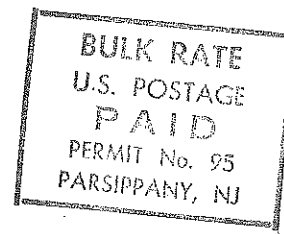


Khabbar

(KONKANI SABHA NEWSLETTER)

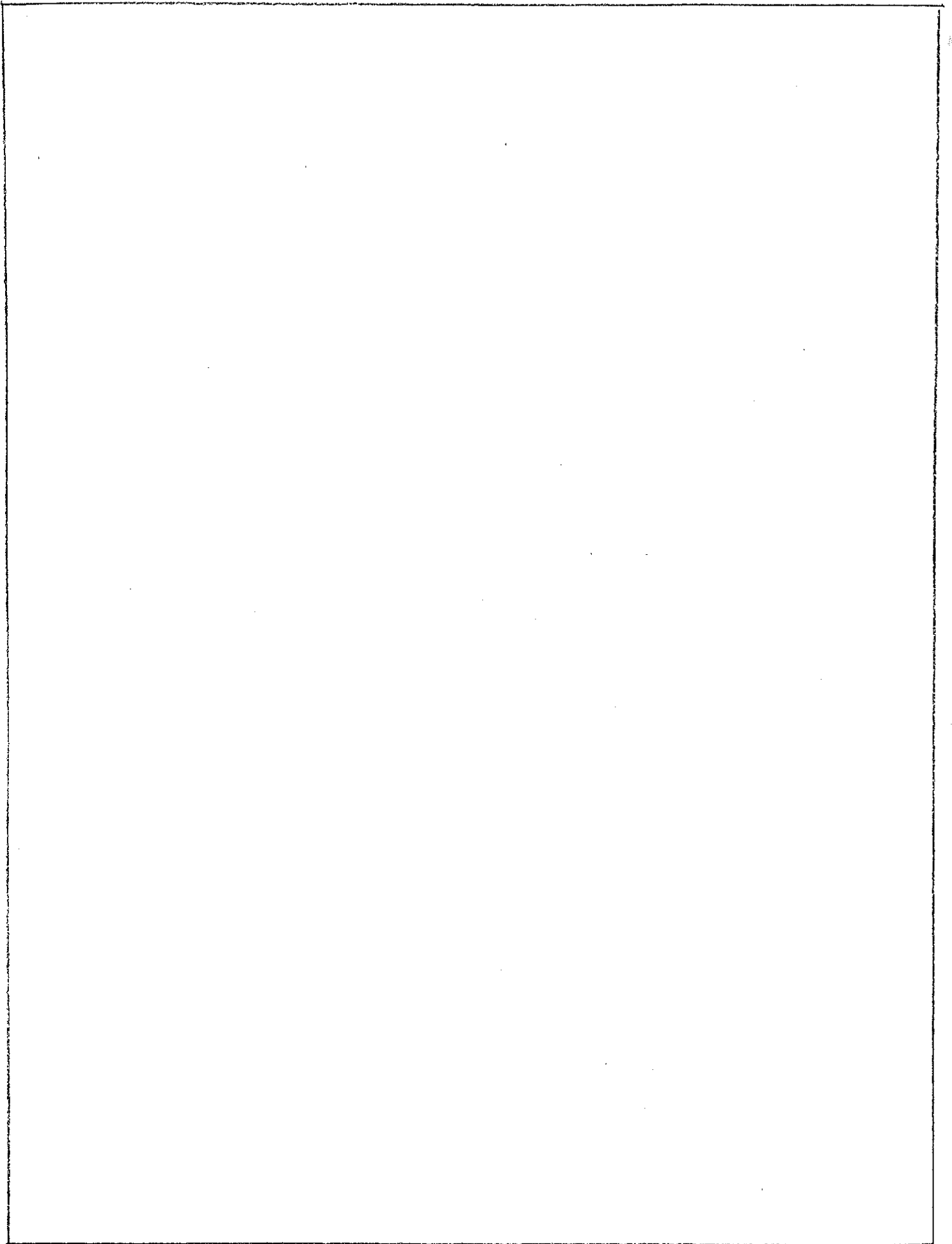
Volume: VIII Number: 4
October, November, December - 1985

From:
The Editor,
KHABBAR"
33 Quail Run
LONG VALLEY, NJ 07853



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TO:



Quarterly Newsletter
for circulation to
the members of
K O N K A N I S A B H A

Volume VIII Number 4
October, November, December-1985

President: Mr. NARASIMHA C. KAMATH
Secretary: Mr. RAVINDRANATH V. SHENOY
Treasurer: Prof. PRABHAKER NAYAK
F.I.A. Representative: Mr. DAMODAR B. BALIGA

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33 Quail Run
LONG VALLEY, NJ 07853
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*Views expressed in this Newsletter donot necessarily reflect the views of the KONKANI SABHA.

E D I T O R I A L

Dear fellow members,

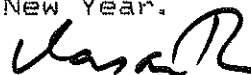
The year 1985 rolled faster than expected. Looking back and evaluating the Konkani activities for the year, we can see some encouraging signs.

Nationally, the grass root efforts put forward by the American Konkani Association is worth the praise. A lot more awaits to be done.

Local organization activities are all commendable. The Konkani Sabha had three functions out of which two were unique. The Ugadi function in Stroudsburg, PA and the the Camp-out in Jamesburg, NJ were worth mentioning. The West Coast buddies are really active. In this year their accomplishments were outstanding. I wish them continued success. The Michigan Konkanis are also organizing a group. With the Dixie group and the A.M.K.A. in midwest, I forsee a North American Gettogether of Konkanis very soon. Come to think of it, may be August 16th 1986 -Annual Picnic of the Konkani Sabha in Morristown, NJ can lay a foundation for this.

Success of any organization depends entirely on active member participation and we are no exception. Membership dues also help in expanding our activities. As an annual thing, I've enclosed the mailing list with this issue of Khabbar and kindly request your help in updating it.

Well, I'm hopeful 1986 will bring more good things to us. Wishing you and yours a Happy and Prosperous New Year.


Vasanth Bhat

Letters TO THE Editor

Dear Editor,

Over the years we have enjoyed the "Khabbar" and we admit, even looked forward to receiving it. Your service in maintaining this, the only medium of communication between rest of the Konkans and ourselves, is greatly appreciated from our end.

Please accept our contribution towards the expenses of a job that is being well done. Like us there may be quite a few lethargic Konkans some of whom may wake up by Khabbar's prodding and join hands with others for common goal.

Surekha and Jayaram Kamath, Bishopville, SC

Editor's reply:

Dear Kamaths, I really appreciate your letter and the check for \$50.00. Khabbar reaches over 400 families in North America. There are easy and simple ways how members can help make Khabbar a real success and they are:

- Paying dues regularly.
- Keeping members addresses current.
- Help in expanding the members list.
- Publish articles of interest to our community.
- Report ANY news item worth printing like addition to the family, job promotion, kids success in academic or in sports, etc.

Dear Editor,

I am enclosing herewith a copy of Mailing Addresses of present Amchigale Samaj members. I would appreciate if you can send them a copy of Khabbar so that they all can join the Khabbar family. I have started receiving enquiries regarding "Panchadik". People think it is some kind of a magazine. Anyway, thanks for publishing our news item in Khabbar.

Amchigale Samaj celebrated Deevali on Nov.2nd. The function was attended by more than 100 members. Variety entertainment included childrens skit, Dances, Adult songs, and mimicry. This was followed by usual feast.

Mr. Ramesh Kamath, Fremont, CA

Editor's reply:

Thanks for the addresses. All the members of Amchigale Samaj are now "khabbarized". Good luck in your activities and keep Khabbar well informed.

Hoon Khabbar

• CONGRATULATIONS:

• Miss VINDYA BHAT (7) won the second prize in the Summer'85 Readathon conducted by the Long Valley Womens Club. Miss Bhat read 72 books in that summer.

• Dr. CHANDRAKALA KAMATH has successfully completed her board certification in General Surgery. She has obtained practising previlages in Mercer Medical Center and at Medical Center in Princeton.

• Mr. VASANTH BHAT and Dr. NARAYAN NAYAK were unanimously elected to the Board of The American Konkani Association, An Illinois General Not For Profit Corporation.

• Dr. RATNAKER KINI was elected as the Board Member of the India League of America at Orchard Lake, MI.

• Dr. NARAYAN PAI was recently elected as the Regional Director for the Mid-Atlantic States of the American Association of Physicians from India, a national umbrella Association of State, City and specialty Indian Medical Associations in the U.S.A.

• Mr. RAVI NAYAK was promoted as Divisional Price Change Manager at Bamberger's in Newark, NJ

• Mr. P.M. SHENOY has been conferred the Royal Honor of "Royal in De Orde Van Orange Naderland", equivalent to the Knighthood under the British government, by the Queen of the Netherlands. The first Indian (Konkani) to be honored thus by the Netherlands, Mr. Shenoy has been associated with Algemene Bank Nederland N. V. (ABN Bank) for over 40 years. He was its first Indian Manager. After his retirement he has been retained as a "Senior Advisor" of its international diamond division.

• DEEVALI CELEBRATIONS:

• AMCHIGALE SAMAJ celebrated Deevali on Nov. 2nd. The function was well attended by more than 100 members. The new Committee for 1986 were elected. They are:

- Dr. Narayan Nayak- President
- Mr. Pandurang Sharma- Office Bearer
- Mr. Asok Kulkarni- Office Bearer
- Mr. Varadaraj Shenoy- Editor of "Panchadik".

Hoon Khabbar (cont.)

● AMERICAN KONKANI ASSOCIATION:

The recent membership drive for the AMERICAN KONKANI ASSOCIATION was encouraging but fell short the expectation. An Education Committee was established during the recent Board meeting with the following members:

- Dr. Savithri Kamath- Prof. and Head of Dept. of Nutrition, University of Illinois, Chicago.
- Dr. Ananth Pai- Prof. of Electrical Engg., University of Illinois, Champayne, Urbana.
- Dr. Narayani Mallya- Research Associate of University of Chicago.

The Committee will come up with recommendations to utilize the funds for 5 Loan Scholarships of \$2,000 each. It is intended that these be provided for the September 1986 Semester. Any of the readers, who have not paid the dues, can help the Association by doing so right away.

● CAMP-OUT:

KONKANI SABHA celebrated a unique function- Campout- in July 1985. A total of 50 adults and kids spent a day and night at Jamesburg, NJ park cabin. Saturday evening entertainment by the kids was excellent. Credit goes to Deepak Shency and his friends. Deepak's skits and imitation of "Indian's accent" was really funny. Nighttime "Anthakshari"- start with ending letter- singing competition between men and women was marvellous. Women, even today, are wondering how men gave them such a tough fight! The Sunday Volleyball match and hike with the kids was memorable. Thanks to all the members for making it a success and especially to Mr. Narasimha Kamath and Mrs. Meera Shency for doing all the front end work for this campout.

● KONKANI SAMAJ

The Konkanis from Michigan area recently started a Konkani Samaj. The Office bearers are:

- Dr. Krishna Nayak- President
- Dr. Sathish Kamath- Secretary
- Dr. Ratnaker Kini- Board of Directors
- Dr. Srinivas Baliga- Board of Directors
- Dr. Divaker Pai- Board of Directors

● OBITUARY:

● Mr. ANANDA PRABHU (70) died in Oklahoma in September 1985. Khabbar sends heartfelt condolences to his son, Vilas Prabhu and family of Weatherford, OK and daughter, Sumana Nayak and family of Wanaque, NJ.

"A S H T A M A N G A L A P R A S H N A"

---***---

***** An edited copy of the letter received for "Khabbar" from Mr. K. Sanjeeva Prabhu, Trustee "Sri Venkataramana Temple, KUNDAPURA- 576 201 (D.K.). Mr. Prabhu has assured to send more articles on rich cultural heritage of Konkani and Khabbar plans to publish these articles.*****

The "Ashta Mangala Prashna" was organized by the Trustees of Sri Venkataramana Temple of Kundapura-576 201 (D.K.) in the first week of August, 1985 in the presence of H.H. Sri Sudheendra Theertha Swamiji of Kashi Mutt. The "prashna" was organized for the welfare and well being of the Devotees of Lord Venkataramana at Kundapura and to ensure the performance of His "sevas" without any omission or commission. The result was something thrilling and revealing. The narration at the "prashna" went on for 7 days (Aug.1 thru Aug.7, 85) mostly in the presence of the H.H. the Swamiji.

• WHAT IS "ASHTA MANGALA PRASHNA"?

It is based on Astral Mathematics from which placement of Planets is determined. Based on the position of several planets, astrological reading is made; which is supported by the "Slokas" and stanzas in Sanskrit; which incorporate the relevant conjunction of planets and the resultant effect thereof. In the course of 7 days' narration, the experts on this art (a Poduval from Payannur and Kadri Srinivas Shency from Siddapur) had cited not less than 500 slokas at the spur of the moment. When he deciphered the slokas, it exactly fitted in with the facts and the situations. It conformed 100% with the facts dating back to over 300 years when our God came to Kundapura. What else one can call it, but Science! Such is the richness of our Indian culture!! The western world may call it superstition still, truly it is not!!!

• SOME SALIENT POINTS:

o He narrated everything about our God which we heard from our ancestors. When we asked him what is most dear to our God, he after thinking and ascertaining the conjunction of the planets, said "Panchakajjaya" made out of Bengal Gram is most liked. The fact is Bengal Gram duly treated with jaggery, properly mixed, is offered to our God as "Naivedya" and distributed.

"A s h t a M a n g a l a P r a s h n a"- cont.

● He also narrated that our God with another God jointly go in "Utsava" and they are seated on a "Katte" and worshipped at "Deepotsava" festival. This place is a little far away from the temple. He said that on the "Katte" an Ashwatha tree was formerly existing, there is a tank closeby with polluted water and there is a Hanumantha Temple nearby. It was perfectly true to the facts.

● Again, when he said that in the Temple, there was "Darshana"(a man getting possessed and acting as an oracle) and it stopped over 30-35 years ago. The "Patri" was not only influenced by "Kala-bhairava" but another daiva viz. "Varahi". We were surprised; none among us knew about this "Varahi". He further narrated that in the deceased patri's ancestral house (about 8 miles away from Kundapura) even today worship for "Varahi" is still going on. On verification, it was found to be true.

Similarly in all respects, what he could say, coincided with the actual facts. The experience is therefore exhilarating. The "Bliss" that was automatically generated, made our eyes moist with a pleasant feeling, several times. I will send you an English version of the enclosed Kannada pamphlet giving a list of what is stated in Ashtamangala Prashna, vis-a-vis, Our God, Devotees, Our Place. Kindly consider whether it is worthwhile to publish this experience in "Khabbar" as a part of our rich cultural heritage.

I have another interesting subject- the Yakshagana Puppet Art- purely nourished by G.S.B. over 300 years ago and which flourishes on account of the grace of our Lord Venkataramana Deva, Kundapura. What is this art? How G.S.B. members developed it? How it almost became extinct? How it was revived by the grace of God? How the art has been recognized by the Indian Government by the grant from the President Award in 1966 and Sangeeta Natak Akademy award in 1980? How it was exhibited and appreciated on foreign soil? etc. will be explained in my next letter, provided, you feel it is worth-while to publish it in "Khabbar".

-----***-----

*****Editor's Reply:

Dear Mr. Prabhu, "Khabbar" reaches over 400 Konkani families in North America on a quarterly basis. The editorial staff of Khabbar will be glad to publish articles of interest to the readers. Thank you for your offer and we are counting on your help to make our readers aware of our rich cultural heritage.

SANSKRIT, LANGUAGE & LITERATURE - A BRIEF SURVEY
by Miyar Vasudev Nayak Ph.D.

LANGUAGE

Indian tradition knows Sanskrit as the language of the gods, and it was the dominant language of India for a period covering over four thousand years. The Sanskrit language is divided into Vedic and Classical, the former being the older form. The entire sacred literature of the Aryan Indians was written in the Vedic language, the grammar, vocabulary, metre and style of which was markedly distinct from the Classical form into which it later evolved. Literature in Vedic Sanskrit was entirely religious, while the Classical form came to be widely used in the early centuries A.D.

Even at the time when Vedic hymns were composed, there existed a popular language, Prakrit, which differed from the literary dialect. It is said that Sanskrit was a spoken language but it was confined to the cultured section of the people. Although the masses spoke Prakrit, it appears that they understood Sanskrit. Popular dramas of the early christian era were in Sanskrit but were enjoyed by all. Buddha and Mahavira preached their doctrines in the sixth century B.C. in the language of the people. Magadhi and Pali were the forms of Prakrit used by them and in their religious texts.

Strange as it may sound, Napoleon was in a way responsible for increased interest of the Europeans in Sanskrit and its literature. Alexander Hamilton, an Englishman who studied Sanskrit in India, was imprisoned in 1802 on his way back to England, under orders from Napoleon. In the prison he trained up a band of European scholars who took to the study of Sanskrit with earnest zeal. The interest matured and resulted in several translations of religious scripts in late 19th and early 20th centuries by many Europeans, Max Muller, MacDonell, Whitney, Monier Williams, Stein, Stcherbatsky, Kielhorn, Cowell, Jacobi, Williams, Keith and Bloomfield. These translations are popular even to this day.

VEDIC LITERATURE

Vedic texts, consisting of the four Vedas and the various Upanishads - were preserved in ancient times by recitation and memorizing, which served as a means to pass these down the generations. The earliest references to writing in Sanskrit literature are in Dharmasutra of Vasishtha, composed around 8th century BC. Although the Epics and Puranas are by far the oldest, it is difficult to prove that every word in it goes back to high antiquity; parts of the Epics were added in later centuries.

Ramayana, composed by Adikavi Valmiki, the oldest among the Epics, is essentially a poetic creation that influenced the thought and poetry of later centuries in course of which new matters were added to the original composition. The work in its present form comprises seven books (Kandas) and contains approximately 24,000 verses. Popular sayings and proverbs based on the Epic are galore. Preachers draw upon it freely at religious discourses for the masses.

Mahabharata by sage Vyasa, in its present form is divided into eighteen books (Parvas). Bhagavadgita is a chapter of one of the parvas, Bhishma-

parva. Several versions of the Epic exist in various parts of India. Bhandarkar Institute of Poona carried out an exhaustive study several years back, and arrived at the basic form of the Epic as distinct from local and subsequent additions, which have also been commented upon in the publication. A copy of this valuable book, with text in Sanskrit and comments in English is now available in the library of the Hindu Temple of New York. The Epic in the written form became available in second century B.C. The origin of Puranas is traced to that time of religious revolution when Buddhism was gaining ground as a formidable foe of Hinduism as practiced in those days. There are eighteen Maha-puranas in all, and they are (1) Brahma (2) Padma (3) Vishnu (4) Siva (5) Bhagavata (6) Narada (7) Markandeya (8) Agni (9) Bhavisiya (10) Brahmavaivarta (11) Linga (12) Varaha (13) Skanda (14) Vamana (15) Kurma (16) Matsya (17) Garuda and (18) Brahmada. A Delhi publisher started on the immense project of publishing English translations of these Puranas some years back, and already Siva Purana, Bhagavata Purana, Garuda Purana, Narada Purana and Varaha Purana have been published. Most of the Puranas were composed (all in Sanskrit) by seventh century A.D. Some of these Puranas relate to Vaishnava (of Vishnu) belief, and some relate to Shaiva (of Shiva) belief.

CLASSIC LITERATURE

POETRY: In early classic literature, poetry was the more popular form, and Kalidasa is one of the earliest Sanskrit poets. The most popular theory is that he was in the court of Gupta Kings (late 4th-5th century AD). Among his works of poetry are - Kumarasambhava, Raghuvamsa and Kiraturjiniya. After Kalidasa, there were other poets famous for their works. They are : Kumaradasa, a king of Srilanka in the years 517-526 AD who wrote Janakiharana, Magha who wrote Shishupalavadha, Sriharsha (12th cent. AD) who wrote Nala Damayanti story in Naishadacharita. In lyrical poetry, Ritusamhara and Meghaduta by Kalidasa are esteemed high in the earlier works. Nitisataka, Sringarasataka and Vairagya-sataka are also lyrical poetry, all composed by Bhartrhari (early 7th cent. AD). Suryasataka written in honor of the Sungod was the work of Mayura (7th cent. AD). GitaGovinda is an excellent poetic work on Krishna legend by Jayadeva who flourished in Bengal in 12th century AD.

DRAMA: Bharata's Natyashastra is the earliest known book on Sanskrit dramaturgy, and the accepted date for it is third century AD. Scholars consider it to be a compilation based on an original sutra-type work that already existed. According to a legend found in the book, Brahma created drama by taking passages for recitation from the Rgveda, songs from the Samaveda, gestures from the Yajurveda and emotions from Atharvaveda.

Kalidasa is acclaimed as the best of Sanskrit dramatists and his were the earliest dramas available until plays by Bhasa were discovered in the early part of this century. Malavikagnimitra and Vikramorvasiya are Kalidasa's earlier plays while in Abhijnana Shakuntala he comes out par excellence. Harsha, the king of Kanauj (606-647 AD) wrote Ratnavali, Priyadarshika and Nagananda, all the three of which are well-known. Malatimadhava and Uttararamacharita are works of Bhavabhuti (early 8th cent. AD) who ranks only next to Kalidasa in Sanskrit drama writers. Other well known dramas are : Mudrarakshasa by Vishakhadatta (late 9th cent. AD), Venisamhara by Bhatta Narayana (8th cent. AD), Karpuracharita, Samudramanthana and Rukminiharana by Vatsaraja.

PROSE

Besides poetry and drama, prose also found place in Sanskrit literature. The various categories of works available are:

1. Medical compilations: The great teacher of Indian medicine, Susruta is considered to have lived in the epic era, and several commentaries on his works appeared between 9th & 11th centuries. Charakasamhita was compiled by Charaka during Kanishka's rule (1st cent.AD) and later revised by Drdhabala in 9th cent. Rasaratnakara by Nagarjuna (8th cent.AD) and Bhavaprakasha by Bhavamisra (16th cent.AD) are the other well-known works in the field of Medicine.

2. Philosophy: The literature in this area is immense and cannot be covered in a brief survey of this nature. Commentaries have been produced all through the centuries on various philosophical works that existed in the pre-Christ era. Nyayasutras of Gautama, Vaisheshikasutras of Kanada, Sankhyasutras of Kapila, Yogasutras of Patanjali, Mimamsasutras of Jaimini and Brahmasutras (Vedantasutras) of Badarayana are among the eminent original works of Indian Philosophy on which the commentaries were produced.

3. Romance: Dasakumaracarita by Dandin (7th cent.AD), Vasavadatta by Subandhu (early 7th cent), Kadambari by Bana (early 7th cent) are few of the typical works in this category.

4. Fables: There are several collection of fables available in Sanskrit literature of which more well known ones are: Somadeva's Kathasaritsagara (1063-81 AD), Ksemendra's Brhatkathamajari (1037 A and Hitopadesa by Narayana.

Besides these, there is the well-known Panchatantra by Visnusarma which is said to be based on an earlier book now lost to us. The importance of this work may be judged from the fact that it was translated into Pahlavi and Syriac in 6th cent.AD, into Arabic in 8th cent.AD, into Hebrew in 11th cent., into Spanish in 13th cent. and into Latin & English in 16th cent.

5. Grammar. In Sanskrit literature, grammar is one of the most important branches. Panini, the author of Ashtadhyayi (8th cent.BC) mentions atleast sixtyfour previous grammarians. Patanjali (150 BC) is another of the well-known grammarians known for his Mahabhasya. Since then, there have been many works on Sanskrit grammar including the well-known Siddhantakaumudi of Bhattoji (17th cent.AD)

6. There are many well-known works in other fields also such as Arthasastra by Kautilya (Politics), Dharmasutras of Gautama and Manusmrti (Law), Kamasutra of Vatsyayana (Erotics), Siddhantasiromani of Bhaskara (Astronomy), Brhatsamhita of Varahamihira (Astrology), Sangitaratnakara of Sarangadeva (Music), Abhinayadarpana of Nandikesvara (Dance) to mention only a few.

CONCLUSION

It was the intention to give a list of books for further reading at the end, in case any of the readers needs to have further information, but the idea was abandoned in view of the formidable size of such a list. Almost every book mentioned in the list and detailed surveys of the literature are available in the library of the Hindu Temple in New York.

Kid's

KWIZZES by "Vasanthmam"

Korner

TRAVEL STOPS IN THE USA

How was your summer vacation? Are you ready for the next one? Try your hand at matching the points of interest in the first column to their proper locations in the second column. May be the answers will help you in planning your next vacation!

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. The Hermitage | a. Louisiana |
| 2. Taliesin West | b. New Mexico |
| 3. Confederacy White House | c. New Jersey |
| 4. The Alamo | d. Tennessee |
| 5. Stone Mountain | e. New York |
| 6. Corn Place | f. Maryland |
| 7. Everglades | g. Arizona |
| 8. Boardwalk | h. Washington |
| 9. Greenfield Village | i. Texas |
| 10. French Quarter | j. Alabama |
| 11. Shedd Aquarium | k. Oklahoma |
| 12. Boy's Town | l. Virginia |
| 13. Diamond Head | m. Pennsylvania |
| 14. Fort McHenry | n. Georgia |
| 15. Vulcan | o. Illinois |
| 16. Carnegie Hall | p. Florida |
| 17. Space Needle | q. Hawaii |
| 18. Carpenters Hall | r. Michigan |
| 19. Cowboy Hall of Fame | s. South Dakota |
| 20. Carlsbad Caverns | t. Nebraska |

CLOCK-WISE MATH

Can you solve these math puzzles using your digital clock that shows hours and minute numbers?

1. Put the arithmetic sign between the HOUR number and the TENTH MINUTE number and put an "equal to" after that to complete the equation. Try using all the arithmetic signs (add, subtract, multiply and divide) one at a time to get different answers. For example, 2 and 1 can make following three time/equations:

- 2:11 means $2 - 1 = 1$
- 2:12 means $2 \times 1 = 2$ or $2 / 1 = 2$
- 2:13 means $2 + 1 = 3$

Can you make four different time/equations using the same two digits?

2. Can you find three time/equations that come in three consecutive minutes like in the example above but without the number "1" in tenth minute place?

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. 3:30 means $3 - 3 = 0$ | 2. 5:49 means $5 + 4 = 9$ | 3:31 means $3 / 3 = 1$ |
| 3:36 means $3 + 3 = 6$ | 5:50 means $5 - 5 = 0$ | 3:39 means $3 \times 3 = 9$ |
| 3:33 means $3 \times 3 = 9$ | 5:51 means $5 / 5 = 1$ | |

CLOCKWISE MATH

1-d, 2-g, 3-1, 4-1, 5-n, 6-s, 7-p, 8-c, 9-r, 10-a, 11-o, 12-t, 13-q, 14-f, 15-j, 16-e, 17-h, 18-m, 19-k, 20-b

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• F O R S A L E :

• Internal medicine, GP combination practice for sale in a small town, population 10,000, well established, good steady income, 70 bed JCAH- Accredited hospital- Reply P.O.Box 929, KEYSER, WV 26726.

• F R E E A C C O M O D A T I O N :

• Free accomodation for 3 days near Disney World, Orlando, Florida at Vistana Resort. Offer good till April 1986, for families/ couples only. Contact: V.P.BHATT, tel: 201-224-7576.

• W A N T E D :

• Articles of interest are always in need to be published in the "Khabbar". Let SABHA members share your knowledge and experience. Please send your articles to:
The Editor, "Khabbar", 33 Quail Run, LONG VALLEY, NJ 07853

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