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Kanara Saraswat

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NALKUR SRIPAD RAO – A LEGEND



Nalkur Sripad Rao displaying *Formula for Fulfilment*, his biography, released by KSA President Dr. Harish Kodial (right)

A glimpse of N.S. Rao's welfare work

N.S. Rao (right) at a bore well installation project of his NGO, KARMA (Karjat Agricultural & Rural Management Assistance)



N.S. Rao with Adivasis from Karjat who are given free treatment for eye ailments at Lotus Hospital, Mumbai



The school named after his father, Nalkur Narasing Rao Government High School, in Shiral, Udupi district



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Kanara Saraswat

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4 GENERATIONS



Sitting: Mukta Chandavarkar, great grandmother;
Shaila Chandavarkar Panday, grandmother,
holding baby Sadhyojat; standing: Supriya and
Raveen Panday, parents.



Four generations enjoying the family picnic (Adurs, Hebles, Hattangadis)

Mrs. Shantha M. Adur with her
great grand-daughter Trisha S. Parkar (*Panati*)
(From left) Ms. Tejal R. Tirodkar (grand-daughter),
Mrs. Vijaya Tirodkar (elder daughter),
Mrs. Shivangi S. Parkar (grand-daughter and
mother of Trisha)

SHREE JANARDAN TEMPLE, MANKI

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Notice of General Body Meeting on 31-01-2010

Notice is hereby given that the General Body Meeting of the above Trust will be held on Sunday, 31st January, 2010 at 10 a.m. at the Matunga Mitra Mandal Hall, Karnataka Building, Mogal Lane, Mahim, Mumbai 400 016 (near Matunga Road Station, Western Rly) to transact the following business:-

- 1) Present and adopt the Audited Reports upto 31-03-2009.
- 2) To confirm Minutes of the General Body Meeting of 27-10-2002 and Special Meeting of 03-03-2004 followed by Hon. Secretary's Report.
- 3) To discuss and decide issues of Manki Temple.
- 4) To elect 7 members of the Managing Committee for the year 2010 to 2014.
- 5) Any other business with prior notice in writing to Chairman within 3 days prior to the meeting.
- 6) Vantiga payers and devotees including members of Kaushik/Mankikar families consisting of Aghanashini, Chittar, Gokarn, Samrodi, Shirali/Shirlal, Sirur/Shiroor, Talmaki, Wagle and Yennamadi, etc. are cordially invited to attend the Meeting.

By order of the Managing Committee

Ramesh L. Kaushik

Hon. Secretary

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10/27, Saraswat Colony, Talmiki Road,
Santacruz (W), Mumbai 400 054.

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From the President's Desk

Dear Members,

Let me wish you a very Happy, Prosperous and Healthy New Year.

The year 2009 was quite eventful. All of us enjoyed the different events organized by various Chitrapur Saraswat groups located in different parts of our country and elsewhere, through our great Kanara Saraswat magazine. We hope we will get more opportunities this year.

In November 2009, we had the pleasure of releasing a book, "Formula for Fulfilment", the biography of Shri Nalkur Sripad Rao written by Vidya Gunavanthe. This is the lucid story of a man who rose from rags to riches. What a wonderful felicitation offered to Sripadmaam on the occasion of his 90th birthday! The biography has been written analytically, describing the journey of his life right from childhood to his present age. It reveals the different obstacles faced by him during his lifetime and how he turned tumbling blocks into stepping stones to climb the ladder of success and become an international celebrity, and details the four formulae that he follows to achieve success.

Sripadmaam has been a great inspiration to budding entrepreneurs, a role model of magnanimity to many, and an ardent social worker. He always says "*moos marnu kaas kelle.*" In other words, he sees the *extraordinary* in the *ordinary*, in achieving these heights.

I strongly feel that "Formula for Fulfilment" deserves a prominent place in your home library.

Let us all, Chitrapur Saraswats, get together and march towards a successful outer as well as inner journey of peaceful coexistence.

Shubham Bhavatu

Dr. Harish Kodial



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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor: Much as we want to, most of us are unable to attend all the programmes so painstakingly organized by the KSA, year after year. Age, ailment and the stressful traffic snarls of Mumbai keep us confined to the suburbs. 21st November was different. We managed somehow to be present at the 98th Foundation Day celebrations and to witness the release of Nalkur Sripadmaam's biography by Dr. Harish Kodial, President, KSA. The charming speech by Vidya Gunavanthe, the author, gave us a brief glimpse into the book.

Among others, it was good to have Bhatkal Sadanandmaam, Nirmalpachi and Gokarn Gurunathmaam being honoured for their prolonged and distinguished service to the KSA.

It was a matter of pride to see a string of eminent Chitrapur Saraswats receiving the recognition and honour they so well deserve. There were a few others whose result-oriented work it was a joy to hear.

The thread that held us enthralled for the entire duration of the function was the matchless commentary by Uday Mankikar, Vice President, KSA. His mastery over simple, chaste Konkani has never ceased to amaze the audience.

Thank you, KSA!

Savitri Babulkar, Santacruz (W), Mumbai

Dear Editor: I happened to attend the KSA Foundation Day function on 21st November, 2009. I was attending the event to witness Madhumaam Chandavarkar and my grandfather, Vithal Nadkarni, being honoured. Varada Soukorpachi was also getting a prize for the best Konkani article.

You always tend to get the unexpected. Something similar happened in my case. As the function began and progressed, I was truly surprised and humbled by the people who were being felicitated. The yeoman service rendered by each one of them in their respective fields is worth more than a standing ovation. When you looked at them, you really got goose bumps of pride; I did, because all of them belong to our community. It was truly an awesome evening and I felt inspired by each of them.

I also feel that, we, the youth of the Chitrapur Saraswat community, must make sure that we attend this event every year to get our dose of inspiration from the gems of our community

Pranav R. Nagarkatti, Malad (W), Mumbai

Dear Editor: I had the privilege of reading the biography of Shri N. S. Rao, titled 'Formula for Fulfilment' written by Vidya Gunavanthe. The treatment given by Ms. Gunavanthe in classifying 'fulfilment' into four broad categories is commendable and the language qualitative. The biography successfully holds the reader's interest. In fact, I read it in one sitting.

This biography strongly brings out the iconic stature of Sripadmaam not only in the Chitrapur Saraswat community but also in society, in general. By sheer example, he stands tall as the lighthouse guiding and giving direction to generations during his near-nine decades of illustrious, accomplished and content life.

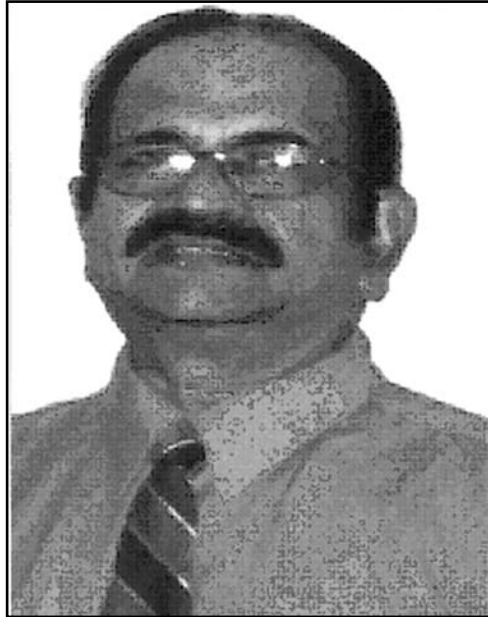
This biography introduced me to the wide and varied dimensions of Sripadmaam's personality - Sripadmaam as a child, a struggler, a romantic, a true family man, a patriarch, a successful entrepreneur, a strict disciplinarian, a poet, a philanthropist, a philosophical person and a quiet spiritualist.

The most important message that I got was that in spite of the success and prosperity that Sripadmaam has achieved, he has not forgotten his roots or his difficult times. The strong feeling that he owes something to society, has brought out the true philanthropist in him, and made him strive to bring happiness into the lives of people living in difficult, testing circumstances. What appealed most to me was the philosopher and silent spiritualist in him, who has never craved for any credit, publicity or the limelight for all that he has accomplished and, in his own way, contributed his best to mankind. I consider it a divine blessing of the Almighty for granting me a glimpse of this towering, multi-dimensional, multi-faceted personality called Shri Nalkur Sripad Rao.

Ratnakar D. Nadkarni

**WE WISH ALL OUR READERS
A VERY HAPPY, SUCCESSFUL AND
PEACEFUL 2010**

Happy 75th Birthday!



Dr. Madhukar P. Rao [Mallapur] Jan. 5th, 2010

Wishing you good health & happiness on this day and always!

From: Dr. (Mrs.) Prabha M. Rao

You held our hand and showed us the world...
You did everything that made us look up to you...
We may not have told you often
But we want you to know...
You are the best Dad anyone could have and,
We're really lucky to have you!
Thank you..... For all that you are
Our wonderful, wise, and loving Pappa

Wishing you a very happy 75th birthday, Pappa!

From:	<u>Hebles</u>	<u>Raos</u>	<u>Shenoy</u>	<u>Raos</u>
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KSA RELEASES BIOGRAPHY OF N.S. RAO, HONOURS HIM WITH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

On 21st November, 2009, the Kanara Saraswat Association celebrated its 98th Foundation Day at Smt Indirabai Kalyanpurkar Hall, off Talmakiwadi, Tardeo, Mumbai. According to tradition, KSA commemorated this special occasion by honouring luminaries in various fields such as Journalism, Dramatics, Music, Social Service, Entrepreneurship, Sports, etc., with awards.

On this special occasion, KSA considered it befitting to release the biography of Nalkur Sripad Rao titled **Formula for Fulfilment**, written by Vidya Gunavanthe. The book, sponsored by The Shamrao Vithal Co-operative (SVC) Bank Ltd., was released by KSA President Dr. Harish Kodial.

KSA also chose this occasion to honour Shri Nalkur Sripad Rao (Sripadmaam as he is popularly called by Chitrapur Saraswats) with the Lifetime Achievement Award or Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar for his generous and noble service to the Chitrapur Saraswat community over the past so many decades (a full account of the Foundation Day function, including the presentation of this award, will appear in next month's issue). What better time could the Association have chosen to honour Sripadmaam than on the occasion of his reaching the threshold of his ninetieth year!

The Association Hall, that evening, was filled to capacity with many people even standing to applaud the awardees. KSA Vice President Uday A Mankikar, who was the Master of Ceremonies, gave a brief on each awardee before calling the awardee on stage to receive the award from the President of KSA, Dr Harish Kodial.

When the Lifetime Achievement Award for N.S.



Rao was announced, there was a standing ovation from all present as Sripadmaam slowly made his way to the podium to receive the award from

Dr. Kodial (see picture above). Dr Kodial spoke a few words of appreciation about Sripadmaam, and said that Sripadmaam's biography, "Formula for Fulfilment", is the lucid story of a man who has

risen from rags to riches. "Sripadmaam has been a great inspiration to budding entrepreneurs, a role model of magnanimity to many, and an ardent social worker," he added.

Dr Kodial then released Sripadmaam's biography, "Formula for Fulfilment", adding that the author of the book would give more details about Sripadmaam's life.

Sripadmaam's family in Mumbai was present in full strength on the occasion to see the great man receive an award that was most well-deserved.

What Sripadmaam had done for the Chitrapur Saraswat community cannot be adequately enunciated in words. As a big man in a small community, he has tried his best to provide employment to as many Chitrapur Saraswats as possible in all the organizations that he has been associated with, like his Pest Control, SVC Bank, etc. He has always been generous in his contributions and donations to charity and for various religious, spiritual, and humanitarian causes.

The audience listened with rapt attention as Uday Mankikar outlined the list of Sripadmaam's achievements before giving the floor to the writer of Sripadmaam's biography Vidya Gunavanthe to speak a few words about Sripadmaam.

Vidya recounted how Sripadmaam had ventured into the world after he finished his matriculation examination at the age of 16, to seek his fortune, to bring his family out of the financial crisis it was in. She narrated how he had worked first as an operator in a mill and an usher in a cinema theatre in Bangalore before he got a job with a Japanese company (in Mumbai). Two years later, he was sent to Teheran to head the Accounts department there, a posting which coincided with the start of World War II. When the Japanese closed shop in Teheran because of the War, Sripadmaam, being a multilinguist, landed a job with a British company where he was responsible for fumigating Polish soldiers and refugees to rid them of plague-carrying lice, a task which gave him the idea of starting pest control activities on returning to his own country. However, the concept being as yet new, the SVC bank turned down Sripadmaam's request for a loan to start his enterprise.

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Vidya continued the story of an angry young Sripadmaam who vowed to return to this bank some day not for another loan but as its head, which he is today. N.S. Rao is the Chairman of SVC Bank today. Sripadmaam has also contributed so much to the community through his *seva* of our Param Poojya Parijnanashram Swamiji and now, our present Guru, Param Poojya Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji.

Vidya also recounted how she had approached various personalities for inputs for Sripadmaam's biography, including Dr Veerappa Moily, the Minister of Law and Justice, Government of India, who had known N.S. Rao for the past three decades. Dr Moily had obliged not only by sending his inputs but also by writing the Foreword for the book on Sripadmaam.

Vidya's short but informative speech was well received and by the end of her speech, the audience was all agog to read the "rags-to-riches" story of N.S. Rao.

But what the audience waited for most expectantly

was to hear Sripadmaam himself speak. However, this treat was reserved for the end of the evening as a grand finale. But later, Sripadmaam who did not wish to delay the audience too long at that late hour, spoke just a few words saying that everybody had recounted his achievements and he had no wish to go into that again, seeing the weary, hungry souls seated before him. But he wished to acknowledge the fact that he owed whatever little he had achieved in life to his beloved wife, (late) Lilypachi, and his daughter Dr Pramila Chatterjee. He added that all that he had to say about his life, he had narrated in the biography and what was not mentioned there was not worthy of mention. Finally, he thanked the Kanara Saraswat Association for honouring him with such a prestigious award.

**SHRI KESHAVA NARAYAN TEMPLE,
CHITRAPUR, SHIRALI - 581354
117th Vardhanti Celebrations**

The Vardhanti Celebrations at this Temple belonging to Shirali Family, situated near Chitrapur Math, will be on 3rd March, 2010-Phalgun Krishna Tithiya. A Samuhika Satyanarayan Puja is being arranged to celebrate this holy event.

Devotees are cordially invited to be present on this occasion and may also offer Rs.101/- towards one Satyanarayan Kalasha and earn the Blessings of Lord Keshavnarayan.

Nitya Viniyoga Fund: In order to preserve and maintain this ancient Temple, built in the year 1893, a Nitya Viniyoga Fund has been started this year. Devotees may contribute Rs.1,000/- as Capital, the interest of which will be utilized for one day's Viniyogas/Puja in memory of their elders or on any special occasion such as birthdays etc.

Remittances may be sent in the name of "Shri Keshavnarayan Temple Seva Samiti" S.B. A/c No. 1017 with S.V.C. Bank Shirali with full name and address.

Pradeep M. Haridas
Secretary, Shri Keshavnarayan

Temple

Seva Samiti, Shirali

Samiti Members: Shri Vithal A. Shirali, President,
Shri Shivanand N. Bhatkal, Treasurer,
Shri Shankaranand Shukla & Shri Satish G. Koppikar,
Members and Shri Pradeep M. Haridas, Secretary.

N.S. RAO'S BIOGRAPHY AVAILABLE AT KSA OFFICE
"Formula for Fulfilment", the biography of Shri Nalkur Sripad Rao, written by Vidya S. Gunavanthe, was released by KSA President Dr. Harish Kodial at KSA's 98th Foundation Day celebrations on November 21, 2009. Copies of the book are available at the KSA Office for Rs. 100/- only. The sale proceeds of the book will go to KSA for its Kala Vibhag Fund.



Dr T M A Pai Foundation
SYNDICATE HOUSE, MANIPAL - 576 104

Dr. T M A PAI BEST KONKANI BOOK AWARD - 2009

Entries are invited from writers and publishers of books in Konkani for the **Dr. T M A Pai Best Konkani Book Award 2009**. The award which carries Rs. 25,000/- in cash and a citation will be given to the book published between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2008 and considered to be an outstanding contribution to Konkani language and literature. The book may be in Devanagari, Kannada, Malayalam or Roman script.

Last date for receipt of entries is 15th February, 2010. Four copies of the book should be sent to:

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AN INSPIRATION



Mangesh Gokarn's mother and Smt. Jyoti M. Gokarn with Dr. Milind Shejwal on their right, Mrs. Amitaben Shah, Sardar Tara Singh and eminent Mulundkars

The morning of 15th November 2009 saw a large number of music lovers, friends, students and relatives gather at Mulund West to witness the naming ceremony of the junction at B.P.S. Cross Road No. 3, Chandrakant Kotecha Marg, Mulund (W) as **"Shri Mangesh Gurunath Gokarn Chowk"** in fond memory of Late Shri. Mangesh Gokarn.

Mangesh (our Bappa), known as Jayant to most, was an intellectual and had a versatile personality. A science graduate, he opted for voluntary retirement from National Rayon in 1989 and devoted himself to teaching music. His simplicity in teaching attracted many professionals from varied fields including doctors and engineers. In addition to composing music in Marathi, Hindi and Konkani, he has several Kutchi compositions and cassettes for Prajapita Bramhakumari to his credit. Apart from his skills in music, he was a very good cartoonist, dramatist and was actively involved in sports. His book "Entrance to Music for Westerns" has received a place as reference book in The Mumbai University and SNDT University. He was a very jovial person by nature and therefore easily mixed with people from all age groups ranging from 2-80 years.

Mangesh and his wife (our Pacchi), Jyoti's contribution to music was well appreciated by the residents of Mulund and the couple was felicitated by The Lion's Club, The Rotary Club, Sanskar Bharti and many more on various occasions. They were also conferred upon the prestigious award 'Mulund Bhushan' by Yuvak Pratishthan in the year 1986. After a brief illness, he left our midst on 23rd March 2006. His friends, students and well wishers decided to keep his memories alive by forming "The Mangesh Gurunath Gokarn Gaurav Samiti". This committee along with "The Pushpa Academy for Nutrition and Health Awareness" worked rigorously towards naming the junction behind his residence at Mulund West. The effort was headed by Dr. Milind Shejwal with active support from Smt. Amitaben Shah, the Corporator of Mulund. The ceremony was inaugurated by Shri. Tara Singh, M.L.A.

This deep void will remain forever, but the gesture will definitely inspire all towards music.

- Roopali, Deepali and Vaishali Kapnadak

INVITATION

SHRI MAHASHIVARATRI UTSAV COMMITTEE - HUBLI



Dear Devotees,

The annual Utsav for the year 2010 being the 11th year of celebration, the committee extends its cordial invitation to all devotees to participate in large numbers and grace the occasion with family, thereby making this festival a grand success.

The **Mahashivratri Utsav** will be celebrated from 10.02.2010 to 15.02.2010 at
Shri Shivakrishna Mandir, Hubli.

His Holiness P.P. Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji's **Anushthan Pooja** is being performed on 12th February, 2010 and **Palki Utsav** will be held on 13th February, 2010. For the benefit of outstation devotees dormitory accommodation is available on a first-come-first serve basis. Those desirous of accommodation, are requested to bring light bedding.

Thanking you,

Yours in the service of Lord Shiva, Krishna and Guruparampara

Shri Vikram Sirur
President

Shri Anand Karnad
Organizing Secretary

Shri Ramdas Bhat
Treasurer

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THE KING OF HEARTS (OF CHITRAPUR SARASWATS)

— NALKUR SRIPAD RAO

VIDYA S. GUNAVANTHE, MUMBAI

If ever there is a Chitrapur Saraswat (Bhanap) who has won the maximum number of hearts with his kind and generous deeds, it is Nalkur Sripad Rao or Sripadmaam (as he is popularly called by most Chitrapur Saraswats) or Sippy Rao. You need to observe the sheer energy of the man to believe it.

His typical day starts off with visits from at least three-four people (mostly belonging to the Chitrapur Saraswat community) around breakfast time; people coming to meet him with hopes in their hearts that he can and will arrange for a job for their kith and kin in any of the organizations that he has such tremendous standing with.

Sripadmaam receives them all graciously and kindly, promising nothing but his attempts to fulfil their hopes. And he tries to push in as many people as he can in the various organizations he is associated with. In spite of having reached high places, he has not forgotten what it is to struggle or be in a financially dire state.

Sripadmaam recently stepped on the threshold of his nineties (September 20, 2009) and the Kanara Saraswat Association honoured him by awarding him the **Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar** or what is fashionably called the “Lifetime Achievement Award” these days, and releasing a book about him titled, **Formula for Fulfilment**, at its 98th Foundation Day commemoration. The book has a Foreword written by a man as powerful as Dr Veerappa Moily, the Minister of Law & Justice, Government of India, who has witnessed Sripadmaam’s charitable work over the past three decades.

Sripadmaam leads a very hectic life even at the age of ninety. Post-breakfast and a quick perusal of his mail, his rotund, dapper figure heads for a Shamrao Vithal Co-operative Bank Ltd (SVC) meeting scheduled in the morning at least once or twice a week. Sripadmaam is the Chairman of the SVC Bank and has been its Chairman for three terms now.

Sripadmaam is the only Chitrapur Saraswat who has the rare distinction of heading all three premier Chitrapur Saraswat institutions. He has been the President of the Kanara Saraswat Association, the

President of the Standing Committee of the Shri Chitrapur Math, Shirali, and the Chairman of the Shamrao Vithal Co-operative Bank Ltd.

Afternoon finds him getting into the car once again to attend, perhaps, a Board meeting of Pest Control (India) Pvt Ltd. Sripadmaam started Pest Control (India) Pvt Ltd. (PCI) in 1954 with his two brothers, the late Bhavanishankar and (late) Narahari Nalkur (the dormant partner), with a paid up capital of Rs. 5,000/- and a one-man staff, operating from a single desk in a room in Yusuf Building in Fort, Mumbai.

Today, PCI is a Rs. 200 crore organization with a staff strength of 3,700 all over India and overseas. Although he is the founder of PCI, Sripadmaam is now its Chairman Emeritus; “Emeritus” in this context, according to his lexicon, means “honourably discharged.” Sripadmaam, who is renowned for his sense of humour calls himself “*moos marnu kaas kartalo manush*” (a man who makes money by killing flies). His son Anil Rao (Chairman, MD & CEO) and daughter Dr Pramila Chatterjee (Executive Director) now manage his company along with an efficient management team.

Sripadmaam's PCI was awarded the coveted **National Award 1995 for In-house R&D efforts in the Agro Sector** by former Union Minister P Rangarajan Kumaramangalam. PCI has earned this award twice. Late President K R Narayanan also presented Sripadmaam with the **Jamnalal Bajaj Award for Fair Trade Practices** in 1997. PCI also won the ASSOCHAM (Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry) **Award for Rural Development** for its CSR activities in Karjat and the villages around Karjat.

Sripadmaam’s responsibilities do not end with SVC and PCI. Once home, he relaxes for a while before he heads for the weekly Rotary Club meet where he is the centre of attraction with his inherent sense of humour and witty (sometimes bordering on the risqué) cracks. But behind the flamboyant personality, his fellow Rotarians know, lies a very charitable heart. They refer to him as Sippy Rao, a moniker he had earned during his stay in America.

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Sippy Rao was the District Governor of Rotary District 3140 in 1991-92. He has been an active Rotarian, participating in eye-camps, polio eradication drives, and various other charitable and social activities. It is no wonder then that The Bombay Rotary Club (West) conferred its **Lifetime Achievement Award** on Sippy Rao for his humanitarian work in the social, cultural, environmental, and educational spheres over a period of fifty years. He is also the recipient of the **Citation for Meritorious Service Award** and the **Distinguished Service Award** of the Rotary Foundation.

Ever since he crossed the age of fifty, Sripadmaam has believed that the remaining years of his life should be spent in giving to the world what the world has given him.

At least once or twice a fortnight, Sripadmaam rushes to Karla to attend to some of his responsibilities as the Trustee and Settlor of the Shree Trust, which handles social service and other charitable activities of the Chitrapur Saraswat community or of the KDPT (Karla Durga-Parameshwari Temple & Religious Trust) which handles the religious activities of the Chitrapur Saraswat community in Karla.

One would think that after an active week such as this, come the week-end, the weary ninety-year old will relax. But no. He's off to his Devdutt Farm at Karjat, near Mumbai, sometimes to attend the KFOC (Karjat Farm Owners' Club) monthly meet, sometimes to transport Adivasis by busloads to the Lotus Hospital in Juhu, Mumbai, on Saturdays. In Lotus Hospital, he arranges for the treatment of cataract operations or other eye ailments of the Adivasis free of cost and the bus transports them back to Karjat on Sundays. Sripadmaam has been arranging this eye treatment along with his Australian colleague Barbara Quittenbaun every month (except during the monsoon months) for the past fifteen years.

Sripadmaam has set up various NGOs in Karjat such as KARMA (Karjat Agricultural & Rural Management Assistance), ADS (Academy of Development Science) and several others to provide education, employment and other development measures for the upliftment of the people in the villages in and around Karjat. Wouldn't our country progress so much more if politicians and leaders adopted their constituencies similarly, instead of

embracing only power and wealth?

For his social and humanitarian activities, Sripadmaam has won various awards such as the **Karjat Gaurav-2001**, the **Karmayogi Award** (conferred by the Bombay Sea Coast), the **Shiromani Vikas** and the **Udyog Shree**.

The cynic might say, "the man has money; so he's able to spend." But, Sripadmaam was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth. In fact, childhood for him was a hand-to-mouth existence. His father Nalkur Narasing Rao had eight children to bring up on his minuscule salary as a Munsif in the district court at Karkal (now Karkala) in Karnataka. Sripad was Narasingmaam and Indirapachi's sixth and most adventurous child. Alas, the children lost their father when Sripadmaam was six years of age.

While Sripadmaam's elder brother Dattatreya also worked as a Munsif, his second brother Bhavanishankar later got a job as a teacher in the Hindu High School in Kundapur where the Nalkur family had shifted to when young Sripad was three years of age. Sripad was a very impatient teenager and longed to go out into the world to seek his fortune even before he matriculated, unable to see the straitened circumstances of his family.

The day he gave his matriculation examinations and even before his results were out, he set out on life's adventure with his mother's reluctant permission and a sum of Rs. 15 in his pocket. He got his first job as an operator in Minerva Mills in Bangalore. After a month, he took up an usher's job in a cinema theatre. But the remuneration was not good enough for him, so he took up a job at a cigarette factory in Bangalore and stuck on long enough to earn and save an amount that could help him reach Mumbai.

Once in Mumbai, he was given shelter by his family friend Kailaje Waman Bhatt in Santacruz colony. He tried for a job in a Japanese company called Mitsui Bussan Kaisha where he nearly got rejected because he was still a minor. But the Japanese gentleman who interviewed young Sripad was so impressed with the effort put in by this earnest candidate in learning the Japanese Abacus Soroban that he immediately asked the HOD to issue him an appointment letter, age notwithstanding, at a princely salary of Rs. 45 per month.

Young Sripad impressed his seniors in the

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company so much with his hard work and quick grasping power that within two years, he was posted at Teheran in Persia as an accountant. He was to take over from Shankar Badakere who wanted to return to India. Sripadmaam landed on the shores of Khorramshar, Persian Gulf, just as the Second World War began in 1939.

Love blossomed for Sripadmaam in the summer of 1940 in Teheran, where he met an attractive Armenian girl who lived down his lane - Vartanoosh Badalian, who belonged to the famous Armenian singer family. With the World War, Sripadmaam lost his Japanese job but his knowledge of Persian, Armenian, French, Russian, Turkish, and, of course, fluent English proved an advantage and he easily got a job with a British company UKCC. Sripadmaam and Vartanoosh got married in June 1942 and Vartanoosh became Lily Rao.



Armenian-turned-typical-Indian, Lily Rao

At 22, Sripadmaam was put in charge of the Zahidan unit in Persia with a British colonel and several British officers reporting to him. His task was to fumigate surface convoys carrying supplies to the allied forces and to dust Polish refugees and soldiers with a 10% dose of DDT, against typhus-causing lice. That was when he conceived the idea of starting his own pest control company in his country.

When finally Sripadmaam returned to India in 1946 with his "war bride" and two children Pramila and Mohan, he knew that he was going to be an entrepreneur starting an epoch-making company in India to contain pests. However, pest control did not prove such a good business initially at a time when the country was busy going through a bloody partition. Sripadmaam's pest control business did have its initial teething problems before he finally came into his own with his PCI. His family, by now, had expanded by three more children (Ramola, Ajit, and Anil).

Lily Rao, Sripadmaam's talented wife, took to India and the Chitrapur Saraswat community like they were her own. She learned to dress like a Chitrapur Saraswat, talk fluent Konkani, and cook

delicious Konkani fare. She became such an expert at the language that she could quote Konkani adages and proverbs better than most Chitrapur Saraswats.

Once, at a function organised by the Kanara Saraswat Association where panelists were asked to speak on the topic of Home Sweet Home, after three Chitrapur Saraswat speakers spoke on the topic in English, Lilypachi, the last of the panelists, stood before the mike and spoke in chaste Konkani, quoting old adages, and emphasizing that we must take care of the old in our families — a beautiful speech, all spoken in *shudh* Konkani, for which she earned a standing ovation.

Lilypachi has even helped integrate an aloof Sripadmaam who had hitherto restricted his community activities to being only the President of the Kanara Saraswat Association, well into the Chitrapur Saraswat religious activity by getting her whole family to meet the then Guru, Param Poojya Parijnanashram Swamiji, and integrating it into the Chitrapur Saraswat community thereafter. She even helped Sripadmaam several times when his business was in a crisis situation by mortgaging her *vajra kutkas* (diamond ear studs).

The Chitrapur Saraswat community owes a lot to Lilypachi who has been the strength behind Sripadmaam in his various community activities. He has seen through three *peedies* of the Guru Parampara. Since the age of eleven, he had the good fortune to see and meet Param Poojya Anandashram Swamiji and witnessed the *shishya sweekar* in 1959. In later years, Sripadmaam became the 'Hanumanth' to Param Poojya Parijnanashram Swamiji and served his Guru to the best of his ability. And, after Param Poojya Parijnanashram Swamiji took *mahasamadhi*, Sripadmaam was one of the persons instrumental in getting a religious head for our community, in the revered form of Param Poojya Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji.

Through all his business and social successes, Sripadmaam never forgot his roots and continues to contribute generously to the upliftment of his native district. He started a school in the memory of his father called the Nalkur Narasing Rao Memorial Government High School, whose first batch has gone up gradually, year by year, and has now reached Junior College level in Shirlal village, which is one of

॥ श्री गुरुभ्यो नमः ॥
॥ श्री भगवतीशंकराय नमः ॥
॥ श्री शान्तादुर्गायै नमः ॥

AN APPEAL TO ALL STHALEKAR/SHIRALI FAMILIES, THEIR RELATIVES & WELL-WISHERS

MOST of you are aware of our Shirali Shantadurga Devi Trust Temple at Shirali.

Based upon recent information and guidance from some of the Seniors, it is understood that the MOOL (original) STHAN (location) of our Shri Shantadurga Devi is, in fact, located at Bappankodla which is about 3 kms from our above existing Temple. **Also, that, a number of our family members have experienced a lot of difficulties in their personal lives during the past few years, because of our family members not visiting/praying at this site regularly.**

During September 2009, some of our family members initiated the process of undertaking the development of the above MOOL STHAN of Shantadurga Devi at Bappankodla, after seeking blessings from our Param Poojya HH Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji and offering prayers at six different shrines connected with Mool Devi Sthan in Shirali. This involved immediately acquiring about 5 gunthas of land with the MOOL STHAN located on it and the subsequent development of the same urgently in December 2009/ January 2010. Further religious ceremonies at this developed location are required to be completed during the period 22nd January to 29th January 2010 in the presence of a maximum number of Sthalekar/Shirali families for the benefit of their present/future family members.

The development of the above MOOL STHAN is expected to cost about Rs. 5.5 to 6 lakhs (revised) (Land + Development + Religious Ceremonies). Due to the urgency of this Project, some of our family members have already promised their donations amounting to Rs. 1.25 lakhs. To meet the balance cost of Rs 4.75 lakhs of this Project, we earnestly request ALL OUR STHALEKAR/SHIRALI FAMILIES, THEIR CHILDREN AND WELL-WISHERS to come forward with their donations.

Cheques/DDs may please be drawn in favour of 'Shirali Shantadurga Devi Trust', and sent to Mr. Deepak Shirali, Hon. Treasurer of Shirali Shantadurga Devi Trust, at: C/2 Hari Niwas, L. J. Road, Dadar (W), Mumbai 400028 (Phone No 022-24453720).

Thanking you

For Shirali Shantadurga Devi Trust, Mumbai
December 8th, 2009

the four villages of Nalkur (*Nalku Uru*), now Udupi district.

Sripadmaam has contributed generously to the growth of the Balak Vrinda Education Society and Udyog in Mumbai. He has been the Chairman of the Maharashtra Chapter of the MSSSI (Multiple Sclerosis Society of India) and has been India's delegate to the World Food Congress as well as to the UNCSTD conventions.

With Lilypachi as his strength, Sripadmaam became one of the most well-known Chitrapur Saraswat figures for his business acumen, his social standing, his charitable activities, and his leadership qualities.

Lilypachi lived long enough for the couple to enjoy a blissful silver and golden wedding before she

breathed her last on 25th August, 2002. A shattered Sripadmaam wrote a heartrending poem that was published in the *Kanara Saraswat* titled *Deva, Magali Lilik, ityak re tuvein vhelein?* (God, why did you take away my Lily?)

Perhaps this loss continues to be one of the reasons why Sripadmaam continues to work almost 24x7; to keep himself occupied in some way to make up for the void left behind by Lilypachi.

Sripadmaam's philosophy in life has also been largely ruled by the teachings of Shri Aurobindo and the Mother. But, Nalkur Sripadmaam continues to live by Bal Gangadhar Tilak's words, "**God has sent us unto this world to fulfil ourselves individually, in the family, in the community, in the country, and in humanity itself.**"

Land of the Brahmin

Ajit Sripad Rao Nalkur

I woke up from a dream in tears,
Ordained by Them whose souls are one,
Parijnanashram, Sadyojat,
Of Anandashram They the Sons.
 I was seated to His left
 While He sat Himself above
 My shoulder, with His Blessing I
 Looked upon a world of Love,
The Love of He who was the Head
And the Brain of Saraswats,
Parijnanashram is not dead,
He lives in the Heart of Sadyojat!
 This Parampara of Gurus three
 Nourished the Roots of the Nalkur Tree,
 Never questioned were Their free
 Blessings on our Family.
The Guru walks through all of Them,
Eternal Spirit of Our Souls,
Every generation knows
Their Shakti makes us one and whole.
 There's no denying Parampara,
 Of our road They are the Stars,
 Proud Brahmins, Ancient, going far,
 Achieving Peace and healing scars.
I too am proud of lineage, blood

Of the River flowing north to south,
Brahma Saraswati now floods
All of Indian soil, the mouths
 And spirits of this golden land
 Fed by timeless truths and hands,
 My body wears the pure white strands
 Of Brahminhood that understands
The meaning of the roots and race
Gives to India and the world
The living Word and modern grace
Of Spirit which She now unfurls
 As Beauty and the Power of
 The Truth Immortal, great Her role
 In a world whose future She
 Leads towards the greater goal
Of Peace and Happiness for Man
And the Bliss we all deserve,
The End of Suffering is at hand
For India Earth's future serves
 As was destined from the start,
 Her greatness meant to re-emerge,
 Mother to the World and Heart,
 Land of the Brahmin's ancient urge!

December 2, 2009

SHRI CHITRAPUR MATH, SHIRALI
Announces the following programmes:

1. Vardhanti Utsav of Shri Bhuvaneshwari, Shri Ganapathi, Shri Adi Shankaracharya shrines and the Shrimad Parijnanashram III Swamiji Paduka Sannidhi shrine on 24th January, 2010.
2. Geervana Pratishtha - Samskrita Sambhashana-cum-Upasana Prashikshana Shibir will be held in Shri Chitrapur Math for all Geervana Pratishtha Samskrit teachers and students who are studying or have completed Aradhana and are studying Sadhana/Dharana, from 23rd to 26th January, 2010. Names to be registered with Kum. Sujata Haldipur on 09870719898 or hsujata@hotmail.com, before 15th January, 2010.
3. One Lakh Gayatri Anushtana in Shri Guru Math, Mallapur, at 9.00 am on 23rd January'2010. Names to be registered with Shri Vinay Masurkar on 98203 84535 or vision.corporation@gmail.com.
4. Yuvadhara Shibir from 23rd to 26th January, 2010 in Shri Chitrapur Math, Shirali, for all Yuvas. Names to be registered with Smt Sharayu Haldipur on 09819313263 or haldipursharayu@yahoo.co.in, before 15th January, 2010. All Yuvas are welcome.

Fresh copies of **Yog Ethos** are now available at the KSA Office at a special price of Rs. 200/- per copy. The sale proceeds will go to the KSA Magazine Fund. Readers wishing to receive a copy at their doorstep are requested to pay Rs. 250/- to cover courier charges.



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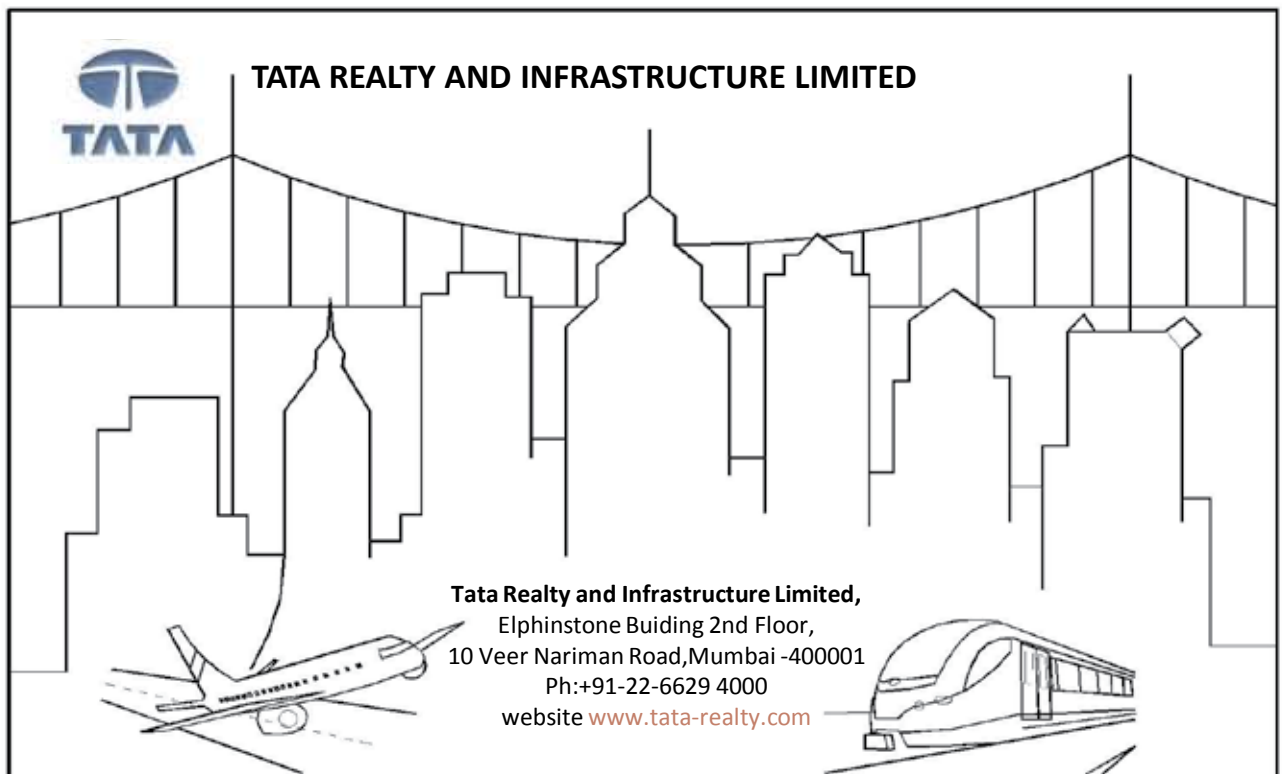
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Shrimat Parijnanashram Vastu Sangrahalaya completes one year

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“ARTISTES HAD SPENT A LIFETIME OVER THESE IDOLS AND THAT THESE WORKS SHOULD LIE IN A CONDITION OF NEGLECT MADE US SAD AND STRENGTHENED OUR RESOLVE TO GIVE THEM A PROPER PLACE OF HONOUR IN OUR MUSEUM” – Parama Poojya Parijnanashram Swamiji III

Our museum offers us the opportunity to look at the religious art and cultural heritage of our society. Ancient artefacts, collected lovingly by Parama Poojya Shrimat Parijnanashram III, are showcased in the Shrimat Parijnanashram Vastu Sangrahalaya in Chitrapur, Shirali.



HH with Deepamallika - inauguration

This tribute to our Guruswami was inaugurated last year by Parama Poojya Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji as part of the Tercentenary Commemoration. Smt Gouri and Shri Vinod Yennemadi, in memory of his beloved parents, sponsored the construction of this grand building.

On 29th December, 2009, the museum completes an eventful and happening year. As one walks past the stone and metal idols of Gods and Goddesses, coins, weaponry, ivory, sandalwood and period furniture, the magnificent *Ratha* in the centre, one is not only exposed to our rich culture but is also reminded of the loving hand that brought all these together.

The Chitrapur Rang-Ranjani festivities attracted several visitors from different parts of the world, and it was the perfect time to start displaying the 250 artefacts in the newly erected museum. It has

been a year now, and thousands of people have entered its hallowed precincts.

Numerous thematic exhibitions were organized during 2009:

“*Amgelo Teru*” was organized by Pune Sabha. The chief coordinator was Smt Jyothi Divgi and the exhibition was inaugurated by Shri Adiga Sundara on 27th March, in the presence of Parama Poojya Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji. A slide show on “*Amgelo Teru*” was shown from 27th March to 14th April, 2009.

On 10th April, a drawing competition was held on the subject: *Ratha*. Children of Stds VIII, IX and X of Srivali High School drew the *Ratha* in water colors, while children of Stds V, VI and VII of Anandashram Vidya Mandir, Chitrapur, used color pencils. Smt Chetana Kadle was invited to judge their art.

On 11th May 2009, during the Kara-seva *shibir*, 40 Kara-seva *shibirarthis* from all over the country helped to repair and repaint several wooden toys and artefacts. Brass *diyas* and *aaratis* were polished. The crevices of the *Ratha* were dusted. The boys also carefully cleaned Shrimat Pandurangashram Swamiji’s *palki*. Smt Meera Balsaver energized the cleaning sessions by singing lively *bhajans*.

On 16th August, “Ganesh Pradarshini” was organized by Mumbai Dadar Sabha, co-ordinated by Dr Chaitanya Gulvady. The Chitrapur Saraswat style of celebrating ‘Tayi’ and ‘Chavathi’ was depicted, along with various features on Ganesha.

From 16th to 20th August, a puppet show, “Shri Ganarayalyo kaniyo” (Stories of Shri Ganaraya) was held under the supervision of Smt Chandrama Bijur of Mumbai Dadar Sabha. Several puppet shows were conducted in Konkani and Kannada, and school children of Anandashram Vidya Mandir enjoyed them thoroughly.

On 19th August, a workshop on puppet-making

conducted by Smt Chandrama Bijur assisted by Dr. Sujal Bijur had 15 children of Stds V and VI of Anandashram Vidya Mandir, as participants.



Drawings of 'Ratha' and clay Ganesha idols prepared by children

On 25th August, a workshop on clay modelling of Ganesha idols was organized by SPVS; 15 children of Stds VIII, IX and X of Srivali High School participated.

All the prize winners were felicitated at the auspicious hands of Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji

Facts and Figures:

- HH Shri Bharti Teerth Mahaswamigal, Shankaracharya of Shringeri Peetha, and Swami Shivanand Teertha of Kavle Math were among the noted visitors.
- Of the 750 artifacts, about one-third are on display at any time.
- This year approximately 6,000 persons visited the museum.

“May this sacred heritage institution serve to make members of the Samaj aware of their cultural heritage, and may the healthy sense of pride also generate within them, the responsibility of protecting and enhancing what they have received.” – Parama Pujya Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji, in His Inaugural Message.



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KSA's Saraswat Students' Convocation

For the first time, KSA held the Saraswat Students' Convocation for successful students of 2009, outside Talmakiwadi - at Santacruz Colony, Mumbai, in association with the Saraswat Club, Santacruz, on October 31, 2009. The function started at 6 pm, with Yatin Mavinkurve giving a historical background of the Convocation followed by an introduction of the successful students. He then requested Dr. Harish Kodial, President, KSA, to welcome the gathering.

Avinash Trasi, Chairman, KSA, in a brief speech, thanked the Saraswat Club, for agreeing to hold the Convocation in Saraswat Colony.

Welcoming the gathering of students, parents and well-wishers, Dr. Harish Kodial said that KSA organizes this event annually to encourage and felicitate all Chitrapur Saraswat students who have passed their Board or University examinations. He said, "I always love to attend this function so that I can meet our bright and promising 'Amchi' generation who will hold the future Chitrapur Vaibhav and make our community proud. They will not only follow in the footsteps of some of our Chitrapur stalwarts who have made a name at the national and international levels but also contribute to the upliftment of our community. When it comes to achieving success we know that "there are no short-cuts to hard work", which all of you have proved today."

"I am sure you must have realized the role your parents have played in your success by wholeheartedly supporting and encouraging you throughout the course of your examinations. Thank you Ammas and Pappas; Annus and Ayis, for you kindness," he added.

Finally, he congratulated the students on their grand success, and wished them a very bright future. "I pray to lord Bhavanishankar to guide you in achieving your desired goal in life," he concluded, handing the mike to the host of the function, Uday Mankikar, Vice President, KSA, to introduce Kuldeep V. Kalavar, the Chief Guest of the function.



KSA Vice President Uday Mankikar speaking at the Convocation. Seated (l to r): Avinash Trasi, Chief Guest Kuldeep Kalavar, Dr. Harish Kodial, Vasant Naimpally

श्री गुरुभ्यो नमः श्री भवानीशंकराय नमः।

सर्वप्रथम सर्व गुणवंत यशस्वी विद्यार्थ्यांगेले आणि तांगेल्या पालकांगेले अभिनंदन आणि नवीन वर्साच्यो हार्दिक शुभेच्छा. सर्व विद्यार्थ्यांक, तांगेल्या भावी जीवनांतु उत्तुंग यश आणि किर्ती प्राप्त जावो म्हणू श्री भवानीशंकरांगेल्या चरणांतु विनम्र प्रार्थना!

आतं हांव आयचो मुख्य अतिथी श्री. कुलदीप काळावर माम हांगेलो परिचयु कोर्नु दितां. खरें सांगचे जाल्यारी कुलदीप माम्हांगेलो परिचयु नात्तिलो भानपु आस्स अशशी माक्का दिसना. अक अमर्याद दूरदृष्टी आशिलो समर्थ आणि कुशल प्रशासक म्हळ्यारी कुलदीपमामु.

शिक्षणाने Mechanical Engineer आणि Masters Degree in Management (पुणे विद्यापीठ). अनेक बहुदेशीय संस्थांतु उच्च पदाचेरी काम कोरचो २० वर्सांचो प्रदीर्घ अनुभवुः उदा. Philips, Hindustan Lever आणि Lipton.

१९९० धोर्नु कुलदीपमाम्हाने स्वतंत्र व्यवसायु सुरू केलो.

गेल्ली ४० वर्सधोर्नु तो वेदांताचो अभ्यासकु जानु आस्स. चिन्मया मिशनाचे संयुक्त विद्यमाने गेल्ली १५ वर्सधोर्नु तो वेदांतु विषय शिकैत आस्स. तरुणवर्गाक, वेदांताचीं तत्त्वं आणि समस्या हाज्जें दैनंदिन जीवनांतु अनुसंधान कशशी साध्य कोर्नु घेंवकाज ह्या विषयाचेरी तांगेलो अभ्यासु आणि तरुणवर्गाक मदत केंद्रीत जानु आस्स.

थोडे वर्सांमाक्षी तालमकीवाडींतु कुलदीपमाम्हाने "Career Options" आणि "How to prepare for Exams" ह्या

OBITUARY



Shri Anant (Nanda) Narsing Kagal

Shri Anant (Nanda) Narsing Kagal, aged 92, expired on 27th September 2009, leaving behind his wife Smt. Seeta Kagal (nee Mavinkurve) and his three daughters Neiloo, Aruna and Anita.

A modest man known for his honesty and integrity, he retired as the Inspector General of Police in 1976.

He had interests varying from philately to music. He was the President of the Karnataka Philatelic Association and had won many national and international Awards for his invaluable collections. Some of these were "The Jaipur State Collection", "The Long Arm of the Police " and others. He was the recipient of innumerable awards and recognition. He was invited to be a judge of various philatelic competitions all over India.

His constant encouragement made his wife Seeta, renowned in her field of music. Collecting her recorded performances and accompanying her for all her outstation concerts, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, was another of his interests.

During his service in the Police Department, he took a very active part in the 1971 war, having worked as the Controller of Civil Defence as well. He also worked in the Vigilance Commission in Karnataka. Winner of the President's medal, he had many opportunities to meet and accompany persons like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Morarji Desai, M.A. Jinnah, the King of Saudi Arabia, the King and Queen of Persia, and Dr. Bulganin and Dr. Khrushchev of Russia. He had a vast collection of much-valued photographs with these and other such dignitaries.

He headed the Home Guards, Bangalore, and served the Department to the best of his ability.

Shri Anant Kagal passed away after a brief illness. He is missed dearly by his wife Seeta and daughters.

विषयांचेरी संमेलनं आयोजित केलेलीं, ताक्का उदंड प्रतिसादु मेळ्ळो आनि कौतुकई जाल्लें. इल्लो अनुभवी आनि समर्थ मुख्य अतिथी आमकां मेळ्ळा हें आमगेलें भाग्यची. तागेल्या मार्गदर्शनपर उद्बोधक भाषणांथानु सर्व विद्यार्थ्यांक, प्राप्त परिस्थितीतुं, स्वतः गेल्या भावी शैक्षणिक जीवनाचो दृष्टिकोण कशशी आसकाज हाजें आकलन जाल्लें हाज्जी माक्का खात्री आस्स.

आमगेल्या विनंतीक मानु दिवु, तुगेल्या व्यस्त दैनंदिन कार्यांथानु वेळ काणू हांगा आयिले खातिर, कुलदीप माम तुक्का धन्यवाद!



Kuldeep Kalavar, the Chief Guest, addressing the gathering

Successful students who were present on the occasion, presented themselves on the stage and received prizes from the Chief Guest. The Convocation Address delivered by the Chief Guest, follows.

“DESIGN YOUR LIFE”

Convocation Address by Shri Kuldeep Kalavar

Om Shri Gurubhyo Namah. First, a big ‘Thank you’ to the KSA for giving me the opportunity to address you on this momentous occasion. Momentous, because three generations are present here – the youth, their parents and elders. The KSA along with our beloved Math has been a strong integrating force that has held our community together as a family over generations. It is heartening to see the KSA spreading its wings and changing its image as a Talmakiwadi-centric organization. I hope we see the KSA establishing itself overseas very soon.

My dear friends, when I meet young people, I always ask one question: “What would you like to see yourself as five years from now?” The nature of reply indicates how successful the person is going to be in life. When you board a train on a journey, you are sure about your destination, the time you expect to spend, and whether you are on the right train. Similarly, on this train of life, you should have clarity about your goal, the time you need to achieve it, and whether you are on the right path or going in the right direction.

I am very jealous of you! Why? Because you are not bound by the limitations that we, the previous generations, were subject to. Ask your parents, your grandparents, what pressures they faced when

they got out of school or graduated from college. Girls were subject to pressures to get married lest they get too old to get a husband. Boys were under pressure to earn a living so that the family could get additional income. For this older generation, the main goal was *Roti, Kapda and Makaam*. In the process, they compromised on their dreams, hopes and ambitions. That is the reason why most members of our community were either bank or insurance employees – jobs that were secure and adequate.

Fortunately, today, most of you do not have such limitations. You need not worry about your evening meal nor be concerned about getting a visit from the landlord. Most of your parents have already established the basic infrastructure required for your future. You can take risks. This is evident today when you observe every Saraswat family having at least one entrepreneur.

Freedom from limitations gives you the liberty to **design your own life**.

The scriptures say that you are blessed if you are born as a human being. Our ancestors said, to be born a Saraswat is to be twice blessed! Why did they say that? Although today’s forum is not on spirituality, I would like to spend a few minutes exploring this aspect.

A human being is a spiritual and a physical personality. When a human being is conceived, he is 100% spirit. You cannot see him! He has no physicality. It takes nine months for the physical body to be formed upon this spiritual foundation! We can draw an analogy with an iceberg. Only 10% of an iceberg is seen – the balance 90% is unseen. Yet, it is the unseen 90% that serves as the foundation

for the iceberg. Without this foundation, the iceberg would not exist. Similarly, for the human personality, this 90% spiritual portion of our inner being serves as the foundation in life. The physical personality you see is only 10%.

When you go to the gymnasium, you do not exercise only the arms or legs. You ensure that every part of the body is exercised. Why? Because you want to ensure that you have a well-developed body. Similarly, a human being needs to nourish both his/her physical and spiritual personalities. Nourishing the physical body is called “making a living”, nourishing the spiritual part is called “making a life” The first makes for quantity, the second introduces quality!

The laws of the physical and spiritual world are different. In the physical world, our teachers and mentors teach us to master its laws. In the spiritual world, our Gurus teach us. We are blessed to be born into the Saraswat community that boasts of 11 Gurus, each unparalleled in His mastery. Mother Saraswati is our benefactor. What greater blessing can a human ask for? You realize how true our ancestors were!!

Unfortunately, the majority of mankind spends most of his/her life nourishing the physical-personality – acquiring money, property, name, fame etc. Notice how the media focuses on the body – fairness creams, long hair, etc. Hardly any one mentions spiritual nourishment! Now you realize how vital is the Guru’s blessing and advice. We are blessed to have a Guru who is easily approachable and communicates so effortlessly in different languages

I talked about designing your life. Every instrument is designed to serve a goal. A washing machine is designed to clean clothes, a cell phone to communicate, a pressure cooker to cook. What is the goal of the human being? Your parents will best answer this question. Ask any parent what he desires most for his child. Every parent will unhesitatingly say, “I want my child to be happy!” Happiness is the goal of all human beings. Some find happiness through money, others through music, through prayer etc. We know of people who have loads of money but are unhappy. We know of singers who

were rich and famous but miserable. But money, music or prayer is not happiness – they are ladders or means to happiness.

So, how do I design my life to achieve happiness? Observe nature – a *koyal* (bird) is most happy singing; it does not have to learn singing, it comes naturally. A duck is most happy swimming. A bee is happy collecting nectar. Therefore, you are most happy doing what comes naturally to you! The best thing that can happen to you is to “do something that you love doing and also get paid for it!” A fitting example of this philosophy is Sachin Tendulkar. He loves cricket so much that even at this age, he is unparalleled and up-to-date. Similarly, Bill Gates, Edison, etc all made careers of what they loved most and came out successful.

In this path to success, parents/mentors play a major role. Tendulkar’s father saw the potential in him and systematically planned and developed it. You too can do it. There are many people I know who have achieved brilliance in doing things that came naturally to them. I give you some examples.

There was this boy who loved sketching. He would naturally draw or sketch any person or object around him. The family were all engineers. When the boy passed his school exams, he refused to get into the Science stream and wanted to get into Arts. Fortunately, the father understood. In the confusion, the boy missed the date for applying to the JJ School of Arts. Undeterred, he walked into the Principal’s office and requested that he be given a chance, and showed him his portfolio of sketches/drawings. They say, when you are sincere even God takes your side! To cut a long story short, today, this boy is one of the finest art directors in the advertising industry.

A girl had a natural ability to heal pain. She loved physiotherapy and psychology. After researching, she opted to do a course in Occupational Therapy. Because of her natural ability, she got a rank in the university and started her practice. Her aim was to relieve pain, not to make money. She is, today, so successful that she has a waiting list of three months!

So, persevere in what you love doing, take the help of your parents in identifying your natural talents, and just do it! God bless you!

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Dali - An insight into rural China

DR. SUSHAMA ARUR, GOA

Recently we had the opportunity to visit our daughter who works in Dali Medical College in Yunnan Province in southeast China. Dali is a picturesque township surrounded by the Changshan Mountain range; a five-hour drive from Kunming, the capital of Yunnan Province. When our trip to China was finalized the common question we were asked was: “Oh, going to Beijing? Shanghai? Is it Hongkong?” After returning from Dali, we were so happy to have visited this serene and calm place, away from the maddening crowd of a metro that we have not stopped talking about it. In reality, most of the world’s metros have common features — the glitter and grandeur of commercialism such as like skyscrapers, fascinating metro trains with modern gadgets, expansive malls with captivating and tempting items where one gets carried away and surrenders to big buying. But the place we went to had a touch of rural life with a dash of modernity. Below the university campus was the town and in our tour of the villages in the neighborhood we were amazed to see the development in infrastructure, the cleanliness and discipline.

I would like to share with our readers, the ten things that attracted our attention and which we loved most about.

1. **The pure scenic beauty:** The town has everything — it is surrounded by the Chanshan Mountains with an average altitude of 3500 meters and covered with snow in winter, and the ear-shaped Er-hai Lake which is considered as one of the most beautiful and serene lakes in China. It is the second largest highland lake in China. The water that gushes from the mountains has resulted in the formation of many small and big lakes; so one finds these along the way to Dali and in Dali too. On both sides of the road, fields stretch for miles together with what looks like mustard with its pleasant yellow flowers surrounded by green lettuce-like leaves. It looks as if this stretch of cultivation all around is meant to feed the whole Chinese population!!

2. **Dali:** There are two townships in Dali — one is modern with the university campus and new market called Xue Yua, while the other, old Dali is called

Gucheng. Dali, the ancient city, was constructed during the early Ming dynasty (1368-1644). It is famous for the three Pagodas of the Tang dynasty. Throughout its historical past, Dali remained as a link between ancient China and other countries via India. There was brisk movement between China and India since the third century BC, so one should not be surprised to find Chinese sculptures having Indian features. For example, in the pagodas, there are women deities with *bindi*; and some of the sculptures in the temple seemed to resemble the dancing Nataraja, Shiva; and the kings seated on their thrones looked like Indian kings; there are many more such examples to cite. In old Dali, the ‘foreigners’ street’ is a very popular destination where local handcrafts are displayed. The main road has many cafes, bars and restaurants, including one Indian restaurant, ‘Namaste’, run by a Chinese family! You get good *samosas* and Indian food here. Most of the streets in old Dali reminded us of the streets of Kalangut in Goa. Erhai Lake is the main attraction and tourists throng to have boat rides. It seems that, every year, people living around the lake sail in the clear green water to see the reflection of the golden moon in the lake, making the atmosphere romantic.

3. **The climate:** The Spring Festival was celebrated in early February and summer was beginning. Yet, we found ourselves in warm clothes as it was cloudy. The sun shone, but the chill breeze from the mountains kept the temperature cool. Coming from Goa and its coastal humidity and heat, this weather was a refreshing change for us.

4. **The infrastructure:** The five-hour drive from Kunming, the capital of Yunnan Province, to Dali was a wonderful experience. Big Volvo buses with good seats are available at short intervals. As the bus passes through Kunming one finds beautiful shopping malls, colorful parks, huge fly-overs and fruit vendors dressed in western clothes. The road ahead makes you sit up and take note of the four lanes within the city limits and eight lanes on expressways. The bus just sails on.... Near the toll gate, there were ten booths to collect money!!

Amembal Subbarao – A silent, social volunteer

Amembal Subbarao suddenly succumbed to a massive heart attack on 22nd November 2009 at Vittal where he had gone for the Shasthi celebrations, a day prior to Shasthi. Being a man with deep faith in Lord Anantheshwar, he went there every year. Besides, this place lured him with strong strings of childhood and youthful memories. His sudden demise came as a great shock to the members of his family, relatives and a large circle of friends. The shock was all the more because he had not shown any symptoms of a heart ailment earlier.



Subbarao was born on 20th February 1938 in Vittal, near Mangalore. He lost his father when he was just 7, and spent his childhood in straitened circumstances. Later, when he became eligible, he succeeded his father as Shanbogh of the village to supplement his family income. But he was very keen to pursue his education and being a bright student, he got admission for mechanical engineering in the Regional Engineering College at Surathkal. He was among the first batch of students to pass out of the college, and obtained his engineering degree with distinction.

In 1966, Subbarao migrated to Mumbai in search of employment. He got a job in Indian Automobile Engineering Company, initially. He also pursued his studies and obtained a Diploma in Industrial Engineering from VJTI and subsequently joined the Department of Atomic Energy as a Scientific Officer at the Indira Gandhi Reactor Research Centre at Kalpakkam where he was involved in the commissioning of the nuclear power plant. In 1981, he was transferred to Mumbai to join the Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCI) where he made significant contributions to the development of the organization and retired as Head of Department, Turbine Generator Cycle (Planning and Design). Always fond of learning, he completed several short-term courses in German and Hindi, and while in service, obtained a diploma in Operations Management from IGNOU, besides continuing to learn computer language and various software programmes. An ardent teacher, he also believed in sharing the knowledge he had acquired and during his tenure at NPCI, often volunteered to teach his colleagues.

After retirement in 1998, he started giving tuitions in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Hindi and English to high school, college and Engineering students. He taught poor students at low cost and, sometimes, for no cost. He believed in social commitments to his community and neighbourhood. Subbarao remembered with gratitude the help received from KSA to pursue his education and made small but regular donations to KSA. During the visits of HH Shrimat Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji to Dadar, Subbarao actively but silently worked as a volunteer, and as a member of the Local Sabha of Chitrapur Math of Dadar, he visited various households to collect Vantiga. By nature, he was never ostentatious in whatever social work he did. He was also active in the Senior Citizens' Organization of Prabhadevi and Dignity Foundation.

I came in contact with Subbarao in 1997 when the Kanara Saraswat Association, at the initiative of Sadanand Bhatkal, launched a project for updating the family trees of Chitrapur Saraswats originally compiled by S.S. Talmaki some eighty years ago. In the initial stage, when data was being collected, Subbarao visited Sadanand Bhatkal's residence regularly to offer his help. Later, with his knowledge of electronic inputting of data, he along with some others started updating the family trees. This work he continued till the completion of the project in 2007. For almost four years, from 2003 to 2007, he unfailingly visited the KSA office along with other members of the group to input data and verify entries with the original documents. Here I must express my gratitude to him for the coaching he gave me in computer working. Whenever I had any difficulty, he always came gladly to my residence to solve the problem.

Subbarao was religiously inclined and a self-made man. He was a keen student and a willing teacher, a lover of Indian classical music and a silent volunteer. In his demise, we have lost a dedicated social worker and a good friend.

Raghunath N. Gokarn, Mumbai

So, no queues! The roads are empty yet the driver, looking smart in his uniform, drives at a seemingly leisurely speed while we cover 360 km in 4½ hours with a break of just 15 minutes! Even in Dali, one finds broad and good roads. We passed through 6-7 very big tunnels that were very clean, properly lit and with tiled walls. Since it is a mountainous area, most of the roadside hills were walled as a safeguard against landslides.

5. **The Young China:** We stayed in the university campus so it was but natural to see only youngsters around us; but even in the town below and in the villages, we found youth mostly. Then where is the older generation? It appears that they managed the house and kids when the youngsters went out to work. We happened to visit the police station as our digital camera was stolen (yes, this happened in a market in Dali and was the only blight on our trip) and were amazed to see only youthful, trim police officers, both men and women. It was very striking as we were used to seeing pot bellied policemen in India! The taxi drivers too were smart and uniformed.

6. **Civic sense:** The most admirable thing that we noticed in the people of Dali was their civic sense, a must for any citizen to follow diligently, which we usually tend to follow when we are in other countries. Basic facilities are cared for, and monuments are well preserved and clean with good toilet facilities for tourists. The buses are clean as dust-bins are kept between every three seats. On the roadside too, at frequent intervals, one finds dust-bins, artistically made and marked 'Recyclable' and 'Not Recyclable'. In the rural areas, the roads were narrow but clean. We never found over-flowing garbage bins either on the main road or in the by-lanes of Dali. Yes, we did see cow-dung spread outside the walls of houses to dry; this is mixed with hay and dried leaves and used as a fertilizer. We never saw any cattle nor stray dogs even in the villages perhaps because both are delicacies for southeastern Asians and hence bred hygienically!

7. **Discipline:** The dictatorship of the Proletariat has done good to China in spite of its huge population and different ethnic minorities; it has brought discipline over the years. Discipline has been inculcated in the people from a young age and

hence, is deeply rooted. It can be felt in every walk of life from the airport to the streets and in public places. In restaurants and hotels, nobody takes tips. The roads are empty and broad and one could easily get tempted to speed but the taxi drivers do not do so.

8. **Conservation of ethnicity and culture:** In 1949, when the communists took over China they forbade people from worshipping any idols and destroyed all religious relics. Since 1982, revival and rebuilding and the upkeep of old monuments in the form of pagodas, monasteries, temples started. Yunnan Province has many ethnic minorities. Apart from the Hans, there are Tibetans, Burmese, Bai, Dai and Yi communities, each with their distinct language nurtured over the years in their home - Yunnan. Dali is the capital of the Bai autonomous prefecture where the Bai community is relatively larger. These people inhabited Dali for generations thereby creating a unique cultural heritage. Their customs and traditions have brought color to the life of the city, with the Spring Festival, March Street Festival, Butterfly Festival and so on, bringing the best of local folk customs. They conduct cultural programmes such as tribal dances etc. To promote their welfare and tourism, members of these communities, in their traditional dress, have been employed as guides to pagodas, monasteries and even in the celebrated tea making and serving ceremony. But unfortunately, none of these guides, taxi drivers or bus drivers know English, not even the most basic terminology like 'airport', 'bus station' etc. Everything is explained in Chinese. Hence, interaction with the Chinese is impossible. This is a major drawback for foreigners here.

9. **Tea drinking ceremony:** We were amazed to see that the Chinese men and women are very slim. We wondered what the secret behind it could be, guessing that it might be their tea drinking habit which has kept them trim and thin! In China, tea drinking has been transformed into a ceremony for tourists. Basically, they use it as a health drink without sugar and milk. It reminds us of our '*kashaya*' made of herbs, roots and dried flowers. The royal drink is prepared with tea leaves. The tea maker in her traditional dress with her delicate hands makes tea with a certain style and serves it in pretty, tiny

chinaware cups. Each tea has a different flavor. Most of the Chinese carry a thermos with tea leaves and hot water in it and keep on sipping till it is over. They simply refill it with hot water, available anywhere, and continue sipping. This habit of drinking hot tea has probably kept their systems intact.

10. Good governance: It appears that the Chinese have been provided with the basic necessities of food, shelter and clothing. The uniformity in the houses in towns and villages reflected this. But in cities, highrise residential buildings were a common sight. The effort of the governing bodies to improve the living standards of the people, keeping the focus on tourism, was evident in Dali. Houses of white and grey are uniformly built and their outside walls have paintings in shades of black depicting nature, flora and fauna being a common feature in Dali. The standard of living of the people seemed good. Food is cheap and in plenty. Everyone is dressed well in western clothes — from sweepers to shopkeepers, to vendors, to executives. The infrastructure is good, and with strict laws and discipline, it seems to project a peaceful life for the localites.

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Under the Christmas Tree

SAMIR HATANGADI (AGE 7 YEARS)

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Under the Christmas tree

What do I see?

Lots of presents just for ME!

But what is that big one, as big as big?

As big as a horse or as big as a pig.

I wonder who left it there with all those
white paws

There's only one person and that's SANTA
CLAUS!

His sparkling eyes and his big big belly
He wiggles and wobbles like a plate of pink
jelly.

He bounced on the balcony and through the
window

And bounced on the carpet like a big ball of
dough.

I got on the deck and looked at that star
That's what I want SANTA, a remote control
car!



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Non-Chitrapur Saraswat Temples of Kanara Districts

Part 5 - Shree Manjunatheshwar Temple, Kadri, Mangalore

SATYANARAYAN PANDIT, ANDHERI, MUMBAI

An important and revered seat of Lord Shiva in the city of Mangalore, is Shree Manjunatheshwar Temple at Kadri (see picture with inset showing the shrine). The shrine is ancient and details of its origin or installation are not available. However, relics found in the precincts indicate that the Kshetra was a major centre of Shiva, Shakti and Bouddha worship from ancient times.

The fast-developing coastal city of Mangalore is familiar to Chitrapur Saraswats as it is the home of the Holy Samadhi of our revered sixth Sadguru, HH Vamanashram Swamiji. It is also the aerial gateway to reach our sacred shrines - Shree Chitrapur Math at Shirali, Shrimath Anantheshwar Temple at Vittal - as well as our ancestral homes and villages. However, it may not be known to many in our community that Mangalore was the foremost centre of Chitrapur Saraswats about 150 years ago. It was the headquarters of the undivided Kanara District formed by the British after the fall of Tipu Sultan, in 1799. Mangalore is well connected by railways and national highways and easily reachable from anywhere in India.

Historical Background: Manjunatheshwar Temple is located on the slopes of Kadri Hills. Temple records indicate that in the 10th century, Kadri was a major centre of the 'Natha Pantha' following, which was highly popular in the region. 'Natha Pantha' is believed to have emanated from the Buddhist tradition of 'Vajrayana.' Shree Manjunatheshwar is the principal deity of the followers of 'Natha Pantha'; this close link is established by the presence of the 'Natha Matha' which is just behind the Holy Temple. According to legend, the sacred Shiva *linga* installed in Shree Manjunatheshwar Temple in Shree Dharmasthal, was brought from here.

Kshetra Mahima: the square-shaped sanctum sanctorum has a rocky structure. Besides the

principal deity, the Shiva *linga*, the *parivar devatas* include Goddess Devi, Lord Ganesh and Shasthar. The *gopuram* of the temple is spectacular and eye-



catching. Around the sanctorum and on its outer walls, are three idols dedicated to Matsyendra Nath, Goraksha Nath and Shringi Nath. In the *navrang* outside the sanctorum, are magnificent *pancha loha* idols of Lokeshwara, Manjushri and Goutam Buddha. The Lokeshwara idol is credited to the Aloopa King, Kunda Varma who reigned in the 10th century; it is considered to be the oldest and a rare masterpiece. It is also said to be the only one of its kind in South India. The inscription found at the base of the Lokeshwara idol refers to the shrine as 'Kadrika Vihar' ('Vihar' refers to Buddhist Temples), thereby establishing the link with Buddhism.

Apart from these, are two *pancha loha* idols

traditionally known as 'Narayana' and 'Vyasa', dating back to the 10th-11th century.

Behind the temple, there are seven ponds, fed by natural springs. These are ever full. It is believed that these waters possess rare medicinal value that cures diseases and washes away sins. Devotees visiting the temple take a dip in the holy waters.

Shree Manjunatheshwara Kshetra is immensely popular in this part of Karnataka and the deity is reverentially known as 'Kadalivana Kshetra, Shree Manjunatha. Devotees throng in large numbers on Mondays and festival days to seek the Lord's blessings.

Major Festivals and Events:

1. Mahashivaratri Utsav
2. Navaratri Festival
3. Vinayak Chaturthi
4. Shravan Samaradhane
5. Deeparadhane and Laksha Deepotsava during the month of Kartik
6. Dhanurmasa Pooje.

Natha Pantha Math (also known as Shree Kshetra Kadali Yogeshwar Math): While visiting Shree Manjunatheshwar Temple, a visit to this Math is also suggested. According to local parlance, the Kshetra is popularly known as 'Swarna Kadali Vana' or 'Dakshina Kashi'. The Math is a centre of 'Natha Sampradaya'. It is believed that Matsyendra Natha and Gorakhsha Nath observed penance here and their seats are marked accordingly. Other sites to see are Nava Kunda; Pandava Caves; temples dedicated to Matsyendra Nath, Gorakhsha Nath and Chowrangi Nath; Sanjeevani Samadhi of Siddha Jwala Nath; Kshetrapal Seat, a well dedicated to Seeta Devi, etc.

A Message to the Younger Generation: The Shree Manjunatheshwar Temple complex is within the city of Mangalore and is convenient to visit. Please make it a point to visit the shrine whenever you happen to be in that region.

(Source: *Dakshina Kannadada Devalayagalu*)

Connect

SADHANA S. KARNAD, RATNAGIRI

Why do we connect so easily with some,
When we've never even seen them before?
Is it because we were connected
Way back in time,
On some distant shore?

Call it a karmic connection,
Or simply even fate...
Perhaps it's our vibrations
That meet in cyber-space!
And on finding the same frequency,
We just resonate!

And then it doesn't matter
If we've never even seen their face!
We feel we've always known them,
Been their friend all along
This explains why, when you do meet them,
The feeling of *deja vu* is so strong!

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Memoirs of a trip: Mahim to Miami

MUKTABAI S. CHANDAVER, MAHIM (W), MUMBAI

It was a short holiday but 20 days of excitement, enjoyment and entertainment - from Mahim to Miami in September 2009.

I had stepped on foreign soil for the first time in 2000, at the age of 75. Now, at 84, I was stepping out again. At first, I was rather diffident to take the trip offered by my son and daughter-in-law. Questions like: "Will I be able to endure the long flight?", "Will the food abroad agree with me?" (though one requires very little for survival!), and so on. Then, I remembered my friend's words. "You must visit the US at least once in your lifetime," and told myself, "If God wills, everything is possible."

Thus, I set out to explore and rediscover (after Columbus) the United States of America. I began preparing myself for the trip. First, I wanted to know exactly the places I was going to visit (I certainly couldn't tour the entire country at my age!), their location, distances etc. It was like revisiting the Geography class which I had long forgotten. I asked my grandson for a school atlas. Seeing the surprised look on his face I told him not to worry, I wasn't going to school again... I was going to the US of A. He jumped up with joy, "Yippee!! Grandma's going to the US!" News spread like wildfire in the colony. There was a barrage of questions from friends (senior citizens like me) and others, like: "Have you got your visa?", "Will you be able to bear the cold?", "What will you wear - jeans and tops?" And tips and suggestions - "You must wear shoes, not *chappals*", "Take short walks in flight", etc.

Finally, on September 8, 2009, we were on a Newark bound plane. As advised by friends, I took short walks during the flight whenever possible and rotated my feet now and then. So, I had no problem whatsoever on arrival at Newark's Liberty Airport - my entry point to the fairy land of my dreams.

After a day's rest, we went sightseeing on a Hop-on Hop-off New York sightseeing bus. We alighted at the Empire State Building. At one time it used

to stand taller than all buildings; now, many taller buildings have come up. The elevator took us up to the 102nd floor in an eye's wink. The maze of business complexes and commercial buildings was an awesome sight. The most beautiful sight was that of the majestic 'Statue of Liberty' in the middle of an island. The next day, we visited the island itself for a closer look, and were awestruck by the sight of Her, standing majestically with the glittering torch held high in her hand, a beacon of light and hope welcoming all peace-loving and freedom-loving people. Reaching the foot of the statue, I was amazed by the gigantic yet sober, beautiful form of the Lady. From the foot of the pedestal, she seemed to reach up to the sky. One could only marvel at the imagination of the creator of the statue..

Our next stop was the famous and busy New York Times Square. The entire place with its bustling activity, huge advertisements and posters, neon lights and music made an overwhelming sight. Fun-loving people gathered there in the evenings, after a hard day's work, to enjoy a cup of coffee with music and fun. A visit to Manhattan is a must, they said, and we are glad we did that.

It took a day's rest to soak in the spectacular sights and sounds of New York and Manhattan. Thereafter, we boarded a flight to Buffalo to visit one of Mother Nature's most inspiring wonders - the Horseshoe Falls at Niagara. We were totally captivated by the breathtaking view and the sound of the water galloping down the rocks at terrific speed, and going round the Falls by the 'Maid of the Mist' was indeed enjoyable. The closeness to nature's beauty not only wet our bodies but moistened our eyes as well; it appeared to be nature's way of saying "... Always surge forward". We saw the Falls from the Canadian side too, not to miss the beautiful 'Rainbow Bridge' connecting the two sides. One must make an overnight stay at the Niagara to enjoy its brilliance by night and I am glad we did so.



Mohan Savkooor

Born 07.05.1930. Reached his Heavenly Abode on 07.11.2009, San Jose, California, USA

Mohan Savkooor was a gentle, warm, affectionate, kind, generous, smiling, intelligent, enthusiastic, courageous, dignified, artistic, comrade, wise, energetic, strong, sharp, elegant, patriarch, hospitable, handsome, father figure, gentleman, dapper, world traveler and Brave

These are just a few words that were used to describe him not just during his last few days but also throughout his life. But the last word is the one that really comes to mind when one thinks of him: brave. It's just a five-letter word but without it all those other words listed above would not exist.

Beginning with losing his mother at a young age, Mohan helped his father take care of his brothers and sisters. He constantly persevered throughout life to excel and to be the best he could be while making sure his brothers and sisters were well taken care of. He graduated in 1953 with an Electrical and Mechanical Engineering degree from VJTI Bombay. In 1954 he joined Stan-Vac Petroleum, which later changed its name to Esso and subsequently Hindustan Petroleum. He was introduced to Srikala through family members and decided instantly that she would be his wife. She was to be his wife for the next fifty years. They had three children, Namita, Swapna and Chetan.

At the age of 49, when most people would not even think of starting a new life, he decided to take retirement from HP after working there for twenty-six years and moved his family to the United States to start a whole new life. While working at FMC he joined Santa Clara University to complete his MBA and start a new career in Finance. He joined and became a successful Toastmaster, all at the age of 51! While establishing this whole new career, along with Srikala he raised his children. We know that all work and no play makes one boring, which Mohan Savkooor was not. Just as he loved to work, he also loved the Arts and Culture. He listened to all kinds of music. He was deeply involved with the Konkani Community Association - by singing, acting and producing numerous plays and skits such as "Saints of India" and "Dances of India" for the annual gatherings. Mohan finally retired from FMC after 22 years of work at the age of 72. He and Shrikala traveled extensively all while still being deeply involved in the Konkani community.

When Mohan's illness was revealed, he was more concerned with how we would take it. He fought hard and a complaint was rare. He always had a smile on his face and tried his best to be involved in everyone's lives while still enduring the difficult treatment that was required. He enjoyed a wonderful trip to Kauai with his family even though the pain of his illness was there. Until the end, we never knew how much pain he really was in until the doctors and nurses revealed it to us. He was a brave man and knew that to give in, was to lose the battle. He never gave in and fought till the end.

There is a saying: You never know how much you love someone until the person has gone. Now we know. But the one lesson he taught all of us is to be brave. Mohan Savkooor and bravery are synonymous forever.

Chetan Savkooor

He will be missed by wife Srikala, Namita/Stephen, Swapna, Chetan, Collin and Drake, Savkoors, Bellares, Karpes, Gavankars, Ugrankars and James'.

My stay in the US thus far had been thoroughly enjoyable; the cool climate and the pollution-free atmosphere kept me refreshed contrary to my initial fears that I wouldn't be able to withstand the cold. Not once did I have to open the chest of medicines that I had carried along. The passion with which the Americans take care of their gardens, roads, monuments and other public places is inspiring and worth mentioning. Their discipline in traffic, the concern and respect for the needs of senior citizens and handicapped persons, both by the administration as well as the general public, touched me deeply. By and large, the Americans are a friendly lot. After being surprised in the beginning, we soon got used to "Hi", "Hello", "How are you, hope you are enjoying yourself", "Have a good day" and smiles from perfect strangers on the street.

Thereafter, we took a flight to Miami, famous for its beaches. My son had rented ocean-front rooms knowing I loved the sea-view. The lovely sight of the calm sea from our rooms had a natural, soothing effect on our minds too. On our way to the beach, we caught a glimpse of the home of the famous fashion designer, Versace. We spent a memorable evening at the beach with its white, spotless, silvery sands.... without being bothered by hawkers or *bhelpuriwalas* dotting the beach. Just reclining on a beach chair and watching people enjoying a dip in the sea and the beauty of the evening sky as the sun set was a feast for the eyes. Back home in Mumbai, one misses even the sunset sometimes, with the pollution around.

Our next halt was St. Petersburg in Florida, where my grandson, Nahush, lives. A quiet, serene but beautiful place - a far cry from New York City. I was seeing my grandson after almost two years and it was a happy reunion. He had left as a student and had now completed his MS and was in service. He joined us as we visited a few places of interest in and around St. Petersburg, notably the Clearwater Beach known for its sand; the feel of the pure, softness of nature as we walked barefoot on the white sands, was thrilling. As we watched the sunset, I once again remembered my friend's words: "One must visit the US at least once in

one's lifetime and experience the wonders of both, the Creator and his creation." I can now say, "Yes, I have been to the US!"

We spent a whole week with my grandson, pampering him with all the 'amchi' and other Indian delicacies that he had been missing, away from home.

My holiday soon came to an end. Three weeks had gone by in a jiffy and yet, there was no fatigue – either of the body or mind. Even the thought of the long journey back to India did not tire me as my mind was full of the delightful memories of my journey from Mahim to Miami. And I returned relaxed, rejuvenated and recharged.

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Golden Memories

We could not have let this day, this year, go by without a mention of what it has meant to the couple who shared these wonderful years and to us, their children, who have been lucky to be a part of it.

Fifty years ago, on 22nd December, 1959, our parents, **Narendra Kamat** and **Sadhana Ullal**, tied the knot and began a journey based on love, understanding and shared interests. Although Papa left us on 8th July 2008, he continues to be a part of our lives, our thoughts, our memories. We wish he was with us today to celebrate their 50 years of togetherness and joy.

Amma and Papa, we cherish this day.

Shubha, Vibha, Anuja
22nd December, 2009.



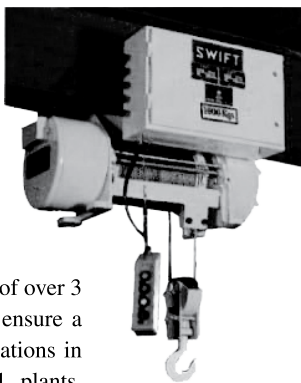
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Music without bias

Bhaskar Chandavarkar, an innovative music composer, was steeped in every kind of music and would listen without filtering it through his Hindustani classical and folk music ears.

Bhaskar Chandavarkar, the renowned Sitarist, innovative music composer and scholar, passed away in Pune on July 25, 2009. He was 73. Eminent critic Shanta Gokhale pays a tribute to him.

Bhaskar Chandavarkar who died 10 days ago, was a very private man. People who thought they knew him knew the look, the gesture, the voice; they knew the ideas and the analytical mind; they most certainly knew the work. But few knew the person.

He was an enormously innovative music composer, but the press rarely told us about him. No violins came out when he won the best music award at the Madrid International Film Festival for his music for the Marathi film *Bayo*. If little newsprint was expended on him, it was at least partly because he was averse to publicity. In fact, I suspect he was averse to unnecessary human interaction itself.

I spent many days with him as a co-invitee to the Sangeet Natak Akademi's Brhaddesi festival in Guwahati some years ago. It was an exhilarating exposure to the music of the north-eastern states - the Seven Sisters as they were coyly called.

Bhaskar always sat apart from the others, all eminent scholars of music, dance and theatre. Many of them were trying to understand the music in terms of their own systems. This sounds like so-and-so raga, they would say or we couldn't follow that beat - how many beats made one cycle? A wizened elder from one of the groups finally said, "We don't understand your questions. This is just music."

Just music is how Bhaskar heard it, not filtered through his Hindustani classical music or folk music ears. He wasn't looking for comforting comparisons between how the artists on stage were plucking their strings and how he strummed his sitar. He was listening with ears that were free of bias. During the week or so of the festival, I realized how open his scholarship was, how much he knew about the sources and forms of the music we heard. I was to

discover later, how deeply steeped he was in every kind of music, whichever part of the world it came from.

I had invited him to lecture the students of IIM, Bangalore, in an elective course in the arts that I had designed. He walked in quietly, set up his music system and said, "I would like you to listen to this." He proceeded to play us a piece of gamelan music from Indonesia, completely foreign to our ears yet completely captivating. Every point he made thereafter was illustrated by recordings of music we had never heard before. It was an ear-opening session. Practice had endowed him with a good teacher's instinct on how to engage student attention.

He had taught music at the Film and Television Institute of India in his home town, Pune, for many years. He had used the opportunity to learn the language of cinema in order to make his lectures more relevant to the students. This stint gave him a special advantage when he composed music for films. One of his proudest moments came when he heard that Satyajit Ray had seen Girish Karnad's film *Ondanondu Kaladalli* (Once-upon a time) the second time just for the music.

So impressed was Ray with it, that when Aparna Sen asked him to compose the music for her film *Paroma*, he sent her to Bhaskar, telling her he was the better composer.

Bhaskar composed music for many significant plays too but the one that took his music all over the country and abroad, was Vijay Tendulkar's *Ghashiram Kotwal*. It would require much more than a column to analyse what he had tried to do there. Suffice it to say that he had created a parallel musical script for the play. But Tendulkar went on record saying that the music had killed the content of the play.

It was Bhaskar's great regret that most people who saw *Ghashiram Kotwal* did not hear what the music was saying. Nothing can be lonelier than to speak in a language that few understand.

(Courtesy: Mumbai Mirror)

‘यया भाष्यते सा भाषा’

काश्चन होनावर

‘यया भाष्यते सा भाषा’ एषा उक्तिः पुनः पुनः सर्वत्र श्रूयते। अस्माकम् अहोभाग्यं यत् अस्माकं गुरुवर्याणां प्रेरणया बहवः चित्रापुरसारस्वताः संस्कृताभ्यासकाः जाताः। परस्परसम्भाषणं संस्कृतेन सरलतया भवेत् इति गुरुवर्याणाम् अभिप्रायः। एषः सुविचारः तैः वारं वारम् अभिव्यक्तः अपि च। तेषां प्रेरणया प्रोत्साहनेन च दादरग्रेण्टरोडसभायाः वयं सप्तजनाः गोवामध्ये कुड्कळी ग्रामं प्रति गताः संस्कृतसंभाषणशिविरार्थिरूपेण। एतत् शिविरं संस्कृतभारत्याः आयोजितम् आसीत्। यदि एतत् शिविरम् अधिकृत्य अहम् मं अनुभवं व्यक्तीकरोमि चेत् तत् अन्यजनान् अपि प्रेरयेत् अतः मम लघु प्रयासः।

गतनवेम्बरमासे २१ तमे दिनाङ्के कोड्कणप्रान्तस्य विविधस्थानेभ्यः बालाः युवकयुवत्यः वृद्धाः च इत्यादयः इच्छुकजनाः तत्र आगताः। प्रातःकालतः रात्रिपर्यन्तं केवलं संस्कृतशिक्षणं संभाषणम् भाषणं च प्रचलत् आसीत्। तत्

श्रवणीयं ज्ञानवर्धकं च अपि आसीत्। श्री गिरीश कामत म होदयस्य प्रभावयुक्तभाषणेन जनाः मन्त्रमुग्धाः। सर्वेषाम् आयोजकानाम् उत्साहः स्मितवदनेन सह साहाय्यतावृत्तिः च उल्लेखनीया आसीत्। शान्तादुर्गामन्दिरं परितः पवित्रपरिसरः आह्लाददायकः आसीत्। सात्विकाहारः समययोजना च अतीव उत्तमा आसीत् २७ तमे दिनांके सर्वे आनन्देन स्वगृहं प्रत्यागताः।

संस्कृतभारत्याः ध्येयम् अस्ति संस्कृतभाषा भारतस्य राष्ट्रभाषा भवेत् इति।

सर्वैः चित्रापुरसारस्वतैः मिलित्वा प्रयत्नः कृतः चेत् संस्कृतप्रसारकार्ये प्रगतिः जनजागृतिः च भवेत्। एषा अस्ति शिविरेन प्रभावितानाम् अस्माकं सप्तजनानाम् अभिलाषा संस्कृतेन एव संस्कृतिः। अतः।

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खरे अपंगत्व व खरे परावलंबीत्व

श्यामला अशोक कुळकर्णी, गांवदेवी

एखाद्या माणसाच्या शरीराचा कोणताही एक अवयव निकामा झाला, म्हणजेच तो निष्क्रीय होऊन कार्य करेनासा झाला की त्या माणसाला अपंगत्व आले असे आपण म्हणतो. अपंगत्वामुळे तो माणूस ज्यावेळी सर्वस्वी दुसऱ्यांवर अवलंबून जीवन जगतो त्यावेळी त्याला परावलंबीत्व आल्याचे जाणवू लागते.

शारीरिक अपंगत्वापेक्षा मानसिक अपंगत्व असलेले लोक ह्या जगांत अधिक प्रमाणात आढळतात. असे अपंग तेच असतात, जे स्वतःचे सुख प्राप्त करू घेण्यासाठी स्वतः कष्ट न करता दुसऱ्यांवर निर्भर राहू किंवा दुसऱ्यांच्या मनात स्वतःबद्दल सहानुभूती निर्माण करून ते सुख प्राप्त करून घेतात. म्हणजेच दुसऱ्यांच्या आधाराने आपला संसार सुखी करून घेणारी ही माणसे मानसिकदृष्ट्या अपंगच असतात. वहीरंगाने प्राप्त झालेले सुख, म्हणजेच बाह्य अशाश्वत वस्तूवर, बाह्य गोष्टींद्वारा, कमावलेले सुख हे बाह्य परिस्थितीवर अवलंबून असल्याने ते परावलंबी असते. ज्या माणसांचे सुख त्यांच्या मनाजोगी गोष्टी घडल्यासच व हव्या असलेल्या वस्तू प्राप्त झाल्यासच, तसेच भोवतालची परिस्थिती अनुकूल असून त्यांच्या अपेक्षित घटना घडल्यासच निर्भर असते, असा माणूस सर्वतोपरी परावलंबीच ठरतो.

जीवनाचा अमोल वेळ घालविण्यासाठी ज्याला बाह्य गोष्टींची, बाह्य वस्तूंची अथवा दुसऱ्यांच्या सहवासाची म्हणजेच लोकांताची गरज भासते, तसेच जो जीवनांत दुसऱ्यांच्या प्रेमाच्या आधाराशिवाय जीवन जगण्यास असमर्थ असतो म्हणजेच त्याचे जीवन दुःखदायी होते, असा माणूस देहाने जरी अपंग नसला तरी मानसिकदृष्ट्या अपंगच ठरतो.

दारू-सिगारेट यांसारख्या व्यसनांवर ज्यांचे सुख अवलंबून असते, जे व्यसनांच्या इतके आधीन होतात की, ते प्राप्त न झाल्यास त्यांचा जीव कासावीस होतो. अशा माणसांचे जीवन पराधीन बनून ते सुख त्यांच्या विनाशास कारणीभूत ठरते. अशी माणसे व्यसनाधीन झाल्याने सर्वस्वी परावलंबी जीवन जगतात.

ज्याला आपल्या जीवनांतील अमोल वेळ सद्गुरू नामांत घालून मन नामरूपी रंगात रंगविण्याची कला साधलेली असते, ज्याला जीवनांत गुरुप्रेमाशिवाय दुसऱ्या कुणाच्याही प्रेमाची गरज भासत नाही, तो शारीरिक दृष्ट्या परावलंबी असला तरी पारमार्थिक दृष्ट्या खरा स्वावलंबी होय. जे सुख बाह्य वस्तूवर वा बाह्य गोष्टींवर अथवा बाह्य परिस्थितीवर अवलंबून नसून शाश्वत आनंदाचा अनुभव प्राप्त करून देते. असे जे अंतरातील आंतरीक शाश्वत सुख ज्याने गुरुमंत्राद्वारे प्राप्त करून घेतले, स्वतःच्या सुखासाठी त्याला कुठल्याही गोष्टींवर वा वस्तूवर अवलंबून

राहावे लागत नसल्याने तो शारीरिकदृष्ट्या जरी परावलंबी असला तरी मानसिकदृष्ट्या स्वावलंबीच ठरतो.

जो आपल्या जीवनाचा भार सर्वस्वी सद्गुरूंवर घालून जे घडते ते त्याच्याच इच्छेने व सत्तेने घडते याची पूर्ण जाणीव ठेऊन सद्गुरूंच्याच आधाराने जगून आपले जीवन शाश्वत सुखाने व आनंदाने बहरून टाकतो, तो बाह्य दृष्टीने जरी अपंग जीवन जगत असल्याचे दृष्टीक्षेपास पडले तरी मनाने तो खंबीरपणे व धैर्याने जीवनांतील संग्रामाला सामोरी जाण्यास आणि प्रतिकूल परिस्थितीला हंसमुखाने तोंड देण्यास गुरुकृपेने सदैव सज्ज राहतो. तो अपंग तरी कसा असू शकेल?

जरी प्रारब्धभोगानुसार त्याला शारीरिक अपंगत्व येऊन परावलंबीत्व प्राप्त झालेले असले तरी गुरुमंत्राच्या शक्तिद्वारा व गुरुकृपेद्वारा सद्गुरूच त्याच्याकडून असे काही सत्कार्ये करवून घेतात की, ज्यायोगे त्याला त्याच्या जीवनात अपंगत्वाची जाणीव होणार नाही व त्याचे दुःख जाणवणार नाही व परावलंबीत्वाची उणीव कधी भासणार नाही. सद्गुरू त्याला अशा काही कलेची देणगी प्रदान करतात की जेणे करून त्याच्या स्वतःच्या जीवनाबरोबरच त्याच्या कलेवर प्रेम करणाऱ्यांच्या जीवनाचेही साफल्य व्हावे! हीच खरी सद्गुरूंची योजना असते हे त्याच्या ध्यानात येते!

सारस्वत महिला समाजातर्फे ज्ञानेश्वरीवरील आगळावेगळा कार्यक्रम

कॅनरा सारस्वत असोसिएशन मुंबई यांच्यावतीने एक आगळावेगळा संगीताचा कार्यक्रम नुकताच संपन्न झाला. मुंबई येथील सारस्वत महिला समाजाच्या सरस्वती वृंदगान या पथकातर्फे 'संत ज्ञानेश्वर' हा ज्ञानेश्वरीवर आधारित भावपूर्ण संगीताचा कार्यक्रम हॉटेल साई पॅलेसजवळील सभागृहात नुकताच सादर करण्यात आला.

ज्ञानेश्वरीची जीवनकथा, गीते, अभंग व निरूपण असे या कार्यक्रमाचे स्वरूप होते. कार्यक्रमाच्या प्रमुख गायिका श्रीमती गीता येन्नेमडी या होत्या, तर निरूपण व निवेदन प्रा. साधना कामत यांनी केले. अतिशय साध्या-सरळ भाषेतील भावपूर्ण निवेदन, मधुर व श्रवणीय अशी गीते, समर्पक संगीत साथ या तिन्हींचा मिलाप झाल्यामुळे हा कार्यक्रम अतिशय रंगला. ज्ञानेश्वरांच्या समाधीचा प्रसंग साधना कामत यांनी अतिशय रंगवून सांगितल्यामुळे श्रोते दीड तास अक्षरशः भक्तिरसात चिंब भिजले. तबल्यावर अरुण हटंगडी यांची साथ होती. कॅनरा सारस्वत असो. मुंबई ही संस्था आपली शताब्दी साजरी करित आहे. यानिमित्ताने कार्यक्रमाचे आयोजन करण्यात आले होते. कार्यक्रमांमाला रसिकांची मोठ्या प्रमाणात उपस्थिती लाभली होती.

दि शामराव विठ्ठल को-ऑप. बँक लि. यांच्या मुलुंड (पूर्व) शाखेच्या उद्घाटन शुभप्रसंगी शाखेचे मनोगत व स्वागत

वाचत गाजत आली अपुली, बँक इथे आजला
हार्दिक स्वागत करू सर्वांचे, आनंदचि जाहला

नजर जादुई घेऊन आले रुचिवर्य दामले
सान-थोर शुभसमयी सगळे आज इथे जमले

संचालक, संयोजक सारे प्रेमाने हरखले
शुभेच्छांमुळे आनंदाला कोंदण हो लाभले

उज्ज्वल थोर हिचा इतिहासचि एकशे तीन वर्षांचा
निरलस सेवा, हात आमुचा पुढती आपुलकीचा

संस्थापक संचालक सगळे कर्मचारी चोख
कष्ट करुनिया वाढविला हा वटवृक्षचि थोर

८३ शाखा भारतामध्ये, बहुराज्यां पसरल्या
बहुविद्य सेवा देउनि सर्वा, लोकमान्य जाहल्या

बचत, सावधि, प्रत्यावर्ती ठेव, रोख योजना
धनिक गरीब वा मध्यमवर्गी हरल्या विवंचना

अडी-अडचणी, घरगुती कर्जे, गृह वाहन कर्जे
पुढे करुनिया हात मदतिचा यश चौफेर हि गर्जे

विनम्र भावें स्वागत करिते आपलाच सन्मान
सेवेची संधीच देऊनि, घ्या प्रेमाचे दान

– नारायण शिराली

मुलुंड (पूर्व), मुंबई-४०००८१.

(ही कविता दि. १९-९-२००९ रोजी मुलुंड (पूर्व) शाखेच्या
उद्घाटन प्रसंगी सभेत वाचून दाखविली)

आयिलि दीपावळि

हासत नाचत आयिलि दीपावळि ।

घराच्या आंगणांतु ॥

शुभ संदेशु दित्तऽ जगाक ।

भोर्नु संतोषु प्रति किरणांतु ॥हासत ॥

दिव्या ज्योति झगमग जळता ।

नव उल्लासु नर्तन करता ॥

भुवन मनोहर सुंदर दृष्य ।

दर्शन दिता प्रति स्फुरणांतु ॥हासत ॥

पसरलो उजवाडु भायरि भित्तरी ।

विसरलो उगडासु काळोकाचो ॥

वसुधा देवि श्रृंगारू करता ।

नक्षत्रांच्या आभरणांतु ॥हासत ॥

शुभ सुप्रभात शुभ प्रारंभु ।

अभ्यंग स्नानं शुभ दीपारति ॥

त्रिभुवन सर्व सुख शांतीच्या ।

नव वर्षाच्या आगमनांतु ॥हासत ॥

महालक्ष्मी श्री महासरस्वती ।

सह पूजन सह भजनानंदु ॥

सह भुजन सह चिंतनश्रवण ।

संतुप्तीच्या आवरणांतु ॥हासत ॥

सुमधुर बंधन वात्सल्याचे ।

आमंत्रण हे भाव-बीजेचे ॥

सम हर्षाने भावन्डांक ।

जागृत स्वप्न सुस्मरणांतु ॥हासत ॥

– अशोक जि. मल्लापूर, हुबळी

लेखन पुरस्कारू

सारस्वत महिला समाजाने

दिल्लो माक्का लेखन-पुरस्कारू

लाइफांतु मेळ्ळेलो फर्स्ट ऑनर म्होणू

हावे केल्लो ताजो स्वीकारू ।

‘नाच्ची जांवो अभ्यासु’ म्होणू

हांवें वाचलें एक आर्टीकल

हास्तं अशिल्या मस्त जणांक

तें दिसलें प्रॅक्टीकल ।

एकळेन म्हळ्ळें ‘मगलॉ बामुणू अशशी कर्ता

पळयतां पळयतां नाच्ची जाता

कितलें सांगल्यारी आयकना

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त्याची बोटींत बशिल्या मगलें

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तांतु आशिलें शिल्पकार तीनी ।

ती आशिली मगलीची काणी

मज्जेर कंळेले संस्कार त्या शिल्पकारांनी

माक्का दिल्लो हों पुरस्कारू

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“गंगालहरी” – एक चिरंतन साहित्यकृती

नारायण शिराली, मुलुंड (पूर्व), मुंबई

चित्रापुर मठाच्या दिल्ली स्थानीय सभेने त्रिस्थली यात्रेचें आयोजन केले आहे. त्रिस्थली यात्रेंत मोक्षदायिका नगरींमधील अग्रेसर काशी व तेथील स्वयंभू लिंगाचे विश्वनाथ मंदिर, त्रिवेणी संगमासाठी सुप्रसिद्ध प्रयाग, सारनाथ येथील सारंगनाथ मंदिर (आदि शंकराचार्य स्थापित लिंग), आणि गया जेथे विष्णुपरदीं श्राद्ध करण्याचा प्रघात आहे अशा परमपवित्र ठिकाणांचा समावेश आहे. या पवित्र क्षेत्रांमध्ये प. पू. स्वामी सद्योजात शंकराश्रमांचे सान्निध्य, उपदेश व आशीर्वाद म्हणजे ‘अधिकस्य अधिकं फलम्’ किंवा ‘सोने पे सुहागा!’ या निमित्ताने गंगेचे स्नान व दर्शन हा खरोखरच अपूर्व योग आहे.

या निमित्ताने गंगालहरी या पंडितराज जगन्नाथाच्या एका चिरंतन साहित्यकृतीच्या आठवणींना उजाळा मिळणे साहजिकच आहे. भारतीय जनमानसावर गंगेचा प्रचंड प्रभाव आहे. आपल्या घरांच्या देव्हान्यात छोट्याशा सीलबंद कलशांत गंगेचे पाणी ठेवून त्याची नित्यपूजा करण्याचा आजही प्रघात आहे. पं. नेहरूंनी ‘Discovery of India’ या आपल्या ग्रंथात गंगेविषयी पुढील अर्थाचे उद्गार काढले आहेत. “गंगा नदी ती जिने भारताचे हृदय बंदिवान करून ठेवले आहे. भारताच्या उषःकालापासून तिने त्याला आपल्याकडे आकर्षून घेतले आहे. भारताची सभ्यता, संस्कृति, साम्राज्यांचा उदय व अस्त तिने पाहिला आहे. भारतीय विचारवंताना व्यग्र करून टाकणारा मनाचा शोध हिच्याच तीरावर घेतला गेला आहे. जीवनाची परिपूर्ति – अस्वीकार व त्याग, जीवन आणि मृत्यु यांची कथा म्हणजेच गंगा!

गंगालहरी म्हणजे जगन्नाथ पंडिताच्या प्रगाढ भक्तीचे, लौकिकदृष्ट्या सुखांत असून ही विफलतेच्या उद्विग्नतेचे, आर्तभावाने गंगेला घातलेल्या साकड्याचे आणि मागितलेल्या मुक्तीचे मूर्त रूपच आहे. एरवीं रस – गंगाधर सारख्या साहित्यशास्त्रावरचा अपूर्व ग्रंथ लिहून ‘अखेरचा शास्त्रकार’ असे बिरूद लाभलेला, गंगा, पीयूष, सुधा, करुणा आणि अमृत अशा ५ लहरींची (लाटांची) रचना करणारा, जगताभरण, आसफविलास, प्राणाभरण, भामिनीविलास इ. विख्यात ग्रंथकार, गंगेला अनन्यभावाने शरण जातो व माझी पापे नष्ट करून माझा उद्धार कर अशी प्रार्थना करतो व संसार तापातून मुक्त होतो. आपल्याला गंगामाईमुळेच शक्य आहे असा या

श्रद्धाळू कविवराचा विश्वास!

जगन्नाथ पंडित कोण?

आंध्रवेंगिनाडी कुळात निपजलेला तेलंगी ब्राह्मण. त्याचे वडील पेरूभट्ट अथवा पेरमभट्ट हे अतिशय विद्वान होते. व त्यांचा उल्लेख ‘महागुरु’ असा खुद्द जगन्नाथ पंडितांनीच केला आहे. आधी घरीच शिक्षण देऊन त्यांची पुढील शिक्षणासाठी बनारसला रवानगी झाली. त्यांचे पुढील शिक्षण ज्ञानेंद्र भिक्षू (अद्वैत) महेंद्र (न्याय व वैशेषिक) खंडदेव (पूर्वमीमांसा) शेषवीरेश्वर (व्याकरण) या श्रेष्ठ गुरुंच्या हाताखाली झाले. मोगल बादशहा शाहजहान याने त्याला आपल्या दरबारात राजकविपद व पुढे ‘पंडितराज’ हा किताब बहाल केला.

कालखंड :

इतिहासाला त्याच्या जन्ममरणाची नोंद माहीत नाही तरीपण तो शाहजहानच्या पदरी होता याबद्दल दुमत नाही. जहांगीर बादशहाच्या शेवटचा काल व दारा शुकोहच्या तात्पुरत्या राज्यारोहण प्रसंगी म्हणजे इ.स. १६५० साली तो हजर असला पाहिजे. त्याच्या लेखनकार्याचा उत्कर्षकाल इ.स. १६२० ते १६६० असावा असे विद्वानांचे मत आहे.

काही आख्यायिका :

१) फारशी भाषेचा अभ्यास करून दिल्लीत काजीचा इस्लाम धर्म चर्चेत पराभव व त्यानंतर राजकविपद प्राप्ति.

२) सौंदर्यवती लवंगी या यवनमुलीवर प्रेम. ती शाहजहानाची मानसकन्या होती व ती बादशहाला रजपूत स्त्रीपासून मुलगी असण्याची शक्यता. त्याच्या राणीवंशातील दासी असाही प्रवाद आहे. पण त्यांचा विवाह निश्चितपणे झाला होता.

३) यवनी – संसर्ग – दोषामुळे तत्कालीन रिवाजानुसार हिंदूंनी त्याला बहिष्कृत केले व मंदिर-प्रवेश नाकारला. अखेरीस गंगेच्या घाटावर ‘गंगालहरी पठन केल्यानंतर गंगेचे पाणी ५२ पायऱ्या चढून आले व त्यांचे देह गंगार्पण झाले.

स्वच्छंदी वृत्तीचा कवि :

दीर्घकाल राजाश्रय लाभलेला हा विद्वान कवि अतिशय समृद्धित काल व्यतीत करित होता. त्याच्या सुखासीन दर्पोक्तीचे व बादशहावरील प्रेमाचे उदाहरण खालील श्लोकात आढळते.

दिल्लीश्वरो वा जगदीश्वरो वा दानाय दातुं हि सःसमर्थः ।
अन्यैः नृपालैः परिदीयमानं शाकाय वा स्यात् लवणआय
वास्यात् ॥

कवी व कवितेचे मूल्यमापन :

संस्कृत साहित्यशास्त्रांत काव्यप्रतिभेने विस्तृत विवेचन
आहे परंतु सामान्य रसिक, वाचक किंवा साधक यांच्या
दृष्टिकोनांतून पहाता ‘रमणीय-अर्थप्रतिपादकः शब्दः काव्यम्’
ही जगन्नाथ पंडिताची व्याख्या ढोबळ असली तरी पुरेशी वाटते.
असामान्य कवींच्या बाबतीत काही वैशिष्ट्ये आढळतात.

१) उच्च संवेदनशीलतेचे केलेले निरीक्षण (Sensitivity
& Focus)

२) स्व-अनुभव चित्र ‘जे न देखे रवी ते देखे कवि’

३) अफाट शब्दसंपत्ति व असामान्य भाषाप्रभुत्व

४) सुयोग्य शब्दरचना व वृत्त, सूर इ.

प्रगाढ भक्ति, आर्तभावाने गंगामाईला घातलेली साद,
निराधार स्थितीतील शरणागति आणि असामान्य प्रतिभास्पर्श
ही गंगालहरीची वैशिष्ट्ये आहेत. ‘मी तुला वंदन करतो, माझे
पापक्षालन तू कर, माझे रक्षण कर’ असा कोणत्याही स्तोत्रात
व्यक्त होणारा भाव हा या ७२ श्लोकात जगन्नाथ पंडिताने
वाचकांच्या मनात उभा केला आहे. पण त्याचा अचाट
कल्पनाविलास, शब्दपांडित्य व गंगेविषयीचा पूज्यभाव,
त्याच्या प्रतिभेचा स्पर्श होताच काव्यरूपाने प्रगट होतो.

प्रार्थनेची तीव्रता

वानगीदाखल खालील श्लोक व विवरण केले आहे :

समृद्धं सौभाग्यं सकल वसुधायाः किम् अपि तद्
महैश्वर्यं लीलाजनित जगतः खण्डपरशोः ।

श्रुतीनां सर्वस्वं सुकृतम् अथ मूर्तं सुमनसां

सुधासोदर्यं ते सलिलम् अशिवं वः शम्यत्यु ॥१॥

या पहिल्याच श्लोकात ‘तुझ्या जलाने माझे पाप नष्ट होवो
अशी प्रार्थना केली आहे. त्याने केलेले गंगामाईच्या पाण्याचे
मनोहारी वर्णन पहा. तो म्हणतो, “तुझे जल म्हणजे संपूर्ण
पृथ्वीचे अनिर्वचनीय समृद्ध सौभाग्य, लीलया जगाची निर्मिती
करणाऱ्या भगवान शंकराचे महान् ऐश्वर्य, वेदांचे सारसर्वस्व,
देवगणांचे मूर्तिमंत पावित्र्य व पुण्य आणि अमृताचे सखे
भावंडं आहे. स ने सुखात साकारणाऱ्या शब्दांनी गंगामाईच्या
सगुण मूर्तीचे आपल्याला दर्शन घडते. प्रास, अनुप्रास आणि
शब्दप्रभुत्व यांचे सम्यक् दर्शन तर होतेच पण त्यामुळे शब्दरचना
क्लिष्ट होत नसून ती प्रासादिक, अर्थानुकूल व भक्तिभावाच्या
आर्त प्रार्थनेच्या मूळ उद्देशाला उठाव देण्याची किमया करते.’

पुढे येणाऱ्या प्रत्येक श्लोकांत चढत्या भाजणीने येणाऱ्या
उपमा, उत्प्रेक्षा इ. भाषालंकार त्याच्या कल्पनांचा विलास
घडवतात आणि त्याच्या उत्तुंग प्रतिभेची साक्ष देतात.

त्रपन्ते तीर्थानि त्वरितमिह यस्योद्धृतिविधौ ।

करं कर्णे कुर्वन्पि किल कपालिप्रभृमयः ॥

इमं त्वं माम् अम्ब त्वम् इयम् अनुकम्पार्द्रहृदये ।

पुनाना सर्वेषाम् अघ-अथम-दर्पं दलयसि ॥२८॥

या श्लोकांत गंगेच्या माहात्म्याची प्रार्थना केली आहे.
माझ्यासारख्या (पापी) माणसाचा उद्धार करण्यास तीर्थक्षेत्रे
धजावत नाहीत आणि शंकरादि देवगण माझी प्रार्थना ऐकून
घेत नाहीत. परंतु तुझे हृदय करुणने भरलेले आहे. मला पवित्र
करून या सर्व पापनाशक तीर्थांचा अहंकार तू नाहीसा करणार
आहेस.

शरच्चंद्रश्चेतां शशिशकलश्चेतालमुकुटां ।

करैः कुम्भाम्भोजैः, वरभयनिरासौच दधतीम् ॥

सुधाधाराकाराभरणवसनां शुभ्रमकर-

स्थितां त्वां ये ध्यायन्ति उदयति न तेषां परिभवः ॥४८॥

हा ध्यानश्लोक असून गंगेच्या सगुणस्त्रीमूर्तीचे चित्र
काढण्यासाठी चित्रकारांनी या श्लोकाचा उपयोग केला आहे.
“तुझा मुगुट हा शरद् ऋतूतील चंद्राप्रमाणे धवल आहे. त्यावर
चंद्रकोर शोभा आणीत आहे. भय दूर करावयास व आशीर्वाद
देण्यास तुझा अभय हस्त सदैव तयार आहे. तू अमृताच्या
प्रवाहाप्रमाणे असून अहंकार आणि उंची वस्त्रे त्यालेली आहेस.
पांढऱ्या मगरीच्या आसनावर बसलेल्या तुझी जे कोणी ध्यान
करतील त्यांचा कधीही पराभव किंवा अपमान होणार नाही.

विभूषितानङ्गरिपूतमाङ्गल सद्यःकृतानेक जनार्तिभङ्गा ।

मनोहरोत्तुङ्गचलत्तरङ्गा गङ्गा ममाङ्गान्यमलीकरोतु ॥५२॥

तू शिवाच्या मस्तकाला शोभा आणलीस. अनेक लोकांचे
दुःख दूर केलेस. तुझ्या उंच व चंचल लाटा मनाला आनंद
देतात. गंगामय्या, तू मला पवित्र कर.

इमां पीयूषलहरीं जगन्नायेन निर्मिताम् ।

यः पठेत तस्य सर्वत्र जायते सुखसम्पदः ॥५३॥

या शेवटच्या श्लोकात तर त्यांनी ग्वाहीच दिली आहे की
जो कोणी या अमृततुल्य गंगालहरीचे पठन करील त्याला सर्वत्र
सुखसंपत्तीचा लाभ होईल. भाविक आणि काव्याचे रसिक
यांनी नुकत्याच होऊ घातलेल्या यात्रेने ‘याचि देही याचि
डोळा’ गंगादर्शन होईल व त्यांचे सर्वथा कल्याण होईल यात
काय संशय?

BOOK REVIEW

Title : FORMULA FOR FULFILMENT
Author : Vidya S. Gunavanthe
Pages : 133
Price : Rs. 100/- (the proceeds will go to the Kala Vibhag Fund of KSA)

‘Formula for Fulfilment’ is a biography that has all the right ingredients to attract a wide readership.

Nalkur Sripad (Sippy) Rao’s name is known to people in most parts of the world. To the Saraswats, he will remain ‘Sripadmaam’ who has played multiple roles, each one to perfection. Even as a youngster striding forward to meet Life, he went job-hopping seeking better income and greater challenges. It was no easy journey from Operator to Entrepreneur. ‘Operator’ meant carrying heavy loads, his daily wage, as such, being a meagre 7½ annas; less than half a rupee.

No obstacle seemed insurmountable in his eagerness to move onwards. His toughest hurdle was the sudden, unexpected loss of speech, a rude shock to one whose greatest joy was communication, spoken and written. When he emerged from this setback, he spoke not merely fluent English, but Persian, Armenian, French, Russian, and a smattering of Turkish.

He obviously did a good job of proposing in Armenian, for the lovely, vivacious Vartanoosh Badalian willingly became Lily Rao and transformed herself into an ideal Chitrapur Saraswat wife and home-maker. And soon rose to be the backbone of the family – the proverbial Woman behind the Successful Man.

Besides his multifarious activities Sripadmaam made happy inroads into artistic realms, writing poetry and growing flowers with as much zest as he destroyed pests.

Vidya Gunavanthe, the author, has successfully captured Sripadmaam’s flamboyant personality in the book. With a Master’s in Psychology, and Diploma in Journalism, she is already four books old, and this, her latest book, is all set to hit the stands

with a splash. Her varied experience as freelance writer, Assistant Editor of a film trade journal and Skill Head, guiding a team of over a hundred writers, gives her an excellent track record.

The title itself reveals the breadth of Sripadmaam’s vision. It was fulfilment that he sought: not merely at the personal level but a progressive, outward-moving fulfilment, like the expanding circles in a still pond when a stone hits the surface. From Individual fulfilment, through Family and Community fulfilment, he went on to embrace the Country and all of Humanity in his dream scheme.

The very first capital he ‘laid hands’ on was a *paavli* (today’s 25 paise) – a princely sum in those days. It was at the christening (*baarso*) of his baby sister, Rukma, lying in a winnowing ‘*soop*’ amidst gifts, including the ‘*paavli*’. At three, his sole thought was his own need for junk food and sweets. It was only on growing up that he felt a twinge of guilt for the ‘crime’ of having robbed his sister of her rightful wealth.

Maturity brought awareness of the needs of the family, and the eagerness to help his widowed mother. Employment took him away from home. He had to seek accommodation from generous Saraswats like his uncle, Taggarshe Venkatmam (in Bagalkot) from whom he imbibed the simple, profound philosophy of the *Bhagwat Geeta* and *Manaache Shloka*. In Bombay, he lived with Kailaje Vaman Bhat who greatly respected Sripadmaam’s father Narasing Rao whose home provided a roof for those in need.

Dr Veerappa Moily, in his Foreword, calls Sripadmaam ‘a great son of Karkala’ who ‘pioneered the concept of corporate responsibility.’ The school which he helped build in Karkala is now a Government Junior College.

Sripadmaam’s first meeting with HH Anandashram Swamij, at the age of eleven, opened a door to spirituality. Thereafter, he has remained devoted to the Guru Parampara. He served HH Parijnanashram Swamiji, and now, serves the present Mathadhipati, HH Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji.

Sripadmaam has 'the unique distinction of being the only Saraswat to head the three premier Chitrapur Saraswat institutions' – The SVC Bank, the KSA and the Standing Committee of the Shree Chitrapur Math, Shirali. But that is only the tip of the iceberg.

By founding the NGO, KARMA (Karjat Agricultural and Rural Management Assistance), Sripadmaam's philanthropy moved beyond charity. He rescued the Karjat farmers from the clutches of moneylenders by making available interest-free loans, agricultural training, better agricultural inputs, and better educational and health facilities. He thus restored their confidence and self-respect.

Among the numerous awards he has received, are the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Bombay Rotary Club (West), the Karjat Gaurav and the Karmayogi Award by the Bombay Sea Coast.

An award has never been his ultimate goal. So, even at ninety, his target remains human welfare. We wish him long, fruitful years ahead!

- Savitri Babulkar, Mumbai

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A Homemaker who made many a home.*



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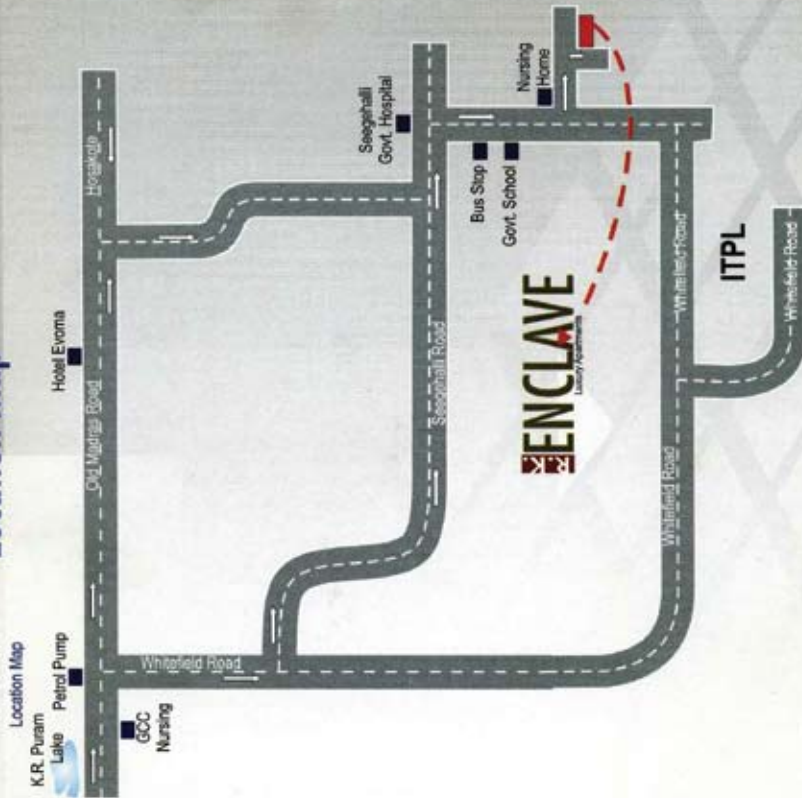
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Specifications

- RCC framed structure.
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- Ceramic Tiles flooring
- Grey Mosac flooring for common areas like staircase, lobbies, etc.
- Granite platform with Granite sink.
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- Ceramic tiled flooring and glazed tile dado up to 7 feet height
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Location Map



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Personalia

Pranav Ullal, 27, son of Suchita and Pradeep Ullal of Bangalore, has been awarded a PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the MRC Clinical Sciences Centre, Imperial College, London. This laboratory, led by Luis Aragón, was established in 2002 and is part of the Epigenetics, Development and Cancer Section of the MRC Clinical Sciences Centre and Imperial College, London.



Having completed an MRes from the University of Glasgow in Scotland, Pranav went on to win a grant to do a research project on DNA repair guided by Dr. Luis Aragon. The objective of Dr. Aragon's Cell Cycle Group is to understand the molecular mechanisms orchestrating the equal and faithful segregation of chromosomes during cellular division.

Cells have an extraordinary ability to replicate; this property makes them the most complex entities known and is the essence of life itself. The thrill of studying the cell cycle is touching fundamental processes of life while dealing with very sophisticated mechanisms.

Pranav's thesis was based on the study of DNA repair and chromosome metabolism using the yeast *S.cerevisiae* as a model organism. The study is important from the perspective of understanding DNA repair pathways, a key area of cancer research. Damaged DNA is a hallmark of cancer cells.

Fifteen-year-old **Prajnya Kaikini**, daughter of



Chaithanya and Sadhana Kaikini (nee Suguna S Kodange), has stood second in Hassan District in the SSLC Examination of 2009, securing 95.2%, and the highest (99%) in Mathematics.

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HERE AND THERE

Bangalore: The Punyatithi of HH Shrimad Vamanashram Swamiji was observed on November 10 with great devotion. On November 28, Gita Jayanti there was *samuhik* Bhagavad Gita *pathan* followed by Gita Poojan and *phalahar*. Devotees of all ages participated in the annual Heble Ramanand Memorial Bhagavad Gita Recitation competition and Gita & Samskrit Study Circle Bhagavad Gita competition, coordinated by Dr Radha Krishnamurthy and Sunanda Sagar. Rammohan Kalyanpur distributed the prizes and gave an inspiring talk on the Gita. Noted Sanskrit scholar, Professor H R Chandrashekhar, addressed the gathering with a beautiful message from the famous Manku Timmana Kagga.

The *Punyatithis* of HH Shrimad Krishnashram Swamiji and HH Shrimad Keshavashram Swamiji were duly observed on December 9 and 10, respectively. On the 9th, Prarthana class children presented a beautiful programme including reading of passages from *Anugraha*, and offered *sangeet seva* on both days. Prarthana centres in Malleswaram also performed Guru Poojan on Children's Day (November 14), offering Panchopachar Pooja. Yuvadhara members organized *samuhik* Guru Poojan on November 15; on November 22, they worked in groups at the first session of Guru Parampara Parayan to create presentations on each of our Gurus.

Reported by Uma P. Trasi

Goa: About 25 members attended a full-day *satsang* at Mapusa on November 25. Guru Poojan was performed by a Yuvadhara member under supervision. Gurupaduka *stotra*, Guru *bhajan*, Parijnana Trayodashi, Shiva Manas Pooja and verses from the Gita (Chapters 12 and 15) were chanted. Shankarnarayan *geet*, *mangalpad* and *mangalaarati* followed.

On November 15, members from various places (Panaji, Ponda, Porvarim, Madgaon, Vasco etc) performed Devi Anushthan individually and collectively with great fervour.

Reported by Dr. Sushama Arur

Mallapur: Datta Jayanti was observed at Dutt Mandir with a cradling ceremony; many

Nagarkattikars attended the programme with great enthusiasm.

Followers of Shri Rama Vallabhdas who met at Shri Avadi Math have decided to celebrate His 4th birth centenary; a meeting will be convened on January 24 to chalk out a detailed programme.

Reported by Arun Ubhayakar

Mangalore: A two-day programme was held at Shri Vidya Vithal Temple, Manjeshwar, as a part of Ashtamangala Prashne. The first day's function on December 4, started with *samuhik prarthana*; Shathakalashabhisheka was offered by the family members. Mahapooja was performed in the afternoon and later, *santarpan*. On the next day, Ganapati Poojan was followed by Mahapooja and *santarpan*. Mahapooja was also performed in the evening on both days.

Reported by Ramcharan Bhat Manjeshwar

Nashik: On October 21, 2009, devotees of Nashik, led by their Sabha President Uday Ragade, enthusiastically welcomed PP Swamiji at the KSA Holiday Home, performing all the rituals with great devotion. In the evening, devotees enjoyed a 40-minute film on the Tercentenary Pad Yatra.

The next two days, commenced with Suprabhatam followed by *samuhik* Devi Anushthan by devotees after a sumptuous breakfast, a Swadhyaya on Shree Parijnana Trayodashi by PP Swamiji and Mahapooja, *paduka poojan* and *tirth vitaran* by Swamiji at noon. In the evenings, devotees enthusiastically attended Deepanamaskar and Nitya Poojan performed by PP Swamiji.

The Dharma Sabha on 22nd morning, included *paduka poojan* by the Sabha President, with *phalasamarpan* followed by welcome speeches by him and Mrs. Baliga, Vice President, Konkani Samaj, Nashik. Later, PP Swamiji enthralled the audience with His Ashirvachan.

On 24th morning, PP Swamiji visited Borgad, escorted by the Sabha President and Hon. Secretary, Shri Raha and Shri Bhure from the Nature Conservation Society of Nashik (NCSN) and others. NCSN's afforestation efforts include the planting of about 40,000 trees on Borgad Hills. The highlight was a visit to a cave on Hanuman Tekadi, atop Borgad Hill, with a wonderful view. PP Swamiji planted a sapling at the request of the NCSN officials; He said

that the surroundings reminded Him of His days in Mt. Abu. Later, PP Swamiji and the team joined other Sabha members at the Vanabhojan site, Shri Raha's farmhouse on the outskirts of Nashik where they spent a memorable day, interacting with PP Swamiji and seeing slides of Shri Raha's Himalayan treks and the local flora and fauna.

On the 25th, Nashik youngsters spent an unforgettable two hours with PP Swamiji at the janmasthan of Bajrangbali – Anjaneri Hill (4264 ft above sea level, and named after Anjani, Hanuman's mother), about 20 kms from Nashik. In the evening, there was a much-appreciated programme of light classical music and a Bharatnatyam dance. The Dharma Sabha began thereafter, with *paduka poojan* by the Sabha Vice President, *phalasamarpan*, *vaidik sambhavana* and later, *kshyama yachana* by the Sabha Hon. Treasurer. The Committee Members of KSA, the Caretaker of the KSA Holiday Home and Shri Raha were specially thanked for their support. Finally, the audience listened with rapt attention to PP Swamiji's much-awaited Ashirvachan.

The devotees bade a tearful farewell to PP Swamiji on October 26 with the ardent hope of an early re-visit.

Reported by Gayatri Chandavarkar

Pune: The Punyatithi of HH Vamanashram Swamiji was observed on November 10 with Guru Poojan. Guru Poojan followed by Navaratra Nityapath and Devi Anushtan were performed on November 13.

Sannikarsha at Karla was performed by the Pune Local Sabha on November 29; over 80 devotees participated with a good representation of Yuvadhara. We had two-year-old Om Sirur to senior citizen and recently-up-after-two-major-surgeries Upponi Sharad who drove to Karla with the enthusiasm of a youngster!

Reported by Jyothi Divgi

Thane: The activities held by the Mulund, Dombivli and Navi Mumbai centres of the Sabha in November, are given below.

At **Mulund**, members observed the Punyatithi of HH Vamanashram Swamiji on the 10th with Guru Poojan.. Shiv Poojan and recitation of *shlokas* from Chapters 12 and 15 of the Bhagvad Gita were activities held on the 19th while there was Devi

Poojan on the 28th.

At **Dombivli**, Chitrapur Saramrut and Gurucharitra Parayana, both group activities, were performed on the 25th-26th and November 25 to December 1, respectively.

At **Navi Mumbai**, devotees performed Sadhana Panchakam and Guru Poojan at Nerul, on November 13.

Reported by Prakash R.Hattangadi

OUR INSTITUTIONS

The Saraswat Cultural Forum: The evening of November 14, Children's Day, was indeed an eye-opener for the audience on the various facets of children's personalities and talent.

Imaginations ran riot with the fancy dress show when 2-11 year-olds briefly enacted their characters on stage: a little train promised "*Maamachya gaavala zaooiya*", a beautiful butterfly fluttered by and a little cat hopped on for company. Ensuring their safety was a young boy dressed as a "*maavla*" (Maratha warrior) even as Mother Durga assured everyone of protection from all evil as they set out on this endearing journey. The various forms of Lord Krishna – Sudama, Arjun, Meera, Yashodha along with Krishna – were depicted in an enchanting tableau.

There were charming skits including one on "There's a hole in my bucket", a classic display of a brother-sister love-filled quarrel which filled the evening with laughter. Talent was at its peak with one child strumming a western classical music piece on the guitar while another played a classical rhythm on the tabla. The recitation of a poem expressing children's gratitude to parents for striving to give them the future of their dreams, touched all hearts.

A yummy treat of *samosas*, wafers and hot *jalebis* beautifully wrapped up the Children's Day programme.

Reported by Gouri Gokarn

Saraswat Samaj, UK: The Samaj organised several activities in 2009 which brought its members, young and old, together to share common interests and forge closer ties even as they enjoyed the varied activities.

On September 27, a cookery workshop, held for

the first time, started with Mohan and Sharada Sajip giving a master class in the preparation of plantain *kachari* and *undyo*. Rashmi Heble demonstrated how to make instant *rava idli* and teamed up with Sujata Bailoor to prepare *mitt-mirsange phovu*. Abhishek Kulkarni who has published a cookery book at the age of 14, along with Malvika and Sachin Savur, displayed the art of making cakes. There was fabric painting for youngsters and everyone appreciated the mini toy world made from vegetable carvings by Shanta Ginimav. The evening was rounded off with *aarti* and prayers followed by a general knowledge quiz conducted by Vinay Sajip.

The Samaj also celebrated its 40th anniversary this year on October 24. Mohan Sajip wrote and presented a brief history of the Samaj across four decades. The theme for the music and dance programmes was Old is Gold. The youngsters sang and danced to various hits from films of the sixties and seventies. A skit in English and two one-act plays in Konkani were also staged. The programme concluded with a fashion show by the youngsters, and a sumptuous meal.

On November 28, the Samaj arranged a show by Pradip Amladi, a master of the para-psychological mind. He had the audience spellbound with his interactive mind games. The Samaj is grateful to Pradip for sparing the time to present his awe-inspiring show.

Reported by Arun Nagarkatti

The Visawa Charitable Trust, Mumbai: The Trust organised an awareness programme on November 15, at its premises in Borivali, for parents of mentally challenged children of the Special Education Section of Sodawala Municipal School where the Trust has been doing commendable work in rehabilitating the children by providing occupational, speech and physio-therapy as well as items required for their all-round development.

Several experts were invited to speak to the parents about the opportunities available today to deal with differently abled children and to answer their queries. Dr. Neelu Desai spoke about the causes and medical complications that can lead to developmental deformities of the brain as the child grows. Mrs. Bhavana Kerkar detailed the training methods available to make differently abled children capable of carrying out basic social functions without

much dependency on others and subsequently identifying and building upon the strengths of each child to make the child employable and useful to society, depending on the level of learning. Mrs. Praneeta Madkaikar explained the importance of equipping the children to interact socially in the present-day environment without expecting them to learn in the conventional manner.

On the occasion, Raghuveer Dhareshwar, Chairman of the Trust, felicitated Shitala Pandit, Managing Trustee of the Punyatma Prabhakar Sharma Seva Mandal (PPSSM) for the exemplary role played by PPSSM in rehabilitating and training mentally challenged children in rural Maharashtra. Thanking the Trust, Shitala said that PPSSM's recent initiative, and Tallur Rukmakka's dream project, of building a residential school for rural and tribal, mentally challenged children had become possible only because of the financial and material support of many donors; she dedicated the honour conferred upon her by the Trust to all those who had supported this project.

Reported by Gopinath Mavinkurve

POSTING OF KANARA SARASWAT

We have been receiving complaints from members, particularly from places outside Mumbai, about non-receipt of the *Kanara Saraswat* magazine. We have taken up the matter with the postal authorities several times, but to no avail.

The Managing Committee is therefore studying a proposal to send the Magazine through a courier service, which may ensure efficient delivery. One view is to charge Rs 300/- every year, as the estimated courier charges for places within India, and discard delivery by postal service altogether. Another view is to collect a one-time amount of Rs. 3000/- as courier charges.

A decision will be taken soon after we receive your views on the proposal. Members are therefore requested to send their views before **28th February 2010**, to:

Gurunath Gokarn, Managing Editor & Hon. Secretary for Publications, Kanara Saraswat Association, 13/1-2 Association Building, J.D. Marg, Talmakiwadi, Mumbai 400007, or email their views to him at: kanara_saraswat@hotmail.com.

CLASSIFIEDS

MATRIMONIALS

Suitable alliance invited for Chitrapur Saraswat Girl Age 30+, Medico, presently doing residency in USA. Doctors / Engineers preferred. Contact 9870784347.

Alliance invited from a presentable, employed / unemployed, good-cultured, home loving, religious, theist CSB girl for CSB boy age 27 years, 5'5", B.E., well employed as software engineer. Reply with BHP (returnable) to Box CL-3250, Kanara Saraswat Association, Mumbai – 400 007.

ENGAGEMENTS

Basrur-Murdeswar: Hemanth, son of Smt. Shaila and Shri Gurunath Basrur, with Vaishali, daughter of late Smt. Pushpa and Shri Ashok Murdeswar on 28th September, 2009 at Bangalore.

Andar-Batra: Divya, daughter of Smt. Deepa and Dr. Uday Andar of Talmakiwadi, with Bipin, son of Smt. Nisha and Shri Prem Batra on 24th December, 2009 at Bandra, Mumbai

BIRTHS

A son, Veer to Shoma and Chirag Shah, a grand-daughter to Asha and Sharad Shah, Nirmala and Suresh Nilawar, great grandson to Pranjivandas Shah and Lila D. Nilawar, at London on 31st October, 2009.

Nov 12: A baby girl, Manasvi, welcomed by parents Rajeshwari and Jaideep Gangoli, big brother Mihir, grandparents Vasanti and Shantaram Gangoli/ Padma and Satish Chikramane, at Sterling, Virginia, USA.

Baby girl to Ruchi (nee Gupta) and Ajeya Row on December 10, at Mumbai. Grand-daughter to Jaya Row, great grand-daughter to Shakuntala and Murlī Hosangady.

A son to Utkarsh and Prachi Baljekar and grandson to Uday and late Ujwala Baljekar and Dr. Bitthal Lal Sharma and Vandana Sharma on 18th November, 2009 at Bangalore. (R-1787)

PUROHITS

H. Prashant Bhat, B-17, Deepanjali CHS, BAF-Hira Nagar, Marve Road, Malad (West), Mumbai - 400095. Mobile No. 9820920671/9892614433.

Chandavarkar Manohar Bhat, A/13, Vakratunda CHS, Plot No. 190, Behind Pragati School Gorai-II, Borivilli (W) Mumbai 400092. Mobile No.: 9820170537. New Landline No.: 2868 8299.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sirurs and Kalambis thank all for their gracious presence and blessings on the occasion of marriage of

Namratha, daughter of Smt. Geetha and Shri Mohan Sirur (Bangalore) with Kushal, son of Smt. Shakuntala and Shri Kishore Kalambi (Mumbai) on 29th November, 2009 at Mumbai, and request to treat this as their personal acknowledgement.

Deepa and Uday Andar thank all friends and relatives for their gracious presence and blessings on the occasion of the wedding and reception of Abhay and Indira on 10th and 12th respectively. Kindly treat this as a personal acknowledgement.

Smita and Sumantharao Kilpady and Neeta and Nandan Vinekar thank all relatives, friends and well wishers for their gracious presence, blessings and presents on the occasion of wedding and reception of Saneel and Nandita on 2nd and 4th December, 2009 at Mumbai and Nashik respectively, and request all to treat this as a personal acknowledgement.

OBITUARIES

Mukta R. Karkal (nee Dhareshwar) wife of Late Shri Rabindranath Pandurang Karkal and mother of Bina Gurudutt Trasy passed away in New Jersey, USA on December 9th after brief illness at the age of 80. Deeply mourned by Bina, Gurudutt, grand-daughter Anjali and her husband David and great grandson Ethan, and her extended Karkal and Trasy families.

Smt. Medha Anand Rao (Kombrabail), daughter of late Shri Shamrao and Smt. Manjula Kaikini, wife of Dr. Anand Rao, mother of Malvika, Maithili, Mihir, aged 70 years, resident of Pune (Kothrud), passed away on 29th November, 2009.

DOMESTIC TIDINGS

BIRTHS

We welcome the following new arrivals:

Oct 31 : A son (Veer) to Shoma (Nilawar) and Chirag Shah at London.

Nov 9 : A son (Sayuj) to Sangeeta (nee Katre) and Rahul Kalyanpur at Mumbai.

Nov 27 : A daughter (Tvisha) to Vrishali (nee Basrur) and Tushar Karnad at Bangalore.

Dec 17 : A son to Hetal and Kunal Kiran Kodikal at Mumbai.

THREAD CEREMONY

We bless the following batu:

Nov 30 : Neil Nitin Pandit at Pune.

MARRIAGES

We congratulate the following and wish them a happy married life:

Sept 8 : Trupti Uday Kalyanpur with Neelesh Sumitra Kalyanpur at Mumbai.

Oct 25 : Usha Ramchandra Prabhu with Shekhar Mangesh Shirali at Mumbai.
 Dec 2 : Nandita Nandan Vinekar with Saneel Sumantharao Kilpady at Mumbai.
 Dec 9 : Chandrabha Giridhar (Sunil) Haridas with Aneesh Mohan Hosangadi at Mumbai.
 Dec 10 : Priya (Ravinder Kaur) Saluja with Chaitanya Vijay Mannige at Pune.
 Dec 10 : Indira Rao with Abhay Uday Andar at Karla.

OBITUARIES

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

Sept 20 : Vaishali Chandrashekhar Mankikar (38) at Pune.
 Sept 26 : Radhabai (Sushila) Krishnadas Chandavarkar (94) at Honavar.
 Oct 26 : Dhareshwar Niranjana Shankar (57) at Belgaum.
 Nov 21 : Chitra Ravindra Haldipur (70) at Thane.
 Nov 28 : Krishnabai Mangesh Gunvante (70) at Bangalore.
 Nov 29 : Meera Ramdas Harite (78) at Goregaon, Mumbai.
 Nov 29 : Medha Anand Rao (Kombrabail) (nee Kaikini) (70) at Pune.
 Nov 30 : Udyavar Waman (85) at Borivili West, Mumbai.
 Nov 30 : Radhakrishna S. Thonsekar (92) at Mumbai.

Dec 4 : Kalpana (Chandri) Prabhakar Golikeri (83) at Pune.
 Dec 9 : Savoor Chandrashekhar (88) at Saket, New Delhi.
 Dec 11 : Urmila Soumitra Vinekar (nee Mukta Mudbidri) (83) at Matunga (W), Mumbai.
 Dec 12 : Deepak Narayan Nadkarni (58) at Virar.

As we ring in the New Year, we thank all those who have helped us in the year gone by: our Contributors who have made it possible for us to offer a wide variety of articles; our Correspondents who have regularly sent in news to keep our members worldwide, informed about happenings in our community; to our Donors, Advertisers and Well-wishers for their enduring financial support; to our Readers for their encouraging and valuable feedback; and finally, to the Members of the Managing Committee of KSA for supporting us in our endeavour to fulfill the aims of Kanara Saraswat.

- Editorial Committee

Vidya Gunavanthe, author of "Formula for Fulfillment", the biography of the philanthropist, N.S. Rao, has to her credit another publication, "Konkani Basics", published and released recently. In this book, she captures the Konkani language in all its lyrical beauty and simplicity. Price : Rs. 195/-



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