Our Pride

Vidushi Lalith Rao
Kabad Jayanth and Kanchan
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The Editorial Committee invites Articles, Poems, Art work, Sketches, Paintings and encourages readers to write Letters to the Editor giving suggestions/feedback.
We specifically call on the Youth of our community to come forward and contribute their ideas and thoughts to make the magazine more interesting.
Articles, Poems and Letters may be sent in Word doc. format (not pdf) and paintings in jpg format. Publishing the same will be at the discretion of the Editorial Committee.
We are happy to induct 10-year-old Aadya Nagarkatti of Bangalore into the Junior Editorial Committee. Aadya is the daughter of Aditya and Anupama Nagarkatti. Currently studying in the VI th std, she is appointed as the Head girl of the Primary section of her school- The Venkat International School in Rajaji Nagar. Aadya has a list of hobbies such as playing the Keyboard, reading Newspapers, participating in Quiz contests, and most impressively, she has anchored a Ghar anna concert and even sang a song!

Please welcome talented Aadya to our fold who along with Vedant Heblekar and Paartha Ray would contribute to the Children’s Corner and the Junior Editorial Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENT

KANARA SARASWAT ASSOCIATION - CONVOCATION 2022

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS YOUTHFUL STUDENTS- WELL DONE

KSA has organised its annual function “Saraswat Convocation” this year On-Line where our Vice President will be “At Home” on 19th November, 2022 at 6.00 pm, with our Aamchi students who have succeeded in their Examinations held in 2022 in different disciplines and fields.

KSA is fortunate to have a distinguished personality with effective Communication Skills, Dr. NUTAN MADIWAL, Asst. Professor & In-Charge Principal (Retd) SVKM’s Pravin Gandhi’s College of Law, Vile-Parle(West), as the Chief Guest to address the students On-Line, on an interesting topic related to Health and Education.

We make an earnest appeal to every successful student to submit his/her Name with the Marksheet on E-mail to admin@kanarasaraswat.in for the attention of Ms. Shobhana Rao on or before 10th November, 2022.

We will announce the name of every successful student and present to him/her with an “E-Certificate duly signed by our President, Mr. PRAVEEN KADLE and Vice President, Mr. KISHORE MASURKAR through his/her E-mail.

KSA is confident that every successful student will respond to our appeal as requested and participate willingly in this “At Home” function On-Line on 19th November, 2022 at 6,00 pm to make this popular event an unforgettable one with your active participation.

Sunil Ullal
(Hon. Secretary for Sports & Cultural Affairs)

Mahesh Kalyanpur
(Chairman)
Dear Friends,

In our daily busy schedule, we all yearn to get a place where we can sit without any disturbance and spend at least half an hour to get good peace of mind. A time when our mind gets into complete tranquillity and one can completely relax without any worries of the world. Of course, we can do this when we are chanting our prayers, our religious hymns or when we do meditation. But I always look for some peace of mind, when I can completely relax.

Over the years, I have tried to find the right place and time to get into such a meditative state of mind which gives me complete relaxation, and which gives me an ideal opportunity to think through some serious issues related to my professional decision making. I have observed that I do not need more than thirty minutes of concentrated meditative silence to complete this exercise. But it is always a struggle to get the time and place to achieve this.

One can always try to find some time on weekends at home to do some meditative thinking. However, continuous travel over most of the weekends or constant pressure of completing the backlog of work, always deprives one of the time to do serious thinking or having a quality relaxation at home.

One such option is of course a long domestic or international flight. But very often, you get disturbed by the constant movement of passengers in the narrow aisle space or some acquaintance travelling in the same flight coming to your seat and forcing you into aimless and long conversations, or the airhostesses offering food or other services. Therefore, now I use this prolonged time available with me to read books, professional or otherwise through the Kindle App on my iPad.

I usually do not like to experiment when it comes to the selection of a restaurant or hotel, the choice of an airline or any other transport, or which theatre or auditorium to watch a movie or play and also the question of the friends whom I would like to visit. I always prefer places which are familiar to me and therefore would not offer any surprises. I generally feel comfortable in familiar places or environment. It was therefore important for me to find such a place in my pursuit for complete relaxation and meditative thinking.

While I was contemplating on this problem, I was surprised to realise that over the years I have already found such a place for relaxation and thinking in my favourite barber’s chair. I realised that, whenever I surrendered my head to my favourite barber who knows all the requirements for my simple haircut, it is here that I could immediately slip into a meditative state of mind and relax completely. This enabled me to get peace of mind or find a solution for any vexing professional problem troubling my mind. Although my barber does not take more than thirty minutes to finish his task, I found that these thirty minutes offered me the most qualitative time for my pursuit of complete relaxation and help me in profound thinking and problem solving.

When I realised the importance that my favourite barber’s chair had in my life, I really found it odd that I had such a peculiar and unexpected preference towards getting a solution to the most important problems in my life. I thought that I may be the only person in the world with such an odd choice. But to my utter surprise, I found that this is a very common experience amongst many individuals who find solace in a barber’s chair. In fact, I discovered that Abraham Lincoln had a very long and fruitful association of more than twenty-five years with his barber William Florville and later many of his barber’s jokes slipped into Lincoln’s speeches when he became the President.

With my discovery of the importance of the barber’s shop in my life, I have now increased my frequency of going to his shop once in a month, as compared to my earlier frequency of going there once in two months! In short, life never ceases to surprise us with unexpected solutions to our mundane problems!!

Regards,

Praveen P Kadle
Kanara Saraswat Association

111th Foundation Day Celebrations

The Kanara Saraswat Association will be celebrating its 111th Foundation Day on **Saturday 26th November 2022 at 6.30 pm** in Shrimat Anandashram Hall, Talmakiwadi, Javji Dadaji Marg, Mumbai.

On this occasion, the Association will felicitate eminent Chitrapur Saraswats in recognition of their contribution to the Community, Society and the nation, in the different fields of work.

The details of programme will be as follows:

1) Awards for Konkani Articles in Memory of Smt Ganga M Nadkarni.
2) Chandra Ramesh Nadkarni Memorial Prizes for Kiddies Corner.
3) Outstanding upcoming Sports personality Award in memory of Shri Suresh (Bab) V. Nadkarni

This will be followed by felicitating eminent personalities from Chitrapur Saraswat Community

Details for the programme will be given on our website www.kanarasaraswat.in

The programme details will also be sent by email to all those members who are on our mailing list. Please arrange to send your email address to admin@kanarasaraswat.in in case you don’t receive the same in your email.

You may also get details on our WhatsApp group mobile number 8879557536

Regards

Vandan Shiroor
Hon. Secretary- KSA
9833217925

“KSA FAMILY TREE PROJECT”

“APPEAL FOR YOUR ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN KSA’s FAMILY TREE PROJECT”

At some point in time, everyone is interested in knowing who their ancestors were. KSA has been contributing a lot to ensure that each family knows their roots and their relatives. Today’s generation hardly gets to meet their relatives and does not know the names of their ancestors. This project is, therefore, of utmost importance and can be taken forward with the active involvement of all our Members.

We, therefore, urge all of you to come forward and create your own family tree at myheritage.com by creating a free account. Please send us your email (which you must use as your user id to create a free account at myheritage.com). We shall send you an invite to view the KSA-CSB Family Trees that KSA has created and which is being updated and populated with more bhanap family trees.

We trust you would have gone through the article in previous issues on this project which KSA has initiated. Please create your FREE account on myheritage.com and create your own FAMILY TREE with as many ancestors and descendants as you are in the know of. You need to get in touch with close relatives and elders and obtain information for making the site self-sufficient and meaningful. Please do inform us/or contact us for any queries at familytrees@kanarasaraswat.in.

The KSA run MyHeritage site cannot be modified or edited by anybody. Hence, if you notice any errors of any sort, in the family trees, please feel free to inform us by writing to us on the e-mail id given preferably with a screen shot and a clear mention of the error and the modification required. You will need to update any additions to your family tree with name and date of birth and inform us of any unfortunate demise of any member. Please help us to help you to improve the Family Tree site. It is a precious document.

In case you have difficulty creating your own family tree, you may correspond on the above email id and we will be too glad to help you to create it.
Dear Editor:

The September 2022 issue of Kanara Saraswat was very appealing and impressive. It was a good idea to have it theme based. Keep it up! Profiles of our educationists or senior teachers made good reading. Choice of persons too was apt and interesting. Being a super senior citizen has unique advantages to me. Some of the personalities covered are personally known to me and some others are relatives. Reading their achievements made me feel happy and proud. These are achievers from our miniscule community of not more than 25,000 on this planet. I salute every such achiever.

Our community has had a lion’s share in starting/running high schools all along the Karnataka coast. Most of us still remember our old school (in Karnataka), our teachers and our classmates. May be we can cover their contribution as a separate issue. Many are in dire straits and in need of financial support.

The September issue, obituary column, carried the sad news of the passing away of Meera Shripadrao Koppikar at age of 96. It brought back my childhood memory. We (as kids) would always look forward to her visits. She initially worked for Kasturba Sewa Kendra under able guidance on Kundapur Umabai, of Hubli. Later, she joined Bhoomdaan movement and did padayatra with Acharya Vinoba Bhave. I have seen her sincere efforts. Our earlier Editor (Mrs. Devyani Bijoor) was her sister's grandchild.

-Dr. Ashok Dayanand Nadkarni, Mumbai

Dear Editor:

Happy that every page of the Diwali issue was indeed a priceless collector’s item, with a lot of information and leisure on offer. The valour and bravado of two young amchi girls Sq Ldr Manali Bijoor and Lt. Sachi Koppikar in the defence sector made me feel proud of them. The two young girls, will surely leave a mark over our Bhanap community in the near future. Kudos to them and their worthy parents! The piece on sport-stars by Sachin Kalbag was very informative. The young badminton star Ria Balwalli will surely conquer boundaries in the near future a la Prakash Padukone. The humorous piece by Nitin G Gokarn made me laugh my guts out. The daredevil Shiv Aroor is a good instance for our young Bhanaps making them icons. Anju Maskeri’s debate on marriage and her quotes of Hollywood TV chat queen Oprah Winfrey were very good. Overall the issue will be a colossal hit with the readers! A very happy and prosperous Diwali to one and all!

Sandeep Hattangady, Mumbai

**********

Dear Editor:

I was happy to receive the KS issue for the month Oct. 2022. It was nice of you to applaud the young amchi girls, Sq. Leader Manali Bijoor and Lt. Sachi Koppikar. A full page photograph of these girls would have indeed been a great honour to them. I wish both of them a great future and say that I feel, truly, very proud of them. May many more of our kids join them!

Aroon Heblekar, Goa.

**********

November 2022 Kanara Saraswat
Dear Editor,

It was an excellent initiative to form a Junior Editorial Committee with Vedant Heblekar and Paartha Ray. Friedrich Nietzsche, the German Philosopher said that, “In every real man, a child is hidden that wants to play.” Children would bring in freshness and innocence, which would make reading the Kanara Saraswat more enjoyable.

Every Diwali, we humans celebrate by bursting crackers but the animals who have very sensitive hearing suffer. Colourful lights and the spirit of the festival do not require loud sounds for enjoyment. I really liked the article by young Vedant Heblekar, titled “Make it a pet-friendly Diwali”. If a ten year old boy can think on these lines, it is really praise-worthy.

Thanks for the useful step-by-step approach suggested by Vedant to desensitise and train your pet dog to loud sounds, especially during Diwali.

Personally, I would advocate a noise-free Diwali without noisy and polluting crackers. Instead of burning money through expensive crackers, the same can be spent on the needy.

I look forward to more articles from children on a regular basis.

Narendra Bellare (Bagalkot, Karnataka)

**********

Dear Editor,

When India sleeps, our brave soldiers are at the borders protecting our country, so that we can feel safe and sleep peacefully at night. Not only brave men but also brave women, who put their lives in danger in the service of our country.

I felt very proud reading the article “Our First Amchi Women Warriors”, written by Maj. Gen. B N Rao, about Lt. Saachi Koppikar AOC and Sqn Ldr Manali Bijoor, IAF. The article clearly brings out how the women soldiers must be tough physically as well as mentally. These two amchis have made our community proud. Having my roots in the Saraswat colony, Santacruz, I am very happy to read about Manali who hails from there, as being a part of the elite AWACS Squadron and her critical contribution during combat emergencies. Way to go!

Pragnya Bellare (Bagalkot, Karnataka)

:- With Best Compliments :-

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The Editor’s Reflections

The last few weeks have been delightful. It’s raining awards and honours for some of our illustrious artistes. We got to know about the honour bestowed on Vidushi Lalith Jayavanth Rao by the Government of Karnataka. This issue is special because Vid. Lalith Rao celebrates her birthday on 6th November. She was named “Lalith” - one of the names of Goddess Saraswati as well as one of the Morning Ragas. Her association with KSA is well known and her participation in KSA’s concerts was always a treat to musical connoisseurs. I still remember the unending tremendous applause she drew for her rendition of Raag Durga (Kaha kariye Kova hamar) and Raag Sohoni - Sajan Tum Zara Zara Bol - in one of the Kala Vibhag concerts.

Just last month we inducted young teenager Anandita Balsavar of Bangalore into the senior Editorial committee. She has hit a century on debut - so to speak. Anandita met up with Lalith Rao and engaged her in a lovely conversation which is encapsulated as an interview in this issue. Anandita’s interview is commendable for a debutante.

Film Journalist Chaitanya Padukone was bestowed with the Mahatma Gandhi Ratna Award- 2022 instituted by the KCF Foundation, in Mumbai.

Popular percussionist Pt. Omkar Gulvady, has also been honoured by the Government of Maharashtra Cultural Awards wing. Pt. Omkar is a perfect choice for this honour. We must all whole-heartedly applaud these award winners and hope it will spur our youngsters to emulate them.

There was a time when our community produced sportspersons of calibre who hit headlines regularly. Unfortunately, today we can hardly name anyone who consistently hits the headlines. In the 60s and 70s, Karnataka produced some outstanding sportspersons such as Prakash, B.Saikumar, Arvind Savur and Kabad Jayanth to name a few. In this issue, Anand Nilekani talks to former National TT champion Kabad Jayanth and his athlete wife, Kanchan. Both are successful business entrepreneurs today.

Incidentally, both Lalith Rao and K Jayanth hail from Karnataka and adorn our cover. And just like Lalith Rao excelled in sports and academics too, Jayant Kabad a celebrity in the world of sports, was no slouch when it came to academics and in fact was among the top 20 in the PUC exam.

Another reason to be delighted is the response from our readers. In my last Editorial, I mentioned that the Junior Editorial body needs the inclusion of one female child. Our intention is to nurture home-grown talent. We encourage participation from our youth, in particular, to make the magazine appeal to the younger generation as well.

It is indeed a very happy augury that 10-year-old Aadya Nagarkatti from Bangalore has joined Vedant Heblekar and Paartha Ray to collaborate and contribute to the Children’s Corner in the magazine and work in tandem. This opportunity will also give them a flavour of working together as a team which will hold them in good stead in their future years. Incidentally, Aadya celebrates her birthday on 13th November.

I happened to get the three kids together on a video call and was highly impressed and amazed at their general Knowledge, enthusiasm, and high IQ levels. We are indeed fortunate that these young children are taking interest in the magazine and are eager to contribute. We expect them to rope in other children from the community and induce them to write.

We have received good responses from our readers who have been sending their works of art, paintings, sketches, etc. We thank you for your interest and exhort more artists to share their works of art. Having said that, due to space limitations we may need to prioritize the publication in a phased manner, be it artwork or even an article. Our readers are requested to, therefore, bear this in mind. We do receive queries on the probable timing of the publishing of contributions which may be difficult to commit. We would try our best to communicate to the extent possible within our constraints and limitations.

We hope you had a sparkling Diwali and trust you all celebrated it with joy and fanfare.

Nitin Gokarn
Minutes of the 110th AGM of KSA

MINUTES OF the PROCEEDINGS OF the 110th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the KANARA SARASWAT ASSOCIATION (“KSA”) held at Smt. INDIRABAI KALLIANPURKAR HALL IN BVES SCHOOL, NEW CHIKHAL WADI, GRANT ROAD on SUNDAY 28th AUGUST, 2022 at 5:45p.m.

The meeting commenced with the prayers at 5:45p.m. when quorum was formed. The total number of members in attendance were 28.

Chairman Shri Mahesh Kalyanpur then requested the Vice President of KSA Shri Kishore Masurkar, to chair the meeting as President Shri Praveen Kadle was out of town and had sought Leave of absence for the meeting. Leave of absence was granted to Shri Praveen Kadle and Shri Hemant Kombrabail who had requested for the same.

Shri Masurkar then welcomed members to the 110th Annual General Meeting of KSA and requested them to observe one minute silence in memory of members of KSA deceased during the year.

Shri Masurkar at the outset recollected, how 110 years back our Founders helped our community members with the intention of bringing them together and assisting those who were in need. He further added that over the years, KSA has done a great job in giving aid to the under privileged and bringing community members together on one platform.

Shri Masurkar then referring to the fourth agenda item of accounts, highlighted on the following points:

- KSA received donations of Rs.24.29 lakhs in the year under review and thanked the donors profusely. Aid given during the year was highest amounting to Rs. 45.77 lakhs which is 72% higher than previous year.
- Deficit of ₹19.42 lakhs were mainly due to higher aid given during the year, reduction in bank interest on FDs resulting in lower income and higher depreciation amount.
- During Covid times, NHH bookings were affected but now there is remarkable improvement and this vertical’s bookings have shown positive signs of revenue rising.
- Health centre has appointed one Ophthalmologist’s service two times a week to have specialised eye clinic.
- Magazine’s advertisement revenue went up by 30% resulting in net income of Rs. 3.50 lakhs from this vertical. New editorial committee has brought lot of changes including grooming youngsters to make the magazine more readable and interesting.
- CSN entrepreneurial committee had done phenomenal job of power packed programs almost on weekly basis which included Mulaquats, workshops, ECMs (Entrepreneurs’ Club Meetings) etc. which provided opportunity to youngsters in their careers. CSN has a website; a Telegram group; WhatsApp group for women entrepreneurs; Bhanap Yellow pages to encourage amchi businesspersons to get the contacts to service requirements of amchis. He appealed to amchi entrepreneurs to register themselves on the CSN website.
- In the current FY, Smt. Usha Surkund and Shri Dilip Sashital have again commenced marriage bureau activities.
- KSA’s web based Family Tree project is maintained by Shri Rajan Kalyanpur and Shri Vandan Shiroor through myheritage.com utility. So far over 5500 nuclear families and over 14000 individual members are uploaded as per the records. An appeal was made for volunteers to come forward and take the project ahead at a faster pace.
- On social activities held during the year, Shri Sunil Ullal was instrumental in conducting various events in all forms which included Foundation Day, Diwali Pahat, On-line Housie, International Women’s Day, recording of Chitrapur Vaibhav and Screening of ‘The Kashmir Files’ which was a hit event.
- With regard to proposed future issues,
  - Support was requested for sale of Bhandardara plot which was in possession since 1962 but despite all out efforts from time to time, nothing could be developed there due to many hurdles. The boundary of the plot could not be marked to date. It is proposed to use the sales proceeds for renovation/refurbishment of the Nashik Holiday Home (NHH).
  - The four old units were built in 1968 and new four units were built in 1994. Committee members met in NHH and decided to first renovate the four new units and take up the old units later. It was decided to use the services of Architect Smt. Varsha Kadle for this purpose. The rough estimate for the four new units refurbishing is Rs. 26 lakhs and that for the old units is Rs. 40 lakhs. The major source of funds will be from...
the donation from individuals and institutions and the balance from the sale of Bhandardara plot.

- The air conditioning and false ceilings of the KSA halls are posing a lot of problems and corrective action has become necessary. This matter will be attended to this year for which Architect Shri Sujay Nadkarni has been requested to submit his recommendations and quotation. A quote of ₹ 34 lakhs has been received. Donations will be requested to fund this project.

- Redevelopment of KSA building along with TCHS redevelopment project involving all TCHS buildings and BVES school area will be undertaken. KSA has become a sub-committee member of Redevelopment project and the final decision in this regard will be taken only after KSA Managing Committee and AGM approves the final proposal. This will be a very long drawn process.

- For getting donation from corporate entities for funding of future projects, KSA is planning to register itself with ROC for CSR registration number.

The agenda was then taken up for discussion.

**Agenda Item 1 – Reading of the notice convening the meeting**

Hon. Secretary Shri Vandan Shiroor read out the notice

**Agenda Item 2 – Confirmation of the minutes of the 109th Annual General Meeting held on 26th September, 2021**

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the 109th Annual General Meeting of the KSA held on 26th September 2021 be and are hereby confirmed.

Proposed by : Shri Dilip Sashital  
Seconded by : Shri Jairam Khambadkone  
Carried Unanimously

**Agenda Item 3 – Confirmation of the minutes of the proceeding of Special General Meeting held on 5th December, 2021**

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the proceeding of Special General Meeting held on 5th December, 2021 be and are hereby confirmed.

Proposed by : Shri Rajiv Kallianpur  
Seconded by : Shri Rajendra Kalyanpur  
Carried Unanimously

**Agenda Item 4 – Adoption of the Committee’s Annual Report and Audited Statements of Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2022**

RESOLVED THAT the 110th Annual Report and Audited Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2022 be and are hereby approved and adopted.

Proposed by : Shri Shivanand Sanadi  
Seconded by : Shri Sanjay Puthli  
Carried Unanimously

**Agenda Item 5 – To announce the names of the elected members to the Managing Committee.**

Hon. Secretary Shri Shiroor announced as under:

Nominations were invited for 3 vacancies on the Managing Committee for the year 2022-23 of the KSA. In response, four valid Nominations were received before the last date of filing nomination. Shri Satyendra Kumble withdrew his nomination before the last date of withdrawal. As a result, three candidates viz. Shri Rajendra Kalyanpur, Shri Hemant Kombrabail and Dr. Deepali Hari (nee Surkund) were declared elected to the Managing Committee of KSA.

Vice President Shri Kishore Masurkar presented a bouquet of flowers to Shri Rajendra Kalyanpur and Dr. Deepali Hari (Shri Hemant Kombrabail had been granted leave of absence as he was out of India)

He also presented a bouquet of flowers in appreciation of their services to the two outgoing Committee
Members viz. Shri Rajiv Kallianpur and Shri Shivanand Sanadi who served on the Managing Committee since September-2018.

**Agenda Item 6 – To appoint an Internal Auditor for the FY 2022-23**

Shri Mahesh Kalyanpur (Chairman) informed the General Body that in the year under review, Shri Sudhir Burde had conducted internal audit and the committee wanted to continue with his services this year also. However, Shri Burde expressed his inability to continue as he was going out of India for four months. The General Body unanimously authorised the Managing Committee to appoint the Internal Auditor for FY 2022-23...

**Agenda Item 7 – To appoint a Statutory Auditor for the FY 2022-23**

Shri Shiroor mentioned that M/s P G Bhagwat LLP had done an excellent job for 2021-2022. They completed the audit in record time in their first year of audit of KSA. They have agreed to continue as Statutory Auditors for FY 2022-23 for a fee of Rs. 20,000/- plus GST. The following resolution was passed:

**RESOLVED THAT** M/s P G Bhagwat LLP be and are hereby appointed as Statutory Auditors for the Kanara Saraswat Association for the FY 2022-23 at a fee of Rs. 20,000/- plus GST.

**Proposed by:** Shri Kiran Bajekal  
**Seconded by:** Shri Jairam Khambadkone

**Carried Unanimously**

**Agenda Item 8 - To consider and decide on the sale of KSA plot in Bhandardara (at Survey No 169/4, Plot No. 41 in Village Murshet, Taluka Akole, Dist Ahmednagar) and accordingly pass appropriate resolution(s).**

Shri Mahesh Kalyanpur (Chairman) explained in detail the reasons for this proposal the gist of which is given below:

- KSA had booked the Bhandardara plot in 1962 by giving advance amount when Maharashtra Govt. had planned this area as Hill Station project. Subsequently China war broke out and all the concerned processes were shelved. Even in 1989 when the process of occupation was initiated, the boundary demarcation was not completed by Land Survey department till date despite due follow-up.
- Two recent visits and information received from the Advocate, revealed that we need the consent of the adjoining plot owners. This is a very challenging requirement.
- Road access to the plot is narrow and any development activity is likely to be aggressively opposed by locals.
- Based on the advice from our Advocate handling our matter in the Charity Commissioner’s Office, the Chairman explained the procedure involved for the sale of this plot. Firstly, we need to get this registered in schedule I of Charity Commissioner’s records which was supposed to be submitted in the year of purchase. Subsequently, we need to issue a public notice calling for bids through tenders; negotiation with the bidders to get maximum possible price; Managing Committee approval through a resolution for selling the plot followed by approval of the General Body in a General Meeting (through a resolution) and finally permission from the Charity Commissioner for sale of the plot along with the approval for the terms & conditions mentioned in the agreement, for which MoU containing terms and conditions and completion of all the pending change reports will be required. Also since the plot is located in a reserved area permission from local authorities would be needed for sale which would be taken up simultaneously.
- On the matter of valuation, it was clarified that the services of a Valuer will be used to ascertain the value of the plot.

The following resolution was then passed:

**RESOLVED THAT** the Managing Committee of the Kanara Saraswat Association be and is hereby authorized to sell, transfer and register the sale of the plot of land admeasuring 27000 square feet bearing plot number 169/4 (old plot number 41) situated at Village Murshet, Taluka Akole, Dist. Ahmednagar, Maharashtra State standing in the name of the Hon. Secretary, Kanara Saraswat Association, Mumbai by inviting bids/offers and negotiating with bidders and take such other
necessary steps including taking permissions, sanctions, and approvals of the State Government, the Charity Commissioner, Maharashtra and all the Authorities concerned so as to complete the sale of the said property.

**Proposed by:** Shri Jairam Khambadkone  
**Seconded by:** Shri Rajiv Kallianpur  
**Carried Unanimously.**

**Agenda Item 9 – Any Other Business and Answering to the questions asked in writing**

Two letters were received asking questions on the operations of the Trust during the year

i. Shri Mahesh Kalyanpur addressed the issues raised by Shri Jairam Khambadkone (in his letter) to his satisfaction except on the following points of disagreements.

   a. Reason for write-back of Parijnanashraya fund – the Chairman explained that when the General Body approved the handing over of the premises at Shirali to Shri Chitrapur Math 3 years ago, the necessary accounting entries pertaining to the liabilities on the Balance sheet were not carried out. This correction was done now.

   b. Aid given to needy persons outside Chitrapur Saraswat Community as per Clause 2 (f) of Rules

      It was clarified that the aid in this respect could not be given during the year as there were no applications for the same and the interest amount was fully utilised. However it was assured that the aid backlog will be given in the current year along with this year’s proportion.

   c. Plan of utilisation of backlog of last two years ₹ 8.24 Lakhs being the difference of Covid relief donations received and Aid given for Covid relief

      It was assured that the backlog amount of Rs.8.24 crore will be utilised towards Distress relief. The members were informed that the managing committee members were of the unanimous view that any balance remaining out of the Covid Relief fund will be utilised for providing financial assistance under Distress Relief to needy families who are also affected by Natural calamities. Donors will be intimated about the change. Members agreed with the expansion of the scope and use the amount towards Distress Relief.

   d. What are the actions by which Health Centre’s increased rent by TCHS resulting in deficit will be mitigated.

      The Chairman mentioned that an Ophthalmologist has been appointed for eye centre which will enhance the revenue where new instruments were donated by M/s. Entod Pharmaceuticals and thanked Shri Masurkar for the kind gesture. Further, he mentioned that necessary action to stop leakages from the roof will be taken by TCHS during the Structural repairs by way of cost sharing between Landlord and tenant as per the formula in place.

ii. Letter from Shri Rajaram Pandit (who was not present and had taken leave of absence) was read out. The suggestion that Common Committee Members KSA and other institutions should recuse themselves in decisions pertaining to other institutions represented by them to avoid conflict of interest. Chairman said that this would be taken care of.

Members were invited to speak their views.

Shri Sunil Ullal briefed the House on the proposed Diwali programmes and other social and cultural activities.

Shri Vinay Yedery applauded the overall working of KSA and its Committee members.

Shri Gautam Amladi appealed the members to spread the word about CSN activities among the amchis asking them to be part of it to avail the opportunities given under this network.

Shri Anant Nadkarni desired that KSA should undertake Table Tennis exhibition matches to encourage amchi youngsters in this game.

Shri Satyendra Kumble proposed a vote of thanks to the Chair.
SWASTI SHRIMAN MAHAGANAPATAYE NAMAH, SHRI GURUBHYO NAMAH,
SHREE BHAVANISHANKARAYA MAHALAKSMIBHYAM NAMAH, SHRI GOPALKRISHNAYA NAMAH,
SHRI AVADI MATRE NAMAH

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF OUR PRESENT NORTH –FACING TEMPLE. CALL OF LOVE AND
CORDIALITY WITH A SPLASH OF KRISHNA BHAKTI OF SHRI AVADI MATA) TO ALL FAMILY MEMBERS OF
UBHAYAKAR, CHANDAWARKAR, CHITTAR, DHARESHWAR, HALDIPUR, MARBALLI
AND UPPONI-UBHAYAKAR FAMILIES

“THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER”

Our sacred family institution has been carrying on the tradition of Bhagwat Sampradaya graciously handed down by Sant Shri Ramavallabhdas, who was like the Rising Sun to Shrimati Avadi Mata around the year 1650. The Satpurusha has written Ovi Baddha Teeka on the splendid Vakya Vritti Strotra composed by Shri Shankra Bhagawatpadacharya in praise of Shri Mahavishnu. Our Vaidik Sampradaya with Puja, Japa Parayana is blended with Varkari Bhajan Sampradaya in adoration of Shri Pundalika Varada. Sarvantaryami Vasudev Gopal krishna. The Prasadik Advaita Bhakti Bhajans are sung melodiously with great devotional fervour in front of our Ishtadevata by Shri Arun and Shrimati Chaya (Geeta), Shri Chaitanya and Shri Gourang accompanied by others. Nitya puja Shravana somavara and Krishna Janmashtami puja, Laksha pushpalankar, Janmakatha and Jagaran Dolara Mangalarati and Divati seva, Mangal Kala Palki Utsav and Santarpan and Ede puja at Shri Mahaganapati Sannidhi are performed with great reverence. This draws the curtain on the Year’s Ustav only to herald the dawn of Sevas of the succeeding year.

The high standards of construction of the serene and grand temple, with adjoining buildings built in 1922 stand testimony to the devotion of Late Shri Shankar (Das) Sheshgiri Chandawarkar, then sole trustee. The superior quality materials used and par excellence workmanship and his overall meticulous personal supervision and contribution have made this possible. The Pratishtha of marble murti of Shri Krishna also took place in 1922 with Late Shri Subrao (Krishndas) as the guiding light to Late Shri Padmanabha Narayan and Shri Devarao Shivaram Ubhayakar. Besides the Shiva Linga given to Late Shri Padmanabha Gopal Sharad Anand Chandavarkar by a sadhu (subsequently replaced by a linga procured from Kashi by Shri Sharadanand Ramkrishna Ubhayakar) and panchayatan “Shrimati Avadi Mata and Shri Kaliyamardan Krishna adorn the mantap. Their Tejomaya sanidhya always showers Their Grace and Blessings upon us like the gentle rains.

Shri Arun .S. (The Light Of Mallapur) is the inspiration to us for celebrating this centenary in a befitting manner. Besides him, Smt. Chaya (Geeta) A. Ubhayakar, now President of the Chandavar Gram Panchayat as a result of her kindly and untiring attitude and her helping hand reaching out to all rural folk alike, will help make the celebrations a grand success and memorable. It is estimated by Shri Arun after in-depth thought that the overall expenses for repairs and maintenance, carpentry, masonry, electrical, painting and other work and amenities plus expenses for the celebrations will come to about Rs. 20 lakhs.

May I on behalf of The Board of Trustees and on my own behalf, request all members of our family (including allied families) to come forward with generous donations for this noble cause. I hope to achieve the target of Rs. 25 lakhs. Any surplus will be credited to our Stabilisation Fund. I must mention here Shri Nikhil Narayan Ubhayakar’s prudence, backed by his experience as Banker has contributed a lot of steady increase of our fund over the years.

We proposed to perform Sahasra Modak Homa /Gana homa and Shri Bhagavadgita homa plus Ekadasha rudra, Shri Suktha, Pavamana and Shatadalshabisheka with Holy Waters of Sacred Ganga, Yamuna, Saraswati, Tungabhadra and other rivers. This will be for the Yoga Kshema Adhyatmika and Loukika Abhiruddhi vansa Abhiruddhi, Good Health, Long Life, Happiness Prosperity Divine grace, and protection to all.

YOURS IN HIS SEVA
Narendra Narayan Ubhayaker
Malamudradhikari & President
With the blessings of our Kuladevi Shantadurga, our hallowed Guru Parampara, and our ancestors, Sadanand Naimpalli and Aruna Naimpalli (née Nadkarny) are celebrating their Golden Wedding.

HAPPY GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

For fifty years they’ve walked through life
Hand in hand as husband and wife
Together for richer or poorer, for better or worse, in health and in sickness
Many congratulations on your Golden Wedding and wish you a whole lot of bliss!

With lots of love from: Sameer, Swati, Shwetambara and Grand daughter Swaraa

Best wishes from: Karnads
Nadkarnys, Morris
Naimpallis, Masurekars
Sashitals
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E-mail : standardgroup@standardgreases.co.in

November 2022 Kanara Saraswat 16
About The Trip

Join an amazing trip to India to re-discover your roots. Jointly organised by CHF (US) and CSS (UK) for our Yuvadhara, the trip will allow you to return to your ancestral villages and learn about local cultures & cuisine. Visit the beautiful beaches of Karnataka and return to nature, hiking through the wildlife sanctuary of Sharavati Valley. Immerse yourself in the traditional theatre performances and learn about local industry through cashew factory, and coffee/mango/spice plantation tours. As a joint venture between the UK and US Amchi diaspora communities, meet like-minded people and form new friendships.

Register your interest

Please send an email including name & age of participant(s), email address & WhatsApp number to: ChitrapurTour2023@gmail.com

Who can join?

16-35 year olds

- The trip is aimed at the Yuvadhara of our UK & US Amchi diaspora community.
- Parents can also join the trip as chaperones if they wish.
- The tour will take place during school holidays for a duration of 8-10 days.

Itinerary

A perfect blend of adventure & culture

- Wildlife Sanctuary & Hike
- Spice farms & coffee/fruit plantations
- Eco-beaches & Mangrove forest
- Historical forts & places of interest
- Yakshagana - a traditional theatre art form
- Women empowerment programmes
- Volunteer at Srivali School
- Meditation sessions
- Spiritual talks with Swami ji
- Visit the different Maths
Smt. Sumangala M. Chickermane

Visited us between 15/2/1949 to 24/9/2022

Smt. Sumangala M. Chickermane made the transition to Her designated heavenly abode on 24th September’22. Her struggle till Her last days against an ailment was self-effacing, gritty and patient, all typical of Her many great qualities.

Mangala pacchi as she was popularly known, had only one motto in Her life – To serve one and all who She came in contact with. She was always a giver.

Her great qualities were Love, Selflessness, Kindness, Compassion, Discipline, Spirituality, Knowledge and above all Sacrifice. These qualities were truly genuine and remarkable as can be testified by all those who were fortunate enough to be touched, influenced and blessed by Her.

Mangala pachi had immense faith in the Almighty and our beloved Swamiji and our Revered Guruparampara. She took part in every activity sponsored and prescribed by our Math. She invariably added value to peoples’ lives. She took active part in seva projects of Shri Chitrapur Math (SCM) such as installing a Document Management System (DMS) for the Math, populating data for Human Resources module of ERP of the Math, revamping of Library of SCM Bangalore etc. She also participated in two medical camps conducted by SCM in Srivali High School Shirali and Guruprasad High School Mallapur. The DMS activities took her to different locations of SCM such as Virar SPEVC, KDPT – Karla, Math and temples in Mangalore and Vittal.

She facilitated weekly bhajans of Ramanagar Anandashram at Her home in Bangalore for around 14 years. She taught underprivileged students free at home and supported medical treatments of needy people from weaker sections of society.

Great personalities such as Mangala pachi are one in a million and once in several generations, unforgettable epic legends for whom words may not suffice to describe the enormity of their greatness.

Even now, despite Her physical absence, Her omnipresence and words of kindness and love still reverberate in our ears while Her endearing memory is motivating and reassuring enough to fill our lives with Joy.

Smt. Sumangala M. Chickermane leaves behind husband Mangesh, daughters Gouri and Anusha, sons-in-law Bharat Savkur and Benjamin Kendall-Ward, grandsons Naren and Omkar and many relatives and well-wishers.

Mangesh Chickermane and Family thank all who have been a source of strength during the last few months.
Interview with Vidushi Lalith J Rao

BY ANANDITA BALSAVAR

Anandita Balsavar in conversation with Vidushi Lalith J. Rao, a singer in the Agra-Atrauli Gharana of Hindustani classical music, and most recently, conferred the title of Rajya Sangeeth Vidhwan by the Government of Karnataka.

AB: What was your childhood like? At what point did music enter your life, what was your family’s role?

LJR: My early childhood was spent within our close-knit amchi community in Bangalore and Canara Union was the centre of all our activities. It was also where I began learning dance. My father was very fond of music. He would listen to classical music records and hearing them. I too unconsciously imbibed the music. I was told that when I was three, I had sat through the whole concert of Faiyaz Khan Saheb.

AB: When did your journey in music begin? What are the memories you have of your first guru, Pandit Rama Rao Naik?

LJR: I think when I was about 9, Rama Rao Ji (my first guru) agreed to come and teach me which is how I started learning. He was a wonderful teacher and he taught many Konkani youngsters. He used to go cycling to each one’s house, he would set out from his home in the morning, go home for lunch and start cycling again to come and teach. He was dedicated to his music and was determined to pass on his knowledge to others. He would come to teach me in spite of our home being out of the way.

Most kids at the time were pursuing dance lessons as it gave them an opportunity to learn in groups and wear gorgeous dresses as well. Music lessons were one-on-one, I must have been interested since I sat through the classes, and don’t remember ever feeling bored. I started learning but I did not realise when it became a passion.

AB: When did you start performing publicly? What were your first instances and experiences of performing before an audience?

LJR: My first private performance was when I was twelve and the next at Bangalore Sangeet Sabha (the main Hindustani music association in Bangalore); the only one at the time since Carnatic music was far more popular. When you’re a child, you don’t have any stage fright, you’re just going up on stage and singing, so I never felt it. I practised and worked hard before every performance but that was something I did instinctively. There were several senior amateur musicians: viz. Bankeshwar Shivanand, P. N. Chandavarkar, Sode Shankar Rao and others who used to come home; they would provide encouragement and support, as well as advise me on what pieces to perform, how to practice. I value those moments, their love, affection and their genuine desire to see someone succeed.

My first trip to Bombay was in 1957, as a fourteen-year-old, when I entered a Sursinghar Sansad Competition in the below-30 years category, and won the first prize. So, they allowed me to participate in the Swami Haridas Sangeet Sammelan in Bombay at the Mumbadevi ground; that was my first experience at music concerts where I saw legendary musicians perform.

AB: Apart from music, you were an all-rounder at school, excelling not only in academics but also sports. How did that fit into your life and what other fields have interested you?

LJR: My parents encouraged me to do a lot of sports, I represented Mysore state for basketball. In my school, we were encouraged to participate in all kinds of sport and competitions.

I also played throwball , tennis and badminton .When we were growing, English was very much part of the culture. My grandmother encouraged us to read a lot of English classics.

AB: You have pursued a degree in the sciences, graduating with accolades from prestigious institutions. How did you trace back your return to music following this?

LJR: Music was relegated to a hobby as I went to college, then to the Indian Institute of Science. It took a backseat except when Rama Rao would come or when I was free, which wasn’t often since I was either studying or in the department. Music lessons thus became less frequent but I never really lost complete touch with it as long as I was in Bangalore.

I went to Canada after graduating from IISc,
and after I returned, I got married and we moved to Delhi where Jayavanth was employed. He too was very interested in music, and he was the one who encouraged me to focus on music. Fortunately, Pt. Dinkar Kaikini used to live in Delhi and belonged to the same gharana as me and agreed to teach me. That is how I started learning music again; not only did he help to remove the cobwebs that had gathered but also opened my eyes to the necessity of notation, learning differences between grammatical sides of music.

AB: You later became a disciple of Ustad Khadim Hussain Khan in Bombay. How did this push you forward in your musical journey?

LJR: I learnt from Pt. Dinkar Kaikini in Delhi for only a year and then we were transferred to Madras, and later to Bombay. In Bombay, I learnt from Ustad Khadim Hussein Khan Saheb. He had heard me sing in Saguna Kalyanpur's (my aunt and a disciple of his) house when I was about fifteen years old. After the concert was over, after a brief introduction, he left but returned after some time and he said to me, “You belong to my gharana so you are like my child. When you sing, you have a great responsibility to your teacher and to your gharana, so think about that”. I was moved by his dedication to music and love for the gharana. I had decided that if I came to Bombay I would learn from him and after all these years, that dream came true!

I sent word to Saguna pacchi and told her to contact Khan Saheb to let him know I would come to see him. The next day he appeared at my door! I asked him why he had come all the way to see me when I was planning to visit him. He said, 'What is the problem? I was teaching in a house across and Saguna told me about you, I remembered having met you as a child so I thought I would walk over to meet you”. Such a wonderful and noble soul!

How many people would do that today? He completely changed my approach and gave me the confidence to sing.

Even now, had it not been for Jayavanth’s support, and that of my parents and in-laws, it would not have been possible for a woman, especially, to take up a career like music. You need a lot of time to yourself, you need to practice, and without the support and encouragement nothing is possible. Someone can be highly talented but there’s a whole bedrock of support which gives you the freedom to devote time to your riyaaz. My family was a priority to me, my husband had a transferable job, we had a son who was growing up, and guests coming over to stay with us, but he (Jayavanth) was the one who encouraged me. He said, “Your classes, you will never miss. A day or two of absence maybe, if you are busy. But classes are a must, there is no getting away from it unless you or Khansahib is ill”.

AB: In the course of your musical career, you have travelled far and wide. What are some things you look back on in your experience of exploring and visiting new places?

LJR: I began performing at a time when there was no form of digital networking. We relied on word-of-mouth, and writing letters; it was a wholly different world. Soon enough, I performed before larger audiences and then went on tour all over the world, Europe, and US.

One thing was often amusing. I had to take my accompanists with me when I travelled, a tabalchi and harmonist who weren’t so exposed to these things. They were good genuine people, not highly educated, but they were musicians. In the USA, we used to stay in various people’s houses, they didn’t know what a bathtub was, and they didn’t know to draw shower curtains. Every place we went, my first job was to take them to the bathroom and teach them how to use the taps, and shower, which I had to learn first myself! Eventually, I bought a mug that I took along with me for them!

But people were so friendly, hospitable and genuinely interested in music. Everywhere we stayed we were shown an amazing amount of care, friendship and concern, and how they made us feel so much at home which is something I’ll never forget.

AB: You’ve had a long and eventful journey through your musical career and life in general. What would you say have been the moments of most struggle for you and what helped you overcome them?

LJR: In 1993, after I lost my voice, I came back to Delhi, it was so depressing because I had concerts lined up that I had to cancel. It was not that I could not sing, but I was not happy with what I could do. I felt that if it didn’t please me, I had no right to perform. Khansahib would always
say ‘Logon ko kehna chahiye kyu bandh kiya, aise nahi kehna chahiye ki kab bandh karegi yah kyu nahi bandh kiya,’ (people should ask ‘why did she stop?’ and not ‘when will she stop?’ or ‘why isn’t she stopping?’). Since I had devoted quite a few years of my life to my music and suddenly it was all gone, it was a difficult time for me. I didn’t even listen to music for quite a few years in Delhi when I lost my voice.

The turning point came when Swamiji came for His first visit to Delhi in 1999. He was a Guru who gave me back that spark. He told me to think of what I wanted to do, of what made me happy. Whatever I am today, I owe to Him because I had gone into a state where I didn’t even want to engage with music. He didn’t tell me to go back to music, just asked me to think of what I wanted to do for myself.

Then when we moved to Bangalore, Jayavanth suggested that I could teach what I knew even if I could not perform. God has blessed me in many ways: First, he gave me wonderful parents and in-laws who supported me, then a wonderful husband who has been my bedrock, and thirdly, very talented students.

AB: You seem to have had experiences not only with performance but also teaching and more theoretical elements of music. How has the experience of teaching as well as archiving music been for you?

LJR: I had such dedicated students, keen to learn, it made me realise that when you teach, you must know what you are talking about. After I began teaching, we organized sangeetikas to get groups organized around various topics, where all of my students would come together and sing choruses, solos, and duets. The advantage was that they learnt many things which they perfected for performance.

When we were in Madras, Sangeet Natak Akademi asked me to be their chief coordinator for their fourth foundation project where we were recording traditional compositions of various musicians, through which I came in touch with various performers of other gharanas like Arulkar, Firoz Dastur, Nisar Hussain, Vimay Abuva, Ratan Pai, Rama Rao Naik, Janurikar etc.

I used to take interviews either in Calcutta or wherever they were, I would spend about a week or ten days with them and they would record a hundred compositions for me. I got to know them, and the way they think and sing, which was a great learning experience. Many musicians came and stayed with us, the Kannans and Parna Chakravarty in Bombay, C.R Vyas, K.G Ginde, Balasahib Poonchwale in Delhi, as well as, Kumar Mukherjee, Mallikarjun Mansur, Bhimsen Joshi too visited us. They also gave me so much love and affection. I interviewed musicians for AIR and Doordarshan when I lost my voice. It helped me to grow and realise that music is the same despite small differences, you and I are different but still both human beings.

AB: You’ve won several awards, most recently the Rajya Sangeeth Vidhwan title conferred to you in Mysore. What was the experience like?

LJR: The Mysore award that I received recently was especially significant to me because Khan Saheb’s maternal grandfather Ustad Natthan Khan was the first Hindustani court musician of Mysore appointed by Krishna Rajendra Wodeyar as Asthana Vidhwan. My first guru, Rama Rao Naik also got the same title as Rajya Sangeeth Vidhwan in 1995. Thus, it means so much to me that I have received this award, it traces a history.

The event was presided over by the Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly Shri Vishveshwar Hegde Kageri, as well as Shri Sunil Kumar, Minister for Kannada & Culture. My husband Jayavanth was also invited on the dais and we were honoured as a couple.

AB: Is there any advice you would give to others (especially the younger generation) from your experiences?

LJR: One or two things that people have told me have stayed with me throughout. One of these was from Dharam Singh Khatau, an industrialist in Bombay who had attended one of my concerts. The day after my performance, this old gentleman climbed three floors and came to our house, he told me, “A lot of people have come and congratulated you, but don’t think you alone have done it, where you left off in your previous life is where you are continuing from; don’t let it get to your head”.

Khan Saheb always told me, “Pray to any God you want and to your guru, and the guru will sing through you”. Another thing he said was, “ Don’t worry about who or what is there and don’t try to be a person on the stage. When you become the raag and the bandish is when you become a true musician”. These are words I cherish.
Jayanth Kabad or K. Jayanth (JK) as he is known is a former National TT Champion and has represented India in several internationals. He has also beaten top world ranked players. I first saw K. Jayanth play Table Tennis at the Inter-University tournament in 1968 in Dharwad. While Bangalore lost to Bombay 3-5, he had won all his matches beating the big Bombay names like Sanjay Mehta, Kersi Vatcha and Suhas Kulkarni. He immediately not only became my sporting hero but also made me take up playing serious TT. I followed his career closely and had the pleasure of watching him play several Nationals. Later, my niece Kanchan got married to Jayanth and enabled me to know him closely. So when the Kanara Saraswat asked me if I would like to interview Jayanth, my excitement knew no bounds. This is how it went.

**AN:** Who or what motivated you to take up Table Tennis?

**JK:** When I was about 10 years old, I played a lot of cricket with friends during the summer vacation. But when school re-started my friends would not come to play and I used to get bored. My mother and grandfather goaded me to go to the Malleswaram Association, Bangalore and play TT. My grandfather, Badakere Bhaskar Rao, a great sportsman himself on his heyday, was always very encouraging. So was my mother Kushala. My maternal uncle Badakere Saikumar had a year or two earlier joined the Association to start playing T.T. Then one day my friend and coach Amrit Kumar (who was also coaching Saikumar) took me to the club to play Table Tennis.

**AN:** At what stage did you start serious training for competitive TT? Who coached you?

**JK:** Competitive training started almost soon after I started playing. Of course, it started at a basic level. My first and only coach was about 13 years older than me, named Amrit Kumar—unknown in the TT world who gave me my first bat and encouraged me to play TT seriously. When my game improved and I could play quite well, he said I should compete in local tournaments. The first goal was to play and win what is called the non-medalist event. It was a sort of entry point for most players in Bangalore. Within a year, I won this event. The next goal was to be ranked in the juniors and get included in the state juniors team for the National Championships. In 1961, I was ranked # 2 in juniors and was in the state junior team.

**AN:** What is it that you remember most about your Coach Amrit Kumar and your coaching/training with him?

**JK:** Amrit Kumar was not himself a great TT player, but was a great follower of the game. What I remember most about him was the discipline, encouragement, incremental goal setting while challenging me to achieve my goals. In fact, the first goal was for me to win a tournament in ‘juniors’ and he would present me with Victor Barna paddle, which I did in 1962. My uncle B. Saikumar was also being coached by Amrit Kumar who became the junior champion in December 1960.

**AN:** Can you tell us about your journey to being the National Champion?

**JK:** It was a question of setting goals and working hard to achieve them — being in the state junior team (1961), state junior champion (1962), winning the national junior title (1963, 1964), winning the State Men’s Title in 1965, National Ranking in 1968, representing India in 1969, being in the National Men’s Final in 1969 (lost in the final to Mir Khasim), again playing for India in 1970, 1974, 1976, 1977 and winning the National Men’s title in 1974, but losing in the Final in 1976. All these years, it was a question of ‘eating, sleeping, living TT’

The journey was long and bumpy and it wasn’t as easy. But I had to remain focused on my goal. At my first National Championships that I played in 1961, it was intimidating to see good players from all over the country. Once, at the Championships when I was practicing with Saikumar - who had won the National Junior Championship in 1960 and had also had beaten two reigning champions in the Inter University - a lot of the players had circled around the table and were keenly watching. I felt that I must have been playing well for anyone to stand and
observe my game. But I lost in the first round and was pretty disappointed! But the key was to move on— which I did.

AN: Your defeating the World #2 Kjell Johansson made big news then. Tell us about this match.

JK: Kjell Johansson had reached the men’s final at the 1973 Sarajevo World Championships. Sweden was represented by Stellan Bengtsson (1971 world champion), Johansson, Ingemar Wikstrom (then ranked 20th) and Ulf Thorsell. It was the opening day. No one, including our manager (who missed my match because he was eating lunch!), expected us to give them a fight. Bengtsson was not scheduled to play. We were represented by Niraj Bajaj, Manjit Dua and me. The Swaythling Cup (the trophy that was given to the world champion team) had a best-of-nine-matches format. In the first match, the best player from one team played the weakest player of the other team. The last round of three matches was played by equal-ranked players. I had to play Johansson. I was not expected to give a fight, but as I started to play, I was able to match his level. He was absolutely shocked and I was able to win in two straight games. In the second round, I also beat Wikstrom in straight games. Bajaj had won the first match against Thorsell and therefore at one point we were equal in matches. However, the Swedes raced away to a 5:3 win. These two wins gave me a lot of confidence, ultimately leading to me winning the national championship.

AN: What was the biggest moment of your TT career?

JK: Winning the National Championship in 1974 and representing India at the World and Asian Championships.

AN: Any lowlight in your illustrious career?

JK: I was aghast at being dropped from the Indian team for the 1975 Calcutta World championships even after winning the nationals and with an unbeaten record the whole year, including victories against Johansson and Wikstrom. Losing the National singles final in 1969 in Bangalore and then in 1976 at Allahabad were two other low points.

AN: Jayanth, you studied at IIT Madras. How did you balance Table tennis with Studies and yet manage to do so well in both?

JK: IIT Madras had a structured program. There was little opportunity to play and practice. I did not play much, but I did keep in touch. After I returned to Bangalore in 1973, I resume practicing and got ranked. The next year I won the nationals at Indore.

AN: What prompted you to move to the USA?

JK: In 1976, I joined MECON as an instrumentation design engineer. MECON was consulting engineering firm. It had wonderful people and a good work culture. I had a great time there. However, to progress, I explored other opportunities, particularly in the US. I completed my MBA from the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

AN: Jayanth, tell us about your family.

JK: My wife Kanchan (nee Nilekani) and I have been married for 38 years and we have two children—Atma and Anasuya. Both are married and live in Houston.

AN: Tell me something about your professional career in the USA.

KJ: After obtaining my MBA, I came to Houston to seek employment. After a few years of working for a small company, I started a financial advisory firm, Jaykay Wealth advisors, Inc. Kanchan joined me a few years later. We advise high net worth clients on their wealth management-investment management, retirement planning, legacy and estate planning, family and small business transitions as well as Risk management.

AN: What sport do you follow now?

JK: I play golf now—try to play a couple of days a week and follow the sport. Also play T.T a couple of days in a week. After the World Championships, there are more of our Indian friends playing T.T in local clubs/sports center and I have been playing some T.T. The game has changed today. Game scores, serves, bat material, rubber material, everything has changed. It is now a much faster, more aggressive game.

We were following a lot of tennis (played tennis for a few years as a past time). My son Atma played competitive tennis at the school level—he was ranked Texas junior # 2 (in the 16 year age group). My daughter Anasuya played competitive volleyball in high school and went on to play for College/University while Kanchan is into
Marathons and hiking.

AN: Hey Kanchan, looks like the full family is big time into sports. What motivated you to start running and hiking so late in life?

Kanchan (KK): My first run in 2011 (at age 55) - a half marathon - was for a charity - the ‘Women’s Breast Cancer Awareness Run’. The Charity run was in memory and honor of someone you knew was undergoing or affected by the ‘cancer’ journey. So, the first run was in memory of my father who passed away after cancer surgery in 2010. It gave me strength and peace. After that I started training for and running marathons, usually in honor of someone - this became the motivating factor in completing a grueling and sometimes tough run. Would love to do the Mumbai and Bangalore Marathons.

How many Marathons have you run and which is the most memorable:

KK: I have completed about 44 Marathons, 8 of which are full Marathons (26.2 miles). Besides the Chevron Marathon in Houston, I have run marathons in San Diego, Portland Oregon, New Orleans, Chicago. The most memorable was the New York City Marathon in 2019.

AN: Now you have taken to hiking. You are planning to hike the entire Appalachian Trail - a distance of 2100 miles. What motivates you?

KK: I plan to complete the Appalachian Trail - a distance of 2100 miles from Georgia to Maine—hiking in stages in the next 4 years before turning 70. While running marathons, you are in a state of ‘meditation’ letting go of regular day to day issues. It provides calm and peace, and at the end it is not only thrilling but also provides a sense of accomplishment. I started hiking in 2019 with some friends and have completed a number of hikes—Big Bend (9000 ft), Pikes Peak, Colorado (14000 ft), Mount Wheeler in New Mexico (13000 ft). In hiking you are one with nature, admiring the mountains, peaks, valleys and rivers. It is an amazing feeling to admire the magnitude and greatness of nature!

AN: The World Championships this year was held in your city, Houston. Tell us about your involvement and experiences there.

KK: Our company, Jaykay Wealth Advisors Inc, was a member of the Greater Houston Partnership (Business Chamber of Commerce) and I was attending one of the luncheons. The keynote speaker was the CEO of the Harris County- Houston Sports Authority. She happened to mention that HSA was bidding for the World TT Championships in 2021 April. Post lunch I met the CEO and happened to mention that my husband was the former India TT Champion. She wanted to meet him and also invite us to join the organising committee if they won the bid. At the Budapest World Championships in 2019, Houston won the bid.

JK: The World TT Championships in Houston was special as it was being held for the first time outside of Europe or Asia- It was a very successful event with players from some 50 countries participating. Expectedly, most of the events were won by the Chinese. The Indian team too performed well. India has a good team and have been improving with each outing in the last couple of years.

AN: Do you have any parting message for the current generation of youngsters?

KK: Outdoors and fitness is very essential for the overall wellbeing of each one of us, particularly in this era of mobiles and laptops. Try it out. You may start initially with 3 km, then 5 km then 10 km and so on. Once you run 10 km you will get hooked.

JK: For success at the highest level, think big!!! Talented players should be motivated, focused, inspired and ready to put in tremendous hard work. It also means a lot of sacrifice. Good Luck!

AN: Thank you so much. It has been an honour and a privilege talking to Kanchan and you and to walk with you down memory lane of your illustrious sporting career.

(Anand Nilekani is a former VP and Practice Director IT IS in TCS. He is an avid sports lover and passionate about travelling and trekking. He played Table Tennis at the state level in Tamil Nadu. He can be reached at anand.nilekani@gmail.com)

(Some outstanding CSB TT players who hit headlines quite regularly were  K. Jayant, Bharat Nadkarni, Subhash Golikeri, Vithal Nadkarni, Suresh Chandavarkar, Badakere Saikumar and Kalyanpur Jayant. Among women was Geeta Nadkarni- Editor)
Enthused by Gen. B.N. Rao’s military reminiscences, I felt emboldened to pen my own from civilian life.

Working in an Engineering Corporate is not the most exciting of professions. Challenging, yes. Enriching, could be. Romantic, no. Work goes sedately on budgeted lines. So when news of the Company entering the shipping line trickled down, it sent a ripple of excitement through me. Visions of buccaneering sea-captains and eye-patched pirates flashed across my mind.

Soon, a ship was acquired. It was a bulk carrier and being the first it was appropriately named after the more prominent co-founder of the company. After sailing in foreign waters for a while the ship was expected to touch Indian shores for the first time at Visakhapatnam (Vizag) Port in December 1982. As luck would have it, I was posted in the Vizag office at that time and my excitement knew no bounds.

As per the tradition in shipping circles, the Chairman accompanied by two top executives came from Bombay to “welcome” the ship. A celebratory dinner was held to which the Chairman of Vizag Port Trust and senior Port officials were invited. For our role in arranging the event we from our Vizag office were rewarded with an invitation to Lunch on board the ship at 12 noon the next day.

We were at the Port gates with thirty minutes to spare, passes in hand, when the bombshell dropped, in the form of a Security Sergeant. He ruled that since embarkation was going on alongside, our car could not enter the Port area. It would have to stop at the Gates. I could not imagine suited senior gentlemen relishing the prospect of footing the couple of hundred meters to the ship over heated concrete with no tree cover.

No amount of persuasion had any effect on the doughty Sergeant. A Security Officer appeared and firmly endorsed the sergeant’s ruling. Noon was approaching.

Then the unexpected happened. For no apparent reason the Officer threw a backward glance. When he turned back, his demeanour had changed. There was a look in his eyes, bordering on a new found respect. “So, you are the owner of that ship”, he asked. ’Me, a ship owner, perhaps in my dreams’ I thought. But quickly replied “Owner ? Yes! We are the ship owners”. Equally fast, the Officer barked at the Sergeant “They are the owners of the ship, let their car in”. He then turned and was off.

A moment later, the Chairman’s car was sighted, a cream Contessa. It was five minutes to noon. The gates were instantly thrown open. After all orders are orders. The car sailed through. The Chairman acknowledged our presence and our day was made. A tour of the vessel followed by lunch on deck, was a first time experience to be cherished for life.

The event over, the players returned to their respective stations. My head was in the clouds. To be recognized as a ship owner! Me, barely 40! Then, owning a fleet of ships by 50 seemed a distinct possibility.

On reaching our office I came down to earth with a bang. It struck me that the change in the Security Officer’s attitude to one of respect had nothing to do with me. He had seen the name of the ship painted on it: “M.V. HENNING HOLCK-LARSEN” and inferred the name of the reputed Owners: Larsen & Toubro Ltd.

A naval officer went for a swim. When he got there, he realised he had forgotten his swimming trunks. Since there was nobody around, he decided to jump in the nude. Sometime later, he came out and was just about to get dressed when he saw two ladies approaching.

He hastily grabbed a small bucket, held it over his vitals and breathed a sigh of relief. But when the ladies started to stare, he felt embarrassed.

One said to him: “You know, I can read minds. I can read yours.”

The young man scoffed: “So you think you know what I’m thinking, do you?”

“Yes,” she said. “Right now, I bet you think that the bucket you’re holding has a bottom.”
I was lucky to grow up living very close to the Bengaluru Math which is always bustling with activities. As a child, going to Bal Vihar classes which later became Prarthana classes, was the most exciting part of every Saturday. The fun-filled activities in Prarthana classes were backed with small learnings that have enriched me. Getting blessed by Parama Pujya Swamiji for chanting the Dhyana Shloka of Bhagavad Gita motivated me to get over stage fright and helped to gain more confidence. As a senior Prarthana student the Vimarsh sessions taught me to express myself more clearly.

The most exciting part of finishing 10th standard was being able to go to Karaseva Shivir and getting inducted as a Yuva. Karaseva Shivir, a week packed with activities at Kembre, sessions by Sanchalak-s, practice sessions with talented Yuva-s and many more brought fresh energy and enthusiasm in me. The highlight of the Shivir was getting Mantra diksha from Parama Pujya Swamiji. The Mantra-japa has given me immense strength when facing difficult situations.

Participating with motivated youngsters in various Yuvadhara activities like Vimarsh, trekking, Anand Mela, cultural programmes, mobile workshop for elders, shrama -seva, carpentry workshop at Srivalli School, sammelan-s and shivir-s reminded me repeatedly, to enjoy the rasata of life. I was blessed to join the CYO team where I got to interact with Yuva-s from various sabha-s. I found role models in the coordinators and CYO team who have guided me patiently. The bonds formed with these amazing Yuva-s are extremely precious, for they have provided a safe space for me to make mistakes and learn.

Our community has always provided a nurturing environment for us Yuva-s. This was evident when I was elected to be a part of the Bengaluru Local Sabha committee. Looking at other sadhaka-s in seva handle various responsibilities and situations has helped me to develop communication skills and leadership qualities. These have guided me during difficult times at work and empowered me to handle sticky situations more professionally.

Yuvadhara has provided me a platform to learn and develop qualities that were otherwise hidden in me. During the pandemic, when most activities were online, I got the opportunity to be a part of the technical backend team for online programmes. The team was always open to suggestions and experimentation. This openness to ideas gave me scope to learn new things and improve. Handling live streaming of online programmes like Sadhana Panchakam, Guru Pujana, Atmabal sessions was nerve- wracking but also rewarding. The most treasured memory, always, is to be able to see Parama Pujya Swamiji online during the live streaming of Samparka.

I am extremely thankful to Parama Pujya Swamiji for their compassion. They have provided various tried and tested techniques like ninaad, pranayam, Wim-Hoff, rebounder and now, the Swiss ball, giving equal importance to both physical and mental health. Even a little practice of these tools has helped me to improve in my sadhana.

Growing up as an introvert , I sometimes felt as if I would not fit in anywhere, but the ever -so- compassionate Gurushakti was there all along reminding me that I belong. I am eternally grateful to our Guru and Guruparampara!
60th Diamond Jubilee Wedding Anniversary
Smt. Sangeeta (nee Geeta Sirur) and Shri Suresh Upponi
23rd November 1962

As you reflect on sixty incredible years together, may every memory bring a smile to your face and strength with good health for years to come!

We are inspired every day by your love & commitment to each other, your family and friends.

Congratulations to an amazing couple from your loving Children, Grandchildren and Close Family & Relatives. We Love You!
An epitome of generosity, Ayee, you will be missed a lot.

Your talks were so energetic, your laughter so contagious and your will power was tremendous. You were a source of inspiration to many of us. You were an affectionate अन्नदाता. You always fed people with all kinds of delicious food. You were an extraordinary expert cook and loved to be in the kitchen 24X7 preparing different delicacies and serving us all. You had a happy go lucky and joyous nature. You always went out of the way to help people around you. You led an independent, self-made and respectable life. It’s hard to believe that you are not around. We are sure that you will keep showering your blessings on all of us. You are not seen but your presence will be felt forever. We pray to the Almighty to grant sadgati and eternal peace.

Fondly remembered by her sons Avinash and Atul Sashittal along with their families.
Smt Vinita Vivek Padukone
Nee Manorama Rammohan Kalavar
14th April 1943 – 28th November 2020
Passed away in California, USA

- She was more than happy to be central figure in her daughters' lives
- She was an independent woman, striving to be the best
- She had a vast circle of friends, from her school to retirement (Western Railway)
- She successfully took up the challenge of settling in California, USA at the age of 50
- She was a vibrant personality, go-getter
- She had impeccable style and sense of ethnic wear
- She resonated with excitement and enthusiasm for participation in any event or for that matter any household chores too
- She had a spiritual inclination, completed her Kriya yoga lessons from Self Realization-Fellowship (SRF), Los Angeles

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Musings in retirement

Ajit B. Divgi, M.D.

Being retired has its advantages, like owning your own fiery red-coloured tricycle (I cannot afford a red Ferrari, and this is the closest I could get). Unfortunately, I cannot just ride around town all day, so, I wish to recount some true-life golf stories.

I started playing golf in the mid-90s, back when I was still working. And even today, people ask why my game is so bad and my handicap so high over 20 years of playing. I don’t have a firm answer to that, other than that of being vertically compromised. This is something that I was courteously reminded of often by my mostly female staff, none of whom were shorter than 5’9”. The chiding was on such a regular basis that on days when I was not, I missed it and had to remind them. I was also blessed with pathetic hand-eye coordination and a body that would truly benefit from some serious yoga. Before golf, in the days I played what I thought was cricket, I remember just closing my eyes whenever the ball came towards me, only to see my wickets spread-eagled. This is the correct word for that situation, for those of you who know cricket literature. However, that doesn’t matter and I still enjoy cricket as well as golf.

My early days of golf coincided with the days when I was less mature (well, some people still mistake my non-malicious idiosyncrasies as a sign of immaturity, but I wish to disagree). In those days, I used to accept gifts like golf balls from pharmaceutical companies. Very soon, I realised that it was not the correct thing to do and I stopped taking such gifts. In any case, relevant to the story is the time I accepted some golf balls that had the logo of Taxotere, a chemotherapy drug used for the treatment of breast cancer. I would like you to know here that I retired from medical oncology.

I used to warn my staff not to go anywhere near Moorland Road or shop at the Brookfield Square Mall on Wednesdays. That was the only day I got to play golf and the third hole at Westmoor Country Club ran parallel to Moorland and the mall and I somehow managed to deposit some white spherical objects in both those places. Fortunately, my staff obliged and neither has anybody reported any injuries nor has my insurance premium increased.

I failed, however, to provide similar warnings to my patients on the other side of the course where off a small road lived a dear patient of mine who now rests in heaven. If ever she hears this story, I wish to give her my sincere apologies after I reach heaven, which I expect to, despite some naysayers. I did not have the courage to tell her when she was alive. Well, so, one day she looked terribly upset, and when I asked her the reason she replied, ‘these silly golfers from Westmoor Country Club are forever sending golf balls into my front yard. My dog loves to use them like a cat treats cat litter, and then I have to clean them out.’ At one point, she offered me some of those golf balls as a gift and assured me that they would contain no remnants from her dog’s digestive system as she had personally cleaned them thoroughly by soaking them with an antibiotic antiseptic compound. While I know how this must sound, to avoid hurting my patient’s feelings, I accepted. Thus, albeit somewhat squeamishly, I feel proud to be the recipient of this amount of gratitude. In addition, she was a nurse in the Cardiac Surgeons office and I was sure she knew how to sterilize an object well.

The following week, when she came in for her chemotherapy, she brought me an egg carton full of golf balls. Nine of the twelve had a Taxotere logo. Since she had a type of cancer for which Taxotere was not used, she did not recognise that logo. (I must say, I have nothing but respect for the geniuses who concoct names like Taxotere, Perjeta or Xarelto etc., but that is for another day). Since the only other Oncologist in the club who would have had access to these gifts was a scratch golfer, I did not have the nerve to tell my patient that it was I who had put nine of those golf balls into her front yard. I probably put those golf balls right back into her or her neighbour’s front yard again. Luckily for me, my patient was a kind soul, and I believe I did not break any windows with my shots for my insurance premium stayed unaffected.
Now here is another episode at a much lower latitude, near Alligator Alley. One day I was playing golf with a Priest from Boston and we got into a discussion on theology and other abstract ideas like religion. We were so lost in that discussion that we missed spotting the two large alligators who were sunning themselves in the area bordering the green. It was when we were within about 15 feet from these alligators and about to play our game (which, given our skill levels, meant taking another 10 strokes each), that we realized the danger of the situation and hastily left leaving behind the golf balls. We have no idea what the alligators did with them, but I sure hope they enjoyed some Gator-golf. So, for those of you who cannot stand me even now, you will have to blame that Priest from Boston for your miseries, since it is because of his divine presence that the alligators left us alone and we were not alligator food that day.

This itself is a moral to me, for when you see something as silly as golf balls lying on the green, please stop before criticizing or castigating those "idiots or morons" who did that for you too would perhaps have done the same thing. Remember, you never know who narrowly avoided being an alligator meal.

I use this incident as a lesson to teach my children and grandchildren to never be mean to anybody and to try and remember that we could have easily done something as inane. Because if you really think about it, there are several things that we may criticize other people for doing, sometimes even violently, but may ourselves do something similar without realising it. If only more people would give a thought to this, I think we would have a more peaceful world. In any case I thank the Priest sincerely.

That I still continue to play golf at that same course is an argument against my being completely mature, but I can never truly abandon my love of golf or cricket. And even though I played one of them terribly, I am trying my best not to do the same with the other. And, I can gladly say that I have survived without any alligator incidents since. *Do you get me Jeev?* which of course is plagiarising the one and only AFST ‘*Do you get me Steve?*’ from the Times of India, for those who know something about Indian sports journalism during the 60’s.

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### Obituary

**Girish Anandnath Koppikar**  
(Rtd GM BHEL, Hyderabad)  
passed away peacefully on  
Tuesday, 13th September 2022 at the age of 85  
at Versova, Mumbai- 400061  

He is survived by his wife Shaila Koppikar and his two sons Milind and Jaideep, their wives Smita and Vijayalaxmi and grandchildren Rishikesh and Ila.  

*May his soul rest in peace.*
Dhakli and Vhadli Diwali of Goa

Translated by Uday Mankikar

(Original Marathi write-up by Ms Manasvini Prabhune Nayak, Panaji, Goa forwarded by Dr Ashok Dayanand Nadkarni and translated by Uday Mankikar)

Diwali is one of the most important festivals in India. It is celebrated on a grand scale, especially in Central and North India. However, it is celebrated in a different way in Goa. Initially, when I came to Goa, it was all “Sushagat” during Diwali, with no noise of crackers, no lighting illuminations on houses, or important buildings, and no rush in the markets for Diwali. I was very much surprised to see this situation. One just can’t imagine this situation during Diwali. “Diwali” is known as the King of festivals, but in Goa, “Ganesh Chaturthi” has special importance. I had heard this “Dhakli” and “Vhadli” Diwali on several occasions from my office friends, but I was not aware of its meaning. Out of 4 important days of Diwali, only “Narak Chaturdashi” is of prime importance for Goans. Only “Narak Chaturdashi” is celebrated as Diwali, hence it is known as “Dhakli” which means small Diwali and “Tulsi vivah” is known as “Vhadli” which means big Diwali. Dhakli Diwali is celebrated in a moderate way.

Narakasura

Eight to ten days prior to the commencement of Diwali, children get busy preparing the effigy of Narakasura. This Narakasura is of great attraction for the children. Each Goan has some or the other childhood memories attached to this Narakasura.

During the olden days, children were not allowed to go out, at night. However, they used to get an opportunity to remain outside at night for the preparation of the effigy of Narakasur and have fun with their friends. On the previous night of Narak Chaturdashi, the effigy of Narakasura is brought in a procession with a band etc. and on the Narakchaturdashi day, “Narakasura Dahan” is done, like the “Ravan Dahan” is done in North India, on Dassara day.

On Narakchaturdashi, we used to get up early in the morning. After “Abhyang Snana”, we used to burn crackers and have specific food items known as “Diwali Faraal”. On this day, we used to clean the courtyard in front of our house, decorate it with colourful “rangoli”, have “Abhyang Snana” and wear new clothes. I remember all these things. However, while doing all this, I never had the image of Narakasur in front of my eyes. He was a demon, that much I knew, but the Goans gave “parichaya” to this Narakasur. They started bringing the effigy of Narakasur in a grand procession, which was not the tradition. According to the original Goans all this started only after the liberation of Goa.

Nice Rice Flakes Faraal:

October – November is a nice relaxing period mainly for farmers, as the harvesting season gets over. Now the crop is available. Hence, Rice flakes are prepared from this new rice crop. In the earlier days, these Rice flakes were prepared in each household. In most of the houses, the “Kandpat” known as “Laat” in which the rice flakes were prepared, used to be in the courtyards only, fixed on the floor. Two ladies, with the help of each other, used to prepare the rice flakes, from boiled rice and while doing this, there used to be a nice pleasant lingering smell of the rice. Children used to wait eagerly to eat these homemade rice flakes, known as “Phovu” in Konkani. Nowadays, no one prepares rice flakes at home, but our elders still remember.

After the dahana of Narakasur effigy, is over, people come home, have “Abhyang Snana” and have “Phovu” as faraal. You will be surprised to know that variety of Phovu preparations made on this day. Godso Phovu (Sweet), Tikso Phovu (Spicy), Takka Phovu (prepared using buttermilk, green chillies, grated coconut and coriander leaves), Kadicha Phovu, (prepared using kokum kadhi, also known as Solkadhi), Phanna Phovu, Pankatule Phovu, Phova Kheer, Phova Chivda etc., are some of the preparations made on Narakchaturdashi. During the entire year, this phovu is hardly prepared, but, on Narakchaturdashi, it is a must. That means “Narakchaturdashi” and “Phovu” is an equation for the Goans, an unwritten convention. A tasty preparation known as “Karam” is the speciality of the day. This “Karam” is prepared from Hogplum (Ambado)
Vhadli Diwali

“Tulsi Vivah” is celebrated on a grand scale in Goa. I have not seen such a celebration anywhere else. Tulsi is the indivisible part of the cultural and religious life of Goan Hindus. In Goa, the Hindu homes can be identified very easily, as each house has a beautifully decorated painted “Tulsi Brindavan”. Nowadays, in cities, like Mumbai, and Pune, you hardly see such Brindavans. The old houses are demolished and skyscrapers are built, as a result, Tulsi plant is seen in small pots on balconies. In Goa, there are still small houses and bungalows. In front, of the houses, and bungalows, you will still find artistically prepared Tulsi Brindavan, which beautifies the courtyard. Even today, every evening a small Niranjan is lit in front of the Tulsi Brindavan, in each Hindu house. “Vhadli Diwali” is celebrated on Tulsi Vivaha day.

Each house becomes a Bride’s house and each member of the household becomes busy with the “Vivah” preparations. Tulsi Brindavan is repaired, if needed, it is painted, and Pandal is erected in the courtyard. Neighbours and friends are invited to the “Vivah”. After the Vivah, all the invitees are served nice nashta. In some houses, a small boy from the house is made to stand in front of Tulsi as a Bridegroom, a lot of crackers are burnt, all the family members, wear nice dresses, and ladies wear their ornaments, which gives a feel of a real Vivah. This is the reason this “Tulsi Vivah “ is known as “Vhadli Diwali” . It is an experience in itself!

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EVENTS - AROUND THE WORLD

The annual Diwali Celebration was organised by Konkani Sabha (New Jersey, USA) on 15th October 2022, at Sri Venketashwara temple auditorium, Bridgewater, NJ. The event was a roaring success and was full of great entertainment with a lot of kids and adults having participated in prayers followed by beautifully choreographed dances, melodious singing, youngsters playing tabla, harmonium, performing jugalbandi, playing of skit and many more. The organisers need to be complimented for making the evening colourful and the Diwali celebration enjoyable and most memorable. To top it all, the food was mind blowing and very delicious and everyone savoured the food.

Contributed by - Uday Balse - Virginia
Canara Union is an organisation that is more than 120 years old, started by and for Chitrapur Saraswat Brahmins (CSB), who had migrated from Mumbai, Pune, Hubli, Mangalore, and other places of north Karnataka and Maharashtra for employment in the textile mills in Bangalore. These mills were taken over by the renowned industrialist the Late Shri D N Sirur from the late Maharaja of Mysore. He invited his community members from these places to take technical and administrative positions in the mills. These people who moved to Bangalore chose nearby areas like Malleswaram, Sriramapuram, Kodandaramapuram, and Seshadripuram to live, because of the proximity to their workplace. The early settlers were very keen to socialize and meet their community people and families at a common location. Being a culturally strong and sports-minded community, they started the Canara Union as sports, arts, and culture centre. Initially, it was housed in the bungalows of senior persons, but later on moved to their own land and building, Shri B Venkataraao Hall in 1932. About 20 years later Canara Union built the larger hall, T S R hall, a multi-purpose hall used for weddings, music programs, Kannada and Konkani theatre, and badminton. Canara Union administers and operates many charities like student scholarships, distress relief funds, and medical relief funds for families in economically weaker sections of the community. Another important activity is that youth, both male and female, of the community are drawn to do volunteer work of any kind where help and assistance is needed. One such activity of very noble and almost immediate service is provided by CHATURBHUJ SEVA GROUP. What is this CHATURBHUJ SEVA group?

“They were in their houses, most of them in the middle of lunch when the phone rang in Harish’s house. The call was brief. ‘Please help us,’ the man was saying, clearly emotional. ‘Someone gave us your number. My father died here in the hospital a few hours ago. We don’t know what to do next. Can you help us?’ They left their lunch midwaや time was of the essence, and less than half an hour later, seven of them assembled in the Canara Union to plan their work.”

They are Anand Nadkarni, Harish Sujir, Harish Haldipur, Naren Hemmady, Nitin Ubhayakar, Premanand Kallianpur, and Ramcharan Naimpally. They are CSBs part of the Canara Union, and have gotten together to assist with funeral rites. Before them, other groups of Saraswats had been helping families at this time of grief for over a hundred years.

This recent group calls itself ‘Chaturbhuj Seva’, signifying, symbolically, the four shoulders that help carry the person on his or her last journey. The group springs into action and assesses the kind of help needed by the bereaved family. This help ranges from getting to the venue, organizing for the priest, buying the samagri (materials) and flowers needed for the rites. Someone in the group books a cremation slot and arranges a hearse or other transport to the crematorium. In case a priest who normally conducts the ceremony is not available, waiting is involved, then the group tries to get another priest. Sometimes, if the family lives far, transport has to be organized for the priest as well as for the group to get there as well as to return. A hearse service, likewise, may be available at a different time slot and this also happens with the crematorium, thus needing someone in the group to coordinate timings, is often a difficult job as there are queues. The Chaturbhuj Seva group continues their service right up to the procurement of the death certificate.

Sometimes, families understand what is required and are alert about their role, but others are bereft and completely unable to cope with the situation. Here the Chaturbhuj Seva group consoles the family and starts with the basic readying such as washing and clothing the person who has passed away and laying them in such a way that people can pay their last respects. Many times, they are brought straight from the hospital in a body bag, and then readying takes even longer. Family members have to be prompted to take action.

Similarly, some families can deal with payments to be made, or money to be reimbursed
to the group. But there are poor families that are quite simply unable to pay. In such cases, the group nobly absorbs the expenses (or friends help), and in pressing situations, the Canara Union which is closely involved with the work of the group, reimburses the expenses from their welfare fund. Chaturbhuj Seva works on a system of supreme and selfless coordination. There is no hesitation about the financial status of the deceased person, and there is a lot that is unexpected - for example, waiting may be involved as the next of kin may need to travel to Bangalore - and they have to delay the arrangements accordingly. ‘Jump to it’ is their motto for they often have to leave whatever they are doing to be present and active.

Most admirable of all is their service is free, they accept no payment for their own personal role in getting things done. True Seva indeed!

(Prakash Aroor retired as MD of Beacon Weir, Best and Crompton and was the CEO of Orient Blackswan. He is at present the President of the Canara Union. His publishing firm Terra Firma has published a few books including the Konkani Saraswat Cookbook. He can be reached at prakash.aroor@gmail.com)

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The vision:

One Sunday morning in November, a month before P. P. Swamiji’s visit, Chaitanya (Dr. Gulwady) unfolded his vision for P.P. Swamiji’s welcome:

The backdrop of the stage was to resemble our Chitrapur Math (as it was, prior to its presently renovated look).

The main Samadhi entrance, with white coloured walls with red oxide ‘dwarpa’ on either side and the stone steps leading to it, would be recreated. In the centre, would be a dark cubicle resembling the ‘garbhagudi’ wherein Lord Bhavanishankar would be seated.

Chaitanya proceeded to unravel my part in it. “All you have to do is dress up three little girls in three different manifestations of Devi, as Dandini, Lalita and Mantrini.”

For my guidance, he got Rohit Ubhayakar to draw sketches of these three Devis. Rohit read the Stuti of the Devis and studied the pictures on the cover of the prayer books so that he could get the detailing right.

As we were going through the pictures, Chaitanya said dreamily, “The three little girls would be dressed and already on stage when Swamiji arrives in our society. I want Swamiji to have a pleasant surprise as He walks into the mandap.”

Chaitanya’s directorial job was done, and it was now up to us to execute his vision and instructions.

The implementation of the vision: My story is about the ‘behind the scene’ thrills, toil and turmoil to make the vision come true.

The Arms:

Rohit’s ball pen sketches were full of intricate details: Dandini (or Varahee) and Mantrini were Ashtabhujaa, (with eight arms) and Lalita was Chaturbhujaa (with four arms) complete with astras.

Back home I showed the sketches to my mother and sister (Mangala) and we set about getting the costumes together. Mangala, ever the perfectionist, firmly vetoed my idea of cardboard arms, “The arms should have a three-dimensional look – to match the two arms of the girls dressing up as Devis. Flat cardboard arms will not do! We will make stuffed arms using skin-coloured cloth!”

I delegated the job of creating the arms to Mangala as it was her idea, saying, “You do the arms and I will take care of the ammunitions!”

Soon our house looked like an ‘arms and ammunitions’ factory! Mangala had decided to use synthetic fibre for the stuffing instead of cotton to give the arms a smooth and natural look; metal wires too were inserted for the necessary angle and stiffness. My mother stitched the arms out of skin-coloured cloth and attached them to the sleeves of the blouses which the little girls were to wear.

The Ammunition:

Meanwhile, I was enjoying making the weapons; the ‘ankush’ in the picture was very artistic, unlike any I had ever seen before. So, I asked Chaitanya and he confirmed it. I got a thick rope for the ‘paash’. I got carried away and made the ‘dhaal’ with an idli-mould dish, though a paper plate had to be used instead since Mangala felt it was too heavy for the stuffed arms to hold.

My enthusiasm knew no bounds, and I got carried away. Yes, yet again!

One Devi was holding a corncob in one hand, I went and got a real one. As the fabric arm would not support a ½ kg corncob, it was chopped, slit, and a knitting needle was used to hold it.

We also got sugarcane, which was to be held by the little girl herself, making its weight inconsequential.

My search for a small veena or anything that looked like it proved to be fruitless. So, the veena had to be improvised— I used two
proportionately sized bowls, one wooden and one steel, and wrapped them with brown paper, a thick strip of wood, and white thin elastic bands were used for the ‘taar’. Finally, a thermocol peacock head was fixed to one side, and my veena was ready.

A lotus of white crape paper completed the armoury.

Making the ‘mukh’ of Dandini or Varahee, however, was less challenging.

Arms and ammunitions assembled:

Now came the time to assemble arms and ammunition, and trouble began. Despite having taken exact measurements of the little girls’ arms, the cloth arms looked like they belonged to an adult; thus, the stuffing was removed for the arms to look ‘child size’.

Time was running out. But it was no longer our family affair, but a community effort. Helping hands were many – Meerpachi (my aunt), Shilpa Kati, Shruti Kaval, and Nandini Basrur, to name a few. The arms and the ammunitions were finally ready at 11 p.m on 15th December, and P.P. Swamiji was to arrive at 9 a.m on the 16th.

We tied the arms on the child’s back, only to discover that they were wobbling like the arms of an octopus! What do we do now?!

Mangala said the only option was for someone to sit behind the girls and hold the arms. It was past midnight when she drew lines with a sketch pen to resemble fingers on the palms of the artificial arms and began fixing the weapons.

Mangala decided to sit behind the Devi holding the corn. Since the weight of the corn was making the arm sway, she had to tie a string to the cob and hold it around one of her fingers for the arm to remain in position. Two more ‘arm holders’ were recruited in the morning. We were mindful that hidden behind the three Devis, Mangala and the other “arm holders” would be able to witness the welcome function.

Our trials were not over yet! I was getting three stools ready for the ‘Teen Deviyan’ to sit, Devi Lalita in the centre would have a lotus as Her aasan, but the big petals were not standing upright. It was almost 3 a.m. Disappointed, and thinking of what was lacking, I wondered if Mother Shakti wasn’t happy with our seva, did She not want Her ‘Messenger’, P. P. Swamiji to have a pleasant surprise?

Mangala persisted, with the petals secured with a strip of thermocol and paper pins, the lotus was in full bloom. I had taken a bright leaf green-coloured dupatta to cover the stool. The effect was wonderful.

The day dawned!

By eight in the morning on the 16th, the three little girls, Vaishnavi Honavar, Amruta and Akshata Pai came to our house looking very sweet draped in red-maroon, orange and purple-blue saris respectively. I adorned them with false hair, gajras, and crowns (made by us) and gave them the weapons to be held in their real hands. All of us, a bundle of nerves, proceeded on stage, ready just in time to watch the arrival of P.P. Swamiji.

The moment we had been waiting for!

After the ‘Paadprakshalan’ at the entrance of the mandap, P. P. Swamiji started walking towards the dais. A smile soon started spreading over His face as He walked past His chair and stood closer to the stage for some moments, taking in the backdrop.

P. P. Swamiji’s eyes were taking in all the details, fingers of His left hand lightly resting over His cheek. Surprise, admiration, awe, all written on P.P. Swamiji’s countenance. Swamiji looked elated to get this surprise. Still smiling, His Holiness took His seat.

Sweet fruits of our labour:

I looked towards Chaitanya, who was beaming, a smile reaching his ears, at having his dream come true. We felt blessed with this opportunity of seva to Devi and our beloved Guru.

P. P Swamiji, in His arrival speech, declared, “This is the Dadar Matunga Chitrapur Math,” and mentioned the three Devis holding full court.

Despite the passing moments of tension and anxieties, our worries were soon replaced with sheer joy and fulfilment of a job well done. Indeed, it was an exciting beginning to a great ‘spiritual sapthaha’!

(Ms. Nirmala Dumble worked in the travel industry before changing over to her first love of working with young children. She worked with a reputed NGO providing quality education to underprivileged children. Presently, working in a private preschool as a teacher. Nirmala Dumble can be reached at nimspachi@gmail.com)
Country side Monsoon
by Alisha Benson (5 years)

Devi Maa
by Swara Sameer Naimpalli (Helsinki) (14 years)

Children’s Corner

Peacock
by Sudarshan Rao T

Leaf
by Anagha Mankekar (7.5 years)
Calgary Canada

We invite children to participate in sending articles, essays, poems and paintings
Buddha - Mandala Art
by Anagha Gokarn, Andheri, Mumbai

Mahalakshmi
by Nita R Gokarn, Mumbai

Mother and Child
by Guruprasad Kalthod, Vittal

Musical Trance
by Laxman Khambadkone, Mumbai
Art Corner (Cont’d)

Maa Kali
by Nita R Gokarn - Mumbai

Mural Painting -
Meditative Buddha
by Aishwarya Bijoor, Bangalore

Gurney’s Pitta
by Dr Divya Gangolli, Bangalore

Bird on a tree
by Rucha Labadai- Mumbai
Since I was 7 years old, I have been interested in flags of different countries. I have a book on flags.¹ When I was reading that book, I noticed that flags of some countries had the same colour and were in the same order. Since then, I have been curious to know the difference between flags of different countries.

One such pair of similar-looking flags are the flags of Romania and Chad. Both flags have the same length and breadth too!

**The Flag of Romania**

The Flag of Romania has three stripes: Blue on the left, yellow in the centre and red on the right. When I read about the meanings of the colours, I found out that:

Blue represents the sky and liberty, yellow represents fields and justice and red represents the blood shed by Romanian soldiers and brotherhood.

**The Flag of Chad**

The Flag of Chad has exactly the same colours as the Flag of Romania in the same order: Blue on the left, yellow in the centre and red on the right, but the meaning of the colours is different.

¹ Flags of the World by John Malam

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**Fun & Pastime**

**SPOT THE BALL CONTEST**

Identify the square in which the ball is hit by the batsman
(Solution/Answer in the next issue)

Two winners will get Rs. 300 each

Trivia: Famous Bhanap cricketers are: Vasant Amladi, Mohini Amladi, Bharat Nadkarni, Shishir Hattangadi, Shobha Pandit-Mundkur.
I have always been very fond of traveling. Though I have not gone to many places, I recently went to Amritsar with my family. What a great time we had there! We truly enjoyed ourselves over the weekend at Amritsar! Amritsar is just 20 km from Pakistan border.

We flew from Mumbai airport early in the morning. I was very excited because it was my first flight ever! Thus making it very special. After we landed in Amritsar, we went to our hotel which was about 30 minutes from the airport. The driver who picked us up was a true Sardarji who had a dagger (kirpan) around his waist and also wore a big kadha (on his hand). He was tall and had a huge beard – a typical strong Sikh.

After checking in at our hotel, we freshened up and decided to make the most of the two days we were in Amritsar. As per our plan, we went to our first breakfast point – Bhai Kulwant Singh Kulchian Wale, on Golden Temple Road. This shop was very small and looked very untidy, but we had heard a lot about the yummy kulchas and were eager to taste them. They had a small menu of just 4 kinds of kulchas and each was yummier than the other. We sat on wooden benches and had one of our best lip smacking meals ever.

After having breakfast, we went to Jallianwala Bagh, our next point. My parents had told me about the sad story of what had happened at Jallianwala Bagh, in 1919. Inside the Bagh, we saw many galleries with audio-visuals being played about Brigadier General Dyer and the many innocent people who had lost their lives. I felt very sad when I saw the bullet marks on the walls. One more sad realisation for me was that my birthday was on the same day as this tragedy. I was born on 13th April 2012, exactly 93 years after the massacre of Amritsar. We then proceeded to the Durgiana temple, a Hindu temple that looks just like the Golden Temple from the outside. From there, we drove to the Attari Border. Everyone calls it the Wagah border but I got to know that it is called Attari Border in India. Since then, I have been calling it Attari Border instead of Wagah.

At the Attari border, there were thousands of people, almost like a sea of people, full of energy and chanting slogans about patriotism. We enjoyed watching the BSF officers march and do their retreat ceremony. We cheered loudly, till we almost lost our voices.

The next day, early at 4:30 am, we walked to the Shri Harmandir Sahib (also known as the Golden Temple) in time for the Guru Granth Sahib to be brought into the Gurudwara. The first view of the Golden temple and its reflection in the water is breathtaking. My sleep vanished at the sight of this beauty. We took a nice pradakshina around the temple, listening to the songs and prayers being chanted by the Sikh priest. The Karha prasad served there is full of ghee and is very delicious. We saw the Langar hall where thousands of people eat every day, free of cost. The temple looks different at all times of the day and night. At night, the lights add to its beauty.

Amritsar is famous for its delicious food (Bharwan da Dhaba and Kesar da Dhaba), lassi (Ahuja Dairy and Giani Dairy Center), and parathas. We also enjoyed river fish delicacies at Makkhan Fish and roast chicken at Beera Chicken House. We also shopped for Punjabi jutis (sandals), Patiala salwars – Pathani kurtas, and Phulkari dupattas, along with different types of Papad -Varian and masalas, all of which make Amritsar so famous.

I truly enjoyed my trip to Amritsar and look forward to going there soon.
India is a land of diversity, be it religious, linguistic, geographical and cultural. “कोस कोस पर बदले पानी, चार कोस पर बांधी” – this adage aptly describes the diversity of our great motherland. It means that with every two miles the taste of water changes and for every eight miles spoken dialects change.

How can the cuisine be far behind? Every region from every state boasts of a unique cuisine which is largely determined by its geographical location, culture and traditions, climatic conditions and the crops grown there locally.

The whole of last year this column brought to you a few gems from the culinary treasure of our very own Chitrapur Saraswat cuisine. Now we will bring you recipes from different states of India.

Popular Indian cuisine generally served in restaurants include roti/naan & paneer gravies from the North, various types of pulaoas and biryanis, Udupi snacks like Idli & dosa, thalis of Gujarat and Rajasthan, Mumbai street foods like vada pav & pav bhaji and seafood from Goa, West Bengal and coastal Maharashtra. However there is a lot more. Many home style dishes from the main course, snacks and sweet dishes remain unexplored.

Through this column we shall explore many such regional recipes from different states of India which can be prepared in our kitchens with readily available ingredients.

Let's begin this journey with the state of Karnataka. The cuisine of Karnataka differs regionally as the Cuisine from North Karnataka, South Karnataka, Udupi, Manglorean, Koduva and Navayath.

Rice, jowar and ragi are the staple cereal/millets used in the main dishes. A variety of lentils such as cowpeas (toor), gram (chana), green gram (moong), black gram (udid) and horsegram (kulith) are used for the accompaniments. Coconut, tamarind, jaggery and curry leaves and bedagi chillies are used for flavor. The cooking medium is generally groundnut oil or coconut oil. Ghee is used during festival cooking.

Popular food items from Karnataka include bisebele bhaat, joladda rotti, akki rotti, mysore bonda, neer dosa, benne dosa, obattu, maddur vada, mysore paak and chiroti to name a few.

This time sharing the recipe of pineapple mensakai and sheppi idli.

**Pineapple mensakai** - It is a sweet, sour and spicy accompaniment made using ripe pineapple.

**Ingredients** -
- 1 cup chopped ripe pineapple
- 1 cup grated coconut; 2 tbsp. tamarind pulp
- 2 tbsp jaggery; 4 tsp coconut oil
- For the masala paste: 2 tsp udad dal, 1 tsp chana dal, ¼ tsp methi seeds, ½ tsp jeera
- 2 tsp til, 4-6 bedagi chillies
- For tempering: ½ tsp mustard seeds, a pinch of hing, few curry leaves

**Method:** Heat a tsp of oil in a vessel. Add pineapple pieces, saute for a while. Add half a cup of water and cook the pineapple pieces for 5-7 minutes.

Roast the ingredients for masala with a little oil. Cool and grind with the coconut and tamarind to a fine paste. Add the paste to the pineapple, add another half a cup water and simmer the gravy for about 10-12 minutes. Keep stirring in between. Add the jaggery and salt to taste. Lastly temper with mustard seeds and curry leaves.

**Sheppi (dill leaves) Idli** - This is a rice based snack enriched with the goodness and flavor of sheppi or dill leaves called sabsige soppu in Kannada.

**Ingredients:**
- 1 cup rice rawa; ½ cup grated coconut
- ½ cup thick poha (soaked for 10 mins.)
- 1 cup chopped sheppu leaves
- 2 tbsp chopped cashewnuts
- 2 tbsp jaggery; ½ tsp salt
- A pinch of soda bicarb, 1 ¾ cup water

**Method:** Grind the sheppu, coconut and poha to a fine paste. Use portion of the measured water for grinding. Add salt and jaggery. Add the rice rawa and grind for a few more seconds. Take the remaining measured water in a pan, bring it to a boil. Add the soda bicarb. Mix in the ground paste and cook till the mixture thickens.

Switch off the flame. Add the cashews and mix well. Cool the mixture a bit. Pour the mixture into a deep plate or into idli moulds. Steam for 15 minutes. Cool and serve with warm ghee.
Life is what you Bake of it!

Amit Raje

Introduction about the author and topic

In his normal avatar, Amit Raje is VP – Foreign Direct Investment, at the Embassy of Ireland, India. A Graduate of Commerce from Mumbai University’s 1995 batch, he went on to pursue PGDBM from IGTC and followed it up with an MBA in Marketing from NMIMS at Mumbai University in 2001.

With over 25+ years of corporate experience behind him Amit was leading his mundane life until mid-life crisis hit him. He decided life had to be a ‘batter’ place and that he had to ‘dough’ something about it. Change is what he ‘kneaded’. The person that he is – used to taking ‘whisks’ in life – he decided to take the matter in his own hands. There was no looking back thereafter!

 Armed with an idea and a spatula, Amit took to baking; just like a fish takes to water. In baking not only did he find his passion, but also unbounding joy.

In the ensuing article, Amit shares his experiences about his passion, his findings and learnings and above all about how it has made a positive difference to his life. He is the son-in-law of former Editorial committee member Shrikar Talgeri.

I thought it was a nightmare until I woke up to realise it wasn’t!

Until just three weeks earlier I was busy as an ant, working away 10 hours a day – chairing meetings, attending conferences, jet-setting across the globe et all – making sure I’m earning enough to survive through the dusk of retirement. But this had changed in a whiff & I was all but staring at the wall, not knowing how to ‘fill’ in those 10 hours. For it was the ‘pandemic-lockdown’ that had set in!

The nightmare was real; the ‘ant’ within me, had a great plan to stock up on ‘food’, but none to overcome the emptiness that would set in after retirement!

This, was a wakeup call for me; one to take up something meaningful, a reminder to adopt an activity to keep my mind creatively occupied, a hobby that would keep at bay ‘The Horror of retiring without a plan’!

That’s how it all began – my passion for baking! What started as a hobby has today grown into a passion. For when I sleep now, it is not nightmares that I get, but sweet dreams. And these dreams keep me awake thinking about my own home-bakery that I shall begin when I embrace retirement.

I have pursued my hobby of home-baking over the past 2.5 years & this article is a story of the 5 big life-lessons that my passion has taught me; the first one being:

#1 - Find something you love to do, and you’ll never work a day in your life! - Unknown

The first time I baked Nankhatai’s, they came out burnt & black! Same was the case with a bread that I had so enthusiastically baked for a friend and yet another cake that got smashed. So many instances!

Failures were a part of my initial baking days. In fact, there were more failures than successes! But every failure brought with it more determination; one to overcome all that had gone wrong, a motivation to read up and understand what could be done differently, the drive to try one more time! I would wake up at unearthly hours and bake the same recipe all over again, tons of times over, just in the quest of that one success!

They say nothing tastes sweeter than success; all the truer – in case of bakes, isn’t it? Haha!

But overcoming failures wouldn’t have been possible without the encouragement of family and friends. My wife still told me how good the burnt Nankhatai tasted; my friend insisted that I send over the burnt bread to him, my mom advised me on how I could do things better and my daughter gave me a 9/10 – so I keep yearning for that ‘1’ mark! Phew!!

One cannot but overcome failures alone. Family and friends are the log that keeps you afloat in the deep blue ocean. In all of this I learnt my second life lesson:

#2 - It isn’t about how hard we fall, but about how strong we come back.
Failure is a great teacher, and if you are open to it, every mistake has a lesson to offer! - Unknown

A dear friend was quarantined in a room. The wretched virus had gotten unto him. He was isolated, away from family, battling the wrath of solitude – all by himself. It was cruel, nothing short of a punishment.

Loneliness can be perilous, giving birth to sadness, anxiety and ultimately depression. I could sense the stress setting in on him, yet there was nothing I could do to remedy the situation. Well, couldn’t I? Of course, I could! ..bake a cake and send it over to him! And bake a cake I did!! Haha!

What began with a single gift-cake for my friend took the shape of a large initiative. Anyone who knew of a person in quarantine could nominate him / her to me & I would happily bake and send over a cake, for free. It was a pass-it-forward initiative. I baked over 150 cakes, for people known and unknown! It was pure exhilaration, for I had discovered my third life lesson:

#3 – The Joy of Gifting a Smile!

Happiness is receiving giving a tiny gift on an ordinary day.

All of us have likely played badminton as kids haven’t we? And if you did, you’d remember, how most often we would precede a game with a few rounds of ‘warm up’ volleys. The real effort came in though when the 21-point match begun. That’s when you’d give all that you had, to win, isn’t it?

I had been baking for 8 months & largely serving family & friends. It was about time I went to the next level and move above and beyond ‘my-comfort zone’. Taking a leap into the open market is exactly what I did next. I opened up to selling my bakes to ‘clients’.

This naïve bravado brought upon me not only a new phase of excitement but also raised the stakes. Now I could not only not go wrong with my bakes but had to equally compete with other home-bakers to get noticed. This is what brought in a new phase of learning. I had to learn to market myself well, to click delectable looking photographs and create compelling marketing campaigns!

Soon enough & far from my own normal soul, I found myself reading up on the art of food-photography, downloading video-creating apps and creating jingles – much to the amazement of my peer bakers, who started asking me for tips! What a departure from my previous boring avatar na?!! Haha.

This leap-of-faith had gotten upon me my fourth life-lesson:

#4 – Great stories are born when the stakes are high!

Learn something new. Try something different. Convince yourself that you have no limits.

If it’s of any interest or if you’d like to poke some fun at me, you can find all my creations on my Instagram page: ‘da_quintessential_baker’!

Ask yourself this: “What time does my workday begin and when does it end?”

9 out of 10 of us in full-time employment, will not have a definitive answer to this question. In modern times, job definitions have changed. Work has invaded our private lives like never before. The dividing line between when a work-day ends and personal life begins has faded. Thinking of the next work assignment, reaching out for the office-phone at the next ping and the urge to respond to every email even during private hours has become the norm. The devils within social media and breaking news channels are making us all couch potatoes, killing our creativity and adding to the building stress.

It is in this backdrop that choosing a hobby and following a passion gave me a break from the day-to-day idiosyncrasies. To me, I found an answer in baking. It showed me a path to invest in my personal growth and to become a happier person. It allowed me to learn the fifth and probably the most important life lesson I have ever done:

#5 – #Live life to the fullest!

One day you’ll leave this world behind, so live a life you’ll remember. - Avicii

And now over to you, what’s your calling??

Psychologists Explain The Benefits Of Baking for Other People -

It’s not just about giving them something sweet.
Parisevanam

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 13 (Part 2)

Bhagavān continues to enumerate the values which are sādhanā-s for establishing oneself in Ātmajnānam.

Ācharyopāsanam: A worshipful attitude towards the Guru.

Shoucham: Purity of body, thought and action.

Sthairyam: Confidence and commitment in the goal chosen and its means.

Ātmavinigraha: Mastery over the body-mind-sense complex.

Vairāgyam: Giving right value to the objects of the world; not running after them.

Anahankāra: Devoid of self-glorification (“I-ness” and “My-ness”).

Dosha Darshanam: Constantly aware of the limitations of the body-mind-sense complex in the form of shadvikāra-s.

Asakti: A healthy indifference to the world and one’s own body.

Anabhishvangah: No intense attachment to children, spouse or property.

Samachittatvam: Remaining equanimous in pairs of opposite situations.

Ananyabhakti / Avyabhichārṇībhakti: Total, unwavering commitment and devotion to Me (Īṣhvara).

Arati Janasamsadi: Capacity to remain alone by oneself.

Vivikta deshavevītvam: Happy to remain by oneself in quiet places.

Adhyātmajnāna nityatvam: A deep and constant interest in Ātmajnānam.

Tattvajnānārtha darshanam: Commitment to understand the ultimate meaning of the teaching of the Veda-s (v7-12)

All the above are woven into each other and exist together with a thin dividing line. Even if one picks up one or two of them, many more join them.

In the next few verses, Bhagavān describes the word “jneyam” (ज्ञेयम्) in great detail. “Jneyam” is that which has to be understood clearly. Vedanta says that the only thing which is worth knowing is the “Ātmā/Brahman”. One who knows it clearly knows everything else in the whole Universe. Bhagavān describes elaborately the svārūpam of the jneyam (Ātmā/Brahman).

“Arjuna, Jneyam is that by knowing which one attains immortality and knows everything that needs to be known. Jneyam is beginningless and endless (present in all periods of time) and therefore called sat (सत्). It is the same consciousness behind the entire Universe of cause and effect, both the manifest and unmanifest Universe (जगात्कारणम्).”

“This consciousness (Brahman) pervades everything (सर्वोपायम्). It is as though it has its head, hands and feet everywhere (स्वतःस्वतिंशिवरूपम्). It surrounds everything from within and without.”

“ It is the consciousness behind every experience; at the same time not affected by any experience (असङ्गः). It is in and through all the three guṇa-s; still not sullied by any of them (निर्गुणम्). It makes every action and experience is possible.”

“Where is this consciousness? It is everywhere, inside and outside all the living and non-living objects. It so subtle (sūkshma) that it is not possible to grasp it with any sense organ (इत्यद्र अज्ज्ञाचयम्). It is farthest from you and also nearest to you, which means that it is present everywhere without any gap. In fact everything is situated in the consciousness. An example of space is given by the scriptures to explain this point. Space is everywhere; nearest and farthest and the whole Universe is situated in it.”
“Consciousness is indivisible, at the same time looks seemingly divided. From that consciousness alone the entire Universe appears, exists and resolves back (एकम-अविदित्यम).”

Again, an example of space can be given here to make this point clear. There is only one space; but due to the walls and roof, the space in a house can be divided into different usable spaces; This division is not real. In fact, there is only one indivisible space. Similarly, Brahman seems to be divided because of the different body-mind-sense complexes (उपावदि-भेद:).

In fact, Brahman is one whole, indivisible consciousness and everything is in it.”

“Arjuna, it is the light of consciousness which lights up everything and is present in every jīva’s heart (साक्षीतन्त्र आत्मा).” (v13-19)

From this point onwards, Bhagavān describes the last two terms “Prakṛti” and “Purusha”. They have been described in the 7th and the 9th chapters in fair detail. However, here, He makes it clearer for better understanding.

“Arjuna, know that both Prakṛti and Purusha are beginningless (अनादि). Together, they evolve into the entire Universe. Purusha Tattva (ब्रह्म) remains changeless whereas the Prakṛti Tattva (माया) undergoes all the changes taking the support of the unchanging Purusha.”

“In a living being, the body-mind-sense complex is the product of Prakṛti. Purusha is the witness consciousness (l) behind all the experiences.”

“Purusha just lights up the body-mind-sense complex and its activities, remaining a mere witness (साक्षी). An ignorant person who does not know the nature of Purusha, mixes up the body-mind-sense complex with Purusha. This confusion born out of ignorance causes the jīva to go through the cycles of birth/death”.

“Purusha is the innermost (प्रत्यमात्मा) witness of all that happens within and outside you. Ignorant people take this consciousness to be a kartā/bhoktā. Purusha is also known as Paramātmā (परमात्मा).”

“The right understanding of Purusha and Prakṛti releases one from samsāra; irrespective of wherever and whatever one may be. Such a person (ज्ञानी) does not repeat the cycles of samsara.” (v20-24)

( …to be continued)
The Crow and the Eagle

Mayur Kalbag

Cokaroo the carefree crow was flying through the skies and enjoying every moment of it. He sailed through the floating clouds with enthusiasm and exuberance, sometimes flying purposefully low and maneuvering through the pleasantly swaying coconut trees along the sea coast. But Cokaroo wasn’t happy with this as he wanted to go further high into the more serene and silent skies just like those amazing eagles. Every afternoon as he would finish his flight towards the skies and over the hills, Cokaroo would look at the skies from his nest and find the eagles in serene flight. They flew much above the high mountains, freely and fearlessly. “Tomorrow morning I too will join the eagles” he affirmed and asserted to himself.

The next day he did not join his other friends but stayed in his nest and kept staring at those high flying eagles! His other friends began making fun of him and taunting him about his desire to be like the eagles. “You have no place among the eagles my friend! They are stronger than us and have larger wings whereas we are smaller and less powerful and hence can’t do what the eagles can”. These words from one of Cokaroo’s friends, Zoolunda were extremely demotivating and depressing. But Cokaroo did not lose heart. He reminded himself of his father’s inspiring words, “What’s worse is not death, but what dies within us”

That afternoon he saw the eagles in the high skies and seeing them Cokaroo took the leap. He flapped his wings as hard as he could to reach the higher skies. He found himself going much higher than what he normally would. It was a very different experience for him. He had a very positive feeling of having conquered his own fear of heights. He was flying so high that all the crows down below looked like tiny butterflies. He found himself flying over mountains and not just the hills. But as this was happening he felt something amiss. He was quite surprised to see himself alone in those skies. There was not a single eagle there with him. “Where have they disappeared? Have they taken a holiday or something” he thought to himself. But as he looked up he saw more than ten eagles hovering high above the white cottony clouds. Cokaroo could not believe his eyes. All this time he thought he had achieved what he had dreamt of, although he had flown higher than what he normally did, he still had not achieved his aim of flying with the eagles. Cokaroo did not want to give up, and with an added boost of motivation started flapping his wings vigorously. But within a few minutes, he went higher but began to feel tremendous pain in his entire body. His wings were hurting so bad that he just couldn’t flap anymore. To add to this the eagles were still quite far away in the higher skies. Cokaroo had a choice, either to try harder exhaust himself completely and fall to his death or to give up and come back to his nest. “I will try again, tomorrow” he decided and returned to his nest.

That night Cokaroo could sleep at all. He kept thinking of the most beautiful experience he had flying through the higher skies and seeing the most awe-inspiring visions from that height! But he also felt a bit disappointed. “Am I not capable, am I not fit enough”? Such doubts kept interfering his positive flow of thoughts! The next morning, once again Cokaroo looked up and flew towards the sky almost like a rocket. Even his other friends were completely shocked to see him fly that way, as if he was possessed. But Cokaroo did not stop to see his friends and what they were thinking of him. His focus was stronger than the previous day. He knew his goal and knew that he could not let his perseverance as well his determination be punctured by what the others would say and their apprehensions about him.

He saw himself rising even higher than the point he had reached yesterday but he just did not stop there and though his wings began to feel tired and the pain increased he continued with only one clear goal which was to fly as high as those eagles.

Finally it happened! After his relentless pursuit Cokaroo found himself among the eagles and to his own amazement he realized that he was not flapping his wings as vigorously as he was before. “What is happening to me? I am literally floating effortlessly and all I have to do is keep my wings open to adjust my directions” Cokaroo smilingly thought to himself. As he was floating...
through the high skies he noticed all the eagles suddenly come close to him and this made him a bit nervous especially knowing the subtle dislike they had for each other! But rather than attack Cokaroo, they began acknowledging his almost impossible feat. Then, one of the eagles, Ealeeva, exclaimed aloud to Cokaroo. “Hey fearless crow! What you have done is a rare feat. I have been flying these skies for more than ninety years and in this entire time I have not seen a single crow fly to such great heights ever! But you have and we are not just surprised but extremely proud of you. For us it is quite easy as we have been blessed with larger and longer wings and a much stronger body but what you have demonstrated to us is that mental strength and will power is more superior to physical strength! You have also shown fearlessness and fortitude. The thought about failure did not demoralize you, instead you conquered fear. You never bothered about others and their views and comments. Even we eagles have learnt so much from you today”. Saying this, as a show of their respect to Cokaroo, all the eagles began flying around him in a rhythmic manner almost like a unique yet impressive dance! From that day on things changed, and along with Cokaroo some other crows began to take that leap towards the higher skies enjoying a different sky of joy and happiness.

There are more Cokaroos waiting and eager to take the leap, so what are YOU waiting for!!!

The Blue Jackal Story

Once there was an adventurous jackal who frequently strayed into the village looking for food. The Village was filled with dogs that scared the jackal. Although he was scared of the dogs, the jackal loved food and travelled to the city again and again.

One day, as he was going to enter a house of a washerman, he heard barking. He was shocked to find a gang of dogs running towards the house. They looked violent and caused the jackal to panic. He ran and tumbled into a tub of blue dye which was kept by the washerman. The dogs couldn’t see him and they ran another way.

Now the jackal was completely blue from head to toe. He appeared very different from any other animal. The jackal was pleased as no one would be able to recognize him and he could easily fool anyone in the jungle. Just like he had thought, everyone in the jungle was surprised to see such an unusual animal. The small animals, the lion and the tiger all asked who he was and who had sent him. “I have been sent by God himself to look after you. I will now be the king of the jungle” The jackal said. The lion protested saying he had always been the king of the forest. “From now, that must change and all of you must serve me” The Jackal happily said.

Some animals like the tiger protested and asked what would happen if they didn’t obey him. He replied saying God would destroy the entire jungle if they didn’t. Scared for their lives and their jungle, the animals asked the blue Jackal what he would like them to do. “Bring me lots of food” said the blue jackal promptly. The animals quickly scurried and returned with lots of food for the Jackal. He had so much food that he gave his leftovers to the other animals and told them that they had to serve him fresh food every day. He even threw out the pack of jackals from the forest because he knew that they could identify him some day. The blue Jackal was very happy with himself for fooling the entire forest and was happy to be away from the city dogs. But one day the banned pack of jackals was walking around the forest and howling loudly. The blue jackal began howling out of habit too. Because of this mistake, the other animals quickly identified him as a jackal and killed him.

Moral : One cannot escape being noticed even if you disguise yourself for long. Your original self will surface and the imposter will get exposed and get caught. Be original and do not put on a facade.
# ULTIMATE SERIES

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<th>AWS CLASS</th>
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<td>ULTIMATE 120 H</td>
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CROSSWORD FOR NOV 2022

ACROSS:
1. Wise man (4)
4. Terribly horrified (5)
8. Every one (3)
9. Recent (6)
10. Air Journey (6)
13. Language in Andhra (6)
15. Having Strong feelings (9)
19. Cutting tool (3)
20. (Prefix) for Bad (3)
21. Mountains in Europe (3)
24. Refill (9)
25. 2012 Olympics venue (6)
26. Divide with knife (3)
28. Not inside (3)
30. Tanzanian island (8)
32. Of within (4)
33. Exec. Training acronym (3)
34. Puppet (6)
35. Shaft in vehicle (4)

DOWN:
1. Search info on internet (4)
2. International brand of Tyre (4)
3. House (4)
5. Submit to please (5)
6. Highest value in Cards (3)
7. Improve muscles (4,2)
11. Buddhist Spiritual leader (4)
12. Entry Exit fence (4)
13. Of good height (4)
14. Jamaican Citrus fruit (4)
16. Bulls (4)
17. Portents (4)
18. Short sleep (3)
21. Crawling insect (3)
22. Fake (5)
23. Fires (6)
24. Water sport (6)
26. Scoundrel (3)
27. Spoken in Asia (4)
28. Silicate item (4)
29. Quality of Voice (4)
31. Type of Bank A/c (3)
Fun & Pastime

Brain Teaser
What makes this number unique
8,549, 176,320

Solution on page 66

Find the odd one

Solution on page 66

Wordsearch our Bhanap Sportspersons:
BHARAT SHOBHA KIRAN SHISHIR
VASANT ARVIND GEETA JAYANT
Strike horizontally, Vertically or reverse

Solution on page 66

Card Logic
Ramu has seven cards & writes a number from 1 to 9 on each. The average of all 7 of all the numbers is 6. The only number that Ramu writes on more than one card is 6. When Ramu arranges his cards in increasing order by number, the middle card is no 6. What are the numbers on the seven cards?

(Answer on page 66)
Smt. Ambabai Heble Bhagwad Geeta Competition - 2022
On Sunday 20th November 2022 at 2.30 p.m.

At Smt. Indirabai Kallianpurkar Hall, Balak Vrinda Education Society,
Off. Talmakiwadi, J.D. Marg, Mumbai 400007

Shlokas for Recitation: Adhyaya 13, Shlokas 19 to 34

Shlokas for Abhivyakti

1. अनुद्वेगकरं वाच्यं सत्यं प्रियहितं च यत् ।
   स्वाध्यायायाम्यसं चैव वाङ्मयं तपं उच्चते॥१७.६५॥

2. तुल्यनिन्दास्तुतिमार्मी सन्तुष्टो येन केनचित् ।
   अनिकेतः स्थिरमतिभक्तितमान्मेऽप्रियो नरः॥१२.१९॥

3. इति ते नातपस्काय नाभकदाय वदाचनं ।
   न चाशुश्रूषवे वाच्यं न च मां योह्म्यसूयति ॥१८.६७॥

4. तस्मात्मवुत्तिष्ठ यशो लहस्व
   जित्वा शत्रूलं भुक्तक्ष्व राज्यं समृद्धम् ।
   मयैवैते निहतः पूर्वमेव
   निमित्तत्त्वं भव सत्यसाचिन्॥१९.३३॥

5. चतुर्विधावा भजन्ते मां जना: सुकृतिनोज्जुन ।
   आर्तो जिज्ञासुर्थर्थी जानी च भरतर्षभ ॥७.१६॥

Abhivyakti means ‘expression’. Participant is given 3 minutes to express one’s own thoughts on ANY ONE shloka from those given here. You may speak about how it applies in life to you or to someone you know. If Pujya Swamiji has spoken on the shloka you may tell what you have understood from it. You can speak in any language of your choice - Konkani, Sanskrit, English, Hindi or Marathi. (Participants of 15yrs and above only.)

Participants must submit their names and age to their teachers or the Sabha President.
Participants for Abhivyakti must be aged 15 or above.
The teacher / Sabha President / office bearer must send the list for the Bhagwadgeeta competition and Abhivyakti to

Sudhir Balwally by Whatsapp 9820817732 or email: sudhirbalwally@hotmail.com
Or
Smita Mavinkurve by Whatsapp 9820224652 or email smita.kurve@rediffmail.com

Last date for registration is November 13th, 2022
On the date of the competition Participants must be present at the venue by 2.00 p.m.
5.1  Read the translations in English and fill in the blanks using the words
given in the box -

1. अहं हसामि।  I laugh.
2. अहं   ............।  I sit.
3. ........         ........।  I play.
4. ........         ........।  I bow down.
5. त्वं हससि।  You write.
6. त्वम   ............।  You sit.
7. ........         ........।  You play.
8. ........         ........।  You bow down.

*Verb forms पठायि, लिखायि, खादायि are used with the subject अहं। For the same
actions, the verb forms पठसि, लिखसि, खादसि are used with the subject त्वम। Make
a note of how the verb ending changes. The words अहं (I) and त्वम (you) are used
with both Masculine and Feminine genders.*

5.2  Complete the crossword -

Answers given on Page

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“कोंकणी आदगत्यो आनि वाक्प्रचार”

आंग गोरे म्हणून सावांढे गोरिवे?
Even if the body is fair, its shadow cannot be so.

आंगा रोगु वता, मना रोगु वचना
The disease affecting the body is cured sooner than that affecting the mind.

आंत काणुं दिल्यारि वेंटो म्हणता
Even if the antrails be taken out and offered, he calls them a mere piece of rope. (Refers to a hard-hearted person)

आंबाडो महठ्यारि गिंबाडो म्हणता
You refer to an Ambada (a hogplum) but he refers to a Gimbado (which has no meaning) - inconsistent talk

आंबाडयाने आमसाणि उर्फू येतवे?
Can the wild mango (a hogplum) arrogate to itself the position as the sole possessor of sour qualities? None is indispensible in the world.

KONKANI LEXICON FUN QUIZ

Compiled by: Radhika Suresh Kumble

(What are the equivalent Konkani words ending with 'ळ')

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Konkani</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dry Coconut leaf</td>
<td>कोपळी (kahli)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of worm</td>
<td>बांध्य (bandhy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part of Make up</td>
<td>गांव (gav)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thin</td>
<td>चांग (chaang)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part of the face</td>
<td>पातळ (patal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy iron chain</td>
<td>लिया (liya)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staple food grain</td>
<td>स्त्रोत (strot)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earnings / Salary</td>
<td>रोजगार (rojgar)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hollow</td>
<td>गड (gad)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Vegetable</td>
<td>आम (ama)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper layer of liquid</td>
<td>इंजिकार (injikar)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Surname</td>
<td>नाव (naw)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrupt money</td>
<td>भेंध (bend)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
सूफ़बऱेरी आइस्क्रीम
नीला बल्लेस्कर

सकाळीची मगेल्या खास मैत्रीगेलो, महम्मारी, रमागेलो फोटु आयले. “मंगल, पुणेशान्तु स्वाती हांगा आयल्या, आमी सांजे आमगेल्या करतुणासाठी उडानांतुं कव्यांचे वे झाला, साडेकाळी भिर्यांची यो. मस्त गमती कोयची. हां, सुमाक लुढांच्या आपेक्षांत, नककी यो हं! ”

आमगेली चारी मैत्रीगेली मैत्री, अगदी बालवांदांनून आशीली. लग्नावृत्तीत, सगळी आपातगेल्या धारा बचूगेली. रांटाने कॉलनीलुळ्याची माध्यवानटू प्रेमविवाह केलेले मित्र, ती कॉलनीलुळी राखलाली. त्यातिमी, कुंठारा बुडुग्याची, आमगेली भेट जातालाली.

हां, घराची सगळी काम कोणीं, सांतेच्या प्रवासाची कामी तपास रांटाने दबावूनु, बांधून बुडुग्याची.

सर्वांनी वडू मेल्या पुढे, आमी हांड राख्यांची संसारी असारे बायले हून विस्तूरुनुसे गेली. लानपणाच्या खेळाच्या, शिशुकाळाच्या तहाच्या मित्रमैत्रीगेलच्या गंभीरती, तांकी दिल्लेली उपनाव हाजी उगडासो कोणून, हंसत्याची, मस्त गम्पा जाल्यो. सागव्यागेल्या चेवडंवायल्या आर्य घरभांगेल्या विषष्टांतुं उल्हानुन जाशी. मैत्रीवाल्या मित्री टिस्किके भेलपुरी खानुन, काळखऱ्या आळसा गोंजू सुलांच्या खान्यो. दोनी दिसानी, आमगेल्या धारा जेवणकव्य मेठबं असी तरोलु आमी धारा वच्चुक भायर सरली.

बाकी वर्षांनी चमकलेल्या धारा व्रताती महाणाली, हांव इहारय आशीली बस्टोपारी आयली. सुमार वेसुताथाची बस येंच महोणु बऱ्यालेक्षी आशिली आंगडूनु बुडुनु, बरकीवर बस जेडनवर येता महोणु हाळकी केली. तो महाणाली, “महम्म, अभी अभी एक बस गई, अब दूसरी बस आने में दे हैं. आप यहां छाव में कुसीपर बैठ सकती है.” तात्रेसे इत्यादि अग्रत्याचे सांगानपुढे, वतावानु बस स्टॉपारी राखरे बदलक, थंडी बौटांचें अभी माकायचे दिसते. जाल्याची, माणगी नाकका महोणु लेकरे, तिले भिर्यां, दोनी बन्दे, आइस्क्रीम घेंचचयक महोणु, त्यांआंगडूनु आयले. तांकाम आइस्क्रीम पोल्यासो, माखाम्या आकलस आयले.

आंगडेच्याचे, नाजुकाच्या राहने सूफ़बऱेरी आइस्क्रीम काढताना खंडिती ठाणे तीनी-चारी दुर्काळी चेवडंव धावताची आयली.

आमका महाणाली, “मैडम हमको भी दो ना! बहुत भूख लुगी है !” अगदी लाखनुचाचार लागली. परपत्र मागुक लागली. तांकाप, एकेक कप आइस्क्रीम दिलु, पैरे दित्त आस्तानाची दूर ठाणे बस येता दिसते. आइस्क्रीममार्च कप घेतू सटसटी बस बस्टोपालगणी वला, मोगेलो पदर कोणेकी ताम्बैताळी जाता. माणी घंटु पच्चिमिलाचर, एको चार चाप वसावो जोरु आशीले. मुणाला, आटी, हमको भी आइस्क्रीम दो ना!” हांव महोणु, “अरे, अभी तो दिया था ना?” नहीं, वे दुसरे लडके थे. तो उठली घणाले. “देखो, मेरी बस आ गई, पल्लु छोडो!” हांव चिके कोपाणेचे महोणु. त्या पोशेलेले दोके भोजु आयले. माती लागिला काढे हाताताने, तात्रे तापेल्या गाड़ीढऱ्या दोनीले अशु पुलाले. मात्र, दुस्ताना हाताताने मोगेलो पदर, तात्रे घोंजू दुवा मारले. तांका रूने आपाने दोके, हांव मोगेला हातानु आशीले आइस्क्रीममार्च कप, तापेल्या भुसे हातानु दिलो! चिके कोपाणेचे, अभी बस्टांतु चोण फिटफिटगच्चचा सीटारी बसली.

बस्टांतु बैसूनु धंड, पर्यंत आइस्क्रीम रुंधऱेरी खांवयाच्या महोणु लेकरी. भायर दाहिनेच्या राहीले, तो पोल बस्टरोपाला स्वाशारी बैसूनु, रुंधऱेरी आइस्क्रीम खात आशीले. गाड़ीढऱे अशुची पाट आशीले. मात्र तांका खुशाल्यांचं हाश आशीले. पाप हालेपलती ईटी बैसूनु, आइस्क्रीममाच्या प्रत्येक धासाचे, प्रत्येक ने धर्म आंगडू घेताले. तापेल्या तांका वर्णवर्णे ते निराकर सरासरी आंगडू होळुच्याचे साधारण जालू, एका निष्पाद चेवडंव हो प्रसांग जालू हाल्जी खुशी जालू.
November 2022
Kanara Saraswat


“तुळशी विवाह आमुँच्या घरी....”

tुळशी विवाह

अंगणी सजली रंगोली
पावित्राचा सुवास दरवळी
झाळी रे ताजिरी
आनंदाची दिवाळी।

कातिक दखळाशी दिनी
लगळ तुळशीचे लावू
वधू वराचा रे
आशीविद घेवू।

हिरवा शाळून नेसन
सजले तुळशी वंदावन
मोहरले रे तिचे
पान न पान।

विवाह मंडप अंगणी
उस झऱ्ढू फुळांची परवणी
थाटमाट पहळा रे
तुळशी वंदावनी।

कृष्ण वरा चे झळेले आगभान
अली लग्ना ची घटी
चौधरा सनईचे रे
गुंजले सूर मंडपी।

कृष्ण तुळशीचे
ओक्शण करता क्षणी
लाजिली रे मंजीरी
कृष्णवर्षाच पाळणी।

शुभमंगल सावधान महणता
वधू वरा वाहिल्या आक्षणा
प्रसन्नता भरते रे मनी
माथा टूंकी चरणी।

विद्या दुर्गादास बंदूर
(विद्या सीताराम भट)

मुरलीघर बेटाबेट

बुद्वंतू न्हावी

एकू आशीले बुद्वंतू क्यास कातरतले.
मन लावू वगळ्यांग्यांगे क्यास कापताले
गावचे संगी ज्यान तांडवागीची वताली
गोमटे क्यास कापले म्हणून खूऱ्या जाताली.
त्या गावचे मंत्री तांडवागीची वताली.
गोमटे क्यास कापले म्हणून ताक्या बक्षीस दिताले.
जाळूरी ह्या न्हावयक आशीले एकू वाईऱू गणू
क्यास कापत—कापत निमगीताले नाक्का
जाळूरे प्रणू
एक दिसू मंत्रीगेले क्यास कापताला न्हावी महणाले.
मंत्रीजी कितले होळू आस्स तुमगेलों बंगले.
मंत्री कॉप्याचे चुऱचाप क्यास कापी म्हणून बदले.
मंत्री कॉप्याचे कि तो बगणी—बगणी क्यास कापताले.
मंत्री थंड जाळूरे कि हुगू—हुगू क्यास कापताले.
परत न्हावी हासत—हासत म्हणाले.
“मंत्रीजी कितली कार आस्साती तुमगेले नावारी.”
मंत्री महणाले, माते तापोनाका, कुडू घालता
मात्यारी.
मंत्री कॉप्याचे कि तो पटापटा क्यास कापताले.
मंत्री थंड जाळूरे कि हुगू—हुगू क्यास कापताले.
मंत्री महणाले तूळ क्यास गोमटे कापत म्हणून तुळागी
याता.
फूकट नाक्का जाळूरे प्रश्नू निमगून माते इत्याक हून
करता.
न्हावी महणाले, मंत्रीजी क्यास तुमगेले आस्साती गोल
गोल मुदयाली,
तुळी कॉप्याचे कि ते निहट उबताली.
त्यामीती क्यास कापूकूस ससार जाता.
म्हणूनी नाक्का जाळूरे प्रश्नू निमगूनी तुमका कोपू
हाडयतात.

मुरलीघर बेटाबेट

November 2022 Kanara Saraswat
Bengaluru Sabha:
Special programmes:
On the occasion of Chaturmasa Vrat Samapti and Samsmrana Divasa, Ashtavadhana Seva was performed. Samaradhana of H.H. Shrimat Parijnanashram Swamiji II was observed with Bhushya Pathana and Ashtavadhana Seva.
As a part of the Sayujyam Seva for Bengaluru and UK Sabha, Vimarsha was conducted by Ankita Karnad and Guru Pujana by sadhaka-s. On the auspicious occasion of Navaratri, Prarthana and sankalpa was performed followed by daily Navaratri programs during which Navaratri Nityapatha, Devi Anushthana, Devi Puja and Durganamaskara was performed on all the days. Sadhaka-s performed Kumkumarchana on the occasion of Lalita Panchami, Kumarika Puja was performed on the occasion of Mahanavami.

Chaturmasa Seva: On the occasion of Chaturmasa, on several days of the week, sadhaka-s across all age groups participated enthusiastically in group and solo Bhajan Seva, Nritya Seva, Sangeetika, Vadya Seva and creative workshops. Girvana Pratishtha Varga organised a session ‘Sulabha Sanskritam Sarala Sambhashanam’ on spoken Sanskrit as the finale of the Chaturmasa Special Programs at SCM Bengaluru.

Regular Programmes such as Girvana Pratishtha classes, Sambhashana Varga classes (online) and Prarthana Varga, Gayathri Japa Anushthaan, Durga Namaskar continued regularly.

Report by Saikrupa Nalkur

Mumbai-Andheri Sabha:
Samaradhana of HH Pandurangashram Swamiji was observed on 1st June"2022. Members wholeheartedly participated in this event by attending Shri Rajagopal Bhat’s talk. He elucidated on HH Pandurangashram Swamiji’s life history, and emphasised how the Rathotsava was started by HH Krishnashram Swamiji, which we are witnessing to date. He then explained the 34 ovi’s (meters 82 to 116) from chapter 45 of the Guru Parampara Charitra, calling it as the ‘Pandurang Gita’ which was narrated by HH Pandurangashram Swamiji to HH Anandashram, Kaula Brahman and several RDB fans, music-lovers and also the film- fraternity.

Personalia
Chaitanya Padukone:
On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti (October 2nd) eminent senior film journalist-editor-author Chaitanya Devidas Padukone was honoured with the Mahatma Gandhi Ratna Award- 2022 instituted by the KCF Foundation, at the Mayor’s Hall auditorium in Mumbai.. This Annual Gandhi Memorial Award is given mostly to senior Celeb Achievers from diverse professions who have made an outstanding contribution in their respective fields. Previously, on May 16th, Chaitanya was conferred with the ‘Cinema Aaj Tak-- Achiever’s Award-2022 for Dedication and Excellence in Film Journalism, where over 27 Film, TV and Music celebs including international singer-performers Leslee Lewis and Kayya Jones were also honored. Earlier, Padukone was formally felicitated with a memento-trophy by corporate luminary Dr. Arindam Chaudhuri at Hotel Sahara Star, for being part of the “Esteemed Jury Member” of the prestigious Power Brands Awards—2022, where celebs like Boman Irani, Vicky Kaushal and Kriti Sanon were among the awardees . It may be recalled that Chaitanya is the recipient of the prestigious bonafide Dadasaheb Phalke Academy Award (2012) given to him by the film-industry. This is in addition to the K A Abbas Memorial Gold Medal for film-journalism, which was presented to him on stage by superstar Amitabh Bachchan. Besides being a seasoned film-journalist, music-savvy Padukone (also a former CBFC-Censor Board-Advisory Panel Member ), has ‘authored’ this popular memoirs book R D BurMania, which has been well-received by ardent RDB fans, music-lovers and also the film- fraternity.

Here & There
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Swamiji. The importance of this ‘Pandurang Gita’ is that this Amritvaani was narrated (on 5th June 1915), by the Guru to the young Shishya by taking him on his lap even while he was going through his illness. After the talk, the Bhajan Sandhya began with little star Rouhi Kamat reciting the Shiv Manas Puja Stotra followed by Bhajan Seva by a few young and senior members.

The Samaradhana of HH Shankarashram Swamiji I was observed on 1st October’22. Sadhakas participated enthusiastically in the Bhajan Sandhya also being the Navaratri festival.

On 2nd October, Shri Rajgopal Bhat spoke on the “Significance of Navratri” which was attended by people from all across the globe. 75 plus Sadhakas took the pleasure of hearing his Upanyaas which is available on YouTube.

Sanskrit Sambhashanam classes are being conducted by Smt. Vaishali Koppikar every Sunday. Anusmaranam (Arthanusandhana of stotra-s/shloka-s) classes and Swaraja (stotra pathana) classes are being held weekly online by Vaishali Koppikar. This month, Vaishali Koppikar has begun explaining Dakshinamurti Stotram- a beautiful stotra composed by our Adi Guru Bhagavan Shankaracharya.

Our Institutions

Saraswat Mahila Samaj, Gamdevi, Mumbai

After a long span, Saraswat Mahila Samaj had a physical event on the occasion of the 105th Foundation Day, which was celebrated on 17th Sept 2022 in Shrimat Anandashram Sabhagriha, Talmakiwadi, Mumbai. There was sheer excitement as the day came closer with all arrangements planned well by the Managing Committee.

There was gaiety galore as the day dawned and the events unfolded in the beautifully decorated KSA hall with lovely ladies in their fine attire. Nivedita Nadkarni, Lt. Hon Secretary extended a warm welcome to the packed hall and anchored the show. The President Padmini Bhatkal welcomed the audience and the other guests. The Chief Guest Chandrama Bijur, renowned Konkani Playwright and Performer was the star attraction. The other distinguished guests were Bipin Nadkarni- famous cine and theatre personality and Dr. Prakash Mavinkurve- an eminent Doctor, presently pursuing his hobby and passion for Magic.

Priya Bijur, Hon Secretary then presented the gist of activities and programmes held during the year, keeping in mind the ideals of SMS viz., Seva, Kala and Vidya and explained how the Samaj was trying to keep up the goals set up by its Founders which included events by the Music Vibhag- Saraswati Vrinda Gaan. She highlighted the efforts of the Samaj towards garnering different charitable funds for various projects. Programmes that were held to encourage young Yuwatis and Mahilas in different fortes was mentioned.

Kalindi Kodial, Hon. Treasurer read out the Treasurer’s Report and names of all the Donors and Sponsors . She thanked each and every one for their generosity which has helped the Samaj
in its functioning and encouraged it to take important decisions on the financial front.

Smita Mavinkurve, Chairperson, introduced our Chief Guest, Chandrama Bijur as a versatile allround personality and an Abhivaachak/translator of dramas from Marathi into Konkani. Her famous works are “Bayl Jayi Bayl”, “Kurta aylo kasu” - emotional plays as a director and playwright of “Chiklantu Pallel Phool” and Marathi T.V. Serials viz. “Shodhu Kuthe Kinara” produced and directed by her and “Hyaala Jeevan Aise Naau”. As a novelist she has two Marathi novels- to her credit.

Fluent in Marathi, Konkani, English and Sanskrit she has given many Aadhyaatmik discourses, keertans, on our religious texts. Chandrama has been blessed with the Varadhasta of Devi Mata Saraswati for her innumerable talents and devotion to the Almighty. SMS was fortunate to have such a “Sarvaguna Sampanna” dynamic Mahila as the Chief Guest.

She was then honoured by our President Padmini Bhatkal with a bouquet and a “Maanchinha”. On being requested Chandrama gave a very lively talk expressing her appreciation of the work being done by SMS for the welfare of Saraswat Mahilas and their families. She specially appreciated our exclusive prize winning’Amchi Recipe Book’ “Rasachandrika”, for its inclusion of different topics which include various food recipes, baby care, recent additions on pre-natal and post-natal care, home remedies.

Thereafter started the main programme “Sangeet Naatika” excerpts from the Sanskrit “Abhijnan Shankutalam” translated by Late Sadhana Kamat from the great Poet Kalidasa’s work and produced and directed by Bipin Nadkarni.

Actors- Vikram Padbidri, Yash Kallianpur and Tanvi Gangavali who enacted their roles superbly, were very ably supported by talented singers Amit Savkur and Arya Dhareshwar-interspersed by brilliant charismatic Bipin Nadkarni- who gave crisp insight into the short episode.

Nivedita Nadkarni introduced Dr. Prakash Mavinkurve as also a Magician. He presented a wonderful Interactive Act - an unusual blend of visual Magic and perplexing Mind experiments, which left everyone spellbound. It was absolutely awesome and mind boggling as he made the right predictions, produced ribbons from nowhere, or cut a long rope into small pieces right on stage, and restored it back to the same long rope again!!

An amazing combination of Medicine and Magic!! Dr. Prakash Mavinkurve has risen to be the President of the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

The Vote of Thanks proposed by Priya Bijur who expressed deep appreciation and thanks to the Chief Guest Chandrama Bijur and honourable guests Bipin Nadkarni and Dr Prakash Mavinkurve.

This splendid event came to an end with people mingling with each other in gupshup, laughter- appreciation as they were handed small sponsored parcels of snack- sweet. It was indeed a memorable day after two years of lockdown for the Saraswat Mahila Samaj.

Reported by Geeta Suresh Balse

KONKANI LEXICON
FUN QUIZ

Compiled by: Radhika Suresh Kumble

(Answers)


dudha / ghumle / gushul

gondh / jaidha / jayidh

canth / shapth / sapt

patttha / aagath

niktha / sitapathy / foopathy / ne

sankaal / foopth / dewal

sambal / kupakth

paddth / bidha / kikadha / mokartha / khangadha / hartha

cheekha / kaarkha / mokartha / khangadha /}

November 2022 Kanara Saraswat 65
CLASSIFIEDS

For Rent
One Room kitchen with balcony available on Rental basis in Karnataka Colony. Preferably PG, family no bar. Interested parties may contact on 94210 52800. No Brokers please.

DOMESTIC TIDINGS

BIRTHS
Sept 26: A baby girl to Apeksha (nee Padukone) and Karan Pankaj Mahajan at Malad West, Mumbai.

OBITUARIES
We convey our deepest sympathy to the relatives of the following:
Sept 1: Leela Subbarao Trasy (87) at Andheri, Mumbai.
Sept 7: Prema Mangesh Sashittal (83) at Andheri, Mumbai.
Sept 13: Girish Anandnath Koppikar (85) at Versova, Mumbai.
Sept 19: Suniti Balachandra Rao (85) at Bengaluru.
Sept 23: Pratap Mudbidri (67) at Bengaluru.
Sept 24: Sumangala Chickermane (74) at Bengaluru.
Sept 27: Tavanandi Durgadas Rao (87) at Vile Parle (East), Mumbai.
Sept 28: Meena Rao Jaidev Padbidri (nee Gulvady) at LA, USA.
Oct 3: Suresh Kandlur (92) at Saraswat Colony, Santacruz(W) Mumbai.
Oct 3: Jyotsna S Rao (Halady) (78) at Bengaluru.
Oct 4: Sunanda Sadananand Kumta, (85) years at Chennai.
Oct 5: Mohan Nadkarni (99) at Vapi, Gujrat.
Oct 6: Suman Kundaji (86) at Pune.
Oct 13: Dinkar Gokarn (ex Talmakiwadi) (85) at Malad Mumbai.
Oct 20: Kalpana Girish Nadkarni (61) in Mangluru.

SOLUTION TO SUDOKU NOV 2022

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Brain Teaser Solution
What makes this number unique?
8,549, 176,320
Arranged Alphabetically this is the largest number from 0-9

Find the Odd one out : Answer is D - only group without empty symbol

Wordsearch our Bhanap Sportspersons:
BHARAT SHOBHA KIRAN SHISHIR
VASANT ARVIND GEETA JAYANT

SOLUTION

GATE

H K Y N D R R

A T N A Y A J

R I H S I H S

A F N A R I K

T A R V I N D

A H B O H S O
With Best Compliments

From

Rithwik Foundation
For Performing Arts