Manu Ulpe aka Mandeep Rai
A versatile actor and brilliant comedian

Lalita Lajmi
An unparalleled water-colourist
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In our history of Chitrapur Saraswats, (or Aamchis as we call it) our migration has taken place three centuries ago, from Goa to coastal Karnataka, right up to Northern Kerala. As a civilized and intelligent community, many of our ancestors acquired farm lands and became landlords and some got important positions in government, educational and religious organizations.

In the beginning of the Nineteenth century, due to better job opportunities in the cities, our younger generation started migrating mainly to Mumbai and Bangalore. They were trying for jobs and support in these metro cities. At that time, the Late Rao Bahadur Talmaki, initiated the idea of a social club to facilitate the meeting of all these youths together, which later emerged as the Kanara Saraswat Association (KSA) in the year 1911. The objective of this Association was to bring all Aamchis settled in Mumbai, socially onto one platform. This facilitated helping and supporting each other amongst the youths. Those holding higher positions in well established companies, supported others for getting jobs. Monetary help including shelter for staying was also offered by some philanthropic, successful Aamchis, to the needy ones.

At that time getting a secure job in well established companies, government offices or in Banks was the prime objective of most youths. Many succeeded in getting such good secure jobs and some of them by dint of their hard work and intelligence, rose to a very high level in their respective organisations.

Decades have passed by and now, presently we are standing on the threshold of great changes that are happening in our country. Many startup companies are coming up with innovative ideas. A new energetic, vibrant breed of youngsters are now emerging in India and they are called Entrepreneurs. They take on challenges, undertake innovations, introduce new things, create financial capital through business acumen and transform innovations into economic goods. Our Chitrapur Saraswat youths are no less…. They have all the courage and intelligence, to become a successful entrepreneur and hence it is time for the community to come together and do our best to support and encourage them.

Amongst the different Saraswat communities, Chitrapur Saraswats are comparatively very few in numbers when it comes to business. A rough estimate shows that they are just one to two percent of the total Aamchi population. We need to change this scenario and collectively try to create and develop Aamchis as a business community.

Our KSA has started KSA-CSN (Chitrapur Saraswat Networking) activities, through the KSA-CSN taskforce. Networking being key for success in any business, KSA-CSN facilitates networking within the community through its networking platform for existing and future entrepreneurs, professionals and business consultants. The main objective is to guide, support, help and pool talents/resources and experiences through diverse type of interactions.

KSA-CSN taskforce is now very active and planning various activities like mulaqat, entrepreneur meets, one to one and one to many meetings, to bring entrepreneurial minds together and also promoting business through “Aamchi yellow pages”.

Finally in this era of start-ups and encouraging business environment in our country, our Chitrapur Saraswat youths must take that “First Step” towards entrepreneurship. As a community, through our various social organisations, we must come together and carry out various programmes and projects to encourage them for doing business.

I request all our esteemed organisations in Mumbai and other cities to come forward and together with our KSA-CSN, try to transform our community into a business community.

Let us commit ourselves for “Aamchi means Business”

With regards,

Kishore Masurkar
Dear Editor,

I am in total agreement with the views expressed by the Ex-Editor in the Reflections Column of March issue – about the improvements brought in the cover page design by Roopali Kapanadak Sawant of Printeresting. Ever since Roopali was given this responsibility 3 years ago from the year 2020 onwards, she has made sure that there is a continuous improvement in the KS Magazine cover design.

In this connection, I would also like to compliment the earlier Editor Mrs. Devyani Bijoor in selecting Roopali Kapanadak Sawant for this assignment in the year 2020, after assessing her capabilities.

My best wishes for further success of KS Magazine and welcome to you Mr. Ramkishore Mankekar in your new assignment as KS Editor.

Jairam Khambadkone

Corrigendum: The KSA Foundation Day report in the Feb.'23 issue (Pg. 21) has erroneously mentioned the First prize winner’s name in the Drawing competition for the year 2021-22 (12-15 years category) as Sameer Naimpalli. Kindly read it as “Swaraa Sameer Naimpalli”. The error is regretted.

Dear Editor,

I would like to pay a small tribute to Uday Mankikar, who we fondly called ‘Udaydada’!

His indomitable spirit for theatre, acting, direction and passion for writing, his candidness and will power really impressed me. I could only marvel at his amazing command over the Konkani vocabulary!

He used to relate so many funny anecdotes that happened during the dramas and his observations in his professional career, that we used to laugh till our sides ached.

In October, when KSA was to felicitate women achievers online, Udaydada suggested my name and insisted that I should do the Konkani compering. I was quite apprehensive, but he was confident that I would do a good job of it. Being my maiden experience, I bothered him several times but he had all the patience to listen to me and correct my pronunciation and diction where required.

We all will really miss him, but I am sure he will continue to support us as a guardian angel. Om Shanti.

Preeta Mankekar

KSA Magazine Editorial Policy encourages members/readers to contribute articles

The Editorial Policy formulated by the Managing Committee (MC) encourages KSA Members and readers to contribute articles for publication in the Magazine. Relevant extract of the policy is reproduced below for information:

Articles for publications are invited from anyone with preference to bhanaps (preferably by email in Word format) and will be published based on the decision of the Editorial Committee (EC). Articles must be beneficial to members in terms of enriching/enlarging their knowledge; perspectives; thinking etc generally giving pleasure of reading and evincing interest in a variety of subjects. The EC may advise the author to take the advertisement route which promotes individuals/families or business or activities that result in personal / organizational gains.

The author, whose article / letter is not published, will have the right to appeal to the KSA Managing Committee (MC) for redressal. The decision of the MC in this regard shall be communicated to the EC to look into the appeal. If the Editor/EC do not agree to the MC decision, they can appeal to the President/Vice President, whose decision will then be final and binding on both the MC & Editor/EC.
Hello Members,

As I pen this piece, at the outset, I would like to thank the KSA’s Managing Committee for nominating me as the Editor of ‘Kanara Saraswat’.

My mind goes back to almost 50 years (hey, I never realized it’s been that long!), when, as an enthusiastic teenager, I volunteered to become a part of the Editorial Committee and was welcomed with open arms by the team. It was the era of the letter press printing method, and the magazine was printed at the Sirur Printing Press. In the next issue, I will reproduce an article that I had written years ago for the Centenary issue, on the senior members of the Editorial Committee, with whom I had the great fortune of working and learning as a teenager.

This issue comes close on the heels of the International Women’s Day celebrations during March and hence, we have featured on our cover, five ladies who were felicitated and honoured for doing monumental work in their respective areas. And there is a sixth one, too, a celebrity in her own right – Mrs. Neela C Balsekar, who most appropriately, was the Chief Guest for the occasion.

I was watching the Oscars Awards live telecast and one memorable line that struck me was, the Best Actress Award winner, Michelle Yeoh, saying, “Ladies, don’t let anybody tell you that you are past your prime”. This, in a nutshell, was a wonderful tribute to all the ladies across the world!

While on the subject, one must also acknowledge the ladies who form part of the Editorial team of this magazine – Sujata Masurkar, Anjali Burde, Bhakti Ullal, Roopali Kapnadak Sawant, Anandita Balsavar and Aadya Nagarkatti, who work quietly behind the scenes and contribute in a big way to ensure that our popular KS magazine is ready on time. Then there are regular contributors like Dr. Sudha Tinaiker, Shailaja Ganguly and Sangita Pawar. And of course, Shobhana Rao (the Rock of Gibraltar in the KSA office!), her colleague Swati Nadkarni, and Anisha Udyavar Narayanan, who ensure that the magazine reaches readers across India and overseas. Take a bow, ladies!

Our community lost two great personalities – Kannada cine star Manu Ulpe aka Mandeep Rai in January and Lalita Lajmi, a multi-faceted personality during February. We offer our tributes to both of them in the ongoing pages.

We feature Ganesh Kandloor, a talented actor now turned Director, who makes movies with a strong social message, utilising homegrown talent in his native Udupi.

The irrepressible Maj. Gen. B N Rao, narrates a gripping account of Operation Cactus that was conducted in Maldives in the late 1980s.

70 years young Usha Ullal (nee Mundkur) goes down memory lane as a child spending her summer holidays in the village of Mundkur. Her story will resonate amongst all the 40 plus readers and they will definitely reminisce their own summer holidays when they were in school!

The KSA-CSN initiative is gradually gaining momentum and the events planned in April which are advertised in this issue, should provide more opportunities for potential Aamchi entrepreneurs.

In Movers & Shakers, we feature an amazing US based power couple, Jayshree and Vijay Ullal, and also, probably the first listing of a Bhanap’s company in the last few decades – Divgi TTS!

Along with other contributions sent in by our esteemed readers, our junior member from Pune, Vedant Heblekar takes us on a conducted tour of the famous Chitale’s factory with his friends.

Happy Reading!

Ramkishore M Mankekar
KANARA SARASWAT ASSOCIATION

Organises

A Senior Citizen PMs* Get together

On Sunday, 23rd April, 2023
From 9.30am onwards
In the KSA’s Shrimat Anandashram Hall, Talmakiwadi

Eligibility:
Pacchhis: 55 years and above
Maams: 60 years and above

Programme:
Lots of fun and frolic including music,
dance, Quiz, childhood activities and games,
followed by a sumptuous lunch.

Contribution:
Rs. 120 per person (for Breakfast and Lunch)

Please encourage all PMs* (Pacchhis and Maams) in the above age groups to attend in large numbers.

Last date of Enrolment:
Saturday, 15th April, 2023.

Contact KSA Office:
Shobhana / Swati: 022-23805655.
Email: admin@kanarasaraswat.in

Vandan Shiroor
(Hon. Secretary – KSA)

Sunil Ullal
(Hon. Secretary – Sports & Cultural Events, KSA)
WOMEN’S DAY FELICITATIONS

- ANJALI BURDE

The KSA’s 17th Annual programme for felicitation of Women Achievers from our community was held virtually, on 11th March, 2023 as part of the International Women’s Day celebrations. Ashwini Prashant, began the proceedings by welcoming Neela Balsekar, the Chief Guest for the event, the awardees, the Managing Committee members and the audience. This was followed by Sabha Prarambh Prarthana by Nivedita Nadkarni.

Praveen Kadle, President of KSA then addressed the participants. He mentioned that even in a developed nation like the USA, disparity in income levels between men and women for the same job still exists, with women earning 18% less than men. He then mentioned Samvit Sudha and the Parimochan schemes being close to his heart and how both these schemes have helped in empowering women from Shirali and the surrounding villages over the last 17 years since their inception. Through the Parimochan scheme around 1000 families have currently benefitted. With small interest-free loans, the beneficiaries have started their small household business and are not only supporting their families, but have also educated their children. He also proudly stated that there have been no defaults on these loans so far.

Ashwini Prashant and Chandrama Bijur then introduced the ladies who were honoured and each of them were virtually presented with a Memento by the Chief Guest, Neela Balsekar.

The awardees, whose photographs embellish our cover, recounted their journey and shared their recipe for success in their respective fields.

The online programme, which was well attended, concluded with Nivedita Nadkarni’s Vote of thanks and the Sabha Samapti Prarthana.

We give below profiles of the Chief Guest and all the awardees and congratulate them on their unique achievements.

Rekha Mavinkurve & Nandini Karanje

- Empowering women through self employment

Born in the year 1955 in Chennai, to a Telugu Mulakannadu Brahmin family, Rekha was the 5th among six children. Most of her childhood years were spent in North India, due to her father’s frequent transfers, who served in the Royal Indian Air Force before independence and later in the IAF until 1972.

She completed her schooling from the Air Force Kendriya Vidyalaya in 1971 and later graduated in Home Science in 1974. From 1975 to 1979 she worked as an office administrator in Hinditron dealing with the servicing of computers imported from DEL, Massachusetts, USA.

In 1975, she met Dilip Mavinkurve at the Canara Union and after a few weeks realised that he was their neighbour too!! They got married in 1979. When her husband got transferred, she had to quit working! During the subsequent 10 to12 years, she became a mother to three boys and they moved to many different places including the USA.

In 1992, when they were posted back to Bangalore from Delhi she met her close friend and classmate Nandini and they decided to do something from home and took a screen printing course. Wanting to do something creative, this seemed just the right thing. Nandini’s father allowed them to use one side of her apartment for their screen printing business and that’s how Novel Creations came into being.

In 1996, her family again had to move to the US and this time the posting lasted for five years. During this time Nandini continued with the unit and its activities.

In those five years in the US, she did a course in networking and became a qualified Microsoft Network Engineer. On return, she taught in a training institute for a while but her creative urges took over and she along with Nandini decided to launch URVEE.

Nandini Karanje

Nandini Shyam Karanje was born on 8th March 1955 in Trichy to Vasant and Ratna Bijoor. She graduated in Home Science in 1971.

After her marriage to Shyam Karanje, and after living in Bangalore, Mangalore, Pune, Mumbai
and Hyderabad, they moved back to Bangalore in 1989. She has two children - a son and a daughter.

In 1992, Nandini and her friend Rekha Mavinkurve, her classmate from college decided to attend a course in screen printing and do something from home. Their children were school going and they had some free time to spare in between their household duties. Nandini’s father allowed them to use one side of her apartment for their screenprinting business and that’s how Novel Creations came into being. They printed office stationery, posters, flyers, calendars and wedding cards. Over the years they began printing books, especially books for our Chitrapur Math.

At Urvee they work together to impart various artistic skills to uneducated and underprivileged women, thus empowering them in their journey to become economically stable. At Urvee recycled and handmade paper is used to make beautiful stationery items and other decorative and useful products.

They also design exclusive wedding cards from paper that is 100% recycled and eco-friendly as no trees are cut to source this paper.

**Mangala Chandavarkar**

*Social Awareness in slums and schools*

Mangala was born soon after India got her Independence from the British. Her parents Suneeti and Dr. Dayashankar Anandrao Koppikar were both extremely loving and kind hearted. Her father hailed from a family of doctors and always followed the motto of ‘service before self’ hence the value of philanthropy was deeply instilled within her.

After schooling at the Queen Mary School, she graduated from Wilson College with Honours in English Literature and Sociology. She married Ashok Chandavarkar, who belonged to the humanitarian, and ever-loving family holding the same values as her. Furthermore, her mother-in-law, was an epitome of humility and selflessness.

Ashok, who was working at FDC, a pharmaceutical company founded by his father, Late Anand Chandavarkar, joined Rotary Club of Bombay Seacoast and became its President in 2000-01. Both were actively involved in social service, and through Rotary, they helped in Polio eradication programme in Mumbai and few of its outskirts. They used to go door-to-door in the slums of Khar and Jogeshwari and even went to the villages of Gaurapur, Wada in the late 1990s. She was Innerwheel President in 93-94 and got recognised for her contributions through an award on Woman’s Day in March 2021.

For over 30 years, Ashok and Mangala have been organising medical camps at schools in Wada and Mumbai serving over 1000 children annually. She has been actively involved in these camps, and has helped many in need of special attention for better investigations and, sometimes, surgeries too. The medical camps have helped to make the students healthier. In recognition of their involvement in helping and uplifting the underprivileged, they have received several laurels and trophies over the years.

Her hobbies include writing and music. Her article in the KSA on Sant Umabai Arur, the author of our Guruparampara Epic, was chosen by Dharmapracharak Raigopal Bhatmam in his book titled, ‘Guru Bhodhamrut’. During HH Swami Sadyojat Shankarashram’s camps at Santacruz she has written many skits from our HH Guru’s lives for sadhakas and Prarthana varg children. Recently she has written a book on the lives of Sants of Pandharpur titled ‘Vithal’ using the pen name ‘Charantulsi’.

She and her husband had taken the pilgrimage to Kailash Mansarover with HH Swami Sadyojat Shankarashram.

Both have also participated in the Bombay Standard Chartered Marathon dream run to commemorate 300 years of our Guruparampara. Also, on 18 Dec 2022, they ran the Josh Juhu Marathon.

They are blessed with two children who also follow in their footsteps.

**Ashwini Arvind Bhat**

*Spiritual Awareness*

Ashwini Arvind Bhat is a fulltime performer of various religious activities which include Kirtans, Bhajans, Geet Ramayan, Shiv Puran amongst others since the last 37 years.

After completing 36 years of service as Deputy Manager (IT Division) with Air India, she has now taken up full time occupation as a performer of religious activities both within India and abroad.

Some major highlights of her career (as religious singer) are as follows:

*Contd. on page 13*
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909, 9th Floor, Lodha Supremus, Road No. 22, MIDC, Wagle Estate, Thane West, Thane - 400604.
• Kirtan Alankar Degree from the prestigious Akhil Bharatiya Kirtan Sanstha in 1991.
• Kirtan Ratna Award at the Kalidas Pandit Sabha in Ujjain.
• Kirtan Ratna Award from Dombivali Kirtan Kul.
• 1st Prize in Kirtan Competition held at the Brahman Seva Mandal in Girgaum.
• Kirtan Ratna Award twice from Jagat Guru Shankaracharya of Karveer Peth in Kolhapur.
• Performed Bhajans, Kirtans, Pravachans, Geet Ramayan, Shiv Puran and other religious activities in major cities in India.
• Performed Kirtan at Shri Ram Mandir in Southall, London and other temples in Mauritius.
• Her performances have been telecast on Doordarshan and Akashvani (All India Radio) in the 1990s.

Neeta Koppikar

- Women Empowerment and Education

Neeta was born in 1966, in the small town of Ankola in Karwar District, Karnataka. She completed her schooling and later graduated in Arts from Gokhale Centenary College, Ankola. Later she studied and completed her B.Ed at the Kamala Baliga College, Kumta.

She began her teaching career at Durgadevi School, Hubli in 1990 and taught there for two years. Her mother Radhabai was the motivational force in pursuit of her passion, which was teaching.

After her marriage in 1992, she joined her mother-in-law, Smt. Shila Koppikar at Dharwad, and assisted her in running 'Disneyland Nursery School' that she had established in 1987. She was groomed and trained by her mother-in-law for a period of 8 years.

She later took on the reins of running and managing the school from the year 2000 onwards, due to her mother-in-law's failing health due to old age. During this period, she was instrumental in bringing about a total metamorphosis in the educational system and teaching methods at the school. She also visited a few schools at Pune, and implemented new methods and best practices that were being used there.

She started employing women, who were facing financial difficulties, like divorcees, widows, or those who were economically weak. She undertook grooming sessions for such women, taught them correct pronunciations in English, through phonetics etc.

She made them qualify for D.Ed., by paying their fees and helped them financially, in addition to the salary which they were paid. All of them were provided with ESI & EPF facilities, to support their medical expenses and their families. Around 4-5 staff members were able to avail the ESI benefits and undergo their maternity expenses free of cost.

Apart from imparting free education to her staff member’s children, she also provides free education, books and uniform to around 10 children coming from an economically weak background every year.

On insistence of working parents, she also started the Day Care & Creche facility, where fresh homely food is provided to the children. Currently the Creche is accommodating around 10 to 15 children. A very cordial and loving atmosphere is maintained at the creche to give the children a happy and a homely experience.

Her passion to give the best education to the students of Disneyland School, was the driving force in starting the Primary school in a new premises at Saraswatpur, Dharwad in 2014, for Class I to Class V. Here a Gurukul type of ambience is maintained, wherein the children are taken outdoor, and made to sit in the garden under the trees for their classes.

The students are taught to recite Sanskrit Shlokas, and small meditation sessions are held for the students of the Primary School, with OMKAR being played in the background over the Public Address system.

Neeta is also involved along with her husband, in providing help and support to the senior Amchi citizens at Dharwad, by visiting them in person, or keeping in touch with them over the phone regularly and helping them as and when required. During important festivals, the senior citizens are invited for lunch and a small get-together, which ensures that they feel comfortable, and happy since they are away from their loved ones.

Chief Guest, Neela Chaitanya Balsekar

Neela Chaitanya Balsekar graduated from St. Xaviers College, Mumbai, with a BSc in Microbiology in 1960.
She got married almost immediately after graduating but kept alive her passion for learning and literature. She has over the years done courses in Documentary Commentary, Cosmetology and even learnt the Japanese language.

Her knowledge of commentary held her in good stead during her long stint as a reader for ‘Happy Home’ a school for Blind Students and also in the Talking Book Foundation where audio versions of college books were created for Blind Students.

Further, she has written several commentaries on great Saints such as Sant Kabir, Sant Janabai, Shri Hari Baba of Phaltan, Mataji Krishnabai of Kanangad and our very own and highly revered, Param Pujya Anandashram Swamiji. These commentaries were narrated by her as part of the Kirtan programs performed by the Mahila Mandal Bhajan Group. These Kirtan programs have been performed several times in the presence of Swamiji. She has also on a couple of occasions done Katha Kathans in Chicago.

She has also been invited several times by the All India Radio for Katha Vachan on their Konkani program.

Some years ago, with her knowledge of Cosmetology she developed many cosmetic products and also ran a successful business in cosmetics for many years.

In more recent years she has been writing Marathi short stories for magazines, many of which have won prizes in competitions run by these Magazines. The stories have been compiled and published as two books. She has also recently, researched and published another book in Marathi, titled ‘Prasiddhi Pasun Dur Rahilele Sant’ which is a book about the lives of 10 very powerful, but lesser known Saints, who have stayed away from the limelight.

Neela Balsekar has always been recognised by her family and friends as an outstanding cook. Recently with the help and encouragement of her daughter-in-law Rupa, she has started a YouTube cooking channel titled ‘Amchi Cooking with Amma’ which features traditional Amchi dishes and preparations.

Even today, at the age of 84, she keeps herself busy by continuing to write short stories, articles and now, making short videos for her Cookery Channel.

***

ELECTION NOTICE-2023

Nominations are invited for 3 vacancies on the Managing Committee for the year 2023-2024 of the Kanara Saraswat Association arising due to the following.

Vacancies caused by retirement under Rule 13
1. Shri Ullal Sunil Gopalkrishna
2. Shri Surkund Krishnakishore Annaji
3. Shri Shiroor Vandan Shantaram

Nomination paper containing the candidate’s name in full and his/her consent to contest the election and subscribed by not less than two members of at least one year’s standing as proposed and seconded should reach the Hon. Secretary at the KSA office on or before Saturday May 06, 2023 by 7.00 p.m.

By order of the Managing Committee
April 01, 2023
Mumbai

Vandan Shiroor
Hon. Secretary

KANARA SARASWAT ASSOCIATION
13-1/2, Association Building, Talmakiwadi, Javji Dadaji Marg, Tardeo, Mumbai 400007.
Phone: +91 22 23802263 * WhatsApp: +91 88795 57356
Manu Ulpe aka Mandeep Rai, Kannada star of Comedy

Compiled from conversations with Manu’s daughter, Akshata Bhat, his brother, Anoop Ulpe and online media sources.

Mandeep Rai (Manu Somesh Ulpe), veteran Kannada film actor, passed away on January 29, 2023 from a cardiac arrest at the age of 73 at Bengaluru. He had made the capital of Karnataka his Karma bhoomi, appearing in more than 500 films in Kannada cinema spanning over 4 decades.

He was named Maruti by his grandmother when he was born in Mumbai on 4th April, 1949. However, in school, his name was registered as Deepak. But later on in life, he came to be known as Manu. During his days in Mumbai, he began learning the art of acting in Talmakiwadi. Under veteran directors like Sundergopal Golikeri, Venkat Talgeri and Dada Mavinkurve etc., Manu’s acting skills flowered and every time he came on stage during the Diwali celebrations in Wadi, he would draw continuous laughter showing his flair for timing and comedy. Just his facial expressions would evoke titters from the audience!

His school friend was Anant Nag (Nagarkatti). He was also close to Shankar Nag and the influence of the Nag brothers drew Mandeep deeper into theatre activities. His performance in the Marathi play ‘Pandhari’ as a waiter in a hotel was realistic and powerful and he came to the notice of the theatre world. His close association with the Nag brothers eventually made him shift to Karnataka. Here, Manu Ulpe transformed into Mandeep (Manu and Deepak) Rai and went on to blaze new trails, as a comedian par excellence in the Kannada (Sandalwood) film industry.

Minchina Ota, a crime thriller and one of Shankar Nag’s finest films was Mandeep’s debut film in 1980. There is a story which indicates that ‘Destiny does call’. The character which Mandeep was to play had been given to another actor by Shankar Nag. When that actor did not turn up on the sets for 5 days, Shankar Nag offered the role to Mandeep. Even though Mandeep could not converse in Kannada, guided by Arundhati Nag, theatre director-actor and Shankar’s wife, he gave a sterling performance as a corrupt police constable Thimmaiah, which impressed M S Sathyyu, legendary film maker and theatre doyen. The film also starred the Nag brothers and Priya Tendulkar. Mandeep acted with Shankar Nag in many of his films.


Shankar Nag brought out the best in Mandeep and his comic style left the audiences craving for more. Some of his notable performances were in Accident, Akasmika, Ayya, Dharod (2008), Gajapati Garvabhanga, Geetha (1981), Sixer (2007) and Yelu Suttina Kote (1987).

Many of his films were hits and their success was attributed solely to Mandeep’s talent.

Malgudi Days, a popular TV series in 1986 on Doordarshan based on R K Narayan’s short story collection of the same name, Swami and Friends and the Vendor of Sweets was directed by Shankar Nag and later by Kavitha Lankesh. It had a cast of veteran actors including Girish Karnad, Anant Nag, Shankar Nag and Arundhati Nag. Mandeep Rai played the character of Narasimha, the cousin of Jagan who is the Sweet Vendor. The role won him accolades and he later dubbed for the Hindi version of the series.

Mandeep acted alongside legendary actors including Dr. Rajkumar, Ambarish, Dr. Vishnuvardhan, Kamal Haasan and Amol Palekar. Mandeep will be remembered for his unique talent in comedy which was clean, had superb timing and liked by audiences of all age.

Mandeep leaves behind his wife Sunetra, daughter Akshata, son-in-law Pramod Bhat and scores of fans.

May his atma attain Sadgati.

***
Financial independence for women

- RAJESH HATTANGADY

"A woman's best protection is the little money of her own. For her, it's important to be financially independent."

While this may sound a cliche, most of us neither know the ways nor the means to celebrate financial independence. And I am not even talking about making her woman’s day special.

Let's visit few real life scenarios:

Scenario #1: A family loses its male sole earner, leaving behind the lady to support herself and her two kids.

Scenario #2: A lady working in the corporate life taking tough financial decisions lacks a say in her own financial matters.

Does anyone of this sound familiar?

The scenarios may be many, yet while the lady has a say in every aspect of life and is always on the job 24x7, we find her in a weak position when it comes to financial matters.

All financial decisions are done keeping in mind the future of the family (woman).

Why then do we find that whenever there is any financial discussion, we find her most often in the kitchen than on the discussion table?

The first and foremost thing that both (man and woman) of the house/ father and daughter have to do is to sit together and discuss money. Money isn't a taboo subject to talk about. In fact, it will turn taboo if one is completely obsessed about it. Remember, Money isn't a subject that is taught in school, one has to learn it at home.

Secondly, one has to keep the woman involved in every financial discussion that we have in the house. It’s fine to let go of the tea during a discussion or have to answer a stupid childish financial question if it is going to help the family in the future.

In my many years of experience in this field, I have seldom seen a man bail out a family in distress - it's always been a woman in the form of a mother, wife, daughter or sister.

A recent survey showcased that a woman plans 10-15 years ahead of her than a male who usually thinks short term. Doesn’t that automatically qualify her to be a master strategist at financial matters and she should be financially empowered?

That brings me to the point that one needs to also learn the ways to spend wisely. Spending means prioritising. And this comes with better understanding of money.

However, the reason we lack in financial matters are two pronged. The lady apparently feels allowing the male to decide for her financial future is fine since he is doing everything for her. This attitude of outsourcing sets a dangerous precedent. One, it keeps the lady oblivious of the benefits that she is entitled to and secondly, it restricts her thought process to plan her life.

Or does she do it only to massage the male ego?

Imagine every household has investments and insurance where the woman is nominated. Let's ask the lady these questions:

Does she know where the financial papers are kept?
Does she know what the investments and insurance are all about? What’s in it for her?
Does she know what steps to take, in any eventuality in life?
Does she know whom to approach to encash upon these assets?

The above is in complete contrast to the items kept in the house or the placement of things she
has stored in the kitchen. She has those things on her fingertips, then why not financial matters?

It is said that a daughter is closer to her dad as much as a son is to his mother. Yet the scenario changes over time as the father empowers the son on financial matters and tells the daughter, “I will decide them for you, don’t worry.”

Imagine you are looking at the photo frame of Ganesh, Saraswati and Laxmi. There is more to this image than just imagery and religious values.

**Our ancestors have left behind a profound message for all of us:**

While we find the God of wisdom, Ganesh and Goddess of knowledge, Saraswati are seated, the Goddess of wealth and prosperity, Laxmi, is always standing. Getting deeper into the imagery, one finds that, “if we don’t treat or understand finance (Goddess Laxmi) well, she leaves our house and seeks another. And once she bids goodbye to us, it’s difficult to invite her back”.

It is this message that I want to leave with you: treat the woman with dignity and respect. Dignity means doing things that one seeks to do, plan to fulfil. And empowering the woman financially can help her achieve both. Financial Empowerment is the key to a woman’s overall wellness and health.

What better day to start than today. It’s time to foot the bill, who better than us!

*Rajesh Hattangady, Founder of THiiNK since 2003. He is a financial planner, and serves more than 650 families across Insurance & Investments. He conducts regular sessions on financial planning online and offline. He can be reached on 9821434512 or rajesh@thiink.in*

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ANNOUNCEMENT

KSA-CSN Team

(KANARA SARASWAT ASSOCIATION-CHITRAPUR SARASWAT NETWORK)

Supported by Canara Union, Bengaluru is pleased to announce a Physical Meeting

“CSN – The PATH AHEAD”

“An INTRODUCTION & INTERACTION”

(Open to ALL)

On Saturday 15th April 2023 @ 10 AM at Canara Union Hall, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru

Meeting will be presided over by Vice President–KSA – Shri Kishore Masurkar, Vice President– Canara Union – Shri Prakash Jothady and KSA Hon. Treasurer Shri Hemant Kombrabail

**Brief about the event**

a) We are working towards having Amchi Business and Corporate Dignitaries would be invited to grace the occasion and meet the attending entrepreneurs.

b) Presentation by CSN Team “ CSN-The Path Ahead”

c) Q & A session with CSN Team

d) Talks by Domain Experts (To be announced)

e) Each attendee would be given the chance to offer a very brief self introduction.

f) Few members already in business would be happy to meet Aspirant Entrepreneurs and share their experiences

g) Working Lunch will be served after the meeting

**Why attend:**

Opportunity for Bengaluru Bhanaps in Business / Self Employment to know more about KSA-CSN and interact with existing and potential CSN members.

Opportunity to meet CSN members from Mumbai, Mysuru and places geographically proximate to Bengaluru Bhanaps who are not entrepreneurs presently, would become aware about how they could help fellow Amchi Business Owners

Detailed programme would be circulated separately and uploaded on the KSA website..

Please do attend in large numbers and join in our Community Service efforts

KSA Managing Committee and CSN Team.

(FREE ATTENDANCE with Pre-Registration via Google form to be provided)

or use QR Code below for Google Form.
Lalita Lajmi passed away on February 13, 2023 at the age of 90 in Mumbai. In a career spanning over 5 decades she was an unparalleled watercolourist, her works narrating a layered history of the modern Indian woman in post-Independence India.

Lalita Lajmi was born on October 17, 1932 in Calcutta. Her father Shivshankar Rao Padukone was a headmaster in South Kanara and later was with Burmah Shell in Calcutta. Her mother Vasanti was a poly-lingual writer. Guru Dutt, the legendary film actor-director-producer and Atmaram, film director were her elder brothers. Devidas (film producer) and Vijay (advertising) were her other brothers. She grew up in Bhowanipore. Her mother’s cousin Balakrishna B Benegal who was a film publicist in Calcutta introduced her to painting. He brought a box of paints and sent her work for a competition where she won her first prize.

The family moved to Matunga in the 1940s. She started painting seriously in the 1960s and took part in a group exhibition of the Progressive Artists’ Group at the Artist’s Centre, Bombay in 1960 and in 1961 she held her first solo exhibition at Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai under the mentorship of K H Ara, the renowned painter. Even before the exhibition she sold her first painting to Dr. Heinzmode, a German art collector at Shantiniketan for the same price that Ara charged. Her first exhibitions were sold out but later she found it difficult.

So for over two decades, she taught at Campion School and Convent of Jesus & Mary. Later she enrolled in the JJ School of Art for her Masters. While teaching, she worked with disabled and underprivileged children. She continued to learn and make art and teach others, becoming a source of inspiration in her own right. Her honesty, curiosity and stubbornness to create kept her interested in new techniques and materials even at the cost of her health.

Lalita Lajmi was a self-taught artist. She studied the art of intaglio and etching in the evening at the JJ School of Art from 1973-76. She set up a graphic press in her kitchen and working through the night using electrical light, she made amazing use of grisaille and sepia tones. These prints later travelled to exhibitions supported by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations to West and East Germany in 1983. This portfolio, “The Mind’s Cupboards” narrated the story of early Indian feminism. Her initial works carried autobiographical elements and were melancholic while her later works depict men and women in roles that reflect hidden tensions and were optimistic. Her women, where she also uses the images of Durga or Kali, are assertive and individualistic. Her works also showcase the natural bonding between mother and daughter. The images in her works are metaphors with multiple references to relationships, dream sequences and identities. The Clown, the Mask and the Skull represent the roles we perform in life. Her works have been displayed in art galleries in India and she has held exhibitions in international art galleries in Boston, Los Angeles, Germany, Paris, London and Holland. Two of her etchings were selected for “India Festival” 1985, USA. The films made by Guru Dutt influenced her work nurtured by her innate passion for dance, art and cinema.

In the 2007 film ‘Taare Zameen Par’, of a dyslexic child whose potential shines through art, she gave a guest appearance as the judge for an art competition. She also did costume designing for a play by Amol Palekar and worked as a graphics artist in the movie Aghaat.

Lalita Lajmi was the recipient of the Government of India Junior Fellowship from 1979 to 1983. She won the ICCR travel grant for exhibitions to Germany in 1983 and to USA in 1997. Her works are held in collections in Mumbai in the National Gallery of Modern Art and the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalya Museum (earlier Prince of Wales Museum) and the British Museum. Her works include ‘Homage to Freeda Kahlo’, ‘Woman with a Blue Bird’ (oils on canvas), ‘Dance of Life and Death’ (water colour) and many more.

Lalita Lajmi was married to Captain Gopi Lajmi, a merchant navy sailor. Her daughter Kalpana Lajmi was a renowned Hindi film director. She is survived by her son Devdas.

May her atma attain Sadgati.

***
Mythology has it that, during the sixteenth century, our forefather escorted the caravan shifting our Kuldev Shri Laxminarayana Mahamaya from the troubled Goan village to Ankola. After the establishment of the deity at Ankola, our forefather migrated down south where he got appointed as Senadikhari by the King of Sagara, a city near Shivamogga in Karnataka. After active service, our ancestors then settled in the beautiful village Hattangadi on the banks of river Varahi. As was customary in those days, the prominent and the well placed persons, constructed Temples to tread the path of devotion. Besides, a Temple would inevitably provide for a suitable setting for Dharmic activities, upanayanams, marriages and for observing other cultural and social activities in the village, including education. Accordingly Shri Shankarnarayana Temple, to cherish the confluence of Sri Shankara and Narayana, was constructed as per the prevailing tradition with beautiful intricately carved wooden ceiling panels and pillars. Our ancestor by then had acquired considerable landed properties at the village, which was then known as Gostapura and adequate lands were also gifted to the temple for maintaining its activities.

As per the prevalent oral records and also some details narrated by late Rao Bahadur Talmaki in his book of 1936, the families of our Moolapurush expanded and migrated to various places for vocation, and assumed name of local places as Surnames. Thus, all Vatsyagotri (also known as Srivatsyagotris) who owe allegiance to Shree Laxminarayana Mahamaya of Ankola – such as Baindur, Balsavar, Kundapur, Hattangadi, Murdeshwar, Padukone, Padukone Bhat, Ullal, and Vombatkere including Salem Branch, are all Hattangadikars and bonafide Kulavis of the Temple.

As per history passed down orally, the temple came under the management of Sri Hattangadi Ramachandrayya during early 18th century. During his time he got initiated by Sadguru Shri Ramavallabh Das Ji a Maharashtrian saint. He advocated Shri Krishnajanmashtamy Vrath during Gokulashtami at the temple. During this period, Guruji had initiated the Vrath first at Mallapur and then to various other places down south like Hemmadi, Hattangadi, Brahmvavar and even up to present Kerala state. At present day however, the Vrath is strictly observed as per dictum, for nearly a month at Mallapur Avadi Math and our Temple at Hattangadi. In other places it lasts for about 15 days or less.

After Sri Hattangadi Ramachandrayya, the temple affairs were taken over by his second son Justice Kundapur Shankarnarayana Rao (adopted by his own uncle Subba Rao whose surname was Kundapur). He was the first Justice to have taken over the High Court of Mysore as the Chief Justice from the British. Sri Shankarnarayana Rao had been decorated by the King of Mysore as ‘Raja Dharma Prasakta’. He had supported many Bhanaps and students of other poor families. He was instrumental in establishing the Scout and Guide movement in Karnataka being its first Boy Scout Commissioner, for many decades till his passing away. He was also decorated with the Silver Wolf, the highest decoration in Boy Scouts the world over from Lady Baden Powel. His brothers Dr. Gangadhar Rao and Sri Keshava Rao were lending their helping hands. Subsequently, the mantle of administering the temple activity fell on his brother Dr. Gangadhar Rao’s son, Dr. Manjunath practising at Mandya. Shankarnarayan Rao’s wife Smt Laxmi Bai, and later Manjunath’s wife Smt Radha Bai had managed the affairs of the temple. They dared the furious monsoons, travelling from Bangalore to Shivamogga and then to Siddapur by bullock cart, from there to Kundapur by Steam powered buses, and finally to Hattangadi by small row boats. Temple affairs were being totally financed till 2009 by the direct progeny of Sri Ramachandriah.

Our ancestors had set aside 100 ‘muras’ (about 4200 kg) of rice yielding property towards maintenance of the temple. But on account of the Land Reforms Act, almost all of it has been lost to the tenants. However, time took its toll on the temple, and by 1965 or so, wooden structures had started deteriorating mainly due to termite infestations, and all written records were also lost. In that year, with the assistance of family members especially Sri Prabhakar Kundapur, last son of Sri Shankarnarayana Rao, the temple building was renovated. From 1975 the management of temple activities came to Dr. Ashok Kundapur and his wife Smt Prameela Kundapur.

In the year 2008 or so, some Vatsyagotris approached His Holiness Parama Poojya Srimad Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji for solace from difficulties when He guided them to pay homage to their family Moola Naga and ancestral family Temple at Hattangadi. Thus, many Vatsyagotri families reunited at the Temple almost after three generations. So as to commemorate the event Punarpratishta of the Shree Shankarnarayana Deva and Moolanaga in the ancestral Nagaban were performed in a grand manner. During this period late Smt Indumathi, wife of Sri Nagesh Hattangadi, felt the need for construction of a guest house and donated almost Rs. 8 lakhs from her personal savings. Two years ago, a beautiful Deepasthamba has been installed by Kulavis.

In a special meeting held at the residence of Sri Gourang Kundapur at Vile Parle, it was proposed to establish a Shashwath Fund, because temple rituals like Daily viniyogas, Trikala poojans, Shivarathri and other festivities and Shree Krishnajanmashtamy being the major event are being performed only with contributions of a small group. Hence initially a target of Rs. 50 L was set, the interest income of which, if not all, most of the temple activities can be managed. But so far only a small percentage of the same has been collected. Expenses include apart from Viniyogas, maintenance and repairs of temple and its premises.

Shree Shankarnarayana Temple, is our Kutumb Temple. In a way this group forms one of the largest groups among Chitrapur Saraswat. Now time appears to have ripened for all Kulavis to join hands in paying regular visits to the temple, participate in its activities, contribute generously and help to bring back its past richness and blaze of glory.

One of the Kulavi has promised to donate over Rs. 8 L provided if we can issue Certificate under 80G of IT Act. With 80G certificate one can get 50% tax exemption from Income Tax on the amount donated. So we were constrained to launch a Charitable Trust to seek 12A and 80G benefit.
Shree Shankarnarayana Temple, Hattangadi

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Moola Naga of Hattangadikars

Presiding Deity
Shree ShankArarayana Dev

Decoration during Krishnajanmashtami

Krishna Murthy purported to have been given to us by Shree Ramavallabh Das

Decorated Aarthi Paleru

Deepasthambha installed recently
Ganesh Kandloor has been a popular name in Udupi. He has acted, directed many Konkani and Kannada dramas since his college days. He has acted in Shankar Nag’s famous Hindi TV Serial MALGUDI DAYS in the 1980s. He also featured in UJWAADU (2011) Konkani movie directed by well-known actor/director Kasargodu Chinna.

Being an Amchi talent in remote Udupi, he didn’t get much exposure in Mumbai and Bengaluru. Recently, his third Kannada short movie BAADIGE TAAYI (Mother on Rent) a story about surrogate motherhood was released at a function on 11th February, 2023. At the same time, we had organized a showing of all his three Kannada short movies in Udupi. All the actors and technicians who had worked on the films, were invited.

Here’s a brief synopsis of all three movies directed by Ganesh Kandloor.

**JEEVA** (released in 2016). Producer: Satish S Murdeshwar

Story of an autistic boy whose step mother leaves him at some remote place. The story ends with how he reaches ‘SPANDANA SCHOOL’ for Autism and chooses to live there.

This movie won awards for Best Direction, Best Actor, Best Music as well as Best Movie at the Karavali Short Film festival held in Udupi.

The uniqueness of this movie is that the lead character is played by an autistic child, Arvind who lives at the Spandana rehab center in Udupi. This may well be the first time, that an autistic person has played the main role in any short film!

Kasargodu Chinna said that if JEEVA was made on a bigger scale, it could have definitely bagged a State Level Award. He appreciated the courage, ideas and dedication of Ganesh Kandloor for giving his bets in creating such thought provoking films that carry a social message.

**VIMUKHA** (2015): Producer: Shashibhushan Kini. It’s a story of an adopted girl, who is given so much importance and love by the parents that she develops ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder – which can happen to kids). This starts when the mother gives birth to a baby boy. She feels neglected by her adopted parents and takes an extreme step to run away. How she realizes her mistake is the story.

**Baadige Taayi** (2023) Producer- Satish S Murdeshwar

A story of a mother who chooses to carry her daughter’s child as the daughter is unable to give birth. The film dwells into all the problems that a surrogate mother might go through, especially if she’s in her middle age.

In all the three films, Ganesh Kandloor has given preference to the local talents of Udupi. His films and dramas are always with a strong social message.
My Profession as a registered Pharmacist

- VASANTH N NADKARNI

I joined our family concern, a well-known medical shop then, called as The Popular Stores, Malleswaram, on Sampige Road, Bangalore-560003, started by my beloved father Late Narayana Ramachandra Nadkarni, in the year 1931. It was a landmark in those days, for people to identify.

Initially it was a stationery shop, selling school books, later on added general merchandise, cosmetics and finally became a full pledged Chemists and Druggist shop.

My father was called by a nickname as Dear NANNA, NANNY, by his friends like Shriyuts Mohan Someshwar, P.G.Dhareshwar, M.R. Nilekani, S.R Mudubidri, Aroor Rathnakar Rao, Bellare Bhavani Shankar Rao, Dr. H. Panduranga Rao, etc etc.

My experience in dispensing Pharmacy started under the able guidance of my beloved father N.R. Nadkarni, my most loving eldest cousin brother Sri. Rajaram Vittal Nadkarni and Rama Rao Taggarse (My maternal Grandfather), who taught me as to how to read a prescription of a Regd. Medical Practitioner, understand it and later dispense the medicines carefully and properly without making any mistakes.

As all of you know very well, generally the prescriptions were illegible and were difficult to read, except for a few doctors with a very good handwriting.

Then, to count the Tablets, as in earlier days many of the medicines used to come in bulk packing in big bottles - plastic and glass, for example Rastinon tabs (which were then prescribed for diabetes) by Hoechst. Yeast tablets manufactured by Squib and later by Alembic company and Gardenal tablets, vitamin B complex, & C.P.M, soda mint etc., manufactured by unlike the aluminium foils (strip pack), we had to use plastic spoons and a bowl to count them, and then to pack them in paper covers, name them properly and dispense.

Many people perhaps still remember taking glass bottles with dose markings on it. Mixtures from doctors as most of the doctors used to prepare mixtures for common ailments like, flu cough, cold, loose motions, etc... etc and those mixtures used to cure the above ailments fast like wonder drugs.

With due respects and regards, I wish to write that the most difficult handwriting to read the prescriptions, by eminent and most popular doctor in Malleswaram, was Dr. T. Parthasarathy of Eastern pharmacy on Sampige road, 7th Cross, a few steps away from our medical stores. Dr. T. Parthasarathy used to come up well dressed like a perfect European, with nice suit pant and matching tie, and a felt hat, shoes of different colours daily. He was quite tall and always smiling - his mere look itself used to give a magic cure to the ailments for the patients who used to come, even before they could take the medicines he used to prescribe.

Our chemist shop used to cater prescriptions written not only by the doctors from Malleswaram, but from nearby places like Seshadripuram, Srirampuram, Rajajinagar Yeshwantpur, Peenya, T. Dasarahalli, Nelamangala, Jalahalli Vyalikaval, Hesarghatta, etc, etc., as there
were very few chemist shops in those days. When I write about places I remember one more, most popular doctor Dr. M.G. Sheshadri from Sheshadripuram, a quite busy medical practitioner then.

He used to come almost seven days in a week, during midnights, to our house to wake me up for procuring emergency medicines - he used to come in a car, pick me up and drop me to our house, after taking the medicines.

In addition to this, there were many emergency calls by doctors and namely Dr. M.V Krishna Rao, Dr. H.K. Gopalakrishna Moorthy, Dr. M.S. Naganna for urgent needed medicines, as there were no 24 hours pharmacy during those days.

When I write about emergency calls, I wish to narrate about an incident when I was awakened at midnight by a popular Dr. L.P.Nagaraj from Hessaraghatta, who came up with a request of Anti snake Venom Serum, an antidote for snake bite, to treat a villager bitten by a snake.

There were many emergency need medicines which only our chemist shop used to stock.

I still remember the olden days, when I used to procure medicines, by riding on my Vespa Scooter, as there were no door deliveries by the Medical distributors or the companies then. I used to drop my youngest sister Miss Sunithi to her office M/s R.A. Rajagopala & Co., at Silver Jubilee Park Road and then had to go to collect medicines from firms like Glaxo, Martin & Harris, M. Sreenivasa Charlu & Co., Sandoz Spencer & Co.

I still remember some of the old and commonly used medicines, some of them were, peps and Glycodine Lozenges, Sucrets, Kempe & Co Figgs Syrup, Ring worm Oint., Ashoka oint, Nopain balm zambuk zeel thermometers, sea gold cod liver oil seven seas codliver oil and capsules; antistine tablets, antistine privene nasal spray, antistine nebuliser, M & B antiseptic cream Phenergan cream, coramine drops, coramine inj, Mexaform, Enterovioform. Cibazole, Elkosin sulphatriad sulpha Gaunidine madribon, sulfuno saptran.

Inj like procaine penicilln Strptomycin, pas. granules penitraid, pentid 400, pentid sulpha, zepherol cough syrp, Orisul tablets Aqva phycotis, (bengal immunity, atropineing, dextrose and normal saline I.V. mfg by Macgaw & Co, Carbokaolin Carbokaolin with Belledonna. Fairginol Liquid,fairginol obstractic cream. Biglucin and Bigludox I.V. inj etc. mfg by M/s Fairdeal Corporation, Mumbâi, pitocin, syntocinon, antigas gangarine inj, quinine sulphate, glycerine borax, mandals throt paint which was a common medicine for throat pain, doctors used to use along cotton swab to touch the small tongue, also dequadin throat paint dequadin lozenges.

Our shop was one among a few chemists to stock veterinary medicines then, like acetylarsan inj, mifix, calbarol Anthimolin ing, M & B, 693 tabs, procaine penicillin 20 laks, which were prescribed by first private veterinary practitioner then, by name Dr. P. Ram Rao who earlier served in govt. veterinary college at Hebbal.

Our shop used to cater the needs of Medicines for most of the Nursing Homes not only in Malleswaram area but also at Gandhi Nagar, Ulsoor and Cantt., in addition to most of the private medical practitioners of Malleswaram.

After the closure of our shop in the year 2009, I was associated with Mr. Suresh Tukaram of New Pushyamee Medicals, at 13th Cross, 8th Main Road, Malleswaram, apart from selling medicine on the counter, I used to deliver them on my way back home, even now I am in association with Mr. Suresh Tukaram but not in a position to be present in the Chemist Shop.

Finally, before I conclude writing my experience as a pharmacist in chemist shop, I wish to remember the services of all the sales persons who underwent training in our shop. Though I call them as fellow pharmacists.

Vasanth N Nadkarni

***
Our Mother the Great

Really, our mother, Shantabai Nadkarni, was the greatest among the great - she was really a Punyayi and Annapoorne also.

Our aunt Rukmabai.V.Nadkarni passed away in the year 1949, at this stage, we became a joint family of 17 members together, and my mother Shantabai Nadkarni, looked after them along with her own children. Our Mother took care of my cousin brothers and sisters who grew with as our own brothers and sisters and at no point of time there was any discrimination between us.

Our mother used to be called as Baiakka with all the love and affection by most of her relatives and Amchi friends like Smt. Ahalya Bellare, Smt. Mitra Bai Padukone, Mrs. Hosangadi Pachhi etc. etc.

But it was not an easy task for my mother. There was no cooking gas, no mixer or grinder, no pressure cooker in those good old days instead she had to manage with kerosene stove and coal Shigdi, ‘Dante’ and ‘Ragdo’. Just imagine how strong her muscles would have been to be in kitchen for more than six hours per day. It was also not easy to prepare lunch and dinner for a fairly big joint family in large brass and copper vessels, which are now seeing used for special occasions like Ganesha Gowri, Anniversaries and ‘Mhals’. My mother used to like joining and manage the entire kitchen ungrudgingly and always with a smiling face.

Our House used to be a holiday home for our relatives and close friends who used to visit Bangalore from Mumbai and other places for sightseeing or for a change. Our mother according to the occasion, would prepare special dishes and sweets to suit the taste of the guests, for buying vegetables to grocery was her responsibility. She showered love and affection to everyone whom she knew as her own kith and kin. But she is not forgotten by those who enjoyed her hospitality and love. She still was most loved and respected by all the members of our family and she was given highest regard by all the members of the family and her close friends in the community. This respect given to her gives us great pride and pleasure. Shanthabai, our mother was mother and sister to everyone who has known her.

By CHILDREN
Our dear Uday made a mark for himself in many fields. To begin with, he had learnt tabla under Pandit Taranath.

Talmakiwadi gave a great platform to Uday, to explore and exhibit his natural skills in theatre and dramatics.

Uday not only acted, but directed Konkani and Marathi plays. (incidentally - or was it the Plan of the Divine - that he and Roopa, his wife were Hero and Heroine of the famous Marathi play Sangeet Sharada, before they married.)

He worked for the Bank of India, and was instrumental in getting a number of prizes in drama competitions for the Bank.

Aditya, his son recounted the following incident:

Uday was posted at Kolhapur Branch, where he worked for three years. Before he joined there, the Branch used to take part in interbranch drama competitions, but came back empty handed.

In the very first year of his posting, the drama director of Pune Branch, met Uday before the performances and solicitously offered his services for the next year's competition, promising, " I will get you a prize!".

But that year, and for all the three years that Uday was there, Kolhapur branch got the first prize! The Pune Branch stood 2nd, that year! The director apologized to Uday saying, " Sorry! I didn’t know about your talents".

In spite of his left side getting physically affected, he performed "Sevas" at Karla, manning the Seva counter in the days it was manned in turn by people for one week at a time. He used to travel alone!

He translated the famous Marathi play, नटसम्राट by वि विरवाडकर in Konkani and it was a great honour to him and to the Chitrapur Saraswat Community, that, Sahitya Academy published it. Another of his translations was of Shakespeare's Othello, in Konkani which was commissioned by the University of Goa.

As an office bearer of the KSA, he was passionate about the status of KSA as an Amchi organization, and especially of the Holiday home, Nashik. He would not tolerate anyone taking the Institution lightly.

Uday always stood by his faith and by his principles. When he had rented a house in Goa, the landlord and he talked about the rent. It was agreed that whatever rent allowance he gets from the Bank, would be the rent. Soon after, the Bank revised the allowance and the next month, Uday paid the enhanced rent much to the surprise of the landlord, who at first refused to accept it. He relented only when Uday reminded him of the "clause" viz. the rent would be what he got from the Bank!

There was a deeply religious side of Uday. He had deep faith in our Kuladevi, Shantadurga of Kavle. He was a great devotee of Ganapati, and took pride in the annual चंद्रणी celebration at home (now gone on for more than 53 years). He used to visit हेदी गणपति, a जागृत स्थान, about 300 km down the coast. He revered our Math, Guruparampara, and had special audiences from Parama Pujya Parijnanashram Swamiji and from Parama Pujya Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji.

He was in the forefront of organizing the Datta Jayanti program in Talmakiwadi, which was initiated at the instance of Parama Pujya Parijnanashram Swamiji.

It is again a Divine coincidence that he passed away on the holy day for Ganesh devotees, मरा घवी, the day on which Ganesh took His form!

Uday had great faith in नरसोबावणी, which he visited whenever it was possible, during his posting in Kolhapur.

We pray for Sadgati to the departed soul. He will live in our memories forever.

***
A quick tour of Gupta Coinage

– KRISHNANAND KHAMBADKONE

The Gupta Empire was a powerful ancient Indian dynasty that ruled over a large portion of the Indian subcontinent from 320 to 550 CE. The empire was founded by Maharaja Sri Gupta and was based in Magadha (modern-day Bihar). The Gupta period is considered to be one of the golden ages of Indian history, marked by significant advances in science, mathematics, literature, art, and architecture.

Under the leadership of the Gupta emperors, the empire expanded its territory and maintained political stability, resulting in a period of cultural, economic and scientific growth. The Gupta court was a hub of intellectual activity and patronized scholars, poets, and artists, who produced some of the most remarkable works in Sanskrit literature, including Kalidasa’s plays and poems.

In the field of science and mathematics, the Guptas made important contributions, including the invention of the zero symbol, the discovery of the concept of infinity, and the development of the decimal system. Gupta art and architecture also flourished, with the construction of many Hindu temples, palaces, and Buddhist monuments, such as the Ajanta and Ellora Caves.

However, towards the end of the 5th century CE, the Gupta Empire began to decline due to invasions by the Huns, who were a nomadic Central Asian tribe, and internal rebellions. Despite its downfall, the Gupta Empire’s legacy continued to influence India and parts of Southeast Asia for centuries to come.

In conclusion, the Gupta Empire was a remarkable period in Indian history, marked by political stability, cultural and scientific achievements, and the flourishing of art and literature. Its legacy continues to shape India’s cultural heritage and identity.

Samudragupta 335–375 AD

Obverse: King standing with bow
Reverse: Lakshmi seated

Defeated several kings of northern India, and annexed their territories to his empire. He also marched along the south-eastern coast of India, advancing as far as the Pallava kingdom. In addition, he subjugated several frontier kingdoms and tribal oligarchies. His empire extended from Ravi River in the west to the Brahmaputra River in the east, and from the Himalayan foothills in the north to central India in the south-west; several rulers along the south-eastern coast were his tributaries.

Chandragupta II Vikramaditya 375–415 AD

Obverse: King standing with bow
Reverse: Lakshmi seated

Continued the expansionist policy of his father Samudragupta: historical evidence suggests that he defeated the Western Kshatrapas, and extended the Gupta empire from the Indus River in the west to the Bengal region in the east, and from the Himalayan foothills in the north to the Narmada River in the south.

Kumaragupta I 415–455 AD

Obverse: King riding horse
Reverse: Lakshmi seated left on stool, holding lotus and feeding a peacock at left

April 2023
Kanara Saraswat
Skandagupta I 455–467 AD

Obverse: King standing left, holding an Indian long bow in his left hand and an arrow in his right.

Reverse: Lakshmi seated facing, holding long-stemmed lotus and diadem,

It is stated that he restored the fallen fortunes of the Gupta family, which has led to suggestions that during his predecessor’s last years, the Empire may have suffered reverses, possibly against the Pushyamitras or the Hunas. He is generally considered the last of the great Gupta Emperors.

***

The KS Editorial Committee

invites enthusiastic volunteers with a strong hold on the Marathi language and those who can also translate/write articles from English and Marathi into Konkani.

The position is purely honorary and will require the selected volunteer’s complete attention during the first fortnight of every month. Those interested may please write to editor@kanarasaraswat.in alongwith some of their works, that have been published or otherwise.

Metamorphosis

People change like the tides of the sea, Flowing and shifting, endlessly free, Each passing moment, a new facet revealed, Transformations occurring, never concealed.

We start as children, innocent and pure, The world a vast, uncharted allure, Curious and playful, with wide-open eyes, With each passing day, growing in size.

Adolescence then comes, like a tempestuous storm, Moods and emotions, a daily new norm, Finding ourselves, discovering our place, Building our identity, at our own pace.

Adulthood arrives, with its weighty demands, Responsibilities mount, like shifting sands, Careers and families, all take their toll, Life’s path uncertain, with each new role.

As years pass by, our perspectives shift, Our values and beliefs undergo a lift, Challenges faced, and lessons learned, The wisdom of age, rightfully earned.

People change, a natural part of life, A journey of metamorphosis, through joy and strife, We all evolve, growing and transforming, Becoming the person, we were meant to be.

-Sankalp Shatanand Shukla (20 years)
An Experience with the young minds of Rural Schools...

—- RAMESH BALSAYER

Over the last few decades, our Chitrapur Saraswat Community has proved to be leading in giving Educational Aid and Free Scholarships to needful students in our community. But there are some Chitrapur Saraswats who go beyond their call of duty and help such needful students outside our community as well. This is a story of a Chitrapur Saraswat who spent most of his professional time in Corporate Life and later turned to helping needful children build their dreams. He is Sunil Mundkur of Pune and his wife Chetana Sunil Mundkur. He was working with Polaris Software Labs (now Virtusa) for many years. As a part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Polaris has an NGO by name Ullas Trust registered in Chennai. Sunil was instrumental in setting up the Pune Chapter for Ullas Trust in 2013.

The unique working model of Polaris and Pune Chapter of Ullas Trust was on this line: From Monday to Friday employees of Polaris would work on Software Development as regular paid employees. Those who wished to Volunteer their time for Ullas Trust activities, would offer their services on a “Volunteering Basis” from Friday evening after their working hours, till Saturday evening and even on Sundays. This was purely optional and without any obligations. Sunil opted to work for Ullas Trust ‘Pune Chapter’ during weekends and later on even his wife Chetana joined him. His daughter Neha also worked with him till she got married and migrated to Australia.

They started this work, as Volunteers and later took the responsibilities as Team Leads and Mentors. Basically, they would interact with students in Rural Schools of Maharashtra; dealing with young minds who did not have many facilities available in these backward areas; who came from a poor background; with no support from their parents besides the school fees being exorbitant! Pune Chapter of Ullas Trust has covered 77,000+ students over 8 districts, 40+ schools with nearly 400 scholarships awarded every year across Pune, Nashik, Kolhapur, Satara etc.

Around 25 volunteers participate every year. Sunil as a Mentor has influenced and guided 25+ associates/employees of Polaris/Virtusa at Pune to participate in these workshops with school children in rural areas. The discussion with the school students was on building their confidence by using a “CAN DO IT” approach, moreover, for the students of 9th and 10th Standard, to help them in deciding their higher education plans, time management etc. in achieving their dreams. Most of these volunteers enjoy the company of school children, they like to teach, and guide them. With the fresh inquisitive mind that they have, they also learn from these school children.

Over the years the volunteers have enjoyed weekend trips to these rural areas in the Company of these children. School teachers/headmasters also join them during the workshops, motivating the children. This instils a level of confidence in these children to have an attitude / approach of “CAN DO IT”. Involving the teachers helps in better communication with these young minds. The mantra followed by them is “Live Your Dream”. Children come to them with their Diary of Dreams and Planner Books to express their dreams and study plans.

There are instances, where children express their dreams of becoming Police / Défense Officers, Teachers, besides being Engineers, Software Engineers, Doctors and Lawyers. Volunteers also tell the Mentors how these children want themselves to be recognized in the society. An ex-student who completed her schooling some years ago and secured a doctorate was working in a European country, she was a poor student from a rural school. She returned to the school one day, met her teachers and the current students and turned into a Role Model!

Sunil has been awarded the Divisional Excellence award – Human Capital – Best CSR Contribution by Polaris Software Labs Ltd., for his volunteering work. Sunil took voluntary retirement from service in the year 2016. But Sunil and Chetana continue to volunteer and mentor these children till today. Kudos to Sunil and Chetana!

***

April 2023

Kanara Saraswat
Culinary treasures of India-Tamil Nadu

- ANJALI BURDE

Tamil Nadu is India’s southern-most state and is known for its rich cultural heritage and magnificent temples. Its rich cuisine reflects the various influences assimilated over the centuries from its rulers and traders. The cuisine is vastly influenced by its geographical regions be it the mountains, agricultural plains, coastal regions and dry regions. Rice dominates all three meals of the day. Along with rice, lentils, spices such as chilli and pepper, tamarind and coconut are widely used. Popular cooking medium is gingelly or til oil. Ghee is used for festival cooking.

Idli, dosa, upma, sevai, vada, uttapam, pongal and adai are prepared for breakfast. Lunch meals include sambar, rasam, poriyal, kozambu and buttermilk or curd. Tanjore cuisine which has influences of the Maratha rulers and Chettinad cuisine of the Chettiar or the traders are popular cuisines of the region wherein fish and meat are also consumed. Chettinad dishes see a liberal use of chilli, pepper, curry leaves and kalpasi or stone flower which is a fragrant lichen that grows in the forests. Tamil Brahmin or TamBram cuisine as it is popularly known is purely vegetarian. On special occasions food is served on a banana leaf. Every auspicious meal is begun with a sweet followed by rice, curries and vegetables and concluded with curd rice. Sweets generally prepared for special occasions are variety of payasams, kesari, shakarrai pongal, paniyaram and mysore pak.

One thing that binds all Tamilians is the iconic filter coffee. In most homes the day does not begin without a glass of hot filter coffee.

Incidentally Tamilians celebrate New Year on 14th April which is the first day of the first month of the Tamil solar calendar. This day is called Puthandu or Puthuvarudam and is celebrated with fervour like all Indian festivals with special dishes, sweets, flower decorations and rice flour rangolis or kolams. The typical festival meal prepared on this day tries to incorporate all six tastes namely sweet, sour, salty, bitter, spicy and astringent through different dishes.

Sharing two dishes of this region that can be easily prepared with basic ingredients.

**Mangai sadam or Raw mango rice** is a tangy and lightly spiced rice dish. With the mango season having begun, raw mangoes are widely available.

**Ingredients:** 2 cups cooked rice (cooled and grains separated)
2 tbsp cooking oil (preferably til oil)
1 medium sized raw mango (3-4 tbsp grated) ½ tsp turmeric powder
8-10 curry leaves ½ tsp black gram dal (udid dal) ½ tsp mustard seeds
2-3 medium spicy chopped green chillies 1 red chilli (broken into pieces)
8-10 broken cashewnuts salt to taste 1tsp sugar

**Method:** In a pan heat the oil. Add the mustard seeds and let them splutter. Add the udid dal and cashews and let them turn golden. Add curry leaves, green and red chillies and grated raw mango. Stir for some time, sprinkle some water and cover with a lid. Allow it to cook for two minutes. Take off the lid, add the turmeric, salt and sugar. Mix in the cooked rice and give it a good stir. Allow it to cook for a while. Serve hot with some papad, fryums and pickles on the side.

**Seven cup barfi:** This is an easy to prepare sweet made during festivals. It does not require much skill and deftness to prepare like mysore paak which is a very popular sweet in South India.

**Ingredients:** Use the same cup to measure out all the ingredients
1 cup gram flour, 1 cup milk, 1 cup ghee, 1 cup grated coconut.
1 cup chopped cashew (a mix of cashew and blanched almonds may be used)
2 cups sugar, ¼ tsp elaichi powder.

**Method:** Grind the nuts with half a cup of sugar to prevent them from releasing oil. Grease a deep dish or tray and keep aside. Heat a thick bottomed pan over a low flame add the gram flour and roast it gently till a slight aroma is given out. Add ghee and rest of the ingredients and whisk well till it becomes a homogenous mixture. Keep cooking on a medium flame till the mixture starts coming together and starts leaving the sides of the pan. Add elaichi powder. When it comes together as a ball pour out into the prepared tray. Flatten uniformly using a spatula to about 2 cm thickness. Allow it to cool for 10 minutes and cut into square or diamond shapes. Cool completely before removing the barfi from the tray.
APPEAL

KSA-CSN is an initiative to encourage Bhanap Entrepreneurs prosper materially in Entrepreneurship through mutual support

With most of our participant members operating in the MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) sector, KSA and CSN Team members have assured that their initiatives would be FREE in the foreseeable future.

However, with the increasing feasibility of holding Physical Meets which involves associated logistical costs, CSN needs to plan and work with a reasonably functional financial Budget.

Your Managing Committee earnestly requests Bhanap Well-Wishers to come forward and generously offer MSML (Micro, Small, Medium and Large) Donations and support our stated objectives

Support could be either

a) Direct Sponsorship of CSN meets/events
b) Donations for KSA – CSN activities

(Donations for KSA-CSN activities would be eligible for 80G certificate)

Hoping for enthusiastic support for an initiative that’s truly “Of Bhanaps, By Bhanaps and For Bhanaps”

ONE UP FOR BHANAP

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would be pleased to share Bank Details for desirous donors

April 2023
Kanara Saraswat
As we deal with the present, it’s important that we be mindful of expenses and also not lose sight of the future. So while we save money to meet immediate and short term expenses, let’s also continue to secure our long-term financial freedom.

An investor education initiative.
Investors should deal only with registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified on the SEBI website (https://www.sebi.gov.in) under ‘Intermediaries/Market Infrastructure Institutions’. Please refer to the website of mutual funds for the process of completing one-time KYC (Know Your Customer) including the process for change in address, phone number, bank details etc. Investors may lodge complaints on https://www.score.gov.in against registered intermediaries if they are unsatisfied with their responses. SCORES facilitates you to lodge your complaint online with SEBI and subsequently view its status.

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Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.
About The Trip
Join an amazing trip to India to re-discover your roots. Jointly organised by CHF (US) and CSS (UK) for our Yuvaadhara, 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 Yuvaadhara 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 Swamiji
- Visit the different Maths
# Ultimate Series

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Customer Satisfaction with Quality + Technical Knowledge Sharing
India has done it again. The alacrity with which India responded to the earthquake disaster in Turkey and Syria of 6th Feb 2023 amazed even the Turkish Ambassador in India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi displayed strong political will in doing so which was much appreciated by all. Turkey called India its ‘dost’ (friend) and that word became the name of the disaster relief operation in Turkey: Operation Dost.

Giant C-17 Globemasters of the IAF took off from Hindon airbase in India carrying tons of relief material, medical aid worth crores of rupees and NDRF teams with sniffer dogs to help in the immediate relief and rescue efforts. The army medical team consisted of 99 personnel including one lady doctor of 50 (Independent) Parachute Brigade which set up a 30 bed field hospital in the Hatay region of Iskendurun immediately on arrival and started working sleeplessly round the clock aiding injured victims and other non-earthquake related cases who flocked to the hospital for medical assistance. Turkey has repeatedly expressed appreciation of India’s superb reaction. Many ordinary Turkish citizens who were treated by Indian Army doctors felt overwhelmed by the care and attention they received. By the time the hospital wound up its activities to return to India on 18th Feb, the doctors had treated almost 4000 patients. They came in for much praise and adulation from the Turkish citizens.

However, this article is not about earthquake relief to Turkey. It is about intervention in the Maldives in Nov 1988; a different type of real-life success story code-named Op Cactus: but just as exciting as any television thriller. The facts about Op Cactus are extracted from Gen V N Sharma’s personal account of the event, retrieved from the internet.

A few weeks ago, my wife and I had occasion to host Ronen Sen, a retired Foreign Service diplomat, and his wife Kalpana who were on a visit to Pune, at the Rajendra Sinhji Institute; our army club. Over pre-lunch drinks we got to reminiscing about our old eventful days in Dacca in the 1970s when he was the First Secretary and I was AMA in the High Commission of India in Bangladesh. Ronen went on to become a part of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi’s team in the PMO at New Delhi and later India’s ambassador to USA.

It was Ronen Sen when he was in the PMO who called up Gen V N Sharma, COAS, on a fine winter morning on 3rd Nov 1988, using the RAX secure communications system, just as the Chief was about to leave Army House for his office in South Block. Ronen informed the Chief that there was an emergency in the Maldives. The capital, Male, had been taken over by some 100-200 terrorists, apparently from Sri Lanka. President Gayoom had gone into hiding in a civil home. His headquarters, palace and security services headquarters had been captured and a number of his ministers taken hostage. The PMO had received an SOS for help on a tenuous satellite phone from their Tourism Minister’s house. The PM was asking if the military could help? The NSG had also been alerted.

The Chief immediately replied in the affirmative and suggested 1100 hours in the Army Ops Room for briefing the PM. Even before he left Army House, the Chief had called up Gen S F Rodrigues, the Vice-Chief of Army Staff, to alert the DGMO, Lt Gen V K Singh (later COAS) and Brig Faroukh
Balsara, Commander of 50 (Indep) Parachute Brigade at Agra and put them on short notice for deployment. Brig Balsara would lead one self-contained Parachute Battalion Group to Male for the rescue attempt.

Gen Rodrigues went on to meet the Cabinet Secretary, Shri B G Deshmukh whilst the Chief dialled the VCNS, Vice Admiral Gulab Hiranandani and the VCAS, Air Marshal Nirmal Suri on the RAX, to join him in his office to plan for an immediate operational task. (The Chiefs of the Navy and Air Force were both on tour abroad). By 0845 hours they were poring over the naval charts (survey land maps of the islands not being immediately available) and formalising initial plans. They studied the various sea passages and islands of the Lakshadweep, Minicoy and Maldives. The islands were depicted in outline devoid of any physical features. The island of Maldives was two nautical miles distant from Hulule, the small coral airport island. The runway of the airport extended for half the length into the ocean.

Ronen was immediately contacted at the PMO and asked to enquire from the Tourism Minister the location of all boats used to convey tourists and visitors from the airport to Male. The boats were all found to be at the Male docks as the international flights had arrived that morning. Instructions were passed to move all boats back discreetly from Male to Hulule without raising suspicion and for all boats to remain at the airport till further instructions.

This would prevent movement of terrorists to Hulule. On getting the message, Brig Balsara immediately cancelled an airborne exercise and returned by special IAF helicopter to Agra. 6 Para was nominated and the group along with weapons, ammunition and equipment was assembled. The CO was briefed and they were ready to take off by evening. Speed and surprise were the essence of the operation to prevent own casualties and not to give the terrorists any inkling of what was happening.

Since total flying distance was some 3000 kms from Agra, with some 2000 kms to our last airfield at Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala and 1000 kms across the ocean to Hulule in the Maldives Islands, the transport fleet would require refuelling enroute to allow aircraft to return to Thiruvananthapuram if landings were not possible.

Air Marshal Suri also stated that Hulule was a foreign airfield and the IAF pilots would have to use international coordinates and air routes to locate it. In case daylight landings were not possible the airport lights would be needed to be switched on just before the landings. It was decided to have naval air surveillance established by first light next day and selected warships on standby for contingencies based on the way the situation developed. The crux of the plan was the successful landing of the troops-carrying aircraft at Hulule since a parachute drop was ruled out. The VCAS was confident that his pilots would succeed.

PM Rajiv Gandhi and his colleagues in the Cabinet Committee for Political Affairs (CCPA) arrived at the army ops room at 11:15 hours with the Cabinet secretary and Secretaries of the concerned ministries. Shri KC Pant, the Defence Minister and Shri Arun Singh, the Raj Raksha Mantri (RRM) were present along with the Navy and Air Force Vice Chiefs with their operations staff. Gen Rodrigues and the DGMO briefed the gathering of the outline plan on the naval charts. Gen Sharma also emphasised that a positive political decision was the right course and must ensure open and public use of our military and not clandestine forces such as the NSG which may give a false view to the international community of India’s intentions in a foreign country which had sought its help.

The PM agreed with the Chief but stressed that a large number of casualties were not politically acceptable. The COAS was frank that there could be some casualties but he felt confident that if surprise was achieved, casualties could be totally avoided. The military risk was acceptable. The PM gave his immediate assent to the operation. Thereafter, the DGMO and the staff of the other two services got down to planning the nitty-gritty of the operation and issuing necessary orders.

There had been a call from the Foreign Ministry that India’s diplomatic representative in Maldives was in Delhi and could be of help. The DGMO had arranged for him to reach Agra by an Air Force aircraft to coordinate with Brig Balsara. He flew in the lead aircraft with the Brigade Commander and was indeed of great help at the Maldives as he personally knew everyone there including the President and acted as contact man for both governments.

The Defence Secretary, Shri T N Seshan kept regularly enquiring about the progress of the
preparations from the Ops Room throughout the afternoon and kept the PM continuously informed.

The Para Brigade contingent was able to take off at about 1800 hours. They staged through Thiruvananthapuram civil airport where the Air Force had taken over the air traffic control and established arrangements for refuelling, maintenance and final briefing of air crew and troops. Information regularly came into the Ops Room till the departure of the transport planes across the ocean to the island of Hulule.

After some meticulous navigation and expert flying in a dark night, the huge IL-76 transport piloted by Group Captain Anant Bewoor (son of late Gen GG Bewoor, former COAS) came in vicinity of Hulule. The pilot’s request for switching on the runway lights was efficiently conveyed to the ATC through the Maldives Tourism Minister. The landing, shortly after midnight, was also smoothly conducted with no ground opposition, and the remaining stream of transport aircraft flew in at regular intervals. The Para Battalion quickly secured the airfield and commandeered all available boats for crossing the sea to Male.

The terrorists in Male were panic stricken when they saw the landings of large transport planes at Hulule. They took immediate action to round up all their armed personnel and board their merchant ship which was standing by at the docks. They took all hostages including five ministers of the Maldives Government on board and made haste to sail away towards Sri Lanka. The paratroopers saw this and attempted to engage the ship with anti-tank recoilless guns from Hulule but with little effect because the rebel ship was already out of range.

The Navy was tasked to intercept the hostile ship. At first light next morning the ship was sighted by naval surveillance planes well out to sea, sailing in the direction of southern Sri Lanka. Two frigates, INS Betwa and INS Godavari were tasked for this job. One sailed from Kochi naval base and the other was returning from a ceremonial visit to West Australia and happened to be rounding the southern coast of Sri Lanka, sailing for Kochi. Both frigates closed in at full speed and were able to intercept the hostile ship. The terrorist captain initially refused to surrender threatening to kill the Ministers and scuttling the ship. After some adroit handling of the situation by the captains of the warships, including some effective firing which damaged the bridge and disabled the communications and control systems of the hostile ship, it finally surrendered.

It was boarded and towed back to Kochi with all hostages freed and the terrorists in captivity. The ship and terrorists were all handed over to the custody of Male authorities and hostages returned to their homes. President Gayoom profusely thanked PM Rajiv Gandhi and requested that CO 6 Para and essential troops be permitted to stay on in Male to train and reorganise its security forces for protection of the country. This was agreed to and these troops returned to India only in June 1990, over a year after completing this task and making many friends amongst the Maldivians.

Operation Cactus was India’s most successful tri-service military intervention across the ocean in a foreign country on its plea for help. It was executed brilliantly without a single mishap, with great speed and no casualties, with all military objectives effectively achieved.

The operation succeeded despite no forces or procedures existing for rapid deployment and execution of military tasks, no maps, no actionable intelligence, that too on a dark moonless night.

Gen V N Sharma recounts that it was made possible because there were very firm and quick political decisions and clear directions at the highest level, total cooperation between the Defence and Foreign ministries, the three armed service headquarters and all troops involved.

Above all, good personal relations and humour among all political parties, the service chiefs, diplomats and concerned bureaucrats. There were tremendous ‘guts’, quick initiative and bold effective action among junior commanders and troops. The success vaulted India into the ranks of great powers who could respond with speed against criminal acts against week independent nations well beyond our borders. This achievement was politically and militarily adroit and backed by all powerful countries including USA and the Soviet Union who were themselves unable to act from afar.

There is no doubt that India can achieve any task with such cooperation amongst all stakeholders. Luck also favoured India, as also the bold plan.

Op Cactus was simply superb, beyond praise! Jai Hind.

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April 2023

Kanara Saraswat
During our childhood days in the late 1950s and early 60s, summer holidays meant two months to enjoy with no homework, no studies and no exams - fun filled holidays with cousins and friends. Unlike today, when families plan vacations to exotic locations, our vacations were mostly spent going to our native village to meet our grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Amma (mother) would take my brother Deepak and me from our hometown Bombay to an agrarian village called Mundkur. My Pappa's elder brother Raj Mhanth and his wife Vasanthi Mhaav lived there. Mundkur is a small village in the Karkal Taluka of Udupi District in the southern state of Karnataka, India. It is located approximately 30 kilometres north of the major port city of Mangalore. It is this village that lent us our surname Mundkur.

My maternal aunt Lily Akka (father’s sister) and her three sons, Uday, Ravi and Sachin also joined us in our vacation. We would also meet Raj Mhanth’s and Vasanthi Mhaav’s daughter Vijaya Akka in Mundkur. So, it was wonderful way for six cousins to spend their vacation together!

Preparations for the vacation would begin in full swing, with all of us packing our trunks (present day suitcases were unheard of then!) We also packed a bedroll called ‘holdall’, with bedsheets and pillows neatly tucked inside a canvas case, which was rolled and fastened with in-built belts. Food items for the journey were diligently packed alongwith a copper or stainless-steel pot with a tumbler inside, and filled to the brim with drinking water.

Pappa would come to drop us to the station where a coolie (porter) was hired to carry our luggage to the train bogie allotted to us. If we had to wait for the train to arrive at the platform, then all the children would sit comfortably on the trunks and have a nice time chitchatting with each other.

When the train arrived on the platform, every passenger had to check whether their name featured on the list put up at the entrance of each bogie. All of us would run after our parents to check the spelling of our names as it was very common to encounter hilarious misspellings that would send us into peals of laughter. After confirming our names in the assigned bogie, the coolie would carry the heavy trunks and holdalls and place them safely under the respective seats allotted to us. All of us five cousins – Uday, Ravi, Sachin, Deepak and I - were very curious to know how many window seats had been allotted to us so that the five of us could take turns to sit by the window and watch the mesmerising scenery outside.

Once everybody was comfortable and Pappa, Amma and Lily Akka had finished checking that the luggage was safely tucked under our seats, Pappa would say goodbye to all of us, get down from the train, and wait near the window of our compartment until our train left the platform. The loud horn and the sound of the bell meant that the train would soon begin to move, and we would all be excited and happy to have fun during the journey. We could see the fading image of Pappa waving goodbye to us as the train slowly picked speed.

As the train left the city limits and moved further, it was fun to watch the scenery: the lush green fields, waterfalls and tunnels. We played a game: how many times each one of us could see the engine whenever the train turned at a bend. Finally, lunch time would arrive - Hurrah! We were hungry and eagerly looked forward to a sumptuous meal of puri and batatya saung, curd rice and pickles, which were neatly packed by Amma and Lily Akka. Between the meals, orange and lemon lozenges and peanuts were a mouth-watering treat for all of us.

Amma and Lily Akka would soon make friends with the co-passengers and start conversing right away either in Marathi or Kannada, depending on the region the person hailed from.

When night approached, the holdall was opened, and after fixing the berths, the bedsheets were spread out. The boys were always keen to go up the ladder to sleep on the uppermost berth in the bogie.

There was no train that went directly from Bombay to Mundkur so we went via Mangalore. In order to reach the coastal city of Mangalore, we had to change the train at Kadur junction, and from Mangalore, we had to board a bus to reach Mundkur. After reaching Mundkur, we had to
walk through the muddy pathways between lush green fields to reach our Uncle’s house, which was a 200-year-old ancestral home. It had a huge compound with buffaloes in a cowshed on one side and a large bathroom on the other. The bathrooms had large pots called bhaan to heat up water, with wood used as fuel. There was a well in front of the bathroom from where water was drawn with a bucket and rope, which went up and down the well with the help of a pulley. There was a Tulsi katte with the Holy Tulsi plant in the middle of the compound.

The house had a large L-shaped chawdi (veranda) with numerous photographs of extended family members hung on the veranda wall. There were a few chairs, including a chair exclusively used by Raj Mhanth when people came to meet him. A long corridor on one side led to the kitchen and dining space. The food in the kitchen was cooked on a choolaah (clay oven) with wood used as fuel. Then there was a store room and a temple room, where the priest would come every morning to perform the daily pooja (worship ritual). A wooden staircase on one side of the chawdi led to a very large hall on the first floor and a small bedroom on the right side of the staircase.

The five of us and Raj Mhanth’s daughter Vijaya Akka would play cricket in the huge compound in the mornings before noon. But our favourite game was a card game called ‘304’ (three-nought-four) that we played for hours, with the ever-willing adults joining us in our game in the afternoon after lunch. Evenings were spent going for a walk to the marketplace, which had a few shops, followed by a visit to the Durga temple, which was built circa the 9th century. Occasionally, the adults pampered us by buying lemonade sold in bottles with a colourful marble near the neck to control the flow of the cold drink.

Sometimes, we visited the local school which provided education up to the primary level. There was a stark difference between the city life we were used to and village life in Mundkur: no electricity, no running tap water, and toilets far away outside the compound!

The most dreaded part of village life was the darkness in the house after twilight, with a few kerosene lamps hung from the roof. What a contrast to our life in Bombay! The toilet outside the compound was a thatched hut with large stones with which none of us were comfortable. All of us were scared to go to the bathroom at night due to fear of snakes that were sometimes visible in the compound. We would always accompany each other and make one of the cousins stand outside the bathroom door for moral support!

On the other hand, summertime meant jackfruits in plenty and we were fed with two or three varieties of jackfruit, and ‘Muluk’, a delicacy prepared from jackfruit. Jackfruit seeds called ‘bekund’ were dried in the sun and used to prepare delicious curries. The neighbouring compound had a conical hay stack in which rice grains were stored. It was fun to watch the buffaloes being milked, the water being drawn from the well, and women pounding the grains.

During the end of the vacation, Pappa would come to Mundkur by availing the annual leave at his office and spend about fifteen days with us. Soon it was time for all of us to go back to Bombay - our own sweet home with electricity, tap water and other amenities. We were all thrilled to be back for a new academic year with new books, raincoats, umbrellas and rainy shoes, and guessing which of our friends would be in the same class as us during the new academic year. Typically, school began with our English Teacher making us write an essay on ‘How we spent our Summer Vacation’.

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2 BHK flat for Sale

A 2 bedroom flat on the first floor, with two bathrooms (one ensuite), fully renovated with open kitchen concept, with piped gas is available for outright sale. Located within walking distance of Matunga West Railway Station.

Interested parties please contact Mekhala Ramprakash on Whatsapp +61 425352018 or +91 7304893650
Brokers welcome too.

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April 2023 Kanara Saraswat
Phobia

- NALINI NADKARNI, KANDIVLI (E), MUMBAI

“Auntie, what is phobia?” asked my twelve years niece, Neha.

“Phobia is an extreme fear of or dislike for something the reason for which cannot be explained” I replied, “Why do you ask?”

“Because my friend Medha says that her little sister Swati has phobias, Poor girl! Hope she’ll get over them”....

“She will, don’t you worry. Wonder what kind of phobias she has? There are various types of phobia-claustraphobia which is fear of being in an enclosed space; acrophobia-fear of heights, herpetophobia-fear of reptiles, nyctophobia – fear of darkness, and so on, but don’t worry, the parents will take her to a psychiatrist who will be able to cure her.”

Neha seemed satisfied; but I was not; because I myself have herpetophobia, and have not been able to overcome it; from the smallest creepy crawly worm found in food grains or vegetables like green peas or cauliflower, to a huge python (even pictures of them) make me scream. Even now the very thought of reptiles scares me!

Let me explain. My early years were spent in our ancestral home in Gokarn in North Kanara. In our house, there a dark dingy room, where the rice from our fields were stored. Consequently, it was an abode of rats. Many a time, they were haunted by the cat; but sometimes a long snake would creep in from the aangan, cross the verandah and enter the room to gobble up the rats. I used to scream on seeing the snake; but my Ajja, who used to recline on an easy chair on the verandah would ridicule me and say, “Taw sarpu nhai maa, deevadu. Undoor khanvchak yetta, takka ittyak bhinvchen? Pissheechi.” Well, deevadu or sarpu meant the same to me. How could I make Ajja understand my revulsion?

Our neighbours Kumthas had a teenage son, Phondu, who used to tease me about my phobia. One day, he came over and held before me a ‘daallen’ cover with a brass lid, and said that he had brought ‘champak’ flowers to me. I eagerly opened the lid. Out jumped a coiled up snake. I screamed out in shock. My mother and aunt rushed out of the kitchen to see what had gone wrong. It was so great a shock because after that, I could not even scream. I had lost my voice! The Vaidya who was called, assured my people that I would gradually recover my voice, and advised that they should constantly ask me questions to make me speak. It took quite some time before I could speak coherently. However, two good things happened as a result of that incident, Phondu stopped visiting us, and the snake disappeared-probably killed as per the Vaidya’s advice!

My mother had once said that when my horoscope had been shown to an astrologer, he had asked her whether had a snake phobia! Incidentally, I was born on Nagpanchami day! I now live in Mumbai but to date, if possible, I never venture out on Nagpanchami day, in case I come across a snake charmer who goes from door to door, so that Hindu women can perform Nag Pooja.

Once when I was in my early twenties, I had come out of our ground floor at Dhobi Talao, and was walking towards the gate to go to my place of work. I saw a dark, lungi-clad man, but bare bodied with pythons draped all over his body- standing near the gate. My loud scream was a reflex action. A couple of neighbours rushed out to see what was wrong. I was too terrified to open my eyes but managed to point my finger at the snake man. Someone must have taken the situation, because he asked the man to go away. Only when the neighbour assured me that the man had gone away, did I walk towards the gate, after thanking him profusely.

Once, my husband called up to say that his friend had booked tickets and invited us to a movie, and that I should join them at the picture house (He said that he did not know the name of the film)

Having arrived late, we could enter the cinema hall only a few minutes before the lights were dimmed. On the screen was a caption ‘Paramount’ (or some such name) Pictures presents Pradeep Kumar and Vaijayantimala in (suddenly there was a picture of a snake) NAGIN. I did not know that I had screamed until I heard an uproar and saw people standing up to see what was wrong! We had to leave the theatre in haste.

In the 1980’s I was visiting my daughter Nina living in the USA. Once she needed to go to the pharmacy to buy medicines. I offered to accompany her. When we reached some distance, she suddenly clutched my hand and told me not to look left. She was walking on my left side; my reflex action was to turn to look at her. Suddenly I saw a man with pythons draped over his body. He looked like the Dhobi Talao python man. My scream brought some passers-by asking whether I was okay. Nina told them about my snake phobia. I wondered how the man had been allowed to travel by aeroplane. Nina said that he had probably come by steamer, breaking journey at ports, frightening people.

My earnest request to everyone is not to make fun of people with phobias. Though the fear seems ridiculous, believe me, it is real.
Invites eligible boys and girls above 24 years of age for an informal get together in the Anandashram Hall, Talmaki Wadi, Mumbai on Saturday, 22nd April, 2023 from 10.30 AM to 3 PM.

There will be interactive sessions and games to ensure that everyone gets a chance to meet and know each other.

The Melaava is open for the following categories:
1) Unmarried, eligible girls and boys, of age 24 years and above.
2) Singles who are separated or widowed.
3) Single parents desirous of settling down again.
4) Singles with any one of the parents from our Chitrapur Saraswat community.

Prior registration will be open until 18th April, 2023 and is mandatory with non-refundable charges of Rs. 300. Breakfast and lunch are included in the charges.

Payment to be made via NEFT/RTGS to the following account:
Name of the Account : Kanara Saraswat Association
Bank Name and Branch: SVC Coop Bank Ltd., Sleater Road Branch
Account Number: 100903130096969
IFSC Code : SVCB0000009

Prospective participants should confirm their registration details by sending their Full Name; Age; Location and their Bank Transaction Number, along with their full postal address, to Mrs. Shobhana Rao on email: admin@kanarasaraswat.in

We expect eligible boys and girls from outside Mumbai for this event, and yes, just one more bit – no parents/chaperones will be allowed inside the Anandashram Hall please!

As regards the Dress Code, let it be just smart casuals!

For more details,
Please contact anyone of them - Dilip Sashital : 9920132925;
Usha Surkund : 8108294931; Anisha Udyavar Narayanan : 8369214014
A Horrifying Experience

- LATA KARNAD RAO (ULLAL), CHENNAI

Few months earlier I had severe lower back pain. It suddenly became so bad that I was unable to bend and do any work. Even keeping anything in the fridge or taking out was becoming difficult. So I applied a balm and felt little better.

But the pain reappeared in a few days. I then used another pain killer spray and tried fomentation with hot water bottle. Somehow, I managed to complete the household chores for a day or so. But the pain didn’t stop. At a particular point, it became severe. I took two types of pain killer tablets for two days. But the pain never really went away. I wanted to prevent it with all home remedies and so cut my morning walks. Even sitting and getting up from chair became painful and a slow process. The full week all my movements were like an aged person. But it didn’t help much and finally I decided to see my Orthopaedic doctor. I got an appointment and went to the clinic. The tall and slim doctor who doesn’t like to talk much, checked me, asked me to perform some forward bending exercises, lift my legs etc. and then asked me to get my x-rays done. This facility was available in the clinic itself. Within 45 minutes, I got my turn and got the x-rays. I waited again in the queue and showed them to the doctor. He asked me to sit, looked carefully through the x-rays, and started writing the prescription. I asked him why I had pain, why it is not stopping, what’s in the x-ray, any problem etc. He smiled and said, “Madam, don’t worry, you will be alright. I will give you safe medicines, what you have taken are harmful at your age. You take these medicines and get physiotherapy for 10 days. You will be alright. Don’t have any tension. I came out, paid the costly bills of x-ray charges, consultation fee and for medicines from the attached pharmacy.

Next day, I reached the clinic at 10.30 am for the physiotherapy. The previous evening, there was a large crowd of patients. But the next morning it was quiet and there were not many patients. So I could go immediately for physiotherapy. A short, plump young nurse took me to the physiotherapy room which was at the other end of the clinic. I was prescribed traction and vibration therapy for 15 minutes each. The nurse asked me to lie down on the table, strapped me tightly with thick straps, connected to the traction device, set the timing, switched it on and told me that she would be back soon and went away.

The machine started pulling me down slowly. As face mask is compulsory inside the premises, I was lying with my mask. Within a few minutes, I felt the belt was too tight and was unable to breathe properly. I called the nurse 3, 4 times. But she didn’t come. I removed my mask. The straps were too tight, and I was not able to get up, or even not able to breathe properly. I was getting restless and started sweating. I started calling the nurse frantically, but to no avail. I wanted to remove the straps and started to search for the buckles or the other end of the straps with my hands. I was breathless and started gasping. Finally I got the other end of the thick belt and pulled it with full force, it opened.

I sat down for some time to recover my breath. Once done, I removed the other straps too which trapped my lower part of the body. I sat on the table again to breathe properly in the air-conditioned room. Then I got down the table and came out of the room and started calling the nurse loudly. “Sister, sister where are you?” “Sister, come here immediately”. My voice echoed through the narrow stretch of the passage. The two ladies at the reception desk, and a doctor from the adjacent consultation room came out running to see what had happened. By that time the nurse too who was sitting and chatting with another woman came quickly. I yelled at her for her negligence and how a dangerous situation she had created! It was her duty to attend the patient when she had gone away to chat with a friend. I was breathless, struggling to take off the straps. Anything could have happened in that time if I had failed to unbuckle the straps.

She profusely apologised for her mistake and said she will never leave patients like this in future. I too forgave her as she understood the lapse on her part.

Complaining to the higher-ups would have probably meant the nurse losing her job. After that incident, she was very grateful and continued to be with me throughout all the remaining sessions. Now I am sure she will never forget this lesson when she almost killed a patient by sheer negligence.

(Lata Karnad Rao (Ullal) has great passion for music. She has been an AIR artist and has given several programs on Radio and on TV. She has received the Lekhan Puraskar from The Kanara Saraswat Association in 2019 for her Konkani poems)
In Ever Loving Memory of

Gurudas V. Masurkar  
(11 July 1922 - 2 March 2013)  

Mira G. Masurkar  
(20 May 1930 - 19 March 2022)  

We fondly cherish your memories and never a day goes by without remembering you. "To the whole world you are no more, to us, you were part of our yesterday, you are our today and you will certainly be part of our tomorrow.”

You are nestled in our hearts and there you shall remain forever.

We miss you Aai & Papa!

-: Loving tribute from :-

Nandini-Shivram | Vinay-Sujata | Kishore- Rita

Grand Children:
Neeta, Sheila- Prashanth, Amit-Aastha, Anirudh, Nikhil-Anjula, Namita -Mihir

Great-grand Children: Aanya, Anaaya, Ojas, Vihaan, Vera & Miraya

Masurkars, Entod Family & Friends
It has been a month since my Akka (Smt. Sunitha Dutt Kumble) left us on January 24, 2023 at the age of 90. My earliest memory goes back to years 1941-42, when I joined first standard in Hindu school at Kundapur, where my sister was studying in fifth standard. One day, a large crowd entered our school and lifted us from the classroom and deposited us outside – it was at the height of the Quit India Movement. It was my sister, who bravely led me back to our house through lanes and by lanes avoiding the main road at the Post Office quarters, where our father was the post master. The situation was the same near the post office too with a large noisy crowd shouting slogans. A kindly soul lifted and dropped us over the compound wall so that we could reach home safely.

It was at this time that my sister was learning Hindustani classical music from Shri Vasudeva Naik master. Many a ragas were taught to recall a few - Bhairav, Todi, Sarasang, Hamsadhwani, Yaman, Durga, Bhageshree, Bahar, Darbari Kanada, Tilak to practice meticulously and learnt bhajans in Kannada. Sometime in 1944, we shifted to Udupi, wherein she came across and got a book Akka maintained her music as well as later in Karkala, teachers. During 1949-53, she received guidance from also helped her to play the completed her graduation an apprentice. Even in her practiced music. In 1960, here that she was fortunate Shri Garud ‘master’ She could give her performances in the functions of her bank. Through sheer hard work and dedication, she rose to the position of manager in the All-Women’s branch with a staff numbering about 60. She was recognized for her meritorious services with a gold medal.

In 1966 she married Shri Gurudutt Kumble, who used to play tabla and was an avid follower of Hindustani music and bhajans. After her retirement in 1991, she became a member of Shri Chinmaya mission and attended spiritual discourses regularly. She loved traveling and cherished her visits to the Himalayas, especially the Chardham yatra. She used to fondly recall her sojourn at the Gangotri and Yamunotri. Her interest in music continued and she organized music gatherings at her home, which were avidly looked forward to by her friends and music enthusiasts. Later on, these music gatherings got discontinued due to various reasons and age related factors.

Her bank career became handy for her to encourage people from different walks of life to start bank accounts and helped them to save. She was a generous person and any help sought was met with in equal measure, for reasons like education, medical, and marriage etc. Her nature endeared her to the persons in touch with her and she invariably showed a positive response when in difficulty and pain and earn their gratitude.

In early life, when she was about four years, she suffered from liver problem. As the medical facilities were rudimentary, she could not recover completely. Yet, with a limited strength and energy available to her, she could overcome, many a hurdle with will power, patience, perseverance, discipline, dedication, and achieve her determined goal. She was resilient, facing ups and downs in her life with aplomb.
ANNOUNCEMENT

KSA-CSN

is pleased to announce a WORKSHOP

“BETTER BUSINESS NETWORKING”

By

CSN TEAM

On SUNDAY 30th April 2023
@ 10.30 AM
(Virtual Platform)

The ONLINE link for the workshop will be
available at least 5 days prior to the workshop at
http://www.kanarasaraswat.org/announcements

No pre-registration required

Topics Covered:

✓ Business Networking - What and Why
✓ Pack a Punch in your Self Introduction – Achieve MORE with LESS
✓ How to do a Great EBP (Extended Business Presentation)
✓ You ASK We ANSWER (our panel of Networking Experts will answer your questions on
  Business Networking)
✓ Panel of Networking Experts – Our members with years of networking experience will be pleased

Who can attend: OPEN TO ALL Existing and Aspiring
Bhanap Business Owners. If you are Curious about Business
Networking, CSN Team will help overcome apprehensions
and understand how to help Bhanaps Better
What is the first thing that comes to your mind when someone says they are from Pune? Of course, it is the famous Chitale Bandhu Bakarwadi or the Kayani Shrewsberry biscuits. I was first introduced to Bakarwadi when I was 3 years old. I had found it spicy, but then I started liking it over a period of time. That is why I wanted to visit their factory. I got the opportunity to visit the factory with a few of my friends. I was super excited.

Chitale Bandhu is a company that makes different kinds of snacks and sweets. The legacy of Chitale Bandhu is traced back to 1939. Today, they are famous all over the world. They are based out of Pune. Their factory is in a village called Ranje in Maharashtra, about an hour’s drive from where I live.

While entering the Chitale Bandhu factory, we had to go through a security check. High level of hygiene is always maintained inside the factory, so they gave us protective equipment like gloves, hair-cap and shoes-covers to wear. The guide took us to the viewing gallery from where we could see the shopfloor where the products were being made and packed. We saw different products like Bakarwadi and Kaju Katli being made. The entire process is automatic with gigantic machines doing the mixing, rolling, frying etc. Human helpers are there to help load the machines and set it up as per their settings.

They showed us a video of the history of Chitale Bandhu. It was interesting to see how the Company started. After that, they showed us the process of how Bakarwadi is made. It was a lot of fun to see the mixture and dough going through many machines and what the outcome was. After watching the whole process, one of the workers from the shopfloor brought us a tray full of hot Bakarwadis. We thought it was going for packaging, but it was for us!

I thought in my mind, ‘How are we going to finish the whole crate’, but we were surprised with ourselves! The freshness of the Bakarwadis, which were literally ‘melt in the mouth’, resulted in all of us gobbling up the entire tray. After the Bakarwadis, we were offered another tray full of fresh Kaju Katlis, which disappeared quicker than the Bakarwadis. We could eat as much as possible, but we were not allowed to carry them out of the factory. After having our fill, we knew it was now time to leave. Before we left, we thanked the tour guide and the whole team for showing us around and for this wonderful experience. We had made ‘Thank-you’ cards for the workers there, which we gave them before we left. We enjoyed this memorable day at the Chitale Bandhu factory very much. Now every time I eat Bakarwadi, I know the entire process how it is made and that’s why enjoy it even more than before.
The 13th, 14th and 15th Chapters mark the end of most of the teaching of Bhagavadgītā. However, Bhagavān wants to spend a few verses on describing the positive values (अमानित्वादि दैवी सम्पति:) described in detail in Chapter 13 and now a set of negative values (आसुरी/राक्षसी सम्पति:) which need to be avoided by a mumukshu to attain maturity of mind, which is sufficient enough for the subtle knowledge of Ātmā to take strong root in the intellect.

As there is no teaching (तत्त्वम) in this chapter, the whole chapter will be briefly presented in one part.

In the first three verses, all the 20-odd daivī sampatti-s conducive to a mumukshu are briefly listed. (refer to verses 7 to 11, Chapter 13).

The fourth verse lists out the opposites of the above 20 positive values in the form of:

- **Dambha**- ostentatiousness and boasting by body language.
- **Darpa**- Arrogant behavior towards vulnerable people.
- **Abhimāna**- The same as ahankara, manitvam, demanding respect from others.
- **Krodha**- Inappropriate and disproportionate expression of anger.
- **Pārushyam**- Poking fun at the weaknesses of others.
- **Ajnānam**- No discrimination between dharma/ adharma, right/wrong conduct.

Daivī sampatti helps the mumukshu in spiritual growth, whereas āsuri/rākshasī sampatti only causes spiritual downfall. (v 4,5)

Now Bhagavān says that every human jīva is born with a combination of both of the above. But it is for every mumukshu to assess himself/herself as to the nature and extent of the āsuri sampatti and work towards reducing them. Human jīva is not helpless in this regard; Bhagavān has given us the free will to look into ourselves and manage the negative values if we are interested in spiritual growth.

Rather than explaining each āsuri sampat, Bhagavān describes the attitude, the mindset and the thought patterns of a person with āsuri sampati. This makes it easier for the mumukshu to benchmark oneself. (v6)

Such people are purely ‘material goal- oriented’ and do not differentiate between right and wrong actions. They have no cleanliness in their thought, or conduct.

Most of them do not accept the law and order of the Universe. They do not even accept Īśhvara’s Presence. They consider the whole manifestation to be a product of male-female conjugation. They do not accept any value other than desire for material goals.

For achieving their end, they are willing to go to any extent to destroy anything which comes in their way.

Their desires are so blinding, that they cannot be fulfilled. They continue to strive to fulfill them with pomp and show, always holding on to fleeting objects. Most of their actions spring out of adharma.

Being constantly after fleeting objects, they are bound by hundreds of un-fulfillable desires and all the time disturbed and distracted by worry and scheming about how to attain them.

“I have so much now, but I should have more and more; anyone who comes in my way is to be destroyed. I am the all- powerful Īśhvara and no one else is like me; I am the best and belong to the glorious family of...
achievers’... such is their thought process. (v7-15)

They are pulled by scattered thoughts all the time, deluded and full of blinding desires. Such people reap the phalam of their deeds by falling into lower loka-s; in fact as Karmaphaladātā, I myself push them into lowliest of the loka-s.

They are so blinded by their adharmic pursuits that they do not even see me as the Paramātmā within themselves, or in the others. They have no respect for My rules of law and order in the Universe. Such people recycle themselves into āsurī loka-s again and again. They are deluded for lives and never think of Me, or about their own good. (v 16-20).

Now Bhagavān wants to put all the āsurī sampat into a group of three mutually strengthening negative values; Kāma (binding desires), Krodha (inappropriate and disproportionate anger) and Lobha (insatiable greed) as “Doors to hell”.

Each one of them strengthens the other two and all the three pull down a person into a negative cycle of āsurī values.

“Arjuna, one should get out of the vicious cycle of these three doors to hell (नरि नव धम िः द्ारम) and spiritual fall.” Unless one gets out of this three-way door to hell, there is no question of freedom from samsāra (संसार). (v21,22)

Bhagavān concludes by saying that when one is in doubt about daivāsurī sampatti, one should resort to the Veda-s. The Veda is the only pramāna (valid proof) in clearly showing the path of dharma/adharma and the way to Moksha.

“Arjuna, may you always surrender to the shāstra (Veda-s) or knowers of shāstra for what is to be done and how one should conduct one’s life to attain the ultimate goal of Moksha. (v23,24)

(Concluded)
Yuva Pavan Kapanadak’s moving account of the strength and inspiration he draws from his close association with the Math and H.H. Swamiji and his keen effort, at all times, to ensure

Prasannośtu Guruh Sadāa

Some of my earliest memories are those of Parama Pūjya Swāmījī and the Math... I must have been just over two years of age, but I vividly remember being hoisted by my Pappa onto his shoulders, to see Pūjya Swāmījī during the Pattābhisheka in 1997. I have been drawn to the Guru ever since. “Swāmī Dayyā Pāmpā” and pictures of our Gurus in the house shaped my formative years, and I grew around my Amma teaching me to chant the Bhagavat Gita and various shloka-s as a child, my Pappa teaching me to drape a veshti, and my Ajja diligently sitting with me through Sandhyavandanam sessions. As I look back upon those years, I cannot help but pause in awe, gratitude and vinamrata at the glory of that Guru-Shakti, which took ‘ownership’ of me early on and shaped me through the years.

When I was four years old, our family was in Tiruvannamalai with Pujya Swamiji and Bade Swamiji, having got the rare opportunity to do the Girivallam (Pradakshina of the Arunachaleshwar Hill) in Their Presence. I remember being adamant about wanting to walk with Swamiji for the entire 14 kilometres. I walked a bit, but ended up completing part of the journey in Pappa’s arms, and by car to the next pitstop with Amma thereafter. When we walked up a section of the hill to where everyone had taken a break, I remember walking towards a low ledge, looking out at the vast expanse, when suddenly, I was swooped into the air and twirled around like an aeroplane. When my initial surprise and shock settled, as I was gently placed down, I heard the reassuring laugh of Parama Pujya Swamiji, for He was the one who had picked me off the ground! Through all these years, He has lifted me up at various levels, with that gentle smile always reassuring me that I belong... that I am held up by that very Guru Shakti... and that, even during times when I feel unsure of circumstances and myself, I am safe in His Hands.

Ever since I was a child, I have always wanted to do japa, after watching my parents doing it so diligently, every morning. Finally, when I turned seven, Pujya Swamiji blessed me with mantra deeksha. I have fond memories of that day in Bangalore, sitting with Swamiji, His very Presence invigorating beyond measure. Through all these years, regular japa has given me tremendous strength, and I have seen myself grow through every situation, with that constant guidance. During a busy day, a quick pause... a moment to observe the breath... and an assurance to witness the mantra- japa constantly reverberate... That is assurance enough of the constant Presence- that boundless love and grace of the Guru Shakti, ever present in a subtle, yet tangible form.

As a Chitrapur Saraswat Yuva, the opportunities to tangibly connect to the Math and Guru have been boundless too, with the activities of the Yuvadhara being very fundamental in this process. My first shivir was when the first Taru Sammelan was organised in Karla. Ever since then, sammelan-s, shivir-s, and Kara-seva have become a part of the year that I look forward to. I can never forget the experiences from my first Kara-seva in 2012- forming close bonds with Yuva-s from across the country, with whom we cleaned a pond, raked leaves in a forest, sat together for anushthan-s, and played wonderful games. Through all these interactions in the vatavarana, the sacred ambience of the Math, we get the full benefit of the kshetra, the Presence of the Guru, and a strengthening of our very being in ways that take time to comprehend fully. All these activities have also given insight into the vast amount of great work being done by the Math, through the Guru-Sankalpa, in so many fields- ranging from woman empowerment to education- which has instilled a sense of pride in the community and humility and awe in seeing the working of the Guru-Shakti in action.

Our Guru is Vatsalya-incarnate. Anyone who seeks is received, and we now have an extended Saraswat and Samvit family from across the country. I recently had the
honour of donning the hat of a sanchalak in Shirali, for a shivir for Saraswats from the North, and a sammelan for Samvit sadhaka-s which was also graced by H.H. Narayan Giri Swami. From early morning sessions of stretches, pranayama and ninad, and Sanskrit sambhashan sessions, to interactions with Pujya Swami, and from tours of our Maths to witnessing the growth facilitated by our Math through the various projects in Srivalli, the sadhaka-s and shibirarthi-s who came, went back to their cities with their hearts full. As a sanchalak, being in the presence of so many experienced sanchalak-s who have put in years in seva, was an immense learning experience. It was awesome to see the ease with which an event of this scale is organised. Handling the logistics of receiving, and moving everyone to where they are needed on time, ensuring that everyone is well-fed, that maintenance and housekeeping is spot-on, that performance of seva-s and purchases in the Math happen with ease, and that every activity goes on well—every aspect handled to perfection. Every shibirarthi reciprocated with a lot of love as well, and it was beautiful to watch walls disintegrate and bonds deepen. When the Guru Sankalpa exists, it is that very Shakti that courses through all and gets the work done. Such is the Grace of our Guru, for He takes us on at every level.

H.H. Swami has been a source of strength and inspiration. His limitless compassion, attention to detail, and concern for every sādhaka who seeks Him out, is unparalleled. He interacts with every sādhaka like the Divine Mother Herself—giving us the Āshvāsana, the Abhaya, to face every situation in life; blessing us in ways, small and large, tangible and intangible, while providing us multiple opportunities to connect with Him; gently pulling us closer through mantra-deeksha, Ashirvachana-s, bhajan-s; and prodding us on in the right path whenever we stray. Through all the ups and downs of life, that Guru Shakti has never forsaken; through every achievement and error alike, there has always been an abundance of grace and guidance. That karuna has been instrumental in shaping who I am today...

As Yuva-s under the wings of Shri Chitrapur Math, we represent the Math and the Guru Parampara by default, wherever we go. The more we discover our roots, the taller we can grow in every facet of our lives. I hope every Yuva will be able to attend more shivir-s, perform seva in any form possible, and strengthen that bond with the Guru Shakti, for the way it can touch your life and that of those around you is beyond measure. We are all gifted children of Saraswati Herself, and have been presented with a beautiful sandbox to present and refine what we have through the Yuvadhara and the various activities of the Math. It is but fitting that we express our gratitude by offering all we have gained in seva, in any way possible—whether we excel at IT work, or have a passion for art; whether we love baking or have a penchant for organising events; there is scope to offer, and gain, in the grand missions that are happening through the Math. To be a part of the work guided by the Guru Sankalpa, and to gain...
that Sparsha is a fortune beyond measure, and I sincerely wish every yuva will be able to partake of this.

Through all these years in seva, there are several fond memories associated with the Math, the most beautiful among them- being part of the Guru Jyoti Padayatra in 2008. I had heard about incidents from Parijnanashram Swamiji’s life from a young age, and have been blessed to be born in a household Guru Swami blessed with His Presence on multiple occasions. When the chance came to be a part of this grand commemoration and samuhika prayashchitta, I joined my father and a few other sadhaka-s from Chennai on daily walks to prepare for the Gokarn-Shirali padayatra. During this time though, I met with an accident that led to a fractured knee and I remember praying with all my heart that I should heal in time - intensifying my japa and working towards recovery. When the time finally came, it was surreal. Getting a chance to carry Parijnanashram Swamiji’s paduka-s on my head for a while, as we walked along with Pujiya Swamiji amidst bhajan-s and chants- the entire community coming together in a profound act of seva. The organisation was impeccable and when we finally arrived into the Math, and were welcomed with a cloudburst that masked the tears of joy rolling down our eyes, it was a moment to savour forever. Our community has been blessed with a glorious Guru Parampara, and that cascading of Grace has brought such tremendous progress for sadhaka-s at so many levels. Even at a community level, our Math has several meaningful social projects that are impacting innumerable lives. At the helm of all this, is that Guru Shakti, constantly guiding with a gentle touch. These experiences now define my every action- for at every stage, the constant set of choices in front of me are never stressful, for my choice is always based on the only dictum that matters - Prasannoऽstu Guruh Sada!

******

Kilpady Umashanker Rao
(13/03/1923 - 11/11/1989)

Active participation in Social, Sports, Bhajans, Obituary events of CS Bhanaps Encouraging wards in music Remembered with gratitude, by sons Kishore, Jayaram, Sumanth & their families

April 2023 Kanara Saraswat 51
अनुभव - एक शिक्षा
विजयालक्ष्मी कापानाडक

अगले ही क्षण आशर्च्ये! पूरा हास फैट के अंदर चला गया। डॉक्टर साहब ने इतने उस पर स्टीचर्स डालकर छेड़ बंद किया और रैमेस काका का पाउं छुए।

तात्पर्य यह है कि अनुभव जीवन की बहुत बड़ी शिक्षा है। इसलिए बुझारका समझान करना चाहिये।

अवधि विश्वास बुरी बला
विजयालक्ष्मी कापानाडक

अगस्त के महीने में राखी पूजनार्दा दो दिनों पर थी। बारिश ने जोर दिखाया था। एक अधिक बसराह होने लगी। मुझा नदी के पानी का स्तर बढ़ने लगा। मुझा नदी पर एक पुल था जो नदी के दोनों किनारों पर के लोगों के आवागमन का एकमात्र रास्ता था। नदी में बाढ़ आ रही थी। नदी का पानी पूल को छूने लगा था, तब लोगों ने आना जाना बंद किया।

राहुल २०-२१ साल का युवक जिसका घर नदी के इस ओर और ओंकार दूसरी ओर था। वह सुबह घर से निकलता था। बारिश के आसपास नहीं होती थी। रोजके समय वह स्कूल से काम पर गया और शाम को फीते समय पूल के पास जाने से वहाँ के लोग ने उसे रोका। उन्होंने कहा "मुझा में बाढ़ आयी है अत: उस पार जाना योग्य नही है।"

राहुल बोला "लेकिन पानी बांध पर कहाँ आया है?" स्वयंसेवक बोले "पानी बांध को नीचे से छू रहा है। बारिश जोरे की है इसलिए पानी ऊपर तक आ सकता है। अत: मानो, आज उस पार मत जाओ।"

राहुल बोला "यह रास्ता मेरा रोज का पहचाना है। अभी तो पानी पाउं को भी नहीं छू रहा है। मैं हमेशा दस मिनट तक पार पहुँचता हूं। यह कहते हुए वह पूल पर गया। लोग देख रहे थे। डॉक्टर पूर्वक उसने ऊपर समाया निकालने अपनी खुशहाली जतायी। अभी में पहुँच जाते हैं। उस साथ ही रहा था। इसके ने पानी की एक बड़ी लहर आयी और राहुल स्कूल के साथ जोरे से पानी के पकड़े में आये। लोग ने उसके चिंतके के समान बहकर जाते हुए देखा, तो सब बड़ा दुख हुआ।

राहुल का अंत सहास उसकी जान का दुरमृत् बन गया। इसीलिए बड़ी की बात मानने में ही भलाई है।
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Follows us on 🕵‍♂️‍♂️‍♂️‍♂️‍♂️‍♂️
Art Corner

Paintings by Amruta A Sawant
Water colour on paper

Ojus Mavinkurve,
aged 11 years from Bangalore

Togetherness in Solitude

Recreation of Starry Night by Van Gogh

Guruprasad Kalthod’s drawing of Swami Ramdas of Anandashram, Kanhangad
10.1 Read the examples given below. Accordingly fill in the blanks in the other examples.

(नर्तकी, चटका, लेखिका, मालाकारणी, नटी, गायिका)

1. का एषा? Who is this?
एषा सारिका | This is Sarika.
एषा सारिका किं करोिति? What does this Sarika do?
एषा सारिका कर्ण पठि | This Sarika reads a story.

2. का सा? Who is that?
सा गौरी | That is Gauri.
सा गौरी किं करोिति? What does that Gauri do?
सा गौरी भोजनं पचित | That Gauri cooks Food.

3. एषा का? Who is this?
एषा ...... | This is a sparrow.
एषा ...... किं करोिति? What does this sparrow do?
एषा ...... धान्यं खादि | This sparrow eats corn.

4. सा का? Who is that?
सा ...... | That is a gardener.
सा ...... किं करोिति? What does that gardener do?
सा ...... मालं रचयित | That gardener makes garlands.

5. का एषा? Who is this?
एषा ...... | This is a singer.
एषा ...... किं करोिति? What does this singer do?
एषा ...... गीतं गायित | This singer sings a song.

6. का सा? Who is that?
सा ...... | That is a dancer.
सा ...... किं करोिति? What does that dancer do?
सा ...... नृत्यं करोित | That dancer dances.

7. एषा का? Who is this?
एषा ...... | This is a writer.
एषा ...... किं करोिति? What does this writer do?
एषा ...... पुस्तं किंचिति | This writer writes a book.

8. सा का? Who is that?
सा ...... | That is an actress.
सा ...... किं करोिति? What does that actress do?
सा ...... अभिनयं करोित | That actress acts.

Answers given on Page 60

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“कोकणी आदगत्यो आनि वाक्रप्रचार”

1. आज आपहित्यारी फाई ओ म्हणता
   You call him today, he gives an answer tomorrow
   An absent-minded fellow.

2. आपणाले विसरता इसत्याले उल्लेला
   A man forgets his own faults yet makes much of those of others.

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

4. उद्यांतु होमु करचो
   Making a ritual of a burnt offering under water. Fruitless efforts.

5. उत्तरेचक कवळीलो उज्ञं मोल जाण
   The person who knows how to talk knows the value of words.

The Prof. Sadhana Kamat & Adv. Narendra Kamat Memorial Lecture Series

Ageing: its joys

A thought-provoking talk by Mrs. Neela D'Souza

On Sunday, 16th April 2023. | At 6.00 pm. (Online).

The links will be shared later. Keep yourselves free!!
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PROGRAMME

1-April-2023
Samuhika-Prarthana
10.30 am
Dhwajaroohana
06.30 pm
Palakhi-Utsava up to Shantadurga,
Temple Bappankodlu

2-April-2023
Palakhi-Utsava upto Shukla Namadeva
Bhat Compound and
Shri Chenna Kesava
Narayana Temple

3-April-2023
Palakhi-Utsava upto
Kadle Math and
Haridās-Katte

4-April-2023
Ratha Kalasharoohana
Lalakhi-Utsava upto
Mavinkatte

5-April-2023
Palakhi-Utsava upto
Baddukuli Temple and
Anandashraya

6-April-2023
Ratharoohana
05.00 pm
Rathotsava
06.00 pm
Dharma-Sabha

7-April-2023
Anna-Santarpane
Dipanamaskara,
Mangalarati,
10.30 pm
MrGabet-utsava
at Panchavati
Followed by Bhajana-Seva-s

8-April-2023
Avabhrta Snana (Okkuli)
11.00 am
DhwajavarohanA

Devotional and Cultural programmes
everyday from 5 pm onwards
US based Indian-American billionaire businesswoman, Jayshree Ullal and her husband, entrepreneur Vijay Ullal were in the limelight recently in India.

While Jayshree Ullal bagged the ET Global Indian of the Year Award at the Economic Times Awards for Corporate Excellence, Vijay Ullal, a 1980 batch Chemical Engineer from IIT/Madras was bestowed with the Distinguished Alumnus Award for 2023.

As the CEO of Arista Networks, Jayshree Ullal has led the company to tremendous heights, taking market cap from $2.5 billion at its initial public offering in 2014 to $38.52 billion as on January 27, which made her a clear choice for the Global Indian award.

Her remarkable growth story has earned her a place among the most influential women in the networking industry.

When Ullal left Cisco and joined the then four-year-old startup Arista Networks in 2008, it was considered a risky move by many, but her leadership and vision led Arista to establish itself as a major player in the computer networking industry. Ullal's success led to her inclusion in the elite list of self-made women billionaires.

Ullal was born in London but received her education in Delhi and continued her studies in the US, where she earned a degree in electrical engineering from San Francisco State University and a master's in engineering management from Santa Clara University.

At a time when global technology companies like Microsoft and Google are being led by Indian-origin CEOs, Ullal has been a trailblazer for women in technology leadership, breaking barriers and paving the way for other women to succeed in the industry.

On winning the Global Indian award, Ullal said, "I am pleasantly surprised and honoured to be selected among such qualified candidates. This is an incredible time of change in technology and across the globe, and I marvel at my peers and colleagues who continue to innovate and adapt to the challenges facing us today."

Jayshree's equally dynamic entrepreneur husband Vijay, is currently investing in early stage start-up companies and mentoring entrepreneurs in the energy conservation and IoT space. Most recently, as President and COO, he led Fairchild through a two year transformation that resulted in a 50% increase in enterprise value. Prior to Fairchild, Vijay was at Maxim Integrated, Inc., where, as Group President of the Consumer Group he grew the revenues from $0.35B to $1B which resulted in an increase in enterprise value of $2.5B. In addition to the business role, Vijay also had broad leadership responsibilities in technology development, manufacturing and supply chain. Prior to Maxim, Vijay was at Intel and Saratoga Semiconductor where he developed deep domain expertise in wafer fab and process technology. Vijay is a founder of the Bay Area IIT Madras alumni association. He has been active in charitable works for women in India. He holds a B Tech Chem E degree from IIT Madras, and an M S Chem E degree from Drexel University.

Our hearty congratulations to this power couple!
Divgi Torq lists on the BSE

Tuesday, 14th March, 2023 was a red-letter day for Jiten Divgi and his family, and indeed, a proud moment for all Bhanaps, when their company, Divgi Torq Transfer Systems (Divgi Torq) debuted on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) at a premium.

The Rs 412 crore initial public offering of Divgi TTS was open for subscription between March 1 and March 3, 2023. The company offered its shares in the range of Rs 560-590 apiece, with a lot size of 25 equity shares.

Divgi Torq was subscribed 5.44 times, with the Qualified Institutional Investors’ portion getting 7.83 times bids. The quota for non-institutional bidders was booked 1.4 times, whereas retail investors portion fetched 4.31 times bids of the reserved portion. Incidentally, Nandan Nilekani is also a major investor in the company.

The Pune based company is engaged in the business as an automotive component entity. Incorporated in 1964, the company is among very few automotive component entities in India with the capability to develop and provide system-level transfer cases, torque couplers and dual-clutch automatic transmission solutions.

Divgi Torq mainly caters to the passenger and small commercial vehicle industry but it is venturing into EV (Electric Vehicle) transmissions. The company has manufacturing facilities in Bhosari and Shivare in Pune, Maharashtra and Sirsi in Karnataka.

Our congratulations and best wishes for the continued success of the company!

Pandit Omkar Gulvady honoured

Pandit Omkar Gulvady was felicitated at the Gaansaraswati Mahotsav held on 5th of March, 2023, organized by the Natyasampada Pratishthan, Pune, to celebrate the life and music of Late Kishori Amonkar. He was also honoured with the “Gaansaraswati Kishori Amonkar Sangeetkar Award” by the organizers.
Here and There
Report on Andheri sabha

Samaradhana Punyatithi of PP Parijnanashram Swamiji II was respectfully observed on 21st September '22. Rajgopal Bhat spoke on the life of PP Parijnanashram Swamiji II and also on how and why the month of Bhadrapad is considered auspicious. He further explained, 'Bhadra' means auspicious and pada meant place and hence there are certain rituals like, Dev yajna, Brahma yajna, Pitra Yajna which are performed collectively. Dev Yajna is performed by celebrating Gauri Pujan and Ganesh Chaturthi and then Brahma Yajna is observed by offering our respects to the legacy of all our Acharyas during Rushi Panchami in the same month. Pitru paksh is observed to pay respects to our ancestors which also falls in this Bhadrapad month. Hence these three yajas or three pillars, which are the most important entities or aadhaarstambh of our life, that helps us to bring peace and serenity in our social as well as personal life. PP Parijnanashram Swamiji’s life or Tapascharya itself is as a message to the entire samaj.

Janma Diwas of our beloved Guru Param Pujya Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji was enthusiastically celebrated by our Prarthana varg children and the Yuvas on 13th Nov’ 22.

Shivani Bhat compered the programma with gusto. Prarthana varga children, Atharva Banglorekar began with the Sabha Prarabdha Prarthan and sang a beautiful Devi Bhajan, Rouhi Kamath recited the Guru Paduka stotra, Ganesh Vandana was sung by Mihika Gunawanthe, followed by Shiv Bhajans by Mishti Gunawanthe and our little Ved Banglorekar. In the end Arnav Koppikar, Aarav Koppikar alongwith Atharv Banglorekar presented a Sanskrit natika named, ‘Gajasya Manovrittihi’. Our Yuvas also participated wholeheartedly by reciting stotras and offered sangeet seva at the lotus feet of Param Pujya Swamiji.

Sadhakas of Andheri sabha performed Devi Anushthan to pray for PP Swamiji’s good health and long life and was collectively offered at the Lotus feet of Param Pujya Swamiji on this auspicious day. There was an overwhelming response from our Sabha.

Reported by Deepa Koppikar

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Report on the activities of Bengaluru Local Sabha, February 2023

On 11th February, the 26th Pattabhisheka Vardhanti of Parama Pujya Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji was observed with Bhashya Pathan- Bhagavadgita, Upanishad, Brahma Sutra and Ashtavadhana Seva. On 18th February, Mahashivratri Pujan was observed with Char Yama Pujan performed by gruhasthas. Sadhakas participated enthusiastically in the stotrapathan led by Sunanda Sagar throughout the pujan.

On 26th February, as a part of the Sayujuyam Samuhika online seva, Gurupujana was conducted jointly by sadhakas from Bengaluru and UK Sabhas which was followed by Vimarsha by Ankita Karnad for Bengaluru Sabha sadhakas. The essence of the Vimarsha was the vast influence of the attractive form of Devi Bhuvaneshwari on the emotional and spiritual growth of sadhakas.

Regular Programmes:
(a) Girvana Pratishtha classes, Sambhashana Varga classes and Prartha Varga are being conducted every week.
(b) Gayathri Japa Anushthana is performed every Sunday.
(c) Daily morning pujans and evening pujans on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays are performed by gruhasthas.
(d) Durga Namaskar is being performed every Friday by Ved. Vijay Karnad Bhat.

Reported by Saikrupa Nalkur

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Answers to सरल संस्कृतम् -

| Exercise 10.1 | 3. चटका | 4. मालकारिणी | 5. गाथिका | 6. नर्तकी | 7. लेखिका | 8. नर्ती |

April 2023 Kanara Saraswat
Our Institutions
SARASWAT MAHILA SAMAJ, GAMDEVI, MUMBAI

On the 13th of February 2023, the Lekhan Puraskar and Sangeet Puraskar Samarambh was held. The Lekhan Puraskar was instituted by Sadanand and Nirmala Bhatkal and family to encourage our Amchi Mahilas to write in Marathi or Konkani. Similarly, the Sangeet Puraskar was established by Geeta and Vivek Yennemadi and family and well-wishers who joined in later, to motivate young budding talented singers.

The recipient for the Lekhan Puraskar was accomplished writer Vidya Durgadas Baindur and for the Sangeet Puraskar, Karishma Bijoor, a young talented singer. In her welcome speech, Kalindi Kodial, Hon. Treasurer, welcomed and thanked the Bhatkal and Yennemadi families, for their encouraging initiative and then requested Priya Bijur, Hon. Secretary, to introduce the recipients. Later, Vidya was honoured with the Lekhan Puraskar, by Vijayalaxmi Kapnadak, an active member of Saraswat Mahila Samaj, and last year’s recipient of the Lekhan Puraskar.

Vidya, a Dubai resident, was born and brought up in Mumbai and graduated from Ruparel College. She was influenced by her father Sitaram Bhat, a renowned Sanskrit and Maths scholar. Until her college days, she was involved in stage dramas, contributed to All India Radio, a prominent cook - promoting Amchi Food Culture and has won numerous cookery awards.

She writes on different topics and different languages - Marathi, Konkani and her latest in Hindi too. She’s very active in the Amchi Dubai Group. Vidya Baindur thanked Saraswat Mahila Samaj for the Lekhan Puraskar honour.

Afterwards, Priya introduced Karishma Bijoor, a young talented singer, disciple of Shri Kuldeep Singh and Suchitra Bhagwat. She has won many accolades in school and college and featured in many TV Reality Shows. Due to her preoccupation, as she could not attend the function, her songs were shown on screen.

Her mother-in-law, Vidya Bijoor, accepted her Puraskar and thanked Saraswat Mahila Samaj. The programme concluded with the Vote of thanks by Geeta Suresh Balse.

Then followed the “Sneha Bhojan” of Punjabi delicacies. It was a great day as we all met after a long time and witnessed a lovely amalgamation of Poems and Music.

Reported by Geeta Suresh Balse

The Saraswat Mahila Samaj celebrated ‘Mother’s Day’ on 28th February, 2023 at 4 pm in the Samaj Hall. The evening was graced by two ladies namely, Deepa, wife of Dr Uday Andar and Laxmi Shirur, wife of Prakash Shirur. Along with their respective husbands, they are successfully running and managing an Old Age Home ‘Parijnan Chaya’ in Dahivali village, near Karla Math. They were welcomed by Srikala Vinekar.

With blessings from our Parampujya Parijnanashram Swamiji, and as per His wishes, they sincerely serve and take care of senior citizens above 70 years of age, who prefer to live alone, due to various reasons. Deepa explained the working of the home in a lively manner, with help from Laxmi who managed the projector and slide show. They both appealed for sponsorship from large-hearted donors.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Priya Bijur. The whole function and snacks were sponsored by Smita Savkur Rao, Geeta Balse and Shaila Hemmady.

Reported by Vijayalaxmi S Kapnadak

Form IV (see Rule 8)
Statement about ownership and other particulars about the Kanara Saraswat Magazine to be published in the first issue of every year after the last day of February:
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I, the Publisher of ‘Kanara Saraswat’, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

28 February, 2023 Ramkishore Mohan Mankekar
Signature of the Publisher, Kanara Saraswat
Canara Union Education invites applications for MBBS Scholarship

Canara Union is pleased to inform readers that a family has offered to fund the complete MBBS education of two Chitrapur Saraswat Brahmin students (male and female) from Karnataka.

This scholarship is mainly for those students interested in pursuing medicine but who do not have the financial resources.

The complete college fees, cost of books and hostel expenses will be taken care of through this scholarship.

Those interested may contact Canara Union through

email at : canaraunion@gmail.com

Meera Philar
Hon.Gen.Secretary
Canara Union, Bengaluru

Obituaries

Jan 8 : Shanta Raghuvir Biyar (87) at Mumbai
Jan 21 : Seema Uday Koppikar (67) at Hosapete
Jan 29 : Mandeep Rai aka Manu Ulpe (73) (ex Talmakiwadi) at Bengaluru
Feb 24 : Lalitha Jayavanth Hemmady (81) at Udupi
Feb 26 : Gurudatta N. Labadai (79) of Andheri at Malad, Mumbai
Mar 5 : Raghunandan (Nandan) Sadanand Nadkarni (82) at Guruseva CHS, Goregaon, Mumbai
Mar 7 : Manohar B Kapnadak (85) at Andheri, Mumbai
Mar 8 : Vijaya Madhukar Hemadee at Talmakiwadi, Mumbai
Mar 9 : Sheetala Vivekanand Kesarkodi (83) at Thane

Lalitha Jayavanth Hemmady
(Retd SSS, BSNL, Bengaluru)
Passed away peacefully on Friday 24th February 2023 at the age of 81 at Udupi, Karnataka.

She is survived by her two sons
Kishan & Kiran
and daughter Chitra Satish Rao,
daughter in law Vranda,
Son in law Satish Rao
and granddaughter Anishka.

MAY HER SOUL ATTAIN SADGATI

Sheetala Vivekanand Kesarkodi
(15.06.1939 – 09.03.2023)
Passed away peacefully at the age of 83 at Thane, Maharashtra– 400615.
She will be sadly missed and will always hold a place in our hearts.

May her soul rest in peace.
Dearly missed and fondly remembered by:
Son: Gurudutt Kesarkodi
Daughter-in-law: Gayatri Kesarkodi
Grand-Son: Anish Kesarkodi
Kesarkodi’s, Katre’s, Relatives and Friends.

We will miss you
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