Mahabharata Panorama in the Science Museum and the Krishna Museum. At noon, they headed back to Delhi and thus ended a most memorable Yatra

(Article compiled by the Delhi Sabha of Chitrapur Saraswat, based on PP Swamiji’s pravachans and observations of yatris)

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**Sportsman of the Year Award for Omkar Marballi**

Omkar Marballi, 16, was presented the Sportsman of the Year Award instituted in memory of late Suresh Nadkarni, by KSA President Prof. (Smt.) Kalindi Muzumdar at the Association’s 96th Foundation Day function on 26th November, 2007. The Award is for the year 2007.

Encouraged by his parents, Omkar joined the Vijaychandra Cricket Academy, Andheri, in 2004, when he was just 13. A left-hand bowler and a right-hand batsman, he was selected the best player of the Academy and felicitated by Ratnakar Shetty of the BCCI. Omkar’s contribution in his school’s cricket team helped his school emerge as the runner-up in both the Giles Shield (under-14s) and Harris Shield tournaments in 2004 and 2005 respectively.

Recognising his passion for football, Omkar has been trained in football by his school, and represents it as a mid-fielder. In the MSSA (under-14s) football match in 2004, his team ranked 4th out of 32 teams, while in 2005 and 2006, it reached the semi-finals of the MSSA and MDFA football matches. In 2006, paying equal attention to his studies, Omkar scored 88.2% in the 10th Std. examination.

Omkar excels in volleyball too and has bagged his school’s ‘Best Volleyball Player’ award for three consecutive years. He has also won several prizes for 200 mts, 400 mts and 800 mts races, and plays indoor games as well. Currently, Omkar is the sports captain of his school, Rajhans Vidyalaya.
The 96th Foundation Day of the Kanara Saraswat Association was celebrated on 26th November 2007, at Indirabai Kallianpur Hall.

Prof. (Smt.) Kalindi Muzumdar, President, KSA, presided over the function and welcomed the guests. Uday Mankikar was then requested to take over the proceedings and introduce the guests who were to be honoured on the occasion.

Uday Mankikar’s compering in Konkani not only gave a special charm to the entire function but also inspired others to speak in Konkani. Many congratulated him for a superb presentation in his inimitable style.

On this occasion, prizes were also awarded to three writers in the Konkani language namely, Dr. Shrimati Madiman, Smt. Nirmala Bellare, and Smt. Vijaya Kallianpur whose articles were adjudged by Smt. Neela Balsekar. as being the best among the Konkani articles published in Kanara Saraswat during 2006. The prizes were obtained from a donation of Rs.21,000/- received from Dr. Mangesh Nadkarni, former Vice Chancellor of Gulbarga University, in memory of his wife, late Smt. Ganga M. Nadkarni.

Smt. Kalindi Muzumdar’s Welcome Speech

शाहांतु कोणती गुरुत्वशी नाती. एक नमुनेचे भव्यतो, की आलींचे कोडुङ वूळ झट्ट की ना म्हणेल. तेंतीत असल्यो संघर्ष स्थापन जातात. तेंतीत असल्यो म्हणून म्हणून जातात. माझ्यांना तेंतीत, मस्तकडे केरलचे. तांत्रिक उदेश करून, आर्थिक मुलांने कश्ची आशिर्षी हे आम्ही समजू घेऊन ती चालू दोळखीत, हातूं शक्ती ना जात्यांनी कालू बदलू आस्स, समाज बदलू आस्स. हा उदार कल्याव्यारी मात्र साफ आस्ता, एक कडे राज्यांना उदार गडाळ जाता. तेंतीत अमालेली विचारांसारखी सुद्धांथि, कश्चीसामाज बदलती की तश्च्चित्व पद्धत. मूळभूत तत्व तसऱ्याच्या जाणून जाणारी कार्यक्रम प्रभावाने रीती रीती निवास घूर्णाने किंवा कार्यक्रम, विगलित निम्नवले कार्यक्रम पैलेस जागावलेले. तसले कार्यक्रम अशिर्षी आयोजित करून, कटू आसांत. तेंतीत आम्ही इलेक्ट्रिक सांगव आम्ही अमालेला पूर्वाः नाती कश्ची केलेले ते जीर आम्ही करू नवे हाजिर, अपराध वृत्ती ना नाही. आम्ही करू नवे हाजिर चूकू नवे हाजिर वे... ना. एक कसळे आस्त की महाल्याच्या मृत्यूभूत तत्त्व समाजात संवाद आहेत. सकारात्मक तत्त्व आसांत. तश्च्चित्व आस्तांच्या मात्र अपराध वृत्ती नाही. आम्ही बरा करू नवे हे आम्ही िविद्या आस्त. हंदवांतू आम्हांना कश्ची आम्ही सर्वां तरी करू नवे हाजिर. आम्ही हाजिर अपास श्रीमती भूषण तेरा जणांनी आपल्यांना श्रीमती भूषण अप्रभान्य यश मेठल्यां. तंतू पाच महिला आसांत मोहुन माझा भो खुशी जाता. आम्ही वाढवून आम्ही महिलांच्या पृथ्वी प्रेक्षण नाशिले किंवा महिला वचनाशिल्यां, अशिर्षी क्षेत्रांतून तत्त्व यश मेठल्यां. ओषधीकर्म, वैद्यकीय, मस्त क्षेत्रांतून. कला क्षेत्रांतून आशिर्षी महिला ओषधीकर्म क्षेत्रांतून कम्प्लेक्स आशिर्षी. तांतूच आम्ही आत यश मेठल्यां आपण पूर्ण हिंदुस्तानांच्या जरी आम्ही चित्र दौळ्यां मुख्यां हायलारी आम्हांना दिसता की हिंदुस्तानाची महिला खरीची मर्दानी, रेणांगांतू पदार्थ कोंडू यश मेठल्यां. तेंतीत अमालेला म्हणून मेठल्यां आपण हायलारी आम्हांना दिसता की हिंदुस्तानाची महिला खरीची मर्दानी, रेणांगांतू पदार्थ कोंडू यश मेठल्यां. तेंतीत अमालेला म्हणून मेठल्यां आपण हायलारी आम्हांना दिसता की हिंदुस्तानाची महिला खरीची मर्दानी, रेणांगांतू पदार्थ कोंडू यश मेठल्यां.
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समाजांत नमोकर. शिक्षण क्षेत्रातून आसुतुम्ब कोकणी भावेंतून उद्योगांचे अभावस्मृती नारायणित तुमच्यां नुसरतीत ध्येय नारायण भावेंतून कोकणी आयक्षेत्रातून अभावस्मृती नारायण अभाव आयक्षेत्रातून करार. त्या भावेंतून आयम उद्योगांचे सुधार करणे आयम सुधारणे करते. किंवा आयमांना समाजांतून पुरवू निर्माण याची तपासते. आतंकांकांचा बोघांतून पुरवू
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Uday Mankikar introducing Shri Jayadev & Smt. Rohini Hattangadi

Pratishthak Jyotdev Huttangi

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For further details or bookings, call Dr. S. V. Mirajkar or Mrs. Sheetal Mirajkar on: - 23671643, 23723986, 56002470 or mobile: - 32744510. Or visit us at: - www.doctorsfarm.com
Suresh Hemmady replies:

If you don’t mind, I’ll speak in English.

About a month back, Gurunathmaam called me up and said that the KSA had decided to felicitate me at its Foundation Day function on 26th November, 2007. To be very honest, I was a bit surprised and a little nervous, perhaps. I felt proud and elated too that a 96 year-old institution, one of the most prestigious institutions in our community, had decided to felicitate me. But when I got the Kanara Saraswat and read the names of the persons who were to be felicitated, I felt a bit embarrassed and pleased too - embarrassed because a small man like me was being bracketed with 12 persons who had done such yeomen service and pleased because the KSA had thought it fit to include me in the list of names. It is a very nice feeling. Thank you very much, KSA.

Uday Mankikar introducing Shri Arun Irede

Shri. Arun Rajaram Irede

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KANARA SARASWAT
Uday Mankikar introducing Dr. Kishore Nadkarni & Dr. (Smt.) Purnima Nadkarni

Dr. Kishore Nadkarni

Dr. Kishore Nadkarni (Vaidyakshetra)

Dr. Kishore Nadkarni is an Obstetrician & Gynecologist with a diploma in systems management. He is a member of the Indian Journal of Surgeons and holds a Master of Surgery (MS) degree from Seth G.S. Medical College. He is also a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England.

Because of his work, people started becoming pregnant. We also attended training conferences. We kept ourselves abreast of the advances made in our field and we presented our work at international training conferences.

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We employed doctors. Our ambition was to give world standard, high tech medical care at an affordable price, with a smile. With great excitement, full time doctors were given an opportunity to show our hospitality to you. We are really very happy and thankful. I also invite all of you on any occasion, Swamiji. I am feeling very nice because we are far away from the community and we feel we should come and be a part of the community, but we don’t find time. Thank you very much for calling us here and giving us this opportunity. One more thing I would like to tell you is that our children have got our sanskriti.

Our son who got married yesterday only (माणे गंगाप्य महेन्द्र आस्स झाले) and my inlaws are two Dr. Bijurs. I am very happy he has married within the community. We want our children to produce more children so that our community grows. Our aim is that the community grows. It is an excellent community.

Thank you very much.

Uday Mankikar introducing Dr. Mangesh Venkatesh Nadkarni

Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC)Centre for Multi-Disciplinary Development Research, Dharward

- Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics,
Hearty Congratulations on Golden Wedding Anniversary of Ramdas and Ahilya Heble (nee Sudha Venkat Burde) 17th December 2007

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

With love and regards from Sacheet and Vandana Heble
Savkur Deepa, Kiddhina, Yashasma, Shirur Gautam, Nanditha, Lavanya

Ruby Wedding Anniversary

Hearty Congratulations on your Ruby Wedding Anniversary
Ramesh and Shakuntala Sajip (nee Heranjal)
25th February, 2008

May Ruby turn to Gold

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

With love and regards from:
Anju, Nitin, Ashwin, Medha Grandsons Neeraj, Nirmiit and Sujay All brothers and sisters, relatives and friends.
Dr. Gaurish Padukone replies:

Probably for a Vet to be recognized in any forum, be it international, national or local, is a

KANARA SARASWAT
Vol. LXXXIX, No. 2 - February 2008
very rare phenomenon. I, therefore, consider it a great honour for being chosen by the KSA for whatever little service that I have been able to offer by sharing the knowledge that I have gained in the city with people for whom the Vet is literally like a god-sent gift.

Those who have lived in rural areas will be able to understand the honour, the prestige and, I would say, the love that one gets in these areas. In cities, not that I had any problems when I was practicing in Bombay, but the satisfaction that one gets in the villages by treating an animal or a patient and the gratitude that is reflected in the eyes of the farmer, are something quite extraordinary! And this is what probably attracted me to the village and made me take this major decision in life, at an early age – that, as a Vet, my life is meant for the rural areas and not for the cities. So be it...

I would also like to mention here that since Gurunathmaam wrote an article about me and my work in Kanara Saraswat last year, my relatives, friends, and other members of our community have been showering praise upon me. Thanks to you, I stand here today, a Vet honoured by the KSA for the small service that he has given in Bhatkal. Thank you very much.

Uday Mankikar introducing Smt. Lalita Ubhaykar

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Uday Mankikar introducing Smt. Lalita Ubhaykar

Shri Mahamandir Sahitya Mandir, Bhatkal

Kanara Saraswat

Vol. LXXXIX, No. 2 - February 2008
Foundation Day be a Day of celebration for everyone of us, that we belong to this Saraswat community, which is a blessed one.

Sangita vishyaa udthoonga jalayari haraye ba ha kalantamudhole maaka udhassu aatasa. Maaka samman mellele udhassu aatasa. Maaka kilekkad nyaa vedhaji pratishthan mellele aatii samdu udhassu aatasa. Koshii puni karanaanek ene panchra vata pudevhoonu mellele helkha chi chikar serious. Samake tapnaatra aayte mellele sangitai raabhu geel. Jalayarii devalaangi kasthe kei aatasa mahpannti nahi that it is far better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.

This was the first of its kind in the country. We invited unknown artists who were talented disciples of great masters for various reasons. Hiss His Grace Gen. Sudhir Vombatkere introduced many of them, they gave their first performances when they were 18 or 19 in this Utsav and today they are well known. So, that is far better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all. Jalayarii hanka, koshii gopanitvlank koshii yekle... Jalayarii for various reasons dengoleli dha His Grace aatii aamgele janaagomi priti eti samjitaachit priti aatni vishwas. so many of them, they gave their first performances when they were 18 or 19 in this Utsav and today they are well-known. So, that is far better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all. Jalayarii hanka, koshii gopanitvlank koshii yekle... Jalayarii for various reasons dengoleli dha His Grace aatii aamgele janaagomi priti eti samjitaachit priti aatni vishwas. so many of them, they gave their first performances when they were 18 or 19 in this Utsav and today they are well-known. So, that is far better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.

Anyway, I started an organization which tried to make life easier for so many of them, they gave their first performances when they were 18 or 19 in this Utsav and today they are well-known. So, that is far better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all. Jalayarii hanka, koshii gopanitvlank koshii yekle... Jalayarii for various reasons dengoleli dha His Grace aatii aamgele janaagomi priti eti samjitaachit priti aatni vishwas. so many of them, they gave their first performances when they were 18 or 19 in this Utsav and today they are well-known. So, that is far better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all. Jalayarii hanka, koshii gopanitvlank koshii yekle... Jalayarii for various reasons dengoleli dha His Grace aatii aamgele janaagomi priti eti samjitaachit priti aatni vishwas. so many of them, they gave their first performances when they were 18 or 19 in this Utsav and today they are well-known. So, that is far better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all. Jalayarii hanka, koshii gopanitvlank koshii yekle... Jalayarii for various reasons dengoleli dha His Grace aatii aamgele janaagomi priti eti samjitaachit priti aatni vishwas. so many of them, they gave their first performances when they were 18 or 19 in this Utsav and today they are well-known. So, that is far better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all. Jalayarii hanka, koshii gopanitvlank koshii yekle...
Maj. Gen. Sudhir Vombatkere replies:

I stand before you with mixed feelings. I am grateful to the KSA for having selected me to be felicitated today. I feel proud to have been chosen for this honour. At the same time, I feel humble because our community has produced giants like S.S. Talmaki (this area is named after him), Benegal Narsing Rao and so many others. On this occasion, I remember my mother and my father. I remember my wife without whom I would not have been able to achieve even half of what I have achieved. She could not come; so I think it fit that I mention her.

I have always felt that like Newton said, we stand on the shoulders of our predecessors, and if it were not for those who went before us, we could be next to nothing. My paternal grandfather, Vombatkere Pandurang, came from a very poor family and if it wasn’t for his achievements, I am quite sure that I wouldn’t be standing before you today. And so it is, for the rest of our Saraswat community and all my colleagues and subordinates in the Army. We think that we have achieved greatness but actually, some people are born great, some become great and some have greatness thrust upon them. I believe that I fall in the last category because the people felicitated before me – and we saw a young boy of 16 - had achieved so much more.

Mention has been made of the bridge at Ladakh. Yes, it was the highest bridge in the world and entirely built by us. It just happened. A problem had to be solved - a bridge was put up across the gap, and it turned out to be the highest bridge. Now, the idea was not mine - it was a lady’s. I think that in most of the things that we do, we get the inspiration and ideas from ladies. Again, what we do is also because of the people who are with us. Teamwork can achieve anything, and in the Army, teamwork is most important. That day, the jawans, many of them were well over 45, lifted heavy panels and built the bridge in just four days! The bridge is no more. Because of global warming, the ice body has melted and now there is a
KSA Foundation Day Awardees felicitated by Prof. (Smt.) Kalindi Muzumdar, President, and Lt. Col. (Retd.) Manohar S Karpe, Vice President

Dr. Meena Chandavarkar

Smt. Anuradha Gokarn

Shri Jayadev & Smt. Rohini Hattangady

Shri Suresh Hemmady

Dr. Kishore & Dr. Poornima Nadkarni

Dr. Mangesh Nadkarni

Dr. Gourish R Padukone

Continued on page 36
WE HAVE GREAT PLEASURE
in announcing the magnanimous thought
and donation of a plot of 10,000 sq. ft. of land
valued at approximately Rs. 35 lacs
at Talegaon, Maharashtra

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Shri Goutam Rohit Hattiangadi
and Family (USA)

Talmaki Health and Education Society, SVC Towers, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,
Vakola, Santacruz (E), Mumbai 400055.
WE HAVE GREAT PLEASURE
in announcing the magnanimous thought
and donation of the munificent sum of US $ 10,000.

We are very much grateful to

Shri Vivek N. Kulkarni & Smt. Maya V. Kulkarni (Canada)
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Major Gen. Sudhir Vombatkere

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causeway across. There is no need for a bridge anymore but it remains on record - a credit to the board of engineers to which I belong and a credit to the Indian Army to which I belong. I believe that my 33 year-long service in the Army has made me what I am and I am deeply grateful to the Army. I believe that I have a social debt to pay and, perhaps, it is this point of view that has influenced my sons, both alumni of IIT, to serve the country rather than go out. They are both in the Indian Navy and I am proud of them.

So, it is with this sense of humility, sense of pride, and deep gratitude to the KSA and to our Chitrapur Saraswat community that I say, thank you very much. Namaskar!

Uday Mankikar introducing
Shri Ramkishore Yellore

Shri. रामकिशोर येलोर (समाजकार)

रामकिशोर तागेल्या महालक्ष्मीगोळे उद्घोष "Y. Rama Rau & Co" ठेट्या मात्र नहीं तरी तातू तातू आधुनिक तटाणाच्या उपयोग करून वृद्धी केल्या, तिवारे अत्यंत विनिर्मित, प्रामाणिकपणे आणि सेवा भावनेचे. तागेल्या आजवर कुठे केल्या हा अंगोबाग (Ophthalmic Opticians) संघर्ष वर्स पूर्ण जाह्नवी. ही ज्ञानप्राप्त वांछनात रामकिशोर समाजकारकर्त्याळं आस्स.

- आगेल्या मठाच्या Standing Committee चे क्रियाशील सदस्य.
- अनेक सेवाधारी संस्थाधिकारी निम्नाने कार्य करता- सार्वजनिक एकुणकेला सोसायटी, शासनास विढळ बँकाची दलागार समती, अनाथालय इत्यादि.
- विढळत्या श्री अनंतेश्वर देवस्थानाधिकारी तातू मस्त कार्य केल्या आणि कर्ते आस्स.
- अनेक बेरू कार्यकारी तातू साधन हस्ते देण्यांचे विलयाला.
- कोणाकार मंत्र करतं तातू भेदभाव करून, मंगळुरुंत करूनून काम आसाल्याखाली, गुणू आस्सो अंके ना जाऊन, रामकिशोराल मेम्बरपूर्वे ते जायने अश्वी केल्यास जायने.

मनोरंजन:

वेदिके भिंती आशिले महालक्ष्मीगांना हांगा सभेतून आशिले पूरा जंगाकार मस्तकाळक.
- सुरूवात गुणांतराध्यावासे माखा फोन कोरु हे विषय सांगता

I am too young to get this award or felicitation महावार हांवे कोर्च कहूँच चिंतित, हांवे कोर्च म्हटलेले. I am just stepping into the महावार मंगळे बापुने मंगळे म्हातरे, महावार म्हणून येलोर Umeshrao म्हणून. तशी मंगळे बापुसु Yellore Babrao and actually it is kindled by मंगळे गुरू जानु म्हणून आशिले गुलवाड गोपीनाथ भार. ताने मापा सामाजिकतेत तातू. When I was just 21 years old. माणे म्हणून बिजवाळेस आशिले जाताची ते आपणे म्हालक्ष्मीगांनी चोलेतून रेरलेले कोर्च म्हणून ते केलेले. I am trying to step into their footsteps. So, हांवे कार्य केलेले, एक great केलेले म्हणून माका दिसला. But, तुम्हाला माझे संदर्भात KSA च्या MC ने माझे आउने कोर्च. I am indebted to you. Thank you.

श्री. अधिनायक ब्राह्मीगंगले निवेदन:

एक साधन मंगळे नातीच्या साहित्य समतीच्या मस्त नाटक जातातील. कोण काम नात्य महोत्सव जातातील. गोंटे रीतीरा जातातील आणि आम्मी तावळी सहजी सातान. जातारी एक तरुण वयातून आलले तावळी सुदृढ्य एक महोत्सव जातातील. जातारी कार्य कार्याविष्ट तो महोत्सव बंड जाती. अंततो तो म्हणून नाट्य महोत्सव आम्मी KSA Kala Vibhag हानी मुखारी बेंटू कोर्च म्हणून विचार केल्या. साधन 2008 मध्ये हॉयातू हो एक पांच ते साताकाळी एक साताह हांगा युवावरुळ्या जाच्या आस्स.

श्रीमती कालिदी मुखुमदार

आमास प्रदर्शनातून जेतले माझा एक दोनी सांगवे आस्स. हांगा तेथे नकाश आम्कडी दिसलं, पुरस्कार बैठलं. आमास आस्स, पुनरांत आम्सी विश्विजातीयी ती केलेअहू महाकाल आतातील. साहित्यानं मेम्बर जोगरे टाक्यावर वांजनारातील… जोगरे… पेपरांतून याचिकेच्या संशोधन करता एक जमात्र आम्स मुखवरूल… केलेअहू टाक्यावर वांजनारातील. ब्या जमातीलं कनडक सणाना इत्याक की महाकाळ तंगल कुटी भो बारी

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Lt. Col. Manohar Karpe (Retd.):

I am here to convey my thanks to the KSA and to each one of you individually and collectively, for having come over and helped KSA to make this Foundation Day a success.

I would like to extend my special thanks and gratitude to Balak Vrinda School which made this possible today. I have been to many functions and participated in a few places and have normally found that the one sore point is the public address system. I am really grateful to them for providing a faultless system.

I would like to convey a special thanks to Uday Mankikar. His introduction of our distinguished guests in Konkani, and the way he narrated their many achievements was out of this world. After listening to their achievements, I wish I was younger so that I would have been able to pick up a few things from them. Unfortunately, when I was young, I used to live in Dadar. I find a lot of things here in Wadi, now that I keep coming here, which we can pick up and implement in our own areas.

Once again, I express my gratitude to all of you and especially to our distinguished guests who have come here today. Thank you!

Focus on problems, not on solutions

One of the most memorable case studies on Japanese management was that of the empty soapbox that happened in one of Japan’s biggest cosmetics companies. The company received a complaint that a consumer had bought a soapbox that was empty. Immediately the authorities isolated the problem to the assembly line, which transported all the packaged boxes of soap to the delivery department. For some reason, one soapbox had gone through the assembly line empty.

Management asked its engineers to solve the problem. Post-haste, the engineers worked hard and quickly to devise an X-ray machine with high-resolution monitors manned by two people to watch all the soapboxes that passed through the line to make sure they were not empty. No doubt, they spent a whopping amount to do so. But when a rank-and-file employee in a small company was posed with the same problem, he did not get into complications of X-rays etc. Instead, he came up with another solution. He bought a strong industrial electric fan and pointed it at the assembly line. He switched the fan on, and as each soapbox passed the fan, it simply blew the empty boxes out of the line. Moral: Always look for simple solutions.
Where have all the puppets gone?

Chatura Bhat, Mumbai

As a child, I was very fond of puppets. I enjoyed watching puppet shows on Doordarshan. I found puppets charming. In the early 1990s, shows like 'Magic Lamp' and 'Khel Khilone' used to be my favourites. I even learnt to make puppets by joining a creative hobby class during the summer vacation of Class II. I had made a Barbie doll hand puppet when I actually wanted to make a 'cabbage' doll puppet! I was very upset then, but when I look back, I feel a bit silly now as the show, which we as students of the hobby class had organised, was really appreciated by our parents. This was my first brush with puppetry.

Puppetry is one of the most ancient forms of entertainment in the world. Over the years, it has developed into a powerful medium of communication, offering a challenge to the imagination and creative ability of the individual and of all art mediums. It is probably the least restricted in form, design, colour and movement and the also the least expensive of all animated visual art forms. For example, the current advertisements conveying the message of bird flu, or the puppets of Sonia Gandhi, Laalu Prasad Yadav, etc, on NDTV.

Traditionally, India has a rich heritage of puppetry, dating back to around the 5th century B.C. In India, early puppet shows mostly dealt with the histories of great kings, princes and heroes and political satire. Religious portrayals in puppetry developed in South India with shadow puppets performing stories from the Ramayana and Mahabharata. Besides dealing with religious themes, Indian puppetry also conveys useful messages from Panchatantra and other mythological and historical epics.

Today, most traditional puppet theatres have lost their popularity due to the advent of the cinema, television, video, etc. However, in its adapted form, it is still popular with children, educators and communicators.

One such educator and well-known puppeteer, the director of Jumbo Kids, Podar School, Swati Popat, opines that while puppetry has suddenly gained popularity, it has not revived as an art in the true sense. For her, the notion of a 'revival' means more and more people taking up puppetry as a full-fledged occupation and not as a part-time hobby. Involved in puppetry for the last two decades, she says that the condition of puppet artists has not improved due, in part, to their reluctance to reveal family trade secrets to outsiders for fear of competition. Moreover, they also charge exorbitant fees to teach others their art or to hold workshops. As a result, imparting knowledge and skills of puppetry to youth has been severely restricted, thereby affecting the very growth of puppetry.

Katta Babu, a renowned puppeteer and now Assistant Programme Co-ordinator of Mobile Crèches feels that traditional puppeteers are unable to modernise or adapt to changing entertainment requirements. In fact, the art of puppetry has advanced considerably beyond the four strings used by our traditional puppeteers and today, not only the limbs but also the facial expressions of a puppet can be manipulated via multiple strings. His passion for puppetry undimmed, Katta Babu creates puppets out of waste materials.

Another puppet enthusiast is the veteran actor, Kamini Kaushal. She has been fascinated with the art since the tender age of ten when she began to dabble in puppetry and puppet theatre. Ever the optimist, she believes that puppetry, as an art form, is not dying in India. It has instead, become stagnation.
In loving memory of
Shri P. G. Sirur
on his 101st Birth Anniversary
(2nd February, 1907 - 26th May, 2000)

Fondly remembered by:
Gokarns, Hervattes,
Kundapurs, Karekattes and Puthlis
Puppetry in education: The world over, puppetry has been used as a vital educational tool. India is no exception. Ms Popat, for instance, has converted the poem 'Lochinvar' in puppet form, for Class IX students. Her experiment was a success and was much appreciated. Similarly, she used the puppetry concept in Geography wherein students incorporated puppetry to explain their projects. Ms. Kaushal has also made puppet programmes to explain concepts like energy conservation, hygiene, etc.

In India, rue Ms Popat, the use of puppetry has not reached an advanced stage, partly because adults are uncomfortable watching puppet shows and feel that they are meant only for children. According to her, adults must change their mindsets regarding puppetry.

The art of puppetry is so enticing and colourful that it instantly attracts young kids and even admirers like me. But practitioners must come together to help revive this art and make it more appealing to all age groups. Only then will pulling strings be an honourable task!

Recycle

Kumud S. Nilekani, Texas, USA

Oh! Beautiful nature, beautiful sky,
No more darkness, got new eye.
Thus said the man, who then was blind,
I too will be generous, loving and kind.

What a great ultimate gift, I thought,
Maybe I cared not to think about,
Maybe I forgot.
Thank God! I am still alive to plan that way,
Recycle my mortal body...... O’ Doc, I earnestly say.

A dialogue

(A dialogue between mythical Ashokvan and Vrindavan)

Vrindavan: When the whole world is asleep
And blows the southerly wind
We hear “Shri Ram, Shri Ram” from deep
Calming and soothing our mind.

Ashokvan: When humanity is sleeping
And blows northerly wind
We hear melodic Bansuri
Keeping us all awake in a bind.

Vrindavan: Is it my Badi Bahen, serene
Ashokvan?

Ashokvan: Is it Chhoti Bahen, the lively
Vrindavan?

Vrindavan: Yes Bahen, how you are?
How we still hear “Shri Ram”
After all these years and eras
In Kaliyug with appalling gloom?

Ashokvan: We are fine, but Bahen Vrindavan
When people forgot Lord Rama
We resolved to keep alive Ram Dhun
One group sounding “Shri”, another “Ram”.

Vrindavan: Same here, Bahen Ashokvan
When we bid “Goodbye” to His Geeta
Our leaves rustled in harmony
To orchestrate a divine sangeeta.

Ashokvan & Vrindavan: We may bend; but never broken
Not mute witness, though unspoken
We were here before Man
We will be here after Man!!

Gurudas S. Gulwadi, Virginia, USA

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Your 85th Birth Anniversary year coincides with the Tercentenary Year celebrations of Shri Chitrapur Math, Shirali.

‘Shishyasweekar’ was the big event that took place in our community a few decades ago. You had then captioned this mega event in grand style.

After almost 50 years, another big event is taking place in our community. We miss you on this great occasion.

Shri Jayant Narayan Mudbidri
(Indian Airlines, Santacruz, Mumbai)
04-02-1923 to 03-08-1979

Family, Relatives, Friends
& Chitrapur Saraswat Community

Fourth Death Anniversary
6th February, 2008

Nandan S. Trasikar
(27th August, 1951 - 6th February, 2004)

Each day of the four years that have passed, has made us realize all the more that you are always with us to support and guide us throughout life.

Fondly remembered by:
Wife-Eakta, Children - Manasi & Nachiket,
Mother - Krishnabai, Brother - Ramdas and Sisters
Gita for the rationalist
Ramesh Taggarshe, Bangalore

The Gita, as we all know, is regarded as the most authoritative summary of our Sanatana Dharma. The sublime philosophy propounded in it has been a perennial source of spiritual guidance and solace to countless generations of Hindus for over 2000 years. The Gita is a glorious work with multiple layers of meaning. My humble effort in this short article is to look at its practical aspects in the context of our daily life in this 21st century.

Though the Gita is traditionally described as God's utterance, scripturally it is treated as a smriti, meaning that it is a product of the human mind. The name of the author of the Gita is not known, as is the case with most of our ancient scriptures. According to eminent scholars, notably the late Justice Kashinath Telang and the late President Radhakrishnan, the Gita appears to have been first composed in the 5th century BC, which makes it post-Buddhist and pre-Christian. The original text appears to have received additions and alterations in subsequent centuries, which explains many of the repetitions and a couple of what seem to be contradictions. Thus evolving, the Gita is said to have been given its final shape in the 2nd century BC.

The Gita is a synthesis of the Vedas, Upanishads and Brahmasutras as the thesis, and Charvakism, Jainism and Buddhism as the anti-thesis. Garnering the truths and deleting the errors, it is the essence of the great religious ideas and reform movements that occurred in India from about 1000 BC to 200 BC. For example, it begins with the Vedic triad of jeeva, jagat and paramathman, with pravrutti and nivrutti as the two wheels of samsara. It replaces yajna and ritual with japa and dhyana leading to bhakti based on purity of heart and ethical conduct. It condemns Charvakism, and rejects the extreme austerity of Jainism and the mendicancy of Buddhism. Finally, it reiterates the Upanishadic truth of Oneness of all Existence, without the metaphysical dialectics of the Brahmasutras. The Gita is syncretic enough to cover advaita, vishishtadvaita and dvaita.

I give below the simple meaning of excerpts from ten selected shlokas which resonate with modern ideals like liberty, equality, fraternity and so on.

- **Liberty** – Krishna to Arjuna (18-63): Thus has wisdom more secret than all secrets been declared to thee by Me. Having reflected on it fully, do as thou choosest.
- **Equality** – (9-32): For those who take refuge in Me, though they are women, vaisyas or shudras, they also attain to the highest goal/
- **Fraternity** – (3-20): Like Janaka, you should also work selflessly to establish fraternity in human society for its betterment.
- **Character, not caste** – (4-13): The fourfold order was created by Me based on division of qualities and actions.
- **Man is the architect of his own destiny** – (6-5): Let a man lift himself by his Self, and not weaken himself. For the Self alone is the friend of the self and the Self alone is the enemy of the self.
- **Spiritual choice** – (7-21): Whatever form any devotee with faith wishes to worship, I make that faith of his steady.
- **Ritual not necessary** – (9-26): Whosoever offers to Me with devotion a leaf, a flower, a fruit or water, that offering of love of the pure in heart, I accept.
- **Renounce selfishness, not action** – (5-2): Renunciation of ego and selfishness is superior to renunciation of action.
- **Welfare of all** – (5-25): Those who strive for the welfare of all attain the beatitude of God.
- **Positive attitude to life** – (18-78): Wherever there is human effort (Partha as Dhanurdhara) and divine grace (Krisha as Yogeshwara), there will surely be fortune, victory, welfare and morality.

To conclude, the Gita prescribes a samanvaya of karma (selfless life), jnana (enlightened mind) and bhakti (love expressed in goodness of thought, speech and action). And, to translate this samanvaya into practice, the Gita tells us: **Be good, do your best and leave the rest to God.**
BELLARE RAMCHANDRA BHAVANISHANKER
(13th September, 1927 to 13th January, 2008)

Son of (Late) Smt. Laxmidevi & (Late) Shri Bhavanishanker Bellare
Husband of Tara,
Father of Somshekar - Adele, Nutan-Rathin Kumar Das & Nayan,
Grandfather of Shane & Alain,
Brother of (Late) Balakrishna, (Late) Mira Ullal,
Sridhar, Rammohan, Devidas,
Chandri Nalkur, Indu Ubhayakar & Vasanti Benegal
Brother-in-law of Ahalya, (Late) Narhari Ullal,
(Late) Revati, Sumati, Mukti,
(Late) Gurudatt Nalkur, Krishnadas Ubhayakar & Suresh Benegal,
Passed away peacefully on Sunday,
13th January, 2008 at Bandra, Mumbai.

Deeply mourned by the entire Family, Close Relatives & Friends.

100th Birthday Remembrance

MANGESH VENKATRAO NADGAR
13th January, 1908 - 8th June, 1980

Uday-Suniti
Pranav - Preeti
Amit - Suchita
Supriya & Manu Raman
Yash, Antara and Aniruddha

Nandan - Vandana
Dananjay, Nikita
Brand wars – fight or surrender!!

Veena Bantwal, USA

Mythology gave us the Mahabharata. History textbooks and Hollywood acquainted us with Hitler's world war, Russia's cold war and, of course, the great celluloid series, the Star Wars. While each of these had its own heroes and brave warriors, a relatively new version of the species, namely the 'Brand Wars', finds us, the common citizens, caught in the midst of a battle in our very own battlefield: our homes!

The battle troops herein are segregated or grouped depending on what else, but the brand of course! So, it can be parents vs children, children vs grandparents, or even father and daughter vs mother and son. The stranger one's fetish, the stranger the combination!

Unlike the original wars of yore, the Brand War is on 24x7 and has invaded every aspect of our life. Be it luxury items or common household items of everyday use – that little coloured logo with its name displayed conspicuously on the smallest of products (yes, that's precisely what a BRAND means) has made its presence ubiquitous.

'Brands' communicate to people the values they uphold or rather, the brand image. And, by associating ourselves with a particular brand we, in turn, communicate to those around us what we ourselves stand for. And, therefore, the need for such ferocity!!

It is our territory, our domain, to be zealously guarded and fiercely protected. And, soon (if the Human Rights Commission will allow) might even become our basic right along with roti, kapda, makaan, water, electricity, and the rest of it. And, protect it, we do, by choosing either aggression or subtlety following either Hitler's path or Russia's. But, war it is: and across different fronts too. Right from breakfast options (the brand of bread, cornflakes, jam, or ketchup) that will occupy the dining space to the brand of soap, toothpaste and other toiletries in the bathroom cabinet, the brands of our choice jostle and fight for space with rival brands. However, our resources - time, money and space being limited, Brand Wars, just like the other wars, culminate in victory and defeat. And so, it is the stronger person (not brand) that finally has his/her way, while the weaker one unwillingly relents.

There is also a third faction that is inevitably caught in the crossfire: the meeker section. Wisely selecting peace over war, this faction meekly surrenders itself to the warring groups and makes its exit right at the onset.

Shakespeare, when he asked, "What's in a name?" was obviously not referring to brands. For then the answer would have been: Everything!

And reporting live from the trenches, I can assure you that the war is very much on. Do you want to Fight or Surrender?

Model-actor Deepika Padukone and senior Bollywood journalist Chaitanya Padukone were honored with 'two awards' at the same event in Mumbai last month. The Awards were presented by the reputed director Madhur Bhandarkar. The photograph at left, shows Deepika who bagged the award for 'Best Debut 2007' with Madhur Bhandarkar while the one at right, shows Chaitanya (right) with awardee actor Kunal Kapoor. (The write-up of the event appeared in the January 2008 issue of KS)
SAVKUR SHYAMSUNDER  
(08-06-1963 to 27-12-2007)  
(Son of late Dr. S. Radhakrishna and Smt. S. Mynavathi,  
husband of Smt. Sujata and father of Sushant Krishna)  

Your smiling face with dimpled chin and helping attitude is ever green in our hearts  
But sadness creeps in on realizing that the face is no more amongst us.  
Yet, we are sure, you are always somewhen more amongst us.  

Fondly remembered by:  
SAVKURS, MENONS, MAVINKURVES, KAMATHS,  
KUDDYADYS AND RELATIVES

Shri Gopal Sakharamrao Mangalore  
(G.S. Rao)  
09-11-1922 to 29-12-2007  

A great soul, loving husband,  
caring father,  
a great friend, philosopher, guide.  
We will remember you forever and ever

Sharayu (wife), Sunil-Deepa Sushil-Shubha Shailesh-Snehal Nayana - Manoj - Apoorva  
Vijaya R. Mangalore Nandita - Nitin - Pranov Mangalore and Amladi family, Shirali family  
Friends: Doroty B. Mehta, Richard Mehta  
Rajesh - Pamela Javalkar, Paya - Rajan Kenkre  
Yogesh Bhat, Dilip Kabse and many more.
Ethereal musings - grandchildren and grandparents

Vanita Kumta

Children are akin to fresh dewdrops full of the fragrance of innocence, and the relationship between a grandchild and a grandparent is as sweet as honey. Often, their dialogues border on the funny, though the subject may be grave or even morbid. It is a wonderful world of make-believe and these moments are the treasured gems of this honey-and-dew relationship which every grandparent cherishes.

Members of our generation were considered to be lucky if they experienced this - if they enjoyed such moments with at least one grandparent. Today's generation is, in a way, twice blessed as they see their grandparents more than they do their uncles, aunts, cousins, or siblings.

It all began with the morbid topic of death. I was searching for an interesting way to explain the passing away of near and dear ones, minus the sorrow and fear, and so I spoke to my little angel about loved ones growing old, disappearing from the scene, and becoming stars in the firmament.

On one occasion when our whole family had been to a 'prayer meeting' in memory of a departed one, my little angel saw the portrait of the departed person placed on a pedestal with a garland and fragrance. The very next day we had an interesting dialogue. Here are those sweet nothings:

Angel: when a crow, cat or dog die do they also become stars?
Grandma: Yes, my darling, they do.
A: Do they keep their portraits too in their houses?
G: No my dear.
A: Why not?
G: Oh! They have very tiny houses.
A: So what, they can have tiny photos.

On yet another day:
A: Where is your Papa?
Grandma wearing a sad look, and wondering what to say.
A: (Sensing the ultimate) Oh! He has become a star, is it? (cuddling lovingly).
G: Oh yes!
A: Can you see him in the sky?
G: Yes my dear.
A: How can you make out?
G: The brightest star is he, so it is for each of us (trying to stop the stream of q and a.)
A: And your mother?
G: The other brightest one dear.
A: When you become a star, will you help me when I am in trouble.
G: Yes my darling.
A: How will you do it?
G: I will be very close to God so I will seek his help to guard you.
A: But how?
G: I will be the brightest star right above your head and will zoom strong silvery beams around you, always protecting and guiding you. You must only look up, tell me your trouble and ask me for help, and I shall not disappoint you, my dear.

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FOUR DECADES OF DEDICATED SERVICE
Remembrance

Ashok Nagesh Balvalli
(30-03-1930 to 19-01-2007)
07-02-2008

Fondly remembered by
Ahilya Balvalli (wife)
Nitin and Ashwin (sons)
Vijaya and Vidyā (daughters-in-law)
Shruti, Namita, Smruti and Ruchita
(grand-daughters)

Mrs. Smita (Duggi) Suryakant Mallapur

Date of birth: 2nd October, 1948
Expired on 2nd January, 2008

Mourned by:
Mallapur, Jejari, Kumta families,
Relatives and Friends.

SAD DEMISE

Smt. Sunanda Mangesh Chikramane
Age 75 years, expired on 8th January, 2008
after a brief illness at Andheri, Mumbai.

Deeply mourned by Deepak
Daughter-in-law Jyothi
Daughter Shaila, Son-in-law Balchandra
Grandchildren: Hrishikesh, Annapoorna,
Gayatri and Chaitanya
Chikramane, Mavinkurves and Bantwals
Relatives and friends

Rammohan D. Mudur
passed away peacefully on 18-12-2007

Deeply mourned by:
Anuradha/Aparna
Suresh/Anand
Abhishek/Ekta
Relatives and friends
A village had a dilapidated church where a Pastor gave sermons every Sunday. The parish was not very big. Just about 20 families dotted the tiny village. But each Sunday morning they would crowd into the church to light a candle and attend the sermon.

After the sermon, the Pastor would be surrounded by the attending parishioners. Someone or the other had his woes to tell. At the end of the day, the Pastor would have one more woe on his shoulder to carry home.

Each Sunday, there would be one more person telling the Pastor how his little son needed a heart surgery but there was no money; another wailing about his leaking roof and no way to mend it as whatever little he earned was just about enough for food. Yet another saying that he did not even have a leaking roof and had applied for a house loan which seemed to be taking ages; one more crying that his children did not care for him anymore. And, the last standing patiently for the Pastor’s ear.

“Father, there’s no happiness in my life, even the bread I get to eat is not earned, I beg for it outside this very church.” wept the old man.

The Pastor felt helpless. For so many years he had only heard and heard these tales of woe. But he could not do anything for his Parish except give sermons in the name of the Lord and listen to their tearful woes.

One day, he confided in a visiting friend from another country. “Friend,” he said, “I cannot bear it anymore. I have been only listening and listening to their woes. But I have not been able to help even a single one of them. I don’t have money for their medical needs nor power to get any loans. No influence to get them employment, or funds to feed the hungry or repair their old houses. I am totally helpless and useless.”

The friend laid a calm hand on the shoulder of the sad, broken-hearted Pastor.

“How many years have you been a Pastor here?” he asked.

“Just about 22 years,” sobbed the Priest in utter grief.

“And how many years have these people been coming to you with their woes?”

“About 22.” cried the Pastor again.

“And what have you been doing all these 22 years while they cried out for help?”

“Only listened to them,” heaved the Pastor for the last time.

“Exactly,” said the friend cheerily, “They want and need exactly that!”

When he saw the quizzical look on the Pastor’s face, the friend smiled and patted him on the back. "My friend, you have helped your parishioners in a far better way than collecting funds to help them.”

“How?” asked the priest.

“By listening, because they want someone to listen to their woes. That is why they keep coming to you again and again even when they know you can’t do anything for them.”

Perhaps that is why God laid the count ‘two’ for ears. The best way to help someone when you know you are helpless, is to just listen like the Pastor did!

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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY AWARDS FUNCTION

The Kanara Saraswat Association will observe "International Women’s Day" on 15th March, 2008. On this occasion, the Association will honour women who are based in the Local Sabha areas of Thane, Virar and Navi Mumbai, who have done selfless social service in various fields. The Presidents of the Thane and Virar local Sabhas have been requested to recommend the names of such women. The function will be held at 5:00 p.m. in Shrimat Anandashram Hall, Talmakiwadi, J.D. Marg, Mumbai 400007.

Prof. (Smt.) Kalindi S. Muzumdar, President, KSA, will preside over the function. Smt. Chitkala Zutshi, IAS, Chief Addl. Secretary (Home) to the Government of Maharashtra, will be the Chief Guest.

ALL ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

Santosh Sirur
Hon. Secretary
यदा आमच्या सार्वजनिक महिला समाजाच्या नववर्षात वर्ष चालू आहे, त्यानिमित विविध संघे तरी महिलानें समारंभ होताहेत. एकोंपासून एक साज, पण १५ डिसेंबरला झालेला तिटसारण अनुसार याचा सहभाग देवीसम्म उपयोग राहते. काही समारंभ शरणात नेतृत्व देतात तर काही वर्षानुसार नेतृत्व संकल्प दान करतात.

१५ डिसेंबरचा कार्यक्रममध्ये असाच! कनेस्टोन आणि मुलांच्यासाठी देवलेला हा समारंभ. त्यामुळे सर्व मुलांमुळे पडेल जागेवान बसली होती. पण अद्यावधी शिष्टीत चुप! आमी ती एकमेकीसाठी हद हुश मुळता होतो. कदाचित त्या तालम्बिकीवर्तीत व सुदाना स्कूलाच्या मुलांमुळीची!

ठीक पाच वाजून दोन विमानांनी लेह्साम्याच्या आवाज ऐकू आला. आभारी मीएन बूह येथे तर एक मुलांनी बनवलेला रथ, त्यात बैलाच्याच्या मुळे जेलकिंवळी, सार्थक एक डांडावडून वर्षांचा मुळा हातात लगाव घेऊन उमाचे. त्यांनी सोबततील मुळे पाणी क्रियाखाच्या स्थानात विडले बेलकऱ्यास चेतसनी आणि. त्यांनी स्थानिकी मुलांमुळीची "काळी देवीवर्ती" नृत्य केले. त्यांच्या पायलतीत हिरक पाहून आमीची चर्चा होती. त्या स्थानिक नव ते प्रकाश वाचवन कुठे होते. काही मजा आली!

तालम्बिकीवर्तीत मुलांमुळीची "काळी देवीवर्ती" नृत्य केले. त्यांच्या पायलतीत हिरक पाहून आमीची चर्चा होती. त्या स्थानिक नव ते प्रकाश वाचवन कुठे होते. काही मजा आली!

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मा गोळात हेमाबाळीने संवाचे आयुष्य आली नाही. इतकांत "एक surprise item आहे" जरा यांना" अशी घोषणा झाली. इस्पातचा पिन्दीतील Sankaclaus आला, त्याच्यापूर्वी चुपचू झाली. यांच्याचा तर सर्वांनी सांगीतक होता, असा प्रकार त्यांंनी सहभागिता करतील. त्यांनी उद्देश्य स्थानिक वस्तुत आपल्यांनी भाग दिले. त्यांना पारितोषिक चित्रपटाचा कार्यक्रम झाला. त्याने घोषणा होतकर गाजू तर यशस्वी विद्याधरांनी श्रमिक झाले. हेमाबाळिच हे पारितोषिक दिली गेली.
2nd Death Anniversary

Mr. Vinay A. Burde
03-09-1949 to 03-02-2006

In loving memory
Mother: Chandrika A. Burde
Wife: Shobhana V. Burde
Children: Avanti, Aniket, Pratap, Aparna, Gouri, Anuya and Amrita
Son-in-law: Sunil Pandit and family.

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Sunildutt Somnath Manjeshwar
(22nd December, 1961 - 29th January, 2007)

Dear Sunil,
You have gone away,
The loss is more than words can say.
I know, my loved one is now with God
Under His love and care
Which is eternal and immeasurable.
Only your sweet memories
Are treasured in my heart
For every day we pray,
May your soul rest in peace.

In fond memory,
Shantha Somnath Manjeshwar (Amma)
and Relatives
Splendid souls of the mountains

Arun Irde, Kalyan

The swirling thoughts of the majestic elevations, azure blue sky, canopy of stars, gurgling streams, tsampa, hot cuppa, despite aching muscles reminding the promise of returning back, a strong genuine reason to leave the bustling city.

Salutations to the great Adi Sankara who trekked with a mission the length and breadth of Bharat Varsha and to my humble, dedicated, fearless mountaineering instructors - Da Namgyal, Ang Temba, Sangbu, Rattan Singh and a host of others. Born in the shadows of the mighty Himalayas they were instrumental in moulding countless ordinary souls into strong-willed citizens of this great country.

If you are not living on the edge, you are taking up too much space. - Anon

Damodar Kund always rung a note somewhere. I had just crossed over the Thorang La at 19,000 feet with my wife. Bone weary, we camped at Muktinath. Deep down in the valley we could see the hamlet Kagbeni, a sleepy village on the great Kali-Gandaki river..... shaligrams, hearsay... amazingly available in abundance on the banks of this river. One last ounce of energy to look around ...... a shrill voice, "O Baheni, kathi jawunus." Chinky eyes from a low window froze us in the track .... papers please! A reply in Nepali and his brusqueness vanished! Gesticulating excitedly, a young Nepali in charge of the Kagbeni check-post told us to come next year to Damodar Kund.

The sun had sunk beyond the ridge, the wind started, the temperature dipped, a last look at the bleak outpost, the arrow mark... Damodar Kund was all we could do then. We tucked into dal, bhaat and tarkari and were lulled to sleep by a sonorous voice belting out a slow-tempo Nepali geet. The smoke-filled room which doubled as living room, bedroom and kitchen all rolled into one, bade the eyes to shutter down.

The mind drifted back to Pokhara where we had commenced our trek seven days ago. Exotic places, exotic people – Basisahar, Tal, Chame, Manang, Thorang La, Muktinath, Kagbeni, Tatopani. Each village has a distinct ethnic tribe - Magar, Gurung, Khampa, Thakali, Manangis. The peaks Annapooma, Machapuchare, Dhaulgiri, Manang, Pisang and Gangapurna. Just then dawn breaks, the clank of crockery, a hot cuppa pushed into the hand. Packed and ready as always in forty minutes, we hit the next lap to Jomsom.

The sun peeped over the ridge, the valleys below were still under mist. Walking down the Gandaki, we reached Jomsom in two hours. Not a shaligram picked up, over-exploitation of resources, the river bed is swept clean for any shaligram to be commercially sold in the plains for a stiff price. Our disappointment, however, was short-lived. A local Thakali innocently enquired about our well-being, a teacher in a local school, he questioned at length and our friendship blossomed as we sat near the gurgling stream and spoke in Nepali. The topic soon whirled to shaligrams. The teacher with great humility and fervor, offered shaligrams to us which he had brought from home a short distance away and had the days offerings of gandh-pushpa and tulsi. Accepting the divine gift with folded hands, we bid a tearful farewell, promising to meet again with a sankalp to come again to Damodar Kund.

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MAGHI NAVRATRI MAHOTSAVA - 2008
From Friday 8th February to Saturday 16th February, 2008

Devotees interested in presiding as Yajaman for Durga Homa and Chandika Homa contact offices.

1. "Shree Durga Homa" Samudayik, on Sunday 10th February, 2008. Devotees will have the privilege to offer "Poornahuti". Rs. 250/-

2. "Shree Durga Namaskar" Samudayik, on Tuesday 12th February 2008 at 6.00 p.m. Rs. 150/-

3. "Shree Chandika Homa" Samudayik, will be performed on Saturday 16th February, 2008, Devotees will have the privilege to offer "Poornahuti". Rs. 250/-

4. Special 'Mahapooja' can be done on any one day during Mahotsava (which includes all the daily sevas) and "Kumarika Pooja" on that day Rs. 1001/-


6. "Shree Devi Durga Saptashati Parayan" will be done at the convenience of the Trust, during Magha Masa. Rs. 50/-

7. One time "Prasad Bhojan" - towards expenses of Prasad Bhojan on any one day on the occasion of the death anniversary of dear ones/or one's birthday or marriage anniversary. Rs. 1001/-

8. Sponsorship for 'Prasad Bhojan" (one time) during Navaratri Mahotsava & special occasions such as Poojya Swamiji's birthday/Vardhantis/Guru Pournima/Punyatithi Rs. 5000/-

9. "Toolabhar Seva" at Shree Mahasamadhi or at the shrine of Shree Devi will be performed every day. (Exclusive of cost of material) Rs. 101/-

10. Permanent Seva Capital
   a) Capital for Navaratri Mahotsava - daily Viniyoga on any one day during Navaratri Mahotsava every year (for 10 years) Rs. 1500/-
   b) Capital for Navaratri Mahotsava - towards various expenses during Navaratri Mahotsava (Minimum) Rs. 1001/-
   c) Capital for daily Viniyoga - Daily Viniyoga on any one day, every year, on the occasion of one's Birthday / Wedding Anniversary / Death Anniversary / or Poojya Swamiji's Birthday / Gurupoonmima / Punyatithi (Any One for 10 years) Rs. 1500/-
d) Capital for Lifetime Nanda Deep (At Mahasamadhi or Devi) Rs. 6001/-
e) Capital for Mahapooja - on any day, every year Rs. 10,001/-
f) Capital Prasad Bhojan - towards expenses of Prasad Bhojan on any one day on the occasion of the death anniversary of dear ones / Birthday/Wedding/Anniversary Rs. 5000/-

Devotees who are desirous of offering Sarees to Shree Devi Durgaparameshwari are requested to offer Silk Sarees of 6 yards only.

FOR BOOKING OF THE SEVAS CONTACT: MUMBAI/KARLA OFFICES

Good News

An opportunity to be in the divine presence of Jagrat Sri Devi Durga Parmeshwari and Bhagwan H.H. Parijnanashram Swamiji, perform your special poojas/Hamas at Karla like Ganahoma, Satyanarayan, Navagraha Shanti, Saathi Shanti etc.

* Free Primary Health Centre at Karla for the benefit of about 300 villages.
* Free Checkup, Medicines and Operations. Donate generously towards the noble cause.
* One special Free Medical Camp every Wednesday like orthopaedic, asthma, eye camp etc.
* Karla Spiritual Hermitage
* Swami Parijnanashram Arogyadham for mental peace and good health. Rooms available on daily basis.
* New halls available for Weddings, social gatherings, seminars, yogacamp, medical camps.

All are cordially invited

Board of Trustees
IN MEMORIUM

Seema G. Kalbag
Who left us suddenly on 19-12-2007

Deeply mourned by
Husband - Girish
Son - Saish
Parents - Ramachandra & Anitha Alekal
In-laws - Ramdas & Asha Kalbag
Kalbag and Alekal families

First Anniversary Remembrance

Smt. NAINA S. BALWALLI
[23.08.1940 – 26.01.2007]
We miss you Amma.
Your sweet memories will always remain with us.
With love & remembrance,
Seema, Anand, Anita Naimpally, Suresh Balwalli, Milind & Sonali Balwalli

1st Death Anniversary and 60th Birthday Remembrance

Shri Suhas Baindur
(24-12-1947 to 21-01-2007)
Remembered by beloved wife Maya,
sons Vishal and Pratik,
daughter-in-law Pratiksha, grandson Arnav and Baindurs, Sashitals and Nagarmaths.

SIXTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY
03.02.2008

Ganesh (Manu) Venkatrao Nadkarny
We need to revere our life because the world has so much to give
Fondly remembered by Prema, Supriyaa, Satyajit
Vittal Sashthi Utsav

Suman Kodial, Mumbai

A tradition has it that about the year 1560, a member of the Saraswat community proceeded to Subramanya and worshipped the god. The god appeared to him in a dream, directed him to take away an image for future worship and instructed him to install it in a particular place. Accordingly, the gentleman brought an image to Vokketur, a mile to the north east of Vittal, erected a shrine and consecrated the image in it. Under instruction from god, the image was transferred to and installed at Vittal about 1660, and in token thereof, it is a custom to this day to bring some earth from the original spot at Vokketur, sow a little grain in it and let it sprout and to hand the sprouted grain to the devotees as prasad prior to the annual Sashti Festival at Vittal.

Source: An article by HSR in Kanara Saraswat

The Annual Sashti Festival of Shrimath Ananteshwar Temple, Vittal, commenced on December 10, 2007, with Mrithika Haran from Adishala (early morning), Kosagar Puja.

The Sashti Utsav was heralded on 12th by Dhvajarohan - raising the flag on the Garud stambh decorated in a special way with lots of vegetables, phoppal (supari) and shiyale (coconuts). The main Utsav started on the 14th - the Panchami, in the presence of a large crowd of bhaktas. There was 'Madi-snan' - a ritual performed by men on special occasions in certain temples. Men wear shorts, have a cold water bath and immediately run into the temple avaar, do a namaskar before the deity and, one after the other, roll on the 'ushte keli paar' left on the floor. Some took as many as 14 rounds! It seems on a particular day, 46 persons performed 'Madi-snan!'

In the evening, HH Swamiji arrived from Mangalore. He gave a brief upadesh after Deepanamaskar. Thereafter, the audience was entertained by youngsters dressed/body painted as deer, tigers, lions and clowns! After 9.00 p.m. during 'Mrugbhet', the Gods - Ananteshwar and Narasimha - were taken in procession to a farm about three km away from the temple. The Utsav murtis were brought out and placed in a flower-decked lalki after Swamiji performed a 'send off' to them! A sparkling display of fireworks followed. Swamiji led the lalki with the procession accompanied by a band and petromax lamps, singing bhajans and jai-jair. Since this was the main procession of the Sashti Utsav, everybody joined in the festivity. The farm was nicely decorated. The deities were placed on a decorated katte, Swamiji also sitting there, the 'animals' entertained the Lords with more dancing to the tune of drums and other instruments, and more fireworks including noisy crackers. Then, one of the trustees performed a symbolic shooting - a decorated 6-inch arrow shot at a plaintain tree! Panak and eats were distributed.

The procession returned, taking a short-cut to get back to the temple to catch 'front seats' on the steps to witness the Deepotsav around the tale (pond)! The steps were decorated with hundreds of panatis (earthen lamps) - a magnificent sight! The deities were ceremonially placed on the katte. In the darkness, the illuminated tank, a small pooja, shankh vadya (the sound of the conch) - it was truly an electrifying experience! It was almost three in the morning but everyone was waiting for the next event - the deities taken around the temple in the lalki.

On the 15th, the main Sashti day, was the Rathotsav. There was quite a crowd. Again the deities were ceremoniously taken in a beautifully decorated palki to the ratha. Then Swamiji performed a
pooja. It was past 12.30 pm. At that time, all of us saw an eagle (they said it is the Garuda) high up in the sky, hovering over the ratha! It is said that since ages, on Sashti day, a Garuda flies over Subramaniam Temple in the morning, then Vithal Ananteshwar in the noon, and Manjeshwar Temple in the evening! It seems the Ratharohan (going up in the ratha) always coincides with the Garuda’s visit! After Swamiji’s pooja, the ratha was pulled with thick ropes by the devotees till the end of the road - a short distance and then brought back to rest at the original place.

Meal-time on both the 14th and 15th, was gaon jewan. Almost 5000 people enjoyed the prasad bhojan which was very well organized. At night, there was a procession in the dev/a aavar. What enthusiasm! The lalki-palki carriers danced vigourously to the catchy bhajan tunes, and even five rounds took so long! The palki weighs more than 70 kg, so beautifully decorated with flowers specially woven for the occasion, its dangling jhummars inviting everyone to participate in the Shobha Yatra.

16th was Saptami - a day of fun and frolic! The deities were placed on the katte. HH also came down for sometime. After the Bhatmam applied the kumkum tikka on the forehead of all the gents, they played holi with coloured water. Again, the deities were taken for a round of the lanes not visited earlier. As is the custom, during the procession, the palki stopped in front of each house, aarti and some nayvaidya was offered by the family. On Saptami day, after refreshments, the menfolk who were already soaking wet were doused with ranga udak also!

Then the deities were taken ceremoniously to the tale where the bhatmams gave them dubkis in the water! After their bath/swim, the menfolk jumped into the pool! After adorning the deity in its original glory with flowers and jewels, it was brought to the temple in the palki. But the Lord was in for a surprise! The doors of the temple were kept closed by the orders of none other than His consort Satyabhama! She refused to let Him in! Why? Because He was away throughout the night without informing Her! Across the closed doors, typical ‘bamnum-baiyle’ tark followed, but in flowery Sanskrit prose! The Lord managed to convince His ardhangini that He was busy annihilating evil and then She welcomed Him lovingly! The doors opened and He happily went back to His abode - the sanctum sanctorum.

The “Dhaja-Avarohan”- bringing down of the ceremonious flag heralded the conclusion of the Utsav. The vegetables tied to the pole were untied and the plaque with pictures of Lord Krishna and Lord Ananteshwar was also brought down.

A great Utsav indeed!

Due to its sacred heritage, Shrimath Anatheshwar Temple is revered by the entire Chitrapur Saraswat community who consider it a moola sthana. Over the years, our successive Swamijis of Shri Chitrapur Math have spearheaded the development of this ancient shrine. HH Shrimat Anandashram Swamiji, HH Shrimat Parijnanashram Swamiji and HH Shrimat Sadyojat Shankararsham Swamiji have shown keen interest and chosen this shrine as the venue for observing Chaturmasya Vrata.

Just like in our Shirali Math, we received ’kularchi preeti’ at the temple. Tea/coffee was served throughout. There were cans of drinking water at all reachable spots, sumptuous tannek, kasha for elevenses, and then the polian jewan. Thousands were served without any hitch. Spacious halls and rooms for accommodation, a large number of spotlessly clean bathrooms and toilets, 24-hour hot water facility and, to top it all, friendly and courteous volunteers and office bearers! What more could a sadhaka want!

Shri Kandlur Radhakrishna Bhat, Managing Trustee, and his team deserve compliments for the excellent arrangements of prasad bhojan and comfortable stay. The entire function was well organized with women security personnel maintaining discipline. Overall, an unforgettable experience!
PERSONALIA

Dr. Roopali Shashank Mankikar has started an Obstetrics and Gynaecological Unit on October 21, 2007, by joining Parijnan Nursing Home, Kumta, a full-fledged orthopaedic hospital started by Dr. Shashank Jayant Mankikar. Roopali is the daughter of Gurunath L. Bhat and Vidhya Bhat of Mallapur.

Jaya Row, noted Gita exponent, philosophy guide, and management educator, has been invited by the World Economic Forum (WEF) to give a talk at their annual conference in Davos, Switzerland in early 2008. The WEF annual conclave is the world's most prestigious gathering of top people in politics, business leadership, economics, science and religion.

HERE AND THERE

Bangalore: Sadhakas observed Gita Jayanti with great fervour at our Math on the morning of 20 December, 2007. Saamohik chanting of the entire Gita was followed by Gita Poojan. In the evening, after Guru Poojan and Deepanamaskar, prizes were awarded to winners of the Sanskrit and Gita Study Circle's Bhagavad Gita Recitation and the Heble Ramanand Memorial Bhagavad Gita Competitions. Speaking on the occasion, renowned Gita exponent and chief guest Sri Chandrashekar remembered the immense contribution of late Mangesh S. Kulkarni, who had started the Study Circle. The gathering observed two minutes' silence in memory of Mangeshmaam who passed away in October 2007 after completing a glorious hundred years.

Datta Jayanti was observed on 23 December with bhajans and poojan. As part of Sadhana Shrinkhala, Guru Poojan and Shiva Poojan were taught to over 60 enthusiastic sadhakas at a three-day programme held in the last week of December.

On 30 December, the Sabha President Basrur Vivekanand Rao and Naimpally Jayavanth Rao gave an exhaustive presentation to participants registered for the Guru Jyoti Yatra, covering useful tips, the route map, and so on. Later, Dr. Kishore Baindur and Girish Rao spoke on the fitness aspect and answered questions from participants.

The Punyatithis of PP Shrimat Krishnashram Swamiji and PP Shrimat Keshavashram Swamiji were observed on 31 December 2007 and 1 January, 2008 respectively. At the former, Malini Madiman spoke on the grace of the Guru and Guru-shishya sambandh while at the latter, Nagesh Talgeri spoke on the life and teachings of the Guru. The talks were followed by Deepanamaskar and Ashtavadi Pooja.

Reported by Amit G. Kilpady

Hyderabad: On 29 July, saamuhik Guru Poojan was conducted with deep reverence. In October, Navratri Utsav was celebrated by saamuhik recitation of Navaratra Nityapath and Devi Anushtan during the nine days, at the residences of various members and was well attended.

Kojaari Pourina saw the enthusiastic participation of members. Vatsala Koppikar recited a Konkani poem about the significance of Kojaari. Interesting games were conducted, followed by a contributory dinner.

From 15-18 November, the sadhakas listened to a series of discourses by Dharma Pracharak V. Rajagopal Bhat on the 12th and 15th Chapters of the Bhagavad Gita. The discourse included analogies and anecdotes to drive home the point effectively and help us to remember and put the Geetasaar into practice in our everyday lives. Veena Kallianpur narrated the experience of "Saraswati Yatra".

Reported by Kum. Gowri Arur

Mumbai, Bandra-Khar: Poojas performed during December 2007 were: Guru Poojan on the 13th, Shiv Poojan on the 16th, and Devi Poojan on the 21st. Prayers were recited at the commencement and conclusion of the programmes on all the days. More than thirty devotees participated. The Sabha thanks the Anandashram Math management for its unstinting support for holding the events in their premises.

Reported by R.R. Hosangdi

Mumbai, Dadar: Gita Jayanti was celebrated on 19th December 2007. Children who participated in the Gita recitation competition and won prizes, and Sjobha Puthli who trained the children, were felicitated at the Matunga Mitra Mandal. There was a good interaction between the children and Dr. Chaitanya Gulady. Everyone present sang the Guruparampara aarti and called it a day.

Reported by Sudha Bhat
Mumbai, Vile Parle: The Punyatithi of PP Krishnashram Swamiji was observed on December 31 with bhajans, Mangalapad, Narayanapad and prasad vitaran. A good number of the local laity attended.

Earlier, on the 23rd, on behalf of the Senior Citizen’s Club, Vile Parle, a memorable evening of vocal music by budding Kum Yamini Bellare was organised. She gave a 90-minute programme of beautiful sugam sangeet, bhavageet, bhaktigeet, and songs from Marathi and Hindi movies. The programme was very apt for Datta Jayanti. The bhajans were based on various ragas and the programme concluded with “Hori” and a melodious bhajan in Bharavi. She was ably supported by her parents and on the tabla by Master Ameya Padubidri.

On January 4, 2008, the Sabha participated in all the activities such as day pooja, pada pooja etc. and all other cultural activities during Swamiji’s camp at Andheri. We are thankful to the Andheri Sabha for allotting us this day.

Reported by Shrikar Talgeri

Nasik: In a programme named “Guru Vandana” held in the hall of the Nasik Chapter of the Institute of Indian Engineers on December 3, 2007, Madhukar V. Nadkarny was felicitated as a veteran retired personnel manager of three reputed industrial organisations in Satpur Industrial Estate, Nashik, and former visiting professor of the JDC Bytco Institute of Management Studies and Research, IMRT, and Law College on HRD-related subjects, along with nine other retired personnel managers.

P.M. Mantri, an erudite and eminent person on labour laws, and G. Narayana, Chairman Emeritus of Excel Industries Ltd., and illustrious faculty member of the AMA Centre for Excellence in Education of the Ahmedabad Management Association, were the chief guests who felicitated Nadkarny and others with a citation, shawl and shriphal. The unique feature of this function was a display of the photographs of the person felicitated with his family on a large screen, and honouring of their spouses in the traditional manner by giving haldi kumkum and outi.

The programme was organised by ABB Ltd. and Perfect Circle (Victor Gasket Ltd., Nashik). Reports and photos of the function appeared in local press.

Reported by Kisan Chandavarkar

Sagar: Gita Jayanti was celebrated at Sri Shiva Gopalakrishna Temple on December 20, 2007, with 200 school children chanting the V and XI Chapter of Srimad Bhagavadgita as a part of the Gita recitation competition. The programme was co-sponsored by Sri Sridharashram, Varadapur, on the occasion of the birth centenary of Sri Bhagavan Sridhara Swami Maharaj. Special pooja was offered to Lord Krishna and Bhavanishankar.

Saamuhik Guru Poojan was conducted on the day of monthly Satyanarayana Vrita on January 6, 2008, by Geeta Nilekani; 50 Chitrapur Saraswats from Sagar, Sorab, Shimoga, Sirsi and Siddapur participated. Thereafter, a monthly review meeting was held under the chairmanship of Uday Nilekani.

Reported by Paveen Basrur

Thane: The Punyatithis of PP Vamanashram Swamiji and PP Krishnashram Swamiji were observed by performing Guru Poojan on December 2 and 31, 2007, respectively at Mulund and Dombivili.

Abhyasika for Sadhana Shrinkala has been started in right earnest at Dombivili. In December, they performed Shiv Poojan on the 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th, Devi Poojan on the 4th, 7th, 14th, 18th, 21st and 24th, and Guru Poojan on the 6th, 13th, 17th and 27th. Besides, recitation of Lalitha Sahasranam, Navratri Nityapath and Gita was also carried out.

At Mulund, the devotees performed Shiv Poojan on the 10th, Guru Poojan on the 13th and Nityapath with Devi Anushthan and Lalita Sahasranam on 28th December, 2007.

Reported by Nirmala Basrur

Saraswat Association, Chennai: On 16, 17 and 18 December, saamudayik Guru Poojan, Shiv Poojan and Devi Poojan respectively were performed. Datta Jayanti celebrations commenced with saarvajanik Prarthana on the morning of 23 December, followed by a blood donation camp organised by Saraswat Yuva Dhara and Chennai Local Sabha along with the Kilpauk Residents’ Welfare Association. In the evening, the
cradling of Shri Dattatreya was done after Deepanamaskar; it was followed by Nityanema bhajans, pooja, aarti and prasad.

On 24 January, 2008, Swadhyaya was conducted by Capt. Trikannad Rajkumar followed by bhajans by Meera Savoor. On the morning of 25 January, Nagar Bhajan was followed by saamudaiik Devi Anushtan and chanting of Lalita Sahasranamam and bhajans by Shri Jairam. At noon, pooja, mangalaartii and Mangal Prarthana were performed followed by prasad bhojan.

Reported by Arun Hoskote

The Saraswat Mahilla Samaj, Gamdevi, Mumbai: On 15 December, the Samaj organised the Annual Convocation and Children’s Day programmes at Smt. Indirabai Kallianpur Hall. Suresh Hemmady, Chairman, SVC Bank, was the Chief Guest. After Nita Yedery’s welcome speech, he was introduced to the audience by Sharayu Kowshik. Roopa Mankikar felicitated him with a bouquet and a memento was presented to him by the President, Nirmala Nadkarni. Shri Hemmady, then delivered his address and congratulated the successful students, distributing prizes to those who had passed various examinations with flying colours.

An entertainment programme followed in which Dr. Prakash Mavinkurve, Rohan Puthli, Yatin Mavinkurve and the children of Balakvnrd School participated. (A detailed report in Marathi appears elsewhere). Geeta Yennemadi proposed a vote of thanks. The programme was sponsored by Roopa and Winfred Lobo (Rewa Hospitality) and the refreshments were sponsored by Sadhana Kamat in memory of her parents Mangeshrao and Sundaribai Ulla!. The function concluded with the appearance of Santa Claus (Usha Kalyanpur) distributing sweets to the kids.

The Samaj thanks the following donors: M/S Indoco Remedies: Rs. 10,000 towards the Samaj Fund, Krishnabai Khambadkone: Rs. 25,001 towards the Distress Relief Fund in memory of Ramrao G. Khambadkone, and Kalindi Kodial: Rs 1000 towards enhancing the prize amount in memory of Meenakshi Bijoor.

Forthcoming programmes:


22.2.2008, Friday: Mother’s Day at 3.30 pm in the Samaj Hall. A talk by a Swami from the Chinmaya Mission on "Harmony in the Family".

Reported by Sharayu Kowshik

Saraswat Senior Citizens’ Association (SSCA), Virar: The get-together on 26 June discussed ailments which plague seniors such as dementia, Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s etc. The July meeting proved very lively and ‘musical’ so to say. It fell on Aashadhi Ekadashi day, and spiritual ambience pervaded the hall because of the lamps and floral garlands on the photos of Lord Bhavanishankar and Guru Parampara. A couple of Vithal bhajans and aarti were played and appropriate snacks served. Shobha Kalbag became the new Secretary as Vasant Hattangadi resigned on health grounds. A decision was taken to make the library facility available to all senior citizens, including non-Chitrapur Saraswats, of adjoining areas to benefit a larger number of residents. A picnic to Dr. Badhe’s farmhouse was planned.

At the August meeting, two minutes’ silence was observed in memory of Kamla Shanbhag, a member, and sisters of members late Raja Rao and Anil Heble. Mr. Kagal spoke about Ramkrishna Mission’s “Rural Welfare and Medical Centre” situated 22 km away which members could visit and offer help to. The members also enjoyed an interesting demo of Waarli paintings by Shobha Kalbag. At the October meeting which happened on Kojagiri Pournima day, the customary birthday greetings to October-born members were followed by bhel and doodh paak which proved a great hit! Five-minute talks by each member on a subject of his/her choice added spice, fun and a lot of humour to the meeting.

The November (29th) meeting was a condolence meeting for SSCA’s very dear and active member, Panemangalore Rajaram Rao, who passed away suddenly on 20 November. Each one had very touching things to say about Rajmaam – his large-heartedness, zest for life, friendly nature, various social activities, and selfless work for labour unions and housing societies. He was a father-figure for the entire Panemangalore family. As he was totally involved in and committed to SSCA too, we will miss him sorely at all our future meetings and functions.

In the December meeting, Taranath Kalbag reviewed the very touching book ‘Tuesdays with Morrie’. Members spoke about their New Year resolutions which proved to be a mix of great humour and serious stuff!

Reported by Kunda Kagal
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Vol. LXXXIX, No.2, February 2008
The Anandashram Co-operative Housing Society, Grant Road, is celebrating the 70th Anniversary of its Foundation Day. At the inaugural function held on 14 October 2007, HH Anandashram Swamiji’s Punyatithi, Guru Poojan was performed by the Hon. Secretary, Shyam Vinekar, on behalf of the members. On 26 December, the 70th Foundation Day was celebrated in the august presence of HH Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji who was escorted from Talmakiwadi to Anandashram by Dr. Ajit Pa (Vice Chairman) and Prashant Hemmady. On His arrival, Padaprakshalan was performed by Anand Kowshik (Chairman) and Swamiji was escorted to His aasana. In his welcome speech, Shri Kowshik, expressed his gratefulness to Swamiji for having accepted the invitation, and gave a brief history of the Society and the achievements of its residents. This was followed by an entertainment programme presented by the children from Anandashram, Model House, and Saraswat Society (Gamdevi).

The play ‘Alakshmi’, written by Ashalata Gokarn, directed by Shrikala Vinekar, with dialogues and narration by Aditi Nayampally, Shyam Vinekar, and Gaurav Nayampally had musical accompaniment by Archana Mangalore (shlokas), Kumud Mangalore (harmonium) and Jaideep Nadkarni (synthesizer and bansuri). A short musical interlude consisted of a bhajan played on the synthesizer by Aishwarya Talgeri and shlokas recited by children taught by Aditi. Then followed ‘Yogasana Darshpan’ (yoga exercises) presented in a dance form, choreographed by Madhavi Nadkarni, accompanied with shlokas sung by Madhavi and bansuri played by Jaideep. At the end, Swamiji distributed chocolates to all the children.

Swamiji was then escorted to the dais. After Prarambhik Prarthana sung by the children, the senior-most member of our Society, Dattatreya Balse, offered the Maanpatra to Swamiji. This expressed the gratitude of the members to Swamiji for His benefactions showered upon the community. The Maanpatra was read out for the audience by Sadhana Kamat. Shri Kowshik then presented an idol of Lord Krishna to Swamiji as a memento of the auspicious day. This was followed by Paapdooja performed by a senior couple, G.L. Bhat and Vijaya Bhat, on behalf of all the residents.

After Vaidik Sambhavana, Hemant Kombrabail presented Kshama Yachana and proposed a vote of thanks. The representatives of the Sister-Societies i.e. Saraswat Society, Gamdevi (Ashok Kulkarni), Saraswat Colony, Santacruz (Vasant Nayampally), and Talmakiwadi, Tardeo (Nirmala Chikramane) received mementos from Anandashram Society at the hands of HH Swamiji. After this, Swamiji was requested to bless the Society with His Aashirvachan. Swamiji emphasized the importance of Parampara and advised parents to ensure that their children imbibe good samskaras. He expressed happiness for being with the members on this auspicious day and offered His prayers to Lord Bhavanishankar for the well-being of the Society.

After blessing a very senior member at her residence, Swamiji with His entourage bade farewell to the devotees and proceeded to Talmakwadi. The function concluded with a slideshow depicting the history of the Society. The entire proceedings were coordinated by Sushant Bhatkal and Shaila Hemmady. The function was a grand success due to the contribution of all the volunteers, advisors, participants, committee members, donors, and well-wishers.
We are happy to introduce "Chitrapur Sarita", a special section for children, which will run for the duration of the Tercentenary Year, beginning with this issue. Through this section, Jyothi Divgi, who is known to most of our children and writes for "Little Ravikiran", will help them to learn about our rich cultural heritage – our Gurus, Guru Parampara, and Math. We urge you to encourage children in your family to read these pages or read them out to them, if they are not able to do so yet. Older children may also be encouraged to write to us about this section. - Editor

Chitrapur Sarita
300 Awesome Years

INTRODUCTION
Amchi Children across the globe, tune in!
During the Tercentenary Year, the Kanara Saraswat brings a special section especially for you. Starting from this month, we plan to trek across the three hundred years gone by and discover our rich and beautiful heritage along the way!

In the section titled "My Heritage", we will learn about how fortunate we are to be blessed with our sacred Guru Parampara. The inspiring teachings of our Gurus will be brought to you through incidents from the Guru Parampara.

"Milestone" will bring you interesting tidbits of information about our community and our much loved Shri Chitrapur Math.
Let us discover interesting and inspiring places and temples in the land of our roots – the gorgeous and breathtaking Kanaras - in "Kanara Ratna".

"Fun-time" brings you a grid to discover hidden clues and fun!

The "Tercentenary Message Board" will bring you taaza khabbar straight from events that will happen all through this special year!

And, oh yes... when you share with us, your thoughts about our precious heritage and what you feel about "Chitrapur Sarita – 300 Awesome Years!", it will be printed under the title, "My Math-My Thoughts!"

So, stay tuned in ... every month to this page in the KS!

MY HERITAGE
Our Guru Parampara starts with Lord Dakshinamurty who is Lord Shiva in the form of the Divine Teacher, and comes to us across the ages as our successive Gurus and, today, in the form of our beloved Param Pooja Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji. The Shri Chitrapur Math and our sacred Guru Parampara stand like a shining beacon, protecting us at every step, guiding us, and equipping us with courage and confidence as we travel through this life.

Prayers are always answered: It was the year 1708. The Saraswat Brahmins with their intelligence and hard work, were occupying prime posts in the kingdom of Nagar. Success attracted envy and the mind of the King was poisoned... "How can they be called Brahmins if they have no Guru?"

Thus, hounded by the King, ridiculed by an envious society, disillusioned and disheartened, and yearning for the Grace of a Guru, the Saraswat Brahmins gathered on the banks of Kotiteerth with one strong intent – We want a Guru. And we will pray till the Lord blesses us with one!

Our ancestors prayed with utmost devotion and humility, going without food and water for many days and nights. Prayers always give courage. They help soothe frayed nerves and troubled minds. They infuse immense inner strength. And yes, prayers are answered too. Especially when they are
said with intense, sincere devotion as our forefathers did, three hundred years ago.

The sound of *khadavas* (wooden-soled footwear) broke the silence as our Pratham Guru arrived. A *danda* (wooden staff) adored one hand and, in the other, was a *kamandalu* (small water-pot with a spout carried by ascetics/sadhus). Sacred *bhasma* (holy ash) across the forehead and clad in ochre robes, Pratham Guru Param Poojya Parijnanashram Swamiji arrived to guide the Saraswats. And thus began a glorious Parampara that we are so fortunate to be blessed with today.

**MILESTONE**

- Did you know that between the two rivers - Saraswati and Drishadawati - lies the land of Bramhavarta and hence the people coming from here were called ‘Brahmins’
- Sage Parushuram gifted this land to Sage Kashyap and hence the land was called ‘Kashyapaamar’, and eventually down the ages, it came to be known as ‘Kashmir’!
- When a terrible famine struck the land, it was Sage Saraswat Muni who stood alone resolutely like a rock, having complete faith in river Saraswati, who sustained him for twelve long years! And yes, we are the descendents of this great sage!
- The Saraswats migrated to the coastal area of the Mahasagar (now called the Arabian Sea) and settled in the villages of Goa, until the onslaught of the Portuguese drove them yet again in search of peace, and that is how they came to the coastal region of Karnataka.

**KANARA RATNA**

*Gokarn:* The vibrant temple town of Gokarn is set like a jewel on the coast of Karnataka, with miles and miles of unspoiled white beaches and swaying palms. It is on the beach of Gokarn that Lord Ganesha thwarted the efforts of Demon King Ravana who was carrying the Atma-Linga given to him by Lord Shiva. The famous Mahabaleshwar Temple today attracts millions of devotees. Our beloved Math that has the Sannidhi of our Prathama Guru and the beautiful sculpted *vigraha* (idol) of Uma-Maheshwara is of course, where we all head to when we reach this town!

**MUST-DO!** What you must visit during your visit to Gokarn:

*Shri Vishveshwara Vithal Mandir:* Set on the banks of Kotiteerth, this tiny temple was the abode of our Pratham Guru, Param Poojya Parijnanashram Swamiji I. A sacred place, filled with tranquility and peace, this is where our Adi Guru performed Anushthan. A beautiful *vigraha* of Shri Vithoba and a Shiva-Linga is the main deity; hence the name “Vishveshwara-Vithal Mandir”.

*Belli Mantapa:* Kotiteerth, the famous landmark and *sarovar* in Gokarn, houses Maths and temples along its banks. Marking the very spot where, 300 years ago, the intense prayers of our forefathers had been answered in the form of our Prathama Guru, is a tiny Mandir – “Belli–Mantapa”. A beautiful Shiv-Linga “Satchidanandeshwar” stands a silent witness to Anushthaans performed by our Gurus. At this spot, Param Poojya Anandashram Swamiji had spent many an hour in quiet contemplation.

*Check These!* “Tamra Gauri” is a temple dedicated to the Devi, who holds a weighing scale in her hands. Legend goes that on weighing Kashi against Gokarn, the latter weighs more, since Gokarn is also blessed with the Mahasagar (Arabian Sea)! Other renowned temples include Bhadrakali temple, Mahaganapati temple, Pattavinayak Mandir, Bharat Gudi, Ram Mandir and Uma-Maheshwara atop the hills. Ram Teerth with crystal clear waters gushing perennially from under the rocks; Go-Garb, the mysterious cave; Jatayu–Teerth and Rudrapad (which houses the *padukas* of Lord Shiva and is akin to Gaya *shradhi*) are the other places worth a visit. The Gangamata temple on the banks of the picturesque Gangavali river is a beautiful place to visit too! And as you drive up the hills, the breathtaking view of the Om Beach from the top is simply awesome!
So, during your next visit to Gokam, you have quite an agenda! And then you will agree that YES! Gokam is a “Kanara Ratna”!

**FUN-TIME**

This grid contains the 21 jewels that we discovered in Gokam! You will have to find them - horizontal, vertical, diagonal and even upside down! Circle each name (jewel) listed below the grid with a pencil, as you find it, and have fun!

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Kanara Ratna, Gokam, Bandikeri Math, Kotiteerth, Vithal Vishveshwar, Belli-Mantapa, Mahabaleshwar, Ganapati Mandir, Uma-Maheshwar, Ram Teerth, Go-Garb, Jatayu-Teerth, Bharat Gudi, Ram-Mandir, Om Beach, Satchidanandeshwar, Bhadrakali, Tamragauri, Rudrapad, Gangamata, Pattavinayak.

**TERCENTENARY MESSAGE BOARD**

- Can you imagine the joy of hundreds of devotees who plan to walk mile after mile, for two days, carrying the sacred Guru Jyoti, Padukas and Pratima (portrait) of Parama Guru Shrimat Parijnanashram Swamiji III from Gokam to Shirali? Hundreds of Chitrapur Saraswat (amchi) devotees from across the globe will participate in this Yatra and walk a whopping 92 kilometres on 13th and 14th February, 2008. This great event—the Guru Jyoti Yatra will begin from Karla on 7th February led by our beloved Parama Poojya Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji. What a beautiful way of ushering in the Tercentenary Year!

- **Sadhana Shrinkhala** begins from 3rd February 2008 at Karla. This is a five-day Relay of Sadhana in which every Sabha will participate round the year according to a fixed timetable. This means that even as you read this, a Sadhana Shrinkhala will be happening in some place!

Isn’t it wonderful that our entire community across the world will be touched in one way or the other by the Grace of our Guru Parampara through these special programmes all through the year? We will keep you posted each month!

This is The Year that promises to weave us together with the golden threads of devotion and love!

*Created and compiled with love....  
Jyothi B. Divgi*
CLASSIFIEDS

MATRIMONIAL

Alliance invited from SB/GSB girls for Saraswat boy, 32 years, 'S11', graduate, Medical Representative at Hubli. Girls should be graduate, around 27 years above 5'3". Reply with biodata/Kundali to Box No. CL-2568, Kanara Saraswat, Mumbai-400007.

Alliance invited for Bhanap Boy 34, 5'9" Diploma, 2.50 Lac p.a, own house, working as Techno Commercial Executive for MNC in Printing and Publishing industry at Mumbai. Reply with BHP to Box CL-2562, Kanara Saraswat, Mumbai 400007. (R-8787)

Alliance invited from parents of smart, slim, good natured, well qualified and working Bhanap girl for Bhanap boy 30, 6'2", B.Com, CISA, 35000 p.m. own House, working as System Auditor for a leading audit firm at Mumbai. Reply to Box CL-2548, Kanara Saraswat, Mumbai 400007. (R-8774)

ENGAGEMENTS

Yerdoor-Golikeri: Akshata, daughter of Gajanan and Smitha Yerdoor with Adarsh, younger son of Abhay and Lalitha Golikeri on 30-12-2007 at Bangalore.( R - 8776)

Kulkarni-Paducone: Vikram, son of Sunil Mangesh Kulkarni and Smrita S.Kulkarni, and Apeksha, daughter of Chandru Taranath Paducone and Jyoti C. Paducone, are happy to announce their engagement which took place at Mumbai on 3rd January, 2008 and eagerly seek the blessings and good wishes of family, elders, relatives and friends.

Baindoor - Mondal: Kiran, son of Meera and Late Mohan Baindoor, of Karwar with Sukanya, daughter of Sumita and B.C. Mondal, of Calcutta, on 04\01\2008 at Shrali. (Bhatkal).

MARRIAGES


BIRTHS

Daughter (Taara) to Anjali (nee Halady) and Sa-}

teen Bailur at Hong Kong on 5th January, 2008. Sister to Shivai. Grand-daughter to Jayanti and Gurudas Bailur and Uma and Manohar Halady. Great grand-daughter to Uma Hejmadi. Cousin to Eshwari, Rishabhdev, and Anya.

Daughter (Mrinal) to Vishaka and Ashish Kamad on 8th November, 2007. Sister to Shivom. Granddaughter to Sunanda and Sunil Kamad and Asha and Subbarao Ambemal.


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ubhayakar Shyam and Dhanashri thank all relatives, friends and well wishers for blessings ushered on them at their wedding on 2nd December 2007. Treat this as personal acknowledgement.

Smita and late Ramdas Raghvesh Katre thank all relatives and friends for their presence, blessings and presents on the occasion of the marriage ceremony of their daughter Shushma with Alok, son of Sushma and Vijay Kumar Jain on 26th November, 2007 in Pune.

Smt. Pujana (Rekha) and Shri. Satish Upponi, Thane, and Arun Mavin Kurve, Kandivii (Mumbai), thank all their relatives and friends for their gracious presence and blessings on the occasion of the Wedding and Reception of Pooja and Atil Upponi on 21st October, 2007 (Dasera Day), at Mumbai. Kindly treat this as our personal acknowledgement individually.

Arvind and Asha Kamad thank all relatives, friends and well-wishers who generously showered blessings on the occasion of the marriage of their son Anand (Nandu) with Gouri, daughter of Anjali and Vijay Kalambi on November 18, 2007 at Mumbai and subsequent reception at Udupi on December 1, 2007.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Pune, Vasanti and Sudhakar Ragade and Anjali and Anil Ragade have moved to "Abha", Plot No. 461, Sector 25, Behind Kachghar, Pradhikaran, Nigdi, Pune - 411044. Phone: (020) 27654193.

PUROHIT

H. Prashant Bhat B-17, Deepanjali CHS, BAF-Hira Nagar, Marve Road, Malad (West), Mumbai - 400095. Mobile No. 9820920671/9892614433.

Yogesh Honnavar - A-14, Janam Apartments,
Near Express Highway and Rajaram Garden, Jogeshwari (E), Mumbai 400060. Tel. Resi.: 9270234716 and Mobile: 9967874816 email: yogesh.honnavar@yahoo.co.in


OBITUARIES
Bhalchandra M. Talgeri, age 81, passed away on 08/12/2007 at Manipal Hospital, Bangalore. He spent most of his retired life in Dadar, Mumbai. For the past two and half years he was residing in Bangalore with his wife. He is survived by his wife Shanta B. Talgeri, daughter and son-in-law, Drs Usha and Karambar Rao, sister and brother-in-law, Drs Prema and Krishna Murti, grandchildren Utpal and Sheila Rao, and many well-wishing relatives and friends.

Sirur Umabai Anant (nee Rama Mundkur), 90 years, passed away peacefully in Mumbai on Saturday, 5th January, 2008. Deeply mourned by Sirurs, Mundkurs, relatives and friends. (CL-2563)

DOMESTIC TIDINGS

BIRTHS
2007
Dec 12: A daughter, Dhanashri, to Sanika (nee Lakshana Bijur) and Kunal Belose.
Dec 25: A daughter, Muskaan to Zahida and Ajay Rao, at Navi Mumbai.

2008
Jan 05: A daughter (Taara) to Anjali (nee Halady) and Sateen Gurudas Bailur at Hong Kong.

MARRIAGES
2007
Nov 26: Shushma Ramdas Katre with Alok Vijaykumar Jain at Pune.
Nov 29: Chaitrali Dhananjay Bandekar with Mandar Gireesh Chandavarkar at Borivali, Mumbai.
Nov 22: Leena Umesh Kumta with Nikhil Vishnudas Shanbhag at Mumbai.
Dec 2: Dhanashri Sudhir Koppikar with Shyam Arun Ubhayakar at Vile Parle, Mumbai.
Dec 6: Kalpana Shrikant Kasbekar with Prakash Praful Padukone at Dombivili.

2008
Jan 13: Sonali Mohan Honavar with Arvind K. Deshmukh at Mumbai.

DONATIONS RECEIVED
Kanara Saraswat Association is grateful to the following donors.

PRIZE FUND
Smt. Sharayu M. Bagde Rs. 20,000/- ('Bhavanishankar Mangesh Idgunji Prize' in memory of father Bhavanishankar Mangesh Idgunji)

DISTRESS RELIEF FUND
Nachiket Nandan Trasikar Rs. 3500/- (In memory of father Nandan Soumitra Trasikar)

MEDICAL RELIEF FUND
Nachiket Nandan Trasikar Rs. 1500/- (In memory of father Nandan Soumitra Trasikar)
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