



Kanara Saraswat

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF KANARA SARASWAT ASSOCIATION



Dancers from the Opening Ceremony Dance accepting the audience's enthusiastic cheers and applause

KONKANI SAMMELAN 2012 - Edison, U.S.A. Keeping the Konkani Spirit Vibrant and Alive



Teru, designed and created by Ashok Balwalli, was part of an amazing program called Amgele Parab



At the entrance Ganapati shows his blessings on all Sammelan attendees



Sammelan Executive Committee. L-R Ravi Shenoy VP, Nina Padukone Entertainment Chair, Dr Gopal Bhandarkar President, Dama Baliga Treasurer, Dr Vasudev Nayak (Awards Chair, not seen)



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NOTICE OF THE 100TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KANARA SARASWAT ASSOCIATION (REGD)

Notice is hereby given that the 100th Annual General Meeting of the Kanara Saraswat Association will be held on Sunday 12th August 2012 at 10.00 a.m. in Shrimat Anandashram Hall, Talmakiwadi, Javji Dadaji Marg, Mumbai – 400 007 to transact the following business:

1. Reading of the notice convening the meeting.
2. Confirmation of the minutes of the 99th Annual General Meeting. The Minutes of Meeting published in KS Magazine issue of December 2011.
3. Adoption of the Committee's Report and Audited Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2012.
4. Declaration of the results of the elected 3 members on the Managing Committee.
5. Election of Honorary Auditors for the year 2012-2013.
6. Election of Statutory Auditors for the year 2012 – 2013.
7. * Any other business that may be brought before the Managing Committee with the consent of at least 2 to 3 of the members as laid down in Rule No 36

Note: Members desiring to bring forward any questions are requested to give notice of the same in writing to the Hon. Secretary at least 7 days before the Meeting. The Annual Report and the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2012 will not be published in the "Kanara Saraswat" in view of the objection raised by the Postal Authorities. The report will be uploaded on our Website www.kanarasaraswat.in for the benefit of Members.

By order of the Managing Committee

Shri Shivshankar Murdeshwar
Hon. Secretary

*** Resolution to be brought by Managing Committee of KSA in 100th AGM Schedule on 12th August 2012 under any other Business :-**

Brief Note on Resolution in respect of Parijnanashraya at Shirali

The Deed of Lease of N.A. Land was entered on 22.2.1974 in respect of 20 Guntas land out of 3 Acres of N.A. Land in S. No. 747 A, Shirali II by Shri Chitrapur Krishi – Gramodyog Sahakari Mandal Ltd, (for brevity, The Chitrapur Krishi –Gramodyog) Lessee of Shri Chitrapur Math and The Kanara Saraswat Association., sub-lessee for construction of Parijnanashraya to house the aged and the aspirants who are devotees of Shri Chitrapur Math on the Terms and Conditions issued by The Asst. Commissioner, Kumta to The Chitrapur Krishi – Gramodyog vide their Order No. LNA-SR 1743 dated 19/6/1972. The sub-lease term will run coextensive with the Terms of Lease of 99 years effective from 31.10.1972 entered into by Lessor Shri Chitrapur Math and Lessee the Chitrapur Krishi – Gramodyog. The Kanara Saraswat Association shall pay Ground Rent of Rs. 20/- per year directly to Shri Chitrapur Math and also liable to pay any Land Assessment, Panchayat Taxes or any other rates and cess.

The KSA used to pay Rs.510/- p.a. which was increased to Rs.710/- p.a. towards Maintenance and payment of Taxes to Shri Chitrapur Math till the year 2001-02. However, there was no payment made afterwards. The Ground Floor Building "Parijnanashraya" was constructed at the cost of Rs.57,739.51 as per our Balance Sheet. We are not charging any depreciation to Building nor do we have any administrative control over it. In view of the above, we request the General Body to authorize the Managing Committee to hold discussions with Lessor the Chitrapur Krishi- Gramodyog and the owner of the land Shri Chitrapur Math for taking appropriate decision for either cancellation of Lease Agreement or continuation thereof.

Honorary Secretary

Kanara Saraswat

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Vice President: **Geeta V. Yennemadi**

Chairman: **Rajaram D. Pandit**

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EXAMINATION RESULTS

Students who have passed in the various examinations held in Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore and other parts of the country, are requested to send their details in the following proforma to the Editor, Kanara Saraswat, before 31 July, 2012.

Name (in full):

Address and Telephone No.:

Examination passed and Board / University:

Marks obtained (Please enclose a photocopy of the Marks Sheet duly endorsed):

Merit or Prize/s obtained:

Photographs will be accepted only of those students who obtained 80% and above in SSCE/HSCE/ICSE/CBSE, and above 75% for graduates.

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We invite articles from youngsters for publishing under '**The Young Viewpoint**', from our Scientists under '**Science & Technology**' and from all readers under '**Down Memory Lane**'. Articles may be upto 800 words long.
Attention Children - Please send your short stories, essays, poems or drawings to us for publishing under "**Kiddies' Corner**".



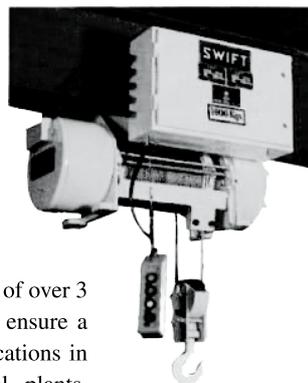
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From The President's Desk.....

I would like to begin this month's write-up with a short story which I recently read.

There was this 6 year old boy who wanted to get a part in the play being organized at the annual school day and had set his sights on a particular part in that play. On the day that the parts were to be handed out to the students, his mom along with a friend of hers went to collect him from school. The anxious mom told her friend that her son badly wanted to take part in the play and that she hoped that he would get some role in the play, if not the part that he desired to get. After school, when all the kids came running out, this young boy ran up to his mother full of excitement with a big smile on his face and on reaching his mother, exclaimed aloud "Mom, guess what? I have been selected to clap and cheer".

Any fact facing us is not as important as our attitude towards it, for that determines our success or failure. The way you think about a fact may defeat you before you ever do anything about it. You are overcome by the fact because you think you are. There is no way to overstate the importance of a positive attitude in your life. In many ways, we're alike; however, one little difference almost always makes a big difference. The little difference is attitude. If you call your setbacks – 'experiences', and remember that every experience develops some latent force within you, you will grow vigorous and happy, however adverse your circumstances may seem to be. If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude. Happiness doesn't depend on any external conditions; it is governed by our mental attitude.

You are your most important critic. There is no opinion as vitally important to your well-being as the opinion you have of yourself. If you have a positive attitude and see the brighter side of things in any situation you are on the right track to leading a happy life.

Every day, in every moment, you get to exercise choices that will determine whether or not you will become a great person, living a great life. Greatness is not something predetermined, predestined or carved into your fate by forces beyond your control. Greatness is always in the moment of the decision. It's in your choice whether to be defeated by a situation or see it as a challenge...an opportunity to do something better.

When you make a mistake in life, or get ridiculed or rejected, develop an attitude of looking at mistakes as detours on the road to success, and view ridicule as ignorance. After a rejection, take a good hard look at all your blessings....in the form of health, relatives, friends, wealth etc. Things you are endowed with... that you often take for granted, like life itself. Think of the many things you are proud of that you have done so far. Always view rejection as part of a single performance, not as a turndown of the performer.

Do remember that you cannot control what happens to you, but you can control your attitude toward what happens to you, and in that, you will be mastering change rather than allowing it to master you.

After all, as it is rightly said, "I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination".

– Suresh S. Hemmady

Kanara Saraswat Association presents

15th Saraswat Sangeet Sammelan 2012.

Commemorating the Centenary Year of Pandit Pannalal Ghosh Musical Tributes by Pratima Tilak to Smt Kousalya Manjeshwar

Our Chief Guest Shri Yashwant Deo - Sitarist, Music Composer, Poet and above all a respected Guru of innumerable Saraswats will inaugurate the Programme

Smt. Jayawanti Hirebet, well-known Vocalist has kindly consented to be the Guest of Honour

18th to 20th August 2012 - 2 Sessions per day : Morning 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and
Evening 5 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.

Venue : Smt. Indirabai Kallianpurkar Hall of Balak Vrinda Education Society

Off. Talmakiwadi, Mumbai - 400007

Saturday, 18th August 2012

9.30 a.m.	Nihar Kabinittal - Flute Recital - Shantanu Shukla on Tabla
10.30 a.m.	Sameera Koppikar Sharma - Light Vocal
11.30 a.m.	
Manvandana III :	An audio-visual on Saraswats in Sugam Sangeet presented by P. G. Burde and Ajay Krishnarao Ginde
5.00 p.m.	Milind Raikar - Violin - Shantanu Shukla on Tabla
6.00 p.m.	Tulika Ghosh - Classical Vocal
7.00 p.m. onwards	Dhruba Ghosh - Sarangi - Yogesh Samsi on Tabla

Sunday 19th August 2012

9.30 a.m.	Mihika Bolangady - Classical Vocal
10.30 a.m.	Dr. Leena Gangolli - Classical Vocal
11.30 a.m.	Girish Sanzgiri - Classical Vocal
5.00 p.m.	Mallika Kilpady - Classical Vocal
6.00 p.m.	Anuradha Kuber - Classical Vocal
7.00 p.m. onwards	Nayan Ghosh - Sitar with Ishaan on Tabla

Monday 20th August 2012

9.30 a.m.	Kalyani Hemmady - Classical Vocal
10.30 a.m.	N. Abhay - Guitar - Carnatic Classical
12.00 p.m.	Tabla Solo by Dr. Santosh Chandavarkar with Siddhesh Bicholkar on Lehra
5.00 p.m.	Pratima Tilak - Classical Vocal
6.00 p.m.	Tabla Solo by Pt. Sadanand Naimpalli with Jayesh Rege and Sameer Naimpalli on Lehra
7.00 p.m. onwards	Pt. Nityanand Haldipur - Flute accompanied by Pt. Omkar Gulvady on Tabla

Tabla Accompanists

Pt. Omkar Gulvady, Arun Hattangadi, Jayesh Rege, Dr. Santosh Chandavarkar, Ishaan Ghosh, Yogesh Samsi, Prasad Padhye, Kaushik Basu, Uday Raikar, Shantanu Shukla.

Harmonium Accompanists

Hemant Hemmady, Sudhir Nayak and Siddhesh Bicholkar

Gurunath S Gokarn, Hon. Sec. Kala Vibhag
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HIGHLIGHTS OF SANGEET SAMMELAN

The present Sangeet Sammelan is organized to

- Commemorate Pandit Pannalal Ghosh Centenary Year
- Remember Kausalya Manjeshwar - Musical tributes will be offered by her vocalist disciple Smt. Pratima Tilak on this occasion.
- Nayampally Abhay (of Pune) also known as Guitar N. Abhay in music circles for his contribution in bringing Guitar into the main stream of Carnatic Classical Music supported by Satish Krishnamurthy.
- Music Critic Prakash Burde and Ajay Krishnarao Ginde will present an audio-visual on well-known and popular Saraswats in Sugam Sangeet with the top vocalists and instrumentalists during Manvandana III.
- For the benefit of the audience attending the programme, catering arrangement is made on all the three days.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor, I am happy to have received a "Spiritual Treat" from the President's Desk in the June issue of KS. "Maturity" is truly a golden quality of genuinely evolved person. It neither comes with ageing, nor education, nor with any training, just as wisdom does not come with knowledge. One needs to be patient 'observer' of the ongoing drama of life, learn from experiences, understand one's own self before making judgements about other's behaviour. Maturity alone makes one accept the mistakes and forgive others for similar mistakes. I must thank the President for giving beautiful insight into the most valuable human quality that makes life meaningful. Maturity can help one make right decisions and harmonize one's relationships both in family and out into the world.

Dr. Sumanda Vasant Karnad, Dharwad

Dear Editor, Reading of the two articles by Sumant G. Beltangdy, Mumbai was very thought provoking. It would be worth, Anna Hazare takes up his suggestions to reach larger audience. If implemented, it will make great difference to our democracy and youth in our society. Govt offices will not only be professionally managed but will also be result oriented, free from corruption. Very good suggestions for the senior citizens in politics.

I am sure Sumantmam has Email id of his own. Kanara Saraswat should make it mandatory for authors to state their Email id under their name so that there can be better interaction with the

author. If he publishes such articles in national news papers it will have great impact.

Guru Amembaal

We had published the above referred articles in Feb and March 2012 issues. This letter was received then. We apologise for the delay in printing..... Editor

Dear Editor, Although Chitrapur Saraswats may have originally been Smartha Brahmins following the Guru of the Gaudapadacharya Math, Kavale, there seems to be a break in the link between this group and the Math, around the 16 th century. Subsequently when prevailed upon to produce their Guru by the Keladi King of Nagar Samsthan, this group was graced with the arrival of Shrimad Parijnanashram Swamiji I who was then installed as our Mathadhipati and Guru. This Yativarya was the Shishya of the Shankaracharya of Dwarka and was based in their Kashi Math. (Ref: Guruparampara Charitra - Saraswatanche Moola by V.G. Joshi). Incidentally the first Shankaracharya of Dwarka was Hastamalaka Acharya, a disciple of Adi Shankaracharya, who hailed from Shrivalli or today's Shirali. So strictly speaking the present Guru Parampara of Shri Chitrapur Math does owe its lineage to Adi Shankaracharya, who in turn belonged to the lineage of Govinda Bhagavatpada and Shree Gaudapadacharya.

Dr Chaitanya Gulvady, Mumbai

Dear Editor, I am writing this in response to Chaitanya Ubhayakar's letter on Kaavya Rachana in the KS of June 2012, edition. This is in Konkani kaavya here under

काव्यारी व्यक्त केल्लें तागलें मत चैतन्याने सहमत जाता
ताक्का हो चैतन्यु मनाने ॐ

मांडता जे विचार तो चैतन्यु उभयकरू विचार ते मान्ता
हो चैतन्यु नाडकर्णीकारू ॐ

प्रगती जाल्या संगीतांतु काव्य प्रपंचांतु बदल आय्ला
विचारांतु विचार मांडच्यांतु

लया लय ताल नियम सगळे बदलु लागल्याती

बदलत्या समजाची रूची बदलु लागल्याती ॐ

साथु संगीताचे न्हयी संगीत साथाचे शब्द काव्याचे न्हयी
काव्य जाल्यां शब्दांचे

समाजु लागला धांव्वाक अति वेगु वेगाने तत्व तीं जुनीं
केल्यांती पुरोगामी मनाने ॐ

Chaitanya Nadkarni, Goregaon

Dear Editor, It was a life time experience for me to deliver a keynote address before an almost 2000-strong audience gathered at the Edison Convention Center [New Jersey] for the Konkani Sammelan organized by North American Konkani Association (NAKA) held on 29th,30th of June and 1st of July.

The speciality of this Sammelan was inclusion of a lot of Konkani programmes e.g. speeches, talks by kids, debates, kanyos, songs and plays. Secondly veteran personalities like T Mohandas Shenoy [Ex Vice President of Infosys], Shyam Benegal, Kalpana Lajmi, Amrita Rao and Preetika Rao etc added the glamour and attraction to the programme.

My speech in pure konkani was highly appreciated though I was a little nervous at the beginning as to how they will respond. I made them take an oath to maintain konkani atmosphere at home and try to propagate konkani at all levels. Next day to my surprise many Amchis approached me sharing that this kind of dose was really needed. Pradeep Amladi's 'Brain Storm' kept us spellbound and executive chef Floyd Cardoz's 'Indianised recipes' were mouth-watering.

Kudos to the organizers for their excellent boarding and lodging arrangements. It is a memory to be cherished for long.

Arun S.Ubhayakar, Atlanta

Dear Editor, It was heartening to read from the press reports that two 'amchis' Mr. Shyam Benegal and Ms. Amrita Rao were honoured at the Konkani Sammelan held in the US of A. That Mr. Shyam

Benegal, the internationally acclaimed film maker, was honoured does not come as a surprise but I am especially elated that the organizers thought of honoring a simple, straightforward and down to earth actor like Amrita Rao when the glittering and showy world of Bollywood has all but ignored her. She has created her own niche in this most competitive industry without any godfather to push her, without any rich and famous parental background and most important of all, without losing the Bhanap culture of not exposing herself. She is not involved in any scandals or gossips or affairs. Whatever limited films she got, she excelled herself purely due to her acting talent and the simple, girl next door image. So much so that even Mr. Shyam Benegal who has earlier cast other amchis like Girish Karnad and Anant Nag thought it fit to give her a role in one of his films. I do not know if KSA has honoured her so far but if not, it should be on their top agenda.

Bravo, Amrita. You will go a long long way. You have endeared yourself to us all.

Kishore B. Jothady Hon. PSI., APSI

Dear Editor, The July issue had, after a long time three articles on Sanskrit language: Dr. Chaitanya Gulvady's series on Sanskrit logos, 'Rasaaswaad' by Krishnanand Mankikar and last but not the least, the delightful article on subhashitas by Anand Kadle.

I am sure that such articles go a long way in developing among our youth, an interest in learning the language.

I look forward to further articles in the series by Geervanaprathishtha.

Also, kudos to Sudhir Kodkanimam for his contribution towards holding up the flag of our Konkani language!

Satish Kallianpur, Hyderabad

Dear Editor, The article on Sanskrit Subhashitas by Anandmam Kadle of Shirali is extremely well written. He has picked up beautiful subhashitas and explained the same in a very lucid way, with telling effect. We look forward to more such articles from him.

Krishnanand Mankikar, Vakola Santacruz

KONKANI SAMMELAN 2012

at Edison, New Jersey from 29th June to 1st July



Sammelan Registration was smooth and easy in the lobby



During the Opening Ceremony dance children spell out KONKANI



Finale of Opening Ceremony Dance AMMI KON AMMI KONKANI. L-R Madhura Pai Kamat, Anoushka Karnad, Gauri Padbidri, Shruti and Santosh Gunavante, Pournima Trasi, Deepali Karekatte



Dr Gopal Bhandarkar Sammelan President and his wife, Pratibha lighting a lamp at the Sammelan Opening Ceremony, Sat June 30, 2012



Konkani Vidwaan Arun Ubhayakar with Chief Guest Mohandas Pai compare notes during lunch



Shyam Benegal, Kalpana Lajmi and Amrita Rao judged a festival of Konkani one-act plays

KONKANI SAMMELAN 2012 (Contd.)



Best Konkani Play PA MA KA SANGHACHE MEETING led by Shanta Chikermane



JAGO INDIA an inspiring skit from the Toronto contingent



Author Rekha Rao sharing one of her stories with under 18 Konkanis during Kanyo Time



Amgale Parab: L-R back row Deepa Dhareshwar, Shruti Gunavante, Aparna Kalbag-Buddhikot, Deepali Karekatte, Vrushali Trasi, Front - Rhea Kalyanpur, Vijaya Bailoor.



Gokulashtami: L-R Nishadh Karekatte, Nikhil Shah, Atharv Trasi, Rishabh Karekatte, Pranav Olety, Pranav Naimpally, Advait Bantval, Arjun Amladi, Atharva Kalyanpur



Santosh and Shruti Gunavante compete in KONKANIS GOT TALENT with a Bharatnatyam composition

KONKANI SAMMELAN 2012 (Contd.)



Saat Saheliyan, a Konkani version of a popular Hindi Song, presented by the Houston group



Shivaparivar L-R Aashika Nayak (Ganpati), Roma Trikannad (Parvati), Hansa Naiyampalli (Shiva),



Winners of KONKANIS GOT TALENT Group Segment L-R Vishaka Nayak, Nisha Shenoy, Rhea Kalyanpur, Sonal Shah, Anoushka Karnad, Isha Trasi



L-R Avanti Gulvadi, Isha Rao, Anoushka Karnad in a violin interlude



Mahalakshmi Shenoy being felicitated by Nina Padukone



Namita Kallianpur performing Western Classical Arias during EXCEPTIONAL KONKANIS

KONKANI SAMMELAN 2012 (Contd.)



Sandhya (Golikeri) Sanjana blew away the audience with her jazz rendition of Bhagyada Lakshmi



Neil Padukone and bandmates accompanying Sandhya (Golikeri) Sanjana during Bhagyada Lakshmi



Tarana ensemble L - R Ishar, Avanti, Anoushka, Atharv, Pranav, Arjun, Padma, Gayathri, Varun, Prabhakar Betrabet, Niyati, Aarav, Sahil, Advait



Reuniting with old friends L-R Gurnath and Lata Bijoor with Shobhan and Prakash Bantwal



Young Konkanis played a very active role throughout the S sammelan

KONKANI SAMMELAN 2012

Keeping the Konkani Spirit Vibrant and Alive

By Nina Padukone

Chair, Entertainment Committee; Executive Committee Member, Konkani S sammelan 2012

The atmosphere was positively electric at the 2012 Konkani S sammelan, held at the Raritan Convention Center, in Edison New Jersey, USA. For 3 days, Friday June 29-Sunday July 1, more than 1800 Konkanis from all over North America, India and other parts of the world gathered together to celebrate myriad aspects of Konkani culture, including our language, history, spirituality, literature, music, dance, performing and visual arts, games, food, as well as the professional and artistic achievements of exceptional individuals from the Konkani diaspora.

The 2012 S sammelan is the biggest to date and every aspect of this S sammelan has been heralded as being exemplary by those who attended this unique event. Based on the enthusiastic feedback, it seems that the S sammelan fulfilled its mission, spelled out in the S sammelan's theme: **Connecting Konkanis, Heart to Heart, Home away from Home.**

The S sammelan was organized by a dynamic group of volunteers, who put together this landmark event in record time—just 14 months (S sammelans usually involve 2 or more years of prep time). The Executive Committee included **Damodar Baliga** and **Nina Padukone**, 2 of the 3 founders of NAKA (North American Konkani Association), the umbrella organization that sponsors the S sammelans with seed money. They also played a key role in organizing the very first Konkani S sammelan in 1996 in New Jersey. Other members of the Executive Committee were **Vasudev Nayak**, Vice President **Ravi Shenoy**, and S sammelan President, **Dr Gopal Bhandarkar**.

Many people who came from outside the Edison NJ area, stayed with friends nearby. But the majority checked into 2-3 hotels, all within a stone's throw from each other. Shuttle buses from all the hotels conveniently ferried people back and forth all day.

Here are some interesting facts about the S sammelan

- The Honored Guests included film luminaries Padmabhushan Shyam Benegal, Kalpana Lajmi, Amrita Rao, Preetika Rao and animation pioneer Ram Mohan ; ex-CFO of Infosys, T.V. Mohandas Pai; and Konkani Vidwaan Arun Ubhayakar; exceptional performers Sandhya (Golikeri) Sanjana, Mahalakshmi Shenoy and Pradip Amladi, and Basti Vaman Shenoy.

- Among our *Konkani bhavandas*, female attendees (966) clearly outnumbered males (849). So when it came to panchaitika, the sessions were truly marathons.

S sammelan festivities began at 6 pm on Friday June 29, when the S sammelan Committee welcomed guests with a red carpet welcome to all attendees, in the true spirit of *athithi devo bhava*. The evening on Day 1 was kept open for everyone to socialize, meet long-lost relatives and friends, and make some new friends as well. Every guest was greeted in traditional Konkani style; women were welcomed with haldi-kumkum, rose water and a gajra which included a hairclip to fix the flowers to short hair. At the entrance a large image of Ganesh cast his benevolent gaze on all the attendees and ensured that all obstacles would be removed during the 3-day event. A replica of a "rath" used in traditional "Theru" festivals stood nearby, decorated with images of our Swamijis, who also showered their blessings on the assembly.

For the first time the under 18 group enjoyed their own "mini S sammelan," with special festivities in the Grand Ballroom, organized by an amazing group of young mothers. On Friday they began with an icebreaker to introduce young Konkanis from different parts of North America; and a DJ spun music to get the young crowd moving. For everyone

else the evening began with delicious cocktails and snacks. At the end of the evening everyone moved into the beautifully decorated Dining hall for a scrumptious dinner of Konkani dishes. The wonderful evening was just a small taste of the amazing experiences yet to come.

The official Sarmelan opening at 9 am sharp Saturday morning, began with a dazzling invocation dance by more than 50 dancers, ranging in age from 3-65 years. Neena Karnad and Moshumi Balwalli created dramatic choreography that traced the spiritual journey of Konkanis from awakening to enlightenment. The music and dance transitioned into joyous Konkani anthem: *Ammi Kon? Ammi Konkani!*—which highlighted the notable characteristics of the Konkani community. The song was specially written and composed for the Sarmelan by Shyam Amladi, music was also provided by Samarath Nagarkar, who sang the lyrics along with Usha Kallianpurkar. National anthems of America and India were sung. The Sarmelan was officially declared open with the lighting of a diya by the President's wife, and welcome remarks by Sarmelan President Dr Gopal Bhandarkar. Chief Guest Mohandas Pai gave a rousing Opening Address, asking the community to ensure that no Konkani child be deprived of education and other basic needs, and urging us to remain an increasingly progressive community – encouraging all of us to 'give back' in whatever way we can, to make this possible.

Later, Shyam Benegal delivered an inspiring Keynote Address on Arts and Culture. He also spoke about the artistic and cultural history of Konkanis as well as the individuals and institutions that have enriched our lives culturally. In addition to sharing his vision for the future of arts and culture, he shared his insights covering his 7-year term as a Rajya Sabha member, where he was nominated to represent the Artistic and Cultural community of India.

A videotaped message by our our Mathadhipati PP Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji was shared with the gathering. Arun Heble and Pramod Mavinkurve made a brief presentation of community-based, philanthropic activities facilitated by the guidance and blessings of Swamiji. The message,

the core of which is universal to all Konkanis, was highly inspiring and greatly appreciated by all.

The 2012 Sarmelan was associated with many firsts. It offered something for the body, mind and soul. Events on the main stage and 2 ballrooms highlighted the excellence, innovations and achievements of Konkanis from various fields, filling everyone with a wonderful sense of Konkani pride and belonging.

- Each day began with a Yoga session led by **Shruti Balwalli-Udyawer** from 6-6.45 am. On Sunday Shruti also conducted a yoga workshop for under 18 kids, where she creatively wove the different asanas into an engaging story, presented on video.

- On Saturday, film luminaries **Shyam Benegal, Kalpana Lajmi, Amrita Rao, Preetika Rao** and **Ram Mohan** (the father of animation in India) were all feted as they generously shared their insights and perspectives about their individual and collective contributions on the Silver Screen. The event began with a video homage that traced the trajectory of Konkanis in films and their exceptional contributions from the silent era to the present day. The video was created by Sunayana Nadkarni-Prabhu and Kunal Savkur.

- Goan Chef **Floyd Cardoz**, winner of the coveted title, Bravo's Top Chef Masters, was celebrated for his unparalleled success in an interview by food blogger **Pia Padukone**. Chef Cardoz, who has broken barriers and put Konkani food on the culinary map, shared his experiences about running successful restaurants in the food capital of the world: New York. He also announced the winners of the recipe contest Top Chef Konkani

- **Dr Vijay Balse**, winner of the prestigious Jeopardy Tournament of Champion, a highly competitive quiz show on TV, was felicitated during the Sarmelan. But first, he hosted a Konkani version of Jeopardy. This "khel" was followed by another fun-filled episode called "Lyrics Vissornakka," developed and hosted by **Anuradha (Nadkarni) Thadani**, who was also the Sarmelan's Master of Ceremonies.

- **Arun Ubhayakar**, a Konkani Vidwaan, and lifelong Konkani Activist, Educator and Writer

from Mallapur, gave a wonderful talk entitled **The Beauty of Our Konkani Language**. It included the origins of the Konkani language and new developments in our mother tongue. His gift to the Sannelan – **Jai Konkani!** – an evocative song that he wrote and composed was presented live by a group of local musicians (**Sanjay Vinekar, Suresh and Sujata Benegal, Vivek Kaisare and Maitreya Padukone**). Ubhayakar also judged another Sannelan first: a Vaad-Vivaad in chaste Konkani by 10 adults, who debated the pros and cons of a provocative subject: **Are Our Samskaras (eg. Moonji) Still Relevant Today?** While 4 teenagers under 18 (born and brought up in North America) blew away the audience with their passion for—and command of—our beloved mother-tongue

- **Konkanis got Talent**, a much awaited talent contest was a huge hit on the Main Stage; it featured participants from 5-70 years. In the Grand Ballroom many others presented a variety of entertainments. **Mrs Rekha (Rao) Kaval**, a prolific writer of stories in Konkani and Marathi presented one of her stories during this session, and later during a "kanyo" session for Konkanis under 18. Both groups were cheered enthusiastically by audiences who were proud to see that the community is bursting with talent

- The day also included several workshops and seminars that allowed for serious immersion in a wide range of subjects including **Who Wants To Be An Entrepreneur**, a spiritual seminar on Hinduism by **Swami Shanthanandaji**, **A Guide For The College Bound**, and a **Philanthropy Workshop**. The **Creative Writing Workshop** featured 3 writers, award-winning author Shobhan Bantwal, Savitri Babulkar and Vanita Braver, a children's book author, in conversation with another writer, Mr Shanbag. Some of these authors also took time to read to the youth under 18 during 'Kanyo Time.' Ms Babulkar also conducted a Creative Writing workshop for <18 Konkanis, which was greatly appreciated by everyone

- After dinner on Saturday Konkani musicians gave brilliant performances on 3 *different stages*, presenting different genres of music:

- **Light Music** featuring an Antakshari contest

on the main stage, was followed by singers who competed for top honors as solo vocalists. **Ashwini Hemmady, Prashant Lotlikar** as well as **Mohan and Jayanthi Kamath** won top honors in Idol. While **Shanta Chikarmane and Neeta Shenoy** aced Antakshari

- **Hindustani Classical Music** in the ballroom featured **Aruna Kalle** on sarangi, **Deepti Kaval** and **Samarth Nagarkar**, vocals, along with a 15-minute documentary created by **Sanjay Vinekar** and **Samarth Nagarkar** (with contributions from **Lalith Rao, Ramesh Gangoli** and others). It highlighted Konkani musical legends who helped keep Classical Music alive when it lost royal patronage.

- **Jazz/Rock/Fusion** in the Grand Ballroom headlined **Sandhya (Golikeri) Sanjana** with **Neil Padukone, Vernon Kamath**, young **Divya and Aditya Rao** and several others. Sandhya's rendition of Bhagyada Lakshmi with jazz touches simply blew everyone away with its virtuosity and creativity.

- The highlight of Sunday morning was a festival of Konkani one-act plays. **Shyam Benegal, Kalpana Lajmi** and **Amrita Rao** whole-heartedly entered into the spirit of the event and judged the 4 plays, recognizing the best of local Konkani theatrical talent—the best playwright, director, leading and supporting actors and best stage effects.

- An ensemble of tabla players, vocalists and violinists, all under 14 years presented another gem of a performance on Sunday morning. They were coached by **Prabhakar Betrabet** and his daughter, **Gayatri (Betrabet) Bantwal**.

- In Konkani "Kowtuk" Konkanis from different backgrounds were felicitated for their achievements in business, research, science, arts and literature.

- **Dr Vijay Balse** was honored for his achievement in Performing Arts. Vijay topped the 2010 Jeopardy Tournament of Champions—outscored 14 other champions from previous seasons. He is a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in Chemical Engineering and now a Consultant to Industry.

- **Dr Prasad Kadle** was honored for Excellence

in Technology. A B.Tech from IIT and a Ph.D. in Mech Engineering he is Director of Advanced Engineering at Delphi Thermal Systems, NY and has 57 patents in automotive air-conditioning. He is the recipient of two "Boss" Kettering Awards—the highest technical recognition in GM/Delphi and has been inducted into Delphi's Innovation Hall of Fame.

- **NAKA Awards** were presented for lifetime achievements in various fields: **Dr José Pereira**, recently awarded the Padma Bhushan by the Government of India for Literature and Education, was also honored at the Sarmelan for his contributions to Konkani language and culture.

- Another spectacular performance was Amgele Parab. It was performed by an ensemble of over 50 performers who used dance, songs and music, to recreate the joys of various Konkani festivals. The pinnacle of this item was the *Teru*, which was performed to the chanting of *slokhas*, blowing of the conch and the sound of the *ghaanta*. The "Teru" featured a working model of a chariot pulled through the auditorium by Konkani bhaktas. The atmosphere was so vibrant that it almost felt like an important Matha or temple Theru back in India!

- The event that brought down the curtain on this amazing Sarmelan was called **Exceptional Konkanis**—individuals whose artistic ability was of a special caliber. The event included performances by Soprano **Namita Kallianpurkar**, who transported us with arias that she is often invited to perform professionally with several choirs; brilliant lyricist, composer and vocalist **Shyam Amladi**, who collaborated with bansuri player **Vivek Ullal** and table player **Maitreya Padukone** to tell a story using the various instruments (including voice alaap) in raag Hamsadhvani; **Sandhya Golikeri Sanjana** dazzled the audience with selections from her album Navarasa that bridges both Eastern and Western influences with lyrics in Hindi and English and a unique fusion of Hindustani classical, Jazz and other Western styles. She was accompanied by Neil (guitar) and Maitreya Padukone (table). And finally...

- **Pradip Amladi** a motivational speaker, illusionist, and purveyor of mind games, offered

Mynd Storm, his signature presentation that engaged the audience in interactive experiments that inspired, transformed, entertained and mystified like nothing else.

A remarkable thing about this Sarmelan was the number of young people who stepped forward to volunteer, be involved, perform, lead, follow and immerse themselves in every aspect of the Sarmelan. Without them, the Sarmelan would have lost a great deal of its luster. And we are all extremely proud and happy that the next generation of Konkanis is not just ready, but wholeheartedly and joyfully willing to firmly take the baton and move this wonderful enterprise forward.

All these memorable moments added up to overwhelming emotions that far exceeded anybody's expectations. Wrapped in the warm embrace of the community, every single Konkani experienced a wonderful sense of belonging and a realization that he/she is a vital member of a truly amazing cultural group. The community spirit and pride kindled in everyone was surely the best part of the Sarmelan. And that is truly priceless!

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Catching a Glimpse of our very own Bollywood Divas

– REPORTED BY SMITA BHAT



It was a thrilling moment for NRI Amchis when it was announced by the committee members of the Konkani Sammelan in Edison New Jersey, that one of the prime events of their 2012 annual convention would be "Konkanis on the Silver Screen" -a thoughtful gesture, to honour and felicitate the veterans who have contributed greatly to Indian cinema and encourage the established and the budding talents from the Konkani speaking community who are looking to carve their name in the industry.

The guests of honour to be felicitated were none other than director duo Shyam Benegal and Kalpana Lajmi, established Bollywood actress Amrita Rao, budding South Indian actress Preetika Rao and film animation expert Ram Mohan.

29th June at 6pm, the Red Carpet Welcome, saw 1800 amchis attending the Sammelan from all across USA... making the Sammelan a 'hit' from day one.

Shyam Benegal and Kalpana Lajmi enchanted the crowd with their majestic appearance while the NRI youngsters waited with breathtaking excitement to catch a glimpse of their favourite Bollywood actress Amrita Rao and her younger sister Preetika who were mobbed for pictures.

30th June morning, saw the main felicitation function, organised in a 'talk show' format hosted by Arun Shivdasani. Each celebrity was called upon the stage individually, after their respective audio-visual presentations were played on the big screen, enlightening the audience about their unique contribution to cinema. Each celebrity was interviewed by the host for few minutes and then asked to address the crowd individually.

Kalpana Lajmi read out notes about Gurudutt, her famous director uncle, who is still revered upon by the film-industry as a legendary pioneer in cinema. She spoke of her early association with Shyam Benegal whom she has assisted in her teenage.

Ram Mohan kept the audience spellbound recounting his experiences in the early film-animation days, its challenges and about mastering the art.

Preetika Rao impressed the crowd with her AV-presentation, which spoke about her journey as a successful model turned film-journalist and also a Bollywood columnist, who has recently debuted in South Indian movies playing main-leads in Tamil, Telugu and now in Kannad cinema.

Amrita Rao stole the hearts of the audience, by addressing the crowd with a "kash assat tummi". She spoke about her film journey which started at age fourteen and about her decade long contribution to Bollywood... rare for any film actress to achieve in today's times. Interestingly... this Konkani actress who is an early recipient of the prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke Academy Award and also MF Hussain's chosen muse after Madhuri Dixit, ... won her first 'Best Actress' award for 'Welcome to Sajjanpur' directed by none other than our very own Shyam mam!

The legendary Shyam Benegal addressed the crowd about his early association with director Guru Dutt who had left him in 'awe' during their close encounters in those days. Benegal spoke about his passion for cinema and the challenges of being a director. He also spoke highly about Lajmi and Amrita and his proud association with both of them.

1st July morning saw Benegal, Lajmi and Amrita Rao judge the four skits which lasted for 10-15 mins each. They chose "Aakash Vaani Cho Ghotalo" as the winning skit which was written by the late Shyam Tagarsi's mother.

All the dignitaries mingled well with the crowd. Indeed... the NRI amchi's were left proud and satisfied with their close encounter's with their very own Bollywood Divas.

कोंकणी संमेलन २०१२ न्युजर्सी

रेखा राव (कावळ)

मगली चल्ली रजिता व जांवई रोहित कलबाग हांगल- मितीं मावका न्युजर्सीचें कोंकणी संमेलन पोळोंच्याक मॅळळें आनि सहभागी जांवच्या जाल्ले. हांवे संमेलनाचो मस्त आनंद घेतलो. आमगलो कोंकणी समाज सान आस्स आनि जगभर पसरला. तांका सर्वांक वट्ट हाडका, तांगले स्नेहसंबंध वाडुंका, आमगली कोंकणी भास वृद्धिंगत कोरका, आमगले कोंकणी संस्कार, रुढी, परंपरा आजच्या तरुणी पिढीक कोळका म्होणू हें संमेलन नॉर्थ अमेरिकन कोंकणी असोशियन (NAKA) तर्फे प्रती दोन वरसा थावनू एकफंता अयोजित करताती. पयले संमेलन १९९६ वरस न्युजर्सी जाल्लेले. आनि आतंचे सोळा वर्षांचे संमेलन २९, ३० जून व एक जुलैक एडिसन न्युजर्सी जाल्लें. या संमेलनाक १८९५ जान अमेरिका, कॅनडा, यूके व भारत थावनू आईलीं. Connecting Konkanis, Heart to heart, Home away from home ही हाजी मुख्य थीम आशिली, ती अगदी समर्थ्यकरित्या, परिपूर्णपणे पाळली. कला, साहित्य, विज्ञान, तंत्रज्ञान, आरोग्य, खेळ, सिनेमा अशी प्रत्येक क्षेत्रांतुल्या तज्ञ, कुशल व्यक्तिक आपोनु तांगलो सत्कार तर कॅल्लोची जाल्यारी तांगले क्षेत्रांतूले अनुभव, मार्गदर्शन, सूचना आमगल्या लोकांक दिल्यां. तांतल्याथाई पावयल्यां. तीन वरसाचें चेडू धोर्नु ऐंशी वरसाच्या ज्येष्ठ नागरिकाक हांगा मस्त शिकूक, आयकूच्याक पोळोंच्याक मॅळळें. प्रत्येकाले मनोरंजन तर जाल्लेची. जाल्यारी आपणाली मस्त वरसधोर्नु मॅळनातलीं संबधीक, जुनी मित्र-मैत्रिणी मॅळळीं. अनेक नवीन परिचय जाल्ले. एकमेकांगल्या विचारांची देवाणघेवाण जाल्ली, खास आमचिगले रुचकर जॅवण व पदार्थांचो स्वाद घेवच्यांक मॅळळो. सानपणाचो, गांवचो उगडासू जाल्लो. मन विशेष आनंदाने, समाधानाने भोर्नु आयलें.

ह्या वरसाचो मुख्य अतिथी टी.व्ही. मोहनदास पै आनि प्रमुख वक्ते शाम बेनेगल आनि कोंकणी विद्वान अरुण उभयकर आशिले. अमृता राव, कल्पना लाजमी, राम मोहन हे सिनेसृष्टींतले खास अतिथी आशिले. पयले दिवसू २९ जूनाक सांजे ३ ते ५.४५ या वेळांतू रजिस्ट्रेशन जाल्लें, त्यावेळारी प्रत्येकाक तांगले नावाचे बॅच गळ्यांतू घालू दिल्ले. प्रत्येक कुटूंबाक 'कोंकणी संमेलन' बरयलेली ग्रीन कॅन्हावासाची पिशवी, तांतू 'स्मृती' हे सुविनियर, प्रोग्राम गाईड आनि आमचिगले खाण (कॅळे, कणगा कचरी, मिठाई, उंडो, साठ) आशिले पॅकेट व उदकाची बाटली आशिली. सुशोभित बागलांथावनू भीतरी वतना दोन्नी बाजूनी गुलाबा

उदाक, गुलाबा पाकळ्या घालनु स्वागत कॅल्लें. प्रत्येक बायलमनुष्येक हेअरपीन लावनू मोगत्या गजरो दिल्लो. प्रवेशद्वारा लागी गणपतीगली होडी, गोमटी मूर्ती पूजे साहित्यासहित दवरलेलीं. चारी दिकाने रंगीबेरंगी फुल्लं आकर्षकपणे रचुनु दवरलेलीं. ताज्जे इदरारी आमगल्या चार स्वाम्यांगले फोटो आणि एकू सानू सुबक तेरु आशिल्लो. आमगल्या मठाचो, संस्काराचो सदैव उगडासू कोर्नु दितालो. होडी रिसेप्शन एरिया आशिली. मुखारी सजयलेलो हॉड डायनिंग हॉल, बाजूक मुख्य रंगमंच, ताज्जे बाजूक लाईनीने ग्रँड बॉल रूम, मिटींग रूम आनि ज्यूनियर बॉल रूम अशशी विंगड हॉल आशिले. ह्या हॉलांतू संपूर्ण दिवस कसलो ना कसलो कार्यक्रमू, वर्कशॉप, सेमिनार, चर्चा चालू असताली. त्यानिमीत मस्त फंता खई वचका हॉ प्रश्नु पडतालो. पयले दिवसू रजिस्ट्रेशनानंतर ६ ते ८ कॉकटेल आनि त्यानंतर खास आमचिगले रुचकर जॅवण आशिल्लें.

दुसरे दिवस ३० जूनाक सकाळीं ६ ते ६.४५ श्रुती बळवल्लीगलो योगा क्लास आशिलो. आम्मी धूर राबत आशिलीमितीं मस्त कार्यक्रमांक हजर राबू जाईनी. सकाळी ८.४५ क मुख्य स्टेजारी ओपनिंग सेरेमनीचो भव्य दिव्य कार्यक्रम आशिलो. संमेलनाखतीर खास कोंकणी पद बरयलेले. त्या गोमट्या संगीतारी डान्स, फ्यूजनांथावनू आमगली संस्कृती दाकयली. हांतू पांच वरसाचो धोर्नु साठ वरसा वयल्या वट्ट ५० कलाकारानी भाग घेत्तिलो. क्लासिकल, लाईट क्लासिकल, अभिनय हाज्जे सुंदर मिश्रण दोळयाक समाधान दिताल्लें. धंवे वस्त्र परिधान केलेल्यो नर्तिका तांगल्या हातातू ऑरेंज फुलांच्या माळा, कथक, भरतनाट्यम् पोषाक केलेल्यो नृत्यांगना आनि अखेरीक लाईटस घेवून नृत्य करतलीं चेडूवं आनि हॉड्डुं हाजो सुरेख संगम स्टेजारी पोळोच्यांक मॅळो. दिवां लावुनु कार्यक्रमाची सुरवात जाल्ली. मागिरी अमेरिका आनि भारताचे राष्ट्रगीत जाल्ले. संमेलनाचो अध्यक्ष डॉ. गोपाल भांडारकर हांगले स्वागताचे आनि मुख्य अतिथी मोहनदास पै गले भाषण जाल्ले. मागिरी कोंकणी सिनेमांतुल्या कलाकारांगली दृश्यं, स्लाईडस् पडदयारी दाकयलीं. तांगलो संक्षिप्त परिचय, अभिनय दाकयलो. अरुण शिवदासानीने अमृता राव, कल्पना लाजमी, शाम बेनेगल व राममोहन हांगली मुलाखत घेतली. प्रख्यात कोंकणी चैफ फ्लाईड कारडोस 'ब्राव्हो'चे चैफ अँवार्डी हाने जगाच्या नकाशारी कोंकणी जेवणाची पताका रोवली. तांने थोडीं प्रात्यक्षिकं दाकयलीं. संमेलनाच्या कुकिंक स्पर्धेच्या विजेत्यांक बक्षीस

दिलीं. दोनफारांच्या जेवणानंतर 'कोंकणी खळ' या कार्यक्रमांत विजय बलसे "जेपरडी" विजेता आणि "पद विसरनोका" हों पदांचो मनोरंजक कार्यक्रम जाल्ले. कोंकणी विद्वान अरुण उभयकरागले कोंकणी भास ह्या विषयारी गंमतीशीर भाषण जाल्ले. तान्ने बरयलेले संमेलनाचे पदंयी सादर केलें. माग्गीरी कोंकणी वाद-विवाद स्पर्धा जाल्ली. त्याचवेळारी ग्रॅडबॉल रुमांतू चेर्डवं आणि होंडांगले विविध करमणूकीचे कार्यक्रम जाल्ले. सांजे शाम बेनेगलाने भाषण केल्लें. 'कोंकणी गॉट टॅलेन्ट' हों विविध करमणूकीचो बहारदार कार्यक्रम जाल्लो. तांतू चेर्डवांनी होंडांनी नृत्य, गायन, वाद्यवृंद सादर कॅले. रात्री 'कोंकणी आयडोल' आणि 'अंताक्षरी' स्पर्धा आशिली. सांजेवेळारी ग्रॅडबॉल रुमांतू संध्या संजना हिगलो झाज, पयूजन, रॉक संगीताचो कार्यक्रम आशिलो. ज्यूनिर बॉल रुमांतू दीप्ती उपासनी (कावळ) आणि समर्थ नगरकर हांगले शास्त्रीय गायनाचो कार्यक्रम आशिलो. सकाळीं धोनपारां विंगड विंगड होंलांतू कोणाक उद्योजक जांवचे आस्स तांगलेखतीर तज्ञ व्यक्तिंगले मार्गदर्शनपर भाषण, चर्चा, चिन्मय मिशनाच्या स्वामी शांतानंदजीगले हिंदूइझम हें अध्यात्मिक भाषण, राइटिंग वर्कशॉप अशी सगळेकडे वर्कशॉप, सेमिनार चालू अशिलीं. ३ ते ९ वरसाच्या चेर्डवांक 'किडस् कॅम्प' आशिले. थंई चर्डवांगली काळजी तर घेतालींची जाल्यारी तांकां क्राफ्ट, पद शिकोनु बिझी दवरतालीं. अठरा वरसाच्या तोगूच्या चेर्डवांखतीर गेम्स, 'काण्योटाइम्' आशिले. तांतू माकाई काणी सांगची संधी मेळ्ळी. शोभन बंटवाळ, सावित्री बाबूलकर, वनिता ब्रेव्हर आणि अरुण शानभाग ह्या लेखकांगलो गुर्तु जाल्लो. तांगल्या वर्कशॉपाक उपस्थित राबू शकनी हाजे वाईट दिसले. अठरा वरसा वयल्या तरुणांखतीर पिंग-पॉग, सोशल इव्हेंट, आर्ट वर्कशॉप, क्रियेटिव्ह रायटिंग वर्कशॉप, राजकारण आणि सरकार, तांतू भाग कश्शी घेंवचो, लग्न, व्यवसाय, नोकरी, नातेसंबंध अशी अनेक सामाजिक प्रश्न व विषयांचेरी चर्चा माहिती आशिली. थंई हांव वचनी त्याशिवाय कोंकणी संस्कार, परंपरा हाजेरी विविध कार्यक्रम आशिले. एक जुलैक सकाळीं एकांकिका नाट्यस्पर्धा आशिल्यो. शाम बेनेगल, अमृता राव आणि कल्पना लाजमी परीक्षक आशिलीं. महालक्ष्मी शेणॉय हिगलो गायनाचो कार्यक्रम त्यानंतर कम्युनिटी परफॉर्मन्स आशिलो.

तान्नेंतर आमगल्या कोंकणी समाजांतूले विविध तज्ञ आणि विशेष कामगिरी केलेल्या व्यक्तिंगले "कोंकणी कौतुक" व बक्षिस समारंभ जाल्लो. आमगले विविध कोंकणी परब नृत्य, संगीत, अभिनय, नाट्यांतू गॉमटें सादर कॅल्लें. शाम अमलाडी, नमिता कल्याणपूर, संध्या संजना हानी शास्त्रीय संगीत, पॉप, झाज, सादर कॅल्लें. प्रदिप अमलाडीने "माइंड स्टॉर्म" हों माइंड

रिडींगाचो व जादूचो विंगड कार्यक्रम कोर्नु लोकांगलीं मन जिंकली. त्यानंतर संमेलनाचे अध्यक्ष डॉ. गोपाल भांडारकराने संमेलन सोहळ्याची समाप्ती जाहिर केली. कॉकटेल व डिनर, डान्स हों अखेरचो कार्यक्रम जाल्लो. इंडियातूली चालू प्रसिद्ध डी.जे गली सिनेसंगीत आयकतना व सगळ्यांक इतले उत्साहाने डान्स करताना पोळोनु हांव इंडियाभाय्यर आस अशी बिलकुल जाणयनाशिल्लें. ह्या सगळ्या वातावरणांतू पूनपॉळो, मडगणे, खिरी, खिचडी, प्रॉन्स करी, गोजू, आंबट, फ्रूटाचे सासम, वडी, पापड, लॉणचे, सुकें किल्ला रंदई खाताना अशी मजा याताली कि आम्ही इंडियातूल्या गावां आसती अशीची दिसतालें. भारता भाय्यर दूर अमेरिकांतू इतले गॉमटे, पद्धतशीर, सर्व कलासंपन्न परिपूर्ण कोंकणी संमेलन पोळोनु मन भोर्नु आयलें. मस्त आनंद व समाधान मॅळ्ळें. व्हांव 'कोंकणी' आस्स हाजो अभिमानू द्विगुणीत जाल्लो.

कोंकणी सम्मेलनांतू खास सादर केल्लेलें जे कोंकणि

जय कोकणि वर कोंकणि मात्रभास कोंकणि
अस्मितायि आमोलि ती मोत्यांची खणि॥१॥
संस्कृताचे एकरूप शौरसेनि प्राकृत
प्रादेशिक संगतिने कोंकणातुं प्रकट
रत्नागिरि कुडाळांतुं सरलें हिगलें सानपण
गोमांतक प्रदेशांतुं आयलें तिक्का यौवन॥१॥
सागराचे तीर हेंचि कोंकणिचे कुळार
पाचवे शेतां मद्ये होंव्ता नदि दृश्य सुंदर
सह्याद्रिचे शिखर दित्ता आकाशाक चुंबन
पाव्सा लया गायनाक कर्ता मोरु नर्तन॥२॥
मंजुनाथ शानभाग गोयांबाबा शेणयि
गौरीश काय्किणि आन दिनकर देसायि
कोंकणिक दिल्ले हात्री मस्त योगदान
ह्या अमर कोंकणिक आमि कोर्या वंदन॥३॥
सारस्वत, दैवज्ञ, वाणि, खार्वि, क्षत्रिय
कोंकण-मराठि, कुणबि, ख्रिश्चन, नवायत
सर्व समाजाने केल्ले कोंकणिचे रक्षण
विविधतेतु एकता हे आस्स मुख्य लक्षण॥४॥
परभाषा व्यामोहांतु विसोर्नाक्काति कोंकणि
स्थान दिव्यां मान राक्यां आमोलि ती जननि
भास हीचि संस्कृतिची एक सूत्रधारिणि
सुंदर सुश्राव्य भास आमका जांवका कोंकणि॥५॥

- अरुण एस. उभयकर

Gourishankar Shripad Chikramane

October 26, 1936 – June 30, 2012



**God saw you getting weary,
A cure was not to be,
He put His arms around you,
And whispered: Come to Me.
Although we laugh and seem carefree,
And make no outward show,
What it meant to lose you
No one will ever know..**

Deeply mourned by:

Wife – Nirmala

Daughter – Sucheta, Son-in-law – Bipin, Grandson – Rishi Hattiangadi
Chikramanes, Murdeshwars, Hattangdis, Khambadkones, Hattiangadis,
Nadkarnis, Vokethurs, Irdes, Mallapurs, Basrurs, Kalyanpurs, Haridas-s,
Nairs, Parmars, Pandits
Relatives & Friends



Mr. Umesh Ramkrishna Bhat

(1912-1980)

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100th Birth Anniversary

Jyotika and Rohidas Shenoy

Sheela and Vivek Maskeri

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May 16, 2012



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50 years later, we celebrate those years
We thank the Almighty for the blessings he showers

With lots of love
Vinaya, Gaurang, Ravi, Meenal, Yatin, Jyotsna
Ruhan, Avni, Kabir, Anaya
Gokarns, Baidurs, Katres, Raos, Surkunds, Arurs,
Madyars, Rakhs, Lokurs, Mavinkurves, and Pandits,



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Profile

KSHAMA AJIT GANGOLLI
ROTARIAN AND SOCIAL WORKER



Kshama Gangolli has been a Rotarian for the past 9 years and was elected as President of the Rotary Club of Pune University during 2011-12. With a keen interest in serving the Society through social service, she took up many social projects during her term as the Rotary President. She has always believed in the art of giving and has been a regular donor to many organizations like Rotary International's fight against polio, "Borderless Charity" working for the children displaced by war and terrorism in Jammu, School for spastic children in Pune to name few.

Her priority sector in Community Development has been sanitation and education. Having travelled to many parts of the world, she realized that our country is one of the very few developing ones where the practice of defecation in the open is prevalent. However she sympathized with the people as they do this only due to poverty and lack of toilets. She therefore adopted a village with an intention of starting a pilot project of constructing a toilet for each house. This was a village Kolawade in Mulshi taluka, about 30 Km from Pune. The importance of having toilets was explained to the villagers and a sketch of an ideal toilet with its sewage collection pit was shown to them. The cost of each toilet was calculated at Rs. 7,000 without the labour cost as the villagers volunteered to build the toilets themselves. A village community corps was formed to guide and help the villagers who under the supervision of the village Sarpanch and her team of Rotarians, carried out the construction of the toilets throughout the year. 244 toilets have now been completed. A massive task and a total amount of Rs. 17,50,000 was spent on this project. Half of this was contributed by the villagers at Rs. 3,000 per family. Due to huge efforts put in by the Rotarians and also by the village committee, the village has become entirely free of defecation in open spaces. In fact, now anyone caught doing nuisance in a public space is fined Rs. 100 on the spot. Pune Zilla Parishad has put a hoarding announcing the project at the entrance to the village on the road to Lavasa.

In the meantime, a school in rural area of Holkarwadi called Rachana High School approached the Rotary Club for help in improvement of school infrastructure. The school did not have toilets for the children and this was one of the reasons why many girl students left the school. She immediately took up this project and now the school has two very modern and well made toilet blocks for boys and girls.

One community work that is at the core of the Rotary movement is the fight against polio. Kshama has been active on this front for last 9 years. She and her team have vaccinated more than 10,000 children during this period. They visited many construction sites and slums to vaccinate children against polio. She says, "Going to the same areas year after years we have established a bond of friendship with the slum dwellers. They look forward to our visit every National Immunization Day and simultaneously it gives me a great satisfaction to serve these poor people who have no other means of medical help. I am proud to state that there has been no case of polio in all these areas where we carry out this immunization programme."



Kshama describes the eye camps they have held in these words, "Restoring vision of those who suffer from myopia due to various reasons is very important to us. Rotary Club of Pune University has been holding eye check up camps every year. But so far we have been just checking and

recommending treatment. But this time I decided to give the treatment also. We held two camps, one at Thiteghar in Bhor and another at Kolawade village, both very remote villages. Both the camps received overwhelming response. Thiteghar was a very moving experience. These old people thought loss of vision was a natural phenomenon and there was nothing to be done about it. What we found was that they had either cataract or poor eye sight due to ageing. They were all brought to the local government Sassoon Hospital and operated. When I visited the hospital to check on them while discharging, it was a very emotional moment as old ladies who had become practically blind could see clearly. They held me tight and wept on my shoulder thanking me for restoring their sight. These are the moments one can never forget."

Kshama has been involved in Treatment of Knee Joint Braces for the rheumatoid arthritis patients. Camps are held in association with PNR Society for the Rehabilitation of Handicapped. Polycentric knee braces are put on the knee. Braces take the weight of the body relieving pressure on the knee joint. This is an ideal treatment for the poor who cannot afford expensive joint

replacement surgeries. It gives Kshama immense satisfaction when people who limp in with pain walk out straight and smiling. She has treated over a thousand patients this year alone. Shri Anna Hazare and Mrs. Rupa Bajaj, wife of Rahul Bajaj were some of the prominent patients this year.

She has also been supporting a Senior Citizens' Home called Sevadham at Gole Wadi near Sinhagad Fort. This home was started by one Lt. Mrs. Paigude who cares for old and abandoned suffering from a physical disability. At any time she has 20 to 40 old people under her care. Without any support from the Government, this Sevadham has to rely on support from generous citizens. Kshama Gangolli has been supporting it for the past 4 years in her own small way by supplying them with provisions like grains, sugar etc. Under her presidentship the Rotary Club gave them funds in cash and also items such as wheel chairs, linen, clothes for the inmates etc. For Kshama every visit is an emotional one as the sight of the old people so cruelly abandoned by their dear ones touches her heart.

Kshama modestly says "All this work has given me immense satisfaction of doing something for the Society".

Report :

A CD of Bandishes released by Nityanand Haldipur and other dignitaries

A CD and a booklet titled 'Rachana Bandishonki ' depicting compositions of Vasant Hervatte, was released for private circulation by Pandit Nityanand Haldipur, the renowned Bansuri Player and senior artist of All India Radio, on 17 June. Other dignitaries who joined in the release formalities were, Pandit Nayan Ghosh of Sangeet Maha Bharati, Ustad Maqbul Hussein of Rampur Sehswan Gharana, Master Govind Powale, well known exponent of Marathi light music, Father Dr. Charles Vas of Sangeet Abhinay Academy and Shri Vithal Nadkarni, a senior Journalist and critic of Times group.

Vasantji , a Technologist and Research scholar by profession, has so far composed 100 Bandishes in 50 ragas, out of which 23 have been rendered in this CD in the melodious voice of Zasheed Khan, son of Ustad Maqbul Hussein.

The Rachana lyrics, composed in conventional Braj Bhasha, are picturesque and have all attributes of high quality bandishes such as alliteration, onomatopoeia and variety of subject matter. The musical designs perfectly depict the respective moods of the words

Zasheed Khan enthralled the audience by singing six of the Bandishes. He was accompanied by Sangeet Mishra on sarangi and Najish Khan on tabla.

Another high light of the function was the Katthak dance by Chaitali Khandekar, enacting one of the Bandishes, ' Gori Kahan chali ban than ke ' . Rendition of Raag Bhatiar and Adityakauns from this CD is available on Youtube , simply by entering Vasant Hervatte.

- Reported by Aparna Sirur, Andheri East

सदानंद भटकळ, चिरायू व्हा!

(दुर्गा भागवत यांच्या 1965 साली प्रकाशित झालेल्या 'गोधडी' या संग्रहातून)

काही स्नेह असे असतात, की ते जणू आपल्या व्यक्तित्वासाठीच बेतलेले सुबक-स्वच्छ कपडे असतात. कुठलाही ताण न देता, कुठल्याही प्रसंगी सहज वापरावे असे. सदानंद भटकळ यांचा स्नेह असाच वाटतो मला. एकरूप पण सदा नवा. खरे म्हणजे पॉप्युलर बुक डेपोचे मालक गणपतराव भटकळ हे ग्रंथप्रेमामुळे माझे पहिले परिचित. अबोल, गंभीर नि तरीही मनमिळाऊ. जिथे खुशाल जावे, वाटेल ते पुस्तक काढावे, दुसरे हुडकावे, तिथेच बसून वाचावे. असे करता करता ते स्थान आपलेच वाटू लागले. पुस्तके हरएक विषयांवरची, ताजी नि उपयुक्त असत. मानवशास्त्र, समाजशास्त्र यांच्यावरची पुस्तकं मी तिथूनच खरीदली. बिलाचा तगादा नाही. पण 'वाचा' म्हणून आग्रह.



पुढे त्यांच्यामुळे त्यांच्या पत्नीचा परिचय झाला तो कॉलेजातल्या सदानंदमुळेच. चेहरा सुंदर नाही. बांधा चारचौघांसारखाच. पण त्या चेहऱ्यावरचे सहज माधुर्य मनात ठसले. सदानंद म्हणजे सदैव स्मितभाव असलेल्या चेहऱ्याचा माणूस. वय झाले पण चेहरा तसाच. बोलणं तसंच. लाघव तेच आणि अंतरीची डूब असणारा अलिप्तपणाही तोच. सदानंदची आई हां हां म्हणता मैत्रीण झाली. पुष्कळदा जायची. नेहमी दुसऱ्याला जेवू-खाऊ घालण्याचा सोस. संपूर्ण सारस्वती बाज. वार्धक्यातही तो लोपला नाही. अर्थात या साऱ्या लोभ-सूत्रात सदानंदच पार्श्वभूमीसारखे होते आणि अजून तसेच आहेत.

प्रथम धर्मानंद कोसंबीच्या ट्रस्टमुळे संबंध आला. काका कालेलकरांनी सुचवलां की दुर्गा भागवतला पाली येते. तेव्हा तिला १५० रुपयांचे विद्यावेतन द्या. लंकेत जाऊन ती बौद्ध धर्माचं अध्ययन करील. मी ते वेतन नाकारलं, कारण लंकेत १५० रुपयांवर भागवणं माझ्या कुवतीबाहेरचं होतं. त्या ट्रस्टचा वापर पुढे भांडारकर इन्स्टिट्यूटसाठी वगैरे झाला, असे सदानंद म्हणायचे. पुसट आठवते, पण खात्री नाही. सांगायचा मुद्दा असा की, गेली कित्येक वर्षे मी 'विसुद्धिमग' या ज्या बौद्ध ग्रंथाचे

पालीतून मराठी भाषांतर करते आहे, ते मी धर्मानंदांच्या स्मृतिप्रीत्यर्थ करायचं ठरवलं. सदानंदांना हे ऐकून फार आनंद झाला. तेव्हापासून या कामात ते माझे पाठीराखे झाले आहेत. ८२ सालापासून उद्योग सुरू झाला. आता पाच-सात वर्षे घराच्या बाहेर पडता येईनासे झाल्यापासून मी व्हद्यांसाठी हक्काने त्यांच्याकडे मागणी करते आणि ते दरवेळी डझनभर गुळगुळीत कागदाच्या व्हद्या पाठवतात. बऱ्याच व्हद्यांची हस्तलिखितं त्यांच्याकडे गेलेली आहेत. पंधरा व्हद्या लिहिलेल्या पाठवायच्या आहेत. कुठल्याही करारमदारपेक्षा हा सापेक्ष असून निरपेक्ष असा व्यवहार मला मोलाचा वाटतो. सदानंदमुळे रामदासचाही परिचय झाला. तो मला मुलासारखा वाटतो.

सदानंदांची पत्नी निर्मला मोठी उद्योगी. अत्यंत कार्यकुशल, फार फार कष्टाळू. तिच्यामुळे स्नेह हट्ट झाला. आदरातिथ्यात तिचा कित्ता गिरवावा. स्वैपाक, शिवण, भरतकाम इत्यादी तर आमचे दोघींचे सारखेच आवडते विषय. त्यामुळे घसट वाढली. १९८८ साली निर्मला लोकरीचा पोपट कसा करायचा ते शिकली. हिरवी लोकर नि लालरंगी चोच असा पोपट तिने मला केलेला दाखवला. आग्रह करून शिकवला. नि तो पोपट करून मी एका बाळाला त्याच्या बारशाला दिला. त्यानंतर नवं विणकाम झालं नाही. मला दुखण्याने पछाडले.

आत ३ डिसेंबरला सदानंदचा सत्कार सोहळा होतो आहे. त्यात कायावाचामने भाग घ्यायचा म्हणून मी अभिवादानाचे दोन श्लोक लिहिलेत. मुद्दाम संस्कृतात लिहिलेत. ते असे-

सदानन्दं सुकृतिनं सुबुद्धं च सदास्मितम्।

अभिवादयामि मुदा मित्रं सर्वेषां हितकांक्षिणम्॥१॥

निर्मला गेहिनी तस्य रता नियतमुद्यमे।

सर्वकार्यातिकुशला कलासक्ता च प्रेमला॥२॥

(त्रिदळ प्रकाशन यांच्या सौजन्याने)

प्रेषक : श्री. नंदन कलबाग

Two Faces of Bhaanap Music

PRAKASH BURDE, MUMBAI

It happened like this. I had gone to Pune with Ajay Ginde in connection with our search of 'faded voices of Amchis' for our *Manavandana III* to be presented on 18th August, 2012 as a part of the *Sammelan*. We also got an answer to our question posed in the last *Sammelan*, on the name of the female vocalist in the duet sung under the baton of Vishnudas Shirali in Uday Shankar's *KALPANA* produced in 1948. We also got some discs for preservation for posterity. We were astounded to hear firm and steady voices even in their golden age of eighties! Still active, perfectly in Sur! On our way back my hungry stomach, albeit forced *Ashadha Krishna Ekadashi* on Saturday 14th July 2012, I was treated to young music this time, from Saraswat youngsters in our Shrimat Anandashram Math, Khar with an appropriate *Upasa* menu!

Two young instrumentalists and a vocalist were featured in an opening concert in the scheme of series of monthly concerts to be held in the Math and I was delighted to learn that the next artiste to be featured here is Roopak Ubhaykar who has immense potential to be a professional singer in the days to come! This ambitious scheme is planned and being executed by Shri Vinod Yennemadi and we wish him all success.

Here I would like to make the distinction between the old and the young. In olden days nobody planned to take up music as a profession. In many cases it happened by accident, starting as a hobby, as is the case even today. Yet some boys from *Archak* families took to music as a profession and went through vigorous *riyyaz*, of course with the blessings from our music-loving Swamijis. Almost every *Bhaanap* family was like a *Gurukul* then, boys learning *Pakhawaj*, *Mridangam* or *Tabla* and girls *Harmonium* and singing *mhanatis*, *aratis* and *bhajans*. Some graduated to learn art music. Plenty of time was available (unlike now) for practice, practice and more practice! Some of them became now-forgotten H.M.V. celebrities!

Scene changes now to 14th July 2012. Anjali Gangolli, Dr. Leena Gangolli and Kedar Bijurkar, all three expert professionals in their chosen fields, including Ajit Bhat, the percussionist to all three without whose support the trio could not perform. All these came together to present a vignette of

ragas like *Bhoopali*, *Khamaj* and a *bhajan* (Anjali Gangolli on sitar), *Bhimpalas* and *Jhinjhoti* (Kedar Bijurkar on flute) and *Hansadhvani* and concluding *Bhairavi* (Dr. Leena Gangolli). I would like to mention here that none of these names have appeared in Chitrapur Saraswat_Directory issued in 2006!

One has to accept the fact that present day artistes (non-professionals) have to balance their art between their tiring and time-consuming professions and actively respond to the call of the sur! Rigorous *riyaaaz* needed to sharpen the skills sometimes becomes a victim in the whole process. But even then, one is truly amazed at the capacity of these youngsters to try to excel in the chosen hobby, which is music.

As said before, those who fall in love with *Sur* are bound to excel as they are aware of their shortcomings and sure to improve their art. Here is wishing Anjali, Kedar and Leena all the very best in their musical journey.

<<<>>>

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Best Friends Forever!

ANUJA KAMAT-MUDUR, BANGALORE

The first Sunday of August is celebrated as 'Friendship Day' every year; a day when friends exchange friendship bands, send SMSes, and buy gifts to express their love for each other.

Friendship Day last year was truly special for me. In fact, it was more of a Friendship Week than just a day. In that week, I had a few of my childhood buddies staying with me for a couple of days. What was special was not only that we had grown up together but that we were meeting one of them after 15 years. Actually she was the main reason why all of us decided to have a reunion. Although not everyone from our core childhood group could make it, we were five who managed to get together.

Devyani had come from the US; Sangeeta joined us from Mumbai, while Swati, Supriya and I were in Bangalore itself.

Our friendship dates back to our infant/toddler years in Anandashram, Grant Road, Mumbai. Some of us were born there while some others came in later. We did everything that little kids do...celebrated birthday parties, had impromptu puppet shows, took part in singing competitions together, had innumerable meals at each others (depending on what was cooking at whose place on that day...!).

In those days sleepovers were not common. But we did have a few after we reached our teens and even later after we were married and had kids. Chatting late into the night, troubling those who dozed off early, and waking up to simple breakfasts of *chai* and *pav*...we shared it all – our innermost secrets in good times and bad; our joys, our sorrows, our worries.

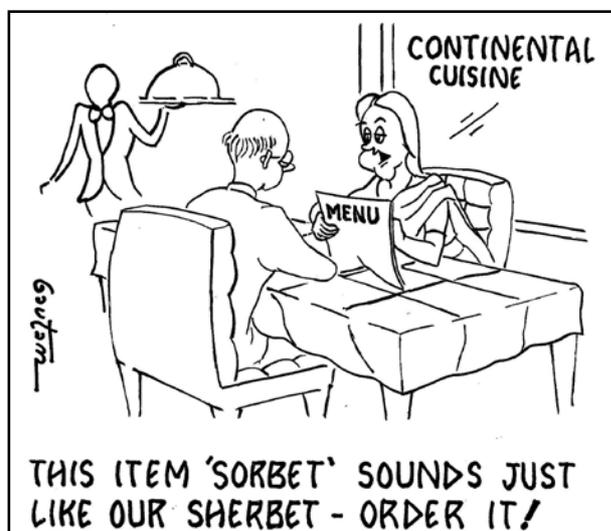
I think childhood friends have their own special *mantra*. As one of us said the other day, no matter how long it is since you met last, you just start off from where you had left. No uncomfortable silences, no small talk, no unnecessary questions. You just bond with the other like there were no gaps at all. Childhood friends are like family.

They've been with you not only through your individual life experiences but through incidents in your family life too. They know your relatives, and your relatives know them. They are there by your side to help in times of need even before you can ask. These pals are like 'stress-busters', like 'cushions of comfort'.

So that's how it was when we met in that week of August. The excitement started right from when the ones visiting had booked their tickets. We were together for just two days and two nights but we all felt we had had the time of our life. We wanted to do nothing but chat, chat, and chat – about old times, old memories and everything that we had missed out on while we were apart.

It was a sad moment when it all ended. So to make things better, we decided then and there about when we would meet next. At least, we had something to look forward to. That's what childhood friendship is all about. It's a warm, comfortable feeling knowing that you don't have to be anything other than what you really are. I am so glad that we met in that week in August and feel truly lucky to have friends like these.... Thank you all, Devyani, Sangu, Swati and Suppi, for being there.

<<<<>>>



Gautam Nadkarni

Baliga The Innovator

SHIVSHANKAR N SURKUND, MUMBAI

"How are you going to look after you father's business if you score single digit marks in arithmetic, Vaman" asked our teacher Anant Krishna Samuk. Vaman Baliga, occupying the third desk from the front row was reluctantly standing with deep concern, his eyes glued to the blackboard, while his right hand was busy trying to remove some ink stains from the desk.

In the late '40s 'General Stores' in Udupi, located near the famous landmark Santekatte, was well known for all stationery requirements of students, be it exercise books, copy books, drawing books, pen, pencil, rubber or scales. During season, to compete with Ideal Stores in Temple Pete, on the way to the famous Venkatramana Temple, Baliga, proprietor of General Stores, had introduced a special offer- one pencil free for those who purchased exercise books worth Rs 3/-

His son - my classmate Vaman, quiet and soft spoken, was least aggressive in sharp contrast to the go-getter father. Sometimes late in the evenings we saw Vaman occupying his father's hot seat in the shop while the father was busy with customers. Sometimes in class he used to flash a fancy item, like a pencil with a rubber at the other end (a novelty then)and also a self filling ink pen. Even Kuppanna Acharya, our Kannada pundit at Board High School, Udupi, could not desist from inspecting it, when Cholayya of Jungamare Mutt drew his attention to the new invention.

I bid good-bye to Udupi in 1951, and went to Bombay lock stock and barrel. There was hardly any contact worth the mention with Vaman Baliga, though I did visit Udupi a couple of times. I came to know that he had shifted the stores to Tenku Pet (nearer his competitor) and had changed his line of business. But, I was also told that he had shifted to Coondapur.

Then, in 1970, while I was in Syndicate Bank, Manipal, Somshekhar Bhat, another classmate (now a known social worker and politician), told me about Vaman Baliga's unit in Malpe and Coondapur

manufacturing a special type of fishing net that had good demand in vast coastal Karnataka and Kerala. Somehow, even at this juncture, I could not contact him, though I was stationed in Udupi.

One day as I was trying to cross the road near Diana Circle, a car made a screeching halt near me. "Shivshankar, can I drop you somewhere?" said a gleaming Vaman Baliga. Surprised, I replied, "On one condition. First we will have golibaje and coffee at Mitra Samaj , and then you would drop me at Sheeribeedu." Vaman opened the front seat door, shaking his head.

Mitra Samaj at Car Street had its own charm. Steaming brownish golibaje were quite tempting. While munching them and sipping the piping hot filter coffee, Vaman Baliga told me about his expanding his business of fishing nets considered to be the best available in the country. We reminisced for a while and before we parted, Vaman insisted on my getting in touch with him if and when I needed any help.

It so happened that I had to turn to him within a few days. I got the bad news that my wife was suffering from Agni Sarpa (herpes). I bought a special type of herbal root from the shop of Jogappa Shenoy, near Venkatramana Temple and sought Baliga's help to rush it to Bombay. "Don't worry, it will reach there tomorrow evening." He kept his promise.

Then, for a few years as I had joined Union Bank, Bombay in 1970 there was no contact between us except for an exchange of Diwali and New Year greetings. To recharge my batteries, taking advantage of LFC (Leave Fare Concession) offered by my bank in 1976, I took a tour of Kerala and was to touch Udupi. We stayed in "Apsara" Hotel near Kalsanka, where one more cinema theatre was to come up.

In the evening, I went to see Baliga. It was election season. Baliga was sitting with his head down, engrossed in some thought. I quietly sat opposite and said, "Namaskara Swami" folding my

hands. To my utter surprise, without even lifting his head, he mumbled, "Which is your party?" In good humour, I replied, "I am in your party."

When he heard this unexpected answer, suddenly he lifted his head in surprise. Automatically his right hand came forward to greet, with an expression of apology on his face. When I told him that I have come with my family, he insisted that we must have dinner with them. "My car will reach your hotel by 7 p.m. You will enjoy Bangda ghashi and Korida roti," he said flashing his smoke stained teeth.

Sharp at 7 p.m. his driver knocked on our door at Apsara Hotel. Vaman's palatial house was located near Modern High School. He was standing at the main entrance to welcome us with his dog and kids. When our children saw the T.V., VCR they were keen to watch any film. My wife, after formal introduction, accompanied Vaman's wife to the kitchen. There in the kitchen, knowing that I am vegetarian, even at short notice, Matti Gulla Phodi and Special Sukke pali Toi was made. Ours 4 and his 3- all were busy selecting the film from his huge collection. 'Barsaat' was the final choice.

It was then I got the opportunity to sincerely thank him- for sending the herbal root a few years back by AIR Cargo to Bombay.

He that told me about the innovation he had made for weaving a fishing net. He had assembled a machine which was giving better results. He said he was now selling them at half price of its imported counterpart. He wanted me to visit his factory at Malpe and Coondapur the next day. But our return tickets by the next day morning flight to Bombay were already confirmed. I had to regret reluctantly.

The amount of love they showered on us, I will never forget in my lifetime. Though Vaman is no more, whenever Matti Gulla Phodi is on the menu, Vaman Baliga's face flashes on my mental screen even today. May his soul rest in peace.

<<<>>>

Personalia details of all students who have excelled in examinations will appear in Our Special Issue on Examination Results

- Editor

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The Wonderful Journey

GUNNU TALGERY: gunnujyoti@gmail.com

The baggage we carry for life's journey is stuffed with our likes, dislikes, fears, insecurities, obsessions, complexes, love, hate, compassion, empathy, desires, and ambitions. Also tightly packed are our egos (sometimes disproportionately big), faith, confidence, self esteem and a thousand other strengths and weaknesses common to earthlings. As we grow older we pick up others which help us in life and also some which drag us down. The latter, like a broken chair or old bedpan which we are loath to discard, should be consigned to the loft or attic or thrown far away. The journey starts with our parents who brought us into this world. As we grow up, the friends and memories good and bad, pains and pleasures, teachers, homework, cuts and bruises, tonsils, missing teeth and measles, bitter laxatives, overdue haircuts, algebra and trigonometry, exams and vacations and often acts of recklessness, like riding a mobike too fast or pinching mangoes and guavas from the neighbours' tree all get added. In our teens it is confusion. We take ourselves more seriously than others do. Now comes the sudden awareness of the opposite sex, the crushes, fantasies and bruised hearts.

Next is the toil before completing college. And then the hesitant steps into a career. A new job, new boss, new responsibilities, first pay cheque, night out with the boys, followed by parental pressure to settle down. You meet the girl, that wonderful period of courting, tying the knot, new home, new car, late night parties, promotions, anniversaries and birthdays, gas connection, home loans etc,. And suddenly the good news whispered into the ears, without a clue how to react, leading to Gynaec, fussing over the first baby, showing off to parents, feeding bottles, taking turns to pat the baby to sleep, colic, Pediatricians, the first birthday, school admissions and so on and on and on.....

It never stops even after one has "**retired**", the euphuism for defining a stage when one stops getting a regular monthly income and becomes a bit

of a nuisance at home with the new found freedom and spare time. To me, this is the phase for living a full life and savouring every minute of it. Dust up and renew old relationships, look up friends, surprise someone with a phone call or greeting. An excellent time to catch up on correspondence, read that book you always wanted to but never found the time, put that stamp collection or photo album in order, get that leaky faucet fixed, get the house painted, take the grand children out for ice cream. It would be a capital idea to start a new hobby like gardening, start early morning walks, play tennis, golf, swim, travel, visit places you have never seen, go trekking if your ticker and the limbs can take it. Take up yoga, or join a group of the like minded. Put up your feet, close your eyes and lose yourself in music, watch a movie on the big screen, try your hand at writing (your memoirs, perhaps). Some even try cooking, with the most astonishing results. If one has a computer there is no need to go to a library any more. Technology has placed the whole world at our finger tips. If there is a problem, the children or grand children are always there to help and tell us which key **not** to press. All this should be done along with regular health checks and a watchful eye on the heart, liver, blood pressure, sugar level and other parameters like eyes, ears and the teeth.

If we cultivate the habit of putting the time the Almighty has **allowed us** to good use – one day at a time – we can look forward to the end of the journey with anticipation and joy rather than trepidation. Those who were destined to touch our life at each stage are like fellow passengers who get in or out every time the train stops. Only a few leave an indelible mark and remain permanently etched on the hard disc. We can make the journey a pleasant one by looking out of the window and enjoying the scenery and treating the one in the next seat with a smile, a kind word or gesture now and then. We can talk about topics of common interest, exchange riddles or jokes, form a foursome

to play cards or isolate ourselves by covering the face with a book or newspaper. It is up to us. Choose what gives you the maximum pleasure and do that by all means, because you are the boss. A cheerful smile brightens the atmosphere just as grumpiness and grouchiness spreads gloom.

But the important thing is to get full "mileage" (read enjoyment) out of the journey before getting off the train.....for we may never get another chance. We should make sure that we do not litter the floor but try to leave it at least as clean as we found it when the journey started. Negative thoughts are like toffee wrappers, peanut shells and banana peels. They should be banished to the waste bin, out of sight and forgotten.

A passing florist leaves a trail of fragrance. How nice it would be, if our transit through life can leave something for others to cherish. Something – no matter how small - that can make at least a few, remember our brief stop - over with a smile.

<<<<>>>>



Suman Murlidhar Mundkur

18th December 1930 to 18th June 2012

Departed peacefully for her heavenly abode
on 18th June 2012

Deeply missed by:

Sunil, Chetana, Neha, Deepa and family,
Vasant, Satish, Jayant, Rekha, Purnima and
their families,
and All near and dear ones.



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Hypertension: Role of Nutritional Therapy

DR HEMANGINI HOSKOTE, CONSULTANT NUTRITIONIST, GURGAON

As discussed in the previous issue, hypertension/elevated blood pressure (BP) results from environmental and genetic factors, and interactions among these factors. Of the environmental factors that affect BP (diet, physical inactivity, psychosocial factors), dietary factors have a prominent, and possibly predominant, role in BP regulation. In non-hypertensive individuals, including those with pre-hypertension, dietary changes that lower BP have the potential to prevent hypertension, to reduce BP and thereby lower the risk of BP-related clinical complications.

Dietary Approaches : One of the most beneficial dietary approaches in preventing and controlling hypertension is the **DASH Diet (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension)** which has been endorsed by the American Heart Association. This diet has proven to be most effective in controlling hypertension and pre-hypertension within 2 weeks. Some of the best responses have been seen in people with pre-hypertension and moderately high hypertension. For those with more severe hypertension, DASH diet may not help eliminate medication but will improve response to medication and help lower blood pressure reading. It also aids in facilitating weight loss, and promoting life-long healthy eating habits.

The DASH diet incorporates the best known factors known to impact hypertension. It is based on an eating plan rich in fruits and vegetables, and low-fat or non-fat dairy, with whole grains. It is a high fiber, low to moderate fat diet, rich in potassium, calcium, and magnesium. Other dietary factors may influence BP but the effects are small or evidence uncertain. Some information on the dietary components which impact BP and are incorporated in the DASH diet are presented below.

Weight Loss: A substantial and consistent body of clinical trials and observational studies indicates that weight is directly associated with BP. Clinical trials have consistently shown that weight loss lowers blood pressure. Importantly, lowering of BP occurs

before and *without* attainment of desirable body weight. Furthermore, weight loss with and without sodium restriction can prevent hypertension by ~ 20 % among overweight, hypertensive individuals and can facilitate medication step-down and drug withdrawal. Available evidence strongly supports weight loss and achievement and maintenance of BMI of <25 kg/m² as an effective approach to prevent and treat hypertension.

Reduce Salt Intake: On average, as dietary salt intake rises, so does blood pressure. This relationship between sodium intake and BP is direct and progressive. In view of the available food supply and the currently high levels of sodium consumption, a reduction in sodium intake to desirable intake of 1.5 g/d is not easily achievable at present. In the interim, a reasonable recommendation is an upper limit of 2.3 g/d, which is similar to earlier recommendations for the prevention and treatment of hypertension. For a reduction in sodium intake, a reduction in added salt intake coupled with reduction of processed and salty foods is most essential. In the Indian diets, this refers to pickles, papads, preserved and salted wadis, chillies and chutneys, ketchups, sauces, cheese, butter and baked products including bread. In addition, snacks such as farsan, chivda, etc are also high in sodium. On an approximate basis, >75 % of salt intake comes from processed foods which necessitates curtailing the intake of such foods.

Based on the BP reading, salt restriction can be minimal, moderate or severe. This in turn determines the amount of added salt that can be permitted through the day. This is best determined by a Dietitian after reviewing the medical and dietary history.

Reducing salt intake does not mean tasteless, insipid food. On the contrary, less added salt can bring out creative alternatives such as adding lemon juice, tamarind juice (though not the salted variety), amchur, kokum, freshly-made tomato pulp and herbs such as coriander leaves, mint leaves, parsley and basil. Reducing salt/sodium intake

should bring out the ingenuity in enhancing the taste of the food preparations.

Increase Potassium Intake: A high potassium intake is associated with reduced BP as documented from clinical trials and food-intake data studies. Potassium is a mineral present in fruits, vegetables and pulses and legumes. Foods high in potassium are low in sodium which is perhaps nature's way of balancing the mineral intake. A high potassium intake can be easily achieved by dietary measures rather than by pills and the potassium in foods is also accompanied by other nutrients. Inclusion of fruits and vegetables is most important and a high potassium intake translates into 4-6 servings* of fruits and 4-6 servings# of vegetables/day. In a generally healthy population with normal kidney function, a high potassium intake poses no risk. However, it can have undesirable effects in those with impaired renal/kidney function or in those taking certain medications. Hence it is advisable to consult your physician/dietitian before making any dietary changes.

Moderation of Alcohol Intake: A direct, dose-dependent response between alcohol consumption and BP has been observed, particularly when the alcohol intake exceeds > 2 drinks/day. Some studies have shown that the alcohol-hypertension link also extends into the light-drinking range (<2 drinks/day). The effect of alcohol on BP is not influenced by age, obesity and salt intake. Alcohol consumption should be limited to <2 alcoholic drinks per day in most men and <1 alcoholic drink** per day in women and lighter-weight persons.

Other Dietary Factors: Calcium and Magnesium- An inverse relationship has been observed between Calcium intake and BP and is the rationale for inclusion of low-fat dairy products. Findings relating to magnesium and BP are inconsistent. Available data does not support the need for Calcium or Magnesium supplements to lower BP.

Oils- Extensive research has shown that fish oils have a BP-lowering effect albeit at high doses (>3g/day). At such high levels, it may have side-effects such as belching and a fishy taste. Research studies have also documented the BP-lowering effects of oils rich in monounsaturated fatty acids such as olive oil.

Vegetarian Diets- have been associated with low BP. In observational studies, vegetarians had lower BP and experienced lower age-related rise in BP than non-vegetarians. Several aspects of a vegetarian lifestyle might lower BP, including non-dietary factors (e.g. physical activity), established dietary risk factors (e.g. reduced weight, increased potassium, and low-to-moderate alcohol intake), and other aspects of vegetarian diets (e.g. high fiber, no meat). It is possible that some yet unidentified aspect of vegetarian diet may also influence BP.

A substantial body of research strongly supports the concept that multiple dietary factors affect BP. In view of the increasing levels of high BP seen in young adults and children and the cardiovascular-related effects of high BP, efforts are needed to control BP in hypertensive and pre-hypertensive individuals. This will also require individuals to make concerted efforts to change dietary habits, behavior and modify environmental factors to maintain BP levels.

* one serving of fruit is one apple/orange/pear/one-half a banana/mango/10-12 grapes.

one serving of vegetable is about one medium-sized vati of cooked vegetable/salad.

** 1 drink is defined as 12 oz of regular beer, 5 oz of wine (12% alcohol), and 1.5 oz of 80-proof distilled spirits.

THOUGHTS!

How does one think a thought?
I thought;
I just sat to think, And thought and thought.
From where does a thought begin?
I thought,
And when does a thought end?
I thought,
I just sat to think, And thought and thought.
One after another –
Thought after thought,
With a head as full as mine
With thoughts;
How does one think? I thought and thought.
Tired at last
With all these thoughts;
"Put a full stop"
Came the next thought,
And this time I did not sit
To think this thought
And peace of mind It surely brought!

- Veena Bantwal

Swami Ramdas – Great Teacher And Guru – A Tribute On His 128th Birthday

MANOHAR D. AMLADI, MUMBAI

Swami Ramdas, known to locals and his Devotees as Pappa was born on 10th April 1884 at Kanhangad, Kasargode Dist. North Kerala on Hanuman Jayanti, the Birth Day of Shri Hanuman, the great devotee of Shree Ram. It was a day of full moon. The Child had luster in his eyes, typical of great persons who become leaders in later life.

In his pre Sanyas days he was known as Padukone Vittal Rao. Even in his school days, he was a voracious reader and this enabled him to acquire at an early age remarkable finesse in English Literature. Apart from Hindu Religious Books he read books of other religions also.

All though he acquired a Diploma in Textile Engg from the famous V.J.T.I., a Technical Institute of great reputation in Bombay, he had no inclination to work. Around 1920, God's grace descended on him and he went in pursuit of the Divine path. His father initiated him with the Holy and all powerful Name "Shri Ram Jai Ram Jai Ram". He took to ceaseless chanting of the Holy Name and travelled to every corner of India in search of Holy places as a mendicant. After attaining spiritual liberation and God's vision he went on his mission to create awareness of God.

In 1931, he and mother Krishnabai, his foremost disciple, founded Anandashram with the object of propagating the ideal of Universal love and service to poor and needy. Anandashram is situated on the slope of a hill and has a vast area under its control, spread over 38 acres. It is said at one time an area of 270 acres of thick forest where wild animals roamed freely was controlled by the Ashram. Most of this land given to poor inhabitants for farming, for construction of residential structures for the poor and for educational and Health facilities. The Ashram lays great stress on helping the poor and needy.

The climate is salubrious and there is greenery all around. The ashram provides basic amenities to visitors and devotees who come in search of

peace. People come and spend time to learn Pappa's way of universal love. They come from all regions of India and also Western Countries. Among the devotees who frequent the Ashram are leading Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers, Businessmen and Students of various disciplines. There is ample scope of meditation, Jap and Bhajan. Visitors get opportunity to hear lectures from distinguished persons who are invited to enlighten the sadhakas on Vedanta, Universal love and Service.

Poojya Mataji has ensured that the entire area is kept clean and discipline is maintained in every respect. There are no newspapers, no T.V., no Fridge nor any A.C. in the living quarters. There is a huge Dining Hall which can seat up to 500 persons at a time. Satvic hot meals - Breakfast, lunch and Dinner are provided free to residents all through the year. This facility is available to visitors also. Poojya Mataji started a well maintained "Goshala" with a few Cows. This has grown into a big institution of 25-30 Jersey Cows. Families who look after the Cows have been trained by Vets and they have been provided with living quarters and other amenities. Some of their children have gone abroad and settled with Ashrams' help in education.

There is a well stocked Homeopathic Dispensary and full fledged Allopathic Hospital managed by the Ashram. In addition, numerous Schools for local children have been set up many years ago. School children are provided with Books, Uniforms and free meals.

Visitors greet with "Hari Om" and a smile. In keeping with the wishes of the Founders, the good work carried out at the Ashram for over 80 years is not publicized. One can get Divine experience by actually visiting this sacred place and going around the Samadhis of three great Saints Swami Ramdas, Mataji and Sachidanand Swami.

"Om Shri Ram Jai Ram Jai Ram"

BIRTH CENTENARY



Saguna Shivanand Bankeshwar

03/07/1912 - 23/03/2003

Dearest Aayi,

You would have been 100 years old now, if you were with us. We miss you very much, each day and at every occasion. You managed our big family with love, generosity and devotion. You were known for your outstanding intelligence, memory, multi talents and perfection in whatever you did. You greatly valued education which, you yourself yearned for but could not pursue further. Your enthusiasm, vigour and zest for life until the very end, inspires us and prods us on even today. We, your children and each and every one of our family deeply love and remember you and your image is engraved in our hearts forever.

Your loving daughter,
Kumudini

Deeply loved and fondly remembered by :

Suman and Sumant Bankeshwar
Gayatri Jayant Bankeshwar
Vijaya and Suresh Bankeshwar

Rajool Sudhir Bankeshwar
Deepti and Prakash Bankeshwar
Grand children and their spouses
Great grand children



Geervanapratishta - Dhwaja - 3

DR. CHAITANYA GULVADY, MUMBAI

"Shareera Maadhyam Khalu Dharma Sadhanam"

“ शरीर माध्यम् खलु धर्म साधनम् ”

Is the Motto of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, the premier Hospital and Medical College in India meaning: "The Body is the Means of Fulfillment of Dharma" and is sourced from the *Kumarasambhavam* of Kalidasa - *Sarga 5.33* Parvati is performing penance to attain Shiva. On one such day, Shiva comes in the form of a small boy, interested to enquire about her penance. Shiva thus asked Parvati

अपि क्रियार्थं सुलभं समित्कुशं जलान्यपि स्नानविधिक्षमाणि ते।

अपि स्वशक्त्या तपसि प्रवर्तसे शरीरमाद्यं खलु धर्मसाधनम् ॥५.३३॥

"Do you have holy wood and grass to perform rites for your penance and water to take bath everyday? One has to perform penance as per one's own strength and endurance, as the body is the means of fulfillment of Dharma."

Adi Shankaracharya states in his magnum opus "Vivekachudamani", that this human life has been bestowed to us after thousands of births. And it is

for us to use our Viveka Shakti or Discrimination in the fulfillment of the four Purusharthas of Dharma, Artha, Kaama & Moksha. The body is a temple which houses the Self and we need to take care of it, nurture it & treat it when affected by maladies, physical or mental.

Our Parama Pujya Swamiji has endorsed physical exercises to increase strength and endurance of the body, a discipline which in turn will also make the mind more focused and determined. HH's encouragement of Archery, Kick boxing, swimming especially to the Yuvas, the gymnasium in Shirali, is a case in point. HH also emphasizes on the need to do Seva or Service for the welfare of the Samaj and the downtrodden, who Swami Vivekananda called "Daridra Narayana", since Seva brings about the purification of our Antahkarana, ridding it of its impurities such as Ahankara, Kaama, Krodha etc. Subsequent to this our Sadhana becomes an enriching experience and the journey to Moksha or Liberation, for which we have taken birth, become much easier and fruitful.

Learn Samskrit Speak Samskrit

रसास्वाद-२

- कृष्णानंद मंकीकर, मुंबई

In the previous edition, we noted the invocation by Kalidasa (incorporated in our Shree Bhavanishankara Suprabhatam), his humility and how in very few words Kalidasa effectively conveys the meaning, the impact of which does not fail to hit you straight.

We will proceed to see how he describes the Dynasty of Raghus. You would note that the description befits a benevolent King, nay this verily should be the checklist for all the aspiring leaders and rulers!

सोऽहमाजन्मशुद्धानामाफलोदयकर्मणाम्।

आसमुद्र क्षितीशानामाकरथवर्त्मणाम् ॥१.५॥

We saw in the last edition, how Kalidas states he really is not up to the mark (compared to the

earlier stalwarts in narrating the epic), so he says,

Such a one सोऽहम् (underequipped for the task on hand) that I am, (I now proceed to narrate the deeds of the dynasty – this comes in the 9th stanza) the qualities of this Raghu dynasty are enumerated and see how!

Those, who are pure right from their birth! आजन्मशुजानाम् (they do not need additional rituals for purification of their body and soul!), who perform their duties till the results are achieved, आफलोदयकर्मणाम् (nothing ends in failure nor is anything given up midway), who rule the Earth as far as it stretches to the oceans–bound by the oceans आसमुद्र क्षितीशानाम्. Not only that their empire stretches to the heavens Kalidasa says the path

of their chariots reaches right up to the heaven आनाकरथवर्त्मणाम् (here he alludes to the puranic story of Dasharatha who fought for Indra)

यथाविधि हुताग्नीनां यथा कामार्चिन्तार्थिनाम्।

यथापराध दण्डानां यथाकालप्रबोधिनाम्॥१.६॥

They perform the sacrificial rituals as prescribed, यथाविधि (when you think of sacrifices, you remember the giving away of wealth too, so) they donate the wealth to those who pray for assistance, यथा कामार्चिन्तार्थिनाम् they mete out just punishment (in accordance with the gravity of the crime or offence), यथाकालप्रबोधिनाम् (literally they wake up at the right time—not too much of sleep nor too little!)

त्यागाय संभृतार्थानां सत्याय मितभाषिणाम्।

यशसे विजिगिषूणां प्रजायै गृहमेधिनाम्॥१.७॥

They amass wealth for giving away, त्यागाय संभृतार्थानां, they speak less so as not to forsake the Truth सत्याय मितभाषिणाम् (if you talk too much, you may end up uttering falsehoods or prevarication), they engage in campaigns which end up always in victory, यशसे विजिगिषूणां and they become householders for the sake of (procreating good) progeny. गृहमेधिनाम्

शैशवेऽभ्यस्थ विद्यानाम् यौवने विषयैषिणाम्।

वार्धक्ये मुनिवृत्तीनाम् योगेनान्ते तनुत्यजाम्॥१.८॥

In their childhood they spend their time in studies शैशवेऽभ्यस्थ विद्यानाम् (learning the statecraft, warfare and the like), in their youth they pursue (just) pleasures. यौवने विषयैषिणाम् in the old age वार्धक्ये मुनिवृत्तीनाम् having handed over the reins to their successors) they live a detached life like the saints, and in the end they take leave of the mortal sheath (in an effortless manner) by resorting to the yoga. योगेनान्ते तनुत्यजाम्.

Please note that all these are adjectives to the members of the Raghu dynasty, these apply to the word रघूणाम् in the next stanza.

Please also note, how kalidasa has begun the enumeration of the qualities from the birth and how he concludes with the end of life. Note also the qualities which have been enumerated can well be imbibed by a common householder as well!

रघूणामन्वयं वक्ष्ये तनुवाग्विभवोऽपि सन्।

तद्गुणैः कर्णमागत्य चापलाय प्रचोदितः॥१.९॥

I describe the dynasty of the Raghus, अन्वयं वक्ष्ये

though I have meager wealth of words with me, तनुवाग्विभवोऽपि सन् (and the only reason that) I am propelled to do this act प्रचोदितः... which may be construed as audacity, चापलाय, is that I am impressed by their qualities, तद्गुणैः कर्णमागत्य.

In this, we note the simplicity of construction, पदलालित्य, the rhyme and the rhythm of the sentences and the overall impact these five stanzas have when read in conjunction with the first four which we read in the last edition.

Those who are seriously interested in furthering their awareness of Sanskrit language, would do well to learn these loud, learn by heart, and contemplate upon these.

Those needing further clarification on this, may kindly contact girvanapratishta at chitrapur.girvanapratishta@gmail.com, where our volunteers will be happy to assist with replies.

In the next edition, we shall touch upon some subhashitas.

॥स्तुती॥

देवारे, कश्शी कोरु तुगली स्तुती।

ना मल्लागी कांही शक्ति।

जडल्या तुज्जेरी परम भक्ति।

ध्यान करता शांत चित्ती॥

नाम घेत्ता, रूप दिसता।

हृदय आनंदाने भरता।

वर्णनाक शब्द अपुरे पडता।

किल्लेई सांगल्यारी सांगचे वरता॥

तूवे अनंत उपकारू केल्या।

दोळे, हात, पाय दिल्या।

विचार कोरुक बुद्धि मेळ्या।

हांव कस्ले घेवनु आयल्या?॥

दिवसु, रात्री कोण करता?

ऋतु चक्र कश्शी फिरता?

सूर्याक प्रकाशु कोण दिता?

झाडांक फुल्लांक रंगु लायता?

देह 'हांव' अहंकारु धर्ता।

जन्मु सगळो व्यर्थ वत्ता।

तुगले चरणांक शरण येत्ता।

तूंचि एकु मुक्ति दाता॥

- मुक्ताबाई चंदावर, माटुंगा

A Week in the City of Love...

AANCHAL PADUKONE

Being a Francophile even before I had ever set foot on French soil, having learnt the language for three years and read countless snippets of information about the lives of the French, having caught glimpses of the one and only *ville lumière* (city of lights) in magazines and in movies, I was more than ready for our school's Indo-French exchange programme, which involved students from IB Year 1 flying over to Paris to be hosted by a bunch of enthusiastic Parisian teenagers, to see the sights of "*la plus belle ville du monde*" (the most beautiful city in the world) and to immerse ourselves in the French experience. We'd already contacted our hosts over Facebook, and most of us had even hosted them on their service trip to India (except me – given the size of our two-person-happy studio flat, I wasn't too sure whether I could comfortably accommodate a French *correspondante*, despite my eagerness to camp out on the couch for a week).

The trip kicked off to a start on Friday, 1:30 a.m. Sleepless in Mumbai may not have the same ring to it as the title of the Seattle-based rom-com, but that's just what we were, chugging coffee after coffee so as to make it through Mumbai airport security without succumbing to our somnolence. Our flight took us to Doha, where we changed flights and boarded one to Paris. We caught a glimpse of the Alps and of the manicured French countryside before touchdown at Charles De Gaulle airport. The news of the tsunami in Japan came to us as a bit of a shocker as "*les dernières nouvelles du séisme au Japon*" blared down at us from airport TV screens, but our spirits rose again when we located our bus after collecting our luggage and enjoyed our first ride through the city.

Upon our arrival at the L'Ermitage school at Maisons-Laffitte, a northern suburb of Paris, we met our *correspondants* and toured the school, before setting off to their homes to deposit our luggage. Mine was a triple-nationality (American, French and Spanish!) IB student who happens to be a professed Indophile, owns whole trunks of bangles, bindis, Bollywood music and DVDs, and India-inspired T-shirts, and plays the violin. We spent Friday relaxing at a quintessentially French

sidewalk café, meeting young people around town, walking into shops, and buying tarts and *petites douceurs* (sweet eats) for the family. We also journeyed into Paris on the Metro (RER Line A, as I still remember) and strolled down the streets of the Latin Quarter, finally settling down by the *Pont Saint Michel* and eating crepes by the river Seine.

By Saturday evening, what with the school Open House that very morning and the party one of the hosts had arranged for us that night, we knew most of the French students we would be interacting with over the next few days. They were all very welcoming and some gave each one of us their signature greeting: *la bise*, which is second nature to the French, can be described as a versatile and affable air-kiss, one on either cheek. As Indians, more accustomed to the hug/ bear-hug (depending on one's size and effusiveness), it took us a while to get used to the gesture, but it was one cultural insight we may not have gained on your average 5 day-4 night package tour.

On Sunday, most of us went shopping down the ever-romantic Avenue des Champs-Élysées, some climbing the Arc de Triomphe, others hounding the flagship boutiques of French fashion heavyweights or (in my case) popular department stores like H&M, and finally giving in to our inner gluttons at La Brioche Dorée, or the infinitely more sinful Häagen-Dazs.

Reporting at the IB building, Monday morning, was easy for me (we lived only a two-minute walk from school, so I could afford to crawl out of bed at a luxurious 8:00 a.m., compared to my 6:00 a.m. alarm and one-and-a-half hour commute back home). Our group from India, accompanied by a cheerful Australian gap-year student, took a train up to the Louvre that day where we spotted classical greats (notably French and Greek sculptures, Italian renaissance paintings, and Sumerian wall frescoes and artefacts) and marvelled at the architecture (the glass pyramid at the Carrousel mall and entrance, the lavish private apartments of Napoleon III, and the outer facade). A much-awaited lunch was followed by a visit to the Cathédral de Notre Dame, which stunned some of us with its arches and stained glass glory.

Tuesday witnessed our visit to my favourite museum (the Musée d'Orsay) which is actually a converted railway station and where I came face-to-face with some of my favourite impressionist and post-impressionist pieces, including those of Van Gogh, Edgar Degas, Claude Monet, Alfred Sisley, Renoir, etc. I found myself buying posters, fridge magnets and books (all featuring some eminent masterpiece or the other). A refreshing walk up the stairs to Montmartre soon followed. We lunched at a small cafe near the square where all the street artists display their work and the caricaturists work their magic. I vowed to put my language skills to use here, as we relished our daily quota of window-shopping, even bargaining (though giving up on) a promised self-portrait. Most intriguing however, was the Romano-Byzantine architecture of the imposing and emblematic Basilique du Sacre Cœur (as awe-inspiringly beautiful on the inside as on the outside). In the evening, a group of us went out for dinner to an Italian restaurant, where the vegetarians, I remember, found themselves in the soup (pun intended), thanks to the ubiquity of meat on the menu.

Wednesday morning started with a bang as we were to give the primary schoolers of L'Ermitage a flavour of India, with an action-packed Bollywood dance session followed by individual presentation in each class (with one of us sent to each class to answer the kids' questions about life in India). I had to satisfy a bunch of second-graders in their thirst to know more about "how my dress was made" (we were dressed in our traditional costume, and gave out bindis to girls who wanted to wear the shiny accessories for the day) and "what kind of food we eat" and "what the bindi really signifies" (the profoundness of this last question, I admit, stumped me slightly). They were all surprisingly attentive, eager and disciplined, and as a treat, I even wrote down all of their names in Hindi. After a heavy three-course lunch at the Pur Sang restaurant, we trudged on through nearby woodland to be introduced to our next challenge: a tepee building competition. We were only allowed to use sticks and branches we could find on the forest floor, and were confined by a time limit and group size restrictions. To everyone's understandable disbelief, ours won (despite looking no better than a stack

of oddly-aligned sticks, it more-than-fulfilled the functionality angle – keeping rainy weather, threatened by signature grey Paris skies, out).

Thursday came, and the weather suddenly became very chilly, after days of comparative sunshine. Today, we visited the Palais de Versailles, which was opulence itself. The free audio guides, the endless corridors, swoon-worthy grandeur, extravagant styles of the day and ample furniture, every aspect of the palace was a visual/ aural treat. Not to mention, of course, the pocket-drillingly expensive hot chocolate (which was, rich and decadent in the spirit of the royal abode, well worth our Euros) we sipped at the cafe. The gardens, however, were the gem of our visit – the icing on the cake, and a photo-shooting session here was inevitable. Our afternoon was spent shopping at Parly Deux (a shopping centre near Versailles), which, to me, meant bagging more books at the bookstore and a coat or two at H&M.

Friday was unforgettable, not only because we visited and climbed the Eiffel Tower (and exhausted our cameras' memories in the process) to the second level and viewed Paris from what was once the tallest structure in the city (a breathtakingly beautiful vista), but also because it was our last day in the city we had all grown to love, among the people we had become so attached to. It was off to the Champs-Élysées once more, for nostalgia's sake, to spend our Euros on some typically French fashion, art, curios and food for the last time that week. In the evening, I packed hurriedly before my host family took us out to the neighbourhood crêperie, to feast on that well-beloved Breton dish once more. We ended the night at my host's friend's house, where a couple of us had gathered to spend a few last memorable moments.

The next morning invoked the traveller in me, during those painful goodbyes we all come to hate at the end of a good trip. I've promised myself to come back to this city, whose charm has unfathomably worked its way into me, and taken my soul by the reins. Next time I'm back in *la ville d'amour* (the city of love), I'll be here for a good while longer than eight days. Till then, this first journey will serve as a shining reminder.

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Bengaluru Prarthana's Ashtamurthi Aradhana

REPORTED BY SADHANA KAIKINI

On Saturday, the 11th of February, 46 children from the Bengaluru Prarthana family gathered to present an enthralling 'Ashtamurthi Aradhana' at the Shri Chitrapur Math at Bengaluru. The occasion was extra special as we were celebrating the eve of our Beloved Guru Param Pujya Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji's 15th Ordination Day, in the *samakshata* of Pujya Swamiji. Produced & directed by Smt. Indu Gersappa with quite a few inputs given by Uma Trasi, the play had music & dance, story narration and shloka recitation woven together to form a beautiful mosaic that kept the audience captive through the 55 minute presentation. All age groups of children from four Bengaluru centres – Malleswaram Juniors, Malleswaram Seniors, and Indiranagar & Jayanagar – also had able support from the Yuvadhara team.

The whole presentation on the *Ashtamurthis* evolves from a little boy's quest for finding where really Lord Shiva exists! Is He to be found in the beautiful temples? Or in the leaves of green trees, atop tall mountains, in the little creatures that move on earth, in the swift winds or in the waves that rise from the oceans? Often the child had felt His Benign Presence while he played with his friends! Oh! Where is He really?

Looking for answers to these questions, the lad sits down to meditate & chant 'Om Namaha Shivaya' and finds the Lord before him! With just one small statement He answers all those questions – "Little one, you ask where I am – Where am I not?" With that the Lord introduces each *Tatva* to the child, and as that happens, each *Tatva* comes onto the stage with the apt *beeja mantra*, *chakra*, *shloka*, *story* & *dance* to bring out its essence.

Bhavani Nayel choreographed most of the dances while Ashwini Kaikini set together the dances done by the Jayanagar team. Ved. Baddukulli Radhakrishna Bhat narrated the stories and recited the shlokas while Sadhana Kaikini sang the songs written by Indu Gersappa. The whole audio

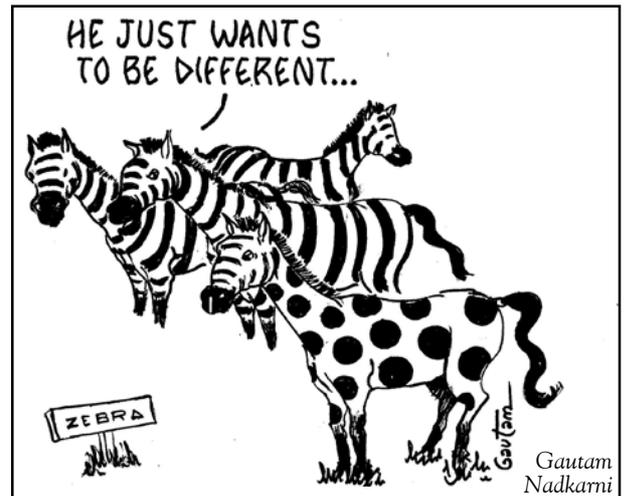
presentation had been pre-recorded at his studio by young Parag Balwally, with Aniruddha Baljekar as a strong anchor of sorts! Thus everyone complimented the presentation as being truly professionally done. The dedicated team of 10 Prarthana teachers from Malleswaram, Indiranagar & Jayanagar managed to bring out the best from the children, along with a lot of parent support.

Practices that had begun since mid-December bore fruit as butterflies flitted across the **Earth**, sea-creatures swam across the **Water** bodies, flames rose from the **Fire** element, trees swayed in the **Wind**, birds soared in the vast **Space**, moonbeams danced out of the **Moon** as tiny stars twinkled, the **Sun** glanced smilingly as a Guru taught his students and Lord Shiva introduced **Purusha** as being a part of Himself!

His Holiness at times looked on solemnly, at times laughed out loud and at times smiled happily as the presentation unfolded itself on stage. What more did we need as assurance that our *Ashtamurthi Aradhana* had been accepted as it was with His Usual Love & Grace? As the children enjoyed their *batata phowu* later on and the Kit Kat chocolates that each got as Prasad from their Beloved Swamiji, the Dashaadhyapikaas relaxed, knowing that their offering to Lord Bhavanishankar had been received and blessed wholeheartedly!

(Photo on page 45)

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Annual Prarthana Shibir at Khar Anandashram on 10th June 2012

REPORTED BY SHANTALA TRASIKAR

The annual Prarthana Varga Shibir was held on 10th June 2012 at Shri Anandashram Hall, Khar to commemorate the janma divasa of Parama Pujya Parijnanashram III Swamiji.

Our project manager for the annual Prarthana shibir, Sujata Haldipur had made all possible arrangements to make this shibir a grand success.

The Shadowgraphy team comprising of Deepa Hemant Murdeshwar of Solapur and Chetna Praveen Kadle with a few volunteers and Prarthana teachers were at the venue by 8am to assemble the Shadowgraphy paraphrenalia. Registration started at 9.30 am with Sangeeta Pawar and Rekha Karkal at the counter. In all, 66 children, 10 parents, 27 teachers including resource persons and volunteers participated. After breakfast, the Shibir began with Sabha opening prayers. children reciting Shri Parijnanashram Trayodashi accompanied by Sujata Haldipur and Pradnya Bellare. Archana Savnal explained to the children that the purpose and objective of the annual Shibir was to celebrate the birthday of H. H. Parijnanashram Swamiji III.

The very first session eagerly awaited by one and all was the shadowgraphy show on Adi Shankaracharya. Deepa Murdeshwar gave a brief introduction about the show, acknowledging and expressing gratitude to all the people involved in the making of the show. She explained that manipulating 48 puppets was a fine skill in itself as one had to be very thorough with the script, the sequence and the movements of the puppets.

As the shadowgraphy unfolded, children sat mesmerized. The projections, the music and the puppets blended beautifully. Children watched with rapt attention and in pin drop silence as the various incidents in Adi Shankaracharya's life were depicted through the puppets. They were able to understand in greater depth how these events led to the birth of beautiful shlokas that signify His major contributions to mankind in the form of 'Bhashya'. The animation effects and sound effects / music

brought to life the story the children had enjoyed listening to in their Prarthana class. After the show, they were taken backstage to see for themselves the process of puppet manipulation.

In the next session, Chetana Kadle demonstrated the steps involved in creating puppets. Children were divided into groups and were given pictures of different animals and asked to make puppets. Children had to then make a story and put up their very own puppet show. Teachers acted as facilitators. This experience gave them a backstage feel of how to manipulate the puppets' shadows against the projected backdrop on the screen. Sudhir Balwally guided the children back-stage. It was fun to watch them improvise with basic sound effects. Teachers were having equal fun creating their own stories and putting up stories for the kids.

Everybody enjoyed the nutritious and sumptuous meal Maya Mangalore had whipped up.

In the second session, the children were given a choice between craft and pencil sketching.

Sheela Kalavar demonstrated intricately made craft items. Senior age-group children made Bunny rabbit paper bags and Punch craft decorative frame while the juniors made Sun flower paper bags and a Pencil Stand using thermocol cups, candle sticks and confetti.

Kavita Karnad conducted a session on pencil sketching. Basic techniques of pencil sketching were demonstrated and worksheets with shading pencils were given to children. Pencils moved with almost professional finesse as sketches emerged on the sheets. Yuvati Ananya Dhareshwar of Borivali helped the youngest group with pencil sketching.

Prarthana teachers and enthusiastic parents too guided the children during both the activities.

The last activity was the much awaited cake cutting session. The cakes were made by Prarthana student Jayati Nayel of Goregoan and Yuvati Ashwini Damankar of Khar.

Archana pachi reiterated the significance of lighting of the lamp as against blowing out the candle. She explained that we should start the new year with light in our life and all the other positive elements associated with the it. Some of the youngest children at the Shibir were called to cut the cake. After the cakes were offered at the Lotus Feet of our beloved Parama Pujya Parijnanashram Swamiji before being served to the children.

The Shibir expenses were sponsored by Leena and Prabhav Kodial of Grant Road Sabha and partly by the parents present.

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Shadowgraphy Puppet show in progress



A backstage view of the puppet show put up by the children. We can see them manipulating the puppets and delivering the dialogues.



The cakes made by Prarthana student Jayati Nayel of Goregoan and Yuvati Ashwini Damankar of Khar being offered at the Lotus Feet of our beloved Parama Pujya Parijnanashram Swamiji.

**Prarthana
Varga
children of
Bangalore**



Report on Page 43

Yuan Lee and the Magic Ring

BY ARHAAN HARIDAS (AGE 7YRS.)

(Winner of Hong Kong Young Writer's Award)



Yuan Lee was born to a poor family on the banks of the river Yangtze. His parents named him 'Yuan' as they wished he would have lots of money in his life. When Yuan was six years old he went on a journey with his parents in a boat. One day there was a lot of flooding in the river and Yuan's parents fell through a trap door in the boat. Everyone thought they had drowned but the river dolphins in the Yangtze called Baiji saved his parents. They pushed them towards the river bank. After resting for a while they hailed the first boat in sight. It was the boat that Yuan was on. But the boat did not stop. The parents watched in horror as the boat sailed past them. Yuan was sent to live in an orphanage. There were nice people in the orphanage who took good care of him but he wasn't happy. He missed his parents.

Three years passed and Yuan was now nine years old. He was ready for an adventure. Yuan and his friend enjoyed exploring. The orphanage arranged a field trip to Lijiang to learn about the Naxi people. With their teacher, they took a boat down the golden waterway, another name for the Yangtze. On their way the children saw fishermen who used cormorants, a type of bird, to catch fish for them. When they reached their destination the Naxi people met them with big smiles and hot food. Yuan was so hungry that he gobbled up all the juicy hot dumplings. The Naxi people took Yuan to their leader, the Dongpa. The Dongpa had magic powers. He gave Yuan a magic ring and granted him one wish. He also asked him to use it wisely.

When it was time for them to leave, they found that the boat was missing. Nobody had tied it to the river bank. Yuan had an idea. He asked his teacher and his friend to stay there and he went back to the Dongpa to tell him what had happened. The Dongpa gave him three swimsuits. Yuan, his teacher and his friend put on their swimsuits. Yuan wished with his magic ring for three Baiji to come up. His wish came true and the river dolphins

appeared. Each of them climbed on to one and swam away.

After a while they saw their boat. To their surprise, it was tied to the river bank! When they reached the boat, they heard two voices from inside it. Yuan, his friend and the teacher climbed into the boat. Amazed, Yuan saw his parents and they were talking about missing him. He came running into their arms screaming. They were astonished and very happy. Yuan asked his friend and his teacher if they would like to stay with them in their house and they gladly agreed. They all then lived happily ever after.

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It's Raining

It's raining, it's pouring,
 Oh God! It's so boring,
 But don't worry
 Summer ain't coming in a hurry!
 Too wet,
 Thankfully no sweat;
 Rarely any electricity
 Oh! such a pity!
 So cozy and comfortable
 Nope, not any trouble,
 So sit back and enjoy
 And watch the storm clouds fly by!
 Some hot chocolate or milk
 In the rainy season they're worth as much
 as silk
 why is there a need to eat ice candy,
 When marshmallows will come in handy?
 It's raining, it's pouring,
 But it's not that boring
 So don't worry
 Monsoon ain't going in a hurry!



BY ANIKA BIJUR, HYDERABAD
 Age 12 Years

Personalia

Pavan Kapnadak, son of Ramcharan and Archana Kapnadak of Chennai is an outstanding student in Academics and in extracurricular activities topping in his class throughout. Popular with his peers, teachers and the Management of his School he won the Ramalingam Best All Rounder Outgoing Student Award.



Pavan has been taking part in the Inter School Bhagawad Gita Competition conducted by the Chinmaya Mission from UKG (i.e.) from the age of 4 years and has been consistently bagging the 1st Prize. He has taken part in the Horlicks Wiz Kids Competition for the last three years. The youngest Wiz kid at the State Level for two consecutive years and a one time winner at the National level, receiving a cash award of Rs.25,000/-. He was crowned with the **Title Bala Swarna Jwala** by the Registrar of the Chennai University at an event organized by the Lions Club International and an organization called The Journal of School of Social work Chennai.

Pavan has won a number of awards from childhood by writing the National Science & National Mathematics Olympiad year after year. A student of FIITJEE from Chennai, wanting to pursue Engineering, he wrote the Talent Reward exam conducted by FIITJEE and won an award of Rs.40, 000/ and a two year scholarship for his course (i.e.) for Std.XI and XII.

Recently he made two new Innovations in a competition held by U.S Consulate in Chennai, and won the 1st Prize receiving an award from the US Consul General at Chennai.

A scientist in the making Pavan has joint the University of North Dakota USA, to pursue his Professional career in Engineering. His ranking is in the first 1 % in the All India CBSE XII Std Board examination held in March 2012.

Dr. Rahul Nilawar, son of Nirmala and Suresh Nilawar has received his Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematics from the University College, London.

He received a studentship to do his PhD from the Natural Environmental Research Council soon after completing his Bachelors in Mathematics with Theoretical Physics. He also received the Edwin Power award for research in Applied Mathematics in his first year and was funded to present several papers at international conferences. His thesis was based on vortex dynamics, with an emphasis on large scale ocean circulation. He has recently published a paper in the "Physics of Fluids" by the American Institute of Physics. During his undergraduate studies he was elected twice to represent UCL in the International Mathematics Competition. He is currently working as an applications developer for a hydraulics and pipe network software company in Cambridge.



Sheeka Nitin Gokarn completed graduation in Fashion Designing from SNTD College, Mumbai in June 2012. She has had the opportunity of closely



working with some renowned fashion designers. She is now designing clothes for upcoming TV artists. Sheeka had the opportunity to showcase her creations in a Fashion Show that was hosted at St.Andrews College, Bandra in April 2012, where renowned fashion

designers and celebrities were a part of the panel of judges. She represented Mithibai College, Mumbai for Rotracts District Festival for a Fashion show in 2008. She won the College Fashion Show at S.N.D.T Women's University in 2009. She had won the Regional rounds of Femina Miss India, 2009. Apart from designing clothes, Sheeka is passionate about music, painting, designing of accessories & jewellery, sketching, clay modeling, ballroom, Bollywood and Belly dancing, hair styling and make-up, travelling and photography.

Vaibhav Nayel (16) has passed 10th std examination held by ICSE in March 2012 securing



distinction 94.42 % aggregate. He is an instinctive harmonium player, excellent in Tabla, and keyboard and was adjudged "Best instrumentalist" in his school. He has accompanied many other artists at various forums and is presently concentrating on

electric guitar and has composed music by his own intrinsic talent.

Vaishnavi Nayel (22) after completing B COM (April 2010) from St Josephs College of Commerce, Bangalore, has finished her post graduation in MBA (Marketing) from Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, Pune in April 2012. She has joined VODAFONE (the global Telecom Major— a MNC) as management trainee and is posted at Chandigarh as part of the training programme. She

is highly talented in histrionics, group singing, debates and group discussions. Vaishnavi has excelled in Inter Collegiate Meets in the fields of advertising content and business situational competitions winning several awards. She has also cleared her GCSE in HINDUISM held by Ed Excel, UK, in 2002. Recently she was a keen and active member of Symbiosis Team which was responsible for the successful completion of a project ASHA DEEP, in illuminating hutments in slums and villages using non conventional energy sources. The team received commendation from the President of India in April 2012, the success of which was carried in the news feature of Bangalore and Pune editions of Daily Mirror and Marathi publications in Pune.



Sponsored Charity Walk By Saraswat Samaj UK:

Sponsored Walk is the first event in the calendar of the Saraswat Samaj UK. As usual, it was held in the well known Regent's Park. London on Saturday the 12th May 2012. Nineteen enthusiastic members of the Samaj met in the morning with smiles on their faces. It was a beautiful day for the outing after the cold winter and a late spring. The walk was arranged to raise money for the Charity – Diabetes UK.

The Regent's Park covers 166 hectares (410 acres) and includes stunning rose gardens with more than 30,000 roses of 400 varieties. The Park has excellent sports facilities and with nearly 100 acres available is the largest outdoor sports area in Central London. Our walk was 5 KM starting from the junction of 'Outer Circle' and 'Park Square West' and finished at the same spot. We got our President's signature on the sponsor forms to ensure we could collect our donations from our sponsors.

This was followed by a Picnic which was shared with everyone at the end of the walk on the lawn. I would not be doing justice to an āmchi event without mentioning some of the varieties of snacks shared. We had Chatni sandwiches, Crisps, Vadā Pāv, Chivda, Shevayā usli, Cake, Flapjacks, Tortilla chips, Carrot halvā, Sheerā unde and a variety of biscuits. We would like to thank everyone who attended and prepared the picnic food.

The charity walk raised £700 which will be sent to The Charity – Diabetes UK to help in their effort to combat Diabetes and help people with Diabetes.

Report by Dr Ranjan Adur



The Higgs Boson

Last month a discovery was made which created ripples throughout the world. It was - **The Higgs Boson**

Scientists working at the world's biggest atom smasher near Geneva announced the discovery of a new sub-atomic particle that looks remarkably like the long-sought Higgs Boson. Also called the 'God particle' because its existence is fundamental to the creation of the universe, the hunt for the Higgs involved thousands of scientists from all over the world.

1. What is the God Particle anyway? School physics teaches that everything is made up of atoms, and inside atoms are electrons, protons and neutrons. They, in turn, are made of quarks and other subatomic particles. Scientists have long puzzled over how these minute building blocks of the universe acquire mass. Without mass, particles wouldn't hold together and there would be no matter. According to the Standard Model, a theory which has ruled physics for the last half-century, the Higgs Boson is the manifestation of an invisible force field that permeates space and imbues elementary particles with mass. This particle was postulated by a British physicist Peter Higgs, and coworkers in 1964. The atom-smashing experiments at CERN, the European Center for Nuclear Research, have now captured a glimpse of what appears to be just such a Higgs-like particle.

2. Why is this important? The Higgs is part of many theoretical equations underpinning scientists' understanding of how the universe came into being. If it doesn't exist, then those theories would need to be fundamentally overhauled. The fact that it apparently does exist means scientists have been on the right track with their theories. But there's a twist: the measurements seem to diverge slightly from what has been expected. This is exciting for scientists because it opens the possibility to potential new discoveries including a theory known as 'super-symmetry' where particles don't just come in pairs - think matter and anti-matter - but have super-partners, all with slightly different characteristics.

3. How much did it cost? CERN's atom smasher, the Large Hadron Collider, alone cost some \$10 billion to build and run. This includes the salaries of thousands of scientists and support staff around the world who collaborated on the two experiments that independently pursued the Higgs.

4. Were there any practical results from the search? Not directly. But the massive scientific effort that led up to the discovery has paid off in other ways, one of which was the creation of the World Wide Web. CERN scientists developed it to make it easier to exchange information among each other. The vast computing power needed to crunch all of the data produced by the atom smasher has also boosted the development of distributed - or cloud - computing, which is now making its way into mainstream services. Advances in solar energy capture, medical imaging and proton therapy - used in the fight against cancer - have also resulted from the work of particle physicists at CERN and elsewhere.

5. What's next? "This is just the beginning," says James Gillies, a spokesman for CERN. Scientists will keep probing the new particle until they fully understand how it works. In doing so they hope to understand at least a part of 96 percent of the universe that remains hidden from view. This may result in the discovery of new particles and even hitherto unknown forces of nature.

The Indian Connection - The long-sought particle, the Higgs Boson is partly named after the illustrious Indian scientist, Sathyendra Nath Bose, who worked with Albert Einstein in the 1920s on areas that led to the most coveted Nobel prize for Einstein.

A large number of Indian scientists, representing the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics (SINP), Kolkata, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, Harishchandra Research Institute, Allahabad and Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, were involved in the world's most ambitious experiment over the years. "India is like a historic father of the project," said Paolo Giubellino, spokesperson of Geneva-based European Organisation for Nuclear Research,

famously known as CERN. As scientists thrashed out the 'God particle' in its physical form in a giant collider, there was palpable excitement at SINP since its scientists had made significant contributions to the development of the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiments at CERN. Stating that it was a historical moment in physics and SINP took pride in being a part of the history, the Institute Director Milan Sanyal said "It will require more data and intense scrutiny to establish these findings beyond any doubt. This is an important moment for the development of science and I am very happy that our institute, this city and our country is part of the science revolution," he told PTI in Kolkata. He said that the core CMS team of the SINP had five faculty members — group leader Prof Sunanda Banerjee, Prof Satyaki Bhattacharya, Prof Suchandra Datta, Prof Subir Sarkar and Prof Manoj Saran., attached to the S N Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, who termed the spotting of the sub-atomic particle 'consistent' with the 'God Particle' as a victory for human civilization.

(Culled from the InterNet)

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An Epiphany of Life

MAITHILI BASRUR, MUMBAI

Some people take an entire lifetime to know what life is and some people understand the meaning of life within minutes. Life goes on so smoothly when suddenly there occurs an incident, which leaves a permanent mark on our mind. Some people are too busy to give it a thought while some of them just don't bother. Something similar happened with me-Twice!

I and two of my Junior college friends decided to meet up on a Sunday afternoon and go for lunch. After a lot of hullabaloo we went to a popular restaurant at Churchgate. After sometime, our food came and was served hot in our plates. The delicious aroma didn't allow us to think of anything else. I picked my spoon and was just about to put a spoonful of the morsel in my mouth when my eyes fell on a large plastic bag with something inside it under my friend's chair. The chair was actually a wall mounted bench on which cushions were kept to make it look like a small sofa on which both my friends were sitting. I exclaimed, "Wait!! There is a huge plastic bag under your seat! Do you know to who it belongs to?" My friend told me to chill and that I am just thinking awry. But I couldn't relax. I asked the person sitting at the next table, "Excuse me Sir, does this bag belong to you?" To which he replied, "No. It doesn't belong to me. Don't touch it. It might just contain a bomb!" He said it so lightly and with a whacky, mischievous smile on his face. He continued to eat but my nervousness went on increasing

I called for the waiter and inquired about that huge plastic bag. He was also unaware of it. I got all the more spooked! Nobody knew about the bag under the chair on which we were sitting. My hands stopped moving and the food lost its taste. I again called another waiter and told him to look into the matter. The waiter didn't return to our table with any answer. By now we had all worked ourselves into a state of nervous excitement. I escalated the issue to the Manager. After a little while, they realized that the plastic bag belonged to the hotel and contained nothing but empty plastic

containers which one of the waiters had dumped under the seat in a hurry. I heaved a big sigh of relief! Suddenly the ambience looked perfect and the music was awesome! The food tasted much more delicious than before and my happiness meter was at its peak as I came out of the restaurant with a much lighter heart!

Another similar incident happened while I was going to Pune. I usually go by Shivneri bus. That day I was happy as I had got a window seat right behind the driver. The bus was still not full and there were 10 more minutes for the bus to leave. I sat gazing around. There was a lady sitting beside me busy on her phone. The bus was filling up fast. I guess it was the holidaying crowd going home for holidays. Suddenly, a gentleman entered hurriedly. He was out of breath, looked hassled and was wearing a loud red shirt. In his hand was a black briefcase.

His seat was just parallel to mine at the other window. He was talking to a man sitting beside his seat. "Bhaisahaab, can you please take care of my briefcase, I need to go urgently and meet someone nearby". Bhaisahaab was least interested in what Mr. Loud shirt was saying. He hardly looked up from his magazine he was reading and grunted a yes. The man placed his briefcase near the window and left. Right above the place where the briefcase lay was a sign reading "**Please report any unaccompanied baggage to the authorities, for your safety and others**".

I sat bolt upright. I saw Mr Loud Shirt hurrying towards the doorway. Okay, don't panic...the guy probably must be here somewhere, don't jump to conclusions." said the positive side of my mind. "...report any un-accompanied baggage ..." said the negative side of my mind. "There must be hundreds of bags lying around like that!" again spoke out my positive side "...for your safety and others..." counter reacted my negative side. I gulped. After 5 minutes of impatience, I frantically searched for any sign of a bright red shirt outside. I found none. My heart raced as I thought of the unthinkable. My

mind wandered to the 26/11 blasts in Mumbai the previous year. I looked around. The lady beside me was reading 'Outlook' which had a man with bloodshot eyes holding, what looked like an AK-47, staring at me from the cover. "This is crazy" I thought. Was I seeing omens? I sat there sweating in the cold A.C Volvo bus. My heartbeat increased every second. I thought. "Before that, I was worried if I packed my bag properly. It all seems so...insignificant now...". My eyes rested on the briefcase. A ragged old, black briefcase.

Something struck me...

Now that I was thinking about death, did I realize the importance of life? Never did somebody's misfortune or hardships stir me more than my own plight did. Strange as it may seem, I had a new, positive outlook towards life. Life seemed... precious. I wanted to live more than ever before. I felt that my life was just like that briefcase packed with so many emotions and so many memories both important and unimportant. It contained the memories of time I spent with my loved ones, the good times and the bad, the failures which I learnt from and the successful moments which made me shine. I felt that my life was like that briefcase with all the things helter- skelter inside it, appearing to be over stuffed with emotions but always having room for more. My life is not like a book, which anyone could read from cover to cover. It was like a briefcase... a 'depot' of my thoughts, memories, feelings, relationships and emotions! Till it burst and overflowed!

"Beautiful..." I mockingly sniffed. "If I survive this, I am going to jot this down somewhere", I thought. The bus driver got in and started the bus. I got startled. "Oh my God, oh my God..."

Mr Loud Shirt was nowhere in sight. The bus started to move. I had to tell someone.

"It's now or never...here goes nothing..." Just as I opened my mouth to call out to the Bhaisahaab sitting beside Mr.Loud shirt's seat, the bus halted, the door opened like it automatically does in a Volvo and there he was standing at the doorway out of breath (Surprise!!) again!!!! Mr. Loud Shirt!!! He walked in and the bus started to move again.

"Thank you bhaisahab. I was almost going to miss the bus!" Bhaisahab merely looked over his magazine and grunted again. I felt an un-natural calm over

me. Like there were no more worries in the world... I had an odd expression on my face which made the lady sitting beside me ask, "Are you ok girl? Is something wrong?" To which I replied, "I am fine Aunty, Never felt better than this!"

The above incidents left a permanent imprint on my mind. Both the incidents made me realize the importance of our life and how we keep forgetting about living it in our daily hustle bustle. And secondly, I realized that although the government has made amendments to improve security, it is us, the citizens who should be aware on our side to keep our city safe! And it is not just about being aware and spotting an abandoned bag in the public and keep gazing at it until it bursts or running away from the spot before it explodes, but also to stand strong and speak up and make others aware around us about it. It doesn't matter how stupid you look while doing it or even though the abandoned bag might be somebody's safe possession left out. It is our duty to be aware and help ourselves make the city more safe and secured.

<<<>>>

Peacock the Pride of India

Beautiful, graceful Peacock nation's pride
So lovely in its plumage and stride
Strutting about with its feathery train
In display a fan, of such magnificent refrain

Neck shapely, head atop with a crest
Iridescent blue and green all abreast
Speckles of gold , and black- spots like eyes
Feathers in total array, against the skies

Associated with Devi Saraswati ; Goddess
Imparting Knowledge, Compassion, and Kindness
Adding colour to Her pictorial representation
Peacock is a symbol in Her art decoration

Elegant and regal Peacock is full of splendour
Whereas, Peahen is simpler in her demeanour
Plainly attired feathers make her look dainty
She has her own beauty in lesser quantity

Artists poets, and painters depict Peacocks
enchantly
Famous around the Natural World, known widely
Can such exquisite birds live Forever
Let Humanity earnestly care for their Future

- Kumud Lajmi

The Lord's Presence

NIRMALA BELLARE, HIMACHAL PRADESH

The year was 1989. I was alone at Sidhpur in Himachal Pradesh. My son and daughter were at Chennai after completing their Xth and XIIth board exams respectively, attending classes for their future courses. My husband was still in Thane busy with formalities of selling the factory and home.

I was all alone and had been to Dharamsala to complete my pending work at the bank, laundry and shopping for the vegetables and kitchen requisites. After completing my work at the post office of posting letters and phoning my children and husband I waited for the bus to return back to my home. Alas! There were no buses and after waiting for more than an hour we realized that there were no buses due to a flash transport strike. It was quite dark almost 7.30 p.m. There were no taxis available and walking back to Sidhpur was impossible. I silently prayed to God to help us. Along with me there were 4 girls from Tapovan Ashram who were worried as they could not contact the ashram since those were the days before mobile phones or P.C.O.s.

Within a few minutes I could detect a car coming towards us. I immediately stretched out my hand and requested the driver to drop us at Sidhpur as there were no buses. The driver recognized me as his son's teacher in Sacred Heart School and was happy to oblige. I took the 4 girls with me assuring them that I will contact their warden Brahmachari Shantamma so that they could stay with me overnight, have dinner and sleep. The next day being Sunday I would accompany them to ashram. The parent, though he stayed at a place called Dari 2 kms away from our house, was kind enough to drop us at my doorstep. I phoned the ashram from a neighbour's telephone and informed about their safe arrival at my place and to not worry about them. They were nurses under training at the health centre of the ashram.

Early morning after breakfast we started walking towards the ashram. The girls walked fast, ahead

of me and didn't look back to see where I was. There was a shortcut road, a narrow one made of large granite stones. It was raining and so I had to walk slowly holding an umbrella. Suddenly a group of mules carrying sand and bajri started walking on the same road towards me. The loads of sand were so large in volume that one of the mules almost pushed me and I fell down in the stream passing on the side below the 'kaccha' road. I cried out "He Bhagwan". I couldn't climb up the bridge as it was quite high. A woman staying across the road saw me falling and came running to rescue me by giving her hand. I managed to climb up and reach the road with almost tears in my eyes. The lady took her dupatta and wiped my face. She helped me to wipe my dirty hands and feet as well and gave me a reassuring hug as though to say everything was fine. I was overwhelmed with grief and just couldn't help crying. She asked me to come and have a hot cup of tea, but I just thanked her and walked fast to catch up with the 4 girls who were walking fast ahead not realizing what had happened! I managed to reach the ashram and complete my responsibility of reaching them safe to Shantamma and told her about my experience on the way.

I remembered the Lord's words "During your times of trial and suffering, it was then, that I carried you." It was surely Him who appeared in the garb of the parent and the woman who lent a helping hand!

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सारस्वत महिला समाज, गावदेवी

विख्यात नाटककार श्री. सुरेश खरे यांचे व्याख्यान

शनिवार दि. २३ जून २०१२ रोजी सायंकाळी पाच वाजता सारस्वत महिला समाज, गावदेवी येथे सुप्रसिद्ध नाटककार श्री. सुरेश खरे यांचे 'सांगण्यासारखे बरेच काही' या विषयावर व्याख्यान झाले. अॅड. नरेंद्र कामत स्मृति-व्याख्यान मालेतील हे चौथे पुष्प त्यांनी गुंफले. हॉलमध्ये 'हाऊसफुल्ल' गर्दी झाली होती.

आपल्या प्रदीर्घ कारकीर्दीतील अनेक स्मरणीय अशा अनुभवांना श्री. खरे यांनी उजाळा दिला व श्रोत्यांना मंत्रमुग्ध केले. आपल्या शालेय जीवनातील अभिनयाचे विनोदी किस्से, पुढे नाटककार झाल्यानंतर नानासाहेब फाटक, मामा पेंडसे या नटांच्या सहवासातील हृद्य आठवणी, विजय तेंडुलकर, मो.ग. रांगणेकर या ज्येष्ठ लेखकांचे मौलिक मार्गदर्शन, विमा कंपनीत अधिकारपदावर असताना कनिष्ठ सहकाऱ्यांशी जुळविलेले स्नेहबंध व सहानुभूतीपूर्ण वागणूक, अनाथ विद्यार्थ्यांना साह्य केल्यामुळे प्रत्येकाला आलेली त्यांची कृतज्ञता अशा अनेक विषयांवर त्यांनी श्रोत्यांशी घरगुती स्वरूपात संवाद साधला व



आपल्या मनमोकळ्या निगवीं स्वभावाचे दर्शन घडविले. अनेक यशस्वी नाटकांचे लेखन आणि नाट्यसंमेलनाचे अध्यक्षपद असे उत्तुंग कर्तृत्व गाठीशी असूनही त्यांच्या वागण्याबोलण्यात कुठे अहंतेचा स्पर्शही दिसला नाही. एकूणच भाषण हृदयस्पर्शी, मनोरंजक व उद्बोधक झाल्याची पावती श्रोत्यांनी दिली.

कॅनरा सारस्वत असोसिएशनचे अध्यक्ष व श्यामराव विठ्ठल बँकेचे संचालक श्री. सुरेश हेमाडी यांनी कार्यक्रमाचे अध्यक्षपद भूषविले. सुरवातीस गीता बिजूर यांनी श्रोत्यांचे स्वागत केले. समाजाच्या अध्यक्षा सुमन कोड्याळ यांनी श्री. खरे यांना पुष्पगुच्छ

देऊन सन्मानित केले. साधना कामत यांनी खरे यांचा परिचय करून दिला. व्याख्यान संपल्यावर श्री. हेमाडी यांनी व्याख्यात्यांना समाजातर्फे लहानशी भेट कृतज्ञतापूर्वक अर्पण केली. प्रश्नोत्तरे थोडक्यात झाल्यानंतर श्रोत्यांना श्रीमती इंदिरा कामत यांच्या स्मरणार्थ अल्पोपहार देण्यात आला. शेवटी श्यामला तलगेरी यांनी आभारप्रदर्शन केले.

संस्कृत साहित्य सागरांतुलो एक थेंबु-२

- आनंद कडले, शिराली

थोडे लोकांक निश्चिंति वस्त्रं पोर्नी जाल्लेल् तश्शी ताज्जेरि मोगु वाडुत वत्ता। तस्लो एकु मामु सांगता आयकया-

अयं पटो मे पितुरंग भूषणं
पितामहाद्यैरूपभुक्त यौवनः।
अलंकरिष्यंत्यथ पुत्र पौत्रकान्
मयाधुना पुष्पवदेव धार्यते।।

मगेल्या आज्जाने प्रायेवेळोरि घालनु घेतिलो हो चोगो (शर्ट) बाप्पाने सुदां घालनु घेतिलो, मगेल्या चेईवांक आनी नात्रांकयी हाज्जो उपयोगु जांवका ह्युणु हांव आतं फुलशें भारी काळजेरी उपयोग करत आस्स!

सांसारिक झंझट नात्तिलो कोणु? साक्षात् परमेश्वराकयी हे झंझट चुक्कनीति ह्युणु सुभाषित सांगता। आनि ह्या झंझटां मितींचि

ईश्वराने हलाहल विष पिल्लें ह्युणु सुभाषितकारु कान्नातु सांगता-

अत्तुंवांछति वाहनं गणपतेराखुं क्षुधार्तः फणी
तंच क्रौंचपतेः शिखीच गिरिजा सिंहोऽपिनागाननम्।
गौरी जन्हुसुतामसूयति कलानार्थं कपालानलः
निर्विण्णः स पपौ कुटुम्ब कलहादीशोऽपिहालाहलम्।।

गणपतिगेल्या उन्द्राक खांवचाक ईश्वरागेलो सर्पुं, सर्पाक खांवचाक षण्मुखागेलो मोरु, हस्ति ह्युणु गणपतिक खांवचाक् पार्वतिगेलो सिंहु राक्कऽत आसल्यारि गंगाक पोळोवनु पार्वति आनि मात्त्यारि आशिशल चन्द्राक पोळोवनु तिस्रो दोळ्यांतुलो उज्जो पोटजाळ पावत आशिशल पोळोवनु हे कौटुम्बिक झगडे सुधारसुंचाक जायनास्तना ईश्वराने वीष घेतलें खंयी ! ईश्वरागेले

संसारा कष्ट इतलेची नहीं। आनी आस्सति

स्वयंपंचमुखः पुत्रौ गजानन षडाननौ
दिगम्बरः कथं जीवेत् अन्नपूर्णा नचेद्गृहे।।

एकळो पुतू स तोंडाचो आनी एकळो हस्ते तोंडाचो स्वतः
पांच तोंडं (तत्पुरुष, अघोर, सद्योजात, वामदेव, ईशान) आस्तना
दिगंबरू ईश्वरू संसारा तोंडं कशशी भरैता? अन्नपूर्णा घर आस्स
तो बचाव। जाल्यारि आनी एकळो सुभाषितकारू विंगड सांगता।
संसारा पोट भोरूक साध्य जायना ह्युणुचि ईश्वरू अर्ध नारीश्वरू
जाल्लो आनि षण्मुखाक आजीथायी लगन करनी।

उदरद्वयभरण भयादर्धागाहितदारः

यदि नैवं तस्यसुतः कथमद्यापि कुमारः।।

दंभाचाराने आडंबर करुत आप्पण होडु ब्रह्मज्ञानी, वेदान्ती
ह्युणु दिखावो करत भोंवतल्याक साहित्य कारू कशशी छडी
मारता आयकया

सामगायनपूतं मे नोच्छिष्टं अधरं कुरु

उत्कण्ठितासिचेद्भद्रे वामं कर्णं दशस्वमे।।

“प्रिये सामवेद पठन कोर्नु मगेले वट पवित्र जाल्याति. तुक्का
मज्जेरि तितलो मोगु आयल्यारि वट्टांक उम्म दीवनाक्का. तोंड
उष्टं जायद. मगेल्या दावे कात्राक उम्म दी. संस्कृत साहित्यांतु
खंचो विषयु गौणु ना ह्युणु उदाहरणार्थ एक रचना दित्त आस्स.
नांक कान धांपुनू घेवु वाच्चत वाच्चत हास्सून सोडा.

रेरेलोकाः कुरुध्वंश्वणपुटपिधानं द्रुतं हस्तयुगमैः

शैला सर्वेऽपि यूयं भवथ गुरुतराः सावधाना धरित्र्याम्।

शीघ्रं रे रावण विरचयवसनैर्नासिकानां पिधानं

सुप्तोऽयं कुम्भकर्णः कटुरवविकटं शर्धते दीर्घमुच्चेः।।

साहित्यकारू किळचुनू समस्तलोकांक तशशीचि रावणाक
नांक आनि कान धांपून घेवचाक सांगता आनि भूंयेरि आशिशल्या
सगळे पर्वतांक घट्टी राबका ह्युणु जाग्रता दिता। इत्या म्हळ्यारि
निदान्तु आशिशलो कुम्भकर्णु कटु आनि विकट जाल्लेल् अपानवायु
(पादु) सोडत आस्स। हे लेखनांतु केवल हास्याबद्दल मात्र सांगले
मुखावेल्या लेखनान्तु शब्द चमत्कारा विचारा बदल पोळोयां।

(क्रमशः)

जाणीव

डॉ. दिव्या रवींद्र बिजूर

डॉ. दिव्या रवींद्र बिजूर ही आपल्या सर्वांच्या परिचयाची. अनेक प्रसंगी कार्यक्रमांतून आपण तिचे गायन ऐकले आहे. कॅनरा सारस्वत असोसिएशनच्या २०११ मध्ये आयोजित केलेल्या संगीत सम्मेलनांतून तिने उत्कृष्ट संगीत सादर केले. तिचे व्यक्तिमत्व देखणे व हसतमुख. पाचव्या वर्षापासून तिने संगीत व पेटीवादनाच्या शिक्षणाला आरंभ केला. शाळेत प्रथम क्रमांक पटकावित होतीच पण बोर्डाच्या परीक्षेत 'हॅडीकॅप' कॅटेगरीतून मुंबईत सर्वप्रथम आली. फिजिओथेरेपीच्या परीक्षेतही विद्यापीठातून सर्वप्रथम! फिजिओथेरेपीच्या ट्रीटमेंटसाठी वसईत दोन केंद्र चालवते. वाचन व संगीत दोन्हीची आवड. दिव्याने तिच्या या यशाचे सर्व श्रेय तिच्या आईला डॉ. सुजल रवींद्र बिजूर हिला दिले आहे.

श्रावण अमावास्या- म्हणजे पिठोरी अमावास्या-मातृदिन म्हणून मानला जातो. त्या निमित्ताने दिव्याने आईबद्दल व्यक्त केलेल्या ह्या भावना-

निसर्गाकडून होणाऱ्या चुका देव सावरत असतो. मला दृष्टी द्यायला निसर्ग विसरतो आहे हे ओळखून सुजल बिजूर आणि रवींद्र बिजूर यांच्या पोटी देवाने मला जन्माला घातलं. दोघंही नामवंत डॉक्टर आहेत. आई अँनेस्थेटिस्ट, बाबा आय सर्जन! निसर्गाने माझ्यावर जन्मापासून लादलेल्या 'कन्जनायटल ब्लाईंडनेस'चा बाऊ न करता आईने मला 'उभं' केलं. आज मी फिजिओथेरेपिस्ट आहे, याचं श्रेय आईलाच आहे. ह्प्टीहीनांचा आत्मसन्मान राखून त्यांना आधार कसा द्यावा याचं विश्वात कुठे विद्यापीठ असेल तर त्याची कुलगुरू माझी आईच असेल. माझी मोठी बहीण आदिती-तिच्या बरोबरीने सारे आनंद मला उपभोगू देण्यासाठी आई धडपडत आली. माझा 'प्ले ग्रुप' आईसाठी शाळेबाहेरही आणि चोवीस तासांचा होता. भाजी-

फळांची खरेदी नोकरांवर न सोपवता मला घेऊन ती स्वतः मार्केटला जायची ती फळांचे, भाज्यांचे आकार, गंध मला 'अनुभवू' द्यायला. संडासाचं भांडंही माझ्या हाता-पायांना तिने अनुभवायला लावलं. मॉल्सचं पेव फुटण्यापूर्वीच्या त्या काळात आमच्या वसई गावात एकमेव डिपार्टमेंटल स्टोअर्स होतं. मला घेऊन तिथे आई मुद्दाम जायची ती साबणांचे नाना प्रकार, धान्यं, डाळी, फरसाण, बेकरी आयटेम्स यांचे तिथे कसे सेक्शनस असतात, 'स्टॅकिंग' कसं केलेलं असतं ते मला 'दाखवण्या'साठी!

शाळेत आणि 'नॅब' मध्ये मी जाऊ लागण्यापूर्वीच माझ्या भोवतालीच्या जगाची मला खूपशी कल्पना आलेली होती. 'नॅशनल असोसिएशन फॉर दि ब्लाईंड्स'च्या चौधरी सरांनी तर

आईचं कौतुकच केलं पहिल्या भेटीत! म्हणाले होते, 'जे जे शक्य आहे, ते ते या मुलांना 'फिजिकली फील' करून देणं, त्यासाठी घरच्यांनी न कंटाळणं हीच तर 'व्हिज्युअली इम्पेअर्ड' मुलांच्या विकासाची गुरुकिल्ली आहे. अन्यथा...डू यू नो; असा एक मुलगा खूप हुषार होता. यथावकाश तो एम्.ए. झाला खरा. पण मोराला दोन पाय असतात ते वयाच्या तिसीपर्यंत माहीतच नव्हतं त्याला. पक्षी असला तरी जमिनीवरच राहत असल्यामुळे मोराला, प्राण्यांप्रमाणे चार पाय असतात असंच समजत होता तो!... डॉक्टर सुजल, तुमची लेक हुषार आहे. तिला तुम्ही नॉर्मल मुलांच्या शाळेतच घाला. 'कम्युनिकेशनल चॅलेन्जीस' सोपे व्हायला मदत होईल.'

वसईच्या 'सेन्ट पीटर इंग्लिश स्कूल'ला आईच तर गेली होती मला घेऊन. तिथे फादरनी माझा इंटरव्यू घेतला, ज्यात माझा परफॉर्मन्स समाधानकारक वाटला होता त्यांना. पण त्यांनी देऊ केलेला प्रवेश हा 'कॅडिशनल' होता. म्हणाले होते, 'होमवर्कची! जबाबदारी तुम्ही घ्यायची आहे, डॉक्टर सुजल!'

आईने होकार दिला होता. प्रत्यक्षात तिला कित्येक पट काम करावं लागलं होतं. 'होमवर्क'च काय, 'क्लासवर्क'ही करावं लागलं होतं सारी वर्षे तिला. त्या काळात गावात मोजकेच अॅन्स्ट्रेटिस्ट होते. दिवसभरात केव्हाही इमर्जन्सी कॉल्स यायचे. ठरलेल्या सर्जरीज प्राधान्याने सकाळी असल्यामुळे पहाटे चार वाजताच उठावं लागायचं तिला. रात्रंदिवस कामांचे ताण असूनही, असा एकही दिवस उजाडला नव्हता, की मला घेऊन आई दर्शिका मोदीच्या घरी गेली नाही. ते तिने शाळेची सारी वर्षे जपलं. क्लासमध्ये शिकवलेलं-लिहून दिलेलं सारं मटेरिअल आई 'शब्द न शब्द' अशा शिस्तीने दर्शिकाच्या वहातातून लिहून आणायची. घरी आल्यावर माझ्या 'होमवर्क'ला लागायची. 'सेल्फ सपोर्टेड' होण्यासाठी मला 'ब्रेल' येणं हिताचं होतं. ते मला शिकवता यावं म्हणून, मी पाच वर्षांची असताना आईने 'ब्रेल' शिकून घेतलं. किमान 'एक्स्टर्नल अॅनॉटॉमी' मला कळावी, उदाहरणार्थ डोळ्यांची 'खोबण' म्हणजे काय हे मला कळावं म्हणून डोळ्याचं मॉडेल आणलं. बेडूक, विंचू, पाली, साप असे खरे वाटणारे रबरी प्राणी आईने माझ्यासाठी आणले, तेही निवडून उत्तम प्रतीचे आणि त्या त्या प्राण्यांच्या मूळ आकारांएवढे लहान-मोठे! ...टी.व्ही.वरच्या सिनेमांचा 'थरार'ही तिने मला अनुभवू दिला. हीरोच्या मारामारीच्या अॅक्शन्स, आई इतक्या कौशल्याने, तिच्या हातांनी माझे हात-पाय पकडून समजून द्यायची की वाटायचं; त्या मूव्हीची आईच 'फायटिंग अॅन्ड स्टन्ट्स डिरेक्टर' आहे...शाळेतल्या प्रत्येक स्पर्धेत मी सहभागी व्हावं हा तिचा आग्रह असायचा. मला

आणि आदितीला, शास्त्रीय गायनाचे धडे तिने गिरवायला लावलेच होते. पण शाळेत 'रनिंग रेस'मध्ये मैत्रिणींच्या साथीने मी थांबावं, अडखळत-पडत 'एन्डलाइन' पर्यंत पोचून आनंद मिळवावा यासाठी ती आग्रही असायची. बॅडमिंटन आणि टेबलटेनिसही तिने खेळून घेतलं माझ्याकडून. 'नेट' पलीकडे आदितीला उभं करून माझ्या रॅकेटला स्वतःची हलकी पकड पुरवून, शटलकॉकवरच्या 'स्ट्रोक'चा आनंद तिनेच मला अनुभवू दिला. वारा कापत येणारा शटलकॉकचा वेग आणि ते परतल्यावर मनात निर्माण होणारा आनंद-आवेग आईमुळेच अनुभवू शकले मी...

मी दुसरी-तिसरीला असताना माझी सर्जरी झाली होती. जन्मतः माझ्या डाव्या हाताची करंगळीजवळची दोन बोटां एकमेकांना चिकटलेली होती. प्लॅस्टिक सर्जरी करून ती कापल्यानंतर बोटांना बँडेज बांधलेलं होतं. तो हात हलवता येत नव्हता. त्याचवेळी शाळेचं गॅदरिंग होतं. पेटी वाजवून मी गाणं म्हणणार होते, जे आता शक्य नव्हतं. निराशही झाले होते. 'हार्मोनियमशिवाय गाणं म्हण' अथवा 'दुसरं कुणी पेटी वाजवेल', असे टीचरनी दिलेले पर्याय मी धुडकावले होते. पण आई म्हणाली होती, 'जर गाणं शिकण्यासाठी बर्वेबाईकडे तुला सोडायला-आणायला मी लागते नि चालते तुला; तर पेटी वाजवायला मी तुला मदत केली तर का हरकत असावी तुझी? पेटी तूच वाजवशील दिव्या; पण मागून भाता मी ढकलीन' आणि तिची योजना मला स्वीकारावी लागली होती. गाण्यानंतर झालेला टाळ्यांचा गजर आणि 'वन्स मोअर'चा झालेला लगातार नारा; माझ्यातला 'कॉन्फिडन्स' वाढवणारे ठरले होते. तो जपण्यासाठी आई किती धडपडते आहे हे मला वाढत्या इयत्तांत नव्यानव्याने कळत गेलं.

'विंडो शॉपिंग' ही फसवी गोष्ट आईला मुळीच आवडत नसूनही, आऊटिंगला गेल्यावर त्यासाठी वेळ राखून ठेवायची ती खास माझ्यासाठीच! त्यातूनच वस्तू हाताळून, 'अॅश ट्रे'चं पर्पझ, क्रिस्टल्सच्या कमळातलं सौंदर्य आणि चंदनाच्या हत्ती-ओंडक्यातली कल्पकता मला कळून आली. 'अॅटिक्स'चं जग मला कळून आलं. तरीही कित्येक गोष्टी आकलनापलीकडच्या होत्या. त्या त्या प्रसंगी आईने त्या माझ्या 'सहवेदने'ने फेस केल्या...कुठल्याही फंक्शनला जायचं झालं की आई माझी 'मेकअपवुमन' व्हायची. ड्रेस, हेअरक्लिप्स, बांगड्या, कानातले डूल; यांची अचूक रंगसंगती साधून घेऊन चेहरा सजवेपर्यंत तीच करायची सारं काही...त्या दिवशीही लग्नाला जाण्यासाठी मला 'तयार' करून स्वतःचं आवरायला ती तिच्या खोलीत गेली. ती कशी तयार होते, कशी दागिने घालते हे मला 'पाहायचं' होतं. घरातल्या स्थिर वस्तूंना, मोकळ्या जागांना

सरावल्याने घरात फिरू शकणारी मी, आईला न सांगता तिच्या रूममध्ये गेले. त्या खोलीत पाच पावलं टाकली मात्र अणि आदळले जोराने. डोक्यावर-तोंडावर फटका बसला. काहीतरी अणकुचीदार कपाळात घुसताघुसता मी थबकून गेले. हातांनी वेध घेताना वेदनांनी किंचाळून ओरडले,

‘का ठेवतेस कपाटाचं दार उघडं तू? काय हे?’

त्याच क्षणी आईने माझ्या देहाला नव्हे वेदनेलाच मिठीत घेतलं होतं. तिचा हात माझं कपाळ दाबत होता. ती अखंड चुकचुकत-हळहळत होती. तिचे अश्रू माझ्या मनगटावर ठिबकले, तेव्हा माझ्या लक्षात आलं, आपल्यापेक्षा आईलाच अधिक लागलं आहे. तिच्या थेट काळजालाच लागलं आहे.

जे दुःखाचं, तेच आनंदाचंही! ...दहावीचा माझा ‘रायटर’ हा ‘फास्ट रायटर’ हवा. त्याचं अक्षर सुंदर हवं यासाठी आईने कित्येक मुलांची ‘लेखन तपासणी’ करूनच रायटर निश्चित केली. तिच्या पालकांची परवानगी काढली. माझ्या परीक्षेपूर्वी आणि परीक्षेवेळी तिची शारीरिक, मानसिक प्रकृती नीट राहिल याची दक्षता घेतली, दहावीला मला ८८% मार्क मिळाले. आमच्या शाळेतून मी पहिली आले होते. ‘स्पेशल’ कॅटेगरीतून बोर्डातून पहिली आले होते. रिझल्ट ऐकून आई क्षणभर ‘स्टन्ड’ झाली. काय झालं आता हिला, अशी मला भीती वाटत असताना माझे हात धरले गेले. ते आईनेच धरले होते. मला ओढत, उभं करत म्हणाली, ‘चल दिव्या! लेट्स डान्स! अग, मलाही असं यश कधी मिळवता आलं नव्हतं. तुझ्या बाबानांही नाही आणि आदितीलाही’ आणि तिचा आवाज आत ओढत ओढत कोसळून गेला. यालाच ‘गहिवरून येणं’ म्हणतात. हे मला त्या दिवशी कळलं. तेच माझ्यासाठीचं सर्वांत मोठं बक्षीस होतं...

त्यानंतर फिजिओथेरेपीचा दोन वर्षांचा कोर्स आणि बारावी करून ‘फिजिओ’च्या डिग्रीला मी प्रवेश घेतला. बायॉलॉजीची आणि मेडिकलची सारी पुस्तकं तिनेच मला वाचून दाखवली. वेगवेगळ्या व्यायाम प्रकारांच्या ‘अॅडव्हान्स्ड टेक्निक्स’च्या पुस्कातल्या ‘डायग्राम्स’ मला दिसू-कळू शकणार नव्हत्या. प्रत्येक व्यायाम प्रकार आईने माझ्या शरीराकडून करून घेतला. ते प्रयोग तिच्यावर करायला लावले. मी शिकले ते ‘प्रॅक्टिकल’ असल्यामुळे असेल, माझी तयारी इतरांपेक्षा अधिक चांगली होत गेली. फायनल इयरला ८९% मार्क मिळाले. कॉलेजातून मी पहिली आले. माझा विश्वास बसला नाही. म्हणाले,

‘बरोबर आहेत ना मार्कस?’

‘माझ्या डोळ्यांवर माझ्यापेक्षाही तुझा अधिक विश्वास आहे ना?’ आई सुखावून म्हणाली. माझ्या आवडत्या आइस्क्रीमची तिने ऑर्डर दिली... सगळीकडे सत्कार झाले, कौतुक वाट्याला

आलं, तरी ‘वास्तवा’ची जाग मी कायम ठेवावी म्हणून असेल, ‘इंटरनॅशनल’ला असताना एक क्वचितसा प्रसंग घडला.

‘एशियन हार्ट इन्स्टिट्यूट’ला मला पाठवलं गेलं. आमच्या नेहमीच्या ग्रुप्सची मोडतोड होऊन नव्याच मुली माझ्याबरोबर आल्या. त्यांच्याशी माझ्या इंटरॅक्शन्स नव्हत्या. माझ्या ‘स्थिती’ला त्याही सरावलेल्या नव्हत्या. स्ट्रेचर, ट्रॉलीज, बेड्स, स्टॅन्ड्स, फर्निचर यांच्या चक्रव्यूहातून वाट काढत जाण्यासाठी दिव्याला आपल्याला सदैव हात द्यावा लागणार आहे याची त्यांना जाणीव झाली असेल. हे ‘ओझं’ आपल्याला बाळगावं लागणार याबद्दल त्यांची नाराजी असेल. मला कुणी ‘बेअर’ करायचं याची त्यांच्यात चर्चा ‘तू-तू मै-मै’ पद्धतीने झाली असेल... ‘तू घे’...‘यू कॅच हर हॅन्ड’...‘तू...तू’ असे पुसटसे



तोंडातल्या तोंडातले उच्चार माझ्या संवेदशील कानांनी टिपले. खाणाखुणांसाठी त्यांच्या वेगाने हालणाऱ्या हातांनी-‘हातवाऱ्यां’नी कापली जाणारी हवा मला जाणवली. केवळ हवा कापली गेली नव्हती. माझं काळीजही कापलं गेलं होतं. ...मी गप्प राहिले. घरी आल्यावर प्रत्येक गोष्ट आईशी ‘शेअर’ करायला उत्सुक असलेल्या मला, त्या दिवशी बोलणं अवघड झालं. आईने मला स्किलफुली बोलतं केलं. रडतरडत मी सारं सांगितलं. आईचा स्पर्श बोलका असला तरी त्या क्षणी तिचा आवाज त्रयस्थ-कठोर होता. म्हणाली, ‘सगळेच अनुभव चांगले येत नसतात, या सत्याची तुला आज तोंडओळख झाली. यू शूड गेट प्रिपेअर्ड फॉर एव्हरीथिंग इन युअर लाईफ.’

आईचा तो एक आधारच होता, मला ‘टफ’ करण्यासाठीचा... निसर्गाकडून होणाऱ्या चुका देव सावरत असतो. ‘ह्स्टी नसण्या’वरचा ‘टफ होणं’ हा महत्त्वाचा उपाय आईने योजला होता. आई आणि देव एकच असतात, असं म्हणतात ते शंभर टक्क्यांचं सत्य आहे माझ्यासाठी!

(पिंपल प्रकाशक यांच्या सौजन्याने ‘थोरवी’ या संग्रहातून)



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कै. हिरेंद्र कोप्पीकर

जोपर्यंत हिंदुस्थानी शास्त्रीय संगीत आस्सकी, तोपर्यंत विष्णु नारायण भातखंडेगले नांव अजरामर जावु आस्तले. विष्णु भातखंडे शके १७८२च्या गोकुलाष्टमीक, म्हळ्यारी १८६० ईसवीच्या ऑगस्ट १० तारीखेक मुंबईच्या वाळकेश्वरभागांतु एक सभ्य, मध्यमवर्गीय ब्राह्मण कुलांतु उबजलो. हो १८८३ ईस्वींतु B.A. आनि १८९० इस्वींतु L.L.B. पास जावु एडवोकेट जालो. हागली विशेष साधना, सिद्धी, प्रसिद्धी आनि कार्य समजून घेवचें फूडे, तात्रे सान्नाचो होडु जाल्लेल्या काळाविषयांतु स्वल्प विचारु कोर्या.

संगीत वेदपूर्वकालांथावु चलनु आयिली, देवळांथावु राजवाड्याथाई पसरलेली, एक महान कला. धर्मु, समाजु आनि संस्कृतीक अनुगुण जावु भारतीय संगीताचो विकासु जात राबलो. जाल्यारी सुमार बाराव्या शतकांथावु उत्तर हिंदुस्थानांतु तात्तावळी जाल्लेल्या मुसलमान हल्लेखोरांगल्या आक्रमणामितिं अन्यदेशीय संगीताचो प्रभावु भारतीय संगीताचेरी जात गेल्लो. क्रमेण देशाच्या उत्तरभागांतु हिंदुस्थानी आनी दक्षिण भागांतु कर्नाटकी अशशी दोनि संगीत पद्धत्यो जाल्यो. अकबर बादशाहगल्या कालांतु भारतीय ध्रुवपद- धम्मर संगीताचो सर्वोन्नत विकासु जाल्लेले तरी मुगलकालांतुचि. अन्यदेशीय संगीताचो प्रभावूई चड विस्तृत जाल्लो म्होण्येद. अठराव्या शतकांतु मोहमदशाही मुगल दरबारांतुल्या सदारंग, अदारंग, मनरंग आदि संगीत तज्ञांनी ख्याल गायकीक जोराने उत्तेजन दिल्लें आनि ग्वालियर संस्थानांतुल्या हदूखान, हस्सूखान, नत्थेखान आदिंनी ख्यालपरंपरा स्थिर केल्ली आनि पसरैली.

कश्श भारतांतु ब्रिटिशांगलें वर्चस्व चडत गेल्लें तश्श मुगलराज्याची मोडकळी जात गेल्ली. मुगलशाही दिल्लींतु वट्ट जाल्लेले संगीतकार विंगविंगडकडे पसरले. आग्रा, इंदूर, ग्वालियर, किराना, जैपूर, पतियाला, रामपूर इत्यादि जहागीर-संस्थानांतु राजाश्रय मेळ्ळेल्या गायक-वादकांनी तांगतांगल्या शैलीक त्या, त्या गांवची-संस्थानांची नांव दीवु अनेक घराण्यांची स्थापना केल्ली. हाज्जानें गायन-वादनाच्या शैलींतु वैविध्य उत्पन्न जे जाल्लेले तें स्थीर जाल्लेलेतरी, संगीतशास्त्राचो जबरदस्त न्हासु जाल्लो. कारण तावळचे संगीतकार सामान्यतः अशिक्षित अथवा अल्पशिक्षित आस्ताले, संगीत गुरुकुल पद्धतीनें चलताले, गुरुगल्या घारा वर्सगणकी सेवाशुश्रुषा कर्ता कर्ता गुरुक लहर लागिले वेळारी जें काहीं शिक्षण मेळतालें तेंचि शिष्यांगलें भांडवल. गुरुनें सांगिल्लेंचि प्रमाण-प्रसादु म्होणु लेक्कुनु शिष्याक तृप्त जावंका पडतालें. कित्येक प्रसंगी शिष्यु गुरुगल्या गुणापेक्षां अवगुणचि चड शिक्कुनु काडताले.

हाज्जमितिनी प्राचीन कालांतु

१) स्वररचना आनि पद्यरचना जाणतले वाग्येयकार (कंपोजर)

२) संगीतशास्त्राचें सखोल ज्ञान आनि गायन/वादन कलेंचें साधारण ज्ञानपुणी आशिल्ले पंडित (म्यूझिकोलोजिस्ट)

३) गायन-वादन कलेंतु निपुण आशिल्ले संगीतकार (कलाकार). अशि जे तीनी तन्हेचे संगीत विद्वान आस्ताले, तांतुले वाग्येयकार आनि पंडित भारी अपरूप जाल्ले, संगीत शास्त्रादिकानें दुर्लक्ष जाल्लें. गिळिपाठ गवयांगली संख्या वाढली. क्रमेण गायन, वादन, नृत्यकलांचि गणती कील दर्जेची करमणूकीचीं साधन म्हणुं जाल्ली. ह्या कलांचे साधकांगली दर्जा कलाकारवर्गांथावु कलावंतांगल्या वर्गांतु कोसळ्ळी म्होण्येद. एकोणीसाव्या शतकांतु सभ्य, सुशिक्षित म्होणु घेतल्या समाजांतु गायन कला अंगाईगीत, भजन आनि हरिकथके सीमित जावु वर्ली. ह्या काळांतु विष्णु नारायण भातखंडेगलो जन्मु जाल्लो.

सानपण धोनु तावका संगीताची प्रीति आशिल्ली आनि तो मराठी, इंग्लीश, संस्कृत आनि हिंदी भाषांतु पारंगत जाल्लो. तात्रें सतार आनि बांसरी वादनाचो तशीचि कंठसंगीताचो अभ्यासु केल्लो. त्याकाळांतुली संगीताची दुर्दशा विष्णु भातखंडेक असह्य जाल्ली. १९०४ ईस्वींतु तात्रें संगीतयात्रा सुरु केल्ली. भारतांतुल्यो शंभर हळयो, गांव, शहरं फीनु थंचे प्रतिष्ठित गायक-वादकांक भेटुनु, तांगलो परिचयु कोनु घेवु, तांगले संगीत आयकूनु विंगविंगड रागांतुल्या बंदिशो (चीजो) मेळ्ळ्यो. कला निष्पौच्यांतुई कित्येक संगीतकार निपुण आशिल्लें मिति विष्णु भातखंडेक भगीरथ प्रयत्न कोर्का पळ्ळे. थोडे उस्तादांगले गंड सुदाई बांदुनु घेवका पळ्ळें म्हणताती. अनेक लायब्ररी आनि खासगी ग्रंथसंग्रहांतुले भरत, नारद, मातंग, शारंगदेव धोनु मानसिंग तोमार, वेंकटमुखी, अहोबल आदि प्राचीन आणि अर्वाचीन शास्त्रकारांगल्या ग्रंथांचे अध्ययन आनि परिक्षण कोनु संगीतशास्त्राचो सखोल अभ्यासु आणि चिंतन केल्लें. इतल्या साधनें उपांतें, तात्रें संगीतसेवेचें महत्कार्य हात्तांतु घेतलें.

प्रथमतः पंडित भातखंडेने हिंदुस्थानी संगीत पद्धती नावाचें शास्त्राचें म्हळ्यारि थियरीचे चारि ग्रंथ, तशीचि संस्कृतांतु लक्ष्यसंगीत आनि अभिनवरागमंजरी नावांचे दोनि ग्रंथ बरौनु प्रकाशित केल्ले. वेंकटमुखीने सत्राव्या शतकांतु कर्नाटक संगीतपद्धतींतु बाहत्तर मेलकर्ता ठरैले. पंडितजीने बिलावलमेल अथवा थाट शुद्धथाट मानुनु धाचि थाटांथावु हिंदुस्थानी संगीतांतुले प्रचलित सर्व रागांचें वर्गीकरण कोरुक जात्ता म्हणुं दाकावु दिले आनि संगीतशास्त्रांतुलीं अनेक क्लिष्ट तत्चें

कळशि कोर्नु दिल्ली.

दुसरें महत्वाचें कार्य म्हळ्यारि स्वरलिपीची रचना (नोटेशन पद्धती). पंडितजीने विंगविंगड रागांच्यो असंख्य चीजो ज्यो कंठस्थ केल्लेल्यो, त्यो तान्त्रेचि रचयिल्या स्वर लिपींतु बरौवुं काळ्यो. ह्या संग्रहाचें सूक्ष्म परिक्षण केल्यारी विंगविंगड घराण्याच्या तशीचि विंगविंगड वैयक्तिक गायकांगल्या कित्येक रागांच्या आनि चीजाच्या मांडणींतुं फरक अशिल्ले ताक्का दिस्सुनु आइले.

तावळी पंडितजीने तिसरे महत्कार्य हात्तांतु घेतलें. हिंदुस्थानांतुले अन्य संगीतज्ञांक तथा संगीतकारांक आमंत्रण दीवु १९१६ ईस्वींतु बडोदेच्या महाराजागल्या अध्यक्षतेंतु अखिल भारत संगीत परिषदेचें आयोजन केलें. संगीताच्या अनेक तत्वांचेरी अनेक राग-रागिणींचेरी साधार आनि उदाहरण चर्चा कोरुंक आस्पद कोर्नु दिलो. असलीं सदुपयोगी परिषदं दिल्ली, बनारस, लखनौ, वगैरे केंद्रांतु घडोवु हाळ्ळीं. ह्या परिषदेंतु पंडितजीने केल्लेली भाषण 'अ शॉर्ट हिस्टोरिकल सर्वे ऑफ दि म्यूझिक ऑफ अपर इंडिया' नावांच्या पुस्तकांतु प्रकाशित केल्लीं.

पं. विष्णु भातखंडेगलें चौथें कार्य म्हळ्यारि, श्रीकृष्ण रतंजनकर, वाडिलाल शिवराम आदि सुयोग्य शिष्यांक तयार कोर्नु हांगल्या सहाय्याने संगीतशिक्षणाच्यो संस्था स्थापन केल्यो. लखनौचें मोरिस् कॉलेज ऑफ म्यूझिक आतं भातखंडे संगीत विद्यापीठ ह्या नावाने प्रसिद्ध आनि लोकप्रिय आस्स. असल्या विद्यालयांतु शिष्यवर्गांक संगीताचि पद्धतशीर शिकवण, थियरी, लेक्चर्स आनि प्रेक्टिकल डेमॉन्स्ट्रेशनामूलक सुरु जाल्लीं.

पंडित भातखंडेगलें पांचवे आनि बहुजनांक गोतु अशिल्लें कार्य : "हिंदुस्थानी संगीत पद्धती" क्रमिक पुस्तक मालिकांचे प्रकाशन. अनेक संगीतकारांलांथावु मेळयिल्यो ध्रुपद, धम्मर, ख्याल, तराणा आदितुं दिशिल्यो अनेक चुक्को, अपभ्रंश इत्यादि अवगुण दूर कोर्नु ६ पुस्तकांचि योजना कोर्नु प्रकाशन हातांतु घेतलें. पंडितजीने या ग्रंथमालेतु संगीतशास्त्राचो संक्षिप्त परिचयु, स्वर-लयांचे वैविध्य आनि महत्त्व, थाट-राग-रागिणींचि रागविस्तारसमेत माहिती आनि त्या त्या प्रचलित, अप्रचलित, आश्रय, शुद्ध, सलग तथा संकीर्ण रागांतुल्यो अनेकानेक चीजो तान्त्रेचि रचयिल्या लिपींतु प्रकाशित कोर्नु तो भांडारु जनताजनार्दनाक अर्पण केल्लो. ह्या ग्रंथमालेच्या चारि पुस्तकांचे प्रकाशन जावुं पांचव्याचें प्रकाशन चालू आस्तनां शके १८५८च्या गणेशचतुर्थीक म्हळ्यारि १९३६ ईस्वीच्या सप्टेंबर १९ तारीखेक पंडितजीगले देहावसान जाल्लें. जाल्यारी तागले सुयोग्य शिष्य पंडित रतंजनकर आनि पंडित वाडिलाल शिवराम हान्नीं वरलेले कार्य पूर्ण केल्लें. हीं पुस्तकं मोरिस् कॉलेज, लखनौ, माधव संगीत महाविद्यालय ग्वाँलियर, म्यूझिक

कॉलेज ऑफ बरोडा आनि इतर अनेक महाविद्यालयांतु तशीचि विश्वविद्यालयीन संगीत कॉलेजांतु सुदाई पाठ्यपुस्तकं म्हणुं स्थापित जाल्यांती.

पुस्तक पळोवु संगीत शिकचे म्हळ्यारी पुस्तक वाचवुं पोंवच्याक शिक्किल्लीगती, म्हणुं सुर्वेक थोडेजणांनी हास्य केल्लें. जाल्यारी बहुजनांक उस्तादागले गंडे बांदुनु घेवुं. तांगली मस्त चाक्री कोर्नु अल्पज्ञान आनि अर्थकुड्यो चीजा मेळोचें साहस आनि वेळु नात्तिल्लेमिति ह्यो पंडितजीगल्यो संगीत नायकी आणि गायकीच्यो विष्णुदत्त ग्रंथमाला देवदत्त देणगीचि ठरल्याती. पंडितजीने हिंदुस्थानी संगीताक मानु आनि नवचेतना दिल्ली. संगीताच्या जगांतु एक नवीन युगाचि स्थापना केल्ली. परंपरागत हिंदुस्थानी संगीताच्या विकासाखातिर, ती कला शास्त्रसमेत सर्वसामान्यांक प्राप्त जांवचे खातिर, त्या कलेचो परिचयु तथा प्रसारु बालबोध रीतीने जांवचे खातिर प्रयत्न केल्ले. पंडित विष्णु नारायण भातखंडेने हिंदुस्थानी संगीताच्या सर्वांगीण उन्नती खातिर आपणागलें जीवन अर्पण केल्लें. पंडितजी हिंदुस्थानी शास्त्रीय संगीताचो विसाव्या शतकाचो युगपुरुषु म्हळ्यारी अतिशयोक्ती जायशना.

The Inner Temple

Sunita P Bagade, Santacruz

There in one corner of a market square sat Shreepati with a tulsimala around his neck, sandalwood paste on his forehead, chanting "Ramakrishna Hari" while doing his business of selling bananas. A subdued rangoli was drawn in the area. Lord Vishnu's picture was mounted in the centre and the aroma of incense extended all around. This serenity brought all the buyers there. A board said "Bananas for offering". A clean white cloth covered the baskets. While giving bananas, he did obeisance to the customer and repeated the same to the Goddess Laxmi on receiving the money. While doing his chores from morning to night, he unknowingly was in tune with the lord.

His speech was humble and heart large. Why the 'offering'? He had an insatiable thirst of reaching God through people. His customer was his Lord. His deliverance had divinity. His rates were moderate. The customers too got accustomed to chanting 'Ramakrishna Hari'. This utterance has some magic.

Our saints have passed it on and Shreepati spread this magic. His pious mind, pure words and perfect deed was the Inner Temple – the realm of the Lord!

Report : Janmotsava 2012 at Karla

On the auspicious occasion of the 65th Janmotsava of our beloved Parama Guru, Shrimat Parijnanashram Swamiji III, sadhakas from different places congregated at the sacred Sannidhi of Shri Devi Durga Parameshwari at Karla to offer sadhana- that was intense and blissful. The Divine Presence of Parama Pujya Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji was, as always, a source of joy and inspiration to devotees present.

Guru Sankalpa: Parama Pujya Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji had said, in His Upadesha in 2009, "**Swamiji's** (Shrimat Parijnanashram Swamiji III) *Sankalpa for the welfare of our samaja is always present and to express our love, devotion and gratitude, at this sacred place, we will offer our Sadhana in the form of bhajana-s, stotra pathana, seva-s, pujana-s, jagrana too. ...*

On the 14th of June, devotees gathered at the Sannidhi of Shri Durga Parameshwari to offer 'Prarthana' and take the Sankalpa of the Saptaprahara – which would begin that morning and culminate at 6 am the next day. It was going to be a twenty four hour intense sadhana. As the hours unfolded, Navaratra Nityapatha, Shri Devi Anushthana, bhajana-s, stotra-s and Anushthana were offered with great devotion. Each Prahara (a period of 3 hours) concluded with Kumkumarchana offered by the vaidik while devotees chanted the Shri Lalita Ashtotara-shata-namavali for the first prahara, Shri Lalita Trishati-namavali for the second prahara and the Shri Lalita Sahasra-namavalli for the third prahara and so on. At the end of every prahara, Pujya Swamiji was present for the Mahamangalarati. Later that evening, Shri Guru-Pujana was performed by devotees.

Parama Pujya Swamiji performed Shri Devi-Pujana that night and offered Kumkumarchana while devotees chanted the Shri Lalita Trishati-namavali.

Inspiring Moments: At midnight, the beautifully iced cakes were cut by the Trustees. A spontaneous garba followed. It was indeed a delight to see the young (and the not so young!) offering garba at the divine feet of the compassionate Mother. Pujya Swamiji rendered the bhajana 'Amba tu'. After the

vibrant and robust garba, Pujya Swamiji led the congregation into a beautiful meditation. The hall that minutes earlier was resounding with deafening jayjaykara-s, was transformed as devotees turned inward and a deafening silence reigned supreme. When the sun rays came dancing that auspicious morning of June 15th, a happy group of devotees waited for the Divine Presence of Pujya Swamiji for the Mahamangalarati.

Goshala : Parama Pujya Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji dedicated the airy and splendidly built Goshala at the Divine Feet of Parama Pujya Parijnanashram Swamiji III on this auspicious day - A magnificent tribute to Swamiji – who had immense love for all the 'mook praani' . Five beautiful cows – Nandini, Shraddha, Medha, Kapila and Kapisha are housed here along with three adorable calves. The Goshala was indeed a 'dream come true', making the Punya Kshetra complete in all respect.

Dharma Sabha: Before the Mahapuja, the life of Adi Shankaracharya was beautifully portrayed in a shadowgraphy show- presented by Deepa Murdeshwar and Chetana Kadle.

During the Dharma Sabha, Kadle Praveenmam addressed the gathering. He explained briefly the various projects undertaken at Karla. He thanked Priyanka and Jayant Gulvady of Jaypriya Foundation for funding the Goshala. The guidance given by Shobhana Bijur for the Karla school under the Vikas Ghar model was an inspiring beginning for supplementing the existing education system. He revealed how medical camps were conducted regularly for the villagers of Karla and the neighbouring villages. The Dental camp for school children had a good response with over 350 children benefitting.

Parama Pujya Swamiji, in His Ashirvachan, explained how the Goshala signifies auspiciousness and compassion. ('mangalata' and 'komalata') Swamiji reiterated the importance of japa to connect to the Ishtha Devata. Swamiji led the sadhakas with the bhajan, "Purna kalamayi Samvit Swarupini..."

Report from Karla

HERE AND THERE – NEWS IN BRIEF

Bangalore: AGM of the Sabha was scheduled for May 27th when elections of 24 members to the new Local Sabha Committee were held. Office Bearers are: President – Vivek Katre, Vice Presidents – Uma Trasi, Rajagopal Karnad, Secretary – Arun Kombrabail, Jt. Secretaries – Manju Jamalabad, Hattiangadi Gurudutt, Treasurer – Ananth Savakoor, Jt. Treasurer – Vasanth Betrabet.

HH Srimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji arrived at the Math at 6.30 pm on June 21st amidst Jaijaikars from the gathered laity. The next morning Bhoomi Pujan was performed at the Divine hands of Puja Swamiji for renovation and construction of a permanent stage in the Anandashram Sabhagriha at our Math.

On July 3rd, Chaturmas Vrata Prarambh & Guru Purnima was observed at the Math with Samuhik Prarthana, Bhajans & Gurupujan witnessed by about 75 members of the laity.

-Reported by Asha Awasthi

Mumbai - Bandra – Khar: A shibir was conducted for the children of prarthana varga on Sunday 10th June 2012 at Shree Anandashram, Khar, which saw the many participants take an active part in various activities. Report is given on page 44.

Mumbai - Dadar: 19th April'12 - Punyatithi of P.P. Parijanashram Swamiji I was observed with Guru Pujan performed by the Prarthana kids.

26th April'12 - Shankar Jayanthi was celebrated at MMM Hall. Yuvadhara Youths performed a small skit based on the teachings of Adi Shankaracharya. Dr. Chaitanya Gulvady also spoke a few words on the teachings of Adi Shankaracharya.

22nd May'12 - Punyatithi of P.P. Pandurangashram Swamiji was observed at MMM Hall. The Pratham Skandh of Bhagavat was beautifully narrated by Smt. Chandrama Bijur with simplicity and she was accompanied by Smt. Uma Bolangady, Shobha Puthli and Priya Bijur

with bhajans, Smt. Muktabai Chandavarkar on the harmonium and Ms. Nirmala Dumble on the tabla.

The Annual General Body Meeting of the Sabha was held on 29th June 2012. The Local Sabha committee was unanimously elected for the year 2012-2013.

- Reported by Shobha Puthli

Mumbai – Santacruz : To celebrate the auspiciousness of "Guru Purnima " , on 3rd July, 2012, devotees performed the "Shri Guru Pujan" in the Anandashram Hall, Saraswat colony. Devotees chanted the "Ved Vyasa Ashtakam".

- Reported by Kavita Karnad

Mumbai – Goregaon : Chanting of Ganpati Atharvashirsha and Gayatri Anushtana were performed by respective Sadhakas. Ashadhi/Shayani Ekadashi was celebrated on 30th June at Masurashram. There was an enriching talk on 'The Importance of Omkar' by Shri Mayur V. Kalbag from Pune. The talk was divided into four simple parts. He spoke about the methods, types, benefits and the practising of Omkar.

-Reported by Pranav R Nagarkatti

New Delhi : Gurupurnima was celebrated with a lot of enthusiasm in spite of the soaring heat conditions in Delhi. To enable maximum participation on a working day, Gurupujana was scheduled at Shri Kavle Math from 7.00pm onwards. Gurupujana was performed by 6 members while the rest joined in the chanting. This was followed by a short Bhajan session after which Anushree Shiroor told us the significance and importance of Gurupurnima.

-Reported by Mamta Savkur

Pune : Guru Purnima was ushered in with great devotion by a large number of devotees at Shri Chitrapur Math, Pune. Shri Guru puja was performed by Lalita Amladi and Priti Panemanglor. This was followed by a bhajan session. This also marked the beginning of the Nitya-Pujan in this sacred place for the entire period of Chaturmas by a group of sadhakas.

- Reported by Jyothi Divgi

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Dr. Ajit and Dr Nina Pai	2000.00
The Shamrao Vithal Co-op. Bank Ltd	20000.00

- Reported by Smt. Geeta Bijoor, Hon. Treasurer

23rd June 2012: Refer to page 53 for a report of the programme held on this day.

30th June 2012: Ashadhi Ekadashi was celebrated with a

programme 'Stree Sant Malika'. Conceptualised, written and narrated by Sadhana Kamat the programme featured short summaries of the lives and work of 6 women saints – Muktabai, Janabai, Kanhopatra, Meerabai, Venabai and Bahinabai. The music was composed by Geeta Yennemadi who played the harmonium and also was the lead singer. Other singers were Kalindi Kodial, Sharayu Bijurkar, Shyamala Yennemadi, Nirmala Nadkarni, Deepa Murdeshwar and Geeta Bijur. Introduction was by Padmini Bhatkal and Vote of thanks by Vidyalakshmi Kulkarni. Prasad was in memory of Smt. Lalita and Deorao Yennemadi and Smt. Sumitra and Krishnamurti Nadkarni.

-Reported by Smt. Smita Mavinkurve

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Hemmady-Karnad : Shreya, daughter of Shivanand and Hema Hemmady of Anand with Aditya, son of Rajgopal and Purnima Karnad of Bangalore on 3rd July, 2012 at Bangalore.

BIRTH

A son (Samiran) to Caroline and Dr Samir Dilip Hemmady on 15th June 2012 at Albuquerque, USA. Grandson to Kalpana and Dr. Dilip Mangesh Hemmady and Merline and Everest Sequira. Nephew to Dr. Karishma Dilip Hemmady. Great grandson to Mrs. Indumati Raghuvir Upponi.

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DOMESTIC TIDINGS

BIRTH

We welcome the following new arrivals:

2011

Nov 25 : A son Omkar to Anil and Sushma Bhat on at Chicago.

2012

Jun 8 : A daughter Khyati to Sangeeta (nee Panemangalore Rao) and Kedar Rohidas Katre at Pune.

Jun 15 : A son (Samiran) to Caroline and Dr. Samir Dilip Hemmady at Albuquerque, USA.

Jul 16 : A son (Dhairya) to Neha (nee Vinekar) and Sandeep Pai in Bangalore.

THREAD CEREMONY

We bless the following batus:

May 06 : Vir Vivek Kolpe, at Los Angeles, California, USA.

May 31 : Dhruv Shantanu Maskeri at Bangalore.

MARRIAGES

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

Jun 10 : Dr. Shuchi Jagadishchandra Konaje Rao with Dr. Pranav Raman Chickermane at Mumbai.

OBITUARIES

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

May 30 : Honnavar Ganesh Nageshbhat (64) at Jogeshwari, Mumbai.

Jun 15 : Tripti Vivekanand Dhareshwar (nee Nagarkatti) (41) at Jogeshwari, Mumbai.

Jun 19 : Sumitra Sakharam Kagal (91) at Goregaon Mumbai.

Jun 25 : Leela (Nandini) Shivanand Ubhayakar (49) at Virar.

Jun 18 : Suman Murlidhar Mundkur (81) at Mumbai.

Jun 30 : Chikramane Gourish Shripad (75) at Talmakiwadi, Mumbai.

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