Nalkur Sripad Rao – A Legend

Nalkur Sripad Rao displaying *Formula for Fulfilment*, his biography, released by KSA President Dr. Harish Kodial (right)

A glimpse of N.S. Rao's welfare work

N.S. Rao (right) at a bore well installation project of his NGO, KARMA (Karjat Agricultural & Rural Management Assistance)

N.S. Rao with Adivasis from Karjat who are given free treatment for eye ailments at Lotus Hospital, Mumbai

The school named after his father, Nalkur Narasing Rao Government High School, in Shirial, Udupi district
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4 GENERATIONS

Sitting: Mukta Chandavarkar, great grandmother; Shaila Chandavarkar Panday, grandmother, holding baby Sadhyojat; standing: Supriya and Raveen Panday, parents.

Four generations enjoying the family picnic (Adurs, Hebles, Hattangadis)
Mrs. Shantha M. Adur with her great grand-daughter Trisha S. Parkar (Panati)
(From left) Ms. Tejal R. Tirolkar (grand-daughter), Mrs. Vijaya Tirolkar (elder daughter), Mrs. Shivangi S. Parkar (grand-daughter and mother of Trisha)
Notice of General Body Meeting on 31-01-2010

Notice is hereby given that the General Body Meeting of the above Trust will be held on Sunday, 31st January, 2010 at 10 a.m. at the Matunga Mitra Mandal Hall, Karnataka Building, Mogal Lane, Mahim, Mumbai 400 016 (near Matunga Road Station, Western Rly) to transact the following business:-

1) Present and adopt the Audited Reports upto 31-03-2009.
2) To confirm Minutes of the General Body Meeting of 27-10-2002 and Special Meeting of 03-03-2004 followed by Hon. Secretary’s Report.
3) To discuss and decide issues of Manki Temple.
4) To elect 7 members of the Managing Committee for the year 2010 to 2014.
5) Any other business with prior notice in writing to Chairman within 3 days prior to the meeting.
6) Vantiga payers and devotees including members of Kaushik/Mankikar families consisting of Aghanashini, Chittar, Gokarn, Samrodi, Shirali/Shirlal, Sirur/Shiroor, Talmaki, Wagle and Yennamadi, etc. are cordially invited to attend the Meeting.

By order of the Managing Committee
Ramesh L. Kaushik
Hon. Secretary

No. 15/30 Laxmi Nivas,
Lt. Dilip Gupte Rd.,
Shivaji Park, Mumbai 400 028.
Ph: 24451172
From the President’s Desk.....

Dear Members,

Let me wish you a very Happy, Prosperous and Healthy New Year.

The year 2009 was quite eventful. All of us enjoyed the different events organized by various Chitrapur Saraswat groups located in different parts of our country and elsewhere, through our great Kanara Saraswat magazine. We hope we will get more opportunities this year.

In November 2009, we had the pleasure of releasing a book, “Formula for Fulfilment”, the biography of Shri Nalkur Sripad Rao written by Vidya Gunavanthe. This is the lucid story of a man who rose from rags to riches. What a wonderful felicitation offered to Sripadmaam on the occasion of his 90th birthday! The biography has been written analytically, describing the journey of his life right from childhood to his present age. It reveals the different obstacles faced by him during his lifetime and how he turned tumbling blocks into stepping stones to climb the ladder of success and become an international celebrity, and details the four formulae that he follows to achieve success.

Sripadmaam has been a great inspiration to budding entrepreneurs, a role model of magnanimity to many, and an ardent social worker. He always says “moos marnu kaas kelle.” In other words, he sees the extraordinary in the ordinary, in achieving these heights.

I strongly feel that “Formula for Fulfilment” deserves a prominent place in your home library.

Let us all, Chitrapur Saraswats, get together and march towards a successful outer as well as inner journey of peaceful coexistence.

Shubham Bhavatu

Dr. Harish Kodial
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Dear Editor: Much as we want to, most of us are unable to attend all the programmes so painstakingly organized by the KSA, year after year. Age, ailment and the stressful traffic snarls of Mumbai keep us confined to the suburbs. 21st November was different. We managed somehow to be present at the 98th Foundation Day celebrations and to witness the release of Nalkur Sripadmaam's biography by Dr. Harish Kodial, President, KSA. The charming speech by Vidya Gunavanthe, the author, gave us a brief glimpse into the book.

Among others, it was good to have Bhatkal Sadanandmaam, Nirmalpachi and Gokarn Gurunathmaam being honoured for their prolonged and distinguished service to the KSA.

It was a matter of pride to see a string of eminent Chitrapur Saraswats receiving the recognition and honour they so well deserve. There were a few others whose result-oriented work it was a joy to hear.

The thread that held us enthralled for the entire duration of the function was the matchless commentary by Uday Mankikar, Vice President, KSA. His mastery over simple, chaste Konkani has never ceased to amaze the audience.

Thank you, KSA!

Savitri Babulkar, Santacruz (W), Mumbai

Dear Editor: I happened to attend the KSA Foundation Day function on 21st November, 2009. I was attending the event to witness Madhumaam Chandavarkar and my grandfather, Vithal Nadkarni, being honoured. Varada Soukoorpachi was also getting a prize for the best Konkani article.

You always tend to get the unexpected. Something similar happened in my case. As the function began and progressed, I was truly surprised and humbled by the people who were being felicitated. The yeoman service rendered by each one of them in their respective fields is worth more than a standing ovation. When you looked at them, you really got goose bumps of pride; I did, because all of them belong to our community. It was truly an awesome evening and I felt inspired by each of them.

I also feel that, we, the youth of the Chitrapur Saraswat community, must make sure that we attend this event every year to get our dose of inspiration from the gems of our community

Pranav R. Nagarkatti, Malad (W), Mumbai

Dear Editor: I had the privilege of reading the biography of Shri N. S. Rao, titled ‘Formula for Fulfilment’ written by Vidya Gunavanthe. The treatment given by Ms. Gunavanthe in classifying ‘fulfilment’ into four broad categories is commendable and the language qualitative. The biography successfully holds the reader’s interest. In fact, I read it in one sitting.

This biography strongly brings out the iconic stature of Sripadmaam not only in the Chitrapur Saraswat community but also in society, in general. By sheer example, he stands tall as the lighthouse guiding and giving direction to generations during his near-nine decades of illustrious, accomplished and content life.

This biography introduced me to the wide and varied dimensions of Sripadmaam’s personality -Sripadmaam as a child, a struggler, a romantic, a true family man, a patriarch, a successful entrepreneur, a strict disciplinarian, a poet, a philanthropist, a philosophical person and a quiet spiritualist.

The most important message that I got was that in spite of the success and prosperity that Sripadmaam has achieved, he has not forgotten his roots or his difficult times. The strong feeling that he owes something to society, has brought out the true philanthropist in him, and made him strive to bring happiness into the lives of people living in difficult, testing circumstances. What appealed most to me was the philosopher and silent spiritualist in him, who has never craved for any credit, publicity or the limelight for all that he has accomplished and, in his own way, contributed his best to mankind. I consider it a divine blessing of the Almighty for granting me a glimpse of this towering, multi-dimensional, multi-faceted personality called Shri Nalkur Sripad Rao.

Ratnakar D. Nadkarni

WE WISH ALL OUR READERS
A VERY HAPPY, SUCCESSFUL AND PEACEFUL 2010
Happy 75th Birthday!

Dr. Madhukar P. Rao [Mallapur]  Jan. 5th, 2010

Wishing you good health & happiness on this day and always!

From: Dr. (Mrs.) Prabha M. Rao

You held our hand and showed us the world...
You did everything that made us look up to you...
We may not have told you often
But we want you to know...
You are the best Dad anyone could have and,
We’re really lucky to have you!
Thank you..... For all that you are
Our wonderful, wise, and loving Pappa

Wishing you a very happy 75th birthday, Pappa!

From: Hebles  Raos  Shenoys  Raos

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Pratima
Kissan
Dr. Pramod
Archana
Pramita
Anil
Dr. Prasan
Anupama

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KSA Re leases Biography of N.S. Rao,
Honours Him with Lifetime Achievement Award

On 21st November, 2009, the Kanara Saraswat Association celebrated its 98th Foundation Day at Smt Indirabai Kalyanpurkar Hall, off Talmakiwadi, Tardeo, Mumbai. According to tradition, KSA commemorated this special occasion by honouring luminaries in various fields such as Journalism, Dramatics, Music, Social Service, Entrepreneurship, Sports, etc., with awards.

On this special occasion, KSA considered it befitting to release the biography of Nalkur Sripad Rao titled *Formula for Fulfilment*, written by Vidya Gunavanthe. The book, sponsored by The Shamrao Vithal Co-operative (SVC) Bank Ltd., was released by KSA President Dr. Harish Kodial.

KSA also chose this occasion to honour Shri Nalkur Sripad Rao (Sripadmaam as he is popularly called by Chitrapur Saraswats) with the Lifetime Achievement Award or Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar for his generous and noble service to the Chitrapur Saraswat community over the past so many decades (a full account of the Foundation Day function, including the presentation of this award, will appear in next month’s issue). What better time could the Association have chosen to honour Sripadmaam than on the occasion of his reaching the threshold of his ninetieth year!

The Association Hall, that evening, was filled to capacity with many people even standing to applaud the awardees. KSA Vice President Uday A Mankikar, who was the Master of Ceremonies, gave a brief on each awardee before calling the awardee on stage to receive the award from the President of KSA, Dr Harish Kodial.

When the Lifetime Achievement Award for N.S. Rao was announced, there was a standing ovation from all present as Sripadmaam slowly made his way to the podium to receive the award from Dr. Kodial (see picture above). Dr Kodial spoke a few words of appreciation about Sripadmaam, and said that Sripadmaam’s biography, "Formula for Fulfilment", is the lucid story of a man who has risen from rags to riches. “Sripadmaam has been a great inspiration to budding entrepreneurs, a role model of magnanimity to many, and an ardent social worker,” he added.

Dr Kodial then released Sripadmaam’s biography, “Formula for Fulfilment”, adding that the author of the book would give more details about Sripadmaam’s life.

Sripadmaam’s family in Mumbai was present in full strength on the occasion to see the great man receive an award that was most well-deserved.

What Sripadmaam had done for the Chitrapur Saraswat community cannot be adequately enunciated in words. As a big man in a small community, he has tried his best to provide employment to as many Chitrapur Saraswats as possible in all the organizations that he has been associated with, like his Pest Control, SVC Bank, etc. He has always been generous in his contributions and donations to charity and for various religious, spiritual, and humanitarian causes.

The audience listened with rapt attention as Uday Mankikar outlined the list of Sripadmaam’s achievements before giving the floor to the writer of Sripadmaam’s biography Vidya Gunavanthe to speak a few words about Sripadmaam.

Vidya recounted how Sripadmaam had ventured into the world after he finished his matriculation examination at the age of 16, to seek his fortune, to bring his family out of the financial crisis it was in. She narrated how he had worked first as an operator in a mill and an usher in a cinema theatre in Bangalore before he got a job with a Japanese company (in Mumbai). Two years later, he was sent to Teheran to head the Accounts department there, a posting which coincided with the start of World War II. When the Japanese closed shop in Teheran because of the War, Sripadmaam, being a multilingual, landed a job with a British company where he was responsible for fumigating Polish soldiers and refugees to rid them of plague-carrying lice, a task which gave him the idea of starting pest control activities on returning to his own country. However, the concept being as yet new, the SVC bank turned down Sripadmaam’s request for a loan to start his enterprise.
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20 Calories from 1 Tsp Sugar = 0 Calories from Sucralose
Vidya continued the story of an angry young Sripadmaam who vowed to return to this bank some day not for another loan but as its head, which he is today. N.S. Rao is the Chairman of SVC Bank today. Sripadmaam has also contributed so much to the community through his seva of our Param Poojya Parijnanashram Swamiji and now, our present Guru, Param Poojya Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji.

Vidya also recounted how she had approached various personalities for inputs for Sripadmaam's biography, including Dr V. Veerappa Moily, the Minister of Law and Justice, Government of India, who had known N.S. Rao for the past three decades. Dr Moily had obliged not only by sending his inputs but also by writing the Foreword for the book on Sripadmaam.

Vidya's short but informative speech was well received and by the end of her speech, the audience was all agog to read the "rags-to-riches" story of N.S. Rao.

But what the audience waited for most expectantly was to hear Sripadmaam himself speak. However, this treat was reserved for the end of the evening as a grand finale. But later, Sripadmaam who did not wish to delay the audience too long at that late hour, spoke just a few words saying that everybody had recounted his achievements and he had no wish to go into that again, seeing the weary, hungry souls seated before him. But he wished to acknowledge the fact that he owed whatever little he had achieved in life to his beloved wife, (late) Lilypachi, and his daughter Dr Pramila Chatterjee. He added that all that he had to say about his life, he had narrated in the biography and what was not mentioned there was not worthy of mention. Finally, he thanked the Kanara Saraswat Association for honouring him with such a prestigious award.

N.S. Rao’s Biography Available at KSA Office
“Formula for Fulfilment”, the biography of Shri Nalkur Sripad Rao, written by Vidya S. Gunavanthe, was released by KSA President Dr. Harish Kodial at KSA’s 98th Foundation Day celebrations on November 21, 2009.
Copies of the book are available at the KSA Office for Rs. 100/- only. The sale proceeds of the book will go to KSA for its Kala Vibhag Fund.

Entries are invited from writers and publishers of books in Konkani for the Dr. T M A Pai Best Konkani Book Award 2009. The award which carries Rs. 25,000/- in cash and a citation will be given to the book published between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2008 and considered to be an outstanding contribution to Konkani language and literature. The book may be in Devanagari, Kannada, Malayalam or Roman script.

Last date for receipt of entries is 15th February, 2010. Four copies of the book should be sent to:

The President
Dr. T M A Pai Foundation,
Syndicate House, Manipal 576 104
The morning of 15th November 2009 saw a large number of music lovers, friends, students and relatives gather at Mulund West to witness the naming ceremony of the junction at B.P.S. Cross Road No. 3, Chandrakant Kotecha Marg, Mulund (W) as “Shri Mangesh Gurunath Gokarn Chowk” in fond memory of Late Shri. Mangesh Gokarn.

Mangesh (our Bappa), known as Jayant to most, was an intellectual and had a versatile personality. A science graduate, he opted for voluntary retirement from National Rayon in 1989 and devoted himself to teaching music. His simplicity in teaching attracted many professionals from varied fields including doctors and engineers. In addition to composing music in Marathi, Hindi and Konkani, he has several Kutchi compositions and cassettes for Prajapita Bramhakumari to his credit. Apart from his skills in music, he was a very good cartoonist, dramatist and was actively involved in sports. His book “Entrance to Music for Westerns” has received a place as reference book in The Mumbai University and SNDT University. He was a very jovial person by nature and therefore easily mixed with people from all age groups ranging from 2-80 years.

Mangesh and his wife (our Pacchi), Jyoti's contribution to music was well appreciated by the residents of Mulund and the couple was felicitated by The Lion's Club, The Rotary Club, Sanskar Bhatti and many more on various occasions. They were also conferred upon the prestigious award ‘Mulund Bhusan’ by Yuvak Pratishtan in the year 1986. After a brief illness, he left our midst on 23rd March 2006. His friends, students and well wishers decided to keep his memories alive by forming “The Mangesh Gurunath Gokarn Gaurav Samiti”. This committee along with “The Pushpa Academy for Nutrition and Health Awareness” worked rigorously towards naming the junction behind his residence at Mulund West. The effort was headed by Dr. Milind Shejwal with active support from Smt. Amitaben Shah, the Corporator of Mulund. The ceremony was inaugurated by Shri. Tara Singh, M.L.A.

This deep void will remain forever, but the gesture will definitely inspire all towards music.

- Roopali, Deepali and Vaishali Kapnadak
Dear Devotees,

The annual Utsav for the year 2010 being the 11th year of celebration, the committee extends its cordial invitation to all devotees to participate in large numbers and grace the occasion with family, thereby making this festival a grand success.

The **Mahashivratri Utsav** will be celebrated from 10.02.2010 to 15.02.2010 at **Shri Shivakrishna Mandir, Hubli**.

His Holiness P.P. Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji’s **Anushthan Pooja** is being performed on 12th February, 2010 and **Palki Utsav** will be held on 13th February, 2010. For the benefit of outstation devotees dormitory accommodation is available on a first-come-first serve basis. Those desirous of accommodation, are requested to bring light bedding.

Thanking you,

Yours in the service of Lord Shiva, Krishna and Guruparampara

Shri Vikram Sirur
President

Shri Anand Karnad
Organizing Secretary

Shri Ramdas Bhat
Treasurer

PLEASE TREAT THIS AS A PERSONAL INVITATION

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If ever there is a Chitrapur Saraswat (Bhanap) who has won the maximum number of hearts with his kind and generous deeds, it is Nalkur Sripad Rao or Sripadmaam (as he is popularly called by most Chitrapur Saraswats) or Sippy Rao. You need to observe the sheer energy of the man to believe it.

His typical day starts off with visits from at least three-four people (mostly belonging to the Chitrapur Saraswat community) around breakfast time; people coming to meet him with hopes in their hearts that he can and will arrange for a job for their kith and kin in any of the organizations that he has such tremendous standing with.

Sripadmaam receives them all graciously and kindly, promising nothing but his attempts to fulfil their hopes. And he tries to push in as many people as he can in the various organizations he is associated with. In spite of having reached high places, he has not forgotten what it is to struggle or be in a financially dire state.

Sripadmaam recently stepped on the threshold of his nineties (September 20, 2009) and the Kanara Saraswat Association honoured him by awarding him the Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar or what is fashionably called the “Lifetime Achievement Award” these days, and releasing a book about him titled, Formula for Fulfilment, at its 98th Foundation Day commemoration. The book has a Foreword written by a man as powerful as Dr Veerappa Moily, the Minister of Law & Justice, Government of India, who has witnessed Sripadmaam’s charitable work over the past three decades.

Sripadmaam leads a very hectic life even at the age of ninety. Post-breakfast and a quick perusal of his mail, his rotund, dapper figure heads for a Shamrao Vithal Co-operative Bank Ltd (SVC) meeting scheduled in the morning at least once or twice a week. Sripadmaam is the Chairman of the SVC Bank and has been its Chairman for three terms now.

Sripadmaam leads a very hectic life even at the age of ninety. Post-breakfast and a quick perusal of his mail, his rotund, dapper figure heads for a Shamrao Vithal Co-operative Bank Ltd (SVC) meeting scheduled in the morning at least once or twice a week. Sripadmaam is the Chairman of the SVC Bank and has been its Chairman for three terms now.

Sripadmaam is the only Chitrapur Saraswat who has the rare distinction of heading all three premier Chitrapur Saraswat institutions. He has been the President of the Kanara Saraswat Association, the President of the Standing Committee of the Shri Chitrapur Math, Shirali, and the Chairman of the Shamrao Vithal Co-operative Bank Ltd.

Afternoon finds him getting into the car once again to attend, perhaps, a Board meeting of Pest Control (India) Pvt Ltd. Sripadmaam started Pest Control (India) Pvt Ltd. (PCI) in 1954 with his two brothers, the late Bhavanishankar and (late) Narahari Nalkur (the dormant partner), with a paid up capital of Rs. 5,000/- and a one-man staff, operating from a single desk in a room in Yusuf Building in Fort, Mumbai.

Today, PCI is a Rs. 200 crore organization with a staff strength of 3,700 all over India and overseas. Although he is the founder of PCI, Sripadmaam is now its Chairman Emeritus; “Emeritus” in this context, according to his lexicon, means “honourably discharged.” Sripadmaam, who is renowned for his sense of humour calls himself “moos maru kaas kartalo manush” (a man who makes money by killing flies). His son Anil Rao (Chairman, MD & CEO) and daughter Dr Pramila Chatterjee (Executive Director) now manage his company along with an efficient management team.

Sripadmaam’s PCI was awarded the coveted National Award 1995 for In-house R&D efforts in the Agro Sector by former Union Minister P Rangarajan Kumaramangalam. PCI has earned this award twice. Late President K R Narayanan also presented Sripadmaam with the Jamnalal Bajaj Award for Fair Trade Practices in 1997. PCI also won the ASSOCHAM (Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry) Award for Rural Development for its CSR activities in Karjat and the villages around Karjat.

Sripadmaam’s responsibilities do not end with SVC and PCI. Once home, he relaxes for a while before he heads for the weekly Rotary Club meet where he is the centre of attraction with his inherent sense of humour and witty (sometimes bordering on the risqué) cracks. But behind the flamboyant personality, his fellow Rotarians know, lies a very charitable heart. They refer to him as Sippy Rao, a moniker he had earned during his stay in America.
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Sippy Rao was the District Governor of Rotary District 3140 in 1991-92. He has been an active Rotarian, participating in eye-camps, polio eradication drives, and various other charitable and social activities. It is no wonder then that The Bombay Rotary Club (West) conferred its Lifetime Achievement Award on Sippy Rao for his humanitarian work in the social, cultural, environmental, and educational spheres over a period of fifty years. He is also the recipient of the Citation for Meritorious Service Award and the Distinguished Service Award of the Rotary Foundation.

Ever since he crossed the age of fifty, Sripadmaam has believed that the remaining years of his life should be spent in giving to the world what the world has given him.

At least once or twice a fortnight, Sripadmaam rushes to Karla to attend to some of his responsibilities as the Trustee and Settlor of the Shree Trust, which handles social service and other charitable activities of the Chitrapur Saraswat community or of the KDPT (Karla Durga-Parameshwari Temple & Religious Trust) which handles the religious activities of the Chitrapur Saraswat community in Karla.

One would think that after an active week such as this, come the weekend, the weary ninety-year-old will relax. But no. He's off to his Devdutt Farm at Karjat, near Mumbai, sometimes to attend the KFOC (Karjat Farm Owners' Club) monthly meet, sometimes to transport Adivasis by busloads to the Lotus Hospital in Juhu, Mumbai, on Saturdays. In Lotus Hospital, he arranges for the treatment of cataract operations or other eye ailments of the Adivasis free of cost and the bus transports them back to Karjat on Sundays. Sripadmaam has been arranging this eye treatment along with his Australian colleague Barbara Quittenbaum every month (except during the monsoon months) for the past fifteen years.

Sripadmaam has set up various NGOs in Karjat such as KARMA (Karjat Agricultural & Rural Management Assistance), ADS (Academy of Development Science) and several others to provide education, employment and other development measures for the upliftment of the people in the villages in and around Karjat. Wouldn't our country progress so much more if politicians and leaders adopted their constituencies similarly, instead of embracing only power and wealth?

For his social and humanitarian activities, Sripadmaam has won various awards such as the Karjat Gaurav-2001, the Karmayogi Award (conferred by the Bombay Sea Coast), the Shiromani Vikas and the Udyog Shree.

The cynic might say, "the man has money; so he's able to spend." But, Sripadmaam was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth. In fact, childhood for him was a hand-to-mouth existence. His father Nalkur Narasing Rao had eight children to bring up on his minuscule salary as a Munsif in the district court at Karkal (now Karkala) in Karnataka. Sripad was Narasingmaam and Indirapachi's sixth and most adventurous child. Alas, the children lost their father when Sripadmaam was six years of age.

While Sripadmaam's elder brother Dattatrey also worked as a Munsif, his second brother Bhavanishankar later got a job as a teacher in the Hindu High School in Kundapur where the Nalkur family had shifted to when young Sripad was three years of age. Sripad was a very impatient teenager and longed to go out into the world to seek his fortune even before he matriculated, unable to see the straitened circumstances of his family.

The day he gave his matriculation examinations and even before his results were out, he set out on life's adventure with his mother's reluctant permission and a sum of Rs. 15 in his pocket. He got his first job as an operator in Minerva Mills in Bangalore. After a month, he took up an usher's job in a cinema theatre. But the remuneration was not good enough for him, so he took up a job at a cigarette factory in Bangalore and stuck on long enough to earn and save an amount that could help him reach Mumbai.

Once in Mumbai, he was given shelter by his family friend Kailaje Waman Bhatt in Santacruz colony. He tried for a job in a Japanese company called Mitsui Bussan Kaisha where he nearly got rejected because he was still a minor. But the Japanese gentleman who interviewed young Sripad was so impressed with the effort put in by this earnest candidate in learning the Japanese Abacus Soroban that he immediately asked the HOD to issue him an appointment letter, age notwithstanding, at a princely salary of Rs. 45 per month.

Young Sripad impressed his seniors in the
युनियन बँक कॉम्पो ऑफर, जी घरावाली कार्य देते आता द. सा. 8% दराने
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युनियन बँक
अफ़िड़िया
चांगले लोक, चांगली बँक़
company so much with his hard work and quick grasping power that within two years, he was posted at Teheran in Persia as an accountant. He was to take over from Shankar Badakere who wanted to return to India. Sripadmaam landed on the shores of Khorramshar, Persian Gulf, just as the Second World War began in 1939.

Love blossomed for Sripadmaam in the summer of 1940 in Teheran, where he met an attractive Armenian girl who lived down his lane - Vartanoosh Badalian, who belonged to the famous Armenian singer family. With the World War, Sripadmaam lost his Japanese job but his knowledge of Persian, Armenian, French, Russian, Turkish, and, of course, fluent English proved an advantage and he easily got a job with a British company UKCC. Sripadmaam and Vartanoosh got married in June 1942 and Vartanoosh became Lily Rao.

At 22, Sripadmaam was put in charge of the Zahidan unit in Persia with a British colonel and several British officers reporting to him. His task was to fumigate surface convoys carrying supplies to the allied forces and to dust Polish refugees and soldiers with a 10% dose of DDT, against typhus-causing lice. That was when he conceived the idea of starting his own pest control company in his country.

When finally Sripadmaam returned to India in 1946 with his “war bride” and two children Pramila and Mohan, he knew that he was going to be an entrepreneur starting an epoch-making company in India to contain pests. However, pest control did not prove such a good business initially at a time when the country was busy going through a bloody partition. Sripadmaam’s pest control business did have its initial teething problems before he finally came into his own with his PCI. His family, by now, had expanded by three more children (Ramola, Ajit, and Anil).

Lily Rao, Sripadmaam’s talented wife, took to India and the Chitrapur Saraswat community like they were her own. She learned to dress like a Chitrapur Saraswat, talk fluent Konkani, and cook delicious Konkani fare. She became such an expert at the language that she could quote Konkani adages and proverbs better than most Chitrapur Saraswats.

Once, at a function organised by the Kanara Saraswat Association where panelists were asked to speak on the topic of Home Sweet Home, after three Chitrapur Saraswat speakers spoke on the topic in English, Lilypachi, the last of the panelists, stood before the mike and spoke in chaste Konkani, quoting old adages, and emphasizing that we must take care of the old in our families — a beautiful speech, all spoken in shudh Konkani, for which she earned a standing ovation.

Lilypachi has even helped integrate an aloof Sripadmaam who had hitherto restricted his community activities to being only the President of the Kanara Saraswat Association, well into the Chitrapur Saraswat religious activity by getting her whole family to meet the then Guru, Param Poojya Parijnanashram Swamiji, and integrating it into the Chitrapur Saraswat community thereafter. She even helped Sripadmaam several times when his business was in a crisis situation by mortgaging her vajra kutkas (diamond ear studs).

The Chitrapur Saraswat community owes a lot to Lilypachi who has been the strength behind Sripadmaam in his various community activities. He has seen through three peedies of the Guru Parampara. Since the age of eleven, he had the good fortune to see and meet Param Poojya Anandashram Swamiji and witnessed the shishya sweekar in 1959. In later years, Sripadmaam became the ‘Hanumanth’ to Param Poojya Parijnanashram Swamiji, and served his Guru to the best of his ability. And, after Param Poojya Parijnanashram Swamiji took mahasamadhi, Sripadmaam was one of the persons instrumental in getting a religious head for our community, in the revered form of Param Poojya Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji.

Through all his business and social successes, Sripadmaam never forgot his roots and continues to contribute generously to the upliftment of his native district. He started a school in the memory of his father called the Nalkur Narasing Rao Memorial Government High School, whose first batch has gone up gradually, year by year, and has now reached Junior College level in Shirrlal village, which is one of
AN APPEAL TO ALL STHALEKAR/SHIRALI FAMILIES, THEIR RELATIVES & WELL-WISHERS

MOST of you are aware of our Shirali Shantadurga Devi Trust Temple at Shirali.

Based upon recent information and guidance from some of the Seniors, it is understood that the MOOL (original) STHAN (location) of our Shri Shantadurga Devi is, in fact, located at Bappankodla which is about 3 kms from our above existing Temple. Also, that, a number of our family members have experienced a lot of difficulties in their personal lives during the past few years, because of our family members not visiting/praying at this site regularly.

During September 2009, some of our family members initiated the process of undertaking the development of the above MOOL STHAN of Shantadurga Devi at Bappankodla, after seeking blessings from our Param Poojya HH Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji and offering prayers at six different shrines connected with Mool Devi Sthan in Shirali. This involved immediately acquiring about 5 gunthas of land with the MOOL STHAN located on it and the subsequent development of the same urgently in December 2009/January 2010. Further religious ceremonies at this developed location are required to be completed during the period 22nd January to 29th January 2010 in the presence of a maximum number of Sthaledkar/Shirali families for the benefit of their present/future family members.

The development of the above MOOL STHAN is expected to cost about Rs. 5.5 to 6 lakhs (revised) (Land + Development + Religious Ceremonies). Due to the urgency of this Project, some of our family members have already promised their donations amounting to Rs. 1.25 lakhs. To meet the balance cost of Rs 4.75 lakhs of this Project, we earnestly request ALL OUR STHALEKAR/SHIRALI FAMILIES, THEIR CHILDREN AND WELL-WISHERS to come forward with their donations.

Cheques/DDs may please be drawn in favour of ‘Shirali Shantadurga Devi Trust’, and sent to Mr. Deepak Shirali, Hon. Treasurer of Shirali Shantadurga Devi Trust, at: C/2 Hari Niwas, L. J. Road, Dadar (W), Mumbai 400028 (Phone No 022-24453720).

Thanking you

For Shirali Shantadurga Devi Trust, Mumbai

December 8th, 2009
Land of the Brahmin

Ajit Sripad Rao Nalkur

I woke up from a dream in tears,
Ordained by Them whose souls are one,
Parijnanashram, Sadyojat,
Of Anandashram They the Sons.
    I was seated to His left
    While He sat Himself above
    My shoulder, with His Blessing I
    Looked upon a world of Love,
The Love of He who was the Head
And the Brain of Saraswats,
Parijnanashram is not dead,
He lives in the Heart of Sadyojat!
    This Parampara of Gurus three
    Nourished the Roots of the Nalkur Tree,
    Never questioned were Their free
    Blessings on our Family.
The Guru walks through all of Them,
Eternal Spirit of Our Souls,
Every generation knows
Their Shakti makes us one and whole.
    There’s no denying Parampara,
    Of our road They are the Stars,
    Proud Brahmins, Ancient, going far,
    Achieving Peace and healing scars.
I too am proud of lineage, blood

Of the River flowing north to south,
Brahma Saraswati now floods
All of Indian soil, the mouths
    And spirits of this golden land
    Fed by timeless truths and hands,
    My body wears the pure white strands
    Of Brahminhood that understands
The meaning of the roots and race
Gives to India and the world
The living Word and modern grace
Of Spirit which She now unfurls
    As Beauty and the Power of
    The Truth Immortal, great Her role
    In a world whose future She
    Leads towards the greater goal
Of Peace and Happiness for Man
And the Bliss we all deserve,
The End of Suffering is at hand
For India Earth’s future serves
    As was destined from the start,
    Her greatness meant to re-emerge,
    Mother to the World and Heart,
    Land of the Brahmin’s ancient urge!

December 2, 2009
SHRI CHITRAPUR MATH, SHIRALI
Announces the following programmes:


2. Geervana Pratishtha - Samskrita Sambhashana-cum-Upasana Prashikshana Shibir will be held in Shri Chitrapur Math for all Geervana Pratishtha Samskrit teachers and students who are studying or have completed Aradhana and are studying Sadhana/Dharana, from 23rd to 26th January, 2010. Names to be registered with Kum. Sujata Haldipur on 09870719898 or hsujata@hotmail.com, before 15th January, 2010.

3. One Lakh Gayatri Anushthana in Shri Guru Math, Mallapur, at 9.00 am on 23rd January’2010. Names to be registered with Shri Vinay Masurkar on 98203 84535 or vision.corporation@gmail.com.

4. Yuvadhara Shibir from 23rd to 26th January, 2010 in Shri Chitrapur Math, Shirali, for all Yuvas. Names to be registered with Smt Sharayu Haldipur on 09819313263 or haldipursharayu@yahoo.co.in, before 15th January, 2010. All Yuvas are welcome.

Fresh copies of Yog Ethos are now available at the KSA Office at a special price of Rs. 200/- per copy. The sale proceeds will go to the KSA Magazine Fund. Readers wishing to receive a copy at their doorstep are requested to pay Rs. 250/- to cover courier charges.

DONATIONS
Kanara Saraswat Association is grateful to the following donors:

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- Radhika Vasant Harite (In memory of parents): Rs. 10,000

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- Geeta Mohan Rao (In memory of beloved father): Rs. 25,000
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**CENTENARY FUND**
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- Anuradha D. Sthalekar (In memory of late): Rs. 1,00,000
- Shri Shivanand and Smt. Sheela S. Mavinkurve: Rs. 1,00,000
- Vasant H. Harite (In memory of parents): Rs. 10,000
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Shrimat Parijnanashram Vastu Sangrahalaya completes one year

Smt Kaushik, Manager, Vastu Sangrahalaya, Shirali

"ARTISTES HAD SPENT A LIFETIME OVER THESE IDOLS AND THAT THESE WORKS SHOULD LIE IN A CONDITION OF NEGLECT MADE US SAD AND STRENGTHENED OUR RESOLVE TO GIVE THEM A PROPER PLACE OF HONOUR IN OUR MUSEUM" – Parama Poojya Parijnanashram Swamiji III

Our museum offers us the opportunity to look at the religious art and cultural heritage of our society. Ancient artefacts, collected lovingly by Parama Poojya Shrimat Parijnanashram III, are showcased in the Shrimat Parijnanashram Vastu Sangrahalaya in Chitrapur, Shirali.

This tribute to our Guruswami was inaugurated last year by Parama Poojya Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji as part of the Tercentenary Commemoration. Smt Gouri and Shri Vinod Yennemadi, in memory of his beloved parents, sponsored the construction of this grand building.

On 29th December, 2009, the museum completes an eventful and happening year. As one walks past the stone and metal idols of Gods and Goddesses, coins, weaponry, ivory, sandalwood and period furniture, the magnificent Rath in the centre, one is not only exposed to our rich culture but is also reminded of the loving hand that brought all these together.

The Chitrapur Rang-Ranjani festivities attracted several visitors from different parts of the world, and it was the perfect time to start displaying the 250 artefacts in the newly erected museum. It has been a year now, and thousands of people have entered its hallowed precincts.

Numerous thematic exhibitions were organized during 2009:

“Angelo T eru” was organized by Pune Sabha. The chief coordinator was Smt Jyothi Divgi and the exhibition was inaugurated by Shri Adiga Sundara on 27th March, in the presence of Parama Poojya Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji. A slide show on “Angelo T eru” was shown from 27th March to 14th April, 2009.

On 10th April, a drawing competition was held on the subject: Rath. Children of Stds VIII, IX and X of Srivali High School drew the Rath in water colors, while children of Stds V, VI and VII of Anandashram Vidya Mandir, Chitrapur, used color pencils. Smt Chetana Kadle was invited to judge their art.

On 11th May 2009, during the Kara-seva shibir, 40 Kara-seva shibitarthis from all over the country helped to repair and repaint several wooden toys and artefacts. Brass diyas and aaratis were polished. The crevices of the Rath were dusted. The boys also carefully cleaned Shrimat Pandurangashram Swamiji’s palki. Smt Meera Balsaver energized the cleaning sessions by singing lively bhajans.

On 16th August, “Ganesh Pradarshini” was organized by Mumbai Dadar Sabha, co-ordinated by Dr Chaitanya Gulvady. The Chitrapur Saraswat style of celebrating ‘Tayi’ and ‘Chavathi’ was depicted, along with various features on Ganesha.

From 16th to 20th August, a puppet show, “Shri Ganarayalyo kaniyo” (Stories of Shri Ganaraya) was held under the supervision of Smt Chandrama Bijur of Mumbai Dadar Sabha. Several puppet shows were conducted in Konkani and Kannada, and school children of Anandashram Vidya Mandir enjoyed them thoroughly.

On 19th August, a workshop on puppet-making
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On 25th August, a workshop on clay modelling of Ganesha idols was organized by SPVS; 15 children of Stds VIII, IX and X of Srivali High School participated.
All the prize winners were felicitated at the auspicious hands of Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji

Facts and Figures:
- HH Shri Bharti Teerth Mahaswamigal, Shankaracharya of Shringeri Peetha, and Swami Shivanand Teertha of Kavle Math were among the noted visitors.
- Of the 750 artifacts, about one-third are on display at any time.
- This year approximately 6,000 persons visited the museum.

“May this sacred heritage institution serve to make members of the Samaj aware of their cultural heritage, and may the healthy sense of pride also generate within them, the responsibility of protecting and enhancing what they have received.” – Parama Pujya Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji, in His Inaugural Message.
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KSA’s Saraswat Students’ Convocation

For the first time, KSA held the Saraswat Students’ Convocation for successful students of 2009, outside Talmakiwadi - at Santacruz Colony, Mumbai, in association with the Saraswat Club, Santacruz, on October 31, 2009. The function started at 6 pm, with Yatin Mavinkurve giving a historical background of the Convocation followed by an introduction of the successful students. He then requested Dr. Harish Kodial, President, KSA, to welcome the gathering.

Avinash Trasi, Chairman, KSA, in a brief speech, thanked the Saraswat Club, for agreeing to hold the Convocation in Saraswat Colony. Welcoming the gathering of students, parents and well-wishers, Dr. Harish Kodial said that KSA organizes this event annually to encourage and felicitate all Chitrapur Saraswat students who have passed their Board or University examinations. He said, “I always love to attend this function so that I can meet our bright and promising ‘Amchi’ generation who will hold the future Chitrapur Vaibhav and make our community proud. They will not only follow in the footsteps of some of our Chitrapur stalwarts who have made a name at the national and international levels but also contribute to the upliftment of our community. When it comes to achieving success we know that “there are no short-cuts to hard work”, which all of you have proved today.”

“I am sure you must have realized the role your parents have played in your success by wholeheartedly supporting and encouraging you throughout the course of your examinations. Thank you Ammas and Pappas; Annus and Ayis, for your kindness,” he added.

Finally, he congratulated the students on their grand success, and wished them a very bright future. “I pray to lord Bhavanishankar to guide you in achieving your desired goal in life,” he concluded, handing the mike to the host of the function, Uday Mankikar, Vice President, KSA, to introduce Kuldeep V. Kalavar, the Chief Guest of the function.
Shri Anant (Nanda) Narsing Kagal

Shri Anant (Nanda) Narsing Kagal, aged 92, expired on 27th September 2009, leaving behind his wife Smt. Seeta Kagal (nee Mavinkurve) and his three daughters Neiloo, Aruna and Anita.

A modest man known for his honesty and integrity, he retired as the Inspector General of Police in 1976.

He had interests varying from philately to music. He was the President of the Karnataka Philatelic Association and had won many national and international Awards for his invaluable collections. Some of these were “The Jaipur State Collection”, “The Long Arm of the Police “ and others. He was the recipient of innumerable awards and recognition. He was invited to be a judge of various philatelic competitions all over India.

His constant encouragement made his wife Seeta, renowned in her field of music. Collecting her recorded performances and accompanying her for all her outstation concerts, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, was another of his interests.

During his service in the Police Department, he took a very active part in the 1971 war, having worked as the Controller of Civil Defence as well. He also worked in the Vigilance Commission in Karnataka. Winner of the President’s medal, he had many opportunities to meet and accompany persons like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Morarji Desai, M.A. Jinnah, the King of Saudi Arabia, the King and Queen of Persia, and Dr. Bulganin and Dr. Khrushchev of Russia. He had a vast collection of much-valued photographs with these and other such dignitaries.

He headed the Home Guards, Bangalore, and served the Department to the best of his ability.

Shri Anant Kagal passed away after a brief illness. He is missed dearly by his wife Seeta and daughters.
Successful students who were present on the occasion, presented themselves on the stage and received prizes from the Chief Guest. The Convocation Address delivered by the Chief Guest, follows.

“DESIGN YOUR LIFE”
Convocation Address by Shri Kuldeep Kalavar

Om Shri Gurubhyo Namah. First, a big ‘Thank you’ to the KSA for giving me the opportunity to address you on this momentous occasion. Momentous, because three generations are present here – the youth, their parents and elders. The KSA along with our beloved Math has been a strong integrating force that has held our community together as a family over generations. It is heartening to see the KSA spreading its wings and changing its image as a Talmakiwadi-centric organization. I hope we see the KSA establishing itself overseas very soon.

My dear friends, when I meet young people, I always ask one question: “What would you like to see yourself as five years from now?” The nature of reply indicates how successful the person is going to be in life. When you board a train on a journey, you are sure about your destination, the time you expect to spend, and whether you are on the right train. Similarly, on this train of life, you should have clarity about your goal, the time you need to achieve it, and whether you are on the right path or going in the right direction.

I am very jealous of you! Why? Because you are not bound by the limitations that we, the previous generations, were subject to. Ask your parents, your grandparents, what pressures they faced when they got out of school or graduated from college. Girls were subject to pressures to get married lest they get too old to get a husband. Boys were under pressure to earn a living so that the family could get additional income. For this older generation, the main goal was Roti, Kapda and Makaan. In the process, they compromised on their dreams, hopes and ambitions. That is the reason why most members of our community were either bank or insurance employees – jobs that were secure and adequate.

Fortunately, today, most of you do not have such limitations. You need not worry about your evening meal nor be concerned about getting a visit from the landlord. Most of your parents have already established the basic infrastructure required for your future. You can take risks. This is evident today when you observe every Saraswat family having at least one entrepreneur.

Freedom from limitations gives you the liberty to design your own life.

The scriptures say that you are blessed if you are born as a human being. Our ancestors said, to be born a Saraswat is to be twice blessed! Why did they say that? Although today’s forum is not on spirituality, I would like to spend a few minutes exploring this aspect.

A human being is a spiritual and a physical personality. When a human being is conceived, he is 100% spirit. You cannot see him! He has no physicality. It takes nine months for the physical body to be formed upon this spiritual foundation! We can draw an analogy with an iceberg. Only 10% of an iceberg is seen – the balance 90% is unseen. Yet, it is the unseen 90% that serves as the foundation
for the iceberg. Without this foundation, the iceberg would not exist. Similarly, for the human personality, this 90% spiritual portion of our inner being serves as the foundation in life. The physical personality you see is only 10%.

When you go to the gymnasium, you do not exercise only the arms or legs. You ensure that every part of the body is exercised. Why? Because you want to ensure that you have a well-developed body. Similarly, a human being needs to nourish both his/her physical and spiritual personalities. Nourishing the physical body is called “making a living”, nourishing the spiritual part is called “making a life” The first makes for quantity, the second introduces quality!

The laws of the physical and spiritual world are different. In the physical world, our teachers and mentors teach us to master its laws. In the spiritual world, our Gurus teach us. We are blessed to be born into the Saraswat community that boasts of 11 Gurus, each unparalleled in His mastery. Mother Saraswati is our benefactor. What greater blessing can a human ask for? You realize how true our ancestors were!!

Unfortunately, the majority of mankind spends most of his/her life nourishing the physical-personality – acquiring money, property, name, fame etc. Notice how the media focuses on the body – fairness creams, long hair, etc. Hardly any one mentions spiritual nourishment! Now you realize how vital is the Guru’s blessing and advice. We are blessed to have a Guru who is easily approachable and communicates so effortlessly in different languages.

I talked about designing your life. Every instrument is designed to serve a goal. A washing machine is designed to clean clothes, a cell phone to communicate, a pressure cooker to cook. What is the goal of the human being? Your parents will best answer this question. Ask any parent what he desires most for his child. Every parent will unhesitatingly say, “I want my child to be happy!” Happiness is the goal of all human beings. Some find happiness through money, others through music, through prayer etc. We know of people who have loads of money but are unhappy. We know of singers who were rich and famous but miserable. But money, music or prayer is not happiness – they are ladders or means to happiness.

So, how do I design my life to achieve happiness? Observe nature – a koyal (bird) is most happy singing; it does not have to learn singing, it comes naturally. A duck is most happy swimming. A bee is happy collecting nectar. Therefore, you are most happy doing what comes naturally to you! The best thing that can happen to you is to “do something that you love doing and also get paid for it!” A fitting example of this philosophy is Sachin Tendulkar. He loves cricket so much that even at this age, he is unparalleled and up-to-date. Similarly, Bill Gates, Edison, etc all made careers of what they loved most and came out successful.

In this path to success, parents/mentors play a major role. Tendulkar’s father saw the potential in him and systematically planned and developed it. You too can do it. There are many people I know who have achieved brilliance in doing things that came naturally to them. I give you some examples.

There was this boy who loved sketching. He would naturally draw or sketch any person or object around him. The family were all engineers. When the boy passed his school exams, he refused to get into the Science stream and wanted to get into Arts. Fortunately, the father understood. In the confusion, the boy missed the date for applying to the JJ School of Arts. Undeterred, he walked into the Principal’s office and requested that he be given a chance, and showed him his portfolio of sketches/drawings. They say, when you are sincere even God takes your side! To cut a long story short, today, this boy is one of the finest art directors in the advertising industry.

A girl had a natural ability to heal pain. She loved physiotherapy and psychology. After researching, she opted to do a course in Occupational Therapy. Because of her natural ability, she got a rank in the university and started her practice. Her aim was to relieve pain, not to make money. She is, today, so successful that she has a waiting list of three months!

So, persevere in what you love doing, take the help of your parents in identifying your natural talents, and just do it! God bless you!
Nuest 4 pages
Recently we had the opportunity to visit our daughter who works in Dali Medical College in Yunnan Province in southeast China. Dali is a picturesque township surrounded by the Changshan Mountain range; a five-hour drive from Kunming, the capital of Yunnan Province. When our trip to China was finalized the common question we were asked was: “Oh, going to Beijing? Shanghai? Is it Hongkong?” After returning from Dali, we were so happy to have visited this serene and calm place, away from the maddening crowd of a metro that we have not stopped talking about it. In reality, most of the world’s metros have common features — the glitter and grandeur of commercialism such as like skyscrapers, fascinating metro trains with modern gadgets, expansive malls with captivating and tempting items where one gets carried away and surrenders to big buying. But the place we went to had a touch of rural life with a dash of modernity. Below the university campus was the town and in our tour of the villages in the neighborhood we were amazed to see the development in infrastructure, the cleanliness and discipline.

I would like to share with our readers, the ten things that attracted our attention and which we loved most about.

1. **The pure scenic beauty:** The town has everything — it is surrounded by the Chanshan Mountains with an average altitude of 3500 meters and covered with snow in winter, and the ear-shaped Er-hai Lake which is considered as one of the most beautiful and serene lakes in China. It is the second largest highland lake in China. The water that gushes from the mountains has resulted in the formation of many small and big lakes; so one finds these along the way to Dali and in Dali too. On both sides of the road, fields stretch for miles together with what looks like mustard with its pleasant yellow flowers surrounded by green lettuce-like leaves. It looks as if this stretch of cultivation all around is meant to feed the whole Chinese population!!

2. **Dali:** There are two townships in Dali — one is modern with the university campus and new market called Xue Yua, while the other, old Dali is called Gucheng. Dali, the ancient city, was constructed during the early Ming dynasty (1368-1644). It is famous for the three Pagodas of the Tang dynasty. Throughout its historical past, Dali remained as a link between ancient China and other countries via India. There was brisk movement between China and India since the third century BC, so one should not be surprised to find Chinese sculptures having Indian features. For example, in the pagodas, there are women deities with bindi, and some of the sculptures in the temple seemed to resemble the dancing Nataraja, Shiva; and the kings seated on their thrones looked like Indian kings; there are many more such examples to cite. In old Dali, the ‘foreigners’ street’ is a very popular destination where local handcrafts are displayed. The main road has many cafes, bars and restaurants, including one Indian restaurant, ‘Namaste’, run by a Chinese family! You get good samosas and Indian food here. Most of the streets in old Dali reminded us of the streets of Kalangut in Goa. Erhai Lake is the main attraction and tourists throng to have boat rides. It seems that, every year, people living around the lake sail in the clear green water to see the reflection of the golden moon in the lake, making the atmosphere romantic.

3. **The climate:** The Spring Festival was celebrated in early February and summer was beginning. Yet, we found ourselves in warm clothes as it was cloudy. The sun shone, but the chill breeze from the mountains kept the temperature cool. Coming from Goa and its coastal humidity and heat, this weather was a refreshing change for us.

4. **The infrastructure:** The five-hour drive from Kunming, the capital of Yunnan Province, to Dali was a wonderful experience. Big Volvo buses with good seats are available at short intervals. As the bus passes through Kunming one finds beautiful shopping malls, colorful parks, huge fly-overs and fruit vendors dressed in western clothes. The road ahead makes you sit up and take note of the four lanes within the city limits and eight lanes on expressways. The bus just sails on.... Near the toll gate, there were ten booths to collect money!!
Amembal Subbarao – A silent, social volunteer

Amembal Subbarao suddenly succumbed to a massive heart attack on 22nd November 2009 at Vittal where he had gone for the Shasthi celebrations, a day prior to Shasthi. Being a man with deep faith in Lord Anantheshwar, he went there every year. Besides, this place lured him with strong strings of childhood and youthful memories. His sudden demise came as a great shock to the members of his family, relatives and a large circle of friends. The shock was all the more because he had not shown any symptoms of a heart ailment earlier.

Subbarao was born on 20th February 1938 in Vittal, near Mangalore. He lost his father when he was just 7, and spent his childhood in straitened circumstances. Later, when he became eligible, he succeeded his father as Shanbogh of the village to supplement his family income. But he was very keen to pursue his education and being a bright student, he got admission for mechanical engineering in the Regional Engineering College at Surathkal. He was among the first batch of students to pass out of the college, and obtained his engineering degree with distinction.

In 1966, Subbarao migrated to Mumbai in search of employment. He got a job in Indian Automobile Engineering Company, initially. He also pursued his studies and obtained a Diploma in Industrial Engineering from VJTI and subsequently joined the Department of Atomic Energy as a Scientific Officer at the Indira Gandhi Reactor Research Centre at Kalpakkam where he was involved in the commissioning of the nuclear power plant. In 1981, he was transferred to Mumbai to join the Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCI) where he made significant contributions to the development of the organization and retired as Head of Department, Turbine Generator Cycle (Planning and Design). Always fond of learning, he completed several short-term courses in German and Hindi, and while in service, obtained a diploma in Operations Management from IGNOU, besides continuing to learn computer language and various software programmes. An ardent teacher, he also believed in sharing the knowledge he had acquired and during his tenure at NPCI, often volunteered to teach his colleagues.

After retirement in 1998, he started giving tuitions in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Hindi and English to high school, college and Engineering students. He taught poor students at low cost and, sometimes, for no cost. He believed in social commitments to his community and neighbourhood. Subbarao remembered with gratitude the help received from KSA to pursue his education and made small but regular donations to KSA. During the visits of HH Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji to Dadar, Subbarao actively but silently worked as a volunteer, and as a member of the Local Sabha of Chitrapur Math of Dadar, he visited various households to collect Vantiga. By nature, he was never ostentatious in whatever social work he did. He was also active in the Senior Citizens’ Organization of Prabhadevi and Dignity Foundation.

I came in contact with Subbarao in 1997 when the Kanara Saraswat Association, at the initiative of Sadanand Bhatkal, launched a project for updating the family trees of Chitrapur Saraswats originally compiled by S.S. Talmaki some eighty years ago. In the initial stage, when data was being collected, Subbarao visited Sadanand Bhatkal’s residence regularly to offer his help. Later, with his knowledge of electronic inputting of data, he along with some others started updating the family trees. This work he continued till the completion of the project in 2007. For almost four years, from 2003 to 2007, he unfailingly visited the KSA office along with other members of the group to input data and verify entries with the original documents. Here I must express my gratitude to him for the coaching he gave me in computer working. Whenever I had any difficulty, he always came gladly to my residence to solve the problem.

Subbarao was religiously inclined and a self-made man. He was a keen student and a willing teacher, a lover of Indian classical music and a silent volunteer. In his demise, we have lost a dedicated social worker and a good friend.

Raghunath N. Gokarn, Mumbai
So, no queues! The roads are empty yet the driver, looking smart in his uniform, drives at a seemingly leisurely speed while we cover 360 km in 4½ hours with a break of just 15 minutes! Even in Dali, one finds broad and good roads. We passed through 6-7 very big tunnels that were very clean, properly lit and with tiled walls. Since it is a mountainous area, most of the roadside hills were walled as a safeguard against landslides.

5. **The Young China:** We stayed in the university campus so it was but natural to see only youngsters around us; but even in the town below and in the villages, we found youth mostly. Then where is the older generation? It appears that they managed the house and kids when the youngsters went out to work. We happened to visit the police station as our digital camera was stolen (yes, this happened in a market in Dali and was the only blight on our trip) and were amazed to see only youthful, trim police officers, both men and women. It was very striking as we were used to seeing pot belled policemen in India! The taxi drivers too were smart and uniformed.

6. **Civic sense:** The most admirable thing that we noticed in the people of Dali was their civic sense, a must for any citizen to follow diligently, which we usually tend to follow when we are in other countries. Basic facilities are cared for, and monuments are well preserved and clean with good toilet facilities for tourists. The buses are clean as dust-bins are kept between every three seats. On the roadside too, at frequent intervals, one finds dust-bins, artistically made and marked ‘Recyclable’ and ‘Not Recyclable’. In the rural areas, the roads were narrow but clean. We never found over-flowing garbage bins either on the main road or in the by-lanes of Dali. Yes, we did see cow-dung spread outside the walls of houses to dry; this is mixed with hay and dried leaves and used as a fertilizer. We never saw any cattle nor stray dogs even in the villages perhaps because both are delicacies for southeastern Asians and hence bred hygienically!

7. **Discipline:** The dictatorship of the Proletariat has done good to China in spite of its huge population and different ethnic minorities; it has brought discipline over the years. Discipline has been inculcated in the people from a young age and hence, is deeply rooted. It can be felt in every walk of life from the airport to the streets and in public places. In restaurants and hotels, nobody takes tips. The roads are empty and broad and one could easily get tempted to speed but the taxi drivers do not do so.

8. **Conservation of ethnicity and culture:** In 1949, when the communists took over China they forbade people from worshipping any idols and destroyed all religious relics. Since 1982, revival and rebuilding and the upkeep of old monuments in the form of pagodas, monasteries, temples started. Yunnan Province has many ethnic minorities. Apart from the Hans, there are Tibetans, Burmese, Bai, Dai and Yi communities, each with their distinct language nurtured over the years in their home - Yunnan. Dali is the capital of the Bai autonomous prefecture where the Bai community is relatively larger. These people inhabited Dali for generations thereby creating a unique cultural heritage. Their customs and traditions have brought color to the life of the city, with the Spring Festival, March Street Festival, Butterfly Festival and so on, bringing the best of local folk customs. They conduct cultural programmes such as tribal dances etc. To promote their welfare and tourism, members of these communities, in their traditional dress, have been employed as guides to pagodas, monasteries and even in the celebrated tea making and serving ceremony. But unfortunately, none of these guides, taxi drivers or bus drivers know English, not even the most basic terminology like ‘airport’, ‘bus station’ etc. Everything is explained in Chinese. Hence, interaction with the Chinese is impossible. This is a major drawback for foreigners here.

9. **Tea drinking ceremony:** We were amazed to see that the Chinese men and women are very slim. We wondered what the secret behind it could be, guessing that it might be their tea drinking habit which has kept them trim and thin! In China, tea drinking has been transformed into a ceremony for tourists. Basically, they use it as a health drink without sugar and milk. It reminds us of our ‘kashaya’ made of herbs, roots and dried flowers. The royal drink is prepared with tea leaves. The tea maker in her traditional dress with her delicate hands makes tea with a certain style and serves it in pretty, tiny
chinaware cups. Each tea has a different flavor. Most of the Chinese carry a thermos with tea leaves and hot water in it and keep on sipping till it is over. They simply refill it with hot water, available anywhere, and continue sipping. This habit of drinking hot tea has probably kept their systems intact.

10. **Good governance:** It appears that the Chinese have been provided with the basic necessities of food, shelter and clothing. The uniformity in the houses in towns and villages reflected this. But in cities, highrise residential buildings were a common sight. The effort of the governing bodies to improve the living standards of the people, keeping the focus on tourism, was evident in Dali. Houses of white and grey are uniformly built and their outside walls have paintings in shades of black depicting nature, flora and fauna being a common feature in Dali. The standard of living of the people seemed good. Food is cheap and in plenty. Everyone is dressed well in western clothes — from sweepers to shopkeepers, to vendors, to executives. The infrastructure is good, and with strict laws and discipline, it seems to project a peaceful life for the localites.

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**Under the Christmas Tree**

**Samir Hatangadi (age 7 years)**

**Auckland, New Zealand**

Under the Christmas tree
What do I see?
Lots of presents just for ME!
But what is that big one, as big as big?
As big as a horse or as big as a pig.
I wonder who left it there with all those white paws
There’s only one person and that’s SANTA CLAUS!
His sparkling eyes and his big big belly
He wibbles and wobbles like a plate of pink jelly.
He bounced on the balcony and through the window
And bounced on the carpet like a big ball of dough.
I got on the deck and looked at that star
That’s what I want SANTA, a remote control car!

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An important and revered seat of Lord Shiva in the city of Mangalore, is Shree Manjunatheshwar Temple at Kadri (see picture with inset showing the shrine). The shrine is ancient and details of its origin or installation are not available. However, relics found in the precincts indicate that the Kshetra was a major centre of Shiva, Shakti and Bouddha worship from ancient times.

The fast-developing coastal city of Mangalore is familiar to Chitrapur Saraswats as it is the home of the Holy Samadhi of our revered sixth Sadguru, HH Vamanashram Swamiji. It is also the aerial gateway to reach our sacred shrines - Shree Chitrapur Math at Shirali, Shrimath Anantheshwar Temple at Vittal - as well as our ancestral homes and villages. However, it may not be known to many in our community that Mangalore was the foremost centre of Chitrapur Saraswats about 150 years ago. It was the headquarters of the undivided Kanara District formed by the British after the fall of Tipu Sultan, in 1799. Mangalore is well connected by railways and national highways and easily reachable from anywhere in India.

**Historical Background:** Manjunatheshwar Temple is located on the slopes of Kadri Hills. Temple records indicate that in the 10th century, Kadri was a major centre of the ‘Natha Pantha’ following, which was highly popular in the region. ‘Natha Pantha’ is believed to have emanated from the Buddhist tradition of ‘Vajrayana.’ Shree Manjunatheshwar is the principal deity of the followers of ‘Natha Pantha’; this close link is established by the presence of the ‘Natha Matha’ which is just behind the Holy Temple. According to legend, the sacred Shiva linga installed in Shree Manjunatheshwar Temple in Shree Dharmasthal, was brought from here.

**Kshetra Mahima:** the square-shaped sanctum santorum has a rocky structure. Besides the principal deity, the Shiva linga, the parivar devatas include Goddess Devi, Lord Ganesh and Shasthar. The gopuram of the temple is spectacular and eye-catching. Around the sanctorum and on its outer walls, are three idols dedicated to Matsyendra Nath, Goraksha Nath and Shringi Nath. In the navrang outside the sanctorum, are magnificent pancha loha idols of Lokeshwara, Manjushri and Goutam Buddha. The Lokeshwara idol is credited to the Aloopa King, Kunda Varma who reigned in the 10th century; it is considered to be the oldest and a rare masterpiece. It is also said to be the only one of its kind in South India. The inscription found at the base of the Lokeshwara idol refers to the shrine as ‘Kadrika Vihar’ (‘Vihar’ refers to Buddhist Temples), thereby establishing the link with Buddhism.

Apart from these, are two pancha loha idols
traditionally known as ‘Narayana’ and ‘Vyasa’, dating back to the 10th-11th century.

Behind the temple, there are seven ponds, fed by natural springs. These are ever full. It is believed that these waters possess rare medicinal value that cures diseases and washes away sins. Devotees visiting the temple take a dip in the holy waters.

Shree Manjunatheshwara Kshetra is immensely popular in this part of Karnataka and the deity is reverentially known as ‘Kadalivana Kshetra, Shree Manjunatha. Devotees throng in large numbers on Mondays and festival days to seek the Lord’s blessings.

**Major Festivals and Events:**
1. Mahashivaratri Utsav
2. Navaratri Festival
3. Vinayak Chaturthi
4. Shravan Samaradhane
5. Deeparadhane and Laksha Deepotsava during the month of Kartik

**Natha Pantha Math** (also known as Shree Kshetra Kadali Yogeshwar Math): While visiting Shree Manjunatheshwara Temple, a visit to this Math is also suggested. According to local parlance, the Kshetra is popularly known as ‘Swarna Kadali Vana’ or ‘Dakshina Kashi’. The Math is a centre of ‘Natha Sampradaya’. It is believed that Matsyendra Natha and Gorakhsha Nath observed penance here and their seats are marked accordingly. Other sites to see are Nava Kunda; Pandava Caves; temples dedicated to Matsyendra Nath, Gorakhsha Nath and Chowranghi Nath; Sanjeevani Samadhi of Siddha Jwala Nath; Kshetrapal Seat, a well dedicated to Seeta Devi, etc.

**A Message to the Younger Generation:** The Shree Manjunatheshwar Temple complex is within the city of Mangalore and is convenient to visit. Please make it a point to visit the shrine whenever you happen to be in that region.

(Source: Dakshina Kannadada Devalayagalu)

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**Connect**

SADHANA S. KARNAD, RATNAGIRI

Why do we connect so easily with some, When we’ve never even seen them before? Is it because we were connected Way back in time, On some distant shore?

Call it a karmic connection, Or simply even fate... Perhaps it’s our vibrations That meet in cyber-space! And on finding the same frequency, We just resonate!

And then it doesn’t matter If we’ve never even seen their face! We feel we’ve always known them, Been their friend all along This explains why, when you do meet them, The feeling of *deja vu* is so strong!

---

**1st Death Anniversary**

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It was a short holiday but 20 days of excitement, enjoyment and entertainment - from Mahim to Miami in September 2009.

I had stepped on foreign soil for the first time in 2000, at the age of 75. Now, at 84, I was stepping out again. At first, I was rather diffident to take the trip offered by my son and daughter-in-law. Questions like: “Will I be able to endure the long flight?”, “Will the food abroad agree with me?” (though one requires very little for survival!), and so on. Then, I remembered my friend’s words. “You must visit the US at least once in your lifetime,” and told myself, “If God wills, everything is possible.”

Thus, I set out to explore and rediscover (after Columbus) the United States of America. I began preparing myself for the trip. First, I wanted to know exactly the places I was going to visit (I certainly couldn’t tour the entire country at my age!), their location, distances etc. It was like revisiting the Geography class which I had long forgotten. I asked my grandson for a school atlas. Seeing the surprised look on his face I told him not to worry, I wasn’t going to school again... I was going to the US of A. He jumped up with joy, “Yippee!! Grandma’s going to the US!” News spread like wildfire in the colony. There was a barrage of questions from friends (senior citizens like me) and others, like: “Have you got your visa?”, “Will you be able to bear the cold?”, “What will you wear – jeans and tops?” And tips and suggestions – “You must wear shoes, not chappals”, “Take short walks in flight”, etc.

Finally, on September 8, 2009, we were on a Newark bound plane. As advised by friends, I took short walks during the flight whenever possible and rotated my feet now and then. So, I had no problem whatsoever on arrival at Newark’s Liberty Airport – my entry point to the fairy land of my dreams.

After a day’s rest, we went sightseeing on a Hop-on Hop-off New York sightseeing bus. We alighted at the Empire State Building. At one time it used to stand taller than all buildings; now, many taller buildings have come up. The elevator took us up to the 102nd floor in an eye’s wink. The maze of business complexes and commercial buildings was an awesome sight. The most beautiful sight was that of the majestic ‘Statue of Liberty’ in the middle of an island. The next day, we visited the island itself for a closer look, and were awestruck by the sight of Her, standing majestically with the glittering torch held high in her hand, a beacon of light and hope welcoming all peace-loving and freedom-loving people. Reaching the foot of the statue, I was amazed by the gigantic yet sober, beautiful form of the Lady. From the foot of the pedestal, she seemed to reach up to the sky. One could only marvel at the imagination of the creator of the statue.

Our next stop was the famous and busy New York Times Square. The entire place with its bustling activity, huge advertisements and posters, neon lights and music made an overwhelming sight. Fun-loving people gathered there in the evenings, after a hard day’s work, to enjoy a cup of coffee with music and fun. A visit to Manhattan is a must, they said, and we are glad we did that.

It took a day’s rest to soak in the spectacular sights and sounds of New York and Manhattan. Thereafter, we boarded a flight to Buffalo to visit one of Mother Nature’s most inspiring wonders – the Horseshoe Falls at Niagara. We were totally captivated by the breathtaking view and the sound of the water galloping down the rocks at terrific speed, and going round the Falls by the ‘Maid of the Mist’ was indeed enjoyable. The closeness to nature’s beauty not only wet our bodies but moistened our eyes as well; it appeared to be nature’s way of saying ...” Always surge forward”. We saw the Falls from the Canadian side too, not to miss the beautiful ‘Rainbow Bridge’ connecting the two sides. One must make an overnight stay at the Niagara to enjoy its brilliance by night and I am glad we did so.
Mohan Savkoor

Born 07.05.1930. Reached his Heavenly Abode on 07.11.2009, San Jose, California, USA

Mohan Savkoor was a gentle, warm, affectionate, kind, generous, smiling, intelligent, enthusiastic, courageous, dignified, artistic, comrade, wise, energetic, strong, sharp, elegant, patriarch, hospitable, handsome, father figure, gentleman, dapper, world traveler and Brave

These are just a few words that were used to describe him not just during his last few days but also throughout his life. But the last word is the one that really comes to mind when one thinks of him: brave. It’s just a five-letter word but without it all those other words listed above would not exist.

Beginning with losing his mother at a young age, Mohan helped his father take care of his brothers and sisters. He constantly persevered throughout life to excel and to be the best he could be while making sure his brothers and sisters were well taken care of. He graduated in 1953 with an Electrical and Mechanical Engineering degree from VJTI Bombay. In 1954 he joined Stan-Vac Petroleum, which later changed its name to Esso and subsequently Hindustan Petroleum. He was introduced to Srikala through family members and decided instantly that she would be his wife. She was to be his wife for the next fifty years. They had three children, Namita, Swapna and Chetan.

At the age of 49, when most people would not even think of starting a new life, he decided to take retirement from HP after working there for twenty-six years and moved his family to the United States to start a whole new life. While working at FMC he joined Santa Clara University to complete his MBA and start a new career in Finance. He joined and became a successful Toastmaster, all at the age of 51! While establishing this whole new career, along with Srikala he raised his children. We know that all work and no play makes one boring, which Mohan Savkoor was not. Just as he loved to work, he also loved the Arts and Culture. He listened to all kinds of music. He was deeply involved with the Konkani Community Association - by singing, acting and producing numerous plays and skits such as “Saints of India” and “Dances of India” for the annual gatherings. Mohan finally retired from FMC after 22 years of work at the age of 72. He and Shrikala traveled extensively all while still being deeply involved in the Konkani community.

When Mohan’s illness was revealed, he was more concerned with how we would take it. He fought hard and a complaint was rare. He always had a smile on his face and tried his best to be involved in everyone’s lives while still enduring the difficult treatment that was required. He enjoyed a wonderful trip to Kauai with his family even though the pain of his illness was there. Until the end, we never knew how much pain he really was in until the doctors and nurses revealed it to us. He was a brave man and knew that to give in, was to lose the battle. He never gave in and fought till the end.

There is a saying: You never know how much you love someone until the person has gone. Now we know. But the one lesson he taught all of us is to be brave. Mohan Savkoor and bravery are synonymous forever.

Chetan Savkoor

He will be missed by wife Srikala, Namita/Stephen, Swapna, Chetan, Collin and Drake, Savkoors, Bellares, Karpes, Gavankars, Ugrankars and James'.
My stay in the US thus far had been thoroughly enjoyable; the cool climate and the pollution-free atmosphere kept me refreshed contrary to my initial fears that I wouldn't be able to withstand the cold. Not once did I have to open the chest of medicines that I had carried along. The passion with which the Americans take care of their gardens, roads, monuments and other public places is inspiring and worth mentioning. Their discipline in traffic, the concern and respect for the needs of senior citizens and handicapped persons, both by the administration as well as the general public, touched me deeply. By and large, the Americans are a friendly lot. After being surprised in the beginning, we soon got used to “Hi”, “Hello”, “How are you, hope you are enjoying yourself”, “Have a good day” and smiles from perfect strangers on the street.

Thereafter, we took a flight to Miami, famous for its beaches. My son had rented ocean-front rooms knowing I loved the sea-view. The lovely sight of the calm sea from our rooms had a natural, soothing effect on our minds too. On our way to the beach, we caught a glimpse of the home of the famous fashion designer, Versace. We spent a memorable evening at the beach with its white, spotless, silvery sands…. without being bothered by hawkers or bhelpuriwalas dotting the beach. Just reclining on a beach chair and watching people enjoying a dip in the sea and the beauty of the evening sky as the sun set was a feast for the eyes. Back home in Mumbai, one misses even the sunset sometimes, with the pollution around.

Our next halt was St. Petersburg in Florida, where my grandson, Nahush, lives. A quiet, serene but beautiful place - a far cry from New York City. I was seeing my grandson after almost two years and it was a happy reunion. He had left as a student and had now completed his MS and was in service. He joined us as we visited a few places of interest in and around St. Petersburg, notably the Clearwater Beach known for its sand; the feel of the pure, softness of nature as we walked barefoot on the white sands, was thrilling. As we watched the sunset, I once again remembered my friend’s words: “One must visit the US at least once in one’s lifetime and experience the wonders of both, the Creator and his creation.” I can now say, “Yes, I have been to the US!”

We spent a whole week with my grandson, pampering him with all the ‘amchi’ and other Indian delicacies that he had been missing, away from home.

My holiday soon came to an end. Three weeks had gone by in a jiffy and yet, there was no fatigue – either of the body or mind. Even the thought of the long journey back to India did not tire me as my mind was full of the delightful memories of my journey from Mahim to Miami. And I returned relaxed, rejuvenated and recharged.

Golden Memories

We could not have let this day, this year, go by without a mention of what it has meant to the couple who shared these wonderful years and to us, their children, who have been lucky to be a part of it.

Fifty years ago, on 22nd December, 1959, our parents, Narendra Kamat and Sadhana Ullal, tied the knot and began a journey based on love, understanding and shared interests. Although Papa left us on 8th July 2008, he continues to be a part of our lives, our thoughts, our memories. We wish he was with us today to celebrate their 50 years of togetherness and joy.

Amma and Papa, we cherish this day.

Shubha, Vibha, Anuja
22nd December, 2009.
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Bhaskar Chandavarkar, an innovative music composer, was steeped in every kind of music and would listen without filtering it through his Hindustani classical and folk music ears.

Bhaskar Chandavarkar, the renowned Sitarist, innovative music composer and scholar, passed away in Pune on July 25, 2009. He was 73. Eminent critic Shanta Gokhale pays a tribute to him.

Bhaskar Chandavarkar who died 10 days ago, was a very private man. People who thought they knew him knew the look, the gesture, the voice; they knew the ideas and the analytical mind; they most certainly knew the work. But few knew the person.

He was an enormously innovative music composer, but the press rarely told us about him. No violins came out when he won the best music award at the Madrid International Film Festival for his music for the Marathi film Bayo. If little newsprint was expended on him, it was at least partly because he was averse to publicity. In fact, I suspect he was averse to unnecessary human interaction itself.

I spent many days with him as a co-invitee to the Sangeet Natak Akademi’s Brhaddesi festival in Guwahati some years ago. It was an exhilarating exposure to the music of the north-eastern states - the Seven Sisters as they were coyly called.

Bhaskar always sat apart from the others, all eminent scholars of music, dance and theatre. Many of them were trying to understand the music in terms of their own systems. This sounds like so-and-so raga, they would say or we couldn’t follow that beat - how many beats made one cycle? A wizened elder from one of the groups finally said, “We don’t understand your questions. This is just music.”

Just music is how Bhaskar heard it, not filtered through his Hindustani classical music or folk music ears. He wasn’t looking for comforting comparisons between how the artists on stage were plucking their strings and how he strummed his sitar. He was listening with ears that were free of bias. During the week or so of the festival, I realized how open his scholarship was, how much he knew about the sources and forms of the music we heard. I was to discover later, how deeply steeped he was in every kind of music, whichever part of the world it came from.

I had invited him to lecture the students of IIM, Bangalore, in an elective course in the arts that I had designed. He walked in quietly, set up his music system and said, “I would like you to listen to this.” He proceeded to play us a piece of gamelan music from Indonesia, completely foreign to our ears yet completely captivating. Every point he made thereafter was illustrated by recordings of music we had never heard before. It was an ear-opening session. Practice had endowed him with a good teacher’s instinct on how to engage student attention.

He had taught music at the Film and Television Institute of India in his home town, Pune, for many years. He had used the opportunity to learn the language of cinema in order to make his lectures more relevant to the students. This stint gave him a special advantage when he composed music for films. One of his proudest moments came when he heard that Satyajit Ray had seen Girish Karnad’s film Ondanondu Kaladalli (Once-upon a time) the second time just for the music.

So impressed was Ray with it, that when Aparna Sen asked him to compose the music for her film Paroma, he sent her to Bhaskar, telling her he was the better composer.

Bhaskar composed music for many significant plays too but the one that took his music all over the country and abroad, was Vijay Tendulkar’s Ghashiram Kotwal. It would require much more than a column to analyse what he had tried to do there. Suffice it to say that he had created a parallel musical script for the play. But Tendulkar went on record saying that the music had killed the content of the play.

It was Bhaskar’s great regret that most people who saw Ghashiram Kotwal did not hear what the music was saying. Nothing can be lonelier than to speak in a language that few understand.

(Courtesy: Mumbai Mirror)
‘यया भाष्यते सा भाषा’
काव्यन होनाधर

‘यया भाष्यते सा भाषा’ एष उक्ति: पुनः पुनः सर्वत्र श्रृयते।
अस्माकम् अहोभासं यत्व अस्माकं गुरुवर्षणः प्रेणयान् बहवः।
चिवापुरसारस्वत: संस्कृताभ्यासक: जात: । परस्परसमृक्षणं
संस्कृतेन सरलतया भवे इति गुरुवर्षणम् अभिप्रायः । एषः
सुविचारः तै: वारं वारम् अभिव्यक्त: अथ च । तेषाः प्रेणया
प्रोत्सहनेन च दादोग्राहसभाय: वत्य सप्तज्ञा: गोवामध्ये
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एतत् शिबिरं संस्कृतभारत्या: आयोजितम् आसीत् । यदि एतत्
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अन्यज्ञानाः अथ अथ प्रेषित अति: मम लघु प्रायः ।
गतन्त्रेत्यमाये २५ तमे दिनांके कोइकणप्रान्तप्रथम
विविधस्वाभावेः: बाला: सुखकुस्वल: वृजः: च इन्द्रयः
इच्छुकजनाः: तत् आगात: । प्रातंकाल: रामिर्यंतं केवलं
संस्कृतशिष्याः संभाषणम् भाषणं च प्रचलन्तु आसीत् । तत्
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होदयं ग्राम्भावयुक्तभाषणेन जनाः: मन्त्रमुः: । सर्वशास्
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उदेश्यताय आसीत् । शान्तादृष्टांमिदिं परित: पवित्रपरिः
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अतीव उत्साह आसीत् । २५ तमे दिनांके सवें आनदेन स्वगुणं
प्रत्यागाता: ।
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राष्ट्रभाषा भवेतु इति ।
सवै: चिवापुरसारस्वते: मिलितवा प्रयत्न: कृतं: चेतु
संस्कृतप्रारंभाच्या प्राप्ति: जनजागृति: च भवेतु । एषा अथि
शिशिरेन प्रभावितानाम् अस्माकं समझनाम: अभिलाषा
संस्कृतेन एव संस्कृति: । अति: ।
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श्यामला अध्यक्ष कृष्णकृष्ण, गांवदेशी

एखादा माणसांत्या शरीरांता कोणतही एक अनवम निकामा जाला, मुख्येच तो निर्येखी होऊन कार्य करणासा जाला की त्या माणसांता अपगत आहे असे अपण महानो. अपगततमुळे तो माणूऱ्या ध्यानांत्या सरस्वती दुश्यांतर अवलंबून जीवन जगती त्यांदेवी त्याळा परावलंबीत्व आलाचे जाणून लागते.

शारीरिक अपगतावपर्यंत मानसिक अपंगत असलेले लोक हा जगांत अधिक प्रभावहिल आहून. असे अपण तेच असताने, जे स्वतःचे सुरु प्राप्त करु शेंयासाठी स्वतः कट न करता इत्यादी निर्भर राहे किंतु दुस्यांच्या मनात स्वतः-बहुल सहानुभूती निमित्त करून ते सुरु प्राप्त करू घेतात. मुख्येच दुश्यांच्या आधाराने आपला संसार सुधी करू शेंगाठी ही माणसे मानसिककृत्ता अपगत असतात. राहिलांगाने प्राप्त जाळेले सुरु, मुख्येच बाह्य अलंबक वस्तूं, बाह्य दृश्यांच्या, कमाचरे सुरु हे बाह्य परस्तितितीय अवलंबून असलेले ते परावलंबी असते. ज्या माणसांते सुरु त्यांच्या माणजोळी गोरी धंशांतर व ह्या आलेल्या सुरु प्राप्त ज्यालयांत, स्वतः भौतिक निर्धारीने अनुभूत असुन त्यांच्या अपणेश्या प्रभाव करू घड्यांतर निर्भर असते, असा माणूस सर्वत्रीय परावलंबी जगती.

जीवनाने अपोले बेल पाहावियासाठी ज्याला बऱ्या गोरी, बऱ्या बसून्या अवधा दुर्म्योगी सहस्वासाची मुख्येच लोकांतरी गरज भासते, तसेच जो जीवनांता दुस्यांच्या प्रभावाने आधाराविवध जीवन जगती असणारे असते मुख्येच त्याचे जीवन दु:खद्याचे होते, असा माणूस देहाने जरी अपण नसला तरी मानसिककृत्ता अपंगत ठरते.

दारू-सिम्पोट यांत्रिक असनार ज्येचे सुरु अवलंबून असते, जे व्यायामांचे ते आधी होणार की, ते प्राप्त न ज्यालयांत त्यांचे जीवन कारस्वीत होतो. अशा माणसांते जीवन परस्थानी ते सुरु त्यांच्या निवास जीवनीसा कार्यांतून ठरते. अशी माणसे व्यायामांनी ज्याळ्याने सर्ववेक्षी परावलंबी जीवन जगतात.

ज्याळा आपल्या जीवन कौतोळील अपोले बेळून सुदूर नामागाड धारते मन नामातून गंणना रंगणीपणी कळा साधणाऱ्या असते, ज्याळा जीवनांत गुरुमेंरात्वेच दुस्यांच्या कुणाच्या प्रभावी महान गोरज भासत नाही. तो शारीरिक दृष्ट्या परावलंबी असणारी तरी परा-सामाजिक दृष्ट्या खऱ्या स्वास्थ्य रीती, जे सुरु बाह्य वस्तूं व बाह्य दृश्यांच्या अध्यात्म विविध परस्तितितीय अवलंबून नफु माण साधन आनंदाचा अनुभव प्राप्त करू देते. असे जे आंतर्तील आंतरिक शक्ती सुख्याचे गुरुमेंरात्ते प्राप्त करू चेते ते, स्वतः चा सुखासाठी त्याळा कुट्याळा गोरी, बऱ्या वस्तू अवलंबून राहाय मलगत नसल्याने तो शारीरिकसत्ता जरी परावलंबी असला तरी मानसिककृत्ता स्वास्थ्य ठरतो.

जो आपल्या जीवनाचा भार सर्वस्वा सदुगुणांचा धालून जे पडते ते त्यांच्या इतरे व सतते पडते वाची जणांच्या देहन सदुगुणाचं आधाराने जगणून अपण जीवन शक्ती सुधार आणेल बहुत टाकती, तो बाह्य दृष्टीत जरी अपण जीवन जगती असल्याचे दृश्यांतर यादते तरी माणूस तो ज्येची विषयांने व तैयाना जीवनानीविमान सामग्री ज्यामितीय आणि प्रतिकृत परस्तितीय हस्तित मुख्यांते तंड देशाय सुधूर कस्थ राहतो. तो अपण तरी कसा असू शकेल?

जरी प्राध्यात्मिक उपसाधन त्याळा शारीरिक अपगत वेणून परावलंबीत्व प्राप्त जाळेले असले तरी गुरुमेंरात्ता शक्तिहार व गुरुपेदवा सदुगुणांच्या कार्यक्रम असेही सकारात्मक करूने प्रेमा करते की, ज्यामो त्याळा त्याळा जीवनांत अपगतावची जाणीव होणार नाही व त्याचे दुःख जाणून गाणार नाही व परावलंबी वची उपी कधी भागणार नाही. सदुगुणांत आशा काही करून त्याळा प्रेम जेणेकर त्याळा कलेवर प्रेम करू ज्याळा त्याळा जीवनाची साफत्व लाभे!

हीच खरे सदुगुणांची वजन असते हे त्याळा ध्यानात लाहे!
दि शामराव विठ्ठल को–ऑप. बॅंक लि. यांच्या मुंडूंद (पूर्व) शाखेच्या उद्घाटन
शुभप्रसंगी शाखेच्ये मनोगत व स्वागत

चवचत गाजत आली अपूर्वी, बॅंक इति आजला आव्हिक स्वागत करू सरोळे, आनंदची जाहिला

नजर जहानुँ षेऊन आलेह रूटिवर्थ दामले सान–मार शुभसमवी सगळे आहे इते जमले

संचालक, भांकोजक सारे प्रेमाने हरखले शुभेूँमुळे आंदाला कसळण हो लागले

उज्वल थोर हिंचा इतिहासिक एकूण तीन वर्षूँचा निरस्म सेवा, हात आपूरा धुती आपूर्तीकीचा

संस्थापक संचालक सगळे कर्मचारी चोख कह कर्नऱ्या वाढविला हा वट्ठुदृश्चिं थोर

83 शाखा भारतामध्ये, बहुविश्व पसरत्या वाढविला सेवा देवन सवा, लोकमान्य जाहिल्या

चवचत, सरोळे, प्रायाची ठेव, रोऱ्या योजना धनिक गरीवा वा मध्यमगृही हर्तावा विवंचना

अडी–अडचणी, परारती कर्ज, गुह वाहन कर्जें पुढे कर्नऱ्या हात मदतीचा यश चोफेर हि गजें

विनम्र भावंच स्वागत करती आपूरक समान सेवेची संबंधीच देखून, व्या प्रमाणे दान

- नारायण शिराळी

(ही कविता वि. १९२३–२००९ रोजी मुंडूंद (पूर्व) शाखेच्या उद्घाटन प्रसंगी सम्बंध वाचून दाखविलेली)

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‘नाची जांचो अयाचसु’ अष्टोत्तरा वाचले एक अरदिकल हार्त अशिल्या मसते जांक
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एकत्रें इन्हांना ‘महज बापूण अर्थसी कर्ताचे पक्षपत्त सवळपती नाची जाता
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Kanara Saraswat

Vol. 91, No.1, January 2010 57
पुढे येण्याच्या प्रतेक श्लोकांत चटत्या भाज्यने येण्याच्या उपमा, उत्तेजक इ. भाषानिक त्याच्या लवणांचा बिलास घडवतात आणि त्याच्या उत्तुंग प्रतिभेची साक्षी देतात.

अप्रत्यांत तीव्रतात व्यायाम हेतूतील हेतूमानी अलंकारांनी करसली इ. मानवाने उत्तर प्रकाश ठार उत्तम अनुक्रमांहेत. पुन्हा स्वेच्छाधारित अनुक्रम दयाशीर्धा देतही. इत्यादी तंत्री आहेत.

या श्लोकांत गंगेश्वर महात्माची प्रथितांची केली आहे. मान्यासारख्या (पापी) माणसाचा उदय करण्यास तीर्थक्षेत्रात स्वाभाविक धार्मिकता नाहीत आणि शंकरांत देवगण माझ्याप्रथिता एखांत घेत नाहीत. परंतु त्वस्त्र संतुलन करूने भरलेले आहे. मला पवित्र करून या सच्ची पपापानंत्र तीर्थांचा आहार कोणासारखा हेतू नाहीसा करणार आहेस. 

शराबदेशेताने शराबदेशेतातील उपयोग केला आहे.

‘तुज्या मुळेत हा शराबदेशेताने चंडप्रामाण्य धरल आहे. त्वस्त्र चंडप्रामाण्य शोभा आणि तीव्रता आहे. भय दूर करण्यास आणि आश्विन देवतास तुज्या अभय हस्त सदैव तार आहे. तू अमृतवता प्रभावहारांनी अस्वल आकार आणि उंची वस्त्रे त्याच्या आहेस. पांढर्या मगरीच्या आसनाने बसलेला तुज्या जे कोणी च्या हस्ताने त्याची करतील त्याची केरही निराश विकल्प किंवा आपित होगाव. आपितांत तुज्या उपयोगासारखा वस्त्र राखिले आहे. तुज्यांत चंडप्रामाण्य आणि त्याची आमतूता वस्त्र तुज्या ज्ञात आहेस. ज्ञातांत त्याच्या आमतूता वस्त्र तुज्या ज्ञात आहेस.'
BOOK REVIEW

Title: FORMULA FOR FULFILMENT
Author: Vidya S. Gunavanthe
Pages: 133
Price: Rs. 100/- (the proceeds will go to the Kala Vibhag Fund of KSA)

‘Formula for Fulfilment’ is a biography that has all the right ingredients to attract a wide readership.

Nalkur Sripad (Sippy) Rao’s name is known to people in most parts of the world. To the Saraswats, he will remain ‘Sripadmaam’ who has played multiple roles, each one to perfection. Even as a youngster striding forward to meet Life, he went job-hopping seeking better income and greater challenges. It was no easy journey from Operator to Entrepreneur. ‘Operator’ meant carrying heavy loads, his daily wage, as such, being a meagre 7½ annas; less than half a rupee.

No obstacle seemed insurmountable in his eagerness to move onwards. His toughest hurdle was the sudden, unexpected loss of speech, a rude shock to one whose greatest joy was communication, spoken and written. When he emerged from this setback, he spoke not merely fluent English, but Persian, Armenian, French, Russian, and a smattering of Turkish.

He obviously did a good job of proposing in Armenian, for the lovely, vivacious Vartanoosh Badalian willingly became Lily Rao and transformed herself into an ideal Chitrapur Saraswat wife and home-maker. And soon rose to be the backbone of the family – the proverbial Woman behind the Successful Man.

Besides his multifarious activities Sripadmaam made happy inroads into artistic realms, writing poetry and growing flowers with as much zest as he destroyed pests.

Vidya Gunavanthe, the author, has successfully captured Sripadmaam’s flamboyant personality in the book. With a Master’s in Psychology, and Diploma in Journalism, she is already four books old, and this, her latest book, is all set to hit the stands with a splash. Her varied experience as freelance writer, Assistant Editor of a film trade journal and Skill Head, guiding a team of over a hundred writers, gives her an excellent track record.

The title itself reveals the breadth of Sripadmaam’s vision. It was fulfilment that he sought: not merely at the personal level but a progressive, outward-moving fulfilment, like the expanding circles in a still pond when a stone hits the surface. From Individual fulfilment, through Family and Community fulfilment, he went on to embrace the Country and all of Humanity in his dream scheme.

The very first capital he ‘laid hands’ on was a paavli (today’s 25 paise) – a princely sum in those days. It was at the christening (baarso) of his baby sister, Rukma, lying in a winnowing ‘soop’ amidst gifts, including the ‘paavli’. At three, his sole thought was his own need for junk food and sweets. It was only on growing up that he felt a twinge of guilt for the ‘crime’ of having robbed his sister of her rightful wealth.

Maturity brought awareness of the needs of the family, and the eagerness to help his widowed mother. Employment took him away from home. He had to seek accommodation from generous Saraswats like his uncle, Taggarshe Venkatmam (in Bagalkot) from whom he imbibed the simple, profound philosophy of the Bhagwat Geeta and Manaache Shloka. In Bombay, he lived with Kailaje Vaman Bhat who greatly respected Sripadmaam’s father Narasing Rao whose home provided a roof for those in need.

Dr Veerappa Moily, in his Foreword, calls Sripadmaam ‘a great son of Karkala’ who ‘pioneered the concept of corporate responsibility.’ The school which he helped build in Karkala is now a Government Junior College.

Sripadmaam’s first meeting with HH Anandashram Swamij, at the age of eleven, opened a door to spirituality. Thereafter, he has remained devoted to the Guru Parampara. He served HH Parijnanashram Swamiji, and now, serves the present Mathadhhipati, HH Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji.
Sripadmaam has ‘the unique distinction of being the only Saraswat to head the three premier Chitrapur Saraswat institutions’ – The SVC Bank, the KSA and the Standing Committee of the Shree Chitrapur Math, Shirali. But that is only the tip of the iceberg.

By founding the NGO, KARMA (Karjat Agricultural and Rural Management Assistance), Sripadmaam’s philanthropy moved beyond charity. He rescued the Karjat farmers from the clutches of moneylenders by making available interest-free loans, agricultural training, better agricultural inputs, and better educational and health facilities. He thus restored their confidence and self-respect.

Among the numerous awards he has received, are the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Bombay Rotary Club (West), the Karjat Gaurav and the Karmayogi Award by the Bombay Sea Coast.

An award has never been his ultimate goal. So, even at ninety, his target remains human welfare. We wish him long, fruitful years ahead!

- Savitri Babulkar, Mumbai
**Specifications**

- **Structure**: RCC framed structure.
- **Walls**: 6” thick cement hollow block for exterior walls & 4” thick cement solid block for internal walls.
- **Doors**: Main door teak wood frame with OST Shutter door and remaining doors m.s. steel frames with flush door shutters.
- **Windows**: Powder Coated Aluminum windows with fly proof shutters.
- **Flooring**: Ceramic Tiles flooring.
- **Common Areas**: Grey Mosaic flooring for common areas like staircase, lobbies, etc.
- **Kitchen Platform**: Granite platform with Granite sink.
- **Electrical Work**: Concealed copper wiring with Anchor dyna switches and sockets.
- **Toilets**: Ceramic tiled flooring and glazed tile dado up to 7 feet height.
- **Sanitary**: Standard fittings.
- **Water Supply**: 24 hours water supply from borewell with the overhead tank and sump.
- **Painting**: Oil bound distemper paint for internal walls and emulsion for external walls and enamel paint for doors.
- **TV and Telephone**: Individual TV and Telephone points in drawing and master bedroom.
- **Lift**: 5 passenger lift is provided.
- **Car Parking**: Exclusive covered car parking.
- **Intercom**: Provided for each flat.
- **Power Backup**: (Generator for common area, lift and 0.5KVA power for each flat).

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**Note**: This brochure is purely conceptual and does not constitute a legal document. The architects and promoters reserve the right to change, delete or add any specification or elevation mentioned in here.
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Pranav Ullal, 27, son of Suchita and Pradeep Ullal of Bangalore, has been awarded a PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the MRC Clinical Sciences Centre, Imperial College, London. This laboratory, led by Luis Aragón, was established in 2002 and is part of the Epigenetics, Development and Cancer Section of the MRC Clinical Sciences Centre and Imperial College, London.

Having completed an MRes from the University of Glasgow in Scotland, Pranav went on to win a grant to do a research project on DNA repair guided by Dr. Luis Aragon. The objective of Dr. Aragon's Cell Cycle Group is to understand the molecular mechanisms orchestrating the equal and faithful segregation of chromosomes during cellular division.

Pranav's thesis was based on the study of DNA repair and chromosome metabolism using the yeast S.cerevisiae as a model organism. The study is important from the perspective of understanding DNA repair pathways, a key area of cancer research. Damaged DNA is a hallmark of cancer cells.

Fifteen-year-old Prajnya Kaikini, daughter of Chaithanya and Sadhana Kaikini (nee Suguna S Kodange), has stood second in Hassan District in the SSLC Examination of 2009, securing 95.2%, and the highest (99%) in Mathematics.

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**HERE AND THERE**

**Bangalore:** The Punyatithi of HH Shrimad Vamanashram Swamiji was observed on November 10 with great devotion. On November 28, Gita Jayanti there was *samuhik* Bhagavad Gita *pathan* followed by Gita Poojan and *phalahar*. Devotees of all ages participated in the annual Heble Ramanand Memorial Bhagavad Gita Recitation competition and Gita & Samskrit Study Circle Bhagavad Gita competition, coordinated by Dr Radha Krishnamurthy and Sunanda Sagar. Rammohan Kalyanpur distributed the prizes and gave an inspiring talk on the Gita. Noted Sanskrit scholar, Professor H R Chandrashekhar, addressed the gathering with a beautiful message from the famous *Manku Timmana Kagga*.

The *Punyatithis* of HH Shrimad Krishnashtiram Swamiji and HH Shrimad Keshavashram Swamiji were duly observed on December 9 and 10, respectively. On the 9th, Prarthana class children presented a beautiful programme including reading of passages from *Anugraha*, and offered *sangeet seva* on both days. Prarthana centres in Malleswaram also performed Guru Poojan on Children's Day (November 14), offering *Panchopachar Pooja*. Yuvedhara members organized *samuhik* Guru Poojan on November 15; on November 22, they worked in groups at the first session of Guru Parampara Parayan to create presentations on each of our Gurus.

*Reported by Uma P. Trasi*

**Goa:** About 25 members attended a full-day *satsang* at Mapusa on November 25. Guru Poojan was performed by a Yuvedhara member under supervision. Gurupaduka *stotra*, Guru *bhajan*, Parijnana Trayodashi, Shiva Manas Pooja and verses from the Gita (Chapters 12 and 15) were chanted. Shankararayan geet, *mangalpad* and *mangalaarati* followed.

On November 15, members from various places (Panaji, Ponda, Porvarim, Madgaon, Vasco etc) performed Devi Anushthan individually and collectively with great fervour.

*Reported by Dr. Sushama Arur*

**Mallapur:** Datta Jayanti was observed at Dutt Mandir with a cradling ceremony; many Nagarkattikars attended the programme with great enthusiasm.

Followers of Shri Rama Vallabhadas who met at Shri Avadi Math have decided to celebrate His 4th birth centenary; a meeting will be convened on January 24 to chalk out a detailed programme.

*Reported by Arun Udbhakar*

**Mangalore:** A two-day programme was held at Shri Vidya Vithal Temple, Manjeshwar, as a part of Ashtamangala Prashne. The first day's function on December 4, started with *samuhik prarthana*; Shathakalashabhisheka was offered by the family members. Mahapooja was performed in the afternoon and later, *santarpan*. On the next day, Ganapati Poojan was followed by Mahapooja and *santarpan*. Mahapooja was also performed in the evening on both days.

*Reported by Ramcharan Bhat Manjeshwar*

**Nashik:** On October 21, 2009, devotees of Nashik, led by their Sabha President Uday Ragade, enthusiastically welcomed PP Swamiji at the KSA Holiday Home, performing all the rituals with great devotion. In the evening, devotees enjoyed a 40-minute film on the Tercentenary Pad Yatra.

The next two days, commenced with *Suprabhatam* followed by *samuhik* Devi Anushthan by devotees after a sumptuous breakfast, a Swadhyaya on Shree Parijnana Trayodashi by PP Swamiji and Mahapooja, *paduka poojan* and *tirth vitaran* by Swamiji at noon. In the evenings, devotees enthusiastically attended Deependamakar and Nitya Poojan performed by PP Swamiji.

The Dharma Sabha on 22nd morning, included *paduka poojan* by the Sabha President, with *phalasamarpan* followed by welcome speeches by him and Mrs.Baliga, Vice President, Konkani Samaj, Nashik. Later, PP Swamiji enthralled the audience with His Ashirvachan.

On 24th morning, PP Swamiji visited Borgad, escorted by the Sabha President and Hon. Secretary, Shri Raha and Shri Bhure from the Nature Conservation Society of Nashik (NCSN) and others. NCSN’s afforestation efforts include the planting of about 40,000 trees on Borgad Hills. The highlight was a visit to a cave on Hanuman Tekadi, atop Borgad Hill, with a wonderful view. PP Swamiji planted a sapling at the request of the NCSN officials; He said...
that the surroundings reminded Him of His days in Mt. Abu. Later, PP Swamiji and the team joined other Sabha members at the Vanabhojan site, Shri Raha's farmhouse on the outskirts of Nashik where they spent a memorable day, interacting with PP Swamiji and seeing slides of Shri Raha's Himalayan treks and the local flora and fauna.

On the 25th, Nashik youngsters spent an unforgettable two hours with PP Swamiji at the janmasthana of Bajrangbali – Anjaneri Hill (4264 ft above sea level, and named after Anjani, Hanuman’s mother), about 20 kms from Nashik. In the evening, there was a much-appreciated programme of light classical music and a Bharatnatyam dance. The Dharma Sabha began thereafter, with paduka poojan by the Sabha Vice President, phalasamarpalan, vaidik sambhavana and later, kshyama yachana by the Sabha Hon.Treasurer. The Committee Members of KSA, the Caretaker of the KSA Holiday Home and Shri Raha were specially thanked for their support. Finally, the audience listened with rapt attention to PP Swamiji’s much-awaited Ashirvachan.

The devotees bade a tearful farewell to PP Swamiji on October 26 with the ardent hope of an early re-visit.

Reported by Gayatri Chandavarkar

Pune: The Punyatithi of HH Vamanashram Swamiji was observed on November 10 with Guru Poojan. Guru Poojan followed by Navaratra Nityapath and Devi Anushthan were performed on November 13.

Sannikarsha at Karla was performed by the Pune Local Sabha on November 29; over 80 devotees participated with a good representation of Yuvadhara. We had two-year-old Om Sirur to senior citizen and recently-up-after-two-major-surgeries Upponi Sharad who drove to Karla with the enthusiasm of a youngster!

Reported by Jyothi Divgi

Thane: The activities held by the Mulund, Dombivli and Navi Mumbai centres of the Sabha in November, are given below.

At Mulund, members observed the Punyatithi of HH Vamanashram Swamiji on the 10th with Guru Poojan.. Shiv Poojan and recitation of shlokas from Chapters 12 and 15 of the Bhagavad Gita were activities held on the 19th while there was Devi Poojan on the 28th.

At Dombivli, Chitrapur Saramrut and Gurucharitra Parayana, both group activities, were performed on the 25th-26th and November 25 to December 1, respectively.

At Navi Mumbai, devotees performed Sadhana Panchakam and Guru Poojan at Nerul, on November 13.

Reported by Prakash R.Hattangadi

The Saraswat Cultural Forum: The evening of November 14, Children’s Day, was indeed an eye-opener for the audience on the various facets of children’s personalities and talent.

Imaginations ran riot with the fancy dress show when 2-11 year-olds briefly enacted their characters on stage: a little train promised “Maamachya gaavala zaooya”, a beautiful butterfly fluttered by and a little cat hopped on for company. Ensuring their safety was a young boy dressed as a “maavla” (Maratha warrior) even as Mother Durga assured everyone of protection from all evil as they set out on this endearing journey. The various forms of Lord Krishna – Sudama, Arjun, Meera, Yashodha along with Krishna – were depicted in an enchanting tableau.

There were charming skits including one on “There’s a hole in my bucket”, a classic display of a brother-sister love-filled quarrel which filled the evening with laughter. Talent was at its peak with one child strumming a western classical music piece on the guitar while another played a classical rhythm on the tabla. The recitation of a poem expressing children’s gratitude to parents for striving to give them the future of their dreams, touched all hearts.

A yummy treat of samosas, wafers and hot jalebis beautifully wrapped up the Children’s Day programme.

Reported by Gouri Gokarn

Saraswat Samaj, UK: The Samaj organised several activities in 2009 which brought its members, young and old, together to share common interests and forge closer ties even as they enjoyed the varied activities.

On September 27, a cookery workshop, held for
the first time, started with Mohan and Sharada Sajip
giving a master class in the preparation of plantain
*kachari* and *undyo*. Rashmi Heble demonstrated how
to make instant *rava idli* and teamed up with Sujata
Bailoor to prepare *mit-t-mirsange phovu*. Abhishek
Kulkarni who has published a cookery book at the
age of 14, along with Malvika and Sachin Savur,
displayed the art of making cakes. There was fabric
painting for youngsters and everyone appreciated
the mini toy world made from vegetable carvings by
Shanta Ginimav. The evening was rounded off with
*aarti* and prayers followed by a general knowledge
quiz conducted by Vinay Sajip.

The Samaj also celebrated its 40th anniversary
this year on October 24. Mohan Sajip wrote and
presented a brief history of the Samaj across four
decades. The theme for the music and dance
programmes was Old is Gold. The youngsters sang
and danced to various hits from films of the sixties
and seventies. A skit in English and two one-act
plays in Konkani were also staged. The programme
concluded with a fashion show by the youngsters,
and a sumptuous meal.

On November 28, the Samaj arranged a show by
Pradip Amladi, a master of the para-psychological
mind. He had the audience spellbound with his
interactive mind games. The Samaj is grateful
to Pradip for sparing the time to present his awe-
inspiring show.

**Reported by Arun Nagarkatti**

**The Visawa Charitable Trust, Mumbai:** The
Trust organised an awareness programme on
November 15, at its premises in Borivali, for parents
of mentally challenged children of the Special
Education Section of Sodawala Municipal School
where the Trust has been doing commendable
work in rehabilitating the children by providing
occupational, speech and physio- therapy as well as
items required for their all-round development.

Several experts were invited to speak to the
parents about the opportunities available today to
deal with differently abled children and to answer
their queries. Dr. Neelu Desai spoke about the
causes and medical complications that can lead to
developmental deormities of the brain as the child
grows. Mrs. Bhavana Kerkar detailed the training
methods available to make differently abled children
capable of carrying out basic social functions without
much dependency on others and subsequently
identifying and building upon the strengths of each
child to make the child employable and useful to
society, depending on the level of learning. Mrs.
Praneeta Madkaikar explained the importance of
 equipping the children to interact socially in the
present-day environment without expecting them
to learn in the conventional manner.

On the occasion, Raghuvneer Dhareshwar,
Chairman of the Trust, felicitated Shitala Pandit,
Managing Trustee of the Punyatma Prabhakar
Sharma Seva Mandal (PPSSM) for the exemplary
role played by PPSSM in rehabilitating and training
mentally challenged children in rural Maharashtra.
Thanking the Trust, Shitala said that PPSSM’s
recent initiative, and Tallur Rukmakka’s dream
project, of building a residential school for rural and
tribal, mentally challenged children had become
possible only because of the financial and material
support of many donors; she dedicated the honour
conferred upon her by the Trust to all those who
had supported this project.

**Reported by Gopinath Mavinkurve**
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ENGAGEMENTS

Basrur-Murdeshwar: Hemanth, son of Smt. Shaila and Shri Gurunath Basrur, with Vaishali, daughter of late Smt. Pushpa and Shri Ashok Murdeshwar on 28th September, 2009 at Bangalore.

Andar-Batra: Divya, daughter of Smt. Deepa and Dr. Uday Andar of Talmakawadi, with Bipin, son of Smt. Nisha and Shri Prem Batra on 24th December, 2009 at Bandra, Mumbai

BIRTHS

A son, Veer to Shoma and Chirag Shah, a granddaughter to Asha and Sharad Shah, Nirmala and Suresh Nilawar, great grandson to Pranjivanadas Shah and Lila D. Nilawar, at London on 31st October, 2009.

Nov 12: A baby girl, Manasvi, welcomed by parents Rajeshwari and Jaideep Gangoli, big brother Mihir, grandparents Vasant and Shantaram Gangoli/ Padma and Satish Chikramane, at Sterling, Virginia, USA.

Baby girl to Ruchi (nee Gupta) and Ajeya Row on December 10, at Mumbai. Grand-daughter to Jaya Row, great grand-daughter to Murli Hosangady.

A son to Utkarsh and Prachi Baljekar and grandson to Uday and late Ujwala Baljekar and Dr. Bitthal Lal Sharma and Vandana Sharma on 18th November, 2009 at Bangalore. (R-1787)

PUROHITS

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


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sirurs and Kalambis thank all for their gracious presence and blessings on the occasion of marriage of Namratha, daughter of Smt. Geetha and Shri Mohan Sirur (Bangalore) with Kushal, son of Smt. Shakuntala and Shri Kishore Kalambi (Mumbai) on 29th November, 2009 at Mumbai, and request to treat this as their personal acknowledgement.

Deepa and Uday Andar thank all friends and relatives for their gracious presence and blessings on the occasion of the wedding and reception of Abhay and Indira on 10th and 12th respectively. Kindly treat this as a personal acknowledgement.

Smita and Sumantharao Kilpady and Neeta and Vandana Vinekar thank all relatives, friends and well wishers for their gracious presence, blessings and presents on the occasion of wedding and reception of Saneel and Nandita on 2nd and 4th December, 2009 at Mumbai and Nashik respectively, and request all to treat this as a personal acknowledgement.

OBITUARIES

Mukta R. Karkal (nee Dhareshwar) wife of late Shri Rabindrnanath Pandurang Karkal and mother of Bina Gurudutt Trasy passed away in New Jersey, USA on December 9th after brief illness at the age of 80. Deeply mourned by Bina, Gurudutt, grand-daughter Anjali and her husband David and great grandson Ethan, and her extended Karkal and Trasy families.

Smt. Medha Anand Rao (Kombrabail), daughter of late Shri Shamrao and Smt. Manjula Kaikini, wife of Dr. Anand Rao, mother of Malvika, Maithili, Mihir, aged 70 years, resident of Pune (Kothrud), passed away on 29th November, 2009.

DOMESTIC TIDINGS

BIRTHS

We welcome the following new arrivals:

Oct 31 : A son (Veer) to Shoma (Nilawar) and Chirag Shah at London.

Nov 9 : A son (Sayuj) to Sangeeta (nee Katre) and Rahul Kalyanpur at Mumbai.

Nov 27 : A daughter (Tvisha) to Vrishali (nee Basrur) and Tushar Karnad at Bangalore.

Dec 17 : A son to Hetal and Kunal Kiran Kodikal at Mumbai.

THREAD CEREMONY

We bless the following batu:

Nov 30 : Neil Nitin Pandit at Pune.

MARRIAGES

We congratulate the following and wish them a happy married life:

Sept 8 : Trupti Uday Kalyanpur with Neelesh Sumitra Kalyanpur at Mumbai.
Dec 2: Nandita Nandan Vinekar with Saneel Sumantharao Kilpady at Mumbai.
Dec 9: Chandrabha Giridhar (Sunil) Haridas with Aneesh Mohan Hosangadi at Mumbai.
Dec 10: Priya (Ravinder Kaur) Saluja with Chaitanya Vijay Mannige at Pune.
Dec 10: Indira Rao with Abhay Uday Andar at Karla.

**OBITUARIES**

We convey our deepest sympathy to the relatives of the following:

**Sept 20:** Vaishali Chandrashekhar Mankikar (38) at Pune.
**Sept 26:** Radhabai (Sushila) Krishnadas Chandavarkar (94) at Honavar.
**Oct 26:** Dhareshwar Niranjan Shankar (57) at Belgaum.
**Nov 21:** Chitra Ravindra Haldipur (70) at Thane.
**Nov 28:** Krishnabai Mangesh Gunvante (70) at Bangalore.
**Nov 29:** Meera Ramdas Harite (78) at Goregaon, Mumbai.
**Nov 29:** Medha Anand Rao (Kombrabail) (nee Kaikini) (70) at Pune.
**Nov 30:** Udyavar Waman (85) at Borivili West, Mumbai.
**Nov 30:** Radhakrishna S. Thonsekar (92) at Mumbai.
**Dec 4:** Kalpana (Chandri) Prabhakar Golikeri (83) at Pune.
**Dec 9:** Savoor Chandrashekhar (88) at Saket, New Delhi.
**Dec 11:** Urmila Soumitra Vinekar (nee Mukta Mudbidri) (83) at Matunga (W), Mumbai.
**Dec 12:** Deepak Narayan Nadkarni (58) at Virar.

As we ring in the New Year, we thank all those who have helped us in the year gone by: our Contributors who have made it possible for us to offer a wide variety of articles; our Correspondents who have regularly sent in news to keep our members worldwide, informed about happenings in our community; to our Donors, Advertisers and Well-wishers for their enduring financial support; to our Readers for their encouraging and valuable feedback; and finally, to the Members of the Managing Committee of KSA for supporting us in our endeavour to fulfill the aims of Kanara Saraswat.

- Editorial Committee

Vidya Gunavanthe, author of “Formula for Fulfillment”, the biography of the philanthropist, N.S. Rao, has to her credit another publication, “Konkani Basics”, published and released recently. In this book, she captures the Konkani language in all its lyrical beauty and simplicity. Price: Rs. 195/-

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