

Kanara Saraswat

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF KANARA SARASWAT ASSOCIATION

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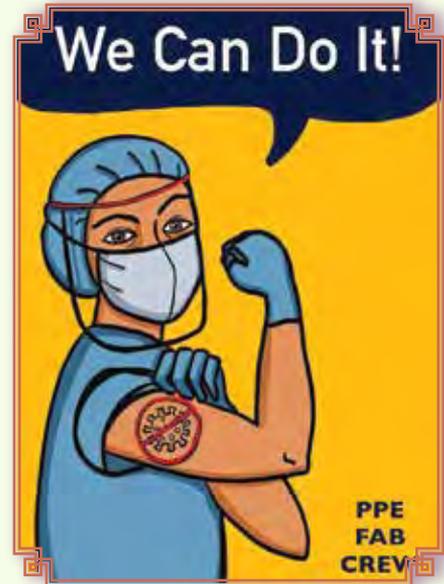


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Kanara Saraswat

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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**

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Kanara Saraswat Association

ELECTION NOTICE

Rule 13 of the Kanara Saraswat Association mandates that three members of the Managing Committee retire by rotation at every annual general meeting. Accordingly, a notice was published on the notice board of the Association on 4th April 2020 that Shri. Jairam K Khambadkone, Dr. Prakash S Mavinkurve, Shri. Dilp P Sashital would retire by rotation and Smt. Ashwini Prashant who was inducted as a member arising out of a casual vacancy, would retire at the next annual general meeting. Further Rule 31 read with Rule 32 requires the Association to conduct elections to the Managing Committee in the place of the retiring members which after completion of the election process new members are elected at the annual general meeting.

The Managing Committee after much deliberation at its meeting held by video conference on 23 April 2020 has come to the unanimous decision that conducting election to the Managing Committee of KSA in the present and evolving circumstances arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic, would not be conducive considering the physical/ social distancing norms mandated by the Central and State Governments and recommendation of medical experts. Accordingly, it was decided that the Managing Committee would not hold the election for replacement of the retiring members of the Managing Committee of the Association for the year 2020-21 and would recommend election of the aforesaid retiring members to the Managing Committee without contest for a period of one year at the next annual general meeting.

The President, Vice-President and Managing Committee of the Association request the indulgence of the members of the Kanara Saraswat Association in this regard and further request that the retiring members be re-elected without contest for the limited period of one year at the next annual general meeting.

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From the President's Desk....

The lockdown continues and as I write this article, has got extended into its version 5. Hopefully, we will see the complete lifting of lockdown by the end of June. But, as we enter into a 'Lockdown Free India' by end of this month, the post-lockdown world is not expected to be the same as before. The Covid-19 pandemic has created a New World and a 'New Normal' which will be completely different from the 'Old Normal'. Social distancing will predominantly govern the whole new life that we would live. With the new norms of social distancing, the whole world will become more digital-centric than physical-centric, with less physical social contacts. The whole social fabric, with which we were familiar, is going to change.

For many of us who go to offices or workplaces every day, it will be working from home or through remote locations most of the times. The old camaraderie in the workplace will be absent. While one will have more flexibility and perhaps better work-life balance, the workplace bonhomie will be certainly missing. In management jargon, they say team spirit in the workplace is very important. But going forward, one will have to work on a new definition of team spirit in the new workplace relationship. Will the workplace productivity improve in the New Normal? Perhaps not. The employers will therefore find new automation tools to improve the workplace productivity. Technology as against human judgement will be the new norm, perhaps even resulting in lesser employment opportunities, unless you get re-skilled or re-trained in these new technologies. Many of us who were more accustomed to the traditional style of working and not getting re-trained in new skills, will become redundant in the New World.

With lesser employment opportunities and with a lot of job losses in the New Normal, will social unrest increase? Perhaps yes. With the growing young population in India, the Governments at the Centre and at the State level, irrespective of their different party ideologies and differences, will have to work together on this common social problem; which if not handled carefully will become a Big Social Menace.

In educational areas it will be the online education most of the times, as against going physically to educational institutions. The classroom teaching has always got its advantages like building collaborative learning, enhancing of critical thinking skills, improving social skills, building organisational skills and developing personality and career building skills. While in most educational institutions it will be the online training which will become a norm, certainly these students will miss some of the advantages of classroom teaching. In the educational institutions which would still like to pursue the traditional class-room teaching, with social distancing becoming a prerequisite, these institutions will have to find new ways of teaching in the classrooms.

Shopping in malls, departmental stores will become more hazardous. Online shopping will become the new norm. Going to a theatre and watching a movie, play or a musical show will become infrequent with the new norms of social distancing. Home entertainment through online access to all these entertainment channels will become common. Eating out in restaurants with relatives or friends will become a rarity. Online registered marriages will be frequent. Wishing the newly married couples through online marriage reception channels may become routine. Priests with technological skills will be in greater demand. In the last two months of lockdown, we all have suddenly become conscious of the well-being of our friends and relatives whom we had not met for ages and have started talking to them through online audio and video media. Physical travel in congested urban areas will become rare. Installation of the extra megabytes in our communication channels will be preferable to buying a fancy and expensive vehicle.

Our eating habits will change. Our vacation plans will also change. Our living style will completely change. All of us, who were so far not bothered about different viruses around us causing health

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issues, will suddenly become extra conscious of these viruses and their after-effects. Most of us will become more health-conscious and start learning about the new fitness regime to be practised from a safe home environment.

There is definitely going to be a New Normal or a complete paradigm shift in the way of living our lives. Will this change be permanent, will the degree of this change be as dramatically different from what I have projected is anybody's guess. But one thing is certain - we have to live with this 'New Normal'. The faster we change the better. As Heraclitus, the Ancient Greek Philosopher said many years ago, "The Only Thing That is Constant is Change". The earlier you realise it and embrace this change, Life will be better for you.

In my view, in the New Normal, there will be a perfect amalgamation between physical and digital leading to a New World of "Phygital". So, whether young or old, be positive and fit, both physically and mentally, since it is always the survival of the fittest!

Praveen P. Kadle



Kanara Saraswat Association

Announcement of the New Editorial Committee

The Managing Committee is pleased to announce the formation of a New Editorial Committee of KS Magazine, as reported on Page No 3 of this issue.

Smt. Devyani Bijoor will be taking over as Editor of KS Magazine soon, pending certain formalities to be completed with the concerned authorities. This could not be done due to the present lockdown condition in the country. Smt. Devyani Bijoor works in the field of content design and development and is currently employed at the Department of Educational Technology at SNTD Women's University.

Our present Editor Smt. Smita Mavinkurve, had expressed a desire to be relieved from this responsibility quite some time ago, as she has been holding this position for over 10 years continuously. KSA is grateful to her for her services in managing this assignment successfully with total sincerity and devotion. At the same time, we are happy that she has agreed to continue on the Editorial Committee, so that the New Team will have the benefit of her guidance.

Shri Uday Mankikar will continue as our Associate Editor. He has been working on the Editorial Committee for over 20 years and handles the Marathi / Konkani section.

Smt. Usha Surkund has stepped down from the committee after working for over 10 years. We are grateful to her for her services. She continues to handle KSA's Marriage Bureau.

We have added following new members to the Editorial Committee -

- Smt. Anjali Burde who was in the teaching profession earlier and has done editing of books during her career and
- Dr. Swati Puthli has done editing of articles for other publications on an informal basis for some time, though being a practicing Physiotherapist.

Our best wishes to Smt. Smita Mavinkurve for all her future assignments which she plans to undertake. We welcome Smt. Devyani Bijoor who has been in our Editorial Team for some time now and is the new incumbent as Editor of KS Magazine soon.

Our best wishes to her and the entire new Editorial Team for successful operation of KS Magazine.

Jairam Khambadkone

(Chairman – Kanara Saraswat Association)

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor, Thank you for the wonderful and much deserved coverage of Smt. Vasantlata V. Mirjankar in May 2020 issue of KS.

I was born and brought up in Kumta and grew up in the adjoining house of Mirjankar compound which is separated from our property by a compound wall. The old memories of Vimaland Mirjankar mam and Vasantpacchi, their three daughters and mother-in-law Smt. Gangabai Mirjankar and the bustling activities of Mirjankar house is fresh in my memory even today. Many years back when we last met, Vasantpacchi asked me whether I remember seeing Vimalanand Mirjankar mam for which I answered her with big yes.

Vasantpacchi is the woman of action. She is bold enough to face and control the man dominated Congress party and the legislature for the betterment of needy people. Today's upliftment of down trodden and socio-economically backward classes of people of Kumta and Uttara Kannada district is because of selfless service, determination and hard work of Vasantpacchi. Such an honest, blemish less and non-corrupt politician is very hard to witness in day today world.

She never missed the noble duty of mother, devoted wife and daughter-in-law even as her career saw many ups and downs. Whether it was a matter of study of children or an issue relating to their career saw many ups and downs. Whether it was a matter of study of children or an issue relating to their career, love and affection of mother flowed incessantly. She was always courteous and benevolent to her neighbours and one and all. During my pre- university college education, I was helped by Vasantpacchi by sanctioning scholarship from Mirjankar Education fund. She was very keen in my academic and professional progress throughout my MBBS course.

Thank you Vasantpacchi. May God bless you with many more years of good health and happiness.

Dr. Gurudutt Bhaskar Basrur, MS, FRCS. Mumbai

प्रिय संपादक,

KSA / K S - शतमानोत्तर क्षितिजाभिमुख शतसंवत्सरपूर्तीची जाघांट वाज्जोनु त्या यशोदुंदुभीच्या दिव्य निनादाने दशदिशांतु गुंजन कोर्नु, आमाल केएसए/ केएस आत्त शतमानोत्तर क्षितिजाभिमुख जाल्या, हो एकु आनंदाचो एवं अभिमानाचो विषयु. हें स्वर्णिम संदर्भारी मगलि ही सप्रेम शब्दकुसुमांजलि समस्त केनरा सारस्वत बळगाक मगले आत्मीय अभिवादन एवं अभिनंदन .

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Chitrapur Saraswat Mahila Divas - Summary of the Speeches given

(Continued from May 2020 issue)

On the 14th March 2020, Kanara Saraswat Association celebrated Chitrapur Saraswat Women's Day by honouring 5 women – Smt. Nirmala Chikramane (posthumously), Smt. Shailaja Ganguly, Smt. Reshma Kalyanpur Chadha, Dr Divya Karnad and Smt. Anasuya Shiraly. Well known social entrepreneur and co-founder of Yuva Parivartan, Smt. Mrinalini Kher was the Chief Guest. In our May 2020 issue, we have printed the details of the proceedings and the achievements of the awardees.

Due to the unforeseen circumstances arising out of the COVID -19 pandemic, only Smt. Kher and Smt. Shiraly could attend the function. We give here a summary of their speeches.

Mrinalini Kher –Congratulation to all the awardees. I feel humbled hearing their life stories and their work. Thank you KSA for inviting me and giving me an opportunity to hear about such motivating people from our own community. I congratulate the Selection Committee and appreciate their efforts in selecting women from all over the country. You are doing excellent work. My congratulations to all the awardees.

What is the need of celebrating an International Women's Day? Every day should be such a day. But we are the fortunate ones who have been born in good families, have received good education and values and culture from our parents. Everybody is not so fortunate. So this day reminds us of all those unfortunate women. We need to celebrate womanhood because women have some strengths hidden inside them and we need to celebrate those. A woman may look ordinary and you would not give her a second glance. But when needed she will rise above herself – she will take care of multiple things simultaneously. Her problem solving capability needs to be saluted.

Some years ago I was invited to a Women's Day programme and was asked to speak about my mother. My mother brought me up and taught me so many things through her own example. At that time I did not give much thought to it. Now when I am a mother myself and am bringing up children of my own, I realize what she went through. Today many books are available on parenting, Child Psychology, Counseling. Parenting tips are available and there are groups of parents where you can join and discuss about your own problems and get help from likeminded people.

But in the days of our mothers and grandmothers there was nothing like this. Yet they did it. It is the inherited knowledge of a woman. The woman gets married and moves into another home. She works there and adjusts herself to make it her own. She gives her love and nurtures that home. She makes that family her own! Will a man be able to do this? Does he have the capacity to accept a new family as his own? I wonder ! Adjustment and adaptation has to be learnt from a woman. She is the binding factor in each situation.

For a woman to come out of her home and achieve

something in the outside world, family support is extremely important. The opportunities are there but we, as women have to learn to grab them. The women we are honouring today have done that, they have grabbed the opportunity, crossed barriers and are now standing tall. They have crossed the mental barriers which we, as women, put for ourselves. Once you do that there is no looking back. And recognition from your own community takes you ahead . This recognition today is the respect, recognition and a salute to your work from your own people.

In my work with the 'Yuva Parivartan' I have seen many examples of women who have risen from abject poverty, with physical handicaps and are today supporting their families. The same family which did not look at them twice and considered them a burden are today being supported by them. And the women do that with love! Such large-heartedness! It just needs a touch of encouragement and motivation and a boost to their self-esteem at the right time. And they become shining examples that other such women can look up to! Recognizing this we had started a movement called 'Sochka Parivartan' where we made the youngsters realize that they have the capacity to do much more and rise above their present circumstances.

Congratulating all these 'utsavmurtis' I feel humbled. Thank you once again for giving me this opportunity to come here and meet all of you. Thank you.

Anasuya Shiraly - I wish to share with you a few words about the work I am doing in two hospitals in Bengaluru -Kidwai Memorial Hospital which is a Cancer Hospital and Ramayya Hospital which is a General Hospital. I like to work in the Cancer Wards because no one comes to these wards to meet the patients. Mostly people go to the Medical or Orthopedic wards. Probably they do not come to visit the Cancer patients because it is very disturbing and difficult to see those patients and their suffering especially those afflicted with Oral Cancer. Many times the wounds are open and oozing.



Smt. Anasuya Shiraly (on the left) was felicitated by Chief Guest Smt. Mrinalini Kher

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I have been going there for over 20 years and am able to withstand the sight. My work is in the palliative department. I speak to the patients and offer them consolation. In this department the patients are in the 4th stage which is the last stage. So cheering them up and helping them to forget their suffering for the time I am there is my primary aim. My colleagues and I, we arrange a fun afternoon for the patients

once every week. We play games with them, give them gifts and also arrange and share a lunch with them. The hospital gives very routine food – sambar rice and curd rice, So we have made an arrangement with a caterer who serves them food which they can enjoy. Seeing the happiness on their faces makes it worthwhile for us.

I am very grateful to KSA for inviting me here today and honouring me. Thank you!



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The Fab Couple from Philly

The tiny community of Chitrapur Saraswats (just 23,000 people) is spread all across the globe, and has for long been recognised for its spirit of helpfulness, ingenuity and intelligence; now add to that mix a dash of technology in the form of (hold your breath!) a 3D printer, and the phrase "Everything you can imagine is real" takes on a whole new meaning....

It's a pandemic unlike any other in living memory; a virus with dimensions small enough to relegate it to statistical insignificance, yet unrelenting in it's conquest of the dominant species of this planet. Commonly known as the Corona virus, it's a mutation that has defied cure and brought mankind to its knees, paralysing travel, commerce and crippled Economies paying scant regard to man-made borders.

In the USA, the Virus spread like wildfire in early 2020, and it quickly became clear that the medical community and first responders did not have enough PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) to fend off contact with the contagion.

Agrahar Gauripachi and Vikram mam, settled in Philadelphia since 2002 and ardent DIY enthusiasts, saw the 3D printing/fabricating community coming together to help in their own small way. Without thinking twice, they jumped right into it by putting their own 3D printer to work. Using his CAD-CAM experience, Vikram maam innovated on the base designs and came up with solutions that worked better and quadrupled output.

Along the way, they met two like-minded individuals: Omer Dekel and James Hartling. Together, after many more trials and tests, they came upon a simple, light weight, comfortable and fast to produce design which also incorporated easily available Overhead Projection Transparencies. Now they finally had a product that would fly! But early into the trial runs, the team realised the need for a dedicated person to handle marketing, logistics, and very importantly, funding.

And that is when Gauripachi came into the project full-time and decided to take the campaign online. Soon after, volunteers Rachael Chou and Alyse Flowers joined the team.

By 30th March 2020, with six 3D printers between them and all systems ready to launch, the **PPE FAB** (as in fabrication) **TEAM** reached out to seek the Blessings of Parama Pujya Swamiji. On the same day, they also launched a GoFundMe fund raising campaign, with a modest goal of \$1000.

As of 5th May 2020, the campaign has raised over \$17,000 and the enthusiasm seems to be on an ever-upward trajectory. The team now has more than 70 volunteers and has donated over 9,000 face shields and 6,800 ear savers to 250+ area hospitals. Production has been ramped up by using fourteen 3D printers, and an ever-expanding energetic team that is truly dedicated to the cause of helping the medical community and front-line responders.

Words of gratitude for the PPE Fab Crew from a PPE frontline hero Dan:

Thank you for your generous donation. I and my fellow residents place breathing tubes for patients nearly everyday, one of the most high risk procedures for exposure to coronavirus. Face and eye protection is becoming increasingly hard to come by in the hospital. Your gift will help to keep me, my fellow residents and our families safe as we do our best to care for the people in our community. Please know that you have our deepest and most sincere gratitude.

To quote the Agrahars:

"We strongly believe it is our Guru Parampara's Blessings that made it possible for us to do this Seva for the community....

Swamiji, we seek Your Blessings as we are continuing to help the medical community with PPE face shields."

(More pictures on page 11)



Hospital Staff in Puerto Rico using FAB Crew Face Masks



Frontline Worker with a Face Shield made by PPE FAB crew

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. 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 US. Over the past decade, Amchis in the US have supported students' education, temple restoration & cladding, and promoted women's empowerment in the villages of Chitrapur and Shirali.

The activities of CHF include:

- Facilitate the collection of annual "Vantiga" payment from every earning Saraswat in the US - "Vantiga" supports and maintains the upkeep of our spiritual centers in Bengaluru, Gokarn, Mallapur, Mangaluru, and Shirali;
- Promote cultural heritage by supporting temple restoration projects and maintenance of Chitrapur Museum archives;
- Support education of 100 students at the Srivali High School through the "Sponsor-A-Student" Scheme; and
- Preserve the rich cultural heritage of the Chitrapur Saraswat community in the US through Monthly Satsang and Prarthana Varga for children, and by celebrating festivals like Yugadi, Ram Navami, Gokulashtami, Ganesh Chaturthi, Navratri, Diwali.

The Fab Couple from Philly



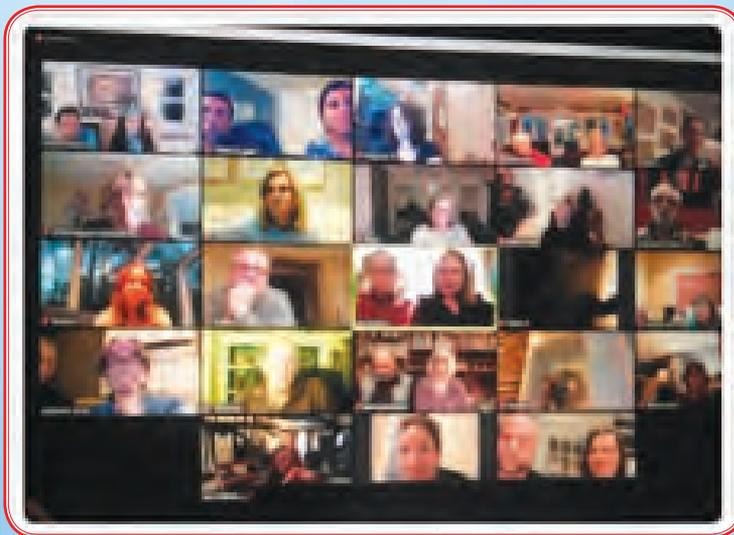
Curly being printed on a 3D printer



Vikram mam at work



Ear savers ease pressure on the ears and increase wearer's comfort level



Online Volunteer Meet



Emergency Drop at a labour and delivery unit

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.

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Heartiest CONGRATULATIONS to Smt. KANCHAN (d/o Late Smt. Meera & Late Shri Pandurang N. KUMTHA) and Shri SATISH (s/o Late Smt. Tara & Late Shri Raghavendra M. MURDESHWAR) on completing 50 glorious years of marriage – 25th May 1970.

Hope you're blessed with many more years of good health & joyful peace together. You both have set a great example of a fine marital balance & inspire us to seek a happy married life!

Lots of love: Supriya, Prasanna, Varad, Rupal, Rahul.

Best wishes: MURDESHWARS, KUMTHAS, STHALEKARS, NAGDAS, Talgeris, Mittals, Vaidyas, Bhatkals, relatives, friends.



THE KANARA SARASWAT ASSOCIATION
COMMITTED TO BETTER THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN GENERAL
& CHITRAPUR SARASWATS in PARTICULAR

In its pursuit to provide
FINANCIAL AID to CSBs in DISTRESS

due to lock down consequent to the pandemic (loss of jobs, salaries, business etc), KSA shall consider rendering suitable help to affected CSBs.

To help us identify such CSBs under financial distress due to the lock down:

- We request CSBs in financial distress to contact us (at below-mentioned whatsapp number / email) with their details (phone & email) to enable us get in touch with you.
- We request you to recommend details (name, phone & email) of any CSBs in financial distress (at below-mentioned whatsapp number / email)
- high confidentiality will be maintained by KSA.

Please contact us by:

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Email: kanarasaraswatassociation@gmail.com

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SUPRABHA PARTICIPATES IN THE WAR AGAINST COVID 19

While the nation went into lockdown to contain the spread of the COVID 19 pandemic, we at Suprabha, rolled up our sleeves and joined the battle against COVID 19. Not one to take things lying down, our CMD, Mr. Prabhakar Rao Bantwal, spearheaded our mission of making and donating PPE Kits. Under the expert guidance of experienced doctors at Sassoon General Hospital, Pune, we designed and manufactured excellent quality PPE Suits (Coveralls & Shoe Covers) to help the medical faculty combat the disease.

Suprabha donated 10,000 PPE Suits to Sassoon General Hospital and to various Police Stations as well as the District Administration, with the aim of protecting our frontline against the deadly virus.

Responding to the urgent need of the hour, our CMD, Mr. Prabhakar Bantwal, through his Charitable Trust, The Prabhakar Bantwal Foundation, also donated two Next Generation Fresenius Haemodialysis Machines 4008S to Sassoon General Hospital, to benefit ailing kidney patients who hail from the underprivileged sections of society.



Dialysis machine



Masks - Police Personnel Across City



PPE Kits - Bund Garden Police Station



PPE Kits - Muslim Chamber Of Commerce

20
MAY

HAPPY

Birthday



90



Smt. Mira Gurudas Masurkar

May your special day be filled with Sunshine, Smiles, Laughter and Love...
just what you have effortlessly given us for the past **90** years!!!
Wishing you many more years of good health and overwhelming happiness.

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Grandchildren:

Neeta, Sheila-Prashant, Amit-Aastha, Anirudh, Nikhil-Anjula, Namita-Mihir

Great-grandchildren:

Ojas, Vihaan, Vera, Aanya, Anaaya

**All her near and dear relatives and friends
Staff of Entod Pharmaceuticals Ltd.**

Why my 23-year-old Indian American daughter started paying Vantiga

NANDKISHORE KALAMBI, BOSTON, USA

#Covidtimes has brought families closer and created opportunities for us to bond by debate and discussion. One such opportunity came yesterday at lunch time when, as a family of three, we savored my wife's delectable Amchi cooking of *ambya sasam and sol kadi*. As we polished off the meal we marveled at the amazing diversity of our cuisine leading to a discussion on what really defines us as Amchi – our amazing cuisine, our unique language, and our rich customs.

Given that my Indian-American daughter, Anushri speaks mostly in English, largely depends on her mother for all Amchi dishes and has only a high level appreciation of our traditions, - the realization dawned on her that this could easily be lost for her future children. And then we reassured her that we always have our mothership – The Chitrapur Math – our ultimate home where all of this will still be preserved and protected. The fond memories of her visit to the Math during the NRI Shivir a few years back came flooding back. And so did the loving gaze of our Parampujya - Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji – which always fills us up with solace and comfort at all times.

Anushri has recently started working at a part time job and I gently broached the topic of Vantiga – an annual contribution for the upkeep of the Math. This year due to the COVID lockdown in India, it has become imperative to give the vantiga early to help tide over the situation. I was pleasantly surprised when she readily agreed not only to contribute but give even more than the 1% of annual income that is the tradition.

Our conversation then rambled into different aspects of being an Amchi, a lot of it drawn from the very detailed and thoughtful analysis of "The Chitrapur Saraswat Community" by Shrikant G Talageri*::

Our language – Konkani – has a unique flavor to it. Konkani is spoken all along the Konkani coast from Maharashtra to Kerala. For many years after the Indian independence Konkani was recognized as a dialect of the Marathi language even though Konkani is possibly an older language. This is well analyzed by Shrikant-mam in his piece. He explains how this language preserves words and phrases coming from the Vedic times, fuses many cultures and is possibly distinctive from all modern Indian languages. Our Konkani has progressed more through oral and aural traditions than a fixed written script. Anushri, a student of Classical Studies, has understood this well through ancient Greek and Roman literature which was based initially on oral/aural methods of transmission. In fact, the number of languages in the world today which do not have a defined script still number in thousands and there are only less than a hundred unique

scripted languages. These traditions allowed our language to evolve and expand through generations. Language is a form of expression of thought and its richness gives us glimpse of the depth and sophistication of our thinking, as a community.

Our cuisine – is equally distinctive and sophisticated. *RasChandrika*, our food encyclopedia has over 500 recipes and we know that we could be eating a new dish three meals a day, every day of the week, for an entire month and still not have to repeat it once. Our flavors and aromas are neither North Indian nor South Indian. They are distinctive from every other cuisine in India yet draw from many. Right from the simple daily fare of *dalitoya, batata song* to the more celebratory *ambya sasam, valia mbatta* and *madgane*– the range is staggering and designed uniquely for every mood, season, and occasion. Most of them require a lot of hard work in the kitchen, grinding coconut, fresh spices, and many ingredients. And even though these have given way to the easier options of general Indian and western cuisines in many Amchi homes – our traditional cuisine still rules the hearts and stomachs.

Our customs and heritage – we can still see glimpses of these in some festivals, weddings and ceremonies but otherwise many of them have faded out from our daily lives especially for those who live in more urban settings.

It is no wonder that the contribution of our miniscule community has far outweighed its size. We have produced movie icons like Guru Dutt, Deepika Padukone, world champions like Prakash Padukone and Arvind Savur, business leaders like Nandan Nilekani, military leaders like Air Chief Marshal Katre, musicians, writers...the list is long.

The repository of all this wealth - language, cuisine and traditions - is in our mothership - Shri Chitrapur Math in Shirali. It is our shared inheritance and we are blessed that it is growing – in size, influence, and contribution, thanks to the visionary leadership of our Paramapujya – Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji. Our Swamiji has modernized the Math, made it relevant for today's times and set it on a path of sustainable growth.

While the Math has always been our spiritual abode, it has focused itself on socio-economic development with sustainable practices. The 300-year-old Math complex has retained its original structures which have been restored painstakingly while expanding and adding modern facilities like guest houses, meditation center, a dairy, acres of organic farming and a museum filled with archaeological wonders. In addition, the Math has set up several entities which focus on sustainable development and upliftment of the underprivileged through

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

education, women's empowerment, and other social projects. We have recorded some of these experiences in a report on our visit to the NRI Shivir where we experienced some of these first hand turning out to be a truly transformative experience**. In the ongoing COVID19 lockdown the Math has again risen to the occasion and gone on overdrive to support the surrounding community.

Many aspects of this rich tradition and culture which make us one of the most accomplished, educated, and successful communities in the world are slowly fading. However regardless of whether one speaks Konkani, knows our cuisine, or is married to a non-Amchi – our Math has an inclusive and welcoming approach to all and that is biggest source of comfort.

Next morning, when I thanked Anushri for making the

decision to contribute to Vantiga, her response was heart-warming. She said, as she brewed her morning coffee, in her usual nonchalant way "Don't thank me...it is my duty... in fact now I am doubling my contribution". With that I felt a bit more reassured that the Amchi tradition in our family is in safe hands...

This is an opinion piece which is based on only my personal observations and experiences.

Bibliography:

1. "The Chitrapur Saraswat Community" by Shrikant G Talageri : www.talageri.blogspot.com
2. **A Transformative Experience – a report on the NRI Shivir <https://chitrapurmath.net/news/default/story?id=55>

Courtesy: Shri Chitrapur Math Shirali

The Boat of Life

Wave after wave rocks the boat of life
Some waves steer to safety
Some waves add to the chaos.

But the boatman must continue a relentless pursuit
Steering through the troubled waters
Steering to safety

Often the days are calm
The tempests few
Yet there are times
When the winds roar
The sky is overcast
The dark clouds hover

Those are the times when the inner fountain blooms
Sending forth cool breeze
Sprays of the nectar of positivity
It charges you up with unforeseen energy
To face the qualms of life
The almightys grace shines through every lil spring

Forget you do
But never ever does the Supreme Being
Repose your unstinted faith there
Do your best and worry not
No battle was won by gloom
Nor dejection, nor desperation
Chin up and pin up the smile
For all is not lost as yet

As long as there is faith
Trust THE ONE and ONLY
Lay down the yoke
Unburden in prayer and grace.

- Vanita Kumta

Laugh a While Limericks

(Composed by Gautam Nadkarni, Anandashram, Mumbai)

There was a young Hindu called Krrish,
Who said — of a girl — "What a dish!!"
Claimed a Briton, called Fred:
"You are out of your head...
I would rather have chips with my fish.

There was a young painter named Annie,
Whose talent in art was uncanny;
She brushed-in her teacher,
(Each noteworthy feature) ...
With a round and large protruding fanny.

There was once a young lad who loved biscuit;
If he did not have one, he would whisk-it;
They dubbed him a thief,
Which filled him with grief...
But he got over it — now he'll risk-it.

There was a bald fellow named Gope,
Who went for a haircut (some hope!);
They said (with a smile):
"Do wait for a while...
Till our man gets a large microscope."

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KSA – CSN – The Road Ahead

(Kanara Saraswat Association – Chitrapur Saraswat Network)

www.kanarasaraswat.com/csn

GAUTAM AMLADI & RAJIV KALLIANPUR

“The richest people in the world build networks; everyone else is trained to look for work”. - Robert Kiyosaki, American investor, businessman, self-help author, motivational speaker, financial literacy activist

Networking for Business has taken roots in India over the past decade with a number of platforms (including some community based ventures) providing entrepreneurs the opportunity to network and grow. A need was felt to facilitate Bhanaps to try and use such opportunities for mutual community benefit.

Thus was born the initiative of CSN, now KSA-CSN after KSA wholeheartedly adopted the initiative as one of its projects directed at community service. We would like to thank Praveen Kadle mam for this wholehearted support. Thanks is due to KSA committee for setting up a dedicated Task Force for CSN.

Thanks to Rajan Kalyanpur mam for spearheading the move to set up a dedicated website for CSN as indicated below:

www.kanarasaraswat.com/csn

This provides a Database where Bhanaps in Business/ Independent Professionals/ can register and post their details in the required fields.

Please register yourself on this database and also suggest to such of your relatives, Bhanap friends and associates who are in business/Independent Professionals to register themselves in the Database.

KSA-CSN will be popularizing this database and encouraging the Community to refer to this database whenever a product or service is required and to source from a fellow CSB, all other things being equal.

Hope you have registered by now. If this has somehow skipped your attention, you can still do it at your earliest convenience.

THE WAY FORWARD

A) MULAQATS – Interactions with Successful Bhanap personalities in fields of Business, Industry, Sports, Entertainment etc. CSN has already organized 3 “MULAKAT” meets with successful Bhanaps.

i) First Mulaqat was with Shri Durgesh Chandavarkar, a very successful entrepreneur of Standard Greases group, was conducted by Shri Uday Arur.

ii) Second Mulaqat was with Shri Prakash Padukone, noted badminton player and India’s first ALL England Badminton champion. KSA’s homegrown Sports Personality,

Shri Sunil Ullal conducted this event.

iii) Third session was with Praful Chandawarkar, promoter of the Malaka Spice chain of restaurants offering authentic Asian cuisine and active in a variety of business and charitable enterprises. A very dynamic and prolific personality, he was in conversation with Rahul Chandawarkar, our Ironman

We propose to hold more such events in the near future.

B) INTRODUCTORY MEETS

KSA-CSN will hold a series of introductory meetings once normalization is restored. The main purpose of these meetings will be to bring Bhanap employed and self-employed professionals / business persons on one platform and introduce the concept of KSA-CSN. These meetings will be a precursor to the eventual objective of forming Entrepreneur Clubs at various locations in Mumbai to start with and later in Pune, Bangalore, Mangalore.

C) ENTREPRENEUR CLUBS

Once we have the numbers, KSA-CSN proposes to start Entrepreneur Clubs, consisting of CSN members in geographical proximity who will meet at regular, pre-decided intervals, exchange information about each other, discuss & exchange business opportunities with fellow members. Each club will be managed by Club Leaders chosen from amongst members by the members.

D) KNOWLEDGE SESSIONS

Inviting Domain Experts for lectures in Seminars. Informative Articles in “The CSN Page” in KSA Magazine.

E) ADDITIONAL INITIATIVES

Outside of the above for facilitating feasible day to day contact/connect, we have initiated / continued the following options:

i) We have formed a Whatsapp group “Bhanap Professionals” (**for Bhanap Entrepreneurs and Self-employed professionals**-Professional is a person engaged or qualified in a profession). Presently this is an open group, but eventually will be restricted to CSN registered professional only. Members can interact and stay connected with each other on a regular basis.

ii) We have a FB group “CSN on the Web” (KSA-CSN on the Web” in its new avatar). This will also converge into an adjunct of our CSN database and will consist of CSN registered members only.

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

The above options can be used to

- ◆ Keep in touch with each other
- ◆ Set up 1-on-1 meetings with other members
- ◆ Post connects required
- ◆ Pass on connects to those requesting
- ◆ Post information about your product/services as per indicated guidelines.

If you wish to contribute in this space please send in an e-mail to rajiv.kallianpur@gmail.com or gautam.amladi@gmail.com

In case you wish to talk about and get to know more about CSN follow the 2 simple steps

- Register on CSN Database
- Call up any of us Rajiv Kallianpur (9821011667) or GautamAmladi (9821007190) or message on WhatsApp

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Sai Baba's Blessings

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

Gen B C Joshi, late Chief of Army Staff, when he was a Lt. Gen, soon after taking over the appointment of GOC-in-C Southern Command, decided to visit Bangalore. I was then, in the early 1990s, the Commander of Karnataka and Goa Sub Area. Gen Joshi was keen to visit Satya Sai Baba in Prashanti Nilayam which though located in Andhra Pradesh was more easily accessible by road from Bangalore.

We were fortunate to have the Commandant of the Pioneer Corps Training Centre in Bangalore, a Sikh Colonel, who was known to be an ardent follower of Satya Sai Baba.

He acted as the Sub Area emissary to Sai Baba who assured him that the Army Commander was "most welcome". However, the visit had to be called off at the last minute since the Defence Minister was suddenly visiting Jaipur and the Army Commander's presence was required there. The Army Commander's visit to Bangalore was postponed for later.

As the time for Gen. Joshi's next visit approached, I was rung up by his Military Assistant (MA) from Pune, emphasizing the importance of the visit to Prashanti Nilayam and more so it was imperative that the Army Commander gets a personal audience with Satya Sai Baba. A previous Army Commander had not succeeded in getting an audience with Sai Baba, he reminded me.

I apprised the MA of the procedure for interviews that was followed at Prashanti Nilayam. Sai Baba selected devotees for interview at random from the hundreds that sought his personal blessings. One had to have faith and if one was not selected it was to be believed that all was well with him and someone in greater distress needed Sai Baba's direct attention.

It fell upon me to advise the Army Commander that he and his wife should proceed to Prashanti Nilayam a day earlier and stay overnight. The Army Commander was reluctant to do so but finally agreed when I spelled out the advantages of following such a course mainly that their feedback system in the Ashram would inform Sai Baba of his presence and that heightened his chances of meeting His Holiness in person.

The next problem for me was to persuade Gen Joshi to make the trip in his official staff car. The Army Commander would have preferred to make a quiet visit without any fuss.

I assured the General that many ministers and high ranking officers frequently visited the place. There were proper arrangements for the guard and his staff to stay. The Army Commander was travelling within his own command, the place had been 'sanitized', his guard had been positioned and secure communications installed. Besides, the police of both states, Karnataka and Andhra had been alerted of his impending visit and they would be escorting the Army Commander's fleet of cars. Gen Joshi finally agreed to my recommendation and left with Mrs. Joshi for Prashanti Nilayam the previous afternoon. I said a silent prayer beseeching

God to ensure that all went well on this visit.

In the evening, I got a call from the MA saying that the Army Commander had asked him to convey to me that he was very happy with excellent arrangements made by the Sub Area at Prashanti Nilayam. God had evidently heard my prayers because the next morning, not only did the General and his wife have a private half-hour audience with Satya Sai Baba, but Baba materialized a diamond ring which he presented to the General. The Army Commander returned to Bangalore that same evening, euphoric after his triumphant visit.

The next morning the GOC-in-C was to play golf and have breakfast with the AOC-in-C Training Command, at the Air Force Golf Club. Soon after the foursome had teed off, I spotted a worried looking ADC hurrying towards me in the club house. Apparently General Joshi had taken off the ring given by Sai Baba to play golf and put it in his pocket but could not find it. He felt that he must have dropped it somewhere near the No.1 tee. The General desired that we look for it 'discreetly'. This was, as we say in the army, 'much of a muchness'. I was still deciding how to go about organising the job discreetly when a runner came up to inform me that the ring had been found. The General had wrapped it in his handkerchief and put it in his pocket. We all heaved a great sigh of relief.

The saga of the Sai Baba visit did not end there... A month later when Gen Joshi was in Delhi for a conference in Army headquarters, he was invited for dinner by Lt Gen R P Agarwal, Director General of Ordnance Services (DG OS), and my technical head, since I belong to the Army Ordnance Corps. Gen Agarwal's son was a young Captain in the Armoured Corps and happened to be General Joshi's ADC. After dinner Gen Joshi mentioned to the DG OS about his visit to Satya Sai Baba and his materializing the ring for him. Gen Agarwal who was also a Sai Baba devotee, said he had something special that he wanted Gen Joshi to hear. He played a cassette of high quality digital sound recording the bhajans sung by Sai Baba himself. Inevitably, Gen Joshi asked him from where he had obtained it. Gen Agarwal explained that after a visit to HAL and other PSUs in Bangalore, he had some time to spare and he made a quick visit to Sai Baba's ashram in Prashanti Nilayam; and mentioned that I had accompanied him. The cassette was a gift from my elder brother, Suresh, also a retired Ordnance officer who had served with him, and was after retirement staying permanently in Putta Parthi.

The next morning I got a call from the Army Commander from Delhi. He informed me that he had dinner with the DG OS the previous evening and he had heard the cassette that my brother had given him. He wanted a copy of the cassette. He insisted that he would pay for it. He sounded piqued that I had accompanied the DG OS to Prashanti Nilayam but had not accompanied him. I explained that Gen Agarwal's visit

had been fixed up by the Ordnance Directorate and HAL had directly fixed up everything. The Sub Area had hardly any responsibility. His visit to Prashanti Nilayam was also a spur of the moment thing. And since I was not busy with anything specifically, I accompanied him at his request, whereas the Army Commander's visit was an important official inspection for the Sub Area, covering several days. I had to per force remain in Bangalore so that I was available to my staff to coordinate and monitor the programme and give decisions

to ensure that the GOC-in-C's visit to Bangalore went off perfectly.

That satisfied the General's ego.

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.

Amchi Marriage Rituals - A Quiz

MANGALORE GOPALKRISHNA BHAT

How well do you know Amchi marriage ceremonies? Find out by taking this quiz. Choose the right option - a, b or c.

1. **Idragalsani**
 - a) Anointing the bride with haldi
 - b) Welcoming the bridegroom's party
 - c) A dish similar to talasani in wedding meals
2. **Udada muhurtu**
 - a) Marriage muhurtat
 - b) A cereal preparation
 - c) Grinding of udid by the bride/groom
3. **Vokkuli**
 - a) Ceremonial bath given to the bride
 - b) The bride and the groom search for the ring in a vessel filled with water
 - c) The bride/groom throw coloured water at each other
4. **The bride is brought to the mantap by the _____.**
 - a) father
 - b) maternal uncle
 - c) brother
5. **Kashi yatra**
 - a) Honeymoon in Varanasi
 - b) Bride's father going on a pilgrimage
 - c) The bridegroom play-acts going to Kashi and the bride's father restrains him by offering his daughter's hand in marriage
6. **Kanya daan**
 - a) The bride offers daan
 - b) The formal giving away of the bride to the groom
 - c) Pouring fresh milk into a vessel
7. **An ornament traditionally given to the bride by the groom's party**
 - a) Kashi taali
 - b) Vajra kutka
 - c) Mishra malle
8. **Who performs the kanya daan?**
 - a) The groom's parents
 - b) The bride's parents or a near relative as a proxy
 - c) The Purohit
9. **Antarpaat**
 - a) A cloth curtain held between the bride and the bridegroom
 - b) A silver vessel
 - c) A decoration for the mantap
10. **Laaja homa**
 - a) The blushing of the bride during the ceremony
 - b) A homa into which 'Lhayi' is offered by the couple
 - c) Gana homa
11. **Sapta padi**
 - a) The couple stepping into the mantap
 - b) They perform a jig around the mantap
 - c) They take seven steps around the sacred fire
12. **Who ties the toe-rings and to whom?**
 - a) Sisters to the groom
 - b) Brothers to the bride
 - c) Mother to the bride
13. **Baagil addanche**
 - a) The Purohit holds the curtain prior to muhurtat
 - b) The mother-in-law obstructs the door to the bride
 - c) The groom is blocked by his sisters
14. **A favourite dish in wedding feast**
 - a) Madgane
 - b) Pattoli
 - c) Fruit saasam
15. **Madhuparka**
 - a) Honeymoon
 - b) Offering of honey to the groom by father-in-law
 - c) A sweet dish
16. **Prekshaka anumantrana**
 - a) Addressing the gathering for their blessings for the marriage ceremony
 - b) Presenting gifts to the couple by the guests
 - c) Announcement to the guests to proceed for meals

ANSWERS

1 b 2 c 3 b 4 b 5 c 6 b 7 a 8 b 9 a
10 b 11 c 12 b 13 c 14 c 15 b 16 a

Rescue Flights and Green Carpets of Tea Bushes

KISHORE SUNDER RAO (AMEMBAL)

The screaming headline read '234 INDIANS RESCUED AND BROUGHT BACK TO INDIA!' - an all-too-familiar announcement in this day of the dreaded virus. Anything to get away, at any cost and with any means of transport, for those stranded far away from home. Technology and facilities have advanced so much and today huge C130 aircraft, the big jets of the Indian Air Force, and also large Air India commercial jets are on standby for these emergencies.

But this was not always the case and brought back memories of almost sixty years ago. In those days of small primitive aircraft, brave pilots, tough as nails, were the true pioneers. We in India had a breed of fliers who were adventurous and had the guts and the sheer will to place their lives at risk. Those were the days of the rugged Douglas

DC3 Dakotas—those wonderful aircrafts with just twenty-one seats and a more luxurious version with twenty-eight seats. Built from the mid-1930s onwards, they played a seminal role during the Second World War. Some of them are still flying and not all are relegated to an aviation museum. In India after the war, they were used for many years to reach the remotest parts of the country, those areas which otherwise could be reached only after trekking overland

for a couple of days. In the present Northeast region of the country, several parts of Assam which even today are almost unreachable were happily served by these sturdy war-horses.

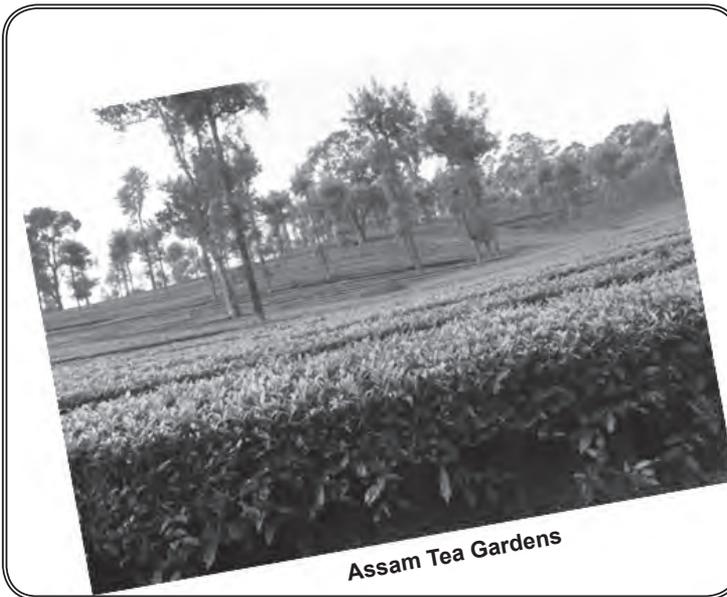
But, if these machines were so useful then, what about the men who flew them—those rugged, brave, pioneering pilots? Let me set the context for at

least one of the types of flying they did and you will get the answer. In those days, all supplies to most of the tea gardens in Assam had to be airlifted. The airports most suited for

this operation were in Calcutta (now Kolkata), at the one end, and the dirt airstrips at some of the tea gardens at the other. Four or five tea garden groups used to get together and make a 'kutchra' airstrip wherever they could find a suitable flat piece of land on one of the estates. There were three or four aviation companies, each owning



Kishore Sunder Rao (Amembal)



two or three DC3 Dakotas, which operated cargo services between Kolkata and the tea gardens. Supplies needed by the tea gardens used to be flown in from Kolkata and the return flights would carry tea to the tea-auction houses. There were no control towers or any other form of safety aids for these flights and if, because of bad weather, they could not land in the garden airfield, they just had to divert to another airfield or return to Kolkata.

Typically, the first flight from Kolkata took off from Dum Dum at 4 a.m. so that they could 'be visual' and land at the first tea

garden at day-break. Then on to another garden, and so on, till they came back to Kolkata to begin another sortie, often doing two, or sometimes even three, sorties per day.

Pilots (two of them, the captain and a co-pilot) would leave their homes at about 3 a.m. to take off at 4 a.m. and return home, dead tired, at about 7 p.m. they would then take a quick bath, have dinner and hit the bed by about 9 p.m. so that they could wake

up by 2.30 a.m. for a 3 a.m. departure from home.

There were no such things as duty time limitations as exist in present-day civil aviation. Most pilots would fly, everyday,



Douglas DC3 Dakota Aircraft

(Source: <https://hars.org.au/douglas-dc3-aka-c-47-dakota-skytrain-gooney-bird/>)

for six days a week and sometimes even seven days. In those days when the few charter companies and Indian Airlines formed the entire aviation scene in India jobs as pilots were not easy to get. Many young pilots began their flying careers in these companies until they got those attractive jobs in Indian Airlines. My brother (Amembal Manohar Rao—Capt. A. M. Rao) was one such adventurer and flew this sort of routine for many years. There were other 'Amchis' also who began their careers in this way and, without exception, I still think that every one of them risked their lives on a continuous basis and their flying was almost as risky as that of a fighter pilot in the thick of war.

My brother used to regale us younger siblings with many accounts of that type of flying—and now with the corona virus rescue stories—it brought back to me some of his experiences. In the 1962 Indo-China war (20 October to 21 November, 1962) there was a massive evacuation from the tea garden areas which very soon got transformed from peaceful gardens of green tea bushes to 'the front', with the Chinese barely half a day's march away from the airfield.

As could be expected, the plantation companies called for help and these intrepid fliers did many, many rescue sorties over a week. Most of the evacuees were tea garden staff and the earliest to leave were the British nationals who were the tea garden managers and assistant managers. In the hurry to get away, and be among the first to be flown out, they were told that they could carry no personal baggage so that one or two more passengers could be accommodated on each flight. There was, we heard, this one adamant, ruddy-faced and headstrong senior manager who brought along two cases of Scotch whisky which he wanted to take back to Kolkata. When my brother put his foot down and told him 'I'll take either you or your whisky', he carefully took out each bottle and smashed it to the ground muttering 'I'm not going to leave my good whisky for those bloody Chinks'.

Over the months of flying to these areas, my brother had got to know an elderly tea garden accountant hailing from Jaipur. He lived with his frail wife on the tea garden with his family living in Rajasthan. The elderly couple came to try and take a flight back but unfortunately that day, the tea garden management had decided that only women and children would be evacuated. When my brother told the couple this news, there was quiet uncertainty on their faces. They looked at each other, silently, and with tears in her eyes she told him, 'Main akelinahijaungi.' And so they both stayed back at the airstrip and waited to wave to my brother until he took off. After a couple of days, when it was decided that all the elderly men and women could board the plane, my brother noticed that only she came to the aircraft. When he asked after her husband, she told him, with sadness, that her husband had succumbed to a heart attack that same evening they were refused a seat.

But it is not only human life that the poor, innocent tea garden workers valued in those early days. There was one worker who would not go without his pet goat—that seemed

much better than wanting to take cases of Scotch whisky! This poor man begged my brother to allow him to take his goat along with him. When my brother patiently explained why that was not possible, he gently put his goat down, bent over and petted it and allowed it to run away. When he straightened himself, my brother noticed tears rolling down his cheeks.

It was not just my brother's—and surely other pilots'—human-interest stories about those pioneering days of flying that moved us. It was the sheer risks that these pilots took, all in the interests of servicing the needs of the tea industry. This is plain from how my brother answered my question of how many people his flights would have evacuated in those seven days. He said that the need of the hour was to get the people out. Many times, the aircraft would have more than the number it was licenced to carry. In those times compassion and urgency were more important than numbers mentioned in a manufacturer's flying manual. He said that there had been times when he ignored what a pilot calls the All Up Weight for Take Off. The poor people had to go and he said that he took off with a silent prayer and the sheer feel of the aircraft to lift-off as it rumbled along and gathered speed on that 'kutcha' air strip. Hats off to those early heroes!

The author is the Chairman of Indian Cancer Society and Karunashraya - Bangalore Hospice Trust. He can be contacted at Mobile no. 93419 68650 and kishorerao2007@gmail.com. www.karunashraya.org www.icsblr.org

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Pits And Falls

SHRIKALA KOWSHIK



This traditional game is at least a few thousand years old. To play this game, a wooden block is used that has either six or seven cavities. Cowrie shells or tamarind seed are used as chips or counters. The origin of this game is unknown but it is played in most Asian countries. It is

one of the variants of the traditional Mancala Game Boards, the oldest of which were found in a ruined fort of Roman Egypt and date back to the 4th century AD.

It is known by different names everywhere – In India it is known by the names Pallankuzhi in Tamil, Ali Guli Mane or Chennemane in Kannada. It is also known as Congka or Congklak in Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei, Sungkâ in the Philippines, Chonka in Sri Lanka, Bao in Kenya and Zanzibar etc. It is also the traditional game of Ghana where it is known by the name Oware.

It is an Indoor game enjoyed by everyone – from small kids to the old who are young at heart. **Pits and Falls** helps kids to learn to count, improve eye–hand coordination and concentration while playing.

Don't have this board? Don't worry, you can use cups, bowls or just draw circles on a paper and play it. This is how I remember we used to play when I was young.

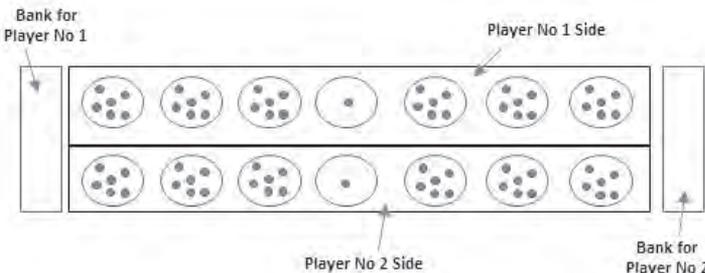


Fig 1: Diagrammatic representation of the board

- 1) As shown in Fig 1: Divide the chart paper into two exact halves and draw seven circles on each side.
- 2) Fill all the circles except the middle ones on each side with six counters each. Fill the middle circles with one counter each as shown in the above figure.
- 3) Since this is a two player game, any one of the player can decide to start first by either playing stone paper scissors or a coin toss.
- 4) The first player picks up the counters from one of these circles from her/his side only and moves clockwise

putting one counter in each circle. Wherever the player finishes the counters, she/he then picks up the counters from the circle next to where she/he had just finished. Thus, the player can continue playing in the opponent's side as well.

5) After placing the last of the counters, if he finds the next circle empty, the player reaps a bonanza by picking up all the counters from the circle next to the empty one and depositing in her/his bank.

6) If the circle next to the empty circle is also empty, the player retires without any rewards and the opponent gets a chance to play.

7) The second player picks up counters from any one of the circles on her/his side only and plays similarly.

8) Also note that when the counters are placed afresh in the empty circles and their total reaches four, the owner of the circle can reap them.

9) The first lap of the game ends when there are no more counters to be picked up from any of the circles by one of the players.

10) The game is played in many laps until one of the players has not reaped enough counters to fill at least one of his circles.

NOTE:

The players have to remove counters from their own side each time they start a turn. But they can continue removing the opponent's counters during the play till they come to an empty circle.

I have preserved the wooden board that me and my siblings and friends used to play with till date. My children enjoyed playing the game when they were small and now their children, i.e. my grandchildren love playing this game.

So dear parents and grandparents, keep up this traditional game alive by making your own boards and counters and enjoy!!!

(Pic Source: Chandamama)

Smt. Shrikala Kowshik (née Bailur), is a Sanskrit teacher associated with our Andheri Sabha by the grace of our Parmpujya Sadyojat Guru. Born in Sirsi, Karnataka, a place well-known for the famous Shri Marikamba Devi Temple, she learnt many traditional games and various forms of traditional art and craft from her grandmother. Her grandmother was a teacher as well. Her father, Late Shri Shridhar Sheshgiri Bailur was a freedom fighter and a writer/poet.

“Daiva (Bhoota)” - Worship in Coastal Karnataka

SATYANARAYAN PANDIT, ANDHERI, MUMBAI

The author presents to the readers a glimpse of the unique and rich culture and heritage of Tulu Nadu, which reflects devotion, worship and surrender to the Supreme Powers. He believes that when we get back to our roots, it will be interesting and desirable to familiarize ourselves with various facets of this part of “Parashurama Kshetr” where our forefathers lived, prayed and played a prominent role in the welfare of the society, in the years gone by.

Preamble: The coastal belt of Karnataka, comprising three districts- Dakshina Kannada (DK), Udupi and Uttara Kannada (UK) and Kasaragod Dist. of Kerala, is the land of our forefathers and our “Janma Bhoomi”. After migrating from Goa, they settled down here in the midst of lush green paddy fields, swaying coconut and arecanut palms, ever inviting Arabian Sea in the West and mighty Western Ghats in the East. This land is also known as “Parashurama Srishti”. History unfolds that our ancestors were devout, worshipped their family deities and offered prayers at the divine feet of our illustrious lineage of Parama Pujya Sadgurus and our ever protecting Lord Bhavanishankar enshrined in our holiest of holy *kshetras*-Shri Chitrapur Math, Shirali.

Our forefathers were ardent devotees of deities at the local temples and prominent shrines of the region. Besides, they also believed in “Daiva (Bhoota)” worship. Some of the households even had a “Daiva Sthana” or a “Daiva Pratima” in their property or in the neighbourhood. This article is a humble attempt to highlight salient features of “Daiva Aradhane” and also, to bring into focus, the rich and vibrant culture, heritage and tradition associated with this form of worship, for the benefit of our younger generation and for those who are not familiar with “Daiva” ethos.

“Daiva Aradhane” is very much prevalent in and stretches across DK, Udupi and part of Kasargod Dists. The local dialect is Tulu and the region, popularly known as “Tulu Nadu” (stretching from Mangalore to Kallianpur), is the domain of “Daiva Aradhane”. Apart from traditional worship of various deities at temples, the locals offer Prayers at “Daiva Sthanas”, which form an integral part of their day-to-day activities and endeavors.

What are “Daivas”?

A “Daiva” is a Spirit with super-natural and divine powers. It is a protective and guiding force for the locality and for those who believe in this form of worship. Daiva worship is unique, special and significant and has come through generations. *Daivasthanas* can be seen throughout Tulu Nadu region. In

villages, generally, each and every *Gutthu* House (traditional and time honoured, large houses inhabited by local chieftains or affluent families of Bunts Community) has a separate room for Daivas. In some households, one would find a “*Gudi*” outside with *Daiva* idol installed therein. One may also come across *Daiva* presence in the form of a carved pillar, a stone arch or a large rock located in paddy fields, forests or hilltops.

“Daiva” Worship

Unlike Temple rituals which are performed on a daily basis, *Daivaaradhane*, is observed, generally, once in a year and on a grand scale. Such worship in respect of most of the *Daivas* is known as “*Kola*” in Tulu Nadu. For some *Daivas*, the traditional rituals are governed by “*Shastras*” and are known as “*Nema*”. There are some other forms of worship, popularly known as – *Agelu*, *Tambila*, *Sirijatire* etc. In case of Ullalthe - a well-known *Daiva*, the annual ritual is known as “*Kajambu Jatire*” and for Lekkesiri, the rituals include “*Kenda Seve*”. In this instance, the *Daiva* impersonator treads over red hot burning charcoal!!



Kola or *Nema* is celebrated with much pomp and fanfare. It is a big occasion for the household, *Gutthu*, village or temple. The program spans the entire night and in some cases, involves “*utsava*”. Devotees assemble in large numbers, particularly, if it is a village or a temple event and partake in the Divine proceedings.

Various Forms of Daiva

While familiarizing ourselves with the culture and tradition of Tulu Nadu, with particular reference to *Daivas*, it is important and interesting to identify the different forms of *Daivas*:

1. *Daivas* with animal face – *Huli Daiva* or *Pili Chamundi* (with the face of a tiger), *Nandi-Kona* (Ox and He-buffalo), *Panjurli* (Wild boar) etc. come under this category.
2. Human forms transformed into *Daivas* after their supernatural and heroic deeds during their lifetime. *Koti-Chennaya* twins (also known as *Brahma Baidarkala*), *kalkuda-Kallurti*, *Kod-Dabbu*, *Koraga-Taniya* are categorized here.
3. *Gana-s* (entourage or retinue) of Lord Shiva and Devi Parvati, with a link to *Purana-s* (old Scriptures). These are considered as part of divinity and worshipped in “Vedic” tradition. Prominent *Gana-s* in this category are – *Kodamanthaya*, *Raktheshwari*, *Kaleeshwari*, *Jumadi* (or *Dhoomavati*), *Annappa Swamy*, *Guliga* and *Vishnumoorthi*. In our own community temples, *Daivas* are worshipped as “*Kshetra Rakshaka-s*” in at least two Temples. *Guliga* is the guardian angel at Shrimath Anantheshwar Temple, Vittal.

There are four *Gana*-s at Adi-Sthala, Vokkettur and one at Kumara Vana, near the temple. At Shri Umamaheshwar Temple, Kailaje (near Karkala), there are seven *Daivas* enshrined in a “*Gudi*”, within the temple precincts and one in the forest on the outskirts.

4. In several prominent non-Chitrapur Saraswat temples of DK Dist. dedicated to Lord Shiva and Devi Parvati, one comes across *Daiva* presence.

5. *Bramha-Rakshasa* shrines are also seen at some places in Tulu Nadu. These are yet another form of *Daiva*. There is a *Bramha Rakshasa Sthana* at Shrimath Anantheshwar Temple.

6. In UK Dist., one comes across shrines dedicated to *Chowndy*, *Jetka*, or *Masti*. These are also Spirits with “*Daivika Swaroopa*”. However, unlike the *Daivas* of Tulu Nadu, there is no tradition of offering annual *Kola* on *Nema* to these Spirits.

Daiva entities which are incarnations of the Supreme

1. In one of the most respected, highly revered and sacrosanct temples of DK Dist., Shri Manjunatheshwar Temple at Shri Dharmasthala, the guiding Spirits enshrined are four *Dharma-Daivas* and their vassal, Shri Annappa Swamy. Along with the principal deity, Shri Manjunatha Swamy, Devi Ammanavaruru and Lord Ganapathi, these *Dharma-Daivas* and Shri Annappa Swamy are worshipped daily. The annual celebration of the *Daivas* is known as “*Nemotsava*”, which is attended by thousands of devotees. Similar celebrations conducted on a much larger and highly spectacular scale and perhaps, the most important and sacred of all the festivities held in this *Kshetra*, is known as “*Maha Nadavali*”. This mega event is celebrated once in two decades - the last one was held in 2005.

2. Shri Bhairaveshwara, Bhairavanatha and Kala-Bhairava are also manifestations of Lord Shiva and their Shrines are popular places of worship in certain parts of Karnataka and Maharashtra.

Culture and Tradition of Daiva Worship in Tulu Nadu

While *Daiva*-worship is observed with great devotion, it also entails cultural significance. The *Kola* is celebrated by the village folk/farmers generally during the summers, an off-season for them, when they have some respite from their hectic schedule of farm work/harvesting. This period of three months is intended for relaxation and revelry. Apart from marriages, traditional carnivals such as *Kambala* (buffalo race) and *Koli Jooju* (cock-fight) are summer pastimes, which keep the farm folk engaged and enthralled. Yet another highly popular and rich form of traditional dance-drama is “*Yakshagana Bayalata*”, which the entire village populace enjoys during the summer months.

Salient Features of Kola/Nema

This is an eagerly awaited annual event. Hectic preparations are under way well in advance. The programme commences with the “*Daiva- Paatri*” or the Impersonator, inviting the Spirit on him (this is known as *Darshana*). In the initial phase, there is a brief dance session and introductory interaction with prominent members among the assembled devotees.

In the second phase, the *Daiva* Impersonator gets dressed up in the traditional format. The facial make-up, neatly aligned coconut palm leaves’ costume specially made for the event, the elaborate head-gear and in certain cases, a “*prabhavali*” on the back, look very colorful and majestic. All these are designed to inspire the audience with a sense of awe, respect and devotion. The pure and white betel flower (*bhingaru*) is the favorite with *Daivas* and used a lot. The ritualistic singing in Tulu (known as *Pad-Dana* and has come down through generations) and rhythmic dancing in line with the music and drum beats, keep the devotees mesmerized.

The final phase of the ritual is the dialogue between the leading personalities of the household, the village or the temple and the *Daiva* Impersonator, who becomes the medium through the *Daiva* projects Himself and dwells on the past, present and future. He becomes the “Protector of Truth and Dispenser of Justice” to the assembled devotees. He also provides solutions to the devotees’ problems and mitigates their sufferings. The “*Bhoota Kola*” is a huge spectacle of faith, devotion and tradition, much revered by the locals.

Source: Inputs from a reference book- “Dakshina Kannada-da Devalayagalu (in Kannada)” by Dr.P. N. Narasimhamurthy and Prof. Murlidhara Upadhyaya. The book is based on the extensive research and original script by the author’s teacher, late Dr. P. Gururaja Bhat and this write-up is a humble tribute to his memory.

(Pic courtesy: Tulu research & studies and Picuki.com)



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A Glimpse of Army Life

NAMITA HEBLE

It was the year 1997 when I got married to the “Olive Green”. After a long separation of 7 months I finally got to join my husband in what is known as “Modified” field posting. Modified field is a place with limited amenities and only a few families are allowed to be there for a period of one year on rotation basis.

Straight from the city of Mumbai, I went to Bangalore to my in-laws place and from there got launched to a place called New Mal in West Bengal. It was at the border of Nepal, Bhutan and China.

With stars in my eyes and a song in my heart, I got busy getting things together for my move. I shopped a lot in Mumbai to purchase fine things for the formal dinners we would have to host after my marriage. My in-laws set about preparing me for the Army life ahead. My father-in-law retired as an Air Vice Marshal. They had very sweetly kept their wooden boxes and trunks for their son. They packed things I would need. My mother-in-law gave me her extra dinner set, curios, tea set, paintings and many of her beautiful formal sarees. I was all set now to enter a new way of life.

When I landed at Bagdogra Airport my husband came to pick me up in a hired cab. We passed by the Teesta river and the roar of the cascading water was quite scary despite being an awesome sight. There was thick jungle on either side of the highway and absolutely no sign of any civilization. I began to wonder where we were heading to. Finally, we reached our Battalion and I was given a warm welcome by his fellow officers. They had organized a tea party for me. There was a lovely “Welcome Home” banner inside the house. My husband had done up the place by putting up two paintings and making an Indian style divan on the floor. We had two cane chairs and that was about it. It was a one-BHK with a tiny storeroom and a tin roof. We had a cement slab as the kitchen platform but no running water. Our windows had no bars on it and our main door was termite eaten. Despite that, I would religiously put a padlock on the door when I went to the weekly “HAAT” much to my husband’s amusement!

One evening, my husband regaled me with stories about the happenings there. He is a very jovial fellow and I never know when he is mentioning facts or pulling my leg. He told me that wild elephants were rampant in those parts and whenever the herd comes, they head straight for the CSD (Canteen Stores Department). It seems, they break the wall of the CSD and go straight for the liquor bottles and deftly knock out the cap and guzzle the liquor. They then leave the place in a highly intoxicated state and turn aggressive. I thought to myself that this is another one of his stories! Little did I know what was in store for me shortly.

Within two months of being there all officers went on a Military exercise and I was left alone out there. The only company I had there was my wonderful neighbour Mrs. Hansra

and her two young children. One night when I went to the kitchen to heat up my dinner I saw an elephant at my kitchen window—a massive tusker! It’s sheer magnificence had me rooted to the spot and I stood there spellbound looking at him. He could have easily put his trunk in and hauled me out, but he just stood there staring at me and chewing some leaves. In the meantime my neighbour let out a loud shriek, “Namita, *Haathi!*” Her house was completely surrounded by them. She had an Army phone and she called up some *jawans* and they came to our rescue in a 2.5 tonne vehicle. They revved up the engine and burnt *mashals* and finally the elephants left our place. We never imagined that they would head for our CSD. The elephants got tipsy on the liquor they had there and went on a rampage thereafter. They trampled to death 3 workers who were asleep in the fields and the entire place came to a standstill after that. The villagers went on a *dharna*, wanting justice from the forest department. All supplies coming in were barred and for many days we had no fresh vegetables or milk coming in and had just dry rations left with us. That is the time I felt proud to be an Amchi! We had a lot of Colocassia plants growing in the wild. I uprooted one and took out the root (*Maddi*) and made *phodis*. My neighbour looked at me dubiously. She was certain we would get poisoned if we had them. She made me have one first and after waiting a while she tasted it and actually liked it! She made *dal* and *rotis* and I made rice and the *phodis* and we had lunch together. On our evening walk I found *taikilo* growing on the side of the road and also *brahmi* leaves. My joy knew no bounds. I started plucking them. My husband’s buddy was there too with us for protection. The lady kept berating me, “*paagal ho gayi hai kya? Mat chuvo usko. Mar jayegi!*” I assured her that it is palatable. I had coconut at home so I made *taikilo phodis* and *ekpanne-chutney*. By then my husband’s buddy too thought that *Memsaab* has gone off her rocker. After mustering up some courage he told me that they have seen some pygmies coming after dusk and picking up such leaves. He too was apprehensive about having any of it but once he saw that I was still alive and kicking, he too happily had it. We had many more such adventures and I cherish the wonderful time that I had with my extended army family.

Namita Heble has done M.A. in Industrial Psychology from Mumbai University. She loves to read fiction, non-fiction, poems and haibuns too! Currently she is drawn to reading more of spiritual teachings which she tries to emulate in her life. Other passions include sketching, painting and trying out different kind of cuisine. In the army, she has done a lot of welfare work for the jawans’ families and in the civil area she has undertaken the work of setting up some enterprise for the below poverty level citizens. She can be contacted at 9552376927 and namitaheble@yahoo.com.

The Show Must Go On...!!

PREETI KODIKAL

The year 2020 was a special year for my husband – Kedar Kodikal and me, because we had been nominated as the Presidents of KAOCA for 2020! KAOCA is **Konkani Association Of California** – our beloved organization (you may even rightly call this, our extended family for the past 2.5 decades since we arrived in the US!) and we had several plans to make this year special for our 1000+ KAOCA members with several activities, events, get-togethers, programs, etc.

Kedar & Preeti Kodikal
Presidents, KAOCA

January and February were gracious enough to let us have fun community events such as:

- The Talent Show where about 300 KAOCA members showcased their various talents: singing, dances, mimicry, etc.

- Monthly Karaoke events
- Regular Yoga and Bollywood Dance classes
- Other wellness & fitness activities such as long and short hikes, biking, jogging, etc.

- “KAOCA Gurukul” classes that we started for KAOCA kids this year, where we teach our Aamchi kids all about our Konkani and Hindu history, mythology and culture, Prarthana, Stotras and Bhajans, Arts & Crafts, Indian festivals, conversing fluently in Konkani, etc.!

- Other major events planned for 2020 were: Holi, Ugadi, Sports Day, Indian Independence Day Parade, 3-day Camping, Dandia, Diwali and so many more!

In February, we all had excitedly

started preparing for the huge Ugadi event to be held in April. We had booked a dance studio over the weekends, where various KAOCA members and groups had started practicing different dances, skits, programs etc. for the magnificent Ugadi event, which was to be held in a HUGE 1000 capacity auditorium, where we had even worked with their stage management team to create a multitude of light and special effects. And while all this was in full swing...all our lives, as we have always known, came to a standstill (quite literally!) The Covid-19 pandemic was announced and shelter in place and social distancing was mandated. That meant that ALL the activities and programs had to be cancelled for almost the entire year – honestly, it



Kodikal Family



took us a few days to realize and digest this new reality!

But once the reality and seriousness of the situation had sunk in, we quickly changed gears. Our friends in KAOCA had to stay together as one large family, in spite of the social distancing guidelines. As



Om Namah Shivay Chanting 108 times
Conducted by Preeti Kodikal

When:
Every Tuesday & Thursday
Timing:
8 pm - 8:15 pm

(Note: Please join 5 mins in advance)

During these unprecedented, trying times, let us all come together as a family and meditate together with the all-powerful "Om Namah Shivay" chant 108 times - twice a week!

Let's gather virtually and gain some collective peace of mind and bliss through this powerful healing mantra.



Knitting Class!
By Sheela Kallianpur

During this shelter in place, learn a new skill with Sheela Kallianpur! Knitting!

When:
Alternate Sundays

Timing:
4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Interested participants please bring:

- A pair of knitting needles (size 7 or 8)
- A roll of soft wool (Suggested brands – available at Michaels.com: Caron, Lion Brand or Red Heart)
- Color of the wool yarn can be as per your taste – preferably a light color!



KAOCA MEDITATION

CONDUCTED BY:
RAMESH SHENOY

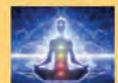
WHEN:
EVERY MON, WED, FRI

TIME:
8.00PM TO 8.30PM

Note: Please join 5 minutes early.

During these unprecedented, trying times, let us all come together as a family and meditate together

Let's gather virtually and gain some collective peace of mind



Presidents of this esteemed organization, we felt that it was our responsibility to ensure the physical, psychological and emotional well-being of our KAOCAnS. The togetherness of this tightly-knit organization is the strength that has kept us feel wanted, connected and happy for several decades now, and we wanted this KAOCA heritage to continue in spite of the social distancing mandates. We would like to humbly discuss some of the shelter-in-place initiatives (primarily online) that we have undertaken in the past few weeks to ensure that all KAOCA members – irrespective of their age, interests and backgrounds – are involved and feel connected:

1) **Volunteer program:** To help our elderly 60+ and/or immunocompromised with any errands or groceries, during the COVID-19 Quarantine.

2) **Weekend Online Gurukul class:** Kids enjoy learning about our Konkani and Hindu culture in the ONLINE Gurukul class and have started chanting stotras & bhajans, and performing “Om Namah Shivay” meditation regularly.

3) **Daily group Yoga Sessions** – led by Aruna Acharya

4) **Daily Ab Challenge Sessions** – led by Aruna Acharya

5) **Weekend Online Zumba** – led by Medha Acharya

1) **“Om Namah Shivay” Group Chanting 108 times**– led by Preeti Kodikal

2) **Weekend Knitting Class**– taught by Sheela

Kallianpur

3) **“Cake n Cupcakes Decorating with Ziploc bags” class** – led by Pranali Lad

4) **Weekend “Travel Diaries”:** Many KAOCAnS have traveled to some wonderful places around the US and also around the world and online “Travel Diaries” is a fantastic medium for them to share their experiences with fellow KAOCAnS. They can relive their moments and everyone can enjoy travelling with them ...from home!

5) **Monthly Prayer & Bhajan Evening:** where KAOCAnS come together and by singing bhajans, chanting prayers and stotras, they gain collective mental peace and pray for everyone’s well-being.

6) **Monthly Antakshari**

7) **Lockdown video contest** –creative and funny short videos with the theme: “how you and/or family are doing under this lockdown”!

8) **A. R .Rahman Nite**

9) **Lata Mangeshkar Nite**

10) **Kishore Kumar Nite**

11) **“Gaanvche Kanyo”:** stories about our “*gaanva*” (villages) and wonderful stories from back home in India, as retold by our maams, pacchis, ajjos and ajjis!

We are planning to have many more online events and activities in the coming weeks and months!



Aruna ki Karuna!!

DAILY Group CoronaYoga
...conducted by
Aruna Acharya!!

WHEN: Daily!!

TIMINGS:
10 am - 11 am (Weekdays)
8 am - 9 am (Weekends)

In these times of shelter in place, stay fit and keep in daily touch with your KAOCA friends daily!!

Everyone welcome - all ages!

Let's come together and remain healthy - physically, mentally and emotionally!



KAOCA ONLINE ZUMBA

...conducted by
Medha Acharya!

WHEN:
Every Saturday & Sunday!!

TIME:
9 am to 10 am

In these times of shelter in place, get together with your KAOCA friends during the weekends and STAY FIT !!

Everyone welcome - all ages!

Let's come together and remain healthy - physically, mentally and emotionally!

- 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.

In Loving Memory



Smt. Vijaya Mohan Kallyanpur

left for her heavenly abode
on Sunday, 19th April 2020
following a sudden and untimely demise
at Goregaon, Mumbai.

You are and will always be in our thoughts, memories & prayers.

*May Lord Bhavanishankar & our revered Guruparampara
bless the gentle, humble, loving soul with eternal peace.*

Deeply mourned and missed by:

Dr. Mohan (Satish) Rao Kallyanpur (husband)
Poornima, Sudhir, Purva & Pooja Kundaje
Pratima, Sharad, Devika & Sarika Karnad
Jaya, Parimal, Shreya & Siddhesh Kulkarni
and relatives & friends

~~~~~ Parisevanam ~~~~~

Aditya Chandavarkar - Chief Co-ordinator, Yuvadhara takes you through an annual round-up of the variety of activities that kept the growing number of Yuvadhara members

Busy and Happy!



RATHOTSAV

Yuva-s attend our beloved Rathotsav festival with a lot of excitement and with an intention of completely immersing themselves in the activities. Here you see yuva-s participating in the vagavesu during Mrigbete. (Photo credit: Dhrutiman Padubidri)



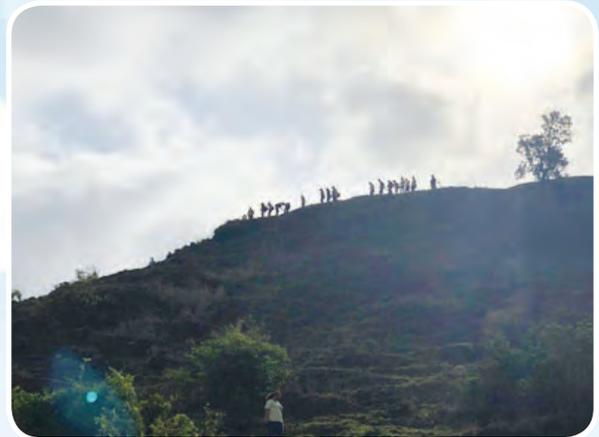
KARASEVA

Thirty five Yuva-s participated in Karaseva where they took part in various activities including performing Karaseva in Kembre, carpentry workshop and various sessions – Ninaad, Pranayama, Sanskrit Sambhashanam, Guruparampara Charitra Pathan, Gayatri Anushthana/Devi Anushthana, VCM presentation and others. They also got the divine opportunity to attend an interaction with Parama Pujya Swamiji. (Photo credit: Shivir Sanchalaks)



JANMOTSAVA

Yuva-s participate every year in large numbers on June 14 and 15 to offer seva and are a part of the celebrations during the Janmotsava celebrations. Here, some of the Yuva-s are seen participating in the palkhi utsav (Photo credit: Dhrutiman Padubidri)



YUVADHARA FITNESS CHALLENGE

The Yuvadhara Fitness Challenge was an activity which spanned three months where 101 yuva-s participated. As a culmination of the Yuvadhara Fitness Challenge, yuva-s participated in a trek on the morning of 16th June which was preceded by a session on Wim Hoff breathing technique (Photo credit: Chitrapur Yuvadhara)

Parisevanam



VITTAL SHASHTI

Yuva-s from Mangaluru, Bengaluru and Mumbai attend volunteer and offer bhajan seva at the Vittal Shashti every year. This photo captures one such occasion where yuva-s offered bhajan seva to Lord Anantheswar. (Photo Credit: Dhrutiman Padubidri)

DATTAJAYANTI

Dattajayanti brings together yuva-s from across different sabha-s and they offer their seva together and participate wholeheartedly in the week-long activities.



YUVADHARA VOLUNTEERING DURING SAMVIT SHIVIR IN SHIRALI

A wonderful Vimarsh session was conducted by yuvati Tejashree Bailur at Kembre for all the Shivarthi-s during the Shivir. Also, yuva-s from Mumbai and Bengaluru participated in the Shivir as volunteers in various areas like serving, Samvit Sudha counter, hall management, and so on. They got an opportunity to interact with the Taru-s and share experiences. (Photo Credit: Atul Rao)

YUVATHON

Yuvathon is an annual event done in a trek format held to commemorate the Guru Jyoti Pada Yatra. It was held for the eighth successive time on 23rd February. Thirty seven Yuva-s assembled in Karla Math on 22nd February for the trek on 23rd February morning. The trek started from a village called Taje near Karla Math, towards the 'Bhatrashi mountain'. The total distance traversed during this trek was approximately 11.5 kms. (Photo Credit: Dhrutiman Padubidri)

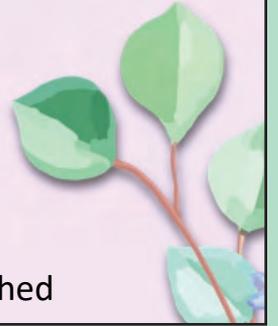


**Kombrabail Ramamurti Padmanabha Rao (Namu) of Surat, Gujarat
[Husband of Late Smt Nalini Ramamurti Rao (nee Marballi)]**



30-06-1931 to 03-04-2020

Deeply mourned by
Rajiv, Kalpana, Sohni – Prateek, Pranav
Vivek, Sadhana, Savni – Prateek, Ninad-Vishwa
Atul, Deepa, Aaditya
Raos, Marballis, Tallurs, Basrurs, Kaushiks,
Desais, Haldipurs, Shahs
And many more families & individuals whose lives he touched



MEERA GANESH PANDIT

19.05.1936 - 21.04.2020

You left without warning

Gone so fast

Now all we have are memories

Of the past



*Deeply missed and Fondly remembered by all those who knew her as Amma, Ammama,
Bayee, Tai, Akka, Mami, Pachi & Meera*

|| Om Shanti ||

**In Loving Memory of
SMT. REKHA RAVIKIRAN BALWALLY**

19th July 1949 to 3rd April 2020

Our mother Rekha Balwally breathed her last on 3 April 2020, after fighting a battle with lung fibrosis for 15+ years, with always a smile.



Our mother was a gentle soul with a positive attitude and a strong will power. Till her last days, she kept herself actively engaged in managing my late father's business along with my brother. We used to call her Super woman. She had many interests and in particular loved cooking & feeding guests, was fond of travelling & watching movies, listening to music, pampering her grandchildren and her favorite - meeting family & relatives.

I miss terribly, my daily morning 8:45 am calls to her on my way to work. My mother taught me to be a strong independent woman, as she led by example. She never let a bad situation turn her down and found good despite the conditions. Her two favorite sayings were "Everything happens for the good." (Sagle Baraykhatir jattah) And "Never Give Up".

Mummy was a person who was selfless, no matter her situation, she would always be there to lend a helping hand when needed. In the

last few years, you could see her in the evenings, with her oxygen kit & a wide smile chatting with her friends at Anandashram garden.

She has played a huge role in raising all the grandchildren. Her smile and voice of comfort is what we will miss the most. She has fought this battle hard and better than anyone could, fighting strong till her last breath. And she will never be forgotten. Her zest for life and her joyous personality will continue to live on though her grand-children.

The loss of a parent is irreplaceable but the belief that she is in a greater place, reunited with my father, is consoling. May your soul attain Sadgati.

Expressions by Rupa Balsekar

Will be greatly missed by her children
Rupa Balsekar and Omkar Balwally
Son-in-law: Shyam Balsekar
Daughter-in-law: Rutha Balwally
Grandchildren:
Aishwarya & Advait Balsekar
Aryaa & Kabir Balwally

Family Members
Balwallys, Balsekars, Balwallis, Hattangadis, Bijors
AND
Family and friends and every Staff and Office bearers of her company
Ramprabha Engineering Services Pvt Ltd
Sunbeam Enterprises

Personalia

Shreya Ajith Trikannad, daughter of Ajith and Radhika Trikannad, Mysore (granddaughter of Shalini and late Ram-mohan Trikannad and Shobha and late Ganesh Kalbag, Honnavar) completed her masters in Environmental Engineering from Delft University of Technology, Netherlands in



2019. During her MSc she had the honour of doing her research in an Indo Dutch collaboration project called LOTUS^{HR}(Local Treatment of Urban Sewage Streams for Healthy Reuse) which aimed at treating waste water from the Barapullah Drain in New Delhi to make it available for safe reuse. She worked closely with renowned institutes of India and Netherlands like IIT Delhi, TERI-The Energy and Resources Institute and TU Delft. Her research gained a lot

of recognition and she won the Gijs Oskam Award of 1250 euros for the best MSc thesis in the field of Urban water cycle in January 2020.

Soon after her MSc, she was offered a PhD position at TU Delft in the field of Drinking Water Treatment and the research is fully funded by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific

Research (NWO). Her research interest has an international orientation and focuses on the development of innovative and sustainable water technologies.

Alongside, Shreya is passionate about Hindustani classical music. She has been learning Sitar since 2008 from Pandit Saroj Mukherjee, a disciple of Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awardee Ustad Abdul Halim Jaffer Khan. She also loves singing light music and bhajans.

We congratulate Shreya for her various achievements and wish her good luck in all her future endeavours.



In General Body meeting held on 8th of March, in Panaji Shri Arun Ubhayakar was unanimously elected to be the President for All India Konkani Sammelan to be held in Malwan of Sindhurga district. Dates will be announced in future depending on orders of the Govt. and Corona situation.

A Place in Heaven.....

NINA RAO (BANGALORE)

“Every act of charity, every thought of sympathy, every action of help, every good deed, is taking so much of our self-importance away from our little selves.....”

So says Swami Vivekananda. Many of us may not understand the significance of this taking away of self-importance or of the little self.. And, indeed, most of us may not want to do it either. Be that as it may, all of us have experienced a sense of satisfaction, a glow in our hearts, on doing a kind deed. This recent upheaval, in the form of the virus, all over the world has devastated everyone and not one person is left untouched in some way or the other. While every country has its own tales of courage, despair and sorrow, for us in India probably the heart rending stories and images of the migrant labour is most traumatic. Is there even one person who has not wished he/she could do something to help, no matter how small the effort. This is about one such person, and the latest Vogue carries an article on her.

My cousin Deepa Tracy (nee Samsi) runs a hugely successful garment export business in Mumbai, Mantra Exports Pvt Ltd., which she started and has built up practically single handedly, a sort of rags to riches story. When the pandemic with its subsequent lockdown happened, Kishore suggested

she use her machines, now lying idle, to make masks or PPEs. No labour left in Mumbai, she said. Not one to sit idle, or not accept a challenge, she decided to do something else, possibly more noble. Under the aegis of her NGO Mantra Foundation, she set about organising food for daily wage earners, who were now stranded in the city with no money and no jobs. She launched covidreliefindia.org, a meal sponsorship donation program at

Rs. 40per person. She tied up with three kitchens in suburban Mumbai to make food packets. While the initial target was 1000 persons, today up to 8000 persons are being fed every day!

What immense satisfaction she must be getting! She says it has given a new meaning to her life, a life which hitherto was only for self and family.

I salute you Deepa! Your place in heaven is assured!

I began with a quote and will end with another one, again from Swami Vivekananda “they only live who live for others, the rest are more dead than alive.”



The Time of Your Life

INDU ASHOK GERSAPPE, BENGALURU

At the turn of the century, I phoned my niece for a favour, and she said, "Oh, sure! But I'm so busy now. No Time! Some time, later!"

And when I did not answer, she said, "Aunty, where are you? It is the New Millenium! Nobody has Time, nowadays!"

Oh really, when did this happen? I was not even aware of the changing situation!

Time has no beginning we can imagine and no end we can conceive. The Vedas proclaim that "Time" and "Space" are essential dimensions of creation. There is no such thing as Time, there is only Eternity! Then, how did the Idea of Time become so important to us?

For us living beings, everything is now, everything is here. Time is endless... as if we are standing in a river of moving waters. This continuous flow reminds us that a moment gone is a moment lost, and yet we are assured of new moments. In the words of Kalidasa, where he stresses the importance of the present Time, "Yesterday is but a dream and tomorrow is only a vision, yet today well-lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and tomorrow a vision of hope." If we act well in our present NOW, we will then have a glorious Past and a promising Future!

How did Time come to be? At first, it was the "day" and "night" which influenced human movements. They worked when it was light and rested when darkness fell. Later, the movements of the Sun controlled their movements. Then, came the inventions of measuring Time; clocks and calendars, which divided Time into Units of seconds, minutes, hours, months and years. Although done to help our activities, they now control our very lives, leaving us breathless! Well, this, according to me, is the Quantity of Time! What about the Quality? How do we make the best use of our Time? Time has a wonderful way of showing us what really matters!

The secret to success, they say, is Time Management. From corporate offices to housewives, everybody is busy making time schedules. As children, we too had time-tables in school, but now, parents make elaborate time schedules to fit in their children's activities in the given time, so that no Time is wasted. Yes, idle minds are devil's workshops. Yet, when do these kids have Time to themselves? Remember those lazy, summer afternoons, when we spent Time gazing at the clouds in the sky, daydreaming or playing on the beach? Wasting Time? No, it is such moments that help us to find our individual selves, to dream, to imagine, to think...

Lin Yutang proclaims that the Art of doing Nothing for some period, nourishes your soul! In his words, "If you have spent an afternoon, doing perfectly nothing, then you have learnt the Art of Living". Yes, that's when your mind starts to think! These are imaginative, creative, problem-solving moments. Idle versus busy? No, a good blend of both is advisable. Strangely enough, working without worrying, makes you work better! *Sosegado*, as they say in Goa! Do your work in a relaxed manner. Relax! What's the hurry?

Of course, we realize that we cannot afford to dawdle around and that we should make the most of the Time given to us. Yet this "Digital Age" seems more like the "Age of Anxiety"! Look around you! People will be rushing around, muttering, fingers furiously fiddling with their phones... In the Maximum City of Mumbai, everyone is hurrying, every moment is important; even the suburban trains tell you that! Ask anyone to do something for you, and he will say there's no time. NO TIME is the modern Mantra! So, we try to cram more into our lives. People have taken to multi-tasking, like driving while holding a video conference, cooking and working. By the way, ask mothers! They have been multi-tasking for ages! Yet, research has shown that one job done at a time, gives much better results. When multi-tasking, actually the mind is flipping back and forth and thus it takes longer to complete a job well. Besides, the overload brings on mental and physical stress, too.

Actually, "No Time!" is a convenient way for getting out of jobs we don't particularly want to do. Remember, when Grandma wants you to do that one important thing, you are so busy doing umpteen unimportant things, you said you have "No Time!" Oh, how we love our busyness! When I ask my neighbour's little three year old, "Will you come to our house"? she answers, "*Time nahi! Bahut kaamhai!*" How we love to say, "I'm busy!"

No Time to relax, No Time to smell the flowers, No Time to think.....! Consider our ancestors, who led a simple yet relaxed life. They too, had hard manual work and the women in the kitchens had to undergo never-ending, back-breaking work, from grinding masala to drawing water from the well. Today, gadgets have been invented to make your work easy as well as fast and now, housewives have machines that work at the press of a button. And yet we keep saying we have No Time! Technology has even invented robots to do our thinking! Artificial Intelligence! Are we doing the right thing by replacing ourselves? The very fundamental skill of thinking is being challenged. Nobody bothers to learn Mathematical tables like we did! They even write shortforms like "gr8" for "great" and "urs" for "yours"! Once I found myself arguing with a little boy about the spelling of "Before" as "B4!" LOL!

So much time saved and yet we say, "No Time!" 24 hours are not enough! What are we doing with the Time saved? Why, we now have time-wasters like mindless T.V. watching and constant cell-phone fiddling! There are Time-pass films, Time-pass Jokes, Time-pass Snacks! Once, I heard a boy selling "Time-pass, Time-pass!" Then I realized he was selling salted groundnuts! Now, the Social Media has invaded our lives, stealing away our Time, creating a bubble around us, away from our real social circle. So, in this Age of Communication, we are losing touch with our own people! I wish the kids would come out of their virtual world and recognize the living, throbbing world around them. Life moves on and if you don't stop and look at the wonders of the world, you

will miss Life altogether.

Thankfully, nowadays, we have become more aware and we are recognizing the true value of Time. Finding ourselves in a state of frenetic activity, we realize that it is more or less like a merry-go-round, taking us nowhere in particular. Instead of reducing Time to Mathematical units or Quantity, we should experience the Quality of Time, as in listening to music or meditation or spending Quality Time with our loved ones. Remember Einstein's Theory? Yes, we all want Time to last, yet "Good Times" pass so quickly! If you want to show your kids, the rainbow in the sky or the butterfly at the window, will it wait for you, until you finish that para on your computer? We need to understand the nature of this priceless commodity called Time! The Message is clear! Time does not walk with you; you have to walk with Time!

The world has never been so exciting, so intriguing, so inspiring! NOW is the Time! We have been given a precious quota of Time to live. Not a moment more, not a moment less! So, let's make the most of it! The Key Word is Prioritize! First, do all those things that you have to do; fulfil your duties. Then,

do all those things that you have been putting off, saying, "NO TIME"! Go see your parents, phone a friend, visit a sick relative or an old teacher, play with your kids ... Find Time to smell the flowers, to smile at a stranger! At the same time, don't neglect yourself! Relax, pause for a while! Sit with a cup of Coffee, chat with your friends, take that long-deserved holiday! Take time to listen to your inner voice.

Time passes you say? No, it is we who pass! Time stays. So, make good use of this priceless commodity gifted to you! You have to "Make Time" for things you really want to do! I am old enough to realise how little I have done in so much Time and ... how much I have to do in so little!

So, now is the Time... let us make a commitment to reach out to the needy, the unfortunate, to share your resources, to bring a smile on a girl child's face, to wipe a tear, and in short, to make the world a better place than what it is! In the words of Kahlil Gibran, "It is only when you give of yourself that you truly give". No amount of money or gifts will compensate for the valuable Time you spend with your loved ones. So, understanding its importance, let's have the Time of our Life!

Log on to the Comfort Zone

SATSANG: Swami Sukhbodhanand

CONTRIBUTED BY GURUDUTT B BALWALLI, HUBLI

1. What is the secret behind successful marriages?

One has to learn the art of commitment and not complain. Marriage works when there is commitment, but most marriages fail as they get blown apart by complaints. Then, everyone has comfort or discomfort zones. Learn initially to avoid discomfort zone and log on to the comfort zone. Don't let expectations control your lives, but learn to give in a relationship more than you demand or beg from relationship.

One has to learn to adjust wisely. Don't treat anything as a problem, but an issue to handle. Learn to accept things and improve on things. Learn the art of empowering and beautifying the setup. Treat it as a fun and not as a social obligation, but a social challenge. Don't look only at equal rights, but also at duties to be fulfilled

2. What should a couple avoid to build a successful marriage?

One has to be aware of the fact that there will be differences in a relationship, which is indeed natural. Don't treat that as a conflict. If you treat it as a conflict, there is pain. Then you hold on to this pain and go on brooding over it. Then it increases and you start maintaining an internal account of hurt. This will slowly lead to settling scores. Be aware of this pattern.

3. A wife gets upset when her husband listens to his mother and ignores wife's feelings. His mother gets upset when he listens to wife. How is this to be handled?

First, one should understand "hurt or upset whether you

justify it or not is self damaging". When one is upset psychologically, a hurt body is created. Then one looks from the hurt and in this one's subjective projection starts operating. All this messes up the way one looks at a situation. With this understanding and alertness, people should share more with their close ones. Please look at their sharing as a part of them releasing tensions. One should have an outlet to release one's tension. When a hurt centre is created, it messes up things and when you source yourself some wisdom, it clears up.

4. Youngsters tend to think there are more challenges to marriage than good times. There is very little tolerance or adjustments. How can parents help?

Parents should understand that youngsters have two needs. Security need and Insecurity need. There is a need for insecurity also.... Adventure, challenges, taking risk and that is a need which one has to address wisely. As one grows old, one's need is leaning more towards security and being settled, isn't it? Look at life deeply and you will find these things happening to us. But most of us do not look at life deeply since one is lost in one's wants and do not take time to see the ground realities in which one's life operates. Youngsters do need a certain amount of excitement, but it should be balanced with peace. Harmonising these opposites is a wise act. More than changing their mindset, let parents balance their inner energies. Then one's being speaks louder than words.

Internet of Things: The Next Horizon?

SIDDHARTH TALAWADEKAR

If you'd asked me twenty years ago what I wanted to be when I was older, I would likely have told you I wanted to be a pilot or an astronaut. As I grew older, my dreams became more practical and I decided I wanted to be an engineer or a doctor, a CA or a lawyer... or a researcher perhaps. I imagined I'd pursue a career in my chosen field, feverishly working on robotic contraptions or performing life-saving surgeries, or acutely tallying balance sheets and netting my company millions of dollars in savings. Never in my wildest dreams would I have imagined I would wind up in a field as outlandishly named as the **Internet of Things (IoT)**. But wind up I did on a cold January morning earlier this year.

Barring the actual work that I do, I'd say demystifying the term IoT to bewildered friends and acquaintances remains my mightiest feat yet. Because for whatever reason and by popular opinion, IoT continues to conjure a picture of grizzly green aliens accessing an internet connection from various corners of the universe. But no. While aliens unfortunately don't feature in my job description, the work that I do does come close as far as science and technology go. Before I take you through what I actually do, let me give you a little backstory of my life.

I was born in Mumbai and raised in Thane in a friendly neighbourhood where everyone knew everyone and it was customary to peep into your neighbour's for a teaspoon or two of sugar or oil. All through school, I cycled through a list of career aspirations, finally settling on mechanical engineering when I was old enough to make a choice. I completed my BTech (Mech) from VJTI, Mumbai in 2008 and landed a campus placement in international marketing at Thermax in Pune. That job gave me the foundation I needed to decide on a lifelong career in marketing and sales. And so, in a bid to achieve the quintessential marketing dream, I went on to do my MBA in marketing from Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, Pune. I graduated in 2012 with a degree and a better half (Vaishnavi Nayel, who would go on to become my wife). While I joined Airtel as a management trainee and was placed in Indore, Vaishnavi clinched a job at Vodafone and was stationed in Chandigarh (that was the real telecom consolidation). Alas, it was as if the universe had conspired to push us to two corners of the country that couldn't have been worse connected. Enter Haryana Transport buses and super-saver flights, and a resolve to meet at least once a month.

We were determined to trump the distance. And it paid off. On 15th December 2014, after a gazillion long-distance phone calls and countless round trips to see each other, Vaishnavi and I got married. By then, I had completed a year long sales, distribution and marketing stint in Airtel's consumer division at Indore and its peripheral rural catchment. However, within a matter of 6 months, I realised I was better suited for B2B (in

light of my past experience at Thermax). And so, I decided to make a switch and moved to Bangalore to work as a Key Account Manager (KAM) in Airtel's B2B division (called Airtel Business). Vaishnavi had completed a management trainee stint in Chandigarh and Bangalore, followed by an eighteen-month SME sales stint in Ahmedabad. We were pretty thrilled to finally be in the same city!

In 2016, after having worked as a KAM for a couple of years, I was promoted as a Regional Business Manager in Airtel Business in Bangalore where I got to lead the business for the IT/ITeSandstartup verticals with a collective portfolio worth \$50Mn. In this role, I got good exposure as I worked on and led a team of Account Managers managing revenues from large global accounts like Dell, Cisco, HP, Daimler and Fidelity, and start-ups like Ola, Uber, BigBasket, etc. Here, I was primarily responsible for growing revenues for Airtel's B2B products and solutions, including Data center & Cloud, Connectivity & Network Integration, Collaboration, IoT and Cyber Security.

In December 2018, my tryst with Bangalore ended (much to the dismay of my true-blue Bangalorean wife) when I moved as the Business Development Head of IoT at the Airtel headquarters in Gurgaon. At the time, Vaishnavi was expecting our son, Aarin, and joined me a little after Diwali.

IoT has been a world unto its own, where I've been lucky to work on novel strategic projects with prominent clients. Let me try to explain IoT in a simply and non-technical way. The Internet of Things is actually a pretty simple concept. **It means taking all the things in the world and connecting them to the internet to get actionable insights.** When something is connected to the internet, it means that it can send information or receive information, or both.



IoT Network

Sensors are devices which are used to collect and send information. Sensors could be temperature sensors, motion

sensors, moisture sensors, air quality sensors, light sensors, to name a few. These sensors, along with a connection, allow us to automatically collect information from the environment which, in turn, allows us to make more intelligent decisions.

For example, on a farm, automatically getting information about the soil moisture can tell farmers exactly when their crops need to be watered. Instead of watering too much (which can be an expensive over-use of irrigation systems and environmentally wasteful) or watering too little (which can be an expensive loss of crops), the farmer can ensure that crops get exactly the right amount of water. More money for farmers and more food for the world!

Just as our sight, hearing, smell, touch, and taste allow us, humans, to make sense of the world, sensors allow machines to make sense of the world.

The real power of IoT is unleashed when you can do this for a lot of other machines to improve efficiency. For example, with IoT, you can turn on the AC in your Gurgaon home from halfway across the world, or track your car's oil and tyre pressure levels, and set up servicing reminders based on certain car parameters, well in advance. The MG Hector which was recently launched is one such example of a connected car which works on 4G connectivity.

It can also mean installing GPS asset trackers in a shipment, which helps logistics companies know the location

of the shipment at any given point of time and see if the shipment box was opened (using a light sensor), whether it was transported at the right temperature and humidity conditions (using temperature and humidity sensors), whether there was pilferage due to stoppage (using a motion sensor and GPS), etc. It also helps insurance companies safeguard the shipment, thus ensuring the number of insurance claims reduce, saving them money. The possibilities are endless. IoT is applicable to every domain from agriculture to automobiles, FMCG and FMCD to logistics and insurance.

In my role, I lead a team that works on delivering IoT ecosystems to clients for optimised productivity, quicker turn arounds and more efficient supply chains.

IoT has been an enriching experience and has paved the way for me to explore exciting avenues in technology in the coming years. Just like the little boy who couldn't have predicted what or where he'd be in twenty years, I don't know what the next ten years hold. As long as I am learning as I go along, and make memories on the way, I'll be a happy camper.

Siddharth Talawadkar is the Business Development Head for IoT (Internet of Things) at the Airtel headquarters. He lives in Gurgaon with his wife, Vaishnavi (Nayel) and infant son, Aarin. He can be contacted at tsid47@gmail.com.

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Of My Grandmother, Kumud Nayel

VAISHNAVI NAYEL TALAWADEKAR

One of my earliest memories of my grandmother dates back to a hot, sultry Delhi afternoon in 1993. We had set out early that day for her weekly cold wax deliveries, and despite the unsparing summer sun looming dangerously overhead, certain to transform our sky blue Omni into a fiery kiln, I was dizzy with excitement at the thought of tagging along. For client visits with my grandmother meant glittery high-end salons (saloons they were called in those days; the word has a whole different meaning now), the occasional pit stop at Nirula's, and almost always, a slice of chocolate truffle cake at The Oberoi (my favourite among her clients for obvious reasons).

Mummy hadn't always sold cold wax. After graduating with a BA (Honours) in English Literature from Wilson College, Bombay, shortly before her marriage, she had worked in the Pay and Accounts Office of the Maharashtra Government. And then, during my grandfather's Air Force posting in Ambala, as a much-loved school teacher at Convent of Jesus and Mary, where she learned environmental teaching methods from a Sister Gerard. All this, in addition, of course, to raising her two little boys. Then, some years after the family's move to New Delhi, she became the principal of a charming little neighbourhood playschool-cum-nursery.

My grandmother was a gifted business woman with a flair for easy conversation. And though she had always had an inherent entrepreneurial adroitness, she only channelled her interest after settling in Delhi in 1974. I suppose her spirit was so brimful of saved-up energy that her business was bound to be wildly successful—and it was. With a formula she had inherited from her own cosmetician-to-the-stars mother (who catered to the likes of Nargis, Simi Garewal and more), she set about building a cosmetic cold wax business at the age of 39.

Make no mistake, this was no ordinary cold wax. It was a golden formula that her mother had painstakingly perfected, and one which was hotly coveted among celebrities and big beauty brands alike. Word has it that Muktaben, as her mother had come to be called (Tardeo was a Gujarati stronghold where everyone was a ben or bhai), had been repeatedly implored by a leading beauty brand to sell them the top-secret formula, so that they could patent it and produce it in-house. She, of course, guffawed at the proposition. After all, this was a family treasure to be handed down to her daughters.

Mummy ran her business successfully for several decades, garnering a sizable share in Delhi's premium cold wax market. But business was a distant thought when she was in the company of her grandchildren, and she squandered no opportunity to fill their hearts and their bellies with her rare brand of warmth. She would fashion menu cards and wait on us restaurant-style, doffing her hat and conjuring up pint-sized gastronomic feasts. Her homemade gadbad sundaes and continental vegetable bakes, in particular, were pure magic.

In addition to her various roles, she had also gained recognition as an acclaimed writer, having authored articles for Times of India, Femina, Eve's Weekly, Women's Era and Filmfare, amongst other national publications; and as a composer, having written and set the melody to her own repertoire of bhajans. Mummy was a proficient harmonium player and her literary talent and musical skills often went hand in hand. Her accompaniment on the harmonium during the Mata Ki Chowkis I often accompanied her to, and the annual Janmashtami performances she conceived and orchestrated reflected her extraordinary flair for the arts. As a child, she had acted in a Kannada film called 'Chandrasah', so years later, in the late 1970s, it was no surprise that her inner dramatist found garrulous expression in a plethora of Konkani Association plays.

When I was 13, I had the opportunity to live with my grandparents in Bangalore, having moved to the city ahead of my parents. Needless to say, I was thrilled at the prospect of being reunited with them for the long haul (we had lived overseas and away from them for seven years). I awaited the end of each schoolday with bated breath, fervently pondering what tea time delight Mummy could have waiting for me back home. Cooking was—and continues to be—one of her great many passions, and let's just say, the more she loves you, the more overweight you are likely to be.

This year, on 11th May 2020, she celebrates her 85th birthday. And as we hunker down under lockdown, safe inside our respective homes, the virtual celebrations continue—with a trusty Wi-Fi connection, a good Mummy-approved vegetable bake and some homemade sundaes.



Once upon ... a Desert – Part 2

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... (Cont'd)

The Shoppers' paradise city - DUBAI:

Bur Dubai: We had a beautiful bus ride from Sharjah to Bur Dubai. It is old Dubai, full of shops mainly, jewellery and clothing. Huge billboards of Kalyan Jewellers etc. made us feel at home. There is a **Dubai Museum** here. It features actual huts, water wells, boats & weapons used by the ancient nomadic people of Dubai. In the basement, there is a huge place where ship building of the olden times is shown. There are life size models of teachers, families, houses, pearl merchants etc. Digital counters are also available giving details of the pet animals of the nomads.

At a walking distance from the museum is a Mosque, Shri Krishna temple, Saibaba temple and a Gurudwara adjacent to each other. As a token of gratitude to the Hindus who have played a key role in the development of Dubai, the Sheikh has allotted space for these temples.

Global Village: It is a majestic fair held during the period January-March every year. There are huge pavilions for each participating nation. There were about 70 pavilions this year. Each nation showcases their handicrafts, clothes, leather work, local food items, agricultural produce and many more things in their stalls. We could taste Syrian tea served by typically dressed gentleman, boiled potato and *Phalaphal* (similar to our *Appay*) from Turkey pavilion. Every evening, there are cultural programmes from different nations. There is also a mini-train, dancing fountains and a gondola ride here. A single trip here is not enough to do justice to all the pavilions.

IBN Battuta Mall: Ibn Battuta was a traveller who visited almost all the parts of the world. This mall is a tribute to him and contains various zones of countries where he visited. Each zone depicts the lifestyle, architecture, housing patterns, and other distinct features of that nation. Indian stall contains a working clock, in shape of full-size royal elephant. The movements of the mahout and the king are as per the clock. This mall is an architectural marvel and we can feel that we are travelling back in time to the particular place, as we move across the zones.

Kids Park: It has a large gaming zone for children, a beautiful view of the Corniche and a dolphin park with a special show, where seals and dolphins show their skills as per the trainer's instructions. It is a great hit with the kids and grownups alike.

Mall of the Emirates: It is a gigantic mall with over 535 stores and 95 restaurants & cafes, two luxury hotels and much more. The parking lot is spread over 3 storeys. The key attractions are:

a) Fashion: World's renowned 80 designer stores are available.

b) Ski Dubai: There is an area covered with glass and replicates the sub-zero Arctic temperatures inside. People can wear special gear and enjoy the snow. Warm clothes & skiing equipment are available on rent. People can experience life on poles with penguins nearby and skiing etc.

c) Amusement Park: Largest indoor amusement park where all types of sports from bumper cars to bowling, pool tables etc. are available.

d) Hotels: Two 5-star hotels Sheraton and Kempinski are available. 95 restaurants and cafes offer food from almost all parts of the world.

e) DUCTAC: Dubai Community Theatre and Arts Centre. It has a fully equipped studio, art gallery and art classrooms.

Miracle Garden: This is a resplendent green area in the middle of a desert. You can see various arrangements made of trees and flowers. A mini train, limousine, SUVs partly buried in the ground, inverted houses covered with flowers, a large clock, Scandinavian houses, and model of Eiffel Tower, all made of flowers. It remains under maintenance for half of the year during severe heat & is rebuilt again every year. It is indeed a miracle.

Palm Island Jumeirah / Marina: Sheikh of Dubai has done some unimaginable things like Burj Khalifa. The Palm Island is another such wonder. Land filling was done in the sea in the shape of palm leaf. On the offshoots of the main trunk, multi-storied buildings and colonies are being constructed. At the tip called Crescent is the Hotel Atlantis. It is reachable either by tram, where we can have a beautiful view of sea on both sides or by road through an under-sea tunnel, which is about 4Kms. long.

Hotel Atlantis: This is the hotel most of us would remember seeing in the recent Bollywood flick Happy New Year. The ground floor has an exotic place called **Lost Chambers**, which makes us feel as if we are inside a Spielberg movie. It is an aquarium full of the most exquisite marine life swimming on the other side of a glass barrier. A huge glass tank of about 2 storey height full with water contains lot many aquatic animals including ray fish and sharks. A splendid place and a must visit for all.

There is a boat ride which took us from Marina to Hotel Atlantis and back. On the way we could get splendid view sky-scrapers many of them are 100-storeyed.

AL SHARJAH:

The first thing that strikes us about Sharjah is that there are a lot of Indians here. Almost all the household things that Indians like to have in their home & cuisine are available

here. The place has many economical shopping outlets selling miscellaneous goods at less than 10 AED. There are many shops selling reasonably priced chocolates and nuts, which are a good option for tourists. There is also a dedicated shopping complex for Gold & Silver called the **Gold Souk & Silver Souk**, where most of the shops are managed by Indians.

Sharjah also has a distinct way in which the market layout is designed. An area has a lot of shops pertaining to a particular need. There are special areas for hardware, electronics, garments, vegetables, gold and eating outlets. There is an entire road with eateries, cafes & restaurants on both sides of the road. There is a choice of options from Afghani to Thai and Egyptian to Chinese and American. There is a huge Fish market in Sharjah, where one can find almost all the edible marine life on this planet. One good and economical way to explore the city is by the local bus.

Qanat Al Qasba: It is a place where the architecture of Venice has been replicated and a smaller version of the London Eye gives us a magnificent view of Sharjah city.

General: The visit to UAE gave us an exposure to the people, lifestyle, culture and architecture of the country. The nation has certainly grown at a tremendous pace and everything is well thought out for the future. The infrastructure is amazing and the people are perfectionists. Though the weather is not very friendly, there are means available to counter the harsh climate. One thing which we learnt from the trip was to think big and to never give up on our dreams.

We found some distinguishing features here:

1) The dress-code in the malls and mosques is very conservative and is displayed outside. The ladies have to wear dress which covers shoulders and knees i.e. they cannot enter with sleeve-less tops and shorts. The men are also supposed to be covered and cannot enter in boxers and T-shirts.

2) The residents are not supposed to dry their clothes on railings of balconies, as it gives a shabby look to the locality. If anyone is found doing it, he has to pay heavy penalty.

3) All malls, hotels and small eat-outs and petrol bunks have rest room facility. The municipal authorities are very strict and check these facilities periodically. If the condition is not up to the mark, they may simply seal the unit.

4) The roads in UAE are very wide 4+4 lanes or more with service roads on both sides. People follow the traffic rules obediently as the penalty for non-compliance is very high. For example, jumping red light may force you to shell out AED 500 (Approximately INR 8500). Another good thing is that if a person is crossing the road at a zebra crossing, the vehicles slow down and wait for the person to cross. So, even small children cross the roads confidently.

There are CCTV cameras installed along the side of roads as well as on top of buildings. They are so powerful that they can record the vehicle numbers as well as the driver. The entire nation has implemented an electronic toll collection

and vehicles need not stop while going from one Emirate to another.

5) The metro stations are exceptionally clean. A remarkable feature of the platform was that it had access doors towards the track. These doors remain closed at all times and open only when the train arrives on the platform. The metro itself was remotely operated and unmanned.

After the 8-day trip to this heavenly place, we had to return to India with heavy heart thinking to ourselves that we will come back again.

The author was born in Mumbai in 1950 and was brought up in Talmaki Wadi. He was employed at Bhilai Steel Plant for about 25 years, and then with BBTCL (Wadia group) at Rudrapur and at Formica Laminates at Kalol, totally for about 6-7 years. A few years back, the family had been to UAE on a pleasure trip, of which he thought of giving a brief account through his article. He can be contacted at 9890230053.

The Universal Truth

SAMVIT MAVINKURVE

I am without an end or start
Neither do I need to sustain myself
I am neither bound nor am I free
Unaffected am I, from the mind and the heart.

I move faster than light
Yet, like a tree I move not
I grow not and nor do I rot
Neither am I peaceful nor do I fight.

I sleep not but I am never awake
Neither do I reside in between
For I am that timeless being,
Who, in sleep or in wakefulness, can't be seen.

From me arose the elements five
Which combined to form the Universe
I reside in all beings, dead or alive
Fate being the poem, which by me was put to verse.

No disease can affect me
Neither can words of love and hate
Neither destiny, nor fate
I am the Eternal: Infinite and Free.

I am the Nothing
The Void, the Empty
Yet I am Everything
The All Pervading Bliss!

Samvit Mavinkurve, son of Shreeti and Sachidanand Mavinkurve, is a CAIE student. He loves to write poems and stories, right from the age of 8 years. He has published a number of poems and stories, and has bagged prizes as well. He has also been honoured as a 'Literary Colonel' by Story Mirror.

Mother's Day - Remembering My Mother Late Smt. Shraddha Chaitanya Ubhayakar (nee Jyoti Mallapur) – fondly remembered as “Aayi”

BY CHINMAY CHAITANYA UBHAYAKAR

Sometimes we are just lost for words while expressing about the influence Mothers have in shaping the world around us and even developing us into individuals that we are today. You would agree that most of the time, we take this thought for granted and at times, forget to reciprocate this unconditional love to the one who gave us the opportunity to come into this world. A lot has evolved in their lives as they have moved from being restricted to a life of managing household chores to taking on challenges in the world outside and without doubt, they have succeeded to strike a balance and maintain harmony in the family space. My Mother has been no exception as she went on expanding her boundaries from being a home-maker to taking up new learnings, and, bringing a constructive change in the lives of many individuals. As the month of May celebrates our Mothers, I pen some thoughts and try to relive the memories of my beloved mother Late Shrimati Shraddha Ubhayakar (“Aayi” as we called her lovingly).

My Aayi, was born as Kumari Jyoti on the 16th of November 1950, to the family of Krishnabai and Anant Mallapur at Solapur, Maharashtra. She was the youngest among the four siblings within the household. Her parents went through the struggles for making a living and manage all members of the family with grit, as well as made sure that the succeeding generation is not deprived of their needs and wants. My Aayi was a real darling of her parents. Even with humble earnings in those days, my grandparents took on the responsibility of educating my mother and she went on to graduate in the field of Arts. Securing graduation was certainly uncommon during those times and I feel proud that she was able to complete her academic education. She was an ambitious lady from the beginning and always wanted to achieve set goals in life. I remember her telling me, that she always wanted to take up a job and work after her graduation. However, time and tide were not conducive to enable her for taking up a job then.

She got married to my father, Shri Chaitanya Subrao Ubhayakar, on the 12th of May 1974, and moved to Goa thereafter. As fancy as life in Goa may sound, managing the household was not easy as facilities of convenience were limited and at times, there was a hustle even for managing basic needs. Notwithstanding, she continued to strive and discharged her duties towards the family with complete dedication. She took good care of my father and the family as he went through his own tough routines as a householder. By now, Aayi knew that she will have a life of a home-maker and would require to sacrifice her ambition of taking up a job. But this did not deter her spirit and she kept her inner self happy. Being a Mother was a strong desire in her and also the thought that her progeny will achieve dreams which she couldn't pursue. Her joy knew no bounds when three children were born to her over a staggered time horizon of eight years. Thereafter, Mother made it her goal in life to see to it that the three of us will get all the care, values and education so that we are not compromising on any aspect of life over the time of our lives. Aayi used to constantly keep thinking about our needs and cared very little about her own needs or health. To the extent that she couldn't plan a visit during the last days of my maternal Grand-mother at Solapur, so as to see me fare well through my board exams.

Aayi was a pious lady, a devotee of Goddess Tulaja-Bhavani and she firmly believed that the author, Chinmay Ubhayakar, the youngest child born to her, was only with the blessings of Devi Tulaja-Bhavani. She used to recite verses from ‘Sant Eknathi Bhaagwat’ while going through the phase of maternity to ensure that we have divine qualities from childhood. She was always a staunch devotee of our Guru Parampara and performed daily japa as well as regular chanting of Navratri Nityapath. She always planned visits to our Kula-Devata temples in Goa and visited our Shri Chitrapur Math at Shirali on occasions. She also believed in imparting this devotional insight into each of us through stories from the Puranas, Epics and Upanishads. I continue to recollect about her interest in reading multiple religious books and epics. I feel elated to think that she could participate in once-in-a-lifetime events of the “Pattabhisheka ceremony” in the year 1997 and the “Guru Paada-Yatra” from Murdeshwar to Shirali in the year 2008. She took part in Krishna Janmashtami Utsav celebrations at Shri Krishna Temple, Mallapur, quite frequently. On every occasion, she would visit the Gram Devi Sateri Mandir in Goa to pray for the welfare of each of the family members and near ones.

Aayi was an expert when it came to preparing traditional Amchigale dishes. She would follow our old traditions in cooking and have extra food prepared during each meal, with the thought of reserving it for an unplanned guest. There was never



shortage of food in our house and like a descendent of Mother Annapoorna, Aayi would prepare all variety of traditional dishes and would treat us to our heart's content. I still remember falling asleep in the afternoon and by the time I woke up, Aayi would have kept sumptuous dishes like 'ambode', 'bajje', 'malpuri', 'sheera' and 'unde' ready on the table, served with tea. She would watch the recipe programs on tv and many times, prepared recipes after watching them over. Aayi even prepared a hand-written recipe book for her daughter-in-law, my wife Pooja, with all the traditional recipes and we continue to apply this book in our day to day cooking.

As life started to get convenient and we grew up into our own families, she started to take interest in music and would spend time on the harmonium and sing bhajans. She also performed at various religious functions by singing bhajans. Aayi would wait for the Kanara Saraswat and Sunbeam magazines and keep enquiring with the postman about their arrival and used to love reading them, sometimes even forgetting about food. Aayi was also brilliant at languages and she picked up the Sanskrit language very quickly. Soon after picking up good proficiency in the language in a span of two years, she started tuition classes for students at our residence in Goa. This turned out to be of great help for students that would find grasping the language difficult and the number of students that came up to her for learning increased. She attended many Sanskrit Shibiras in Maharashtra and Delhi. Some of her work also featured in Sanskrit Bharati magazine. She was quite tech-savvy and learnt using the computer and was proficient in using emails, social networking as well as mobile applications like WhatsApp etc.

Aayi was really keen to participate in the monthly Satsangs that were held in Goa. She was instrumental in hosting many Satsangs at our residence and would involve in all the activities ranging from food preparation to taking part in Guru Poojan. Travelling was another aspect of life that my mother loved to plan. She visited lot of places across India. During this time, Aayi could also visit Solapur and relived all the memories of childhood after many years. The most memorable trips she did were to the US in California to meet her grandchildren, Shivani and Rishi, from one of her daughters, Chakori Bhattacharjya. On her most recent trip in 2015, she spent almost six months at US and had some unforgettable memories. Even though it was her maiden trip, it is impressive to know that she travelled all by herself, communicated back home and even managed to help and guide fellow passengers that needed assistance.

Aayi was a natural when it came to networking with people. She would build relations over daily walk routines and we used to wonder how she could spend a long time chatting with any one of the regulars at the jogger's park. I remember that she got so connected with the society members at Pune where I settled for some years that she would undertake trips with all the senior ladies to Alandi and Dehu. She also performed Seva at Karla Math by observing "Seva-Saptaah" on many occasions. Aayi performed all her duties in all these various roles with an impeccable rigour and a positive attitude. Even during times of poor health, my Mother was extremely eager to perform the thread ceremony of her grandchildren and organized all these events at Shirali and Mallapur in the year of 2016 successfully.

During the last few years, Aayi enjoyed spending time with her grand-child Bhaavish (son of her eldest daughter Chandrika Singh) at Goa and would get busy playing games with him. Time flew through candid conversations with Chandrika as she would stay nearby and visit often. Aayi loved the radio since her younger days and during this time, she thoroughly enjoyed the company of old classics on the radio. It was a radio that I gifted her in 2018. She used to continuously listen to these radio tunes all along the day and find immense happiness. Eventually, as fate would have it, she contracted a lung disease and after fighting it for prolonged duration for quite a few years, she left for her heavenly abode on the 19th of October 2019, leaving a huge void in our lives. Our Sadhguru's blessings and the anugraha of our Guruparampara provided her with the strength during the days of her illness. She continues to reside in our hearts and always will as the epitome of unconditional love and affection. Each one who came in her social circle definitely felt that perennial affection and love. Although there are multiple aspects that we can learn from her, some key qualities that stand out are grit, determination and the positive will in life. She fought back and never surrendered to her illness. I always continue to take inspiration from the way she dealt with the hardships and challenges of life. The radio remains an invaluable possession that will continue to be with me as an everlasting memory of my Aayi and to think that she loved it the most, brings peace to my heart.

On the eve of Mother's Day this year, I pray to Lord Bhavanishankar and at the Lotus feet of our beloved Sadhguru that her divine soul attains Sadgati. She will always be remembered by all of us for her everlasting energy, enthusiasm and endless unconditional love. She has also exhibited many other facets of a teacher, a wife, a sister, a grandmother and has outperformed on these diverse roles in her life span. Like any other child always wishes, if I have another life, I choose to be born to my "Aayi" again and also pray at her feet to have her blessings on all of her children. I offer Shradhanjali on behalf of all her children to this great soul and feel indeed fortunate to be an offspring of this Great Mother – "Our Dearest Aayi".

I want to take this opportunity to convey the message of reciprocating love and gratitude to all Mothers. I am sure this will make them feel at peace within and bring immense joy to their heart and soul. I would like to conclude by saluting Motherhood and pray for the good health and happiness of all mothers across the world serving affection to their countless children and positively shaping the society as a whole. Please accept my Pranaams and shower your blessings upon us all!

Handle With Care

A SHORT STORY BY VIDYA GUNAVANTHE

"Dips, please get rid of that bag," her mother said on a panic note. Dipa immediately threw down in alarm the bag she had just picked up to keep away in the cupboard.

"What's wrong with it Ma," she asked wondering what had got into her mother. Her usually calm and composed mother Shaanth appeared most distraught.

"That's the bag the grocer sent his groceries in. Just get rid of it. Just don't keep it around the house," her mother Shaanth told her firmly.

"Okay, okay; I'll do it later," Dipa told her mother. "Why are you so much against that grocer's bag? It looks pretty decent."

"The horrible bag smells of cockroaches and I fear that it may attract cockroaches into our house," Shaanth told her daughter peevishly. "I'd rather you went down and threw it right away."

Dipa wore her mask and gloves, which were now very much part of the dress code in these Corona times, collected the garbage bags from the kitchen as well as Ma's most-hated bag and went out through the front door, wondering what had got into her mother today. Perhaps watching too much news updates on the Corona virus was beginning to tell on her mother?

Just as she got into the elevator, her father Sharad got out of it. "Where were you Papa? You know you're not supposed to go out of the house right? Senior citizen and all," she asked her father, who did not answer her. He hated being restricted in the house as he'd been these past few weeks.

Dipa shook her head in resignation and got into the elevator. She went down from their eighth floor to the ground floor and threw all the bags in the huge garbage bin kept there.

Just as she re-entered her house, her phone rang. It was her twin Dhruv calling from USA. Dhruv was a software engineer who had done his Masters in Computer Science in the US, and now worked for an IT company in Santa Clara.

"Hey Dhruv, how are you?" Dipa asked her brother.

"Good, good. How are you guys managing?" Dhruv asked her in a worried tone.

"We're doing great bro," Dipa answered. "I hear things are quite bad out there."

"Well, not too bad in California but yes, quite bad on the East coast. How are you managing? Milk, groceries, vegetables, no problem? Maharashtra is quite bad, isn't it? Highest numbers in the country as of today I hear."

Dhruv, although he lived out there in the US, kept himself abreast of what went in his homeland. Sometimes, he surprised Dipa with information that she herself didn't know was happening in India.

"Well, we are managing quite well in fact," Dipa began. "Milk, the watchman hangs the milk bags at the door of the respective flats early in the mornings; so no outside interaction there," she explained the process their society chose to follow.

"Good. I hope you handle all packets with gloves and wash

them with soap," Dhruv, who was very meticulous about details, asked his sister.

"Yes, of course. Hope you have adequate stocks of everything out there," Dipa asked her brother, who lived all alone out there.

"Don't worry about me. What about groceries, vegetables and fruits? Are you getting adequate supplies?" Dhruv asked his younger sister, younger by two minutes chronologically.

"Don't worry Dhruv. Everything is under control here," Dipa assured her brother.

"Our society has formed a Whatsapp group so that they can disseminate any information quickly to all. They've also arranged for a green grocer, fruit seller, and a grocer to visit the society premises on a regular basis. Members of each floor have been given time slots to come down wearing their masks and gloves, and do their purchasing or collect their orders, maintaining social distancing meticulously," Dipa told Dhruv in a bid to reduce his worry.

"But, are Papa and Ma following the rules strictly? Dips don't allow them to go down. If they require anything, you go down wearing your mask and gloves, and get it for them. Understand?" Dhruv told her firmly.

"Dhruv, yes, I do go down for all purchases but who's to tell Papa? He just slinks out when I'm in the bath or something and goes for some petty items to the grocer's, in spite of repeated warnings not to step out," Dipa said in frustration.

"Dips, is it true that our lane has been sealed? My friend Kalpesh sent me pictures of our lane sealed at both ends. I've just sent them to you too," Dhruv told his sister who was shocked to hear this.

"What? I had no idea. We live in such isolation these days. So how would we know? Newspaper deliveries have stopped long ago,"

"Tell you what, I'm sending you two links so you guys can get to read the e-newspapers daily. And Dips, don't worry, if the lane has been declared a containment zone, nobody would be allowed to go out or enter the gates of each building as well," Dhruv assured his sister. "So Papa has to stay put."

"Give the phone to Papa," Dhruv told his sister. Dipa handed over her mobile to her father who looked up interrogatively.

"Dhruv wants to talk with you," Dipa told her father and went in search of her mother.

"Ma, Dhruv is on the line speaking with Papa. He wants to talk with you too," she told her mother who was standing in their balcony. "What are you doing here, staring into space?"

"Just taking in some free Vitamin D," Shaanth told her with a smile.

Shaanth heard Sharad speaking on the phone to his son. "And Dhruv, if anything happens to us folk, it is your responsibility to get Dipa married."

Dipa pursed her lips in protest. "Papa, I can take care of

my own life and nothing's going to happen to you people," she told her father who ignored what she said. Dipa walked out of the living room in disgust.

Dhruv protested. "Papa, nothing's going to happen to you two. Just stay at home. And do not venture out. Nothing is more important than life, understand? And don't talk nonsense. We will all get Dips married once we get out of this Covid 19 battle and when she's ready; okay? Just take care of yourselves. Love you Papa."

Shaanth took the phone to her bedroom where she saw Dipa folding the clothes that had dried on the clothesline. "Dhruv, this morning when I woke up, I remembered attending Sharma aunty's funeral two months back."

Dipa raised her eyebrows just as Dhruv enquired, "Eh? What are you talking about Ma? How did that come up?"

"Son, that day when I went to her funeral, her son came to me and told me, 'The body will arrive in ten minutes,'" Shaanth told her son. Before she continued, Dhruv said, "What nonsense are you talking Ma! Are you okay? Give the phone to Dipa."

"I just want to tell you son, whenever I die, please refer to me as Ma and not as body; okay?" Shaanth finished what she had to say quickly before she handed over the phone to Dipa who was looking at her mother in disgust, saying, "Ma, have you gone crazy?"

Dipa took the phone from her mother and told her brother. "It's okay Dhruv. Mom's just upset since morning because of that grocer's bag that smelt of cockroaches! You know how paranoid she gets about those brown-winged creatures!"

"No, its not just that Dips. It is about being locked down 24x7 at home all the time I guess. They've always been more outdoors than indoors all these years. So you need to make sure they are occupied productively. Just make them watch movies and not brood or watch the morbid news all the time will you? And teach them to use the treadmill and cycle, at least now, since they cannot take their daily walks! And convince them that mortality rate for Covid 19 is only around 2%."

"I've told them that already Dhruv," Dipa told her brother as she stood looking out on the balcony.

"Dips, listen carefully. You just ensure that they watch the news updates only from time to time, not constantly. I think the information overload is a stress point with them. Keep them occupied with movies or television serials or chess or Carrom or Scrabble or whatever interests them on YouTube. Handle them with great care Dips; okay?" Dipa nodded before disconnecting with her brother.

And now to handle her parents with kid gloves ...

Vidya Gunavanthe has freelanced with features and reviews for leading Indian/film publications. Six of her books in English have been published: two nonfiction (Konkani Basics & Formula for Fulfilment-Sripadmam's biography) and four fiction. Her story has been made into a feature film by Films Division. email Id: vidsanin@yahoo.co.uk

Kiddies' Corner

Cyanide of the Sea

TAARA BAILUR (12 YEARS)

Deep down, in a vast, blue paradise,
Where the salty water burns tongues,
There is a fish,
Flapping it's flaxen fins,
Rapidly.

Diverse, brilliantly coloured bushes of coral
Towering over him,
Swaying ever so slightly,
Whilst the busy fish move speedily,
Almost creating a waterspout.

The lost yellow fish spins,
Confused, alone, yet curious.
Not faraway,
There is a little poisonous piece of plastic,
A pearl in the middle of a void.
Is it food? Coral? Another fish?

The fish approaches with caution.
Looks as tasty as plankton,
The delectable yet miniscule creature,
Drooling now,
He is about to nibble,
When he notices another fish,
Old and wise,
Looking at him fearfully,
With his admonitory eyes,
Yet not saying anything.

The fish bites it,
Tastes good.
It's sharpness is like swallowing a cheese-grater,
Scratching every part of his small throat.
Bites more.
This time, releasing a tangy taste,
Like biting into a fresh lemon.
The taste never left his mouth,
Stayed till the end of his life.
His very short life.

Taara Bailur lives in Hongkong and is passionate about cleanliness and conservation of the environment. Her poem reflects her mindset. An animal lover, she voluntarily gave up eating meat at the age of 5. She is musically inclined and can play the piano and ukelele.

Kiddies' Corner (Cont'd)

2020

GIA BHALLA (10 YEARS)

It started with quiet streets and dreary days
So desolate and lifeless
Our heartssinking every time we hear the familiar wail of
sirens
People walking far apart not worried for themselves
But for those they love and cherish with fear that they may
perish

Painting rainbows on our windows
To encourage all our heroes
The Angels who work hard night and day to keep their
brethren safe
Risking their lives on emergency wards
Knowing they have made a difference
We clap for them on Thursdays, but every day we pray

We want to smile yet we sigh
When the recovery rate is low and the deaths high
We walk on through this storm of fear and sorrow
When tears subside
There will be a brighter tomorrow

A gentle breeze turned into a storm bringing the world to
its knees
but when the world is all recovered
humanity and kindness will be rediscovered.
It's been six weeks the air is clear; pollution has found a
natural solution.
The grass is green the flowers are bright and there are
very few cars in sight.
Lessons we have learnt shall stay within our mind and we
shall be wise to follow them till the end of time.
Respect our planet and all who live on it,
or bear the consequences of Her reactions to our tainted
actions.

*Gia Bhalla is the daughter of Poulomi Nilawar and lives
in London.*

She Is The World

(A Devi Strotra in English!)

SANAYA HOSKOTE (15 YEARS)

She is the world
She is the wind, the sea, and the rain
She is the calm before the storm
She is the leaves, the flowers, and the branches
She is the roots

She is the world
She is the war and destruction
She is the peace and celebration
She is the velvet sky
She is the diamond stars

She is the world
She is the chaos outside
She is the strength within
She is the dark unknown
She is the lamp to guide us through

She is the world
She is the hurt, the anger, the injustice
She is the kindness, the compassion, the joy
She is the strength, the determination, the courage

She is the world
That she brought me into
She is the world
Whose wonders she shows me
She is the world
Which will one day be ours
She is the world

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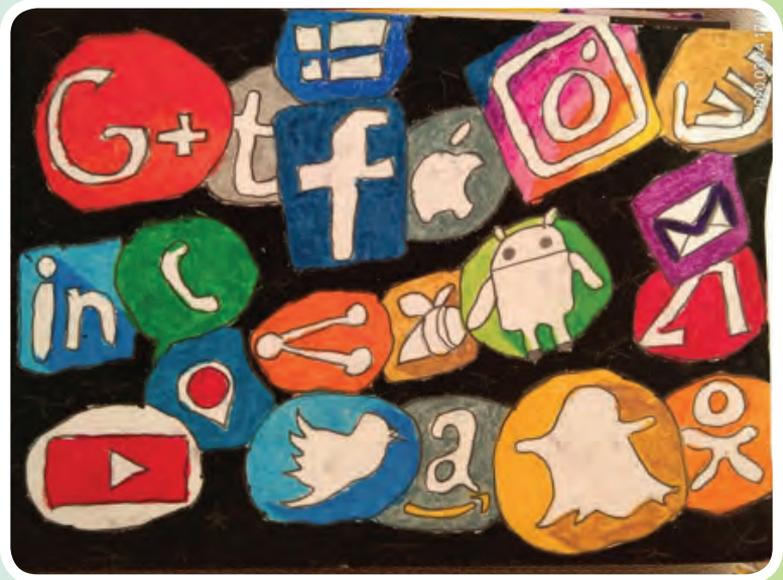
Kiddies' Corner (Cont'd)

**One of my Lockdown Art
A colourful Owl I dreamt**



**Samvit Varun Deshmukh Age: 9 years
(son of Dr. Sonali Deshmukh
(nee Honavar)**

Social Media Art



Ahan Mavinkurve - 10 years

Tree



Umika Hattangadi - 7 years

Twilight



Shriyans Hattangadi - 5 years



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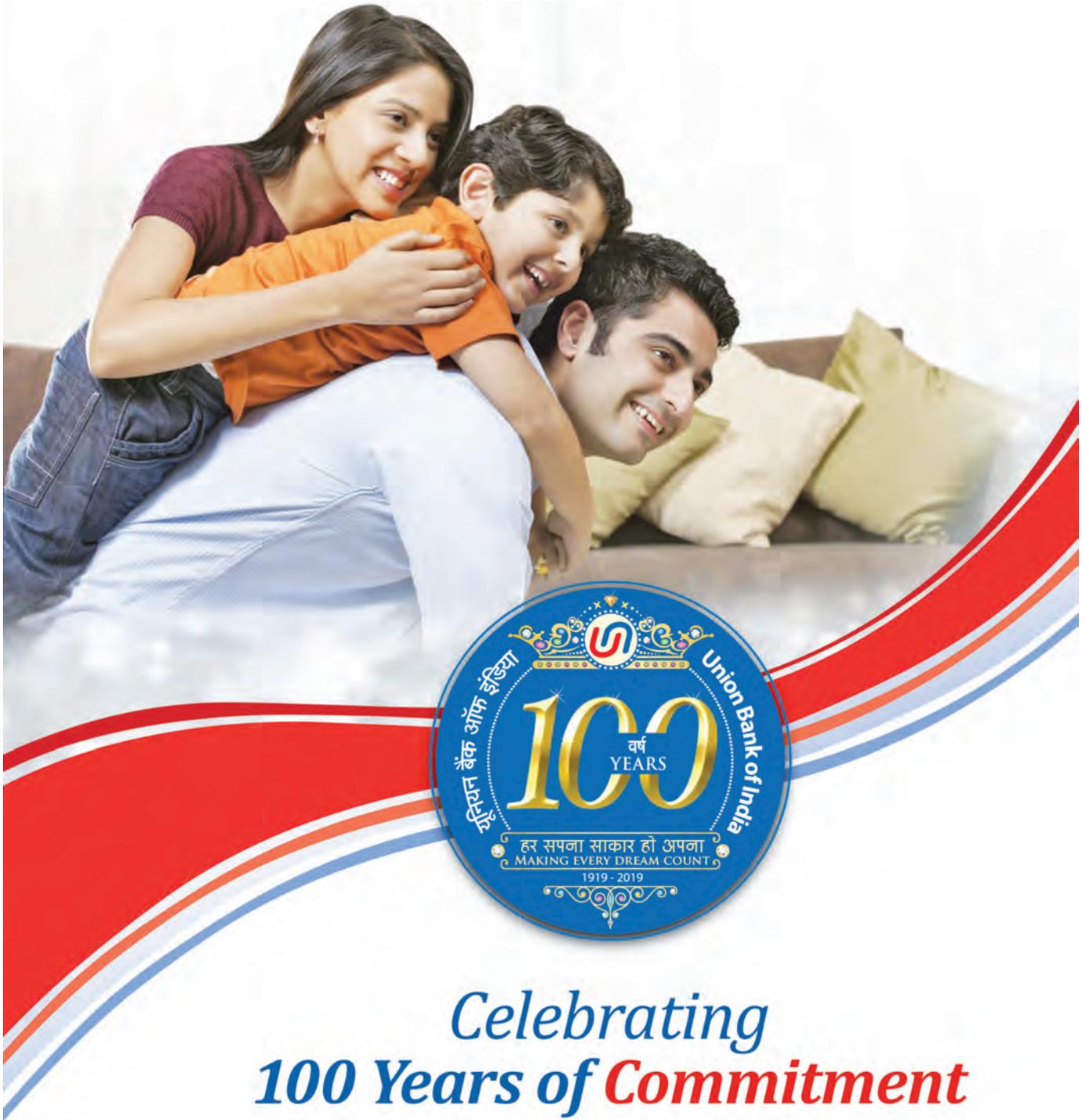
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Covid 'X' Perience

DINESH TALLUR

These are COVID times and each one of us might have had our experiences, ordeals and pleasures. My experiences have been ranging from being *comical*, *ominous*, *vacuous*, *idiosyncratic* and *diabolical* - if you find an acronym from the first letters from each of these words, it is a "incidence". (*I intend not to use the prefix 'CO' often for obvious reasons.*)

First the work-related experience! Why work-related first? – We, the middle class (*we always find this phrase demeaning despite being that – and this paradox has been haunting me since long. There has been some cosmetic pride and pleasure in prefixing it with "upper" but that doesn't pretty much change the situation except for a few additional inches in the car one drives or a few additional sqft where one lives*), particularly *amchis* have grown up by listening to the sermons by elders on hard work, commitment to work, dedication to job and blah blah blah. We have been taught about the virtues of work and hard work in every possible way right from our school days- linguistically, socially, scientifically, mathematically, politically, physically, chemically logically, biologically - don't ask me how it is taught in so many ways- I was just trying to list out the subjects that we (*are perceived to have*) studied at school while learning about the need for hard work.

Sorry for drifting and going all over like the uncontrollable virus.

COVID has forced all of us to work from home. Period. Yours truly, as an employee of a global Engineering IT company, always, COVID or NOT, had the option to work from WEYA (*Where Ever You Are*). It has been a practice to tag WFH to the chat box so that colleagues know that you are working from home. Since WFH was too cliched and sounded restricting, I had changed it to WFX- X can be anything from A to Z, Airport, Bathroom, Coffee shop to Lounge or a Spa. But now it is only WFH and more claustrophobic.

An interesting behavioral change –people suddenly started working extra hard and probably wanted to show that they are busy and matter a lot to the operations. They started dumping everything in a calendar and flaunt their busy calendars which are filled to the brim with meetings/presentations. What otherwise could have been accomplished/addressed with one simple phone call figures in the calendar as a 'meeting' with lot of people added into the same. Many of these are **Cc** people (*I call them Corporate Charlie Chaplins - no disrespect to the legendary comedian*). Mail IDs in Cc generally don't have anything to do w.r.t the specific task but they are ubiquitous and there very much. I haven't demystified this obsession for Cc mails yet. With the calendar flooding with meetings/webinars (to attend or deliver), the days have started becoming extremely busy and stressful - more and

more meetings & less and less time to actually deliver the work. I used to wonder in the initial COVID days how my colleagues are managing time between meetings and work. A couple of weeks later I realized most of them don't do both. They either do this or that. I was in a minority club with a lot of fire in the belly to attend meetings and also work. Subsequently also realized that all this fire will find a way out through many of the orifices in the body and depending on which orifice it is, one will either take-off (*Newton's 3rdlaw- for those who couldn't get the subtle meaning- we can take it off-line.* J) or keep fuming.

Oblivious of all this skull duggery and antics, there was this constant refrain from my better half (*I have been secretly wanting to rephrase this as "my better 3/4th or better 2/3rd", I mean "figura" tively– the logic is a simple math. When you know it's better, isn't it good to give more than 50% share?*). Her complaint was that I am not spending time with the family and I am always immersed in work. We are a nuclear family and so naturally expect attention within from whoever is at home. In fact, we are so much nuclear that there are explosions happening every day and can make Chernobyl look like a fart. However, in all fairness and with due respect to the expectations, I eventually managed to tweak my schedule and managed to take quality time with the family. Now came the biggest realization! "Quality time" means we all sit together; I keep staring at them while they are busy tweeting, texting and chatting on their smart phones, however, if I open the laptop to catch up with some work since they seem busy, I have busted the quality time and have breached the pact.

Thanks for your time reading this. Have fun and be cheerful. As they say, every smile increases immunity by a certain percentage. Stay Safe and Take Care. God bless you.

From our Archives

Discontent

Published in August 1931 issue

The rich rave they cannot hoard,
The poor sigh they cannot afford,
The middle class cry between two fires,
The beggar in the street in rags attires!
Oh! Everywhere there is discontent!
Who enjoys if all lament?
Money goes where money is,
Poverty only the poor doth tease,
Yet the rich rave they cannot hoard
When the poor sigh they cannot afford!

-Umanath

A Way of Life

KAVITA KARNAD SAMUEL

My experience with ritualistic Hinduism is very limited and confined to Satyanarayan, Ganapati and regular household poojas. But what we call Hinduism is vastly different from *Sanatana Dharma* or the 'Eternal Way of Life'. *Dharma* is an inseparable essence of human life on this planet; it links our daily lives to the Divine and it permeates and intercepts every single thought, deed and karma of human beings through a potent collection of words that we refer to as *shlokas* and mantras. In short, *Dharma* divinises our earthly existence, and here is how it accomplishes that...

After waking, we look at our palms and say, "*Karaagra Vasate Laxmi, kara madhye Saraswati, kara mule tu Govindam, prabhate kara darshanam.*" Goddess Laxmi resides at my finger-tips, Goddess Saraswati in the centre of my palm and Lord Govinda in my wrist. We can interpret this in as many ways as per our wisdom and experience allows us.

Before placing our feet from the bed on the floor, we say, '*Samudra Vasane Devi, Parvata Sthana Mandale, Vishnu Patni Namastubhyam, Paada Sparshe Kshmasvame.*' O Goddess with the Ocean as her robe, mountains as her breasts, who is the consort of Lord Vishnu, I beg your forgiveness for having to walk on you with my feet.

Bathing is made sacred by reciting the names of the holy rivers that the water in the bucket (or in the shower today) consecrating the bath water be as pure. '*Gangecha Jamunechaiva Godavari Saraswati, Narmada Sindhu Kaveri Jalesmin Sannidhi Kuru.*' Waters of the seven holy rivers Ganga, Jamuna, Godavari, Saraswati, Narmada, Sindhu and Kaveri have blessed me with purification.

The rising sun rays are known for their purifying qualities. We are urged to face the east early in the morning and offer water to this visible God: Sun. We recite the many names of the sun in the mantras, '*Om Suryaaya Namaha, Om Varunaaya Namaha, Om Hiranyagarbhaaya Namaha, Om Mitraaya Namaha*', and so on while offering water. After this offering, we are urged to stand before this benign presence and utter, '*Udyamtam Bhaaskaram Suryam, Ojasam Nidhi Akshayam, Pratyaksham Daivatam Bhutyaihi, Pranamaami Diwakara,*' followed by the Gayatri Mantra, which is only taught to the males. O rising Bhaskara or Sun, who is the possessor of immeasurable brilliance/energy, who is the visible Lord on Earth, to you I bow O Diwakara.

Cooking food and appropriating it is an activity of great meditative force. Mother Nature utilizes tremendous energy from the soil, water, air and the Sun to create nourishing food. Think of the magic here: Sugarcane is grown from soil which is not sweet; colourful flowers are grown from brown or black soil; a tiny seed holds a mighty oak within. *Sanatana*

Dharma gives immense importance to HOW we eat this food rather than WHAT we eat. The householder is barred from eating his meal before he offers it to the cow in the shed, the crow, the dog, and the ants; i.e. *Go-Grassa, Kaaka-Graasa, Shvaana-Graasa and the Pipilika-Graasa* respectively. Finally, he must ask three times if anyone in his village is hungry, before taking his first morsel. This not only imbibes a fellowship with other creatures, it disallows any ownership on food, for every living creature needs food. In other words, the householder is reminded to be grateful to all aspects of nature as well as keep in mind the dictat, '*Atithi Devo Bhava*'.

Just before taking in the first morsel for the day, we are to chant the verse from the Bhagwad Geeta, '*Brahmaarpanam, Brahmahavihi, Brahmaagnou Brahmanaahutam, Brahmaiva Tena Gantavyam, Brahmakarma Samadhina.*' This food I eat is offered to *Brahman* the ultimate truth, in the sacrificial fire of *Brahman*; it is verily *Brahman* and it goes back to the *Brahman*. In other words, my life is offered as '*Aahuti*' in the great sacrificial fire of *Brahman*. The meaning of this *shloka* is very profound and not within my expertise to elaborate. The reader is advised to delve deeper in the scriptures.

As the fierce sun mellows down on the horizon, we face the west and offer our gratitude to this resplendent Lord for nurturing life on this planet. We say, '*Asthachala Gartarkaaya Shanti Samruddhi Dayini; Aatma Samvit Swarupaya, Chayaanaathaaya teh namah*'. O giver of peace and prosperity, O the self-same effulgence of my higher self, the parent of my shadow, to you I bow.

As we touch our cosy beds, we are reminded to offer the deepest gratitude to the powers that be. '*Yaa Devi Sarvabhuteshu Nidraa Rupena Samstithaa, Namastasyai Namastasyai Namastasyai Namonamaha*' must be recited for nightmare free and sound sleep.

And while we sit on the hallowed steps of a temple after greeting the deity, we offer a heartfelt plea, '*Anaayaasena Maranam, Bina Dainyena Jeevanam; Dehante Tava Saanidhyam, Dehime Parameshwara*'. Give me quick, painless death, a non-dependent life, your glowing presence at the time of leaving this body, O Lord of Lords.

Like I said.... more a way of life than performing a few rituals for a few moments in a day!

The author entertains no conceited ideas of being a scholar or knower of Sanatana Dharma. She merely absorbs the wisdom in the scriptures and the spoken words of the wise and applies it to her daily life with deepest gratitude and surrender.

Parisevanam

Bhagavad Gita

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

CHAPTER 2

साङ्ख्ययोग

Bhagavan started His teaching with a powerful statement - "Nothing deserves grief"(v11). He validates this statement from various angles. Up to the 25th verse, He talks from the point of the highest truth पारमार्थिकसत्यम् that all the body-mind-sense complexes are in reality that ultimate Truth - *Ātmā*. The visible individual bodies are the *mithyaanātma*.

"The Self - आत्मा is eternal. It is neither the "doer" nor the "experiencer". If you consider yourself to be their killer and if they consider themselves to be the killed, then neither of you know the truth.(v19)

Explaining this further Krishna says; "I" the *Ātmā* is eternal; neither is it born nor does it die. What is born is the physical body. Who can injure or destroy that indestructible, immutable नित्य निर्विकारी consciousness? If this is the truth, then what is it that appears, changes constantly and dies? It is merely the body. As we discard the worn out clothes and acquire new ones, the physical bodies get discarded in their own time. The physical body being the product of the five elements पाञ्चभौतिकः merges into its cause. The travelling *jīva* embodies itself with another body according to its प्रारब्धकर्मः (v 20-21-22).

In contrast to the perishing body, "I" the *Ātmā* am indestructible. Thus, there is no need to grieve over all these people who are in essence that शुद्ध आत्मतत्त्वम् (v23-24-25-26)

Now Krishna talks from the point of view of the body-mind-sense complex which is the experiential reality व्यावहारिकसत्यम् . Anything that begins has to end at some time. The body which was unmanifest, **appears** at birth, **exists** for a while **constantly changing** and then **disappears**. Why should one grieve over such a thing which by its nature is perishable? What **was, is and forever will be** is "I" the eternal *Ātmā*. Lord Krishna knows that this is not so easy to grasp for Arjuna. It may even appear very strange and unfathomable when heard for the first time. (v27-28-29-30).

Now Krishna wants to motivate Arjuna to fight this war from the angle of one's *swadharma*. *Swadharma* is that which is "to be done compulsorily" by every individual.

"Arjuna, you are a *Kshatriya* by birth and it is your bounden duty to protect *dharma*. For a *Kshatriya* an opportunity to fight a *dharma-yuddha* is a blessing and an honour. Therefore you should fight this war." (v31-32).

Lord Krishna wants to impress upon Arjuna from various

angles, how important it is for him not to derelict his duty. Now Krishna brings in the value of social and ethical responsibility that lies on Arjuna in his present situation. " Arjuna, your reputation of being a great warrior will crumble if you refuse to fight this war. You will go down in the pages of history as the king who ran away from the battlefield. Such loose talk will be a disgrace to you". "Understand that this is a win-win situation for you. If you win, you will establish a kingdom of *dharma*; if you perish in the battle, you will still reap great *punya*" (v32-37).

Bhagavân now wants to introduce *Karmayoga*: the attitude which makes any action divine and non-binding.

How can one perform his duties when he is confused and deluded about what is to be done and what is not to be done? Every action will bring about a result which is acceptable or unacceptable. Gain/loss, victory/ defeat are unpredictable. The final result of every action has so many variables contributing to it and one's will in the action is only one small variable. Thus, the one who acts is only a contributor and never a controller of the final result. Then how is one to act?

Krishna says that this very understanding that the final result is a combination of multiple variables is important. In spite of this uncertainty "**Do what you should do and such an action will not bind you Arjuna. Let the final result of the war appear on its own merit, may you not think about it**". This freedom in action is the important feature of *Karma-yoga*. The attitude of *Karma-yoga* in the performance of any action allows one to do what is needed and come out unscathed from its results. Krishna calls this by another name *buddhi-yoga* बुद्धियोगः. It also protects one from the fear of doing a wrong action (v39/40).

Bhagavân says that the ultimate/highest goal of a *karmayogi* should be *moksha* परमपुरुषार्थः. Material goals are incidental by-products for a *karmayogi*. Such a clear focus on *moksha* as the only goal of life is called व्यवसायात्मिका बुद्धिः or पुरुषार्थनिश्चयः by Krishna. Krishna as a Guru wants Arjuna to have this बुद्धि . The *veda-pûrva* talks about various means and ends साधनसाध्य for material prosperity. However a *karmayogi* should try not to get distracted by such temporary goals but strive for *moksha* alone. (v41-44).

(To be continued...)

नाव नसलेलं नाटक

सुमन्त वेलतंगडी

(कोरोनाच्या निमित्ताने घर बंदिस्त झालेल्या वाडीमधल्या कलाकारांना रामायण- महाभारत मालिका बघता बघता यातून एक कोंबो नाटक करायची कल्पना मनांत आली . नाटक ठरलं . पात्रं भूमिका ठरल्या . . तालमी वाडीत सुरू झाल्या . आज तालमीचा तिसरा दिवस . नाटकाचे निर्माते आहेत प्रभु श्री वासुदेव ऊर्फ वासु महाभारतातील अर्जुनाचे सारथी आणि दिग्दर्शक आहेत आर्य सुमंत ऊर्फ आसु (रामायणातील दशरथाचे सारथी) असे हे दोन अतीरथी महारथी आपापले रथ घेऊन रंगभूषा दालनात प्रवेश करतात . दालनांत नुसता सावळा गोंधळ चालू असतो . कुणाचं पागोट, कुणाच्या मोत्याच्या माळा , कुणाचं सिंहासन, कुणाच्या ढाली- तलवारी, कुणाचे वस्त्र- शस्त्र, कुणाचे भाले- बर्ची कुणाचे बाण- भाती, तर कुणाच्या दाढी- मिशा, कुठे कशाचा थांग पत्ता नाही . काही कलाकार वैयक्तिक कारणांनी अनुपस्थित आहेत तर काही जणांच्या तक्रारीने दिग्दर्शक थोडे नाराज व त्रस्त आहेत तर ऐक्या निर्माते- दिग्दर्शकांचे संवाद .)

आसु - प्रणाम, प्रभु श्री वासुदेव पुत्र .

वासु - प्रणाम, आर्य सुमंत आज तिसरा दिवस आपल्या नाटकाच्या तालमीचा . बहुतेक कलावंत हजर दिसतात . फारच उत्साह दिसतो आहे .

आसु - माझाही हाच अंदाज आहे . बघु या . सर्वजण रंगभूषा करण्यात मग्न आहेत . तयारी करताहेत .

वासु - बरं, आपणाला काही मदत हवी असेल तर माझा खजिनदार शकुनी मामाची मदत घ्यावी .

आसु - शकुनी? आपला खजिनदार ? प्रभू हा तर कपटी व कारस्थानी . सगळ्यांना 'मामा' बनवून जाईल हा .

वासु - हो . हो . असा धीर सोडु नका . ह्या नाटकाचा सर्व खर्च तोच करणार आहे . पांडवाकडून घुतांत जिंकलेल्या सर्व अवैध संपत्तीची मालकी कौरवांनी ह्याच्याकडेच ठेवली आहे . ह्या पापाचे प्रायाश्चित्त म्हणून तो मला शरण आला आहे .

आसु - पण... .

वासु - पण नाही आणि परंतु नाही . ह्यांत त्याचं काहीही कारस्थान नाही . त्याच्यावर नजर ठेवायला मी मंथराची निवड केली आहे .

आसु - प्रभु आपण मला भ्रमात टाकता आहांत . हे सर्व काय गौडबंगाल आहे? शकुनी काय ? मंथरा काय?

वासु - वत्सा, शकुनीने कांही गडबड करू नये म्हणून मंथरा त्याला प्रत्येकवेळी चौदा वर्षांच्या वनवासाची आठवण करून देऊन घाबरवत असते . हा एक फायदा आहे . आणि ह्या दोघांवर लक्ष ठेवण्यासाठी माझं सुदर्शन चक्र आहेच . आता मला सांग इथल्या जेवण्या खाण्याची

व्यवस्था कशी?

आसु - प्रभु , आपल्याकडे देव नावाचा एक आचारी आहे तो सगळ्यांची देवा सारखी काळजी घेतो . तो भोजन व भजन दोन्हीही मन लावून करतो . ह्यासाठी अगोदरच काही खर्चासाठी आर्थिक मदत दिलेली आहे . आपणाला काही आहार मागवू का?

वासु - आमचा आहार झाला आहे . आपलं काम कुठवर आलंय?

आसु - आपण पाहतच आहात . सर्वांची वेपभूषा, रंगचकोटी चालू आहे . परंतु काही जणांच्या तक्रारी मात्र आहेत .

वासु - बघू . ह्या . रावणाचीच पहिली तक्रार . हे काय? त्याची दहापैकी सहा तोंडं हरवली? कुठे?

आसु - ती सहा तोंडं म्हणे त्याने दुसऱ्या नाटक कंपनीला भाड्याने दिलीतं . आणि आता तक्रार करतो कि सहा नविन तोंडं घ्या म्हणून .

वासु - तर मग रावणाला ती सहा तोंडं आण म्हणावं अथवा एकच तोंड दहा वेळा शिवून घ्या म्हणावं

आसु - आता द्रौपदी . हिला वस्त्रहरणात पैठणी साडी हवी आहे .

वासु - हे कसं शक्य आहे ? हे माझ्या सुदर्शनचक्रातून येऊ शकणार नाही . एवढं वजन ते पेलवू शकणारही नाही . तिला म्हणावं आहे त्या साडीत निभाव . बरं पुढे?

आसु - आता हे सगळे गदाधर रावण, भीम, हनुमान आणि दुर्योधन . एक दुसऱ्याच्या गदेवरून आपआपसांत लढताहेत . सगळ्यांच्या गदा गायब आहेत .

वासु - कां? चोरील्या गेल्या सर्व गदा ?

आसु - नाही, तसं नाही गेल्या दोन तालमीत लढता लढता ह्या सर्वांच्या गदा कागदाचा लगदा झाल्यात .

वासु - बरं . तर आता रवराच्या वापरून बघा .

आसु - बरं ह्या शबरीचं काय करायचं ? ती म्हणते कि प्रभु श्री रामचंद्रांना दिलेला आहात ती स्वतः चव घेतल्याशिवाय खाऊ देणार नाही . आणि आचारी देव तिला ते करू देणार नाहीत .

वासु - तसं असेल तर तिला एका निराळ्या थालीत आहार देऊन चव घेऊ घ्या . बोरं खाल्ली तशी . उष्ट करायचे कष्ट कशाला

आसु - आचारी देवला आता कुंभकर्णाच्या जेवणाची काळजी लागली आहे . एवढं जेवण करण्यासाठी त्याच्याकडे माणसं ही नाहीत आणि अन्न-धान्य मसाले इ . साधनं सुध्दा नाहीत .

वासु - वत्सा, अजिबात काळजी करू नकोस म्हणावं . कुंभकर्ण चार दिवसांपुर्वीच झोपला आहे . पुढचे सहा महिने तो काय उठत नाही .

आसु - बरं . आता हा विभिषण सोन्याच्या लंकेची गादी कधी मिळणार म्हणून मागे लागलाय . त्याने त्याच्या बायकोला वचन दिले आहे कि

सोन्याची लंकेची गादी मिळाल्यावर हा तिला सोनं देणार म्हणून .
वासु - त्याला म्हणावं कि हनुमानाने लंका जाळली तेव्हाच सर्व सोनं वितळून गेले . आणि प्रभु श्री रामचंद्रानी गादीचं वचन दिलं होतं त्याला, सोन्याचं नाही .
आसु - ह्या कैकयी ने तर फारच हैराण केलंय . मंथरा गेल्यापासून हिने खाणं पिणं सोडले आहे . तिला चैन पडत नाही . स्वतःच चौदा वर्ष वनवासात जाते म्हणते .
वासु - भरताला सांगुन ठेवा तो समजावेल तिला . वरं . काही कौरव- पांडव आणि प्रभु श्री रामचंद्र सहकुटुंब कुठे दिसत नाहीत ते?
आसु - दुर्योधन, शकुनी मामाला व द्युतात बळकावलेली संपत्ती शोधायला गेला आहे . अर्जुन अभिमन्युला चक्रव्युहातून बाहेर काढायला गेला आहे नकुल-सहदेव त्या दोघांनाही शोधताहेत . कर्ण त्याच्या रथाचे चाक चिखलातुन काढण्याचा प्रयत्न करतो आहे .
वासु - आणि श्री प्रभु रामचंद्रांचे काय ?
आसु - आमचे प्रभु महाराज श्री रामचंद्र आपल्याला भेटायला सह कुटुंब वायुरथाने निघाले आहेत . एवढ्यात पोहोचतील .

वासु - त्या सर्वांच्या आहाराची तयारी करा . सर्व सेना हजर आहेत का?
आसु - सेना? त्यांचं इथे काय काम? सर्व सेना आपापल्या राजधानीत संरक्षणासाठी तैनात केल्या गेल्या आहेत . रावण सेना लंकेत, कौरव पांडव सेना, हस्तिनापूर आणि प्रभु रामचंद्र सेना अयोध्येत .
वासु - आणि वानर सेना?
आसु - ती विचारी . आचारी देव ला आहार करण्यात मदत करते आहे . वरं प्रभु आता नाटकाचे नामकरण करण्याचा मुहूर्त ठरवू .
वाल्मीकी ऋषी येतच असतील .
वासु - नामकरण म्हणालं तर “नाव नसलेलं नाटक” हे नाव सार्थकी लावू या . परंतु नाटक बसवण्या आधी वाल्मीकींचा आशिर्वाद घेऊ या . पण बाहेर कांही गोंधळ चालला आहे . काय गडबड आहे?
आसु - प्रभु आपलं नाटक ‘बसल’चं म्हणून समजा . पळा पळा लवकर . तालमी कि वाल्मीकी नंतर बघू . पोलीसांनी धाड टाकली आहे . “कोरोना” ची शिस्त मोडल्यामुळे . वाल्मीकीच्या ऐवजी “दुर्वास” मुनि शिष्यांसहित आलेले दिसतात . अरे देवा केलेला सर्व आहार ह्या सर्वांना देऊन तूही पळ काढरे बाबा .

छल्ला

विदुला आरूर - ठाण

आईच्या किल्ल्या नेहमीप्रमाणे हरवायच्या आणि त्या हरवल्यावर ती खूप अस्वस्थ व्हायची . माझा जुडगा म्हणत ती फिरायची . मग आम्ही भावंडे तिच्याबरोबर शोधू लागायचो . “अगं तू शेवटी केव्हा काढला होता जुडगा”? “अरे सकाळी मी पेपरवाल्याला पैसे नाही का दिले”? हा असा प्रसंग दर दोन दिवसांनी आमच्या घरात घडायचा . मग शेवटी कुठेतरी सापडायच्या किल्ल्या . त्या हरवु नये म्हणून तिने त्याला चांदीचा हुक बनविला व नेहमी ती कमरेला खोचून ठेवायची .
मध्यंतरी छल्ल्याची फॅशन आली होती . त्या छल्ल्याला घुंगरू असायचे नि तो छल्ला कमरेला खोचून चालताना त्या घुंगरांचा आवाज येई . आमच्या घरासमोरची मावशी बाहेर जाताना कमरेला चांदीचा छल्ला खोचुन जायची नि चालताना घुंगुर वाजावे म्हणून ठुमकत ठुमकत चालायची .

ह्या किल्ल्यांच्या जुडग्याचे सिनेमात किंवा गोष्टीत खूप महत्व आहे . त्या जुडग्यासाठी सासू सूनांची भांडणं किंवा जावा जावात होणारे खटके किंवा सासूने सून घरात आल्यावर तिच्यावर घरची जबाबदारी (म्हणजे किल्ल्यांचा जुडगा) देऊन आपण संसारातून मुक्त होणे इत्यादि आपण बघतो . घर म्हटलं की किल्ल्यांचा जुडगा महत्वाचा .

माझ्या आत्याच्या घरात प्रत्येक खोलीत भिंतीत दोन दोन कपाटे असायची . त्या सर्व कपाटांना कुलपे असत . लहान सहान वस्तु सुध्दा कुलपात असत . साधी सुई दोरा कातर विचारल्यावर आत्या किल्ल्यांचा

जुडगा घेऊन येई व कुलप उघडून सुई -दोरा कातर देई . मला वाटे वापरातल्या रोज लागणाऱ्या वस्तु कुलपात ठेवायची गरज आहे का? मी अशी घरे पाहिली आहेत जिथे लाडू, चिवड्यासारख्या खावण्याच्या वस्तु सुध्दा कुलपात ठेवतात . पाहुणे आल्यावर कुलूप उघडून प्लेटी भरतात . एकत्र कुटुंब पध्दतीत हा प्रकार अनेक ठिकाणी मी पाहिला आहे . घरची जी मुख्य असते तिच्या हातात सर्व किल्ल्या असतात .

आम्ही मुंबईला असताना एकदा मी लायब्ररीत गेले होते नि आईला कुलूप लावून बाहेर जायचे होते . तिने कुलूप लावले नि कुलपात एक चिड्डी अडककली त्या चिड्डीत उलटया भाषेत लिहीले होते ते पण कोकणीत! त्या चिड्डीत काय लिहीले आहे ते चोराला सुध्दा कळले नसते . “तुहागवि डुंक्येळुमाक” म्हणजे किल्ल्या कुंडीच्या खाली . मी चिड्डी वाचून कुलूप उघडले!

प्रत्येक घरात कडया कुलपे असतातच . किल्ल्या ठेवायच्या सवयी सुध्दा वेगवेगळ्या असतात . काही घरात झुंवरमध्ये ठेवतात तर कधी भिंतीवर ओळीने टांगतात . वीस वर्षापूर्वीची गोष्ट . माझ्या शाळेत जायच्या वेळा बहुतेक चोराला माहित असाव्यात . मी नसताना बाहेरचे कुलूप फोडून चोर घरात शिरला . बारिक-सारिक वस्तु त्याने चोरल्या . खरे पाहता माझ्या कपाटाच्या किल्ल्या उशीखाली होत्या . त्या घेऊ न त्याला कपाट साफ करता आले असते . कपाटाच्या डुप्लीकेट मी झुंवरमध्ये ठेवल्या होत्या त्या तो चोर घेऊन गेला .

डिजीटल कुलपाचा मला खूप वाईट अनुभव आला . नेपाळला गेल्यावेळी मी बाहेर जाताना घाईत नंबर फिरवले . ते नंबर चुकीचे होते . दुसऱ्या दिवशी सगळे कॉम्बिनेशन करून पाहिले पण कुलुप उघडता येईना! शेवटी माणूस बोलावून कुलुप तोडले .

खरंच कुलुप हे आपल्या समाधानासाठी असते पण वस्तु जायच्याच असल्या तर त्या कोणत्याही मार्गाने जाऊ शकतात . हा अनुभव मला अनेक वेळा आला आहे . अहो बँकेत कड्या कुल्पात ठेवलेली कॅश

लुटून जाऊ शकते . मग आपल्या वस्तु कशा सुरक्षित राहतील? काय उपयोग ह्या कड्या कुलपाचा? कशाला चाव्या सांभाळायच्या? जिथे कुलुपच सुरक्षित नाही तिथे चाव्यांचा काय उपयोग? कशाला हे छल्ले? शनि शिंगणापूरला कुणी कुलुप लावत नाही म्हणे . तसेच आपल्याकडे असते तर आपण सुध्दा कुलुपे न लावता निर्धास्त राहिलो असतो . चोरांच्या हातून चोरी करण्याचे पाप घडले नसते . सर्व सुख समाधानात राहिले असते!

एक लघुनाटय कादंबरीचा परिचय आणि त्याचा विमोचन समारंभ

उदय मंकिकर

“त्रिकोणाची चौथी बाजू” - एक आगळी प्रेम कहाणी
लेखिका : सौ . चंद्रमा मोहन विजुर . मुद्रक : उवसन प्रिंटर्स
पृष्ठ संख्या : ४० . मूल्य : रु . १००/-

सौ . चंद्रमा मोहन विजुर म्हणजे एक बहुआयामी व्यक्तीमत्व . लेखिका, दिग्दर्शिका, अभिनेत्री, उद्योजिका, ललीतकलांची चाहती आणि एक कर्तव्यदक्ष गृहिणी . त्यांच्या मातोश्री दिवंगत श्रीमती मुक्ताबाई मंगळूर ह्या एक सिध्दहस्त लेखिका होत्या . त्यांचे मामा दिवंगत श्री बँदूर देवराय अयगळ हे लेखक, दिग्दर्शक आणि नट होते . कोंकणी भाषेवरील त्यांचे प्रभुत्व वादातीत होते . त्यांच्या लेखनाचा वारसा लेखिकेला लाभला आहे, असे म्हटले तर ते वावगे ठरणार नाही .

कथा, कादंबरी, नाटक, कविता, लेख इत्यादि साहित्य प्रकारांमधुन लेखिकेची लेखणी सारख्याच सहजतेने विहार करते . “त्रिकोणाची चौथी बाजू” ही लेखिकेची दुसरी कादंबरी . लघुकादंबरीच म्हणाना (“एक वेगळी वाट” ही पहिली कादंबरी) . चाकोरीबाह्य विषयांवर लेखन करणं ह्यात लेखिकेला विशेष अभिरूची . प्रस्तुत लघु कादंबरीचा विषय देखील चाकोरीबाह्य आहे .

संदीप, रामन आणि गौरी ही ह्या लघुकादंबरीतील प्रमुख पात्रे, अर्थात प्रेमाचा त्रिकोण आणि त्यांच्या प्रत्यक्ष जीवनात काय घडते त्याचे आकलन होणे, ही ह्या त्रिकोणाची चौथी बाजू . लेखिकेने प्रत्येकाची भूमिका प्रसंगरूपाने, वेगवेगळी विशद केली आहे आणि हे करत असताना कथा एकसंध केली आहे . त्यामुळे कथानक वाचण्याचा आनंद वाचकाला मिळतो .

गौरी ही मदनिका, संदीपपेक्षा वयाने मोठी, तरी देखील संदीप गौरीच्या लावण्यामुळे, पहिल्या भेटीतच तिच्या प्रेमात पडतो . दुसऱ्या

वेळेला गौरी एक पुरूषावरोवर दिसते . तिसऱ्यांदा, आपल्या आईला श्री सिध्दीविनायकाच्या मंदिरात घेऊन गेलेला असताना भक्तांच्या रांगेत गौरी त्याला दिसते . त्यानंतर गौरीच्या दर्शनासाठी दर मंगळवारी संदीप श्री सिध्दीविनायकाच्या मंदिरात जाऊ लागतो . एकदा त्याला गौरीच्या गळ्यातील मंगळसुत्र दिसते आणि संदीपचा विरस होतो . एक असा प्रसंग घडतो, की रामन यांची गाडी खराब होते आणि संदीप त्यांना आपल्या गाडीतून लिफ्ट देतो आणि रामनकडे बरंच सामान असल्यामुळे, त्यांना मदत करण्याच्या हेतूने त्यातील काही सामान घेऊन रामनसह त्यांच्या घरी जातो . पुढे काय होते हे कळण्यासाठी ही उत्कंठावर्धक कादंबरी वाचायलाच हवी .

ह्या कादंबरीची प्रस्तावना, हे एक वैशिष्ट्यच म्हणायला हवे . इतकी समर्पक प्रस्तावना लिहिली आहे, साहित्य आणि नाटयाची उत्तम जाण असलेल्या ज्येष्ठ रंगकर्मी श्रीमती कविता शानभाग यांनी . त्या लिहितात, “ ही कादंबरी ‘लघुनाटय कादंबरी’ ह्या सदरात जास्त मोडेल, कारण ह्यात प्रसंग आहेत, संवाद आहेत . ही कादंबरी नाटयमय प्रसंगातूनच उलगडत जाते . ह्यामध्ये मानवी मनाच्या गुंतागुंतीचा थांग लावण्याचा प्रयत्न आहे आणि ती गुंतागुंत अलगदपणे सोडविण्याची धडपड आहे . स्त्री पुरूष नात्यातील क्लिष्टपणा सहजगत्या मांडला आहे . या कादंबरीतील गौरी, रामन, संदीप,

अनुया आणि इतर कोणीही आकांडतांडव करित नाहीत . समंजसपणे नात्यातील उलथापालथ पेलतात . या कादंबरीत चौकटी बाहेरचे प्रेम दाखवले आहे . तरीमुध्दा एकदाही ते उंबरठा पार करित नाही की आपली सीमा ओलांडत नाहीत . सामाजिक व्यवस्थेच्या चिखलामध्ये पुरेपुर रूतलेल्या स्त्री पुरूष भूमिकेतुन बाहेर येऊन ह्या कथेतील पात्रे



आपापल्या परीने आपल्या मनात घोंघावणाऱ्या वादळाला दिशा देण्याचा प्रयत्न करतात . इतकेच नव्हे तर ते वादळ शमल्यावर उध्वस्त झालेले गाव पुन्हा वसवतात .”

अत्यंत हृदयस्पर्शी असेच ह्या लघुनाटय कादंबरीचे वर्णन करावे लागेल . संदीपला जेव्हा समजते, की गौरी विवाहिता आहे, तेव्हा तो मानसिकरीत्या खचतो आणि कशासाठी आपली भेट झाली, विधात्याने हे का घडवून आणले असे सतत त्याला वाटू लागते . ह्या प्रसंगाला साजेसे श्री यशवंत देव यांनी लिहिलेले आणि संगीतबद्ध केलेले “कशास भेट जाहली” हे नितांत सुंदर अर्थपूर्ण गीत ह्या पुस्तकात समाविष्ट केले आहे .

कशास भेट जाहली, कशास पाहिले तुला
नव्याच ओळखीतुनी उगाच जीव लाविला ||

साधी सुटसुटीत भाषा, श्री विनायक जाधवांनी चितारलेले आकर्षक मुखपृष्ठ, निर्दोष मुद्रण, ह्या कादंबरीच्या जमेच्या वाजू . ही कादंबरी मला आवडली आणि तुम्हालाही आवडेल . लेखिकेच्या हातुन असेच उत्तम लिखाण होवो ही सदिच्छा !

रविवार दिनांक ९ फेब्रुवारी, २०२० सायंकाळी ५ त ७ ह्या वेळेत, माटुंगास्थित, माटुंगा मित्रमंडळाच्या सभागृहात प्रस्तुत कादंबरीच्या विमोचनाच्या समारंभाचे आयोजन करण्यात आले होते . सुप्रसिध्द “व्हॉईस गुरू” श्री दीपक वेलणकर हे अध्यक्षस्थानी होते . आणि धर्म प्रचारक श्री व्ही . राजगोपाल भट, श्री अमर व सौ पुष्पा कक्कड, पंडीत सुजन राणे आणि श्री उदय मंकिकर हे विशेष अतिथी म्हणून उपस्थित होते . चंद्रमाताईच्या चाहत्यांनी आणि सहकाऱ्यांनी सभागृह खचाखच भरले होते .

श्रीमती उमा बोलंगडी यांनी गायिलेल्या सुंदर प्रार्थनेने समारंभास प्रारंभ झाला . प्रथेनुसार, श्री दीपक वेलणकर, धर्मप्रचारक व्ही . राजगोपाल भट, श्री अमर कक्कड, पंडित सुजन राणे, उदय मंकिकर आणि ज्येष्ठ प्रतिभावंत हरहुन्नरी व्यक्तिमत्व, श्रीमती मुक्ताबाई चंदावर यांच्या हस्ते दीपप्रज्वलन झाले .

श्री मोहन आणि सौ चंद्रमा विजुर यांनी समारंभाचे अध्यक्ष श्री दीपक वेलणकर यांचे शाल व श्रीफळ देऊन स्वागत केले . इतर विशेष आमंत्रितांचाही सन्मान करण्यात आला . मान्यवरांनी, चंद्रमाताई सोबत विविध प्रकल्पांमध्ये, कार्यक्रमांमध्ये कार्य करताना त्यांना अनुभवास आलेले, जाणवलेले चंद्रमाताईचे विशेष गुण आपल्या भाषणातुन सांगून कौतुक केले . चंद्रमाताईचे पती श्री मोहन विजुर ह्यांनी गेली पन्नास वर्षे चंद्रमाताईच्यापाठीशी भक्कमपणे उभे राहून, त्यांना यशाचा मार्ग खुला करून दिला आणि त्यांच्या कलागुणांना वाव दिला . हा पाठिंबा असाच कायम राहू दे आणि चंद्रमाताईकडून विविध क्षेत्रात उत्तम कार्य होऊ दे अशी सदिच्छा व्यक्त करून उदय मंकिकरांनी आपल्या भाषणातुन, सर्वांच्या वतीने श्री मोहन विजुरांना “मानाचा मुजरा” केला .

“त्रिकोणाची चौथी वाजू” ही प्रसंगांनी आणि संवादांनी नटलेली कादंबरी असल्यामुळे, चंद्रमाताईच्या सुंदर मार्गदर्शनात आणि निवेदनात,

सर्वश्री निनाद ठाकूर, विनोद तलगेरी आणि श्रीमती वृंदा तलगेरी यांनी कादंबरीतील एका हृदयस्पर्शी प्रसंगाचे अत्यंत प्रभावी वाचन केले . श्रीमती विभावरी यांनी, चंद्रमाताईशी प्रत्यक्ष संवाद साधून, त्यांच्या साहित्य आणि नाटयक्षेत्रातील प्रदीर्घ वाटचालीचा अत्यंत सयुक्तिक प्रश्नांद्वारे सुंदर आढावा घेऊन, उपस्थितांना, त्यांच्या परीश्रमांचे यथार्थ दर्शन घडविले .

चंद्रमाताईचे सहाध्यायी सर्वश्री सतीश मुक्ते, नागेश बांदेकर, विकास साठम आणि श्रीमती सोनाली नाईक यांचीही या प्रसंगी गौरवपर भाषणे झाली . श्रीमती विभावरी यांच्या अत्यंत सुंदर सूत्रसंचालनाने समारंभ अत्यंत सुविहित झाला . या समारंभाचे औचित्य साधून चंद्रमाताईनी त्यांना त्यांच्या विविध कार्यक्रमांमध्ये सहकार्य केलेल्या कलाकारांचा आणि तंत्रज्ञांचा स्मृतिचिन्हे देऊन यथाचित सन्मान करून त्यांच्याप्रति कृतज्ञता व्यक्त केली .

सर्वश्री कृष्णा चंदावर, शैलेश माविनकुर्वे आणि श्रीमती उमा बोलंगडी म्हणजे गायनातील सरताज . त्यांनी शास्त्रीय संगीतावर आधारलेली नितांत श्रवणीय गाणी, श्री विवेक कैकिणी (तबला) आणि श्रीमती जया त्रासी (संवादिनी) यांच्या समर्थ साथसंगतीत सादर करून रसिक प्रेक्षकांना रिझविले आणि या अविस्मरणीय समारंभाची सांगता झाली .

From Our Archives

Published in April-June 1930



Mr. S. H. BHAT.

Stood First in the Bombay Presidency Matriculation Examination scoring 498 marks. He has been awarded the Dosabhai Framji Cama Scholarship, George Pope Scholarship and the Dinanath S. Mankar Gold Medal.

Here and There

Bengaluru: On account of CoVID, sadhaka-s participated in stotra pathana and the regular activities which were otherwise performed at the Math from home.

On April 21st, on the occasion of Samaradhana of Parama Pujya Shrimat Parijnanashram Swamiji I, Bhashya Pathana was rendered by participants from home. The chanting of Shri Shankaracharya Ashtottara Shantanamavalli which began during January 2020 concluded and *mangal* was performed by each participant at home along with Aarti by Shri Raghuvveer Thonse mam. On the occasion of Shri Shankara Jayanti, sadhaka-s offered beautiful drawings and essays and participated in chanting as their seva from home.

On April 28th on Sri Shankara Jayanti day, sadhaka-s participated in Bhâshya Pathana - Bhagavadgîtâ, Upanishad and Brahma Sûtra chanting from their respective homes and offered this seva at the Lotus feet of Parama Pujya Swamiji.

Daily morning puja-s and evening puja-s on Monday-s, Thursday-s and Friday-s were performed by *Grihastha*-s. Durga Namaskar was performed every Friday by Shri Vijay Bhatmam with assistance of Shri Dinesh Savanal mam.

Reported by Saikrupa Nalkur

Mumbai - Dadar: The new Sharvari Samvatsara began with sadhakas drawing strength from Lord Bhavanishankara, Pujya Swamiji and our illustrious Guruparampara, as the world braced itself for the Covid-19 pandemic. In order to comply with the nationwide lockdown, all Sabha activities were conducted from the safety of everyone's homes.

Using digital means such as WhatsApp, regular "Manthan" sessions were conducted. This activity included chintana over Pujya Swamiji's Ashirvachana and Swadhyaya videos, followed by discussions between our *sadhakas* on the Dadar Sabha Devotees group, for one hour on Mondays and Fridays.

A remarkable initiative by Smt. Revati Gulvady, Dadar Sabha & Sadguru Bhajan Mandal was the weekly Bhajan conducted over Zoom network with more than 10-15 participants in every bhajan session. The virtual bhajan session culminating with Mangalaarati was conducted with the same gusto and enthusiasm.

On 21st April, Samaradhana of HH Shrimath Parijnanashrama Swamiji I was observed. Shri Arun and Smt. Sona Chandavarkar performed Shri Guru Puja in their capacity as co-ordinators for the Samaradhana programme. Other sadhakas performed Devi Anushtana or offered Bhajan Seva at their respective homes.

On 28th April, to observe Shankar Jayanti, an enthralling quiz was organised by Nikhil Kadle and Smt. Sangita Pawar on the life of Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya. Our sadhakas earnestly participated in the quiz and expanded their knowledge about the revered Bhashyakar.

In the month of May, a novel activity was started via WhatsApp, that being the explanation of each of the 108 names in praise of Lord Shiva from the Shiva Ashtothara

Namavali. Everyday at 7am, Dharmapracharak Shri Rajagopal Bhat would annotate on one name from the Namavali on the Dadar Sabha Devotees group.

Reported by Mohit Karkal

CLASSIFIEDS

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Contact (Mumbai): Abhay Talmaki -
8080151572, 7021201371;
email:abhaytalmaki@gmail.com

DOMESTIC TIDINGS

BIRTHS

We welcome the following new arrivals:

- Feb 6 : A son (Shiv) to Aishwarya (nee Shirali) and Sanmesh Mahesh Kalyanpur at Mumbai
(This was erroneously printed in our April 2020 issue as Feb 2nd. We apologise for the error.)
May 5 : A baby girl (Nurvi) to Kanika and Chirag Shrinath Murdeshwar at Navi Mumbai

OBITUARIES

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

- Feb 9 : Betrabet Dayanand Rao (86) at Delhi
Mar 26 : Murlidhar Narayan Nadkarni (Keremane) (95) at Goregaon, Mumbai
Apr 3 : Kombrabail Ramamurti Padmanabha Rao (Namu) (88) at Surat
Apr 3 : Rekha Ravikiran Balwally (71) at Mumbai
Apr 30 : Meera Manjunath Yadery (89) at Talmakiwadi, Mumbai
May 3 : Sumangala Bhat (58) at Vile Parle, Mumbai
May 3 : Kanchan (nee Sheetal Upponi) Vivek Bailur (59) at Mumbai
May 8 : Bantwal Gopal (93) at Nuremburg, Germany

Stay at Home! Stay Safe !!

Enjoy reading
Kanara Saraswat Magazine online for
the time being.

The link is

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

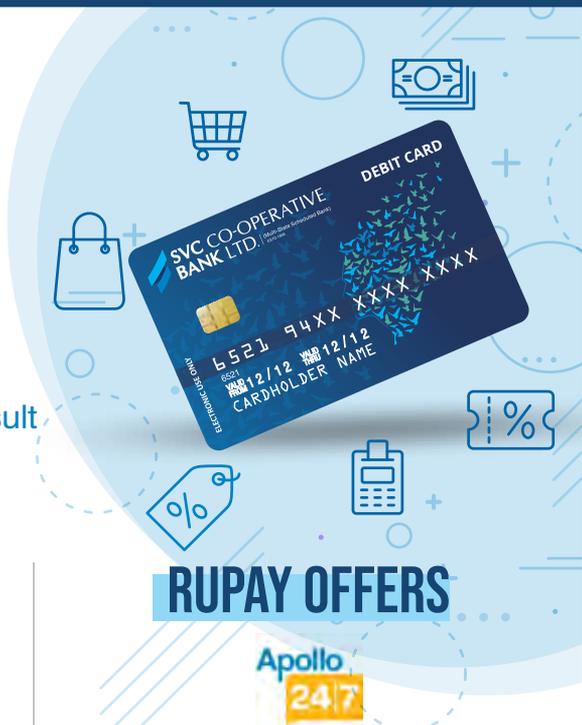
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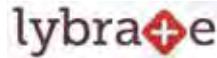


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