

Kanara Saraswat

A Monthly Magazine of the
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A Monumental Lapse

Our profuse apologies are due to Shri V. Leeladhar, our Chief Guest for our Foundation Day on 26th November 2013. We mentioned on the cover that he was the Deputy General Manager of Union Bank. But he has held much higher posts in Union Bank of India as the Chairman and Managing Director and then Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India. We have received many letters and telephone calls pointing out our serious mistake. We apologize to Shri V. Leeladhar and also to our readers

..Editorial Committee

16th SaraswatSangeet Sammelan
The Kala Vibhag of Kanara Saraswat Association presents
Smruti - "DIN"
a 3 day Sangeet Sammelan of Hindustani Classical Music
in Memory of Late Pt. Dinkar Kaikini.

Late Pandit Dinkar Kaikini rode like a colossus of Agra Gharana and was the last of the Amchi
Trinity of the parampara.

Date : 18th, 19th and 20th April 2014.

Timings : Morning Session: 9.30 a.m. to 1.00p.m.

Evening Session: 5.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.

Smt Shashikala Kaikini has graciously agreed to inaugurate the Sammelan on
18th April 2014 at 9.30 a.m.

Leading artistes, vocalists and instrumentalists, Pt. Nityanand Haldipur, Pt. Sadanand Naimpalli, Pt. Omkar Gulvady, Pt. Venkatesh Kumar, Shivani Haldipur-Kallianpur, Kailash Kulkarni and Bharathi Prathap (The last two being disciples of Vidushi Lalith J Rao) and many others will participate. Final list of the artistes will be published in our next issue along with the dates and timings of their performance.

Venue: Smt. Indirabai Kallianpurkar Hall, Off Talmakiwadi, Mumbai – 400007

Gurunath S. Gokarn

Hon. Sec. Kala Vibhag

Shivshankar D. Murdeshwar

Hon. Secretary

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Shivshankar Murdeshwar
Hon. Secretary

Dr. Prakash Mavinkurve
Jt. Hon. Secretary,
Health Centre

**We invite attention of our readers to
the following programmes published in
February 2014 issue of
"Kanara Saraswat"**

- 1) International Women's Day and Yuvati Divas on 8th March, 2014 at 5.00 p.m.
- 2) Unique Music Concert on 9th March, 2014 at 5.00 p.m. (Published on page 4)
- 3) Chidanand Smriti – Lecture Demonstration by Shri Ramdas Bhatkal on Sunday 23rd March, 2014 at 5.00 p.m. (published on page no 3)

All are cordially invited.

Gurunath S Gokarn
Hon. Secretary, Kala Vibhag



From the President's Desk....

You take it on faith, you take it to the heart, the waiting is the hardest part. Waiting is very often the hardest part of life. And believe it or not.....at any given point of time, we are all waiting for something.

Waiting..... to go to college, falling in love, meeting the right partner, getting married, having a child, the next promotion, classy apartment, second-home, smarter phone, bigger car, a grand vacation at an exotic locale..... the list is unending. Not all of us are impatient by nature, but when we need to see a result, we struggle sometimes with time needed for it to be achieved or manifest. We begin to wonder if we possess enough patience to continue with a cherished plan.

Marathon runners know about the need to pace themselves. Even an inexperienced marathon runner recognizes the benefits of investing every ounce of energy from the outset. Essential energy reserves will always be needed later and, sometimes, a runner at the back of the queue can overtake those who have enjoyed being in front. Where you might believe you got off to a slow start, you may take the lead in some way.

Patience is a virtue. Patience is power. Patience is not an absence of action; rather it is "timing".... it waits for the right time to act, for the right principles and in the right way. Patience is not the ability to wait but the ability to keep a good attitude while waiting.

I know that it's hard to wait around for something you know might never happen, but it's even harder to give up when you know it's everything you want. All things come to one who waits.....provided he knows what he is waiting for. There is no great achievement that is not the result of patient working and waiting. Sometimes no matter how much you want for things to happen, all you can do is wait. The longer you wait for something, the more you will appreciate the value of it when you get it, because anything worth having is definitely worth waiting for.

Whatever we are waiting for.....peace of mind, contentment, grace, awareness of our inner self....it will surely come to us, but only when we are ready to receive it. Be patient enough to wait for what you deserve.

Have enough faith in yourself to walk away from anything that no longer enriches your life, anything that no longer helps you to grow, and anything that does not make you happy. Trust that you have done what you could and that the time has come to move on to something better that may be waiting for you right round the corner.

Somewhere, something incredibly good is waiting to happen in your life. Don't give up.... yet. The wait will soon be over and you will realize it was worth it!!!!

Suresh S. Hemmady

Re-development of KSA Holiday Home at Nashik - an update

SURESH S. HEMMADY

Members may recall in the April 2013 issue I had shared an idea under the article “Sharing an Idea.....” giving therein the thinking of the KSA’s Managing Committee to either redevelop or sell the Holiday Home property situated at Nashik. The reason for this thinking being, the Holiday Home occupancy rate is hardly 30%, and that too 90% of the people who use the Holiday Home are outside the community and KSA’s income per year is only about Rs. 1 lac or so whereas the potential of the property, being situated in the prime location, is immense.

This idea had to be put forward to the members of the KSA and the Managing Committee proposed passing of the resolution, as required by the Charity Commissioner, and to that effect an EGM was called on May 5, 2013 when 150 members were present. The resolution proposed was to either redevelop or sell the Holiday Home property situated at Nashik and utilize the money received either through the sale or rent received for medical, education and pension scheme for the benefit of the community members. In the meeting, several members expressed their personal views and it was generally felt that KSA should redevelop the property rather than sell it.

As you all know, during that meeting, an Empowered Committee consisting of Mr. Vinod Yennemadi, Mr. Anil Bhatkal, Mr. Praveen Kadle and Mr. Uday Gurkar was formed and Mr. Vinod Yennemadi was nominated as Chairman of the Committee, to go through the objectives of the Association and look into the options for raising the funds including the option to sell/develop the plot of KSA Holiday Home at Nashik in order to generate funds which can be utilized for the above purposes. It was also decided that the Committee will submit a report for the consideration and approval of the General Body which would be called for during the course of the year. The Empowered Committee members had five meetings between themselves and came up with a detailed report and recommendations which they wanted to present to all the members of KSA.

The Managing Committee in consultation with the Members of Empowered Committee included a

separate Agenda item of their Presentation in 101st Annual General Body Meeting held on September 29, 2013. After the deliberations of the AGM, Mr. Vinod Yennemadi made a detailed presentation, to the members present, as to how the funds could be raised and also recommended that the property situated at Nashik Holiday Home be redeveloped so that the ownership still remains with the KSA. This was unanimously approved at this AGM by the members present and the minutes of the AGM were published in the issue of January 2014.

After the AGM, the Managing Committee interacted with 6 architects namely, 1) Designer Combined. 2) Studio 2000. 3) Designer Collective 4) Suhas Bandekar & Associates 5) Adharshila Arkins and 6) Design 360 and gave them a brief for development of Nashik Holiday Home property and asked them to give a presentation to a joint-Committee comprising of members of the Managing Committee and the Empowered Committee. Each architect was sanctioned Rs.25,000/- for designing, preparing drawings and making a professional presentation. All the 6 architects made presentations to the joint-Committee, during the month of January 2014 on different dates. During this time, the Managing Committee appointed an honorary architect, Mr. Krishna Shirali, who has tremendous experience of analyzing the presentations and capabilities of architects for final selection. After seeing the presentations and the 64 page report of Mr. Shirali, 3 architects were short-listed namely, Designer Combined, Designer Collective and Design 360. These three architects were also given the ideas and the presentations made by other architects and were told to give their final presentation after fine-tuning it, to the joint-Committee on February 11, 2014. All the three architects gave excellent presentations and it was unanimously decided by the joint-Committee along with Mr. Shirali that Designer Collective be awarded the work of redevelopment since he has an edge over others because of his better presentation, vast experience and he being from Nashik. It is envisaged that KSA will retain the ownership of the property and build Ground

plus Four storied structure admeasuring 29,970 square feet of rentable/salable area with 8 fully furnished rooms with accommodation for a Care Taker on the top floor for use by the community members as week end/holiday home as is presently being used. We are also going to have an underground parking facility for about 30 cars. It is estimated that the cost of construction of this building would be approximately Rs. 10.68 crores. The Committee is also considering part renting/part sale to finance the cost of construction of the building so that KSA does not have to borrow any money. On a conservative basis, KSA expects to receive a rent of Rs. 1.5 crores per year from this property.

We are now in the process of making the final plans and helping the architect to submit the final proposal for approval of the joint-Committee so that the future course of action for redevelopment of Nashik Holiday Home could be carried out. We just thought that we will give an update to all members of KSA on the issue of redevelopment of Nashik Holiday Home. As we go along, we will keep you informed, through the magazine, from time to time. Needless to say the KSA will call for

a special EGM and make a final presentation by the chosen architect and propose the resolution for approval for the development of the property at Nashik Holiday Home to take this project forward. All the Financial numbers would be presented to the members at the EGM which is being called in March 2014 by a separate notification.

On February 19 at Bangalore I met H.H. Swamiji along with Mr. Vinod Yennemadi and briefed Him in detail on these plans and sought His blessings. I also requested His Holiness to lay the foundation stone of the building and do the inauguration at the appropriate times. Swamiji said He will be very pleased to do both. At this point, I broke the news to His Holiness that we are going to name this property by the name of a flower PariJaat(part of Parijnanashrama and Sadyojaat). His Holiness just greeted the suggestion with His usual trademark pleasant smile.

Suresh S. Hemmady

Refer to picture on Page 59 for a Perspective of KSA's proposed Nashik Holiday Home.

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NOTICE

The Managing Committee of Kanara Saraswat Association (KSA) has unanimously decided to call a **Special General Meeting of Members on Monday, 31st March 2014 at Shrimat Anandashram Hall, Talmakiwadi, J.D.Marg, Mumbai – 400007 at 11.00 a.m.** to discuss and if found fit, to pass the following Resolution:-

“To Resolve that Nashik Holiday Home situated at Plot No 41-42 in Survey No 659/6-7/1, (Area 15295 sq.ft) in New Pandit Colony, Off Sharanpur Road, Nashik City, Nashik-422002 be Redeveloped by constructing a Commercial Building up to maximum FSI available (including purchasing TDR) and sell part of area to generate Funds equivalent to Cost of Construction and to Let- out balance area to get regular income.”

While undertaking NHH Project following characteristics will be retained:

- 1) To build minimum 8 rooms as a Holiday Home.
- 2) To Build medium size Community Hall to hold functions like Community Meetings, Engagement/Birthday Parties etc.
- 3) To implement Pension Scheme as per Clause 2 (g) of Bye Laws of KSA, out of Rent received by us by letting out premises.
- 4) The balance surplus will be utilized to meet Aims and Objectives of KSA.

The Meeting will be followed by lunch.

Shivshankar D Murdeshwar
Hon. Secretary

Rajaram D. Pandit
Chairman

Kishore A Surkund
Jt. Hon. Sec. Holiday Home



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor, Under Domestic Tidings in our community in the February 2014 issue of the KS there are fourteen matrimonial announcements. The composition is as follows: Three couples have both Chitrapur Saraswat members, Three couples have one Gowd Saraswat member and Eight couples have one **non-Saraswat** member. In these figures seven Chitrapur Saraswat girls have married outside the community. With so many of our youngsters marrying outside the community is there some message which we are all missing?

Kishore Sunder Rao (Amemba)

Dear Editor, I have just now received the February issue of Kanara Sarawat. I am shocked to find that Shri V. Leeldhar was referred to as Deputy General Manager of Union Bank of India. He was Chairman and then Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank. How could your esteemed Editorial Board make such a serious blunder? Shri Leeladhar was never an officer of Union Bank. He was an officer in Syndicate Bank and then Corporation Bank from where was elevated to the position Executive Director. He was Chairman of Vijaya Bank too. It is surprising that you did not collect proper information about your Chief Guest and chose to relegate him to a much junior position. You owe an apology to him as well to your readers. Shri Leeladhar is a very unassuming, simple and a very fine gentleman. He may not react to your blunder but he deserves to be apologized.

Prakash Rao

Dear Editor: Sub: "Retreat" for Elder People

This has reference to Mr. Kishore Sunder Rao's article titled "Who Will Care . . ." and similar other articles appearing in KSA issues so far. It is not necessary to dwell further on the importance of the subject. I wish to briefly offer following suggestions.

1) It may not be practical to establish such facilities entirely to cater to the needs of the elders, on charitable considerations. I feel that we can combine such an institution with a "Holiday Resort" for seniors who can afford to utilize the facilities on payment of reasonable charges. The above should be operated on "No Profit / No Loss" basis, the latter partially contributing towards the costs of the former.

2) Mr. Kishore Sunder Rao's idea that a common facility convenient to Mumbai /Pune citizens is worth considering. In this context, Karla offers an ideal location.

3) It is high time that the idea is pursued seriously by all interested persons. I offer myself to participate in such an exercise, based on my experience in

administrative capacities spread over more than thirty five years. Although presently based in Bangalore, I can visit Mumbai /Pune on any convenient occasion, with reasonable advance notice.

I request you to publish this letter at your earliest, and also to take initiative to organize a meeting of like minded people.

V. N. Koppikar, Bangalore , Tel. 080 2272 2699

Dear Editor, I was very pleased reading your January 2014 issue on music. While music is personal, the manner in which you and your team, particularly Burdemam compiled articles and images is remarkable. Congratulations.

While I realize there are limitations on including everyone who has contributed to music from our vast treasure of Bhanaps, I do feel that among the many musicians featured in the issue, the following were left out: **Ravi Bellare & Shashi Bellare:** Disciples & nephews (sister's twin sons) of Pandit Taranath ji were originally from Mangalore. Shashi was as much in demand as say Ustad Zakir Hussain today. Shashi accompanied Pt. Ravi Shankar, Ustad Ali Akbar Khan and many more. Shashi & Ravi were the first to introduce tabla Jugalbandi and Sawal Jawab. From a very young age, in the early 1940's, they became two of the most sought after players of their time. Their duets were always regarded as the finest and the twins admired by great masters like Ustad Ahmedjan Thirakwa & Ustad Shamsuddin Khan.

Yogesh Samsi is today among the foremost and most recognized percussionists in India and he has performed solo and with top notch vocalists and instrumentalists in every continent. He is truly the torch bearer of the Dinkar Kaikini legacy.

Each of the above musicians has creatively contributed to Hindustani music. In particular the Bellares have left a lasting legacy of not only their performances, but also a huge base of fans and disciples all over the world.

Subhash Nadkarni, Chicago, IL

Dear Editor, My congratulations to you, Prakashman and the team that prepared the issue. The articles are excellent and the rare photographs make this issue a definite keepsake.

Every one is a gem; I was particularly touched reading about Dinkar Kaikini and Khadim Hussain. It seems that all great musicians share a common attribute—they enrich lives around them in a very meaningful way and do so naturally!

Shyam Amladi

Dear Editor, Apropos Issue February 2014 article 'Down Memory Lane':-'Identifying A Gentleman" by Ms. Savitri Babulkar, giving a lucid glimpse of late Shri U. Bhaskar Rao, made interesting reading, more so in today's fast paced world where opportunism and materialistic pursuits take precedence over acts of kindness! Bhaskar mam, a 'true gentleman' whose compassionate and benevolent nature reached out to help the lesser privileged in his own way, showed that he had sterling qualities of head and heart, traits which in the present day are rare, nay impossible to find! This should certainly inspire us to show compassion to others!

Shivanand Mudbidri, Santacruz (West).

Dear Editor, Thanks to Ms Meerabai Mavinkurve for sharing a rare and excellent interpretation of the Namavali of the 7 saints in the Feb 2014 issue of K. S.

It was sheer ecstasy to read the unfolding of the hidden meaning of the individual names of the great saints.

Hoping to read more articles of this type. Thanks dear Meerapacchi once again

Lalita Kodikal, San Jose

प्रिय संपादिकेक,

सप्रेम नमस्कार

Another colourful feather in our Chitrapur Saraswat Cap! The most prestigious award, "Padmashri" for the Animation Guru; Shri V. Ram Mohan Bhat!! Three Cheers dear Ram Mohan Mam!!!

आमगेल्या कलाप्रेमी जनांगेली मान गर्वाने आणि अभिमानाने निठी जाल्ली. पुरा माँ सरस्वतीगेली कृपा आणि परमपूजनीय श्री चित्रापूर गुरुपरम्परेची कृपादृष्टि! आमगेल्या पूजनीय वन्दनीय गुरूंनी आमचेखातीर सतत केलेल्या तपश्चर्येचे आणि राममोहन मामागेल्या सतत परिश्रमांचे फल.

Animation चे क्षेत्र तान्ने घेतना भारताच्या Career graph तू हाज्जे नाव आशिले की नाशिले की. त्यावेळारि त्या क्षेत्रांतु मामाने प्रवेशु कोरचे धैर्य केले. भविष्यांतुल्या फलाच्या यश-अपयशाचे विचारू करनी. फक्त आत्मसमाधाना खातीर केले १००% केले. मेहनत का फल मीठा होनाही था। अनपेक्षित फलप्राप्ती. त्या फलप्राप्तीने तांचेवडु आमका सर्वांकयि संतोषु जाल्लो.

स्वतःक तरी समाधान जाल्ले, बालप्रेक्षकांकयि तागल्या चित्रकथांनी आनंद मेळ्ळो. इतलें न्हई तागेल्या animation school तू थावनु पास जावनु मुखावयली पीढी भायर पडत आस्स. A True Animation Guru! A True Reward For a true Karmayogi! A fine example of "कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन।" बिन माँगे सब पाया शेरावालिये।"

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years



Saikrishna Badrinath Hatangadi

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Padma Shri Vittal Ram Mohan Bhat



Credit: Arnab Chatterjee
www.arnabchatterjee.com

Ram Mohan (born 1931) is an Indian animator, title designer and design educator, who is also known as father of Indian Animation. A veteran in the Indian Animation Industry he started his career at the **Cartoon Films Unit, Films Division, Government of India** in 1956. In 1968 he left Films Division and joined **Prasad Productions** as chief of their animation division. In 1972, he established his own production company, **Ram Mohan Biographics**, which worked on commercials, feature films and the animated feature *Ramayana* in collaboration with Yogo Sako from Japan. He is also

Chairman and Chief Creative Officer at **Graphiti Multimedia**, a Mumbai -based animation company which was established in 1995. Later he also established the **Graphiti School of Animation** in 2006. He has won the National Award for Best Non-Feature Animation Film twice, *You Said It* (1972) and *Fire Games* (1983). He was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2006 Mumbai International Film Festival.

On 26th January 2014, Shri Vittal Ram Mohan became the recipient of the prestigious 'Padma Shri'- India's fourth highest civilian Award, by the Govt. of India for his contribution to the Animation Industry in India. **The Kanara Saraswat Association congratulates him for his achievements and expresses pride in having such an illustrious person as a member of KSA and our community.**

Ram Mohan lives at Worli in Mumbai with his wife Dr. Sheila Rao. His son Kartik Mohan is a medical animator working as a Science Director for a US company in Philadelphia.



At the premier show of Ramayana at Excelsior, Mumbai with Shyam Shroff (Shringar films) on the extreme left and Yugo Sako (Director of the animated film Ramayana) in the centre

Ram Mohan has a string of awards to his credit -

- 1969- National Award for the Best Film on Family Planning."Baap Re Baap".
- 1972- National Film Award for Best Non-Feature Animation: "You Said It".
- 1974- Commissioned to script, design and direct a series of educational films on population and environment." Down to Earth" for the International Planned Parenthood Federation and the Family Planning Association of India.
- 1983 – National Award for the best Animation Film: " Fire Games".
- 1996-Communication Arts Guild Hall of Fame for Life Time Achievement. Series Director:- "Meena" for UNICEF, a series of 13 episodes dealing with issues concerning the girl child in South Asia.
- 2001- Advertising Club Award "ABBY" for Life Time Achievement.
- 2002 – Chairman, Graphiti Multimedia Pvt. Ltd.
- 2003 – I.D.P.A."Ezra Mir" award for Life Time Achievement- Broadcast India.
- 2014-Padma Shri, India's 4th Highest civilian award by Govt. of India.

Shri Bipin Nadkarni (himself a film maker) spoke to him. We give here a few excerpts from the interview:

Q :Sir, Where did you study art and as a student which artists did you admire the most?

RM : I am self taught. I taught myself by going thru some popular magazines at that time like PUNCH, a British humorous magazine and the New Yorker. I used to study those cartoons. I admired the popular American artists James Thurber, Peter Arno and Ronald Searle (UK). I tried to imitate their style of drawing... not copy them but draw in their style with Indian characters and that was the portfolio which I made for myself. I had absolutely no idea that I would ever become an animator. I did my B.Sc. in Mangalore but when I came here to do my M.Sc. I found that I was not quite interested in subjects offered in the course. I tried writing middles for the Times of India. I started drawing cartoons for the Illustrated Weekly of India.

Q : Who were your contemporaries at that time?

RM : Indian artists —The one that I admired the most was R.K. Laxman. Then there was Shankar from Delhi. I came to see a lot of Bal Thackeray's work which was also very interesting. They were political cartoons-most popular then.

Q : How did you get introduced to Animation ?

RM : That was when I came to know that Films Division was going to start an animation unit. An American animator from Disney, Mr. Clair Weeks, was to conduct a course. I went and met him without much hope of getting into the course as I had no degree or diploma in Fine Arts. I was always a Disney admirer. I had taken some of my drawings with me. Luckily Mr. Weeks liked my work. On his suggestion I applied for a job, gave the tests and suddenly found myself working with the Films Division! Once I got in I decided to pursue animation as a career. I spent 12 years in the Films Division from 1956 -1968. That gave me enough opportunity to learn every aspect of animation film making. I wrote scripts, designed characters and did story boards.

Q: Which has been your most creatively satisfying piece of work?

RM : The one that I enjoyed doing the most was my first independent shortfilm outside of Films division called " Baap re Baap". It won a National award. It was the first film that I produced independently by myself. It was simple but it was effective.

Q : You have worked with many leading film directors. What was it like to work with Satyajit Ray?

RM : Yes. It was for the prologue of his film "Shatranj ke Khiladi". He came to my studio and I was delighted to see him. He had a very clear idea of what he wanted. He had a style in mind ... a British style called 'The Company drawings' ... they were like our miniature style drawing but done during the British days ... mostly caricatures of British Colonial types for the characters. He wanted that kind of drawing. He wanted staccato movements. In his introduction to the story of Shatranj ke Khiladi he described the political situation at that time - Wajid Ali Shah was the ruler of Lucknow and he used to sleep on his own throne. Ray even had a small sketch of that... he wanted to show me the style. I could immediately grasp what he wanted and delivered it to him.

Q :How did you move ahead from Films Division to L.V. Prasad Films ?

RM : Towards 1967 I was getting a little frustrated at Films division. Then came the news of an International Animation Expo in Montreal (Canada). I went there (spending from my own pocket) just to see the Expo. It was a great experience. I spent about 4 weeks there and some time personally with Norman McLaren. After seeing the kind of work they were doing at the National Film Board of Canada, I thought I could do so much more outside Films Division. It was the same time when L.V. Prasad and his son had purchased an Oxberry camera and printer for optical work. They were looking for somebody to take charge of their studio and they approached me. Since I was not too happy where I was I opted to try this.

Q : Didn't you ever plan to work abroad ?

RM : No. I always wanted to work here. I thought It was more interesting to work in India, work on Indian Themes and Indian characters. I started "Ram Mohan Biographics" in 1972 and worked with that up to 1997 for 25 years. By then I felt I had reached some kind of a dead end. We did advertising films and occasionally a few short films. That was when Ronnie Screwvala approached me and said why not set up something together. He would access outsourced work and we could set up a bigger studio. I agreed. And though my own company existed, I got more involved in UTV toons. We set up a studio in Saki Naka and got a lot of work from outside India like episodes for "Oliver Twist". In fact Ronnie and I went to LA together, met several

people there. They liked our work. We came back and started a training programme. The most rewarding thing about it was the opportunity to train young, fresh talent. So every six months we would select about 30 people, put them through six months of initial training and then put them on the job. They started learning and working at the same time. In the four- five years I was there we trained about 300 artists and many of them today are well established animators. So that was the best part.

The work was good but in outsourced work one is limited to animation. The studios abroad gave you everything. The scripting was over, the characters were designed, the storyboarding was done and all we had to do was animate them. Going from point A to point B... now that is not animation really. So that again was a bit frustrating. I thought we should be in a position to do our own work, original content for Indian TV. We even approached the Govt. and tried to persuade them, to start subsidizing Indian animation but received no response. After 5 years my contract with Ronnie got over. In 2002 I left UTV.

In 1984 I had started an animation studio "Computer Graphiti" with Ad-man Prahlad kakkad and Ashish Khosla, an IIT-ian. I had 2 of my friends still running that studio. Today it is 'Computer Multimedia'. They asked me to get involved with them and I accepted that offer. That got me to be the Chairman of the company. Even now, in a way I am associated with them. However after my illness last year I have been taking it easy.

Q : In this long career, did you have any problems... businesswise?

RM : No. Businesswise there was always work because I entered the industry probably at the right time, when advertisers were beginning to appreciate the effect animation could give them and they were looking for animators. So we had a regular flow of work even from Canada and USA.

Q : With the advent in technology in animation today. Has the technique overtaken the content ?

A : India has had a tradition of storytelling. Even in our folk art there are so many stories to tell. In the olden days there were professional story tellers -people who were ballad singers or people who used to draw. They used to have the 'Phad" in Rajasthan, or 'Chitrakathi' in Maharashtra, in Bengal they have 'Patchitrakars'.... the whole story is drawn in pictures and somebody sings and points out to the relevant pictures... So this is the

audio visual medium that is indigenous which was very popular once. But today after all the technology that has come in we seem to have moved away from our own roots. In imitating the west, we have lost that old charm.

Q : Could you tell us something about your highly acclaimed animated film 'Ramayana'?"

RM :The idea of an animated 'Ramayana' came from a Japanese gentleman Yugo Sako who had shot documentary films in India. He thought it was ideal for an animation film because here you have a prince whose wife has been kidnapped by a demon and how birds and animals help him get his wife back. He felt that a film with this story would have a universal appeal and he came to India looking for Indian collaborators. Together we approached the Govt but failed to get support. So Mr. Sako raised funds in Japan and decided to make a totally Japanese production but asked me to become the co-director. It took us 2 years 1990 -92 and we made it in spite of the language problem. We would communicate with drawings! They referred to Ramanand Sagar's Ramayana as a reference... but the characters I designed myself. Jayu and Nachiket Patwardhan from Pune helped me with the layouts of Architecture of the Ramayana era. They made some sketches which the Japanese artists developed upon.

Q : You had mentioned about the big difference in work attitude over here and the Far East . Do you feel that over the years our attitude to work has changed for the better?

RM :To some extent maybe. But we still need to improve our work culture. The Japanese and the Far-East countries have the right attitude towards work. They are very meticulous, very skilled at work and very disciplined. That's why we have not been able to capture as much outsourced work as China, Indonesia, Taiwan, Vietnam and Philippines. We have to learn to work in a group, to communicate and work with discipline.

Q : Sir, how should the younger generation approach Animation as a career?

RM: I think it is important for animators today to have their fundamentals strong, to get the basics of classical animation, and certain rules of classical animation which evolved during Disney's time and were further improved on by the other animators who came later. I think that anybody who is going into animation should start with a thorough understanding of the traditional art form of classical animation. Get the

fundamentals right and once you have got those then you can take any kind of animation whether you use computers or Clay models. The principles are the same but you should understand them thoroughly. One thing that animation demands is patience - everything is done slowly ... one frame at a time and you can't rush through that. Patience and hard work will finally get you there.

Q : Are there enough good schools to teach animation ?

RM .: There are schools teaching mostly software. In a way it is limited but if you get those skills of how to use the software and you also learn the basic principles of classical animation then the combination of the two will be helpful.

Q : Congratulations on receiving the "Padma Shri". How do you feel about it ?

RM :It feels great. I am already 82. For nearly six decades I have worked in Animation and the most satisfying thing about it is that finally the Government seems to have recognized that there is an art form in India called Animation!! So far no animator has been considered for this award... I think... so it gives us some hope that things will improve in the future.

The Sheltering Wing

The nightingale knows not why
but it sings melodies fine,
Down the ages divine.

The fire-fly knows not why
But it twinkles in the night
When the stars go out of sight

The river knows not why
But it flows towards the ocean
though the rocks stop its motion.

I've racked my brains till it pains
I know not how and why
But God bears all our burden
Loves, Guides and protects
Under His sheltering wing
All those who his hymns
in good times and bad
In harmony sing

- Arundhati J Savkoor



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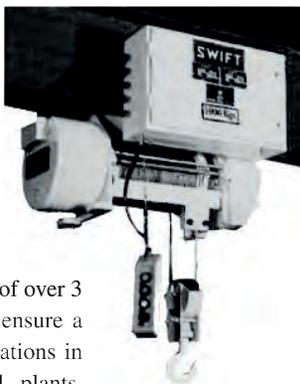
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Woman, thy first name is Shakti... then Why This???

SUDHA PHILAR

“Woman Thy First Name Is Shakti.” I am not saying this but our eternal scriptures have said it. The ancient *Vedic* verses chanted on behalf of the husband during *Saptapadi* promise the wife that her man shall never recourse to excess (*Natikamey*) even in the matter of sex. The scriptures have also mentioned the horrific treatment meted out to *Draupadi* and *Sita*.

Here are two Thought Bombs (as they are called) of Swami Vivekananda

1) Does man make laws or laws make man? Does man make money or does money make man? Does man make name and fame or name and fame make a man? Be a man first, my friend and you will see all those things and the rest will follow themselves after you. Give up that hateful malice, that doglike bickering and barking at one another, and take your stand on good purpose, right means, righteous courage, and be brave. When you are born a man, leave an indelible mark behind you.

2) Forget not that the ideal of your womanhood is *Sita*, *Savitri*, *Damayanti*; forget not that the God thou worships is the great Ascetics the all renouncing *Sankara*, the Lord of *Uma*; forget not that thy marriage, thy wealth, thy life are not for sense, pleasure are not for thy individual personal happiness; forget not that thou art born as a sacrifice to the Mother's altar.

Then why this never ending horrifying process - happening to the countless innocent daughters of our divine universe, including *Draupadi* and *Sita*. These two have been admired, respected and revered by all the womenfolk for their brave hearts, inner and mental strength. They led their lives in their own terms and conditions.

What happened in Delhi was unimaginable and unthinkable, which shook one and all. Yes it was on the front page headlines. The subsequent similar news items are now on page 3 which one might tend to overlook. That's all. All this is like old wine in a new bottle. The assaults, abuse - physical and mental, eve-teasing, molestation, abduction, trafficking, rape will go on and on towards womenfolk.

Man is very insecure and jealous of a woman for her inner and mental strength. The one and only

thing which he has over her is his physical power. But in spite of all these trials and tribulations, she bursts out stronger with a victorious triumphant smile and marches on with her head held high. The onlookers may not even know what she has gone through. But there are countless unsung ones who have succumbed dead and gone. Not all men are brutes nor all women angels. My heart cries out *Prabhu Daya Karo*.

A New Companion for the New Year!

MUKTABAI CHANDAVER, MATUNGA

A new year has arrived once again, bringing with it new hopes, new challenges and a new journey to start upon. And lo! I have found a new companion to accompany me on the new journey. I received him with mixed feelings of excitement, hope and fear.

What kind of a person will he turn out to be? Will I be happy with him? Will he be of great help to me or would be a burden to me? Numerous questions troubled me. And of course, what will people think of me when I go about with him? They may remark: “Oh! Look at that old woman walking hand-in-hand with a new companion!”

On the first day, I felt a little awkward and embarrassed when I went out with him, but after a while, I felt quite confident and in fact, proud to be with him. When I entered a shop, I was greeted warmly, given a chair to sit on and within minutes my job was done...thanks to the new companion. While crossing the road, my new companion raised his hand (like a policeman) and the whole traffic came to a standstill...amazing! Thanks once again to my new companion.

On the way home, I met a doctor friend of mine. He was pleased to see my new companion. He said, “Madam, I am very happy that at last you have found him. Many old persons feel shy to take a new companion. I don't understand why they should be ashamed of having a new companion.” I was doubly happy when I returned home that day. Now, I look forward to going out with him every day.

I am sure you have guessed who my new companion is.... Right, my friendly ‘Walking Stick’.

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Tribute

Mrs. Sulochana A Sheti(15.09.1910 - 30.05-1976)

COMPILED BY MOHAN VASUDEV KAMATH

'Lives of great men all remind us
We too can make our lives sublime
And, departing, leave behind us
Foot prints on the sands of time.
(H.W. Longfellow)

She was born as Sulochana Puthli in a large Saraswat Brahmin family in Kasargode, then in Karnataka. As was the tradition then she was married at the tender age of 8 or 9. The high child mortality of those days very soon rendered her a widow.

She rebelled against the elder's suggestion to spend her life like other child widows. Shunned by society but with her brother Umanath's help got admitted to school after a four year break in education. After passing her matriculation examination she completed her Intermediate Science examination from Government College, Mangalore staying in an ashram called Seva Sadan, meant mainly for destitute women. As she could not afford the fees for boarding and lodging, she helped out with all domestic chores in return. She came to Bombay and as she could not study medicine due to lack of finances she decided to study Microbiology. She joined and graduated from the St. Xavier's College, Bombay supporting herself financially by giving private tuitions and later teaching in a school.

In 1934 she met Mr. Anant Sheti a modern revolutionary actively involved in India's freedom struggle. He had completed graduation in Industrial Chemistry at the Forman Christian College, Lahore and come to Bombay where he met his old friend Umanath Puthli. They joined M.N. Roy's 'Radical Humanist' movement, a socialistic movement and also a freedom struggle not connected with the Congress but running a parallel course with the same aim - freedom for India as well as freedom from exploitation of the labour class.

After a long courtship they were married in 1938 under the Special Marriages Act against familial opposition. The marriage being inter-caste, a rarity in those days, made news and was reported along with a photograph in the Bombay chronicle of 6.2.1938 as an interesting inter-caste marriage.

Anant Sheti started leading rallies on the Chowpatty sands urging people to unite against the

British Rule. His fiery and provocative speeches landed him in trouble with the British. He was exiled by the British from Bombay city. The couple left the city in a hurry and travelled towards Calcutta where obliging friends offered them a place to stay and helped them find jobs. The police were soon on their heels and they were compelled to move on. Till India's Independence the couple was hounded from place to place. During those hard times Sulochana conducted adult literacy classes in towns wherever they stayed, mainly for women whose education was much neglected in those days.

With the Independence of India on the anvil life became more stable for the couple. Anant Sheti's period of four years externment came to an end. They settled in Bombay and were soon blessed with a baby daughter. Mr. Sheti was offered a prestigious position of Labour Welfare Officer in the defence services at the Dehu Road Ammunition depot near Poona. In 1948 he was sent to U.K. by the newly formed Indian Government to acquire training and a Diploma in Social Welfare.

Sulochana Sheti would collect the neighbourhood children in her home and soon had them clustering around her, coming to listen to stories, play games, sing songs and on the whole to have a good time. The mothers requested her to start regular nursery class which she did in her own 3 room flat of 650 sq.ft. She received training in the Montessori method of education, in one of the only two courses conducted by Madame Maria Montessori's representatives in India. Demand for schools compelled her to start her own primary school. She later took on rent a military barrack to house the growing school.

Today the new school building stands on this very same site. With the rapidly growing strength of school she formed the Angel's Education Trust in November 1959 with the co-operation of a few friends and well wishers to help look after the affairs of the school and procure accommodation. Her brother Mr. Umanath

Puthli became the founder chairman, and known for his philanthropy was kind enough to make available a plot of land on what is known today as Sulochana Sheti Marg, that now houses the Little Angel's SAPLING school for special children.

Aimed for development of knowledge, culture and discipline, children's personalities are moulded making them self confident, self reliant and disciplined citizens of tomorrow. The school with about 2000 students maintains high academic standards bringing in SSC results in the high nineties.

Diabetes, cataract and hemorrhages in the retina hindered Sulochana's work and she retired officially as principal in 1973. However she continued to attend the school from 9 am to 4 pm. Two years later she suffered a massive stroke and on May 30th 1976 she relinquished her hold on life.

A life that she had salvaged with indomitable courage and determination from what fate had willed her, to be one that will be remembered by thousands guided by her. The venture of starting a new school building was taken up in 1997 and completed in 2000, becoming functional in 2001. In her Birth Centenary Year extension to the new building was planned to live up to her words.

"Leave behind on this earth such deeds that, when you are gone, people have something to remember you by".

Mr. Mohan Vasudev Kamath can be contacted at dineshcbi@yahoo.co.in



LEELA PADBIDRI - Age 88
(wife of Late Vasant Padbidri)

passed away peacefully on 30 January 2014
Dearly missed and fondly remembered
by loved ones.

Sons: Dilip, Uday
Daughters-in-law: Evelyn, Nisha
Grandsons: Sameer, Ashwin
Granddaughters: Sasha, Priya, Alyssa

Announcement - request to contributors

We Invite articles from our readers for the column titled "Science & Technology". There are many young scientists in our community and we hope to receive articles from them sharing the news of the latest discoveries and inventions. Interesting tidbits of information or articles are welcome.

N. M. SARASWATHI BAI - the first woman in the world who opened a separate school

N. M. Saraswathi Bai was the first woman teacher in Kerala who entered the teaching profession in 1908 defying orthodoxy. At 15 she was a teacher at Thirumala Devasom Balikadharmam Patshala in 1908. She taught Marathi at the school. She was relieved soon from teaching due to pressure put on the Management of the school by orthodox people as women were not allowed to enter teaching profession during those days. She was the first woman in the world who opened a separate school on 24-9-1909 as a protest, at her native village Andikadavu near Cochin, on the shores of Arabian Sea. A few months later women in Europe led a protest march in Copenhagen on 8th March 1910 to end male domination in teaching profession. This day is now celebrated as International Women's day. Hence this historic day is chosen to present the Sahitya Puraskar award instituted in her name. This award is given every year.

The puraskar was sponsored by Sri. T. V. Mohandas Pai of Bangaluru by entrusting with Konkani Bhasha Prachar Sabha, Cochin an Endowment called "N. M. Saraswathi Bai Sahitya Puraskar Endowment". The award is a cash prize of Rs.25000/- given annually for Konkani literature created by a women writer.

Report

Keertan & Book Release

Saraswat Mahila Samaj, Gamdevi

REPORTED BY GEETA BALSE

On the occasion of our yearly Sankranti Sammelan, an unusual enthralling programme was presented by renowned Keertan Shiromani Shri Charudutt Aphle on Sat

Bijur - Smt. Muktabai Mangalore's daughter, Smt. Sheetala Pandit - Smt. Rukmabai Tallur's niece, Shri. Pramod Karnad - Smt. Hira Karnad's son.



(L to R) Shri Ramdas Mhatre (Tabla), Keertankar Shri Charudatta Aphle, Shri Ashok Deo (Harmonium)

25th January 2014 in the Balak Vrinda Education Society School Hall from 3.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Smt. Shyamala Talgeri welcomed the esteemed guest Shri Aphle. Shri Aphle, his accompanists – Shri Ashok Deo (harmonium) and Shri Ramdas Mhatre (tabla) were presented floral bouquets by Smt. Usha Surkund, Smt. Geeta Bijur and Smt. Padmini Bhatkal respectively.

Prof. Smt. Sadhana Kamat, former President of Saraswat Mahila Samaj, announced the publication of a book "प्रकाशफुले" written by Smt. Nalini Sanzgiri, a veteran member and past president of the Samaj. It is a collection of character sketches of 5 illustrious personalities of Maharashtra viz. Shri Vinoba Bhave, Shri Baba Amte, Shri Jayant Narlikar, Smt. Sunita Deshpande and Smt. Bahinabai Chaudhary; as also character sketches of 5 Bhanap luminaries all of whom have excelled and achieved success in their respective fields viz - Shri Sripad Subrao Talmaki, Smt. Kalindi Muzumdar, Smt. Hira Karnad, Smt. Muktabai Mangalore and Smt. Rukmabai Tallur.

Smt. Kanchan Sujir, President of Saraswat Mahila Samaj felicitated Smt. Nalini Sanzgiri with a floral bouquet. The book "प्रकाशफुले" was released at the hands of our distinguished speaker Shri Charudatt Aphle. The following Guests of Honour were presented with complimentary copies of the book.

Smt. Kalindi Muzumdar, Smt. Sunita N. Bagade - Shri Talmaki's (sister's) granddaughter, Smt. Chandrama

Smt. Smita Mavinkurve then introduced Shri Aphle an Arts Graduate in Marathi literature with a Master's Degree in "Sangeet", a recipient of numerous awards. He has given over 5000 performances all over the world and also participated in many "Sangeet Nataks".

Shri Aphle started his programme and gradually unfolded a sterling performance of "Keertan" on the theme of Gokarn – Mahabaleshwar. With his unique style of narration, a sonorous voice and profound knowledge of religious scriptures, he related the interesting "कथा" of how



"Prakashphule" Book Release by Shri Aphle
(L to R) Sheetala Pandit, Pramod Karnad, Chandrama Bijur, Nalini Sanzgiri (writer of the book), Shri Aphle, Kalindi Muzumdar, Sunita Bagde

Lord Ganesha won victory over the mighty demon Ravana by virtue of His intelligence. This narration interspersed with a medley of "भावपूर्ण—भजन and अभंग and his singing with the aplomb of an absolute professional "gaayak" rendering "दमदार नाट्यसंगीत" classical, semi classical songs; and folk songs with a truly rustic flavour and "हावभाव" kept the audience spellbound.

All in all it was a veritable windfall of कथाकथन, संगीत, अभिनय, हास्य and gave all an insight into some of our scripture. He made it a very participative event by requesting all present to join him in some of the recitations as well as the Ganpati Aarti at the end.

Smt. Nirmala Kalambi then proposed the vote of thanks. The programme ended with everyone partaking of "til ladoos" and exchange of endearing words "तेल गुळ घ्या गोड गोड बोला" – a symbolic gesture of goodwill towards one and all on this auspicious day of Sankranti Celebration.

Parisevanam

More and more Chitrapur Saraswats, who have found professional fulfillment overseas, are discovering that they had left behind a very precious bit of their heart in their *kulaar* at Shirali. Today, every visit to the Math and every moment spent in the Divine Presence of Pujya Swamiji is strengthening this bond further. ASHOK VASANT KULKARNI of USA, whose Kulkarni Foundation funded the building of Srivali High School, gives a touching account of this

Spiritual Homecoming

For my wife, Ranjana and I, our journey to Gokarn in 2001, was a spiritual quest back to our roots, to our *kulaar*, our beloved Sri Chitrapur Math and a chance to meet with our Guru, our Mathadhipati for the first time. Ranjana was longing to revive her connection with our Guru and our hallowed *Guruparampara*. As she is from Mumbai, she had had the good fortune of being immersed in *bhakti* and *seva* by participating in Math-related activities, especially during the visits of Parama Pujya Anandashram Swamiji and Parama Pujya Parijnanashram Swamiji. She was happy that since her childhood she had been able to take part in the *bhajans*, listen to *Pravachans* and so on at Karnatak Colony, where she grew up. She recalls being most happy whenever PP Anandashram or PP Parijnanashram Swamiji visited the colony. There was so much to do and imbibe, so much joy and devotion felt by one and all! She had lost this intimate connection after she moved to the US with me in 1975. So she was eagerly looking forward to this meeting. On the other hand, it was with some trepidation that I viewed the visit. My memory of my occasional childhood visits to Shirali was blurred by time. I associated my trips as a child to that region of Karnataka more with the time I had spent with my sister and parents in my mother's *kulaar*, the tiny village of Manki, with its snow-white sandy beaches and large sea shells that I collected as a kid.

All that changed on that day in 2001, when we trudged through pouring rain to the beautiful Gokarn Math and were ushered in to meet our Parama Pujya Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji during His Chaturmasya retreat there. I can never forget the warmth and joy that He radiated as He made us feel so comfortable. My son, Vedant, who was about to go to medical school, had written

up a list of questions for Swamiji on two sheets of paper in a tiny font! "My God", I thought silently, "I hope Swamiji does not get annoyed by this!" To our amazement, Swamiji took the sheets, glanced through them very quickly and with a loving smile proceeded to answer all his questions patiently and thoroughly. Vedant was deeply moved and requested Swamiji to give him *Mantradiksha*. Swamiji asked him to come for the *Mantradiksha* on the following morning. When he went for the ceremony, Swamiji suggested that he go and have breakfast with the family, and also introspect some more to note down any additional questions he may have! Vedant was surprised because at that time he had no questions to ask and was feeling quite excited about getting the *mantra*. Sure enough though, during breakfast, a few more personal questions arose in his mind. That afternoon, he met Swamiji again and after his questions were answered to his satisfaction, he received the personal *mantra* that he meditates upon every day. That day, we were re-connected with our spiritual heritage. We asked ourselves why we had waited so long!

Since that day, we have tried to visit our Math as often as possible during our yearly visits to India. On our second such visit, this time to Shirali, we were approached by the school committee members and they described PP Swamiji's *sankalpa* to fulfill the need for a high school in Shirali. We could see that Pujya Swamiji's vision extended beyond our own *samaj* to the surrounding communities of whose lives too the Math is an integral part. Social and economic reform in and around Shirali are very important to our Swamiji, in addition to His Spiritual mission. We decided that we would help in any way we can in this endeavor.

Parisevanam



Ashok Kulkarnimam with Pujya Swamiji in October 2010 on the inauguration day of Srivali High School

Over the course of the last 10 years, we have had the good fortune to meet with Pujya Swamiji on many occasions. It has been inspirational to hear His *Ashirvachans* and to witness His leadership qualities in bringing together our community and shepherding us through a critical phase in our spiritual journey. Our son participated in the first NRI- youth *shibir* and remembers it fondly to this day. We have seen the enthusiasm of the Yuvas and the vibrant volunteering that has been fostered by Swamiji. The family NRI *shibir* that we attended in Shirali was an incredible bonding experience for the participants from various parts of the world, many of whom, for the first time, became connected to their ancestral roots. In fact, our community's identity is closely tied to our *Guruparampara* and through it to our shared Hindu heritage.

Our re-connecting with our Guru and the Sri Chitrapur Math caused several positive changes to our life when we returned to the US. We began holding *vimarsh* (study circles) where we heard PP Swamiji's *Ashirvachans* and Rajgopal Bhatmam's *Pravachans*. We also began *satsangs* in our area, got involved with the Chitrapur Heritage Foundation that was started as a US Charity that would support Chitrapur Math's activities, and also participated in the Tercentenary Celebrations of our *Guruparampara* in Shirali in 2008, an event that we will never forget.

On one of our trips, Pujya Swamiji encouraged Ranjana to start a *Prarthana* class for the young children of our community in the US. This is the fourth year of the *Prarthana* class and we have had between 12 and 25 children ages 3-12 participating in them. It has been a real joy to see the little ones learn about God, our Guru and Math, learn *shlokas* and, of course, ask a lot of questions that make us introspect and answer them when we can! It is through such classes and through our personal involvement that we can pass on the rich spiritual tradition that we are blessed with. Our Guru is showing us all the ways in which we can "keep our hands serving people in the world while keeping our head in the forest" to realize the true meaning of life.

Jai Gurudev !



Ranjana Kulkarnipachi with the first batch of her Prarthana class in USA

Photo credits: Ashok and Ranjana Kulkarni

Profile

Dr. Divya Bijur - The Young Visionary

KUNDA KAGAL

Nine in the morning and time for Divya to start another busy day. It's a crisp January morning in Mumbai, with just that nip in the air which is oh-so-invigorating. Actually, her day starts at 5 am or



even earlier with 'Riyaz' for about an hour, after her usual ritual of yoga, meditation and prayers. This has been her routine since she was sixteen. Add to that now her two clinics in Vasai, a western suburb of Mumbai, where she also lives. She had started the clinics about four years ago in 2010, and they keep her totally occupied and blissfully happy for the rest of the day.

Her mother gets her all that she needs and takes her first for some home visits where Divya treats patients who are unable to come to her clinics. After that, to the first clinic - a Physiotherapy centre for senior citizens. Divya has qualified assistants and good staff in her clinics. It is hard to believe that Divya is a visually-challenged person since birth, what with the confidence and efficiency with which she handles the consultations, diagnosis and treatments meted out to scores of ailing persons who come with the hope and expectation to be able to lead a normal, pain-free life whom she reassures her patients in a very sweet, soothing, and understanding tone.

Normally, an individual or individuals jointly, as the case may be, start a venture and aspire to be entrepreneurs with the idea of self-promotion, progress and prosperity. Ultimately it boils down to material benefits for self and then service to Society. In Divya's case however, she neither needs the monetary benefits, nor is it a dire necessity for her to earn her livelihood. Her parents, Dr. Ravindra and Dr. Mrs Sujal Bijur, both Doctors with an excellent, well-

established practice in Vasai, would really not want their daughter to slog the whole day. But it is purely Divya's choice, determination and far-reaching vision that goads her to do something as extraordinary and exemplary as what she does. No doubt her parents respect her choice, missionary zeal and humanitarian approach, and encourage her whole-heartedly in her efforts.

Divya has had her share of hardships and misfortunes too. She was refused admission for a few courses of manual physical therapy in some institutions on the grounds of her visual impairment. But, she didn't get bogged down and discouraged by these hurdles in her path and with a focussed mind and heart continued trying other avenues, other places where they had a more sympathetic and open perspective. Yes, at that young age also she had the maturity to think that, 'life is like ECG Graphs with peaks and troughs', and that 'when one door closes on you, the Almighty opens 10 others for you'. And, with this unwavering faith in God and ever-positive and optimistic attitude towards life, she did cross the hurdles. She found teachers in this profession who taught her whole-heartedly in their workshops and boosted her self-confidence. The result is, in her clinics now she herself attends to patients' problems, handles all the electro-therapy equipment starting the treatments for them, while her assistants just remain there till the programmed time is up.

An Entrepreneur- cum- Doctor with a vision for the Handicapped and for the less fortunate in Society, Divya had set her heart on the goal of opening the two clinics, one for Senior Citizens or people with acute aches and pains, on the ground floor so as to avoid their stair-climbing, and another one for younger people for their rehabilitation process after surgeries for fractures etc due to accidents and mishaps. With sophisticated equipment, well-trained staff and pleasant surroundings, her clinics are very much known now and she has already made a name for herself in the suburbs and neighbouring villages too. But, for her, what is most important is the satisfaction of being able to do her bit for the society.

She has no sight but she has a vision for the handicapped! Divya's story is one of rare courage, persistence and ambition to become a competent professional against all odds. And she has achieved it at this young age of 27. But, the hard-core professional that she is, her entrepreneurial spirit will never rest on the laurels she has achieved. She would strive even harder, with an indomitable desire and ambition for expansion - expand her resources with bigger and better space, to add the very latest, up-to-date medical equipment keeping up with the day-to-day innovations in her field, and to show the world that a physical handicap cannot handicap the soul and the spirit. To keep herself abreast of current researches and evidence-based practices in her field Divya updates herself by surfing the internet and reading E-books. She also attends workshops, conferences and seminars to gain new skills.

Divya has had a brilliant academic record right from her school days, topping her classes most of the times and a whole lot of professional degrees and diplomas in Physiotherapy and allied fields of

orthopaedic rehabilitation too. But, that's not all for the multi-faceted person that she is she is a "Sangeet Visharad" trained in vocal classical music, with a melodious voice and a divine quality to her singing. Her fingers simply fly on the keys of the harmonium or synthesizer keyboard like magic. It is a treat to watch and listen to this pretty woman sing and play the musical notes with total abandon when she is absolutely lost to the outside world. Her confidence in her public performances, and on Radio and TV programmes would put us able people to shame. She has been awarded several prizes, and justifiably so, innumerable times for her professionalism, entrepreneurship and other activities of excellence, by the State Government and other institutions. Very recently in January 2014, she received an award from NAB (National Association for the Blind), for her professional efficiency, humane approach towards Society and the excellent work that she is doing! BRAVO Divya. We wish you all success and a brilliant future!

<<<>>>

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Tribute

Vasanti Narsingrao Kodikal

Born on 27th March 1928 and passed away on February 03rd 2014 (Shri Ganesh Jayanti)

She passed Matriculation from St. Columba High School Bombay in the year 1945 got Second Class with Distinction in Languages. Graduated in Arts from the Wilson College Bombay in the year 1951 with Marathi as special subject. Obtained the Masters Degree in Philosophy from the Bombay University in the year 1956.

Vasanti had music in her genes as her parents were both very fond of classical Music (her late father the founder of Saraswat Bhajan Mandali-he was a well known Bhajan singer) . They encouraged Vasanti to take up music seriously from a young age. She learnt primarily from Chidanand Nagarkar (+), S C R Bhat (+) and Dinkar Kaikini (+) in the Bhatkhande tradition. She received the Bachelor of Music Degree from the Lucknow University in the year 1953, securing All India First Class First.

She also imbibed music from Sahaswan Gharana's Hafeez Ahmed Khan, Thumris from Shobha Gurtu, Ghazals from Jagjeet Singh, Bhajans from Satish Bhutani, etc.

She was a graded artiste of A I R where she not only broadcast from 1943 to 2003 but also contributed to its Children's programmes, Mahila Mandal, Vividh Bharati, Konkani programmes and conducted the Sangeet Shikshan Programme of a year teaching classical ragas on the Radio. She taught at the Sangeet Nartan Shikhapeeth of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Bombay for Seven years and has a variety of different types of compositions to her credit. She also helped found the music circle 'Basant Bahar' at the Dadar Matunga Cultural Centre and simultaneously continued to teach music to many students.



She served as the Professor of Music in Bhavan's Bharatiya Sangeet Shikshapeeth for seven years. She left the job because her voice was affected. She worked as a part time Clerk looking after Bhavan's Bharatiya Sangeet Shishapeeth office. She presented regular programmes from the All India Radio from the year 1949. Thereafter mastering Stenography Course she served for 27th years as the P.A. to the Chairman Mr. Kilachand of Synthetics & Chemical Ltd.

If she was alive today, on March 27th 2014, she would have been celebrating her 86th Birthday. Instead all her relatives, students & friends will pay her a musical homage on the same evening, as her Birthday Remembrance.

May her soul rest in peace!

International Women's Day - Shakti Unleashed

NALINI NADKARNI, BANDRA EAST, MUMBAI

The other day, while looking for the exact date of 'Holi' in March, I suddenly recalled that 8th March was International Women's Day.

Now why, (I wondered), is a special day celebrated in honour of women? No reward is gained without a struggle, and women had to do just that, in this male-oriented world. Delving into the past we realize that women proved themselves quite early. Even in Indian mythology, - as seen in the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* - women were very highly respected.

In the annals of Indian History there have been many women who have defied public norms and worked for the betterment of the people around them, and for their country- Rani Laxmibai of Jhansi, Ahilyabai Holkar, Savitribai Phule, Kashibai Navrange and Ramabai Ranade, to name a few.

Why then did man start treating woman as mere chattel - as if the alpha and omega of a woman's existence was merely to look after their homes, to bear and bring up children, and see to the comforts of the males? I wondered whether 'Manu Smriti' had anything to do with it. I also wondered whether this biased view prevailed in other parts of the world. I then recalled Pearl Buck's novel 'The Pavillion of Women', wherein she had said that in China, where she spent most of her life, a man's wealth, and place in society, were gauged by the number of concubines he kept!

This brings to mind an English movie I had seen in the late 1940's, wherein the comedian duo Bud Abbot and Lon Costello were the only survivors when their plane crashed in the Sahara Desert. An Arab who gave them shelter, promised to send Costello "a slave who would cook for him and see to all his comforts." Costello replied that in his country, such women were called 'wives'! Barring the humor involved, I felt that males the world over, were the same.

However, every cloud has a silver lining. World War II changed the women's lot by leaps and bounds. Many new companies were started in which educated women got a chance to work and earn, and become independent. But they had to bear the brunt of criticism of narrow-minded people, who accused them of neglecting their homes and children.

However, women's struggle for independence began in the early 20th century. Having started in the U.S. in 1908, it spread thereafter to other parts of the world. As regards I.W.D. (originally The International Working Women's Day), it was celebrated in recognition of women's contribution to their economic, political and social advancement.

Many important international organizations like the United Nations, the Red Cross, and so on, gave importance to, and favoured needy women's causes, which encouraged women the world over, to work outside their homes.

In Switzerland, apparently, the drivers of public transport, like trams and buses, are mostly women. They are strong and hefty, capable of ensuring their own safety. That is the reason they do not mind working until late at night.

In Malaysia, the Prime Minister, Dr. Mahatir Mohamed encouraged women to work outside their homes, by promoting local fast food stalls, selling curry, rice and cooked vegetables by the roadside. They started several convenience stores, super markets, child-care centers and so on, to ensure women's employment; simultaneously ensuring that children and family were properly taken care of. This not merely improved the life of women, but also ensured the progress of the country. He harnessed the scientifically proven power of 'multi-tasking' possessed by women, due to which, they can efficiently balance both work and home, thus boosting the country on the international scenario.

It is encouraging to learn that in India, the Government has fortunately made a rule that a certain percentage of members in the Managing Committee of a Co-operative Housing Society should be women.

In conclusion, it is genuinely and truly deserving that a special day be reserved and celebrated as I.W.D. considering the huge potential (power, shakti) that had been suppressed so far, and has finally been unleashed for the betterment of society, as a whole.

IWOTY 2013, Anyone?

GOPINATH MAVINKURVE (g_mavinkurve@hotmail.com)

Towards the end of each year, it has become a popular practice that has been put in place in recent times by western lexicographers and 'language watch' organizations like the Oxford University Press (OUP), Merriam Webster Dictionary, Global Language Monitor and the American Dialect Society, to announce their chosen "Word Of The Year" (WOTY).

As a keen observer of language trends, one has been keeping an eye on the announcements in the last decade or so. While some of the WOTYs announced have taken me by surprise, some others have been just what one expected would make it to the winning post. The process of choosing the coveted word from among contenders for the honour appears to be methodical and even participatory democratic. Contenders vying to be the WOTYs are also put up by some language societies on their websites for a few weeks inviting the public at large to vote for their choice for the top slot, while some rely on language experts on their staff rolls to select the winner.

For example, the WOTY 2013 announced by Oxford Dictionaries is "Selfie", a term for clicking a picture of oneself or oneself with someone you met, a common practice due to the front-and-rear cameras provided in modern smartphones. Oxford had announced "Omnishambles" as the WOTY 2012, a state of shambles all over, reflective of the financial and political scene, from which the globe struggles to recover even to this day!

Merriam Webster has declared "science" as their choice for the WOTY 2013. The method employed has been the words that users of their online dictionary looked up on their website. Global Language Monitor has announced "404" as the WOTY 2013 and "Toxic Politics" as the Phrase of the Year 2013.

From the above, it is obvious that words that have made it are either newly coined ones to reflect the changing times or at times, existing ones that have become popular again due to current events. In any case, they have caught the imagination of the public at large and have made it up the popular charts in their year of reckoning. Clearly one finds that while the WOTYs announced do reflect the socio-economic realities of the western world, they do not necessarily reflect the times and moods of people of India.

It is with this fact in mind that one wonders why cannot we have our own Indian Language watch organization that puts up some contenders for the **Indian Word Of The**

Year (IWOTY) for us to select from? So when I posed this question on my blog (<http://whatnonsanz.blogspot.in>) a few years ago, my friends and ardent blog followers suggested me to do this each year until some reputed organization picks up the idea on a larger national scale.

Potential Indian Words of the Year (IWOTY) that have featured in my blog in the past few years:

Kolaveri – Outrage in our contemporary word that featured in the "Kolaveri Di" a song by Dhanush that became viral in 2012. Besides the 'heart-breaking' rage from his prospective life partner, that earned it the popularity it deserved, the apparent outrage on social media circuits about the state of national affairs.

Jugaad – The innovative short-cuts, quick-fix solutions that could include bending around rules if necessary, to get results. The word has gained global acceptance and not necessarily in the negative sense, as competitive times need innovative solutions.

Anna / Annagiri – Team Anna's high-pitch campaign for a Lok Pal Bill seeking trial of corruption at top level and several other measures found news channels beaming the fast-unto-death threats as a tool of modern satyagraha being termed as "Annagiri".

Lok Pal – "Lok Pal" had become a popular term earning a mention in various published articles consequent to the campaigns of Team Anna.

Scamayana – Scams in India had grown to epic proportions, which prompted Indians to expect the chronicling of the current scams which could be called "Scamayana" for future generations to refer to and take note of.

Below are some of the contenders that could don the "IWOTY 2013" cap this year. Readers may suggest more worthy contenders for IWOTY to my email id g_mavinkurve@hotmail.com

Modi-fication – The anointment of Modi as the PM candidate for the BJP has brought prospects of the Modi-fication of the Nation – a term used to imply that the progress of Gujarat model and the ideas of an Industry-friendly Chief Minister could well be spread across the nation with this development. Although this is an existing word suggesting change, what makes it a pun is the prospective PM candidates name itself!

Aam Aadmi – The word, Hindi for common man, is back in the reckoning with renewed vigour ever since the Aam Aadmi Party clinched a sizeable number of seats in the Delhi State elections, albeit falling short of being a "clean-sweep of the new broom". The power of the mainstream media, the impact of the social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook, the manner in which the common man's opinion is becoming increasingly important is the writing on the (FB?) wall. The word is gaining prominence for all these factors as it is for this fledgling political party which has just tasted its first success.

Laal Batti – The Red Beacon on cars signifying that the persons travelling are "privileged" persons bestowed with special privileges at public places. It is becoming a common feature to find reports in the news media about the kith and kin of the "High-and-Mighty" to claim special treatment at Toll Nakas, Customs clearance gates and such other public amenities. Lal Batti is not just about the Red Beacon on the car, more about all special privileges.

Siballed – Social Media users found themselves in a tight spot while commenting or 'liking' posts that usually showed the ruling party or those at the helm in bad light. Although freedom of speech has been largely enjoyed by Indians in mainstream and other media, there was a move

by Kapil Sibal to amend Section 66A of the Information Technology Act to punish anyone posting anything "offensive" on the internet or social media sites like Twitter or FB and removing "offensive content" forthwith! Users who found some of their posts struck down or hauled up by the police were said to have been "Siballed".

Mango Man – This comical translation of the 'Aam Aadmi' is a contender by itself. The term is widely in use in social media circles, playing upon "Aam" being a Hindi pun meaning both common and mango! This term also receives favour from Yours Truly, due to the Mango-connection that my surname bears: **Mavinkurve** means "Mango Basket" in Kannada, apparently.

That makes me the "Original Mango Man", doesn't it?

Readers can refer to these sites for more information–

<http://blog.oxforddictionaries.com/2013/11/word-of-the-year-2013-winner/>.

<http://blog.oxforddictionaries.com/2013/11/word-of-the-year-runners-up/>.

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/info/2013words.htm>

<http://www.languagemonitor.com/category/words-of-the-year-woty/>

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A Community In Slumber—A Wake-up Call

MANOHAR BAGADE

When my article 'Senior Citizens' Assisted-Living Community' appeared in print, I expected that at least those on the threshold of retirement would show some interest and express their views on the subject. The only responses received were from people in immediate need of the facility for their relatives already in the advanced age group. Our elders would have quipped, "*adchun yetachi jago sod-che*". Maj.Gen.(Retd) B.N.Rao in his article 'Homes For Assisted Living and Attitudes', in the December 2013 issue of Kanara Saraswat has put it mildly, "*Most people start seeking old age homes when they end up with their backs to the wall*".

Lack of wider response to the article cannot be construed as lack of demand for such facility since the few e-mails received were only to enquire about availability of affordable facilities. But for the article, even those few instances would not have come to light. So it is time for our leaders to examine whether enough is being done to assess the real needs of our community, given the fact that most of our people are reluctant to air their problems in public.

The pace at which Senior Citizens' Community Living projects are coming up in the corporate sector indicates the growing demand for such communes. These commercial projects are beyond the reach of our average middle class families. Most of our seniors look for decent modern well-designed and comfortable dwellings, palatable and healthy food, some simple recreational facilities, social life and above all good health care facilities including nursing care as they advance in years and their mobility is curtailed or they are confined to bed.

There is, therefore an urgent need to start one or two communes in some convenient locations to provide facilities at reasonable cost to our people. But even a small commune designed to offer minimum essential services will need large investment in land, building, furniture, linen, equipment for the health care facility, the kitchen, and of course, administrative and staff costs.

The primary task, therefore, is to raise the necessary "*Capital*" and that probably is what the earlier attempts overlooked!. Since this is a common requirement for all communes, the solution is to create a common fund administered by a central authority to cater to the needs of all up-coming projects of this nature. Funds can be created only through donations. 'Charity begins at home' is an old adage, but worth emulating in this case.

Here let me digress a little and do some loud thinking. We discharge our duty to our family by providing them a comfortable life, our children a decent education and help to settle down in life. *How nice would it be, if at the same time we set aside a small amount for the "Social Security of Seniors" to ensure a secure future for ourselves, instead of placing that burden on our children by making it obligatory for them to look after us when we grow old! Will it not be a true test of our affection for our children?* A better alternative, therefore, is not to pass the buck to the next generation, but tackle the problem ourselves by initiating positive Action! By taking this one small step of creating a fund with our own contributions we can ensure a secure future for every senior citizen of our community without having to tax our offspring!!

We can also approach various philanthropic organizations and individuals for donations to augment the fund and build a large corpus that can finance 'creation and maintenance of senior citizen's assisted living communes'. The money could be distributed to the new projects as "unsecured loan" and recovered after the commune is established and regular monthly charges are collected from residents. That will ensure liquidity and availability of the fund for future projects or expansion of the existing facilities.

These are some of my thoughts, but a problem of this nature and magnitude cannot be resolved by the views of one individual or of a small group. It needs the involvement of the whole community whose future is at stake. It calls for ideas from every member of the community, a wider debate which can happen only when every member of the community comes forward to express his thoughts even if they look repetitive. I appeal to all our readers to actively participate in the exchange of ideas and air their views through the columns of this magazine so that a consensus can evolve soon and action can begin!

Welfare schemes are designed by community leaders on the basis of feedback received by them from its members. It is imperative therefore that those in immediate need of the assisted living facility and those who foresee such need in the near future should clearly express their views to enable the leaders to address the issue. Keeping in mind that such facilities cannot be created overnight, the time to speak up is NOW!!

The author can be contacted at manoharbagade78@gmail.com

Save Lives

It is often said, "Necessity is the mother of invention". In our case however, our needs have acted as an impetus to create what we'd like to call "Save Lives".

Ø In the last 5 years, we have witnessed the outbreak of illness within the family (age no bar). And out of first hand experience I can give you my word that the biggest setback was not the disease or the patient but the coordination involved in meeting the required medical needs, hence 'Save Lives'.

Ø Save Lives is a web based Care Coordination system that enables an individual to save all important medical data, so that accurate information can be accessed anytime and anywhere without much ado.

Ø Our main services include:-

- **EPHR (Electronic Personal Health Record) Service** : As mentioned earlier, this service is to facilitate storage of medical reports, doctors' advice, prescriptions and other important medical documents, the course, duration and type of treatment, details and list of food and medicine allergies, diet plan, etc, electronically. This information may updated from time to time by manually entry or scanning of documents.

- **Our specialised and only paid service-The ICE service, which stands for In Case of Emergency**: This service enables our premium (paid) customers to contact their kin (family, friends, guardians, etc) almost immediately via an SMS to your registered contact numbers in an emergency, thereby saving emotion, time, money and getting the much required assistance promptly. One can avail of this renewable specialised service for just Rs 250 for a period of 2 years.

- **FAQ's and videos**: this service is informative and educates individuals about various ailments and diseases. The audio visual clips are of short, convenient duration and are simple to understand. In addition to giving you a better understanding of different ailments, it will help you to understand and communicate with doctors. It will equip you to ask questions on the course of treatment and help you understand the choices and rights of the patient.

- **Our Daily RSS feeds**: will keep you informed of the latest scientific breakthroughs

in the medical field, information on new viruses, diseases and their symptoms, news on new products and medicines to combat various diseases and ailments.

- **Our Health magazine**: it educates you about the benefits of various foods, fruits and exercise. It will include innovative, nutritious recipes for infants, children and ailing adults.

- **Natural home remedies and care**: it will help you deal with everyday irritants in a natural way using herbal alternatives.

- **Insurance and Mediclaim details**: this includes policy details, information on how to avail, and hospital accepting to reduce hassle.

In the next phase we would be introducing value added services like:

- **The Directory Service**: this service will help you locate the nearest and most convenient medical services customized to your need. The medical services include hospitals, doctors, clinics, blood banks, pharmacies, pathology labs, nurse and 'ayah' services, hospital rentals, charitable trusts etc.

- **The Growth Chart**: will help you document and preserve the beautiful growing years of your child. It may include details of height, weight, information on important inoculations and vaccines administered, allergies and any other vital information one is likely to forget in the years to come. It keeps a medical record of a child's birth, right up to puberty and even ventures into adulthood.

- **A Reminder system**: this system is aimed at aiding the fast paced life we lead today. It will give you a reminder about your next medical appointment, medication to be bought (yes, it actually keeps a record of when your medicines are scheduled to get over... something that we tend to often disregard), it reminds us when a particular dosage is to be altered, taken or stopped, it records regularity of menstrual cycle and much more. It does the job of a book keeper for the medical needs of people on the run, or victims of forgetfulness.

Ø In a nutshell, Save Lives is a blessing to live a full, stress free life and an invitation to you to come and grow healthy with us.

(Sponsored)

Donations ?Who needs them.....?

SUBHASH M KOPPIKAR

A rather provocative heading, perhaps to be countered by....who doesn't...?

As you know, for avoiding Govt. controls and interference in their working, that comes with Govt. grants/aid, many NGOs prefer to depend on individual donors like you and me, Corporates, charitable trusts, etc.,

This article is about my sad experience and response of 4 NGOs, who will remain nameless for obvious reasons, though I have continued supporting them for their excellent work.

1] We donated a large capacity water filter for the kitchen and a water cooler for visitors besides large vessels, [valued at over Rs.1.5 lakhs, when donated some years back].

I enquired about an acknowledgement and when a commemorative metal plate will be attached to the donated filter and the cooler. I was astonished to be told that their accounts were not updated for the last several years, so please do not expect any acknowledgement or memorial donor plate attachment etc.

2] Another NGO to which we donated a water filter and a water cooler informed me when these were delivered some years back, that they will write a 'thank you' letter to me once they were installed. After several years now, I am still awaiting that letter - perhaps the water filter and water cooler are yet to be installed and made operational - hence perhaps the prolonged delay!

3] We donated our working condition desktop to one NGO some years back. Whenever I used to meet the then Hon. Secretary socially, he would himself volunteer that my 'thank you' letter was pending and also assure that he would ensure sending it shortly.

During our last 2 meetings however, this surprisingly changed to '...have you not received our letter?...we sent it some time back...'. I am still awaiting the same. I expect at least their office has a copy on file for records. The table that was specially made for the desktop could not be taken when the desktop itself

was taken, so, when I called the Hon. Secretary for it to be taken away, after returning from a long tour, I was stunned to be told that the desktop was ruined during massive floods in their office and consequently scrapped, so now obviously the table was not needed. The table was ultimately given away to a Society watchman who gratefully took it away.

4] My Grandmothers' gift of an electric motor fitted sewing machine was donated to one NGO. Earlier this year, we donated a laptop, a gift on my 70th birthday, to the same NGO. The person supposed to use it called me for the password which was promptly given. As there was no further interaction, I presumed it was working normally or else the person would have contacted me again.

Recently, I rang up the concerned person for another potential donor when I also expressed my regret at our donations [sewing machine and laptop] not being acknowledged till now, by phone, letter or in their annual report. The response was that the laptop was not working and lying unused in a corner; also that the person who was to use it tried contacting me but that I was not available.

Later that day, when I called the laptop user, only to be told that a minor problem was set right long back and that the laptop was working fine, with absolutely no problems whatsoever.

When I informed this, I was of course offered an apology with a rider that it was their policy not to acknowledge donations of old articles as they were of no use to the donor.

I was not only surprised but quite upset at hearing this and responded that a 'thank you' letter, was a normal courtesy, if not a formality, at least to respect the donors' sentiments to the donated articles, which we had used respectfully as family heirlooms.

Can I hope and expect a little humane response from NGOs, so that my experiences are not repeated with others?

May I raise the question again '... Donations ? who needs them.....?'

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निर्बल की लड़ाई बलवानसे

श्यामला भट

रोज सकाळपासून कामांची रांग लागते. सारी निपटून दुपारच्या जेवणानंतरची झाकपाक आवरून बेडरूममध्ये यायला साधारण दीड वाजतो. नंतरचे दोन तास फक्त माझे. वर्तमानपत्रं, मासिकं, पुस्तकं चष्मा, फोन असा सारा लवाजमा घेऊन, थोडी वामकुक्षी, कधी हे वाच, कधी ते वाच असं सारं शांत, निवांत चालतं.

आजही तशीच गादीवर पडले आणि अचानक 'गुटरगुं गुटरगुं' ऐकून चमकून उठून बसले. शंकाच नाही. आमच्या खिडकीबाहेरच्या एसीवर श्री. व सौ. पारवे बसली होती. मी तावातावाने उठून त्यांना हाकलले तशी ती उठून शेजारच्या कानविंदेंच्या खिडकीवर जाऊन बसली. मी परत गादीवर टेकते न् टेकते पुन्हा तेच घुमणं आणि पुन्हा आमच्या एसीवरूनच. मी पुन्हा उठले अन् पुन्हा हाकललं. पण एव्हांना त्या जोडीला बहुधा यातली गंमत कळली होती. मी गादीवर पोहोचायच्या आधीच ती भुरकन् हजर व्हायची आणि "आम्ही आलोय बरं का, आता काय करणार तू?" असं जणू मला आव्हान घायची. माझा संताप संताप होत होता. मी कपडे वाळत घालायची काठी घेतली. आता ठीक आहे. पडल्या पडल्या काठीचं दुसरं टोक खिडकीपर्यंत पोहोचत होतं. खिडकीची काच जाम गच्च झाली होती. काचेवर त्यांची सावली पडली की तिथे काठी आपटायची. अर्थात् काच फुटणार नाही अशा बेताने. एकदोनदा उडल्यावर त्यांच्या लक्षात आलं की "घाबरायचं कारण नाही. या बाईने कितीही काठी आपटली तरी आपल्याला लागणार नाही. त्यामुळे आपण निवडलेल्या जागेवरून उठायची मुळीच गरज नाही."

मला मात्र उठल्याशिवाय गत्यंतर नव्हतं. दुसऱ्या उघड्या खिडकीतून त्यांच्यावर नेम धरून मी काठी त्यांच्या दिशेने सरकवायला सुरुवात केली. तसा त्यांचा निरुपाय झाला. उठून ती पुन्हा कानविंदेंच्या खिडकीवर बसली. माना डुगुडुगु हलवत मला विचारू लागली.

"किती वेळ उभी राहणार आहेस तू आता?"

काठीच्या आपटाआपटीचा आवाज ऐकून नातू आला.

"काय आजी, ही काठी घेऊन कसली लढाई चाललीय तुझी?"

मलाही माझं गाऱ्हाणं ऐकणारं कुणी हवंच होतं. पारव्यांनी मांडलेला उच्छाद मी त्याला सांगितला.

"Not fair हं आम्मा. या लढाईत तुला दोन हात, हातात काठी आणि त्या बिचाऱ्यांकडे..."

"बिच्चारी? ती बिच्चारी? भारी लबाड आणि हटवादी आहेत दोघं. माझ्याकडे काठी असली तर त्यांच्याकडे चिकाटी आहे आणि त्यांच्या चिकाटीपुढे माझी काठी काही उपयोगाची नाही."

"मग सोडून दे ना."

"सोडून काय दे. माझ्या वेळेवर, माझ्या शांततेवर आणि आपल्या जागेवर अतिक्रमण केलंय त्यांनी. शिवाय त्यांच्यामुळे हवाही खूप दुषित होते असं वाचलंय मी. बरं, इथे साम-दाम-दंड असं काही उपयोगी पडणार आहे का?"

"आता हे काय आणि?"

"बरोबर, तुला नाही कळायचं ते. मला म्हणायचं आहे की जर मी त्यांना विनवलं की 'नका रे बसू बाळांनो इथं, मला त्रास होतो.' तर काही उपयोग होणार आहे का? किंवा 'इथून दुसरीकडे गेलात तर एक मस्त बक्षीस देईन.' असं आमीष दाखवलं किंवा 'इथून सटका बरं का, नाहीतर अशशी खोड मोडेन.' अशी धमकी दिली तर काही साध्य होणार आहे का? म्हणून तर हा बडगा दाखवतेय त्यांना."

"जाऊ दे ना आजी, बसतील थोडा वेळ आणि जातील मग."

"नाही रे बाळा नाही. एकदा का एखादी जागा ठरवली की तिथेच ती रोज बसणार, घाण करणार, गुं गुं करून जीव खाणार. संसार मांडणार म्हणजे घरटं, अंडी-पिळं. बाकीचे पक्षी बघ कशी झाडांवर घरटीं बांधतात आणि या ऐतखाऊंना मात्र आयती वळचणच हवी."

आता कबूतरांचे निषेधाचे स्वर ऐकू येऊ लागले.

"ऐकतोयस ना, मघापासून बाईची काय बडबड चाललीय ते. अतिक्रमण म्हणे, खिडकीबाहेरची जागाही जणू यांचीच. स्वतः पलंगावर, नरम गादीवर झोपणार. थोडासुद्धा कापूस आपल्याला देणार नाहीत. त्यांच्या डोक्यावर गरगरा फॅन फिरणार, आपण इथं सावलीत बसलोय तर केवढा गहजब. किती स्वार्थी असतात ना माणसं?"

नाही म्हटलं तरी पारवीचं बोलणं माझ्या मनाला लागलंच. पायही दुखत होते. मी मुकाट्याने माझ्या जागेवर जाऊन पडले आणि लगेचच "आता कसं" म्हणत ती जोडी पुन्हा आमच्या एसीवर बसून लढाई जिंकल्याचा आनंद व्यक्त करीत द्वंद्वगीत गाऊ लागली. मला ते ऐकवेना. मी दुसऱ्या खोलीत जाऊन पडले. 'काय उपाय करावा' या विचाराने झोप येईना, वाचण्यातही मन लागेना. आमच्या लहानमोठ्या कामांचे कॉटॅक्ट घेणाऱ्या परबांना फोन केला. त्यांच्यामागे

सतराशेसाठ कामं. “सवड मिळाली की येतोच.” असं आश्वासन तेवढं मिळालं. या जोडीचं ‘गुटरगू’ माझं डोकं खात होतं. माझ्या थातूरमातूर प्रयत्नांना दाद न देता दिवसेंदिवस अधिकाधिक निर्धास्त होऊन ती संसाराची जमवाजमव करीत होती.

मी नातवाला गाठलं.

“मला एक पिस्तूल आणून दे नारे.” मी त्याला विनवलं.

“काय, तू त्या कबूतरांवर पिस्तूल चालवणार?” त्याच्या स्वरातली धास्ती जाणवून मला हसू आलं.

“वेडा का रे तू? अरे खोटं पिस्तूल. नुसतं आवाज करणारं. खरं कसं तू आणणार? आणि मला त्यांना फक्त घाबरवायचं आहे. मारायचं नाही.”

“छे, छे! बिचारी किती घाबरतील ती आणि ती पिस्तूलं फक्त दिवाळीच्या वेळी मिळतात. आता कोण दुकानात ठेवणार?”

त्याने मलाच उडवून लावलं. मी विमनस्कपणे दुसऱ्या खिडकीत उभी राहून एसीवरून खाली लोंबणारी सुक्या गवताची पाती पाहात होते. तितक्यात मला कोपऱ्यात एका वाटीत पाणी व तांदळाचे विखुरलेले दाणे दिसले. नातू गुपचूप त्यांच्याशी मैत्री जोडत होता तर! आता कसं समजावू त्याला? मूक पक्षी प्राण्यांवर प्रेम करावं असंही मी सांगणार आणि आसऱ्याला आलेल्या पक्ष्यांना हुसकावून लावण्याकरता वेगवेगळे प्रयत्नही करणार याची सांगड तो कशी घालणार?

आणि देवदूतासारखे परब दोन कामगारांसह हजर झाले. मी सुटकेचा निःश्वास टाकला. त्यांनी अंगणात उंच शिडी लावली. त्यावर चढणाऱ्या कामगाराला पाहताच श्री व सौ. पारवे झरकन उडाली. त्याने केरसुणीने एसीवरील गवताचा पसारा जमीनीवर लोटला. माझं मन अस्वस्थ होऊ लागलं. इथे तिथे खिळे ठोकून तासाभरात ए.सी.भोवती जाळी लागली. कबूतरांचे अतिक्रमण हटवायला टिचून रुपये मोजले.

कानविदेंच्या खिडकीवरनं खिन्न स्वरातला संवाद मला ऐकू येऊ लागला.

“किती निष्ठुर ही बाई. काडी काडी जोडून मांडलेला आपला संसार तिने उधळून लावला. आता कुठे जायचं?”

“घाबरायचं का एवढं? समोरच्या सुमंगल सोसायटीतले हेरवाडकर पतीपत्नी लेकीच्या बाळंतपणाकरता कालच अमेरिकेला गेली सहा महिन्यांकरता. तिथून कुणी उठवणार नाहीत आपल्याला. चल”

माझ्याकडे एक कटाक्ष टाकून दोघं भुरकन उडाली. मला माझी निवांत दुपार मिळाली. पण कुठेतरी मनाला चुटपूट लागली आहे. जिंकूनही हरल्यागत वाटत आहे.

सङ्गच्छध्वं संवदध्वम्...

वैशाली कोपिकर

दशमकक्षायाः छात्रान् पाठयन्ती आसम्। प्रथमे पृष्ठे एव लिखितः श्लोकः मम दृष्टिपथं गतः।

सङ्गच्छध्वं संवदध्वं.....

तस्य पठन पाठनानन्तरं मनसि उत्साहः सञ्चरितः। परं कार्यरूपे कथम् आनेतव्यम् इति अज्ञात्वा मूढा इव जाता अहम्।

वर्षद्वयम् अतीतम्। गुरुकृपया सान्ताकुजसभायाम् सस्कृतगीर्वाणप्रतिष्ठायाः समारम्भे आभारप्रदर्शनस्य दायित्वं प्राप्तवती। अस्मिन्मासे तृतीये दिनाङ्के एव कार्ल्यां गुरुवर्याणाम्, अन्धेरीमध्ये धर्मसभायां सप्पादितस्य प्रवचनस्य श्रवणभाग्यं प्राप्तं मया। तदा लेखनस्य स्फूर्तिः उद्भूता।

समाजजीविनः मानवस्य जीवने कस्यापि प्रापणं एकाकिना न शक्यम्। परस्पर सहाय्येनच साध्यम्। पूर्वेषां दूरदृष्टिं प्राप्तवतां ऋषिवर्याणाम् अपि एषः एव मतः आसीत् इत्यस्मिन् सन्देहः नास्त्येव।

किमपि कार्यं करणीयं चेत् परस्पर कापट्यरहितेन विचारविनिमयेन साध्यं भवति। तस्मिन् कार्ये इतरैः असूयापर दोषदर्शनात् विना उत्कर्षार्थं यदि सहायरूपेण दोष निरूपणं भवति तर्हि तत् ग्राह्यम् एव। तस्य कृते किं कर्तव्यम्? इतरान् प्रति अनावश्यक चिन्तनं त्यक्तव्यम्। परस्पर विश्वासः वर्धयितव्यः।

यदा वयम् इतरान् मत्तः न्यूनः अधिकः वा इति चिन्तयामः तदैव अस्माकं जीवने वृद्धिः न भवति। अहम् इव सः अपि (तथैव सः इव अहम् अपि) ब्रह्मणः सृष्टिः इति चिन्तयामः, गुरुवर्यैः दर्शित मार्गेण चलामः तर्हि आगामी काले वयम् अवश्यम् उत्कर्षं प्राप्य वेदोक्त मन्त्राणां सार्थम् अनुभवं प्राप्तुं शक्नुमः।

अस्मिन् विषये गुरुवर्याः एव प्रमाणाः। यतो हि तेषु सर्वसामर्थ्यं सत्यपि (अधिकारोऽपि वर्तते) ते अस्मान् सर्वान् कार्यरतान् कुर्वन्तः सर्वाङ्गीण प्रगतिं प्रति नयन्तः सूक्तेः सार्थं स्पष्टीकरणं कुर्वन्ति।

ऋषिभिः अध्यात्मचिन्तनपूर्वकं समाजकल्याणं विचिन्त्य एव वेदाः निबद्धाः। मानवैः कथम् आचरितव्यम्, परस्पर व्यवहर्तव्यम् इत्यपि वेदेषु कथितमेव। सत्यं वद, धर्मं चर, स्वाध्यायान्माप्रमद... इत्यादीनि वचनानि सामान्यतया अस्माकं दैनंदिन जीवने न्यसितुं शक्नुमः किल? अतः स्वस्य चिन्तनं कुर्वन्तः वयं यथाशक्ति परस्परं सहाय्यं कृत्वा गुरुदर्शित सच्चिदानन्द दिशि प्रयाणं कुर्मः।

गीर्वाणप्रतिष्ठा – रसास्वाद – मेघदूत १०

कृष्णानंद मंकीकर, वाकोला

Stanza 14

अद्रेः शृङ्गं हरति पवनः किंस्विदित्युन्मुखीभिः
दृष्टोत्साहश्चकितचकितं मुग्धसिद्धाङ्गनाभिः ।

स्थानादस्मात्सरसनिचुलादुत्पतोदन्मुखः खं
दिङ्गनागानां पथि परिहरन् स्थूलहस्तावलेपान् ॥१४॥

अन्वयः

पवनः अद्रेः शृङ्गं हरति किंस्वित् इति उन्मुखीभिः
मुग्धसिद्धाङ्गनाभिः

चकितचकितं दृष्टोत्साहः (त्वं) अस्मात् सरसनिचुलात्
स्थानात् उदन्मुखः (सन्) पथि दिङ्गनागानां स्थूलहस्तावलेपान्
परिहरन् खं उत्पत ।

Meaning of words:

अद्रेः of the mountain शृङ्गं peak (literally the
horn) हरति removes पवनः the Wind किंस्वित् Is it so?
An expression of wonderment. इति thus उन्मुखीभिः
(the damsels) with faces upturned. मुग्ध Those who
are struck by wonder (looking at you) सिद्धाङ्गनाभिः
the wives of the siddha clan people. दृष्टोत्साहः one
who is looked at with eagerness. स्थानात् अस्मात्
from this place सरसनिचुलात् which has wet nichula
bamboos उदन्मुखः (सन्) facing northward, पथि on the
way दिङ्गनागानां of the elephants (नाग=elephant) who
guard the eight directions स्थूल fat हस्तावलेपान् the
touch of the hands परिहरन् warding off खं skywards
उत्पत proceed.

Translation

“Is the (fierce) wind blowing away a mountain
top?” Thus the simple wives of the Siddhas, with
faces turned upwards and looking at you in great
wonderment, would think (When they would see
you in the sky). You should (now) proceed from this
place which has wet (due to your showers) bamboo
plants, northwards, avoiding the waving of huge
hand-strike by the celestial elephants in the sky.
(There are eight mythical “Dikpalas” who guard the
eight directions)

Details of the stanza:

In this stanza, Kaalidaasa is painting a word
picture of the huge cloud. The simple minded(aratr)
siddha women, when they suddenly see the huge

cloud floating in the sky, think for a moment that is
it a mountain top sliced off by the wind? And for a
moment they are apprehensive that this chunk of the
mountain may as well fall on them! In the next line,
he obliquely advises the cloud to avoid the strike
by the (huge) celestial elephants-It is our poetic
fantasy that there are eight celestial elephants who
uphold the earth with their trunks. Just imagine the
size of the elephants and then relate it to the size of
the cloud of Kaalidaasa.

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सुख

माणूस धावतो सुखाच्या शोधात
पण सुख कशात मानावे हे नाही कळत

स्वतःच्या सुखाचा घेतो आनंद
पण दुजांना जो देतो आनंद
तोच मानवा खरा परमानंद

नका करूरे द्वेष असूया
तेची खरं सुख हे जाणूया

आदाराने पहा दुज्यांचे अस्तित्व
पहा स्व...त्व दुसऱ्यांत
उमजेल तेव्हा खरे तत्व
दिसेल मग सुखाचे प्रभुत्व

उणीव काढून हिणवू नका रे
आनंद आसुरी नका घेऊ रे
नाहिसा होईल अशांतीचा डोंगर
ओथंबून वाहिल सुखाचा सागर

– श्रीमती वसुधा कृ. कड्ले

पुस्तक परिचय 'प्रकाशफुले'

उदय मंकिकर

लेखिका : श्रीमती नलिनी संझगिरी

प्रकाशक : फुलराणी प्रकाशन

देणगी मूल्य : रुपये १००/-

पृष्ठे : ७६

कथा, कविता, ललितलेख इत्यादी साहित्यप्रकार चांगल्याप्रकारे हाताळणाऱ्या तसेच सारस्वत महिला समाज, गावदेवी, मुंबई यांच्या लेखन पुरस्काराने सन्मानित झालेल्या मराठी, कोकणीतील ज्येष्ठ हौशी लेखिका म्हणजे श्रीमती नलिनी संझगिरी. २५ जानेवारी २०१४ला अंजली व सोनिया ह्या त्यांच्या दोन्ही कन्यांनी, 'प्रकाशफुले' हे नलिनीताईनी लिहिलेल्या दहा गुणीजनांच्या शब्दचित्रांचे पुस्तक, सुप्रसिद्ध कीर्तनकार ह.भ.प. चारुदत्तबुवा आफळे ह्यांच्या हस्ते प्रकाशित करून आपल्या आईला गोड आणि सुखद धक्का दिला. अत्यंत भावनोत्कट प्रसंग. ह्या प्रसंगाने, घटनेने, नलिनीताई अक्षरशः भारावल्या. 'प्रकाशफुले' म्हणजे नलिनीताईनी चोखंदळ वाचकांना बहाल केलेला शब्दचित्ररूपी नजराणा आहे असे म्हटले तर ते वावगे ठरणार नाही. प्रत्येक शब्दचित्र वाचताना लेखिकेच्या वैयक्तिक अनुभवाचा स्पर्श जाणवतो.

आपापल्या क्षेत्रात देदिप्यमान कार्य केलेले आणि करीत असलेले हे दहा गुणीजन म्हणजे भूदानाचे अध्वर्यू-विनोबा भावे, रुग्णसंजीवक बाबा आमटे, प्रतिभासंपन्न कवयित्री-बहिणाबाई चौधरी, सखी मानस्विनी सुनीता देशपांडे, प्रज्ञावंत शास्त्रज्ञ जयंत नारळीकर, सहकारमहर्षी श्रीपाद सुबराव तालमकी, अष्टपैलू साहित्यिका हिरा कर्नाड, निष्ठावंत समाजसेविका कालिंदी मुझुमदार, गुणसंपन्न नाट्यलेखिका मुक्ताबाई मंगळूर आणि दीनवत्सला रुक्माबाई तळूर. ह्या प्रत्येकाचे आपापल्या क्षेत्रात एवढे योगदान आहे, की त्यावर स्वतंत्र लेखन करता येईल. पण नलिनीताईनी, ह्या सर्वांचे कार्य अत्यंत मोजक्या आणि परिणामकारक शब्दात बंदिस्त केले आहे, त्याला तोड नाही. त्यांच्या ह्या लेखन कौशल्याला सलाम! ह्या कौशल्याची अनुभूती घ्यायची असेल तर हे पुस्तक वाचायलाच हवे. अत्यंत सोपी आणि आकलनीय मराठी. ही

शब्दचित्रे वाचल्यानंतर लक्षात येते, की नलिनीताईनी आपल्या ह्या पुस्तकाला 'प्रकाशफुले' हे शीर्षक का दिले असावे. सूर्यफूल ज्याप्रमाणे सूर्यप्रकाशात बहरते, डुलते आणि आनंद देते, त्याचप्रमाणे ही सर्व स्वतःच्या कार्यप्रकाशात तळपणारी स्वयंप्रकाशी फुले आहेत आणि आपल्या महान कार्याचा सुगंध समाजात पसरवून सर्वांना प्रेरित करीत आहेत.

नलिनीताईनी आपल्या शब्दचित्रात, प्रत्येक मान्यवराची संपूर्ण माहिती देण्याचा प्रयत्न केलेला आढळतो, जाणवतो. उदाहरणेच द्यायची झाली, तर विनोबाजीचा ज्ञानाचा ध्यास, संस्कृत भाषेचा व्यासंग, त्यांचा कर्मयोग, भू-दान चळवळ ह्याचे लेखन अत्यंत परिणामकारक.

रुग्णसंजीवक बाबा आमटेजींचे कुष्ठरोग्यांच्या सेवेत समर्पित केलेले जीवन, प्रतिभासंपन्न कवयित्री-बहिणाबाई चौधरींचे जीवन, त्यांची काव्यसंपदा, तसेच त्यांच्या मृत्युनंतर त्यांच्या काव्यसंपदेला आचार्य अत्र्यांनी दिलेली दाद.

सखी-मनस्विनी सुनीताबाई देशपांडे ह्यांच्या करारी आणि परखड स्वभावाचे, मनस्वी वृत्तीचे, त्यांच्या लेखन कौशल्याविषयी कौतुक.

प्रज्ञावंत शास्त्रज्ञ-जयंत नारळीकर ह्यांची तपशीलवार माहिती, अत्यंत बुद्धिमान कुटुंब म्हणून त्यांच्या कुटुंबाचे केलेले कौतुक अत्यंत उद्बोधक.

सहकार महर्षी श्रीपाद सुबराव तालमकी यांच्या सहकारक्षेत्रातील योगदानाविषयी, त्यांच्या निःस्पृह स्वभावाविषयी अत्यंत अभ्यासपूर्ण लेखन. फक्त तालमकी वाडीजवळच्या चौकाचे 'रावबहादूर श्रीपाद सुबराव तालमकी' म्हणून नामकरण केल्याचा उल्लेख त्यांच्या शब्दचित्रात करायला हवा होता.

अष्टपैलू साहित्यिका हिरा कर्नाड ह्यांची अत्यंत सुंदर माहिती म्हणजे त्यांच्या आणि नलिनीताईंच्या मैत्रीचे प्रतीकच म्हणायला हवे. नवी मुंबईतील नेरूळ भागातील एका रस्त्याला हिराताईंचे नांव देण्यात आले आहे असा एक उल्लेख करावयास हरकत नव्हती.

निष्ठावंत समाजसेविका कालिंदी मुझुमदार ह्या उत्तम व्यक्ती, उत्कृष्ट समाजसेविका, कुटुंबवत्सल स्त्री, देव आणि गुरुंप्रति अतीव श्रद्धा आणि भक्ती असलेल्या अत्यंत संस्कारक्षम विदुषी असल्याचे त्यांचे शब्दचित्र वाचल्यावर लक्षात येते. वयाच्या ७१व्या वर्षी “मानवाधिकार” हा अभ्यासक्रम पूर्ण करून त्यांनी डिप्लोमा घेतला. ह्या उल्लेखामुळे शिक्षण आणि इतर कार्यासाठी वयाचे बंधन नाही हे पटले. ह्यामुळे निवृत्त जीवन जगणाऱ्यांना नवीन उमेद मिळून जीवनाकडे पाहण्याचा दृष्टिकोन बदलेल.

गुणसंपन्न नाट्यलेखिका मुक्ताबाई मंगळूर ह्यांनी स्वकर्तृत्वाने महानता मिळविली तसेच आपले कार्य करित असताना स्वाभिमानाशी तडजोड केली नाही हे वाचल्यानंतर त्यांच्याविषयी अभिमान वाटतो.

दीनवत्सला रुक्माबाई तळूर म्हणजे कष्ट अंगवळणी पडलेल्या व्यक्ती हे वाचल्यानंतर त्यांच्याविषयीचा आदर दुणावतो. त्यांनी सहन केलेल्या कष्टांचा उहापोह लेखिकेने अत्यंत प्रभावीरीतीने केला आहे.

तर अशी ही ‘प्रकाशफुले,’ आपल्या कार्याने प्रकाश पसरविणारी आणि वाचकांना अनुकरणाची प्रेरणा देणारी. ही शब्दचित्रे वाचकांसमोर रेखाटल्याबद्दल नलिनीताईंचे अभिनंदन. वयाच्या ८७व्या वर्षी ह्या गुणीजनांची माहिती गोळा करून, ती शब्दांकित करून, पुस्तकरूपाने वाचकांसमोर पेश करणे ह्या गोष्टीसाठी विलक्षण जिद्द हवी. नलिनीताईंच्या ह्या जिद्दीला विनम्र वंदन!

नलिनीताईंच्या दोन्ही कन्यांनी कृतज्ञता व्यक्त करताना लिहिले आहे की, लेखिकेचे वय आणि वेळेची कमतरता लक्षात घेऊन पुस्तकात काही त्रुटी आढळल्यास वाचकांनी उदार मनाने क्षमा करावी आणि ही ग्रंथभेट गोड मानून घ्यावी अशी विनंती. त्यांच्या ह्या विधानाशी मी सहमत आहे.

प्रस्तुत पुस्तकाचे देणगीमूल्य फक्त रुपये १००/- आहे आणि ही देणगीरूपाने प्राप्त झालेली रक्कम सारस्वत महिला समाज, गांवदेवी, मुंबई यांच्या ‘चॅरीटी फंडाला’ दिली जाणार आहे. तरी सर्वांना विनम्र आवाहन की हे पुस्तक घेऊन त्यांनी एका चांगल्या कार्यासाठी हातभार लावावा. समर्पक मुखपृष्ठाने नटलेले हे पुस्तक कॅनरा सारस्वत असोसिएशनच्या कार्यालयात सकाळी ११ ते दुपारी १ आणि संध्याकाळी ६ ते ८ तसेच सारस्वत महिला समाजाच्या गांवदेवी स्थित कार्यालयात दुपारी ३ ते संध्याकाळी ६ ह्या वेळेत वाचकांसाठी देणगीमूल्य देऊन घेण्यासाठी उपलब्ध आहे.



दीपस्तंभ

रेवती, एक दीपस्तंभ, समुद्राच्या खडकारी उब्रलेला,
लाटांचो मारो खानुयी दुसऱ्यांक दिशा दाखयतलॉ.
आप्रेष्ट, सान, हॉड्डं सगळ्यांकई प्रेरणा दितलॉ
जाल्यारी काड्येचॉई तिक्का दंभ नाशिलॉ
आपण हास्सूनू इतरांक खुशी दिताली
दुसऱ्यांगल्या सुखांतु समाधान ती पावताली
कस्लई प्रश्न आस्सॉती उत्तरं तिल्लागी आस्तार्लीं
सान आस्सोती की हॉड्डु सगळीं तिक्का विचारतार्लीं
आस्सॉती गायनांतुलें राग कि पानफुल्लं चें बागकाम
जंवन आस्सॉ वा शिवण, क्रोशा, कशिदा, विणकाम
आस्सॉती ती जातकं कि पाळंमुळांची वकदं
आस्सो संस्कृत, मराठी, हिंदी, इंग्लिश कि कन्नड
सगळ्याची विषयांतु व्यापक तिगलें ज्ञान,
दुसऱ्यांलागी ताज्जं कोरचें आदान प्रदान
सामाजिक बांधिलकीचें दवरलेलें भान
हीची आशिली आमगली शान आणि मान
‘अपर्णा’ नावाक सार्थ अशीची तिगलें आचारू
ऐहिक सुखाचो कॅन्नाई कर्ने तिन्रें विचारू
रात्रीचो दिवस कोर्नु तिन्रें फुल्लैलो संसारू
कोंड्याचो मांडो कोर्नु पैलतडीक व्हॅल्लो तारू
आपणागलें मत दुसऱ्याचेरी लाहने
कॅन्नाई कोंणागलें धूर उल्लयने
खंच्याई कष्टांतु टिप्पं काणा इदूर काण्णे
वर्तमानाच्या उजवाडांतु भूतकाळाचो काळोकू हाण्णे
आमगली रेवती, पॉझिटिव एनर्जीची भोक्ती
आस्स सगळ्यांगली तिज्येरी मस्त भक्ती
अशी ही मगली भयणी, सदाचारी, सुविचारी, सुगृहिणी
आम्मी तिगलीं कॅन्नाई आस्तार्लीं ऋणी

– विदुला आरूर

आरोहण-राष्ट्रध्वजाच्यें (प्रजासत्ताक दिन)

नया साल

सूर्यास्ताच्ये कोमल रंग शोषण करत
भूमीरी देंवता नित्य सांजे-हॉ राष्ट्रध्वज
तार स्वरावेल्यान् षड्जार देविल म्हणके!
स्वतःक मडचून घेतना-
कसली आलोचना येत आसका तागेल मनांतु?
दिसतना विपरीत अन्याय देशांतु?
स्वराज्य मेळ्ळें त्या मधराती
परतंत्राच्यो सांखळ्यो थुंटेत
सरसर् चढलो विशाल आकाशांतु- हॉ राष्ट्रध्वज
तार स्वराती आंदोलन घेवनु
राग दरबारी म्हणके!
भूमीरी देशाच्या स्वतंत्रतेचो करताले जयघोष-
सर्व जनगण...
हॉ एकळोची एक राबलो आकाशांत- येत्तर
ताने दिलें उत्तर-
भारत भाग्य विधाताक!
कोटी कोटी वरसं करत आसतलों - अशी आरोहण
सूर्यालें प्रत्येक आवर्तन
देशभक्तांक ध्येय दाकैत
देशकीर्ती त्रिभुवनांतु पावैत - राबतलों हांव-
“राबतलों - एकळोची एक येत्तर
दिल्यां हांवे उत्तर
भारत भाग्य विधाताक
‘त्या’ मधराती...”

- अरुणा कुंडाजे

Meanings :

आरोहण = an uphill climb.
तार स्वर = highest musical note
षड्ज = Low-base स्वर
मंद्र स्वर = lowest स्वर
तार गंधार = highest स्वर
आंदोलन = excite उत्तर = promise
आवर्तन = rotation

आज सुबह जब आँख खुली तो पाया,
साल २०१३ नतमस्तक होकर खडा था,
उसके आँखों में नमी थी और ध्वनी क्षीण
अब थोडा समय है बाकी मेरे जाने में...
पिछले साल किया था सबने मेरा स्वागत,
आज आया है मेरी बिदाई का वक्त!

की मैंने कोशिश सबको हँसाने की,
पर मैं कामयाब न हो पाया
अनजाने में मैंने सबको रूलाया!
मन पर भारी बोझ लिए जा रहा हूँ
दिल में न रखना तुम कोई रंजिश
करना मुझे माफ, यही है मेरी गुजारिश!

कहीं प्रकृती ने किया वार
कहीं मानव ने किया प्रहार
कहीं किसीने किया अत्याचार
कोई हुआ कूटनीति की शिकार
कोई नसीब के आगे था लाचार
कोई किसीको छोड गया मंझधार!

सिर्फ यही सब नही हुआ
कईयों की जिंदगी में खुशियाँ आयी!
किसकी पद (पोस्ट) में हुई उन्नती
किसकी बस गयी नयी गृहस्थी
कोई नयी गाडी खरीद लाया
किसीने नया घर बनवाया!
किसीको धन की हुई प्राप्ती
किसीके हाथों में था पुरस्कार!

नियतीनुसार सबको अपना अपना हिस्सा मिला
मैं सिर्फ इन सारे किस्सों का साक्षी बना!
सारे किस्से अब यादों में बदल जायेंगे
मैं भी अब इतिहास बन जाऊंगा
जाते जाते साल २०१४ से मिलते जाऊंगा!
उससे कहूँगा की करे वो पूरा प्रयास!

इस साल में मिले सबको खुशियों का भंडार
सबके दिलों में बढे ममता और प्यार
ना हो किसीपर अत्याचार, प्रकृती किससे मुँह ना मोडे,
किसीसे अपने उनसे न बिछडे
बढे सबके मन में भगवान के प्रती भक्ती
और अच्छे कार्य करने की इच्छा शक्ती,

मिटे सारे क्लेश और द्वेष, संपन्न बने सारे देश
हँसते खेलते गुजरे साल २०१४, यही है मेरी आखरी ख्वाईश
ये कहकर गया साल २०१३, अलविदा सबको मेरा अलविदा....

- पूजा धारेश्वर

ऋणानुबंध

चित्रा शिराली, धारवाड

वर्षाऋतुची अखेर पण भाद्रपदातील पावसाच्या सरीनीं दोन दिवस थैमान मांडून भंडावून सोडलं होतं. आदित्य राजानें तर दडीच मारली होती. बागेत हात पावली करणं तर अशक्यच होतं. खिडकीतून दिसणाऱ्या गुलमोहराच्या फांदीवर दोन कावळे केविलवाण्या नजरेने त्यांच्या घरट्याची होणारी दुर्दशा पाहात होते. घरटं मोडून फांदीवर लोंबकळत होतं. चिऊकाऊची गोष्ट आठवली. कित्येक महिन्यांत चिऊची चिवचिव ऐकली नव्हती. बिचारा कावळे मामा, चिऊचे घरट शोधणार कसा? आजही चिऊताई चिऊताई दार उघड हे शब्द ऐकतांना किती गोड वाटतात. माझ्याच घराची घंटी वाजली. अशा पावसात कोण आलं असावं! दरवाजा उघडला आणि दारात कुडकुडत उभी असलेल्या शालनला पाहून चकीत झाले. जीवाभावाची शेजारीण, मैत्रिण ४५ वर्षांनी भेटत होती. डोळ्यांवर विश्वासच बसत नव्हता. सामान वगैरे काही नव्हतं. फक्त हातात भली मोठी पर्स होती. हाय, म्हणत मला कडकडून मिठी मारली आणि माझे कपडेही ओले केले. अग, अगोदर, न्हाणी घरात जा. गरम पाण्याने आंघोळ कर लगेच तिच्या हातात टॉवेल, कपडे दिले. पावसात भिजून आली आहे. गरमा गरम तिच्या आवडीच्या आल्याचा चहा करण्यास गॅसवर आधण ठेवलं. ही बया काही सामान न घेता कोठून व कशी आली ह्या विचारात मी गुरफटले. हसरी, प्रेमळ, लाघवी थोडीशी भित्री, लाजरी, बुजरी वयाच्या मानाने लहान व सुंदर भारदस्त दिसत होती. पेहरावात बदल केसही तोकडे करून कलप लावल्याने जराशी वेगळी वाटली. शालनचे छान स्वागत करण्याऐवजी, हाताला धरून तिला न्हाणीघरात पाठवलं? काय वाटलं असेल तिला! वरचेवर बदली होणाऱ्यांची जीवनगाथाच वेगळी. नदीच्या प्रवाहात लाकडाचे ओंडके कधी खूप जवळ येतात. प्रवाह बदलला की तेच ओंडके कोठल्या कोठे वाहून जातात. तीन वर्ष आमही शेजारणी होतो. जीवाभावाच्या मैत्रिणी झालो. काही दुखलं खूपलं तर खूपच घाबरायची. मनाचा वेग इतका जलद असतो की क्षणात काही प्रसंग आठवतात. एकदा शालनच्या सोनुलीचे पोट दुखू लागले. दोन वर्षांची सोनुली काही बोलू शकत नव्हती. पोटाकडे हात नेऊन किंचाळत होती म्हणून आम्हां दोघीनी पोट दुखीचा अंदाज केला व मी सोनुलीच्या पोटाला तूप चोळलं. पण सोनुलीचे रडणं कमी होईना. आम्हा दोघींचे पुरुष कामानिमित्त बाहेरगांवी गेले होते. मध्यान्ह उलटली होती. सोनुली सोबत आता शालनही रडू लागली. सोनुली रडून रडून थकली व घामाघूम झाली. त्याकाळी दूरध्वनीची पण सोय नव्हती. देवाचा

अंगारा लावला पण सोनुलीचे रडणं काही कमी होईना. आमच्या कॉलनीतल्या चौथ्या गल्लीत कोणा डॉक्टरांची पाटी पाहिली होती. वेळीअवेळी डॉक्टर भेटतील का अशी शंका आली. पण गत्यंतर नव्हते. माझा तीन वर्षांचा मुलगा झोपला होता. झोपलेल्या मुलाला कडेवर घेतलं. विचार न करता सोनुलीला घेऊन शालन व मी पायात चपला सुद्धा न घालता वेड्यासारखे धावत सुटलो. शालन हतबल झाली होती. सोनुलीचे किंचाळणे ऐकून माझा मुलगाही झोपेतून उठल्याने रडू लागला. डॉक्टरांकडे पोहोचलो, खिडकीतून डॉक्टरांनी पाहिलं आणि दरवाजा उघडला. हे पाहा अगोदर शांत व्हा आणि कोण आजारी आहे ते सांगा. शालन सांगण्याच्या परिस्थितीत नव्हती. मीच पुढाकार घेतला. डॉक्टरांनी सोनुलीस गॅंजारल तिच्या तोंडात लहानशी साखरेची गोळी घातली. सोनुली जरा शांत झाली. तिला तपासलं आणि म्हणाले घाबरू नका, पोटात गॅस झालाय. औषध लिहून देतो. बाळाला पोटावर झोपवा पाच मिनिटे आणि गरम पाण्याने थोडं शेका. काही काळजी करू नका. शालीस म्हणाले तुम्ही पाजत असल्यास जरासा तोंडाला लगाम घाला. तेव्हा ह्या खुळीच्या लक्षात आलं की पावडर दूधाचा डबा संपल्याने, डेअरीचे दूध पाजलं होतं. हे शालनने मला परतीच्या वाटेत सांगितलं आणि चटकन लक्षात आलं आम्हां दोघीनी घराला कुलूपही लावलं नव्हतं. लांबून घर दिसत होतं आणि घरासमोर कोणी पुरुष उभं असल्याचे पाहिलं आणि माझ अवसान गळालं. चोर तर नसेल ना! आम्हां दोघींना काय करावं कळेना. तोपर्यंत ती व्यक्ती आमच्याकडे चालत येत असलेली पाहिलं. अरे हा तर गोपाल ह्यांचा मित्र. मनातल्या मनात थिजून गेले. पायात चपला नाहीत पोतेर झालेली साडी, निऱ्या वर खोचलेल्या तशाच होत्या. नशीब डॉक्टरांनी हाकललं नाही. गोपाल विचारू लागला. अशा वेशात, घरं उघडी टाकून कोठे गेला होतात? घडलेला प्रसंग सांगितला. तोपर्यंत घरी पोहोचलो. गोपाल विचारू लागला, औषध आणायची आहेत का? शालन म्हणाली लॅक्टोजनचा डबा हवा आहे. गोपाल लगेच म्हणाला ताई काही संकोच करू नका. तुम्ही मला भाऊ समजा, द्या ती औषधंची चिठ्ठी मी लगेच घेऊन येतो. मी नजरेने तिला होकार दिला. माझ्याजवळही पुरेसे पैसे नव्हते. शालीने त्याला चिठ्ठी दिली. गोपाल सायकल घेऊन लगेच निघून गेला. तो येईपर्यंत मी सोनुलीचे गरम पाण्यात टॉवेल भिजवून पोट शेकले. रडून थकल्याने पेंगायला लागली होती. पोट शेकून पोटावर झोपविले.

गोपाल औषधं, दूधाचा डबा, मुलांकरिता बिस्किट, पाव घेऊन आला. शालनच्या डोळ्यात पाणी आलं. शालन त्याला म्हणाली, माझा भाऊ आज इथे असता तर! मला भाऊ नाही तूच माझा भाऊ. त्याचवेळी देवाने तथास्तु म्हटलं असावं. गोपाललाही बहीण नव्हती. काही क्षण शुभ असतात. त्यादिवसापासून गोपाल शालनचे नात सख्याभावंडांप्रमाणे झालं. गोपालचे आईवडिलही तिच्यावर खूप माया करू लागले. तिला काही दुखलंखुपलं की गोपालचे आईवडिल धावून यायचे. सोनुली आजी आजोबांची लाडकी नात झाली होती. ऋणानुबंधाच्या गाठी कशा काय बांधल्या जातात परमेश्वर जाणे! अग ताई पाणी आटून चाललंय

आठवणींच्या गंधकोषी

आम्ही दोघी बहिणी

सौ. सुशीला प्रभाकर कार्नाड

आपण जगभरात 'मातृदिन-पितृदिन' हे पाळतो. त्याचप्रमाणे 'भगिनीदिन' आहे की नाही याची मला खात्रीपूर्वक जाणीव नाही.

पाच भावांच्या पाठीवर आम्ही दोघी बहिणी म्हणून आमचे खूप लाड व्हायचे. आम्हा भावंडांतही खूपच एकोपा होता. कुठेही जातांना आम्ही एकत्रच जायचो. कधी आम्हा दोघी बहिणींनाच कोठे जायचे असल्यास आई आमच्या भावांना म्हणायची की, "तुम्ही कोणीतरी जा रे त्यांच्या सोबतीला, मुलींनाच पाठवायचे म्हणजे खूप काळजी वाटते." निदान पोहोचविण्याची आणि आणायची जबाबदारी तरी ते सांभाळायचे. काही वर्षांनी आम्ही दोघीजणी एकमेकांना सोबत करू लागलो. नेहमी इतक्या एकत्र असायचो की, माझ्या मैत्रीणी तिच्याशी आणि तिच्या मैत्रीणी माझ्याशी मिळून मिसळून वागायच्या. त्यांना कधीच अडचण भासली नाही.

आमचा बांधा जवळजवळ सारखाच असल्याने एकमेकींचे कपडेही आम्ही आरामात वापरायचो. कधी भांडण नाही की चढाओढ नाही. मैत्रीणीसारखी असली तरी मोठी बहीण म्हणून मी नेहमीच तिचा मान राखायची. आमच्या वयात तसे फारसे अंतर नव्हते. तरीही मी नवीन साडी आणल्यास त्याची घडी तिनेच मोडावी असा हट्ट धरायची. कोठेही बाहेर जाताना माझ्या कपड्यांपेक्षा तिचे कपडे "भारी" असावेत हे मी कटाक्षाने पहायची.

आमच्या वहिनीला एक भाऊच फक्त होता. बहीण नव्हती. पण पूर्वी तिला त्याची कमतरता भासली नव्हती. पण आता आम्हा

आणि माझी तंद्री भंगली. अगं तुझे शेजारी माझे सहप्रवासी होते. आगगाडीत त्यांच्याकडून तुझी माहिती मिळाली आणि मी एकटी तुला चकित करण्यास अशी भिजत आले. गोपाल आणि त्याचे कुटुंबिय पण आले आहेत. गोपालच्या मुलाचं लम जमलं आहे. नवरी मुलगी इकडचीच आहे. परत आपली वरचेवर भेट होईल. दे ताळी म्हणजे ही जुनी सवय अजून तशीच होती. अशा भेटीचा आनंद विरळाच. हळूहळू कोडं उलगाडत होतं. प्रवाहाचा ओघ बदलून लाकडाचे ओडके एकमेकांना भिडत होते. जवळची माणसं लांब जातात. लांबची माणसे जवळ येतात. ह्यालाच म्हणतात का ऋणानुबंध?

दोघा बहिणींना पाहून तिला फारच वाटायचे की, 'आपल्यालाही एक बहीण असायला हवी होती.'

मला एक मोठा मुलगा आहे आणि त्यानंतर दोन मुली. त्याही आमच्या सारख्याच मिळून मिसळून वागायच्या. लहानपणी कधी पेनपेन्सिलीवरून अथवा पिनारिबिनीवरून वाद झालेच तर मी त्यांना म्हणायची की, "आम्ही बहिणी, नव्हतो हो कधीच भांडत! न भांडणाऱ्या बहिणी म्हणून आम्ही खूप वाखाणल्या जायचो." असे मी म्हटल्यावर त्या म्हणायच्या, "नाही तरी तुम्हा मोठ्या माणसांचे नेहमी एकच पालुपद असतेकी "आमच्यावेळी नव्हते हो असं काही! आणि आम्हाला त्यावर नाइलाजाने विश्वास ठेवावा लागतो. कारण आम्ही नव्हतो ना त्यावेळच्या साक्षीदार!"

बऱ्याच वर्षांनंतर एक मोठा गंमतीशीर प्रसंग घडला. माझ्या माहेरी आमच्या शेजारी जी माणसे राहत ती आमच्या नात्यातीलच होती. त्या घरची स्त्री ही माझी चुलती होती. ती आमच्या कॉलनीत येणार असल्याचे कळल्यावर मी तिला आमच्या घरी जेवणाचे आमंत्रण दिले. तीही आनंदाने तयार झाली. ती आल्यावर आम्ही हॉलमध्ये गप्पा मारत बसलो होतो. तेव्हाच माझ्या मुली शाळेतून आल्या. त्यांना पाहताच आणलेला खाऊ त्यांना देत ती म्हणाली, "अरे वा! तुम्ही पण दोघी बहिणी, नेहमी बरोबर असता का तुमच्या आई आणि मावशीसारख्याच? तुम्ही भांडत वगैरे नाही ना? तुमची आई आणि मावशी कधीच भांडत नसत आणि त्याचे आम्हा सर्वांनाच खूप कौतुक वाटे!"

लगेच माझ्या मुली माझ्याकडे पाहून प्रसन्नपणे हसल्या आणि धावत येऊन मला बिलगल्या. कारण माझ्या सांगण्याची पावतीच त्यांना मिळाली होती.

गणपतीबाप्पा मोरया

विजयालक्ष्मी सुरेश कापनाडक

२५ जानेवारी २०१४ रोजी साधनाताई कामत यांच्या मार्गदर्शनाखाली “सारस्वत महिला समाज गावदेवी” यांनी ह.भ.प. श्री. चारुदत्त आफळेबुवा यांच्या किर्तनाचे आयोजन केले होते. आफळेबुवांनी नारदीय कीर्तनातील खालील गोष्टी प्रभावी आणि सुंदर शैलीत श्रोत्यांच्या मनात ठसवल्या.

“गणपती” हे आपल्या सर्वांचे आद्यदैवत आहे. त्याची मूर्ती आठवताना डोळ्यांसमोर लंबोदर, हत्तीचे मुख धारण केलेला देव दिसतो. तेव्हा मनात प्रश्न येतो की खरोखरीच देवाचे तोंड तसे आहे का? तर उत्तर “नाही.” पण हत्तीचे लक्षणीय गुण आपल्या लक्षात राहावेत म्हणून मानवाने रेखाटलेले प्रतीकस्वरूप आहे.

१) हत्तीचे भव्य मस्तक ज्याने तो किल्ल्याच्या अणकुचीदार भक्कम बंद दरवाज्यांना धडक देण्यास घाबरत नाही. त्याचे हे शौर्य वाखाणण्याजोगे आहे.

२) हत्तीचे लहान, पण भेदक डोळे मोठ्या वस्तु तसेच लहान सुई पण पाहू शकतात. त्याची आकलनशक्ती प्रगल्भ आहे.

३) एरवी सज्जन व शांत स्वभावाचा हत्ती आपल्या शत्रूला दोन सूळ्यांनी (दात) भेदून नष्ट करतो तसेच सज्जन व्यक्ती प्रसंगी आपले दात दाखवून समस्येवर मात करतो.

४) हत्ती आपले सुपासारखे मोठे कान सारखे हलवत असतो. सूपाने धान्य पाखडताना तूसे आणि काड्या बाहेर पडतात व फक्त दाणेच सुपात राहतात. तसेच हे कान सुचवतात की आपण जीवनात वाईट गोष्टी सोडाय्यात आणि चांगले गुण अंगीकृत करावेत.

५) हत्तीचे नाक किंवा सोंड मोठी लवचिक आणि मजबूत असते. त्याने तो लाकडाचे मोठे ओंडके तसेच जमीनीवरील सुईपण उचलू शकतो. जीवनातील लहानमोठी आव्हाने पेलू शकणारा, खरा शूरवीर आणि बुद्धिमान असतो.

६) हत्तीचे पोट मोठे असते. समुद्राच्या मोठ्या पोटात बऱ्यावाईट सर्व गोष्टी सामावतात. तसेच गणपतीबाप्पा हत्तीसारख्या आपल्या लंबोदरात वाईटगोष्टी घालून सर्वांना सुखी करतो.

आम्हा सर्वांना श्री गोकर्ण महाबळेश्वराच्या स्थापनेची गोष्ट माहित आहे. जेव्हा सर्व देव हतबल झाले, तेव्हा गणपती देवाने आपल्या बुद्धीच्या बळावर श्रीशंकराच्या पिंडीला रावणाच्या तावडीतून सोडवून सर्व देवांना व ऋषीमुनींना सुखी केले.

सर्वगुणसंपन्न असा बुद्धी आणि शक्तिचा देव ‘गणपती’ लक्षात राहावा म्हणून आपल्या पूर्वजांनी गणेशाची काल्पनिक छबी निर्माण केली असावी. समर्थ रामदास स्वामींनी ‘सुखकर्ता, दुखहर्ता वार्ता विघ्नांची नुरवी, पुरवी प्रेम कृपा जयाची’ ही आरती लिहिली आहे.

आरतीच्या या ओळीतील नुरवी आणि पुरवी यामध्ये स्वल्पविराम आहे. त्यामध्ये भक्त दोन मागण्या मागतो १) वार्ता विघ्नाची नुरवी आणि २) पुरवी प्रेम कृपा. पण ह्या स्वल्पविराम ाकडे दुर्लक्ष केल्यास कसा अनर्थ होतो ते पहा.

१) वार्ता विघ्नांची, २) नुरवी पुरवी प्रेम कृपा म्हणजे भक्त स्वतः सांगतो “देवा तुझे प्रेम मला देऊ नकोस”.

आता लक्षात आले की आपण किती मोठी चूक करतो ते. ह्यावरून, भाषेत, व्याकरणातील चिन्ह केवढे महत्त्वाचे आहे हे लक्षात ठेवून आणि गणेशाला हत्तीचे मुख का दाखवले जाते हे समजून गणपतीची आरती म्हटल्यास तो नक्कीच आपल्यावर कृपा करेल.

“गणपतीबाप्पा मोरया”

Visiting the US in 1893, Swami Vivekananda walked along a street in Chicago, clad in two lengths of untailored cloth.

At that time in the US, this kind of attire was quite unfamiliar.

On seeing this, a woman said to her husband, "I don't think that man is a gentleman."

Overhearing this remark, Swami Vivekananda said to her politely: "Excuse me, Madam, in your country it is the tailor who makes a man a gentleman, but in the country from which I come, it is character which makes a man a gentleman."

स्तुती वा निंदा

सौ. शामला अशोक कुलकर्णी, गांवदेवी

प्रत्येक माणसाला कुणी आपली स्तुती केल्यास आनंद होतो व कुणी निंदा केल्यास तो क्रोधीत होतो. काही माणसांना दुसऱ्यांची निंदा करण्यातच आनंद मिळतो. त्यांचे मन इतके कमकुवत असते की दुसऱ्यांची स्तुती करणे तर दूरच पण दुसऱ्यांची स्तुती ऐकून त्यांना असह्य होऊन ते क्रोधीत होतात. काही माणसांचे मन इतके विशाल असते की समोरच्या माणसाच्या बोलण्याचा ते अर्थाचा अनर्थ कधीच न करता उलट त्यांचे बोल आपल्या हिताचे असल्याचे जाणून कुणाची निंदा करण्याचे महत्पाप न करता सर्वांची स्तुतीच करत असतात.

काही माणसे त्यांच्या वागणुकीने व त्यांच्या कर्तृत्वाने खरेच स्तुती करून घेण्याच्या लायक असूनही ते कुणाकडूनही स्तुतीची कधीच अपेक्षा करीत नाही. तर काही माणसे जीवनभर असत्याच्या मार्गाने व दुष्कर्मिने वाटचाल करूनही सतत दुसऱ्यांकडून स्तुतीची अपेक्षा करीत असतात. त्यांच्या ह्या अशा वागणुकीची कुणी त्यांना जाणीव करून देण्याचा प्रयत्न जरी केला तरी त्यांच्या अहंकाराला तडा जाऊन ते क्रोधावश होतात. त्यांच्या चुकांची जाणीव करून देण्याचीच निंदा करू लागतात.

सर्व प्रथम जेव्हा साधक परमार्थ साधना सुरू करतो त्यावेळी त्याची कुणी निंदा केल्यास तो जरी क्रोधावश होत नसला तरी आपण जीवनभर प्रेमाने कर्तव्ये निभावूनही आपली होणारी निंदा ऐकून त्याचे मन दुःखी होते. परंतु तो साधक ज्यावेळी सद्गुरूंकडून मंत्रदीक्षा घेतो त्यावेळी साधना करता करता त्याचे मन शुद्ध-सात्विक झाल्याने त्याच्यावर राग-द्वेष करणाऱ्यांनी जरी त्याची निंदा केली तरी त्याला दुःख होत नाही. कारण आता त्याचे मन संसारातून विराग व विरक्त झालेले असते. उलट ती निंदा त्याच्या परमार्थ साधनेला पोषकच ठरते. कारण त्याची स्वतःची निंदा ऐकून परमार्थाला घातक असलेला त्याचा अहंकार विरून जातो. त्याला माहीत असते की त्या निंदेमुळे आपल्या हातून जर गतजन्मी किंवा गतआयुष्यात पाप घडलेले असेल तर त्याचा नाश होण्यास ती निंदा सहाय्यक ठरणार आहे. स्वतःची निंदा ऐकून शिष्याच्या

मनावर काय परिणाम होतो? तसेच मंत्रदीक्षेने शिष्याची प्रगती किती झाली आहे? हे जाणण्यासाठी जणू सद्गुरूंनी घेतलेली शिष्याची ती परिक्षाच असते. निंदकांची निंदा ऐकून तरी या संसारातील मोह व मायापाशातून आपल्या शिष्याची सुटका व्हावी यासाठी सद्गुरूंनी केलेली ही योजना असल्याचे तो शिष्य मनोमन जाणतो. त्यामुळे तो शिष्य निंदकाचा अन्हेर करण्याऐवजी मनोमन त्यांचे आभारच मानतो.

यासाठीच संत तुकाराम महाराजांनी देखील देवाजवळ मागणे मागितले होते -

निंदकाचे घर असावे शेजारी ।

असे मागणे मागण्याचे कारण संत जाणून होते की स्वतःची स्तुती ऐकून अहंकाराने भारावून गेल्यास परमार्थात आपली प्रगती होण्याऐवजी अधोगती होणार. तसेच स्तुतीमुळे पुण्याचा क्षय होऊन आपले जीवन दुःखदायक होणार याची जाणीवही होती. साधकावस्थेत असताना जरी कुणी त्याची स्तुती केलीच तर त्याची प्रतिक्रिया मनावर होऊन अहंकार बळावणार नाही यासाठी शिष्याने सद्गुरूनामाचा आधार घ्यावा व सद्गुरू चरण दृढ धरणे हाच संदेश व उपदेश संतांनी केला.

एकूण निंदेमुळे क्रोधीत वा दुःखी न होणारा किंवा स्तुतीने भारावून गर्वाने ताठ न होणारा तसेच गुरूबोधाचे आचरण करून, सत्कर्माद्वारे व गुरुमंत्राच्या आधारे जो आपले जीवन व्यतीत करतो तोच खरा स्तुतीला पात्र ठरतो!

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॥ श्रद्धांजली ॥

..... a tribute



Smt. Shakuntala Anand Kowshik (nee Masurkar)
22-09-1932 To 01-02-2014

You were so very thoughtful and serene with an inner beauty that transcended your physical attributes.

An ideal wife, mother, mother-in-law and grandmother who always kept the family together through trials and tribulations with gentle guidance. Above all, with your inexhaustible patience and composure with ebullient children, grandchildren and your impetuous husband, matched only by your forever forgiving nature, you kept our family firmly bonded with love and compassion.

May the Lord grant you eternal love, peace and solace.

Anand G. Kowshik

Sons: Vivekanand, Dinesh and Mahesh

Daughters-in-law :Roopa, Anupa and Nayantara

Grandchildren : Aditi, Divya, Asmita and Dhruv



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Kiddies' Corner

A scene on Holi day



Shreya Sachin Mudur
(Age:8 years)

Snowman



Isha Atul Kalyanpur
(Age: 6 years)

Sad Demise of Kumble Sisters Daughters of Late Shankarnarayan & Indrayani Kumble



(Cheddam)

Umasundari Bhaskar Karanje
(Mother)

(Born on 21/3/1921. Expired on 7/1/2014)



(Baby)

Indumati Vasant Savur
(Aunt)



Deeply mourned by:
Late Kumud Prasad & Family
Shyam Karanje & Family
Late Kanchan & Dr. Dinanath Bijoor & Family

Meeting The Aliens

KEDAR VAZE (14 YRS)

"Hush! I am tired of this camp. In less than a minute, I will be seen spread over this bed". My friend, Sanchit, told me. Well, I was not tired, so I sat on the chair packing my sack. It was already half past twelve as I fell fast asleep.

At about 2.30am, I was awakened by a vibrating tone. It was my mobile, I switched it off and got up to drink water. Suddenly, a laser beam came right on my shirt. I was taken aback. But later thought that it was just a prank by my neighbour fellow student. So in return, I also shot my laser on every window. Again, I saw the laser hovering over the pool.

I followed the laser and found that it was being shot from a star. I was startled. Suddenly the star appeared big and changed its shape. I ran out of the room and saw a weird shape landing in the nearby woods. Sanchit too woke up and came running behind me. I explained everything to him. We both went out in search of that shape. In the woods, we saw the lasers again! We saw the shape from very close quarters. "Oh! It is a UFO!" Sanchit yelled. I tried to click some snaps of that shape from my mobile. But it was fruitless, as my mobile screen collapsed. Soon enough, we saw some creatures coming out of it.



"It's an Alien!" Again Sanchit yelled. A terror shot through my nerves. I nearly froze! A big alien signaled someone. And Whoosh! A dining table with tiny asteroids came flying in. Behind the table, small aliens came gossiping in an unknown language and crunching some asteroids. Suddenly one of the aliens spotted and caught us.

All the aliens had lasers in their eyes. They mostly looked like the earthlings but had antennas on their heads and made a rattling sound. The huge alien gave us a device to wear in our ears. It was a translator! How advanced they were! We disliked their rattling sound, but we liked their heads which could spin 360 degrees!

I dared to talk with them and asked them for their reason for coming here. The alien answered, "We are in search of our fellow friend who had come here last night." They asked us for help. We did not dare to refuse so we gave them the map of that area.

Soon, the friend was found. They shot up from the U.F.O. Again the object changed their shape and disappeared. Next day, I told my friends about the aliens. They said, "Stop dreaming Kedar. Let's go for reporting our patrol."

A Strange Dream

When I go to sleep
I find myself in the ocean deep
Where I can swim like a fish
And do almost anything I wish.
Then I journey to chocolate land
And sometimes see the lollypop band
Later I jump on beds of marshmallows
And then I eat the candy pillows.
Then I go to fairyland
To meet the pixies living in the sand
Then I meet the unicorn
And see where fairies are born.
Then I venture to the mountain tops
Of Mount Everest where are never cops
There I can slide down the ice
And eat vegetables with some spice.
Then to the land of monster I go
Where a monster drags me by my toe
Then I let out a tiny scream
To find out that it's just a dream.

by Disha Sirur (10), Pune

Wiggly Teeth

Last night when
I was sound asleep
My little brother Keith
Tiptoed in my
bedroom and
Pulled out all my
Teeth !!
You think that
I would be
Upset or jump or spit or swear
You think I would tackle
Keith and pull out all his hair
But no!
I'm glad he did it !!
What if people stare?
Now thanks to the Tooth Fairy
I will be a millionaire !!!



*By Sharanya Manoj Rao
(Age 8 years), Illinois, USA*

Forgiveness the Golden Rule

MEERA S. SASHITAL

If God should grant me a boon I shall ask Him to bless me with the quality of Forgiveness. One of the valuable gifts God has bestowed on human beings is the power of Forgiveness.

Harm can be done either physically or verbally. Physical wounds by assault may heal with time but words that hurt a person are more piercing to the heart and damaging. They last for a much longer time and perhaps ring in the victim's ears for lifetime! This may have ill effects on the health of the victim by and tormenting him constantly of the unfortunate scene. Result – the person who has bowled a volley of harsh words by now will have forgotten, but the victim of harsh words will have lost peace and good relationship with others due to his mental unrest.

The best solution is to forget and forgive the person who has hurt you. Generally, forgiveness is a decision to let go of resentment and thought of revenge. The act that hurt or offended you might always remain a part of your life, but forgiveness can lessen its grip on you and help you to focus on other positive parts of your life. The benefits of forgiving are much more than retaining the event.

To forgive a person who has insulted or ridiculed you needs great mental strength. Our scriptures advise us to hold back our senses and have control over our mind. In Taittiriya Upanishad, one of the three da's under virtues is the 'daya,' i.e. karuna or compassion, the other two being 'dana' or self-sacrifice and 'dama' or self-control or restraint. A forgiving attitude frees the individual. So long we remember an injustice; we have not forgiven either the person or the action. It seems, a friend of Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, was once reminded of an especially cruel thing that had been done to her years ago. But Miss Barton seemed not to recall it. "Don't you remember it?" her friend asked. "NO", came the reply. "I distinctly remember forgetting that."

The doctrine of non-resistance, as taught by the Great Saviour Jesus Christ, is not to bear any ill-feeling towards another who has dealt with him unjustly. When Jesus Christ was nailed to be crucified, He ignored His own sufferings and said, "Father forgive them their trespasses, for they know not what they do." The real non-resisting man who forgives is he who can love even his enemies.

At times, words uttered by others strike even harder than blows and 'speak daggers' without using it. But the strength of character of a person or a wise man reflects in his overcoming anger through self-control, tolerance and observing 'maun' when insults are inflicted on him. Miss Julia Wedgwood concur "Of all mental gifts the rarest is the intellectual patience." It seems Lord Buddha was once hurled with volley of abuses. Buddha remained calm and replied "I have not accepted your words and as such it does not affect me at all!"

Our life is full of variety of people with myriads of nature. We cannot change their nature or behaviour, but we can adjust ourselves to such people by forgiving them and continuing the good relationship. Some people take pleasure in making their colleague feel inferior by sarcasm. Some have it in their nature to speak bluntly without realizing the harmful effect produced. Sometimes the person due to his own personal problems, being out of mood, may blurt out to cause emotional wounds only to regret later. Many are impolite- not because they mean to be so, but because they are awkward and perhaps know no better. Again, many persons are thought to be stiff, reserved and proud, when they are only shy.

Benefits of forgiving are many. Letting go of the grudges and bitterness can make way for compassion, kindness and peace. It gives strength, courage and solace to oneself. It gives power over the person who has hurt you. It defeats the person's very purpose of hurting you if you ignore his act. Forgiveness can lead to greater spiritual and psychological well-being. It leads to less anxiety, stress and hostility and no depression. Forgiving can be done by ignoring the brutal words or the assaults if any. Pretend not to have heard at all or it happened at all. Not forgiving will naturally lead to stress, bitterness, perennial hatred and agony. So be good to him; just be natural and normal without reviving the estranged situation. Thus, one can have the upper hand and triumph over the rival person in your Life.

As Shakespeare said "This above all; to thine own self be true." If your conscience is clear, no false accusations or piercing words can ever touch you. In the words of a wise philosopher just say "They say, what they say, let them say."

<<<>>>

Tongue Tickling and Healthy Recipes

The common oat (*Avena sativa*) is a species of cereal grain grown for its seed known as Oats. While oats are suitable for human consumption as oatmeal and rolled oats, it is used in the raw form as livestock feed.

Oats is highly acclaimed as a health food. Oat bran, the outer casing of the oat is believed to lower LDL ("bad") cholesterol, and possibly to reduce the risk of heart disease. Oats contain more soluble fibre than any other grain, resulting in slower digestion and an extended sensation of fullness. One type of soluble fibre contained in oats beta-glucans, has been proven to help lower cholesterol.

On 4th December 2013, a **Cookery Competition** was by Saraswat Mahila Samaj, Gamdevi in which participants had to use Oats as the main ingredient. We present here some of the recipes:

Dashmi (Bhakri)

2/3 cup Oat flour (grind oats in grinder), 1/3 cup Jowari flour, 1/3 cup milk.

Knead into a soft dough. Roll out the bhakris and serve hot with Lasan Chutney and Zunaka.

Lasan Chutney

1/2 cup oats, 1 tbsp roasted peanuts, 1 tbsp roasted flax seeds, 3-4 flakes garlic, 2 tsp chilli powder, Salt to taste.

Roast oats, warm peanuts, flax seeds, garlic, mix salt, chilli powder and grind coarsely.

Zunaka

1 cup washed and cut fresh methi leaves, 1 medium size onion (cut), 1/2 cup oat flour (lightly dry roasted), 1 tbsp Besan (lightly dry roasted), 1-1/2 tsp oil, 1/2 tsp haldi, 1/2 tsp Red chilli powder, 1 pinch Hing, Salt to taste

Heat oil, put hing and fry onion lightly. Add haldi, red chilli powder and methi leaves, add salt, cook till the leaves turn dark green. Add oat and besan flour, stir well. Cook on slow fire stirring in between it cooks well. Serve hot with hot bhakris.

Nutritious Oats Soup

1 Cup Oats (little roasted), 100 gms mixed vegetables (onions, carrot, French beans cut into very small pieces), 4-5 garlic cut into small pieces, 1/2 tsp butter 1/2 cup milk

Saute garlic in butter, add vegetables, stir fry for 3 minutes, add a little water to cook vegetables. Add 1/2 cup milk and 1 cup oats to it and boil the soup till it thickens. Serve hot.

Surprise Bhise Bele Bhaat

1 cup roasted oats, 1/2 cup tur dal, 1-1/2 tsp basmati rice (for flavor), Vegetables – peas, french beans, carrots chopped, 1/4 cup sprouts, Tamarind and jaggery paste, Red chilli powder, 2 tsp Bisi bele bhat powder or sambar powder, Salt to taste

For seasoning- Oil or ghee, mustard seeds, curry leaves, red chilli

For garnish - Coriander leaves and roasted cashewnuts.

Soak oats and keep aside. In cooker cook tur dal / rice / vegetables / sprouts till extra soft. In a big kadhai heat ghee add mustard seeds, hing, curry leaves, red chilli, add the soaked oats, little water and cook. Add mashed tur dal, vegetables, rice, sprouts, tamarind-jaggery paste, red chilli powder and Bisi bele powder (or sambar powder), salt and little water to get mishmash texture. Simmer well and garnish with little balance seasoning and cashewnuts.

Credits : Smt. Kalindi Kodial, Smt. Vidya Kodial and Smt. Geeta Balse

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A Device to Counter Body Tremors

CONTRIBUTED BY CHANDRAKANT HEMADY, ATLANTA, USA

(Parkinson's Disease (PD) is a common degenerative disorder of the central nervous system, in which the movement-regulating cells of the brain get disabled, leading to tremors, slowed movement, balance problems, speech and behaviour changes. Parkinson's disease is more common in older people, with most cases occurring after the age of 50. Over 7 million people are suffering from this disease in India alone. But there is help at hand – help to normalize the patient's life to some extent).

Anupam Pathak, 31, founder and CEO of Lift Labs U.S.A. has developed an electronic device to improve the quality of life for those suffering from Parkinson's and what doctors call Essential Tremor.

It is estimated that Essential Tremor affects roughly 220 million people worldwide. Approximately 60,000 Americans are diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, each year. Lift Labs claims that their patented Lift Ware is the first active cancellation device to help people with hand tremors. Previous attempts by innovators focused on forcing the person's limb to stop moving have been unsuccessful.

Pathak has a Masters in science and PhD from the University of Michigan. His research was based on tremor and motion cancellation. He decided to apply the technology he was working on during his PhD research to assistive devices. They have developed a system that accommodates the user's tremors, rather than forcing them to stop moving. Lift Ware stabilizes whatever they are trying to hold, such as a spoon.

The basic equipment consists of a small device (machine) which uses a miniature computer to operate. It senses a tremor through motion sensors, processes the signals, and moves to counteract the unwanted motion. Hundreds of algorithms were tested to arrive at the most effective system. The research and development has taken them more than two years. Grants from National Institutions of Health (USA) helped with a view to commercialize. They have raised about \$ 1 million from Silicon Valley investors and plan to add more scientists and engineers to their present small group.

At present, their base stabilizer is priced at \$295 (approx. RS. 20,000 and attachments like deep spoons and forks will be priced under \$25 (RS. 1500).

Their next project will be to design attachments that will help with daily living aspects other than eating.

Down Memory Lane

She has arrived!

SHIVASHANKAR CHICKERMANE

It was past 6 p.m. Most of the office staff had left office. Just then, my assistant Guha, (Deputy Director, Income Tax) came and told me with a smile "She has arrived."

"Where is she?" I asked. "On the ground floor" he said and almost ran down. Wondering why Shanti had come to my office, without prior information, I went down the steps from my first floor office. But to my surprise, Shanti was not to be seen. "Where is she?" I asked. Guha with a broad smile, pointed to a large package in a wooden crate. Then it dawned on me that the package contained the Microprocessor we had ordered from Honeywell some months back.

It was 1982 and I had been newly appointed as Director [Systems], New Delhi to introduce computerization in the Income Tax Department. The microprocessor, so called, had floppy discs (now to be seen only in cyber museum!) as external storage device and it had to be operated in a standing position. I had two data entry operators and one so called "System Operator" working under Guha. We started collecting data relating to workload of assessments, collection of tax etc. from all over India, every month to generate reports to be sent to Central Board of Direct Taxes, New Delhi.

Thirty years have passed since then. Now e-filing of Income Tax returns is compulsory for companies, and some high income category cases. I am learning to e-file my tax return with the help of my tax consultant! Computerisation has pervaded not only the Income Tax Department, but almost all our activities. I.T. no more stands for Income Tax - I.T. means Information Technology only"

She has truly arrived!

Stratford Home

The Professor and the Bard

ASHA GANGOLI

Five years ago we were on a road trip around Kerala, and Cochin was one of the places on our itinerary. I remembered that my cousin Sahaji lived in Cochin. Though she was a first cousin, the geographical distance between us allowed for little familiarity. More as a matter of duty we sought out her and her husband, **Professor Madhukar Nayampally**, and found ourselves in front of a door to a modest dwelling on the first floor of a not too big building, tucked away in a little lane somewhere in the city. Next to their name plate on the door a sign said 'Stratford Home'. It amused me, because the group of buildings among which we live in Pune sports the pretentious title of Florida Estate.

The gentleman who opened the door had a smile wrapped all over his face which exuded warmth and affection enough for just about all of humanity. In an instant we relaxed and felt completely at home. His wife, my cousin, made the welcome complete with her long-lost-sister-come-home hug. Next came a younger woman, Lalitha, who I thought was their daughter and turned out to be just that, but in law. (The daughter born to them, Nandita, lives with her family in Bangalore.) A delightful pair of almost adult kids, Sadu and his sister Romola, and their father Ajith, my nephew, also a teacher in his own right, but of economics, rounded up the picture.

What followed was two delightful days in Stratford Home, with a goodly sprinkling of Shakespeare thrown in, with this humdinger of a joint family that had its priorities perfectly in place and was happily content with life and with each other. I discovered that the little apartment could not have been more aptly named. Madhukar bhayya was, all his life, a teacher of English literature. Shakespeare was his pet passion. He taught for thirty three years at various major institutions. By the time we stood at his doorstep he had been retired for almost as many years. But he made it quite clear that he was only retired, not tired.

Indeed, after retirement he continued to teach post graduation students at home for next to

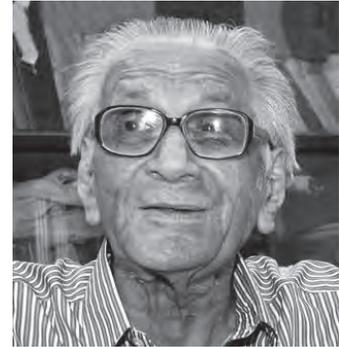
nothing. All he wanted to do was teach, and teach well. The rented house they initially lived in had little space to spare. His house owner, who was also his friend and admirer, allowed him to put up a makeshift classroom on the terrace. It was

made of bamboo and was christened, naturally, the House of Bamboo. His adoring students followed him, and Shakespeare, to the home he eventually bought. Of course it had to be Stratford Home. No other name would be as befitting. This was where Shakespeare came alive as he narrated, explained and acted out the Bard's works, all the while seated in his chair. This was where his students learned not only about Shakespeare and Byron, but also about being good human beings. He taught them, by word and by example, to be humble, conscientious and socially relevant. What he taught was simply what he practiced.

During the last two years of his life he put together a treatise on English literature, interestingly named Literary Salad. He did not live to hold the book in his hands. At the time of his death the book was still in the press.

When he died without warning of cardiac arrest, while watching cricket on TV, his distraught family had to quickly put their grief aside and prepare to have his eyes collected by the eye bank, and his body sent to the Amrita College of Medical Sciences to whom he had donated himself so medical students could study anatomy hands on.

Professor Nayampally was an educationist to the end, and even when death came to claim him he thumbed his nose at it and continued to do what he did best: Teach.



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News from Canara Union, Bangalore

Activities in Bangalore:

Talk by Reshma Chadha on “Parenting” on Friday, 10th January – A very interesting topic – Reshma walked us through the different stage of a child’s growing up years from an infant to adulthood. How to keep them happy and safe along the way and how we can all enjoy the process.



(L to R) Shri Shashibhushan Gurjar (Tabla), Shri Jagannath Desai (Tanpura), Shri Kailash Kulkarni (vocalist) and Shri Umakanth Puranik (Harmonium).

Sports: Table Tennis, Carrom and Chess Competitions, Saturday, 11th January – We were able to conduct only Table Tennis competition. Under the Junior Category, Sathyanarayana emerged champion and Aditya M was the runner-up. Among Seniors, Ravi Hemmad took the honours and Nakul Kulkarni finished second. The Sports Endowment Prize was given to Sejal Kaushik.

Sankranthi Festive Breakfast followed by Hindustani Vocal Concert by Kailash Kulkarni, Wednesday, 15th January – After a sumptuous breakfast of Pongal (spicy and sweet), gingelly-laced Til Ladoo, Coffee/tea, for the first time in the history of the 113-year old Canara Union, the Canara Union Arts Section arranged an open air Hindustani Classical Vocal Music programme on the stage erected in the “Gazebo”. The artist Kailash Kulkarni is the disciple of Smt. Vid. Lalith J Rao. He was ably accompanied on the Harmonium by Shri Umakanth Puranik and on the Tabla by Shri Shashibhushan Gurjar. Tanpura accompaniment was provided by Shri Jagannath Desai. Over 100 members attended

and enjoyed the morning music programme. Anand Nagarkar proposed vote of thanks and the President of the Canara Union, Shri Manohar Bantval offered floral tributes to the artistes.

In the evening, Saraswati Mahila Samaj organised Sankranthi Haldi Kumum along with light refreshments.

Singing Competition, Saturday, 18th January – the annual singing competition was held. Vidya Arangadi and Saahil Arangadi won the First and Second place, respectively in the Junior category. Jutika Nadkarni and Anuja Mudur won the First and Second place respectively in the Senior Category.

Prize Distribution was held on Sunday, 26th January for all the competitive events that were conducted during the month.

Programmes planned for February & March 2014 :

Saturday, 8th February at 5.00 pm -“Childhood Reminiscences”

Friday, 14th February at 6.00 pm – Talk by Reshma Chadha on Relationship.

Saturday, 15th February at 6.30 pm – SUNAAD presents ‘ISHA-RUMI’

Sunday, 16th March at 8.00 pm – HOLI celebrations

Monday, 31st March at 6.00 pm – UGADI celebrations & *Panchaang Vaachan*

-We once again request our existing members who have not paid their annual membership fees to please do so as early as possible. And to those who have not become members yet, to quickly become members.

- It has been recently notified that effective 1st April, those who have not paid their dues, their names will be deleted from the rolls and they will then need to apply afresh.

-Also, the Membership fee is expected to go up from 1st April, 2014. So please do hurry!!!!

-Your Membership Cards are available at the office of the Canara Union. Please collect the same.

– Please notify Canara Union office of change of address or phone numbers. This is required to make sure your Canara Union Newsletter and other intimations reach you on time.

To our Amma – Smt. Asha (Malati)Vinekar A Tribute from her grandsons

Rohit Shiralkar

From the day we were born, Amma has been like a second mother to my brother and I. The first three years of my life were spent in my grandparents' home before we moved to our own home in the neighbourhood. My earliest memories as a child are of Amma telling me bedtime stories of Indian mythology, some of which were my first lessons that taught me to distinguish between right and wrong, between good and evil – lessons that I use in my daily life even today. Since then, there have been very few aspects of my life that Amma has not had a deep influence on.

As we were growing up, Amma was always someone we could turn to for advice – a constant voice of reason that we could always bank on, be it any situation. I have never, till date, seen her lose her cool, despite us going through several testing times. Her voice has an element of spiritual calmness to it, which everyone from family to neighbours, elders to youngsters have drawn inspiration from. No wonder she is much loved and respected by everyone in the community.

Like most *Amchis*, our family prides itself on being highly educated, and I would give Amma the biggest credit for championing the values of education in our lives. She has been a key influence in our education right from our school days, and I give her a lot of credit for all my achievements at school, college and even at work. After all, it was those values I inculcated in my formative years that stood by me in those examinations, and ones that I will continue to rely on for the rest of my life.

There are so many memories that I could go on and on. Amma, we may not express it often but we all love and respect you deeply and hope that your blessings will be with us forever. On this joyous day which marks her 90th birthday, I can only say: Thank you Amma for all that you have done for us, and I hope 2014 turns out to be the best year in your life so far (and every year after that still better!)

* * *

Ashray Nadkarni

I call my maternal grandparents Amma and Dada. Why my naana (Hindi for maternal grandfather) was called Dada (Hindi for paternal grandfather; here just a name I called him) is something that remains a mystery to me even after three decades of existence. My grandmother turned 90 this January so each of her grandsons decided to write a short writeup as our tribute. This here is mine.

Growing up is hard. That is why we seek teachers and role models to emulate, to learn from. We observe, we follow, we imbibe and, in times of indecision, we hope we make the same choices they would have made in that situation. We mature with their experiences, we draw from their strengths and we heed their warnings. Amma has meant all of those things to me and then, so much more.

How do I even begin to thank Amma for everything? What do I even thank her for? Perhaps I must start by thanking her for being a constant in my life – I've probably been visiting Amma-Dada on weekends since forever. Perhaps I must thank her for the genes – I may not be the brightest bulb in the box but her genetic filament is responsible for my flickering every once in a while. Perhaps I must thank her for the strength she imparts – for every early morning phone call the day after school exam results wherein she would virtually hand-hold me through the disappointment and inspire me to fight another day. The truth is there is no clear beginning to this gratitude just as certain as there is no end to it.

All through childhood, Amma for me was always part of the Amma-Dada getaways my brother and I would get to enjoy on every other Sunday or through the summer and Diwali vacations with the cousins. We boys would generally be up to no good until Amma would sternly settle us down to read books or play something less harmless to the photo frames and holy idols. Meanwhile, she would strive endlessly in the kitchen conjuring up something delicious to eat for the ever-ravenous, ever-demanding grandsons. To great success, might I add, and that too with tireless consistency. 'Tireless' and 'consistency' are words that I employ here for a specific purpose. Because these two words define

my image of Amma. Ever at work, never relaxing. To me, Amma always exemplified youth – I would boast to my friends at school and college about my grandmother who never aged even as the calendars rolled over. I am half sure even I had my first grey hair before Amma had hers.

Only once in all these years have I seen Amma uncharacteristically vulnerable. Dada's passing was hard on everyone in the family but I cannot even attempt to quantify Amma's sense of loss. When I rushed in from Pune that night, I arrived at my grandparents' home to find an understandably distraught Amma beside herself with grief. I found myself at a loss of words foremost out of grief for losing Dada, but also greatly from an inability to deal with finding Amma in an unnatural state of fragility. When I mustered enough courage to sit with Amma just before dawn, she grievously asked me why this had happened to us. That was when my already-strained defense crumbled and all I could present as response to her question were silent tears. It is a memory I do not retain fondly but it is one that endures as an anomaly to the unrelenting resilience of this lady. What is astonishing (or not, actually) is that Amma's strength is not only inward. Her physical health and well-being are something that we all must draw inspiration from. Especially I, as one who has no positive achievements to speak of in this domain. On her trip to the US in 2012, Amma trooped through long-distance trips within the country like a seasoned traveller, often leaving us relatively younger co-travellers huffing and puffing in her wake. She steadfastly refused to take the wheelchair as we scampered at the airports, which led to us sheepishly smiling at numerous airport officials who judged us not too kindly as they saw her walking with us all over the place.

Amma's US trip in 2012 was her first ever but it was personally very satisfying for me. Her curiosity around peculiar western customs, her unabashed joy at meeting her sisters and their children and grandchildren – these were moments of warmth I hope to preserve in memory forever. I can only imagine how much it must have meant to her to meet her sisters, who had migrated to the US more than four decades ago, in their own homes. I daresay I was initially nervous about the trip being my wife's first opportunity to spend extended time with Amma. But Amma took to her so warmly that I was driven to a tinge of jealousy for how much attention the missus

(I will admit, deservedly) got from her. Amma and her granddaughter-in-law would get into long-drawn chats, often revealing stories that even I had no prior knowledge of. Although I have shared three decades on this planet with Amma, I easily forget that she also has twice as many as these years more of her life to speak of. And so, setting aside stories of Amma - The Grandmother, we indulged in stories about Amma – The-Freedom-Fighter-Who-Spent-Prison-Time and Amma – The-Young-College-Graduate-Turned-Professional.

My second-most favourite moment of that trip was when Amma and her 87-year-old sister had an interesting debate about Barack Obama's virtues and lack thereof. The debate was intense throughout, at times reflecting childish playfulness in both sisters, and yet often involving political news bits that I was ashamed to not be in touch with. The whole episode was humorous, casual, enthralling, balanced and nuanced all at once! My favourite moment of the trip, however, was a fleeting moment at a lakeside park we visited one evening. I captured that moment in a photograph of Amma standing at a railing looking over at the lake. The photograph was unrehearsed, not posed for and almost accidental but as I went back to it later, it appeared to capture a serenity in Amma's face that gave me immense satisfaction. I sincerely hope those few days in an alien country with her near and dear ones gave Amma the same satisfaction that I now claim to have captured in a digital image.

A very significant quality I observe in Amma is one that I have deliberately refrained from bringing up until now. **Love.** Amma's love, kindness, humility and selflessness, I am sure, knows no bounds. All I can do is perhaps thank my luck for letting me in on this love. Through the last 90 years, Amma has achieved success in such a large variety of roles – student, teacher, wife, mother, grandmother, chef, freedom fighter – that she would not be wrong in letting her guard down for a moment to feel proud of herself.

As a doting grandson, I can only hope to reflect at least an iota of that pride back to her in my acts, thoughts and summarily, in my existence.

Happy Birthday Amma. Much love. And thank you!

(Sponsored)

Happy Birthday!

**Smt. Asha (Malati)
Vithal Vinekar**

**On completion of 90 years
on January 14, 2014
We pray to the Almighty to
bless her with Happiness,
Peace and Good Health!**



From: Vinekars, Nayampallis, Shiralkars, Nadkarnis Well wishers relatives & friends.



Perspective of KSA's proposed Nashik Holiday Home

SYLVAN SIESTAS @ SITA NIVAS

Salutations Dear Sanjiv Bappa, 100 and beyond.

Circa '1914 - 2014

The gentle rustle of foliage & falling leaves off the jackfruit trees
And the drone of Pearl Yamaha, gleaming & ever in rhythm
Cool climes of the time and the shiny redolent red oxide floors
Hemant bappa at his feet and Sanjiv bappa in reverie

Bhoole Bisre Geet or the avuncular chime of the harmonium
Soulful but extempore, humming a raga in jest
Sita Nivas more than a household - enmeshed in memories
Touching souls, awakening positive vibes and heart beats

Nary a soul who went in without a smile and only
To return with pride, affection and sharing to the fore
'Twas an engagement without failing to be alive
Sanjiv bappa, the jovial one to imbibe and inspire

Banter, humour, twinkle in the eye, leit motifs of a generous man
Laughing at himself and make the world resonate the same
Lip smacking goodies and CTR at a whispering distance
Chaffing on filter kaapi and effortless benevolence, as always

To quote an anecdote, would be distracting, similar many
For Sanjiv bappa to me, was divinity encapsulated in harmony
A gentle rebuke was what made numerous respond
His needs ever simple and pleasures always made known

Anjan patchi - the ebullient foil, to Sanjiv bappa in the shadows
A couple who always had to offer, and never to discern
Soirees, walks, meals and many many more
Values and lessons shared with me, was to LIVE LIFE to the fullest

Words fail me beyond this point – Dear Sanjiv bappa.

Always in our thoughts.

KIRAN BAGADE
BANGALORE 2014.



A perfect gentleman with a cheerful soul...full of love & forgiveness.

He was very spiritual at heart and a great devotee of Sai Baba.

We always looked up to him for his guidance on any matter.

The only solace we now have is that he is free from all the
physical sufferings of this world and
has become one with our Divine Guru-Shakti.

*God has you in his arms, We have you in our heart...
love you always and will miss you very much.*

Deeply loved & missed by:

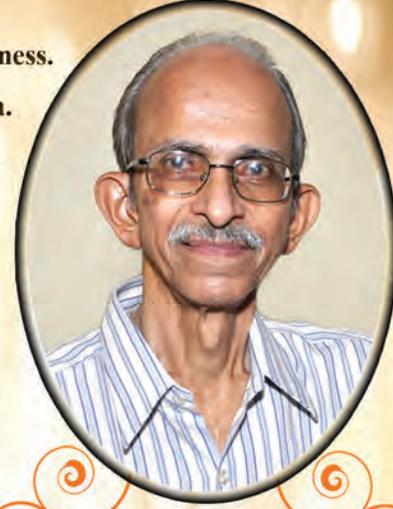
Wife: Smt. Vrinda M. Shirali

Daughters: Archana Kandlur & Ashwini Surwase

Son-in-Laws: Jaikishan Kandlur & Tushar Surwase

Grandsons: Tanay Kandlur, Akshath Surwase & Advay Surwase

Family & Friends

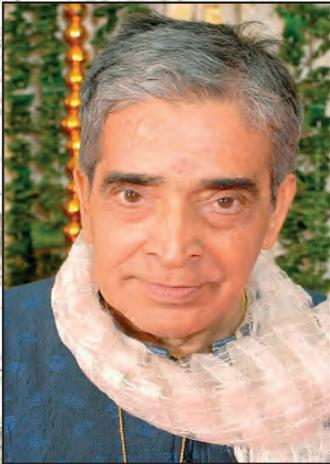


Shri Mohan Devidas Shirali

25th Nov 1938 – 2nd Feb 2014

Mr Maruti Anant Ubhayakar

(2nd Aug 1932 - 5th Jan 2014)



With deep sorrow we inform the
peaceful demise of our loving
husband, father, uncle, friend and
grand father on 5th January 14.

Bereaved:

Ubhayakars, Basrurs, Burdes, Tendulkars,
Friends and Family.



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CRYOMATE - 5

AWS A 5.11 ENiCrMo3

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Report

COLOURS OF RHYTHM

Reported by Geeta Karnad

On 25th January 2014 “Lalitaangan” had announced the program “Colours of Rhythm”. Having heard about their wonderful programs in the past two years I decided to forego my afternoon siesta and was at the venue by 2.30 p.m.

The auditorium was almost full with music lovers from all over Mumbai. Honourable guests ShriRajagopal Bhat, Dr. Kishore Nayampalli, music master Shri Gurudatta Heblekar, renownedviolinist Shri Milind Raikar, senior cricketer Shri Padmakar Shivalkar, Thespian Dr. Chandrashekar Shenoy gracedthis melodious afternoon to make it memorable. Shri Chaitanya Padukone an eminent film Journalist and expert western rhythm player was also present.



Sunil Ullal and Kanchan Honavar flanking her visually impaired protégées

Rare and selected classical film songsbased on ‘Taal’ were presented. Smt.Kanchan Honavar had arranged this program with the basic idea of providing a forum to talented bhanap vocalists and also with the noble cause of supporting visuallyimpaired girls interested in pursuing music . Compeers Shri Sunil Ullal and Kum. Madura Haldipur really uplifted the show.

Qualitative singing of classical songs in different taal was a real challenge for the singers.All of them were superb right from the tiny tots - Rachit, Sakshi, & Shradha to young talent like Ruhi, Pranita, Jaya, Seema, Saumya, Shantala, Archana and Deepa. Sharad, Arjun, Nitin andAshwin and Nimit Kumta were soulful. Shailesh Mavinkurve delighted the audience and senior artist Jayant Nayampally was a wonderful surprise. Uma Nadkarni leading the orchestra on the keyboard was amazing.

So far “Lalitaangan” has presented 3 programmes - Raag based, Nature based andTaal based. Smt. Kanchan Honavar announced that the next event will be “Multicolors of R.D.Burman.” The programme was well-thought out, planned andexecuted and the audience showed their appreciation by their thunderous applause. Smt. Suman Gulvady who has supported this endeavor was also honoured.

Smt. Kanchan Honavar dedicated the success of all the 3 shows of Lalitaanagan to her father late Shri Subrao Ubhayakar who had given her his message of “Live Life with Peace of Mind”. Three Cheers to Lalitaangan !!

(Sponsored)

Personalia

Abhinav Heble, 13 years, son of Nandakumar and Rashmi Heble, grandson of Nagesh and Shyamala Heble & Guruprasad and Sindhu Ulman won a gold cup in doubles and silver cup in singles in the Badminton tournament in Reading, London. He also represented his school in the recently conducted Berkshire County badminton championships and his team became the county champions. He is studying in 9th standard in Reading Boys' High School at Reading, London.



Amruta A. Sawant (10 years), grand daughter of Smt. Vijayalaxmi & (late) Shri. Suresh Kapnadak and daughter of Arvind & Roopali Sawant (nee Kapnadak), won an award in the Drawing competition



held on 25th January 2014, organised by the Mayor of Mumbai and Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). She was felicitated with a trophy, certificate and cash prize during a grand ceremony at Yeshwantrao Chavhan Natyamandir, Matunga, in the presence of Shri Uddhav Thackrey, Mayor Shri. Sunil Prabhu, Shri. Rahul Shewale and other dignitaries.

Amruta, a sixth standard student from Girton High School is not only academically strong but has also won several accolades in dance and music. She is an introvert however a very expressive artist. She aspires to become a successful artist in future.

Dinesh Trikannad Proprietor, Krupadeep Traders (seen on left) was awarded "Best Exporter of Bauxite ore" by Pune Customs, Excise and Service Tax on 30-01-2014 on the occasion of International Customs Day 2014. The award was presented by Chief



Commissioner of Customs,

Central Excise & Service Tax, Pune Zone, Shri Sanjeev Behari. Also seen in the picture is Shri. Vasa Seshagiri Rao (Commissioner of

Kishore B. Jothady, our very own 'amchi' photographer of international fame was recently honoured by Tamron Lens Company of Japan by



declaring him as the Best Photographer in their Tamron Challenge 2013 Photo Contest. He was awarded a Tamron lens of his choice, a Trophy at Photo Fair and a complimentary stay at The Intercontinental Lalit along with a cash prize totalling Rs. 1 lakh. Kishore says proudly "The first photo I clicked was that of H. H. Shrimat Anandashram Swamiji way back in 1950 at Talmakiwadi on a Kodak box camera gifted to me by my father. I was just 8-9 years old then. After that I was privileged to click photographs of H. H. Shrimat Parijnanashram Swamiji III and the present Guru Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji too". Incidentally, he is the first Bhanap photographer to win two Gold Medals in USA - one by the Photographic Society of America and the other by Twin City Photographic Council. He is the first and only Bhanap so far to be elected as Jt. Secretary by the prestigious Photographic Society of India and was their faculty till 2007 when he left for USA for 6 months. He has so far won more than 900 acceptances, honourable mentions and awards in Indian as well as international photographic exhibitions and salons and has also been on the panel of jury. He took the opportunity of his US visit to

interact with photographers there to get an insight into their work. This helped him in recently getting declared as the 'Most Popular' photographer in USA. He has been honoured with photographic honours APSI (Associate of Photographic Society of India) and Hon. PSI (Honourary Member Photographic Society of India) for the invaluable services rendered by him to the cause of photography. Although presently he is back in Mumbai, he regularly takes part in various photographic competitions in USA, UK and Germany etc. His photographs are also sold by stock image agencies in USA.

Rupa R. Haridas, has been bestowed with another feather in her cap, this year.



Lalithakala Center of Visual Arts, conferred her with the Best Art Teacher Award in appreciation of the active involvement

in the 8th National Level Student's & Art Teachers competition 2013, by President S. Jayavinukumaar, by honoring her with silken traditional Peta, citation and certificate, in Mumbai.

Lilavatibai Podar secondary school, Santacruz west, where she is the Art Teacher, was awarded Best School amongst more than 1000 schools participating from all over India, and 54 meritorious students from their school, the highest amongst more than one lakh of participating students, from KG to 8th class, were felicitated by the President in Mumbai. Her outstanding contribution and sincere efforts in Teaching, promoting Arts and bringing out the best creativity from students, preparing them for the tough competition and encouraging creative imagination through love of Art, in all forms of art, drawing, coloring, painting, her efforts to promote Art & Culture in young minds, were appreciated. Rupa Haridas has been teaching Art for Secondary school students since, 1978. She has been bestowed with many accolades such as Acharya Kala Puraskar Award & Kala Protsaha Puraskar Award (from Viswakaladarshini International Nehru

Yuva Kendra, Govt. of India), Vishishta Acharya Puraskar Award (from Korsala's Wonder Art Worlds), Kshitij Ratna Award (in the 5th International Child Art Exhibition) and Best Art Teacher Award from (Lalithkala Academy of Fine Arts Education).

Vinayak Mallapurson of Anuradha and Nagesh S. Mallapur of Hubli, after passing the Company Secretaries Examination (CS), has successfully completed Chartered Accountancy Examination (CA). Now, he is the member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and has become ACA.



He is currently pursuing CMA from ICMA. He is currently specializing in Internal Audit domain and planning to pursue CIA (Certified Internal Auditor from the Institute of Internal Auditors).

Here & There

Mallapur : It is a matter of pride for the residents of Mallapur that Shri Saiprasad S. Gokarn (who is Asst. Archak at Shri Guru Math) has a glorious achievement to his credit. In the State Level Karate [Japanese Karate Shotokai] Championship Tournaments held recently at Kumta, Saiprasad bagged the Gold Medal in the 75-80 kgs category, another Gold medal in the Tournament Sparring and a Silver Medal in the Kata category. More than 700 trainees participated in this tournament from Bangalore, Shimoga, Gulburga, Bijapur and Sagar. Shri [Shihan] S.P. Hande, who is a retired military person, is conducting this karate training course at Kumta, has earned a fame to be one of the best coaches in the Karnataka state. Saiprasad believes that he could attain this level because of the blessings of H.H. Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji and the encouragement of his Guru and the local people. On behalf of all the Bhanaps let us congratulate this boy of 20 for his grand success.

Reported by Shri Arun Ubhayakar

Mumbai – Andheri : December 26th to 31st, 2013 we were fortunate and blessed to have with us our Beloved Sadguru, Parama Pujya Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji, after a lapse of 6 long years. The Camp was arranged at Pushtikar Hall in Jogeshwari and was aptly named "Jnananand Utsav"

in revered memory of our Parama Guru, Shrimat Parijnanashram Swamiji III. During Puja Swamiji's stay, the Camp-site was transformed into a 'Divya Kshetra' with the stage back-drop of Sanjivani Samadhi of Karla Math. The attendance for various programmes on all the 5 days, was overwhelming, particularly for 'Swadhayaya' conducted by Puja Swamiji on 3 days.

On the morning of 26th December, Puja Swamiji was accorded a rousing reception with full honours. 'Dharmasabha' was held on 30th December and the capacity crowd from various parts of Mumbai heard in rapt attention Puja Swamiji's highly illuminating and thought-provoking 'Ashirvachan'. The 5 days 'Chira-Smaraneeya' period came to an end without our realisation. On 31st morning, when Puja Swamiji left for Karla, everyone prayed that our beloved Sadguru returns to Andheri Sabha, sooner than 6 years.

Reported by Satyanarayan Pandit, Andheri

Mumbai Dadar : Guru puja was performed on 13th Nov'13 by Yuvadhara youths and other yuvas and sadhakas joined them by chanting the shlokas. It was a wonderful experience followed by the Laghu Sandhyavandhan which was taught to the male yuvas by Dr. Chaitanya Gulvady.

Sannikarsh of Dadar Sabha was observed on 17th Nov'13 attended by 45 sadhakas. Guru Puja was performed on 18th Nov'13 by 7 Prarthana kids - 2 girls and the rest boys under the guidance of 4 teachers.

Mr. Gautam Puthli was appointed as Secretary and Mrs. Jaya Puthli - Jt Secretary, in the absence of Mr. Sudip Kati who had resigned as he has shifted residence to Borivali.

Punyatithi of H.H. Shrimat Krishnashram Swamiji and H.H. Shrimat Keshavashram Swamiji was observed on 26th Dec'13 with felicitation of participants and Teacher Mrs. Shobha Puthli, of the Bhagavadgita competition held on 1st Dec'13 at Talmakiwadi Grantroad. Dadar Sabha Sadguru Bhajan Mandal sadhikas participated in the bhajan seva at Grantroad and Santacruz with their melodious bhajans on 16th and 19th Dec'13 while the Prarthana kids participated in the Dance Drama at Talmakiwadi during Swamiji's visit.

Reported by Shobha Puthli

Mumbai - Santacruz : Shivanandotsava - H. H. Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji visited our sabha from 18th to 26th 2013. As is the well-established

routine the daily programmes were interspersed with Suprabhatam / Yogasana / Pranayama and Chanting of Navratri Nityapath. The highlights were two Swadhayayas and one Paramarsh conducted by Swamiji. A satsang was held on 19th December 2013 when Dharmapracharak Rajgopal Bhatmam gave a lively discourse on "Ishavasya Upanishad". On 20th December 2013 there was a Sanskrit Mela and Sanskrit skits. Navratri Mahima was presented by Swara Sadhana group of Santacruz. On 22nd December 'Shivanandotsava' - a dance drama directed by Smt Smita Nagarkatte was presented. The pandal was packed to the full capacity with devotees eagerly enjoying the show. Palki Utsav was held onwith children, youth and adults singing bhajans with great gusto.



Shri Nalkur Shripadmam (above) and Dr. Kishore Nayampallimam (below) being honoured by H. H. Swamiji

eminent persons of our Samaj viz., Shri Nalkur Shripadmam and Dr. Kishore Nayampallimam for their outstanding work and selfless service to the community at large.



Both of them were honoured at the august hands of H.H. Swamiji.

On 2nd February, 2014, to observe Punyatithi of HH Shrimat Shankarashram Swamiji II, a screening of H. H. Swamiji's Swadhayaya on Vivekachudamani was arranged in the Shrimat Anandashram Hall, Saraswat colony from 9:30 pm onwards. The large number of devotees gathered that night appreciated the programme.

Reported by Kavita Karnad

Mumbai – Vile Parle : During the quarter Oct 13 to Dec 13, the Sabha observed Punyatithiof H. H. Shrimat Shankarashram Swamiji I on 10th October 2013, Janmadivas of H. H. Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamijion 13th November 2013, Punyatithiof H. H. Shrimat Vamanashram Swamiji on 26th November 2013, Punyatithiof H. H. Shrimat Krishnashram Swamiji on 25th December 2013 and Punyatithiof H. H. Shrimat Keshvashram Swamijion 26th December 2013.

The Sabha also performed Sadhana Panchakam on the occasion of Ghatasthapana on 5th October 2013 in addition to performing Sannikarsha at Karla Math on 8th December 2013. On both the occasions over 50 devotees were in attendance. Devotees also actively participated in the SevaSaptaha between 1st December 2013 to 7th December 2013.

In addition to Punyatithis, Devotees also regularly conduct Devi Anusthanon 2nd or 3rd Friday of each month. Sabha has also started conducting Sankshipta Sandhyavandana training sessions in the month of November 2013—three sessions were held with over 10 sadhakas participating, and the Sabha intends to hold such training sessions on 2 Sundays in a month from the New Year. The most heartening thing to note was higher participation by the devotees at all the gatherings.

While wishing everybody a Happy & Prosperous New Year 2014, our sabha began activities with an educative and informative upanayas highlighting of “Essentials of Hindu Dharma” by Dhramapracharak Vittal Rajgopal Bhatmam.

On 2nd February 2014, “Sankshipta Sandhayavandan” in the morning, a practice session of “Samuhik Shivpujan” for new learners in the afternoon and Samaradhana of PP Shankarashrama Swamiji II at Mallapur in the evening was observed.

A talented boy in music Master Akshat Bhat, secured one time scholarship of Rs 50,000/-for his best essay from a leading local English news paper.

Reported by Anand Amladi, Hon. Secretary and Shrikar Talgeri

Our Institutions

The Chitrapur Saraswat Education & Relief Society, Santa Cruz : Mr. Gurudas Gulvady : Honorary Membership

We are pleased to inform you that Mr. Gurudas Gulvady - Honorary Secretary of The Chitrapur

Saraswat Education & Relief Society (CSERS), who has worked for our Institution for more than 15 years, has been given an honour of “Honorary Member” of CSERS with immediate effect.

He is popularly known as Gulvady Mam amongst most of the Amchis across the Country, when it comes to Educational Aid, Medical Aid and Distress Relief for the needy families of our Community, from our Institution or similar Institutions with common objectives.

Gulvady Mam has worked for CSERS for more than 15 years either as a Committee Member initially and later as Hon. Secretary and he is also working as an Hon. Secretary of The Coordination Committee of six similar Aid Giving Institutions. He is known for his devotion to this Institution and it is not out of place to mention here that he is more attached to this Institution than his own family, the way he has been devoting his time for CSERS and this he has been doing with passion.

In order to recognize his services to CSERS, he has been given this honour of Honorary Membership of our Institution with immediate effect.

This communication is for information of the members of our Community in general.

Reported by Kishore Bijur, (Chairman)

Saraswat Mahila Samaj, Gamdevi: Ladies' Day Out : On Wed. Jan 8th 2014 a picnic was arranged at the Hanging Garden, Malabar Hill. About 35 ladies assembled by 11.30 a.m. and were warmly welcomed by President Smt. Kanchan Sujir. A refreshing welcome drink and all were ready to participate in the fun and games. Humorous poems were read out by Vijayalaxmi Kapnadak and Lalita Amladi. Then followed games – a 20 question game, Crosswords, a game testing general knowledge and presence of mind had everybody on their toes! Then followed a lovely meal of vegetable biryani and gulab jamuns. The afternoon ended with a Housie game and lots of laughter!

Sankranti Sammelana : On Sat. Jan 25th 2014 an unusual programme of Kirtan by Shri Charudatta Aphale was organized. A detailed report of the proceedings have been given on page 23.

Forthcoming Programs :

Sat. Mar. 8th 2014: Yuvati Diwas – will be celebrated jointly with Kanara Saraswat Association at Shrimat Anandashram Hall, Talmaki Wadi at 5.00 p.m.

Wed. Mar. 26th 2014: Puraskar Samarambh – At 11.30 a.m. at Shrimat Anandashram Hall, Talmaki

Wadi. : Lekhan Puraskar to Smt. Nalini Nadkarni (Bandra) and Smt. Meera Savkur (Grant Road). Sugam Sangeet Puraskar to Smt. Prashanti Bhat. Felicitations to Smt. Smita Mavinkurve and Smt. Smriti Gulvady (lady directors of SVC Bank) followed by Contributory Lunch Please register by 20/3/2014 (contribution Rs. 200/- per person) Spot Registration Rs. 250/- per person.

Wed. Apr. 2nd 2014 : Cooking Demonstration by Smt. Kalindi Kodial at 3.30 p.m. at Samaj Hall.

Thurs. Apr 10th 2014 : Vasantik Sammelan: 3.30 p.m. at Samaj Hall : "Jyotirling Mahima" – music programme by "Parijnananand" Bhajan group of Goregaon. Fruits in memory of Smt. Sonibai Shibad, Panvar Pachadi by Samaj. Refreshments sponsored by Smt. Neeta Yadery.

Reported by Smita Mavinkurve

Swami Parijnanashram Educational and Vocational Centre for the Handicapped, Virar

On the 26th January 2014 we conducted our 28th Annual Social Gathering at the school premises. Rtn. Kartik Shah, President of Rotary Club of Bombay Sea Coast was the Chief Guest. Dr. Mohan S Mankekar welcomed the Chief Guest. We had Cultural programmes - Ishastawan by Hearing Impaired Students, Fancy Dresses by severely Mentally Challenged and Hearing impaired students and Group Dances by mentally challenged and Hearing Impaired students. Recitation of Manache Shlok by Visually impaired students.

The students, parents, guests and the public appreciated the cultural programme.

*Reported by Shri Vinayanand Kallianpur,
Principal*

Report

Hirak Mahotsav of Parleshwar Co-op Housing Society by Shrikar Talgeri

"Amhi Parlekar" is a local monthly news issue which gives highlights and detailed educative information of Vile Parle, mostly east area. In their latest issue they featured the DN Sirur Balakashrama at Mahant Road, founded in 1932, by our Bhanap community. The Balakashram Committee organised an Annual friendly gathering. The highlight of the gathering was a programme "India 2050" spreading awareness of cancer. The whole programme was well attended by locals and ended with "Mitra Bhojan".

Similarly, one of the oldest and first housing society in Vile parle east completed 60 (Hirak) years in January 2014, i.e. Parleshwar Co-op Housing Society. This society was the brain child of late Baburao Paranjpe, a great philanthropist who mainly built housing societies, for the lower middle income group. There are as of now 5-6 bhanap families in this society. Our late Kalbag Sheshgirimam had the same objectives and they helped each other, and thus our Guruprasad Housing Society was founded in March 1959. Thereafter there was also a contribution to some extent of Late Bhatkal Ganpatrao of Popular Book Depot at Churni Road.

On this occasion the organisers apart from their various activities, have remembered to insert a write-up with photo in "Amhi Parlekar" on Shri Praveen Kadle who spent his childhood and schooling years in this society and his great achievements thereafter till he became MD, CEO of Tata Capital.

As usual their "Hirak" mahotsav was full of variety entertainments like shadowplay, rangasangeet, drama, "Ukhani", Antakshari even a sports competition for senior citizens. The programme spread over the entire day was well received by the public, members and residents of the society. The event of this Mahotsav ended with delicious dinner of traditional varan bhaat and Shrikhand Puri.

Form IV (see Rule 8)

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I, the Publisher of 'Kanara Saraswat', hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

28 February, 2014

Smt. Smita Mavinkurve
Signature of the Publisher,
Kanara Saraswat

CLASSIFIEDS

MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENT

Pawan son of Ashalata and Ashok G Mallapur of Hubli with **Aparna** daughter of Jayanti and Late Eknath L Kodange of Mumbai on 11th December 2013 at Hubli.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Nandini (daughter of Smt Deepti and Shri Balchandra Devdutt Manjeshwar of Kalyan East) and **Kishen** (son of Smt Shaila and Late Shri Girish Nileshwar of Badlapur East) along with their parents thank all relatives, friends and well wishers for their gracious presence, blessings and best wishes on the occasion of their marriage on 19th January 2014 at Shrimat Anandashram Hall, Talmakiwadi.

Preeti (daughter of Smt. Kavita and Shri. Devaraya Shanbhag) and **Rupin** (son of Dr. Ujjwala and Dr. Haily Dalvi) along with their parents and grandparents thank all relatives, friends and well wishers, for their gracious presence, blessings and best wishes on the occasion of their marriage on 9th November 2013 in Mumbai.

Ankita (daughter of Late Anuya Anil Chandavarkar and Anil Ratnakar Chandavarkar) and **Utsav** (son of Ms Kumari Kiran Sinha and Dr Bhojnandan P Singh) thank all relatives, friends and well-wishers for their gracious presence, blessings and best wishes on the occasion of wedding reception at Hotel Shreyas, Deccan Gymkhana, Pune on 17th Jan'2014.

Shweta and **Ishan** join their parents Rashmi and Anil Gersappa and Meena and Deepak Patel in thanking their relatives, friends, well wishers for their gracious presence, blessings, gifts and best wishes on the occasion of their marriage on 26th December, 2013 at Mumbai.

Jaidev (son of Smt. Aarti and Shri Raghunandan Hemmady) and **Malvika** (daughter of Smt. Lakshmi and Shri Subhash Sirur) along with their parents thank all relatives, friends and well wishers for their gracious presence, blessings and best wishes on the occasion of their marriage on 9th February, 2014 in Mumbai.

BIRTH

Son RUDRA to Pallavi and Rohan Rao on 29th Sept 2013. Grandson to Bhanu and Deepak Rao (Nainpally), Usha and Prakash Bhat in Mumbai.

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DOMESTIC TIDINGS

BIRTHS

We welcome the following new arrivals:

2013

Nov 12 : A son (Shlok) to Sumedha and Mohit Kishore Karopady at Pune.

Dec 26 : A son (Abhay) to Natasha and Miheer Mankikar at Mumbai.

THREAD CEREMONY

We bless the following batu:

Feb 2 : Chaitanya Gurunandan Bhat at Mumbai.

MARRIAGE

We congratulate the following young couples:

2013

Oct 23 : Nikhil Dinesh M. Rao with Shilpa Eknath Nagarkar at Bangalore, Karnataka.

Nov 9 : Rupin Haily Dalvi with Preeti Devaraya Shanbhag at Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Nov 25 : Nitin Nandakumar Padukone with Ashwini Jagdish Vinekar at Kandivili (E) Mumbai.

Dec 11 : Pawan Ashok Mallapur with Aparna Eknath Kodange at Hubli, Karnataka.

Dec 15 : Nanda Kishore Radhakrishna Ullal with Nivedita Umanath Baindur at Byndoor, Karnataka.

Dec 26 : Akshay Dinesh Upponi with Kirti Abhay Jagushte at Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Dec 26 : Ishan Deepak Patel with Shweta Anil Gersappa at Mumbai, Maharashtra.

2014

Jan 19 : Kishen Girish Nileshwar with Nandini Balchandra Manjeshwar at Mumbai.

Jan 19 : Sumedh Eknath Kalyanpur with Nidhi Ajay Jain at Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Jan 19 : Kishen Girish Nileshwar with Nandini Balchandra Manjeshwar at Mumbai.

Jan 26 : Sujay Sunil Yennemadi with Varsha Shripad Jejari at Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Feb 3 : Sandeep Jagdeep Mankikar with Snehal Suresh Kamath at Mumbai.

Feb 8 : Amay Uday Gurkar with Dipie Dhaval Mahidharia at Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Feb 8 : Mihir Sharat Kumar Paddidri with Pooja Girish Chikramane at Dahisar, Mumbai.

Feb 9 : Malvika Subhash Sirur with Jaidev Raghunandan Hemmady at Mumbai.

Feb 9 : Dr Rohit Vijay Bailur with Pallavi Arvind Yewlle at Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Feb 19 : Devendra Suresh Hattangadi with Divya Anil Gangolli at Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Feb 23 : Nikhil Samir More with Naina Rohit Panemangalor at Talegaon, Maharashtra.

Feb 23 : Roopak Ravindra Ubhayakar with Devika Ashok Balsekar at Mumbai, Maharashtra.

OBITUARIES

We convey our deepest sympathy to the relatives of the following

2013

Oct 23 : Deepa Rajaram Kodikal at Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Dec 24 : Dr. Koppikar Satish V.(Ex – B.A.R.C.) (74) of Navi Mumbai at Assam.

2014

Jan 7 : UmasundariKaranje (96)at Bangalore.

Jan 22 : Hemmady Mohan Gurunath of Matunga (79) atParel, Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Feb 2 : Shirali Mohan Devidas (75) at Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Feb 2 : Bondal Jayant Shripad at Hubli, Karnataka.

Feb 3 : Vasanti Narsing Kodikal at Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Feb 4 : Bellari Sadanand (Sadu) Bhavanishankar (ex-Talmakiwadi) (53) at Bangalore, Karnataka.

Feb 5 : Pushpa Ramkrishna Savur at Talmakiwadi, Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Feb 8 : Pejavar Ram S. at Bangalore, Karnataka.

Feb 9 : Surkund Srinath Dinkar (57) at Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Feb 9 : Dr. Nagarkatti Naresh Arunat Bangalore, Karnataka.

Feb 14 : Dr. Sumati Anil Masurkar (72) (nee Sumati Prabhakar Hemmady) at Pune, Maharashtra.

Feb 14 : Gangolli Satish Laxman (79) at Mumbai, Maharashtra.



Dr. Mrs. Sumati Masurkar

(nee Hemmady)

(15.07.1941to14.02.2014.)

Gifted dancer in her younger days, a very affectionate and ever smiling personality, a dedicatedProfessional.

Passed away peacefully after a short illness at Pune.

Deeply mourned by -

Dr. Anil (husband), Dr. Mrs. Sital Jindal (daughter), Sumitra and Ramesh Hemmady (brothers), relatives and friends.

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CENTENARY REMEMBRANCE

Late Shri. DEVIDAS GANPATRAO MADIMAN

11-02-1914



We light a 100 candles, together see them glow,
We watch them dance, so bright and warm,
And let the tears flow.

We think of you dear Annu, so calm and so right,
Always in our thoughts and hearts,
Each day and each night.

Fondly remembered by Prakash,
Pratibha, Sunil and Shreya,
Jyotsna and Praful
Anmol, Rama and Arjun
Dhruv and Aditi