

Kanara Saraswat

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE KANARA SARASWAT ASSOCIATION

MAY 2026

20th International WOMEN'S DAY

AWARDEES

ANURADHA ASHOK KULKARNI



NAYANA NANDKUMAR



MEENAKSHI
SHEDDE



SHWETA RAO
MANGALORE



CAPT SAACHI RANJIT KOPPIKAR



CHIEF GUEST
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Kanara Saraswat

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28 March, 2026

Shri Ramkishore M. Mankekar
Signature of the Publisher,
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From the President's Team

Dear Members and Readers,

I am sure, some of you must have enjoyed participating in the 165th Rathothsav celebrations at Shirali, which was one of the important events that took place on 2nd April, 2026. I too enjoyed attending the same and took the benefit of attending the Dharma Sabha programme including the Ashirvachan by our Guru H. H. Swamiji on that day.

While attending the Rathothsav, I stayed in my village Byndoor (once a village and now a Taluk Head Quarters), where I was born way back in 1954. It was a small village then, no colleges were there. For our higher studies (for Graduation), we had to go to Kundapura, a neighbouring town which is 34 km from my place. I am sure many of you might have explored the surrounding places whenever you visited Shirali during Rathothsav. You also might have experienced the good air quality and fresh vegetables. There is also a temple of Goddess Mahakali next to my family house which is a powerful deity of many of our Chitrapur Saraswat Families. You should not miss to visit this temple particularly during Navaratri because all the nine days, there are night poojas. The best part is to witness the Blessings one gets from Goddess Mahakali during the Aarti.

This month of April is a very important month for Kanara Saraswat Association. Due to my other commitments, I could not witness the 20th International Women's Day program. This is a programme which the Kanara Saraswat Association has been conducting for many years, where we honour some of our Gems of our community who have excelled in different areas. On 12th April, we honored Anuradha Ashok Kulkarni, Meenakshi Shedde, Nayana Nandakumar, Capt Saachi Ranjit Koppikar and Shweta Rao Mangalore for their respective contribution in the areas of voluntary Service (as a Traffic Warden), shaping the perception of South Asean Cinema, Shipping and Logistics industry, achieving excellence across disciplines as a Short Service Commission Officer in the Indian Army, and rescue and rehabilitating stray animals. We are all proud of each one of them for their work in these areas, and wish them many successes in the years to come. The Chief Guest for this program was none other than our own President of Saraswat Mahila Samaj, Smita Mavinkurve.

Likewise, Kanara Saraswat Association is very active in conducting various such events for the benefit of all of us. I am sure, you might have seen from the April 2026 issue of Kanara Saraswat magazine, that on 18th April, 2026, KSA_CSN conducted a Business Working Conclave at Bengaluru and on 19th April, 2026 – the 9th Senior Citizen 'Pachchis and Maams' get-together.

As you know, the West Asia conflict is a complex struggle rooted in geopolitics, religion, and resources, with far-reaching global consequences. It involves disputes such as the Arab-Israeli conflict, tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia, and wars in Syria, Iraq, and Yemen, all of which affect energy security and international stability. The major dimensions of the conflict are Arab-Israeli Conflict, Sectarian Rivalries – i.e. Iran vs Saudi Arabia, Civil Wars and Internal Struggles, External involvement viz US, Russia, China and European Union. These are complex matters to get resolved in a short period of time considering the history. These have some Global Implications such as Energy Security, Humanitarian Crisis, Rise of Extremism etc. Pathway to Peace are Dialogue and Diplomacy, Inclusive Governance, International mediation, Economic Integration. Let us hope that peace will prevail through this process.

I am sure many of you may be enjoying your holidays since it is a holiday break for the students studying in schools and colleges. Enjoy and have great fun.

Uday K. Gurkar



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- Cost does not include cost of travel from your place of residence to Holiday Home; lunches/dinner while on travel; entry tickets and items not included in itinerary.
- Above pricing based on group size of 4 persons and multiples thereof; **Smaller groups (to facilitate families) also welcome subject to a higher price (particularly transportation).**



Day 1	Arrival of all the Yatris to Nashik Holiday Home (NHH) till 12 Noon. Post Lunch Visit to Gargoti Museum, Sinnar Visit to Shree Samarth Ramdas Math, Takli 7 pm:- Godavari Aarti at Ramkund (Godavari Ghat) Visit to Shree Sharadamba Temple (Shringeri Shankarayacharya Math) and Kalaram Mandir in Panchavati. Dinner at NHH
Day 2	Morning 6 am – Departure to Trimbakeshwar, Coins Musuem (Indian Institute for Research in Numismatic Studies). Someswar Mahadev Mandir, Balaji Devasthan and Someswar Water Front. 11 am – Visit to Sula Wines. (Wine Tasting and Tour) Lunch at NHH Departure to Swantantrayaveer Vinayak Damodar Sawarkar, Residence (Now a Musuem) in Bhagur Followed by Visit to Artillery Centre Museum and Anna Ganpati Mandir, Devlali Dinner at NHH
Day 3	Morning 6 am – Departure to Shirdi (Saibaba Samadhi) Lunch at Shirdi. Further Proceed to Shani-Shingnapur (Famous Temple of Shanidev) Dinner also enroute to Nashik
Day 4	Morning 8 am - Breakfast at NHH. Departure to Shree Saptashrung Niwasini Devi Devasthan (Vani Devi) Onwards Departure to Saputara Hill Station. Dinner at NHH
Day 5	Breakfast at NHH. Free time. Guests to leave at their convenience Check out at 12 Noon.

The above itinerary is suggestive and subject to change to suit the needs of the group.

For further details, queries and booking contact:

Mr Kishan Chandavarkar (9822320601) / Mr.Radhakrishna Kodange (7507463137)

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The Editor's Column

Dear Readers,

Our cover for this month features the celebration of International Women's Day at KSA, wherein five ladies who have excelled in their career or chosen field, were felicitated in the Shrimad Anandashram Hall, Talmakiwadi on Sunday, 12th April, 2026. Do read about their individual achievements in the ongoing pages.

Major General B. Nagesh Rao pens his tribute to a distinguished Aamchi, Maj Gen Belthangdy Shrirang Keron, VSM (Retd), who passed away at Pune earlier in February, this year. Do read about this dynamic officer who had a distinguished military career.

It's vacation time for school children from now until early June. And to involve them we have got two pages of line drawings, to show their creativity with colours. We anticipate a very good response from our 'Bacchha party.' We also bring specially for the kids, an article by Gauri D. Mudbidri on the popular nursery rhyme, "Mary had a little lamb..." which is based on a true story of Mary Sawyer Tyler.

In his monthly column, The California Notebook, which is being appreciated by our readers, Jaidev Chandavarkar writes about the State of California being a magnet for immigrants for over a 100 years, and how, over the decades, they have powered its rise as the fourth largest economy of the world, listed only behind the USA, China, Germany and India. He goes on to describe how the local McDonald's outlet is dominated by migrant workers from Mexico.

Bhakti Ullal's series Earth Uncovered features the Loktak Lake, where the landscape rearranges itself. Do read her very interesting compilation on the 'Phumdis' – a floating tapestry of vegetation, soil and organic matter.

Life coach and mentor Shankar Mallapur expounds on how self-doubt is impacting careers. He says that it's not AI that is killing most mid-level professional careers, but it's hesitation and self-doubt. A must read loaded with useful tips for those entering their work-life.

Anjali Burde writes about Superfoods that start with an 'S.' Spinach, Strawberries, Sweet potatoes and Sesame to name a few, and how they are beneficial for us.

Over the last few decades, our country has made a mark for itself in the bustling global marketplace. Sanjay S. Trasy writes about how, despite such tremendous contributions, India's boundless giving far outweighs what it receives.

Parisevanam this month, has a first-hand account by Komal Sujir of New Jersey, who participated in the Uttar Bharat Yatra 2025, travelling to Mathura, Ayodhya and Varanasi along with fellow sadhaks in the Sannidhi of H.H. Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji.

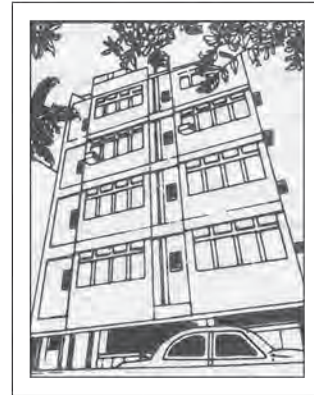
Avian photographer Nikhil Burde shares the photo shoot while on a camera-toting trip to the Desert National Park near Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. The Park hosts over 171 bird species, providing a vital habitat for arid-zone avifauna and migratory birds.

From the month of June onwards, we intend beginning a new feature on Bhanaps who have settled abroad since the 1960s or even earlier. There are many who have made their homes across the world and we want to bring them into the limelight and inform our readers how they managed to build their careers in what would have been very trying circumstances. If any reader can provide us leads in terms of names and contact numbers, please do send them to editor@kanarasaraswat.in. We will be very happy to interview and feature them in the coming months.

Happy reading!

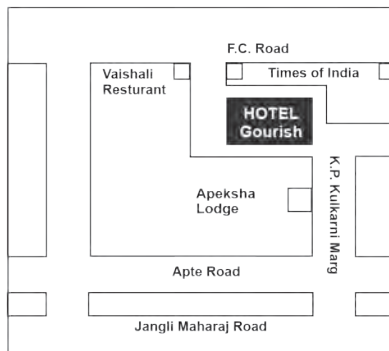
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KSA Celebrates 20th International Women's Day

ANJALI BURDE

The Kanara Saraswat Association celebrated the 20th International Women's Day by honouring Aamchi women who have excelled in their chosen fields, at a function on Sunday, 12th April, 2026 in the Shrimad Anandashram Hall, Talmakiwadi.

KSA President Kishore Masurkar (who welcomed the gathering), Chairman Mahesh Kalyanpur and former President Praveen Kadle were present on the occasion to a full house. Ashwini Prashant, Hon. Secretary and Prashanti Bhat, Jt. Hon. Secretary, Social & Cultural Events for KSA jointly conducted the proceedings smoothly and at the end, Hon. Secretary, Social & Cultural Affairs, Sunil Ullal proposed the vote of thanks. We bring you below, profiles of the chief guest and all the awardees, that have been featured on this month's cover. - Editor

The Chief Guest at the function was Ms. Smita Mavinkurve. A First Class First post-graduate in Mathematics and Physics, with a distinguished academic career right from her school days, she was also a former editor of the Kanara Saraswat magazine. Even while she was a student in college, she used to tutor undergraduate students in these subjects. After her post-graduation she joined Metal Box Company, India as a Junior Computer Programmer and learnt the basics of Computers. After four years she switched jobs and worked for two other companies before starting her own venture with a friend. Together they developed computerised systems for schools and offices in India and later, Y2K projects in the US. She has also been a Director in SVC Bank from 2013 to 2023.

Encouraged by P. P. Swamiji for learning Sanskrit, she learnt and later also taught Sanskrit. Her other interests included acting in Konkani Plays and directing plays for children for events in Talmakiwadi. Having been associated in various capacities with the Saraswat Mahila Samaj, she currently holds the position of President.

Leading a retired life now, she spends her time reading, travelling and enjoys being a grandmother.

The Awardees:

Anuradha Ashok Kulkarni - For her unstinted voluntary services as a Traffic Warden in heavily

congested suburban Mumbai since last 20 years.

She is fondly known as 'Dabang Dadi' owing to her dare-devil nature and her dedication towards maintaining law and order purely as an alert citizen and a socially conscious individual. She worked as a Steno and PA to the MD of a Private Ltd Company for 35 years. She is an avid sportsperson who till date enjoys playing cricket, badminton, carrom, etc.

Once when she was traveling on her scooter, she noticed 3/4 rickshaws coming from the wrong side near Poddar School, Santacruz, and she confronted and reprimanded them. Mr Rolfy Pereira, Sr. Police Inspector of Traffic saw that and encouraged her to go to Byculla for training where they took her written and practical test, post which she was awarded a Certificate as Volunteer for Traffic Control.

Armed with her official whistle, she helps in clearing the traffic mostly where Emergency Vehicles are held up. In August 1988, she was instrumental in helping the police to rescue an elderly man who was kidnapped by four persons on his way to Court. She once also chased a thief (who had robbed an office boy of cash at Bandra) and caught him. Later she handed over the thief to Bandra Police station. Similarly, she also caught the thief who had stolen their society watchman's mobile and handed him over to Santacruz Police station and recovered the mobile.

She continues with her voluntary services in the Traffic and Police Dept. She also does Counselling in the Detection Dept. at Santacruz Police Station. She also helps the Santacruz Saraswat Colony residents with their Passport Verifications.

She has received a Trophy and Certificate for her services from Anupam Kher. She has been interviewed and honoured by Shaina NC at Opera House in August 2025 and also by the Saraswat Mahila Samaj, Gamdevi.

Meenakshi Shedde - For her immense contribution in shaping the perception of South Asian Cinema over the last four decades.

An alumna of St Xavier's College, Mumbai she holds a degree in Economics and also holds a Diploma in Journalism from K. C. College, Mumbai and a Diploma in Film Appreciation, from FTII, Pune. As a global influencer, she has been

shaping global opinion and commercial markets for South Asian cinema over a career span of 40 years. As an independent Film Curator/Programmer/ Consultant, she has worked with the Toronto International Film Festival, Berlin Film Festival, and festivals worldwide over the last 30 years.

She has been an International Jury Member at 25 top film festivals, such as the Cannes, Berlin and Venice Film Festivals. She was also on the Jury of the Cannes Film Festival's Semaine de la Critique/ Critics' Week, 2023.

As a senior journalist and critic, she has freelanced worldwide for 40 years, for Variety, Film Comment (US), Screen International, BFI (UK), Cahiers du Cinema (France), Times of India, Middy and Forbes India (India).

As a filmmaker, her work includes 15 productions (films, documentary features, series). She also has Line-produced five international, feature-length documentaries shot in India, for directors from the US, Germany, Switzerland and Korea and also directed a short film.

Her awards and accolades include the Golden Lotus, India's National Award for Best Film Critic, 1998 and Sony Entertainment Television-Mocha Film Club Best Short Film Award, 2003.

Nayana Nandkumar nee Kaikini – For her professional contribution in the Shipping & Logistics industry in Dubai, UAE, for almost three decades.

A distinguished professional in the shipping and logistics sector, currently serving as the General Manager of the Dubai Shipping Agents Association (DSAA) Ms. Nayana Nandkumar is known as the “one-woman show” of DSAA for her ability to single-handedly manage diverse responsibilities.

She holds a B.Sc. degree with majors in Child Psychology and Finance & Business Administration and wears many hats. She has 15 years of banking experience, having worked with central banks in the UAE as a Credit Administrator.

She is a Board Member, Women in Logistics Middle East (WIL-ME), an organization fostering mentorship, networking, and opportunities for women in logistics and Deputy Regional Vice President (Middle East & Indian Subcontinent) for FONASBA (Federation of National Associations of Ship Brokers and Agents, UK). She also is a Board Member at Jebel Ali Seafarers Centre (JASC) since May 2017. She also holds position as Regional Agent (Middle East) for Bureau International

des Containers (BIC), Paris, a global leader in container transportation.

She has been conferred with many Awards and accolades for her distinguished services and remarkable contributions to the shipping and logistics industry. On May 2, 2024, she was honoured with the International Maritime Club Honorary Doctorate Leadership Excellence Award at a ceremony held at the Millennium Plaza Downtown Hotel, Dubai. She has been honoured with titles like ‘Star Woman of Maritime’ and ‘Shipping Queen.’

Her latest award is ‘Kashti Bhushan’(Gem of Shipping), conferred for Industry Impact in Shipping & Logistics at New Delhi in February 2026.

Captain Saachi Ranjit Koppikar – For achieving overall excellence across disciplines as a Short Service Commission Officer in the Indian Army.

Born in Mumbai, Captain Saachi Ranjit Koppikar excelled academically and as an athlete at St. Joseph's High School, Pune, and Fravashi Academy, Nashik. A state-level swimmer in school and an avid sportsperson, she earned a Bachelor of Architecture from the Academy of Architecture (Rachna Sansad), Mumbai. She honed her professional skills in architectural firms for two years while pursuing adventure sports - completing the Basic Mountaineering Course at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports, Manali, and conquering long-distance cycling rides of 100 km, 120 km, and a pinnacle 150 km.

In July 2022, she was commissioned into the Indian Army Ordnance Corps as a Lieutenant after acing the Combined Defence Services examination and Services Selection Board interview with an overall all India merit rank of AIR 14.

During 11 rigorous months at Officers Training Academy, Chennai, she clinched merit cards in Yoga and Swimming, passed out as Senior Under Officer - a coveted sword appointment - leading her company in the final Passing Out Parade and ranked 9th overall among nearly 180 cadets. Securing a first in order of merit among all Officers to be commissioned into the Army Ordnance Corps, her first posting immersed her in counter-insurgency logistics at a frontline unit in Kashmir, where she swiftly excelled in 10m air rifle shooting to earn a spot in the Command-level team.

In early 2024, at the Young Officers' Course in

Jabalpur, she got second position and a Silver Medal. Posted to Bathinda, Punjab, in August 2024, she was promoted to the rank of Captain in October.

Today, she anchors the Indian Army's groundbreaking first all-women Skydiving Display Team.

Selected from among almost 45 volunteers through gruelling training, she stands among just 14 elite officers to be selected - and has notched 16 jumps, including 7 daring solo freefalls. She looks forward to acing many such daring jumps and several other adventure activities in her career.

Shweta Rao Mangalore - For her not-for-profit initiative to rescue and rehabilitate stray animals.

Shweta Rao, is the only daughter of Kishore Rao Mangalore and Late Ms Shyamala Mangalore, the founders of the animal care shelter near Badlapur. Shweta has dedicated her life to the care and welfare of injured, sick and maimed animals. Shweta was earlier studying to be a Vet, but gave it up mid-way and started helping out her ailing mother at the shelter full-time. After her mother suddenly passed away, she and her father have continued running the shelter that consists majorly of dogs, a few cats, a donkey and a pig. With the help of an NGO, called the Zara Animal project, they arrange to pick up strays from the streets spread across Vangani, Ambernath, Badlapur, Kalyan and Dombivli areas, sterilize, vaccinate and take care of them and then release them back into their natural habitat, so that the animals are happy but at the same time, they do not add to the dog population.

They presently have about 350 animals under their care. They rescue sick and injured dogs from the street who are run over by vehicles or injured in dog fights, as well as abandoned pets from the street. They have also picked up strays that were beaten with iron rods and acid attacks, and completely rehabilitated them at the Shelter. All the injured animals stay in their shelter until complete recovery, after which they are sterilised, vaccinated and then released back to their respective locations. The ones permanently disabled, are kept in the shelter and looked after till their end.

Both Shweta and her father personally attend to the injured animals giving medications, changing dressings and feeding them. The monthly shelter expenses reach upto three lakhs - for which they depend on generous donors and crowd funding

through social media platforms. But most of the time they have to chip in with their own savings. The area around Badlapur, where they operate from, has been sorely lacking medical facilities and there is no one apart from them to rescue and care for the distressed animals. They both stay at the shelter 24/7 and manage the whole activity and have been doing so for the past 15 years. Their dedication is so remarkable that they have hardly had the time or the inclination to go for even a short holiday. Their day begins by 8am and ends at midnight! And mind you, there are no weekly offs!

Her Instagram handle myshelter_forstrays where she posts before and after treatment of the strays, will bring tears to the eyes on seeing how badly society treats strays and how Shweta and her father cure and rehabilitate them.

Shweta and her father are in the process of creating a new Trust that will enable donors to avail of the 80G income tax benefit. They are hopeful that they will get many donors, which will enable them to serve the strays even better. Their dedication towards treating seriously injured animals is very commendable indeed!



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Maj Gen Belthangdy Shrirang Keron - A Stalwart Passes Away

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

Saturday, 7th March, 2026 witnessed a special function in the Community Shed of Salunke Vihar in Pune. Salunke Vihar is an exclusive colony built for ex-servicemen and their families.



It was an event to pay homage to and in remembrance of a distinguished Amchi General Officer: Maj Gen Belthangdy Shrirang Keron, VSM (Retd) who passed away in the Command Hospital (Southern Command) at Pune, on 26th Feb, 2026, after a long and courageous battle with

multiple health problems, just three days before his 82nd birthday. The well attended function was organized by his son Brig Ranjan Keron, himself a distinguished serving officer of the Armoured Corps.

The attendees included Signalers in strength since Gen Keron belonged to the Corps of Signals. He was the second highest ranking Amchi officer in the Corps of Signals after Lt Gen Prakash Gokarn, PVSM, AVSM who as SO-in-C had the privilege of heading the Corps of Signals. Also present were Keron's NDA course-mates and officers who had served with him as well as relatives and Amchi acquaintances and a host of well-wishers.

Brig Ranjan Keron spoke first and briefly sketched out Gen Keron's life and the values that he ingrained in his children, as also what it was like growing up with a stern and disciplined father, who was always impressing upon them to be honest, have unimpeachable integrity, to work hard, remain fit and healthy and pursue one's goals with a fierce determination. In an Instagram post, Ranjan's sister Renuka claims that their father gave them "the resilience, courage and ability to stand steady in the world" whatever the headwinds.

Gen Keron was born on 1st March, 1944 in a

middle class family. His father, was an Accountant and his mother a home-maker. The family had moved from Kolkata to Mumbai in 1958. During his First Year Junior College at Jai Hind College, Mumbai, he applied for and got selected for the National Defence Academy. He joined NDA in the 26th Course on 11 July 1961 and was commissioned from the 35th Regular Course of IMA Dehradun in May 1965.

As a Cadet, Gen Keron excelled in NDA and was appointed Company Quarter Master Sergeant in his final term. An interesting anecdote narrated by one of his course-mates was that one weekend he decided to bunk and push off home to Mumbai. Unfortunately he could not report back in time the following Monday morning; so, taking cognizance of his temporary absence without leave, he was marched up to the powers that be and de-tabbed as punishment. Consequently he passed out not as an appointment but as an ordinary cadet.

Gen Keron had a distinguished military career by any standard. A graduate of the Defence Services Staff College, the elite Higher Command Course at Army War College and the prestigious National Defence Course at National Defence College, New Delhi. He commanded the coveted 1 Armoured Division Signal Regiment with distinction, he was selected to be India's accredited Military Attaché to Jakarta (Indonesia) for three years. He served as an Instructor in the Military College of Telecommunications Engineering at Mhow (incidentally, my son Col Ashwin Baidur, served with him in MCTE where he was posted as the Engineers DS and Instructor). Gen Keron participated in the 1965 Indo-Pak war as a Young Officer. As a Brigadier he was posted as the Chief Signals Officer of the Chinara Corps at Srinagar in the worst period of insurgency i.e. 1993-95. He also served in the Financial Planning Branch at Army HQ. As a Major General, Keron was posted to an important General Staff appointment as MG In-charge Administration, HQ Northern Command where he was responsible for military logistics and administrative support to operations during OP VIJAY in Kargil, Drass and Mashkoh sectors in 1999.

He was awarded the Vishist Seva Medal (VSM)

by the President of India for his distinguished and selfless service to the nation.

Gen Keron married Meera (nee Mundkur) and they had two children (Now Brig) Ranjan Keron and his sister Renuka Keron Singh.

As I sat through the function and heard the speakers my mind inevitably reviewed the contribution of our small Amchi community to the services. Although smaller than even the Parsi community, we had an Amchi Air Chief, Air Chief Marshal L M Katre, PVSM, AVSM & Bar, VM as also a COAS and CNS who had Amchi connections through marriage: namely Gen PP Kumaramangalam, DSO, MBE and Admiral Arun Prakash, PVSM, AVSM, VrC, VSM respectively.

Air Marshal Mundkur Pratap Rao, PVSM, AVSM, VM former VCAS, in a foreword to the Amchi Martial Clan Directory published in Sep 2004, writes and I quote, “Given that we are a small community - just 22,000 plus at last count - it is a matter of great pride that Chitrapur Saraswats have served in the Armed Forces at least since the early 1900s. They saw combat abroad in West Asia, Africa, Europe and in Burma in the first half of the 20th Century. At home, they have participated in every armed conflict with Pakistan (most recently in the Kargil operations), in the liberation of Goa and against the Chinese in 1962. Whether on the ground, at sea or in the air, Chitrapur Saraswats have served with honour and great valour and have received much acclaim and recognition. They have served in every arm and service of the Army: the Infantry; Armoured Corps; Artillery; Engineers; Signals as well as in the ASC and Ordnance. Likewise, they have served in the various branches of the Navy and the Air Force. They have been submariners, divers and gunners and have captained ships; others have piloted fighter aircraft and been aircrew members of bombers, helicopters and special role aircraft. On the one hand, at sea level, they have flown missions off aircraft carriers and off the decks of other Naval vessels; on the other hand, they have operated helicopters in the highest combat zone in the world – Siachen.”

As per statistics available, to-date we have had a total of 392 Amchis (all ranks, including Women officers and civilians) who have served or been associated with the Defence Services starting from World War I onwards. Amchis have won 77 decorations; of these, 12 officers have been

decorated more than once. Today, we also have Amchi women officers serving in the regular Army and the Indian Air Force.

Although Chitrapur Saraswats are not a declared martial race, the military tradition is certainly picking up in Amchi families. We have several cases of brothers, father-son combinations in the services.

Thus far, we have recorded six, three-generation Amchi, military families. An interesting facet about Keron Belthangdy’s family is that they are the seventh three-generation military family. Brig Ranjan Keron’s son, Capt. Rajat Ranjan Keron has also followed in his father’s footsteps and is serving in his father’s regiment, 6 Lancers of the Armoured Corps. It was a particularly proud moment for Rajat when both grandfathers and his parents attended his passing out parade: all military personnel. Yes, Brig Ranjan’s wife and Rajat’s mother – Smita, is the daughter of a Paratrooper Officer and is herself a retired army officer, having served in the Army Ordnance Corps! A truly military family!

There is an oft repeated phrase in the army that ‘old soldiers never die; they only fade away’. Memories of Maj Gen Keron Belthangdy will linger in the minds and hearts of all who have known him for a long time indeed. He will be remembered as the stalwart who faithfully gave his all to the army and the nation till his last breath.

May his soul attain eternal peace.

Sudoku May 2026 Level Medium

		6	3		9	7		
	2		7		8		4	
				1				
		8	5		2	3		
	7						6	
		3	6		4	1		
				5				
	4		1		7		8	
		5	4		6	2		

Solution on page 20

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Parijñāna Laharī

The years 2026 and 2027 herald a Trivenī Saṅgama, commemorating three auspicious occasions in our hallowed Guruparamparā:

- The 80th Janmadīvasa of H.H. Shrīmat Parijñānāshram Swāmījī III which falls on 15th June 2026
- The 30th Paṭṭābhisheka Vardhanti of H.H. Shrīmat Sadyojāt Shaṅkarāshram Swāmījī on 27th February 2027
- The 60th Paṭṭābhisheka of H.H. Shrīmat Parijñānāshram Swāmījī III on 12th October 2027

The laity's request to celebrate this Trivenī Saṅgama was graciously accepted by H.H. Swāmījī. This festive period reverentially termed 'Parijñāna Laharī' will be observed by the Samāja from 15th June 2026 to 12th October 2027.

Various activities such as Shrī Devī Anushthāna, Navarātri Nityapātha, Ishṭa Mantra Japa, Shrī Guru Pūjana, Special Sevā-s at our Math-s and cultural programmes will be conducted by all Local Sabhā-s. Prārthanā Varga, Preraṇā Varga, Yuvadhārā and Gīrvāṇapratishthā will also organise special activities.

A special core team for 'Parijñāna Laharī', headed by Dr. Chaitanya Gulvāḍy, Dharmaprachāraka, Shrī Chitrāpur Math, has been constituted to coordinate these activities during this period.

All sādḥaka-s are invited to participate in 'Parijñāna Laharī' - an Utsava of Bhakti and Ānanda, and partake of the Anugraha of the Guruparamparā.


Praveen Kadle

2nd April, 2026

President, Standing Committee

Shrī Chitrāpur Math

Chitrapur Heritage Foundation

711 Daylily Court, Langhorne, Pennsylvania, USA

Connecting US Amchis to Chitrapur Math

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

The activities of CHF includes:

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

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

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

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



VIṬṬAL CHĀTURMĀSA 2026

30th Chāturmāsa Vratam - Parābhava Saṁvatsara

By H.H. Shrīmat Sadyojāt Shaṅkarāshram Swāmījī, Maṭhādhipati
Of Shrī Chitrāpur Maṭh, Shirali, Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka

29-07-2026 (Wednesday): Āṣhāḍha Pūrṇimā
(Vyāsapūrṇimā / Gurupūrṇimā)

To

26-09-2026 (Saturday): Bhādrapada Pūrṇimā
(Sīmollaṅghana)

at Shrīmath Anantheshwar Temple

PURAPRAVESHĀ of H.H. Shrīmat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji - Tuesday, 28th July 2026 (6:30 p.m onwards)

Jai Shaṅkar, sādḥaka-s!

By the divine grace of H.H. Shrīmat Sadyojāt Shaṅkarāshram Swāmījī, Maṭhādhipati of Shrī Chitrāpur Maṭh, Shirālī, the divine observance of Their 30th Chāturmāsa Vratam will take place at the sacred Shrīmath Anantheshwar Temple, Viṭṭal, from 29th July 2026 to 26th September 2026.

You are cordially invited to attend all the functions with your family and friends and receive the Blessings of Shrī Bhavānīshaṅkar, Shrīmath Anantheshwar, our revered Guruparamparā and H.H. Shrīmat Sadyojāt Shaṅkarāshram Swāmījī.

We look forward to your enthusiastic co-operation and participation in large numbers in all the functions to make this Chāturmāsa a memorable and unforgettable event.

Convener
Bhavānīshaṅker Kaṅḍlur, Mob: 96860 50341

Shrīmath Anantheshwar Temple Managing Committee
And Committee Members

SEVĀ-S DURING CHĀTURMĀSA - 2026

SHRĪMATH ANANTHESHWAR TEMPLE, VIṬṬAL

No.	Sevā Name	Rates (Rs.)
1	Mahā Poṣhaka (Includes the following: One-day Viniyoga at all Sannidhi-s at Shrīmath Anantheshwar Temple, Viṭṭal, Kārtika Pūjā, Nāga Tambila, One Day Breakfast, Santarpaṇa Sevā, Shrī Guru Pādukā Pūjana & Shrī Bhikṣhā Sevā + Memento)	60,000/-
2	Poshaka (Includes the following: One-day Viniyoga at all Sannidhi-s at Shrīmath Anantheshwar Temple, Viṭṭal, Kārtika Pūjā, Nāga Tambila, One Day Breakfast, Santarpaṇa Sevā, Shrī Guru Pādukā Pūjana & Shrī Bhikṣhā Sevā)	30,000/-
3	Yajamāna Sevā (Includes the following: One-day Viniyoga at all Sannidhi-s at Shrīmath Anantheshwar Temple, Viṭṭal, Kārtika Pūjā, One Day Breakfast, Santarpaṇa Sevā, Shrī Guru Pādukā Pūjana & Shrī Bhikṣhā Sevā)	25,000/-
4	Upāhāra Santarpaṇa Sevā (Includes the following: One-day Viniyoga at all Sannidhi-s at Shrīmath Anantheshwar Temple, Viṭṭal, One Day Breakfast, Santarpaṇa Sevā, Shrī Guru Pādukā Pūjana & Shrī Bhikṣhā Sevā)	20,000/-
5	Santarpaṇa Sevā (Includes the following: Santarpaṇa Sevā, Shrī Guru Pādukā Pūjana & Shrī Bhikṣhā Sevā)	15,000/-
6	Upāhāra Sevā (Includes the following: One Day Breakfast, Shrī Guru Pādukā Pūjana & Shrī Bhikṣhā Sevā)	10,000/-
7	Sarva Sannidhi Sevā (Includes the following: One-day Viniyoga at all Sannidhi-s at Shrīmath Anantheshwar Temple, Viṭṭal, Shrī Guru Pādukā Pūjana & Shrī Bhikṣhā Sevā + Kāṇika)	1,600/-

Bank account details for contributions by NEFT/RTGS:

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Account Type	- Savings Account
Account Number	- 300003000112026
IFSC Code	- SVCB0000070



Please convey the Name of the Sevā, Date of Sevā, Full Name of Sevā Kartā and Gotra , Mobile Number, e-mail ID, full postal address, transaction reference number (UTR/UPI) to the email ID: satvittal@gmail.com to enable us to send the Sevā Prasāda.

Overseas sādha-s may send their queries to the Donor Facilitation Cell at donor.facilitation@chitrapurmath.net.in

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Mary Had a Little Lamb - A Nursery Rhyme Based on a True Story

GAURI D. MUDBIDRI

The story of Mary Sawyer Tyler: 1806-1889. The girl who saved a lamb - and created a legend.

The nursery rhyme we sang as a child was based on a real 9-year-old girl who saved a dying lamb—and accidentally made history. “Mary had a little lamb; its fleece was white as snow.” This nursery rhyme is famous worldwide and often sung in kindergarten.

But did you know Mary was real? And so, was her lamb? This is the true story behind one of the most famous nursery rhymes in history.

In March 1815, on a cold morning in Sterling, Massachusetts, nine-year-old Mary Sawyer was helping her father with chores in the barn. They discovered that one of their ewes had given birth to twin lambs overnight—but something was wrong. One lamb was healthy and nursing. The other had been rejected by its mother and was lying in the straw, barely breathing, too weak to even stand. Without its mother’s care and milk, the tiny creature was dying of cold and hunger. Mary’s heart broke at the sight. “Can I take it inside?” she begged her father. Her father shook his head. “No, Mary. It’s almost dead anyway. Even if we try, it probably won’t survive.” But Mary couldn’t bear to watch the lamb die. She pleaded with her father until he finally relented—though he made it clear he thought it was hopeless. When they returned to the house, Mary’s mother agreed to let her try. Mary wrapped the freezing lamb in an old garment and held it close to the fireplace, cradling it in her arms through the long night. She didn’t know if it would make it to morning. The lamb was so weak it couldn’t even swallow at first. But Mary refused to give up. By morning, against all odds, the lamb was standing. Over the next few days, with Mary’s constant care—feeding it milk, keeping it warm, nursing it back to strength—the little creature recovered completely. And then something magical happened. The lamb, whom Mary had saved from death, became utterly devoted to her. It recognized her voice. It came running when she called. And everywhere that Mary went, the lamb truly was sure to go.

One morning before school, Mary called out

to her lamb as she was leaving. The lamb came trotting over immediately. Mary’s mischievous older brother, Nat, grinned and said, “Let’s take the lamb to school with us! Mary hesitated—she knew it was against the rules—but the idea was too tempting. She agreed. She tried to smuggle the lamb into the one-room “Redstone School” by hiding it in a basket under her desk, hoping it would stay quiet. For a while, her plan worked. The lamb nestled silently beneath her seat as the lesson began. Then Mary was called to the front of the classroom to recite her lesson. As she stood and began to read aloud, the lamb suddenly bleated loudly and leaped out from under her desk, following Mary to the front of the room. The classroom erupted. The students burst into laughter at the sight of a fluffy white lamb wandering the aisles, bleating and looking for Mary. Even the teacher, Polly Kimball, “laughed outright”—though she gently told Mary that the lamb would have to go home. Mary, embarrassed but smiling, led her lamb outside to wait in a shed until school ended. She thought that would be the end of it—a funny story to tell at dinner. But someone else was watching. Among the visitors at the school that day was a young man named John Roulstone, a college-bound student staying with his uncle, the local minister. He was charmed by the sight of Mary’s devoted lamb following her into school. The next day, John rode his horse across the fields to the little schoolhouse and handed Mary a slip of paper. On it, he’d written three simple stanzas:

*Mary had a little lamb,
Little lamb, little lamb.
Mary had a little lamb,
Its fleece was white as snow.
And everywhere that Mary went,
Mary went, Mary went,
and everywhere that Mary went
- The lamb was sure to go.*

*It followed her to school one day
school one day, school one day.
It followed her to school one day,
which was against the rules.
It made the children laugh and play,
laugh and play, laugh and play,
it made the children laugh and play*

- to see a lamb in school.
 And so, the teacher turned it out,
 turned it out, turned it out.
 And so the teacher turned it out,
 But still it lingered near,
 And waited patiently about,
 patiently about, patiently about,
 And waited patiently about
 - till Mary did appear.

Mary treasured that piece of paper. She kept it for years, along with the memory of the lamb she'd saved. The lamb lived to be four years old, bearing three lambs of her own before she was accidentally killed by a cow in the barn. Mary's mother saved some of the lamb's wool and knitted stockings for Mary, which she treasured for the rest of her life.

But the story doesn't end there. In 1830, a well-known writer and editor named "Sarah Josepha Hale" published a collection called "Poems for Our Children". Among them was a poem called "Mary's Lamb"—the same verses John Roulstone had written, plus three additional stanzas with a moral lesson about kindness to animals. The poem spread like wildfire. It was reprinted in schoolbooks across America. Children everywhere began singing it. By the 1850s, it was one of the most famous children's poems in the country.

But here's where it gets even more remarkable: In 1877, nearly sixty years after Mary saved that lamb, inventor Thomas Edison was testing his brand-new phonograph—the first machine ever capable of recording and playing back sound. He needed something to recite to test if it worked. He chose "Mary Had a Little Lamb." "Edison's voice reciting those words became the first audio recording in human history. The poem that began with a nine-year-old girl's compassion became the first sound ever captured by technology. As for Mary herself, she lived a long, quiet life. She married, raised a family, and rarely talked about the famous poem until she was an elderly woman.

In 1876, at age 70, Mary finally came forward to share her story publicly when she donated the stockings her mother had made from her lamb's wool to help raise money to save Boston's Old South Meeting House. She sold autographed cards tied with yarn from those stockings, telling the world, "I am Mary. This is my lamb's wool." "People were astonished. The woman behind the nursery rhyme was real—and she was still alive.

Today, a statue of her little lamb stands in

Sterling, Massachusetts, commemorating the day a nine-year-old girl's compassion for a dying animal created one of the most enduring stories in children's literature. The lesson of "Mary Had a Little Lamb" isn't just about a pet following its owner. It's about what happened before that—about a little girl who refused to let a helpless creature die, who fought for its life when everyone else had given up, who showed that kindness and determination can create miracles. Mary saved her lamb. And in return, that lamb gave her immortality.

This true story about a real girl teaches us that compassion matters, that small acts of kindness ripple through time, and that sometimes the gentlest hearts change the world.

The Redstone School, where Mary attended and where the incident took place, was built in 1798. The property was later purchased by Henry Ford and relocated to a churchyard on the property of Longfellow's Wayside Inn in Sudbury, Massachusetts.

Mary Sawyer died in 1889 at age 83.



Mary Sawyer Tyler

Sudoku May 2026			Solution			Level Medium		
8	5	6	3	4	9	7	2	1
9	2	1	7	6	8	5	4	3
4	3	7	2	1	5	8	9	6
1	6	8	5	9	2	3	7	4
5	7	4	8	3	1	9	6	2
2	9	3	6	7	4	1	5	8
6	8	2	9	5	3	4	1	7
3	4	9	1	2	7	6	8	5
7	1	5	4	8	6	2	3	9

Sad Demise

Sadanand Shripadrao Kaikini
24th March 1943 – 13th March 2026



We are deeply saddened by his sudden, peaceful demise. A gentleman to the core he was also a passionate table-tennis player and a singer, apart from being the eldest of siblings of his generation.

Thank you all for praying with us in this moment of irreparable loss.

**Kaikini(s), Baindur(s), Vaknalli(s),
Panje(s), Turme(s),**

1st Death Anniversary

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
KANCHAN SATISH MURDESHWAR

[25-04-1947 ---- 08-04-2025]

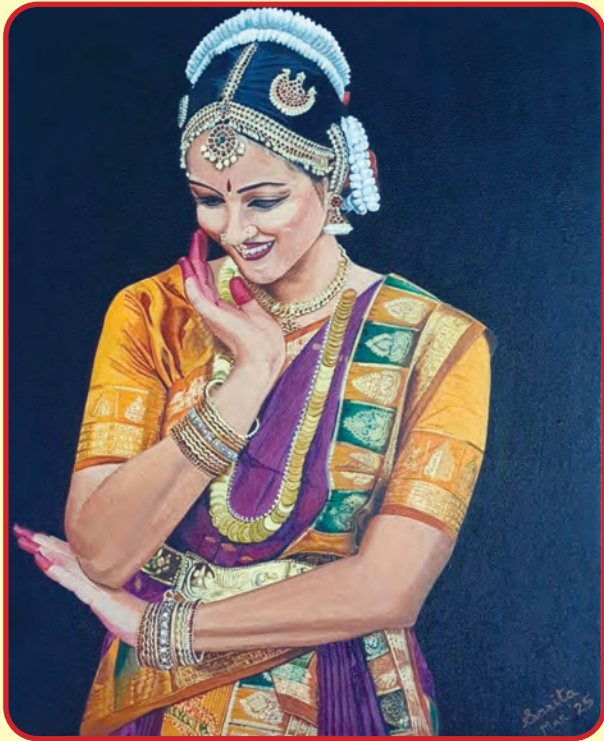


DEEPLY MISSED AND FONDLY REMEMBERED

ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS;
IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS.

SATISH R. MURDESHWAR
RAHUL AND RUPAL MURDESHWAR
SUPRIYA AND PRASANNA STHALEKAR
VARAD STHALEKAR
ALL RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

Art Corner



Acrylics on canvas - Sarita Kowshik



Colour pencil artwork - Nivedita Baidur



Colour pencil artwork - Ujwal Moodbidri



**Mixed media artwork - colour pencil+
soft pastels - Ananya Trasi**

Art Corner



Colour pencil artwork - Vijay Ubhayakar



**Water colours artwork
- Deepali Honnavar**



Water colours artwork - Dhwani Padukone



**Acrylic paint on canvas by Chinmayee
Prachi Bakul Kodikal**



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CALIFORNIA NOTEBOOK

A glimpse of what it is like to live in California

JAIDEV CHANDAVARKAR

McDonald's and the community

I stopped by a McDonald's the other day. It was early morning, and I was on the way to the library to work on preparing for the upcoming book discussion on Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath". It seemed a good time to have a freshly made Egg McMuffin and hash browns and to mull over the notes that I had made on Steinbeck's observations on the historic migration of Oklahoma farmers during the Great Depression.

California has been a magnet for immigrants, both domestic and international for over a hundred years. During the Gold Rush years, immigrants arrived here from all over the United States and the world in quest of a huge fortune. But the immigration that has dominated recent public memory is the influx of immigrants from Oklahoma, fleeing the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression that forced Oklahoma farmers to abandon their farms and begin a backbreaking and heartbreaking journey, looking for work in California's farms.

Since those dark and difficult days, international knowledge-worker immigrants from all over the world have powered California's rise to the position as the fourth largest economy of the world (USD 4.3 trillion), listed only behind the USA (USD 25.7 trillion, net of California), China (USD 20.0 trillion) and Germany (USD 5.00 trillion). India and Japan vie for fifth place, with a GDP of 4.00 trillion USD.

But in our local McDonald's, the immigrant scene is a different one, dominated by migrant workers from Mexico. It was quite a while since my last visit to a McDonald's restaurant, and I had forgotten the ambience of the restaurant. Mexican immigrant workers were on the phone, preparing to leave for their place of work. Some of them were calling their friends who were going to give them a ride to where they would be working on their daily labor assignments. The middle-aged lady who sat at a table behind me and was excitedly talking on the phone, walked out after a while to a car that had just arrived at McDonald's to pick her up.

Other immigrant day laborers had congregated to have a coffee with their friends before dispersing for work. They cracked jokes and laughed and looked very happy. The sound of Spanish was very much in the air.

But it is not just Hispanic immigrant workers who populate our local McDonald's. The remainder of the customers are older, white people, both men and women, rolling into McDonald's for their first coffee of the day. They walked in disheveled, wearing crumpled clothes. Their faces wear stoic expressions. Many are hugely obese, their obesity coming in the way of walking with ease. A lot of senior white people live alone in their declining years, struggling to live their daily lives on the slender earnings from social security payments, and the struggle shows in the grimness of their facial expressions. Unlike the Hispanic immigrant workers, the older white customers keep pretty much to themselves and are silent.

But if you're here on a Sunday morning, what a drastically changed atmosphere it is, in the same physical location! A prominent church – Saint Paschal Baylon Catholic Church is right across the street from the McDonald's. The church offers three Sunday morning Mass services; the earliest service being offered at 7:30 am and the last morning service at 10:45 am. There is a constant stream of entire families – grandparents, parents, young adults, teenagers, younger children pouring into McDonald's all morning. Some are here prior to the Mass service they plan to attend. Some come in for a post-Mass coffee and breakfast. The young children are irrepressible. Everyone is happy, excited and dressed very well. In fact, the expression "wearing your Sunday best" comes from an old Christian tradition, where, even if you come from an economically disadvantaged family, you saved up enough to buy elegant clothes for everyone in the family to wear to church on Sundays. McDonald's sees it all – the entire community.

Email: chitransai@gmail.com

Mathura..Ayodhya..Varanasi

In this touching recap of the Uttara Bharat Yatra 2025 undertaken in the soul-stirring Presence of Pujya Swamiji, Komal Sujirpachi from New Jersey describes how these three spiritual kshetra-s transformed into sacred milestones of her own inward journey

Travel has always been a part of who I am. I feel deeply grateful and blessed to have been part of the UBY 2025 with our revered HH Swamiji. Every moment felt divinely guided, filled with grace, unity, and something beautifully miraculous.

Mathura – the joyful city

Mathura felt like a gentle embrace. Everyone felt Krishna is still living there and that the Krishna- Radha vibes were all-around. Standing on the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi, I felt as if Krishna was reminding me that joy can exist even in chaos, that life did not have to be perfect to be beautiful. All of us went to the Banke Bihari temple which is very famous in Mathura. Here, we encountered monkeys who took off the eyeglasses of some devotees who had to offer a Frooti to get them back. It was hilarious!

We then got a chance to travel with Swamiji to inaugurate a huge college at Aligarh where we met many members of our ‘extended family’ – the North Indian Saraswats. Standing by the Yamuna, watching the river flow endlessly while our Swamiji performed puja and singing bhajans with our group was when I realized how much unnecessary baggage I had been holding onto—fears, worries, unanswered prayers. Mathura taught me to smile again, to trust divine timing, and to believe that joy is, indeed, a form of devotion.

Ayodhya – learning the Strength of Faith

Ayodhya was calm, composed, and deeply reassuring. Before going to the main Sriram Janmabhoomi temple we visited the Hanumangarhi temple which is on a hill. We climbed almost 300 steps to the electrifying vibes of everyone chanting “Jai Sri Ram”. We also sang “Anjaneya Swami” bhajan while waiting at the temple. At Shri Ram Janmabhoomi, I stood silent, totally overwhelmed by the recall of Lord Ram’s life which reminds us that righteousness often demands patience and sacrifice.

During the Sarayu Aarti, as the lamps floated away, I poured my silent prayers into the river. I did not ask for miracles—only for strength to walk my path with faith. Ayodhya did not proclaim its devotion loudly; it just whispered it gently to my soul...

Varanasi – Where I Learnt to Let Go...

Varanasi was intense, honest, and transformational. The narrow lanes of Kashi felt like a mirror—showing me life as it truly is, unfiltered and raw. At Kashi Vishwanath temple, we had the privilege of seeing Swamiji perform abhishekam in the Garbhagriha. While inside I bowed my head and felt a deep release, as if burdens I did not even know I was carrying, were slowly lifting.

While waiting in line Swamiji sang “Samba Sadashiva” and asked us to sing as well. Later, we went for Ma Annapurna Devi’s darshan. It was truly divine. Her eyes reflect maternal care, abundance and cosmic energy.

We were blessed to witness the inauguration of our Math at Raja Ghat.

The Ganga Aarti left me speechless. We sat at the ghat and witnessed this Ganga arti puja conducted by Swamiji. We then did prokshan rather than dipping in the holy river. Fire, water, chants, and silence all merged into one sacred moment. Watching the river flow, I understood that life moves forward, no matter what—and we slowly realize that peace comes from surrender.

At all these holy places we were so fortunate to listen to an Ashirvachan every day, participate in the puja and sing bhajans. We also did garba in tune with “Amba tu adhar Devi” in Ayodhya. On the last day tears rolled down as we sang “Koti Koti shata pranaama tumko” and “Ananda Loke”..

My Take-aways

This awesome yatra changed me quietly.

~~~~~ Parisevanam ~~~~~

Firstly, I felt very blessed to be in the 'sannidhi' of our Swamiji and fellow-sadhaka-s for two whole weeks in these important places of pilgrimage.

Mathura gave me joy, Ayodhya stirred my faith, and Varanasi taught me surrender. I returned home not with answers, but with a precious calm—a rare gift, without doubt..

On the last day in Varanasi at the Sringeri Shankaracharya Ashram we got to see the

picture of our Anandashram Swamiji which was in Raja Ghat. We also got the sacred teerth and prasaad given by Swamiji Himself. As Swamiji was leaving we sang Ananda Loke with tears in our eyes.

This trip reminded me that spirituality is not about escaping life. It is about learning how to live with trust, devotion, and a softer heart.

Joy..Faith..Surrender



Shreyas Beltangdy, Editor of BAFTA Winner Manipuri film, "Boong"

Recently, the Indian state of Manipur was in the headlines for a positive reason: The Manipuri language film "Boong," produced by Farhan Akhtar's Excel Entertainment and directed by filmmaker Lakshmi Priya Devi, went on to become the first Indian film to win at the prestigious BAFTA in London in February 2026. The BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Awards) is popularly considered the British "Oscars."



This achievement marked not just a significant milestone for Indian cinema but also for proud parents Smt. Preeti and Shri Sumant Beltangdy of Dahisar, Mumbai - because the editor of the film "Boong" is their elder son, Shreyas Beltangdy.

Currently residing in Auckland, New Zealand (with his wife Kirthika), dear Shreyas undertook the remarkable task of editing the entire film remotely, while director Lakshmi Priya Devi worked from Mumbai. Their virtual collaboration reflects a rare and commendable approach in Indian filmmaking.

The film "Boong" (meaning "young boy") tells a touching story of a young 9-year-old Manipuri boy who lives with his single mother. Together with his best friend he sneaks across the border searching for his missing father, for a coming-of-age adventure that culminates in an emotional climax.

Over the past 20 years, Shreyas has built a strong body of editorial work in advertising commercials (for leading brands such as Sony, Maruti, Amul, Tata, Taj Hotels, Apollo Hospitals and more.) He later expanded into documentaries, short films, and branded content and finally feature films.

Recently, the films that Shreyas has edited have been feted with international acclaim. This includes arthouse drama "Last Film Show" (director Pan Nalin) which was in the long-list for the Best International Film at the Oscar Awards in 2022 and currently streaming on Netflix, and action thriller "Stolen" (director Karan Tejpal) which was selected at the prestigious Venice International Film Festival, Italy 2023 and currently streaming on Amazon Prime.

Shreyas's success adds to the rich legacy of the Amchigeli artists in the cinema industry over the decades (Padukones, Benegals, Bhardwajs, Karnads, Gurudutts, Nagarkattis, Nadkarnis, Paudwals, Kalyanpurs, etc). And also specifically the Beltangdy clan, which included cinematographer Vasant Beltangdy in the 1940s-50s years, and more recently reputed television star Trishna Vivek.

No doubt the success would not be possible without blessings and grace of H.H. Swamiji. Kudos to Amgello "boong" (young boy) dear Shreyas for making the Beltangdy family and the Chitrapur Saraswat Samaj very proud!



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The Desert National Park, Jaisalmer - A Photographer's Paradise

NIKHIL BURDE

The Desert National Park (DNP) is situated about 40 Kms from Jaisalmer and the village is called Sam. The Border Security Force outpost is located in and around Sam.

The DNP hosts **over 171 bird species**, serving as a vital habitat for arid-zone avifauna and migratory birds.

Thanks to the Rajasthan Forest Department's conservation efforts, it is most famous as the primary home for the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard (GIB), which is one species among the three found in India.

Along with various vultures, eagles, falcons, sandgrouse, and larks this DNP supports various migrant bird species too.

Key bird species and information:

- Total Species: An annotated checklist identifies 171 species, with five additional species spotted by observers.
- Key Species: Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*), Indian Roller, Cream-colored Courser, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, and Gray Francolin.
- Raptors: Desert National Park features significant bird-of-prey populations, including the Egyptian Vulture, Cinereous Vulture, Steppe Eagle, Tawny Eagle, and Laggar Falcon.
- Migratory Species: Winter brings visitors like the Rosy Starling, various larks (Greater Hoopoe-Lark, Desert Lark), and warblers.
- Habitat: The 3,162 sq. km park consists of sandy dunes, scrublands, and salty lake beds, providing diverse environments for desert-obligate birds.
- Best Time to Visit: Winter, from October to February, is ideal for bird watching. Below are some of the images clicked during my recent trip in January 2026.



Trumpeter Finch



Red headed Vulture



Chestnut Bellied Sandgrouse



Egyptian Vulture White Morph



Great Indian Bustard



Cinereous Vulture

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Follows us on



Super-foods – S

ANJALI BURDE

In this article we shall cover some super-foods that begin with the letter S.

Spinach-This highly nutritious green leafy vegetable is packed with iron, fibre, vitamin A, C and K, and also contains anti-oxidants which support and promote good health. Regular consumption of spinach helps regulate and manage blood pressure. The presence of vitamin K helps in maintaining bone health, the iron content keeps the blood healthy and the vitamin A is good for healthy eyesight. Spinach has wide culinary uses from salads to soups, simple daily vegetable dishes in combination with onions, potato, peas and corn to a richer version with paneer and cream. It is also added to meat dishes to enhance the flavour of the gravies. Spinach leaves can be coated with gram flour batter and deep fried, then served with sweet and spicy chutneys and a smattering of sweet chilled curd to make the lip-smacking palak pakodi chaat for an occasional indulgence.

Strawberry- Is a nutrient dense fruit packed with vitamin C, fibre and anti-oxidants like anthocyanins. The vitamin C helps in boosting immunity and reducing oxidative stress. It also improves skin elasticity by boosting collagen production. The fibre and anti-oxidants help in reducing cholesterol and improving heart health. The fruit is low in calories hence good for diabetics and weight-watchers. The flavonoids present in strawberries improve memory and can help in reducing age related cognitive decline. Enjoyed as a fruit by itself, strawberries can also be added to a variety of desserts like pastries and ice-cream.

Sesame- Known as til in local languages, this tiny seed is nutrient dense and comes in two varieties black and white. It is primarily an oilseed and used to extract oil. Til oil or gingelly oil is a very healthy medium of cooking. It contains almost 50% unsaturated fatty acids which are beneficial in lowering bad cholesterol and thus supporting heart health. Sesame seeds are also a rich source of calcium and vitamin E which help in maintaining bone density and also provide relief from inflammatory conditions like arthritis. Mostly consumed here as til chikki and laddus, it is also added to many Indian dishes to thicken gravies, as a garnish over Chinese dishes and

salads. In Mid-Eastern nations a paste of sesame seeds called tahini is widely used. In Maharashtra a dry chutney of til called til-kut is prepared and relished with bhakarlis. In Karnataka til seeds are soaked and ground to a paste and strained to extract a milky liquid. The liquid is sweetened with some jaggery and served a coolant called til panak.

Sweet potato- This root is a starchy nutritious vegetable packed with fibre, potassium, vitamin A and C. Although consumed in India mainly on days of vrat or fasting this root vegetable is now extremely popular with the health conscious. As it contains complex carbohydrates and fibre it is extremely helpful in maintaining good gut health and sugar levels. The anti-oxidants boost immunity, the vitamin A content helps in maintaining good vision and the potassium content helps manage blood pressure. Sweet potatoes can be boiled, baked or roasted. It is used to prepare fritters (phodi or kaap), kees (an upma like preparation with peanuts and green chillies), stuffed into dough balls to make a puran-poli like dish, cooked with milk to make kheer or lightly roasted and served as a chaat.

The following recipe called **shakarkandi ki chaat** is equally healthy and tasty.

Ingredients: 2-3 boiled and peeled sweet potato (shouldn't be overcooked)

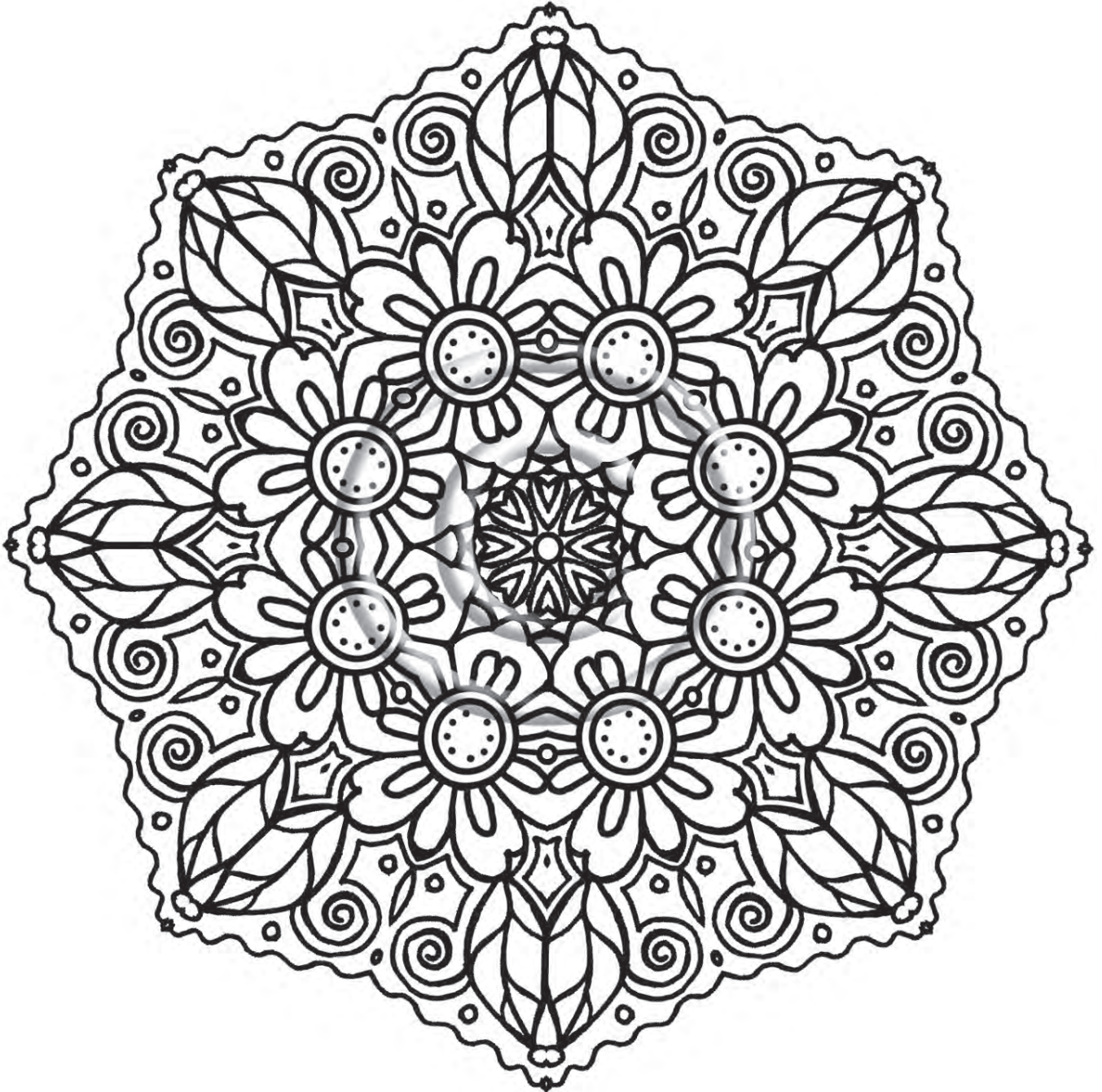
1 tbsp roasted peanuts; 2 tbsp roasted makhana (fox nuts); 1 tbsp finely chopped coriander ;1 tbsp ghee; ¼ tsp black salt or chaat masala;1 green chilli finely chopped; salt to taste; ½ tsp roasted jeera powder; 4 tbsp sweet curd ; A few pomegranate arils.

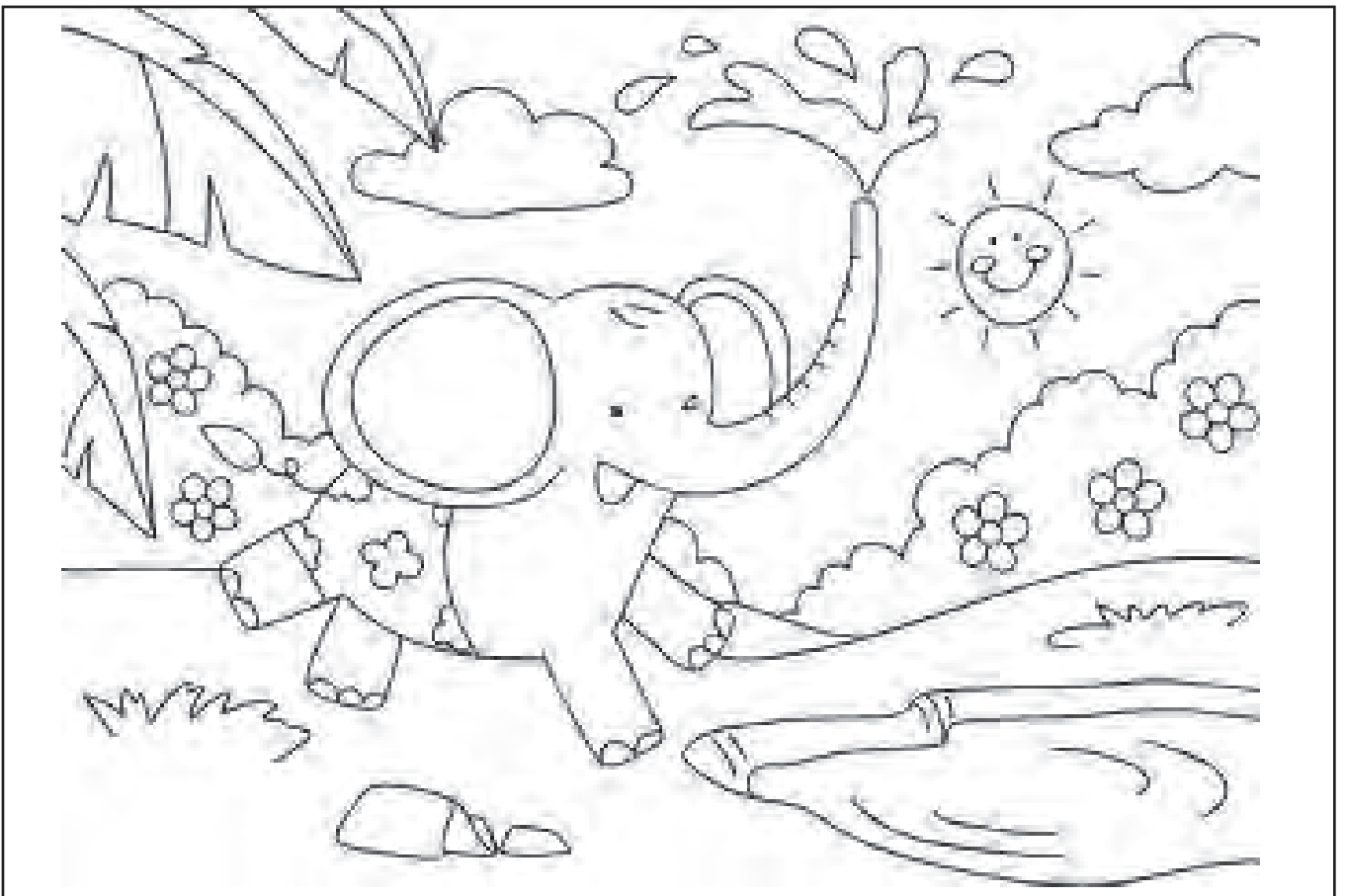
Green chutney and sweet tamarind chutney as required.

Method: Cut the sweet potato into bite-sizes cubes. Heat ghee in a non-stick pan, add chopped green chilli, a little chopped coriander and the sweet potato cubes and toss them till they turn lightly golden, add salt, black salt and mix well. Take them out in a bowl and cool slightly. Add the peanuts, makhana and mix gently. Sprinkle the jeera powder, drizzle the spicy and sweet chutneys. Top it with some sweetened curd, garnish with coriander leaves and pomegranate arils and serve immediately.

SUMMER VACATION PASTIME

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Walking on Water... almost

BHAKTI ULLAL

Some places don't sit still. They drift into your memory.

There's a lake in Manipur that seems to have misplaced the rulebook. Here, land doesn't stay put, maps feel slightly unreliable, and the idea of 'firm ground' becomes...negotiable. Welcome to Loktak Lake - a place where the landscape rearranges itself, where geography feels more like choreography.

You are gliding across calm water at sunrise. The mist lifts, and suddenly you notice shapes scattered across the lake - round, irregular, almost like puzzle pieces that never quite lock together. They look like islands. But they behave like something else entirely.

These are *phumdis*. Not quite land, not quite water, but a curious in-between. They drift, expand, shrink, and occasionally wander off as if they have plans of their own. If lakes had personalities, Loktak's would be delightfully unpredictable. Each phumdi is a floating tapestry of vegetation, soil and organic matter. Over time, plants grow, collapse, and build upon themselves, creating thick floating platforms. Beneath the surface, gases from decay give them buoyancy—nature's quiet engineering at work.

Even the word carries a story. In the local Meitei language, "*phum*" means a mass or a gathered heap—something that comes together over time. "Phumdi" grew from this root, a name that fits these layered, living islands perfectly. Locals often shorten it to simply *phum*, spoken with the familiarity reserved for something that has always been there. And for generations, people have not just observed phumdis—they have collaborated with them.

Homes that drift

Now imagine building your house on something that doesn't believe in staying still. Local fishermen do exactly that. Their homes, known as *phumshangs*, rest atop these floating patches. No fixed address in the conventional sense—just a shifting relationship with the lake.

Life in the lake has its own rhythm. Nets are cast at dawn, meals are cooked over simple stoves, and evenings arrive with the soft lull of water

beneath everything. There's a quiet acceptance of movement. After all, when your floor sways ever so slightly, you learn balance—not just physical, but philosophical.

A floating world that sustains life

There's more to a phumdi than meets the eye—it isn't just floating matter, it's a floating neighbourhood. These drifting islands double up as nurseries, shelters, and feeding grounds for a surprising range of life. Birds pause here mid-journey, fish slip into the cool shadows below, and at the heart of it all lives the rare and graceful Sangai. In Keibul Lamjao National Park—the world's only floating national park—the phumdis are not scenery; they are survival itself.

The Sangai, a creature uniquely suited to the environment. Found only in Keibul Lamjao National Park—which, incidentally, floats—the Sangai moves with a kind of careful grace that has earned it the nickname "the dancing deer." Its hooves press lightly into the spongy surface, each step measured, each movement deliberate. Watching it move across a phumdi feels less like observing wildlife and more like witnessing a performance—quiet, elegant, and perfectly in tune with its stage.

There was a time when the Sangai nearly vanished. Thought extinct, it quietly held on in this floating refuge until it was rediscovered. The Sangai is not just the state animal of Manipur, it is the graceful jewel of Manipur, the soul of the land.

The lake tells stories

Spend enough time around Loktak, and you'll notice that people don't just live *near* the lake—they listen to it.

There are stories of phumdis shifting overnight, altering familiar routes. A shortcut today might become a detour tomorrow. Fishermen speak of reading the lake—watching wind patterns, sensing currents, predicting movement with an intuition honed over years.

Children grow up here learning a different kind of geography. Their playgrounds are mobile. Their sense of direction includes an understanding that 'here' is not always permanent.

Phumdis rely on a seasonal cycle: they settle during low water levels, absorb nutrients, and then rise again. Disrupt that cycle, and they begin to thin, weaken, and fragment. With the pressures of pollution and overuse, the picture becomes even more complex.

Efforts to protect this ecosystem are ongoing. Local communities, along with environmental groups, are working to preserve both the lake and the way of life it supports.

A Thought That Floats

We spend much of our lives trying to anchor things—plans, routines, expectations. We like our ground firm, our paths predictable. Then we encounter a lake in Manipur that quietly suggests another possibility.

What if not everything needs to be fixed to be meaningful? What if movement isn't a disruption, but a rhythm?

And if you ever find yourself on Loktak Lake, standing on a piece of earth that doesn't quite believe in permanence, you might just find your thoughts drifting in unexpected directions.

Not lost. Just... floating.

Sad Demise Sunita Baindur

(01-05-1948 to 26-03-2026)



We deeply mourn your sad demise. You have taught us great values of love, courage and dedication. Praying almighty to rest your soul in eternal peace forever.

B P Shivananda Rao (Husband)
Dharmesh Gangolli (Son-in-law)
Sujnan Baindur (Son)
Ashish Gangolli (Grand son)
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॥ सरलसंस्कृतम् ॥

44.1 Fill in the blank with the correct word given in the box below. 3rd Vibhakti is being used in the sentences which denotes instrument. Other applications are also interesting.

1. रामः कुञ्चिकया द्वारं उद्घाटितवान्।
Ram opened the door **with a key**.

2. शिल्पकारः शिलया मूर्तिम् अरचयत्।
The sculptor made a statue **with stone**.

3. गोविन्दः ----- पाठशालां गच्छति।
Govind goes to school **by a bicycle**.

4. विमला ----- गायति।
Vimala sings **with devotion**.

5. देवी ----- आभूषिता।
Devi is decorated **with a golden garland**.

6. शिशुः ----- विना दुग्धं न पिबति।
The baby does not drink milk **without sugar**.

7. रोहिणी ----- चित्रं रेखयति।
Rohini draws a picture **with fingers**.

8. शिक्षकः ----- लिखति।
Teacher rights **with red pen**.

9. सन्ध्या ----- मन्दिरं गच्छति।
Sandhya goes to the temple **with a friend**.

10. अम्बा ----- पुत्रं भोजनं परिवेषयति।
Mother serves the son **with love**.

11. नृपः ----- युद्धं जयति।
With the army the king wins the war.

12. छाया ----- क्रीडति।
Chhaya plays **with some girls**.

13. ----- गृहिणी कार्यं कारयति।
The housewife gets work done **by the maid**.

14. राजः ----- मस्तकम् आच्छादयति।
Raj covers the head **with a cap**.

भक्त्या	सेविकया	अङ्गुलिभिः	टोपिकया	शर्करया
	द्विचक्रिकया		सेनया	प्रीत्या
काभिश्चित् बालिकाभिः		रक्तवर्णीयलेखन्या	सुवर्णमालया	सख्या सह

Answers given on Page 39

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गुरुस्तवनसप्तकम्

- वृन्दा चन्दावर, मुम्बई

अद्वैतप्रकाशकं अज्ञाननाशकं वन्दे।
स्मर्तृगामिन्परिज्ञाश्रमगुरुवर्य, नोऽवतु ॥१॥

दीनबन्धुं दयासिन्धुं वन्दे।
स्मर्तृगामिन्परिज्ञाश्रमगुरुवर्य, नोऽवतु ॥२॥

सर्वरोगप्रशमनं सर्वक्लेशहरं वन्दे।
स्मर्तृगामिन्परिज्ञाश्रमगुरुवर्य, नोऽवतु ॥३॥

सर्वरक्षाकरं सर्वमङ्गलमङ्गलं वन्दे।
स्मर्तृगामिन्परिज्ञाश्रमगुरुवर्य, नोऽवतु ॥४॥

भक्तवत्सलं भक्ताभीष्टप्रदं वन्दे।
स्मर्तृगामिन्परिज्ञाश्रमगुरुवर्य, नोऽवतु ॥५॥

जन्मसंसारबन्धुं जयलाभयशप्रदं वन्दे।
स्मर्तृगामिन्परिज्ञाश्रमगुरुवर्य, नोऽवतु ॥६॥

नित्यसन्तुष्टं निःश्रेयसप्रदं वन्दे।
स्मर्तृगामिन्परिज्ञाश्रमगुरुवर्य, नोऽवतु ॥७॥

वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्

- संगीता मुम्बई

" भारत-बायोटेक " - संस्थया तथा भारतीय-
वैद्यकीय-संशोधन-परिषदेन (आयसीएमआर)
विकसितं कोविड-प्रतिबन्धक-लसं जगति ये ये
इष्टवन्तः तेभ्यः सर्वेभ्यः अस्माकं भारतदेशः
वितरितवान्। अस्मिन् सन्दर्भे नैकैः उक्तं
यत् " भारतदेशेन कोविडप्रतिबन्धक-लसस्य
निर्माणं कृत्वा प्राणघातक-कोरोनाविषाणोः जगतः
परित्राणं कृतम् इति। अतः कोविडनिवारणे
भारतदेशस्य अतीव महत्त्वपूर्णं योगदानम् अस्माभिः
न विस्मर्तव्यम् " इति। अस्माकं देशः विंशत्योपरि
देशान् इतः पूर्वं विनामूल्यं कोविड-प्रतिबन्धक-लसं
प्रेषितवान्। बाङ्गलादेशः, म्यानमार, नेपाळ,
भूतान, मालदीव, मॉरिशस, सेशेल्सद, श्रीलङ्का,
बहरेन, ओमान, अफगाणिस्तान, बार्बाडोस,
डोमिनिका इत्यादि देशेभ्यः वयं कोविड-
प्रतिबन्धक-लसं दत्तवन्तः। अनेन अस्माकं देशस्य
नाम जागतिक-औषधशाला इति जाता। अधुना
जागतिकस्तरे बृहदौषधालय-उत्पादकदेशेषु
भारतदेशः गणितः। अस्माकं पूर्वजैः सत्यमेव उक्तं
' वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् '।

(जालपुटतः प्राप्ता वार्ता)

(This article is from June 2021 issue of the Girvanapatrika)

For more such articles, please visit the following link
www.chitrapurmath.net/site/activities-girvanaprathistha-patrika



Scan the QR code for the link

Self-doubt is impacting careers

SHANKAR MALLAPUR

AI is not killing most mid-level professional careers.

It's hesitation and self-doubt.

The VP who won't automate their reports because they "need to understand the technology first."

The director postponing that promotion conversation until they feel "fully prepared."

The experienced manager taking their third AI certification instead of using what they already know.

They're not behind because they lack skills.

They're paralyzed because they're waiting for perfect readiness.

The hesitation traps that keep high-performers stuck:

✗ Waiting to "master AI" before incorporating it into daily work

✗ Taking another course before pursuing leadership initiatives

✗ Seeking total clarity before making strategic moves

✗ Postponing career pivots until the "perfect moment"

✗ Over-analyzing instead of experimenting with new approaches

While you're perfecting your knowledge, others are advancing their influence.

Here's the truth: Your 10+ years of experience already make you ready.

You've solved complex problems before. You can figure out AI too.

Break the hesitation cycle:

1. Experiment this week

↳ Choose one AI tool relevant to your role

↳ Use it for one specific task

↳ Share your results with your team

2. Take imperfect but quick action publicly

↳ Volunteer for the stretch assignment

↳ Share strategic insights in meetings, even incomplete ones

↳ Let people see your thinking process

3. Build momentum weekly

↳ Make one decision that demonstrates forward thinking

↳ Document what you learn from each experiment

↳ Signal that you adapt and advance

You're exactly positioned to lead in this transition.

I watched a manager do a messy pilot with one workflow (converting meeting notes → action list) and suddenly he got visibility.

The question isn't whether you're ready.

It's whether you'll act on what you already know.

Think about the one task you'll automate this week.

DONATIONS

Kanara Saraswat Association is grateful to the following donor:

Medical Relief Fund

Smt Suman Gulvady

Rs 50000/-

Answers to सरल संस्कृतम् –

Exercise 44.1 -

1. कुञ्चिकया

2. शिलया

3 . द्विचक्रिकया

4. भक्त्या

5. सुवर्णमालया

6. शर्करया

7. अङ्गुलिभिः

8. रक्तवर्णीयलेखन्या

9. सख्या सह

10. प्रीत्या

11. सेनया

12. काभिश्चित् बालिकाभिः

13. सेविकया

14. टोपिकया

India's Generous Legacy

SANJAY S. TRASY

Imagine a bustling global marketplace where India arrives with baskets overflowing with timeless treasures, yoga poses that heal the body and soul, spiritual wisdom echoing "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (the world is one family), mouthwatering recipes for biryani and gulab jamun, and life saving vaccines rushed during the pandemic, offering them freely to nourish humanity. Yet, in return, we quietly pay hefty royalties on everyday essentials we have innovated or adapted: software algorithms powering our apps, hardware components in smartphones and computers assembled here, and even life saving pharmaceutical formulations refined in Indian labs. This lopsided exchange amazes upon reflection, revealing an imbalance where India's boundless giving far outshines what we receive.

Consider the tech realm first. India, a software powerhouse, pays billions in royalties to foreign patent holders for foundational technologies in semiconductors, processors, and integrated circuits, many originally inspired by global collaborations but enhanced through Indian ingenuity. From Intel chips in our laptops to algorithms in apps like UPI, these levies siphon wealth abroad, even as Indian engineers drive innovations like Aadhaar's biometric authentication. In pharmaceuticals, the story intensifies: we import active ingredients and pay royalties on drug delivery systems and formulations for antibiotics, cancer treatments, and generics that make healthcare affordable worldwide. During COVID19, India produced over 2 billion vaccine doses via Covaxin and exported them gratis to 100+ nations under Vaccine Maitri, embodying selfless service. No royalties demanded; just pure generosity.

Now, pivot to the intangible gifts that define India's soul. Yoga, codified in ancient texts like Patanjali's Yoga Sutras, spreads globally royalty free, practiced in New York parks, London studios, and Tokyo dojos, generating a \$80 billion industry without a paisa returning to us. Spiritual learning from Vedanta, Bhagavad Gita, and teachings of saints like Swami Vivekananda inspires millions, fostering inner peace amid chaos, yet we claim no intellectual property fees. Indian cuisine dazzles the world: think aromatic curries, fluffy naan, and

festive sweets like laddoos and jalebi, adapted freely into fusion menus from California to Paris. These cultural exports promote harmony, urging "peace and harmony among all humans," treating diverse peoples as one family.

This asymmetry stuns: while we remit royalties worth thousands of crores annually on imported tech and pharma (RBI data shows IP payments exceeding \$10 billion yearly), our offerings, recipes shared in home kitchens, yoga in community centers, spiritual discourses on YouTube, flow outward unbound, enriching lives without reciprocity. As an Indian, pride swells in this ethos of "give without expectation," rooted in ahimsa and ubuntu like unity. We do not hoard; we illuminate. Yet, perhaps it's time to ponder: in this era of Atmanirbhar Bharat, could we innovate more patents at home, balancing the scales while preserving our giving spirit? The world thrives on India's heart; let us ensure our head counts too.

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Here & There

Saraswat Mahila Samaj – Ladies Day Out

On 28th February 2026, Saraswat Mahila Samaj celebrated “Ladies Day Out”- a day spent in some good hotel with a special room for all to enjoy, with games, songs, dance and delicious food all day long.

This year it was at Park Club, Shivaji Park, which was booked kind courtesy, Dilip Sashital. 50 ladies who had registered were present, and were served with a welcome drink. We were spellbound to see the picturesque sea in front, open air seating attached to a small banquet hall, palm and coconut trees all around with the sound of waves lashing against the shore. After the warm welcome were offered four different starters. Simultaneously our young brigade Managing Committee members, Nivi, Roopa, Leena, Nandita & Ashwini had such innovative games viz; Antakshari, quiz, Konkani Songs translated from original Bollywood songs which initially looked an ordeal to follow, but later everyone enjoyed thoroughly. All the games were just awesome, kept our vocal chords and brains alert but the game which took the cake was Dumb Charades of given subject of a skit which at least 5 ladies had to enact on it, it was just fun to see these ladies enacting their parts with girls.

It was an afternoon full of fun and games and merriment. After which we enjoyed a delicious spread of food - almost 12-14 food items.

At the end of the fun, food, games and merriment came the vote of thanks by Geeta Balse who thanked Shri Dilip Sashital mam and Nivi for choosing this venue and for organising everything. Also, the young girls- Roopa, Nandita, Leena & Ashwini who kept all entertained at the Park Club.

Donations also were given as below:

Smt Shyamala Yennemadi ₹ 5000/- in m/o mother in law Smt Lalita Yennemadi & ₹ 5000/- in m/o mother Smt Radhabai Bailur towards Kalyanibai Samsi Medical Fund.

Smt Shaila Nadkarni was also thanked for her part of Sponsorship of the hall.

- Reported by Geeta Suresh Balse

Saraswat Mahila Samaj celebrates Yuvati Din

Yuvati Din was celebrated on March 14 at the Samaj Hall, Gamdevi. The programme opened with an address by Sucheta Baidur. Roopa Yennemadi

Lobo introduced the first yuvati, Squadron Leader Manali Bijoor, who traced her journey in the Armed Forces from a teenage aspiration to a career marked by discipline, service, and achievement. Her interaction, presented as the Samaj’s first pre-recorded podcast, showed that distance need not limit meaningful dialogue.

Nandita Sirur then introduced the second yuvati, Mitali Mallapur, who spoke about balancing different aspects of her life with spirituality and the changes it brought. The insights shared reflected the potential of today’s young women. The session concluded with remarks by Bhakti Ullal, followed by refreshments sponsored by Vidya Kodial.

- Reported by Bhakti Ullal

Dadar Sabha

"Yugadi Padwo" was celebrated on 19th March. A program of Panchang Vachan by Vedmurti Sunil Bhat, followed by Dharmapracharak Dr Chaitanya Gulvady’s Kirtan on the stories of Lord Shiva, was appreciated by one and all. After the Aarti, Prasad and Panak Panvar was served. The function was very well attended.

- Reported by Shobha Puthli

Pune Local Sabha

Pune Local Sabha celebrated Ugadi ushering in Parabhava Samvatsara on 19th March at the University Women's Association Hall near Senapati Bapat Road.

After the Panchang Vachan by Suman Nagarkatti, followed the Prasad of Panak and Panvar.

The evening was rounded off with Hindustani Classical music by Komal Sane, accompanied by her husband Pranav Gurav on Tabla and Swaroop Diwan on the harmonium.

All Sadhakas present enjoyed the evening.

- Reported by Lalita Amladi & Deepa Sirur

Vile Parle – Vakola Sabha

On 19th March 2026, on the auspicious occasion of Ugadi, the Prarthana Varg children participated for the first time in chanting the Sabha Prarambha Prarthana. This was followed by Panchang Vachana. A short speech on the “Parabhava” Nama Samvatsara was delivered by Vittal Rajgopal Bhat. The function was well attended and concluded with Deepa Namaskar and Prasad Vitaran of Panak Panvar.

DOMESTIC TIDINGS

MARRIAGE

We congratulate the following couple and wish them happy married life!

Feb 26 : Anuja Ashwin Bondal with Aakash Anil Gangolli at Mumbai.

OBITUARIES

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

Mar 05 : Premalata Shrinath Savakoor (85) at Bengaluru.

Mar 11 : Shobha Ramdas Kaushik at Mumbai.

Mar 12 : Shaila Nihar Amembal (82) at Bengaluru.

Mar 13 : Sadanand Shripadrao Kaikini (82) at Ahmedabad.

Mar 18 : Pradeep Kailaje (73) at Bengaluru.

Mar 19 : Nandini Arun Bijoor (nee Nandini Vithal Mavinkurve) of Talmakiwadi (74) at Bengaluru.

Mar 22 : Shivangi Naik (nee Shaila Bijur) ex Talmakiwadi at Andheri, Mumbai.

Mar 26 : Sunita Baindur at Bengaluru.

Mar 28 : Mohini Ganesh Savanal (nee Shaila Nadkarni) at Kandivli, Mumbai.

Apr 03 : Shamal Jeevan Dhareshwar (83) at Mumbai.

Apr 12 : Ramdas Soumitra Trasikar (72) at Shri Anandashram Khar Math, Mumbai.

On 16th April 2026, our sadhakas organized an online Samaradhana of Paramapujya Swami Parijnashrama I. The programme included chanting of stotras and offering of bhajana seva. It concluded with an insightful speech by Vittal Rajgopal Bhat on the great achievements of Swamiji during His tenure.

In his valedictory address, the President of the local Sabha presented a brief report on Vantiga collections and outlined forthcoming activities. The entire program was very well coordinated and compered by Padmini Balse.

- **Shrikar Talgeri**

Virar Local Sabha

On the occasion of Ugadi – Parabhava Samvatsara on Thursday 19 th March, more than 50 devotees residing in Vasai, Nallasopara and Virar participated in the annual event at the newly renovated Saraswat Welfare Association (SWA) Hall located at Damodar Nagar, Virar West.

The Archak Bhavanishankar Hattangadi Bhat, Mangesh Chickramane and Uday Kaikini conducted the rituals with Panchang Vachan.

The programme concluded at 8.30 pm with Deep Namaskara, Pooja and Shankarnarayan Geet, Mangal Geet followed by distribution of Prasad and Panak Panvar.

- **Reported by Shivanand Hemmady**

AN ANNOUNCEMENT

The KS Magazine is delighted to announce two separate series from June onwards. We seek your active participation in ensuring the success of both these endeavours:

1. Despite being a small community of just around 22,000 members, Bhanaps have ventured all over the world since the early 19th Century. While some went abroad for studies and returned to India, many have stayed on and built successful careers for themselves over many decades. From the June issue onwards, we will start featuring all those who have been staying overseas since the 1960s or even earlier. For this, we need our readers to suggest names and contact details of these enterprising Bhanaps. So please start sending in the leads to editor@kanarasaraswat.in as follows:

1. Full Name of the Bhanap; 2. Number of decades that he or she has been staying overseas.

2. Snehal Amembal from the UK has suggested starting a column – ‘Dear Pachhi’ – wherein readers could submit anonymous everyday dilemmas — “small but relatable situations involving family dynamics, neighbours, household tensions or modern etiquette questions. Each issue could feature one or two short letters, with Pachhi offering thoughtful but gently humorous advice. As the questions come from readers, the column could become an interactive feature that encourages people to engage with the magazine.” We invite reader queries to be answered in this column, on editor@kanarasaraswat.in.



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