



Kanara Saraswat

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF KANARA SARASWAT ASSOCIATION

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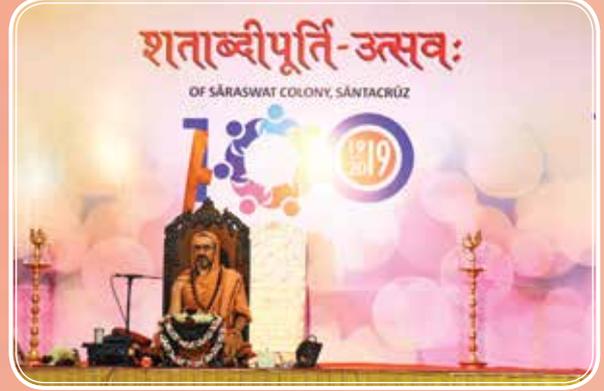
February 2020

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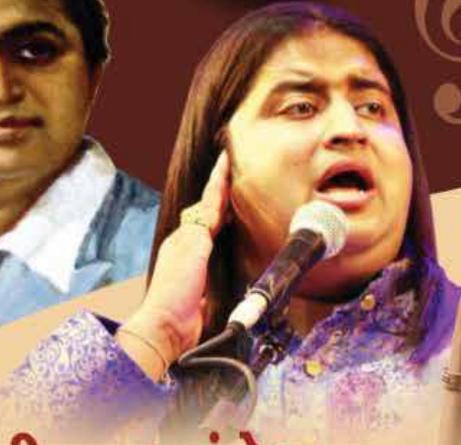
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Founded in 2005, Chitrapur Heritage Foundation (CHF) is a Section 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization and donors receive the maximum charitable deduction allowed by law. The mission of CHF is to provide a vital link for amchis in the US to stay actively connected with our Chitrapur Math and our Guruparampara. Currently, CHF Chapters are located in four main regions across the United States of America. Over the past decade, amchis in the US have supported students' education and promoted sustainable development of the village of Shirali.

The activities of CHF includes:

- Facilitate the collection of annual "Vantiga" payment from every earning Saraswat in the US - "Vantiga" is used to support and maintain the upkeep of our spiritual centers in Bengaluru, Gokarn, Mallapur, Mangaluru, and Shirali
- Support education institutions administered by Math-sponsored trusts: Srivali High School, Kotekar Campus of Saraswat Education Society, and Parijnan Vidyalaya.
- Finance the post-primary education of 100 students at the Srivali High School through the "Sponsor-A-Student" Scheme
- Contribute towards the preservation of the rich cultural heritage of the Chitrapur Saraswat community in the US, by celebrating festivals like Yugadi, Ram Navami, Gokulashtami, Navratri, Diwali, monthly satsang, and Prarthana Varga for children

CHF is a philanthropic organization that provides an avenue for US-based "amchis" to support the operation and maintenance of Shri Chitrapur Math as well as support the post-primary education of students in Chitrapur, Karla, Mangalore, and Shirali, and women empowerment programs administered by Parijnan Foundation.

CHF is set up with many Corporations/Organizations such as Bristol Myers Squib, Johnson & Johnson etc. to receive Matching Gifts. CHF has also registered with Benevity in order to make it easier to participate in workplace giving programs such as those at Apple, Google, and Microsoft.

For more information, please contact Arun Heble (arheble@yahoo.com) Tel: +1-215-666-3200 or Pramod Mavinkurve (pmkurve@gmail.com). Tel: 908-616-1497.



**SARASWATS
FROM
BIKANER**

Report on page 42



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7th Feb. 1970

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Love & Best Wishes from
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Mathādhipati, Shrī Chitrāpur Math, Shirālī
at

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FROM 19-02-2020 TO 24-02-2020

We kindly invite you to participate in this Utsava
and make it a grand success.

Yours in service of

Lord Shiva, Kr̥shṇa, the Math and Guruparamparā.

Vikram Sirūr
President

Sanjay Mallāpur
Organising Secretary

Nāgesh Mallāpur
Treasurer

Note : For detailed programme list & List of Sevas
please see SCM's website : www.chitrapurmath.net

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On the occasion of
THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2020
KANARA SARASWAT ASSOCIATION
cordially invites you to the Felicitation of Bhanap Women for their
Outstanding achievements
on Saturday the 14th March 2020 at 6.00 PM
in Shrimat Anandashram Hall, Talmakiwadi, Javji Dadaji Marg, Mumbai

We heartily congratulate the following women who will be felicitated at this function:

Smt. Nirmla Chikramane (Posthumous)

For Social work in the Education Field

Smt. Reshma Kalyanpur Chadha

For Social Work in the field of Psychological Counselling in Bengaluru Area

Smt. Shailaja Udiavar Ganguly

Writer, Editor and Journalist

Dr. Divya Karnad

International Award Winner in Conservation of Marine Life

Smt. Anasuya Shiraly

For Social Work in Hospitals and Palliative Care in Bengaluru

CHIEF GUEST

Smt. Mrinalini Kher

Co-Founder of Yuva Parivartan and Trustee of Kherwadi Social Welfare Association

FUNCTION PRESIDED BY:

Shri Praveen Kadle

President of Kanara Saraswat Association



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APPEAL

Hello there ,

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patients who have all been similarly diagnosed and have successfully defeated cancer and are proud survivors.

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From the President's Desk....

We all wake up in the morning in different states of mind. State of mind is a person's mood and the effect that mood has on that person's thinking and behaviour. Very often, the state of mind when you wake up in the morning decides the course of the day for every individual. The state of mind when you get up is usually dependant on the events of the previous day. So, you can get up in the morning with different states of mind, but very quickly you can decide the state of mind that you would like to have on that day and decide your course of action. It is basically the mind game that you need to master and work on. No point in blaming the circumstances or others. It's all in your mind.

According to psychologists, one of the core ideas of cognitive behavioural therapy and dialectical behaviour therapy is that if you can consciously pay attention to and then deliberately shape what you think. This process can, in turn shape your moods and state of mind. The goal should be to keep driving down the middle of the rational road rather than sliding off into emotional ditches. The psychologists usually talk of six common states of mind.

- 1) Rational- this is the gold standard, the middle of the road where you are able to maintain a reasonable and rounded perspective. This is where you should always be.
- 2) Anxious- this is a common state of mind which keeps you sleepless in every small or big, existing or non-existing situation in your life.
- 3) Depressed- if anxiety is about the future, depression is about the past - mistakes, regrets, roads not taken and which very often take you to the feeling that 'life has no purpose'.
- 4) Angry- you feel cheated, you feel the world is unfair to you and you keep plotting to do something against the so-called unfair world.
- 5) Fearful- everyday fear is when you feel intimidated by someone even though in your rational mind you realise that there is no sane reason to do so. You withdraw, feel insecure and small.
- 6) Rebellious- this comes out of resentment and takes you initially to passive aggressiveness and if you allow yourself to be in this mood in a continuous cycle of thinking, it may lead to dangerous consequences.

Every day, one moves in and out of these common states of mind throughout the day. The challenge is to keep yourself from sliding into one of these emotional ditches and quickly pull yourself out and get back on the rational road. You can do this by continuously tracking your state of mind, literally every hour, label it in one of the six states of mind defined in the earlier paragraphs, and thereafter be cool, try to rebalance your mind, identify the problem that is not allowing your state of mind to be rational and then solve the problem. The more you do this tracking, labelling and solving, the more you become adept at catching these shifts in your mindset and setting them straight. Staying out of emotional ditches and being rational is all a matter of practice.

Walter D Wintle, the late 19th century poet, captures this very well in his famous poem 'State of Mind'.

If you think you are beaten, you are;
If you think you dare not, you won't,
If you like to win, but don't think you can
It's almost a cinch you won't
If you think you'll lose, you are lost,
For out in the world you'll find,
Success begins with a fellow's will
It's all in a state of mind

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For many a game is lost
Ere even a play is run,
And many a coward fails
Ere even his work is begun
Think big and your deeds will grow
Think small and you'll fall behind
Think that you can and you will
It's all a state of mind
If you think you are out-classed, you are
You've got to think high to rise
You've got to be sure of yourself before
You can ever win a prize
Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster man
But sooner or later, the man who wins
Is the fellow who thinks he can.

Does this poem not really capture the true state of mind that we all should adopt? Yes. So, let us be rational and define our state of mind every day, every hour, every minute and every second of our life.

Praveen P. Kadle

MULAQAT



Praful Chandawarkar

Praful Chandawarkar is a highly successful, young, first generation entrepreneur in the Hospitality space. His Brand Malaka Spice has a huge fan following. He is also involved in many Social, Philanthropic and Mentoring Initiatives.

In Conversation with
Rahul Chandawarkar,
a veteran Journalist and Communications Strategist.

On Sunday the 16th of February 2020
at the Shrimat Anandashram Hall, Talmakiwadi Mumbai.

MULAQAT brought to you under the aegis of the **Kanara Saraswat Association - Chitrapur Saraswat Network (KSA-CSN)** initiative.

Kindly confirm your participation to
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Shatabdipurti Utsava A Festive Mood at Saraswat Colony, Santacruz in the Centenary Year

In what better way could Saraswat Colony, Santacruz, conclude its "Centenary Year" than by the visit of our Parama Pujya Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji who visited and blessed the members and the residents of the second oldest Co-operative Housing Society in Asia? At the joint invitation of the Saraswat Suburban CHS Ltd and the Santacruz Local Sabha, Parama Pujya Swamiji readily agreed to visit Saraswat Colony from 13th to 18th December, 2019 as part of the centenary celebration. Everyone was in a festive mood in the Saraswat Colony and the brightly lit-up buildings with LED lights added cheer to the ambience in the evenings.

December 13th, 2019, Friday, witnessed Parama Pujya Swamiji alighting from the vehicle on Linking Road and Talmaki Road junction. He was warmly received by the Convenor of the Shatabdipurti Utsava, Lt. Gen. Prakash Gokarn, PVSM, AVSM (Retd.), the Housing Society Chairman Shri Niranjan Nagarkatte, members of the Saraswat Colony and elsewhere. His Holiness was led by a ceremonial procession spear headed by the group performing *lezim*—the customary welcome dance and the hallmark of Saraswat Colony, Santacruz. On reaching the *pandal*, President of the Sabha, Shri Dattanand Gulvady, performed *Pada-Prakshalana* after which Parama Pujya Swamiji was welcomed with *Purna Kumbha Swagata* and *Veda Ghosha*. The inaugural Dharma Sabha commenced with the customary *Sabha Prarambha Prarthana* and *Swagata Gita* by the Swara Sadhana Group. All the representatives of the local sister institutions performed *Shri Paduka Pujana*. Lt. Gen. Gokarn then delivered his welcome address followed by Parama Pujya Swamiji's *Upadesha*. Ms.Neha Hattangadi had prepared a pictorial PowerPoint presentation titled "Down Memory Lane" which depicted the past visits of our revered Swamijis to Saraswat Colony. It was presented by Shri Rajiv Sanadi. Indeed, the festive mood began on a pleasant and memorable note and continued for the next five days.

In the mornings, on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th December, Parama Pujya Swamiji conducted "Swadhyaya" on the bhajana "Bhasura Shree Bhavani...". After the Swadhyaya on Sunday, Parama Pujya Swamiji unveiled the Society's Centenary Plaque, located at a prominent junction offering high visibility to everyone.

The evening of Friday 14th saw the audience listening to an enlightening discourse by Dharma Pracharaka Shri V. Rajagopal Bhat. The festive mood was further brightened by the "Palakhi Utsava" with the palakhi going around the Saraswat Colony with a large procession of residents and well-wishers and the air was filled with the melodious sound of bhajans. The melody was further enhanced by bhajans

being led by Parama Pujya Swamiji at some spots. After the *palakhi* returned to the *pandal*, three generations (small children, yuvas and senior citizens) performed "Iezim" forming the number "100", followed by *garba*, where people across all ages participated enthusiastically with *bhajans* by Parama Pujya Swamiji. On 15th, Sunday, the audience was treated to cultural programmes put up by the Saraswat Colony residents. *Prarthana Varga* children performed two skits – one in Sanskrit "Vanaghatha" and another in Konkani on *Balaganapati* called "Fruits Of Wisdom". The *yuvatis* performed a beautiful dance on "Rajrajeshwari Ashtaka" followed by a Konkani skit "Shiva Parvati Vivaha" by a mixed group of devotees. In the morning on Monday, 16th, Parama Pujya Swamiji conducted "Paramarsha", which was followed by *Samuhika Shri Varada Shankara Vrata*, which was recently introduced by the Math on the day of *Seemolanghanaat* Mallapur. In the evening, on 16th, *Girvanapratishta* presented a cultural programme, followed by *Shri Shiva Pujana* by Parama Pujya Swamiji.

On 17th, in the morning, Shri Gayatri Havana was performed, in preparation of which the *purushavarga* of Santacruz Sabha (which had chanted 2,40,000 Gayatri Japa in October and November 2019) chanted 24,000 Gayatri Japa during *Kalasha-Sthapana* on the previous evening.

In his speech, during the concluding Dharma Sabha on 17th evening, Shri Niranjan Nagarkatte, Chairman of the Society, recounted in brief - the journey of the Saraswat Colony in the past 100 years that witnessed ups and downs which was so ably managed by past Managing Committees and its Office bearers which also included the first self-redevelopment of the Society. He highlighted the deep-rooted connection between the Society and the Shri Chitrapur Math and our Holy Guru Paramapara for which the Saraswat Colony is showered with eternal blessings of the Divine. Twenty-nine very senior residents of the Colony were felicitated at the August Hands of Parama Pujya Swamiji, along with five sister institutions founded by the Late Rao Bahadur S.S.Talmaki. Souvenir containing old photographs and articles by some past and present residents was also released on this occasion by Parama Pujya Swamiji, who then blessed us with His "Ashirvachana".

This memorable *Shatabdipurti Utsava* concluded on Wednesday, 18th December, 2019 evening with the *Niropa Samarambha* which was marked by the *Niropa Gita* by the *Parijnana Bhajana Mandali*. Saraswat Colony offers "Sashtang Pranams" to Lord Bhavanishankar and Parama Pujya Swamiji seeking continued blessings for the wellbeing of our *samaja* in general and Saraswat Colony and its residents in particular.

आमची कॉलनी

चित्रा शिराली (धारवाड)

सांताक्रुझ, 'सारस्वत कॉलनीचा' शतकमहोत्सव, परमपूज्य श्रीमत् सद्योजात शंकराश्रम स्वामिजींच्या सानिध्यात साजरा होत असल्याचे ऐकून अतिशय आनंद झाला. प.पू. श्रीमत् आनंदाश्रमांच्या चरणस्पर्शाने पावन झालेली कॉलनी शतकमहोत्सवात प्रवेश करित आहे. ही अपूर्वाईची गोष्ट नव्हे तर गुरुपुण्यामृत योगच म्हणावा. आता मी ज्येष्ठ नागरीक आहे, पण ह्या कॉलनीची माहेरवाशिण आहे. 'बालपण देगा देवा मुंगी साखरेचा रवा' अशीच मी, ह्या कॉलनीत लहानाची मोठी झाले. श्रीसरस्वती देवीचा वरदहस्त असलेली कॉलनी म्हणजे 'वसुधैवकुटुम्बकम्' अशी आहे. बाल्यावस्थेतील काही गोष्टी मनात अशा रुजलेल्या असतात की त्याचे चिंतन केले तरी मन तरतरीत होतं. बालवयातील आनंद, हौसमौज, मित्रमैत्रिणींची आठवणच किती संस्मरणीय आणि सुखदायक असते. 'माहेरच्या समोर सांरगाव हाकार नाव' हे गाणं अतिशय आवडत. हे गाणं गुणगुणताना ७५ वर्षांमागच्या कॉलनीचे चित्र डोळ्यांसमोर तरळते. आमची कॉलनी समुद्राच्या-जुहू चौपाटीच्या किनाऱ्यावर वसलेली, ताडामाडाच्या बनावत खुललेली, एकमजली कौलारु टुमदार घरांची लहानशी वस्ती होती. भरतीच्या वेळी समुद्राचे पाणी, बांधाखालून कॉलनीत शिरायचे. पावसात तर आमच्या घराच्या पायरीपर्यंत यायचे. पाणी ओसरलं की मीठाचे पांढरे वलय असे. आमच्या घराच्या व्हांड्यातून समुद्राच्या मोठ-मोठ्या लाटा दिसत. लाटांचा गाज, दूरवरचा दीपस्तंभ रात्री स्पष्ट दिसायचा. किनाऱ्यावर रंगीबेरंगी पताका लावलेल्या होड्यांचा नांगर टाकलेला दिसे. किनाऱ्यावर आग्री लोकांची वस्ती असल्याने त्यांच्या चंद्रमौळी छपराच्या झोपड्या खुलून दिसायच्या. किनाऱ्यावर एका बाजुस श्रीविठ्ठलमंदिर व चर्च आहे. मंदिरातील भजन आणि चर्चची घंटा स्पष्ट ऐकू यायची. कॉलनीपासून खारदांड्यापर्यंत असलेल्या मोकळ्या जागेत भाताचे शेत होत. दूर अंतरावर पालीची टेकडी. अतिशय नयनमनोहर, रम्य असा परिसर होता. बांधाच्या बाजुस असलेल्या मोकळ्या जागेस शक्तिमैदान असे नाव होते. आग्री बायका कॉलनीत घरकामास यायच्या शेताच्या बांधावरून, पाऊलवाटेने पालीच्या टेकडीवर जात. कॉलनी साहित्य, संस्कारांनी भरलेली, संस्कृती, धर्मोत्सव, संगीत, नाट्य अनेक विद्याकलेने सजलेली. निसर्गदेवतेचा वरदहस्त असल्याने कॉलनीतील नीटनेटकी कौलारु घरे, सुंदर चाळ व दोन कॉटेज (किल्ल्याच्या आकारात बांधलेली) खेळण्यास खुले मैदान, लहानसा आनंदाश्रम हॉल, ह्या लहानश्या हॉलमध्ये कॉलनीचे सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम, काही घरगुती कार्यक्रम शिवाय धार्मिक कार्यक्रम अजुनही होतात. श्रीकृष्ण जयंतीचा उत्सव, श्रीगणेशोत्सव, भजनकीर्तन शिवाय सारस्वत महिला समाजाचे अनेक कार्यक्रम होतात. माझ्या बालवयात पू. निंबाळकरगुरुजीचे कीर्तन होई. माझ्या आन्नमांबरोबर जायची. अनेक संत महात्म्यांच्या कथा ऐकण्यात मजा येई. नाडकर्णीबाबमाम पेटी वाजवायचे, कंडलूरसखमाम तबल्याची साथ करित. अजुनही, काही त्यांनी सांगितलेल्या कथा आठवतात. अशा ह्या सुंदर वातावरणात

वडिलधाऱ्यांच्या मार्गदर्शनांत राहिल्याने मलाही साहित्य, संगीत, नाट्यकलेची, भजनाची आवड उत्पन्न झाली. १९५० साली शक्ति मैदान गेलं, त्या जागी मीराबाग नावाची वसाहत आली. लहान-मोठे बंगले उभे राहिले. भाताचे शेतही विकलं जाऊन उंच इमारती आल्या. जिथे समुद्राचे पाणी येत होते तिथेही भरणी करून सिनेकलाकारांचे मोठ-मोठे बंगले आले. परिसर बदलू लागला. रहदारी वाढल्याने, बंगले झाल्याने समुद्र दिसेना, लाटांचा गाज ऐकेना. १९५७ साली कॉलनीत डामरी रस्ते झाले. कॉलनीस जोडणारा लिकींग रोड पूर्ण डामरी रस्ता झाला आणि अशा ह्या सृष्टि-सौंदर्याचे चित्रच पालटले.

७० वर्षांमागे कॉलनीची दिनचर्या पण काहीशी वेगळीच होती. प्रत्येक फेरीवाला ठरल्यावेळी यायचा. पु.ल. देशपांडेंचे पुस्तक व्यक्ती आणि वल्ली वाचताना काही कॉलनीत येणाऱ्या व्यक्तींची आठवण येते. पहाटे ५.३० वा. दूधवाला भैया हंड्यातून दूध घेऊन येई. नंतर ब्रेडवाला, केळेवाला भैया. नंतर लक्ष्मण नावाचा कॉलनीचा माळी, कॉलनीत उगवलेल्या फुलांची परडी घेऊन येई. सकाळी ७.०० वा नामदेव नावाचा मोची, नरसिंहा नावाचा न्हावी, कपड्यांचे टाके घेऊन येणारा शिंपी खातापिता शिवाय मुलजी नावाचा बनिया प्रत्येकाच्या घरी जाऊन किराणा सामानाची यादी घेऊन जाई. दुपार पर्यंत सामान येई. भाजी विकणाऱ्या जाई, बबनचे कुटुंब म्हणजे कॉलनीतले एक कुटुंबच होत. बबन, शंकर, विठ्ठल आंब्याच्या मौसमात कोकणातून येत. अरे हो कॉलनीत मडिवाळ नावाचा परिट होता. कमलबाईची, चाळेच्या एका घरांत खानावळ होती. कशाची कमतरता नव्हती. तीन-चार मद्रासी कुटुंबाणि चार-पांच बंगाली कुटुंबेही, कॉलनीत राहिल्याने त्यांची मुले स्पष्ट कोकणी बोलत. माझ्या वयाची, मौल्यवान १९ वर्षे मी आनंदात घालवली. कॉलनीतील, व्यायामशाळेमुळे, संध्याकाळ सर्व मुलांची मजेत जायची. भाईच्या प्रेमळ स्वभावामुळे कॉलनीतील मुलं निश्चित जात शिवाय खारदांड्यावरून मुलं यायची. संध्याकाळी ५.०० च्या ठोक्याला आम्हां मुलांचा मेळावाआनंदाश्रम हॉलच्या पटांगणात हजर असे, बरोबर ७.०० वा. स्वामी रामदासांच्या मनाचे श्लोकातील अतिशय सुंदर श्लोक म्हणून व्यायाम शाळा बरखास्त व्हायची.

काही वर्षांत जुन्या इमारती गेल्या, वृक्षवल्लीं नाहिशी झाली. अधूनमधून काही नारळाचे माड दिसतात. चहुंबाजुंनी उंच उंच इमारती उभ्या राहिल्या. पूर्वापार चालून आलेली संस्कृती, धर्मोत्सव चौथी पिढी तेवढ्याच उत्साहाने करते, साजरे होतात. ह्यात आनंद तर वाटतोच आणि अभिमानही वाटतो. श्रीगुरुपरंपरेतल्या तीन सद्गुरुंच्या चरणस्पर्शाने सत्संगाने कॉलनीचा उत्कर्ष पाहतोय. प्रेम, माया आणि कार्यकर्त्यांची ऊर्जा अशानेच कोठलेहि कार्यसिद्धीस नेण्याची कॉलनीतल्या रहिवाश्यांची इच्छाशक्ति आणि मनोबळ मुख्य असल्याने हा शतकमहोत्सव आकर्षक, वाखाणण्यासारखा होईलच. ज्या वडिलधाऱ्या व्यक्तींनी ह्या कॉलनीची रचना करून उभी केली त्यांना त्रिवारवंदन!

Good Old Days

DR KISHOR S NAYAMPALLI

Heartiest congratulations to the Committee Members of the Saraswat Suburban Co-operative Housing Society and the residents on completing 100 years! It's a great tribute to the pioneer of the Co-operative Movement Late Talmaki Sripadmam and his associates, that two Pioneering Societies under his guidance (Gamdevi and Santacruz) have completed 100 years. It is also a tribute to the residents of the Saraswat Suburban Co-operative Housing Society Ltd (SSCHS), Santacruz, who have upheld the theme of co-operative working in all the activities of the Saraswat Colony which has made it possible to complete the Centenary successfully.

Though I am not a member of the Society now, my parents were members of the Society in 1920 and our family has been part and parcel of the Saraswat Colony since then. My parents were staying in the A6 Building (corresponding to the present Bldg No. 1) and as they used to narrate, it appeared as if they were a few furlongs away from the Juhu Beach, with no obstruction in between. The usual question asked to my father was why he opted for an isolated place for his residence.

Little did people realise that Saraswat Colony would eventually become a hub of activity and would be a prime location in this part of Mumbai.

What I am narrating now is down my memory lane, trying to stimulate my grey matter memory cells and partly facts narrated by my elders post, 1942-1943, as that was the time my grey matter could register the happenings in the surroundings.

The landscape status of the Colony around 1942-1943 as I remember was

1. Eastern side: Dadabhai Road (now Linking Road), just a two-lane road with hardly any traffic and no bus service. Touching this road was "Ishodhyan" – Udayaver Duttmam's house and Jay Villa, Gorakhshakar's bungalow at the corner.

2. Northern side: Beginning of the Colony was Golikeri Pandurangmam's House (now Punjab National Bank), then a vacant marshy land till the Gazdhar Bandh.

3. Western side: Totally open to the sea and the palm-fringed Juhu Beach. There was no Meera Baug (what used to be called as Shakti Maidan, our open place for Hard Ball Cricket and Annual Sports). The Gazdhar Bandh was in place but with no habitation (no slums).

4. Southern side: Open fields (present Sardar Colony and Gurudwara) where residents of Agripada used to cultivate paddy during monsoon. Mid- monsoon onwards the menu of our colony residents had a frequent inclusion of the delicacies of "Taikilo" (probably not known to our present generation) which used to grow in the Colony and surrounding areas in abundance - we miss it today.

It is said that Santacruz was totally owned by two Parsi gentlemen - Mr. Gazdhar and Mr. Seervai, who sold their landed properties to Societies and private individuals. An interesting point which I would like to mention, was a nallah on the western side of the Gazdar Bandh between BSNL property and Lido Towers (old Lido Talkies) where, during high tide, ocean-going *dhow*s or *padavas* (boats) used to enter the nallah and get them selves parked near Juhu Road carrying Mangalore tiles, salt, dry fish, etc. These boats were registered in Bhatkal, Karwar or Honavar. This high tide water used to go right upto the Juhu Airport (no SNDTWU... no Shastri Nagar...) - probably one of the major reasons why there was no flooding in the Colony in those days.

Santacruz (West) was serviced by only two taxis (owned by Mr. Marshal and Mr. Kulkarni) and two ghoda-gadis till about the late forties after which the ghoda-gadis vanished and taxis started increasing. The first showers of monsoon was a real sight on our playground and the surrounding open places. One would see a sudden appearance of the yellow frogs with the continuous croaking. There was no noise pollution restrictions those days so their croaking went on even after 10 pm! Herds of sheep from Rajasthan and Gujarat used to come here for grazing, particularly during the post-monsoon months.

It was about this period that there was an order from the Government for the evacuation of the Airport area resulting in a big exodus of families to their native places. Only the bread earner and one more individual was allowed to stay in the house. Trenches in the compounds to accommodate about 8-10 persons were compulsory. Both "ALERT" and "ALL CLEAR" air-raid sirens were a regular order of the day. That was the time when more than half the flats in the society fell empty. The wireless station adjacent to our Colony had a Dummy Station with the poles painted in white and the original station poles painted black. The Dummy Wireless Station was situated just behind the present Balkanji Bari and part of the Podar Sports Complex. Rumours were that the Japanese would either bomb or attack Bombay Port by submarine. There was a British amphibian attack base in Juhu (at present J.W. Marriot Hotel location). To add to this war hysteria, the Bombay Dock Explosion in April 1944 added further fuel. So great was the impact of the explosion that windows and doors in Santacruz rattled with glass panels crumbling to pieces. At night, the fire could be seen from our terrace which lasted for over a fortnight. A gold bar it seems was ejected out from the ship with such an impact that it landed somewhere in Borivali!

The roads within the Colony were *kutch*a roads without tar but motorable and it was a sight to see the Bandra

Municipality Water tankers with sprinklers sprinkled water in the evenings at about 4 pm, for about 8 months in the year. (Now we would probably hijack the tanker to our underground water tanks and not allow it to sprinkle water on the roads). I still remember a *pheriwala* who was unique in presenting his items - (1) about the early 40's a Bori would present it this way – "*Japanchya rajala dhegun chavla re chavla*"- pause "*Chanawala*" (it was the time when the word Japan would cause fear and tremors resulting in everyone coming out on the verandah to hear the news about Japan) – that was his method of sales attraction (2) a beggar (could classify him as a good actor) used to bend and walk with moderate tremors in his hand and feet and shout with a loud husky voice – "*dhole-dhole*". It was only in front of houses or people to impress them that he was a handicap, extract money, and a little distance away he would walk straight or even run and then count his booty!

Freedom struggle was at its peak. Saraswat Colony has the proud privilege of having true, dedicated, and loyal freedom fighters who would sacrifice their career, family life and comfort for the freedom of the nation. They were ever ready to sacrifice their lives. Secret meetings and planning for the next attack were held somewhere in the Colony regularly. Though they were arrested and lodged in the Nasik Jail as 'D'-class prisoners (the worst category for prisoners), they refused to be upgraded in their prison cells. I would be failing in my duty, if their names were not mentioned. They were Late Shri Dattamam Nagarkar, Late Shri K.S. Nayampalli (lovingly called Appul). Their associates as far as I recollect were Late Dr. P. B. Koppikar (lovingly called Pabbi) from Karnatak Buildings, Matunga and Late Shri S.P. Nadkarni from Talmakiwadi. Others who took active part in the freedom struggle and encouraged khadi spinning and wearing of khadi garments were Late Smt. Heble Girijakka, Late Shri Mankikar Ramarao, Late Smt. Ratnapachhi Hattangadi, Late Smt. Lalita Golikeri and Late Smt. Tallur Rukmakka, who used to visit the Colony and stay for a period at Sheetala Pandit's place. Midnight of 14th August 1947 was one of the finest nights in the history of India and the residents of the Colony freely participated in the patriotic celebrations which one would never get to see in one's lifetime. The whole Colony (in fact Santacruz as a whole) gathered at the flood-lit Podar School (old Clock Tower Building) on the 14th midnight and at the stroke of 12 midnight, Late Shri Rambhai Bakshi (Principal of Podar School) unfurled our National Flag with the whole crowd roaring "*Bharat Mata Ki Jai*" and "*Jai Hind*". It was followed by "*Prabhat Pheri*" and the whole of Santacruz was awake the whole night. It was an event which the present youth have missed, an occasion which will never repeat. The 1st Republic Day Celebration was another event where the whole of Bombay was illuminated and our Colony residents went round at night in lorries to enjoy the illuminations.

In one of the important meetings of the freedom struggle that was organized in the Colony, Capt. Laxmi and Col.

Dhillon (of the INA) addressed the gathering. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was also to address the gathering (it was a night gathering) but could not attend.

Our leading and one of the oldest co-operative banks, the S.V.C. Bank, had one of the oldest branches situated in our Colony. In the mid-twenties (1925-1926), the bank was operating as a finance credit society (not as Bank at that time), a pioneer in starting Home Loans. The residents of Nivas Road all joined in this Scheme and my father took advantage of the Home Loan Scheme along with Late Shri Chandavarkar Atmamam, Late Shri Hattangadi Raghaveshajja, Late Dr. Koppikar Anandmam and Late Shri Padbidri Narsingmam.

The SVC Bank, housed in Bldg. A-1 in the early days, was a one-man service with the Branch Manager attending to all the services of the Bank. I still remember the high-rise counter and the Manager's chair with a Crompton fan running at slow speed. In a lighter vein, I used the counter for my pull-ups, either to talk to Late Shri Gangolli Babmam or do regular pull-ups practice as I was an active member of the Vyayamshala.

Saraswat Colony also has the unique distinction of starting the Suburban Music Circle, which today is the oldest functioning Music Circle in India. Koppikar Hall, the initial venue for all programs, had one of the best natural acoustics without a sound system. One could easily call it a nursery for all the senior Hindustani Classical Music Artistes. Their performance in this prestigious Circle was a stepping stone to their success and fame.

Sports and Gymnasium in our Colony played an important role in the development of our youth. Having the advantage of a big ground, I still remember in the mid-forties, Late Shri Heble Madhukaranna (IPS) initiated training in High Jumps, Pole Vault, Long Jumps, Hop Step and Jump and personally developed the infrastructure and marking for these events. badminton was another game where participation was encouraged both in coaching scheme and tournaments. Among those who took active interest in organizing Badminton were Late Shri Kerekatte Nannamam, Late Shri Hemmady Mangeshmam, Late Smt. Vasanti and Late Shri Manohar Bopardikar, Late Shri Ganesh Aldangadi and many others. Bridge was another sport where Late Shri Hemmady Mangeshmam, Late Shri Mundkur Dinkarmam, Late Shri Sanjivmam and Sagunakka Yederi played an active role.

Table tennis was another sport where the residents of the Colony actively participated. Geeta Nadkarni (Krishni), Dr. Dilip Nadkarni, Mrs. Sunanda Rao (Murur) and Shri. Gurudutt Kalambi (now in Bengaluru) were some of the prominent players.

One cannot forget the role played by the Swastik Samarth Vyayam Mandir under the leadership of Late "Bhai", Late Shri Krishnarao Desai and Late Shri Gopalrao in moulding the character of the youth in the Colony. It was a Golden Era for us all.

Cricket, the most popular game of India, has been very

popular in the Colony since the very early days. Late Shri Tellichery Baburaimam, Late Shri Ratnakar Tellichery, Shri Raja Aederi and many others contributed a lot towards this game. Ratnakar was selected by the well-known cricketer Dattu Phadkar under his coaching scheme. I am told Late Appulbappa (K. S Nayampalli) and Late Dr. R. P. Koppikar (ex-Dean KEM Hospital) were regular players in the Colony.

Dramatics (particularly in Konkani) was very well organized and was an annual feature during the Saraswat Club Annual Gathering. These dramas were of about 2-2 ½ hours duration and the artistes who were residents of the Colony acted with professional efficiency. Amongst those whom, I remember are Late Trasi Ganeshmam, Late Gangolli Vasantanna, Late. Kalambi Raghuvirmam, Late Aldangadi Sadanand, Late Udyaver Sundermam (Babmam) and Late Sharadakka (Udyaver) and many others.

Carrom was also popular with Late Saletore Mukundanna and Anil Kaikini being amongst the prominent players.

All our social institutions in the Colony are over 70-80 years old, some even 90 plus. It's a self-contained Colony with all the amenities at our doorstep right from the beginning. It would be interesting to know that Shri Rama Nayak the pioneer of Udipi Restaurants (very popular in Kings Circle and Matunga (C.Rly) first started his career in the Colony (had a khandavali in one of the flats). Later Kamala and Venkatesh were there for nearly 10-15 years. Barber Narsimha, tailor Udhavji (Khatapita) and Dhobi Narayan Kundapur were at our house the day and time you wanted any time of the week.

This is a Society where co-operation, cordiality, dedicated work, broad outlook, ultimate faith in our Guru Parama Pujya

Swamiji and Lord Bhavanishankar has contributed a lot to sustain 100 years successfully.

We would always remember and salute our Elders who have worked hard with dedication in all the institutions of the Colony. The SSCHS, The Saraswat Club, Saraswat Mahila Samaj, The Chitrapur Saraswat Education and Relief Society, Shri Chitrapur Math-Mumbai (Santacruz) Local Sabha, Saraswati Consumers' Society, Suburban Music Circle and The Saraswat Public Utility Service have made our life in the Saraswat Colony happy and enjoyable.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor, In the article "Caves of Forgotten Dreams: Tracing the Story of Early Art - Part 2" which appeared in the January 2020 issue of the Kanara Saraswat, on Page 27, Fig. 4 shows hand prints at a tribal/village shrine, not at a Sati temple. Fig. 5 shows ancient hand stencils in a cave in Sulawesi, Indonesia. Photo by Kinez Riza, and Fig. 6 shows amulets of the hands of Miriam and Fatima.

Gayatri Madan Dutt

We apologise for the above mentioned errors ... Editorial Committee

Dear Editor, A fantastic article on our badminton hero Prakash Padukone that took us down memory lane. Also reminded me that LIEM SWIE KING was a Indonesian.....all in all a terrific article..

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Proceedings of the 108th Foundation Day of the Kanara Saraswat Association

At the onset, Shri Sunil Ullal welcomed the audience. Smt. Kalindi Muzumdar presided over the function.

Smt. Kalindi Muzumdar-My Pranams to Lord Bhavanishankar and our Guruprampara... Today is the 108th Foundation Day of KSA. Over the past 108 years, many people have toiled for the institution. One of them who is still among us is Gokarn Gurunathmam. He has not come here today but I wish him the best of health.

I thought I will speak a little about our community today. Ours is a 100% literate community. Even my great grandmother, (P. P. Shrimad Anandashram Swamiji's mother) could read and write Kannada. Today we have given our girls complete freedom. They can choose the education, career and husband of their choice. I am also happy to observe that the percentage of divorces in our community is lower than in the general society.

Dr. Frank Conlon, a scholar from Yale University, USA, chose our community as the subject for his thesis. I once had the good fortune to listen to his interesting talk on our different qualities - good and bad. It was very interesting. Our community has contributed a lot in many spheres - the Freedom movement, the Making of the Constitution of India, films, education, sports and so on. We should not only be proud of our achievements but we should also strive to improve.

We are going to honour many people today, those who have achieved a lot through their efforts. Our youth too should work hard to achieve their goals through concentration, discipline and determination. We have our Guru and Guruparampara to bless us always. Thank you.

Konkani Lekhan Puraskar Awardees:

Smt. Lata Ullal Karnad Rao- Namaskar. At first, I thank the selection committee of KSA for selecting me to receive this award. It is a real encouragement. My family is a family of writers - my mother was Hira Karnad - a prolific writer, my brother Pramod and my sister Rekha Rao are also well known writers. I used to be a writer for my mother. When she was ill and could not write herself I would be there with her. I also used to write in our college magazine and in the annual magazine at school too. After getting married in 1974, I shifted to Chennai. Hindi was not spoken there at all in those days and I did not know any Tamil. So no friends! I started writing as a way to pass my time. I used to contribute to Marathi magazines.

Then came the children and I became so busy with family matters that writing was relegated to the background. After the children grew up I started participating on Chennai Doordarshan and Aakashvani as well as in the Saraswat Association and Maharashtra Mandal. Music was my first love. So singing, dubbing, dramas, corporate reading, voiceovers etc kept me busy.

Now as my age increases I find myself waking up at around

3.30 am and 4 am. So, with ample time on hand, I have gone back to writing. My son gifted me a laptop. So I also write on Facebook as well as for the KSA. I thank KSA for this honour.

Smt. Sheela Shirali-My pranams to the dignitaries on the stage and the audience. Konkani is our mother tongue and to take care of it is our duty. When I was in college in 1961, I got the opportunity to participate in Konkani plays on the radio. Amembal Dinkarmam (D'Amel) and Vithaldas Prabhu were working for the radio in those days. With their encouragement my love for Konkani grew. While learning dubbing, recording, voice culture I also wrote on different topics in Konkani. I worked for different Konkani programs and learnt Konkani belonging to different dialects such as Goan, Kerala, Mangalore and such. It is then that I realized the reach of our language and its richness. I love reading and writing in Konkani. Our people should participate in the Konkani programs on TV and radio. They should promote Konkani and give it its rightful place in the languages of India. Thanks to KSA for giving me this honour and I congratulate them for their continuous promotion of our language - Konkani.

Sheelapacchi then reminisced how as a young teenager she had performed a dance for the Kanara Saraswat's 50th foundation day program in the maidan of Talmakiwadi.

Shri Bharat Nadkarni on the award for the upcoming Sports person of the year Ria Balwalli Shri Nadkarni reminisced about his uncle late Shri Suresh (Bab) Nadkarni on whose name the award is being given. He said that his uncle was from a family of eight brothers and three sisters. All of them excelled in some sports or the other - cricket, table-tennis, weight-lifting, carrom etc. In the Diwali sports held at Talmakiwadi they would bag almost all the prizes. He congratulated Ria on her achievements and hoped that they would get such youngsters shining in different areas of sports year after year.

Persons felicitated

Shri Madhusudan Bhat (Posthumous) - Shri Vijay Bhat, elder son of late Shri Madhusudan Bhat accepted the felicitations on behalf of his father. Thanking the KSA for this honour, he said that KSA was his father's beloved institution and he wished his father had been alive to accept this honour.

Vijay said that since his father was being honoured for his theatrical achievements and accomplishments, he wanted to share with everyone two small incidents and anecdotes that he remembered from his childhood. Vijay said -

"First is that my Annu was someone who did not like the light to shine on himself- except when he was on stage - then he enjoyed it! But in real life, he always talked about theatre and drama as a team effort. Whenever we talked about a drama, his first comment would be 'it is a team work. No one is higher than the other. The director, the actors, the costume artists, the musicians, the sound arranger, the set

managers and the makeup artists - all have their roles to play. Everybody has to come together to make the performance a success! Annu believed that this sort of teamwork is the hallmark of amchis! His commitment to theatre was also his commitment to teamwork!

The second is that as a small boy, I was allowed to sit in some meetings where his friends from the world of dramatics would meet together. Once a month on a Sunday afternoon, Eknath Hattangadimam would come unannounced. He was welcomed! He would bring with him scripts of old plays which he and Annu would read aloud just to remind themselves of what it was like when they used to perform. They were both outstanding actors; they could project their voices so beautifully and they had so much emotion when they spoke that it was like witnessing a play being performed in baithak style in our small flat at Wadi or Bandra. So, once I asked him, 'What is it about theatre that attracts you so much?' He said something that I still remember. He said, 'I describe myself as a modest lower middle class person. But when I am on stage, I can be anyone I want - Narayanappaya from Chitrapur Vaibhav or King Nahush or any other person'. He would lose himself in those characters. For me it was very interesting. I would go to the green room after his performance when I saw him playing all those strong roles and he would pick me up and throw me in the air. By the time the costume was removed he would be back to being a modest lower middle-class Madhu.

So, I feel what we can learn from him is to value team work. Today in our society, we are in a very polarized situation. The second is that we have our own self and we have an opportunity to display our best self on "Life's Stage". I thank my dear Annu for teaching me this. I thank the KSA once again and my brother Ajit, sister Sangeeta and my late mother too. Thank you all.

Shri Gurudas Gulvady – Namaskars to Shri Anantheshwar, Lord Bhavanishankar and to our Holy Guruparampara. CSERS i.e. Chitrapur Saraswat Education and Relief Society was started in 1946 – almost 77 years ago. My contribution has been only for the last twenty years. After retirement I wanted to do something for the community. In the first three to four years my contribution was not much. At that time, Mudbidrimam was working in CSERS. In 2004, I had gone to my brother's house. There I saw a photo of Param Pujya Parijnanashram Swamiji. Below it was written –

"ज्यांनी आमच्यावर श्रद्धा ठेवली आहे धृढ विश्वास ठेवला आहे त्यांना त्यांच्या ध्येयापर्यंत पोचविण्याची जबाबदारी आमची . तुम्ही फक्त पूर्ण विश्वास ठेवा आणि कामाला लागू".

This gave me the courage to take up the work of collecting funds for CSERS. Sadashiv Kudmulmam had made a register of all donors and beneficiaries in alphabetical order. I am amazed as to how he made this in those days without the aid of computers! I started calling up people who were beneficiaries and requesting them for donations. And people responded positively in spite of the fact that we did not have any 80G certification! Earlier we used to find it difficult to increase our aid by even Rs. 50, but now by the grace of God we have got so much that we are able to give substantial

help to needy people. Even today whenever I ask people for donations, people always respond positively.

Sudhakarmam Mudbidri used to handle all the work earlier. Unfortunately I did not learn from him. After him I was at a loss as to how to handle the accounts. But Gangoli Nareshmam came forward and worked for the CSERS for five years. After him, Captain Arun Lajmi came forward. He has also done excellent work ! Another person who has helped is Jairam Khambadkone. He made a logo for us, a website for us and an email id etc. I had made a goal for myself – that the total deposits of CSERS should be one crore. This was achieved in 2008! Thanks to all old and new donors. Today our deposit stands at Rs. four crores!

Please join us by becoming our members! Our membership fee is only Rs. 1000/-. Our aim is that nobody should want help for any needs either in medical sphere or for educational needs or in old age. My thanks to Arun Padbidrimam who has given us his bus free of charge to come all the way from Santacruz to here. I thank the KSA for giving me this honour.

Smt. Parul Kumtha– I have been a member of the Chitrapur Saraswat community for the past thirty years but I am sorry I cannot speak Konkani but I can understand everything. One thing I know about it is that it is a community of doers. I feel so proud to be recognized as a doer in this community. Thanks.

Because my son was a special child and we were told to speak to him in only one language – English – and my family did just that. They proved that actions speak louder than words. They did not insist we speak in Konkani.

My journey with Special Needs started twenty-seven years ago. My son is twenty-seven today. But I have always been involved in giving a helping hand. Meenal Surkund was here at that time and so was Shobhan. Meenal is a dear friend and keeps in contact even today.

Our most recent adventure is an Entrepreneurial Venture – "Kabir's Kreations". Kabir's partners in this venture are two other friends like him. They take orders to create flower garlands and spectacle chains. It is a proper business venture. We put in some seed money and explained to them that they will have to pay back. They would get their salaries only after they had done that. And within a few months they have been able to pay themselves!

I know so many people with special needs – of different kinds – some with no upper limbs, some with Down Syndrome, some who cannot hear, who cannot speak, autism and such. Each one is dear to me and the challenges they face in their day-to-day life and the spirit with which they face them has taught me so much. I feel privileged to have known them and thank them for giving me an insight on how life should be lived. I will say today that my son has taught me more about how to lead my life than what I will be able to teach him. And so I would like to dedicate this honour that KSA has given me today to my son Kabir and to all those with special needs who have taught me the way to live.

Drs. Sandeep and Sunayna Padbidri – Dr.Sandeep started the talk by offering his Namaskaar to the audience. "You are felicitating us for practicing medicine over the past

thirty years in a small town like Honnavar. I would like to tell you in short how it all happened. After post-graduation and gaining experience commensurate with my age at that time, I thought that my wife and I should first decide our life's goals. Both of us agreed on the following –

1. We wanted to have our own practice where we could be the decision makers and implementers.
2. We wanted to practice in an area which was underserved.
3. We wanted to provide affordable medical care to the people living there.
4. We also wanted to have a reasonably good quality of life for ourselves and our family.

After our wedding when we were on our way to Shri Chitrapur Math, we saw Honnavar and were struck by its beauty. My friend Vivek Shirali was a medical representative working there and he knew that our specialty was not available there. So we thought our practice would prosper there. One day, after 7 pm, I sprang a surprise on my wife and with a friend of mine I went to Honnavar to do a survey.

Dr. Sunayna – Well, at that time I was busy with my M.D. studies and thesis and I was also seven months pregnant but I was confident that this would be good for us. So I gave him the green signal from my side.

Dr. Sandeep – At that time I was restless and wanted to have better income than what our jobs were giving us. In Honnavar, I met Shri Gurunath Chandaver, Smt. Gita Raghuvir Kalyanpur, Dr. Arun Karnad and Shri Srinivas Pai and his family. I got to know the ground situation there and some technical knowhow. I met some doctors and saw their hospitals. After doing this a couple of times, I got the confidence to start my own set-up. So in 1989 March, 'Suvidha Surgical Clinic' was started. Divgi Ramdasmam of Goa helped us by allowing us to use the 'jagli' of his old house for the clinic. We had a good turnover of patients. Of course surgical cases were a challenge as we had gone from a big established hospital to a small village. But it is possible to give good medical care to patients without adopting any of the unethical practices. After gaining a little more confidence we decided to set up our own hospital in rented premises. By that time our daughter was one year old and Sunayna too had completed her MD, DGO.

Dr. Sunayna -The very next day after I got the results of my MD exam we left for Honnavar. We had obtained the said rented premises from a German Mission. The place was run down with leaking roofs, but we got some renovation done and set up an OT, MT and started our practice. But the people were very skeptical about us. They wondered why we had come to a small place after being educated in a place like Bombay. They doubted the authenticity of our degrees. But slowly with our dedicated work and God's and Guru's grace, our practice started picking up. We won the confidence of the people.

Dr. Sandeep - We planned to buy our own premises to set up a hospital there. By then my father had retired from the bank and we requested them to come and live with us. They were not too happy about moving from Bombay. They wanted me to come to Bombay and study a super-speciality here. So respecting their wishes I came here and gave interviews in

some big hospitals like Breach Candy and Hinduja. But after a couple of days I told them that my heart was in Honnavar. In that small place, I was highly respected as a "big doctor". In Bombay, I was no one - I even had to listen to curses from the bus conductor for not having change to buy a ticket! So again I requested them to come to Honnavar and was very happy when they agreed. My father's knowledge in accounts and finance proved to be a big asset for me. We then bought a piece of land and set up a thirty-bedded hospital with all the trimmings of the state-of-art equipment as was possible for us at that time. Ultra-sonography, x-ray, endoscopic surgery – we could manage all that.

Dr. Sunayna - By that time the children also grew up. Managing home and hospital was challenging. But our house was tailor-made. Our home was on the second floor and the hospital on ground and first floors. We had a special passage from my kitchen to the labour theater and the OT block. This helped me to run down to manage emergencies at any given time. The children's education was difficult because of lack of facilities. There was only one English medium school. We had to teach them personally. But we had my parents, his parents and grandparents with us. Their presence and influence also moulded the children positively.

Dr. Sandeep –Some time later, we got the news that Shrimad Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji's Pattabhisheka was to be held in Shirali. Just before that, we got the news that Divgi Babmam had come to Honnavar with Swamiji. We, along with the children rushed to take His darshan and blessings. From that point onwards Swamiji has become a pillar of support for us at all times and things have gone off well.

Sunayna has done over 7500 deliveries including caesareans and I too have done an equal no of surgeries. Meanwhile I developed health issues. I needed a renal transplant and my sister Suman gave me a second lease of life. Durgesh Chandavarmam gave me a specially sanitized home where I could recuperate after the surgery. The doctor who operated on me has become a good friend and loves to come to Honnavar! Arun Padbidrimam and his family too helped us a great deal. On the professional front, I can manage to do about 80 % of the work I used to do before.

Both our children decided to follow our profession. My daughter got into Kasturba Medical College at Mangalore. In her final year she got engaged and is now married and practicing Internal Medicine in San Diego. Our son too went to the US and is studying in Cleveland Clinic with his wife - a girl he met there.

When we went to Honnavar things were different - there wasn't much of red tape and rules and regulations. Patients trusted doctors and we too would live up to the trust. Today's environment is different. The government too has put a lot of restrictions on small hospitals and qualifications which we have to meet to be able to function. To have that kind of equipment and required documentation, I will need better qualified personnel which will mean more expenses and consequently higher charges for the patients. Be that as it may, we are very happy that we could do what we did. We had a good time. I hope better sense prevails and the government gives us some leeway. Thank you.

Commander Prakash Upponi (Retd.) – Respected Kalindipacchi, Chairman Jairammam and other dignitaries on the stage, ladies and gentlemen, the credit for this 'Shouryachakra', the 'Nousena Medal' and other Commendations that I have got, goes basically to my parents and to a great extent to my wife who has shouldered the domestic responsibility and allowed me to focus on my career. My son is presently in the UK working as a consultant in Pediatric Cardiology.

Since childhood, I had the desire to explore the seas. I was based in Dharwad. We didn't even have a swimming pool there! So, my friends and I used to swim in wells. After my graduation I applied to the Navy and got selected. I was a Sub Lieutenant to start with. I liked the life in the navy, the discipline and the camaraderie which in turn helped me to excel in my career. I would like to use this opportunity to encourage our Amchi youths to consider the Armed Forces as preferred career option.

Today, I am sure, all of you realize that our armed forces require officers who are not only physically fit, but who are also intelligent, with the ability to learn new systems. At present the weapons used are not only guns and explosives but more and more computer-based systems which enable us to locate the enemy and remotely carry out the attack. I feel our Saraswat youths are most suitable for this. The government has increased the emoluments and the facilities are good and comparable, at par with the industry. There

are many Saraswats in the armed forces who have reached top positions. I hope to see more youngsters too. I thank the KSA for giving me this honour and assure them of my availability for any guidance.

Following the speeches, **Smt. Ashwini Prashant** gave the vote of thanks. Ashwini specially thanked Kalindipacchi and said that as both Praveen Kadlemam and Masurkar Kishoremam were not available Muzumdar Kalindipacchi had been requested at the last minute to preside over the function. Kalindipacchi gracefully accepted to preside over the function. She also noted KSA's appreciation of Mankikar Udaymam's translation of all the biodatas into Konkani and his writing of the commentary too - entirely in Konkani.

Shri Jairam Khambadkone announced that Shri Uday Mankikar has completed the translation of the Marathi drama 'Natasamraat' into Konkani. He had done this with the encouragement of Late Smt. Sadhana Kamat and Dr. Chandrashekar Shenoy. The book has published by the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi and it is the first Chitrapur Saraswat Konkani book to get this honour. Unfortunately Uday was not present on this occasion. The audience expressed its happiness at receiving this news and gave Udaymam a standing ovation.

The function ended with dinner.

<<<<>>>>



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Smt. Jayanthi Shukla
nee Shirur
(Wife of late Shri. Shukla
Anand Bhat, Retd.
Archak at Samadhi Math
Mangalore)
She was born on
7th March, 1938 at
Brahmawar.

She passed away peacefully in her sleep at her residence on **17th December 2019** at Mangalore. She was popularly called Jayanthiakka & Bhatinmaayi. She had a smiling face, was a very good cook and served food to innumerable amchis and others. She was an Abhyasi of Heartfulness Institute.

She is fondly remembered by

Shiralis - Smt. Pooja, Tejas
Smt. Vidya, Ravikiran, Gautham
Smt. Padmaja, Raghunandan

Kumbles - Smt. Lata, Radhakrishna
Smt. Shweta, Ramchandra, Ranjani
Smt. Dipal, Preetam, Suketu

And all her well wishers

Military Husbands

CONTRIBUTED BY MAJ GEN B N RAO, AVSM, VSM & BAR (RETD)

What follows are the observations of a young military wife and how she sees military husbands and the army life. So, girls preparing to marry army officers - be forewarned!

Armed forces officers are the most amazingly easy people to get along with. Should one fall in love with one and decide to marry him, here is what one could expect-

1. There would be indirect hints about getting up at 0500 hrs (it's never 5 am) and doing 5 km with 100 push ups.

2. Going to a party was a parade. 2000 hrs meant 1955 hrs. Right time, right kit (dress) and right place.

3. Your husband may be a young captain but when you enter a room, all officers would get up to wish you...and that includes General Officers too. That is the level of respect you could expect...every time.

4. If he was out of station on temporary duty or attending a course and you were alone, expect extra attention from the unit ladies. You didn't marry just him...you married into the army.

5. He would be extremely loving and understanding, but you have to understand that to him "Roger: Wilco" (Radio code for 'Message Understood. Will Co-operate') is as romantic as "Yes, honey".

6. Expect young officers to land up at your house at odd hours demanding food. It won't happen frequently, but by God it will happen. Scrambled eggs and bread are acceptable food. The youngsters would offer to help. Decline gracefully. These guys are like good natured rhinos in a bone china shop.

7. If you were sitting alone in a party (your husband is cracking jokes with his friends which NO ONE outside the *fauji* circle understands), expect a young officer to ask you for a dance. It's tradition and speaks of good breeding.

8. When he meets your school and college friends, he would be very polite with the ladies. He will open doors and pull chairs. Chivalry is in his DNA. Not to be mistaken for flirting. That's just the way he has been trained. They call it military upbringing.

9. He would not be walking on your left hand side. He is on your right in the 3 o'clock position so he can easily return the men's salutes. The building is not in front...it's in the 12 o'clock direction!

10. He would eat rice with a fork, unless it's a sit down dinner. If it's *rotis* he would be eating, he would use the fork to push the *dal* or veggie to the *roti*. That's just how all officers eat.

11. He would eat at a *dhaba* if you so desire, but will maintain *fauji* table manners. He would "open" and "close" his plate. If he used a toothpick, he will cover his mouth with the other hand.

12. He would drink but never get drunk. His manners would always be impeccable.

13. Guderian, Rommel and Clausewitz, though much talked about, are not his course-mates.

14. If he is with his course-mates, don't expect him to behave his age. They are the only competition you have in

terms of attention.

15. He does not want to know what happened at the Ladies Club.

16. He would respect you for being strong. And he would be happy for you to take centre stage, with him cheering you from the sidelines....goofy grin and all.

17. Though it depends on the ethnicity of the troops that he commands, don't be surprised if you are called "Sir" sometimes. No disrespect is meant.

18. He is probably the most secure man you have ever seen. He will have very little self doubt. All the ribbons that he wears on his chest are the reason.

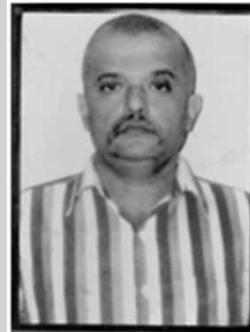
19. He can curse like a trooper but he would avoid using foul language in the presence of ladies. This is not to say that his "grammar" is not up to the mark.

20. While he would have enough for you to be very comfortable, he is never going to be a millionaire. But if you count your wealth in an extended family of a million warriors, tons of love, respect and loyalty...well ma'am you have married a guy richer than Bill Gates.

And finally, if he is alone in uniform in a room and looking happy, rest assured it's just him admiring his parachute wings, Commando insignia or decorations in the mirror.

17th Death Anniversary

6th February 2020



Mr Nandan Soumitra Trasikar

(27th August 1951 to 6th February 2004)

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

Fondly remembered by

Son: Nachiket, Daughter-in-law: Seema

Daughter: Manasi, Son-in-law: Ajit

Grandson: Shaurya

Horse Gram (Kuleeth) Cultivation

TANUJA NADKARNI

After our rice harvest, we had been trying out various leguminous crops for increasing the nitrogen fixation ability of our crops. For the benefit of those who faintly remember the high school Biology lesson – leguminous plants are nature's wonder workers, in that, they absorb the nitrogen from the air and convert it into nitrogenous compounds which help the plants grow better and when these plants die, they mix with the soil, release the fixed nitrogen and fertilise the very soil in which they grew. Beans and peas are examples of legumes. These provide food for us and their stalks and leaves provide fodder for our bovine family. Amazing, right?

So, last year we planted three different legumes in three sections of our land. Each section measures about 1/8th of an acre. The cultivation manuals presume that you are a Big Time Farmer and provide the seed rate per hectare – so after some head-scratching and calculation, a seed rate of 2 kg for each section of the land was decided upon. We bought *Moong* (green gram), *Udid* (black gram) and horse gram (it is reddish brown, just in case you think I am choosing based on colours!) All three are legumes and promise to do the nitrogen fixation equally well.

To broadcast or not? Well, in today's age of Twitter and podcasting – is broadcasting still used? You bet! We need to announce to the soil – look here come the seeds for you to nurture...and they in turn will nurture and enrich you. So after the tractor did its job of tilling the soil, we walked around the field 'broadcasting' the seeds. Small portions of seeds are flung evenly over the tilled land and then the seeds are covered by a final run of the tractor. And we were all set!

Now for the irrigation... unlike the rice plants which are completely rain fed, we would have to run the pump in order to irrigate the fields now. Vivek had designed a grid of removable pipelines with sprinklers. We worked late into the evening fixing the pipes and the sprinkler heads. It was a pleasure to see the warm earth soaking up the water that fell on it in a gentle misty spray from the sprinklers.

Soon enough, the sprouts were visible. And guess who invited themselves for a nutritious breakfast of sprouts? Well the health-conscious *langurs* would sit around the field each day at dawn and pull out the sprouts, shake the soil off it and munch them with enjoyment. Despite all their feasting, the fields looked like a green carpet (sparse though). The langurs stopped coming when the plants grew beyond the two-leaf stage. Soon the flowers started appearing and turning into interesting looking pods – sickle shaped ones that belonged to the horsegram and rod-like bunches of black and green gram. Just when the pods started looking full, the peacocks started making their rounds. They feasted on the tender green pods sometimes leaving the pod shell intact but empty. In all this, we scarcely noticed that the monkeys and peacocks were partial only to the green gram and black gram. The *kuleeth* in comparison to the other plants had been looking quite scraggly but surprisingly the pods were intact!

Soon the green fields started turning yellow and drying

up. This signalled the time for harvest. The green gram and black gram yields were not worth mentioning at all, but the horsegram yielded quite a good harvest.

So this year we decided to grow horse gram in the entire paddy area. Shortly after the rice harvest, we got the tractor to till the land. We used the broadcasting method on all four sections of the fields. The irrigation pipes were laid down again. The irrigation needed daily monitoring. The far corners of the fields would remain dry when strong breeze carried the fine mist of water away and we had to manually water those sections. Very often the sprinkler heads would stop functioning and on taking it apart we would find small stones or sometimes a dead fish that had somehow got past the filter. We also had to interchange the positions of the sprinkler heads depending on the throw of water from each one. Sometimes we had to coax an unwilling frog out of the 'capital' which is the holder into which the sprinkler head fits. All in all, it proved a busy time for us. And soon it was time for harvest again! The damage caused by the wildlife was surprisingly less than that caused to the rice harvest.

The horsegram is harvested by pulling up the entire plant which comes up quite easily. The plants are piled up across the field to allow them to dry out and then carried to the threshing area. Our front yard was all cleaned up and the harvest was spread out. The traditional method of threshing is by beating with a flat wooden stick – a method that had worked fine the previous year when we had a very small crop of horsegram. But this year, looking at the humongous pile, I wasn't sure that was a good idea. No one around us had any better idea – and I found the answer in some online farming videos where the horsegram is threshed by running a tractor over it! Now our front yard is too small for a tractor to come in, but our little Alto could do the job just as well! So here is what we did

First gear – forward, turn
Reverse gear – backward, turn
First gear – forward, turn
Reverse gear – backward, turn
First gear – forward, turn
Reverse gear – backward, turn
and on and on in the little yard...

Then stop the car, get out and turn over the horsegram, shake it a bit and loosen the clumped up bunches. Repeat!

The grains would fall to the ground while the stalks and empty pods could be bunched up and kept aside. Not all the pods would break loose, so a second and third threshing on consecutive days was needed. The car was covered in a thick layer of dust by the time we were done. Then the actual winnowing, 'separating the grain from the chaff' and the final cleaning were done!

And finally we had our lovely harvest of horsegram ready!

Our meals were pepped up with stir-fried horsegram sprouts, soup and of course the traditional *saar-upkari*! Come and join us for a delicious but simple meal of home-grown rice and kultha-saar!

<<<<>>>>

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Parisevanam Atmabodh

Here is the concluding instalment of our erudite contributor Dr. Sudha Tinaikar's demystification of Adi Shankaracharya's compact spiritual text. We would love to read your responses to this illuminating series...

Vedanta is very clear and asserts whenever possible that whatever is, is only *Brahman*. Indivisible and without a second is the consciousness we describe as - *Brahma/Atma*, in which all that is seen as the jagat is a mere appearance. The entire Universe of plurality द्वैतम् is only an appearance in the Atman just like a dream, a magic show or even a mirage. *Brahman* is the warp and woof of the entire manifest Universe. The last five concluding verses of *Atmabodh* talk about this central teaching of *Vedanta*;

ब्रह्म सत्यम् जगन्मिथ्या and सर्वं खल्विदं ब्रह्म .

दृश्यते श्रूयते यदयदब्रह्मणोऽन्यन्न किञ्चन

तत्त्वज्ञानाच्च तद्ब्रह्म सच्चिदानन्दमदवयम् ॥६४॥

Whatever is experienced in the Universe around us by any of our sense organs is nothing but *Brahman*; why? Because *Brahman* is the very consciousness in which every experience arises, exists and is resolved. The name and form called *jagat* is not different from its *adhishtanam* -consciousness. What is that *Brahman*? It is the existence behind every name and form. It is the consciousness backing every sentient being. It is the very unbroken infinity itself, in which the entire objective world arises. An example of water and wave can be used here. A wave cannot be separated from water. Yet, it is a mere appearance in water and the content of every wave is that very water. Similarly, *Brahman* is the very content of whatever is experienced being the very content of every name and form.

सर्वगं सच्चिदात्मानं ज्ञानचक्षुर्निरीक्षते

अज्ञानचक्षुर्नक्षेत भास्वन्तं भानुमन्धवत् ॥६५॥

The all-pervading consciousness *Brahman* is recognized by a person who has understood the nature of *Brahman* to be *sat-chit-ânanda*. In spite of the plurality of the names and forms filling the Universe, the focus of such a person is on the content - the *adhishtânam* rather than the appearance. Imagine when one looks at a gold ornament, the focus is on the gold in spite of its attractive form. This change of focus from the superficial name and form to the content is the transformation that has happened in a jnani. A person whose focus is only on the name and form is like a blind man facing a blazing Sun. *Vedanta* says that we are all blind in reality, because we miss the obvious and take an appearance to be the truth.

श्रवणादिभिर्गुद्वीप्तज्ञानाग्निपरितापितः

जीवस्सर्वमलान्मुक्तः स्वर्णवदध्योतते स्वयम् ॥६६॥

The *ajnânijîva* who has gone through the *jnânayoga* श्रवण मनन निदिध्यासन is blessed with the knowledge of the nature of that which is the only reality of the entire manifest Universe. This knowledge when clearly assimilated, transforms a person from an *ajnâni* to a *jnâni* by removing

all the blemishes of ignorance. Such a person shines with abidance in his/her *Atmaswarûpa* just like gold when put under fire loses all its impurities and shines in its pristine glory.

हृदाकाशोदितो ह्यात्मा बोधभानुस्तमोऽपहृत्

सर्वव्यापी सर्वधारी भाति भासयतेऽखिलम् ॥६७॥

Brahman is the support of everything. This support is the only reality and what is supported is mere appearance. This is reiterated again in the penultimate verse. This *Âtmâ/Brahman* which shines as the consciousness in the *buddhi* of every *jîva* removes all the darkness of ignorance. The one who is cleansed of this ignorance is able to see that "He"- the *Âtmâ*- is the all-pervading support of whatever is seen. It reveals itself and reveals everything else. Just as the sand supports the appearance of a mirage, a rope supports the appearance of a snake and a seashell supports an appearance of silver, it is "Me" the *Âtmachaitanyam* which is the support of this entire Universe. *Kaivalya Upanishad* has a beautiful verse in this regard-

मय्येव सकलम् जातं मयि सर्वम् प्रतिष्ठितम् मयि सर्वं लयं याति तद् ब्रह्मादवयमस्यहम्

Now the last verse which wraps up this beautiful work of *Acharya* -

दिग्देशकालाद्यनपेक्ष्य सर्वगम्

शीतदिहृन्नित्यसुखं निरञ्जनम्

यः स्वात्मतीर्थं भजते विनिश्चक्रयः

स सर्ववित्सर्वगतोऽमृतो भवेत्

Now *Âcharya* Shankara concludes *Atmabodh* by comparing the *Atma* with a holy confluence of rivers. Such a *tîrthasthâna* is considered to wash away the accumulated karmaphala of a person who has *shraddhâ* in it. But what can be more sacred than abiding in one's own nature? *Atma* is the greatest purifier because as consciousness, I am the ever- blemishless and pure One नित्य शुद्ध बुद्ध मुक्त आत्मा अहम् अस्मि. This knowledge is the final purifier which completely removes the sense of limitation and *samsâra* that a *jîva* experiences. Now I am not limited by the space, time, directions and polar opposites that I experience as a limited and bound *jîva*. I am in fact the all-pervading *Âtman* in whom there is no doer-ship or enjoyer-ship. I am in fact the immortal, imperishable, omnipotent, all- knowing consciousness!

OM TAT SAT

I bow down to all the Gurus of our Guruparampara with whose Blessings I could complete the commentary on this work of Acharya Shankara Bhagavadpada.

Shaila Krishna Kulkarni (nee Balwally)

(26th September, 1946 – 30th November, 2019)

My Lost Star

A Star ascended,
To its peaceful abode,
A star who we all knew once,
And who'll never be forgotten.

Draped in blue on her farewell day,
Born in Bankikodla, in '46,
Hardships on the first step of life,
Made her today, the Tigress we know.

Second out of the Seven,
Grew into a tree which embedded the six,
Hard work must be the first of her words,
Which made her fruits enrichable for us.

She held the other six hands,
But three went too soon,
Did not sulk, but took it as a lesson,
Which made her the Tigress we know.

Married at 24, in '70,
Entered the house with a dream,
A dream of a long life as a couple,
To grow old, and to live young.

But destiny made her detour,
And my Aaju's road ended.
The car stopped, halted to shed a few,
But moved on at higher speed to reach food.

Heart as silk and a chest like steel,
And dignity reaching the sky,
Earned the bread and,
A life unregretful for her daughters.

Kick started her daughters' car,
And let them into the wilderness,
In the wild where they'd hunt,
And earn some food.



The clouds in the sky flew fast,
With the entry of Didi and me into the car,
The petrol costs rose.
She stood by our side like unbreakable pillar

So much devoted in the work she did
That the Goddess was jealous,
Once and for all She wanted Ammamma's help,
And took her to Her heavenly abode.

She imprinted her happiness into our hearts,
It hurts to see her leave,
But as Ammamma told,
"People come in our life to cheer us up, and go.....
but, life must move on."

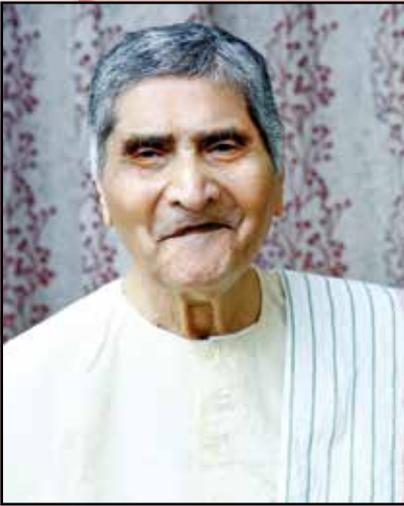
— Siddhant Kilpady

Truly missed by

Aparna and Anita (Daughters), Prashant (Son-in-law), Sakshi and Siddhant (Grandchildren)
and Kulkarnis, Balwallys, Mavinkurves, Kallianpurs and Kilpadys.

Anna – In our memories forever

Mohan Shankar Mavinkurve (22.03.1924 to 24.12.2019)



My father, "Anna" as we called him was a calm and composed person all through his life. Life brings many ups and downs, but he took it all in his stride without being unduly disturbed when storms came. Nor did he get too elated when good times came his way. A rare trait that one can learn from my father, Shri. Mohan Shankar Mavinkurve. Born on 22nd March 1924 to Shankar Mangesh Mavinkurve and Shanta (nee Shanta Venkatraman Nadkarni), he lost his mother early in life. He was fortunate to be provided with accommodation in Talmaki Wadi by his maternal uncle, Shri. Mangesh Nadkarni and Mukta-mami, who brought him up like their own son. He completed his schooling in Robert Money School as most children in T'Wadi did in those days.

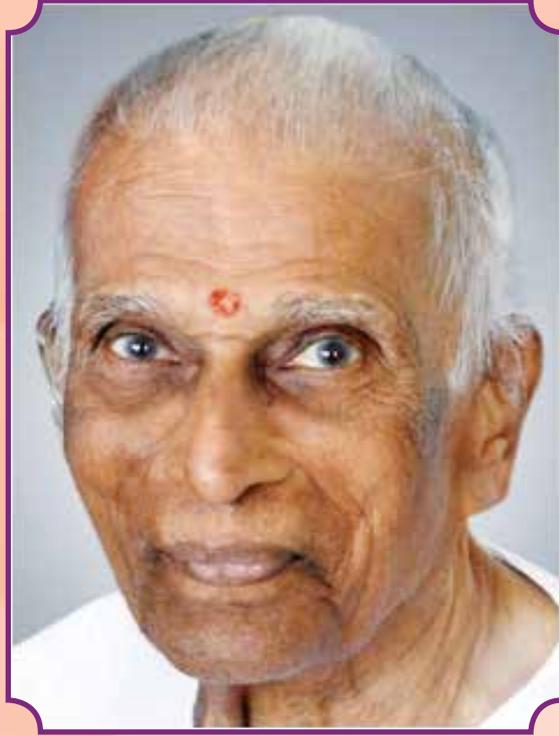
He took up a job in Western Railway and served in their Accounts section on the 7th floor of the Churchgate Station Headquarters until his retirement. Although a man of few words, he would always lend a keen ear to all those who would love to have a word with him. He would keep abreast of all developments and bring to our notice changes that us mortals need to cope with. "Haven't you read this article?" he would ask me. For, in the hustle and bustle of office work activities, maybe I may have hurriedly turned the pages of the newspaper. And most times, that helped!

Reading was a good habit he had cultivated that helped him spend his retired life in his own quiet way as he always preferred – newspapers; then some Marathi magazines and books; books written about our community – those were his top 3 categories he loved to read. At the age of 90, he even took to trying out Sudoku puzzles! Keeping his mind engaged in a fun, learning way for a typically indoors person. He always tried out hobbies and cultivated interests even after he crossed his 80s. He used to collect contemporary commemorative coins that the Indian Government minted from time to time. He showed it to us only when he had a sizeable collection. He was greatly impressed when an inspiring and spirited fellow community member invited him to his house and showed him coins of the Mughal era! "Oh, I am just collecting new commemorative coins" he explained to him humbly.

He also used to meticulously note down names of all our relatives and their children and grandchildren, their date of birth, wedding dates and family events in his own private notebooks. Later, he would open them and remind us of their birthdays and anniversaries! Although blessed with a good memory, noting down and refreshing one's memory from time to time was a habit he cultivated to deal with ageing.

He also served our community as much as he benefitted from the institutions that helped shape him in early life. He took part as a volunteer in the Census organized by Kanara Saraswat Association in its Diamond Jubilee year 1971 - a fact that I discovered when I stumbled upon a certificate he so carefully preserved in our cupboard. He would gladly offer to serve the Santacruz Sabha to collect *Vantiga* for our revered Math in his younger days, besides helping our Housing Society with the accounts - while serving as the Treasurer or even when he was not in the committee. I remember him doing all this diligently, which greatly pleased all members. But he would neversay that he did this.. or did that..

Being independent most of his life, he may not have liked experiencing disabilities in the last 3 months of his life, when he required assistance. But then, life has its own ways – he endured it all without a murmur, as he always did. Another gem of an old-world charm left for his heavenly abode – but **Anna** will live forever in our memories.– Gopinath, Amita, Supriya and Shobhit



Col. Mallapur Chandrakanth Rao

20th September 1931- 17th December 2019

Thank you for always believing in me and always being there for me.
I've been lucky to have had such a cool, supportive and brave grandpa.
No one has ever loved me and done so much for me like you have.

I've had all my best memories with you.

Thank you for being the world's best grandfather.

You're being remembered for the brave, loving and kind man
that you've always been.

Love you and miss you always Aju.

-Devyani Rao

Jyoti, Ravi/ Sangita, Prakash / Deepa, Uday
Susmita, Rajiv/ Marta, Tarun / Indira, Abhay
Divya, Vaishnavi, Devyani
Shan, Rania, Gabrielle, Sofia

SADANAND VISHWESHWAR NADKARNI

(Husband of Late Smt. Krishna Nadkarni)

(24th April 1922 – 17th October 2019)



Departed peacefully after a brief illness in Massachusetts, USA

Deeply mourned by:

Children:

Suvarna – Ashok Hattangadi
Sumangala – Vijay Masurkar
Chaitanya – Anuradha Nadkarni

Grandchildren:

Neil – Suzanne Hattangadi
Jona – Todd Hattangadi Gluth
Arjun – Reya Masurkar
Amrita Masurkar
Nina Nadkarni
Nisha Nadkarni

Great-grandchildren:

Tejas Hattangadi-Gluth
Diya Hattangadi-Gluth
Kailas Hattangadi
Laxmi Hattangadi
Krish Masurkar

Nadkarnis, Dhareshwars, Hattangadis, Masurkars, Gulvadis, Friends

A Tribute to Sadanand V. Nadkarni

(April 24, 1922 – October 17, 2019)

The Old Oak Tree – Chaitanya Sadanand Nadkarni

During his sunset years spent with us, Dada, as he was affectionately called by his children, loved to sit by the window in our dining room and gaze at the majestic oak tree that presides over our cul-de-sac. It obviously has predated our neighborhood by several decades, perhaps more, judging by its massive girth and height. It has lost an occasional limb or two over the years but its resilience and strength of character remain intact. It provides a haven for nesting birds during early spring and summer, harbors the occasional raven or hawk on its topmost branches, and feeds an abundance of acorns to darting chipmunks and squirrels in the fall. In the dead of winter, bereft of leaves, it stands proud, as if to defy the freezing rain and gusty winds. I use this tree as a metaphor to describe our Dada's strength of character, his resilience in the face of many adversities and love for family. He had an accomplished professional life, yet modesty was his hallmark. I could expound on my feelings for him, but the right words fail me. Thank you, Dada, for all that you and Ayi did for us. Your wit and wisdom will continue to guide us, despite your heartfelt absence. I miss you very much.

'As his oldest grandchild, I had the privilege of seeing my Ajju from his youthful days in his mid-50s (doing handstands!) to his graceful aging to nearly 100. I became very close to him as a young boy, when I spent summers with my grandparents. He symbolized to me what has been called the "greatest generation" – he needed so little but accomplished so much. He was a true Renaissance man, with interests and achievements spanning chemistry and engineering, literature and poetry, body building, and spiritual philosophy. While he had an esteemed career in welding science, he wrote brilliantly witty articles for The Times of India and other major publications that over 50 years later still retained their humor (my favorite – "You got Lal out!"). At the same time, he was a devoted family man to his wife, children and grandchildren – quick to smile and appreciate the small moments with all of us. In his speech at my wedding, he explained how my wife and I were like two glaciers in the Himalayas – initially in separate places, melting and flowing in different journeys, but destined to come together in the Ganges. This was a beautiful story only Ajju could so effortlessly craft. Even in his final weeks, as his mind was slowly leaving us, he maintained the discipline and passion for his meditation and spiritual practice. Thank you Ajju – your greatest gift to me was modeling how to live a life well lived, and we honor you by trying to follow your example.' – **Neil Hattangadi**

'Our Ajju was a generous and brilliant man, a philosopher, a lover of nature, spirituality, and books, and a kind and loving soul who adored his family. He had deep appreciation for written words, devouring books that would take me months to read, in just a few days. And he held a mastery of words himself, his handwriting so beautiful and perfect even as he aged. I have saved and treasured his letters to me, filled with stories and life lessons and sweet words of love.

Through medical school and residency, I was extraordinarily blessed to be able to see Ajju often. He attended my wedding to Todd where he blew everyone away with his dancing at the baraat; Ajju really knew how to have fun! He was there when both our children were born. The priceless memories of seeing my sweet and loving Ajju read to Tejas and Diya, and play balloons with them, with a childlike twinkle in his eyes and smile on his face—this keeps joy in our hearts despite the sadness of losing him.

In Ajju's journal of his favorite quotes, this one from Nathaniel Hawthorne so epitomizes him: 'Happiness is a butterfly, which when pursued, is always beyond our grasp, but which, if you sit down quietly, may alight upon you.'

We will miss you dearly Ajju, you lived a life filled with grace, love, and true happiness. I love you forever, Jona' – **Jona Hattangadi-Gluth**

In memory - The Masurkar Family: 'Dada/Ajju/Panju possessed a philosophical soul, with the uncanny ability to provide us with a poignant meditation on life with just a few choice words. It is quite fitting that we live near Walden Pond, eternally linked to two of his favorite philosophers - Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. One of our favorite memories with him was a pilgrimage there, where his inner self must have felt so at home. We imagine that at some point he must have contemplated the following quotes from them, as he certainly exemplified their essence in living his life: "Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year" by Emerson and "You must live in the present, launch yourself on every wave, find your eternity in each moment" by Thoreau.' – **Arjun and Amrita Masurkar**

'Like the meaning of his first name, Sadanand, my Ajju was an ever-joyous man. He lived 97.5 years and accomplished everything one could hope to accomplish. He was many things: a world traveler, renowned engineer, author of books and articles, wise, nature lover, adventurous, spiritual, generous, respectful, husband, father, brother, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He adored my Krishna Amma. He meant the world to me and Nisha, the youngest of his grandchildren; we have been so fortunate to spend 13 years living with him, reveling in all things great and small that we have experienced or observed with him. I feel so honored that he was able to bless Andrew and me at our engagement ceremony this past March. These past few days without him have taken me through many waves of emotion, the hardest thing being the heavy emptiness our house feels now without his physical presence. But then I remember that WE are his legacy and we must keep on living life to the fullest to honor him. He lives within us. Thank you Ajju for everything; I love you forever.' – **Nina Nadkarni**

'My sweet "saan" Ajju passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family. I love him so much and will always feel his presence everywhere I go. He lived at home with me and my family for 13 years and took on a role somewhere between a parent and grandparent for me and Nina in that time. His animated stories of his earlier life, his humility, his dedication to spirituality, and his unwavering joy for walking and observing the little marvels in nature are forever instilled in me. In his 97 years, he's accomplished everything a human could ask for in a lifetime. I will miss him saying "I want to give you a kiss!" every time I greeted him or left for school. But now he is continuing his journey elsewhere and he has left so much love and warmth for us to hold onto. I love you Ajju.' – **Nisha Nadkarni**

A Tribute to my Beloved Boss – T. R. Bhanumoorthy (Advani Oerlikon Electrodes)

Dadaji was a great soul and I had the unique opportunity of working directly under him for seventeen long years. His name will remain synonymous with "METAL ARC WELDING". He played a major role in spreading the concept, knowledge and application of metal arc welding in India, which was new to our country in the 1950s. Of his various career achievements, the most outstanding, in my opinion, was the bringing out of his "WELDING HANDBOOK" - the reflection of a monumental work - which he gifted to the Indian Welding Industry and which will remain an authentic reference book for a long time to come. He was a master of welding applications and recommended consumables, mainly electrodes, set procedures and guided in actual welding at innumerable projects. I believe the production of steel and steel-based projects saw enormous growth in India during the tenure of his association with ADOR WELDING LTD. (formerly known as J.B. ADVANI-OERLIKON ELECTRODES PRIVATE LTD.) from its inception in 1952, until his retirement. He also travelled to the South American countries as Member-Secretary of the National Productivity Council of the Government of India to propagate and develop the art and science of welding there.

May Sadanand Vishweshwar Nadkarni's soul attain peace, be blessed and be given its rightful place in Heaven.

INVITATION

**Guruprasad Education Society, Parijnan Past Students Association
and Guruprasad High School, Mallapur cordially invite you for the
GOLDEN JUBILEE OF GURUPRASAD HIGH SCHOOL
to be held on Saturday, the 15th, and Sunday, the 16th of February, 2020.
H.H. Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji, Chitrapur Math, Shirali
has kindly consented to grace the occasion.**

PROGRAMME

15th February, Saturday

- 10 am:** Receiving Swamiji at the main gate of Guruprasad High School-Inviting Him in a procession to the school.
Inauguration of "Parijnanashram Sabhagriha" by H.H. Swamiji by cutting the ribbon. Inauguration of Science and Rangoli Exhibitions.
- 10.30 am :** Dharmasabha - Sabha Prarambha Prarthana
Paduka Poojan by Shri Praveen Kadle, President, Standing Committee Shri Chitrapur Math, Shri Narayan Mallapur, President, G.E.Society, Mallapur, Shri M.K.Hegde, President, Parijnan Past Students Assocn.
- 11 am :** Prarthana and Welcome song by students of Guruprasad High School, Mallapur.
Welcome Speech and Introduction about H.H. Swamiji and Guest Speakers.
Report Reading - about the developments during the Golden Jubilee period.
Inauguration of the Function by lighting the lamp by H.H. Swamiji and other guests.
Release of the 'Suvarna Sourabha' Souvenir by H.H. Swamiji.
Speech by the Editor of the souvenir "Suvarna Sourabha".
- 12.pm :** Speech by Chief Guests - District Minister, Shri Dinkar Shetty- M.L.A. of Kumta-Honavar, Shri. Praveen Kadle - President, Srivalli Trust, D.D.P.I, Karwar, Uttara Kannada.
Shri Narayan Mallapur, President, G.E.Society, Mallapur
Vote of Thanks.

1.30 pm : **Ashirvachan by H.H.Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji.**

Evening Programme

- 3.30 pm :** Honoring Achievers among our Past students at the divine hands of H.H. Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji, Shri Chitrapur Math.
List of Honorables - Ex. and present Office bearers of Managing Committee.
Ex. and present staff members of Guruprasad High School. Members of Mumbai Committee
Architects - Mayya and his Team. Donors - Divgi T.T.S.
Professionals - Dr. M.K. Naik, Ramachandra G. Hegde, M.H. Naik, D.S. Naik, V.S. Bhat, Dr. Roopali S. Mankikar, M.G. Bhat, M.T. Kukkalli, H.R. Naik. Ravishankar S. Bhat, Dhananjay Naik, Suresh Hegde, Sanjay Patgar
Literary - Krishnanand I Bhat, Prema TMR, Ganesh Bhat, Soumya Bhagwat, Shridhar V. Naik, Pratibha Bhat, Ganesh Bhat
Sports - Sunanda Naik, Reshma Naik, Manjunath Gouda, Selvin Gonsalves
Art - M.D. Naik, Govind Naik, Ganapati Adigundi, Mahendra Naik, Rajendra Gunaga
Scientific Novelties - Ravishankar Bhat, Dhananjay Naik, Rajendra Deshbhandari
Musicians - Gourish Yaji, Ramesh Bhat, Ganesh Bhat, Shashikala Bhat, Satish Bhat

The LOST KEYNES!

SAMVITA HARIDAS

We heard of him right? Somewhere in the books with a title called "MACRO ECONOMICS" and the sub titles say "KEYNESIAN's law" or "KEYNESIAN's theories". We obviously read, whatever his theories spoke, but never really understood what those theories meant in real life. They were unrestricted to book theories but restricted to practical sense.

The great and respected "KEYNES" had outdone himself in the field of economics. Due to his immense contribution to the subject and the field, massive economic problems are solved. During the "Great Depression", Keynes gave a new level of hope to the economies, which today, are in good standing. So why not now follow Keynes? It's been months, I am hearing about the recession in India. We can't totally deny the fact that our country is facing recession. But at the same time we have also mistaken "recession".

Recession specifically means "general decline in economic activity", which further, if brought into practical thinking, would mean "empty stores", "empty malls", "empty markets" etc. But we do see people spending and fulfilling their demands. You see crowded streets with people enjoying their day-to-day spending. Oh, and when we talk about brand-conscious people, spending extensively in branded stores, their number will never fall to "zero". Even when the country is into recession, people who are brand conscious will surely buy their products. Can we still call this "recession"?

A part of Indian economy is surely facing recession and the other part is not! Indian economy is undoubtedly divided as "rich", "upper middle class", "lower middle class" and "poor". Well, to me the reality is that the effect of recession is only felt by "the lower middle class". The rich are not affected by recession. The upper-middle class people as well do not feel the heat of recession. And the poor is never known to be hit by recession. Lower-middle class people include salaried people, whose "earnings=spending". When there are price hikes in the country, the most affected are the lower-middle class strata. When there are sudden shock-hikes, it becomes difficult for them to feed themselves or buy any goods, which then, leads to a decline in spending (demand). They try to save money as they can't spend their money on buying price-hiked goods. Further, there is a decline in the velocity of currency which directly affects the circulation of money in the economy – here, it connects you to recession.

(For Instance: If I, person "A", earns Rs.500, I will spend my money in buying goods. This then becomes somebody's income. Further, that money will be spent by person "B" in buying goods, and the cycle goes on. Simply put, 'Somebody's expenditure= somebody's income'.) But if I, person "A", who earns Rs. 500 keeps that money with myself, will there be circulation of money? Will the economy grow? No; right?

All the above reasons are acceptable. Then what should the economy do during such a phase? Here is where the Keynesian's law comes into force. Keynes laid down his theory during the Great Depression that "when the country is facing recession, the government should use active

stabilisation and economic intervention policies and try to spend more on capital expenditure and should decrease tax burden on people in the economy". What will this do? If the tax burden is decreased, people will start spending on goods as the price of the goods gets cheaper due to exclusion of tax. Once people start spending on goods this will increase the velocity of currency in the economy and there will be generation of money back in the economy. Tax reduction will leave people with more money to spend which in turn will boost the aggregate demand of the economy. When demand is generated, the supply side will also start generating the supply of goods, which will lead to employment slowly and gradually.

As suggested by the famous economist Subramanian Swamy, "Indian government should abolish personal income tax, this will leave people with money in their hands."

Government has to undertake following measures to tackle recession:

- ◆ Increase capital spending
- ◆ Decrease tax or abolish personal income tax
- ◆ Decrease NPAs of banks
- ◆ Increase exports more than imports (Net Exports>Net Imports)
- ◆ Spend more on suitable infrastructure for agriculture and increase employment in agriculture
- ◆ To bring about a change in the education system, to make the youth competent in the current world and to decrease unemployment
- ◆ Increase manufacturing industries and promote Indian and foreign investors to manufacture in India
- ◆ Boost small scale units to collaborate and turn into ventures and other measures like-wise...

A huge respect to the economist "John Maynard Keynes", whose theories are still proving many economies right!

An "Economic Conclave" on December 16th and 17th, 2019 was organised in order to promote foreign investors for manufacturing in India. Bankers, Economists, Policy makers and Global speakers had convened to bring India's stranded economy on track. Our hopes are up! All the best to the Indian Government, the Reserve Bank of India and the "Citizens", who are on their journey to make India a \$5 trillion Economy!

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फिरून एकदा महाभारत घडले !

विद्या कागल

मानाचा मुजरा

आला जीवन ऐसे नाव.

आठवणी आपल्या मनांत एकदा का मान वर करून समोर नाचायला लागल्या कि त्यांचा मनमोहक रास गरबा पाहण्यात आपण रंगून जातो. त्यातून हल्ली दिनेशची आठवण आली, की दुःखाऐवजी बरेच वेळेला त्यांची ५२ वर्षांची तरी साथ मिळाली, त्याच समाधान मिळत. आता मला सांगा, आपल माणूस कुणाला नकोसा वाटतो का? त्यातून दिनेशसारखा भोळा सांब, सत्यवचनी, अल्प संतोषी आणि गरिब पेशंटांकरता सर्वस्व पणाला लावणारा, असा साथीदार मला मिळाला, हे मी माझ भाग्यच समजते....

पण आज चार वर्षांच्या विरहानंतर, मला नक्कीच वाटतय कि ह्या 'पांडु पुत्राची' दुसरी बाजू सांगायलाच हवी, अस मला वाटतय,.... ज्याने माझ आयुष्यच बदलून टाकलं!

हं! तुम्ही म्हणाल कि दिनेश हा, 'पांडु पुत्र' कसा काय? अहो, उत्तर सोपं आहे. माझ्या सासऱ्यांच नांव होत पांडुरंग! आणि दिनेश हे त्यांचे ज्येष्ठ पुत्र! आता त्या जमान्यात त्यांच्या आई वडिलांनी प्रेमाने, पांडुरंगाच 'पांडू' करून टाकलं होतं! त्यामुळेच दिनेश 'पांडु पुत्र' बरं का! म्हणूनच मी आमच्या कागल परिवारांत परतून एकदा महाभारत घडलं! अस म्हणते.

लग्न होऊन मी सासरी आले, तर काय सांगू! पहिल्या दिवसापासूनच मीरापाचींनी प्रेमाची शाल आपण स्वतःहून मला घातली. माझ्या इन मीन तीन घरांतून, सदा लोकांनी गजबजलेल्या घरांतील आज मी थोरली सून झाले.

आणि दीड वर्षांतच दिनेश बरोबर Seaham, England ला आले. आणि द्रोपदी-युधिष्ठिरांचा वनवास सुरू झाला. पण हा वनवास आधुनिक होता. आता आधुनिक महाभारतात मात्र ह्या युधीष्टीराला एकपत्नी पदाचा लाभ झाला. आणि मी पट्टराणी झाले. मी त्या श्रीकृष्णाचे लगेच आभार मानले. परंतु संसार म्हणजे 'कुरुक्षेत्र' हे आलेच ना! आता मी आमच्या कुरुक्षेत्रामधल्या घडलेल्या युद्धातील जय आणि पराजयांतील काही अनुभव सांगते बर का!

इंग्लंडमधील पहिल्या पांच वर्षांत दोनदा पाळणे हलले, आणि आमचे 'कौंत्येय' त्यांच्या व्यवसायांतील उच्च्य पदव्या धारण करून, आपल्या मातृभूमीला परतीचा विचार करत होते. त्याच अवधीत, त्यांचा जीवश्च कंठश्च मित्र आणि सल्लागार 'संजय' ऊर्फ अरूण हेबळे यांचे आगमन दूरध्वनीद्वारा झाले आणि मातृभूमीस जाण्या अगोदर एकदा तरी या भूतलावरील 'स्वर्गास' भेट देवून जाण्यास आवाहन केले. आणि

कर्मधर्म संयोगाने आम्ही चौघेही अमेरिका ह्या ठिकाणी आलो. बरं आलो ते आलोच परंतु, भटाला दिली ओसरी, आणि भट हात पाय पसरी, ह्या म्हणी प्रमाणेच आम्ही आमची पाळंमुळं इथेच रुतवली.

इथेच युधिष्ठिरांच्या व्यक्तीमत्वाच्या एकेका पैलूंचा खराखुरा अनुभव द्रोपदीला यायला लागला. तिला अगदी नकळत..... आपल्याला मिळालेल्या अनमोल हिऱ्याचे पैलू तिला दिसू लागले (परंतु जाणले फारच उशिरा!) ही आत्ताची द्रोपदी थोडीशी मर्दानीच होती, परंतु वादविवाद म्हणजे कुरुक्षेत्रांतील युद्धच! असे युधिष्ठिरांचे ठाम मत असल्याने, त्यावर सक्त उपाय म्हणजे 'द्रोपदीस आपले स्वतःचेच गाणे म्हणून सुनवणे' हा सोईस्कर उपाय अमलात आणला जाई! युधिष्ठिरांचा पहिला पैलू म्हणजे त्यांचे संगीत प्रेम! द्रोपदीला देखील संगीत प्रियच होते, परंतु इथे देखील दुदैवाने पार्टी भिन्न! द्रोपदीला क्लासीकल मधील

ताना पचत नव्हत्या तर फिल्मी गाण्याची सुरवातही, युधीष्टीरांच्या मायग्रेनची किल्ली होती! 'कल्ले आयकतगो हँ ? म्युझिक म्हणताती वँ हाक्का? अस म्हणत चेहेऱ्यावर चिंतेचे जाळे चढवले कि द्रोपदीच्या चेहेऱ्याभोवती सायंकाळच्या मावळत्या सूर्यकिरणांची प्रभावळ पसरायची.....हा झाला पैलू नंबर एक!

१९७९ मध्ये आमच्या घरी मीरापाची पंजे, ह्या हैद्राबादहून आल्या होत्या. पांडुपुत्राचं संगीत प्रेम पाहून त्यांनी सौ. मालतीबाई राजूरकर यांना आमच्या घरी पाठवले. आणि.....त्या नंतर मालितीबाईंचा पायगुण का युधिष्ठिरांचा पायगुण माहीत नाही! इथपासून, त्यांचा दुसरा पैलू सुरू झाला का? हे तुम्हीच ठरवा! त्याच असं

झालं की, कुणीही संगीत कलाकार गांवात आला, तर कागालांच्या घरी चालेल ना?.....हो!, त्यांचा दिवाणखाना चांगला मोठा आहे, असं कोणी म्हणायच्या अगोदरच, मालकांच्या मुखावर भलतंच तेज चढायचं..... मग काय, द्रोपदी आपला पदर खोचून कामाला लागायची! तिला जाणीव होण्यापूर्वीच, ती स्वतःच त्या सुरांमध्ये गुंतत गेली. त्या सुरांच्या जाळ्यात पुरी सापडली.

असेच महान कलाकार आमच्या प्रशस्त महालांत राहून गेले. त्या कलाकारांची ती कलेवरची निष्ठा, त्यांचे कष्ट, त्यांचे जीवन अनुभव, हे ऐकून द्रोपदी भारावून जायची. इथे युधिष्ठिरांचा दोष अजिबात नसायचा बरं का! द्रोपदीला पण तेव्हाहीच हौस.... यौवनाचा जोश आणि सासूबाईंचा वरदहस्त, अशी दुहेरी पदकं तिच्या गळ्यांत झळकत असावीत! असं होता होता रागदारी समोरच्या दरवाज्यातून आत आली आणि फिल्मी गाणी मागील दारातून कधी निसटली, हे द्रोपदीला समजलं



देखील नाही.... द्रौपदीचा सात पावलांचा प्रवास खऱ्या अर्थाने सुरू झाला..... हा 'कौंत्येयांचा' तिसरा पैलू !

यानंतरच खरीखुरी गम्मत सुरू झाली....

द्रौपदी बाईना लहानपणापासूनच रंगमंचाच आकर्षण! त्यातूनच त्या दोघांची पत्रिका पस्तीस गुणांनी जुळून आली! हे सर्वांच्या ऐकीवात आले होतेच! तर तो उरला सुरला छत्तीसावा गुण, तो ना बहुदा हाच असावा. डालास मध्ये त्याकाळी तुरळक महाराष्ट्रीय जनता असल्याने, वासरांत लंगडी गाय शहाणी या म्हणीप्रमाणे दिग्दर्शनाचा मान द्रौपदीच्या हाती आला.....अन् तेव्हा मात्र आमच्या पहिल्या नाटकाच्या 'घरोघरी इथे बोंब'च्या तालमी सुरू झाल्या. पूर्वार्धात द्रौपदीने बऱ्याच नाटकांतून काम केल्याकारणाने दिग्दर्शनाचे काम अर्थात तिच्यावर सोपले गेले. दोन चार तालमी झाल्या...अन् नाटकाच्या शीर्षकाप्रमाणेच, आमच्या महालांत देखील तशीच 'बोंबाबोंब' सुरू झाली.....द्रौपदीचं वर्चस्व जरी स्वयंपाक घरांत चालल तरी देखील सिंहासन पद हे, युधिष्ठीरांचेच होते, हे त्यांच्या बहुदा लक्षात आले असावे! त्यांतून पाठांतरात महाराजांची 'बोंबाबोंब' असल्याने रंगमंचावर धमाल आली.... आणि पडद्या मागील प्रॉम्टरची दमछाक झाली पण नाटक मात्र जास्तच विनोदी झाले! विशेषतः पांडुपुत्राला, नटसम्राटाची मानाची शालजोडी मात्र स्वतः द्रौपदी बाईच्या हस्ते पांघरली गेली.....पैलू नंबर चार.....

पैलू नंबर पांच..... जेव्हा कुठल्याही खेळाच्या सामन्याची वेळ असली, तेव्हा मात्र तो सारीपाट असो, टेनिस असो कॅरम किंवा बॅडमिंटन! ह्या साऱ्यात पांडुपुत्र ईर्षने सहभागी व्हायचे. तिथे मात्र त्यांच्या प्रेमळ स्वभावाला जिद्देची धार असायची! इथे मात्र दया, माया, प्रेम कुठे नाहीसं व्हायचं ते समजायचं नाही. 'प्राण जाये पर वचन न जाये' या आवेशात ते लढायचे! मग तो स्वतःचा दहा वर्षांचा मुलगा का असेना.... द्रौपदीच्या मातृमनाला मात्र हे कोडे समजायचे नाही....हं! एवढ्या बाबतीत मात्र राजमाता, मीरापार्चींचा गुण नक्कीच ऊचलला होता! माझ्या सासूबाईना 'पराभव' सहजासहजी पचत नसे.....

पैलू नंबर सहा..... जीवनांत कुठलाही कठीण प्रसंग आला, किंवा मतभेदाची वेळ आली, तरी कौंत्येयांच्या मुखातून कुणालाही दुखवणारे शब्द निघायचे नाहीत. आपल्या सहचारीणीला एकांतात स्वतःची सारी निराशा व्यक्त करतील परंतु 'लढणं' हे त्यांच्या रक्तातच नव्हतं.....कधी संसारात होणारी साधी वादा वादी देखील त्यांना करताच आली नाही. द्रौपदी क्वचित चिरफाड करू लागली कि, झगोन्नाका गों...म्हणताच, बस्स बात खतम्.....मन क्षणभर दुखवायचं.....मौन व्हायचं..... पण लढाई नाही...एक भयाण शांतता. त्यांना सत्तेची किंवा ऐश्वर्याची अभिलाषा तर कधीच नव्हती. कर्म धर्म संयोगाने द्रौपदीचं माहेर देखील साध्या बाळबोधी कुटुंबातून आल्यामुळे अभिलाषेचा प्रश्नच आला नाही. तिच्या घरी तर तिने, आपल्या आईवडीलांना, आपल्यातील चार घास देखील वाटून खाताना पाहिलं होतच ना.....द्रौपदीचं मन अभिमानाने भरून यायचं!

पण कौंत्येय, स्वतः क्षत्रीय धर्माचे असल्यामुळे त्यांच्या शौऱ्याच प्रभुत्व खास दिसायचं ते घरांतील कुरूक्षेत्र, म्हणजे आमच्या पाकशाळेत! का म्हणून विचारा?..... सांगते, अहो द्रौपदीने जर 'गरज' म्हणून

युधिष्ठीरांना मदतीला बोलावले, तर लगबगीने यायचे. पण पाकशाळेंतील साऱ्या वस्तू त्यांचा छत्तीसाचा आकडा बरं का! भांड्यांची नकळत आदळ आपट, तर कधी झारा, डाव आणि यांचे तांडव...एखाद्या ग्लासचा बाँबसुद्धा फुटायचा.... आणि द्रौपदी बाईची भीक नको पण कुत्रं आवर अशी अवस्था व्हायची. तोंडातल्या तोंडांत, कर्म मज्जे असं काहीसं पुटपुटत, कौंत्येयांच्या हातांत कॉफीचा कप देत त्यांना बाहेर पाठवित. परंतु बरेच वेळेला कौंत्येय मिष्कीलपणे हसताहेत असा द्रौपदीला भास व्हायचा. कारण दुसऱ्याच क्षणी, त्यांच्या गाण्याचे स्वर द्रौपदीच्या कानांवर पडायचे...

पैलू नंबर सात.....आता आयुष्याची दिवेलगणीची वेळ जवळ आली, तस तसे युधिष्ठीर संगीताकडे कलत होते अंतर्मुख होत होते. मनातील गुपित मात्र ते, महालाच्या देवघरांतल्या देव्हान्या समोर बसून त्या देवापाशीच मांडत असायचे. प्रत्यक्ष द्रौपदीला देखील त्यांत सामील व्हायची सम्मती नसायची. घरांतील कामे आटपून तिला वेळ मिळाल्यास मात्र द्रौपदी त्यांना भजनांत साथ द्यायची. कधीतरी तिच्या मनांत यायचं की या समोरच्या लक्ष्मी-नारायणाच्या जोडीसमोर बसून आम्ही दोघं भजन म्हणत आहोत, पण..... समोर आहे ती 'जोडी' आहे अन् आम्ही दोघं कोण मग बरं?..... 'जोडा'?.....वहाणांच्या जोड्यासारखा?.... संसार रथाच्या दोन चाकांसारखा ?.....समांतर फिरणाऱ्या?.....मन चक्रावलं.....हा माझ्या हिऱ्याचा आठवा पैलू!

युधिष्ठीराच्या या शांत, प्रेमळ, अतिथी धर्माला जोपासणारा आणि जीवन 'सत्यम शिवम सुंदरम' ह्या तत्वाला धरून जीवन जगणारा पांडुपुत्र माझ्या जीवनांत आला, याचच राहून राहून कौतुक वाटतं!

असा अष्टपैलू हीरा, 'पांडुपुत्र' याला माझा मानाचा मुजरा!

ह्या हृदयात जतन करून ठेवलेल्या आठवणी लिहीण्याचं कारण म्हणजे, मी जेव्हा लिहायला सुरुवात केली तेव्हा, दिनेश मला नेहमी म्हणायचे, माझ्याबद्दल लिही ना! आणि विनोदी बरं का.....अशी गळ नेहमी घालायचे. पण म्हणतात ना....तेव्हा आमचा हा जीवन प्रवाह, नातवंडे, पाहुणे, आणि घरांतील वडीलधारी मंडळी यांच्यामध्ये, एखाद्या नदीला पूर यावा ना.....तसा वेगाने आणि झंझावत चालला होता.....आज मला वाटलं की, माझ्या मनाला, विचार करायची ताकद आणि लिहून ठेवण्याचं धैर्य असेपर्यंतच, आमच्या जीवनाचं साफल्य नक्की माझ्या मुलांपर्यंत कधीतरी पोहोचावं! आणि आज दिनेश बद्दल विनोदी लिहायला बसले. म्हणूनच मायन्याने सुरुवात केली. पुढे जाऊन युधिष्ठीराबद्दल wikipidiya वाचलं. विचार आला, पाहूया तरी पांडुचा ज्येष्ठ पुत्र होता तरी कसा?....युधिष्ठीराचा स्वभावधर्म... आणि माझा पांडुपुत्राचा स्वभावधर्म..

अन् क्षणभर मन अवाक् झाले आणि माझ्या जीवनांतील 'पांडुपुत्र' अन् युधिष्ठीर यांचा अष्टपैलू स्वभाव माझ्या लक्षांत आला.

फेब्रुवारी १०, २०१६ या दिवशी दिनेश आमच्यापासून दूर गेले. त्यांची इच्छा आज पूर्ण करते.

Another letter from Sadanand B. Ugran "Bhaiyya" —the incorrigible balladeer...and teller of tallish tales

SHYAM AMLADI, MALIBU, CALIFORNIA, USA

Honnehalli, Karnataka
12 December, 2019

My dear Shyamsunder,

Bhavanishankar Prasanna...akka sends her love and blessings.

Putta, life sure throws yorkers at you! After thirty years of marriage to your beloved akka, you could bet I can tell what goes through her mind, right? And you would lose. Why, just the other day I saw your akka deep in thought. I asked her, "What's going on?" expecting that she was worried as usual about some silly Honnehalli town council matter.

Akka responded, '*Chikkai kaan deevnu aika*, I have been thinking...'Did I tell you my troubles begin with those four words?'

Akka went on to say that when it comes to technology we are woefully short, living in a dark cave. Furthermore, since, according to her, I am usually on another planet, she had decided to do something about it. She said, 'You must have the latest technology to conduct your trading business. We should be on Gen 5, not Gen 2 and definitely not the standard 9200 Baud rate'. I nodded as I do, when I am clueless! I wondered, 'What the heck is Gen-2 and 5?...' 'What is Baud?' I perfectly know what "Baud" is in Konkani. And what exactly is she talking about? We definitely have the latest gadgets –Bang and Olufsen, Olympus 300MM EMI1 camera, Focal 3 Bass speakers....

Akka as usual paid no attention to my attempt to correct her. 'Do you remember Gappu?' *Akka* asked. 'You mean that fascinating chap who wears two metal rings in his nose, shaves one side of his head, and has tattoos from his neck to who knows where!' I responded. Of course; if you must know *putta*, we are talking about Ganeshrao Puttur lovingly shortened as usual by your Bhaiyya to a more elegant form of address –Gappu.

To no surprise, your *akka* had a devilish plan. It seems that Gappu and his team of "tech" goons are in high demand around our twin towns of Honnehalli and Bundikutta. For some strange reason she said, Gappu worships me and when asked, he put all of his other work aside and agreed to rescue us from the cave.

Gappu promptly came over, told me not to worry, which is the wrong thing to say because when a grown man, resplendent in his nose-rings, half-shaved head, mismatched socks and baggy shorts asks me not to worry, I WORRY! Gappu assured me he was personally going to wire up the Ugran household with an 18K BPS phone. Henceforth, Gappu said our sound system, our computer system, fax system, phone system - all would be the envy of Bill Gates and Eric Schmidt. I wondered again why these gentlemen, obviously

"phorenurs", would be jealous of a few devices in our modest home I have no idea!

To my delight... err... disappointment, Gappu promptly removed every communication device in our living room, bedroom, dining room etc and brought a huge box which he emptied on the floor of our living room. Since we are in the process of obtaining "tech perfection", we have no TV, no computer, no cell phone and no fax. Thankfully, the accountant is letting me use his office till we get our life back!

On the fifth day, I asked the Galactic Master of technology, 'So Gappu, how goes it? Is it done?' "Nooooo Bhaiyya. It takes time... you are my most favorite person in this world, well next to *akka* though, so I have to make it perfect. When I am done, you will have mobile computing, open source migration Coherent Accelerator Processor Interface (CAPI) and that will be just the beginning...right now, I am working on getting your backside bus to talk to your cache. And you will have TIFF and GIFF in addition to CDFL, of course I have a slinging code for all this." "WHAAAAAT? I think my head needs a sling!!'

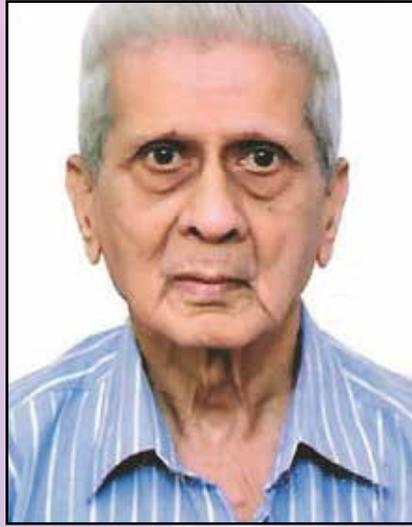
It is a week now. I am still using my friend's office for my work, and my broker's office to place my trades. No worries! I am secure in the knowledge that when Gappu is finally done, our system will turn Mr. Gates and Mr. Eric green as raw neelam mangoes. And someday soon I will have enough "baud" to understand what the heck this "hi-tech" world is about!

Affectionately,
Bhaiyya

The Love of my Life

I just cannot imagine a life without him...
We have loved one another and lived together for almost five decades
We held one another's hand through thick and thin
The path often tortuous and strait
Yet with him by my side
It was always full of love and fun
PDA was hardly there
Nevertheless the eyes spoke a language of caring and concern
A firm hand clasping mine, told me not to fear
He taught me to be never dependent on another
Be it for moral or any other support
A firm faith and belief in the almighty
A need to always persevere to do one's best
A strong belief that HE rights every wrong in good time
Punishing the wrong doers here sooner or later
No wait for an afterlife for it's all here and now.
What more could I ask for than such a steadfast partner,
friend, philosopher and guide.
That to you my dear readers is the love of my life.

Vanita Kumta



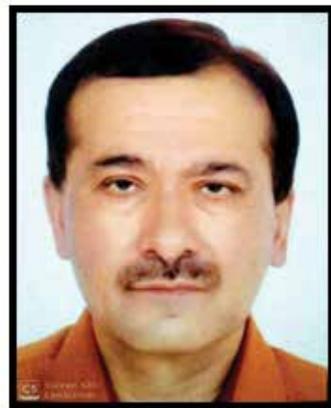
Shri Ramesh S. Bantwal
aged 82 years, Ex-Employee of Union Bank of India,
passed away on 08 January, 2020 at Borivali, Mumbai

Survived and mourned by
Wife, Children, Grandchildren, Friends and Relatives

No Condolences Please, Thank You

SHRI ANAND GURUDATH KABAD

1st April 1956 – 21st December 2019



“The best part of a good man’s life are his little nameless acts of kindness and of love.”

You will forever reside in the hearts of:

Geeta Kabad (Mother), Pushpa Kabad (Wife), Ameet Kabad (Son) & Ankita Kabad (Daughter-in-law)

Fondly remembered by:

Aldangadis, Chandavarkars, Harites, Koppikars, Raos, Bantwals, Ulpes
Relatives, Friends and Colleagues of Air India / Indian Airlines



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Shri. Subbarao Dattatreya Arangady



[6th September, 1937 - 11th December, 2019]

Our loving Pappa was always caring, affectionate, ever smiling and a very helpful person, he strived very hard in life to give a respectful living to his family. He went through lot of hardships and struggle even as child.

In spite of all the struggle throughout his life he always put up a sweet smile.

He always lent a helping hand to all around him till the time he could.

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE

Our Pappa continues to live in the hearts of:

Geetha (nee. Sheela Kallianpur) Arangady (Wife), Sanjay & Sneha, Sandhya & Chandrashekar, Srikant & Sheetal, Santosh & Shambhavi, Aishwarya, Anoushka, Saahil, Shloka, Vidya, Stavan (Grandchildren)

Fondly remembered by: Arangadys, Chandavarkars, Kallianpurs, Relatives and Friends

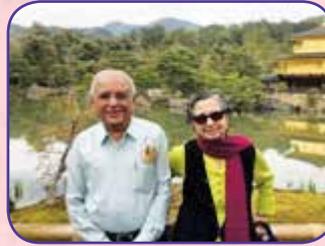
In The Land Of Sakura (Article on the next page)



The magnificent Mount Fuji



The Sakura tree



At the Kinkokugicho Temple



Bamboo forest at the Arashiyama Shrine



Nemophila and tulips (right) at the Hitachi Seaside Park



The Shinto shrine of Fushimi Inari



The Diabutsu giant Buddha (Todaiji Temple)



Osaka Castle



Snow walls (16m high), Kurobe Dam

In The Land Of Sakura

UMA S RAO

'Namaste Narasimhaya' rang out a clear young male voice. 'Namaste Narasimhaya' echoed a chorus of older voices. This was followed by a long prayer enlisting the help of all the Gods of the Hindu pantheon, all of course repeated obediently by the older bunch! This was not at a temple or puja but the start of our tour of Japan organised by Shri Madhavan and a Dasa formerly of the Bhaktivedanta ISCON group! We were taken aback at this to start with, but by and by we grew to expect this and in the next eight days of our tour, we started the day's trip with these prayers and towards the end, were even somewhat comforted by them in those alien climes.

The first day was a visit to Ashikaga Wisteria Flower Park, more than a hundred kilometres away from Tokyo. With the excellent roads and orderly traffic, this was accomplished in a little over an hour. But alas, we were in for a disappointment—the world renowned wisteria had not bloomed because of the cold winter that preceded the spring! But there were plenty of other blooms there to gladden our hearts. We saw instead trees laden with cherry blossom—the Sakura—that we had not hoped to see.

The following day, carrying three days' requirements of clothes etc and leaving the rest of our belongings in the box room of the Tokyo hotel, we proceeded by bus to the Hitachi Seaside Park, a hundred km away. This park is famous for the 4.5 million blue Nemophila growing thickly over the gentle hillocks bordering the blue Pacific Ocean. These were not wild, each of these flower bulbs had been planted for our pleasure by patient Japanese hands just before the advent of spring! With the fields of tulips and narcissus, and the Pacific Ocean in the distance, the park was a spectacular sight. Spread out over acres of grounds, the organisers had thoughtfully provided a little train that chugged gently along with these gorgeous sights on either side!

After a packed lunch of (guess what!) puliogare and curd rice, we proceeded to Tokyo station where, bags in hand, we boarded the famous Shinkansen, the bullet train to Kyoto. At Kyoto station we rode innumerable escalators and the metro, finally catching a crowded public bus and dragging our bags along, we walked a narrow lane to our hotel. Now we were in for a big surprise—this hotel was completely automated! With not a soul to guide one and after an elaborate check-in procedure, we were given rooms the entry to which had to be punched in using specific numbers. For oldies like us, it was a bit of an adventure but definitely empowering! Dinner that night after a very long tiring day was down quiet Kyoto lanes at (surprise, surprise) a Tamil restaurant!

The following day was crowded literally and figuratively with people and activity. Most of the temples of Kyoto are on the World Heritage list. The first was the Kinkokugicho Temple established in 1396, which was a fairytale gold pavilion, a Zen Buddhist temple in a tranquil lake.

There were millions of people but nothing detracted from

the mesmerising sight. Next we visited the Arashiyama Shrine and the lovely bamboo forest surrounding it. Here too we found the Japanese talent for showcasing peace and natural beauty everywhere in the gardens and water bodies. The last temple we visited was the Shinto shrine of Fushimi Inari where priests were conducting an elaborate ritual to Inari, the Shinto god of rice, saké and prosperity. The shrine is famous for its thousands of vermilion gates or tori donated by grateful devotees.

After a night at the automated hotel and breakfast at the Tamil restaurant, we checked out and proceeded to the Nara Deer Park. The Todaiji Temple is Japan's most famous temple built in 752 CE. It is said to be the world's largest wooden building despite being rebuilt in 1692 CE to only two-thirds its original size. In the main hall there are three gigantic Buddha statues. The central one is made of bronze, 15 m. in height and weighing 500 tons! The sight of this Vairocana-Diabutsu giant Buddha is quite overwhelming. The deer in Nara Park, some 1500 of them were once considered divine messengers of God. They are tame and ready to eat anything that humans are carrying! Visitors are advised to feed them special deer crackers, which as expected, the deer do not care for!

From Nara we drove to Osaka a short distance of 30 km. Osaka Castle in its present avatar is a graceful 8-storeyed building surrounded by vast grounds, enclosed by formidable stone walls and a wide moat full of clear water. Though the original castle was built in the 1600s, it has been burned down many times by lightning and finally in 1945 in a bombing raid in the Second World War when it served as an arsenal. It now stands as a beautiful well-recognised monument of Japanese architecture. I was interested to know that it served as a model for James Clavell's book Shogun and a backdrop for the Bond movie You Only Live Twice!

Once again the Shinakasen carried us over the 550 km in 2.5 hrs back to Tokyo. And once more the Tokyo metro left us at walking distance to our hotel. The Tokyo City Tour was scheduled the next day. Our director/guide took pains to point out how the Gods from our Vedic past were absorbed into the ancient Shinto religion, albeit with modified names. We visited the Sensoji Temple and the Saraswati (known here as Benzaiten), the Goddess of knowledge and the arts, much revered and worshipped by aspiring students and artists.

The coming Monday saw us travelling to the Northern Japanese Alps and the Kurobe Dam. From Tokyo we took the bullet train to Toyama and thence to Tateyama to reach Ogizawa and Nagano using seven modes of transport including a mountain cable car and an electric trolley bus till we reached the massive snow wall 16m high, surrounded by spectacular ski slopes. The Kurobe Dam is Japan's tallest dam, constructed in 1956 on the Kurobe river which was frozen solid the day we saw it! It had been a very long day starting at 5 am and ending at 9 pm, but when we walked the quiet street to our hotel from the Nishikasai metro station,

the stunning sights we'd seen made it all worth the effort.

Time had passed rapidly and all at once it seemed we were nearing the end of our tour. It was a day we were all looking forward to see the Icon of Japan—Mt Fujiyama or Fujisan, as the Japanese respectfully addressed the volcano that was worshipped and symbolised with its familiar conical shape, the perfection that is dear to every Japanese heart. We checked out of our hotel and drove the 130 km to Mt Fuji. It was no ordinary trip—we were going to the annual Shibazakura Flower Festival. Once again, we were amazed by the sea of pink moss phlox that grew in the foreground surrounding a lake with the immaculate Mt Fuji standing majestically in the background. It was an unforgettable sight, a fitting end to a splendid holiday!

There were a couple of things that struck us, perhaps not surprising to many. One was the great cleanliness of Japanese public places. Though we noticed the shops used plastic liberally, we did not see any plastic litter. The second was the utter politeness of the people. When travelling on the bullet train, the railway official walked through the train doing his duty but when he had reached the end of the compartment, something remarkable happened. The official turned around

and bowed deeply to the passengers in the carriage, this when almost no one was observing him! The third was the total comfort of the Japanese toilet. Every Japanese toilet has this 'remote controlled', hands-free bidet facility which gives the user a choice of rear- and front washing in the form of a temperature controlled spray! Even the toilet seat was heated, useful in a country with cold winters! We also saw that almost all roads had bicycle lanes and many people old and young cycled often with little children on the pillion and front basket! Despite there being heavy traffic, we did not hear the sound of any horns.

It had been an unusual tour, perhaps because it was a bit outside our comfort zone. We had carried our luggage, walked miles up and down streets and escalators in metro, railway and bus stations. We had eaten Indian vegetarian food at every meal in a foreign country, thanks to our guide! And we had been shown how the Hindu religion and culture had spread far and wide influencing the beliefs of people far away from our country. We had seen sights of extraordinary beauty, packing in enough experiences to last as unforgettable memories.

My Mother - My Valentine

DR. ARUNA NARAYANAN (NEE ARUNA UDYAWAR)

(As always typed by my husband Adv. V. Narayanan and as always dominantly edited by my daughter Adv. Anisha Narayanan)

Young people yearn for the 14th of February every year. That is the Valentine's Day. They exchange red roses, gifts, cards, red teddies with their loved ones. The loved ones can be any one - a friend, a relative or even their own self! But for me, my valentine is my mother (Late) Mrs. Shalini Sunder Udyawar. My AAMMAA! She certainly has left her mark on me and my family.

When Aammaa gave me birth, she was beside me, with me, and when she passed away, I was beside her, with her. There was a mystic simplicity about her, a charming realism and a domestic intimacy which made a lasting impression on all the family members and all those who knew her closely.

Born on 1st October, 1929 at Bankikodla, her life was under the variable influence of her family - at first, her mother, then, her siblings and then her marriage to an adorn of the Indian Army. She showed her marked preference to the peaceful joys of her home. Therefore Aammaa, right from her childhood was able to hold her household empire together. She had a remarkable ability to bring out the best in her family members as well as with her neighbours.

Aammaa was beautiful with a melodious voice, versatile, had impeccable manners and held polite conversations. She was an excellent cook especially when it came to our amchi cooking. Making *udadawade* and *kandyawadis* were her

specialties. The *magyaambat*, pomfret *ghasshi*, *surmai kodol* and Sunday Special mutton curry were simply irresistible! The *breada-uss halee* prepared by her was awesome. I have till date, yet to come across someone who cooks as well as my Aammaa. I am trying to reach the perfection in cooking which my Aammaa had.

She possessed a great deal of natural benevolence and magnanimity. "Her Home" at 17/28 at Talmakiwadi which was just a 10 x 12 room, was large enough to accommodate as many people. Engagements, marriages, naming ceremonies took place in that sweet home.

She always taught me that we are actors and the stage is our family. She had innate leadership qualities. Aammaa made our home, a place where we could unwind and where we could think positively. She handled to the problems of her life in a level-headed and rational manner. In fact, as I grew up, I learnt to absorb decision-making techniques from my mother. One of the main things, I learnt from her is managing and handling life and its everyday teachings. Discussions, of course, can sometimes, morph into heated exchanges, but conflicts can be a valuable opportunities for learning, when these are handled properly. With her teachings, I was able to function well socially, academically, logically, objectively and above all passionately.

At the end of her life, she did not enjoy good health. She was fragile in her eating. Her eyes which were clear and bright only had partial vision. Darkness descended upon our family on the 3rd November, 2010 - she died not as she wished to die in sleep. She suffered from paralysis and her left side was

completely paralyzed. Even then she died in the finest and the most edifying manner.

Every Valentine's Day, I am not able to send her red roses, gifts, cards, red teddies, instead, I only pray to God and our Gurus, that wherever she is, she be in peace...

Young Viewpoint

My Experience at Youth Parliament

KANAKA SHIRALI

How does a Youth Parliament look like, feel like, and sound like? Can a paramedical student have something to do with it?? These were the burning questions that came to my mind when a contest was announced in my college. This contest was to qualify as a Speaker at Youth Parliament, 2019.

Karnavati University at Gandhinagar was organizing a forum where students from over 100 colleges would get an opportunity to deliver democratic dialogues. To qualify for this forum, all interested students had to write essays on any two topics listed by the panel. I chose to write on 'CryptoCurrency - Should it be legalized' and my second topic was 'How to double the farmer's income without doling freebies.' Both were challenging topics for me because I had never heard of Cryptocurrency before, and the second topic was on farmers, which was bang in the middle of the crisis when Delhi had hit the severe pollution level due to stubble-burning in Gurugram. Reading articles and news on both these topics helped me widen my knowledge and compile my opinions and problem-solving ideas in those domains. Result - my essays were selected! Out of three lakh writers, to be in the top twenty was not less than a miracle for me! I was one of the four students who got an opportunity to represent my college at the Youth Parliament. Little did I know that we would be rushing through our last examination and then go miles away only to appear for what was to be held on 21st and 22nd November 2019. This was my first visit to Ahmedabad, and how can I forget the double-decker AC train... The one I had always seen pass by and wished to travel by one day!

On reaching the venue I was mesmerized to see a resort-like campus. The hub for designing college looked as though we had walked into an International Fashion Week event. But the real challenge was yet to come when the first round of elimination began. There were several contestants waiting for their selection. The jury members were stalwarts and professionals from politics, media, sports, education, and literature. The jury members asked me questions on topics like Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, China's dominance in Asia, my opinion on 'Delay in justice is justice denied,' Illegal immigrants, and censorship regulation on all social media.

Unfortunately, I was eliminated in the second round. The

jury members in the second round seemed very excited and content with all my answers and confidence. However, when one of the jury members asked me whether I would be interested in entering into politics if ever I was given an opportunity, my answer was 'No.' Yet, being one of the 20 finalists and listening to the elected speakers was indeed a great experience as one realizes these are not just speeches but emotions, thoughts, and appeals made by the youth of our country. I was extremely excited to meet Smriti Irani, Minister in Union Cabinet of India, Actor Arjun Rampal and several renowned professionals from Media and Journalism.

While I am extremely thankful to my college D. Y. Patil College of Physiotherapy, Pune for giving me this opportunity to experience the interactions at Youth Parliament, I also go back to my roots when I attended Parthana classes and performances that helped me build confidence, creativity, and critical thinking skills. As I stepped into Yuvadhara I also gained a sense of responsibility, commitment, communication, and self-reliance. Above all, I am grateful for the divine blessings and the guiding light imparted by our Param Pujya Swamiji that has helped me cross hurdles and has led me smoothly to reach every milestone in my life.

- Letters, articles and poems are welcome. Letters should be brief, and articles should be about 800-1000 words. They will be edited for clarity and space.
- The selection of material for publication will be at the discretion of the Editorial Committee.
- The opinions expressed in the letters/articles are those of the authors and not necessarily those of KSA or the Editorial Committee.
- All matter meant for publication should be addressed only to the Editor c/o KSA Office / e-mail id given above.
- The deadline for letters, articles, poems, material for "Here and There", "Personalia", and other original contributions is the 12th of every month; the deadline for advertisements, classifieds and other paid insertions, is the 16th of every month. Matter received after these dates will be considered for the following month.

From the 2nd to 5th of January, 2020 Shri Chitrapur Math, Shirali graciously welcomed 182 Rajasthani *sadhaka-s* who were overwhelmed by the number and variety of activities planned ahead for them by a huge team of volunteers under the Loving Guidance of Pujya Swamiji. Here is an exhaustive report by *Sanchalika* Ameeta Shiroom on the wonderful *Shibir* organised for the

SARASWATS FROM BIKANER

The venue – Goa, the occasion - *Vishwa Saraswat Sammelan, 2016* , where a young Saraswat from Bikaner, Shri Sampat Saraswat was present to witness four Mathadhipati-s address the Saraswats who had assembled there. He was completely mesmerised by our revered Mathadhipati- Parama Pujya Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji. Extremely moved by His Ashirvachan, he made up his mind that he would give an opportunity to many more Saraswats from his community to benefit from Pujya Swamiji's Divine Guidance. His dream fructified in Jan 2020, when a *Shibir* was organised for the Saraswats from Bikaner in the Divine precincts of Shri Chitrapur Math, Shirali from 02 Jan to 05 Jan – a befitting start to the new decade!

The *Sanchalak-s* (we were 36 of us) had arrived in Shirali a couple of days earlier. Everything was worked out to the minutest detail. This was the first time a *Shibir* of this magnitude was being organised and all of us were quite anxious and nervous. However, once we met Pujya Swamiji and took His Blessings, all our fears were put to rest!

The *Shibirarathi-s* arrived at Murdeshwar on 02 Jan. around 11.30 am. The journey from Bikaner to Murdeshwar took 36 hours and to add to this, the train was delayed by almost 3 hours! They were received warmly by some of our *Sanchalak-s*. It was heartening to see that the womenfolk had outnumbered the menfolk! Some of the women had stepped out of their village for the very first time! Loud cries of ॐ नमः पार्वती पतये हर हर महादेव were heard, immediately breaking the ice between the two Saraswat communities. The scene on the platform resembled one from a movie- women dressed in traditional, brightly coloured lehenga-s and heads covered by the *ghunghat-s* and men in traditional dhoti-s and *kurta-s*. They were quickly made to board the buses that were already waiting there and ferried across to the Math. In the *Rajangan*, the Reception Committee welcomed them with a "welcome energising drink". Room numbers and name tallies were handed out with the dexterity of professionals! A curious band of *Shibirarathi-s* who could not control their eagerness to see Pujya Swamiji were heard asking गुरुजी कट्टे? (where is Swamiji?). On being informed that HH was in His कुटीर the next question naturally was कुटीर कट्टे?

After freshening up, lunch, a "power nap" and a hot

cup of tea / coffee, the *Shibirarathi-s* assembled in the *Mandir* for *Deepa Prajwalan* at the Divine Hands of Pujya Swamiji. HH also invited Shri Sampat Saraswat, Kailaje Bhavanishankarmam, Mallapur Narayanmam and Heblekar Kuttymam to light the lamp. Pujya Swamiji spoke about two elements necessary in our *Adhyatmik Sadhana - Upasana* to invoke Shakti and *Seva* to express it. By *Upasana* we would get Bhagavati's *Anugraha* and in *Seva* we would get inspired by each other and inspire other people too. HH concluded with the bhajan गुरु शरणं . . .

After a briefing and introduction to our Math and the *Guru Parampara*, the *Shibirarathi-s* were taken in groups for the inner and outer *Parikrama-s* of the Math. All of them showed a keen interest in learning about our *Guru Parampara*, our Maths and our *Samskara-s*! Later on, they also happily participated in the *Deep Namaskar* and *Ashtavadhan Seva*.

Post-dinner, in an interaction with the *Shibirarathi-s*, Pujya Swamiji narrated the story of Ravana and the *Atmalinga* and therefore, the importance of the temple at Murdeshwar. Pujya Swamiji also talked about Narasimhagiriji Maharaj – His विलक्षण सामर्थ्य, and how during an eclipse, He used to do His japa standing in the water in *ekaant*. Pujya Swamiji also expressed that Narasimhagiriji Maharaj's *Shishya-s* were also highly realised Souls, one of them being Parama Pujya Ishwaranand Giri-ji Maharaj! Swamiji concluded the session with the *bhajan* माँ तू पेम सुधा बरसादे .

Group visits were organised to the Shree Parijnanashram Vastu Sangrahalaya, Srivali High School, Samvit Sudha and its Conversion unit. They expressed extreme happiness over the fact that Pujya Swamiji was taking such a keen interest for the empowerment and uplift of rural women. They were very impressed with the Samvit Sudha products and the hard work that the women were putting in towards creating these products. In fact after their visit to the Samvit Sudha Conversion Unit, the sale of products went up substantially because they realised that the money they spent would be utilised for a good cause.

The *Shibirarathi-s* participated wholeheartedly in each and every activity that was assigned to them. Many of them were "Super Senior Citizens" but for them, age was just a number and did not deter them from participating

~~~~~ Parisevanam ~~~~~

in any activity. They attended the *Pranayam* and *Ninad* sessions with great spirit and enthusiasm. They also performed *Paduka Pujan* with great devotion. Few of them also took the *Mantradeeksha* from Pujya Swamiji. In the "Paramarsh" session with Pujya Swamiji at Panchavati, they came up with interesting questions and doubts regarding superstitions, *japa*, *puja* and HH answered them with great love and patience. Pujya Swamiji also explained the meaning and significance of the three powerful *mantra-s* that are chanted during the *Devi Anushthanam*. The womenfolk were taught the chanting of these three *mantra-s* while the menfolk participated in the *Gayatri Japa Anushthanam*. All of them also enthusiastically participated in the *Sanskrit Sambhashanaa* session. They were taught Sanskrit by way of interesting games. They were so happy that they wanted more classes, which of course could not be held due to paucity of time. It was really heartening to see these simple village folk who spoke nothing much other than their native language Marwari, trying to converse by making simple sentences in Sanskrit! In fact some of them even learnt a few "Amchigele" words and more importantly, used them in the right places!

The *Shibirarthis* were very keen to see Pujya Swamiji performing the *Devi Pujan* and HH graciously obliged! They were spellbound by the gracefully -performed *Pujan* and also by all of us following Pujya Swamiji by chanting the *stotra-s* along with Him. Pujya Swamiji also conducted a *Swadhyaya* at Panchavati. Commencing the *Swadhyaya* with the *bhajan* भासुरा श्री भवानी . . . followed by a brief explanation of the *bhajan*, HH took up the first verse of the "Sadhana Panchakam" by Adi Shankaracharya :

वेदो नित्यमधीयतां तदुदितं कर्म स्वनुष्ठीयतां
तेनेशस्य विधीयतामपचितिः काम्ये मतिस्त्वज्यताम्
पापौघः परिधूयतां भवसुखे दोषोऽनुमन्धीयतां
आत्मेच्छा व्यवसीयतां निजगृहात्तूर्णं विनिर्गम्यताम्

Pujya Swamiji explained how this was so closely related to our daily life – and that reading and studying the *Veda-s* daily, recognising and staying away from the sins that are present in the outside world, getting rid of negativity and unnecessary desires is the only way to be One with the *Atman*!

During the question-answer session that followed, HH explained the importance of the *japamala*, the chanting of *stotra-s* and also warned us that we should not start obeying spiritual instructions given by unauthorised people. Instead we should just listen to them and then check the veracity of the information with our Guru. Pujya Swamiji explained that Shree Saraswati Devi had gifted us our वाणी so would bless us if we used it for the right purpose by chanting *shloka-s* and *stotra-s* everyday.

The Yuvas also involved themselves totally into various activities. The girls drew a beautiful and colourful *rangoli*

on the porch leading to the Math. Yuva boys and girls helped out in the seating arrangements of *Shibirarthis* in the Bhojanalaya (this was indeed a Herculean task, considering that 182 of them had to be served at one time!). Once they were done with their meal, they would coax all of us to sit down and then, they would serve us lovingly. All of them loved all our *Amchi preparations*, including the फुलवरा आम्वट सुकृतफल and the कुवाळ्या धंवी रांदई and appreciated the variety of dishes in our cuisine.

On the evening prior to their departure, they were taken to Murdeshwar where they had the *Darshan* of "Murdeshwar – *Atmalinga*" and also the world's second tallest Shiva statue. From here they were taken to the Bengre beach. For most of them, this was a first view of the sea and visit to a beach. In fact, one of the senior women very innocently asked a *Sanchalak* – इसमें मीठा पानी है या खारा ? Needless to say, they had a whale of a time! After this, there was an interaction with Pujya Swamiji. HH sang the *bhajan* तन्मय हो जा मेरे मन explaining that while most *bhajan-s* are devotional tributes to God, this particular *bhajan* tells us how we must mould our mind and channel it towards God and Godliness! Several *Shibirarthis* also sang wonderful Rajashtani *bhajan-s* and *keertan-s* with full gusto!

The three days flew by like three minutes! By the time the *Shibir* came to an end, the Bikaner Saraswats had seamlessly integrated themselves with our Chitrapur Saraswat community. Everyone was very sad to leave the *Guru Sannidhi* and had made up their mind to come again and again and definitely for a longer duration. Pujya Swamiji blessed them with *Phalmantrakshat*, wished them well, expressed happiness that they had participated wholeheartedly in all activities and extended an invitation to all of them to come to Shirali more often.

With the Blessings and Guidance of Parama Pujya Swamiji this *Shibir* was a resounding success. The *Sanchalak-s* had toiled endlessly, doing whatever the situation demanded! All events went off without a hitch, the camaraderie was exemplary and all of us were sad that this was the last day of this wonderful *Shibir*. At 5 am on January 3rd, all *Shibirarthis* gathered once again in the *Rajangan*, this time to bid farewell to all of us. Armed with *methi thepla-s* (rolled out by the *Sanchalika-s*) and aloo-matar sabji, they set out for the Murdeshwar station. Our efficient *Sanchalak-s* managed to help all of them board the train in just 2.5 minutes ! After they returned, they told us that at the station one of the *Shibirarthis* actually composed and broke out into an impromptu *bhajan* in Rajasthani, in praise of our revered Swamiji and our Shri Chitrapur Math. I am reproducing the lyrics below. I'm sure you all will understand them because they are expressed in the language of pure love and devotion!

~~~~~ Parisevanam ~~~~~

ओ म्हनै जाणौ जाणौ चित्रापुर के धाम गुरु जी कौ कौड लाग्यौ . . .
कौड लाग्यौ
रे म्हनै चाव लाग्यौ ओ कौड लाग्यौ रे म्हनै
गुरु हमारा समदरसी हे मे नदीयौ का निर
नदिया जाय समद मे मिल गई कंचन भया सरीर
गुरु जी कौ कौड लाग्यौ
गुरु हमारा परम पिता हे परमेश्वर समान
हम गुरु कि करे वन्दना जाणौ परली पार
गुरुजी कौ कौड लाग्यौ
सारस्वत कुल की महीमा बडी हे कौड ने पावे पार
हिरदय का ताला खौल दिया सिवली के करतार
गुरु जी कौ कौड लाग्यौ

गाव वामनवाली नाम सम्पतमल आप बडे हौ महान
दुर देशा मे गंगा बहादी सारस्वत नर नार
गुरुजी कौ कौड लाग्यौ
नगर नगर साधक आये सेवा करी महान
पुनम सारस्वा महीमा गावे करे सबकौ परणाम
गुरुजी कौ कौड लाग्यौ
साभार पूनमचंदजी सारस्वत सूरत

We are all indeed blessed to have such a wonderful Guru and eternally indebted to our Parama Pujya Swamiji for always giving us an opportunity to offer our seva, thereby purifying us as we move forward on the path to Shishyatva!

ॐ नमः पार्वती पतये हर हर महादेव

(Pictures on page 5)

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Laugh a WhileSense of Freshness....

A while ago a new supermarket opened in Woodvale Western Australia.

It has an automatic water mister to keep the produce fresh. Just before it goes on, you hear the sound of distant thunder and the smell of fresh rain.

When you pass the milk cases, you hear cows mooing and you experience the scent of fresh mowed hay. In the meat

department there is the aroma of charcoal grilled steaks with onions. When you approach the egg case, you hear hens cluck and cackle, and the air is filled with the pleasing aroma of eggs frying. The bread department features the tantalizing smell of fresh baked bread and cookies.

I don't buy toilet paper there anymore.

'The NEST'

MAYUR KALBAG

As you read the title of this article, the first thing that may have come to your mind may have been that this column is about a bird's nest or something like that! But what I would like you to understand is that this particular "nest" is not of a bird but a "nest" of the Manager. This nest is slightly different from the one that a bird builds. **This particular "nest" created by a manager is fundamentally a place where he or she recognizes or more appropriately identifies the right kind of people from his or her team.** The manager tries to understand the potential in the team members and puts them in the nest and the main purpose of doing this is to be able to then develop them towards opening their potential and simultaneously helping them develop themselves in the specific areas of professional attributes. **The nest is also a place where the manager or the leader creates a sort of a pool of people for the activity of 'Nurturing'** and from that nest he guides and mentors those potential and talented people to the point where they begin to fly out of the nest by which I mean that they start utilizing their potential and delivering excellent results.

In fact another perspective to this is the creation of what is known as the A-Team. But to create this A-Team the manager needs to **awaken the "R!" which is Recognize.**

Recognize- The manager is not someone who just does his own work. His most important function as a manager is actually to recognize the most effective, the less effective and the least effective people in his team and this recognizing process can be done based upon the two key parameters which are Competency and Character. Competency is basically about the professional ability of that team member to perform his or her job with the highest levels of excellence. Character on the other hand is about the attitude and behavior of that individual towards his work as well as towards his colleagues! Based upon this assessment, the manager is able to understand his team and through this understanding he should be able to categorize his team into three groups which are the A-Team, B-Team and the C-team. What next? Well! He must then prepare the nest...not for the A-team but for the B-Team and probably more importantly for the C-team.

The creation of the 'nest' is therefore not just a mechanical creation of just some physical place where people can rest but it is most importantly the creation of a "Pool of People with Potential" which, you as a manager will help them channelize for their own development and growth and in turn will also benefit the organization.

For the manager the first step is creating the A, B and the C teams and then he must start developing a New NEST. Let us now open the NEW NEST!

Here, NEST is an acronym which stands for the four specific and highly developmental attributes that a manager

must activate for him or herself and execute on his team for improving their performance – both personal and professional.

1. "Never give up" attitude- Managers must develop in their teams, especially in their B and their C teams, the attitude of "Never give up". Many team members in your nest may have had pitfalls or failures making them lose their "Never give up attitude" or also known as the "attitude of determination". The "N" of the **NEST** therefore means the manner in which the leader of the team motivates his team to re-develop this attitude and become more inspired to not give up easily despite pitfalls or disappointments!

2. Explore- Another important aspect for the manager is to "Explore" the hidden potential and talent of his team members. Many a times the leader or manager is so caught up in his own work that he fails to see the amazing talents or aspects of his own team members and hence he must now explore new talents and professional competencies of his team. There could be someone from his team who has been working in the sales department but at the back office and only when the manager explores more about this person he realizes that this person also has the talent or strength of courageously interacting with customers without any hesitation. The term "Explore" really means searching for hidden strengths. This does not mean that all explorations about the respective team members will be successful; nevertheless, it is surely an important effort of a manager towards wanting to find out more about his team members.

3. Share- Managers must and can develop their teams by the process of "SHARING". They must begin to selflessly share their knowledge and their experiences with their team members. By doing this, not only the B and C teams but also the A team gets to learn. Through this learning they begin to approach their professional challenges with more maturity. Hence, on a regular basis the process of "relevant Sharing" must be done by the managers or leaders with their respective teams. They must also remember that knowledge need not be only in the context of their work. Life experiences can be shared through which more can be learnt!

4. Training- Finally the nest of the manager will be completely successful when the manager or leader starts to "Train" his teams by himself or by sending them for specific trainings or by inviting trainers to visit the nest or even visit the organization and conduct the trainings. "Training" is a powerful way of helping the team members learn new skills albeit technical, functional or even as importantly behavioral skills.

While the **NEST** is not just a bird's home, it is also not some blank and boring space for Managers to put his team members into. The **NEST** is truly an '**Opportunity Space**' where people can in the true sense develop and influence themselves positively towards their growth and the growth of the organization!

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Here I reside
In the land of faith,
Where religions unite,
Brotherhood bathes.

Here I reside
In the lap of nature,
Where tigers breathe
In manmade shelters.

Here I reside
In the land of excavations,
Where ugly truths lie
In this symbol of independence.

Here I reside
In the empire of tales,
Heroes of mythology
Embarrassing evil fails.

Here I reside
In the land of gold,
Where knowledge is treasured
In stories by the old.

Here I reside
In the nation of bureaucrats,
Violating the democracy
Educated illiterate brats.

Here I reside
In this largest autonomy,
Nation titled 'India',
A second mother for me.

- Kedar K

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संत कवयित्री आंडाळ

नीला बलसेकर

“संत कवयित्री आंडाळ” ही दक्षिण भारतांतुली एक महान् संत कवयित्री. आमगेल्या संत जनाबाई, मीराबाई वारीची ती कृष्ण भक्त आशिल्ली! श्रीरंगधावाक तिनं पति मानीलं आनि तागलं विग्रहांतूची ती विलीन जाल्ली.

“आंडाळ” ह्या शब्दाचो अर्थ म्हळ्यारी भगवंताक प्राप्त कोरून घेतीली संत, एकेयि भगवंताचेरी असीम भक्ति करतली भक्त!

मदुराई लागी आशिल्या “श्रीबल्लीपुत्र” ह्या सान्न गांवांतू विष्णुचित्त नावाचो कृष्णागल्लो भक्त आशिल्लो. गांवांतू “वटपत्रशायी” ह्या नांवाच्यें विष्णूगल्लें देवळ आशिल्लें. विष्णूचित्तागली भक्ती पोळोवनु, ताका लोक पेरिअळवार म्हळ्यारी “महान् संत” म्हणतालें.

विष्णूचित्त श्री विष्णूगेलें म्हळ्यारी श्रीरंगम क्षेत्राचो शेषशायी श्रीरंगागेलें भक्तितू रंगूनू, संकाळी सांजें गांवांतुलें देवळांतु भजन कीर्तन करतालें. आपणागेल्या घरा सुतू तात्रे बाग केलेली, थंची, फुल्लें, तुळशी घेवनू हार कोरूनू देवळा व्होरचो तागल्लो रीवाजू आशिल्लो!

एक दिसु फालफाल्यारी नित्यावारीची बागेंतू वच्चूगेलेले वळारी, ताका सान्न चॅलडानें रळळलें आयकलें. तानें सोदू वचनाफडें तुळशीबनांतू एक सान्न नवजात बालक ताका दिसलें.

आजूबाजूक कोणेयि नाशिल्लें, वगी वगी आपणागेल्या वलींतू सुतावनू तें चेलडू घेवनू तां घारा आयलें. नक्षत्रावारी गॉमटेंची चलिचे चेलडू आशिल्लें. तागलें बायलेक मायेनं दोंळें भोरनू आयलें. चेलडूबाळ नात्तिले त्या दोंगांनी मोंगांनं तिक्का “गोदा” म्हळ्यारी “भूमीनं दिल्लेली” अशशी नांव घाल्लें. तिक्का “कोदई” सुदांयि म्हणतालीं. “कोदई” म्हळ्यारी फुल्ल्यांच्या माळेवारी “कमनीय”, “नाजूक” दिसतली, अशशी अर्थ!

त्या देवभक्त पतिपत्तिनं देवानें दिलेल्या ह्या कन्यारत्नाक मोंगाने होड केल्लें!

अत्यंत रूपवान, सद्गुणी आणि सज्जन अशी ही चल्ली गांवांतू सगळ्यांगेली मोंगाची आशिल्ली!

बापसू सांगातीची नित्य देवाखात्तीर हार, फुल्लें, तुळशीमाळा कोरूनू देवळांतू वत्ताली आणि भजनं म्हणताली, तल्लीन जावनू! पुजाऱ्यांनी देवागल्लो शिंगारू, पूजा करतना, दोंळें पात्ती सुदांई हालयनासतना पळेयित बसताली. दीस राती श्रीरंगदेवागेलें चिंतनांतुची दंग आसताली.

चिके होड जायनाफडें स्वतः बागेंतू वच्चुनु नाना रंगाची, परमळी फुल्लें हाणू, गोमट्यो माळा करत बसताली. थंई बांयि आशिल्ली तांतू, आपणची त्यां माळा माळणू घेवनू, सम जाल्लती की ना हें बांयेच्या उदकांतू आपणागेलें रूप पळयिताली.

मागिरी सगळे हार, फुल्लें पत्री घेवनू बापसू सांगाती, “वटपत्रशयनी” देवागल्लें देवळा वत्ताली.

मनांतू मात्र “शेषशायी श्रीरंगा”गल्लें चिंतन चलेलें आसतालें. ह्यो माळां इतलथाई गॉमटे आसताल्यो की त्यां माळ्ळीलशिवाय पूजा संपूर्ण जायनाशिली.

प्रायेक आयिली “गोदा” सुदांई “कोदई” म्हळ्यारी फुल्ल्यांच्या

माळेवारीची नाजूक आणि गोमटीची दिसताली.

देवस्थानांतू बशिले ताव्वळी, “श्रीरंगागेलें” वर्णन कोरूनू, सूरान्तू भजनं म्हणताली. मोंगानें विष्णू गेलीं अनेक नांव, तागेलें लमनाचें सोहळ्यांचे वर्णन, वैभवाच्यें, तागलें सौंदर्याच्यें वर्णन करतना, तें दृश्य सम दोंळ्या इदरारी, परमेश्वरागल्लें, श्रीदेवी आणि भूदेवी सांगाती स्वरूप प्रगट जातालें.

आकाशांतू नक्षत्रांचो मांटव घालनू, विजेच्या झोंपाळ्यारी श्रीरंग, श्रीदेवी, भूदेवी सांगाती बसला आणि तांका अर्पण केलेले उपचार, वस्त्र, अलंकार हाज्यें वर्णन आयकतना आयिले भक्त, तान भूक विस्सोरुनू तास गटलेनं भजन आयकतची देवळांतू बसताले.

आजी सुदांई दक्षिण भारतांतू लमन समारंभावळारी आनि धनुर्मासांतू संत आंडाळानें बरेयिली पदं, भजनं, खास म्हणताती.

जाल्यारी एक दिसू पेरीआलवरानें दंवळा व्हेलेल हारांतू दीगू केसू मॅळ्ळो. पुजाऱ्यांनं कांप्यानं विचारलें, तुमी, कोणेयि माळनू घेतील माळा देवा खात्तीर हाळ्या वें? निर्माल्य जाल्लें आत्तं ती माळ! देवाक माळू जायना!

विष्णूचित्तानं गोदाक विचारना फुडें, तिनं, आपणची ती माळ गळ्यांतु घालनू घेताली म्होणू सांगलें. नित्य माळ सम जाल्या की ना हें पोळोवच्याक आपण तशी करता, अशी तिने सांगलें. पुजाऱ्यांनी विष्णूचित्ताक हाज्जी मुखारी फुल्लें आणि माळां, हार, हाडचें ना म्हणू सांगलें. बापसू आणि चल्ली बॅजारानं घारा आयली.

आपणागेलो इतले वर्साचो नेमू, तुजेमिती चुकल्लो म्हणू गोदाक विष्णूचित्तानं गवजी घाल्ली. उपाशीची त्या रात्ती ती सगळी निदली. दुःखानं नीद येने. फालफाल्यारी पुजारी धांवतचि, तांगले घारा आयलें. “पेरी आलवर” मगेली चूक जाल्ली, देवानें स्वतः माका दृष्टांतू दीवनू सांगलें! गोदानं माळनू घेतीली माळाची आपणाक घालका म्होणू! त्यामिती आजी धोरनू पुरायि माळा हार, गोदाक माळनू मागेरीची देवळांतू घेवनू यो!

विष्णूचित्ताक दोंळें भोरनू आयलें, आपणागेली गोदा खरेंची “भूदेवीची” आस्स अशी तागेली खात्री जाल्ली.

गोदाक मस्त बरेबरे घराण्यांथावनू लमनाच्यो मागण्यां येत आशिल्यां, जाल्यारी आपणे श्रीरंग क्षेत्राचो स्वामी श्रीशेषशायी श्रीरंगाकची पति मानल्यां आनि ताजे सांगातीची विवाह कोरचो आस्स अशी हट धरलें!

गरीब विष्णूचित्ताक आणि तागेलें बायलेक कल्लें कोरका म्होणू कळने. श्रीरंगक्षेत्र तांगलें गांवालागी थावनू दोनशींमेल धूर आशिल्लें. इतले धूर ह्या चलयेक घेवनू कशशी वच्यें? आणि थंच्यें पुजारी, त्या गांवचो रायू, अधिकारी, तांनीं आमकां धांवडावनू सोंळ्यारी कल्लें कोरच्यें ही काळजी सुरू जाली! त्यावळारी श्रीरंग क्षेत्राच्या पुजाऱ्यांकची दृष्टांतू जाल्लो, की श्रीबल्लीपुत्राच्या, विष्णूचित्ताक तागेलें कन्येखात्तीर पालखी पेटयाती आणि मानानं तिक्का आणि तिगेलें आवसु बापसूक आपोवनू हाडाती आणि थाटाने आमगेलो विवाह सोहळा साजरो कराती!

ही खबबरी “राजा वल्लभदेवराया” गेलें कान्नारी वचुगेली. तान्नै स्वतः श्रीवल्लीपुतुर गांवा वच्चूनू, गोदाक, भरजरी वस्त्रं, अलंकार दिवन्, आवसुबापसू सांगाती, वाजपारी पालखेंतु बसोवुनू श्रीरंग क्षेत्रांतू हाळ्ळे. श्रीरंग देवागल्लं लमन, गोदा नावाच्या महान भक्त, कन्येसांगाती जाता म्हणाफुडं गांवा गांवांथावनू लोक आयल्लं. थारारी लमन जाल्लं आणि गोदा गर्भग्रहांतू वच्चूगेली. सगळे गर्भगुडींतू झग्नं तेजस्वी प्रकाश पळ्ळो, आणि गोदा श्रीरंगागल्या मूर्तींतू विलय पावली!

गोदाक “रंगनायकी आंडाळ” म्हळ्यारी श्रीरंगाक प्राप्त कोरनू घेत्तीली,

परमेश्वरांतू विलय पाविली भक्त हँ नामकरण जाल्लें! तामिळभाषेंतू “नालायिर दिव्य प्रबन्धम्” हँ आळवार, म्हळ्यारी संतांनी बरेयिल्या भजनांतू, आंडाळानं केलेलीं १७३ पदं आणि भजनं आस्सती.

त्तिनें केलेले विष्णूगल्लं अनेक स्वरूपांच्ये, तागल्लं लीलांच्यें वर्णन, तागेली स्तुती आस्स! निसर्गांतू, पशू पक्ष्यांतू सुगंधी फुल्लांतू, वृक्षवल्लींतू, वनांतू, बागेंतू तिक्का तिगेल्या प्रितीच्या विष्णूगल्लं स्वरूपची दिसताल्लं.

तिगलीं ही भक्तिपूर्ण पदं आणि विष्णूप्रिया आंडाळ अजरामर आस्स!

वेळ लागली पळायला

वेळ लागली पळायला
वय लागले वाढायला
बघता बघता गेले दीस
बुद्धी लागली गमायला

केस पिकले दात पडले
पाय दुर्बल झाले
एकू येईनासे झाले
बालपण आठवणीत आले

आले किती गेले किती
गणित मांडू लागले
जुन्या गोष्टींच्या गाभाऱ्यात
वर्तमान दडू लागले

आरशात चेहरा बघता स्वतःचा
भीती वाटू लागली
बघून स्वतःचा चेहरा स्वतःला
ओळख नाही पटली

संसाराचं सगळं सार
शेवटी हेच असतं
तो मी नव्हेच हेच खरे
पटवून घ्याव लागतं

- चैतन्य नाडकर्णी
गोरेगांव

सारथी

संसाराचा रथ चालवतो एक सारथी
मार्ग असतो घनदाट रानातून
संकटाची हिंस्त्र श्वापदे असतात बसलेली
भयानक जबडे आ वासून!

मधूनच जीवनात वादळ उठते
सावरावे लागते सारथ्यालाच
काट्याकुट्यांच्या निबीड पथावरून
रथ ओढावा लागतो त्यालाच!

कधी आपर्तीची मुसळधार सर
अचानक कोसळून जाते
दुःखाचा वर्षाव करून जाते
त्यातून कोरडे व्हावे लागते सारथ्यालाच!

एखादे वेळी धरणी दुभंगते
जीवनाच्या काळ्या तमात वीज कडाडते
उंचसखल भूमीवरून रथाचा तोल
राखावा लागतो सारथ्यालाच!

रथात बसलेल्या पथिकांची
चिंता त्याला हैराण करते
काळजीचा काळा जांभळा भुंगा
त्याचे विदीर्ण मन पोखरून काढते!

वादळ, वारे, भूकंप, पूर, प्रलय सारे
साहावे लागते सारथ्याला
पण तरीही...
परिस्थितीच्या चक्रात न अडकता
योग्य मार्गाने रथ न्यावा लागतो सारथ्यालाच

-लता कर्नाड राव (उल्लाळ)

ती आली अन् गेली

विजयालक्ष्मी सुरेश कापनाडक

वंदना ही आपल्या देशाच्या जालंधर (पंजाब) शहरातील एक पस्तीशीतील गौरवणी गृहिणी. तिने बारावीनंतर कॉम्प्युटर कोर्स आणि ब्युटिशियनचा कोर्स केला व स्वतःचे ब्यूटीपार्लर चालवीत होती. दुदैवाने ते बंद करावे लागले. माहेरी लाडात वाढलेली अन् सासरी सासू-सासरे आधीच निवर्तल्यामुळे घरात आनंदी-आनंद असे. तिचा पंधरा वर्षांचा मुलगा नववीत तर मुलगी दहा वर्षांची होती. दोन्ही मुलांचे संगोपन आजोळी होत होते. तिचा आठवी पास ड्रायव्हर नवरा सदानकदा घराबाहेर असायचा. मुलाला दहावीनंतर पुढील शिक्षणासाठी कॅनडाला पाठविण्याचा तिचा मानस होता.

घरात सर्वात जास्त शिक्षित सुंदर कमवती असल्यामुळे ती हेकेखोर आणि गर्विष्ठ होती. मुलांच्या खर्चासाठी लागणारा पैसा कमविण्यासाठी ती संधी शोधत होती.

अचानक तिची सिंगापूर-रिटर्न मैत्रीण तिला भेटली. तिथल्या नोकरीतून मिळणाऱ्या पाचअंकी पगाराने तिला भूल पडली. घरी तिने सिंगापूरला जाण्याचा स्वतःचा विचार सांगितला. तिच्या नवऱ्याने विरोध केला, पण पैशाचा मोह आणि तिच्या हट्टापुढे सर्वांनी हात टेकले. आता सिंगापूरसाठी पासपोर्ट विसा मिळविण्यासाठी ती प्रयत्नाला लागली.

आपल्या भारतात घरकामासाठी सहज माणसे मिळतात. पण परदेशात कामासाठी बाई किंवा गडी मिळणे शक्यच नाही. त्यांना तिथं “हेल्पर” म्हणतात. सिंगापूरच्या प्रत्येक घरात हेल्परसाठी एक सोयीस्कर स्वतंत्र खोली असते. चोवीस तास घरात राहून काम करणाऱ्या बायका, पंजाबी, उत्तर प्रदेशीय किंवा तामिळ असतात.

वंदनाने विचार केला की सिंगापूरला “हेल्पर” म्हणून जावे अन्यथा तिथं जाणे आणि राहणे शक्य नाही. नंतर हळूच आपला व्यवसाय सुरू करावा. पण तिथले नियम तिने नाही पाहिले. तिने नोकरीसाठी एजन्सीमध्ये नाव नोंदविले.

सिंगापूरमध्ये नोकर ठेवण्यासाठी कडक नियम आहेत. त्यासाठी मालक किंवा मालकिणीला परीक्षाच द्यावी लागते. हेल्परच्या सुरक्षा आणि सुविधांसाठी नियम आहेत. मालकांनी पण एजन्सीमध्ये नाव नोंदवायचे. एजन्सी मालकाच्या उत्तरांनी संतुष्ट झाल्यावर गरजेप्रमाणे हेल्परचा बायोडेटा मालकाला पाठविते. त्यापैकी बाईचे सिलेक्शन केल्यावर व्हिडिओकॉलने दोन्ही पक्ष भेटतात. पसंती झाल्यावर मालकाच्या विमान खर्चाने हेल्पर सिंगापूरला येते. नंतर एजन्सीतर्फे तीन दिवस तिला ट्रेनिंग असते व त्यानंतर ती त्या मालकाच्या घरी दोन वर्षांसाठी कामावर जाते व त्या घरातील सदस्य होते.

ह्याच दरम्यान मुंबापुरीतील मोठ्या कंपनीतील एका ऑफिसरची बदली सिंगापूरला झाली. ते गुजराती होते. त्यांच्या घरात एक साठीच्या घरातील आजी, आजीचा पस्तीशीतील मुलगा (ज्याची बदली झाली) सून नोकरीत. तिने पण सिंगापूरला बदली करवून घेतली व त्यांचा तीन वर्षांचा मुलगा “सोनू” असे इनमीन साडेतीन लोकं घरात होती. त्यांना हेल्परची गरज होती. ते एखाद्या मराठी बाईच्या शोधात होते. ते अशक्य होते. शेवटी वंदनाची निवड झाली. दि. १७ जानेवारी २०१९ रोजी सिंगापूरला आली. दोन दिवस एजन्सीमध्ये मेडिकल चेकअप, ट्रेनिंग व नियमावली समजावून (मालकाच्या खर्चाने) सर्व सोपस्कारानंतर २० जानेवारी २०१९ रोजी सोनूची आई वंदनाला घरी घेऊन आली.

वंदनाची टाइटपँट, तोकडा टी शर्ट, गडद लिपस्टिक बघून आजींचा पारा चढला. त्यांनी “असे कपडे आमच्या घरात चालणार नाहीत.” अशी तंबी वंदनाला दिली. अशा स्वागतामुळे वंदना दोन दिवस पाहुण्यासारखी आपल्या खोलीतच राहिली व सोनूच्या आईकडून छान पाहुणचार घेतला व नंतर सोनूच्या आईने तिची समजूत घालून तिसऱ्या दिवशी सकाळी बाहेर आली. तिला स्वैपाक व इतर कामे सांगितली. गुजराती माणसे खाण्यापिण्यात व घरातील स्वच्छतेबाबत चोखंदळ असतात. पण वंदनाला भाजी चिरणेपण जमले नाही. पोळ्यांचे तर विचारूच नका.

आता घर झाडणे, पुसणे व भांडी घासणे ही कामे तिला सांगितली, तर आपला हात खरखरीत झाल्याचा ती कांगावा करू लागली. इंटरव्यूमध्ये सर्व कामे करू शकते असे सांगणारी नालायक निघाली. आजी वैतागल्या, पण सोनूच्या आईने धीराने तिला एक एक काम शिकवायला सुरुवात केली. त्या दरम्यान सर्वांनाच नवीन जागा, सोनूच्या शाळेत अॅडमिशन आणि इतर कामांची नीट घडी बसेपर्यंत तीन महिने गेले. सोनू शाळेत रमला, वंदना आणि सोनूची गट्टी जमली. आता ती चहा आणि पोळ्या बऱ्यापैकी शिकली. आता आई सोनूला शाळेत सोडत असे अन् वंदना त्याला घरी आणे व संध्याकाळी खाली खेळायला घेऊन जाऊ लागली. गाडी रूळावर येऊ लागली. एजन्सीमधून त्यांना विचारले तर दोन्ही पक्षांनी समाधानकारक उत्तर दिले. पण वंदनाच्या कामाने आजी समाधानी नव्हत्या.

सर्वांनाच त्या नवीन देश व जागेची ओळख होऊ लागली. वंदना संध्याकाळी सोनूला खाली गार्डनमध्ये घेऊन जात असे. गार्डनमध्ये तिच्या सारख्या अनेक हेल्पर, मुलांना घेऊन खाली येत असत. बहुतेक जालंधर जवळ आसपासच्याच बायकांची एक भाषा (पंजाबी) असल्यामुळे ओळख झाली. आता वंदना खुश होती. तिला तिच्या ध्येयाची आठवण आली.

वंदनाने सोनूच्या आईच्या परमिशनने आपल्या मैत्रीणीला आयब्रो केला (फुकट), हळूच दुसरीचा मेकअप केला. या पद्धतीने आपल्या कलेचे प्रदर्शन ती करत असे. त्यासाठी घरच्यांची आडकाठी नव्हती.

सिंगापूरमध्ये परवानगीशिवाय व्यवसाय करता नाही येत. जरी हेल्परने ही चूक केली, तर मालकालासुद्धा कडक शिक्षा भोगावी लागते. नवीन जागेत ही चूक घोडचूक होते. म्हणून आजी डोळ्यात तेल घालून होत्या. घराच्या कामात समाधानकारक प्रगती नव्हती. पण नाइलाज होता. एकदा तिने कोणा हेल्परच्या मालकिणीला आयब्रो करून दहा डॉलर्स घेतले. आजीच्या कानावर आले. तर त्यांनी तिला दटावून पैसे परत केले. पण रक्ताची चटक लागलेल्या वाघिणीला आवरणे कठीण असते. तीच गत वंदनाची होती.

दरम्यान सहा महिने संपले. एजन्सीने वंदनाचे मेडिकल चेकअप करवून घेतले व ती पूर्ण स्वस्थ असल्याचा अहवाल पाठवला. त्याबरोबर कॉन्ट्रॅक्टपण संपले. आता कोणत्याही परिस्थितीत दोहो जण काहीच करू शकणार नव्हते. दि. २० जून २०१९ रोजी वंदना सोनूला खाली घेऊन गेली व त्याला एकट्याला खेळायला सोडून ती मैत्रीणींसोबत निघून गेली. सोनू दांड्या (रॉडवर) चढला अन् खाली उतरताना त्याचा पाय घसरला व तो खाली पडला व जोरात रडू लागला. त्याच्या आवाजाने सर्व मुली (हेल्पर) तिथं आल्या व वंदना त्याला घेऊन घरी आली.

त्याच्या डोक्याला खोक होती. तिला विचारले असता तिने सांगितले की ती तिथंच होती, पण ती त्याला सांभाळू शकली नाही म्हणून तो पडला. सोनूला औषध लावून झोपवले.

आजीने दुसऱ्या दिवशी घटनेचा सोक्षमोक्ष लावला. आता सोनूच्या आईचा धीर संपला. पण तिला कामावरून काढले तर इकडे आड तर तिकडे विहीर अशी गत होती. कारण तिची सुट्टी संपली होती. अन् पुढील महिन्यापासून कामावर जाणे आवश्यक होते. नवीन हेलपरसाठी पुन्हा एजन्सीचे हेलपाटे आणि पुन्हा नवीन खर्च आणि नवीन हेलपरची नवीन तऱ्हा. काय करावे सुचेना.

आजीच्या सुचनेप्रमाणे सोनूचे आई-बाबा एजन्सीमध्ये गेले व त्यांनी तिथल्या खरे मॅडमना इत्थंभूत माहिती दिली. त्या चांगल्या होत्या. त्यांच्या सल्ल्यानुसार तिला शक्यतो लवकर विमानाचे तिकिट देऊन घरी पाठवणे असे ठरले. नुकतेच कॉन्ट्रॅक्ट संपल्यामुळे त्यांनी नवीन कॉन्ट्रॅक्टचे पैसे घेण्यास नकार देत नवीन हेलपरसाठी मदत करण्याचे आश्वासन दिले.

घरी येऊन आई-बाबा काय बघतात की, वंदना मॅडम कान दुखतो या सबबीखाली खोलीतून बाहेरच आल्या नाहीत.

त्याच रात्री जागून त्या दोघांनी वंदनाच्या २४ तारखेचे परतीचे तिकिट बुक केले. दुसऱ्या दिवशी सकाळी वंदनाला बाहेर बोलावून तिकिट दिले. तर काय गंमत की तिचं दुखणं गायब झाले. त्या दिवशी ती 'मुस्लफा' मध्ये जाऊन भारतातील बांधवासाठी सामान घेऊन आली. जणू काही घडलेच नाही असे.

आजीने तिला समोर बसवून खालील सल्ला दिला. 'इंग्रज आपल्याला दोन चांगले शब्द सॉरी आणि थॅक्स शिकवून गेले. ह्यांच्या योग्य वापराने समोर तापलेले वातावरण विरून जाते. हे दोन शब्द शिक. म्हणजे तुझं कल्याण होईल व आपले घर सोडून तू कोठेही जाऊ नकोस.' वंदना आजीला सॉरी आणि सोनूच्या आईला कालच्या घटनेबद्दल सॉरी आणि घरी जाऊ दिल्याबद्दल थॅक्स म्हणून आजीच्या पाया पडली.

'म्हातारपण देगा देवा'

डॉ. सुनंदा कानाड

'बालपण देगा देवा, मुंगी साखरेचा रवा', तसेच 'बालपणीचा काळ सुखाचा' या गतायुष्यांतील एका सुखद पर्वाची गोडवी गाणाऱ्या म्हणी, बहुतेक सर्वांना परिचित आहेत. पण असे सुंदर, निरागस, सुरक्षित व आनंददायी बालपणाचं नशीब, आपल्या देशातील असंख्य मुलांना नसतं हेही तितकेच खरे!

बालपणी झालेले संस्कार आपण सहसा विसरत नाही. त्यातील एक महत्त्वाचा संस्कार म्हणजे वयाने मोठ्या असलेल्या व्यक्तीविषयी आदर, त्यांचे आशीर्वाद मिळावेत म्हणून वाकून नमस्कार करणे, ही शिकवण! विशेष करून आई-वडील, आजी-आजोबांना पूज्य मानणे, त्यांचा आदर न करणे, कठीण प्रसंगी त्यांचा सल्ला घेणे, असे अनेक संस्कार बालमनावर होत असतात. म्हणूनच म्हातारपण म्हणजे श्रेष्ठ, ज्येष्ठ नागरिक म्हणून मिळणारा मान, त्यांना मिळणाऱ्या अनेक सवलती, त्यांचं मन दुखवू नये म्हणून घरच्यांनी केलेले प्रयत्न- सारं काही बालपणासारखं सुखावह वाटतं म्हातारपणात!

इथंही जीवनाच्या अखेरच्या पर्वात हतबल झालेली, असहाय, एकाकी झालेली, शारीरिक व्याधींनी त्रस्त झालेली, जीवापाड कष्ट करून वाढवलेल्या मुलांकडून अपमान, अवहेलना सहन करणारी, असंख्य म्हातारी माणसं आपल्या आसपास पाहतो; त्यांचं दुःख, मनःस्ताप, सोसत ती जगतात, मृत्यूची वाट पाहत! असलं दुःखदायी म्हातारपण नको रे देवा!

वाढत्या वयाबरोबर अनेक तक्रारी करतात म्हातारी माणसं. डोळे अधू होतात, नीट दिसत नाही, मोतीबिंदू झाले तर ते काढणे म्हणजे अवाढव्य खर्च! कानाला नीट ऐकू येत नाही, त्यासाठी 'हिअरिंग एड', तेही अत्यंत महाग. गुडघे दुखतात, खूप चालवत नाही, जिना चढणं-उतरणंही जमत नाही. एकूण परावलंबी जीवन! पण त्यासाठी दुःखी का व्हायचं? म्हातारपण म्हणजे एक शाप नव्हे, वरदान समजून, त्यांचे साइड इफेक्टस मोठ्या मनाने स्वीकाराचे. 'पार्ट ऑफ लाईफ' म्हणायचं आणि आलेला प्रत्येक दिवस मजेत घालवायचा.

अशा ह्या जगण्यातही काही मजेचे प्रसंग घडतात. ते असे- एकदा नव्वद

वर्ष वयाच्या बाईला भेटायला गेले, तेव्हा सुनेनं सांगितलं, 'त्यांना फक्त उजव्या कानाला ऐकू येतं. जरा मोठ्यानं बोला'. माझी बडबड ऐकून त्या बाई म्हणाल्या, 'तू प्रोफेसर होतीस ना ग? म्हणूनच इतक्या मोठ्याने बोलतेस.' मी गप्पच, त्या मात्र हसत होत्या.

तसेच माझ्या सासूबाईची सतत तक्रार असायची, दाताच्या कवळीनं नीट चावता येत नाही, धारच नाही वाटतं. तेव्हा सुनेनं धारवाल्याकडे नेऊन धार काढू का असं विचारताच त्या इतक्या हसल्या की एक कवळी बाहेर आली. सुनेवर रागवायचं सोडा, तिच्या विनोदबुद्धीचं त्यांना कौतुक वाटलं.

वयापरतचे आठवण कमी होते आणि विसरणं जास्त होतं. अगदी आठवणीने जपून ठेवलेली वस्तू सापडत नाही. शोधून शोधून दमायला होतं आणि ती डोळ्यांसमोर असते पण दिसत नाही. 'Blind spot'! म्हातारपणातील नकोशा वाटणाऱ्या गोष्टीतही मरणाची वाट न पाहता, सुखाचे क्षण आठवून समाधान मानायचं. ज्या गोष्टीत रस आहे त्या कराव्या. चांगलं संगीत ऐकायचं, छानसं नाटक किंवा टी.व्ही. वरील सिरियल पाहायचं, नातवंडांच्या सहवासात त्यांना गोष्टी सांगून रिजवावं, वाचनाची आवड असेल तर एखादी कथा, कादंबरी वाचावी. वर्तमानपत्रांतील नको त्या बातम्या सोडून, शब्दकोडी सोडवावी. एक ना दोन, किती अशा आपल्याला आवडणाऱ्या गोष्टी करण्यात वेळ कसा जाता ते कळतच नाही.

मायेनं काळजी घेणारी मुलगी किंवा सून असेल तर, कुणीही हेवा करावा, असं असतं म्हातारपण! दातांनी चावता येत नाही म्हणून मऊ अन्न वाढील, काही दुखलं-खुपलं की लगेच धावून येईल, जड सामान उचलू देणार नाही, तोल गेला तर आधार देईल- अशा किती गोष्टी सांगाव्या समाधानकारक म्हातारपणाच्या! तेही एक बालपण मानायचं. निरागस जीवन जगण्याचं! तेव्हा मरणाचा विचार किंवा त्याची भीती न बाळगता, निश्चित मनानं म्हणायचं.

'म्हातारपण देगा देवा, अखंड आनंदाचा ठेवा'!

Personalia

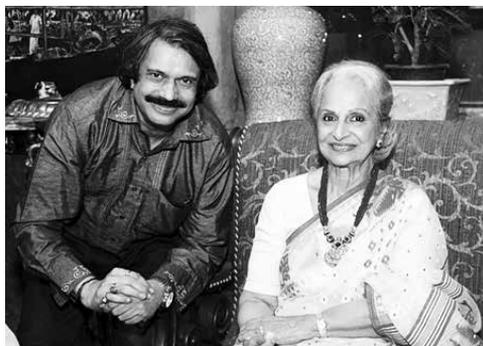
Shri Mohan Hemmadi, the well known Social Worker and Music aficionado from Hyderabad was invited to Chicago and honoured on 12th October, 2019 (which coincided with his



83rd birthday). The invitation was from the Metropolitan Asian Family Services, Chicago in connection with the celebration of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th Birth Anniversary. On this occasion he was presented with a medallion by the Consul general of India in Chicago, Mr. Sudhakar Dalela, as one of the top 20 icons. He was also presented with a Charka model by Mr. Raja Krishnamoorthy, the US representative for Illinois, 8th Congressional District. He was also presented a pocket watch, similar to the one used by Mahatma Gandhi by the Rashrapati Bhavan. We congratulate Shri Hemmadi on this honour.

Eminent senior film journalist-author Chaitanya Devidas Padukone was specially invited to an exclusive photography exhibition in Mumbai, where the legendary veteran prolific Bollywood actress Waheeda Rehman (of classics 'Guide' and 'Chaudhvin Ka Chaand' fame) unveiled and displayed her secret 'wild' passion - that of being an adept still-photographer, who loves to click photos of nature and wildlife in safari parks. At this exhibition, "living legend" Waheedaji had a lively chat-media-interview with Chaitanya, recalling some of her memorable moments. It may be recalled, that the dignified Waheedaji was launched as an actress-danseuse by iconic actor-film-maker-mentor Gurudutt (Padukone). In December, Chaitanya was also specially invited as a 'celeb-Judge' at the national-level competitive 'reportage' event forming part of the prestigious IIT-Mood Indigo Fest-2019 at Powai (Mumbai). On January 5th, music-savvy Padukone was honoured with an ornate-plaque for his film-journalistic excellence, by 'Sanggeet' — a popular Bollywood vocal music outfit, which has several excellent Bhaanap singers as well, in their performing team. Incidentally, the memoirs book 'R D

BurMania', authored by Chaitanya Padukone has been given a place of pride in the reference library of the hallowed Film



& Television Institute (FTII) located in Pune. They have appreciated the book as a "valuable addition" to their existing collection.

Ms. Gourpriya Dayashankar Koppikar was awarded the First "Prerna Rise Inspired" Scroll of Appreciation 2020, by the College of Home Science, Nirmala Niketan, Mumbai. The Department Of Food, Nutrition and Dietetics of



College of Home Science, Nirmala Niketan, Mumbai has instituted a Scroll of Appreciation to be awarded to one illustrious alumna of the department each year in the PRERNA –

RISE INSPIRED program. Excellence is born from inspiration, determination, diligence and perseverance. It is the culmination of efforts of an untiring soul that has succeeded in making a positive difference to the world. The Department Of Food, Nutrition and Dietetics of College of Home Science, Nirmala Niketan, proudly awarded the first "PRERNA RISE INSPIRED Scroll of Appreciation 2020" on 6th January 2020 to Ms. Gourpriya Dayashankar Koppikar, Registered Dietician, Consultant Chief Dietician, Bombay Hospital, Mumbai and Alumna of the year 1981 for her long-standing, illustrious professional career as a dietician and for her immense contribution towards the teaching and training of the students of Dietetics. They also placed on record their sincere appreciation for her long and continued support and guidance to the department. Ms. Koppikar also delivered the keynote address 'Pearls Of Wisdom: A Dietician's Perspective' which was greatly appreciated.



Here and There

Saraswat Samaj UK: Diwali 2019 - A splendid time was guaranteed for all who attended the SSUK Diwali function on Saturday 9 November at Spring west Academy in Feltham. As usual, it was jointly organised and sponsored by the Chitrapur and Gowd Saraswat communities; total attendance was around 270, with SSUK attendance around 80.

There are three main stays of SSUK Diwali functions: a varied and well-thought-out entertainment programme, an array of delicious food, and – for those who had somehow managed not to eat too much – a night of dancing. As ever, all three components were present in full force on 9 November. After the traditional lighting of the deepa, the audience was treated to a cavalcade of highly talented Samaj youths – too many to mention by name – who danced (to both Bollywood and traditional songs), sang, and played music for our pleasure. There were some older performers too: Suman Nagarkatti



delivered her customary Amchi poem, while her son Neeraj treated the audience to a stand-up comedy set. We hope to see more stand-up comedy at SSUK events in future!

Finally, in what has become a Diwali tradition, there was a splendid edition of "massaoke": mass karaoke, where the entire audience was encouraged to sing along to Western and Hindi songs. This was followed by dancing by attendees of all ages, well into the night.

We are also happy to note that the 2019 Diwali raffle raised £184, which, supplemented by a contribution of £66 from the Vantiga account, made a total of £250 to be donated to the Shri Trust, a charitable organisation affiliated to Shri Chitrapur Math. The funds will be used to finance the new English-medium primary school in Karla.

We are already excited for Diwali2020 – and hope to see as many of you there as possible!

Reported by Arjun Sajip

Mangaluru: With the blessings of our Parama Pooja Swamiji, 180th Maha Samadhi (Punya Tithi) of H H Vamanashram Swamiji was commemorated on 19th and 20th November 2019 at Shri Samadhi Math Mangaluru. Various vaidik rituals were performed on the above days under the guidance of Ved Ulman Gurnath Bhat.

On 19th Nov 2019, the programme began at 8 a.m. with Samuhik Prarthana and Guru Ganapathi Pooja. During the

day, various rituals like Shakti Shanti Kalash Sthapan, Laghu Rudra Avarthan etc were held and the day concluded with Ranga Pooja and Prasad Vitaran.

On 20th Nov Mahasamadhi Day, early morning, Gayathri Japanushtan was chanted by male sadhakas of Mangaluru for an hour. Vaidik rituals and havans were also conducted during the day. At the Vamanashrama Sannidhi, Kalashabhisheka and more than 500 Shiyalabhishekas were held followed by Maha Pooja , Naivedya and Santarpan. In the evening, the Palki utsav of Lord Umamaheshwar and Lord Bhavanishankar was held where both the deities were placed together in a beautifully decorated Palki. This was followed by Ashtavadhana Seva, Maha Mangalarati and Prasada vitaran. Laity of Mangalore enthusiastically participated in large numbers in all the above programmes.

Reported by Savnal Janardhan Rao

Mallapur: Datta Jayanti Utsav was celebrated in Datta Mandir from 6th-13th December. Nagarkattikars from Mumbai, Bangalore, Pune and some local devotees attended this programme with great devotion. Daily programme in the morning included japa, Devi anushtan and Guru Charitra parayan, arati, naivedya, mahamangalarati and prasada bhojan. In the evening, bhajans composed by Late Santappa Nagarkatti [known as Sant Soiroba] which also included Navavidha Bhakti, Gondhal and Dolara bhajans were sung. In the end, ashtavadhan seva, paradi arati etc were performed.

Datta Janmakatha bhajans on Datta Jayanti were sung enacting the story of Atri and Anasuya leading to the cradling ceremony. The mouth-watering prasada [meva] which was prepared by mixing all fruits and sweets were distributed to everyone. Later Jagarana till dawn which included Dandiya and some interesting games and Bhakti-geet were attended by majority of youth with great enthusiasm. The annual function ended with mangal kala, palki utsav and okkuli through the streets of Mallapur.

Reported by Arun Ubhaykar

Mumbai – Santacruz: On 20th Dec, 2019 the 'jod Punyatithis' of Punyatithi of HH Shrimat Krishnashram Swamiji & HH Shrimat Keshavashram Swamiji were observed at 6:00pm. Devotees gathered in large numbers to chant the Navratni Nityapatha ,Lalitasahastranam and performed Shri Devi Anushthana. This was followed by Deepanamaskar, Mangalarati and Prasad.

On 26th Dec, 2019 the PurushaVarga of our Sabha did a special session of Gayatri Anushthan during Surya Grahan.

Reported by Kavita Karnad

Mumbai- Thane : On the occasion of Gita Jayanti, Smt. Anuradha Kulkarni was felicitated at Talmaki Wadi on 7th December at the hands of Parama Pujya Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji for being the eldest participant in the Abhivaykti Competition held on 24th November.

The All Mumbai Sabha PrarthanaVarga Cultural Programme held on 8th December at Talmaki Wadi saw the participation of three children from Thane Sabha (Vashi centre). They recited the Sabha Prarambha Prarthana and Shri Parijnanashram Trayodashi.

Samaradhana of Parama Pujya Krishnashram Swamiji was observed on 19th December at the residence of Shri Sandeep and Smt. Shweta Arur in Thane. Eighteen sadhaka-s participated in the same. They performed Guru Pujan, narrated excerpts on the life of Pujya Swamiji from the Guruparampara Charitra, recited stotra-s and sang bhajans.

Samaradhana of Parama Pujya Keshavashram Swamiji was observed on 20th December at the residence of Smt. Anuradha Kulkarni in Vashi. This was attended by 15 sadhaka-s. They recited the Sabha Prarambha Prarthana, Guru Paduka Stotram and Shri Parijnanashram Trayodashi. The PrarthanaVarga children read out chapters on Parama Pujya Keshavashram Swamiji from the book 'Anugraha'. The sadhaka-s then offered bhajan seva. This was followed by the Deepa Namaskar and Sabha Samapti Prarthana.

Reported by Namrata Heranjai

Our Institutions

Saraswat Mahila Samaj Chennai

Mahila Samaj arranged for a complete movie experience with popcorns and soft drinks. The screening of Tamil movie Raatchasi was enjoyed by all. It was a story of a newly appointed Headmistress in a small Government school in a small town. The struggle she had to undergo to turn the school which make both the students and teacher proud of was the theme.

Reported by Kavita Savoor

The Samaj celebrated its foundation day on 14th Dec 2019. It was an evening of variety entertainment which included song dance and drama - aptly compered by Preetham Murali. There were a few yummy snacks too.

It started with a prayer tableau performed by the ladies of the Mahila Samaj committee. A bhajan venerating Lord Ganapathy was sung by the Mahila Samaj Bhajan Group. The colourful aspect of the evening was the Garba dance by the ladies. The ladies looked lovely in their costumes and jewellery. The dance was choreographed by Kashmira Soni. Kashmira also performed a solo Rajasthani dance. The dances were a feast to the eyes. Vijay Kumta & Preetham Murali rendered lovely songs. The mimicry of different singers of how they would sing "Yere Yere Pousa" was by Lata Ullal and very well done.

The Play "Kaliyagathul Yamu" written by Late Harishanker Gulwadi, adapted by Dr. Purnima Rao and directed by Lata Ullal was hilarious. The original drama was about Sathyavan and Savithri where Savithri comes to Yama to beg for her husband's life. We gave it a little twist and made Yama a lady so Sathyavan comes to Yamini to ask for his wife Savithri's life and how Yamini falls for Sathyavan. The dialogues were witty and adapted to modern day times. Everyone enjoyed the evening.

Reported by Dr. Purnima Rao

Saraswat Mahila Samaj, Gamdevi

On 14th Dec 2019 the Saraswat Mahila Samaj celebrated Children's Day in the Samaj Hall. Children from Sundatta High

School had the opportunity to learn craft from an enthusiastic and talented member of the Samaj, Smt. Vidhya Hemmady.

Smt. Vidyalakshmi Kulkarni introduced Vidhya who conducted a workshop for the children. The children prepared a "Waterfall Card" from used packaging material, glossy paper and brown paper bags. To achieve all this in the short time that was available Vidhya had made sets for every child. They could use this and follow her as she guided them in the ways of folding and sticking the papers. The children then coloured their card the way they wanted to do.

Scholarships were also given to girls who had excelled in 10th and 12th standard exams. The program ended with a vote of thanks by Smita Mavinkurve.

Delicious bhel and Fruity sponsored by Vidhya was served to everybody.

Reported by Vijayalakshmi Kapnadak

Forthcoming Programs :

Mon Feb. 3rd 2020 at 11.30 a.m. in Shrimad Anandashram Hall, Talmakiwadi : **Puraskar Samarambh**

Lekhan Puraskar to Smt. Vidya Kagal and Sangeet Puraskar to Smt. Smita Kulkarni, followed by Contributory Lunch (Rs 250 per head). Spot registration Rs. 280. Please send in contribution by Jan. 22nd. Contact Ms. Shubhangi 9702018744 – between 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm

Wed. 12th Feb 2020 at 3.30 p.m. in Samaj Hall: **Mother's Day** - Felicitation, interaction and a talk on Topic "Are we Ready for 2020" by **Smt Mrinalini Kher**, renowned social worker and Co-founder of Yuva Parivartan. Refreshments sponsored by Smt. Shaila Hemmady in memory of Smt. Shrimati S.Hemmady and Smt. Sumitra G.Mankikar.

CLASSIFIEDS

MATRIMONIAL

Wanted Groom: Suitable match from Mumbai based well educated and working boys for Mumbai based beautiful and fair girl 1992 born, MBA, working in Education Sector. Please send BHP to happymoments321@outlook.com/hras111@gmail.com

ENGAGEMENT

Kaikini-Kamath: Meghana, daughter of Vandita and Vivek Kaikini with Ananth, son of Gayatri and Maruti Kamath of Thane on 21.12.2019 at Mumbai.

Udiaver-Shet: Rahul, Son of Gaurang & Vinita Udiaver of Bangalore engaged to Shreya, daughter of Dr. Sudhakar and Dhanvanti Shet of Dubai on 13th December 2019 in Bangalore.

FOR SALE

A bright and airy 2 bedroom flat, with one balcony and two bath-toilets (Built-up area 990sq ft) on 3rd floor with lift at 8th Main Road, Malleswaram, Bengaluru. Two minutes walk from Shri Chitrapur Math. Contact: Email; maitsav@gmail.com or 9920759781.

HOUSE KEEPING

If you want any services in Mumbai for House cleaning, Sofa shampooing, Pest control service for house or society, House keeping services for society/ office, Water tank cleaning and disinfecting services, Want or give Flats on rent or sale. Health and travel insurance for customers from anywhere in India. Contact Leena Koppikar 9322163539.

ENGAGEMENT CANCELLATION

The engagement between Vikram, son of Subhash and Gayatri Rao of Mahim (west), Mumbai and Devika, daughter of Premanand and Vinaya Mundkur of Vile Parle (East), Mumbai stands cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.

DOMESTIC TIDINGS

BIRTHS

We welcome the following new arrivals:

Dec 4 : A Baby girl (Shharanya) to Adieetya and Nishtha Rao (Mankikar) at Mumbai.

MARRIAGE

We congratulate the young couple

Nov 11 : Chaitanya (Betrabet) Rao with Divya Kaikini of Kundapur at New Delhi.

Dec 12 : Nivedita Deepak Bantwal with Prashant Vasudev Bhat at Honnavar.

OBITUARIES

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

Nov 14 : Meenakshi Sunder Gundil (nee Anasuya (Baby) Arur) (91) at Ghaziabad.

Nov 21 : Maruti Bhavanishankar Shirali (93) at Virar (West).

Dec 5 : Kamal Hemant Pandit- ex Ganesh Prasad (99) at Bhayander.

Dec 17 : Col Mallapur Chandrakanth Rao (88) at Thane.

Dec 21 : Anand Gurudath Kabad (63) at Ahmedabad, Gujrat.

Dec 24 : Mohan Shankar Mavinkurve (95) at Dahisar, Mumbai.

Dev 26 : Devidas Bellare (86) of Vangani at Badlapur.

Dec 26 : Uday Honnemady (75) of Dombivali at Mumbai.

Jan 3 : Vatsala Benegal (96) at Pune.

Jan 8 : Ramesh S Bantwal (82) at Borivali, Mumbai.

Jan 9 : Lalita Vivek Kalbag (70) at Mumbai.

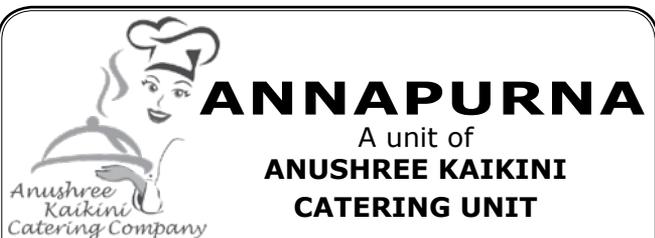
Jan 10 : Balse Mohan Rao (60) at Sagar, Karnataka.

Jan 11 : Rekha Talgeri (69) at Pune.

Jan 12 : Durgesh Basrur (81) at Bengaluru.

Jan 12 : Radhakrishna Gopal Adur (84) at Panvel.

Jan 13 : Krishnanand Shripadrao Chandavarkar (75) at Bijapur.



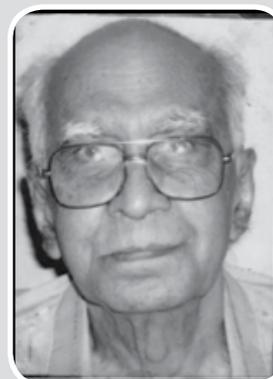
We serve both Traditional Indian & Indo fusion dishes with modest fare and contemporary flair.

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100th Birth Anniversary Late Shri. Sadanand Baidur

(DOB 04/02/1920)

Remembered by:

*beloved daughter in law Maya & Radhika,
daughter Nayantara Shashital,
son Mohan, Son in law Uday Shashital,
grandsons Vishal, Pratik, Vinod & Vikram
grand daughters Tanushree & Anushka
and great grand children Arnav, Lekh, Saumya,
Atharva, Lavnya, Gauri, Gargi
and Kadle & Baidur Families.*

Kiddies' Corner

Singing songs

My Blue painting



Umika Prasad Hattangadi 7 years



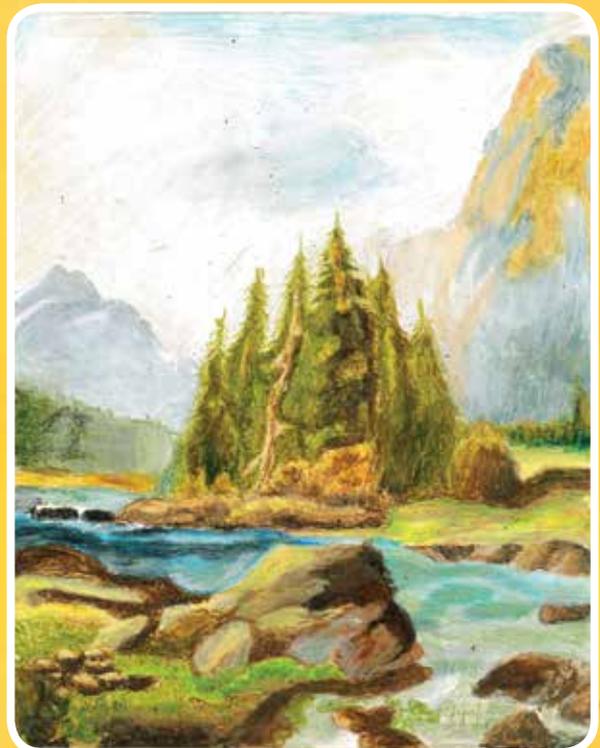
Avani Santosh Sajip – 9 years

Lord Buddha

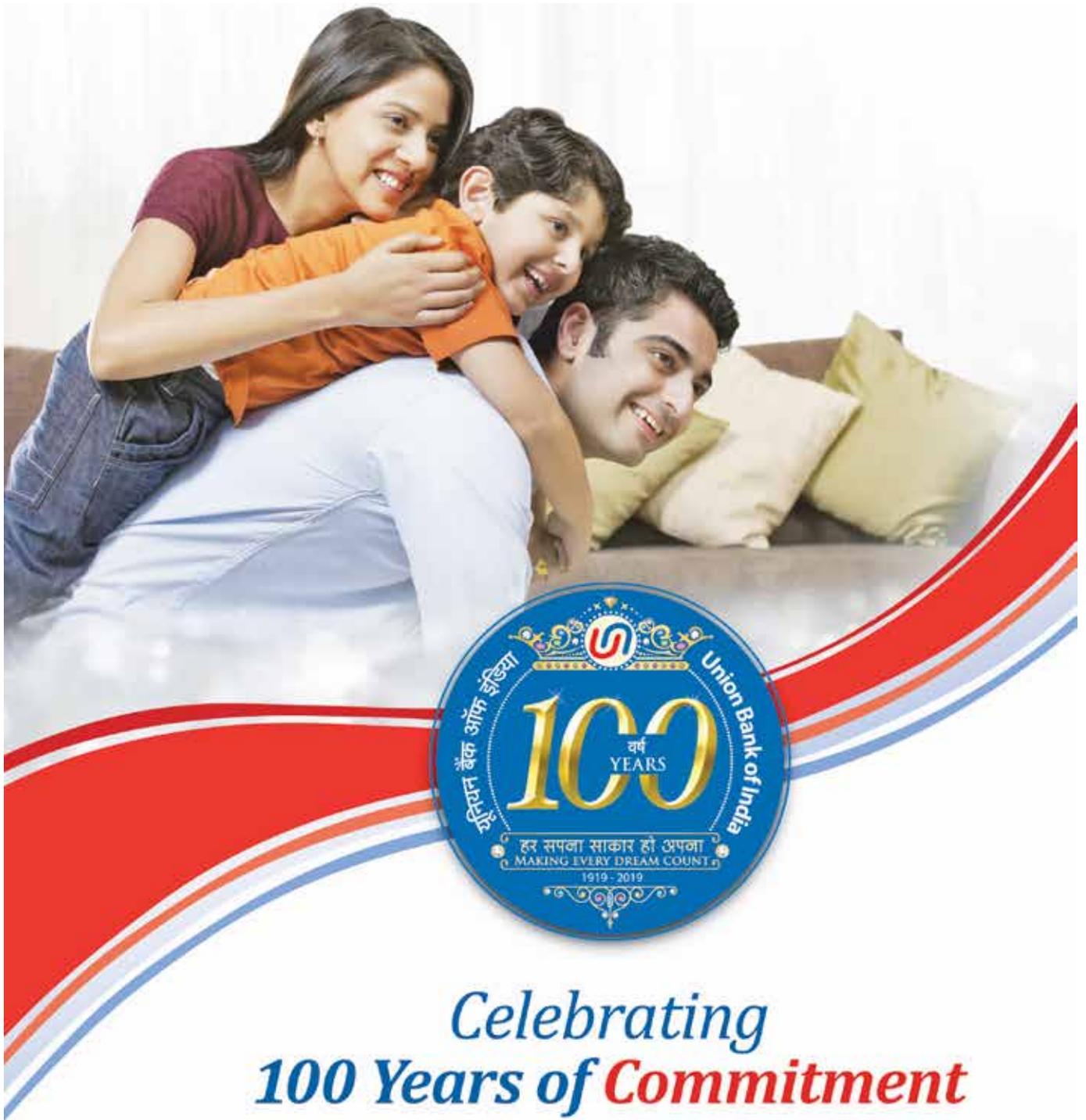


Pavitra Avinash Naimpalli – 14 years

Stream of Ganga



Gopal Baindur – 12 years



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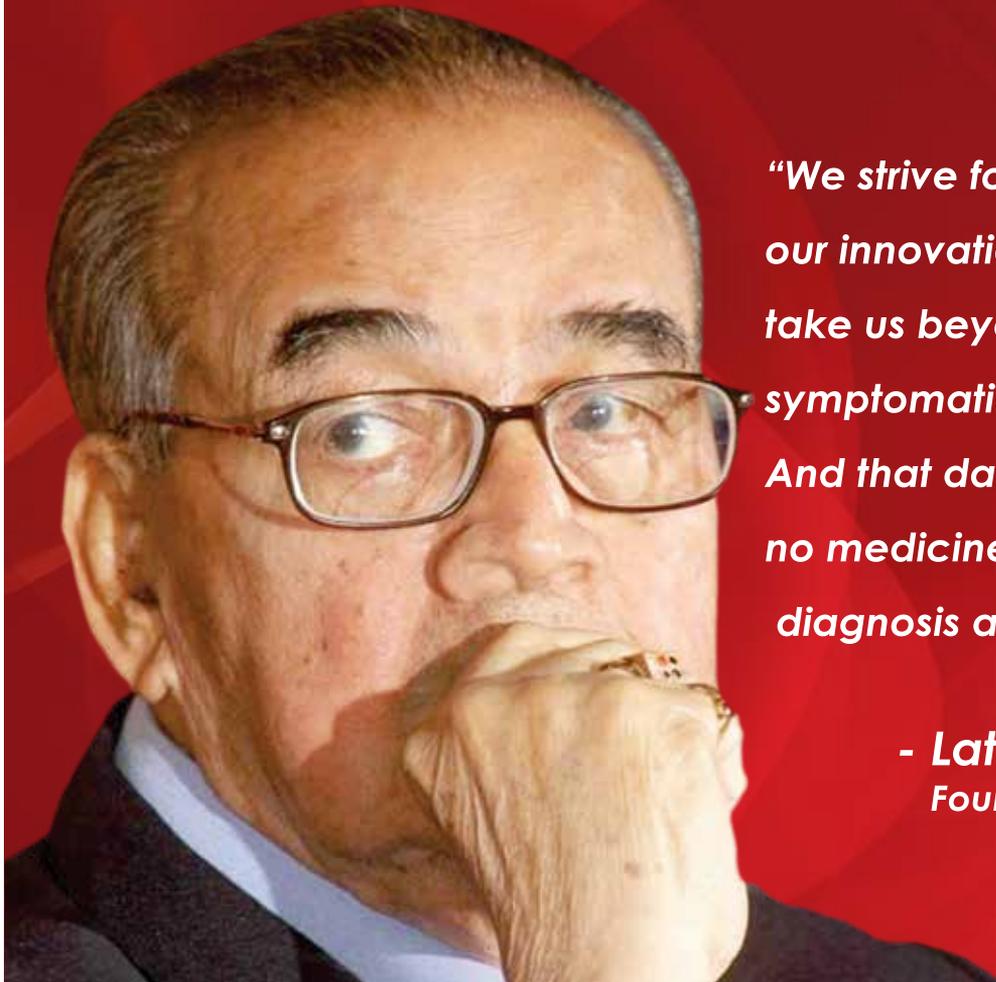
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