

Kanara Saraswat

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE KANARA SARASWAT ASSOCIATION

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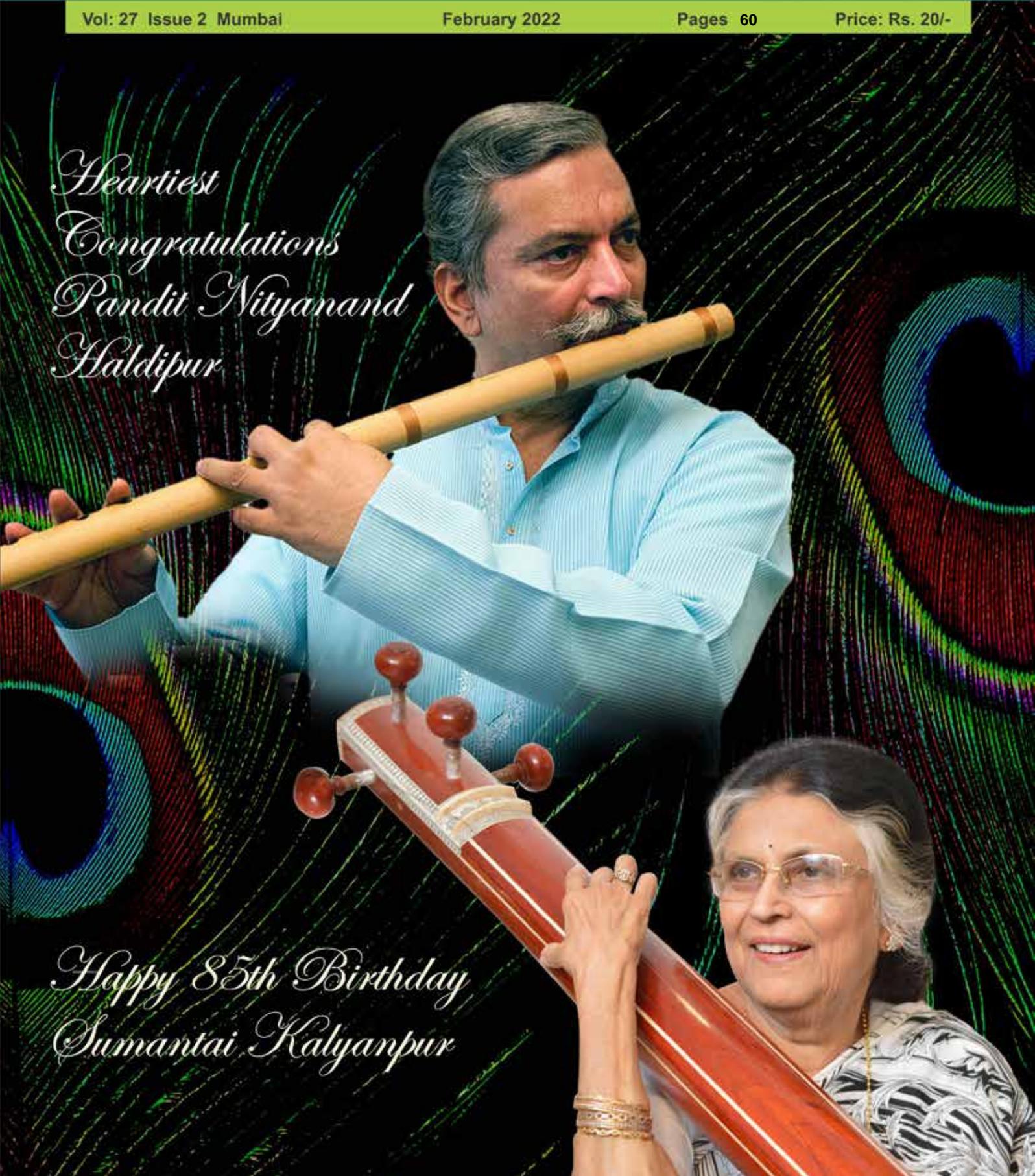
February 2022

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*Heartiest
Congratulations
Pandit Nityanand
Haldipur*

*Happy 85th Birthday
Sumantai Kalyanpur*



Congratulations



Pt. Nityanand Haldipur was awarded the prestigious and coveted " Dr. Mallikarjun Mansur National Award" for his valuable contribution to Indian Classical Music at the hands of Deputy Commissioner and Chairman, Shri Netish Patil on January 1, 2022 at a glittering ceremony in Dharwad. KSA heartily congratulates Pt. Nityanand Haldipur on this success.

Seen in this picture are Shivani Mirajkar, DC Netish Patil, Baburao Hangal and Neela Kodli.





Kanara Saraswat

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Office: 13/1-2, Association Building,
Talmakiwadi, Near Talmaki Chowk,
J.D. Marg, Mumbai 400007

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

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

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

President: **Praveen P. Kadle**
Vice President: **Kishore Masurkar**
Chairman: **Mahesh D Kalyanpur**

MEMBERS OF THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Editor: **Nitin Gurunath Gokarn**
Associate Editor: **Uday A. Mankikar**
Editorial Committee:
Smita Mavinkurve
Anjali Burde

Computer Composing:
Sujata V. Masurkar

Cover Page Design:
Roopali Kapnadak Sawant (Printeresting)

KSA Telephone: (022) 2380 2263 To Avail Educational Aid
or Medical Aid Contact: Mrs. Shobhana Rao
022-23802263 / 022-2380 5655
KSA Holiday Home, Nashik:
Tel: 0253-2580575 / 0253-2315881

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AN APPEAL

BALAK VRINDA EDUCATION SOCIETY

Some of you may be wondering why this institution was silent over so many months. Our Institution was impacted by the pandemic and so we did not have much to share. However, despite trying the conditions, the education for the students continued uninterrupted. However, it did have major impact on our financial position. The Balak Vrinda Education Society (a private Bhanap institution with no Government support) established in 1939, now manages 5 schools, and a junior college. In all there are 800 students. During the last 81 years we have relentlessly strived to fulfil the objectives of our founders – providing affordable education. Most of our students come from under privileged backgrounds. 70% of parents are domestic helps. 20% are daily wage earners, while 10% are employed in Police Departments and in private companies on a lower ranks of the organisations.

Fellow Bhanaps, we need your support. Your donations will help the Balak Vrinda Education Society (BVES) to 'make a difference in the lives of many underprivileged children who may be deprived of education because of their family backgrounds.' All donations to the society are eligible for the exemption under Section 80-G, of the Income Tax Act, 1960.

If you are someone who would feel proud to contribute to this BHANAP institution, please send us an email on balakvrinda@gmail.com or SMS /WhatsApp on 9819921093 / 9869925373. We will be privileged to send you a detailed appeal so that you may choose to support us in your own way.



SHRI CHITRPUR MATH, SHIRALI
in association with
THE KANARA SARASWAT ASSOCIATION



announce

EXTENSION OF FINANCIAL AID to CSBs in DISTRESS for 2021-2022

The **SECOND WAVE** of COVID-19 pandemic has hit our country resulting in financial distress to CSB families. In our commitment to support such families we have pleasure in extending similar financial support as extended in 2020-2021 to CSB families in need.

- We request CSBs in financial distress to contact us (at the below-mentioned WhatsApp number / email) with their details (phone & email) to enable us get in touch with you.
- We also request you to recommend details (name, phone & email) of any CSBs in financial distress (at below-mentioned WhatsApp number / email) who may require such financial assistance.
- High confidentiality will be maintained by SCM & KSA.

Please contact us by:
Email: covidsupport@kanarasaraswat.in
WhatsApp: +91 8879557536

ANNOUNCEMENT

The successors of the late Udyavar Bhavani Rao of Calicut (Kerala), in the form of the Bhavanirao Charities Trust, have voluntarily donated the property of the Shri Datteshwar Temple at Shirali and have entered into a perpetual agreement for administering the Temple with the Shri Chitrapur Math on 10th December 2021 so as to eventually merge the Trust with the Math. As a result, the Temple has become part and parcel of the Shri Chitrapur Math as on that date.

The Shri Datteshwar Temple was constructed by the late Udyavar Bhavani Rao in the year 1911-12 and *the ekmukhi* idol of Shri Dattatreya was installed (*pratishta*) at the Holy hands of our 8th Guru and *Mathadhipati* His Holiness Pandurangashram Swamiji on Chaitra Shukla Panchani of 1912 with great splendour.

BHAVANIRAO CHARITIES TRUST



From the President's Team

On 26th November 2021, the Kanara Saraswat Association (KSA) celebrated its 110th Foundation Day. Our most revered 'Samaj Sevak' Late Rao Bahadur Talmaki Maam along with 13 others prominent individuals from our Chitrapur Saraswat Community laid the foundation of this esteemed association 110 years ago. Their objective was to bring all our 'Samaj Bandhavas' together, provide them encouragement for sports and arts, aid and support in various capacities to those who needed it the most.

This reminds me of one specific incident from my childhood days. My maternal grandparents used to live in the suburb of Vile Parle East. In those days, this suburb was sparsely populated and serene with ample greenery. Most of the bungalows in this suburb were owned by Maharashtrian families. My grandparents were tenants in one such beautiful bungalow called Laxmi Niwas. At that time, I must have been around 12 to 13 years of age. One day, a few friends from the neighbouring bungalows came to play. One of them was carrying a small mango sapling which he had brought from his compound. We decided to plant this sapling in the backyard near the compound wall of Laxmi Niwas. One of our friends got some compost from the neighbouring bungalow and together we planted the sapling with great care. For the rest of my holidays, I continued to water it enthusiastically.

Over the course of the next four to five years, I continued to visit my grandparents in Laxmi Niwas during my summer vacation. I noticed that my grandmother and her neighbours would nurture this plant by watering it regularly and providing compost in the form of used tea leaves. As a young boy, it was exciting to see the sapling grow beautifully over the years. After around 5 years, my visits to Laxmi Niwas came to an end as my grandparents moved in with us at Matunga. Subsequently, I came to know that the bungalow owner had sold Laxmi Niwas to a builder who planned to construct a six-storey building in its place.

Several years passed by and I often found myself fondly reminiscing about my childhood days spent in Vile Parle East. In September last year, I was passing by the location where Laxmi Niwas once stood and saw the residential building in its place. I suddenly remembered planting the mango tree in the backyard of the compound and was eager to see if it was still there. I requested the building watchman to allow me to go to the backyard to check on the tree. At first, he was reluctant but after a lot of persuasion, he escorted me to the backyard. At the very same place where we planted the mango sapling years ago, now stood a tall mighty mango tree. I looked at it with utter surprise and joy. The watchman pointed at the tree and said "*Saab ye jhaad bahut salose hai aur har saal ussme aam athey hai*" (This tree is there since a long time and in every mango season, it gives a lot of mangoes).

I stood in the shade of this impressive, tall and lush mango tree and it got me thinking that after all the care and tender nurturing provided by my grandmother, her neighbours, my friends and myself many years ago, so many other people must have cared for this tree for it to grow so beautifully and bear so many fruits for several years.

In KSA, the sapling was planted by our great ancestors like Late Rao Bahadur Talmaki Maam and others. Over the years, many people have devoted a lot of their time and energy towards the growth of this organization to make it what it is today. KSA continues to support and nourish the community in many different ways through financial support, encouraging arts and sports and in many other ways.

I am proud to be part of our community which has nurtured such an esteemed organization for the last 110 years.

Kishore G Masurkar
Vice President

Dhum Dhum Diwali Dhamaka

There is always something very special about Deepavali. The excitement builds up, everyone appears energetic with a big Diwali Smile on the face, the atmosphere is joyful and there is a yearning for family reunion. This year as the dark gloomy clouds of the pandemic were clearing, a bright ray of hope was clearly visible. Everyone wanted to come out of the shell of Covid 19 and enjoy a breath of fresh air.

Quite literally, the darkness and gloom gave way to hope and cheer. There were sure signs of vibrant and lively days ahead of us. Everyone had become Practical, Patient and Positive Minded to fight the invisible enemy with full confidence and courage to enjoy the moments thereafter.

In this background, it was but natural for the Kanara Saraswat Association (KSA) to take the initiative which the KSA Managing Committee did, splendidly.

KSA was quick to respond and keeping the situation in mind, arranged a three day programme, 'Online Deepavali Celebrations 2021.'

The early morning अभ्यंगस्नान is one of the best moments of Diwali. The 3-day programme started with a musical programme 'Diwali Pahat'. The viewer's world over had a wonderful, melodious अभ्यंगस्नान with the pleasant music flowing all over the body and then were treated with a musical फराळ by the talented artists performing from USA, Dubai, Bengaluru, Pune and Mumbai. The music filled every home with joy and happiness. It was great pleasure to see so many young and experienced singers presenting their Musical skills with outstanding talent. The two comperes of the programme added flavour to the दिवाळी फराळ by their crisp snippets and lively introductions. Most of our Artistes made the viewers literally dance to their tunes from their respective cosy homes. The Diwali Pahat programme raised the quality bar of KSA much higher and everyone was eager to witness the next day's programme.

The second day of "Dham Dham Diwali Dhamaka 2021" saw an innovative concept of 'Online Housie' that is "Housie in Houses.' The game itself is not new but the online version

was an interesting idea to bring the family members together and enjoy the popular game "Housie from participant's own sweet homes."

'Housie in Houses'" was a huge hit with more than 200 people participating from all over the world. And who could have conducted the game better than the suave, jovial and friendly host, Dilip Sashital assisted by Sunil Ullal. Undoubtedly all the participants had a jolly good time of over 60 minutes, whether they won the prizes or not.



Our identity is incomplete without our affiliation to the Chitrapur Math and our glorious Guruparampara. The Sangeet drama Chitrapur Vaibhav, that was presented on the final day of the 3 day Diwali celebrations, was an excellent choice to underscore that importance.

The drama Chitrapur Vaibhav is not just a play but a saga of resilience, courage, character and sacrifice of our ancestors in a very adverse situation. The drama automatically connects us to our roots, history, revered Math and strikes a spiritual chord in the hearts of the viewers.

The viewers were treated with fine acting, beautiful music and wholesome entertainment that had many of our stalwarts of yesteryears. For many it must have brought back nostalgic memories of our elders, friends and relatives.

We thank the KSA for making our Diwali sweeter, happier and livelier. The response to the Online program was very encouraging and the comments in the chat box showed how much it was appreciated. We are sure, the audience would be eager to watch and participate in the future as well. Sincere thanks to the KSA members who conceptualised this programme and presented with elegance in an exceptional manner.

Long Live KSA. Look forward to more such innovative programmes.

CHEERS!

(Compiled by Ashwini Prashant and Krishna Chandaver)

The Editor's Reflections

The New Year 2022 has begun. With it came a lot of hopes and aspirations. However, going by the turn of events in the first few weeks of the first month, it has given rise to mixed feelings. The pandemic which we thought was likely to end, has raised its ugly head again in the form of a third wave. The fear of being affected by the virus, hangs like a grey shroud.

No one really has any answers to the questions as to why, how and when will things return to normal again. We are facing a moment of truth that this generation has never experienced before. The sense of security and safety that we took for granted has been taken away and replaced with disconcerting questions for survival. The silver lining, though, is that the Omicron variant seems to be a lot more manageable and is much milder, compared to the previous variants which resulted in fatalities. According to experts, it is also replacing the rather lethal delta variant which is on the wane. We hope we shall be able to resume a normal life sooner or later, this year itself. All the same, it is very important that we safeguard ourselves by continuing social distancing and avoiding mass gatherings.

The pandemic has caused a lot of havoc and panic. Lots of messages flew around on social media claiming that buildings were sealed, societies were out of reach. Much of this was nothing but rumour. We must, as responsible citizens, ensure that we forward messages only after careful scrutiny after checking the authenticity of what we pass on.

On another level, Education is that source of knowledge that enhances our quest for becoming better human beings. It is that medium that provides skills, techniques, and creates a sense of desire to know. Therefore, the role of education in life is humongous. Education helps everyone develop a sound perspective of looking at the world and at society.

In this context, it is pertinent to mention that the Balak Vrinda Education Society, the 81-year-old growing Institution, started by the Saraswat Mahila Samaj in 1939 with only 12 students, has grown by leaps and bounds over the years, from Pre-Primary to Jr. College, catering to the educational needs of the children from lower strata of society.

Unfortunately, the Pandemic, with the 1st, 2nd and now the 3rd wave with consequent lockdowns has played havoc with the financial set up of the Institution. Reduction in number of the students affecting the inflow of tuition fees is leading to a big void in finances, making it difficult to pay even the teachers, their salary. This is a time to rally together, join hands and pull the noble Institution out of the financial rut. Support from our *Aamchi* Samaritans will definitely be a great contribution in the struggle to keep alive this noble Institution, educating needy students. Let us all come together before it's too late and prevent it from sinking.

Our community has been at the forefront of producing top- class artistes of very high calibre in the field of Music and Fine Arts. It is a matter of great joy and pride that Pt. Nityanand Haldipur, the eminent flautist, has been honoured by the Karnataka Government on 1st of January 2022 for his contribution to Music. In this issue, we carry a *tete a tete* with Panditji . His pleasant and soft demeanour, sacrifice, hard work and dedication is an inspiration for today's youth.

This 28th of January, was the 85th birthday of legendary singer and queen of melody, Suman Kalyanpur. Suman *tai* is a scintillating gem and the pride of our community. Whenever her name is taken, every *bhanap's* chest swells with pride. We wish Sumantai many years of good health in times to follow. A sneakpeek into Sumantai's persona is included in this issue.

We have important festivals lined up in February. Let us all enjoy the grace of Lord Ganesha as Ganesh Jayanti falls on Friday 4th of February 2022. Let us pray for the well-being of all our members and their loved ones and family members. The month of February also reminds us of the saintly soul – Kalavati Aai (born as Rukmabai Kalyanpur) - whose *punyatithi* is on 2nd of February. We pay our respects to Aai in this issue. Her fame and glory has reached far and wide. Do enjoy reading and give us your feedback.

Cheers, Jai Shankar.

Nitin G. Gokarn

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The Jan 2022 KS issue was indeed, a splendid amalgam of articles which brought me nostalgic memories of my growing up years. The articles on the 1971 war and the bombing of the Karachi harbour stood out vividly in front of my eyes, while reading, as if I were watching it live. Both the wartime articles were so wonderfully penned by Maj. Gen BN Rao and Cmdr Chaitanya Shiroor. The article on HH Parijanashram Swamiji in his premonastic days and his meeting with Nityananda Swami made interesting reading too.

The new feature of Fun time Quiz and Crossword got me engaged and glued and I must compliment the Editorial team for striving to make the magazine stand the test of time by introducing new features. Kudos.

Sanjay S. Bankeshwar, Kandivali

Dear Editor,

Jai Shankar. There has been some grave misunderstanding in connection with the article on Ustad Bismillah Khan published in the January 2022 issue of the 'Kanara Saraswat'. I wish to clarify that it was neither compiled nor originally written by me. It was merely forwarded for reading pleasure. It was also highly embarrassing to see my name used in the article as 'compiler'.

Savitri Babulkar

(Dear Savitri Pacchi- the error is regretted- Editor)

Dear Editor,

Upon reading the "A Holy Confluence", by Shri Nitin G. Gokarn in the KS of December 2021 about Swami Nityanand and Late Capt. Manohar mam Hatengdi brought back some fond memories.

The Late Capt. Manohar mam Hatengdi who was a retired Naval Secretary at Naval Headquarters and a great devotee of Swami Nityanand, who also has authored the book on Swami Nityanand. The Secretarial work of this manuscript was done by late Shri Ramchandra Bellare, my aunt's husband who also did the secretarial work of late Amembal Sunder mam's slim volume in English of "Shri Chitrapur Guruparampara".

The English *Parayan* (Reading) of this bound manuscript was held in our house and on the last day Captain Manohar mam Hatengdi was himself invited and honoured.

Two copies of the original manuscript were prepared and bound. The original was sent to the U.S. for editing, the second copy may still be with Hatengdi family. This was in the year 1983.

C. A. Kallianpur, Bandra

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Tete a tete

Pt. Nityanand Haldipur in conversation with Nitin G Gokarn on his life's journey

On January 1, 2022, Pt. Nityanand Haldipur, eminent flautist and an absolutely humble human being, despite having achieved so much fame and popularity, agreed to have a long chat concerning his life's journey. Here are the responses to the questions posed to him.

At what age did you start learning Flute? How and why did you choose bansuri over other instruments?

I started playing flute at the age of 7 years. My father was a student of the legendary flute Maestro Pt. Pannalal Ghosh. He used to do his *riyaz* regularly. And that is the *sanskar* and I took to the *bansuri* naturally. Also, my mother was a good singer who had learnt music from Master Navrang and I absorbed this *sanskar* also from her.

Who was your first teacher of Flute or Music?

My first teacher of music was my mother who taught me the foundational aspects of good music through Bhajans. She used to sing Bhajans in different traditional Indian classical ragas and this helped me develop the rudimentary understanding of ragas in formative years. The training in Flute began under my father. I was lucky to receive some training from the maestro Pt Pannalalji himself at an early age.

Did the desire to learn music / Flute come to you automatically or were you persuaded to learn?

As a child I did not have any desire to do anything in particular. But a child often has a natural instinct to copy his parents, which I did too. That is what led me to the flute. My father encouraged me to do *riyaz* regularly. Very often I was forced to tear myself away from games of cricket and made to do *Riyaz* instead. The musical background in the family made it easy for me to take to music, but taking up music as a profession was never on the cards then. Playing the flute was something that I pursued as a hobby or a passion in my childhood

When was your first public performance at what age?

While it may not be entirely appropriate to describe it as a public performance in the strictest sense, I played flute at the annual gathering at my school, Tilak Vidyalaya, in Vile Parle, which was a cultural hotspot that actively promoted Indian arts and culture.

The word had spread that I was learning from Pt. Pannalal Ghosh and without too much fuss about the level at which I played, I was made to perform on one of the days of the annual gathering. Fortunately, everyone including the Principal of the school liked my performance very much, so much so that I was asked to perform the next day too. A few VIPs were also invited. And I was decorated with a medal

after my performance, the picture of which appeared in the local Newspaper "Loksatta".

Does Flute also get categorized in to gharanas? If yes to which gharana do you belong?

Initially, there was only one gharana in which the flute was a staple instrument. That was Maihar Gharana, which was founded by the legendary Ustad Baba Allaaddin Khan, who was the Guru of Pt. Pannalal Ghosh.

Subsequently, a few Shehnai players from Banaras took inspiration from Panna babu, and took to the flute, which they played in the shehnai style. This style has now become established and can perhaps be called Banaras Gharana.

Since all my training took place under Gurus from Maihar Gharana, except for a brief stint under Pt. Chidanand Nagarkar (Chiddumaam), who was from Agra gharana, I belong to the Maihar Gharana.

Of late some eminent flautists have innovated and brought new variations in playing the flute. Do you also experiment with new variations or stick to traditional form of playing the Flute?

I stick to the traditional style of playing the flute that Panna babu introduced.

What is your reaction to these innovations and changes compared to the styles what was played may be 30-35 years ago and today. Over these 30-40 years, how have you felt that your music has changed and developed?

In my opinion innovation is inevitable and welcome so long as it is in the service of music. Music is a form of cultural expression and culture is an ever-changing organism. In fact, very often, changes occur naturally to address a shortcoming in the musical possibilities of an instrument or a genre of music.

But what one should not fall prey to the temptation of artificially foisting changes upon a music or an instrument for the sake of self-promotion and to lay claim to being the first person to do a thing as such.

We have a glorious tradition of music, which is also a very vulnerable one. It is like an ancient river that is rich with aquatic life, salts, and minerals. But all it takes is one oil spill for it to become completely contaminated. Merely introducing a change is not a feat by itself. So, musicians of this generation and future generations should think carefully about whether they are serving a higher musical cause when introducing a change or merely trying to enhance their reputation overnight.

Recently a tradition of mixing pop with Indian classical is in vogue. What is your take on this?

I had experimented with this way back in 1986. I had a group called 'Moksha' in collaboration with the famous Guitar player D'Wood from the USA. After a few concerts, I felt like it was not my cup of tea and quit the band.

Mixing two forms of music is not a new idea. Hindustani music as we know it today is a synthesis from the interaction between *dhrupad* and *khyal* forms of music. The key consideration is whether mixing two forms of music leads to an outcome that is better than the source forms or is legitimate in its own right. If two musicians from different traditions have a great deal of respect and understanding of each other's music and frame a meaningful way to combine their music, it could lead to a musically interesting outcome. But novelty pursued for the sake of novelty does not always lead to meaningful outcomes.

Who has been your longest Guru?

I have learned from Guru Maa Annapurna Devi for the longest time. Before that I also had learnt from Pt. Devendra Murdeshwar for over a decade.

We are aware that you spent considerable years in serving your Guru Maa and looking after her. What are the significant memories that you carry of hers?

All throughout her life she was an independent woman till her husband's death. She was grief-stricken and devastated due to the sudden demise of her husband. At that time, she was also bed-ridden. I decided then and there to stay with her. In those last six years of my close association with her I realised that God is not different from her. She was "Vatsalya" personified. She was a complete package of humility, wisdom and love for all sentient beings. Even in the last stage of her life, music was always on her mind. The 'Bhava' she created at the time of teaching was so strong that I always mentioned to her that if I can acquire even 10 per cent of that 'Bhava' and involvement, I would be able to conquer the whole music world. Her music was so powerful. She always donated generously. There was no discrimination of any kind. The house help was served at the same dining table meant for other members of the house. True to her name, she always liked to feed others. In spite of being a more knowledgeable and capable musician than many of her contemporaries including her first husband or her brother, she always remained modest and humble and insisted that she knew nothing and that she was merely a messenger of her Guru Baba Ustad Allauddin Khan. She loved me like her own son.

We congratulate you on the recent award instituted by the Govt of Karnataka. Please tell us more about other awards and accolades won.

All my awards have come from out of the blue. Just to mention a few:

Sangeet Natak Akademy, Govt. of India New Delhi. Swara sadhan Samiti conferred: - **Swara Sadhna Ratna**, Sahara International: - **Life time achievement award**; Swarankur: - **Life time achievement award**. Sanskriti Foundation New

Delhi conferred **Fellowship**; Odisha Akademy of Tribal Culture Research & Arts: - **Bharat Gaurav**.; And recently **Pt. Mallikarjun Mansur Karnataka State award**. This award is very close to my heart and means more to me than any Padma award because this award is conferred solely based on musical considerations. This award is in the name of one of the most towering figures of Indian music and someone who was immersed in '*Sur sadhana*' all his life and also happens to the son of the musically fertile soil of the Dharwad region of Karnataka.

Apart from India, in which other country have you performed. Who have been the main accompanists?

I have performed in the Middle East, Japan, Iran, France, England, The Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, and five East European countries through ICCR. There were different accompanists over the years. But most frequently the accompanists have been Pt. Sadanand Nainpally. Pt. Omkar Gulvady, Pt. Udairaj Karpoor, Sandip Bhattacharya and some local accompanists

Which has been the most memorable performance or incident that you carry in heart?

It is hard to single out any one performance as the most memorable. But one opportunity to offer musical seva that I cherish is when I had visited the Shringeri Temple and that happened to be a special day of Puja of Lord Chandramauli. I was requested to do seva on that occasion by the then P.A. to **Abhinava Vidyatirtha Mahaswamiji**, the Guru of the current Shankaracharyaji. He was very pleased with the music, and asked me to play again and again for the Lord. Incidentally, I landed in Shringeri on two consecutive years on the same day and performed seva for the Lord. I had no prior knowledge of the *Tithi*.

Have any reviews written about your performance been disturbing? How do you react to musical reviews which do not appreciate your performance?

Thus far, I have been lucky to escape any unduly harsh criticism from music critics. When there have been reviews that were not entirely appreciative, I have tried to introspect based on the criticism and take it in the right spirit. I believe in the saying of a saint, "**Nindakache ghara asave shejari**," which suggests that one should stay close to one's critic because although harsh criticism may not be fully constructive, there is often at least an iota of truth in it. Reflecting on this helps improve future performances.

Have you been instrumental in pioneering a raga or introducing a new style?

My Guru Maa guided me in creating what I consider a unique style, especially for the flute. While my flute playing - in terms of fingering and blowing - follows Pannababu's style, my musical material is drawn from Ustad Wazir Khan's beenkar dhrupad repertoire. With my Guru Maa's guidance, I think I have been able to create a style of playing *dhrupad-angalap* and *jod* in a *khayal-gayaki* format set in *vilambit ektaal* or *jhaptaal*, popularised by *khayal* vocalists like Ustad Amir Khan.

When were you conferred the Title "Pandit" on you and by whom? Was it in some ceremony?

'Pandit' is a title associated with a very learned person. In my experience, the artistes who are top-grade artistes of All India Radio typically end up with the prefix 'Pandit' if they are male and 'Vidushi' if they are female before their name. I became a top-grade artiste of the All India Radio in the year 2000. Since then, people prefix 'Pandit' to my name.

How much influence does spirituality have in Music?

Spirituality has a lot of influence in music, at least as far as my music is concerned. It changes the approach of a performer.

Finally how do you select a student keen to learn Music from you? Is there any bhanap learning from you? Can you name some who have become popular or famous and are those who are showing promise.

I teach to all those who are have a keen desire to learn irrespective of their religion, caste and background, including beginners. Baba (Ustad Allaouddin Khan) always said "It is a sin not to teach the deserving as much as it is a sin to teach the undeserving." There are a few *bhanaps* interested in learning flute. I have a very promising *bhanap* student – **Nihar Kabinittal**. Very proficient performer but has left India for USA/Canada for his IT job. There are students from all over India. A few have been performing at a professional level but have not taken music as their main profession.

Is the interest in Indian Classical Music on the decline?

How do you think we draw audiences for Musical concerts?

It is difficult to say. But certainly our musical culture has become increasingly oriented towards Bollywood and its culture. Today's world runs at the pace of computers. So everyone wants quick results. This is not possible in Indian Classical music. There is no short cut. You may learn to run very fast overnight but without proper training and guidance, you cannot stay fit and win a medal at the Olympics. Indian Classical music demands very rigorous *riyaz* and *taleem* and also imagination. It is unique in the sense that it is the only music system in the world where you have the absolutely same scale for two very different ragas.

(The pleasant interaction kept the interviewer spellbound as if in a trance as Pt Nityanand spoke with passion and humility. We ended the interview with a strong cuppa filter coffee.)

We are happy to welcome **Ms Bhakti S Ullal** and **Ms Juhi Karekatte** into the Editorial Committee from Feb 2022. With their inclusion our readers will be able to see further improvements in your favourite community magazine - The Kanara Saraswat. Please join us in welcoming and congratulating the two young ladies.

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SUMAN KALYANPUR – स्वरसरस्वती An Ode to a musical living legend

MANGALA KHADILKAR - MUMBAI

Gifted with a silken, melodious voice, capable of rendering crystal clear notes, and an utterly sweet style of singing, **Suman Kalyanpur** is undoubtedly one of the three top singing miracles of the Indian female playback music world. The delicate nuances of Suman's voice and its lilting sweetness are all her own. Added to this is a keen vision of deep understanding and a rare sense of design -This gives her music a distinctive stamp of class and individuality.

When melody was the "Queen", Suman Kalyanpur's sublime songs, filled with purity of emotions, had carved out a very special place in the heart of connoisseurs. Time has proven this beyond doubt. Her fans have cherished her songs like a treasure in their hearts. Their joy knew no bounds when her biography "**SUMAN SUGANDH**" was published in 2009. Such is the aura of her singing persona and her nectar sweet evergreen numbers.

She has contributed to many hit solo and duet songs in Bollywood between 1950 to 1970, as well as sung several hit songs in Marathi, Gujarati, Assamese, Bengali, Oriya and Punjabi films. Her Marathi Bhavgeets and Bhakti geets are in a league of their own.

The announcement of her name in public concerts creates an electrifying charge and a respectful atmosphere amongst the audience in any and every live program. Without exaggeration, she appears as an incarnation of **Maa Saraswati** on stage. Her soft smile, simple and honest thinking, sincere answers and ever youthful voice quality enthral the audience. She sings for her beloved audience and they adore her!

In the late 80's, she voluntarily left the field of playback singing very gracefully and silently, after proving her mettle and versatility for more than 3 decades. She has, to her credit, nearly 3500 filmy and non- filmy songs in 13 Indian languages, ranging from Bhavgeet to Gawlan, Ghazals to Mujra, and Thumri to Classical songs.

She was considered among the most popular singers in the golden era of Hindi film music and was most fortunate to sing some foot tapping and popular duets with great stalwarts like Md. Rafi, Manna Dey, Mukesh, Kishore Kumar, Talat Mehmood, Mahendra Kapoor, Hemant Kumar, Sudhir Phadke, Pt. Vasant Rao Deshpande, to name a few. These duets are and will always remain on the 'top of the charts' for music lovers.

Suman has no regrets, no remorse, no looking back. She is a contended homemaker, a very caring mother and indulgent grandmother, with a passion for many arts, crafts and skills which she pursues to date with great enthusiasm.

Today, even at her prime age of 85 years, she keeps herself busy spending time with knitting, crochet, baking and

gardening. She has also conceptualized the restructuring of her home interiors. Her passion and love for these arts and skills keep her busy and happy 24x7. In addition to all this, she is an expert cook. Any dish cooked by her is really divine and mouthwatering- be it Continental, Mughlai, or our own '**Amchigelle**' food.

Suman has no time in the world to nurture grudges against anyone in her life. To quote a line from one of her several interviews, she quips "**You should enjoy your work thoroughly & if the environment around you starts getting polluted and stressful, just come out of it - Something more wonderful waits upon you**". She follows this mantra in her day to day life even today.

She never misses her daily Puja, which forms a part of her everyday routine during her '**Riyaaz**'. This constant devotion has kept her '**Sur**' ever young and ever sweet, even at this age.

She is the recipient of many prestigious awards and honours, which find a pride of place on a special shelf at home. **Suman Kalyanpur** was honoured for the Top Music award by Maharashtra State Govt during 2010 in Mumbai & Madhya Pradesh Govt's highest award in the field of singing in Feb 2020 at Indore.

On the occasion of Suman Kalyanpur's 85th birthday on 28th of January 2022, we pray to Maa Saraswati & Our Guruparampara to shower Her with Blessings in abundance for her good Health, Joy and Contentment, for many, many more years to come. There can never be two opinions that Suman Kalyanpur is a sparkling gem which has adorned the Chitrapur Saraswat community.

(The writer is a multifaceted personality and is reckoned as a popular anchor on TV & Musical Live stage shows. Besides being a good orator she has been an excellent writer. She is none other than the daughter of the late Music exponent Shri B S Rao. She can be reached at mangala.khadilkar@gmail .com)

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A PLEA FOR HOME REMEDIES

(By G. A. CHANDAVARKAR M.A.)

Published in November 1938

In these days when medical science has made considerable progress, various systems of medicines such as Unani, Ayurvedic, Homoeopathy, Naturopathy, Allopathy and Aquapathy are being tried. Each 'pathy' claims superiority over other 'pathies'. In these wars of "pathies" one cannot afford to neglect one system in which sympathy played a great part. Among Saraswat ladies in the olden days, we here there were some who knew some simple home remedies which proved efficacious in the treatment of some common ailments. These remedies were at once simple, handy and cheap. Even in places like Bombay we used to hear of *Mikkas* and *Hareetes* whose names were household words. But with the passing away of those venerable ladies, those remedies also passed into the limbo of oblivion. Just as attempts are being made to collect Konkani proverbs and Saraswat genealogical trees. I hazard the opinion that if any enthusiast were to collect such home remedies and publish them, he will be conferring a lasting boon on the suffering public. None need point a finger of scorn at these as "Quack remedies". Such remedies will stand the test of modern medical theories. I earnestly request our doctor friends to direct their attention to these dying remedies. At the suggestion of some doctors I have given a fair trial to some of these remedies mentioned below. The results obtained have been very encouraging.

Jaundice: A few castor plant leaves should be ground in water and the paste should be administered with milk internally to a patient suffering from jaundice. For an adult the quantity of the paste should be approximately of the size of an ordinary lime or nimboo. On the day on which the medicine is administered only milk is to be the diet. Rapid improvement is seen on the very first day. On the third day another similar dose may be tried. In one particular variety the medicine has given very good results.

Diabetes: For seven days Neem seeds should be used at the rate of one, two and three per day. The first day one seed, the second day two seeds and so on, till the seventh day. These should be taken early morning and the usual non carbohydrate diet should be observed. On the eighth day if the urine be examined it will be found that the sugar percentage has been considerably reduced. Ubibe case, it has come down to zero percent. This is not, however, is permanent cure. Proper and well regulated diet should be observed, if sugar reappears, the remedy may be tried again. Another remedy tried is the use of leaves called *Goudmar in Hindi and Mekakoo in Telagu*. Two or three of these leaves are to be chewed daily in the morning. These leaves in any sweet preparation render it tasteless.

A solution of common table salt in water acts as a good mouth wash. It can be safely used as a substitute for tooth pastes also.

In case of scorpion bite, this solution has shown good results. A few drops in the eyes of the patient have given him relief. When one sees mango flowers budding for the first time one should rub one's hands with them and their efficiency is said to last for one full year. Such a person should pass his hands over the affected part and the pain disappears. The use of onion juice on the spot gives relief.

Some people think that the efficacy of remedies disappear if it known to the patient. But it cannot be so. All that we desire is that some doctors should give fair trials to these and see how far these are useful. Research in this direction is well worth making. A time there was when some ladies in Saraswat families were well versed in the secrets of these simple remedies. Even now there may be some. As occasion demands they may be approached and their experiences may be recorded and fully tested, Mr Nadkarni's valuable book on Indian Plants and Drugs may be very useful on this direction. The Ayurvedic system of medicine does stand a chance of a revival. Such a collection of home remedies may in that case be a help in the reconstruction of that edifice. Decidedly it will be a useful hobby, not less interesting than stamp collection or coin collecting.

Tribute

A star was born

A star was born
In 1947
With a beautiful heart and soul
He was poor enough all his life
He turned it in to gold!!
Education with scholarships
Achievements with all the hardships!!!
Very helpful and kind to people
down to earth by nature,
very humble, Loving and noble
His family was his wealth and happiness
Very pure with kindness
Time went, He achieved more and more
With all his heart and soul!!
You rested in peace on 30th August 2020
With heavy heart we grieved
You will always be remembered and missed.
Happy birthday Ratnakar Gokarn (16th January)

Dipti Arur-Khutwal

CONGRATULATIONS SHOBHAN & ANAND NAYAMPALLI!



"An anniversary is not divided into mere hours of a day but measured in each moment when two never stop being one"

**You are two beautiful parents
Two beautiful grandparents
And above all
ONE AMAZING COUPLE**

Wishing our dear
Amma and Pappa a
very Happy 50th
Wedding Anniversary!

From
Asha-Prashant
Aparna-Hrishikesh
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Soumya



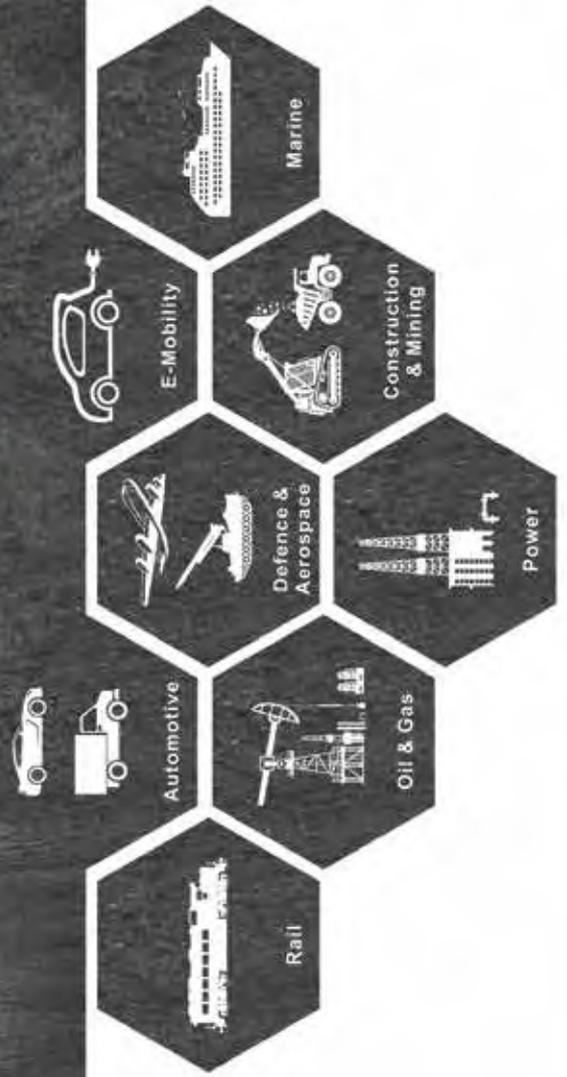
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& with loads of love from*

*Suman Seema, Sneha & Shreyas
and extended family members*

You can send wishes to

kundapurgold@gmail.com

Colonel Suresh Bhavanishanker Gangoly (Retd)

88 years left for his heavenly abode on 01 Jan 2022 at Mumbai bringing an end to a very gloriously led life.

Born at Jabalpur in 1933, a bustling town then with a major British Army presence, young Suresh was always enamoured by the crisp Olive Green uniforms. At the age of 18, he was declared Mr Madhya Pradesh and he followed it up with his passion to join the Armed Forces in 1954. He saw active duty during Naga hostilities immediately on joining his unit and thereafter took active part in the wars in 1962, 1965 and 1971. His love for the Armed Forces was so much that he ensured that his son joined the Army and his daughter was married to a Naval officer. After retiring in 1985 he settled down in Pune in an ex-Service officers Complex and till his end he celebrated life as it should be with his characteristic charm and positive outlook. He was friendly, humble and always gregarious till his very end which endeared him to many.



We are going to really miss him !!!

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Guru Bhakta Bhet!”

BY PADMĀ CHIKARMANE

The year was 1978. Parama Pūjya Parijnânâshram Swâmîjî wanted to spend His time in *ekânta*. Shri Nalkûr Shripâd mām wished that someone would go and see if Swâmîjî required anything, so he asked my father Shri Râmdâs Hattiangadî to go and meet Swâmîjî. My father was a simple, sincere person and had been actively involved in Math activities such as Vantigâ collection, and was an ardent devotee of our Guru. He immediately agreed to go to Ganeshpurî, where Swâmîjî was staying.

The very next day, Râmdâs left early in the morning carrying food (breakfast, lunch, snacks and dinner) lovingly prepared by my mother Ahilyâ Hattiangadî, for Swâmîjî and the caretaker at the kutîr. He dutifully continued to do this every morning for several days. He would hand over the food to the caretaker from the rear of the kutîr. Then he would travel by train to Churchgate for his job at Grindlays Bank.

A few days passed and Swâmîjî enquired about the food that was being dropped off daily. He wanted to meet the person who was responsible for this. The next day, Swâmîjî opened the door when the food was being dropped off and asked Râmdâs to come in.

Râmdâs was thrilled...

“I clasped and hugged Thy Feet and looted boundless bliss!”

Tukârâm said “Now I am in raptures, Let me sing the Divine Name wholeheartedly!”

क्षेम आर्लिंगन दिली पायी मिठी

घेतली सेलूटी अमूपहा

तुकांम्हणे आता आनंदीआनंद

गाऊ परमानंद मनासंगे

Swâmîjî was also very happy to see his *bhakta*. Thus the Guru and Bhakta came into contact. He showered his grace and love on Râmdâs. Râmdâs was very happy to spend a day there and have lunch with Swâmîjî. In the evening, Swâmîjî asked Râmdâs to come and stay at Ganeshpurî.

गुरुउपदेश होताचि अंतरदृष्टि उघडली

What a divine Guru Kripâ!

My father spoke with my mother and they decided to go to Ganeshpurî the very next day and immerse themselves in Guru Sevâ. Across from Swâmîjî's *kutîr* was a two room self-contained house. When they opened the door, a swarm of honey bees rushed out, but in no time they disappeared. Next morning, they were blessed with HH Swâmîjî's *darshana*. Bhakta and Guru became one. Their daily Sevâ



began, and my mother cooked food for everyone.

Thus began my parents' divine journey. The Guru always acts with a divine purpose to uplift his devotees, which we do not understand.

Episode 2: “*Dhāv gheti bhaktâsâthi!*”

Often, due to our ignorance, we do not understand the Power of our Guru....

Once Swâmîjî seemed seriously ill and was admitted to Nânâvati Hospital in Mumbai. On doctors' advice, bottles of blood were arranged for. However, the next day, all of Swâmîjî's blood tests and reports were clear. He was absolutely fine!

In an adjacent ward, one *âmchimaam* was admitted and needed a few bottles of blood. Somehow his wife got the news about Swâmîjî and she came to have *darshana*. Swâmîjî blessed her and *mâm*, and told her not to worry. As the blood group was the same, Swâmîjî asked for all those blood bottles to be given to that *mâm*. Soon the *mâm* received proper treatment and recovered quickly.

This shows Guru's love towards his devotees.

Episode 3: “*Santâchi Phalati Namostute Mhanatâ!*”

In Murdeshwar, near Shirâlî, there lived a Sâraswat Brâhmana. He was a great devotee of H.H. Shrimat Keshavâshram Swâmîjî. Unfortunately, his son lacked the ability to speak. He planned to perform his son's *upanayanam* at Shirâlî, where he could also seek Swâmîjî's *darshana*. Swâmîjî blessed the child. A few days after returning home, the boy started to utter a few words and eventually was able to speak normally.

A similar incident occurred at H.H. Parijnânâshram Swâmîjî's camp at Lonâvalâ. A family arrived for Swâmîjî's *darshana*. Swâmîjî lifted their son on to His lap and asked

his name. To the parents' surprise, the boy told Swâmîjî his name. Until that time, the boy had not been able to talk.

Thus was our Guru. Kind and affectionate.

Episode 4: Ârati on the special occasion

H.H. Parijnânâshram Swâmîjî's *janmotsava* was celebrated every year at Jnânânand in Kârlâ, and after morning pûjâ, prasâd bhojana was served to everyone. An evening musical programme, cake cutting and Ârati were scheduled. Swâmîjî asked Râmdâs and Ahilyâ to perform



Ârati. What a divine moment! Ârati is considered the most divine act, expressing a bhakta-s love towards The Guru. मंगलारती करिनभावे सदगुरुरायसि Guru showers His *Kripâdrishti* on His loving devotee.

Samâdhi Chaitanya

गुरुदेवापरदेवा परमदेवा परिज्ञानेश्वर नमन तव चरणा समाधिचैतन्य
निरंजननाम एकतत्त्वसार परिज्ञान
अखण्ड ती समाधि अमृत ती संजीवनी

How was our Guru?

मान अपमान समानमानिले लोकहितांसाठी पीठ सोडिले
पतितांचे स्वामी बनले चैतन्याचा तो पुतळा
भक्तांसाठीधावला अजुनी हाके सहाक देवूनि
धावत येते ती माऊली अशी ती प्रेमळ माउली

जाणिली का कोणी

Episode 1: Once, all of a sudden a fire broke out at Jnânânand. People panicked, became scared and nervous; but one volunteer rushed towards the Samâdhi and started prayers from the bottom of his heart. The Guru's chaitanya



swarûpa rushed to rescue the bhakta-s and everything settled down within no time.

Episode 2: Once a family of four members was travelling by taxi towards Mangalûru airport when the brakes suddenly failed. The vehicle was on the top of the ghât and the driver said it would not be possible to continue the journey. The family started praying, and the driver tried the brakes again, only to find that all was well with the vehicle! Their journey continued and they reached the airport safely.

Episode 3: There was a lady called Smt. Vasudhâ , a devotee of Parama Pûjya Gondavalekar Mahârâja, but she would read our Chitrâpur Guru Paramparâ Charitra daily with great devotion. Once she got *darshana* of Param Pûjya Swâmîjî at Kârlâ Math.

The Guru always takes care of his devotees without considering caste, creed. He spreads His *Kripâdrishti* on everyone.

Episode 4: There is a one autorickshawâllâ who had been visiting the âshrama with his parents since his childhood. Even today he dutifully visits Kârlâ to have darshana of the Sanjîvanî Samâdhi and Durgâ Parameshwarî Devî, before he begins his duty every morning.

Sadguru's Mahimâ and Lîlâ are great!
Guru's LOVE is so wonderful, His love is beautiful
I cannot reach to that level
At least tried to touch His Feet!
Jai Gurudev!

Remembering Kalavati Aai on her Punyatithi - 2nd February

Among the many backward communities that lived in India was a community named the Boharis who lived in Angol, Belgaum. However a radical change was brought about in their thought process, language, conduct and their way of life. They became cultured in the true sense with higher lofty spiritual goals in life and completely gave up on their primitive practices and way of life.

Who was the inspiration behind this incredible transformation? It was none other than a humble **Bhanap saint by name Kalavati Aai** who is called by Her devotees as Param Pujya Aai.

Aai, was one such unique saint [1908-1978]. She carried out her mission through Shri **Harimandir**; the main religious headquarter in Angol, Belgaum. With a remarkable ease she fostered Bhakti in the hearts of millions bringing Joy and Hope in their lives. Thus runs the life story of a great soul.

She was born to pious parents Sitabai and Shantaram Kalyanpur of Karwar. In 1907, they performed special worship called "Sahastra Lingarchanam" to invoke Lord Shiva's blessings for a virtuous son. This worship concluded on the day of Durgashtmi in Navaratra. The same night Shantaram had a dream of Goddess Durga informing about Her incarnating in his family. Soon thereafter in 1908, a daughter was born at the auspicious time Brahma muhurta on the day of Rishi Panchami in the month of Bhadrapada. She was named Rukmabai. As they had hoped for having their first child, a boy, they were a bit disheartened. As Rukmabai grew, her divine virtues started unfolding. As she grew she exhibited maturity and patience unusual for her age. She had gracious manners and a very selfless nature. When she was three years of age the family moved to a place of pilgrimage called Gokarn.

The holy environment in the town was conducive to her spiritual growth. At the age of five she was able to sing bhajans in four different languages - Marathi, Kannada, Hindi, and Gujarati. Her devotional fervour and melodious voice attracted people. Hence she was frequently invited in religious functions to sing bhajans.

As a child her games differed from other kids'. She enjoyed playing with the favourite toys which were idols of different deities . At the sea beach she would make a huge linga of Lord Shiva and would be engrossed in worshipping it for hours. At the age of seven she met a great Sanyasi by name "Swami Purnananda Saraswati". She was blessed with his company for many days. At the time of departing, with great affection and love he presented to her as a token

of his remembrance his own idol of worship of Sri Krishna. He then turned to her father and said, "Your child is none other than Divine Incarnate born for spiritual upliftment of the masses. She will retire from her family life and shake off all social fetters at a young age of 19."

The idol of Sri Krishna she got, stole her heart away. Most of her daytime, she would spend around Him. She would be self-absorbed for hours in His worship. Thus from age seven to fourteen Rukmabai laid down for herself a strong spiritual foundation.

At the age of 15 she married Sri Rajgopal, a police inspector from Kadur. On their way back home the newly-wed couple took a break at Hubli to have the darshan of the great Saint "Sri Siddharudha Swami". The Swami blessed the couple. At the first sight of this great saint she intuitively knew that this was her Sadguru who would guide her in her spiritual quest whom she so long longed to know. Her heart overflowed with joy. The Guru at this time gave her the initiation in the *mahamantra* of '**Om Namah Shivay**'.

Rukmabai gave birth to her first son (Balkrishna) at the age of seventeen.

At age nineteen, a month before her second confinement her husband died of a heart attack. This personal tragedy affected her mind deeply. From her childhood she always believed that Human life was given by God for realisation of the Ultimate Truth. Her married life having come to an abrupt end she was free to pursue the path so that her life would be fruitful. But how was she going to achieve concentration of mind and devotion so essential in this path with two kids to take care of, as a widow. She was left with no desire to lead an ordinary life either. So she decided to end her life in the nearby well. But Divine plan was contrary to hers. A sadhu appeared from nowhere and cautioned her against the attempt. He made her aware that she had a great mission in life to be fulfilled. She was born to alleviate the sufferings of people by their spiritual upliftment. He told her to go to her Guru's ashram in Hubli after the confinement and that her miseries would soon come to an end. She returned home and gave away all her belongings and treasures to the poor and needy in charity. Very soon she delivered the second son (Kamlakar).

Before her father's death she had mentioned to both parents about her decision to lead an ascetic life at her Guru's ashram. They did consent but always hoped that they would be able to dissuade her. Couple of months after the second confinement, according to divine instructions she took off



from her home for good. With no other belongings than the dress (sari) she wore, she arrived at her Guru's ashram in Hubli. With great affection he welcomed her saying he was waiting all the time for her. When her mother came to know about her whereabouts she came with some close relatives and her two small kids to persuade her to return but they had to return disappointed.

Rukmabai's ascetism was very austere. She restricted her food and drinks to the minimum, sometimes she went without food for a week. She used empty sacks of jute as a bed and brick as a pillow. The holy name was always there on her lips. She avoided conversing with anybody unless it was really needed.

The Guru was very much pleased with her steadfast devotion and above all her fierce ascetism.

This culminated in his honouring her on the day of Dasara in 1928. In the presence of a huge congregation he gave her seat beside him on the dais. He placed a shawl around her shoulders, gave *prasad* to eat and named her 'Kalavati Devi'. He then asked her to give a spiritual discourse. She promptly responded and spoke on a hymn '*Naam Sankeertan sadhan pai sope*' (meaning chanting the holy name and singing the praises of the Lord the easiest way to salvation) for 2 1/2 hours very authoritatively, everybody was spellbound with her blessed discourse. The seed of devotion that had sprouted in childhood had grown steadily and now was ready to blossom.

One day while she was doing bhajans she became very restless and emotional with eyes full of tears longing to see God. The Guru walked into her room and no sooner had he placed his graceful hands on her head, she plunged into a superconscious state (called *samadhi*). This was her first mystical experience of absolute union with absolute reality.

Very soon the Guru informed her about his decision to give

up His body. For the firm foundation of the mystical experience she had, he advised her to go into solitary retreat for six months for deep meditation. After this period he instructed her to do twelve years of Keertan Seva and at the end of twelve years settle down at Angol, Belgaum. Work for the upliftment of the backward community there and invoke divine love in them. As planned very soon He gave up His body.

She soon hired a small room in Hubli enough for one person to fit in. Through a few holes in the ceiling was all the light and ventilation she got. Again with bare minimum needs and food (1 cup of cooked rice with milk and two cups of water a day) she spent all the time 3 am to 10 pm in meditation, prayers and chanting the Holy Name. She moved from place to place spreading the divine love. During extensive travel alone for twelve years at a young age, she faced many difficulties. The Guru rescued her all the times in the guise of a stranger either as 'Gurunath Hublikar' or 'Siddhappa Hublikar'. As advised by her Guru she settled in Angol after twelve years.

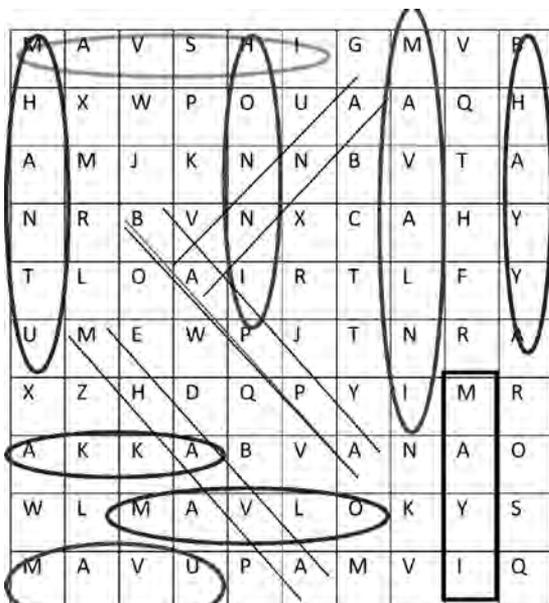
On this land she built an Ashram called 'Shri Harimandir'. She compiled bhajans of different saints in a book called 'Parmartha Marg Pradeep' and taught her devotees not only to sing them but to learn and practise the teachings therein. Having a *darshan* (meeting) of Aai (holy mother) was a blessed event for all. The peace and bliss from her darshan would leave a lasting impression on people.

Aai toiled for the sake of her devotees till the last moment of her life. She breathed her last uttering the name of '**Krishna**' at an age of 70 years on 2nd Feb.1978.

A *samadhi* according to Hindu religious tradition was constructed at the place of her burial in the prayer hall. We bow to **Aai**.

(Courtesy: Hindupedia)

Know Your Folks Solution to Jan 22 Quiz



- Mother's sister
- Mother's brother
- Father's sister
- Elder sister & her husband
- Father's elder brother & his wife
- Father-in-law & mother-in-law
- Father's younger brother
- Elder brother & his wife

Correct Answers by:

Mrs. Seema A Naimpally, Rucha Labadai, Ayesha Kazi, and Master Paarth Ray (9)

Remembering Mr. Vittalrao Gangolly and Mrs. Vasanti Chandavarkar



10-05-1928 - 05-05-2021



29-07-1925 - 22-05-2021

Vasanti (Tai) and Vittal (Anna) came full time into our lives very soon after our boys went to the US for their education. So we never had an empty nest feeling at all!

Tai loved having people over and there was always some one or the other visiting or lunching and cousins from both sides the Chandavarkar and Pandit and Gangolly families would come over and life was full and fun.

Anna was very happy to be a part of it and so were Vivek and I.

We travelled together to far away places, and their wonder and excitement was always so exciting to see. Made us feel the same. Tai would look at the redwoods and say, "Just look at them towering into the sky!"

And Anna would say, "Wonderful!"

And the time we went to Alaska on a cruise ship and at the Mendelssohn glacier Tai happily picked up a piece of the calved glacier... and Anna looked on smiling with delight!

Their great grand children were a delight to them and every Sunday evening they were ready in front of the computer on the dining table for a long chat with the kuttis! They delighted in their gadbad and chatter.

Their generation was incomparable.... learnt so many things from them.... they were exemplary! Tai taught us so much about nature, the different types of birds, and bird calls, the sun set and moon rise at Padambur Beach, about all things natural and beautiful!

Anna taught us about a way of life which has until till today stood us in good stead, including accepting the inevitable and letting go with peace and love. He stood for truth, simplicity and being genuine. What you saw is what you got.

We miss them both terribly and hope to find love and peace as they would have wanted us to and remember them fondly - Shanth & Vivek Mannige

Remembered by the Gangolly, Pandit, Basrur, Mannige, Chandavarkar and Gokarn families



RADHIKA BHAT (MIRJANKAR)

[29 September 1939–12 January 2022]

Wife of Late Devidas Narayan Bhat (Mirjankar)

We are deeply saddened to inform that Aai (Mhav, Baby, Atya) left for her heavenly abode in her sleep on 12th January 2022 at 11:15 am Pacific Time at SanJose, California.

“She had the heart that cared completely. She had the smile that brought so much pleasure. She had the love that brought joy beyond measure. Her life was one of kindly deeds, a helping hand for others’ needs, sincere and true in heart and mind, beautiful memories left behind.”

Deeply mourned by:

Sharmila, Shanta & Sheela (Daughters)

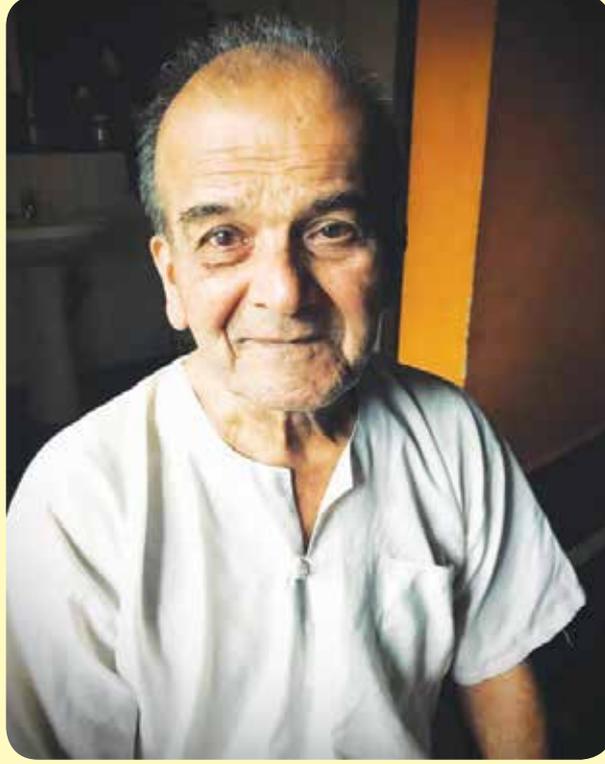
Nagesh, Suhas & Jayant (Son-in laws)

Manasi, Samit, Pooja, Sonal, Aishwarya & Siddharth (Grandchildren)

Bhat (Mirjankar), Khambadkone, Shirali, Jeppu, Betrabet families

& Close friends

**With profound grief, we announce the sad demise of our beloved Anna
on 6.1.2022 at the age of 86 years**



Shri Muralidhar Ramachandra Haridas

Served in Shri Chitrapur Math Shirali for over 30 years in various capacities.

An ardent devotee of

Shri Chitrapur Math, Guru Parampara, Shri Gopal Krishna Temple,
Keshav Narayan Temple Shirali.

Your simple, humble, honest, jovial, helpful nature is a source of inspiration to us.

**We pray at the Lotus feet of Shri Bhavanishankar and Guru Parampara
for his noble Aatma to attain Sadgati.**

Fondly remembered by

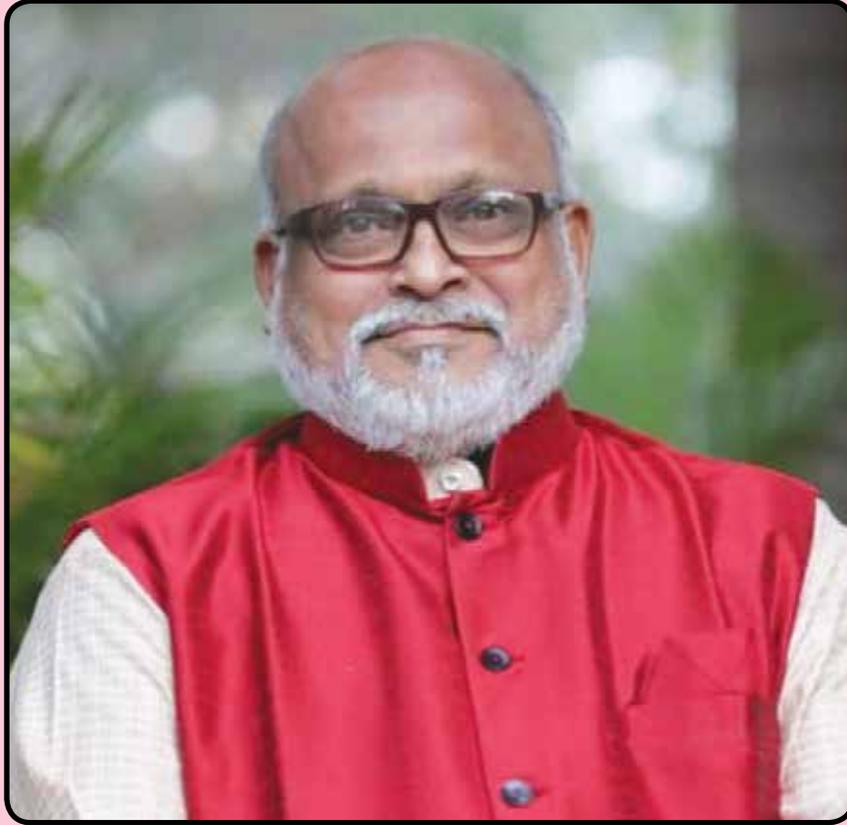
Shanta (Aarti) and Satish Udiaver
Geeta (Sangeeta) and Shivanand Bhatkal
Prashant and Nayana Haridas
Pradeep and Gayatri Haridas

Grand children

Archana and Omkar Nadkarni

Sadhvee, Soumya, Aparna, Avanti, Nagashri, Anushri and Mayur

Sad Demise
Shri Vivek Shantaram Kaikini



28th November 1955 - 31st December 2021

With a jovial approach towards life, he was always there for family and friends giving strong support, help and advice whenever and wherever required. He was an exceptional cook. He worked with “ESAB INDIA LTD” and had to opt for voluntary retirement as the unit located in Airoli had to close down its operation. But the incident made him much strong and started investing his precious time in making Amti pitti, Kholamba pitti, Rasam powder, Hoodi Chitni, Onion and Garlic Wadiyo, Udida Wadiyo, Mirsange Wadio etc. The art of cooking was a gift passed on to him by his mother Late Vimala Shantaram Kaikini. He took the art of making these side dishes to another levels altogether.

We all miss him to the core and as he proceeds on his journey to meet the Divine, his presence and blessings will be always felt throughout the life”.

Lovingly remembered by:

Wife: Vandita Vivek Kaikini

Children: Varun/Vardha, Meghana/Anant,

Grandchild: Tanay Varun Kaikini

Sister: Deepalaxmi Rohidas Katre

Entire Kaikini Family, Katre family, Pandit Family, Shirali Family & Kamath family

The Art of Giving Back

BY JAIRAM KHAMBADKONE

Having worked for two major Chitrapur Saraswat aid-giving institutions in Mumbai for the past 15+ years and also based on my observations/experience, I thought of writing this article. However, before dwelling on this subject further, I thought it will be a good idea, to go through the synopsis of a short story known as "From Bombay to Bangalore" written by Dr.Sudha Murthy in her book - "The Day I Stopped Drinking Milk". Many of the stories written by Sudha Murthy are based on her real life experiences with common people or during her travel mostly by train in Second Class.

"Brief Synopsis of the Story:

When Sudha Murthy (hereinafter addressed as SM) was travelling to Bangalore by II Class Sleeper Coach, a poor orphan girl by the name Chitra enters the coach at one of the stations in between. When the train starts, the TC catches this girl for travelling without a ticket. The girl keeps crying that she does not have any money and the TC insists her to pay for the ticket or get down at the next station. After listening to the argument between the two, SM agrees to pay for her ticket from Bombay to Bangalore and also gives her some food to eat. When the girl gets down at Bangalore, SM feels sorry for Chitra and asks her to join her in the car and requests Infosys Foundation staff to take care of her stay, schooling etc. After few years, she completes her SSC and also Graduation. She does a Computer Science course and she even gets a job in a Software Company. At this stage, she shifts into her own accommodation in Bangalore. Seeing her progress, SM feels very happy for Chitra.

After another 5 or 6 years, SM travels to USA for a conference and stays in a Hotel in Bay Area in California State. After the conference, when she comes down to check out and goes to the front office to clear her bill, the staff tells SM that her bill is already paid and she can leave. SM insists from the Front Office Staff and wants to know, who has paid her bill. After some exchange of words with SM, the staff points to a girl standing nearby saying that she has paid her bill. SM goes near this girl and finds her very pretty, wearing a well draped silk sari, neatly groomed and asks her name. She introduces herself as Chitra and she even introduces her handsome looking husband standing next to her in a suit, who happens to be an American. SM is very pleased to see Chitra after so many years and the progress made by her. SM congratulates Chitra for finding her life partner and at the same time asks her - why she has paid her bill. Chitra says - it's okay Ma'am don't worry. But SM is not prepared to accept her logic for paying her hotel bill. Finally, Chitra convinces SM and tells her - I have paid your hotel bill - because you had paid for my train ticket from Bombay to Bangalore many years ago. At this stage SM does not have any words to express and becomes quite emotional. The story ends here.

Summing Up: *Chitra was always indebted to SM for paying for her train ticket from Bombay to Bangalore and also for educating her throughout, which converted her from an Orphan Girl into an Independent Grown up Woman. Chitra had never imagined how she would pay back for the gesture*

shown by SM to her, which had helped her in getting a job and finally landing in USA. Chitra had an intention of paying back to SM in some way or the other, though she knew very well that she will not be able to entirely return the generosity shown by SM to her in so many years.

With this background, I will now come back to the subject under discussion.

Chitrapur Saraswat Community is a well-educated community and over last 100+ years it has established quite a few Charitable Aid Giving Institutions in Mumbai, Bangalore, Pune, Virar, Shirali and a few more places. The aid is in terms of helping the needy in the areas of Education, Financial Distress, Medical treatment, Hospitalisation etc. and a lot of administrative work takes place on honorary basis in all these Institutions. I would like to discuss basically the Educational Aid given by all such Institutions and to some extent Medical/Hospitalisation Aid as well. Over several decades, all these Institutions must have distributed several lacs of rupees or even a few crores, in terms of aid.

None of these Institutions ever make it mandatory for the beneficiaries to pay back these amounts to the Institutions, unless these are refundable educational loans. It is obvious that many of such beneficiaries, who have received the Educational Aid, would have settled down with jobs, after completing their education. The question arises, if it can be considered as a moral responsibility of these beneficiaries to give back to these Institutions in some form or the other - as *Chitra did in the above mentioned story.*

In one of such Institutions, where the author had worked some years ago - an appeal was made to beneficiaries of Educational Aid - either to become Life Member and also make a donation to the Institution, depending upon their capacity. The objective was that these beneficiaries can help the Institutions to extend similar support to other needy persons in future. The response to this appeal was a mixed one. Whereas some beneficiaries ignored this appeal, many responded positively. One beneficiary spontaneously agreed to be a Life Member not only for the self, but his wife and his daughter and in addition, he gave a donation of a reasonable amount as well. This beneficiary expressed that he should have taken this action much earlier, even without being asked. There was a positive response from a few more beneficiaries.

In another case, one Life Member of an Institution was given the part reimbursement of the substantial Hospitalisation Expense he had undergone, for the treatment of their new born baby. The baby was undergoing the treatment for an unusual medical problem and the hospitalization expense was quite large. After about 18 or 20 months, the child's father came back with the good news that the baby is nearing 2 years old and is keeping good health. He was all praise for the Institution which had helped him financially at the time of their need. He gave a donation of Rs. 50,000.00 to the Institution as a pure gesture from his end and with an indication that he will make further donations as and when possible for him in future.

These are only two examples, in which the beneficiaries have expressed their gratitude for the support they got from respective Institutions, when they needed the financial support. This is nothing but a pure gesture from these beneficiaries. There are a few more who have expressed similar gratitude. However, there may be many more beneficiaries in last so many years and probably this point may not have struck them.

If each of these beneficiaries becomes “A Chitra” in the above story, one can imagine to what extent these Institutions will get benefitted. In turn, these Institutions can extend similar benefits to more needy persons from the Community - especially when the cost of Education and Hospitalisation keeps going up. At the same time, the Bank Interest rates are showing a downward trend - consequently reducing income of all Institutions and they keep looking for additional resources for increasing their income so as to meet the demands of the other needy people.

After reading this article, we are sure that all such beneficiaries and/or their parents/families take the following actions once they settle down in their life:

a. Primarily become a Life Member of the Institution, since it helps them to increase the funds.

b. As and when it becomes possible, it will be a good gesture on the part of beneficiaries depending upon their capacity, to arrange for a Donation to the Institution which has supported them.

c. Both the above actions always help the Institutions to increase their interest income and the same can be used for extending further support to more needy persons from the community.

If each beneficiary turns into a Chitra, then it will make a Big Difference to our Community and the Samaj. This is what I call it:

“The Art of Giving Back - to the Society and the Samaj”.

About the author: The author contributes articles for KS Magazine from time to time. He has worked for The Chitrapur Saraswat Education & Relief Society, Santa Cruz, Mumbai till about a decade ago and for The Kanara Saraswat Association from the year 2014 to 2021. He can be reached at jk.khambadkone@yahoo.com

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them.” John F. Kennedy

IWOTY 2021

BY GOPINATH MAVINKURVE

It is that time of the year that when dictionaries and language societies across the globe pick their Word of the Year (WOTY) for the year gone by. It was hoped that in 2021 we would put the painful pandemic and the resultant lockdown behind and emerge into a new post-Covid world. However, the virus has mutated to survive yet another year and tried to keep relevant and dominate the mind space and attention it got in 2020, much to our chagrin. So would words like ‘Vaccinated’, ‘immunity booster’ and their ilk make it to the top spot this year around, one wondered.

Right enough, Oxford Languages announced ‘Vax’ as the WOTY 2021, describing the new word as “a colloquialism meaning either vaccine or vaccination as a noun and vaccinate as a verb”. Merriam Webster picked much on the same lines: “Vaccine” denoting the most-sought after commodity for safe-being of all mankind, although it’s availability is reportedly not equitable, nor is the acceptance or resistance to it uniform across the globe.

Collins Dictionary picked “NFT” - a ‘non-fungible token’ that’s a tech-based rage akin to crypto currency and based on block-chain technology, describing it as a “unique digital identifier that records ownership of a digital asset”. Cambridge Dictionary picked “Perseverance” as their WOTY 2021 citing increased search for its meaning after NASA’s “Perseverance Rover” landed on Mars. Dictionary.com picked “allyship” this year, a word that refers to persons who advocate marginalized groups for their struggles without being part of such groups.

To each their own, but can we in India have our own pick? India could have a different dominant choice representative

of the times and moods of our own people. With this in mind, yours truly has been picking Indian Word of the Year for over several years now, hoping some Indian language society steps in to take up this task some time soon.

Indians have found a way to deal with challenges posed by the pandemic, by ‘online’ interactions this year. Online events have replaced physical meetings, seminars, classroom sessions – even weddings and other celebratory occasions. ‘Webinars’ replaced ‘Seminars’, which would pose us challenges due to distances or traffic hurdles earlier, have now opened many possibilities! We find ourselves partaking knowledge from others, discussing matters on internet-enabled platforms more than ever before, now that ‘stuck- in-the-traffic’ syndrome has vanished for most of us. We may have physical meetings, but hybrid events are also a clear possibility in the foreseeable future.

So, can we continue to be ‘online’ for each other, reach out and extend an ‘online’ handshake? Would I have your online Thumbs-up for ‘**Online**’ as the Indian Word of the Year 2021? Or do you have any other worthy candidate up to contest it?

Concluded

About the Author: Gopinath Mavinkurve is currently an Export Consultant after serving in Managerial positions in reputed manufacturing organizations. He has been writing and blogging as a hobby since his college days and has successfully got some of his articles published in newspapers and magazines including Kanara Saraswat Magazine. He can be reached at atg_mavinkurve@hotmail.com

Chitrapur Heritage Foundation

711 Daylily Court, Langhorne, Pennsylvania, USA

Connecting US Amchis to Chitrapur Math

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

The activities of CHF includes:

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

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

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

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



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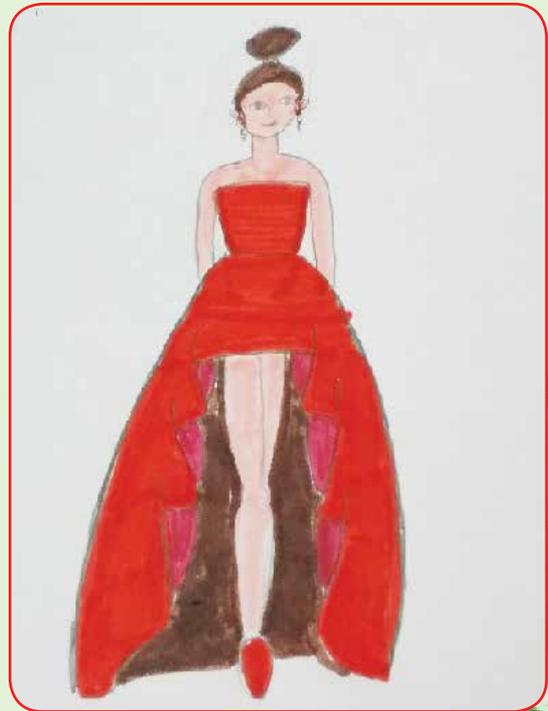
Kiddies' Corner

Ajja's Pet



Sketch by Kaeya S Kodial UK (6 years)

Model



Umika (9 years)

Watermelon



Shriyans (7 years)

Sparkle my Star

BY KAEYA KODIAL, UK. (6 YEARS)

Sparkle my star, sparkle my star
I don't know how you shine.
Sparkle my star, sparkle my star
You are always mine
Star star nice and bright
Star brighter than the light
Star higher than the kite
Star glows in the night
Star star shine so bright
Stars are yellow, stars are gold
Stars are many colours when its a beautiful night
When its day time they don't really glow
But when it's night time, they shine bright

Contributions to be published in Kiddies' Corner may be accompanied by details of Age and Location.

WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS

From

BF Investment Ltd

Mundhwa, Pune 411036

The Saints of Sakori

By AJIT MADHU BHAT

Since time immemorial, innumerable enlightened Masters have graced our ancient land with their Radiant presence. With our deep spiritual yearning our community has been doubly fortunate as we have enjoyed the grace and compassion of both - Our own Glorious Guru Parampara and the contact of various other Spiritual Masters across the ages. Just in the last century itself there were Great Masters like Shri Siddharudha Swami, Shri Nityananda Swami, Shirdi Sai Baba, Papa Ramdas and Mataji of Kanhangad, Sri Ramakrishna, Shri Ramana Maharishi and many others whom our people were deeply influenced by and devoted to.

One such Spiritual Giant was Shri Upasani Maharaj of Sakori, the disciple and spiritual heir of Sai Baba of Shirdi and his own disciple, the Sublime and serene Godavari Mataji. About a century ago Shri Upasani Maharaj established an ashram in Sakori, a unique and unprecedented institution where he initiated 24 young women into sanyas diksha, systematically teaching them Sanskrit, Vedic studies and recitation, and the performance of Yagnyas. This is their story.

Kashinath Govind Upasani was born on the 15th of May 1870 into a renowned family of erudite Sanskrit scholars (Shastri Gharana) in a small village called Satana near Nasik. Right from the beginning he was an exceptional child. Utterly disinterested in schooling or any vocational training whatsoever, he had an irresistible and inexplicable spiritual urge. Loving solitude, even as child he ran away from home and hearth at the least pretext, living in temples, caves or forests looking for answers to his fundamental existential questions. Trying to tie him down, his elders got him married not once but twice but both his wives died in quick succession and they finally gave up.

Finally after almost a decade of wandering around his intense quest bore fruit when aged 20, he attained the very pinnacle of spiritual perfection in Yoga Sadhana achieving a deep and blissful spiritual trance or *Samadhi* lasting many months in a mountain cave near Nasik.

The experience transformed him and he finally returned home sated. Once again for the 3rd and last time he was married off but now his grandfather and father passed away in quick succession.

Bent now upon a career, he first studied and mastered the ancient Ayurvedic system of medicine for 4 years in Sangli and set up practice in Amaravati near Nagpur moving there with his devoted wife.

A gifted doctor with a deep insight into human nature, his practice prospered and within a decade he acquired fame and wealth. But then again his past came knocking. Seeking to invest his new found wealth, he entered into a dubious land scheme and like so many others before and since was utterly duped. Losing his health, wealth and peace of mind in the bargain the couple decided to go on a pilgrimage. There in the sublime Omkareshwar temple on the serene banks of the Narmada, once again he fell into a deep trance but this time when he awoke, to his utter consternation his

breathing had all but stopped and he was forced to breathe consciously through his mouth literally gasping for every breath. Despite being a good doctor himself, nothing worked and so, sick and tired of this new development he sought out first, friends, experts and then finally saints, desperate for a remedy.

Meeting the great Narayan Maharaj of Kedgaon, Upasani appealed piteously for his aid and grace. In response, the renowned Saint only smiled mysteriously, garlanded him with his own garland and gave him *paan* to eat from his own mouth, directing him to Sainath of Shirdi. Hesitantly, as Sai baba was known as a Muslim fakir, the orthodox Pandit Upasani agreed and finally late in June 1911 reached Shirdi at the Masters feet.

Once there, that Master of Masters took complete charge. Upasani too surrendered totally and within a period of 4 years as per Sai's dictat, emerged glowing as a Supremely enlightened Master himself with all the concurrent powers.

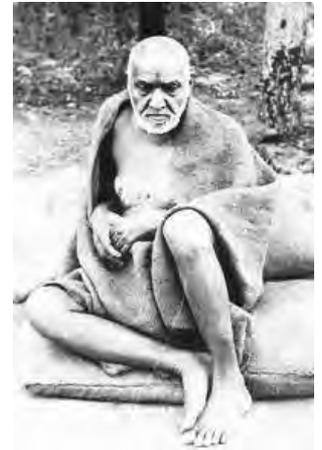
After a brief sojourn in Kharagpur, he settled down at his gurus command in Sakori just 5 km from Shirdi where he established the present ashram. Here he conducted a unique experiment unprecedented in the annals of Indian spirituality. Giving *Diksha* and *Vedadhikar* to 24 young women of all castes, teaching them Sanskrit and Vedic recitation, performance of ancient Yagnik rituals and laying the foundation of a unique female monastic order, it was extraordinary in every respect. **Four of those Radiant Kumaris were from our Chitrapur Saraswat community. Their names are as follows: Kum. Anjanitai Bailur, Kum. Sumitratai Baidur, Kum. Devi tai Kalyanpur Bhat and her sister Kum. Uma tai Kalyanpur Bhat.**

Ofcourse there was a huge outcry and he faced many detractors and controversies who tried every trick in the book to destroy him, his vision and his Institution. But unperturbed, he pushed on relentlessly overcoming all odds and obstacles and installing Godavari Mataji as his successor, Maharaj passed away on 24 Dec 1941.

H.H. Godavari Mataji was born on 24/12/1914 at Shegaon by the blessings of the great Saint there - Shree Gajanan Maharaj. Right from her childhood she too was as deeply drawn to saints as they to her.

At the young age of 10, on her very first visit to Sakori, her very first meeting with Maharaj was extraordinary. Their eyes met, Master and disciple and a pact was made. Shri Maharaj called her forward, sat her on his lap, put his own garland around her neck, gave her a fruit and pointing to all the amazed people around said softly - All this is yours, all these people are ours. You will take care, won't you?

The child nodded smiling.



But then too followed a course of hard *Sadhana*, years and years of rigorous discipline until she too emerged, lustrous and effulgent, A Realized Master. Inspired by her example many other devotees daughters came forward and embraced the monastic life and a unique and extraordinary ashram came into being.

After the Maharaj's passing away, she took over the mantle initiating 33 other women into the fold (4 *amchis*). Shri Mataji had Raj Yoga and wherever she went or stayed, prosperity and plenty followed. She toured the country and the globe delighting her devotees' hearts and performing grand *Yagnyas*.

Exquisite grace, purity and refinement, extraordinary wisdom and foresight, deep love, understanding and compassion for the human condition and irresistible Powers

were her hallmarks. Wherever she went there was joy festivity and plenty. After 50 years at the helm, Shri Godavari Mataji passed away on Aug 11, 1990.

During the years of the Great War many families from our community were drawn to and lived in Sakori. Especially women of many communities, both well-to-do and destitute stayed there enjoying complete peace and security and serving God and Guru in that sublime atmosphere of a bygone Era.

The tale of how our community was drawn to Maharaj is another story that bears telling another time when the divine force commends.

(The Author Ajit M Bhat is a third generation devotee of Sakori and is a trained film maker from FTII. Ajit can be reached at ajitbhat1@yahoo.com)

Tribute

A Nonagenarian Star

BY ANURADHA GOKARN

Anand Sirur, a nonagenarian author of the book titled "**Indian Classical Dance: A Glimpse into Bharatiya Samskriti**", is a source of pride for us Saraswats literally blessed by Goddess Saraswati. He, unlike many child prodigies in various performing arts, in mathematics, in the knowledge of the Vedas, proved to be a wonder in later stages of his life.

Born in 1931 to the Late Prabhakar and the Late Kamala Sirur of Chitradurga, he did his schooling and graduation in Dharwad. A lively youngster full of pranks, he used to entertain us with funny anecdotes of his professors, relatives and friends and imitate the Kannada mixed Urdu of the Dharwad *tangewalas*. After commencing his career as an oil company executive where he rose to a senior managerial position, he went into business and managed various businesses in Bengaluru.

He was a voracious reader of both fiction and non-fiction and had no inkling of himself being a budding author. He was a keen golfer and a respected senior most member of the Bangalore Golf Club of which he held secretaryship for a year. As a part of the team commissioned to compile the history of the Club to mark its 125th anniversary at the turn of the millennium, he did extensive research as a major contribution to this publication. Ruskin Bond, the well known British author living in India, edited this history. This marked the beginning of his writing career.

Anand had a lively interest in Indian Classical Music and Dance. His father, an expert "Been" player, an instrument unfortunately heard no more. He had deep knowledge of Hindustani Ragas and set to music several *abhangs* of Tukaram, which his descendants still sing. Apart from this, his exposure to dance and music was enhanced because of close relations with renowned personalities like Sangeet Natak Academy awardee Kathak dancer Guru Mohan Kallianpurkar and vocalist Pandit Dinkar Kaikini. Anand was

also a frequent visitor to the Late Protima Bedi's NRITYAGRAM in Bengaluru where he got acquainted with many dancers and came to appreciate many nuances of the Odissi style of dancing.

It was only in his late sixties and seventies that he started to formally gather information about music, musicians, dance and dancers. Eventually, he felt the need to condense these into books. He was inspired by his deep commitment to preserve for posterity, the knowledge he collected for which he had the support of and encouragement of the eminent music critic Mr. Mohan Nadkarni. Anand invested his time and effort over several years to collect and edit information about musicians and dancers of all the numerous styles of the whole country. What was remarkable about this is he was not backed by any institution or sponsor. The arduous work done by him was entirely a labour of love and voluntary contribution including the publication of the book

The book Indian "Classical Dances - a Glimpse into Bharatiya Samskriti" authored by 91-year old Anand Sirur was launched in Bengaluru on 20th December 2021 by **Mr. Chiranjiv Singh, IAS (Retd.), Former Indian Ambassador to UNESCO & Dr. MRV Prasad, President, The Bangalore Gayana Samaja was the Chief Guest.**

Visit :

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gx8_H6d9mdw.

About the author: Smt Anuradha Gokarn (nee Samsi) is from Bengaluru. She was managing Triton Valves founded by her late husband and now leads a retired life. She can be reached at amg@tritonvalves.com.



Premananda Thonse

[27th March 1934 – 10th January 2022]



**With a heavy heart, I, Raghuvveer Thonse, regret to inform about the sad demise of our beloved elder brother who passed away peacefully at his home in Bangalore on January 10th, 2022. We pray for his soul to attain Sadgati
Deeply mourned by**

- Nalini Thonse (Wife)
- Ganesh Thonse (Son), Annpurna Thonse (Daughter-in-law), Sukrti Thonse (Grand daughter), Pradyuth Thonse (Grandson)
- Raghuvveer Thonse (Brother), Meera Thonse (Sister-in-law)
- Balachandra Thonse (Brother)
- Gurudeep Thonse (nephew), Sneha Thonse, Parth Thonse
- Rema Sreekar Pai and Family
- Gayathri Chaudhari and Family
- Sandhya Bhat and family
- Thonse Family and Friends

His presence will be missed by family and close friends

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~~~~~ Parisevanam ~~~~~

Sayujyam ...A Spiritual Journey

An insight into the planning for a 15-month 'sadhanamaya' programme for all the *sadhaka*-s across the globe by Dr. Chaitanya Gulvady – Coordinator, Team Sayujyam



It was in the early part of 2021, that a group of *sadhaka*-s, inspired by *Gurubhakti*, got together to steer the programmes to observe the Silver Jubilee year of the *Pattabhisheka* of our revered Guru H.H. Swami Sadyojat Shankarashram. The year 2021-22 also happened to be the 75th *Janmadvasa* year of our Guruswami, H.H. Shrimat Parijnanashram Swamiji III. They were inspired to call it "Sayujyam", which means the union of the *sadhaka* with the Guru and the Divine Consciousness.

Since the last 25 years, H.H. Swamiji has been slowly introducing to and teaching our *samaja* the various facets of *sadhana*. Subsequently, a series of discussions began with H.H. Swamiji on the way forward and a more definite plan unfolded slowly. The onslaught of the Covid pandemic caught the world unawares. Many were affected, but the mental strength intensified by faith and *nishtha* in the Guru's Guidance helped the *sadhaka*-s to face these obstacles bravely. *Sayujyam* helped to bridge continents, countries, cities and brought together *sadhaka*-s from all across the globe on this virtual platform. This helped *sadhaka*-s to further strengthen the bond and increase their *sadhana* manifold.

The last week of March 2021 began with a *saptaha* of *Sadhana Panchakam* and *Gurupujanam*-s to observe the onset of the Silver Jubilee year on the 27th of February 2021. Soon, a year-long scheduled allocation of *Sayujyam* *Seva* slots to various *sabha*-s was announced. Smaller

sabha-s joined the bigger ones to participate in the *seva*. This included *Vaiyaktika* (personal) *Sadhana* and *Samuhika* (collective) *Sadhana*.

Vaiyaktika *Sadhana* emphasized the chanting of an additional *mala* of the *Ishta Mantra Japa*, an additional *mala* of the *Gayatri mantra* by the male *sadhaka*-s and the *Devi Anushthana* by all *sadhaka*-s. It also included the *pathana* of the sacred *Chitrapur Guruparampara Charitra*. To keep track of all this *sadhana*-s by individual *sadhaka*-s spread across continents a Google Online Form was used. They were also encouraged to learn to chant at least one *stotram* of their choice every month.

Samuhika *Sadhana* involved online performance of the *Sadhana Panchakam* which included the *Navratri Nityapath*, *Devi Anushthana*, *Shri Guru Pujana*, *Lalita sahasranama*, *Shivamanas Puja*, 12th and 15th Chapters of the *Bhagawadgita*. *Samuhika* *Sadhana* witnessed the participation of a large number of *sadhaka*-s in the different aspects of the *sadhana* and this gave them immense spiritual satisfaction.

The monthly online, *Atmabal* Series was conceptualized which was a platform for *sadhaka*-s to express how their *atmabal* increased with the connect with the Divine. Panel discussions with experts on Covid, Mental Health, Nutrition, Chitrapur Museum – Parijnan Vastu Sangrahalaya, *Saatvik Aahaar*, Healthy Bones, Physiotherapy, Konkani Sourabh – our *Matrubhaasha* and many other interesting

~~~~~ Parisevanam ~~~~~

topics were discussed on this platform. Participation in these programmes soared as *sadhaka-s* watched these interactive programmes from their comfortable home environs.

Following H.H. Swamiji's advice, a unique bi-monthly online "*Satsanga*" was started to bring the Bikaner/Jodhpur Saraswat-s and Chitrapur Saraswat-s together. It included familiarizing them with our *Guruparampara* through presentations on the *Guruparampara Charitra*, training *sadhaka-s* to chant the *Sabha Prarambha* and *Sabha Samapti Prarthana-s*, singing *bhajans* and presentation of their culture to the Chitrapur *samaja*.

"*Gurupadeshah*"- pearls of wisdom from our hallowed Gurus-was relayed to the *sadhaka-s* through the "*Anushravas*" broadcast Whatsapp group. The *sadhaka-s* have now begun to look forward to these beautifully designed posts which are sent out once a week and on specific *tithi-s*.

It came as a pleasant realization to some that this was the 25th *Chaturmasa* of our beloved H.H. Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji as our *Mathadhipati*... another joyous milestone on the journey to the momentous 75/25 *Sayujyam* in 2022. To celebrate this historic event, the *Sayujyam* team organised a *Samuhika Japa Sadhana* on 26th August 2021, the *Samaradhana Divasa* of our *Karunamurti* Guruswami, H.H. Shrimat Parijanashram Swamiji III. It brought together all *sabha-s* to offer a tribute capsuling the unalloyed devotion of the *Shishya* to His Revered Guru.

Under the Direction of H.H Swamiji, to celebrate the 55th *Samaradhana* of our *Parameshti* Guru, Shrimad Anandashram Swamiji, a unique online programme "*Ananda Sandhya*" took shape. It brought forth the *katha* of the spiritual journey of our *Parameshti* Guru interspersed with lilting *bhajana-s* sung in His praise.

A series of online *Shri Guru Pujana* training sessions for new *sadhaka-s* commenced in Bengaluru and this was taken up by the other *sabha-s*. Then began the monthly series of L2G (Local to Global) series of *Samuhika Guru Pujana-s* by various *sabha-s*.

A conscious effort was made to highlight special programmes by local *sabha-s*. The unique "*Kallo*" Gokulashtami programme of the Santacruz Sabha, was beamed to *sadhaka-s* across the world. Everyone was overjoyed to witness this programme right from their homes.

A virtual Navaratri celebration with representation from all the *sabha-s* was planned. The *sabha-s* were clubbed into groups and a special training session on zoom and live streaming was conducted. The backend technical support team in each *sabha* was trained and they helped the groups to independently manage the Zoom platform efficiently. During the 10-day celebration leading upto Vijayadashami, all the *sabha-s* were able to livestream via the website livestream page. This motivated the *Sayujyam* team to start live streaming more programmes to involve

sadhaka-s from all the *sabha-s*.

A unique idea, in the form of "*Indradhanush*", was born to showcase the hidden talents of our children, Yuva- and the entire *samaja* offered it as a birthday surprise to our beloved Guru on 13th November, 2021. Invites were sent to budding artistes and very soon the team received a huge collection of videos featuring a bouquet of cultural talent such as sand art, paintings such as digital Warli, harmonica quartet, poems, jokes in Sanskrit, songs, dances and more. All the participants were thrilled to receive very complimentary feedback in the form of a "return gift" from H.H. Swamiji who called it His- "Beshtesht Gift"!!!

For the first time, *Gita Jayanti* witnessed the virtual chanting of the entire *Shrimad Bhagawadgita* by all the 26 *sabha-s*. A similar chanting session was also held at Karla Math in the Divine Presence of H.H. Swamiji. This was followed by a very inspiring and endearing *Ashirvachana*, which highlighted the divine message of Bhagawan Krishna through the *Bhagawadgita*. This *Ashirvachana* by H.H. Swamiji was uploaded on the website a few hours after. Dr. Sudha Tinaikar pachi gave a lucid talk on the *Paraspara Sambodhana* of Bhagawan Krishna and Arjuna in *Bhagawadgita* which was premiered on the website on that very evening.

Datta Jayanti followed and the unique celebrations including the *Palakhi Utsava*, in Talmakiwadi (Grant Road Sabha) were beamed worldwide. H.H. Swamiji addressed the *samaja* from Karla Math via the virtual "*Samparka*", continuing with His usual practice of annual *Ashirvachana* during Datta Jayanti. Here, H.H. Swamiji elaborated on the various aspects of the *Shri Datta Charitra*.

Planning for *Rajatotsava* began soon after. The plan was to commemorate the 25 years of H.H. Swamiji's *Mathadipatya* on 21st February 2022 which was *tithi-wise*, the *Pattabhisheka* day. Also on the sacred list was 1st March, 2022 - the *Shishya Swikara Dinam* of H.H. Guruswami which, by divine synchronicity, coincided with the auspicious *Mahashivaratri*- a day of *Shivaradhana* and *puja-s*. In view of the continuing Covid pandemic, a virtual programme is being planned and the details will be shared with *sadhaka-s* closer to the date. *Sadhana Panchakam* and *Guru pujana* performed by *sadhaka-s* and *Shivaratri pujana* performed by H.H. Swamiji will be webcast for the benefit of all the *sadhaka-s* who are unable attend this momentous, once-in-a-lifetime occasion due to the pandemic. Commemorative mementos for the occasion are being planned for release during the *Rajatotsava* commemoration on the 21st of February, 2022.

Through the year music, artistic skills, dance, art, theatre, one-act plays, panel discussions, *bhajana-s* – more shades than can be seen in a *Indradhanush* will be showcased– to make this a memorable and most unforgettable event.

By the *Anugraha* of our *Guruparampara*, *Sayujyam* – our spiritual journey has connected each one of us with the Divinity in all that surrounds us!

ATTACK ON CHAKLALA

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

This piece is a “first person” account of an episode of the 1971 Indo-Pak war written by Admiral Arun Prakash, PVSM, AVSM, VrC, VSM (Retd) former Chief of Naval Staff. As a young naval fighter pilot, he was on deputation to No. 20 Squadron, IAF, then commanded by Wing Commander Cecil Parker, MVC, VM. This IAF unit is credited with having won the highest number of gallantry awards in the conflict.

The following is extracted with the permission of the author.

Tribe Twenty

“As a young naval Lieutenant, in the late 1960s, having recently carrier-qualified on the Armstrong-Whitworth Sea Hawk, from the deck of the Indian Navy’s sole flat-top Vikrant (R-11) I was just settling down to polish up my embarked flying skills when I received orders for an exchange posting with the Indian Air Force (IAF). So I packed my bags and with great reluctance, left the sunny beaches of Goa (where our Naval Air Station was located) and headed for north India.

Having converted to the British Hawker Hunter ground attack fighter (a second-generation trans-sonic descendant of the Sea Hawk) I was posted to No.20 Squadron “The Lightnings” based close to New Delhi in end-1970. It did not take me long to find my feet on terra firma; the air force did everything more or less like the navy, except that they were very serious and professional. But we (Indian Navy) thought that we performed with greater style and panache, and wore orange “mae wests’ while doing it!”

After a spot of leave, “I returned to New Delhi to find that my IAF squadron had been moved further north and went looking for it. Our new base was located within 2 minutes flying time (at 420 knots) from the India-Pakistan border and would certainly be an interesting place to be in when the “Balloon” went up.

My squadron “boss” was an unusual combination; a great flyer, and also a martinet. He made it clear that if we ever went to war, he wanted to be sure of two things: (a) that he had prepared us for it in the best possible manner, and (b) that he went in ahead of everyone else. So for the next four months we were put through a most rigorous training programme, focusing on target recognition, low-level navigation, weapon delivery at dawn/dusk and air combat.

The only long-range combat aircraft in the sub-continent in that era were the Canberra light bomber in the IAF inventory, and its US derivative, the Martin B-57 that equipped our rival, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF). The Hunter Mark 56-A that my squadron flew carried four large under-wing fuel tanks, which gave it (for those days) an extraordinary radius of action at low level. Therefore, as far as reach was concerned, apart from the Canberra, my outfit had the longest legs in the IAF.

As a single-seat fighter, the Hunter’s operating milieu was, however, restricted to daylight hours, whereas night

bombing missions were the forte’ of the Canberra. It was therefore an unstated sine qua non that wars on the Indian sub-continent would commence only on a full moon night so that the Canberras and B-57s could be fully exploited.

During summer of 1971, as we watched the sequence of tragic events unfolding in East Pakistan, most of us were convinced about the inevitability of conflict. At the end of the monsoons, to avoid becoming “Sitting ducks” for a PAF pre-emptive strike; every full moon phase saw my squadron retiring to a rear base (a few hundred miles away from the international border).

Sure enough, on the evening of Friday 3rd December the radio announced that at 5.40 pm, PAF fighters had carried out a coordinated strike on nine Indian air bases all along the western border. Later that night we clustered around the radio to hear Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi tell the nation that we were at war with Pakistan.”

Lightning Strike

“Since the die had now been cast, our first task was to get back to base and commence the retaliatory air war ASAP. Having been briefed for a 5.30 am take-off, we grabbed a couple of hours of fitful sleep, and tumbled out of bed at 4 on a bitterly cold morning to find the base completely fog bound! Starting up and taxiing in blackout conditions would have been bad enough, but the fog made things even more interesting. Some people took a wrong turn on the taxiway and got lost, but my wing man and I were glad to find ourselves lined up for a timely take-off.

It was eerie to be airborne in the pre-dawn dark, flying at 500 feet with a hint of moonlight in the sky and a sheet of fog below. We knew no enemy fighter could be around, but that did not prevent the hair on your neck prickling now and then. We had a safe transit of about 45 minutes to base, save two minor incidents.

As we neared home, one could see in the distance, a very pretty but intense fireworks display. It was the “Friendly” tracer, which our local air-defence gunners seemed to be putting up to welcome us back! Some frightfully bad language on RT from the Flight Commander soon put a stop to it.

Shortly after I had touched down on the darkened runway, I saw from the corner of my eye, a green light whizzing rapidly past my port wingtip. It was my wing man who, in his excitement, had landed a few knots “hot” and after overtaking my aircraft came back on the centre line ahead of me, luckily missing the runway lights! I heard a muttered apology on the radio, but we had more important things on our minds.

It was still dark as we taxied into our blast pens, and there was just time for a quick wash and bite before briefing by the Boss; while the aircraft were fuelled and armed. I had drawn

a two-aircraft mission against PAF base Chaklala, located a few miles SE of the new capital city of Islamabad. The briefing was to carry out a single pass attack on briefed targets and to look out sharply for enemy

The direct distance to Chaklala was not great, but we were going to do some tactical routing over mountainous terrain and approach from the northwest, so that the radars would not see us till very late. A few minutes into the mission, the butterflies settled down in the stomach as one concentrated on the map, compass, airspeed and stop-watch (which were all the navigational aids one had 35 years ago!). As we approached the target, it became apparent that the fog, which had bedevilled us over north India a few hours ago, was going to spoil our fun again; the sun was still low, and the slant visibility poor, but one could see tall objects and features right below.

We pulled up from low level to about 2000 feet by the stopwatch, and were gratified to see the murky outlines of the cross-runways of Chaklala airfield, but little else. Then a huge tower appeared out of the haze and I thought that the air traffic control would be a worthwhile target for want of anything better. A short burst from my four canons saw the tower collapsing, and as I flew over it, a huge column of water rose to greet me from the debris. Oops! A water tower! I consoled myself with the thought that the PAF would at least go thirsty tonight.

Pulling out of the dive, I desperately scanned the airfield for something more lucrative on the surprisingly bare tarmacs. Suddenly, from the corner of my eye, I spied protruding from a large mango grove, the unmistakable shape of a tall aircraft fin, and a sharply swept-rear ramp section. A Hercules C-130 under camouflage. With a bootful of rudder and the stick hard over, I swung my fighter around in a shallow dive, hosed the ground with 30mm shells. A thin wisp of black smoke gave cause for optimism and I thought another pass would be necessary. My wingman, keeping a vigilant eye for enemy combat air patrols felt that we were stretching our luck in hostile territory and made his views known.

Pulling out of the second dive, through a gap in the fog, I caught a glimpse of a row of small transport aircraft lined up on the secondary runway. The sight was too tempting. Putting all thought of the Hercules out of my mind and ignoring the multiple arcs of tracer fire, I swung around in a tight high-G turn and emptied my guns on whatever was visible of the light aircraft (destroying Brig Chuck Yaegar's American Beechcraft in the bargain) By now my wingman had lost his patience and was yelling on the RT. We departed Chaklala at full throttle hugging the deck amidst intense anti-aircraft fire, which seemed to grow by the minute.

Fate was kind, and empty guns notwithstanding; we had an uneventful return passage. We landed back safely at base, feeling elated that we had opened our account and given the enemy a dose of his own medicine. In the de-brief, I concentrated on the hidden Hercules, and other target details, with a passing mention of the light aircraft and skipped the water tower episode altogether.

Culinary treasures of Chitrapur Saraswats -4

ANJALI BURDE

Raita and kachumber (kosambari) are important side dishes in Indian cuisine. While raita is a curd based preparation made using salad vegetables like tomato, cucumber, carrot, onion or radish, kachumber is a variant using the same vegetables but minus the curd and served with a dash of lemon juice and a garnish of coriander

In our *amchi* cuisine raita and kosambari also have coconut as one of the ingredients. This time I am sharing two recipes which are unique to our *amchi* cuisine not just in their method of preparation but also because of the main ingredients used.

The first one is **Mixed fruit sasam** and second one is **Soorna Kosambari**.

Mixed fruit sasam: (serves 3-4 persons)

Ingredients: 2 cups of mixed fruit (grapes cut into halves, peeled orange segments, diced pineapple, banana slices)

1 cup grated coconut 2 red bedgi chillies

½ teaspoon mustard seeds

2 tbsp grated jaggery ½ teaspoon salt or as per taste

Method: Take the mix fruit in a bowl, add a little salt and some jaggery, mix gently and leave aside. Grind the coconut, chillies and mustard seeds to a slightly coarse paste. Add salt to taste and the remaining jaggery to the ground paste and mix well. Add the ground paste to the fruits. Mix gently. You may add some water to get the desired consistency. Sasam is ready to be served. You may garnish the sasam with pomegranate pearls for added colour. Mango can be used when in season.

Tip: If using fresh pineapple pieces it is advisable to boil them for a few minutes in water with a little sugar, cool and then use. Directly using pineapple sometimes causes the coconut paste to split.

Soorna Kosambari: (serves 3-4 persons)

Ingredients: 250 g sooran (yam)

1 medium onion finely

2 tbsp grated coconut

2 green chillies chopped, salt to taste, some chopped coriander for garnish

1 teaspoon lemon juice

Oil for deep frying

Method: Clean, wash and peel the sooran. Cut the sooran finely into small cubes (1cmx1cm). Deep fry in hot oil till reddish brown and crisp. Drain on paper towels. In a mixing bowl take the chopped onion, grated coconut and chillies and lemon juice. Add salt to taste and mix thoroughly. Add in the fried sooran pieces and mix well. Serve as a side dish or accompaniment.

Tip: Mix the sooran with the rest of the ingredients just before serving in order to retain the crunchiness of the sooran pieces.

BIRTH CENTENARY YEAR

JAYANT MUDBIDRI (Jayu)

Sri Jayant Narayan Mudbidri known to his vast circle of friends and admirers as "Jayu" was born on 4th February 1923 at Udipi and had his early education at Bordi High School now in Palghar District followed by Seth Madhavdas Amersey High School, Andheri, from where he passed his matriculation in the year 1942. He had the misfortune to lose his mother at the tender age of two and half years and was brought up by his maternal uncle Sri. Udipi Shankar Rao and his wife Mitrabai who looked on young Jayant as their own child.



Jayu started his career in the Post and Telegraphs Department in the wireless station as Radio Wireless operator and was stationed at Andheri. He however, had a flair for flying and at a time when flying was feared he found his niche with Indian Overseas Airlines as a Flight Radio Officer. After serving here for one and half years he joined Deccan Airways and served here till the merger with Indian Airlines in 1953. Jayu continued with Indian Airlines throughout his life and was in Flight operations until his premature demise. From Dakotas, Skymasters, Viscounts, Fokker Friendship, Avros and Caravelles he flew them all.

In his long flying career, he had many thrilling experiences; memorable amongst them is the food dropping sorties he carried out in the North East Region which was formerly called as NEFA during the Chinese aggression in the winter of 1962 and 1965 Indo-Pak war. After he returned from NEFA our family went to watch the movie "Haqueqat" at the Citylight cinema house at Matunga in Mumbai a film made by Chetan Anand on the Indo-China war. If one goes down memory lane and recall the movie "Sangam" the late Raj Kapoor as an Indian Airforce Pilot has enacted the scene of the food dropping missions in the war zone where his plane crashes and he dies.

Gifted with an affable and obliging nature and always ready to extend a helping hand to whomsoever was in need, a self made man Jayu had a vast circle of friends in the aviation industry as well as the community. Late Rajiv Gandhi the former Prime Minister of India before joining politics was a commercial pilot with Indian Airlines and had tremendous respect for him and fondly called him "Moody". During his flying career he has travelled with a galaxy of celebrities both Indian as well as international - Sportsmen, Musicians, Film Stars, Politicians, Corporate Heads and the list is long.

On the community front Jayu took an active part in the "Shishya sweekar" ceremony held at Shivaji Park, Mumbai in the year 1959. He was called as the commander of the vast volunteer force and H.H. Swami Anandashram had a special mention about him in the Ashirvachan address. Around this time Pujya Swami Anandashram used to visit Patkar Blocks at Bandra. It is here that Swami Anandashram initiated the idea of having a colony and a community hall for the Chitrapur Saraswats. Chitrapur Circle, Chitrapur Housing Society and

Srimat Pandurangashram Hall and Jayu along with a few community members took it forward. Formation of the Chitrapur Recreation Club was the vision of Jayu of which he became the founder President. He was good at shotput and discus and won many accolades. Dynamic and dashing he was a sought-after person whether in sports, social and cultural events or even First Aid and Last Aid.

True to her name Shanti, my mother a noble soul also had a similar nature in helping others arrange a matrimony or even recommend one for a job. Jayu organised the annual Dasara

Sports and get together with elan. Music and reading was also his passion and he himself was an accomplished tabla player. He organized many music programmes and also was associated with the Suburban Music Circle, Santa Cruz. Sitar was close to his heart and he admired the maestros Ustad Vilayat Khan and Pandit Ravishankar. Pandit Bhimsen Joshi whose birthday also falls on 4th February was a dear and close friend of Jayu and his family.

When Pujya Anandashram Swamiji attained Mahasamadhi in Bengaluru and the last rituals were performed at Shirali, Jayu represented the Bandra Sabha of Chitrapur Saraswats. Prayers and bhajans were conducted then at the Pandurangashram hall and when Jayu returned from Shirali he came back with the shawl that draped Pujya Swamiji's Samadhi as blessings for the devotees who could not attend the ceremony.

He was also close to Pujya Swami Parijnanashram who fondly called him and said "Jayu HangaYo Re". Jayu used to visit Shirali very often and wished to make a small Parnakoti and settle down in Shirali after his retirement. Jayu and Swami Parijnanashram had plans to start a wireless station on the Panchavati Hills at Shirali which did not however materialize. When Jayu was in the last stage of cancer, Swami Parijnanashram visited our Bandra Chitrapur residence. Swamiji was pained to see Jayu becoming frail, weak and sinking. Jayu was close to Swami Ramdas and Pujya Mataji from Ramnagar, Kanhangad and would visit in the monsoons regularly.

In spite of being in the aviation industry which at the time was considered glamorous, he was grounded. He would often tell us that on retirement he would like to take a Bharat Rail Yatra and travel in the third class compartment to interact with the fellow passengers and see India closely from ground zero. He did survive air crashes but somehow could not combat cancer. He fought cancer valiantly for almost a year and half and finally passed away on 3rd August 1979 in the early hours at Shushrusha Hospital, Shivaji Park, Mumbai leaving behind a vast circle of friends, admirers, and well wishers.

The 4th of February every year is commemorated as 'World Cancer Day' which also happens to be Jayu's birthday.

... Sanjay Mudbidri, Mangaluru



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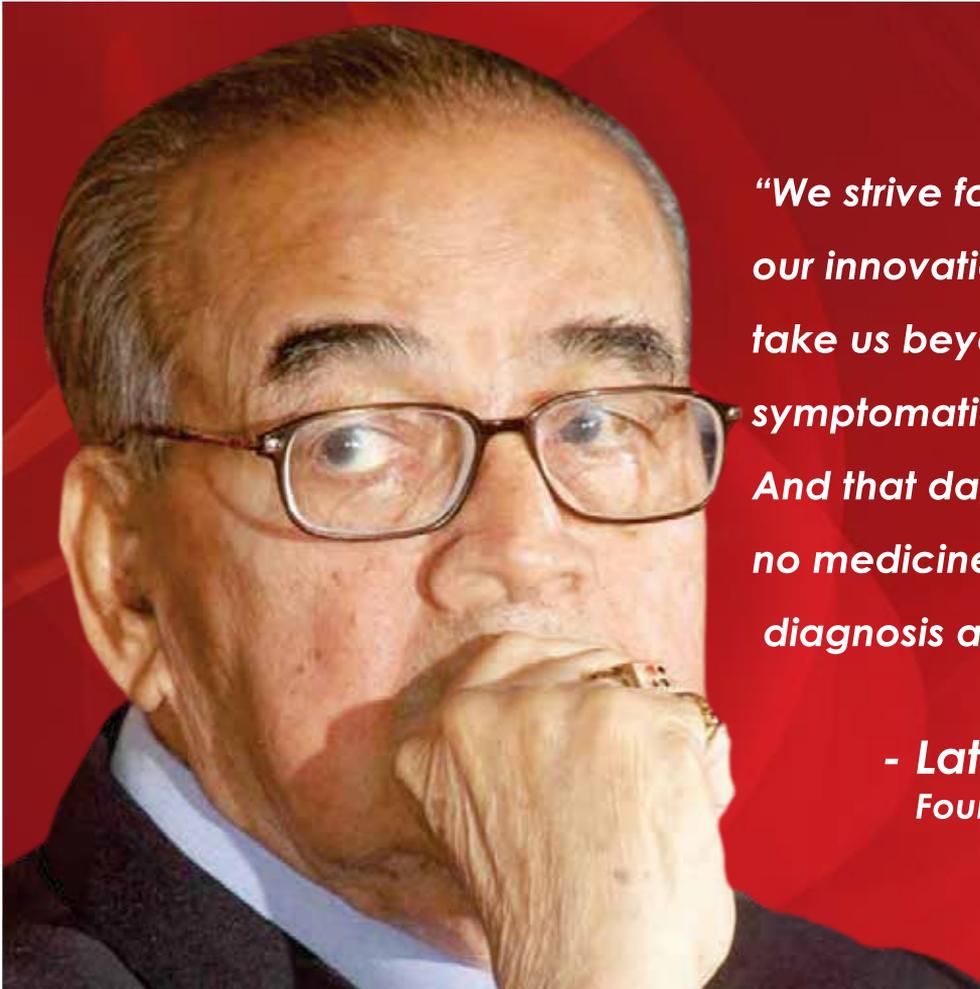
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Personalia

Amar Heblekar of Goa has a very proud achievement to his credit. He was one of the participants of the project initiated by the CM of Goa Dr. Pramod Sawant, under the



auspices of “Atmanirbhar Bharat” who initiated a campaign “Swayampurna Goa”. This program was about adopting a village for development. Under this program, each Officer was assigned a village and the task was to visit the village work with the Panchayat to ensure that all the Government schemes are reaching the people. Amar Heblekar was assigned Cortalim Village as his adopted village.

In the last one year, he could achieve success in the fields of providing 100% tap water connection and 100% households with toilets among others. His biggest achievement was the introduction of three citizen welfare programs for the whole State of Goa in the Forest Department.

His first program was the implementation of a self-employment opportunity to educated unemployed villagers adjacent to Wildlife Sanctuaries in Goa by providing guidance as Nature Guides.

The second program was identifying farmers from all over Goa by organising awareness programmes through Farmers Clubs for raising of medicinal plants.

The third programme was identification of all traditional healers and practitioners of traditional medicine of Ayurveda from the villages around Goa.

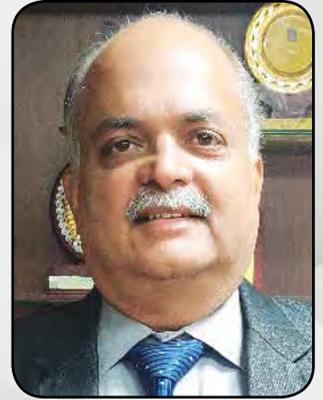
During the evaluation, Amar was selected among the best and is ranked in top two now. The honour was bestowed on Amar during the visit of Hon. PM of India to celebrate the Goa Liberation Day on 19th December 2021 at Panaji.

Arun Mangesh Tallur has been recently promoted as Chief General Manager of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). He is the first Bhanap to be promoted as CGM in NABARD. He is currently heading the Bankers Institute of Rural Development, a wing of NABARD, at Mangaluru. Arun hails from the temple town of Udupi.

After a short stint with Canara Bank, Arun joined NABARD in 1988. He has spent 3 decades at various managerial levels of NABARD. As Vice President of NABCONS, New Delhi, the Consultancy arm of NABARD, he headed the

Skill Vertical providing technical support to Government of India’s Skill Development Initiative. He has served as the District Development Manager of Belgaum district. He also served on the Boards of Directors of 2 RRBs.

Arun’s daughter, Ashwini, a lawyer, has recently obtained a Master’s in Development Studies from the Graduate Institute at Geneva and has worked for the WTO, Geneva.



Dr. Kshipra Gurunandan, the only daughter of Bina & Gurunandan Bhat Bhandikeri, Bengaluru was recently awarded a Ph.D in Neuroscience, *summa cum laude* (with highest honours) at the BCBL, San Sebastián, Spain, and is set to conduct her post-doctoral research at the world-renowned University of Cambridge, UK.



In an inspiring journey spanning 30 countries, propelled by prestigious international scholarships and awards since her early 20s, Kshipra has not only many academic achievements but also multiple extracurricular activities (solo backpacking, kickboxing, motorcycling, high altitude trekking & competitive weightlifting), to her credit.

Kshipra presented her research at the top international conferences in Madrid, Barcelona and Rome in Europe; Boston and San Francisco in the USA and Quebec in Canada, where her work has received prestigious awards from the International Cognitive Neuroscience Society, Organisation for Human Brain Mapping and the Society for Neuroscience of Creativity. She was invited to & has given talks at well-known universities in Australia, Portugal and Spain, as well as at international events organised in India.

In the last two years, Kshipra has taken the adversities posed by the Covid pandemic in her stride and piled up achievements & fame through sheer dedication, zeal and hard work. This was possible only due to the blessings of our illustrious Guru paramapara.

In 2020, during her PhD, she carried out a 6-month research project at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. Being a passionate biker, she also made time for a week-long solo trip on the famous Great Southern touring route in Australia on a motorcycle.

Later in the year, her research was published in The

(Cont’d on page 47)

Grid – Feb 22- Ganapati’s Eleven names to be searched

Hidden in the grid below are hidden 11 names of Lord Ganesh

Read the clues below and find the names of our much loved GanpatiBappa

V	I	G	H	N	A	H	A	R	T	A
X	E	T	S	U	M	U	K	H	B	G
U	O	K	L	P	Q	A	P	E	A	A
M	I	S	D	M	Y	G	J	R	O	J
A	W	R	G	A	J	A	N	A	N	A
P	A	O	N	E	N	Z	F	M	I	K
U	C	I	H	U	F	T	H	B	V	A
T	V	A	R	A	D	M	A	H	E	R
R	L	A	M	B	O	D	A	R	A	N
A	G	A	N	A	D	H	I	S	H	A

- The remover of obstacles
- The son of Uma
- The leader of the Ganas
- One who grants boons
- The one with an adorable face
- One who leads ably
- The pot-bellied one
- Having only one tooth
- The one with an elephant’s face
- Mother’s beloved son
- The one with elephant’s ears

Personalia (contd)

(Cont’d from page 46)

Journal of Neuroscience, a top international neuroscience journal, and highlighted on the website of the Society for Neuroscience. This work attracted substantial international media attention. Kshipra was interviewed by numerous agencies worldwide. About 50 articles were published in different languages in various countries in Europe and Americas. She was also interviewed by Scientific American (equivalent of National Geographic), which was published as a podcast. Her TV interview by the Voice of America channel was telecast in 85 countries.

In 2021, Kshipra completed PhD thesis with highest honours, and applied for postdoctoral positions and research funding. She was recently awarded a research grant by the Basque government to fund her postdoctoral research, after a competitive multi-step process carried out entirely in Spanish language. She will commence her postdoctoral position at the world-renowned Cambridge University in March 2022.

Members are requested to send details of Achievers for publication in the Personalia column in MS Word file. The total number of words should be restricted to 300 words only. Matter in excess of the limit specified may stand condensed.

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Bhagavad Gita

Here is a chapter-by-chapter analysis of an immortal text by our erudite contributor Dr. Sudha Tinaiker. The highlighted portions will enable you to realize that the gems of wisdom contained in this ancient treasury are an infallible guideline to living right

CHAPTER 9 (Part 2)

In the next few verses, *Bhagavân* contrasts those who connect with Him to the ones mentioned in the previous verses.

“Those who are *mumukshu*-s connect with Me with *shraddhâ* and *bhakti*. Such *Mahatma*-s are not distracted by My *Aparâ Prakrti*. They are committed to know My *Parâ Prakrti*, constantly remembering Me, talking about Me.” (v13,14)

“Such *dhrudavratâ*-s (धृढव्रताः) connect with Me in three different ways.

Those who are *uttama adbhikârî*-s know My *tattvam* by resorting to scriptural study through the Guru (निर्गुण ब्रह्म अरूप भक्तिः)

Those who are *madhyama adbhikârî*-s see Me as the entire manifest Universe (अनेकरूप विश्वरूपभक्तिः).

Those *adhama adbhikârî*-s who are not capable of beholding My higher nature worship Me with a limited name and form (पृथकरूप, एकरूपभक्तिः)” (v 15)

In this chapter *Bhagavân* wants to stress on the understanding of *Vishvarûpa Îshvara* as Himself. This is a preparation for the next two chapters. We should understand here that *Bhagavân* mainly caters to the *madhyama adbhikârî*-s like Arjuna and all of us. How does He unfold the *Vishvarûpa* here?

“I am all the scripturally injunctioned *karma*-s (ऋतुः, यज्ञः), I am the oblations given to the manes and also the *devâ*-s. I am the very *mantrâ*-s chanted during any *karma*; the very fire into which they are offered and the very offering itself.”

“I am the very seed of the entire manifest and unmanifest Universe. I am what is to be known through all the *Veda*-s; all the four *Veda*-s are Me and I am the very *Omkâra* which is the very crux of all the *Veda*-s.”

“I am the very result of all actions (गतिः); the distributor of *karmaphala* to the appropriate *jîva* at the appropriate time and place (भर्ता). In me the entire Universe manifests, exists and ultimately resolves. I am that imperishable repository (निधानम्) of the entire manifest and unmanifest Universe.”

“I manifest in the form of the Sun; absorb the oceans and later release the waters as rains. I am the immortal principle, yet manifesting in all the mortal beings in the form of the life-death cycle (अमृतमृत्युश्च)” (v16-19)

In the next few verses *Bhagavân* wants to talk about two types of *bhaktâ*-s; *Sakâma* and *Nishkâma bhaktâ*-s (सकामभक्ताः, निष्कामभक्ताः).

“There are My *bhaktâ*-s who worship Me either with a

name and form, or as *vishvarûpa*; but only for fulfilling their material ends. They are only interested in *Dharma-Artha-Kâma purushârtha*-s. They use me as a means to achieve their limited goals. They are the *Artha-Arthârthî bhaktâ*-s. Such *sakâma bhaktâ*-s attain their limited goals. They may even attain higher *loka*-s. However, once their *punya* is expended, they have to return to human existence. This is the only *loka* where the *jîva* has the choice of four pursuits of *Dharma-Artha-Kâma-Moksha*.” (v 20,21).

“On the other hand, there are a few *Nishkâmbhaktâ*-s who want to know Me in my real nature. They are the *Jignâsubhaktâ*-s. They are committed in this pursuit. For them I am both the means and the end. They may be playing any role in the transactional world; they are constantly connected to Me in knowing My *tattvam*. I support their pursuit for *moksha* by taking care of their basic needs of life. They do not have to struggle for the basic requirements of life योगक्षेमः” (v22).

“Being the very *Âtmâ* of all the *devatâ*-s, I grant the wishes of those who worship Me in the form of their *ishta-devatâ*-s. **All the worship offered anywhere reaches Me ultimately.** But those who do not know me in My true nature, fall away from the ultimate goal of *Moksha*.”

“Worshippers of various deities, *pitru*-s and *bhûtagana*-s reach their respective *loka*-s and get the results of their worship there.”(v23-25)

Now *Bhagavân* wants to make it very clear that He as *Ishvara* is not really interested in how a *bhaktâ* worships. It is only the commitment and *bhakti* to Him that really connects the *bhaktâ* to Him. This is the reason why our great Guru-s have given us *Mânasa-pûja* as an excellent way of worship.

“One may worship Me with simple offerings like a *tulasi* leaf, a flower or a fruit. What is offered is not important to Me, but the *bhakti* with which it is offered.”

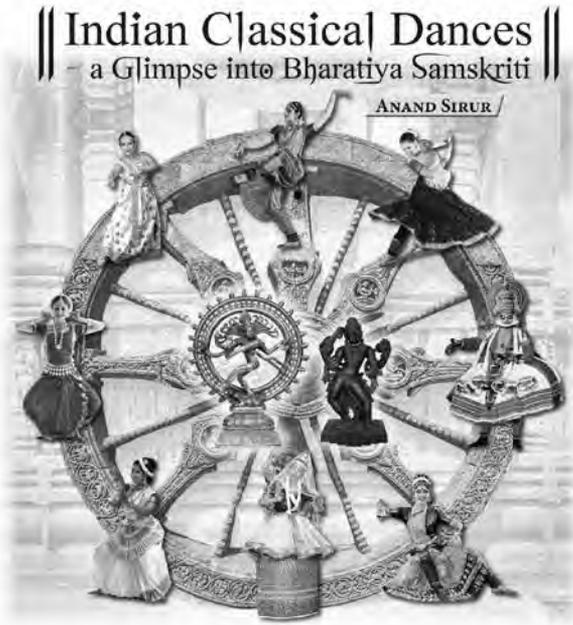
“**One may offer all one’s actions, all one’s practice of disciplines and all worship to Me. Be a *karma-yogi*. Such actions or their results do not bind the *Bhaktâ*; on the other hand, they liberate the *bhaktâ* from the cycles of birth-death.**” (v26-28). **This is a way of bringing *Îshvara* into all of one’s daily activities.**

Bhagavân makes it clear that, He has no *râga-dvesha* towards any *jîva*. He is a mere distributor of *karmaphala* (कर्मफलदाता). The *jîva*-s alone are totally responsible for the accrual of their individual *karmaphala*. (v29)

(To be continued...)

BOOK REVIEW - Indian Classical Dances

By ASHWIN HALDIPUR



Indian Classical Dances - a Glimpse into Bharatiya Samskriti is the most recent book on all the eight classical dances of India, published in a 11"x11" coffee table book format. For aficionados of Indian dance, there have been few books on this subject which are non-academic, and the closest book prior to this was *Indian Classical Dance: The Renaissance and Beyond* (2015) by Leela Venkataraman.

Anand Sirur's book not only traces the origin, evolution and history of all the forms, the institutes and its pioneers but also devotes a majority of the 296 pages to prominent artists and their students (who are established dancers today). The author acknowledges that Indian classical dance cannot be split from Bharatiya Samskriti, which is connected to Sanatana dharma (Hinduism). So whereas the Roman, Greek, Egyptian, Assyrian, Mesopotamian civilisations have all vanished, as long as Sanatana dharma flourishes, Bharatiya Samskriti and classical dances continue to exist. However, thanks to ignorance and a colonial mindset, the biggest threat is from millennials. For example, it was thanks to the *devadasis* and *maharis*, that Bharata Natyam and Odissi have survived. However the connotation, even today for *devadasis*, is mostly negative.

Prominent dancers such as Vjyayantimala, Malavika Sarukkai and Sonal Mansingh do not appear in the book, simply because the author could not meet or interview them. However, the book makes up for these by profiling lesser known gems such as the Poovaiah sisters (Kathak) and a bonus chapter on Uday Shankar (older brother of Ravi Shankar) of Indian Contemporary Dance. There are 78 dancers profiled from all over the country and 6 of these

are Chitrapur Saraswats. Most interesting to read are the pull-quotes that highlight nostalgia or funny incidents in the life of the dancers.

The book's intent is not to overwhelm a reader who might be unfamiliar to the dance forms, therefore it dedicates a



few pages on Natya Shastra, Guru, Devadasis and Maharis, Mudras, Musical Instruments and the Sangeet Natak Akademi, terms that appear throughout the book, but do warrant a brief explanation.

The colourful cover features the iconic wheel from the chariot of the Konark temple in the background, and dancers representing each of the eight dances placed at 45 degrees at the spokes in the centre of which are Lord Nataraja and Bharata Muni. The interior pages feature beautiful black and white photographs to reflect the classical vibe! There are photographs for all featured dancers.

For enquiries, contact the author on apsirur@gmail.com. The author offers a special discount to all readers of Kanara Saraswat.

The book *Indian "Classical Dances - a Glimpse into Bharatiya Samskriti"* authored by 91-year old Anand Sirur was launched in Bengaluru on 20th December 2021 by **Mr. Chiranjiv Singh, IAS (Retd.), Former Indian Ambassador to UNESCO & Dr. MRV Prasad, President, The Bangalore Gayana Samaja was the Chief Guest.** Launch can be viewed at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gx8_H6d9mdw.

About the author:

Shri Ashwin Haldipur is from Bengaluru and is a commercial artist. He can be reached at stronghorse@gmail.com.

आदगत्यो आनि वाक्प्रचार

- १ आक्का गल्यक भांग्रा सरि, भयिणी गल्यक सुंवा दोरी .
People should not imitate those above their status
- २ आगळाने गळो कापचो .
Ruin a person by a show of kindness
- ३ आजि आपेयिल्यारि फायि यो म्हणता .
An absent minded fellow
- ४ आजेलिं नात्रं, बाळांतेलि वोंत्रं, म्हाळांतुलि पित्रं, हांका लेकचि ना .
The grandchildren of a grandmother, the rags of a women-in-lying, the Ancestors recounted during the Mahalaya are countless. i.e. too Numerous
- ५ आट आय, णव्व व्यय, मागिरी कोणाचेयि धरि पाय .
If your gains are eight, and outgoings are nine, you will have to ask for somebody's help to put your affairs straight

Konkani Lexicon Fun Quiz

(What are the equivalent Konkani Words?)

Social Institution
President
Vice President
Chairperson
Hon. Secretary
Treasurer
Managing Committee
Monthly Magazine
Editor
Editorial Committee
Member

(Answers on page 52)

Fun Time Quiz – Know Ourselves- Answers to Jan 22 Quiz

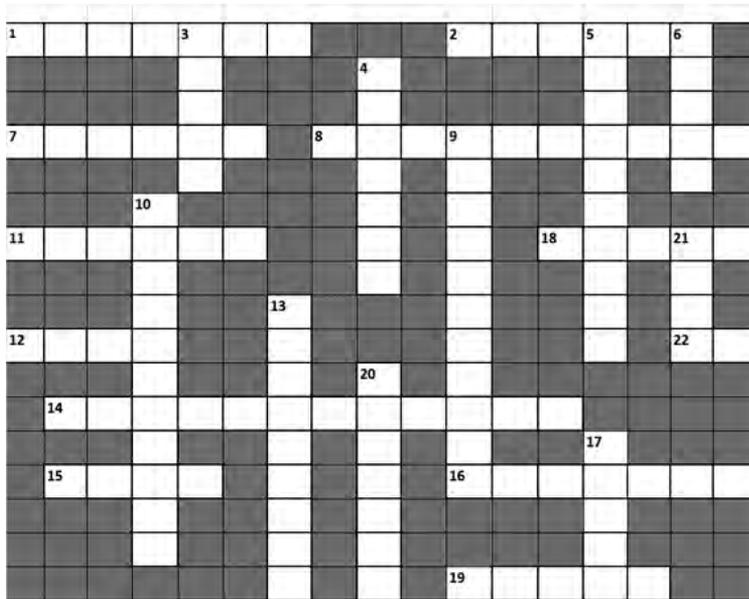
1. KSA Kala Vibhag was started by which President of KSA ? ... **Shri Sadanand G Bhatkal**
2. In which year did Kanara Saraswat become a Monthly magazine ? ... **1929**
3. Who laid the Foundation stone of KSA Nasik Holiday Home and in which year ?... **1965 by HH Swami Anandashram**
4. Dr.Gourish Kaikini wrote how many books in all ? ... **Sixty Two**
5. What was Sripad Nalkur mam's wife's name before marriage ?... **Vartanoosh**

FUN TIME BHANAP QUIZ FEB 2022

1. He represented India in Thomas Cup in 1952 as a Badminton player. Who was he?
 2. He was the President of the Indian National Congress in 1900. Who was he?
 3. He travelled to Pakistan in 1984 as the Indian Cricket Team's Medical Officer. Who ?
 4. What was Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya's pre-marriage surname?
 5. What was Sant Kalavati Aai's post marriage surname?
-

FUN TIME GANESHA CROSSWORD

This crossword has been designed to celebrate the Ganesh Jayanti festival. It has names , places, temples, offerings and everything that can be connected to Lord Ganapati. Enjoy solving, its easy.



Clues : Across

1. Sweet of condensed milk
2. Wrote the main aarti
7. Seven centres of spiritual power in the human body.
8. Mumbai's most famous temple is here
11. Pilgrimage in Coastal Karnataka
12. "Ballaleshwar" resides here
14. The *swayamabhu* Ganesh in southern Maharashtra
15. One of the *ashtavinayakas*
20. Mahaganapati temple near Mumbai
16. The two handed Ganesh temple is here
18. He is "Chintamani" here
19. His most loved sweet.
22. The most important syllable to begin a stotra

Down

3. Arc shaped sweet with filling
4. Most important *ashtavinayaka*
5. Famous temple in Pune
6. He is the Father
9. This place in Bangalore houses Him
10. Place with Bhanap surname famous temple
13. This park in Pune has a temple
17. Blades of grass
21. Popular round sweet in Konkani is called

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD JAN 2022

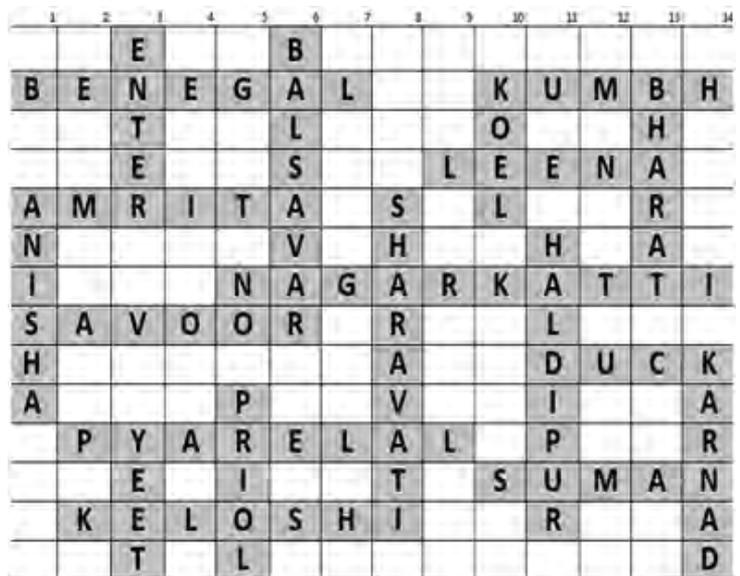
Clues: Across

1. Directed the film *Junoon*
4. This Fair is celebrated every 12 years
6. Heroine of *Humjoli*
7. Essayed MeenaTai Thackerays character
10. Famous brothers in films
11. Scoring zero in Cricket
14. Famous Music Director married a Bhanap
15. Exclamation of Triumph and joy
16. Shantadurga deity was moved from here
17. Very popular singer
18. Former MD of Castrol

Down

2. The Dragon , starred Bruce Lee
3. Femina Miss India 1976
4. Type of cuckoo
7. Younger sister of famous heroine
8. Source of Jog Falls
9. Famous Flutist
12. Playwright, Jnanpith award winner
13. Mangeshi is in this village
19. Represented Mumbai in Ranji Trophy

WINNER : GIRISH HONAVAR



Life not cancelled

BY BHAKTI S ULLAL

Outside a hospital
on a *Blursday*
standing was I,
but on my face
was a grin
so big and wide.
For how happy was I
to be outside the walls,
that had me stuck in
for the longest time.

As I waited my turn
for a *CovidVax*,
a man sauntered in
without a mask.
Covidiot said the lady
standing before me,
and rather than a *mask-shame*,
a punch he received.

Back to *WFH*, which I
had hoped for long

was getting so stodgy
now that it was on.
Online meetings
were boring as could be,
and so we took
to *Zoombombing*
for some joy and glee.

Covideo parties
were a great way
to connect,
but they lacked the
cheerfulness that
real meetings held.
And those *virtual cakes*,
no taste did they bring
and *Quarantini* alone
lacked all the zing.

We followed the protocols,
we did all the drill,
but yet one day

the virus sneaked in.
It took over my body
and treated it bad
And though I survived it,
the contact was sad.
And through all that pain
what hurt me even more
was it left me no *Covirgin*
as I had hoped.
But through these
difficult days
special moments
there have been,
when I met with neighbours
I had never before seen.
Our *Quaranteams* gave
support and helped
me feel free,
and the real hugs
I so needed
were given to me

Bhakti Ullal will be joining our Editorial committee from Feb 2022. She has one step in the Corporate and the other in the world of words- and both feet firmly on the ground - in her own words.

A weaver of stories, an amateur artist and an origami enthusiast, she believes that anything becomes precious when created with one's heart. She says she is fascinated by the mundane because it holds untold secrets waiting to be discovered. Bhakti can be reached at emailbhakti@googlemail.com.

Notes: Though 'lockdown' in 2020 was the word of the year, the pandemic, introduced some fascinating new words into our lexicon. Though the pandemic and the lockdowns stopped a lot of things, they could not dent our creativity. If anything, they only helped it grow multi-fold. On the last count, 23 words that had crept into our language in the past 2 years, but the list only keeps growing every day. Here are the meanings of some new lingo used in the poem.

Blursday- During days of lockdown and with stay home orders, the state of not knowing what day of the week it is.

CovidVax- The Covid vaccine. **Covidiot-** someone who behaves in a stupid way that risks spreading Covid-19:

Mask-shame- meant to call out those who enter close proximity to others and don't wear a mask.

Virtual cake- The cake on the screen, not the real deal 9& **WFH-** Work From Home

Zoombombing- The act of crashing Zoom meetings where you aren't invited and creating chaos is called Zoombombing.

Covideo- virtual television or movie-watching party during the pandemic

Quarantini- any drink with alcohol that helps you get through a challenging year like 2020. Because martinis are so passé.

Covirgin- state of not yet having COVID-19.

Quaranteams - group of Covid-free neighbours who come together to create 'pods' and spend some quality time with each other.

FUN TIME LAUGHTER TIME

At a party, a young wife admonished her husband, "That's the fourth time you've gone back for ice cream and cake. Doesn't it embarrass you?"

"Why should it?" answered her spouse. "I keep telling them it's for you."

"Nothing looks good on me anymore," wailed a customer modeling an outfit in front of the department store's mirror.

"Nonsense, ma'am," soothed the salesclerk. "That dress says it all."

"That's the problem," the woman replied. "I need a dress that keeps its mouth shut."

Answers of Konkani Lexicon Fun

Quiz (for Questions, refer page 50)

सामाजिक संस्था

कोषाध्यक्ष

अध्यक्ष

कार्यकारिणी

उपाध्यक्ष

मासिक

कार्याध्यक्ष

संपादक

मानद सचिव

संपादक मंडळ

सभासद

शंजारधर्मु

शीला शिराली

बरो शंज्जारु मेळचो म्हळ्यारि, सौभाग्य म्होणकाज. पयले कालांतुं चडावत जाल्लु एकक धर्माचीं, जातीचीं जानं एकडे राबुक पळयितालीं. एकमेकांक सुधारसुनु व्हरतालीं, तांगेले आचार-विचार, जॅवणखाणं साधारण एककलेंक आशिल्लेमितीं, राहणींतु अर्थिक तफावत आशिल्ले तरिकेयि, एकमेकांक सांभाळु घेवु राबचि वृत्ति आशिली. एकेकफांता रोटी-बेटी व्यवहारु जाल्लु कौटुंबिक संबंधु वाडतालो. कालांतराने शिक्षण, नौकरी व्यवसायाच्या निमित्ताने, कुटुंबं गांवुं सोणु मुंबई पुणेवारि हॉड्डु शहरादिककाने आयलीं आनि गांवची वस्तीं उणे जाल्ली, वठारं उजाड जाल्लीं.

शहरांतुलें वातावरण विंगड, विंगविंगड जातीचिं, भाषेचीं जानं वट्टु येवु राबिल्लेमितीं, नाना नमुन्याचे भाषे आवाजामितीं, चाळीवट्टु भोनु गेल्ल्यो, मगेल्या सानपणांतुं, मुंबईच्या चाळींतुल्या दोनी कुडांतुं राबचें म्हळ्यारि, एक दिव्यचि आशिल्लें. फाल्लें जाल्लें की दूधवालो, पेपरवालो, फुलवालो, बागलांतुं हाजरि लायताले. सकाळीं बागिल उदारि कोर्चें काम, मगेलें आशिल्लें. शाळेकवचचे अंवरस आस्तना, हें काम अगदी बेजाराचें आशिल्लें, पयले रात्ती गृहपाठ पूर्ण करुंक बसताना शेजारच्या सदूमाम्माने, कंडियेंथावु हातु घालनु पेपर आयल्यां वे म्होणु सत्रेने निमगुंवचे आशिल्लें. पेपरवालो आमगेरि केदना पेपर घालता, आनि आप्ण सुर्वेक केदना वाचता म्होणु जात्ताले ताक्का, ताक्का पेपर दितां म्हणतना, सदुमाम्मा गेल्या माक्षी, मामीगेली फर्माईश आसताली. बाळा, येत्ना चारी तरन्यो मिरसांगो आणि एकी फण्णापाल्याचि पाति हाडी इतें ! एकेक फांता कोपु येत्तालो. !

दोनी कुडाघरांतु राबतलें आमगेलें हॉड्डु कुटुंब. राबतली मस्त मात्र एक न्हाणी, त्यामितीं फालफाल्यारि नंबर लावनु न्हाणाशास्तर कोर्चें. डब्बो आनि दफ्तर घेवु शाळेक वच्युक भायर सरतां म्हणतना शेजारच्या तारापाच्येने वस्तरांपोटली मगेल्या हातांतु कोंबूनू वतवत्ना लॉड्रींतुल्या भय्याक सम मेजुनु दी इतें, म्होणु हक्काने सांगचे आशिल्लें.

पा 5प, तारापाच्येक चेडवं नात्तिले मितीं, हें काम हांवेचि कोर्काज, अशशी आईगेली ताकीद आसातालि. शेज्जारचीं म्हळ्यारि आमगेलीचि, कोणेयि विंगडन्हंयि, अशशी शिकवण सानपणधोर्नु मेळ्ळेलेमितीं. आमगेलें चाळींतु राबतल्यांगेलें एक हॉड्डु कुटुंबची जाल्लेलें. कोंणागेल्यायि घारा कस्तोयि समारंभु आसल्यारि, आम्मी भावंड हक्काचि स्वयंसेवक आसतालीं. कोणाकई सैत्य, खांकी, कपाला कणकणु जाल्यारि सदुमाम्मागेलो फर्स्ट एड बॉक्स तयार आसतालो. खेळतना मारु लागलो, तापु आयलो तरि, चाळियेंतुल्या आज्यांगेले बटवे सटसटी उदारी जात्ताले.

कालांतराने, वैज्ञानिक प्रगतिमितीं, रगड्याजाग्यारि मिक्सर आयलें, कुकींग गॅस आयलें, विविध उपकरण आयलीं. बायलांनी, शिक्षण घेवु कामाक वच्युक सुरु केल्लें. हाज्जो परिणामु कुटुंब व्यवस्थेचेरि जाल्लो.

शहरांतुली लोकवस्ती प्रमाणाभायर वाडुक लागली आनि त्यामानाने नागरी व्यवस्था कमी पोडुक लागली. पॉरन्यो चाळी पाडोवनु, त्या जागेरि टॉवर्स येत्त आस्सति. म्हारगाई वाडिले मितीं कुटुंबं सात्र जात्त आस्सति. “ हम दों हमारे दो ” विभक्त कुटुंब वाडत आस्सति. पर्यायाने बायलांगेली जबाबदारी वाडुक लागल्या. शेज्जा रच्यांलाग्गी दोनी उत्रं उल्लेंवच्याक फुरसति ना. एकेक फांता शेज्जारा कोंण राबता हेंवयि गोत्तु आस्सना. काळु बदलसुत आस्स. व्यक्तिस्वातंत्र्याविषयांतु विंगविंगड कल्पना शिक्षित समाजांतु वाडतचि आस्सति. माक्का कोणागेलियि गरज ना, ही विचार-सरणी मनुश्याक आत्मकेंद्रीत कर्ता आनि कुटुंबांतु राबनुयि संवाद नात्तिलेमितीं तो एकळो पडता.

समाजु सुदृढ जांवकाज जाल्यारि, शेजारधर्मु वाडकाज. प्रत्येक कुटुंबाची सुखदुःख विंगड, प्रश्न विंगड आसताति. ताज्जें निवारण जावकां जाल्यारि, शेजारच्यावट्टु संबंधु दव्वोर्काज एकमेकांक सहाय कोर्काज. मात्र हे कर्त आस्तना, शेजारच्यां-गेल्या व्यक्तिगत जीवनांतु लक्ष घालचें ना. तात्रि निमगिले विनाह उपदेशु कोर्चो ना, हें सूत्र मनांतु दव्वोरकाज. शेजारच्यांक मदत करुंक मस्त अवकाश आस्स. फिरतीचे काम कर्तल्या दारल्यांक कायम्मु कुटुंबाची काळजी आसता. असल्यावेळारि, तांगेलें घर राक्कुक शेजारच्यांगेलो मस्त आधारु आसता. विंगविंगड विचारसरणीचीं जानं एकडे राबतना, प्रति एकळ्याने शेज्जारच्यांवट्टु, संबंधु बरो दव्वोरचे खातिर, वेळु काडकाज. परस्परांतु विश्वास प्रस्थापित कोर्नु स्नेह वाडोवकाज. तांका नाना नमुन्याने सहाय कोर्काज.

वाडत्या प्रायेकलाग्गुनु शारिरिक आनि मानसिक त्रासांनी बेजानु गेलेल्या जाणतेल्यांक, ऐनवेळारी शेज्जारच्यांगेलिचि मदत मेळता. त्यामितीं शेज्जारधर्माचें पालन कोर्चें अगत्य जाल्लु आस्स. जाणतेल्यांखातिर, वेळु दिंवकाज ह्या संदर्भांतु, स्वीस शासनाने तांगेल्या जानांक उपयुक्त अशशी योजना सुरु केल्या खंई. ताजे नांव “टाईमबँक” ह्या योजनेनुसार, तरुण तशिची सुदृढ व्यक्ति, तांका वेळु मेळता ताव्वळी म्हालगड्यांगेली सेवा कर्ताति. सेवेकरी संवेदनशील, मायस्त आसकाज आनि जें काम तो घेत्ता तें प्रितीने, आवडीने कोर्काज, अशशी नियमु आस्स. ह्या सेवेंतुं घरकामांतु सहायु, पेपर / पुस्तकं वाच्युनु दाकोवंचे, घराक जाय आशिलो सामानु हाणु दिवचो, भोंवच्याक वत्ना सांगातु दिंवचो, तांचे वट्टु, फर्डे मारचे इत्यादिचो अंतर्भावु आस्स. ह्या कामांची “टाईम बँकांतु” नोंद जात्ता. एक वरस जायनाफुडे, सेवाकर्त्याक “टाईम बँकाचें ” कार्ड मेळता.

सेवाकर्त्याक अचानक अपघातु जाल्यारि, अथवा शस्त्रक्रिया जाल्लु नित्याकामं करुंक जायना जाल्यारि अथवा आरामाची गरज आसल्यारि, टाईम बँकाचो टाईम विड्रॉवल फार्म भरल्यारि, टाईमबँक, गरजेनुसार सेवेकरी पेटेयिताति, मागिरी आराम जायनाफुडे, तिची व्यक्ति वापस सेवा करुंक तत्पर जात्ता. ही योजना सर्वमान्य

जाल्लेलेमितीं, स्वीस शासनाक आर्थिक फायदो जाल्लोचि, त्यानंता थंचे नागरिक हॉड्डु प्रमाणाचेरि सहभागी जाल्लेल मितीं, समाजांतु सहिष्णुता तशिचि सामंजस्य वाडलें.

शेज्जारच्यांवट्टु संवाद प्रस्थापित कोर्नु, गरजेवेळारी एकमेकांक आधारु दिंवचो ही सेवा म्हळ्यारिचीं “ शॅजारधर्मु ”. संत ज्ञानेश्वरांनी म्हळ्यां “ हे विश्वची माझे घर ”जातीपाती, उच्च निच , गरीब श्रीमंत अशशी भेदभावु कर्नास्तना निष्काम भावनेने केदना शॅज्जारधर्मु दृढ जात्ता त्यावेळारि आपापिचि समाजाचो उत्कर्षु जात्ता हेंचि खरें.!

गतवर्ष हे सरले

विद्या दुर्गादास बेंदुर (विद्या सीताराम भट)

सुसाट वेग काळाचा पुढे पुढे सरला,
नववर्षाचा उल्हास देऊनी हृदयाचा
ठोका चुकवला ॥

हिशोब करता करता हे ही वर्ष सरले,
तरी न मनास कळले काय कमवले नि काय गमवले ॥

वर्ष निसटले जसे बंद मुट्टीतून रेती,
गहिवरलेले काही क्षण आता हाती उरले ॥

कोविडच्या एक सूक्ष्म जीवाने अस्तित्वाला हादरा देऊन,
मिसळून अहंकार मातीत बदलले सारे जगणे ॥

आयुष्याच्या वाटेवरचा प्रवास राहिला खडतर,
प्राण हेच अनमोल हे अनुभवाने शिकवले ॥

चिंता काळजी घेऊन हे वर्ष लवकर सरू दे,
उद्याच्या निर्मळ क्षितिजावर नवा सूर्य दिमाखाने
उगवू दे ॥

मनातले खोटे विकल्प त्यागून खरे समाधानी
संकल्प करुया,
अंतरीची निराशा संपवुन सुख शांतीने राहूया ॥

॥ श्री सूर्यदेवाय नमः ॥

इंदू अशोक गेरसप्पे बेंगळुरु

हे सूर्यदेवा,
सर्वसाक्षी सर्वेश्वरा,
फांप्या पारारी, तूं उदेता
पर्जळ उधळता
आनी सगलें जग जागे जाता
सर्व देव काल्पनिक
तू मात्र प्रत्यक्ष दर्शन दिता
स्वागताक पूर्व दिशा गुलाल शिंवरता
शितळ वारें परमळत व्हांवता
दंव गुलाबे उदाक शिंपता
रुख चवच्यो ढाळताती
नित्य शुभमुहूर्तारी
पक्ष्यांगेले नादस्वरारी
फुलांच्या रंगरांगोळीरी
सूर्यालें आगमन जाता
हे प्रकाशदाता,
अनिरुद्ध उर्जा तूं
आलस्यांथानू आमकां उबारी
अज्ञाना काळोख दूर करी
दीस आनी राती निर्माण कोरन्
वेळेचें महत्त्व तूं शिकयता
एक क्षणाची विश्रांती घेनाशी
तू सतत कार्य करत आसता
आमकां चांग कार्य कोरची बुद्धी दी
नित्य तेजस्वी नित्य आनंदी तूं
रंकरावांचेरी तुगेली समदृष्टी
आमकां अशी खूशी वांटूक शिकय
हे ऋतूकर्ता,
तुगेल्या स्पर्शउबेने कळी हांसता
वनश्री फुलता फळता
जीवांक नवजीवन मेळता
नसनसांतू नवचैतन्य खेळता
तिन्हीसांजे, क्षितिजारी अंतर्धान पावतना,
दूसरे दिसा प्रकट जांवचे आश्वासन दिता.
तेजःपुंज विश्वव्यापी सूर्यदेवा,
तुका शतशः नमन
शतशः नमन ॥

GPSM स्वरसेतु

श्यामला भट आणि GPSM कोअर कमिटी

श्री गुरुभ्यो नमः।

आमगेल्या सोसायटीचो शिलान्यास १९५९ इसवींतू परमपूज्य श्रीमत् आनंदाश्रम स्वामीजी आणि परमपूज्य श्रीमत् परिज्ञानाश्रम शिष्यस्वामीजी हांगेल्या शुभहस्ते जालो आणि १९६० इसवींतू जानं हें 'गुरुप्रसादांतू' राबूक आयलीं. तंमिती २०२० तू हीरक महोत्सव निमित्ताने गवजेरी "गुरुप्रसाद आनंदयात्रा" रियुनियनाचो कार्यक्रम जालो. देशपरदेशांथावू गुरुप्रसादवासीयांनी सहर्ष तांतू सहभाग घेतलो.

सर्वाकयी आनंद उत्कर्ष मंडळाचो उगडासू जालो. साधारण १९६२/६३ इसवींतू स्थापन जालल्या AUM उर्फ आनंद उत्कर्ष मंडळाने ८० थांयी अनेक उत्तमोत्तम कार्यक्रमांची निर्मिती केलेली. खरेची अगदी 'सुनहरे दिन' आशिले तें. हेंची दिस परत हाडयां अशी विचारु सगळयांगले मनांतू आयले.

जलारी देड महिन्याभितरी 'दुखभरे दिन आयो रे भैया, कोरोना लायो रे' अशी जालें. हें अदृश्य विषाणूमिती सर्व जगारी भय, निराशा, चिंता आणि दुःख हाजो अंधकार पसरलो. तें वेळारी त्रस्त झालेल्या सान्न होडांगल्या मनाक उमेदी दिंवच्याक एक आशेचो किरण घेवनू गुरुप्रसादांतूले ६ संगीतप्रेमी तरुण मुखारी आयले. तांनी गुरुप्रसाद स्वरमाला GPSM नांवाचो WhatsApp ग्रूप सुरु केलो. हॉ एकू स्वरसेतू तयार जालो. A Bridge over Troubled Waters.

हे संगीत प्रवासांतू गुरुप्रसादांतूले अनेक गायक आणि काही 'गाना आये या ना आये, गाना चाहिये' अशी जबरदस्त इच्छा आणि आवडी आशिले सामील जाले ' और कारवां बनता गया.

ही ६ जणांगेली कोअर कमिटी सतत नवनवीन कल्पना घेवनू प्रयोग करत आसताती. प्रत्येक कार्यक्रम उत्तम जांवका म्होणू मस्त मेहनत करताती. प्रति सोमवारा आणि गुरुवारा थीम मॅळता. गायक मंडळी वाट राकत आसताती, योग्य पदाचो शोध घेवनू, सराव कोरनू गायक आपापणागेले ऑडिओ ग्रूपारी घालताती. कोअर कमिटीचे तांका उतेजन दिताती. कोणाकयी निगेटिव्ह अभिप्राय दिनाशी, पदं अधिक बरीं जांवचे खतीर करलें कोरयेद हाजे मार्गदर्शन करताती. हांगा कसलीयी स्पर्धा ना. म्होणू प्रत्येकागेलो आत्मविश्वास वाढलॉ आणि गायकी सुधारली. आणि अभिमानाची खबरी म्हळारी आजीवरेक १९३ थीम्सारी ११००० पदांचे ऑडिओ आयल्याती. तशीची अनेक पदांविषयांतू मनोरंजक माहिती सुध्दा सभासद पेटेयत आसताती.

GPSM कोअर कमिटीने हें सभासदांक अधिक योग्य मार्गदर्शन मेळका म्होणू संगीत क्षेत्रांतूल्या तज्ज्ञांगेल्या व्याख्यानांचेयी आयोजन केलें. हे व्याख्यानांमिती सर्व सभासदांक मस्त मदत जाली.

खास उल्लेख कोरका ते गुरुप्रसादांतूल्या एक पती-पतींगले. तांनी कराओके म्युझिक सिस्टिम घेतल्या आणि कोणाक पदाचो सराव जावो, ऑडिओ रेकॉर्ड कोरचे आस्ता तांगेलें तीं आपणागेल्या घारा केनायी स्वागत करताती.

संगीताशिवायी नृत्य, अभिनय जावो इतर कलांतू रुची आशिल्यांगल्या गुणांचे कौतुक कोरचेखतीर एदोळच्याक विविध प्रसंगानुरूप विडियोंची निर्मिती कोरनू ते GP Swar Mala हे युट्युब चॅनेलारी घाल्याती.

(<https://youtube.com/channel/UCiHaoPMgb7UFULgg7IXLqggg>) हें विडिओ करतना सहभागी जालेल्यांगले ग्रूप तय्यार कोरनू कोअर कमिटी तांका मार्गदर्शन आणि मदत करताती.

स्वातंत्र्य दिनानिमित्त 'मिले सूर मेरा तुम्हारा', कडेरी 'गौरी गणपती उत्सव', २०२० दिवाळीनिमित्त 'दिया जले' आणि 'कलाकारी', हें वरस होळीक 'रंग पसंद', स्वातंत्र्य दिनाक 'मेरा वतन मेरी शान', ३ जानेवारी २०२१ हे दिसू व्हरच्युअल रियुनियन 'एक सुहानी शाम आनंद यात्रा के नाम' 'स्वर



Mile Sur Mera Tumhara

The Echoes

उत्सव' आणि दिवाळीक

'मंगलदीप २०२१' अशी अनेक भो गॉमट्या विविध कलागुणसंपन्न कार्यक्रमांची जालेली निर्मिती पळेतना आनंद जाता आणि अभिमानयी दिसता. विशेषतः मंगलदीप २०२१ हें कार्यक्रमांतू ५ ते ९५ वरसांच्या देशविदेशांतूल्या आबालवृद्ध सभासदांनी आपापणागेले अभिनय, वक्तृत्व, पाककला आदि विविध कलागुण सादर कोरनू सगळ्यांक आश्चर्यचकित आणि आनंदीत केलें.

आमगेले गुरुप्रसादवासी मात्र न्हयी तरी इतर प्रेक्षक सुध्दा हे उपक्रमाचे सहर्ष स्वागत करताती, कलाकारांक उत्तेजन दिताती .कोअर कमिटीचे कौतुक कोरनू कार्यक्रम

कोरचेखतीर देणग्यो दिवनू तांगेलो उत्साह, उमेदी

द्विगुणित करताती.. तांगेलो हॉ सहभाग सुध्दा अत्यंत महत्वाचो आस्स. तांका मस्त धन्यवाद .

हे स्वरमालाच्या GP Health नांवाच्या उपशाखेतर्फे जागतिक योग दिनानिमित्ताने एक विडिओ केलॉ.तांतूयी अनेक नियमित योगासनं करतल्यांनी आसनं करतना पळौंवच्याक मेळताती. योग्य आहार आणि व्यायाम हे विषयांरी विचार विमर्श जाता. आमगेले सन्माननीय

धर्मप्रचारक श्री राजगोपाल भटमांमांनी आमगेली विनंती मान्य कोरनू 'मनःशांतीखतीर भगवद्गीता' हे विषयांरी बोधप्रद उपन्यास दिवनू आमका उपकृत केले.

एक आशेचो किरण म्होणू सुरुवात जालेल्या प्रयत्नाने अनेकांगेल्या जीवनांतू उत्साह आणि आनंद निर्माण जालो हाजे समाधान आस्स. आणि आमगेली अशी दृढ श्रध्दा आस्स की परमपूज्य श्रीमत् सद्योजात शंकराश्रम स्वामीजींगेल्या प्रेम आणि आशीर्वादांच्या बलानेची हें सर्व कार्य साध्य जात आस्स . आमगेलो तांका कोटी कोटी प्रणाम आणि धन्यवाद.

संस्कार

श्यामला अशोक कुलकर्णी

माणसाचे जीवन माणसाच्या संस्कारावर अवलंबून असते. सर्वप्रथम आईच्या गर्भातून घडतात. परंतु गर्भातूनच नंतर पूर्ण संस्कार घडले असते तर सर्वच भावंडे एकाच स्वभावाची झाली असती. सर्वांचा स्वभाव एकच सारखा झाला असता. पण तसे न घडता दोन भावंडे दोन प्रकारच्या स्वभावाची व संस्काराची घडतात. जर बालक सुसंस्कारी उपजावे अशी मनापासून इच्छा असल्यास आईने गरोदरपणात सकारात्मक विचार व पारमार्थिक वाचनात आपले मन गुंतवावे. ज्यायोगे बालकाच्या मनावर ते बिंबवले जातील. गतजन्मीचे संस्कार जरी चांगले नसले तरी आई वडील जर सुसंस्कारी असल्यास मुलांना सुसंस्कारी बनविण्यास व मुलांच्या वाईट संस्कारावर मात करण्यात यशस्वी ठरतात. कारण लहान मूलं घरातील व सहवासातील प्रत्येकाच्या बोलण्यावर, चालण्यावर सूक्ष्म नजर ठेवून त्या सर्वांची नक्कल करतात. त्यासाठी घरातील माणसांनी तर्क वाद करायचे असल्यास मुलांसमोर करू नयेत. काही संस्कार अनुवंशिक असतात. काही त्यावर आई-वडिलांच्या व सहवासातील माणसांच्या वागणुकीची नक्कल करता ते विचार त्या मुलांच्या मनात दृढ होऊन अंतरात जाऊन भिडतात.

आपल्या कर्माचे भोग टाळता येत नाहीत असे जरी असले तरी गुरुमंत्र तत्व प्रार्थनेत इतकी शक्ती सामावलेली असते की अशक्य ते शक्य होण्यास काहीच विलंब लागत नाही. मनाला गुरुमंत्राची किल्ली फिरवली की भोगांची तीव्रता कमी होऊन आपल्या जीवनाचे रक्षण करतात हीच गुरु मंत्राची किमया (जादू) होय.

Here & There

Bengaluru: Special programmes:

To commemorate the occasion of Gita Jayanti, on 12th December, sadhaka-s across all age-groups participated in the online Bhagavad Gita recitation covering Dhyana Shloka-s of Shrimad Bhagavad Gita and Chapters 12 and 15.

Gita Jayanti was observed on 14th December and sadhaka-s assembled in the Math for Sampurna Shrimad Bhagawad Gita prathana, Bhagawad Gita Pujan, Deepanamaskara and Bhashya Pathana was rendered by sadhaka-s from their homes. Sadhaka-s from our sabha also participated in the Samoohika Sampurna Shrimad Bhagawadgita Pathana organised by Sayujyam Team involving participants from all Sabhas across the globe, which was streamed live on 14th December 2021.

On 19th December, as a part of the Sayujyam Seva, sadhaka-s from Bengaluru participated in the online Samuhika Guru Pujana along with Chennai Sabha.

On 27th December, Samaradhana of Parama Puja Shrimat Krishnashram Swamiji was observed with Shiva Pujana and Ashtavadhana Seva in Math and Bhashya Pathana rendered by sadhaka-s from home. On 28th December 2021, Samaradhana of Parama Puja Shrimat Keshavashram Swamiji was observed with Ashtavadhana Seva in Math and Bhashya Pathana rendered by sadhaka-s from home.

Varga activities: On 25th December, yuvas participated in the Interactive Session with Col. Kini as a part of the Atmabal series.

Regular Programmes continued such as a) talks on the Bhagavadgita by Dr. Smt. Sudha Tinaikar b) Girvana Pratishtha classes, Sambhashana Varga classes and Prarthana Varga c) Gayathri Japa Anushthaan d) Daily morning puja-s and evening puja-s on Monday-s, Thursday-s and Friday-s were performed and e) Durga Namaskar was performed every Friday by Ved Shri Vijay Karnad Bhat mam with the assistance of Shri Satyendra Sorab mam.

Report by Saikrupa Nalkur

Mumbai, Andheri Sabha: The months from October to December are dotted with many significant occasions: the Samaradhana of PP Shrimat Parijanashram Swamiji II, Shankarashram Swamiji I, Vamanashram Swamiji, Keshavashram Swamiji and Krishnashram Swamiji. 13th November is the *Janmadivas* of PP Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji. The Andheri Sabha observed each of these occasions in 2021 with a host of positive activities.

The teachings of each Swamiji as given in the book 'Sadguru Bodhamrut' and the verses in the Deep Namaskar Stotra were explained in a clear and beautiful manner by Dharmapracharak Shri Rajagopal Bhat maam. He was also gracious enough to narrate certain events from Shri Chitrapur Guru Parampara.

In addition to this, the Yuvas, children and seniors made an offering of Bhajan Seva on all of the above mentioned occasions. The Bhajan Seva offered by Yuvas like Aditi

Gokarn, Divya Hattangadi, Siddhartha Adur and Abhishek Gokarn on PP Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji's birthday was a memorable one.

Aamodotsav with Bhajan and Nriya Seva was conducted by the Chitrapur Prarthana Office, and many children from the Prarthana Varga including Aarav and Arnav Koppikar, Atharva Bangalorekar, Mihika and Mishti Gunavanthe, and Chinmayee Kodikal participated in it with full gusto. Apart from this, the Prarthana Varga children have also participated in the Gurupujan conducted on PP Swamiji's birthday and the storytelling and stotra recitation conducted by Chitrapur Prarthana Office.

Lastly, the participation in Sayujyam Sadhana has been superb. Spiritual activities like Sadhana Panchakam, Vishesh Gayatri, Mantra Japa, Ishta Mantra Japa, Guru Parampara Parayan have been coordinated in an excellent manner by Smt. Kanchan pachi Mannige. It feels wonderful to realize that 2021 has ended on a good note, bringing all of us together for enriching pursuits of knowledge, creative expression and collective spiritual growth.

Reported by Puja Gokarn

Mumbai, Dadar Sabha: In the months from November 2021 to January 2022, our sadhaka-s took the opportunity to participate in diverse activities such as Manthan, Bhajan seva, Guru Pujan and Devi Anushthana.

On 11th November, on the occasion of *Janmadinotsava* of Parama Puja Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji, Smt. Revati Gulvady, Dr. Chaitanya Gulvady and Smt. Geeta Nadkarni organised an online Bhajan seva in which our sadhaka-s wholeheartedly participated.

To celebrate the joyous occasion of *Janmadivasa* of our beloved H.H. Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji, on 12th November, a fun 90-minute programme titled "Indradhanush" filled with poetry, theatre, comedy, music, dance and art was offered at the Lotus Feet of Param Puja Swamiji. As a part of this, some of our sadhaka-s participated in the series of Girvana Pratishtha skits called "Sanskrit Hasyakanika." Also, the solo performance by yuvati Divya Vinekar had everyone in splits. As a part of the *Janmadivas* celebrations, our sadhaka-s also performed Devi Anushthana on the 12th and 13th of November.

Dadar Sabha Sannikarsha was organised at Karla on 21st November. Around 25 of our sadhaka-s eagerly made their way to Karla Math for the first in person Sannikarsha in a long time. 9 of them performed Guru Pujan. On the same evening, the Special General Body meeting for the selection of delegates to Mahasabha 2022, and members of the Standing Committee was held via Zoom Meetings.

On the occasion of Samaradhana of HH Shrimat Vamanashram Swamiji, on 28th November, an online programme was organised. It comprised narration about Swamiji by Smt. Rekha Karkal, followed by Bhajan Seva. Shri Dinesh, Smt. Rekha and Shri Mohit Karkal were the co-ordinators for the programme.

On 14th December, our sadhaka-s, led by Smt. Revati Gulvady and Smt. Shobha Puthli, offered Bhajan Seva at Datta Mandir, Talmaki Wadi, as part of the Datta Jayanti

celebrations.

25th December gave yuva-s the opportunity to revel in the blissful environs of Karla Math after nearly 2 long years. An interaction with Col. Kini maam, in the presence of Param Pujya Swamiji, gave them a glimpse into the herculean task which he accomplished, in the restoration of Shri Adi Shankaracharya's Samadhi at Kedarnath. Mohit and Medha Karkal, and Vinaya Nadkarni participated in the in-person interaction, while Divya Vinekar participated online.

On 28th December, Samaradhana of HH Shrimat Keshavashram Swamiji and HH Shrimat Krishnashram Swamiji was observed. The online programme organised by Shri Dinesh and Dr. Savita Tonse comprised narration about HH Shrimat Keshavashram Swamiji by Shri Ajit Koppikar, narration about HH Shrimat Krishnashram Swamiji by Dr. Savita Tonse, followed by Bhajan Seva.

Dadar Sabha, along with 5 other Sabhas – Bankikodla, Gokarn, Kumta, Honnavar, Mallapur and Kolkata performed *Sayujyam Samuhik Sadhana* online via Zoom on 2nd and 9th January 2022. 32 and 37 sadhaka-s attended the programme on 2nd and 9th respectively. All the 5 aspects of *Sadhana Shrunkhala* were completed. Devi Anushthana and Lalita Sahasranama were offered at the Lotus Feet of the Devi. Around 10 sadhaka-s performed Guru Pujan on both 2nd and 9th. *Vimarsh* was conducted by Tejashree Bailur pachi on Thursday, 13th January. This wonderful and skillfully conducted *Vimarsh* saw 28 of our sadhaka-s in attendance.

Report compiled by Mohit Karkal.

CLASSIFIEDS

MARRIAGE

Shridutt Rao Kodikal, son of Mrs. Smita Rao Kodikal and Mr. Sudhir Rao Kodikal of Pune with Supriya Aroor, daughter of Mrs. Hemalatha Aroor and Mr. Suresh Aroor of Chennai on 27th December 2021 at Saraswat Association Hall, Kilpauk, Chennai.

DOMESTIC TIDINGS

MARRIAGE

We congratulate the young couple

2021

Dec 27 : Supriya Suresh Aroor with Shridutt Sudhir Rao (of Pune) at Chennai

2022

Jan 8 : Shraddha Durgesh Basrur with Chaitanya Sunil Sardal at Mumbai

OBITUARIES

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

2021

Sept 20 : Ashok Kumar Rao Hemmady (89) at Dahisar, Mumbai

Nov 26 : Shanta Ashok Hemmady (84) at Dahisar, Mumbai

Nov 28 : Saroj Somshekhar Karnad (nee Saroj Prabhakar Nadkarni) 81 yrs at Malad, Mumbai

Dec 31 : Vivek Shantaram Kaikini (66) at Kandivli (west), Mumbai

2022

Jan 1 : Col. Suresh Bhavanishankar Gangoly at Mumbai

Jan 4 : Suman Bhalchandra Baidoor (nee Shibad) (75) at Goregaon, Mumbai

Jan 4 : Shobha Y Karnad at Talmakiwadi, Mumbai

Jan 5 : Nalini Pandurang Kapnadak (91) at Chennai

Jan 5 : Ananthakrishna Sundar Mulky (Babbana) (97) at Bangaluru

Jan 6 : Chandrakant (Appamam) Laxman Basrur at Santacruz, Mumbai

Jan 10 : Thonse Premananda Rao (88) at Bangaluru

Jan 12 : Radhika Bhat (Mirjankar) (83) at San Jose, CA

Jan 17 : Deepak Manoharrao Vokethur (69) at Talmakiwadi

Jan 17 : Vijay Murlidhar Gokarn (69) at NJ, USA



Vinay V Gangavali
Phone: 2380 0460
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