

Kanara Saraswat

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF KANARA SARASWAT ASSOCIATION

Vol. 25 Issue 5

Mumbai

May 2020

Pages 60 Price ₹ 20/-



Pandit Sadanand Naimpalli being honoured by Padmashree Suresh Wadkar while Ustad Zakir Hussain looks on



Pandit Omkar Gulvady being conferred the Karnataka Kalashree 2019-2020 award by the Karnataka State Sangeet Nritya Academy



International Women's Day - Chief Guest Smt. Mrinalini Kher welcomed by Chairman Shri Jairam Khambadkone

BUSINESS LOANS THAT RESPECT YOUR UNIQUENESS



Right Finance for every business need !

Perfectly suited for Corporates,
SMEs, Professionals, International Trade
and Individuals.

For more details, visit your nearest branch.



**Saraswat
Bank**

Saraswat Co-operative Bank Ltd.

(Scheduled Bank)

www.saraswatbank.com | [f](#) | [t](#) | [@](#) | [v](#)



Kanara Saraswat

A Monthly Magazine of the
Kanara Saraswat Association
Office: 13/1-2, Association Building,
Talmakiwadi, Near Talmaki Chowk,
J.D. Marg, Mumbai 400007

Website: <http://www.kanarasaraswat.in>

Vol. 25, No 5, May 2020

e-mail: editor@kanarasaraswat.in
kanara_saraswat@hotmail.com
(For Publication in the Magazine)

e-mail: admin@kanarasaraswat.in
(For administrative matters)

President: **Praveen P. Kadle**
Vice President: **Kishore Masurkar**
Chairman: **Jairam Khambadkone**

MEMBERS OF THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Editor: **Smita Mavinkurve**
Associate Editor: **Uday A. Mankikar**

Editorial Committee:

Usha K. Surkund
Devyani Bijoor
Anjali Burde
Swati Puthli

Computer Composing:
Sujata V. Masurkar

KSA Telephone: (022) 2380 2263

TELEFAX: (022) 23805655

KSA Holiday Home, Nashik:

Tel: 0253-2580575 / 0253-2315881

IN THIS ISSUE....

From the President's Desk	5
Letters to the Editor	6
Our Cover:	
Chitrapur Saraswat Mahila Divas 2020 ... Uday Mankikar	7
Felicitations Galore!.. Pt. Sadanad Naimpalli ... Shwetambara S.	12
Pandit Omkar Gulvady ... Anshul Ullal	13
From Our Archives:	
A Poet's Address To Saraswats	19
What is the Most Pressing Need of the Saraswats at the Present Day? ... H.N.R.	20
Indumati S. Nayampalli ... Personalia	20
A Shooting Star (Poem) ... by Z	20

आदरांजली : चंदनाचे झाड . . . नारायण शंताराम शिराली	21
Profile: Vasantlata Mirjankar - A True Kannada Kesari!	
... Deepa Shailendra (nee Talgery)	22
Military Musings: The Eloquence of Silence	
A Collection of Anecdotes ... Maj Gen B N Rao (Retd)	24
Epic Adversity ... Kavita Karnad Samuel	25
A Humble Appeal to my Dear Countrymen	
... Arjun Hemmady	26
Hum Kissime Kum Nahin ... Sudha Philar	27
Our Trip to Nashik Holiday Home - Availing KSA's Package	
... Vijaya Kunder	28
GOD (Poem) ... Kedar K	36
Ancient Games – Old Is Gold ... Sushma Philar	37
Going Within ... Shailaja Ganguly	38
The Origin of Music ... Gayatri Madan Dutt	39
Love Life in the Present ... Dr. Sunanda Karnad	40
Bhagavad Gita: Chapter 2... Dr. Sudha Tinaiker	41
"Gayatri" - The Saviour ... Satyanarayan Pandit	42
Kiddies' Corner:	43
Lord Shiva ... Shivaansh Bijoor	
Basket of Flowers ... Pratyusha Savkur;	
New York ... Ahan Mavinkurve;	
My dream car - no pollution car ... Aaddya Katre	
Parisevanam: Teachers learn too ... Smita Nagarkatte	46
Bhanaps – Kya Hai Right Choice? ... Suma Kaushik	48
Corona Fear (Poem) ... Sheetal Nishant Haldipur	48
Story of "Amrutanjan Bridge" or "Reversing Bridge"	
on Mumbai-Pune e-way ... Gurudutt Mundkur	49
शक्तिकयी युक्ती श्रेष्ठ . . . विजयालक्ष्मी कापनाडक	49
Enigma of Spirituality ... Dinesh Tallur	50
Once upon ... a Desert – Part 1... Anil R. Murdeshwar	51
We Konkanis Rock! (Poem) ... Vanita Kumta	52
Elevators & Me – A Jinx ... Jairam Khambadkone	53
Young Viewpoint: Another World Possibly?	
... Rohan Rajesh Kalbag	54
पुस्तक परीचयः जॉर्ज वॉशिंग्टन कार्बॅर संक्षिप्त चरित्रम् (संस्कृत)	
लेखिका संयुक्ता कैकिणी . . . नारायण शिराली	55
Amchis' Board Game 'Pagde' ... Vandan Shiroor	56
Here & There	57
Our Institutions	58
Classifieds	58
Domestic Tidings	58

SAVE OUR ENVIRONMENT JOIN KSA'S GREEN INITIATIVE

Opt for a softcopy of the magazine instead of the
Paper copy.

Send a mail to admin@kanarasaraswat.in saying you
want to join our GREEN WARRIORS!

Donations

**Kanara Saraswat Association is grateful to the
following donors:**

Scholarship Fund

Smt Padma Vinayak Nadkarni	Rs. 25025/-
(in m/o husband Late Vinayak Shankar Nadkarni)	
Smt Padma Vinayak Nadkarni	Rs. 25025/-
(in m/o son Late Prashant Vinayak Nadkarni)	

With Best Compliments from



Leading Manufacturers of

- Tyre valves, cores & accessories
- Tubeless snap-in valves
- Tubeless clamp-in valves
- HVAC products
- TPMS valves
- Tyre valve extensions



Registered Office:

Sunrise Chambers, 22, Ulsoor Road,
Bangalore – 560042
Tel: 080-25588968

Factory:

Mercara Road, Belavadi
Mysore - 570018
Tel: 0821-2402411

Web: www.tritonvalves.com email: info@tritonvalves.com

Lily Caterers

Lily Caterers

Bringing to the table a unique blend
of Tradition & Innovation!

Contact

Meera Shirish Wagle

9820256313/9819856313

Shibani Wagle
9619949982

Anand Rao
9833627501

D-5, Karnatak Bldgs., Mogul Lane, Mahim, Mumbai - 16

On the Panel:

Anandashram Hall, Talmakiwadi, Tardeo
Raja Shivaji Vidyalaya, Hindu Colony, Dadar

Visit us at

www.lily-caterers.com

Be a member of KSA & get monthly KS Magazine Free. Enjoy other facilities at concessional rates.
Contact: Dilip Sashital -9920132925



From the President's Desk....

By the time you get an e-copy of May 2020 issue of the KSA magazine, you will know the outcome of the continuation or otherwise of the nation-wide lockdown which was extended by the Prime Minister on 14th April 2020. But, irrespective of whatever decision the Prime Minister takes on this subject, it is very clear that our lives are going to change completely.

Covid-19 has certainly made family-bonding much stronger. In the last 40 days of confinement at home, I have found that we have started interacting with our relatives more regularly through telephones, WhatsApp messaging, FaceTime calls, video conferencing and regular SMS messaging. With significant improvement in technology, family members have started participating through virtual meetings from across the globe. This never used to happen before the onslaught of Covid-19. Post lifting of the lockdown, I am quite sure that the physical get-togethers or physical meetings of family members will become a rarity at least for the next one year and these virtual meetings and get-togethers will become a norm. While physically meeting people in pre-Covid times had reduced gradually due to the hectic lifestyles of people; post Covid-19, the regular virtual meetings will hopefully become a frequent event in our monthly calendars.

In the post-Covid situation, the earning members of your family who were otherwise commuting daily to their workplace or travelling extensively locally or internationally for their work, will start working from home more often by using modern technology. While prima-facie this sounds like a great idea, it can perhaps add to tensions and rifts amongst the family members. It will be therefore be the responsibility of each of the family members to bring restraint in their behaviour with one another, improve mutual understanding and generally maintain good inter-personal relationship.

Covid-19 will certainly bring in an economic disturbance in most of our lives. This may result in tough times for most of us. We all need to make significant changes in our lives. Thriftiness will become a great virtue in the coming days, at least for the next 12 to 18 months. The difficult economic conditions can often bring in a lot of family tensions, leading to strained relationships amongst the family members. While all the members of the family will have to practice restraint in their behaviour and try to avoid misunderstandings amongst themselves, it will be the head of the family who will have to play a major role in maintaining the family unity. One of the major issues that needs to be carefully watched is the impact of the Covid-19 situation on our children, our next generation. With a lot of uncertainty about when the educational institutions will commence their new academic year, due to physical distancing in classrooms plus the limitations in their physical activities related to outdoor sports, physical training etc, it is possible that these constraints can severely impact their mental and physical growth. Schools are the engines of social mobility and a much longer closure of the educational institutions can stymie the learning and development of the young minds. It is therefore the responsibility of the parents and the elders in the family to ensure that we take care of our younger generation by creating the right atmosphere for them in our homes for their continued learning in academics, new skill developments and encouraging them to do physical exercises, even if there are space constraints.

It is the family bond which creates strong ties during good and difficult times, more particularly during difficult times. It is the family which holds you together firmly like a solid rock and does not allow you to float away. Family members are there with you till the end. And when life treats you in a rough way, it is the family members who will support you. In the dark, they are the light that shows the path for you to see.

So take care of your family bonds in these most difficult days. This is the support which will help you sail these trying times. Be positive, be supportive to one another and this strength of family bonds will help in tiding over the Covid-19 situation.

Praveen P. Kadle

**To book our Shrimad Anandashram Hall or Shrimad Parijnanashram Sabhagriha
Contact: Shobhana Rao 022-23802263, 022-23805655. Affordable Rent and Ample Parking Space.**



Kanara Saraswat Association

Nominations for Honouring Chitrapur Saraswats

All our Members are aware, that every year during KSA's Foundation Day and International Women's Day, we honour Members of our Chitrapur Saraswat Community, who have achieved some recognition in their area of specialisation.

In this connection, we would request our Members to nominate the names of such persons who have achieved recognition in the following areas:

- Outstanding contributions or achievements in any field like Social Service, Environment, Research, Education etc resulting in benefit to mankind.
- For winning any International, National or State Recognition in their area of work, including Art, Music, Sports etc.
- Any Research Award or Honour received on any specialised subject.
- Winning any State or National or International Sports event, especially among young and upcoming sports personality.

We are keen to build the data base of such persons for our records, which will help us in considering them for any future honour and this will be a continuous process. The idea is to have such inputs from Members all over India and Abroad in order to have a wider choice, rather than depending upon information available with us locally.

These nominations will be scrutinised by the Managing Committee, discussed amongst us and a final decision will be taken, which will be communicated directly to Honourees, as and when they are going to be honoured – either on Foundation Day on 26th November every year or International Women's Day in the month of March.

These Nominations may be sent directly to the undersigned either by E Mail or by Courier to KSA Office, with brief details of the person concerned, with their contact details and their achievements in any specific area.

Jairam Khambadkone

(Chairman – Kanara Saraswat Association)

E Mail: admin@kanarasaraswat.in

Rates for Classified Advertisements in Kanara Saraswat

For the first 30 words: Rs. 650/- for KSA Members (Minimum Rs 682/-) and Rs. 700/- for Non-members. For every additional word, thereafter: Rs. 25/- +GST 5% on all ads.

Letters to the Editor

The centenary issue is very good. All of you must have put in a lot of work to bring out this beautiful issue. Thank you so much! It gave us an insight to the conditions when the first issue was printed and it's progress till now.

Vrinda Talgery

Visit KSA Health Center for Medical Consultation & Pathological Laboratory at very low fees
Shobhan Rao 9920799335 or KSA Office 022-23802263 / 23805565

Chitrapur Saraswat Mahila Divas 2020

UDAY MANKIKAR

The Kanara Saraswat Association (KSA) celebrated the **Chitrapur Saraswat Mahila Divas 2020** on Saturday 14th March, 2020 at Shrimat Anandashram Sabhagriha, KSA Building, Talmakiwadi in Mumbai. Well known social entrepreneur and co-founder of Yuva Parivartan – Smt Mrinalini Kher was the Chief Guest for the function. Shri Sunil Ullal anchored the programme, based on the script written by Shri Uday Mankikar.

To begin with, Shri Sunil Ullal, on behalf KSA, welcomed Smt Mrinalini Kher, the Chief Guest, Shri Jairam Khambadkone, Chairman KSA, Smt Smita Mavinkurve, Hon. Secretary of Saraswat Mahila Samaj, Gamdevi (SMS), all the dignitaries who were to be honoured that day and the audience present, to the prestigious function.

The remaining part of the programme conducted by Shri Sunil is transcribed below...

Before commencing the programme, I would like to give its background. KSA is the parent institution of Chitrapur Saraswats, working for the all-round progress of the community for the last 108 years. KSA has always encouraged and motivated youth to come up in life and has also honoured our people who have excelled in various walks of life and have brought laurels not only to them but also for the community. 26th November is the “Foundation Day” of KSA. On this day, KSA honours the seniors, who have done significant work in their respective fields and talented *mahilas* on “Chitrapur Saraswat Mahila Divas”. From 2003 to 2019, KSA has honoured 134 “*Manyawars*” on its Foundation Day.

The idea of “Chitrapur Saraswat Mahila Divas” was conceptualized by Senior Social Worker, Prof. Kalindi Muzumdar. We all know that 8th March is celebrated as “International Women’s Day” across the globe. Various programmes are organized for women and talented women are honoured. Kalindi tai thought that we too have so many talented women in our community, who have done exceptionally well in their respective fields, so we must acknowledge their contribution and honour them by organizing the “Saraswat Mahila Divas”. She started this programme in the year 2007, when she was the President of KSA. From 2007 to 2019, KSA has honoured 72 talented bhanap mahilas and one institution “Samvit Sudha”. Today we are going to honour Smt. Nirmala G Chikramane (posthumously), Smt. Shailaja Ganguly, Dr. Divya Karnad, Smt. Reshma Kalyanpur-Chadha and Smt. Anusuya Shiraly.

In the beginning, I will introduce today’s Chief Guest Smt Mrinalini Kher and then the “*Manyavars*”. After the introduction, the “*Manyavars*” are requested to receive the honour at the hands of Mrinalini pachhi and express their “*Manogat*”.

Mrinalini Kher, Co-Founder of Yuva Parivartan (YP)

Smt Mrinalini Kher is a renowned social entrepreneur. She

was born in a family that was involved in education and upheld the belief in helping others. She married into a family, of the noble Gandhian and principled Congressman of Shri. B. G. Kher (former Premier and Chief Minister of Bombay State), which was working passionately towards the upliftment of the tanner families of Bandra East. Kishor Kher, her husband encouraged her to take up challenges and continue the good work even in her married life.

She is Hon. Secretary and Trustee of *Kherwadi Social Welfare Association (KSWA)* for the last 30 years. She is also the moving spirit and Co-founder of “*Yuva Parivartan (YP)*”, a Project of KSWA that aims to transform lives of the underprivileged school dropouts through Skills Development and Livelihoods. A passionate social worker by choice, Mrinalini pachhi’s journey of over four decades in the Social Welfare Sector is one of tenacity and dedication. A firm believer of the Women and Youth Empowerment, she believes to strengthen families, particularly the economically backward society of the country. She was born to Chaitanya who was in the police department and Chandri Gangoli a family from Karwar. Her family of 3 brothers, Deepak-the eldest, runs an educational institution Gurukul in Lonavala which was founded by her aunt Smt. Sarojini Chandavarkar and Shri Ganesh Chandavarkar, well known educationist. Her second brother Maj. General Harsh Gangoli (retired) has seen action in all major wars: China, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Kashmir and Northeast insurgency. Her third brother, Ajit, joined the Merchant Navy. Education and social work were intertwined in her growing up years through the Gurukul, Rammohan High School and the Prarthana Samaj. She graduated from Elphinstone College and did her B.Ed. to work in Arya Vidya Mandir.

Married to Kishor Kher, a graduate of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, who rose to become President of an American Company and is the grandson of the Late Balasaheb Kher, led her to work for Kherwadi Social Welfare Association. She was closely associated with the Spastic Society, the Seva Sadan Society Gamdevi and Inner Wheel Club of Bombay and is a Trustee of Blue Star Foundation. She along with her husband Kishor was one of the finalists for the “Schwab Foundation Social Entrepreneur of the Year” Award.

Currently, Mrinalini pachhi is actively leading various activities in YP including Fund Raising, Public Relations, Organizing events, Counseling and Trust matters besides being hands on with the Social issues of the Community. She has organized 7 International Summits on Livelihood & Employment. *Yuva Parivartan* today is one of the largest and well recognized NGOs in the field of Livelihoods skilling with over 1,00,000 deprived youth per annum through its six delivery formats and has trained nearly 9,00,000 so far. Spread across 18 states of India, Yuva Parivartan is

present in urban, peri-urban and rural India and is a leading training partner of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). Yuva Parivartan believes that to be relevant, the Yuva Parivartan model should remain adaptable, replicable, scalable, impact-oriented and constantly innovative.

She has been invited to speak on Social Entrepreneurship and Youth & Skill Development by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), Rotary Clubs, Maratha Chamber of Commerce, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, Tata Institute of Social Studies, XLRI Jamshedpur & other NGOs in the space of Education, Youth & Skill Development. She is also involved with mentoring youth affected by social issues. I request Jairammam to welcome Mrinalini pachhi with floral bouquet.

Smt. Nirmala Gourish Chikramane (posthumously)

Smt. Nirmala Chikramane was popular as “Vahini” amongst her family members and as “Mami” amongst her friends and associates. She did her schooling from Parle Tilak Vidyalaya and completed her graduation from Ramnarain Ruia College, Mumbai. She had scored good marks in Inter Science and could have easily got admission for M.B.B. S. However, due to lack of adequate financial support, she did her B. Sc. with Hons. She had also done “Sanskrit Tertiya” from Pune University.

Nirmala pachhi joined Maharashtra Electricity Board (MSEB) in their General Administration Department in the year 1961 and retired as Additional Director (Human Resources) in June 1997, after 36 years of meritorious services. I feel very proud to mention that she was the first lady who held that post. While in the service, Mami completed her Labour Law. Being a kind hearted person, she helped many needy people.

Nirmala pachhi had no definite post retirement plans. During that time, late Sarlatai Kalthod was the Head Mistress of Sundatta High School. She requested Mami to become the Hon. Secretary of Balak Vrinda Education Society (BVES). She honoured Sarlatai’s request and became the Managing Committee Member of BVES in 1997 and continued till her death.

The Managing Committee members of Talmakiwadi CHS Ltd (TCHS) also approached her to work on TCHS Managing Committee. Late Shri Chikramane Shripadmam, Mami’s father-in-law, had actively worked for several years on the Managing Committees of KSA and TCHS. She had closely observed his work and that prompted her to join the Managing Committee of the TCHS. Mami was the first lady to work on the Managing Committee of TCHS.

Nirmala pachhi worked on the Managing Committee of TCHS continuously from 1997 to 2011 and then after a gap of 2-4 years, till her death in 2018. During her tenure of more than 20 years as Managing Committee. Member of TCHS, she was the Chairperson for 8 to 10 years. During this period she operationalised many projects-Repairs and Painting of all the buildings in Talmakiwadi, solved the water problem. Now, Talmakiwadi has no water problem.

During 1994-1995, a lot of devotees used to visit Karla

Durgaparameshwari Mandir to have darshan of Devi and Sanjivani Samadhi of H.H. Parijanashram Swamiji (III) and many of them used to feel that they should have a second house in Karla. Nirmala pachhi took initiative and by sheer coordination, established a Residential colony in Dahivali village, near Karla Math. It has 51 plots and many have constructed beautiful bungalows.

Talmakiwadi has “Shri Satchidanand Saptah Samiti” started under the leadership and guidance of late Mirapachhi Mavinkurve. The members of this Samiti do the parayan of “Shri Chitrapur Guruparampara”, “Shri Siddharudh Swami Charitra” and “Shri Dasbodh” every year. This is going on for last 48 years. Most of the members of this Samiti are senior citizens. Hence Nirmala pachhi used to make arrangements for getting them flowers, tea, *prasad* and collecting their yearly contribution for carrying out these activities. This she did from 2002 to 2018. After the parayana got over, she used to religiously remit the “Kanika” to the respective temples and Math. She was also the “Sangh Pramukh” of “Mumbai Grahak Panchayat” for almost 24 years. The only motive behind this was-the members should get superior quality grains and provisions at a reasonable price and also encourage and boost cooperation.

‘Mami’ had given tremendous “Yogdaan” in the field of education, social service, religious activities and co-operation, and hence, she was respected by all. While doing all this she never neglected her home front. She was a loving and caring housewife too. Mami, our “*Manacha Mujara*” to your outstanding work! I request Shri Subhash Chikramane, mami’s brother-in-law to accept the honours and oblige us.

Smt. Reshma Kalyanpur Chadha

Reshma pachhi was born to Rohini Bhatkal and Krishnanand Kalyanpur in Mumbai. She grew up in Anandashram in the Grant Road area and went to Queen Mary School. Thus, she is at once rooted in *amchi* culture and a broadminded cosmopolitanism.

Her grandfather, G R Bhatkal, was a first generation entrepreneur who started the iconic Popular Book Depot. Her father, Krishnanand Kalyanpur, rose to a senior position at the pharmaceutical firm, Glaxo Laboratories. Her mother, Rohini did an MA in Sociology from Elphinstone College, following which, she raised her four children with much love and joy, but once they had grown up, she did her B.Ed. and became a high school teacher.

Reshma pachhi herself topped her batch at the ICSE examination. She then joined Sydenham College where she met her husband Dharen. They have been together now for 45 years. After Sydenham, she joined Siemens in their EDP department. Those were the days of large mainframe computers, punch cards and languages like Basic and Cobol. It was an opportunity to be a bit of a pioneer in computing and she enjoyed it very much.

When their daughter Indus was born, Reshma pachhi and Dharen mam decided to move to Bangalore in order to provide a better quality of life to their child. This is when she resigned her job at Siemens and took up the position of

Head of Corporate Training at the fledgling new NIIT. She ran a large department of engineers and MBAs successfully and was awarded the Employee of the Year award in 1989.

A few years later, Dharen mam was transferred to Hong Kong. This is when Reshma pachhi made a conscious decision to quit her work and become a full time mother to Indus. The years went by and when they came back to Bangalore, she had understood what her true calling was and so she decided to do a full time course in emotional counselling. Reshmapachhi has counselled people on personality issues, issues of interpersonal relationships, and patterns arising from feelings of depression, anxiety, grief and anger. She has had the satisfaction of bringing back several people from the brink of suicide.

She has also conducted many student outreach programs in schools and colleges like Deccan International School, Bethany School, Sindhi School, Kumaran School, Christ College, Jyoti Nivas College, Mount Carmel College and the National Law School (NLS) as well as many low-income schools. Most of her work in these programs has been to impart life-skills to students, sex education, especially helping them to cope with the difficult issues of adolescence and increasingly these days, issues of anxiety and depression which have reached pandemic proportions in the new generation.

Reshma pachhi has always been drawn towards different kinds of healing and often takes an interdisciplinary approach to her work. She draws from Neuro-linguistic Programming (NLP), Transactional Analysis (TA), Transcendental Meditation (TM), and Creative Visualization. She also holds a certificate in Reiki from the Reiki India Research Centre, and has studied yoga at the Bihar School of Yoga, and she draws from these healing fields as well. She also works in close collaboration with medical practitioners and psychiatrists to provide supportive therapy in conjunction with medication, including cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) and psychoanalysis in order to identify self-defeating life patterns.

It is now 25 years since Reshma pachhi began counselling and she still continues to counsel actively. Two and half years ago, she was blessed with a grandchild, Rohi (named for her mother, Rohini), and she now also spends much of her day playing with her. Now I request Smt. Shanta Kalyanpur pachhi to receive the honours on behalf of Reshma pachhi.

Smt. Shailaja Ganguly

Smt. Shailaja Ganguly (nee Udyavar) belongs to large Udyavar family of Calicut. While she grew up in Mumbai, she has wonderful memories of summer vacations spent at their large homestead, where there was a barn, a huge swing that could accommodate all cousins. A puja room and unlimited banana chips and *kelya halvo*.

Shailaja pachhi did her schooling at Little Angel's High School. It started in a room of their Principal Smt. Sulochana Sheti's home and grew into a reputed school. Incidentally Sulochana Sheti was also a Chitrapur Saraswat (nee Puthli) and alumna of Ganapathy High School, Mangalore. Shailaja pachhi's special subjects at SIES College where she received the Best Student Award were English Literature and German.

Shailaja pachhi, worked briefly at Orient Longmans Publishers before joining the Times of India, where she rose from Sub-editor to Deputy Editor. After leaving the Times Group after a decade, she edited "Namaskar" Air India's in-flight magazine for a brief while. Then edited Funday Times an interactive Children's magazine, launched with the support of few like-minded persons as a 'have fun while you learn' project with regular workshops, camps and magazine. They ran it for two years, before winding up as adman would not cooperate and they had to close shop-even as their devout readers begged for another issue. All through this time, she did Radio, TV and live anchoring for stage shows as well. Then she started freelancing, beginning with the Air-India's in-flight music production for HMV. Apart from her Math work, she still does freelance writing and anchoring as and when she is approached for a programme of her choice.

Shailaja pachhi has a versatile personality - Writer, Editor, Script and Voice-over Artiste, Broadcaster for Radio and Television, Live Anchor for stage shows of Classical Music and Dance. Merit Scholar of Mumbai University, Winner of the Dorabji Tata Scholarship and the Young Journalist Award, Shailajapachhi has been Deputy Editor-FEMINA, Editor-Namaskaar, Editor-Funday Times, Writer-Dhruva for Amar Chitra Katha, Festive Season- a book of short stories, Writers Workshop, Surrender-a biography based on spiritual interpretation of the high risk life of Crime Branch head honcho A. A. Khan, Yogi impressions and innumerable articles for the entire group of Times of India publications and elsewhere. Currently, Shailaja pachhi, in Seva for Shri Chitrapur Math as writer (Shri Chitrapur Signature Song, Tercentenary Bhajan and Devi Saraswati Anthem for Shri Parijananashram Vidyalaya, Karla) and editor for Math Publications. Transcreator into English of Sangeet Natak Academi Chairman Shekhaar Sen's solo plays-Goswami Tulsidas and Surdas. Shailaja pachhi has done broadcasting for All India Radio (AIR) as skit-writer, interviewer for many National Programmes, Women's Forum and Archival records of several leading celebrities over many decades. She has taken interviews on many current issues, art-round-ups, book reviews for Doordarshan Mumbai, for many years. Many interviews taken by her of present day Spiritual Seekers are on You Tube.

Shailaja pachhi, is the producer, script writer, and voiceover artiste in Hindi, English and Gujarati of several genres of Indian Music like Classical ghazals, film music, children's programmes, regional hits in Tamil, Telugu, Malyalam, Kannada and Gujarati for Air India's in-flight music channels for 7 years, under contract with HMV- today's Saregama. Shailaja pachhi is also a teacher of creative writing and Journalism at Sophia College's Open class-room and Guest Lecturer in several colleges offering print media courses. She has done live anchoring for India's crème de la crème musicians and dancers like Ustand Vilayat Khan Saheb, Zakir Hussain, Rashid Kham. Pandit Shivkumar Sharma, Ajay Chakravorty, Nayan Ghosh, Jayateerth Mevundi, Begum Parveen Sultana, Shri Manna Dey, Smt Shobha Gurtu, Damayanti Joshi, Kalucharan Mohapatra, Birju Maharajji and many more.

She is a polyglot, comfortable in many Indian tongues – Bengali, Tamil, Gujarati, Marathi to name a few. She is also an ardent supporter of all-round development of children and every woman's right to dignity, opportunities for discovering and enhancing individual talent and skills and financial independence. Children's Film Society – Govt of India organizes International Film Festivals for children and youth. Detailed information about the film festival appears everyday in their Newsletter viz "Bioscope". Shailajapachhi was the editor of this "Bioscope" for ten days each on three occasions when the Festival was organized under the Chairmanship of Smt. Jaya Bachhan and Smt. Sai Paranjape. She can also be called "Wordsmith".

Shailaja pachhi's husband Pradeep mam was working with Slumberger as an Electronics Engineer, who passed away four months back. Their daughter Deepti is a nutritionist and dietician and works with the Centre of Women's Studies, Sophia College as a lecturer and Research Officer. Shailaja pachhi, we admire your all-round creative work and salute your versatility. Now, I request Smt Smita Mavinkurve pachhi to receive the honours on behalf of Shailaja pachhi.

Dr. Divya Karnad

Divya was born in Chennai in South India and her parents are Dilip Gopal Karnad and Vrinda Karnad (nee Nadkarni). She has a brother by name Kedar Karnad. Right from her school days, Divya always loved animals. Growing up in Chennai, her family lived in her grandmother's house, which because of the greenery around had a lot of urban wildlife. When she was young, her uncle and grandmother used to adopt injured animals and nurse them back to health, like a Black Kite, a Fruit Bat and a Bonnet Macaque. This experience of her childhood made her think that she should be a veterinarian. So, as a high school student she started volunteering at a veterinarian's clinic. Since her whole family liked animals and they saw how her veterinarian friend could make a living from her private practice, they encouraged Divya to follow her passion.

However, she wanted to work with more than just dogs and cats. So she began volunteering with wildlife conservation organizations such as the Madras Crocodile Bank and the Student's Sea Turtle Conservation Network. This gave her a taste of a career in wildlife conservation, which she loved. Initially, her parents were skeptical if this interest in wildlife could be turned into a career. But once she got admission into one of India's top fully-funded programmes for Wildlife Biology and Conservation, hosted at the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru, they were very supportive.

This programme was a turning point for her, as it gave Divya an opportunity to spend six months in a wildlife reserve, working with endangered species. She chose to work on Olive Ridley Sea Turtles at the Rushikulya Sea Turtle Nesting Beach in Orissa. This meant that she had to live by herself in a little village in Ganjam district to walk along the beaches at night in order to study how the sea turtles reacted to streetlights and beach-front lights. In the village where she stayed, local women were not allowed outside even during the day, so Divya found herself to be

the only woman in the markets, and certainly the only one who went to work on the beach at night. All the local children were very intrigued, and used to spend hours interrogating Divya about her life, what she did on the beach and about India's wildlife. Through this experience Divya got to know people from fishing communities at a personal level, helping her empathize with their difficulties, even though they were one of the main causes for the death of marine wildlife, like sea turtles.

At this stage, Divya realized that sea turtles had received a lot of conservation attention from the Government and NGOs because they looked so cute, but there were many other species that were likely to immediately go extinct, which no one was interested in conserving e.g. sharks. This made Divya change her focus from wildlife conservation towards sustainable livelihoods, where she wanted the fishermen to experience benefits from protecting threatened marine life like sharks. Therefore Divya did her PhD from Rutgers University, USA, on sustainable fishing in the Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri districts of the Konkan.

During her PhD work, she learned that many fishermen had realized the terrible consequences of over-exploiting the sea, and killing threatened species. They felt that if they did not make changes to their fishing methods, there would soon be no more fish in the sea. Therefore they were ready for a change, and they asked if Divya could step in to create a supportive market for their sustainably caught fish. Therefore she started "In-Season Fish" (www.inseasonfish.com) a sustainable seafood initiative to create awareness among seafood eaters about how to support sustainable fishing. InSeason Fish is the first of its kind in the world to bring together food and wildlife conservation in such a direct way. Therefore this idea was recognized by an Organisation called "Future for Nature Foundation" in 2019 and Divya was the first Indian woman to receive this prestigious International Award in Marine Conservation on 3rd May 2019 in Netherlands, which was valued at Euros 50,000.00 and she is the second Indian to receive this award so far.

If anyone is interested to learn more about how one can support sustainable fisheries by eating seafood right, please visit her website or check @inseasonfish on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

As regards her career in the teaching line, Divya has always been a part of research practice, since once she started doing this work many young people approached her, asking to be trained in such research. Having done a PhD and got experience in mentoring students during her graduate studies, taking a teaching position that also offers time for research, seemed like the obvious next step for her. With this background in mind, Divya got an opportunity to start her career in Ashoka University, Sonapat, Haryana. Today, Divya is working as an Asst. Professor at Ashoka University and she is also a Wipro Sustainable Fellow.

Kanara Saraswat Association wishes Divya a bright and successful career in her line and our best wishes for her to get many such International Awards. I request Smt. Shobha Karnad to receive the honours on behalf of Dr. Divya Karnad.

Smt. Anasuya Shiraly

Anasuyapachhi Shirali, *nee* Padukone, is the youngest daughter of Sharada Ullal and Padukone Raghuram Bhat, born in Bangalore in 1948. She studied at the Government Girls High School in Malleswaram and went on to complete her B.Sc. from Maharani's College in 1968. She started working at the Khadi and Village Industries Commission but within a year or so, her parents found her a match in Shirali Balachandra Rao, a young maths lecturer. They got married in 1971 and had two sons, Kedar and Karthik. All of Anasuyapachhi's time over the next many years went into running the household, and bringing up her two boys, while Balachandra pursued his academic ambitions.

Around the late-90s, with both sons grown up, and a lot of time on her hands, she started looking for a greater purpose in life. She joined Helping Hands, a group that volunteers at hospitals, helping patients and their relatives fill out registration forms, providing information about doctors and visiting hours, or visiting the wards to talk to patients and cheer them up. She also went through counselling courses and workshops to equip her to deal with patients' delicate emotional condition. Around then, another *amchi* from Bangalore, Amemba Kishore Rao had just started Karunaashraya, a hospice to provide palliative care to terminally ill cancer patients in their final days. Anasuya pachhi started volunteering there, helping in making the last, painful days of the patients more comfortable, so they could go with dignity and peace. She found the whole experience extremely fulfilling, helping her

discover the vast pool of empathy and compassion within her, and use it to help others.

Anasuya pachhi also discovered that while palliative care was addressing the needs of the cancer patients themselves, nobody was looking at the care-givers, often a spouse or sibling or child, trying to carry on with their daily lives while taking care of their loved one, and struggling with the grief of the impending loss. They needed counselling too, to cope with all these overwhelming feelings. Since 2006, she has focused on their needs. She has been volunteering at the Kidwai Hospital of Oncology, at the other end of town, requiring her to change two buses each way, just so she can spend time with care-givers at the palliative care unit and counsel them. Even at 71, she is still going strong, volunteering twice a week, spending a day each at Kidwai and at the oncology ward of M S Ramaiah Hospital, expecting nothing in return other than the joy and fulfilment that comes from caring for another human being, and making a big difference in their lives when they are at their weakest. Anasuyapachhi, we give you a standing ovation for your noble work. Now I request Anasuyapachhi to receive the honours.

(The speech by Smt Mrinalini Kher and Manogat by Smt Anasuya Shiraly with Ashwini Prashant's Vote of Thanks will appear in our next issue of "KS".)

[The entire programme was conducted in Konkani by Shri Sunil Ullal, based on the script written by Shri Uday Mankikar. However, due to the lockdown on account of COVID—19, Press being closed we could not print Konkani Report]

:- With Best Compliments -:

From

ACME SOAP WORKS

Manufacturers of Industrial & Household Soaps & Detergents

Ram Mandir Road, Next to Ram Mandir,

Goregaon (W), Mumbai - 400 104

Telephone No.: 91 22 26762959 / 26762970 / 26794394,

Fax: 26762994

Email: acmesoap@vsnl.net Website: www.acmesoapworks.com

Donate books written by Amchi writers or Books on Saraswat Community to KSA Reference Library for Scholastic or Research Purpose.

Felicitations Galore!

SHWETAMBARA S.

“Pandit Sadanand Naimpalli” is a household name. An engineer-turned-tabla player of national and international repute, he shows no signs of slowing down even today as a septuagenarian. His many accomplishments are being recognized globally. The first quarter of the year 2020 is over and he has been tremendously occupied, travelling all over India being honored and felicitated wherever he goes.

The year kicked off with an award ceremony in Bagalkot. Pandit Keshav Joshi, a well-known Tabla player



Award Ceremony in Bagalkot

and teacher affiliated with the renowned institution Nataraj Sangeet Vidyalaya, was gearing up to celebrate the institute’s golden jubilee. He invited Pandit Naimpalliji to perform a Tabla Solo for the occasion on January 18th, 2020. After his performance, in a glittering ceremony witnessed by thousands, Panditji was felicitated by the chief guest, H.H. Jagannath Swamiji of the Malerajendra Mutt, Bagalkot. The title of “Anokhe Tabla Vaadak,”

in honor of the late Pandit Anokhelal Mishra of Benares Gharana (aka the Wizard of Tabla), was conferred on Pandit Naimpalli.

Upon hearing that Pandit Naimpalli would be in Bagalkot, Pandit Raghunath Nakod, a very senior and respected Tabla player and top grade artist of All India Radio, had



Award Ceremony in Hubli

already planned another felicitation for Panditji in Hubli. After a magnificent performance at a well-attended concert on January 19th, 2020, he honored Panditji with a traditional

turban, shawl, and coconut. In his speech, he extolled Panditji’s virtues, stressing upon the fact that despite his profound knowledge and inimitable artistry, Pandit Naimpalliji is still down to earth and easily accessible to anyone who cared to reach out to him.

Pandit Naimpalli has not just achieved greatness in his playing. He has composed numerous *Taa's*, wrote best-selling books on tabla, and also teaches tabla regularly. Today, many of his students are concert-level tabla players themselves. Indeed, a personality of such monumental dimensions and with a wealth of information is worthy of the highest honour.

His illustriousness soon reached the director of Ajivasan Music Academy in Juhu, Ms Prem Vasant. The academy’s main trustee Padmashree Suresh Wadkar needs no introduction. Every year, they celebrate “Vasantotsav” in memoriam of Acharya Jialal Vasant (Suresh Wadkar’s Guru and Ms Vasant’s father) to felicitate those who have immensely contributed to music. Ms Prem Vasant, happened to chance upon a recording of Pandit Naimpalliji’s solo from a recent concert of Aamad Pratishthan. She was at once mesmerized with his playing. While she was enthralled with Panditji’s performance, Sureshji, whom she considers her brother, happened to enter the room. Immediately, she said to him, “Suresh, look at this. How brilliantly he is playing! Have you ever heard tabla playing like this??” Sureshji replied, “Didi, this is Pandit Sadanand Naimpalliji. I know him. He is an exceptional tabla player!” Upon gathering more information, both decided to bestow upon Pandit Naimpalli, the Swami Haridas Award, one that is reserved by the Academy for exemplary performers and teachers of music.

Soon thereafter, Pandit Naimpalli received a formal invite from Ajivasan and accepted the same. Sureshji himself was



Ustad Zakir Hussain wraps shawl over Pandit Sadanand Naimpalli while Padmashree Suresh Wadkar looks on

going to honour Panditji. Moreover, Panditji is a big fan of Suresh Wadkar’s. Little did he know that at the ceremony, he

was going to meet and be felicitated by another fan of his, one of limitless fame. On February 29th, 2020, musical stalwarts such as Pandit Venkatesh Kumar, Padma Bhushan Dr N. Rajam, and Ustad Zakir Hussain, among others gathered at Ajivasan where they graced *Vasantosav* as chief guests.

After a brief introduction, where each of the chief guests was honored by Padmashree Suresh Wadkar, the Swami Haridas Award was declared. As soon as the name "Pandit Sadanand Naimpalli" was announced, up jumped the great Ustad Zakir Hussain! Sureshji was all set to honor Panditji, unfurling the shawl in his hands, when Ustad Zakir Hussain immediately made a beeline for Panditji and bowed to him in reverence. Everyone present, including Panditji, was stunned! Panditji then immediately helped Zakirji up and the two embraced each other warmly. The applause was thunderous! Sureshji was so delighted to see this *bon homie* that he handed the shawl to Ustad Zakir Hussain saying, "You should do the honors." Ustadji graciously accepted and wrapped the shawl over Panditji's shoulders, hugging him tight all along.

With resounding cheers from the audience, Sureshji then proceeded to present Pandit Naimpalli with a coconut, a golden rose, and a cash envelope. After Sureshji and Pandit Naimpalli shared an affectionate hug, Ustad Zakir Hussain took Panditji by the hand and led him to take a seat beside himself with the other chief guests on stage. This almost child-like demeanor of the remarkable Zakir Hussain brought out laughter and appreciation from one and all. Never had they seen anything like this! That a celebrity like Ustad Zakir Hussain should be so much in awe of Pandit Sadanand Naimpalli was unheard of.

Pandit Sadanand Naimpalli's journey from a child prodigy to a metallurgical engineer to a musical genius has been an arduous one to say the least. After 20-odd years of being out of touch with tabla because of his academic pursuits, Panditji re-attained all the milestones he had achieved as a kid and then some! He attributes it all to his Guru, Pandit Taranath Hattangadi, who always encouraged him to give his best. Even in life, he is a simple man and describes himself first and foremost as a student of Tabla. The entire *Amchi* community is proud of him and wishes him well in all his endeavors.

Our Cover (Cont'd)

Pandit Omkar Gulvady

ANSHUL ULLAL

This article is contributed by Shri Anshul Ullal from Bengaluru who is a student of Pt. Omkar Gulvady.

Pandit Omkar Gulvady is the highly sought after tabla accompanist in the Indian Music world. Born into a musical family in Mangalore, Karnataka on 2nd March, 1945, his grandfather late Haridas Gulvady Shivanand Bhatji, a renowned *Keertankar* and his uncle late Pt Ratnakar Bhat Gulvady, a great violinist and a versatile musician, inspired young Omkar to take to classical music.

Omkarmam, a child prodigy was initiated into tabla by his mother Smt Sharada Gulvady. His uncle Pt. Ratnakar Gulvady strengthened the foundation. His father, Shri Dattatreya Gulvady and his uncle Shri Gopinath Gulvady encouraged and guided the budding Tabalji.

It was late Acharya Pt. H. Taranath Rao, a world renowned tabla and pakhawaz maestro who moulded Omkar into a refined tabla artiste. Reputed performers late Pt. Chidanand Nagarkar, late Pt. Mangeshnath Govekar and late Pt. Devendra Murdeshwar have influenced Omkar's soft touch and unperturbing *Sangat*. Well-known tabla gurus Ravi Bellare, Shashi Bellare and Arvind Mulgaonkar added to Omkar's knowledge.

Omkarmam belongs to the lineage of the great Tabla Gharana (Baaz) namely Farukkabad, where, Ustad Haaji Saab, Ustad Muneer Khan, Ustad Shamsuddin Khan, Ustad Ahemedjan Tirakhwa, Ustad Ameer Hussain Khan, Ustad Habibuddin Khan, Acharya Taranath Rao, Pt. Pandharinath Nageshkar, Pt Yeshwant Rao Kerkar and others were the greats of their times.

He is a highly sought after tabla accompanist by world-

renowned vocalists and instrumentalists. Omkarmam has accompanied on tabla, veteran vocalists and instrumentalists like, The Panch Ratnas Of Hindustani Vocal Music, Pt. Kumar Gandharva, Pt. Mallikarjun Mansur, Pt Basavaraj Rajguru, Bharat Ratna Pt. Bhimsen Joshi, Dr. Gangubai Hangal; the veteran vocalists like Pt. Chidanand Nagarkar, Pt. Mangeshnath Govekar, Pt. Jitendra Abhisheki, Pt. Dinkar Kaikini, Pt. Saratchandra Arolkar, Pt. Ramashraya Jha, Pt. Ram Marathe, Pt. C. R. Vyas, Pt. Balasaheb Punchwale, Pt. Jasraj, Pt. Yashvantbua Joshi, Ustad. Ghulam Mustafa Khan, Smt. Manik Varma, Smt. Kausalya Manjeshwar, Smt Kishori Amonkar, Begum. Parveen Sultana, Smt. Girijadevi, Ms Prabha Atre, Smt. Shobha Gurtu, Smt. Nirmaladevi, Smt. Anita Sen, Ms. Jyotika Roy, Ms. Sarala Bhide, and a host of other musicians.

In instrumental accompaniment, he has provided his *sangat* to Pt. Devendra Murdeshwar, Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia, Pt. Vijay Raghav Rao, Pt. Raghunath Seth, Pt. Nityanand Haldipur, Shri Lion Leifer (USA), Shri Anand Murdeshwar (Flute), Swami Ramdutt Parvatikar (Dattatreya Veena), Pt. Kartik Kumar, Ustad. Shamim Ahmed, Smt. Manju Mehta, Shri. Neeladri Kumar (Sitar), Pt. Brijbhushan Kabra (Guitar), Pt. Manohar Chimote, Pt. Tulsidas Borkar, Pt. Purushottam Walavalkar, Pt. Govindrao Patvardhan, Pt. Appa Jalgaonkar, Pt. Rambhau Vijapure, Pt. Vasanth Kanakapure, Master. Shivram, Pt. Pu. La. Deshpande (Harmonium solo), Pt. Mangeshnath Govekar, Pt Ratnakar Bhat Gulvady (Jal Taranga), Ustad Sajjad Hussain Khan (Mandolin), Pt. M. S. Gopalakrishnan, Pt. D. K. Datar, Dr (Smt). N. Rajam, Pt. Ratnakar Bhat Gulvady, Pt. Puttur Devdas Joshi,

For any Suggestions / Complaint regarding KS Monthly Magazine - Contact Raja Pandit 9821049688

Pt. Bhuvaneshwar Mishra(Violin), Pt. Buddhadev Dasgupta, Pt. Brijnarayan (Sarod), Pt. Ramnarayan, Ustad Latif Ahmed Khan (Sarangi).

Omkarmam is regularly accompanying Pt. Rajan and Sajan Mishra, Pt. Ajoy Chakraborty, Ustad Raashid Khan, Pt. Ulhas Kashalkar, Acharya Goswami Gokulotsav Maharaj, Pt. Jagdeesh Prasad, Pt. Channulal Mishra, Pt. Prabhakar Karekar, Pt. Parameshwar Hegde, Pt. Ganapati Bhat, Pt. Venkatesh Kumar, Shri. Jayateerth Meundy, Shri. Sanjeev Abhyankar, Sangeeth Vidushi Smt. Padma Talwalkar, Smt. Veena Sahasrabuddhe, Smt. Malini Rajurkar, Smt Lalita Ubhaykar, Smt. Lalit J. Rao, Smt. Shruti Sadolikar-Katkar, Smt. Ashwini Bhide-Deshpande, Smt. Aarati Anklikar-Tikekar, Ms. Shubha Mudgal, Smt. Sangeeta Shankar, Ms. Kala Ramnath to name a few.

In *sugam sangeet*, he has accompanied veteran singers, Sarva Shri Sudhir Phadke, (Babuji), Shri Gajanan Watve, Shri Govind Povle, Shri Bhalachandra S Rao, (B. S. Rao), Shri Durgesh Chandavarkar, Shri H. Vasanth to name a few. He had the opportunity of working with the great music directors of Marathi and Konkani film/stage like Sarva Shri D. D. (Shri Datta Davjekar), Shri Prabhakar Jog, Shri Vasanth Hosangady, Shri Murlidhar Gangolly where he had given tabla support to renowned play back singers like Ms. Asha Bhonsle, Shri Manna De and others. Omkarmam had the good fortune of accompanying musicians from all the major *gharanas* like Gwalior, Agra, Kirana, Patiala, Jaipur-Atrauli, Rampur-Seswan, Bhandi bazar, Banaras, Kuvarshyam.

Omkarmam has participated in almost all the major Sangeet Sammelans of India, such as Tansen Sammelan (Gwalior), Baba Allaiddin Khan Sammelan (Maihar), Sawai Gandharv Sammelan (Pune), Sur Singar Sansad, Swar Sadhana Samithi, Gunidas Sammelan, IMG–Jan Fest-Sammelans (Mumbai) Doverlane Sammelan, Shri Rampur Sammelan (Kolkata) Paluskar Smriti (Delhi) Kesarbai Kerkar Sammelan, Anjanibai Malpekar Sammelan, Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Sammelan, Mogubai Kurdikar Sammelan, Gomanta Vidya Niketan (Goa), Sankatmochan Sangeet Sammelan (Varanasi) Balkrishnabua Ichalkaranjkar Smriti (Ichalkaranji).

Omkarmam has toured USA, Canada, UK, Afghanistan, UAE (Gulf), Iran, Oman, South Africa and European countries on musical ventures, several times. He was one of the members chosen for the archival projects at Washington University US in the year 1993 and 1997. He was one of the invitees for the Global Ney (Flute). Festival, in Iran held in the year 2004, where musicians from China, Egypt, Ecuador, Lebanon, Baluchistan, Iran, Turkey have represented their countries. Omkarmam was one of the delegates of the Indian Cultural Delegation to Afghanistan in the year 1987. His participation In the SAARC Festival was well appreciated, as well in the Apna Utsav, Pune Festival (Pune), Karaavali Utsav (Karwar), Ajanta Ellora Festival (Aurangabad), Taana Riri Malhar Sammelan (Vad nagar) Navras Festival (Bijapur), Dasara Sangeet Mahotsav (Mysore–Palace).

Omkarmam is an “A” graded musician of All India Radio

and Television Network, and regularly broadcasts/telecasts on the network. He has been featured in the prestigious AIR National and Annual Deepavali Sangeeth Sammelans several times for solo and accompanying top grade musicians. Omkar has accompanied very many musicians on Audio cassettes, CDs and Video Cassettes under many prestigious labels numbering more than hundred. He is recognized for his thrilling solo performances, a pleasant blending of traditional and update idioms.

Omkarmam has trained a good number of young tabla enthusiasts at Mangalore, Udupi, Honnavar, Mumbai, Nashik and in various foreign countries. He has helped many music organisations, mostly in Karnataka, Kerala and Goa to get good musicians from all over India for their Sangeeth Sammelans. He has encouraged a number of young and promising musicians, by recommending them to various Sangeeth Sammelans at various places in India and abroad. Omkarmam has successfully conducted workshops on the “Vocal Tabla Saath Sangat” at many places.

Musician Of The Year Award had been conferred on Pt Omkar Gulvady by the Mayor of Cook County (Illinois, USA), American Konkani Association (Chicago), Andhra Pradesh Association of North America, for his life long dedication, devotion and contribution to the art of tabla, in the year 2000, Swar Sadhana Ratna, Tabla Kulagaurav, Taal Shiromani in 2007 by Swara Sadhana Samiti. He was also conferred with the Saath Sangat Pravin by the Music Forum (An association of major Music Circles of Mumbai, NCPA, ITC, SRA) in 2008, Excellence in Music by Kanara Saraswat Association, Mumbai in 2009 and was felicitated by Pt. Shivkumar Sharma for his contribution to music in the “Savai Gandharv Bhimsen



Pandit Omkar Gulvady being felicitated at the “Savai Gandharv Bhimsen Sangeet Sammelan” by the legendary musician Pt. Shivkumar Sharma

Sangeet Sammelan, Pune” in the year 2012.

On 2nd March 2020, Karnataka State Sangeet Nritya Academy conferred the Karnataka Kalashree 2019-2020 award to Pandit Omkar Gulvady which also happened to be his 75th birthday (front-cover pic). The grand ceremony

(Cont'd on page 19)

With great joy in our hearts and the Divine Blessings of our Parama Pujya Swamiji, revered Guruparampara, Shri Bhavanishankara and Shri Mangesh Mahalakshmi, it gives us immense pleasure to announce the twin Diamond Wedding Anniversaries of our parents, and the 85th birthday of our dear mother, Kumud Nayel, on 11th May



Hosangdi Uma (nee Chandralekha Karnad) & Rabindranath
Wedding Date: 8th May 1960



Nayel Kumud (nee Mangalore) & Wg Cdr. (Retd.) N.D. Mohan
Wedding Date: 12th May 1960



An ode of gratitude by their granddaughter Vaishnavi Nayel Talawadekar:

“Cherished parents, grandparents and great grandparents are they,
With optimism aplenty to brighten everyone’s day,
Strong in spirit and young at heart,
Their grit and resilience sets them apart,
As guiding inspirations and beacons of light,
When things go awry, they magic them right,
We’re thankful to have them to show us the way,
And blessed to celebrate their diamond anniversaries this May!”

Wishing them good health and happy togetherness always!

Love & fond regards,
Bhavani, Devesh, Jay,
Vaishnavi, Siddharth & Baby Aarin
Sandhya, Shantish, Vaibhav & Jayati
Relatives and friends

Chitrapur Heritage Foundation

711 Daylily Court, Langhorne, Pennsylvania, USA

Connecting US Amchis to Chitrapur Math

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.

Happy Golden Wedding Anniversary
50 years of togetherness
Dr. Ramdas & Vijayalakshmi Mallapur (nee Kumble)



Today as both of you look back
With happiness and pride
upon the Fifty cherished years
that you have spent side by side,
may every memory you share
of dreams you've seen come true,
help make this special Golden Day
a happy one for you !



As they complete fifty years of wedded bliss on **17th May 2020**,
We seek blessings of our Kuldevta Shree Nagesh Maharudra, Shree Mahalaxmi,
Ista Devta Shree Ganapati, Lord Bhavani Shankar, our Guruparampara &
Param Poojya Shrimad Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji,
for their continued good Health, Happiness & Prosperity

With lots of love and best wishes from

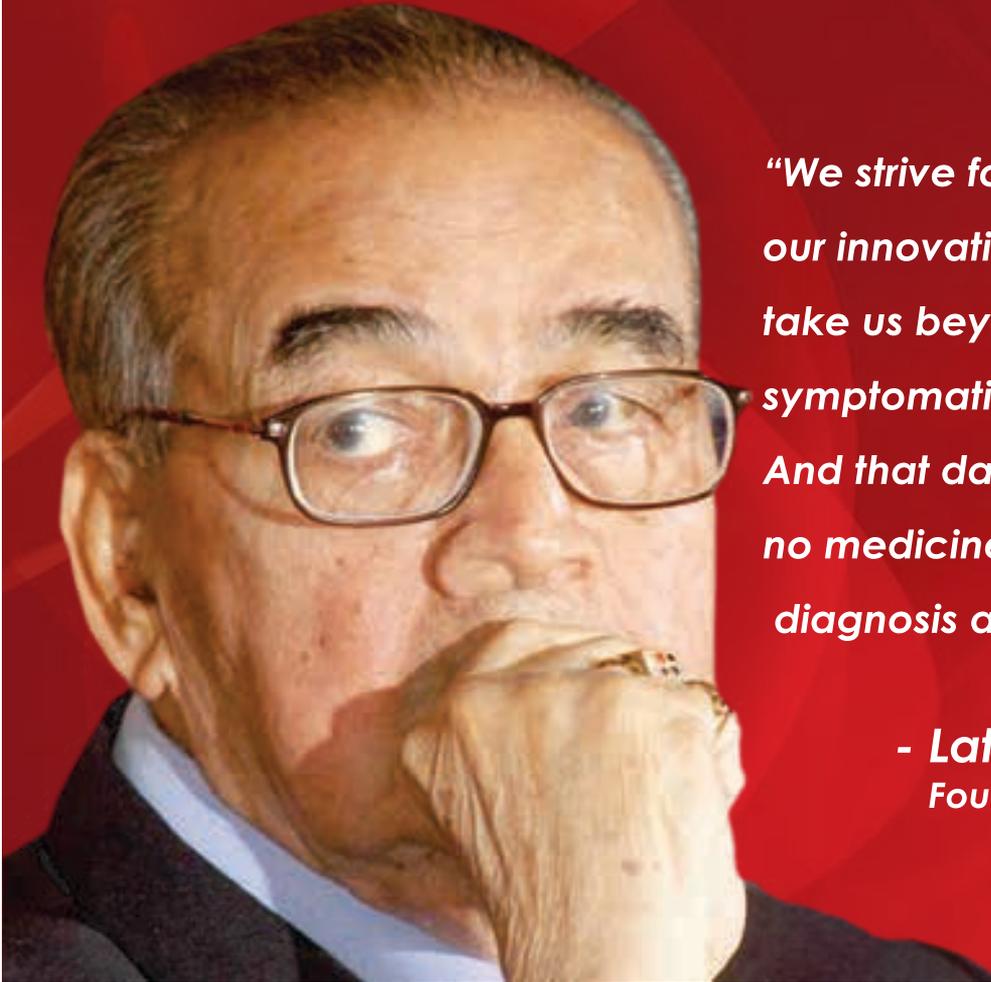
Prashant & Vandana Mallapur
Dr. Vidya & Dr. Deepak Shedde
Nishant & Dr. Binita Mallapur
Mihika, Anant, Anand, Diya, Anika & Ishani
Mallapurs, Kumbles, Sheddes, Nadkarnis, Rauts, Shiralis, Gokarns, Baidurs, Nayampallis,
Kaikini, Bales & Bellares
All Relatives and Friends



SINCE 1977

WHO GMP CERTIFIED • ISO 9001:2015 & ISO 13485:2012 CERTIFIED

A **Speciality** Pharmaceutical Wellness Company like No other



*“We strive for a day when
our innovations will
take us beyond traditional
symptomatic therapeutics.
And that day, there will be
no medicines; only prophylaxis,
diagnosis and cure”*

**- Late G.V. Masurkar
Founder**

- ▶ Experts in Ophthalmic, ENT & Paediatric Pharmaceutical Wellness
- ▶ Over 130 Commercially Available Finished Products
- ▶ International Formulation R & D Centres

Patient-Centred Innovations since 1977

Scan QR Code:



ENTOD PHARMACEUTICALS LTD.

Head Office: Ashirwad Building, S.V.Road, Opp. Badi Masjid,
Bandra (W), Mumbai-400050.

Tel.: (+91) 22 – 26423608/ 22-226442052 Fax.: (+91) 22-26441056

E-mail: feedback@entodpharma.com • www.entodinternational.com

Part of
Entod
INTERNATIONAL

(Cont'd from page 14)

was held in Ravindra Kalakshetra Bangalore in which 18 artists spanning various genres of music and dance were felicitated and conferred the title of "Karnataka Kalashree". The function was attended by Minister of Kannada and Culture of Karnataka, C T Ravi among the other dignitaries and stalwarts in the field of music and dance.

Omkarmam, while achieving all these in the music field, was working with The Canara Bank for nearly 29 years as an Officer and took voluntary retirement (VRS) in the year 1996, for pursuing Tabla as full time profession. Omkar is one of the Founder Members of Peshkar Foundation, an organization

for the promotion of percussion instruments in general and Tabla in particular, as inspired by Guru Acharya Taranathji. Here percussionists, young and veterans could perform before a learned audience and have a healthy discussion on the percussion art.

Omkarmam firmly believes that all his achievements which made him known to the music world and the world over are the *anugraha* and blessings of Parama Poojya Swami Anandashram of Shri Chitrapur Math, Shirali, North Karnataka and our glorious Guruparampara.

Pt Omkar Gulvady lives in Andheri, Mumbai. He can be contacted at-Landline: 91-22-26734615,

Mobile: 9820413565. e-mail: omkargulvady@hotmail.com, omkargulvady@yahoo.co.in

From Our Archives

A Poet's Address To Saraswats

Taken from July 1929

(Copy of Address delivered by Poet Harindranath Chattopadhyaya to the Kanara Saraswat Union, Karachi, in March last on the occasion of and "AT HOME" given to him by that institution)

Friends,

You can be sure that I have a very warm affection for the people of South Kanara. For more than one reason South Kanara is dear to me. I have found in it a beautiful soul full of power, full of sincerity and full of love; - a soul that is at once pure and noble. Besides that, you will be both surprised and I am sure, happy to hear that most of the finest inspiration in literary creation has come to me in South Kanara. I wrote a whole volume of poetry sitting in a room in Mangalore. I am also very happy to inform you that, that literature has found a place very recently in Europe. Several of my works have been translated into German and some into French. In fact, one of the plays which I composed in Mangalore is now translated into French and I believe is to be performed along with Y. B. Yeats' play and Lady Gregory's play on one of the well known stages in Paris, "Beau Columbia". I found in Mangalore and indeed throughout South Kanara exquisite scenery, not merely exquisite but very often sceneries which suggested to me something which I might term spiritual for want of a better word. Friends, so you can be sure that I have a great regard for South Kanara.

You have paid me so many tributes this morning- tributes of which I really feel unworthy. Indeed! I have undertaken what you call a stupendous task. I do not believe that India is so dead as to make a task too stupendous for anybody. If you analyse an Indian, you will find in him remarkable capacity for response. Very often he may not understand what you want him to do, but at the same time it affects him rightly up to the inner consciousness in him. We have tolerance which is the jewel of Indian life. This tolerance will make it easy for anybody to undertake this stupendous task and carry it through.

Yes, I am a youth and I want you to believe that I identify myself with youth. For all the world over the evolution of the future is going to depend on youth in a much more vital sense that it has done in past history. I hope that all of you will realize that you have your youth as material out of which to create for India and the world a destiny, a beauty, truth and strength. All the world over, youth is strong, palpitant and full of energy to carry out its mission. I hope that we shall be able to honour the country to become loving and to be loved. It is the privilege of youth to electrify; youth's is not to electrocute people but youth's is to electrify the dark horses of the world over.

Now Power is a very difficult thing to handle. It is a thing which can destroy; it is a thing that can build. It is for us to learn how to build. If we are going to break, let us break, I say, constructively. There is such a thing as breaking destructively and also constructively. There is much to be broken in our life. Let me again point out, as I did the other day, that in India especially we have too much desire to worship and to be worshipped. Let us try to get rid of it. Let us have a respect for all but let us not either bind ourselves or be bound by emotion, for after all we are really one, really one in the sense that the word. "ONE" should be taken. After all in the honour which you get I too share. Similarly, whenever, I have performed well and achieved honour, my mind goes out invariably crying for it being shed on worthy men and women in the world. That should be our attitude

I thank you very much for the opportunity of meeting all of you. You might think that you are only 12 or 14 members, but the number does not matter. One book makes a library. I think one man makes a crowd. In a crowd we do not feel intimacy; intimacy is lost. I always prefer little crowds because they are so unostentatious and this is the quality of sincerity. I thank you all once again.

What is the Most Pressing Need of the Saraswats at the Present Day?

Taken from April 1919

(A symposium of opinions on the above mentioned topic, by the then respected leaders, was printed in the April 1919 KSA issue. In this issue, we have printed the opinion of respected H. N. R.)

All Saraswats do not feel the same pressing need. It would be a truism to say that all seek an increasing measure of happiness. I must go further and express my opinion that a little more social liberty and more economic enterprise would conduce to the happiness of many. The former will be specially appreciated by parents who have daughters to marry. Economic success must largely depend upon individual capacity and effort. Rochefoucauld has cynically remarked that success is another name for luck. That is not the whole truth but adventitious aid is often an element in success. There may be ways of securing such aid by united action. Nearly two hundred members of the KanaraSaraswat Association appear to be connected with industrial and commercial firms in Bombay. Most of them may be clerks but many must have acquired an insight into the secrets of economic success. A few Saraswats at least have, both in Bombay and outside, succeeded in commercial and industrial lines, and the combined wisdom of all these may be able to formulate some scheme of mutual aid in the community which would make the way smooth and bring salvation to aspiring, but perplexed young men. I would suggest action in the direction of organizing co-operation for supplying information, advice, pecuniary help and other requirements.

H. N. R.

ANNOUNCEMENT

In an effort to know more about the authors and to build greater connectivity between the contributors of articles and the readers, the Editorial Committee has decided to add a new feature to our articles, from this issue onwards; in that, we have printed a brief and the email id of the author at the end of his/her article.

Since we plan to make it a regular feature, we request the authors to add 2 to 3 lines about themselves and their email id to their article, when they mail their articles to us.

We are looking forward to further strengthening our bond with this new feature.

..... **Editorial Committee**

Taken from Apr-Jun 1930



Miss INDUMATI S. NAYAMPALLI.

Stood first among the lady students who appeared for the Matriculation Examination this year. She has been awarded the Narayan Mahadeo Parmanand Prize, the Chatfield Prize and the Miss Yammabai Atvaram Dalvi Scholarship.

A Shooting Star

by Z.

(Taken from April 1919)

Quick, quick, a wish,
Let your all overflowing heart,

Its dearest, best
To yon swift shooting star impart.

Lovely meteor,
Gracefully bending earthwards awhile,

Gently questioning
What write I for you in God's file.

Love, I whispered,
Love in life, love of Heaven at home,

Love I ask for,
Love e'en thorn prest, love in any form.

Kind it smiled soft,
Gleamed bright, then invisibly flew on high,

No stone on earth it fell,
But bore my wish thro' the sky.

चंदनाचे झाड

नारायण शांताराम शिराली

गुरुनाथ गोकर्णाच्या निधनाची दुःखद बातमी कानावर आली आणि मला व माझ्यासारख्या असंख्य लोकांना एक अनामिक पोकळी जाणवली. आजही कैलासवासी असे नावापूर्वीचे उपपद लिहायला मन व हात धजावत नाहीत. ९५ वर्षांच्या प्रदीर्घ आयुष्यात स्वतःचे व कुटुंबियांचे शिक्षण, समाजाचे प्रबोधन, सामाजिक सेवेचे घेतलेले व्रत, नातलग, मित्रमंडळी व समाजासाठी आपुलकीची मदत, चित्रापुर मठाची निरपेक्ष सेवा ही त्यांची गुणवैशिष्ट्ये होती. कॅनरा सारस्वत समाज व के एस मासिकाची खडतर सेवा यांचा हयातभर त्यांनी अंगिकार केला. त्यांच्या बहुआयामी व्यक्तीमत्त्वाने अनेकांना मासिक माध्यमाशी जोडून घेतले, कवि व लेखकांना उत्तेजन दिले. कलाविभागाच्या प्रमुखपदी असतांना संगीत संमेलनाचे आयोजन केले. दिग्गज संगीतकार कलाकारांना आमंत्रित केले. नवोदितांना उत्तेजन दिले तसेच रसिकांना अभिजात संगीताचा अनुभव सातत्याने दिला.

बालपण व शिक्षण : लहानपणीच त्यांचे मातृछत्र हरपले. वडील शिवराव यांची वनखात्यातील फिरतीची नोकरी वृद्ध अंध आजीने, त्यांचे व दोन वडील बहिणींचे संगोपन केले. शिवरावांना कार्यालयाच्या कामासाठी हल्याळ, अळणावर, होन्नावर, शिर्शि अशा अनेक गावांमध्ये तपासणीसाठी जावे लागे. नाइलाजास्तव त्यांनी वेळगावला जाऊन आल्या सौ राधाबाई व श्री नागेशराव शिराली यांच्या आधाराने माध्यमिक शिक्षण बेननस्मिथ हायस्कूल व महाविद्यालयीन शिक्षण लिंगराज कॉलेज येथे घेतले. आपल्या अदबशीर वागण्याने व सालस बोलण्याने आमच्या कुटुंबाचे ते एक जवळचे सदस्य झाले. हयातभर आम्हा सर्वांवर त्यांनी जिवापाड प्रेम केले. आमच्या कुटुंबात गणेशचतुर्थीला श्रींच्या मूर्तीची पूजा करण्याची, वेळगाव व नंतर मुंबई येथे एकूण ७५ वर्षांपासून प्रथा होती. ते दरवर्षी मुले व नातवंडे यांच्यासह नियमाने येत असत. वयोमानानुसार हिंडण्याफिरण्यावर बंधने आली तरीसुद्धा हा त्यांचा क्रम शेवट पर्यंत चालू होता.

मित्र जोडणे आणि सर्वांप्रती विनम्रता ही त्यांची वैशिष्ट्ये ! आपले ध्येय गाठणे व सर्व मित्रांना मदत करणे हा त्यांचा स्वभाव. त्यामुळे त्यांनी जोडलेल्या मित्रमंडळात शाळकरी वर्गमित्र श्री हवलदार हा अंडी विकण्याचा व्यवसाय करणारा मुसलमान होता त्याचप्रमाणे कॉलेज जीवनात आंतरराष्ट्रीय क्रीडांसाठी खासदार वॉरिस्टर नाथ पै होते, गायक पं. जितेंद्र अभिषेकी, प्रकाशक पांडुरंग कुमठा, लेखक जी ए कुलकर्णी असे दिग्गज व्यक्ती तसेच श्री कल्याण सारखे समवयस्क ही होते.

नोकरी : ते महाराष्ट्र राज्याच्या मंत्रालयामध्ये सनदी अधिकारी (gazetted officer) होते. राज्याचे मुख्य जनगणना अधिकारी म्हणून त्यांची ओळख होती. त्यांनी सहकार व इतर खात्यातील जवाबदाया स्वीकारल्या व त्या उत्तम प्रकारे पार पाडल्या. त्यांचा सत्कार करून पारितोषिक ही देण्यात आले. अर्थात् संख्याशास्त्राच्या कामगिरीमुळे, चित्रापुर जनगणना व चित्रापुर मठ सेवादेणगीदात्यांची वार्षिक यादी करण्याचे दायित्व ओघानेच त्यांच्याकडे आले.

कॅनरा सारस्वत समाज व कॅनरा सारस्वत मासिक

१९१९ सालापासून चालत असलेले मासिक नुकतेच शतायुषी झाले आहे. या मासिकाने समाजासाठी भरीव कामगिरी केली आहे. गुरुनाथ गोकर्ण हे ९५ वर्षांचे “तरुण” संपादक म्हणून ओळखले जातात. गेल्या ५० वर्षांहून अधिक काळ त्यांनी मासिकाचा उत्तरोत्तर वर्धिष्णु केला. स्वतः इंग्रजीत लेखन करण्यात हातखंडा असून ही इतर कवी लेखकांना लिहिण्यास उत्तेजन दिले आणि इतर बुजुर्ग व नवोदितांचे लेख छापले.

आपल्या वाढत्या वयाची सूझ जाणीव ठेवून अनेक गुणी सभासदांना संपादक मंडळाच्या जवाबदाया देऊन मार्गदर्शन केले. मासिकाच्या मंडळाची सुयोग्य आणि भक्कम बांधणी केली आणि मासिकाची पुढील वाटचाल सुदृढ व सुकर केली.

कलाविभागाचे प्रमुख म्हणून काम करताना, त्यांनी संगीत संमेलने भरविली. दिग्गज संगीतकार गायकांना आमंत्रित केले. कलाविभागाने आयोजित केलेल्या संमेलनामध्ये भाग घेणाऱ्यांच्या यादीतील ही वानगीदाखल नावे पहा. एस सी आर भट, दिनकर कायकिणी, मोगुबाई कुर्डीकर, किशोरी आमोणकर, सुशिलाराणी पटेल, आरती अंकलीकर- टिकेकर, ललित राव, उस्ताद हालिम जाफर खान, ब्रिजनारायण, सदानंद नायंपल्ली, नित्यानंद हळदीपूर, ओंकार गुलवाडी, योगेश संशी इ.

तसेच अनेक नवोदित गायक-वादकांना प्रोत्साहित करण्यासाठी एक सशक्त व्यासपीठ उपलब्ध करून दिले.

चंदनाचे झाड : सामाजिक संस्थांच्या माध्यमातून काम करणाऱ्या समाजसेवकांना अनेकदा “चंदनाचे खोड” म्हटले जाते. पण देवाच्या गाभाऱ्यात देह झिजत असतांना देवाच्या गाभाऱ्याला सुगंधित करणाऱ्या व चंदनलेपाने शीतलता आणणाऱ्या चंदनाच्या खोडाची उपमा काही जणांच्या बाबतीत तोकडी वाटते. गुरुनाथदादा हे त्यापैकीच एक !

चंदनवृक्ष सदापर्णी, सावली देणे फुले व पाने यांनी आसमंत शोभिवंत करणे हे त्याचे बहिरंग आणि वाह्यरूप झाले. पण अंतरंगात असलेल्या तेलाला सुगंध असतो व त्यात अनेक औषधी गुण असतात. ताप डोकेदुखीवर चंदनाचा लेप लावला जातो. चिवटपणामुळे कोरीव काम करण्यासाठी चंदनाच्या लाकडाची निवड केली जाते. त्याला वाळवी लागत नाही. कोरलेली मूर्ती किंवा वस्तु यांना गोड टिकावू वास असतो. सुगंधी तेलाचा वापर, अत्तर, सावण सौंदर्यप्रसाधने इ. मध्ये होतो.

गुरुनाथदादांनी मासिकाच्या आणि समाजाच्या सर्व कार्यक्रमांमध्ये भाग घेतला. आपल्या सहकाऱ्यांवर मार्गदर्शनाची छाया धरली. आपल्या सुगंधी स्नेहाने सर्वांना बरोबर घेऊन शोभिवंत केले. पद असो वा नसो, ते चिवटपणे निरंतर कष्ट करित राहिले आणि आपल्या कार्याच्या सुगंधाने दोन्ही संस्थांचे नाव त्यांनी सर्वतोमुखी केले. त्यांचे जीवन चंदनाच्या झाडासारखेच होते हे जाणवते.

या सेवामय जीवनाच्या चंदनाच्या झाडाने दधीचिप्रमाणे देहदान करून जीवनाचे सार्थक केले. त्यांच्या आत्म्याला चिरंशांती लाभो हीच ईश्वरणी प्रार्थना.

Vasantlata Mirjankar - A True Kannada Kesari !

DEEPA SHAIENDRA (NEE TALGERY)

Vasant Lata Mirjankar's story is a celebration of life, of fortitude and relentless dedication to her cause. A woman of grit and resolve, her's is a story of a single mother, who, widowed at an early age, was left with the responsibility of caring for not only her children, but also her aged mother-in-law and aged parents at that stage in her life. She is a shining example of single-handedly overcoming insurmountable odds to inspire and become a role model for not just her own children but for an entire community. A mother, a social activist and a politician, she has the distinction of being the first *amchigele* lady MLA from not Karnataka alone but from INDIA.

Better known as Vasant *pachhi* or Vasant*dididi* to her legion of fans, friends and relatives, Vasant*dididi* was born on the 3th of July 1923 in the bustling town of Mangalore to Saguna and Manjunath Kundaje, a hardworking Saraswat in a travelling job. Coming from a family that realized the importance of education, young Vasant*dididi* did her schooling at St. Joseph's in Mercara, a time that she enjoyed immensely. Her father Manjunath was working at Lahore (during the period of undivided India) when the turmoil of Partition started in all its ferocity, robbing the young lady of the opportunity of appearing for her State exam. But this was but a minor hiccup. Being of an impassioned and independent nature, Vasantalata completed her Montessori Training course and soon started working with a school in Alwar, Rajasthan.

She got married in her early twenties to Vimalanand Mirjankar, hailing from a business family in Kumta, a village in those days. What immediately struck her about the little village of Kumta was its laggardness in stark contrast to the remote places that she had visited until that time. Armed with her Montessori training and her experience working with the Red Cross during the World War and coupled with her passion for social work, she set out to pursue the opportunities of bettering a community that she now was part of!

Once settled in her marital home, she got involved with the Sahakari Mahila Mandal activities and soon started a Montessori school, where she taught the young children of the village. Concurrently, she got involved in several activities of the Mahila Mandal. Her dynamism was soon recognized and she became a member of the Karnataka State Board for Women's Small Savings. One of her early feats was to organize the enterprising women of Kumta to get out of their comfort zones and to start saving. Within a week, she was able to mobilize Rs. 6-7 Lakhs. From there, it was a natural progression to include the other villages of the area. Seeing that the villagers were steeped in debt, she

inspired and urged the women, while caring for their family, to pursue other modes of income/earning. She started training classes for tailoring and cooking. And encouraged women to take on midwife training. "I managed this feat," she says, "thanks to the women who came forward and thus began this movement". Badminton and Indoor sports like carrom became a regular feature at the Mahila Mandal. "It is still alive today", says Vasant*dididi* proudly.

Vasant*dididi*'s achievements in the field of Women empowerment soon caught the attention of the administration. It was around the time of the States Reorganization. The State of Karnataka had been formed and they wanted more representation for women from North Kanara. The outspoken and courageous Vasant*dididi* stood for elections and won by a landslide from the Kumta Constituency. "I was new to Politics," reminisces Vasant*dididi* "and I couldn't do much. I worked very hard with the people residing in the backwater areas of my region. At that point, the backwater lands were uncultivable. I coordinated the rehabilitation measures for the poorest of the poor in the area. These were people who could not, earlier eke out a livelihood for themselves. I got grants sanctioned for the construction of bunds to make the local residents self-sufficient. More than 28,000 acres were either brought under cultivation or used for local fishing. We sent farmers to Cochin for training and then got them subsidies from the Government for buying a boat."

"I was closely involved with the Kharland Development activities in North and South Kanara. The initiatives that we took resulted in the blossoming of tertiary activities. Ice factories opened up, trucks came into the hinterland to transport the marine produce and all this activity positively impacted the economy of the region." In her first term in office, one of her major achievements was to bring electricity and telephone connectivity to the town of Kumta.

Side by side, Vasant*dididi* was also involved in integrating young widows into mainstream society. Widows were educated till class 8 and thereafter were provided training to help them clear the State board exams. They were trained in nursing, mid-wifery and in other streams that they were interested in.

For ten years, Vasant*dididi* worked relentlessly with the State and district on women's rehabilitation and empowerment schemes. Stressing on the importance of women's empowerment through education and employment, she began several Training Centres for women in Sirsi, Honnavar, Mallapur, Ankola, Mundgod and Gokarn. The Centre would take in 20 students at a time. Slowly, the Gram



Sevika schemes gathered popularity and several women came forward themselves to benefit from the job opportunities thus generated.

At that time in history, the entire North Kanara District had only one college that they could boast about and that was in Kumta. Several of the students faced dire financial difficulties. In her first term in office, the enterprising young politician got grants sanctioned, worth Rs 5 Lakhs from the government to help deserving candidates. Her populist measures helped her to get elected for a 2nd term from the constituency of Kumta. Helping the efforts of the Indian Red Cross and her work with wounded warriors were other initiatives that gave her a lot of satisfaction. In many of these cases, she worked as liaison, connecting the organization to deserving candidates. She recalls the time when H.H. Swami Anandashram was due to visit the temple at Mallapur, a remote village without electricity. Within a week, she had got electricity organized and functioning in the village.

During her Term as MLA, she got Lift irrigation programs implemented in her Constituency. Farmers were given subsidized rates to buy irrigation pumps that could draw water from the river to irrigate their lands. This brought a lot more land that was once forest land under cultivation. At that time, the farmers would cultivate only one crop a year. With her efforts, a Co-operative Milk diary was formed in Kumta, where members were given loans to purchase cattle. The loans were repaid in dairy produce that would be sold to the Co-operative Society.

In her 2nd Term, she received wide recognition for her social activities and was sent on deputation to several conferences across India. At the first International Woman's Year in Washington D.C USA in 1976, she was felicitated for her efforts in the field of Women's empowerment. Juggling her "different roles and responsibilities was sometimes daunting", she says. She credits her husband, Vimalanand Mirjankar and mother-in-law, Gangabai Mirjankar, (a freedom fighter herself) with giving her immeasurable and staunch support and encouragement. Staying connected with your roots is very important, she believes. She remembers a time when an impoverished man with seven daughters sought her help to educate his children. With Vasantdidi's guidance, one of his daughters rose to a high rank in the State department. One day, when the father went to meet his officer-daughter at her workplace, she turned him away because of his shabby clothes. Whenever Vasantdidi was invited to give a motivational speech to graduating nurses, she would relate this story to remind the graduating students to respect their parents and elders.

There was one unforgettable grief, which, to this day, is fresh in her mind and the feelings that the event evoked. She was the MLA (representing the Congress Party) during the Goa Liberation war – she remembers how overwhelmed with grief she was when she attended the funeral of every single soldier, who had died in the call of duty, in Karwar travelling everyday from Kumta. That was a time of sadness that she still remembers regardless of whether the soldier was from India or Portugal!

Vasantdidi's energy is truly an inspiration. As my father Gunnu Talgery put it succinctly, "Very few can look back upon an eventful life of 90 years with satisfaction and some pride. One such person is Vasantlata Mirjankar. A brave achiever, Vasant Pachhi lost her husband early in life. She was both mother and father to her three young daughters; Geeta, Lata and Neeta through their formative years, education and later, marriage. She pursued a political career in which she distinguished herself by getting elected to the State Legislature of Karnataka, which she served with distinction.

Even at the ripe age of 97, she still cooks and sews (not to mention the innumerable quilts she has quilted and gifted to many people besides relatives) and still has time to catch up with her family, her large network of friends and her dentist (yes – she still has very healthy teeth!!) Vasantdidi is a great cook, a talent that has been inherited by her lovely daughters, Geeta, Lata and Neeta. She loves experimenting with any kind of cuisine as long as it is vegetarian although she does cook non-vegetarian but does not relish eating it. She loves reading books on Women. Dhanvantri Rama Rao, Julia Childs and Nelson Mandela are an inspiration to her. She is fond of classical Indian music and still loves attending concerts. Vasantlata Mirjankar continues to inspire generations of *amchigeles* with her youthful energy and quiet wisdom. Her motto is borrowed from Swami Vivekanand – "Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached"!



ANNAPURNA
A unit of
**ANUSHREE KAIKINI
CATERING COMPANY**

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

We accept Catering orders for get-togethers, Birthday Parties Weddings and other occasions.

Cuisines – Saraswat Konkani, Malvani, Aagri, Chinese, Continental, Italian, North Indian.

Contact: Anushree Kaikini
Mobile 9167019733

Address: Annapurna, Shop No 8 Sukhdam Nagar, Opp. Harshgiri Building, Ravalpada, Dahisar (East) Mumbai - 400068.

The Eloquence of Silence

A COLLECTION OF ANECDOTES

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

Can you hear a pin drop? What is the meaning of pin drop silence? Following are some of the instances when silence could speak louder than words. These anecdotes were forwarded to me by different army friends at different times by e-mail / WhatsApp.

Take-1

After the 1971 Indo-Pak war, Field Marshal Sam Maneckshaw was once addressing a public meeting at Ahmedabad, in English.

The crowd started chanting "Speak in Gujarati. We will hear you only if you speak in Gujarati. Field Marshal Sam Maneckshaw stopped and swept the audience with a hard stare. He then calmly replied –

"Friends, I have fought many a battle in my long military career. I have learnt Punjabi from the men of the Sikh Regiment, Marathi from the Maratha Regiment, Tamil from the Madrasis, Bengali from the men of the Bengal Sappers, Hindi from the Bihar Regiment and even Nepali from the Gorkhas. Unfortunately there was no soldier from Gujarat from whom I could have learnt Gujarati!"

The crowd was stilled into silence.

Take-2

Robert Whiting, an elderly US gentleman of 83 arrived in Paris by plane. At French Customs, he took a few minutes to locate his passport in his carry on.

"You have been to France before Monsieur?" the Customs Officer asked sarcastically. Mr Whiting admitted that he had been to France previously. "Then you should know enough to have your passport ready."

The American said, "The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it."

"Impossible. Americans always have to show their passports on arrival in France!" The Customs Officer sneered.

The American senior gave the Frenchman a long, hard look. Then he quietly explained -

"Well, when I had come ashore at Omaha Beach at 4:40 am on D-Day, the 6th of June in 1944, to help liberate your country, I couldn't find a single Frenchman to show a passport to ..."

The Frenchman wilted in his shoes.

Take-3

Soon after getting freedom from British rule in 1947, the de-facto Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru called a meeting of senior army and government officers to select the first General of the Indian Army, "as we don't have enough experience to lead the same."

*** something appears to be incomplete in this quote*

Having learned under the British only to serve and rarely to lead, all the civilians and most men in uniform present

nodded their heads in agreement.

However one senior Army officer, Nathu Singh Rathore, asked for permission to speak.

Nehru was a bit taken aback by the independent streak of the officer, though he asked him to speak freely. Rathore said "You see Sir, we don't have enough experience to lead a nation too, so shouldn't we appoint a British person as the first prime Minister of India?"

The stunned silence was unbelievable.

After that deafening pause, Nehru asked Rathore "Are you ready to be the first General of the Indian Army?" Rathore declined the offer "Sir, we have a very talented Army officer, my senior, General Cariappa, who is the most deserving amongst us."

This is how the brilliant Gen K M Cariappa became the first Commander –in Chief of the Indian Army and Nathu Singh Rathore – its first ever Lieutenant General.

Take-4

When 50 (Independent) Parachute Brigade returned to its permanent location, Agra, after the 1965 Indo-Pak war, the Mayor of Agra accorded a civic reception for the troops. After a welcoming speech, the Mayor presented a cheque for Rs100,000/- to Brig Inderjit Singh Gill, the Para Brigade Commander, for the welfare of paratroopers.

Brig. Gill in his speech thanked the Mayor for the gift and then added in his typical anglicised Hindi that the whole world knows Agra because of the TajMahal, Hotel Clarke Shiraj and because of the Parachute Brigade. But he said that he had never seen a dirtier city than Agra.

"I therefore return the cheque to you Mr Mayor, to use the money to clean up the city of Agra."

The Mayor was dumbstruck. The momentary silence was followed by thunderous applause from all the troops present.

Take-5

The anecdote narrated below is of an exchange between Senator John Glenn and Howard Metzen Baum. It eloquently explains why men and women in the Armed Forces serve in uniform for a living.

Senator Metzen Baum to Senator John Glenn. "How can you run for Senate when you have never held a real job?"

Senator Glenn. "I served 23 years in the US marine Corps. I served through two wars. I flew 149 missions and my plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire on 12 different occasions. I was in the Space Program. It wasn't my check-book Howard, it was my life on the line. It was not a 9 to 5 job where I took time off to take the daily cash receipts to the bank. I ask you to go with me as I went the other day to a Veterans' Hospital and look those men – with their mangled bodies – in the eye, and tell THEM they didn't hold a job!"

“You go with me to the Space Program at NASA and go, as I have gone, to the widows and orphans of Ed White, Gus Grissom and Roger Chaffee... and you look those kids in the eye and tell them that their dads didn't hold a job.”

“You go with me on Memorial Day and you stand in Arlington National Cemetery where I have more friends buried than I'd like to remember and you watch those waving flags. You stand there and think about this Nation, and you tell ME that those people didn't hold a job, and I'll tell you Howard Metzen Baum you should be on your knees every day of your life thanking God that there were SOME MEN – who held

a real job! And they required a dedication to a purpose-and a love of country and a dedication to duty – that was more important than life itself. And their self sacrifice is what made this country possible.

I have held a job, Howard. How about you?”

No reply.

Major General Baindur Nagesh Rao was commissioned into the Army in 1961. He was thrice decorated by the President of India for his distinguished professional contribution to the Indian army and has participated in two wars against Pakistan. His e-mail ID is majgenbnrao@yahoo.com.

Epic Adversity

KAVITA KARNAD SAMUEL

Indians are bottle fed stories from our epics since infancy. The focus is always on the triumph of good over evil, light over darkness and so on... very beautifully sugar-coated indeed. We are offered the result, the end of a deeply distressing, adversity-ridden life suffered by the hero/heroes/heroines of the epic. Somewhere in these renditions, we conveniently miss out the elephant in the room! That elephant needs to be examined, understood, integrated, as much as the glorious moral epiphany of the epic stories.

In both the epics, the Ramayan and Mahabharat, Rama, Laxman, Sita and the Pandavas, respectively, are forced by circumstances to abdicate their claim to the throne and wander as mendicants in the forests. The trials and tribulations they are forced to face are described in detail in the *Itihasa* (History).

King Dasharath battled with protracted childlessness even after marrying three princesses. Even after obtaining the boon of many sons, the King died a lonely and painful death when his beloved Ram was exiled by his own wife Kaijai. Ravan, the king of the city of gold, lord of astronomical wealth, talent and wisdom, suffered a life long affliction from his unbearable ego.

King Shantanu was a mute witness to horrific murders of his seven children at the hands of Ganga. Devavrata became Bhishma only after he took that astounding Bheeshma-Pratigya of remaining celibate all his life only so that his father could relive his days of conjugal bliss with Satyavati. Dhritarashtra countered congenital blindness, whereas Pandu was anaemic. A prince was born in the shackles of prison and had to be smuggled out to a safer place in order to survive. Even after winning the mother of all wars, the Kurukshetra, the Pandavas were bereft of happiness.

Here, I'd like to point out that these people are all born with silver spoons in the highest rungs of society at the time. Great expectations from them in terms of Dharma and demeanour are taken for granted. They are equipped with the best education with the best teachers of the time.

And yet, when the time is ripe, they are thrown out of their comfort zones, tossed in the winds of fate and destiny,

and tested to the extreme at every step on their perilous journeys in the wild. They are expected to overcome every obstacle, sustain every humiliation, face every threat and emerge victorious. The adversities turn out to be the hammer sculpting their characters on the anvil of their destinies. They become heroes worthy of composing ballads and sung about. They blaze through epochs as demi gods capable of impossible feats. They are moulded, shaped and imprinted permanently on the psyche of human civilizations.

The question remains as to whether these people would be even faintly remembered had they lived a safe, cozy, happy life with no adversity denting their days and nights? I can safely say, No! The greater their suffering, the larger their stature, the deeper their imprint...

A parable echoes through the mind as I write this: Two stones of equal dimensions were brought to the temple complex. After much contemplation, the master sculptor chose one of them. For innumerable days and nights, the chosen one suffered the sculptor's hammer and chisel blows. One night, the other stone pitied the chosen one for all that suffering. After many months of being beaten, the chosen one was installed in the sanctum sanctorum, anointed with oil, ghee, milk and honey, while people genuflected to that beautiful idol. The other stone was laid at the threshold of the sanctum that had to be treaded upon to reach the sanctum. One night the chosen one pitied the stepping stone for not being chosen for the idol. Moral: Greatness demands great suffering.

Then why are we mere mortals so afraid of adversity? Why do we choose the easy way out of a situation and sit back scared of facing consequences? Adversity is an invitation to greatness, cloaked in a thorny outfit. If we remember that a diamond is nothing more than carbon before being subjected to tremendous pressure, gold is a dirt-ridden metal before being exposed to tremendous temperatures, we will look forward to these opportunities, just like the heroes of yore. Who knows, maybe we can inspire a Valmiki or a Vyas to write an epic on us??

A Humble Appeal to my Dear Countrymen

ARJUN HEMMADY

My dearest Brothers and Sisters... hope this message finds you in good health. This is a sentence I have used many times before in messages, but now it has a very important significance. We are amidst one of the most challenging times our young country has ever faced. We are at a crossroad. What we do in the next 21 days or more is going to determine the future our great nation. Never before has staying indoors been so important and at the same time so challenging.

When the Coronavirus started spreading in China, Southeast Asia and then Europe, it was a question of when and not if the virus would reach Indian shores. India got its first case of Coronavirus on 30th January, 2020 and before we knew it, things became serious. I had heard of the strict lockdown implemented in the epicenter, Wuhan District of China and never thought that we in India would have to face something similar. When the virus started spreading, I saw a very clear divide among the people. There were those who were scared, worried and apprehensive, there those who took it as a joke and there were many others like me, who didn't know what to make of it.

Before I get to the heart of the matter, I want to give a disclaimer. THIS IS NOT A POLITICAL ARTICLE. I am not writing this to show support to any political party, religion or ideology. I am writing this as a very proud Indian and if while doing so I happen to praise or criticize certain political figures, it is not in any way an endorsement to their politics or their policies. The battle that we have to fight now requires us to discard all of our prejudices – political, religious or ideological and put up a united front.

When our Prime Minister came on air on 24th March at 8 pm, the nation held its breath. I personally didn't know what to expect. But the tone and content of the address made me realize that we are in the midst of something truly serious. Initiating a lockdown in a country, which is already struggling economically is something which I believe took a lot of courage. The economic impact which this virus is going to have on our country can't be quantified as of now, but it will unfortunately have a devastating impact. Malls, cinema halls, factories, commercial complexes and offices will be shut for 21 days! This is unprecedented in a country with our size and population. But what is heartening is that we have all shown our willingness to cooperate and join hands (pun intended) and do our bit.

Let me share what I am doing during this challenging time:

1) I listen only to Doordarshan News and avoid all other news channels as far as possible. No matter which channel it is, every news channel has its own agenda, whether its pro- Congress, pro-BJP or whatsoever. One can argue that Doordarshan also has its own agenda as it is a government channel. However, even if that is true, I still watch that channel as it is devoid of the *mirch-masala* which every news channel gives. It shows live press conferences from

the Ministry of Health multiple times a day and thus answers many of our most crucial questions. Why do I stay away from mainstream news channels? Because among other things, I have seen a tendency of stoking passions in the viewers, which is something we must strictly avoid. 21 days or more is a long time. Going out of our homes is something we take for granted, so when we are now unable to do so, there is bound to be a sense of claustrophobia and maybe a hint of irritation too. The need of the hour is to refrain from bringing any kind of unpleasantness to the already existing situation.

2) Even though I do still log onto social media like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, I make it a point to avoid reading or listening to posts which are inflammatory in nature. We have people on both sides of the spectrum who just don't learn. They still take the time out to make posts which make the blood of the reader boil in rage. Such people should be pulled up and reprimanded. This is a very sensitive time and it is important to maintain a good mood and maintain a positive frame of mind. It has to be noted that every political party is on the same page now. Every major leader of our country has pledged their support to fight this disease and this makes me feel very proud.

3) I have exited from a few WhatsApp Groups which spread unverified forwards and messages showing that the situation is deteriorating or which show that certain communities are not following lockdown protocol. I would like to state here that there are bad apples in each and every community. Let us once and for all stop painting everyone from a community with the same brush. These bad apples will always do the exact opposite of what is required, just because they can. I recommend that it is best take such WhatsApp forwards with a pinch of salt. Certain irresponsible people are still playing the Congress, BJP or communal card and spreading malice in the country. The level of insensitivity that they show is something that is beyond my understanding. I will pray for them and hope that they come to their senses.

4) I am making the assumption that everyone is responsible and knows what is at stake. I ask a pertinent question – “What if there are certain people who are irresponsible?” What can we do about it? If we get unverified news that people are not following the lockdown, is there anything that we can do about it? Can we go to that area and see whether the lockdown is being followed? Before that happens, I am sure that we will surely get a firm rap on the buttocks by our incredibly dedicated and selfless police force who are putting their lives on the line by staying out of their homes to ensure that we are safe, inside our homes. So whenever we receive such inflammatory news, there are two things that I recommend doing – a) deleting the post and requesting the person who sends such posts to refrain from doing so and b) praying for the mental sanity of the people who for whatever reason are voluntarily stepping out of their homes, knowing that it is putting not only their own lives at

risk, but also that of their family members and neighbours.

5) Even though I post about the coronavirus on my Facebook Account, I attempt to share posts or information which I hope is humorous, light hearted and makes us forget about our worries for a while. I, like any normal human being am prone to getting nervous and worried. When I see something that makes me laugh or smile, I share the meme or post in the hope that it can make another person laugh or smile and forget about this challenging situation for a moment.

To conclude, I will say this. We are all in this together. This virus like our country is truly secular. It affects everyone irrespective of their religion or political ideology. Let's pledge to have a "moratorium" on our internal fights and conflicts for just 3 weeks. When this whole issue gets resolved, I am sure we will come out of this stronger, more united and then we will wonder what we were fighting about earlier. We are a great nation. Yes, I said it. Irrespective of whatever has happened in

our country in the past 2 months with the CAA, NRC protests and the vitriol surrounding it, I will always believe that our country is great. Why is it great? I don't have a conclusive answer. Maybe it is blind faith and love. Maybe it is "Bhakti" (pun intended). When our country was born in 1947, nobody thought that we will survive and still be united. Every major country made wagers with each other stating that India will break up and dissolve after every crisis. Well, Brothers and Sisters, we have proved the naysayers wrong. Ultimately, it is not the land but it is the people who make up our country. And I love each and every one of them, irrespective of their background, no matter what they feel about me. Having love in our heart is a choice. Having hate in our heart is also a choice. To quote A.R. Rahman – "All my life I have had a choice of hate and love. I chose love and I am here."

STAY HOME, STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY. LOVE YOU ALL. JAI HIND!

Hum Kisse Kum Nahin

SUDHA PHILAR

As far as I can remember, I have been there from the time of Adam and Eve. Yes I am sure of that, because only after they ate the 'Apple' my reign of ruling started. Actually I am indispensable. No house, bungalow, flat, palace or for that matter even a hut can do without me. My name is "BHANSHIR ANKTI" or the dirtiest of the dirty kitchen rag.

Well, I do maximum work in any given household. Wherever there is dirt, I am the only one thought of because I keep the place clean. But once my work is over, people just throw me in a corner without giving me a second glance. They don't even give me a proper bath. So naturally I smell like a hippie. No wonder my parents, my brothers and my sisters don't come anywhere near me. My father - the handsome Turkish towel, my mother - the cleanest *bhairas*, my brothers - the soft face towels and my sisters - the intricately designed table-napkins, all shun me and treat me like an outcaste. "Oh, God... why have I been treated like this for no fault of mine? I know I am the most ugly, the most tattered, the most slimy and the most smelly cloth. I have been treated like an orphan. Nobody seems to know of my heritage. I am born retarded with a tear here and there. I had also heard that famous people like Manmohan Desai and Naseer Hussain reunite all the family members again but that happens only in their movies." I went on and on talking to God directly like Amitabh Bachhan, pleadingly, angrily and pathetically till I got exhausted.

As I was sitting helplessly in a nuke corner, I heard gentle steps coming nearer and nearer. Then I was gently picked up and he was looking up and down, He happened to be the 'Man of the House'. He called his wife and said, "How can you ever have the heart to treat a *Bhanshir Ankti* like this? Just

because she doesn't protest, it doesn't mean that you have to mete out such awful treatment. I know that is because at one time I too was treated like this in this wicked world. It is better late than never; at least from now on let her have the pride of the place in our kitchen." The lady of the house apologized profusely, gave me a hot water bath using her very own perfumed soap and scrubbed me till the entire dirt was washed off. Lo, behold! I was transformed like the beautiful Cinderella. All my family members welcomed me with open arms. Now I play with them everyday in the same soap water, then while I am drying out in the sun, I chat and chat trying to catch up with all the happy times and then I am folded nicely by the 'Man of the House' to rest with others. In fact now I am being born again and again healthy with bright colours and soft texture. Mind you this not a dream but a fact. So all is well that ends well.

Before I end my story, I want to share this incident with all of you - one day a very young handsome boy (grandson of the 'Man of the House') was invited for a meal. He washed his face, hands and picked me up to wipe off the water from his face. It looked as though he was kissing me. My happiness knew no bounds. All my family members winked at me feeling happy for me. They also congratulated me for my success saying that hard work, patience and perseverance had at last paid off. I was singing to myself '*Hum Kisse Kum Nahin*' swaying happily and dancing to the lovely tune.

P.S. My earnest appeal to one and all, please treat all my separated cousins with little more kindness, care and try to give them a pride of place in your kitchen too. Then we can all live happily ever after.

Thank You,
BHANSHIR ANKTI (Kitchen Rag)

Our Trip to Nashik Holiday Home - Availing KSA's Package

VIJAYA KUNDER

On 7th March, when I was browsing through the Kanara Saraswat Magazine, what caught my eye was the "Avail KSA's Nashik Yatra Package". Travelling and sight-seeing are my favourite hobbies. I eagerly read through the details and found the package very attractive. The price too was extremely reasonable. I had been to Nashik earlier. But that was a long time ago and I was quite excited at the prospect of seeing these places and the newly renovated Nashik Holiday Home.

I rang up Shri Kodange on the number mentioned in the advertisement. He was very courteous and welcoming and said that a group of four could also avail of the package. I then contacted three of my friends Ahalya Lajmi, Vanita Trasi and Rajani Nadkarni who agreed to join me on this trip.

On the 14th of March, we set out by a hired taxi to Nashik. We reached in the afternoon and were welcomed by Shri Radhakrishna and Smt Geeta Kodange. After a tasty lunch and siesta, the planned programme said 'Introduction of All Guests'. But since we were the only guests we were free. During my earlier visit to Nashik, I had been to 'Muktidham', a place worth-seeing. So on our request Shri Kodange arranged a car for us. We spent a wonderful evening seeing the pictures from Ramayan and Mahabharat depicted on the walls as well as the temples around it. On our way back, we had a bonus - we met two of our friends from Talmakiwadi who have now settled in Nashik!

15th March dawned. After a sumptuous breakfast, we set out on Day 1 of our tour. The first halt was at 'Navshya Ganpati Mandir'. This is a place where devotees offer a bell possibly to remind the Lord to fulfill their wish!! This is a very scenic place on the banks of the river Godavari. We also went to Someshwar Mahadev Temple and Balaji Temple. The next halt was at 'Sula Wines', a place worth visiting. They have a 'conducted tour' and ofcourse one can also make purchases. We returned to the Holiday Home for lunch and some rest. The evening was spent in visiting the Panchvati and Ramkund, again on the banks of the Godavari. This is the place where the Kumbha Mela is held one in twelve years. Panchvati is famous for its five huge banyan trees also called Vat Vriksha. That's how Panchvati got its name - The Land of 5 Banyan Trees. We also visited the Shringeri Math, the Sharadamba Temple and Kalaram Temple. This Math was established by Jagadguru Sri Sacchidhananda Bharathi II during the Peshva Maharajas rule in Maharashtra in Circa 1740 A.D.

On 16th March, a car had been arranged to take us to the Trimbakeshwar Shiva temple. This is an ancient temple and one of the 12 *vyotirlingas*. Our itinerary included the Coin Museum, Veer Savarkar's Residence, the Artillery Centre and the Flower Garden. But unfortunately due to the Coronavirus scare all these places were closed. However we could see the 'Gargoti' Museum. This is a place where stones collected from various mountains and places in Maharashtra are exhibited. Many of them contain semi precious stones and minerals. We picked up some beautiful jewellery from the shop attached to the museum. We then visited the Takli Hanuman Temple made by Samarth Ramdas Swami, the cave where Swami Samarth used to sit for meditation and the Swami Samarth Math there. We reached home at the end of the day to a delicious dinner and restful sleep.

On 17th March, a trip had been planned to Shirdi to take darshan of Shri Saibaba and to Shani Shingnapur. We decide to go to Shani Shingnapur first. We had a good darshan there. Unfortunately by the time we reached Shirdi the main temple was closed by the authorities. But we were fortunate to visit the 'Chawdi' and 'Dwarkamai' where scenes from Saibaba's life are depicted.

The 18th of March was reserved for darshan of the 'Saptashringi Nivasini' devi. There is a ropeway too to reach the temple which is situated at the top of the hill. Alas, we missed it thanks to the Coronavirus scare! But we went to the Saputara Hill Station where we had a refreshing boat ride, shopping and a wonderful meal. We reached back in time for dinner.

The next day was our last day at the Holiday Home. So we had free time to do some shopping and we made the best of it by buying the famous dry fruits of Nashik, Chiwda and some fresh fruits too. We had a lavish farewell lunch at the Holiday Home before bidding goodbye and giving our thanks to Shri and Smt Kodange. Due the situation their regular helpers were not able to attend to their duties. It was thanks to the Nileshwar family who saved the day by attending to us and helping Smt Kodange with the cooking.

I cannot sign off without giving a special thanks to Smt Kodange for the lip-smacking food served to us. Each and every meal including breakfast was well made and planned. We had different dishes during each meal! All in all it was a memorable experience. I will definitely recommend it to everyone from our community.

(Pictures on page 29)

In loving memory of Shanta Manohar Amladi Rao

16-9-1930 to 31-3-2020



True to her name she was gentle, gracious, kind and patient till the very end.

A wonderful daughter, wife, amma, mami, pacchi, mau, akka, amma-akka, ammuma and aunty, she had unconditional love for all.

We thank you for your love respect and kindness to her and our family - something she always cherished and leaves behind as a legacy.

Om Namah Shivaya
Dilip, Pradeep, Suchitra and families

Our Trip to Nashik Holiday Home - Availing KSA's Package



Nashik trip - Shri Radhakrishna Kodange (on the left) and Shri Kishan Chandavarker (on the right) welcoming the guests



A scene from the Ramayan recreated at Panchvati



Beautiful flowers blooming in the Garden of the Holiday Home



HONAVAR ELECTRODES PRIVATE LIMITED

Regd. & Head Office : 305-309, 3rd Floor, Damji Shamji Industrial Complex,
9, L.B.S. Marg, Kurla (West), Mumbai – 400 070. INDIA
Tel. No. : 91-22-49742850/49762854/42156238
E-Mail : honavarelectrodes@gmail.com



*Knowledge is our Strength
It Keeps Increasing Steadily
By Sharing with Welding Industry*

ULTIMATE – 18MET

SFA 5.5 AWS E 7018-G H4
EN499 : E 42 5 □ B 42 H 5

An Outstanding electrode, approved by Indomag Steel Technology, for special application for steel plant. **ULTIMATE-18MET** displays remarkable weld metal properties:
Resistance to repeated thermal cycles.
Resistance to ageing.
CVN impact values >40 joules at minus 50°C.
Used successfully for LD CONVERTER VESSELS, during the last years.

ULTIMATE – 18NC And ULTIMATE-18(SPL.)NC

SFA 5.1 AWS E 7018 And E 7018-1
IS:814-2004 EB 5426H3JX And EB 5629H3JX

FOR SOUR SERVICE

Meeting the test requirements of:
NACE standard TM-0284 for H.I.C. Test.
NACE standard TM-01-77 for S.S.C.C. Test. &
EIL Specification for sour service
Used successfully in welded fabrication out of HIC resistant steel plates, during the last twenty years.

CRYOMATE – 3NS

AWS A 5.11 ENiCrFe3
DIN 1736 EL-NiCr15FeMn
ISO: 14172 E Ni 6182

Nickel base alloy non-synthetic electrode gives outstanding performance in welding Inconel-600, Nimonic 75, Has high degree of resistance to hot cracking. Service temperature range 900°C to -250°C

CRYOMATE - 5

AWS A 5.11 ENiCrMo3
DIN 1736:ELNiCr20Mo9Nb
ISO: 14172 E Ni 6625

A basic coated non-synthetic electrode for welding of NiCrMo alloys and super austenitic stainless steels.

Duplex and Super Duplex Stainless Steels

SFA 5.4

Silvershine-4462 E 2209-16

Silvershine-4470 E 2594-16

Silvershine-4475 E 2595-16

Widely accepted and used in the Foundry Sector.

CROMOMATE-91

(for welding of Gr. 91)

AWS A 5.5 2014 E 9015-B91 – H4
DIN / EN 1599 E CrMo 9 1 B 42 H5
ISO: 3580A E CrMo91

Highly successful in the foundry sector & power sector. Meets test requirement for creep rupture & for impact property with energy values of 45 – 75 joules at +20°C.

Smt. Deepalaxmi (Bebiakka) Vasant Divgi

30-12-1936 To 29-3-2020



She cared and loved everyone who had been to DIVGI HOUSE KUMTA !
A loving Wife to Papa, Mother to her children and All the younger generation !

We will miss you Amma !

Vasant, Sheela, Shashank, Shirish, Aniket, Priyam, Vinita and Divgi Family.
Narekuli, Arur, Kulkarni, Mudur, Benegal, Mallapur and Mirjankar Families.
And every one whom she met and loved.

Smt. Kumudini Anand Mangalore (nee Hosangadi)

(2nd November 1930 to 12th April 2020)



*Knotted Chain
Knots and knots of memories,
Form a chain of bonding,
With near and dear ones,
Past and present,
Suddenly one knot snaps in a moment of time,
But the chain keeps strengthening,
With renewed knots of fresh memories,
Undying.*

- Kusum Gokarn

Deeply Mourned By:

Children: Sadhana – Pramod Khambatkone, Chetana – Praveen Kadle
Prasad – Archana Mangalore

Grandchildren: Alok – Anushri Khambatkone, Sapna – Ashutosh Shroff
Kartik – Tanya Kadle, Pratik Prasad Mangalore

Great Grandchildren: Samvit Khambatkone, Veer Shroff
All Relatives and Friends

The Lingering Fragrance of Kumudini ...

- SADHANA PRAMOD KHAMBATKONE

Smt. Kumudini Anand Mangalore, my Amma passed away on 12th April, 2020. She achieved many milestones in her life, very often under trying circumstances. Amma was the person we all looked up to with love and respect right up to her last days. The credit for nurturing and caring with immense love and affection, when Pappa and then Amma were ailing with age-related problems, goes to my *bhavaj* Archana, brother Prasad and their son Pratik. It is now up to all of us to pay true homage to Amma by treading on the path set by her. I would like to share the wonderful tributes paid to her by all those who loved and respected her.

Saraswati Vrind Gaan, Saraswat Mahila Samaj, Gamdevi, Mumbai

Kumudpachi was one of the four आधारस्थंभ of the Saraswati Vrind Gaan. She was an integral part of our Vrindgaan for almost three memorable decades. An involved and a dedicated member, she took the bhajan class seriously, never missing a single session. She would try to play the song exactly as it was composed by Geeta Yennemadi (Geetakka to us) without missing a single note or variation. She would not be satisfied until she matched the notes of the harmonium with the singing. She would play a particular line of a song in two or three ways and ask Geetakka "हैं अशी वे? कि अशी?" while perfecting the notes of the song. With her deep knowledge and creativity, she would compose pieces to connect the stanzas, which made the songs even more melodious. In Geetakka's absence, she would be our Guru and guide us. Being a versatile singer, she could pin-point our mistakes and correct the wrong notes. That was the time when our Vrind Gaan was very active, giving bhajan programs, stage performances and participating in Bhajan competitions. We performed the 'Sant Dyaneshwar' program in many cities in India. She was always there to take charge of the *samvadini*. The audience appreciated the *nivedan*, song compositions and performances, but there was always a special mention of Kumudpachi's *samvadini saath*.

Pandit Yashwant Dev was a special invitee for one of our Ashadi Ekdashi programs at the Samaj hall. After the program, he specially complimented Kumudpachi for being a perfect accompanist. He appreciated how she gave apt touches when required without overpowering the show, the true talent of a great accompanying artist. That feedback was probably one of the best compliments she received. Shri Shridhar Phadke was the chief guest for the inaugural function of our Sant Dyaneshwar CD. After our live performance of the same program, he specially asked to meet Kumudpachi and complimented her on her talent and prowess.

After she moved from Tardeo to Kandivali, we missed her company and accompaniment in the class. While singing the old songs, we still remember the mellifluous interludes she played on the harmonium. When we listen to the recordings of our bhajans and *abhangs*, we can hear one member singing in the group with her fingers and that is our dearest Kumudpachi.

Archana Prasad Mangalore: Words fall short to speak about Amma. My first interaction with Amma: It was an evening when I was at my aunt's place at Manaji Blocks Tardeo. The bell rang and I happened to open the door and there she was. Her smile and her voice!! How do I describe her voice...it was as *madhur* like an angel's whisper. She was a very jovial person with a great sense of humour. That moment, I never even thought I would be a part of the Mangalore family as her daughter (in-law) one day. She was a loving mother to me, always supporting me in all the decisions I took... a friend and a guide, who always encouraged me to pursue my music, even accompanying me on the harmonium.

The last few years were very challenging for her, as she developed Alzheimer's. This led to many more challenges which we could face only due to the support of Sadhantai and Chetuakka (my sisters-in-law) who were always by our side. I feel truly blessed that the higher energy chose both Prasad (my husband) and me to do our little bit of seva for our Amma, pure soul that she was!

Prasad Anand Mangalore: What do I say about Amma, my mother? Where do I start and how do I end? It is said that mothers have a soft spot for their sons and vice versa and it was perfectly true in my case. Amma pampered and indulged my every whim when I was a child but at the same time was strict enough to inculcate values in me and my two sisters. And this was done without raising her hand on me even though many times I may have tempted her sorely.

I can say with absolute conviction that "*Mere Ma Ke Cooking Jaisa Kisi Ka Nahin*". Her chaklis, shewairassu, fried rice and chicken, all the delicacies prepared during Diwali and plenty of other dishes were out of this world. As I grew up, I was constantly amazed at her natural talent in music. She was not just a good singer but later, also carved out a niche for herself as an accomplished harmonium player winning several accolades. She would accompany Pappa while he played the flute, both enjoying their music thoroughly giving each other due respect. After my marriage, Amma proved to be a perfect mother-in-law nay, mother to my wife Archana. It is rare for the mother-in-law and daughter-in-law to agree on anything but in my case, because of my wife's love for my mother and vice versa this was indeed true. She was a doting grandmother not just to my son Pratik, but to her other grandchildren as well.

In later years, after Pappa developed Alzheimer's, Amma devoted her life completely and selflessly to looking after Pappa. Sadly, she herself got afflicted with Alzheimer's too.

Amma, I will really really miss your advice on the various problems and issues that may come up in life and your comforting presence. But I know, you will be there forever in our hearts.

Chetana Praveen Kadle: Amma was a perfectionist. A yesteryear radio artiste, gifted with a melodious voice, her flawless rendering of *bhaavgeet*, bhajans and semi-classical songs brought her great appreciation in her youth. Later when her vocal cords were affected, she switched over to playing the harmonium, which was why her *samvadini-vaadan* acquired a '*gaayaki*' style, earning appreciation from the well-known Pt. Tulsidas Borkar. When we siblings would be practicing any song, whether a bhajan or a ghazal or a romantic song, she would stress on our singing with the correct expression.

Amma was the one who encouraged my sister Sadhana and me to pursue our interest in art, handicrafts and painting. In my mind, I can still hear Amma's voice instructing me while I am cooking, chiding me when I sing a wrong note or appreciating me when I paint. Her physical presence will be missed but her unconditional love will always envelope all of us.

Pratik Prasad Mangalore: My grandmother, my Amma, has been a huge factor towards shaping my life. My earliest memories are of Amma who loved nothing more than to pamper me as I returned from pre-school. As I grew up, I can recall days when her unconditional love, her gentle but firm reprimands and her stories about her own life experiences made me rethink my own decisions and actions. I could always turn to her for advice or even for fun.

I can fondly recollect her reading story books to me, playing carrom, watching over me as I completed my schoolwork, among many other memories. To some extent, my values and personality have been defined by her and I shall always remember Amma for the pivotal role she has played in my upbringing.

Sapna Ashutosh Shroff: My dear Amma, my grandmother... Her warmth, her soft, sweet way of talking, her music, her concern for all of us...and her love for cooking! My earliest memories of Amma are in her kitchen. Amma, I'm hungry! She reaches out for a large bottle and inside is a treasure of limitless *RawaUnde (laddoos)*. Limitless...She gives me 2, then looks at my face, makes it 3 and then 4. She says, "The bottle is right here. Have these and then help yourself to more, it's for you guys only." No limits! Unbounded!! Abundant!!!

Over the years I tried to make *Unde* like hers. She would say, "*thode toop*", for roasting the *rawa*. The roasted *rawa* should look like you can furrow through when the spoon stirs it. The fragrance should be just right. My *laddoos* were repeatedly imperfect. The sweetness was insufficient, the

texture was incorrect, the mixture was too hot, the quantity was too little. I needed more!! Limitless *Unde*. Last year around Diwali, I finally got them moderately right. I gave one to my son. He liked it, asked for more. I gave him another one. He asked again. I gave one more, and told him, it's for you guys only. I made them again, again and again. I was able to share with friends and family who live in town. I had plenty. I could give!

Kartik Praveen Kadle: The earliest memory of Amma is of my summer holiday visits from Bangalore to Mumbai in the early 90's. I would look forward to visiting my maternal and paternal grandparents in Mumbai. Amma or Grant Road Amma, as I used to call her, would always welcome me with a smile and a hug. There was always something cooking in the kitchen and I would look forward to eating some delicious Konkani cuisine, Ginger Chicken, *Methkut roti*, Fish fry and other delicacies. Amma would ensure no one goes away hungry from her house. She was a real advocate for the age-old saying '*AtithiDevoBhava*', going all out to ensure all guests are taken care of. Many guests would visit my grandparents in large groups when they lived in Hyderabad. It is tough to imagine how Amma managed with so many children and adults in the house. Even till a few years ago Amma would endearingly say to anyone who would visit, "Please come again but make sure you call and inform me before your visit".

Amma was multi-talented. She was a singer, musician and an actor too. Pappa and Amma would regale us grandkids with their anecdotes from the various plays they acted in during their time in Hyderabad. I have always wondered how they managed to accomplish so much. Amma knew that I love reading. So, every day she used to accompany me to the library near the Grant Road market. All four of my grandparents have now passed away but there is so much to learn from our elders, so many memories and moments to reflect upon - I have been blessed! Amma led a full and long life with many ups and downs but always maintained her dignity & values. She set very high standards for herself, be it in her cooking, hospitality, etiquette, education or culture and these set of values have been imbibed by her children.

I will really miss Amma, but I know that she has been happily reunited with her 'Anand'. Bye Amma, "*Kaaljee Ghe...*", the phrase she used often.

Lalitha Bhaskar Mangalore: My Kumudakka, a friend indeed and a commendable soul. She was a self-created artiste, proficient in playing the harmonium as an accompaniment to any consummate artist singing either classical or *bhaav-geet*. Her absence is a great loss to me.

Ravi Bhaskar Mangalore: The passing away of my dear Mhav has been my personal loss. I was brought up in Hyderabad by my Mhant and Mhav during my early childhood as there were no English medium schools where my parents lived. I will always remember and miss my Mhant and Mhav who were so loving, caring and an influential part in my upbringing, besides my parents.

Kumud Mohan Nayel: My heart is full of memories of dear Anni -a treasure box which is so full of precious jewels that no jeweller will be able to price them. That precious! Anni was very loving and caring. Just after their marriage, though she was working at that time, she would visit us every evening with Anandada at our Forjett Hill house to enquire about our welfare. My Pappa who was a recluse loved their daily visits. He would ask us to bring out the carrom board and would insist on at least one game before they could leave. Those were happy times when no one bothered about the watch on one's wrist or the clock on the wall. What mattered was the people one loved and '*Kuch Bhi Karega*' was the tag line.

When they were staying in Hyderabad, I visited them twice during my annual leave from office. I remember Anni taking me out to meet all her friends and giving me a lovely time. She would do my hair and make me wear sarees, so I learnt to drape them well. She cooked and taught me to cook. She played the harmonium so beautifully and sang so well. Now when I play the harmonium, there is only one person in front of me. Anni! She was an ideal wife and maintained friendly relations with the entire Mangalore family. Bye my dear Kumudanni, but it's never a bye for gems like you.

Chandrama Mohan Bijur:

या unsung soldier ले कौतुक करतां . गोमटायेरी संसारु कशी चलौका,
हें अन्नीलाग्गी शिक्का, कुमुद अन्नीलाग्गी शिक्का,
गोडु स्वभावु, खुशालभायी वृत्ति, डब्ब्याक मुच्चळ परफेक्ट मेळ्यां,
एग्रदिपत्यानें जातक मेळ्यां,
पेटी वाज्जौंवाचांतु अन्नी expert, गृहकृत्यांतुयि अन्नी expert,
चेरडवांक संस्कारक्षम कोरच्यांतु अन्नी expert,
All-rounder अन्नी सर्वांतु expert.

Pavitra Mukund Shanbhag: Kumudakka (my *mavalni*) genuinely cared and showed great affection to our family. In fact, my Amma would always say that Kumudakka took her mother's place in her life. For Pappa she was much more than a sister. She was his mother. She was very kind and loving to me and also to my husband and children after my marriage. We would experience her incredible hospitality and culinary skills whenever we visited her, whether in Hyderabad or Mumbai. She was a wonderful cook. I especially loved her chaklis.

Her resilience and enthusiasm were just incredible. She was so balanced in her approach to life, so conscientious in the performance of duties in all her roles as a daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother and so on. It was our good fortune to have an example like Kumudakka to follow in our life. I was especially inspired by her love for music and her skill of perfectly accompanying practically anyone with ease and flair.

I really admired her parenting skills. She loved, pampered and at the same time trained her children to be responsible, sensible and sensitive human beings. As a wife she was always there through thick and thin, with Anandbappa. She lived a life of integrity and consistency. I will always remember her as a perfect example of simple living and high thinking.

GOD

KEDAR K

Never was He born,
Never will He know death,
No illness affects Him,
Has He an ever-going breath.

Nor the night drowns Him,
Nor the day wakes Him up,
No bath does He need,
Nor a coffee cup.

Never is He tired,
Nothing does He need,
Jealous He is not of Himself,
Never has He greed.

In peace and contentment,
He dwells above the skies,
Meditating all time,
Listening to my "Why's".

The creator of me,
The creator of satan,
The source of karma,
The ruler of the heaven.

Did He gift the boon of life,
A big sweet lie,
Taste's it's bitter truth,
The day we die.

Hell did He make,
Did He make paradise,
Agony for the evil,
Pleasure for the nice.

Several names does He have,
In several forms He is screened,
He is the one only,
Who has never been seen.

Flawless is He,
So is His perfection,
The all-knowing,
The master of salvation.

He loves His creations,
He hears their pleas,
He is the ever mortal,
His existence would never cease.

Kedar Kate is a student and a prolific writer of poems. He says that he is a writer by passion. His passion is his pen and his words are its ink.

Ancient Games – Old Is Gold

SUSHMA PHILAR

Games were invented by humans thousands of years ago mainly for amusement purposes. Their health benefits were realized later on. The excavations of Indus Valley Civilization and Vedic Literature throw light on these aspects. Yoga, which has been in practice in our country since time immemorial, is very popular today. The Olympic Games, which had very ancient origins in Greece are still held every four years. So, ancient games have relevance even today.

In ancient India, a number of games were popular. Some of them formed an integral part of festivities, and this tradition continues till date. Some of the ancient games were:-

GILLI DANDA - STICK MAGIC

This game had its roots in the Mauryan Period. This game is still played in rural India, and youngsters can be spotted hitting a small piece of wood with a stick. In our neighbouring country Nepal, it is called *Dandi Biya*. The English call it Tipcat and the Iranians refer to it as *Alak-Bolak*

KABADDI

According to Indian mythology, this game was related to the *Chakravayuh* incident in Mahabharata, when Arjuna's son Abhimanyu got trapped by his enemies. It is said that Arjuna had mastered this game.

In India, *Kabaddi* is known as *Chedugudu* in the south and *Hu-tu-tu* in Maharashtra. In Karnataka it is called *Kai hidi* which means catching hands. In the north it is called *Kabaddi*. India has won gold medals for this game at the Asian Games. It is the national game of Bangladesh.

KHO-KHO

In ancient times, *Kho-Kho* was played on *Raths* or Char-iots and was named *Rathera*. It is believed to be a modified form of 'Run Chase' which involves chasing and touching a person. The rules of *Kho-kho* were framed at the beginning of the 20th Century in Maharashtra, at the Gymkhana Poona (now Pune) in 1914. The first national *Kho-kho* championship was organized in Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh in 1959-60. It is played at all levels today, in India.

POLO

Polo was an aristocratic sport adopted by the royalties of Rajasthan and Punjab, and later on by the Indian Army. Abul Fazal, the famous historian, wrote about the Mughal Emperor Akbar's fondness of the game. In Persia it was referred to as *Chaghan*. From Central Asia it spread to Japan, China etc. Raja Sawai Man Singh of Jaipur and Maharaja Ranjit Singh of Punjab also patronized this game. The 61st Cavalry Regiment of the Indian Army has managed to win the Arjuna Awards in the modern times for this game.

MALLAKHAMB

In our Mythology, it is said that, Krishna's elder brother Balaram worked on the *Mallakhamb* to strengthen his body. There is mention of a game called *Mallastambha* in the book *Manasollasa*, written by Someshwara Chalukya in the 12th Century. The word *Mallakhamb* consists of two words - '*Malla*' and '*Khamb*', meaning 'a man of strength' and 'a pole' respec-

tively. This sport was meant to train wrestlers.

It was revived in the 19th Century by Balambhatta Dada Deodhar, the physical fitness teacher of Peshwa Bajirao II. The vertical wooden pole reminds the participant of his ever present opponent and he performs various acrobatic feats and poses on it. Various types of Mallakhamb became popular as time passed by such as "Fixed Mallakhamb", "Hanging and Rope Mallakhamb". It became popular and developed into an independent sport in Maharashtra. India won the first Mallakhamb Championship held in Mumbai, Shivaji Park in February 2019 in which around 15 countries had participated.

IN THE RING

The origin of the sport of wrestling can be traced to the Indian Epics. In the Mahabharata, Duryodhana and Bhima were accomplished wrestlers. It has two forms *Malla Krida*, the sport form and the *Malla Yuddha*- the battle version. Since Vedic times, *Kushti*- the free style version has been the most popular. It has four distinct types - *Bhimaseni*, *Hanumanthi*, *Jambuvanthi* and *Jarasandhi*. The tradition of *Akharas* and *Pahalwans* is relevant till this day. The annual village '*Dangals*' draw huge crowds. New heroes are born. Some of the famous wrestlers modern India has produced are Gama Pehelwan, Dara Singh, Gobar Guha and K.D. Jadhav former Olympic medalist. More recently, Sushil Kumar and Yogeshwar Dutt have also done so!

KITE FLYING

According to the Puranas, the Sun God Surya visits his son *Shani* (Saturn), once a year. This day is celebrated in our country as *Makar-Sankranti*, and is marked by kite-flying. Kites were invented by the Chinese in the 5th Century BCE, and were originally made of silk. In India, kite battles are common when people try their best to entangle and cut their opponent's kites. During ancient times *Patangbazi* was a passion of the nobility. Kites are called by different names in various states - *Guddi* in Punjab, *Ghudi* in Bengal, *Gali Pata* in Karnataka, *Patang* in North India and *Katthadi* in Tamil.

KITH-KITH

This game is called *Stapur* in Persian, *Ekhat-Dukhat* in Hindi and *Hop-Scotch* in English. It remains a childhood memory and requires physical ability and nimbleness. It requires minimum space and can be played indoors as well as outdoors. In this game, squares are drawn on the ground. Each player has a stone, shell or button etc., and is supposed to hop over the squares with balance and precision.

PACHISI

This game was played in bygone days by paupers and princes alike. It was very popular in Medieval India. Emperor Akbar had built a massive *Pachisi* board in a courtyard at Fatehpur Sikri, his capital. It had huge red and white squares. *Pachisi* was considered to be a pastime among people. It was played on a distinctive board, embroidered on a piece of cloth. The game would be played with 'cowries' and a

'dice'. The name *Pachisi* came from '*Pachis*' which means twenty-five in Hindi. It was the highest a person could score from a single throw of a *cowrie*.

In those days, village courtyards and homes would be filled with the rattle of falling *cowries*. The game of *Ashta Kashte* is said to have been an ancestor of *Pachisi*. It was played in Bengal.

CHECKMATE

Chess has its roots in India. It was played in ancient India and was called *Chaturanga*, which means four-bodied, and was played by four persons, in those days. This game was known nearly three thousand years ago in India. It was played between Pandavas and Kauravas. In the *treta yuga*, in Ramayana, Ravana is depicted as playing *Chaturanga* with his wife Mandodari.

According to the Persian poet Firdausi, an Indian King once sent a *Chaturanga* board to a Persian king and that is how the name '*Shatranj*' came into existence. From Persia it was transmitted to the Arabs and the Greco-Roman kingdoms. The word 'Checkmate' is derived from the Persian word '*Shah Mat*' which means 'the king is dead'. Chess soon came to be known as a game of the nobility.

Munshi Premchand's famous story '*Shatranj ke Khiladi*' was later made into a movie by Satyajit Ray. It was based on the story of two associates of Lucknow, who were busy playing *shatranj* while the city fell to the British.

By the 19th century, chess became a competitive sport everywhere - in homes, at tournaments and even online now-a-days. It has been registered in the 2021 Olympics to be held in Tokyo. It was never considered a regular Olympics sport all these years! We all know Vishwanathan Anand and more recently R. Praggnanandaa, a 14 year old lad from Chennai, who became the Under 18 category World Chess Champion, held in Mumbai

GAMES WOMEN PLAYED

In Mughal paintings, women are often portrayed as playing *Choupar*, the other games involving women are *Ganjifa*, *Phugadi*, *Pithoo*, *Pacheta* etc. In those days games symbolized social class. *Ganjifa* was played with cards. *Pacheta* was played with coloured counters thrown in the air and caught by hands. Nowadays, we have women participating in nearly every sport like never before!!!

- 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 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.

Going Within

SHAILAJA GANGULY

Have you ever buried your nose in the warm folds of a grandmother? The reasons were many - a broken doll, a lost ball, a hurtful friend, a well-deserved scolding, anything. But the go-to person was just one. Nestling in that much-worn, damp in-patches sari smelling variously of incense from the shrine, the morning curry, the dough she was kneading, the curd she was churning, this and that, you felt totally safe and totally adored. That was the very naive and pre-primary attempt of shutting out the world and "going within".

Then came adolescence, vanity, hormonal outbursts and secretive happenings. Stolen glances, rising heartbeats, scribbled emotions, hidden diaries. "Going within" in those devil-may-care days was dreaming endlessly of touching the sky, conquering the world and riding off on a snow-white steed of course into a "happily ever after" sunset.

When life met you headlong with harsh deadlines, calous competitors, mounting pressures, plummeting egos, everything was too much or too little, but never just right. "Going within" then meant a spiral of smoke on a lone bench at a seafront or a "make-that-double" demand over a counter in a smoky, noisy getaway.

When the dust settled and false friends blew away, when evenings were happier to sniff the scent of homemade parathas and hear the prattle of children's children, "going within" was -poking around on endless afternoons in vague but tantalising options like distant healing, crystal magic, aromatherapy, two weeks to self-discovery, whatever and finally, the paradise of settling a slumped chin and loose limbs in the comforting embrace of that ever-present easy chair.

Today, "going within" has been reduced to shutting the door and staying safe. Should I pop a relaxant, draw the curtains, put on earmuffs and sleep through this dark and unending night? Or should I let in the sun which still burns bright, clean the mirror and look myself in the eye, use all the colours life gifted me to add a shine to less privileged lives, in every manner I can? That may open out a new horizon which promises that reaching out is the one untainted and guaranteed way of reaching that uncluttered and perfect resting place within...

Rates for Classified Advertisements in Kanara Saraswat

- Colour Full page: Rs. 7500/- + 376 = Rs 7876/-
- Black & White Full Page: Rs. 5500/- + 276 = Rs 5776/-
- Colour Half Page: Rs. 4000/- + 200/- = Rs 4200/-
- Black & White Half Page: Rs. 3000/- + 150/- = Rs 3150/-
- Black & White Qrtr Page: Rs. 2000/- + 100 /- = Rs 2100/-

All remittances are to be made by D.D. or cheque, in favour of 'Kanara Saraswat Association

The Origin of Music

GAYATRI MADAN DUTT

How did music evolve in humans? This question has baffled scholars and laypersons alike. Many researchers speculate that music and language arose side by side, since “all languages have some type of ‘song’, either tones or intonation.” Others suggest that music may have preceded language, or that music may, indeed, have *been* the first language.

Humans are among the most social, cooperative and trusting species on earth. What could have been the binding agent that created such a species? While language is one bridge that links people, it is music which brings humans together “with a depth of bonding that cannot be achieved with words alone.” So music may have been the initial mode of communication which drew our ancestors to emotionally connect with one another.

A short note on “music in nature” may be of interest. Song originated separately, and several times, within a variety of species. There is song among whales and dolphins, among songbirds, and even crickets! These species sing mostly to attract a mate, to warn off rivals, or to mark their territory. So their song range is limited, compared to the repertoire that humans have developed. Also, very few animal calls can be said to ‘touch the heart’ in the way that human song does. An exception is the calls of the gibbons of Southeast and East Asia. (Only one gibbon species, the hoolock, is found today in Northeast India.) Their loud calls are usually heard just before dawn or at daybreak. The stirring quality of their songs is brought out in this Chinese poem from the 4th century A.D: “Sad are the calls of the gibbons at the Three Gorges of Pa-tung;/ After three calls in the night, tears wet the [traveller’s] dress.”

19th century scholars, on seeing the profusion of human “races” and tongues in South Asia, concluded that she was the cradle of humanity and language. From beginnings in single and double letter words (*ekaakshara-dvyaksharaani*: Shatpatha Braahmana (Yajur Veda) 11.1.6.4), human language does appear to have run its entire developmental course in South Asia, passing through the four successive stages from which all the world’s languages budded off, until it reached its end-point in the “most evolved and perfect language”: Sanskrit. If this is so, then language’s twin: music, too, should have beginnings in South Asia (or Ancient India, as this region would have been identified in the past). It would be enlightening to sample a range of views on this subject.

Musician and music therapist, Nigel Osborne of the University of Edinburgh who had visited India some years ago, believes that the *aalaap* with which an Indian classical music performance begins, represents a very ancient form of communication between human beings which existed even before language. He finds that Indian classical music is particularly powerful in healing processes because it encompasses the whole of evolution as can be seen in the way that the *raaga*

is developed. After the *aalaap*, he says, the note structure becomes slowly more sophisticated till it reaches a high level of abstraction and design which is both intellectual and emotional. The sequence of an Indian performance, then, appears to trace in a nutshell, the journey of human music from origin to culmination.

One of the world’s greatest violinists, the late Yehudi Menuhin, also commented on the possible origin of music in Ancient India. “Indian music took me by surprise,” he said. “I knew neither its nature nor its richness, but here, if anywhere, I found vindication of my conviction that India was the original source.”

Yehudi Menuhin (Source: www.menuhin)

Remembrance of a variety of “musical” tones and pitches has been preserved in South Asia. Vedic scholar,



LadliNathRenu, has written: there are early records of the use of high (*udaatta*), low (*anudaatta*) and level (*svarita*) tones or accents, as well as seven pitches; also of short (*hrasva*), long (*deergha*) and prolated or extra-long (*pluta*) measures; of “varnas”/“moras” of “one maatraa, half (*ardha*) maatraa and one-quarter

(*anu*) maatraa”; and of “seven svaras, three graamas, twenty-one moorchhanaas and forty-nine taanas”. These variegated tones, pitches, accents, “beats”, measures and melodies may have been applied to early words to indicate a wealth of varying meanings, and these may have laid the joint foundations of both of music and language.

Ladli Nath Renu

Regarding music’s propensity to evoke emotion, Colonel James Tod, historian and author of ‘The Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan’, has described how an Indian classical musician can make “the mind oscillate from joy to sorrow, from tears to smiles with the change of modes and varied intonation...”

French Indologist and musicologist, Alain Danielou, too has remarked: A skilled Indian classical musician can lead the audience “to a depth and intensity of feeling undreamt of in other musical systems”. The inducing of emotions, perhaps the fundamental function of music in that first era of human communication, appears to have been elaborated to its utmost capacity in South Asia, and conserved to this day.



Alain Danielou

The Greek historian, Arrian, who wrote on Alexander the Great's campaign in Northern India, has recorded that "no nation is fonder of singing and dancing than the Indian."



The thoughts of the poet-musician, Amir Khusrau (1253-1325 A.D.), who is called the Tuti or Songbird of India, too come to mind. Born to a Turkish father and an Indian Muslim mother, he made a comprehensive study of several musical traditions. He concluded that Indian music: that "fire that burns heart and soul is superior" to any other tradition. This too suggests that music reached its evolutionary pinnacle in this region.

Amir Khusrau

South Asia has had long climatic stability and civilisational continuity. Such an environment, allowing prolonged and undisturbed human residence, would have enabled both language and music to progress incrementally from first shoot to maturest fruition in this part of the world.



Courtesy: Bhavan's Journal of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan

A name that spells its Class !

WINOVIER CATERERS

Marriages, Thread Ceremonies,
Engagement & Birthday Parties, etc.

D J / Music System / Games / Entertainment

**WE DELIVER FOOD / SNACKS
FOR PARTIES AT HOME**

Lunch / Dinner tiffin Service

Amchi food & Variety cuisine available!

Contact :

Vinod Kaval / Rupali Padvekar
98208 43392 / 98923 00608

Address:

4, Andrea Apartment , Off Azad Road ,
Ville Parle (East), Mumbai -400 057,
Ph : (022) 2618 2689

LOVE LIFE IN THE PRESENT

DR. SUNANDA KARNAD, DHARWAD

Life is continuous... it flows like a river, it has a source, it has its ups and downs... it is a continuous course of growth and downfall. It has a past, a present and a future. It may be of short, of medium or of a long duration. It may offer a good start with birth in a congenial setting, it may contain hurdles and challenges or it may be replete with deadly problems, of uncertainties, of unbearable grief or loneliness. It may also be smooth sailing, full of good health and happiness, all by God's grace. With all such innumerable variations that life displays, it continues to flow with time.

Man loves life and wants to live as long as he is destined to live. He loves to dwell in the past and feel happy if it has offered good things like comforts, perfect health, prosperity, harmonious family life and the pleasures of body and mind. Man likes to brood over the past, if it has done him wrong, given him pain, misery and suffering of all kinds. And about the future, he is not certain. He entertains anxiety, fear and lives in the hope of a better life. He loves to know what his future is going to be, he consults astrologists, studies planetary situations, indulges in religio-magical rites to change the future in his favour.

While doing all this, he forgets that he has to live in the present. Like the river, which is at once present at the source, at the waterfall, at the ferry, at the rapids, in the sea, in the mountains, life should ideally be lived only in the present, without a shadow of the past or the future. By living in the present with complete focus, with hundred percent participation, with a singleness of purpose and complete involvement in whatever 'karma' we are destined to fulfill, we can make life worth living. We can experience a sense of fulfillment, of satisfaction and of gratification, even when we are heading towards the 'evening of life'. Just like the river in its downhill course, it is a downhill journey for which one should prepare oneself by gradually detaching from material things and slowly shifting focus on things 'divine', love the nature around and accept gracefully whatever life has in store for the present.

Love life fully so long as we breathe and embrace death gracefully when it beckons, when it says "Time is up". Then there is no extra time and no looking back. We leave behind everything that we possessed and loved to be ready to merge into the unknown... One must live life in the present with such an attitude that it will enable a smooth departure from life causing less hardship to both the dying and the ones that are left behind... And the living would say "What a blissful soul!" "They too would love and appreciate both life and death!"

Bhagavad Gita

Continuing our chapter-by-chapter analysis of an immortal text by our erudite contributor Dr. Sudha Tinaiker

CHAPTER 2

साङ्ख्ययोग

Bhagavad Gītā is a मोक्षशास्त्र - knowledge which transforms a suffering individual to one who is free from the bondage of dependence on the जगत्. Lord Krishna follows the principles of unfolding this knowledge systematically as is done in the *Upanishads*. The classical pattern followed here is :

- The real nature of the individual जीव or त्वम् पद विचारः
- The real nature of the total ईश्वरः or तत् पद विचारः
- The essential one-ness of the two using the महावाक्य यः or ऐक्य विचारः indicated by the well-known equation तत् त्वम् असि |

The first six chapters of the *Gītā* are considered to be the जीव or त्वम् पद विचारः the second six the ईश्वरः or तत् पद विचारः and the last six chapters talk about the महावाक्यः or ऐक्य विचारः .

Chapter 1 ended with Arjuna putting down his bow and sitting in the chariot; a picture of helplessness, confusion and desperation. Lord Krishna has still not started the teaching as he wants Arjuna to recognize his helplessness and ask for help. In our scriptures, the Guru never teaches unless the *shishya* specifically asks for it; and the disciple asks only when he has exhausted all other options and finds the need for guidance. Arjuna is not yet ready to receive the teaching as he has not vented out his confusion and indecision. Arjuna is battered by wrong thinking and doubt (विपर्यय संशयः).

Verse 1 describes Arjuna with his eyes filled with tears of sorrow. At this point Lord Krishna as a friend tries to motivate him. In verse 2, Line 3 he uses very strong words almost like whipping horses into action. "What kind of a thinking is this Arjuna; that too in a wrong place and at a wrong time? You are the most valiant and noble warrior and this does not suit you (अनार्यजुष्टम् अकीर्तिकरम्) . You are presenting a picture of unmanliness and chicken-heartedness. Just shake it all off and Get Up" (क्षुद्रम् हृदय दौर्बल्यम्यक्त्वा उत्तिष्ठ परन्तप) .

Krishna's motivation does not seem to have any effect on Arjuna as he continues to vent his sorrow and confusion. Verse 7 is crucial where Arjuna admits to his helplessness, confusion between what is to be done and not done (धर्मसं मूढचेताः) He then wisely surrenders to Lord Krishna and

asks for help. Here the conversion of Arjuna from a friend to a devoted *shishya* takes place and Lord Krishna takes on the mantle of the Preceptor (शिष्यस्तेहं शाधिमां त्वां प्रपन्नम्)

Now the teaching begins.

अशोच्यानन्वशोचस्त्वं प्रज्ञावादांश्च भाषसे

गतासूनगतासूंश्च नानुशोचन्ति पण्डिताः ||११||

The essence of the entire *Gītā* is upheld by Krishna in this verse. He says, "Nothing in this world deserves to be grieved for. Wise people do not grieve over the events of the past, present or the future".

What follows in the next 13 verses is the crux of the teaching of entire *Vedānta*. Here, Guru Krishna reveals the real nature of the individual self which is not at all the body-mind-sense complex. He wants Arjuna to understand himself and all the others not as mere perishable bodies, but as imperishable immortal consciousness (आत्मस्वरूपः) . Thus begins a glorious teaching where Lord Krishna picks and chooses the most significant teaching from the *Upanishads*.

No wonder that *Gītā* is called सर्ववेदान्तसारः.

Lord Krishna begins by unfolding the imperishable nature of the *Ātma* (आत्मनित्यत्वम्) .

"Do not assume that these warriors did not exist before, nor that they will not after the war. All beings including you have always existed as the imperishable-immortal Self आत्मा . The body with its name and form is just incidental. The bodies may disappear, but the indestructible आत्मा remains as the only reality". (verse 12).

"This ever-existent principle is unchanging. The "I" that changelessly exists in and through childhood, youth and old age is the one and only consciousness which continues to exist even after this mortal body falls. There is no need to grieve for this constantly perishing body" (verse 13).

"It is the very nature of the body-mind-sense complex to suffer extremes of situations. However, all these experiences and the body itself are temporary. They come and go in their own time. "Arjuna, your vision needs to transcend the ever-changing body and focus on the changeless *Ātma*" (verse 14).

"May you understand that the imperishable *Ātma* alone has an independent existence. Everything else is dependent upon the आत्मा for its existence. Therefore, the *Ātma* is

(Continued on page 42)

“Gayatri” - The Saviour

SATYANARAYAN PANDIT

(Invoking the grace and blessings of Devi Gayatri Mata...)

The sacred and powerful ‘Gayatri Mantra’, which we chant daily, has guided and saved me on numerous occasions, to come out from situations of crisis. Here is one such occasion which I remember very vividly. I will be very happy to share this with readers and request them to take a cue and worship ‘Devi Gayatri’ not only during distress, but on a daily basis.

The year was 1984. STD telephone facility had just been commissioned in India – cellphone/ mobile was still a distant dream and a far cry. I was deputed by my company to tackle and resolve a crisis confronting the company in the Arab World. As the problem was serious in nature and a consignment of garments exported from India was confiscated at Jeddah Airport in Saudi Arabia, I had to rush at very short notice, to handle the trouble shooting operation.

While the consignment lying at Jeddah airport was cleared after executing a guarantee, the problem was beyond the jurisdiction of the concerned Department in Saudi Arabia. In fact, I was advised to proceed to Damascus, capital of Syria and represent our case with officials in the Arab League Headquarters.

As I had no inkling of my impending trip to Syria in the first place, I had to handle the situation on my own. This was my first ever visit to Syria and I was in a totally unknown territory. The Saudia flight from Jeddah to Damascus was delayed by three hours due to a technical snag and instead of landing at 9:30 pm, landed past midnight. Fortunately for me, a foreign exchange counter was open and quickly I exchanged some dollars into the local currency.

Once I was out of the airport, I was looking for a taxi to take me to the citycenter. There was only one taxi available. I waved at the cab and told the driver to take me to any good hotel in the down town area. In his broken English, he quoted some fare in local currency and I had no option but to agree.

After about 15 minutes drive, the cab came to a halt near a couple waiting on the roadside. He picked them up asking me to sit in the front seat. We moved on for another 15 minutes, left the airport road, turned into some by-lane. The lane was dark and gloomy and street lights were few and far between. Yet another 15 minutes-drive and finally, the driver brought the cab to a halt near a dark house with no lights nearby or inside the house. In his broken English, he muttered the words, “coming, you wait”. It was 2 am then.

I sat inside the cab, in that pitch dark night, totally stupefied, not knowing what to do. I was carrying a fairly large amount in foreign exchange for my entire trip and all sorts of worst fears passed before my mental eye. I thought about my wife and children. I felt only the Lord could save me from this dreadful situation. I came out of the cab sweating and

started chanting the Sacred ‘Gayatri Mantra.’

Almost half an hour passed and there was no sign of the cab driver. There was absolute stillness all over and I was alone in the dead end of the alley, standing beside the taxi. Anything could have happened! I was somewhat jittery but could do nothing.

And, finally, the cab driver made his appearance from the darkness of the house. He uttered the words, “get in”. I jumped into the cab, offering my prayers to the Lord, Devi Gayatri and our Family Deity. After another half an hour’s drive, we were at the City Center of Damascus. It was silent and peaceful all over with no vehicles on the roads and everything was quiet. The driver took me to the main entrance of a hotel-Semiramis. The front door was locked but the driver went from the rear, woke up the receptionist from his slumber. I paid the driver, thanked him and was relieved to walk into the hotel at 3:30 am on a deadly night!! I was accommodated in the hotel although I had no reservation.

I met the officials of the Arab League the next day, explained the facts of the case and our stand and handed over a representation. The issue was finally resolved within a short time.

On reflection, I felt it was only the ‘Divine Grace’ which saved me from acritical situation on that dark night!! This experience will remain evergreen in my memory and has reinforced my firm and unflinching faith in the Lord and the Divine ‘Gayatri Mantra’.

Satyanarayan Pandit is a keen traveller and writes on travel and allied subjects. He is immensely fascinated by our ‘Janma Bhoomi’ - the Kanaras (Coastal Karnataka) and his writings include various facets of this region, in an endeavor to educate our younger generation. Contact: M 9833789352. Email : satyapandit @icloud. Com.

(Continued from page 41)

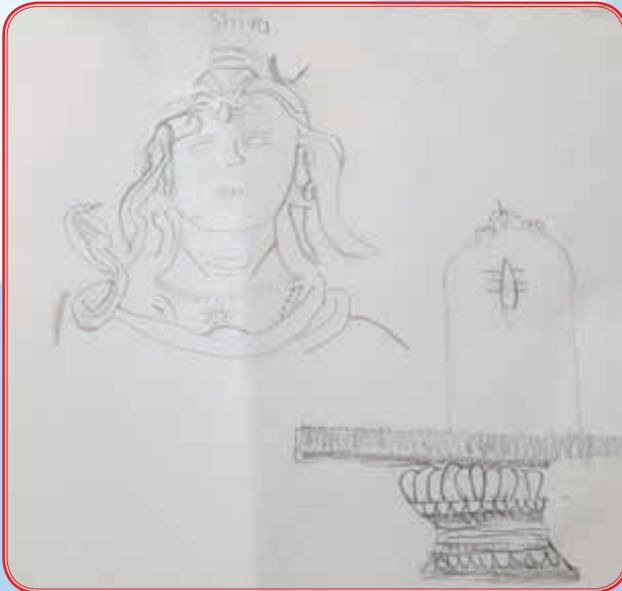
called *satyam* (सत्यम्) and the body-mind-sense complex is called *mithya-anātma* (मिथ्या अनात्मा) . It is the सत्यम् which pervades the entire (मिथ्या अनात्मा) *jagat*. May you know that you are that indestructible, imperishable सत्यम् . It is the body that perishes because it is the very nature of मिथ्या अनात्मा (verses 16, 17,18).

This teaching continues up to verse 25 by which Krishna briefly introduces the principles of सत्यम् आत्मा and मिथ्या अनात्मा. Thus from the point of view of the *Atma*, no individual body is worth grieving over.

(To be continued..)

Kiddies' Corner

Lord Shiva



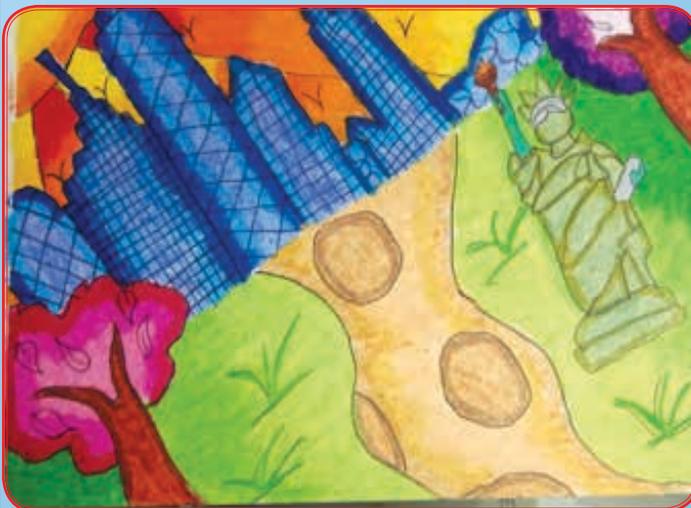
Shivaansh Bijoor - 7 years

Basket of Flowers



Pratyusha Savkur - 8.5 years

New York

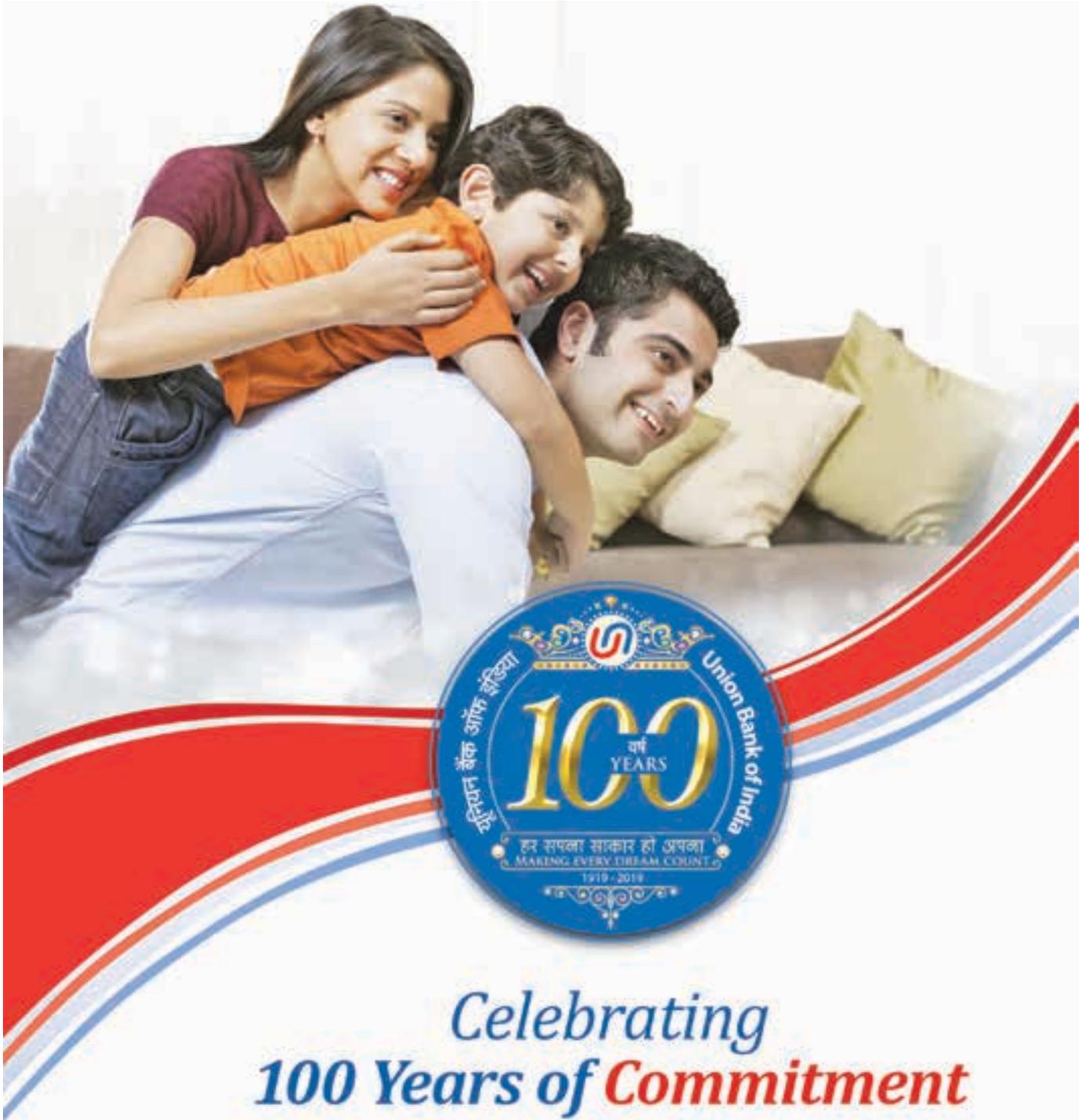


Ahan Mavinkurve - 10 years

My dream car - no pollution car



Aaddya Katre - 9 years



Celebrating 100 Years of **Commitment**

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया  **Union Bank of India**
 अच्छे लोग, अच्छा बैंक Good people to bank with

भारतीय बैंकिंग कोड एवं मानक बोर्ड के सदस्य Member of Banking Codes & Standards Board of India



Helpline Nos.: 1800 208 2244 / 1800 22 2244 (Toll free no.) 080 2530 0175 (Chargeable)
 +91 80 2530 2510 (for NRIs) | www.unionbankofindia.co.in

Connect with us:  @unionbankofindia  @UnionBankTweets

 @UnionBankInsta  YouTube UnionBankofIndiaUtube  Unionbankofindia

35 YEARS OF MANUFACTURING INDIA'S FINEST SPECIALTY GREASES AND LUBRICANTS.

Standard Greases & Specialities Pvt Ltd.
was established in 1983

India's largest Grease
manufacturer

Owens a castor oil derivative
company called Royal
Castor Products Ltd.

SGSPL has 5 manufacturing plants
at strategic locations across the country

Supplies to more than 20 MNC's and
thousands of special equipment operators

SGSPL is ISO 9001:2008, ISO 14001:2015,
OHSAS 18001:2007, IATF 16949:2016
and VDA - AdBlue certified



Manufacturers of Automotive and Industrial Products:
Lubes | Greases | Coolants | DEF – Ad Blue

Speciality Products: Food Grades | Mining | Marine | Metal Working
Cement Plant | Turbine Oils and Other Customised Products

Standard Greases and Specialities Pvt. Ltd.

101, Ketan Apt, 233, R.B.Mehta Marg, Ghatkopar(E), Mumbai, 400077, India

For enquiries contact: +91 22 25013641

E-mail : standardgroup@standardgreases.co.in



“Teachers learn too,”

says SMITA NAGARKATTE, Chief Co-ordinator of *Prarthana Varga* as she describes the joy and dedication with which the loving band of teachers uses many positive and interactive methods to mould young minds

My inherent love for tiny tots plus professional qualifications had made me take up the job as a pre-primary teacher at Arya Vidya Mandir. So, in 2006, when Archana Savnalpachhi called to ask if I was willing to work as a *Prarthana Varga* (PV) teacher in Santacruz Sabha, I jumped at the opportunity and immediately agreed. Then followed rigorous training sessions at Archanapachhi's residence, where a few prospective PV teachers would meet on a weekly basis to discuss and learn the content and activities of PV. Archanapachhi would guide us to conduct the classes in accordance with the directions received from Parama Pujya Swamiji, who had conceived the idea of setting up the *Prarthana Varga* mainly to develop 'sanskara-s' in children and young adults between 5-15 years of age and also to 'connect' them to our Math and *Guruparampara*.

Over a period, based on feedback received from PV teachers at various centres and with constant Guidance from Parama Pujya Swamiji, a standardised curriculum

was devised to ensure uniformity at all PV Centres. In addition to the usual narration of stories from the *Purana-s* and *Upanishad-s*, and reciting of *stotra-s*, we were also taught how to conduct 'Vimarsha,' another novel initiative introduced by Parama Pujya Swamiji.

One evening, as our PV class was in progress in Santacruz, a four and-a-half-year-old boy entered the room with his grandmother in tow and said "Ammamma, I want to join this class." When I asked him why he wanted to join, he instantly replied "Because at home I hear my Ammamma chant the same prayers that are being taught here!" Is this not a classic example of how *sanskara-s* can be ingrained at home? The child was admitted, even though he was slightly under-age. In this highly competitive world, most parents are only too eager to send their wards for all types of classes—be it art, music, dance, swimming, martial arts and many others. While this may be required for physical growth and for nurturing talent, all parents must include PV



प्रसन्नोस्तु
गुरुः सदा



also in their list of priorities, as the *sanskara*-s inculcated here will stand today's children in good stead throughout their lives.

During his session on "*Padaprakshalana to Phalamantrakshata*" in one of the *Kara Seva Shibir*-s in Shirali, Dr. Chaitanya Gulvadymam was much impressed with a few *yuva*-s who were responding well. He was later informed that they were all ex-*Prarthana* students! When this was brought to the notice of Parama Pujya Swamiji, He immediately blessed all PV teachers and appreciated their efforts in grooming the children.

Teachers too learn many things from children. For example, I once asked the children what they had done during the weekend, just to make the session more interactive. One child said they had a new member in the family – a tortoise! When I enquired if they had bought it from a pet shop, she replied, "No, I found it in our compound. Crows were pecking at it, so I took it home to take care of it." She had been moved by the sight of the injured tortoise. So, sometimes, instead of engaging them in a pre-planned activity, one can take off from a child's experience like this one. Like on that day I explained to them the concept of "compassion" through a '*vimarsha*' on "*karuna*". If we allow children to open up, we can teach topics/ values connected to them so that the concept becomes clear, as well as interesting.

Besides the regular PV classes at various centres, we also organise annual excursions, field trips, *shivir*-s, workshops and much else. The Annual skit/dance drama is, at times, performed by nearly 70-80 PV children from all Mumbai and Thane *Sabha*-s during the *Datta Jayanti Utsava* at Talmakiwadi ! It is a truly spectacular event! We see how normally shy and reticent children develop confidence in public speaking and open up on stage in front of a large audience and start feeling so good about it.

Parama Pujya Swamiji once gave us an *Adesh* that we should organise an exhibition on Adi Shankaracharya at Talmakiwadi involving all the PV Centres, including outstation ones. I was made responsible for collating and presenting their activities through art and craft. It was a daunting task indeed! Although we planned meticulously, we were quite apprehensive about the actual implementation, given the constraints of time and space. However, by the Grace of *Gurushakti*, everything went off seamlessly and all devotees who came to Wadi for the *utsava* were very happy to see this creative display of so many children on the great Adi Shankaracharya.

In January 2015, I was informed that Parama Pujya Swamiji desired that I take over the mantle of Chief Co-ordinator, PV, from Archanapachhi. For a minute, I was stunned, and my mind went blank. Would I be able to shoulder this onerous responsibility? As I gathered my wits, I realised that Parama Pujya Swamiji knows best and prayed

that I may continue to get His Blessings and Guidance to do full justice to the confidence reposed in me.

The change in role necessitated familiarisation with the PV teachers from all over India and abroad and with the Math protocol. In this, Sandhya Nayelpachhi and Sangita Kalyanpurpachhi were of invaluable assistance. The three of us now manned the Chitrapur Prarthana Office (CPO) for collecting data/reports and disseminating instructions and policy decisions. The reporting system was streamlined so that it could be an effective monitoring tool. More and more women *sadhaka*-s were motivated to become PV teachers which also led to the addition of PV centres in India and abroad. Alongside with this growth refresher courses, workshops and *shivir*-s for PV teachers, are conducted constantly with the help of resource persons like Sudhir Balwallymam (for theatre and *Gurupujana*) and Dr. Ashish Deshpande (who deals with personal safety skills for children). We have also commenced uploading of videos of PV programmes conducted at various centres on the Math's website. *Gurupujana* kits have been periodically supplied to new entrants.

The Math publications like *Anugraha*, *Utsava* and the *Parijna* series of short stories with contributions from Jyoti Divgipachhi, Archana Savnalpachhi, Chetana Kadlepachhi, Shailaja Gangulypachhi, Rajagopal Bhatmam and others have immensely aided the PV teachers in conducting the classes. So also the quarterly *Parijna Patrika* started last year.

For over a year now, we have also begun *Manthan* -a weekly discussion on a selected topic by PV teachers on WhatsApp. The weekly reports submitted by teachers are collated and forwarded to Parama Pujya Swamiji . They are also shared with all PV teachers and have proved to be a rich source of ideas for them. This year, we tried out a new initiative called *Paatha Sanchaya* in which every PV teacher was encouraged to contribute a new idea through a lesson. All the lessons submitted were compiled by CPO and shared with all teachers to try out in their respective centres.

Whatever I have stated above has been made possible by the *Gurushakti* that flows like a perennial source of divine inspiration. The same *Gurushakti* has also helped me in overcoming challenges in my professional life as a teacher in an elite school – be it handling 'difficult' children, 'difficult' parents, taking quick decisions in an emergency or defusing tension in potentially 'inflammable' situations.

Many of us have realised that by performing '*seva*' it is actually we who benefit in our '*sadhana*'. Constant *Gurusmarana* has always helped me in leading me onward on the right path. Offering my '*seva*' at the Lotus Feet of Parama Pujya Swamiji, I fervently pray that I may be blessed with the unparalleled motivating power of *Guru Saaniddhya* at all times.

Bhanaps – Kya Hai Right Choice?

SUMA KAUSHIK, MANKI, HONAVAR TALUKA

The various *bhanap* temples all over coastal Karnataka suggest that we Saraswats migrated to Kanara between 1500 and 1600 AD. Historians say it was the era of 'domestication of plants and animals' and we *bhanaps* lived in this beautiful scenic picturesque Kanara in joint families quite literally the royal style. One could get a sneak peek of life in the region in the book 'The Childhood Daze' written by Savitri Babulkar.

The first **Industrial Revolution** was the transition to new manufacturing processes in the period 1760 to sometime between 1820 and 1840. This transition included going from hand production methods to machines, new chemical manufacturing and iron production processes. It began in England and within a few decades had spread to Western Europe and the United States. Some 20th century historians have argued that the process of economic and social change took place gradually and the term *revolution* is a misnomer and is still a subject of debate among historians. Economic historians are in agreement that the onset of the Industrial Revolution is the most important event in the history of humanity since the domestication of animals and plants. By 1900, several *bhanaps* had started migrating to the cities.

As the demography of the place suggests, the land in the Kanara region has been primarily agricultural with the staple economy being led by agricultural produce in the first half of the last century. However, all the lands were held and in possession of the landlords (in many cases the *bhanaps*) until that fateful year, the law "Land to the Tiller", led to most of the land going into the hands of the labour communities.

India saw the second Industrial Revolution in the early 20th century. This was when Bombay saw the emergence of various cloth mills. This also led to almost 95% of the *bhanaps* moving to cities and taking up new jobs in cities and progressed further for education and better prospects. Thus, the lands were almost all gone to the labour class unless some farsighted ancestor had taken the pains of retaining the lands by making the necessary noises and paperwork at the government offices.

Unfortunately, the community that had migrated to the cities was grappling with problems of a different kind. They had to start from scratch, there was studying to do, homes to make, and bigger homes to make, then savings, family, children...their education...so on and so forth. Here too, there was a "First Mover Advantage". Those *bhanaps* who had migrated in the first quarter of the 20th century by 1960s were preparing to send their children to the western countries... and thus began the culture of migrating to the western world. The *bhanaps* in the west too settled and flourished in their individual professions.

The world meanwhile was changing rapidly, from radio to TV to cars to computers and then telecommunications. The world was clearly getting smaller and technology made distances seem closer. The last decade of the 20th century saw the IT boom. The urban youth of our community largely aspired to become techies. While several are still getting into

the IT sector, those who had migrated to the west are now beginning to get "Bangalored".

Meanwhile, our *bhanaps* living in the villages have a different mindset and perception. They strongly believe that there are more opportunities/ resources available in cities and they have no future in the villages. Agriculture seems the only profession and it is quite non-glamorous. Hence migrating to the city seems more meaningful than staying back. The city-*bhanaps* love the village life. Kanara seems good for a holiday - fresh air, water, fresh coconut, fresh fish... the greenery and nature's picturesque surrounding is very appealing. But professionally, clamouring westwards is still the right choice. Immense torque is required to actually try and move towards the roots and get out of the metro orbit. A chosen few are maintaining apartments in cities and wonderfully managing their professions from their village homes, thanks to the 2G and 3G of the telecom industry.

What is the next GDP catalyser? Warren Buffet and Jim Rogers – both have predicted that AGRICULTURE is going to lead the economy of the world in the 21st century. Corporatising agriculture will lead to the rise in GDP. Farmlands are also expected to outperform Gold. Facts also suggest that the western world has reached the top of the hill and is now charting its journey downwards. Today's working youth in the west, will have to pay for the fiscal deficit and the financial debts created by the ruling regime by way of taxes.

Meanwhile, India hopes to witness an upward journey. Do we need a "somebody" from the west to tell us what's going to lead the country upwards? India is looking for strict governance, honest youth and right laws of the land. We *bhanaps* have always made the right choices in the past and with the blessings of Goddess Saraswati and our Guru Parampara, will continue to do so in the interest of the future generations... *is subject pe thoda sa research banta hai!*

Corona Fear

SHEETAL NISHANT HALDIPUR

It has wings which are vast...
So it is spreading fast,
Does not see any religion or caste...
But people think it will not allow them to last

It has given us fear...
No one can come near
We might lose someone dear...
But we should build courage and fight it with cheer

We think the virus is small
We can't see it has built a wall...
To make it fall, social distancing should be kept by all...

Story of “Amrutanjan Bridge” or “Reversing Bridge” on Mumbai-Pune e-way

GURUDUTT MUNDKUR

News of this famous bridge to be demolished soon has appeared in many newspapers. There is an interesting story about this bridge, which many may not know.

Railway was introduced in India in 1853 when the first train ran between Mumbai (then Bombay) and Thane. It was a big sensation then and people used to call it “Agnirath” (Fire chariot) because of its big steam engine and fire therein to produce steam in the boiler. Then it started expanding fast in various parts of India.

Pune (then Poona) was a major centre for the British Army, the Governor’s summer capital, and a gateway between Konkan and rest of Maharashtra and other areas of India. Roads were not in good shape, as cars did not exist, and most of traffic was by bullock or horse carts or on the back of horses or bulls. Hence, the need to have a railway line was felt and planning work started around the same time as the first rail line between Mumbai and Thane. A major challenge and hurdle was the steep Khandala hills (now called Bhorghat) near Lonavala, and to take railway through it from sea level to approximately 700 metres steep height in a short distance. A team of British Engineers were doing a survey of this hilly area to plan the route for the rail line. Major General John Malcom was the Governor of Bombay province then. At one point, the chief engineer got stuck and was unable to proceed further due to the steep hills. Once, in a depressed mood, he sent a letter to his wife who was staying in Bombay, mentioning -“I am stuck in planning the rail line. Do not know how to go ahead.” His wife, to tease him, replied, “If you can’t go ahead, come back” (i.e come back home leaving the work half-finished).

When he read, “If you can’t go ahead, come back”, he got an idea! So he designed the line in which at this point, a bridge was planned connecting two hills. A train from Pune was to come through a tunnel (now a part of the e-way) on this bridge, halt there, the engine was to be taken to the other end of the train, and then it was to go down to the Karjat-side reversing its direction. The same switch was to be done when the train came from Bombay to Pune. This bridge was then constructed, and was famously known as “Reversing Bridge”. It was initially opened for non-rail traffic after completion in 1830. It was opened for rail traffic on 21st April 1863.

Later on, a new railway line was built around 1920-30, with many tunnels and this reversing bridge was abandoned in 1929, and the whole process became obsolete. The Hindustan construction company of Industrialist Walchand Hira-chand (Walchand Group) played a major role in construction of tunnels and new rail line.

The bridge was then prominently seen from the train while travelling to or from Pune to Mumbai. Later a big advertisement of “Amrutanjan Pain Balm” with the big letters AMRUTANJAN were erected on this bridge and it became

known as AMRUTANJAN bridge. It also became just a picnic spot (and sometimes a suicide spot).

When the Express Way was planned, it passed below this bridge, a new bridge was constructed as a bypass from Khandala to join the E-way, and the bridge lost its prominence. But as the bridge was there, there were many travel hazards due to steep turn at this point for e-way, many accidents took place and many lives were lost. It was felt that this old bridge be demolished. Many wanted it to remain as a heritage site, legal battles were fought, and ultimately it was decided to demolish it. However, due to heavy traffic on this e-way, demolishing it would need total stoppage of traffic for a few days, much to the inconvenience of goods and passenger traffic. Thanks to the Corona problem, with drastic reduction in traffic, it was demolished a few days ago and one famous bridge has gone into oblivion.

But it gives important messages,

1. If you can’t go ahead, (don’t) come back!
and
2. It is advantageous to listen to your wife’s advice (although it may be teasing)!

Long live AMRUTANJAN or Reversing Bridge!

(Interestingly, in World War II, a few marine engineers from the British Navy were wandering in the Khandala Hills for a picnic, and they found a place near the famous Duke’s nose, very attractive. Hence a Marine College was planned there which later was named as INS Shivaji. This is the highest Marine college in the world, @ 700 meters above sea level.)

शक्तिकयी युक्ती श्रेष्ठ विजयालक्ष्मी कापनाडक

एक सूर्ण एक रान्नांतु रीगलें . सुम्मार भित्तरी वत्तची ताक्का एक मृत प्राण्यागल्लो अस्थिपंजर म्हळयारी हाडडं दिस्लीं . ताक्का भो खुशी जाल्ली . तान्ने एक हाड खात्त आस्तना इदूर एकू सिंदू येत्तना दिस्लो . तान्ने विचारू केल्लो “हया सिंदूने माक्का खात्री पळैल्या . आत्तं हांव धावल्लो तरी तों माक्का धोर्नु मारतल्लो . कस्तलें कोर्चे वा?”
ताक्का एक युक्ती सुचली . तों हॉड्डाने गौजी मारु उल्लोवच्याक लागलो . “अरे व्वा हें हाड किल्लें रूचकर आस्स . आनी मुग्गारी माक्का का सिंहागलें हाड मेळू फाव आस्स . तें आनी रूचकर आस्ता खंची .”
सिंदू हें आय्कूनू भिल्लो . “हो प्राणी माक्काची मारता खें .” अशी विचार कोर्नु रान्नांतु धावु गेल्लो .
हया काण्येंतु सूर्णया मानाने सिंदू शक्तिमान द्दै तरी सुर्णेंची जिंकले!
शक्ति कयि युक्ति श्रेष्ठ द्दै न्हवें?

Enigma of Spirituality

DINESH TALLUR

The trigger for this piece is an innocuous and a seemingly light-hearted conversation in a WhatsApp (WA) group. This was as evanescent, as any other conversation in a WA group, despite its profound and thoughtful content. I refrained from giving my “expert” comments curbing my natural instincts. I thought that the topic is more cerebral than what it looked. I felt it deserves a loftier place than an easy-going WA group, needs wider participation and exchange of views and opinions.

Then there was a paradox.

I discovered that I was nowhere near competent or knowledgeable to write or comment on such a “heavy” topic. I then thought of sharing my views with reasonably forgiving readers and test how much of resonance I extract. Though I wouldn’t be surprised if the intent and the content did not convey the impression of being in sync with each other, I would still request you to forgive my audacity to write such a piece in an esteemed forum like this in spite of my stated ignorance on the topic.

Now that I did enough of taxiing, let me take off.

The said conversation in the WA group was about the spiritual aspects of life viz., karma, birth-death, rebirth, moksha, consciousness, ethereal world and similar sounding phrases and words. This was the “real”-spiritual and not the “spirit”uality that “Old Monk”’s preach (pun intentionally unintended).

The whole exchange can be transcribed and summarized as a Question and Answer session. Like any other discussion around such topics, nothing coherent came out of that chat (including this piece of writing) but everyone felt a slight high after either having asked a question or commented with equally riddle-ridden elements in it.

According to the *shastras*, life is a continuum and nothing really dies or takes birth. It only changes form as the material body gets consumed by the very nature that created it. The soul moves on to a different body and takes another form. And that there is something called *karma* (one’s deeds in a life) which decides the fate or fortune of one’s life in the next birth. So, a creature accumulates the “*paap*” or “*punya*” based on these karmas and accordingly suffers or flourishes in its next birth depending on the amount of his/her bad *karmas* and good *karmas*.

Now the questions were:

If the body were to be beneficiary of a *karma* then the fruits of the karma are to be enjoyed or suffered by the body itself. Why should the soul carry the burden of the karma which benefitted the body?

If the actions or fate or existence of the present life is

decided by the *karmas* of the previous birth, then similarly, the fate or existence of your previous birth is decided by the *karmas* of the birth before that. It essentially translates itself as “B/F – Brought Forward” in banking parlance - whether it is Credit or Debit. The question is - what was your “*karma*” when you started the account or when you entered the *punarapijananam – punarapimaranam* cycle? There was no past karma at that stage but then who or what decides your actions and fate in that life?

There are myriad of questions that cross our minds that are more inscrutable and puzzling as the above. Do we have to go about analyzing, understanding, dissecting, debating and perpetually deliberating on all these questions? Or hit a simple “here and now” answer to calm the churning in those minds who are craving to conquer and find answers to all these questions?

Probably the answer could be:

You are no one to question and evaluate the *shastras*? Each of the *shastras* or scriptures had a specific objective and a specific set of “audience” to understand and execute. We, in our exuberance to understand and master every scripture at once, end up confusing ourselves and start seeking answers that fits all. Despite the variety, all the scriptures carry the same message in their underbelly, that is, “righteousness in our living”.

The definition and the interpretation of “righteousness” change with the audience. If we are seeking from the sources/ persons/ institutions/schools who belong to the same “audience” as we are, we would find meaning in our pursuits and this would lead to a sense of fulfillment. If on the contrary, we try to find answers from or convince a different “audience”, then it gets chaotic. Ironically, we don’t stay as “audience” of one type throughout our lives. It is a transient phenomenon and we keep moving from one audience type to another. I will come back with a sequel to this piece on how these audiences are different and what are their attributes on a physical level.

We live too much for this post retirement life or carry too many memories of the past and hardly live for now. This takes away our freedom to live in the present, shackles our thinking and limits our ability to be in the moment. We can’t be our best when we are not in the moment.

For now, we need to pursue what is good for now and here instead of wallowing in intangibles and trying to understand what happens after death, about past karmas and about future lives. We will never be able to understand or validate our understanding with our material existence. So, it would be good to live righteously now and here.

Once upon ... a Desert – Part 1

ANIL R. MURDESHWAR

Many years back, we had an opportunity visit UAE for the Dubai Shopping Festival (DSF) for a duration of about nine days. UAE or United Arab Emirates is a country located on the south-east side of the Arabian Peninsula on the Persian Gulf with Oman on the east and Saudi Arabia in the South. It consists of seven emirates namely - Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras Al Khaimah, Sharjah and Umm Al Quwain.

The Oasis city of AL AIN: On the first day, we drove down to Al Ain. It is about 140 km from Sharjah. This city has a very apt name, which means spring and is fed by natural springs originating in the surrounding rocky heights.

Wildlife Park & Resort: The place has a very impressive zoo with over 4000 animals in different sections. Of the 180 species present there, 30% are considered endangered. A section of the zoo is dedicated only for birds. A special 30 minutes show is the prime attraction of the place, where a variety of birds display their skills. The zoo supports conservation of endangered species and has enclosures for white tigers, gazelles, monkeys, reptiles etc. For those who want to have a close encounter with Giraffes, there is a feeding platform as well. The zoo is kept immaculately neat and clean. As the premises are huge and a lot of walk is involved, battery-operated vehicles are also available, but are very pricey.

Oasis: In the heart of the city, a large area is covered with palm plantations with eight separate entrances. It is very cool and has shaded walkways.

Jebel Hafeet: It is the top most point of the Hafeet Mountain, very close to the Oman border. The road from ground to top is a winding tar road about 11.7 km. long. A hotel and Amir's palace is also built on this mountain. There are two levels of viewpoints. At the top, which is 1,240 metres above ground level, one can get a beautiful and panoramic view of the Al Ain city below especially at night when there are lights all around.

The Capital city of ABU DHABI:

Our next destination was Abu Dhabi, which is about 165 km from Sharjah and is the capital of UAE. The drive is spiced up by a few tourist attractions on the way.

Ferrari World: It is the World's first Ferrari-branded & largest indoor theme park. It has more than 20 Ferrari themed rides, state-of-the-art F1 simulators, karting & roller coaster rides.

YAS Mall: It is adjacent to Ferrari world and has a lot of fine dining restaurants catering to a wide variety of cuisines. One can enjoy the wonderful food by the side of a pool with fountains. The mall also has 20 screens of VOX cinemas – with the first 4D concept in Abu Dhabi. Here, one can experience rain, wind, motion and scents on screens as large as 23.5 metres wide. The mall has parking space for 10,000 vehicles spread over four levels.

YAS Waters: It is a place on the way to Abu Dhabi, where we pass through a stretch of the road parallel to the rocky

sea front. It is a scenic and wonderful drive.

Being the commercial centre, Abu Dhabi is filled with high rise buildings. It took more than 50 years to transform from an empty desert inhabited by nomadic tribes, into a thriving 21st century society. It is archipelagic with nearly a group of 200 islands. A global cultural centre is planned with a separate cultural district on Saadiyat Island.

Heritage World: To know a place better, learn its history. A visit to the Heritage World helps one do that. We can see the Arabic culture of olden days and the phases of evolution. There are various booths depicting the art & craft working of handmade carpets, glass work, pottery etc. On the opposite side of road is **Break waters** or Corniche where boating and yachting are a favourite pastime. One can also get a good view of the Marina Mall from here. We can also taste the local sweet dish which is similar to our *Gulab Jamun*.

Marina Mall: It is one of the biggest malls in Abu Dhabi. It has a huge ice skating rink. The attention given to the intricate details of the interiors and the overall architecture make each mall unique in its own way.

Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque: It is about 15 km from Abu Dhabi and is the second largest mosque in the world next to Medina. A visit to UAE would be incomplete without experiencing the grandeur of this magnificent mosque in person. It is surrounded on all sides by beautifully maintained garden with rows of fountains. The architecture is elegant and classy. The interiors are resplendent with intricate, unique and beautiful work in glass and marble. The soothing effect which the place has on the mind stays with us for a long time. Ladies entering the mosque have to wear Abaya (Burka) which is available temporarily for free.

The Shoppers' paradise city -DUBAI:

Dubai is synonymous with shopping. But there is more to the place than just shopping. It took us five days to see the places in and around Dubai.

Burj Khalifa: It is one of the tallest buildings in the world, with 160 floors. The entrance to this tower is through Dubai Mall (aka **At the Top**). Most of the visitors go up to 124th floor, which has an observation deck 452 meters above ground level. The superfast lifts cover the height in an exact 60 seconds. There are 2900 steps as well, but nobody will think of using them. On all four sides at the observation deck, there is an open terrace or glass window from where you can have a great panoramic bird's eye view of Dubai. The tiny vehicles, roads and metro as well as the horizon seen from this height are just beyond description. There are Digital Telescopes which provide three viewing options on their screens: historical, present and night time view. Prior booking is recommended for a visit here. The entrance fees are AED 210 (Approximately INR 3570) per person. The dawn and dusk time slots have a premium price for watching the Sunrise and Sunset.

Dubai Mall:The first 4-5 floors at the base of Burj Khalifa are the Dubai Mall. It is a huge place with many shops and eat-outs. The distinctive attractions here are;

a) **Dubai fountain** which starts at dusk. It is breath taking extravaganza of water, light and sound, with Burj Khalifa in the background. The water sprays dance to the music and go upto 150 metres high. There are over 6000 light and colour projectors.

b) **Dubai Aquarium** is on the first floor. A huge water-filled glass enclosure about 2 storeys high contains around 33,000 aquatic animals including Stingrays and Sand tiger sharks. Interested persons can go inside the tank with trained divers. Diving suit is available on rent. The mall also has over 70 flagship stores of world's most desirable brands, one Ice Rink and a large skating hall, where both beginners as well as skilled skaters can enjoy.

(To be continued...)

We Konkanis Rock!

VANITA KUMTA

नंदन निलेकणी आमगेलो टाटा, विरला, अम्बानी
पाचवी मामू आमकां सगळीं
नाडकर्णी, हड्डंगडी, कोडिकल आमकां लेकताती
आमगेलो एक पूणी आस्ता SVC, NKGSB, Canara वेंकांतू
सगळी सोंग म्हणताती मात्र, आम्ही सोंग खाताती
लग्ना जॅवण लायक, म्हळयारी लग्न successful !
हून वाट नातिले एकयी event जायना
जिव्हे रूची जॅवणांतु !

आमगेले भापेंतु लय आणि ताल
पंचायतिको आमालो जन्मसिध्द हक्कू
दाळी तोंय आमालो कुलदेवू
DDT सगळयांक pest-repellent,
जाल्यारी आमकां दाट दाळी तोंय (DDT) जीवलग
आमकां family-tree आसना, family-forest मात्र
रूलामू आमालो २ मिनीट नुडल्स, रूचकर आणि highly nutritive
तामीळ धांवताती 'पोडी' आयकुनु
आम्ही फोडी म्हळळेंकी, नांताती
वॉड कुशीले सुणे परवडले
Son of b... एकयी b.....d नाक्काची नाक्का

गणपती आमालो वाप्पा
मडगणे, खोड्रे, फोडयो
ताक्का दाक्कोवु आम्ही खांवचे
१५० विब्या उपकरी,
मात्र उपकरींतु वरले १०० विब्वे
वाकी ५० आम्ही सोल्लयितना गिलले !

फॉरनांतु भानप पळयिल्यारी
पिशारी पडता इल्लें खरें
उपास म्होणचें आणि दाबुनु खांवचें
तेंवयी ना म्होण वयरी
फण्णा शीत आमालें fried rice

KFC चालू कॅल्यारी Konkani fish chicken लायक विक्यां
गांवची पंचायतिका कोरचें मागीर मात्र आमकां कसल्याक जायी
इत्ते कोरोती म्हाराया म्होणचें
आमकां power failure जायना, लायट गॅल्ले मारी खंचे आमका
कोंकणी आमगेली भास मधूर!

We Konkanis Rock!

Vanita Kumta is a graduate in Microbiology and has worked as a Medical Microbiologist. She also set up her own Pathological Laboratory. After calling it a day, she now spends her leisure time writing. Email: vanitakumta@hotmail.com



Vinay V Gangavali
Phone: 2380 0460
Mobile: 9892407934



**WE ACCEPT OUTDOOR CATERING
ORDERS FOR
GET-TOGETHERS, BIRTHDAY PARTIES,
MARRIAGE, THREAD CEREMONY AND
ANY OTHER OCCASIONS.**

3-5/18, 2nd Floor , Talmakiwadi, Tardeo,
Mumbai - 400 007.

Elevators & Me – A Jinx

JAIRAM KHAMBADKONE

During the period of “Lockdown & Forced Quarantine” because of the Corona Virus threat and the consequent boredom, my thoughts wandered over the past couple of decades and made me write this article under #writing-karona#scheme.

Basically, I am not a person who believes in superstition, but sometimes when few incidents take place – I always think over again and again, why it happens only to me. In this connection, I thought of jotting down a couple of such incidents basically for time-pass and also for some fun during this idle period. I have always enjoyed travelling by elevators, escalators, moving walkways at airports, including the famous “Central to Mid Level Escalators and Walkway System” in Hong Kong or fast elevators in Empire State Building or Eiffel Tower. But there are a couple of incidents, which are most unforgettable in my life.

My first experience was sometime in 1999 when I used to work out of Bangalore. My boss had undergone a major surgery and on one Saturday morning I had gone to see him at his Richmond Road residence. His flat was located on the 7th floor and I reached his place and spent nearly 45 minutes with him. After enquiring about his health and chatting with him and his family, I left their place and came out. When I entered the elevator, it started moving down, when between 5th floor and 4th floor, it stopped – thanks to the power shutdowns in Bangalore during those days. I was alone in the elevator and fortunately, the elevator was with collapsible doors and I could see the movement of people up and down. Since I was new to the building, I just called for some help and one of the persons came and found that I was stuck in the elevator. The person concerned called the Secretary of the building and I mentioned to him that there has to be an arrangement on the Lift Motor, known as “Square End Shaft”. I informed him, that as a precautionary measure, one should put off the main switch of the Lift Motor and later with the help of handle on the “Square End Shaft”, we have to start cranking (rotating) the shaft, when the Elevator Position can be brought to the nearest floor level and you will be in a position to open the door. By this time about 4-5 persons had gathered to help me, but none of them could understand what I was trying to tell them. My boss’s son also came there by that time. Somehow they called a watchman, who came with two screwdrivers and managed to open both the doors. But the position of the lift was such that one could not come out easily. Then one of the residents brought a wooden stool which they passed on to me inside the elevator. I climbed up on to the stool and after pushing myself up with the hands – managed to come on to the higher floor. By this time, all my clothes were full of grease and oil marks. I was quite sure, by looking at me my wife would have got worried. I sat in the car and drove back home. It was an experience which I will never forget in my life.

I thought that probably the Bangalore incident in the elevator was my only experience – but no, it had to happen

to me again as per what was written in my horoscope. My second experience was in Florence, Italy when we had gone on a trip through Kesari Tours & Travels and our grandson Arjun was also with us on this trip. We had just reached Florence by coach late evening and we were in the process of checking into the hotel. Once we got our room number and the keys, we moved to the elevator where there was a queue. My wife Sheila and Arjun could manage to get into one of the elevators, when it was full. So they left with the others from our group. I, along with the remaining four, got into the other lift. These four got off and went to their rooms on the 5th floor and I was supposed to go to the 6th floor. A little before the elevator reached the sixth floor, it stopped moving and I got stuck inside alone. Nothing worked and the elevator just would not budge. Unfortunately in this case, it was a modern elevator with closed doors on both sides. I pushed the Emergency Bell 3 or 4 times and no help came for almost 10 minutes. After a few minutes, I could hear our Tour Manager, Parikshit Chougule and two more persons from the group talking on the sixth floor, when I shouted and informed them I was stuck inside the elevator. He then called the Front Office persons and tried their best to open the door but it did not work. In the meantime, Parikshit informed my wife, saying that I had gone to collect our packed food packets from the ground floor lobby and I will reach after some time, thinking that she will get worried if he tells her the real reason for the delay. Finally, only the screw driver technology had to work and finally they managed to open both the doors and I came out victoriously after struggling inside for about 40 minutes. I went to the room along with Parikshit and others. After listening to this 40 minutes ordeal, both Sheila and Arjun got really worried and they were happy that nothing untoward happened.

Within the next five minutes, I got a call from the Lobby Manager saying that we will be getting two mugs of Beer and Wi-Fi connection for two nights free for both of us- all this because I got stuck in the elevator for 40 minutes and hence this complimentary service. At this stage I realised, that for every bad episode, there is always a silver lining and thought to myself that if such perquisites are available then I wouldn’t mind getting stuck in the elevator in Venice as well, which was our last destination!!

After reading this short article, I am sure many of the readers must have come to the conclusion, that they will never accompany me in the elevator in future. But I must confess one thing – getting stuck in the elevator happens to me only when I am alone and not otherwise. So they do not have to worry about it at all!

The author is a retired Logistics and Supply Chain Management professional and is an amateur writer, which is pursued as a hobby. He can be contacted on his e-mail ID: jk.khambadkone@yahoo.com.

Another World Possibly?

ROHAN RAJESH KALBAG

It was another normal sweltering day for Professor Nadkarni the well-known Physics teacher at Balmandir School in Honavar. He wished to eat a cold *gudbad* icecream all by himself and go to the boardwalk in the port to observe the beauty of the sunrise and its glory. On his way to the school he was unaware of what the day had in store for him and brushing up the concepts of quantum mechanics that fascinated him since a young age, he was prepared to teach his pupils.

As he gazed at the Ganpati Temple procession on his right he brought his hands together in reverence and bowed down humbly and walked past the Gopalkrishna Temple over to *bazaar* road and then boarded the city bus. It was a very normal commute to his workplace when a speeding truck lost control and rammed the bus just beside his window. All went blank for a while when the professor began to see his life flash before him - being a staunch believer of merit his heart throbbed with anger having seen how the misuse of the reservation system had adversely affected his life and served as a barrier to his full potential. It was always his dream to render his services as a researcher to his country. He wasn't given the post as physicist in the research institute because another unworthy person was given the post on the basis of a minority community bill to reserve certain posts for the minority.

As he slowly regained consciousness he saw a different place around him. People commuted to their workplaces in flying vehicles, he rubbed his eyes twice and gave himself a couple of slaps as he saw many more things that could be seen only in a sci-fi movie in his town. He saw the Ganpati temple priests giving an online web seminar to devotees all around the world, the Gopalkrishna Temple using IoT powered automatic bells and musical instruments. The usual old men at the tea stall who would discuss the daily bulletin were nowhere to be seen except Raghu mam who was talking to his friends via FaceTime! Then he couldn't believe his eyes. He saw the coconut farmers using drones to remove the coconuts from their trees, he was infact so fascinated seeing the same he rushed to his house.

He saw a man working very hard on what looked like a device that could work as a portal between two places. The man saw the professor and couldn't believe his eyes to see another copy of himself. He smugly asked, "Stop it Ramesh, stop impersonating me using the anytime disguise tool, do you remember what happened the last time you did this?" The professor didn't know what to answer and gave the special expression that he would make whenever he was dumbfounded. The man was shocked and said, "Wait you are not Ramesh, this expression is only known to me."

The professor then narrated the incidents to his counterpart. The man explained, "It's remarkable! You have been through a transition to another timeline, the intense stress on your body during the crash created a distortion

in spacetime". "It was predicted by many scientists in the nineteenth century yet I am getting to visualise this for the first time, I must do more research on this." The professor asked him details about the event forkpoint that split their timelines. The man got a thermos flask full of hot tea, a couple of packets of Parle-G and opened what looked like an instant coffee table that expanded on adding water to it! He said, "We have a lot to discuss."

After a long 3-hour discussion, it was comprehended by the two men that both their timelines had been through the British Raj and also had been through the Gandhian era. It had also seen the Emergency of 1971. But to his surprise the professor realised that this timeline had missed what was called the Mandal commission amendment of 1979, it was a bill passed then to reserve seats of research institutes and universities to the so called backward classes but instead another bill had been passed to provide free primary education to all students irrespective of government or private schools and a priority was given to meritorious and worthy people.

This had all happened because of a minute quarrel between the bill presenters in parliament. The professor was shocked at how such a small change had got a very grave change on the situation around him. The man was thrilled and was ready to show him all the things that had been invented in his time. When the professor saw his leg disappear slowly, the man said, "You are in a quantum superposition of being in two timelines at the same time, looks like it is time for you to go back to your own timeline".

The professor again lost consciousness and woke up in the Police Ground under the large banyan tree after some time. The manager of SBI was strolling through the ground on his way to work when he asked the professor, "Dozing so early professor?" To which the professor replied, "No Sudhakar, I was just on my way to work". The professor knew what must be done as he walked over to the school. He was ready to fight for the sake of merit and decided to give back to the society as a politician and decided to go to the election commission to give a nomination for the election that was to happen in a couple of years.

He looked at the sky in hope as fate had given him a glimpse of what an ideal society was when merit was given preference over socio-ethical background and a person's interest in a subject mattered over the reservation quota, as he trodded slowly towards the school.

17 year old Rohan Kalbag is extremely tech savvy and his favourite subjects are Math and Science. He loves to write articles and develop mobile apps. He dreams to become an Astrophysicist or want to pursue Automation and Artificial Intelligence Engineering. Rohan can be contacted on kalbag.rohan.r@gmail.com.

पुस्तक परीचय

जॉर्ज वॉशिंग्टन कार्हर संक्षिप्त चरित्रम् (संस्कृत)

लेखिका संयुक्ता कैकिणी

कार्हर या अमेरिकेच्या अलौकिक महापुरुषाचे चरित्र कैकिणी यांनी सुरस व सुबोध संस्कृत भाषेत लिहीले आहे. देवनागरी लिपीची अल्पशी ओळख असलेल्या वाचकांना- मुले, तरुण व वृद्धांनाहि त्यांच्या जीवनाचा परीचय करून देण्यात व तो स्फूर्तिदायक करण्यामध्ये लेखिका पूर्णपणे यशस्वी झाल्या आहेत.

कार्हर यांचा जन्म डायमंड ग्रोव, मिसूरी येथे १८६४ साली झाला. त्यांचे जीवन अतिशय कठीण व संघर्षमय होते. वर्णविद्वेषामुळे आलेले अभागी पोरकेपण, भुकेल्या पोटी खाण्यापिण्याची सदैव वणवण, अपुरे कपडे, कृष्णवर्णीय असल्यामुळे तत्कालिन समाजाची सततची उपेक्षा व भेदभावाची वागणूक अशी आव्हाने बालपणापासून त्यांनी पेलली आणि स्वतःचे जीवन घडविले. बुद्धिमत्ता दक्षता प्रयत्नशीलता इ. अंगभूत सदगुणांनी स्वतःचे जीवन हलाखीत व्यतीत करणाऱ्या कृष्णवर्णीय शेतमजुरांचे जीवनमान सुधारले. शेतकी संशोधन व तंत्रज्ञानाची जोड घालून अमेरिकन शेतकी उत्पादन व शेतकऱ्यांचे भाग्य उजळून टाकले. त्यांच्या बहुआयामी व्यक्तीमत्वामध्ये चित्रकला, संगीत इ. कलांचा समावेश होता.

निसर्गाचे प्रेम, सौंदर्यपूर्ण भूरचना, निसर्गातील कीटक व त्यांचे प्रजनन, वृक्ष, फळे फुले इ. निकोप वाढ यांची जन्मतः आवड असल्याने त्यांची शास्त्रीय ज्ञानाची भूक सतत वाढत होती. डायमंड ग्रोव, मिसूरी येथील घरगुती शिक्षणावर समाधान न मानता त्यांनी पुढील शिक्षण मिनीयापोलीस व सिंप्सन कॉलेज (आयोवा स्टेट) येथील विभागातून पदव्युत्तर शिक्षण घेतले व ते प्राध्यापक झाले. 'कमवा आणि शिका' या वचनाप्रमाणे केलेली ज्ञानमार्गाची वाटचाल अर्थातच खडतर होती.

परंतु पुस्तकी अक्षर शिक्षणावर विसंबून न राहता त्यांनी आपल्या आवडीच्या कायक्षेत्रात भरीव कामगिरी करण्याच्या उद्देशाने अॅलाबॅमा टस्कागी शिक्षणसंस्थेतील विभागप्रमुखाची जबाबदारी स्वीकारली व पुढे जाऊन संशोधन व प्रयोगशाळेच्या संचालक पदावर काम केले. ही संस्था राज्यसरकारची अधिकृत असून नामवंत संस्थांपैकी एक अग्रगण्य संस्था आहे. सतत ४७ वर्षे त्यांनी या संस्थेची निरलस निष्काम सेवा केली.

मानलेली आई सृजन हिने केलेले संस्कार व स्वप्रयत्नाने मिळवलेले एक डॉलरचे नाणे एवढेच भांडवल घेऊन निघालेल्या या अशक्त अनाथ

व अशिक्षित गुलामाने शेतकी क्षेत्रात 'आय केमर्जिस्ट' 'सर्व श्रेष्ठ रसायनतज्ञ' असे विरूढ मिळविले. शेती व शेतकी तंत्रज्ञानाची सांगड घालून संशोधन केले. कापूस व त्यावर पडणारी कीड, रताली इ. सखोल अभ्यास केला. प्लास्टिक व कृत्रिम रबर यांच्या निर्मितीमध्ये उपयोगी पडणे शेतीमालाच्या मळीचे संशोधन करून शेतकऱ्यांच्या उत्पन्नात भर घातली. तंत्रज्ञान व रसायनशास्त्राच्या शेतकी संदर्भात संशोधन केले व त्यामुळे अमेरिकन शेतकऱ्यांना मोठा फायदा झाला. अमेरिकन शेतीव्यवसायाने उभारी घेऊन, राष्ट्रीय स्तरावर प्रचंड प्रमाणात धान्योत्पादन केले. अमेरिकेचे तीन अध्यक्ष थिओडोर रूझवेल्ट कॅल्विन कूलीज व 'फ्रॅंकलिन रूझवेल्ट तसेच हेन्री फोर्ड सारख्या उद्योगपतींकडून मान मान्यता मिळविली व विश्वविद्यालयांनी त्यांना डि. लिट. पदवी दिली.

'साधी राहणी व उच्च विचारसरणी' असलेल्या निर्व्याज भूमिपुत्राने महापुरुष असून कृष्णवर्णीयाचा स्वाभिमान, कष्ट करण्याची

गुणवत्ता मिळविण्यासाठी संस्थात्मक प्रयत्न करून त्याचा उध्दार केला. गोरे काळे याच्यामधील अंतर दूर करण्याचा प्रयत्न केला.

'क्रियासिद्धिः सत्वे भवति महता व उपकरण'

साधन सामग्री, वंश वर्ण जात गोत यामुळे नव्हे तर अंगभूत सदगुणांमुळेच कार्यात यश मिळत असते असा संदेश त्याच्या जीवनपटातून मिळतो.

हे पुस्तक मुळांतून वाचनीय व प्रेरणादायक असून स्वतःच्या संग्रही ठेवण्यासारखे आहे.

नारायण शिराली

(प्रस्तुत पुस्तकाचे विमोचन २६ जानेवारी २०२० हया दिवशी विद्यावाचस्पती सुवर्णपदकविजेत्या कालिदास विद्यापीठ नागपूरच्या भूतपूर्व कुलगुरू डॉ उमा वैद्य यांच्या हस्ते झाले या प्रसंगी एसएनडीटी कॉलेजच्या संस्कृत विभाग प्रमुख "गिर्वाणसुधा" मासिकाच्या मुख्य संपादिका डॉ कमल अभ्यंकर "गिर्वाणसुधा" मासिकाच्या सह संपादिका व "देववाणी मंदिरम्"च्या अध्यक्षा श्रीमती वीणा गोडबोले तसेच "गिर्वाणसुधा" च्या पूर्व अध्यक्षा श्रीमती सुजाता हळदीपूर उपस्थित होत्या.

कार्यक्रमाचे सूत्रसंचालन लेखिकेची विद्यार्थिनी द्युती केसकर यांनी केले. द्युती ८वी ९वी १०वी च्या विद्यार्थ्यांना एका विद्यार्थीप्रिय क्लासेस मध्ये संस्कृत शिकवितात.)

Amchis' Board Game 'Pagde'

VANDAN SHIROOR

Board games are a great way to keep all the family occupied while stuck indoors due to coronavirus.

Pagde is a two to four-player board game. This game has an element of chance introduced by the roll of cowry shells and an element of strategy. The game is very popular in most of the households from 'Amchi' community but seems to be unfamiliar amongst younger generation.

The game has a 7x7 square board as shown in Fig 1. Each of the players plays with four/six different colour pawns

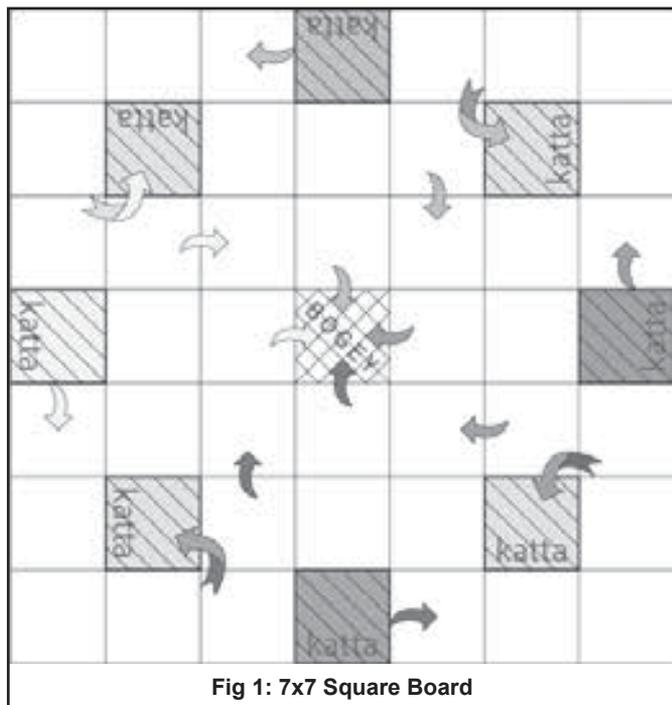


Fig 1: 7x7 Square Board

as shown in Fig 2, starting at different positions at the four coloured squares at the outermost ring as shown in the board below:

The game is played by throwing six cowry shells as shown in Fig 3. Each player takes a turn to roll the cowrie shells. The mouth of the shell landing upwards (upright) each has a value of 1 and downwards (inverted) has a value of 0. If all the six shells land upwards then besides the value of 6 the player gets another chance. Moreover if all the six shells land downwards (inverted), the player gets value of 12 and has another chance.

Depending on the number rolled, the player can move one of their pawns that many number of squares on the board. Each player has a fixed path to move pawns, which is in an anti-clockwise direction in the outer ring and clockwise direction in inner rings. When a pawn reaches the square left of its home square in the outer ring, it further moves up into the inner squares and now moves in the clockwise direction and finally should escape from central square (Bogey) by rolling the shells so that the pawn count reaches Bogey plus one to escape. For example, if a pawn is 2 squares away



Fig 2: Pawns

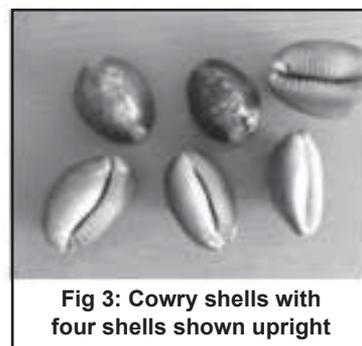


Fig 3: Cowry shells with four shells shown upright

from the centre and the player throws a 4, then that pawn cannot be moved but to escape

that pawn, it has to roll exactly 3. If that is the only pawn left for the player to move, the player will lose his turn. If rolling count results in landing the pawn in Bogey then player has to roll 1 for escaping. After escaping the pawn, player doesn't get extra chance. The player who's all the pawns escape from the board wins first and so on for the next.

If after rolling, the count makes the player's pawn land on a square occupied by opponent's pawn, then player has option to "Kill" the opponent's pawn and the player gets an extra turn to play. The killed pawn returns to its starting home square and has to go round all over again. In coloured striped squares marked as 'Katta', killing is not possible. You may call Katta as a safe house. On Katta and Bogey, player and opponent's pawns can remain together. Each pawn finishes its race when it manages to escape from the Bogey.

"Pair" (Jod): It is possible for a player to have two of his pawns in the same square after reaching opposite Katta of the outer ring i.e. counting twelve from Home square but Not before that. This is called a "Pair" (Jod). Jod is of two types viz. the one that is formed on other than Katta which is called 'Adya Jod' and another formed on Katta which is called 'Kattya Jod'. Player's Adya Jod can kill another player's Adya Jod but Not Kattya Jod. Similarly, a player's Kattya Jod can kill another player's Kattya Jod but Not Adya Jod. Before any Jod gets killing properties, after forming Jod, it should have moved at least one square. When Jod is formed then the same can be moved only when even counts are rolled. A Jod can move half of the rolling count i.e. if player rolls 4 then Jod will move only 2 squares and so on. A Jod can break into singles by moving one of its paired pawn and that single pawn can move as per the exact count it has rolled. If 2 singles are in the same square forming Jod then it can kill only one of the singles, the other single is not affected at all. A Jod can kill even opponent's single pawn by breaking when it is in the path and rolls exactly to reach opponent's pawn square, i.e. if a player rolls four and the opponent's pawn is four squares away then Jod can be broken to kill by one of the pawns of the Jod. Adya Jod can be broken on squares other than Katta. Similarly Kattya Jod can be broken only on Katta. If a Jod reaches Bogey then it has to roll count 2 to

escape. A player can move single pawn to the same square as an opponent's Jod. If opponent's pawn comes and lands on Jod then after Jod moves further, that opponent's pawn gets killed (Kusta) and goes to starting position but Jod player doesn't get extra chance. However if Jod any time happens to land on square where opponent's single pawn is already present then even after moving ahead Jod, the opponent's pawn doesn't get killed (Kusana). It is not possible for a single pawn to kill a Pair.

Useful playing tips:

Besides the luck factor, if few strategic points are followed, winning would be easy

- ▶▶ In order to avoid killing by opponent's pawn, making Jod as early as possible is preferable.
- ▶▶ Advanced pawn to be kept on Katta (safe house) and to be moved when there is no threat immediately from behind.

- ▶▶ When there is a choice of moving pawns and exposing to opponent's killing, the one near Home is preferred.
- ▶▶ Probability of getting count of 1 is rare by using cowry shells similarly for count of 12

The game can also be played with dice and coloured pieces instead of cowry shells and pawns but getting count 12 is not possible. Also probability of getting any count in Dice is equal but with cowry shells, probability of getting count of 3, 4 & 5 is more than getting 1 & 2.

This is a small effort in bringing our traditional board game in focus during the days of lockdown.

The author Shri Vandan Shiroom is a retired executive from SVC Co-operative Bank and thereafter he used to deliver lectures on banking to about a dozen co-operative banks till 2016. From 2017 to 2019, he was Hon. Treasurer of Kanara Saraswat Association. Contact details: 9833217925, vandanshiroom@gmail.com

Here and There

New Delhi:

13th February, 2020 – Pattabhisheka of PP Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji

The Guru Prapti Divas of our eleventh Guru! We are eternally grateful for the compassionate yet powerful guidance of our beloved Swamiji.

The Ordination Day of our Swamiji was celebrated at the residence of Ullal Pradeepmaam and Shobhanapacchi, in Delhi's NCR Noida.

After the Sabha opening prayers, *Shri Gurupaduka-stotra*, *Shri Parijnana Trayodashi* and *Shri Guru Bhajana-stotra*, an intense and energetic *Devi Anushthan* was held to mark the occasion. Bondal Jaishankarmaam read out the Aashirvachan that was given the day our Swamiji was ordained and took over the Peetha. Jaishankarmaam also read out the Aashirvachan of HH Narayanashram Swamiji and the Aashirvachan of Swamiji at the Ordination on 27th Feb 1997. Post Mangalarati and closing prayers, a sumptuous Prasad bhojan was served.

1st March, 2020 – Shishya Sweekar Divas of HH Parijanashrama Swamiji III

This year's Shishya Sweekar Divas celebrations were held at the residence of Bailur Ramesh maam and Sheila pacchi, with utter devotion and fervour.

After the Sabha opening prayers, *Shri Gurupaduka Stotra* and *Shri Parijnana Trayodashi*, *Lalita Sahasra-naama* was recited by all present. Tavanandi Mangalapacchi then read out excerpt from the Aashirvachan (in Konkani) delivered by our Swamiji at Khar Math, with her lovely explanation of the underlying meaning. She then read out from our Swamiji's *Swadhyaya* on Shri Parijnanna Trayodashi from the book '*Sadyojat Bodhamruta*'. Bondal Jaishankarmaam also read out an excerpt from HH Parijanashrama III Swamiji's Aashirvachan delivered at Mumbai Sabha in

1975, wherein Swamiji had focused on *Shraddha*. In Their Aashirvachan, Swamiji had recalled through simple stories and anecdotes, deep philosophical principles that underpin man's pursuit of true happiness.

This was followed by Mangalarati and Sabha closing prayers. The Prasad bhojan that had been prepared by Sheila pacchi with total devotion was served to all Saadhaks.

Reported by Vidya Kumtakar Kumar

Mumbai - Andheri: The Samaradhana of PP Shankarashram II Swamiji of Mallapur was observed on Monday, 27th January 2020. There was a talk by Dharmapracharak Shri Rajagopal Bhatmaam on the teachings of Shrimat Shakarashram II Swamiji as contained in the book '*Sadguru Bodhamrut*'.

Param Pujya Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji's Pattabhishek day on Thursday, 13th February was celebrated by reciting Stotras and Bhajans from Stuti Manjari and Samvit Sankirtan Saar.

About 30 Sadhakas of our Sabha have been jointly performing in their respective houses *Devi Anushthan* (including *Rogansheshan* stotra) at 5 pm every day, Navaratri Nityapath (on relay from 6 am to 12 midnight on Tuesday and Friday), Lalita Sahasranam, Vishesh japa, and chanting of Stuti manjiri stotras at their convenient time praying Jagat-Janani in this trying times for the welfare of the world. Some did Guruparampara Parayan or heard the audio by Shri Ravindra Bijoormam. All these are ably conducted by the coordinator Smt. Sheetalapachi Chandavar. We offer this seva at the lotus feet of Shri Devi Durga Parameshwari, Shri Devi Bhuvaneshwari, and Param Pujya Swamiji.

Reported by Vinay G. Masurkar

Mumbai - Thane:

H. H. Shrimat Parijanashram Swamiji's Shishya Swikar

Jayanti Mahotsav was celebrated at Karla on 1st March in the hallowed presence of H. H. Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji. Twenty-eight sadhakas, including yuvas, participated in the celebrations and volunteered during the Gramabhojan.

Devi Anushthana was performed on 22nd March by members of our samaj for the benefit of the country and samaj. While thirty sadhaka-s of Thane Sabha, including four yuvas performed the Devi Anushthana, two sadhikas performed it twice, and one sadhika performed it thrice.

As per Swamiji's ashirvachan for Yugadi on 25th March, many sadhakas are performing Chaitra Navratri Anushthan and Nityapathan.

Report by Savni Haldipur

Our Institutions

Saraswat Mahila Samaj – Gamdevi

The Samaj celebrates International Women's Day as 'Yuvati Divas'. This was celebrated on the 15th of March. Smt. Sadhana Kaikini from Bangalore was invited to conduct a workshop especially for the *yuvati* members. Her topic was 'Managing the Me'.

Smt. Geeta Balse introduced Sadhana who is a graduate of Home Science and is the founder of 'Buoyancee' an institution which trains young children and students at the school level to build competence, character and culture. Over the years she and her staff have trained umpteen young children, teachers, housewives, executives and college students. They have conducted seminars in corporate offices viz. Godrej, ITC and even the Vidhan Sabha. Their social upliftment project 'Build India' has helped thousands of needy Indians. She has received many awards from the Karnataka Govt. viz. 'Saarthak Naari', Guild of Women Achiever award and also Mother Teresa Lifetime Achievement award.

During her talk she emphasized on the most important habits one should adopt and develop – which involve planning, courage, understanding, synergies, time management etc. She conducted small games and also some on-the-spot role play by the *yuvatis* which everyone enjoyed thoroughly. She demonstrated all the topics on a screen with a laptop to make it more interesting.

The programme ended on a very joyous and cheerful note.

Vote of thanks was proposed by Maya Maskeri. She thanked Sadhana for coming all the way in these trying times. She paid tribute to Sadhana Kamat who had initiated the Yuvati Vibhag and also thanked Meerapacchi Hattiangdi for sponsoring the *yuvatis*.

Tasty snacks were distributed to all, sponsored by Vidya Kodial in memory of her parents-in-law. It was a morning well-spent, we learnt a lot and the *yuvatis* are sure to put into practice Sadhana's ideas to make their life better.

Reported by Geeta Suresh Balse

CLASSIFIEDS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archana and Vivek Suresh Hemmady along with Shital and Ghanshyam Kalbag Thank all relatives, friends and well-wishers for their gracious presence, greetings, messages and blessings on the occasion of the wedding and reception of Anandita and Suraj on 12th December 2019 at Malad, Mumbai and request that this be kindly treated as a personal acknowledgement.

Archana and Vivek Suresh Hemmady along with Dr. Shitala and Dr. Abhay Verlekar thank all relatives, friends and well-wishers for their gracious presence, greetings, messages and blessings on the occasion of the wedding and reception of Varun and Sayali on 30th January 2020 at Mapusa, Goa and request that this be kindly treated as a personal acknowledgement.

DOMESTIC TIDINGS

MARRIAGES

We congratulate the young couple

2019

Dec 12 : Anandita Vivek Hemmady with Suraj Ghanshyam Kalbag at Malad, Mumbai.

2020

Jan 30 : Sayali Abhay Verlekar with Varun Vivek Hemmady at Mapusa, Goa.

OBITUARIES

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

- Mar 29 : Deepalaxmi (Bebi) Vasant Divgi (82) at Kumta
Mar 31 : Shanta Manohar Amladi Rao (89) at Thousand Oaks, California, USA
Apr 2 : Ramamurti Rao (78) at Surat
Apr 2 : Shukla Radhabai Krishna bhat Mallapur (104) on Rama Navami day at Mallapur.
Apr 7 : Hemalata Murlidhar Gangolli (nee Khambatkone) (84) at Goregaon, West, Mumbai
Apr 12 : Kumudini Anand Mangalore at Mumbai
Apr 16 : Sarojini Murdeshwar (88) at Nashik
Apr 18 : Hattangady Vasanth Rao (89) at Bangalore
Apr 18 : Saraswati Mundkur (89) at Bengaluru
Apr 19 : Vijaya Kallianpur (74) at Goregaon Mumbai

Stay at Home! Stay Safe !!

Enjoy reading

Kanara Saraswat Magazine

online for the time being

The link is

<http://www.kanarasaraswat.in/Magzinelist.aspx>

With Best Compliments
From



Practice Safe Banking Habits For Safe Online Banking



In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Digital Banking has become the most reliable companion to carry out financial transactions. However, cyber criminals may try to fraudulently gain access to your personal and financial information through various tactics, such as:



Phishing Emails or Messages:

Do not click or download any link or attachment without first confirming the authenticity of the sender / source.



Clickbait on Social Media:

Do not click on unknown links on Social Media, it may lead you to malicious websites that may access your personal information.



Donation Scams:

When donating online ensure the authenticity of the site & charitable organisation, before filling in your details.



Fraudulent Applications:

Do not download any unknown application, it may infect your mobile device & compromise your data.

If, at any time, you feel that your data or your account details have been compromised, please report it to your bank immediately.

Stay alert. Bank safe.

Happy Banking!



SVCBankIndia



SVC_Bank



svc_bank



www.svcbank.com