

Khabbar

North American Konkani Newsletter

Volume XXV No. 2
April, May, June - 2002

From:

The Honorary Editor,
"Khabbar"

P. O. Box 222

Lake Jackson, TX 77566 - 0222

XXV-2

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



FIRST CLASS

TO:

Khabbar Follies

In this section, Khabbar looks into the Konkani community and anything and everything that is Konkani from a Konkani point of view. The names will never be published but geographic location will be identified in general terms.

It is not easy to gather the news about Konkani community in North America on a regular basis. So, the Advisory Committee of *Khabbar* sent the following letter to few of the "gung ho" Konkanis soliciting news. The letter was like this.

"Congrats! You have been officially designated as the Unofficial Correspondent of "*Khabbar*" the most prestigious Konkani Quarterly in North America.

As the Honorary Editor of *Khabbar*, I appreciate if you can collect all the "hoon khabbar" fit to be printed for *Khabbar* in your area and send them to me. Typical "hoon khabbar" items are children's accomplishments, graduation (High School or College), relocation, weddings, new addition to the family, anniversaries, obituary, etc. You can also talk to your area Konkani families and get articles of interest pertaining to Konkani culture, heritage, etc.

I will be sending you reminders on a regular basis. The deadline for the next issue: End of May 2002

Thanks for your patronage to *Khabbar*.
Vasanth"

The following responses came without any delay (of course, they collected the news items pertaining to our community)

This family from Conn. wrote:

"Why give Broken or Breaking News when you can get Unbroken News! Here is an unbroken News no daily, Weekly, Monthly, or News Letter has carried!"

This family from Texas wrote:

"Thank you for the honor and the trust in my journalistic talents. Now I can add another activity to my resume or biodata. Can *Khabbar* give some supplies to write for the column such as pen, pencil, eraser, paper and may be a laptop?"

This family from Florida wrote:

"You don't need to *maska* me.. I am ahead of the game."

This family from California wrote:

"Why is it unofficial? Thanks for the honor. I will do my best to send in "Nave Nave Kabro" to *Khabbar*."

SUBSCRIPTION FORM:

Dear Konkani family,
Please, note that you have the FREE access to the eKhabbar, the electronic version of Khabbar, by logging on to ekhabbar.com. If you want hard copy, then only renew your subscription for \$15.00 a year. **Please, don't pay for future years!** Please, fill the form below and send your subscription with a check payable to Khabbar to P. O. Box 222, Lake Jackson, TX 77566-0222. (Canadian Konkanis please pay cash or MO in US\$)

Name: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email ID: _____

Children.....

Name	Boy/Girl	d.o.b.	Hobby/Interest
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Comments, if any: _____

Quarterly Newsletter
For Circulation to the Konkani Community in North America

Volume XXV No. 2

April, May, June - 2002

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The Editorial Committee reserves the right to exclude, edit and correct all material received for publication and does not accept any responsibility for views expressed by authors of the publications.

EDITORIAL

Dear Konkani family,
I hope all is well with you and your family.

This July 2002 will definitely go in the history of North American Konkanis. The fourth North American Konkani Sammelan 2002 (KS-2002) will be held from July 4th thru 6th. Needless to say that the KS-2002 will be a great event that no Konkani in North America should miss. Please, visit their website: www.konkani2002.com to get all the details about this Sammelan. There will be items of interest for one and all age categories. The 2-1/2 day event will be culturally enriching to all. **The KS-2002 will make you all feel proud to be Konkani.** Make your reservations before the deadline and avoid last minute disappointment!

I am grateful to the committee of Konkani Sammelan 2002 (KS-2002) for allotting a time slot to celebrate the *Khabbar's* 25th anniversary during the banquet dinner of the fourth North American Konkani Sammelan on July 6th 2002.

It is time to renew your subscription for *Khabbar* for 2002. Overwhelming majority of families prefer to get *Khabbar* via US mail. For the subscription of \$15.00 a year, you get:

- Four issues of the *Khabbar*,
- Annual Mailing List and
- Discounted advertisement rates.

The reality of dotcom economy is true for *Khabbar* also. The on-line version of *Khabbar*, ekhabbar, is not generating any revenues. Also, people prefer the hard copy of *Khabbar*. Hence, ekhabbar will go on the web a **quarter later** after the hard copies have been mailed. With that in mind, this issue of *Khabbar* has been mailed to **ALL** families that have paid dues since 1988. This issue has **not** been mailed to families that have specifically indicated that they will access ekhabbar. The numbers on the mailing label clearly indicate the year/s the dues for *Khabbar* has been received since 1988 and if there is any error, please, let me know.

It is heartening to see our kid's accomplishments. *Khabbar* is proud to publish all these feats and really feels that our second generation is right on track for being the best in class.

Most of the articles and news item come voluntarily on a regularly basis. If you send them via email (khabbar@hotmail.com), it makes the editing job much easy. Send any Hoon Khabbar, sunshine news, your or your child's promotion or achievement, articles of interest, etc. Share your joy or grief with fellow Konkanis.

On the Quiz front, it is really pitiable to see nobody got the correct solution to the last quarter's quiz! It has been repeated one more time to see if anyone can get the right answer!?!

Even though the response to a constructive suggestion by **Dr. Kochikar Ramnath Pai** of Carlsbad, NM of bringing out a Directory of Konkani Physicians has been good, it is not enough to publish as a Directory of Konkani Physicians in North America. Of the 1,600 or so Konkani families, if I assume 10% are Physicians, that is 160 people, less than half of these responded! May be we, as a community are not ready for this. Hence, that ambitious project has been shelved at least for now.

Khabbar will always publish appeals for charity free of charge but cannot collect money on behalf of any charity. Families are encouraged to send the money directly to the concerned charities. *Khabbar* firmly believes in helping our people whether it is in India or here.

I must congratulate **Ms. MAYA SHENOY** of Charlotte, NC for doing an outstanding job in raising funds in the US for the needy causes. She is a front-runner for the Woman of the Year Award, and *Khabbar* wishes her all the best.

See you all at the KS - 2002 in Houston in July.

Devu Boren Karo.

Vasanth
Editor

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor will be considered for publication unless the writer requests otherwise. Letters may be edited for publication. Editor reserves the right not to publish anonymous letters. Initials only on request if the writer includes his or her name.

Dear Vasanthmam,

Thank you for publishing my son Avinash's poem in the last issue of Khabbar. I am submitting a new poem "Wawona" which he wrote after our visit to Yosemite National Park. Hope you find it suitable for printing in your next issue.

Sincerely,

*Ravi S. Joshi
Mission Viejo, CA*

Dear Khabbar Editor:

Thought you may be interested in seeing what a couple of well known Konkans are thinking about India's Options in fighting the Pap(k)is. 2 great articles - authors being Konkans is just a coincidence :-)

(a) What is the alternative except war?

By M.V. Kamath at

<http://www.samachar.com/features/230502-fpj.html>

(b) What exactly are India's options?

By T V R Shenoy at

<http://www.rediff.com/news/2002/may/22flip.htm>

Best Regards

*Rajarama Shenoy,
Shelton, CT*

Dear Vasanthmam,

I want to thank fellow Konkans for the generous financial and moral support that helped me surpass my goal to raise over \$100,000 during an intense 8-week campaign for the benefit of The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. It was due to support by Konkans and others hailing from all corners of this country that I was named the regional 'Woman of the Year' by The N.C. Chapter of The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. We can be proud that a fellow Konkani will now be the front-runner for the U.S. Woman of the Year - a title bestowed on the one who raises the most money through her volunteer work. The results will be announced at the end of 2002 after completion of similar campaigns by other volunteers in the West and East.

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society is the premier and fastest growing non-profit organization that has funded and sponsored research in leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma, Hodgkin's disease and other blood related cancers. This research has led to cures for many of these deadly diseases. The contributions will go to a variety of programs: research, patient services, patient advocacy, bone marrow transplants, and public/professional education and community services.

My family and I cannot thank enough various Konkans around the world for all the assistance and comfort we have received from them since my nephew Mithun Kamath, son of Burde & Urmila Kamath (New Orleans), was diagnosed with Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia in 1998. He is doing well because he is being treated with a miraculous new drug called 'Gleevec', developed by Dr. Brian Druker and sustained financially by The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. As a National Trustee of The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, I can assure you that this type of research, which will be useful for the cure of many types of cancers, will continue to be supported by The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Once again, on behalf of my family (Vittal, Rama and Pandu Shenoy) in Charlotte, NC, I want to express our gratitude to our Konkani community for their participation in this mission.

*Maya Shenoy
Charlotte, NC*

Dear Vasanth,

Thank you for taking an interest in this paper. Please review and see if this is suitable for publication in Khabbar. My main motivation is to educate ourselves, our children, and our non-Hindu friends about the full spectrum of Hindu thought. What our

children learn from visiting our temples is mostly limited to rituals and poojas of various deities. I think, in addition, we need to teach them about the central ideas, the intellectual basis, of our religion.

The following article is a reprint of the paper presented in the 1st Vidwat Sabha and Sammelanam (Vedic Conference) at Albany, NY, in September, 2000.

*Suresh K. Shenoy,
Wallingford, CT*

Dear Editor,

I was surfing www.manjeshwar.org A pop up news appeared. H.H.Kashimath Swamiji shishya sweekar news is on Ref: www.kashimath.org/proclam.htm

M.G.Kamath

mgekamath@msn.com

My dear Vasanth,

I found just the other day, a small article written by my (late) wife. It was in a small folder in one of her suitcases. I thought that it may be worthwhile publishing the same in our next issue of Khabbar

Sincerely,

*Dr. Keshava Kamath,
Pompton Plains, NJ*

Dear Mr. Vasanth Bhat,

This is for your Khabbar Magazine Information. As you know, my article "Flute: A Celestial Experience" has been published online at www.sulekha.com Please read it. Lots of readers accessed and read my article and some of them wrote favorable comments. Please tell your friends and relatives to read my article by going into www.sulekha.com and click Articles on Home Page of Sulekha. You may publish this news in Khabbar's next issue.

Thanks.

*Dr. Narasinha Kamath,
Flushing, New York*

Hoon Khabbar

Congratulations:

SANJAY BHATT of West Palm Beach, FL, s/o Ashwin & Kasturi Bhatt of Houston, TX was the lead reporter on a team that covered last fall's anthrax attack in Florida, and in April he accepted the Green Eyeshade Award, an 11-state journalism competition, on behalf of The Palm Beach Post. This summer he morphs into a disease detective at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta under the competitive Knight fellowship open to journalists worldwide. Earlier this year, he was named to the board of directors of the national Association of Health Care Journalists.

Dr. GOPAL A. BHANDARKAR of Bayport, NY was elected as the Trustee of the Brookhaven Memorial Hospital.

GEBEL, is a joint venture between the US Multinational, General Electric and the Indian Electronics giant, Bharat Electronics. The export oriented unit, set up in '97 to manufacture Medical X-ray tubes and other critical high tech components for GE Medical systems has been recording 70% growth every year and has been contributing to India's much needed exports. The export earnings for the financial year ending 31st March '02 are estimated to be over Rs. 250 crores. (\$50M).

GEBEL was recognized for its outstanding export performance by Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (an autonomous organization under Department of Information and technology, Ministry of Communications and Information technology, Govt. of India). Two, All India awards were given to GEBEL - second position in Electronics Hardware Exports (non SSI category) for 1999/'99 and the First Position for 1999/2000. The awards were distributed by Hon'ble Minister for Communication & Information Technology, Govt. of India, Mr. Pramod Mahajan at a ceremony in Delhi on 21st February '02. **Dr. G.**

MANOHAR (KAMATH), Managing Director, GEBEL received the awards. Dr. Manohar is Ph.D. in Electrochemistry from Indian Institute of Science, worked at Mallory (UK) for a number of years, was GM of BEL before spearheading this joint venture that started about 5 years ago. He has received several worldwide GE awards, including the award for "Fastest Transfer of Technology", as well as "The Most Liked Management".

Sri U. DAMODAR PRABHU of Pittsburgh, PA was invited by Unitarian Church, Pittsburgh, PA to give a talk on "ABC of Hinduism" on May 2nd 2002. Sri Prabhu had also given a presentation, "To Resolve World Conflict Through Religion", as one of the six panelists invited by World Affairs Council in Pittsburgh, PA on February 19th 2002.

BBC carried a feature in their programme called Profiles, prime time Sunday 12th May 2002. It was a 25-minute feature on **Sri K. VAMAN KAMATH**, Managing Director & CEO of ICICI, Mumbai and included interviews with him, his wife, **Smt. RAJALAXMI KAMATH** and their friends. Also featured was the school and colleges that Sri Kamath had attended, ICICI and the technology transformation that has taken place in ICICI. It was well received.

The Kamaths are the invited guests of the Konkani Sammelan 2002.

In the May 8th 2002 issue of "Chemical Week" the cover story was about the chemical company Sigma-Aldrich and featured interviews with top executives including the President, **JAI PRAKASH NAGARKATTI** of Mequon, WI on how the company is moving to build a high tech platform to meet future business challenges.

Many **Konkani Sammelan 2002 registrants** from NY/NJ/CT area were treated to the "Heart Throb" concert at the Nassau Coliseum on May 25 and Meadowlands on May 26, courtesy of ICICI Bank. Hritik Roshan, Karina

and Karishma Kapoor and Aftab Shivdasani were among the entertainers. Both the sold out performances were very entertaining.

(ICICI is a Bombay based global bank catering to the needs of Konkani and others in India as well as the U.S. You can get more details at: <http://www.icici.com/icicibank/>

Mr. NARASIMHA "Nick" SHENOY, of Malvern, PA has been appointed to Board of Directors of Minority Business Development Agency of Pennsylvania by Governor Tom Ridge.

Indian filmmaker, **SHYAM BENEGAL**, and renowned sarod legend, **Ustad Amjad Ali Khan** were felicitated at the Gaylord restaurant in Chicago on Saturday, June 1st 2002. The **American Midwest Konkani Association (AMKA)** and the local Andhra Association jointly hosted the event. Both Shyam Benegal and Amjad Ali are visiting faculty members at the Northwestern University. Shyam Benegal has directed many outstanding films such as *Ankur*, *Bhumika*, *Manthan*, *Mandi*, and *Zubeidaa*. He is a recipient of many awards including the prestigious *Padma Bhushan* in 1991. His films skillfully focus on contemporary social problems afflicting Indian society. A medley of scenes from his various films were shown. There were many local dignitaries in attendance including the Indian Consul general, Surinder Kumar.

The Consul General welcomed the honored guests, and briefly narrated their outstanding accomplishments. Amjad Ali spoke about why music is important in life. His mission is to promote Indian music in general and sarod in particular. Amjad said that music should be felt and experienced. It satisfies the soul and can be appreciated without knowing it. Shyam spoke about his films, and also his Konkani and Andhra heritage. Konkani, although one of the smallest communities in India, have excelled in many different fields. He

commended the North American Konkans for their commitment to honor their heritage, and wished them success for the **2002 Sammelan in Houston**. He wished he could be there but he had to return to India because of prior commitments. Shyam also talked about his next film on Subhash Chandra Bose. He felt that history had not been kind to Bose and his rightful place needed to be restored.

BMC Software India Pvt. Ltd's expansion of the Offshore Development Center in Pune was held on Friday June 14th 2002. Mr. Vishwas Dhurnal, Secretary (Industries), Government of Maharashtra cut the ribbon at 11:30 A.M. **Pankaj M. Dhume** (formerly of Houston, TX) is the President & CEO of BMC Software India Pvt. Ltd.

Konkani Graduates:

REENA, d/o Ravindra & Vidya Nayak of Flanders, NJ graduated with a B.S. in Biology from The College of New Jersey in Trenton, NJ on Thursday May 16th 2002.

SIDHYA, d/o Jay & Shanthi Jayakumar of Austin, TX graduated *Cum Laude* with a B.A. in Cognitive Sciences and Spanish from Rice University, Houston, TX on Saturday May 11th 2002.

ANJALI KAMATH RAO graduated with MD and MPH degrees from New York University on May 20th 2002. She will pursue Ob.Gyn. residency at Stanford Hospital. Anjali's husband Vivek Rao is doing his fellowship in critical care Neurology at UCSF.

SUHAS, s/o Raghava & Geeta Nayak of Sydney, Australia graduated with high honors from Caltech in Pasadena, CA with MS in Math and will join Stanford for his Ph. D. program this Fall.

SHANTI, d/o Jai Prakash & Susan Nagarkatti of Mequon, WI graduated with Bachelor's degree in Mass communication and Journalism with a straight "A". Her name was mentioned by the chancellor during the commencement exercise that she was one of only five undergraduate students at the University of

Wisconsin to graduate with a straight "A" grade point.

ASHVIN, s/o Ramadas and Udaya Kamath of Apple Valley, CA, graduated as the valedictorian of his high school class, with cumulative GPA of 4.76 and will attend Princeton University in the fall. An avid tennis player, he was captain and MVP of his team and won numerous league distinctions including selection for the All League team for two years. Ashvin also served as Key Club president in his junior year and Lt. Governor in his senior year, thus motivating and organizing his home and surrounding clubs. He was also National Honor Society vice-president, a worker for Habitat for Humanity, an AP Scholar with Honor, a clerk at his parents' medical practice, San Bernardino Sun newspaper Scholar of the Week, and a member of the Academic Decathlon team. In the last year, he started playing the drums in an attempt to master the style of punk rock. Ashvin will most likely major in Molecular Biology but he also hopes to get a broad background in the humanities while in college.

DURGA, d/o K. N. Pai & Jayashree Pai of Crawfordville, IN graduated from Indiana School of Medicine on May 12th 2002. She will start her residency in Grand Rapids, MI.

PRIYA, d/o Chandrakanth & Sheela Mahale of High Bridge, NJ graduated with MBA from Wharton Business School of University of Pennsylvania and has joined "Amgen" in Thousand Oaks, CA

REKHA, d/o Chandrakanth & Sheela Mahale of High Bridge, NJ graduated from Lehigh University with Neuroscience major will pursue higher education in medicine.

AMBIKA, d/o Dr. Rajarama and Mrs. Aneetha Shenoy of Shelton, CT graduated with B.S. (*magna-cum-laude*) from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) on May 17, 2002. Ambika is enrolled in a 6-year B.S. - M.D. program with RPI and Albany Medical College. She has been enrolled at Albany Medical College

since the fall of 2000 and will graduate in 2004.

SHARAD, s/o Sudhakar and Nandini Mallya of Wanaque, NJ, graduated with a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering with High Honor. He was first in class and was the commencement speaker at the graduation ceremony attended by many distinguished guests including NJ Governor McGreevey. Sharad achieved the highest academic average of 4.0 in the class of 2002. While at Stevens, he participated in the Stevens chapter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society. He took part in the cooperative education program and was a member of the Stevens Golf Club. Among his important honors and awards are the Ann P. Neupauer Undergraduate Scholarship, AIChE Lee Parker Memorial Award (highest academic achievement in Chemical Engineering), Lawrence C.F. Horle Memorial Award (highest average during the undergraduate program), Cooperative Education Academic Excellence Award, and The Distinguished Chemical Engineering Student Award. He will join Con Edison in NYC in June 2002.

JYOTHI, d/o Parushuram & Vimala Bhatt of Yorktown Heights, NY graduated *Magna Cum* from Mt. Holyoke College on Sunday the 26th @ 10 AM. The Chief Guest was Queen Noor of Jordan & about 470 girls got their certificates that morning. She was also inducted into the Phi Beta Capa organization. She has accepted an internship with one of the units in the Smithsonian family in Washington DC.

RAHUL, of San Diego, CA, s/o Yatish & Sandhya Kini of Mumbai completed his Masters in Architecture in Design at The New School of Architecture and Design in San Diego, CA. His graduation ceremony was held at The Salk Institute Research Center on June 8th 2002.

GAYATHRI KINI of San Jose, CA, has completed her MBA in Supply Chain Management and E-Business from California State University,

Hayward. In June 15th 2002, The Operations and Materials Society awarded the "Best MBA Student for Supply Chain Management" award to her at their 5th Annual Roast/Awards banquet.

VIVEK, s/o Suresh & Sudha Shenoy of Wallingford, CT, and brother of Radha Shenoy (currently a student at the Yale University), recently graduated from Choate Rosemary Hall high school. A dedicated scholar and winner of several awards and honors, Vivek is also a talented musician. He was a violinist in the Choate Chamber Orchestra and the principal drummer for the Choate Jazz Band. In addition, he is a reasonably good Tabla player. His other interests include mathematics, natural sciences, world religions and philosophy. Vivek plans to attend the Harvard University in September.

ANAND, s/o Venkatesh & Vasanthi Rao of Walnut, CA recently received his MBA in IT from University of California Irvine. Anand was part of Fully employed MBA program.

NEETA, d/o Shivaram & Nandini Bijoor of Seattle, WA graduated from Brown University, RI earning a bachelor of science degree in geochemistry with *magna cum laude* and honors. She received the Geological Science Senior Award and Minnie Helen Hicks Premium for being the distinguished graduate in her department. She also earned the NASA Space Grant Award for outstanding research. She was on the editorial board of the university's Catalyst magazine and is a contributing writer for the newsmagazine Geotimes. She has received the Luce Undergraduate Fellowship to conduct research at Beijing University before pursuing a Masters/PhD. next year.

New Arrivals:

SANJANA, a 8 lb. 5 oz., 21" tall baby girl to Naren & Anitha Nayak of Arlington, VA on April 8th 2002.

NITHYA, 8-1/4 lb. baby boy to Ashok & Surekha Shenoy of Paterson, NJ on Saturday April 13th at 3 am. Grand son to Venkatraman & Suman

Shenoy of Mysore (formerly Houston, TX)

To see the baby pictures, go to Yahoo! photos and select "Slideshow"

<http://photos.yahoo.com/bc/ashenoy2000/1st?.dir=/Nithya%27s+Birth&.view>
≡

ANIKA, a baby girl 8.65 lbs and 22 inches long born to Shrinivas & Poornima Nayak of Tampa, FL on May 7th 2002. Maternal grandparents are Smt. Bharati and Shri. S. C. Pai of Delhi and paternal grandparents are Smt. Shalini and Shri. A. D. Nayak of Bombay.

Brahmopadesham:

Dr. Prabhakar and Mrs. Kamakshi Baliga of Mount Pleasant SC celebrated the sacred thread ceremony (Brahmopadesham) of their son, **Chi. ABHAY** (grand son of Dr. Rathnakar and Mrs. Sunithi Baliga of Madras) with family and friends on May 05, 2002 at the Hobcaw Creek Plantation House.

Mr. Umesh and Mrs. Bharathi Shenoy of Trumbull CT. celebrated the sacred thread ceremony of their eldest son, **Chi. ARJUN** on Sunday May 26 outdoors on the lawn of their residence with great pomp and ceremony. Large number of friends and family members were on hand to bless the young Vatu and partake in wonderful array of culinary delights. Besides the normal fare, which was plentiful, special Konkani dishes such as *Chane Ghashi*, *Aambo -Aunas Sasama*, *Pathrado*, and *Godi Khicchadi* were on the menu.

Unconfirmed reports have that the *vatus* are busy doing *sandyavandams!*

Newly Weds:

Sow. ARCHANA, d/o Drs. Jayashree & Jayaraman Rao of New Orleans, LA married to **Chi. WHITON**, s/o Dr. and Mrs. Lincoln Paine of New Orleans, LA on Friday May 24th 2002 at 7:00 PM at St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church in New Orleans, LA. The Hindu wedding ceremony was held on Saturday May 25th 2002 at 11:30 AM at English Turn Clubhouse in New Orleans, LA.

Chi. SANJAY, s/o Gopi & Sheila Pai of Germantown, TN married to **Sow. BETHANY**, d/o Joseph & Carol Carone on Saturday June 8th 2002 at the Memphis Botanic Gardens in Memphis, TN.

Wedding Reception:

Sadananda and Sharda Pai of Houston, Texas celebrated the wedding of their son **Chi. VIVEK** with **Sow. SUJAYA**, d/o Shri Pulkeri Jayavantha Kamath and Smt. Vijaya Kamath of Dombivali, Dist. Thane by arranging a wedding reception on April 13, 2002, YUGADI day at Gauranga Hall of Hare Krishna Temple, Houston. Vivek and Sujaya were married on May 25th, 2001 in Mumbai and presently live in Princeton, NJ. Pictures from the reception are available at <http://www.cs.princeton.edu/~vivek/reception/>

Dr. & Mrs. Satish R. Nayak of Schnecksville, PA held a gala reception to celebrate the wedding of their son, **Chi. CHETAN** with **Sow. KELLI**, d/o Dr. & Mrs. James E. Mc Dermott of Worcester, MA on Saturday May 11th 2002 at Somerset Marriott in Somerset, NJ.

Konkani Happenings:

The Houston Area Konkani Association (HAKA) celebrated their Annual Yugadi function on Sunday April 7th 2002 at the Humble Civic Center in Humble, TX.

The Konkani Association of Southern California (KASC) celebrated their 10th Anniversary and annual Yugadi function on Sunday April 14th 2002 at the City of Arcadia Community Center.

The Konkani Association Of California (KAOCA) celebrated the Ugadi program at Sunnysvale temple hall on April 7th. Variety entertainment was presented mostly by children. This was followed by a catered dinner. KAOCA recently was registered as a Non Profit organization.

Yugadhi, the beginning of a new Yuga, is celebrated as nature is rejuvenating. The blossoming nature

inspires man to rekindle his own aspirations for the future. On such a note, the **American Midwest Konkani Association (AMKA)** celebrated Yugadhi on April 20, 2002 at the Balaji Temple in Aurora, IL. Members from Illinois, Iowa, Indiana and Wisconsin attended the function.

The evening commenced with the social hour, and members satiated their appetites with pleasing appetizers like Batata vada, khaman dhokla, chips and dip, and Mrs. Fields cookies for the youth. This was followed by the traditional lighting of the aarati, performed by all the committee members and their children. The cultural program started with a welcome address by the president, Dr. Vijay Kumar Rao. The masters of ceremony for the evening were Prema Rao and Mitha Rao.

The entertainment was a real treat to the audience, and a memorable display of the promising talent of AMKA youth. While the performances were very distinct, all participants were amazing. Folk dances, filmy dances, bhajans, a string quartet, solo and duet instrumental music, and a Michael Jackson dance were the highlights for the evening. The stars on stage ranged from three year old to seventeen years. Participants were Basti kids Vinay, Namita and Neha Shenoy, Mitali Dave, Megan Kamath, Namita Kamath, Rahul Kamath, Keertan Kini, Shloka Kini, Anusha Mallya, Aishwarya Mallya, Atul Menon, Roopika Menon, Rajeev Nayak, Vinay Nayak, Kavya Pai, Reema Rao, Kushal Savkur, Sheela Shenoy, and Tara Shenoy.

The adult members of AMKA spiced up the evening with their act. A song scene from the movie Padosan was enacted by "the young at heart" and talented Shyam Amladi, Vasant Acharya, Shrikar Bangalore, Ashok Naik and Sanjay Savkur. Not to be out done, the ladies had "One Kodak Moment" as they danced to a Meera bhajan by Lata Mangeshkar. The charming and graceful dancers were Kirti Acharya, Nandana Bhakta, Preeti Nagarkatte, Maya Nayak, Ratna Nayak, Vidya Pai, Prema Rao and Sucheta Savkur.

AMKA recognized Mr. Venkat Chittal, a senior member, for his dedicated, loyal, and sincere support

to our community. A raffle drawing was held with exciting prize giveaways. The traditional Konkani Yugadhi feast, cooked by the ladies of AMKA, brought back memories of our motherland. The evening concluded with Dhandiya raas while the young and old swayed to the music.

The Yugadhi function was a grand success mainly because each and every member of AMKA co-operated and put forth their best efforts. The committee members handled and executed their responsibilities very well. The AMKA committee members are: President: Dr. Vijay Kumar and Prema Rao, Vasant and Kirti Acharya, Shyam and Meera Amladi, Anuradha Chittar, Shrinivas and Sharada Kamath, Ranjan and Nivedita Kini, Raja and Srikala Mallya, Raghuvveer and Anita Nayak, and Govinda Pai.

Konkani Association of Georgia (KAOG) - Ugadi function was held on Saturday April 13th 2002 at Roswell Community Center at East Rosewell Park, GA.

The following are the new Committee members:

President: **Dilip Divgi**
Vice-President: **Vrinda Mundkur**
Secretary: **Ranjita Betrabet**
Treasurer: **Sanjay Mundkur**
Cultural: **Sheela Kamath**
Lata Divgi
Rajesh Koppikar
Trupti Kundapur
Uttara Mazumdar
Web: **Prashant Kalavar**
Shweta Kalavar

Konkani Association of Ontario (KAO) celebrated their annual Yugadi festival of the year on 6th of April at the Optimist Centre/ Ski Chalet of Chinguacousy Park, Central Park Drive, Brampton, Ontario, Canada

Arun Kamat under the auspices of **Konkani Association of Ontario (KAO)** organized their annual *Shri Sathyanarayana Pooja* on Saturday, April 27, 2002 4:00 to 9:00 PM at Kalibari Temple, 6815 Professional Court, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.

Relocation:

The **KINI** family, Manohar Panambur & Mitra have relocated within Medford, NJ to 9 Dufton Dr., Medford, NJ 08055. The telephone remains the same at (609)-654-1062 and the email ID: mandmkini@hotmail.com

Ms. LALITA REGE has moved from Florence, MA to 108 Fairway Village, Leeds, MA 01053.

The newlyweds **REKHA PAI & BRIAN SMITH** have relocated from Jupiter, FL to 10707 Cambay Circle, Boynton Beach, FL 33437. the new telephone is (561)-733-8311.

The **NAYAK** family, Naren & Anitha with their new born daughter, Sanjana, have relocated within Arlington, VA to 850 N. Randolph Street, Apt. 423, Arlington, VA 22203. The telephone remains the same at (703)-841-1529 and the email ID: nayak_a_n@yahoo.com

25th Wedding Anniversary:

Families and friends of **SUBRAMANYA & VASANTHI BALIGA** threw a surprise 25th Wedding Anniversary party to them on January 27th 2002 at their residence in Princeton, NJ.

PANDURANGA & SHOBHA KINI of Swansea, Illinois celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on June 9th 2002 at the Hindu Temple of St. Louis, MO.

35th Wedding Anniversary:

Families and friends **SADANAND & SHARADA PAI** of Houston, TX celebrated their 35th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday May 11th at the Bombay Club in Houston, TX

40th Wedding Anniversary:

Families and friends of **Dr. MOHAN & Mrs. MOHINI KAMATH** of Cerritos, CA celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday May 11th at the Bombay Club in Anaheim, CA.

Welcome to America:

The **KAMATH** family, P. Vasudev & Sudha, of Mumbai have migrated again to US and their new address is

20 Shrewsbury Green Dr., # I, Shrewsbury, MA. Their telephone is (508)-753-4662.

Obituary:

BANTWAL ANANTH BHAT (59) of Bantwal, D.K., expired on April 10th, @ 3.30AM in Mangalore. He was admitted in Omega Nursing Home for a by-pass surgery, which was successful. But, 4 days after the surgery, he developed some post

surgery complications and died in ICU. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his son, Bantwal Sandesh Bhat & family of Fishkill, NY.

M. KESHAV PAI (52), youngest son of late Sowcar Venkatesh Pai and late Ramabai V. Pai, passed away in Bangalore on May 1, 2002. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his sons, Sachin (Stanford Univ., CA) and

Ashwin (Boston, MA) and to his close and extended family in USA and India.

Send your "hoon khabbars" to:
Khabbar,
PO Box 222
Lake Jackson, TX 77566-0222
Email: khabbar@hotmail.com

LIFE IN THESE UNITED STATES

By (Late) Vimala Kamath
Edison, NJ

It was a rainy, stormy night, when I went to JFK airport to receive my son. Due to the inclement weather conditions, several of the flights either got delayed or even cancelled. It was announced that our flight has been diverted to Boston. Although the scheduled arrival time was 10:00 PM, it would now arrive only after midnight.

In order to spend those 2 hours waiting, I decided to sit somewhere near the entrance gate. As time passed, the airport got almost empty. Only the security staff and cleaning crew could be seen from time to time. Some of them while passing by, came down to where I was sitting and politely said, "Don't worry, mam! Call us whenever you need our help." Of course, I thanked them for their kind gesture.

Finally, at 1:00 AM, it was announced that our flight has arrived from Boston. I quickly got up and rushed to the arrival gate. On the way I encountered the same security lady, who had volunteered to help me. Looking at me, with wonder in her eyes, she said, "Mam! I could never believe that you could walk so fast and well!"

I too wondered why she spoke like that. Then only I realized that, all the while I was waiting, I was sitting in a wheel chair!

Dear Editor: I belong to a local pooja group and we meet on a monthly basis. Our 1-1/2 hour session includes bhajans, chants, meditation and spiritual discussions. One of the members answers some of the common questions pertaining to the spiritual practices followed since ages and I'll present them to Khabbar readers. I prefer to remain anonymous. Thanks

Why do we have a prayer room?

Most Hindu homes have a prayer room or altar. A lamp is lit and the Lord worshipped each day. Other spiritual practices like "japa" (repetition of the Lord's name), meditation, "paaraayana" (reading of the scriptures), prayers, devotional singing etc. is also done here. Special worship is done on auspicious occasions like birthdays, anniversaries, festivals and the like. Each member of the family - young or old - communes with and worships the Divine here.

The Lord is the owner of the entire creation. He is therefore the true owner of the house we live in too. The prayer room is the master room of the house. This notion rids us of false pride and possessiveness.

The ideal attitude to take is to regard the Lord as the true owner of our homes and ourselves as the caretakers of His home. But if this is rather difficult, we could at least think of Him as a very welcome guest. Just as we would house an important guest in the best comfort, so, too we felicitate the Lord's presence in our homes by having a prayer room or altar, which is, at all times, kept clean and well decorated.

Also the Lord is all pervading. To remind us that He resides in our home with us, we have prayer rooms. Without the grace of the Lord, no task can be successfully or easily accomplished. We invoke His grace by communing with Him in the prayer room each day and on special occasions.

Each room in a house is dedicated to a specific function like bedroom for resting and sleeping, the drawing room to receive

guests, the kitchen for cooking etc. the furniture, decor and the atmosphere of each room are made conducive to the purpose it serves. So too for the purpose of meditation, worship and prayer, we should have a conducive atmosphere - hence the need for a prayer room.

Sacred thoughts and sound vibrations pervade the place and influence the minds of those who spend time there. Spiritual thoughts and vibrations accumulated through regular meditation, worship and chanting done there pervade the prayer room. Even when we are tired or agitated, by just sitting in the prayer room for a while, we feel calm, rejuvenated and spiritually uplifted.

Khabbar & 25 years!!!

As you may be knowing, *Khabbar* will celebrate its 25 years of publishing during the Sammelan's banquet night on Saturday July 6th 2002.

If you have the first edition of *Khabbar*, bring it in original and win a prize!

The Advisory Committee of *Khabbar* is planning to issue a commemorative issue. Send in your articles emphasizing "**Why *Khabbar* should exist and what should be done to maintain this newsletter**". While offering suggestions, keep in mind the available resources....

A brief history of Kolakere Prabhus

by Kadambi Ramadasa Prabhu Mangalore Karnataka India

Thanks to Kadambi Krishna Prabhu, Jackson Heights, NY

Kadambi Prabhus , Kolakere Prabhus & Bolanthur Prabhus are all belonging to the KOLAKERE House. The evolution of Kolakere family, which spreaded it's wings is an interesting story. Among Gowda Saraswath Brahmins there is no parallel history to Kolakere Prabhus.

My grandfather Late Kolakere Venkatraya Prabhu, and my Late father Kadambi Manjunath Prabhu have given me the knowledge about our family almost since my 10th year. I have made an earnest effort to investigate the happenings through records and consulting senior persons like my uncles namely Kolakere Govinda Prabhu, Kolakere Dasanna Prabhu and Kolakere Ram Narayana Prabhu.

After the fall of Kolakere Prabhu family, the Kadambi Prabhus migrated back to Kolakere House and managed the affairs. Although Kadambi Prabhus are the offshoot of Kolakere Prabhus the present Kolakere Prabhus are all Kadambi Prabhus who came back to Kolakere House. Thus Kolakere and Kadambi are the titles, which are synonymous to one and other. Both are respected in Mogaranadu 1000 seemas and Vittal 2000 seemas.

Suggestions are invited from among readers for any variations to the facts against evidence.

Prof. KADAMBI RAMDASA PRABHU
(Cultural Anthropologist)

Kolakere & Kadambi Prabhus

The inquisition of Goa speaks of dispersal of Christians and Brahmins from the state of Goa to the neighboring places on the entire West Coast from Bombay to Cochin. The migrants left Goa along with their Kuladevatha statues, gold and members of their families. KOLAKERE PRABHUs belong to KASHYAP gothra and SRI DEVAKI KRISHNA MAHALAXMI RAVALNATH is their Kuladevatha. About 600 years ago the families of Prabhus came and settled at Bantwal adjacent to the river Nethravathi. Bantwal was a commercial capital of Nandar Dynasty. It is believed that our elders brought gold coins, which could not be estimated.

The Prabhus family started their commercial trading business in Bantwal. On seeing the wholesale business, export-import business and a great charity (Dana Dharma), the Kings of Nandar Dynasty appointed Anantha Prabhu as his Commercial Minister.

Kolakere House

Ruled by Jain family known as BALLALS. They were holding large acres of land and considered to be the 4th Samants(LAND LORDS)in Mogarnadu Dynasty covering 1000 seemas. The Ballals were 7 brothers and were notorious in their deeds. Sri Ullalthi, Goddess spirit was born in Kolakere House and Kolakere is considered to be a dominant house in the Mogarnadu Dynasty and enjoyed high status.

These Ballals are related to the Balthila Beedu, the 3rd dominant House of Samants in Mogarnadu 1000 seemas. The 2 brother Daivas were occupants in Balthila Beedu where Sri Ullalthi also joined them.

These Ballals were dealing with our Prabhu family for all their requirements in Business term. It so happened that all the 7 brothers of Ballals vanished due to their internal feud. And only women had survived. She approached the King of Nandar and requested with His Majesty to make necessary arrangements to pay off large debts due to Prabhus. The King calls the Prabhu and tells him to takeover the Kolakere House and the property towards the debts. Accordingly, the Kolakere House along with vast landed property came into the control of Prabhus.

The Kings of Nandar Dynasty was pleased with the wisdom of Prabhus and requested him to come over to Nandar and to stay with the Majesty. Thus, when the Kolakere House came under Prabhus, all were in Nandar. The Business place was Bantwal, a commercial center of dominance.

The problems for Prabhu to stay in a Jain House was because of cultural difference. Jain Houses of Samants are called as Beedu. There was Spirit worship in the house, which Prabhus found difficult to adjust. Prabhus are Madhwa/Vaishnav Brahmins known as Gowda Saraswat Brahmins. The local Tulu Culture was strange and they were not ready to accept this change. Hence, Prabhu thought of staying in Nandar but would like to hold the Kolakere House and landed properties. It was a great prestige to be known as LAND LORDS/SAMANTS. Samants are little Kings under the main King. They are nowadays considered as Governors.

That position of Samants had high paraphernalia and were honored by the people. It was a high status position in the Government of the King. For all major issues, the Samants were to be consulted and opinions were to be collected by the King, especially in revenue,

security, and development matters. A Samant represents the King. The Samants Rajas were carrying the Honorable Sword, traveling in a palanquin under the Royal Umbrella White in color. The Nandar Kings and 4 Samants from (1) Odal Guthu (2) Punjalimar Guthu (3) Balthila Beedu and (4) Kolakere Beedu.

Prabhus were the first non-Jains to become the Samant in Nandar Dynasty. In Tulunadu Dynasties, Prabhus were the first to become Ministers and belonging to the House of Lords i.e. Lords of Kolakere House.

In order to have better control on Kolakere Beedu, for a temporary period, Prabhus were staying in Kalladka (town closer to Kolakere House).

In the earlier paragraph it was discussed that as Gowda Saraswath Brahmins we had great difficulty in accepting Bhootharadhana (spirit worship) where offerings of cocks (bird) and Pig etc., form the Tulunadu custom of praying for spirits. Gowda Saraswaths are Aryan Brahmins. In Tulunadu a Dravidian state, there were differences in living, food marriage customs, God worship etc. The local people were pressurizing Prabhus to accept the local customs in the interest of the citizens.

Accordingly, during the time of Navarathri/Dasara, Prabhus are to worship for Nava Durga and to read Sri Devi Parayana. It was on the 5th day (Panchami) in the night in the dreams of Prabhu Devi appeared. Devi told Prabhu that during the day he had read from Devi Parayana the chapter on Devi killing the demon Dhumaraksasha. In Tulunadu the same Devi is called as Dhoomavathi. As Brahmins worship in their own way which is accepted by Goddess same as local people worship in their own way which is also accepted by her. Hence, Prabhus should also practice and participate in all rituals and customs of local system. Daiva Dhoomavathi promised Prabhu to save him and his family from all evils and difficulties. On the same day while milking the cow the blood was found in the milk. The local servants informed Prabhu that by worshiping Dhoomavathi, such happenings get stopped. That was also the firm belief of Jains in Kolakere House. Jains who are not Hindus also worship spirits in order to go at par with local beliefs and worships.

We constructed a new house in Kolakere and named it as "Kolakere Guthu" and changed the name from "Beedu" to "Guthu". Kolakere Guthu is in the Hindu architect having the God worship of Lord Narasimha. On the front room you find the cradle for Daiva Dhoomavathi. Dhoomavathi is the spirit in the house. The Sanskrit name for Dhoomavathi is "Dhoomrakshi". Dhoomavathi is always associated with her right hand assistant known as BUNTA, a male daiva. Dhoomavathi is the female daiva of higher status forms the part of NavaDurga. The Kolakere House daiva Dhoomavathi is the right assistant to the superior Daiva Ullalthi. Hence, a number of daivas are inter connected to Kolakere House. The Prabhu family started worship of Daivas/spirits as a result started occupying a leading and dominating position in the Tulunadu.

The powerful personality who was a minister in the court of Nandar Dynasty was one Sri Anantha Prabhu. He is considered to be the founder or Moola Purusha for Kolakere Prabhus. The person who constructed and stayed in Kolakere House is Sri Govinda Prabhu. In the family tree of Prabhus, Sri Govinda Prabhu's name one can see at the top.

Kolakere and Balthia Beedu

Once upon a time, both the houses were ruled by BALLALS who were Jains. They were cousins and lived in harmony with vast lands and properties in larger part of Mogarnadu 1000 seemas.

Balthila Beedu is the royal palace or place for the Mogarnadu 1000 seemas royal spirits known as Ajwara Daivangalu (Brother Daivas-Elder and Younger). Thus Balthila Beedu became a royal court in Mogarnadu seema. All the disputes arising in the area were settled in the court (Chavadi) of Balthila Beedu.

Annappa Panjurli a powerful spirit of Kshetra Dharmastala having seen the Dharma conducted in Balthila Beedu and the part of Shiva Shakti-the two brothers, came and occupied in Balthila Beedu. Subsequently, the brothers (Daivas) came over to Kolakere when the Goddess Shakti Ullalthi was occupying in Kolakere. These two brothers, Ullalthi and House spirit Dhoomavathi all go to Mular where the Ullalthi Bhandaramane is situated. Ullalthi being No.1 royal Daiva in Mogarnadu seema, Kolakere being the birth House of Ullalthi, thus Kolakere occupied No.1 place of importance in the entire Mogarnadu seema. Kolakere is considered as the Holiest place in Mogarnadu seema because of birth place (Moola stana\ Janma stana) of Ullalthi.

Balthila Beedu and Kolakere House belonging to the same family of Ballals. The elder brother's House was Balthila Beedu and younger brother's House was Kolakere House. The popular person in Balthila was Jathanna Ballal and the one from Kolakere was Mahishekara Ballal. They used to move around on Horses. Among Daivangalu, the elder brother's House was Balthila and younger brother's House was Kolakere. Again this made Kolakere House to occupy a prominent place.

The Ullalthi and her two brothers (Younger & Elder) annual festivals are conducted twice a year. These festivals are conducted by both Balthila and Kolakere house people. In absence of any one, the festivals are not conducted. Kolakere House Prabhus have donated lands for the purpose of Nitya Viniyoga (Daily Pooja) and for miscellaneous programmes in favor of Ullalthi.

Above all, Kolakere House became powerful after the family of Ballals was ruined by the House Daivas Dhoomavathi and Bunta due to indecent behavior of Ballals Prabhu family occupied the House. Prabhus were very rich in those days and were in commercial\business activities. They used to supply commodities and money to the big land- Lords, agriculturist etc. Hence the

position of Prabhus in Kolakere House became more dominant in that entire area. At one time, Kolakere Prabhus had lent money and commodities to the Rajas of Vittal Dynasty consisting of 2000 seemas. (To Be Continued)

WAWONA

(An Inspirational Poem by Avinash Joshi of Mission Viejo, CA, Age 11)

Blue jays soar above the town at dawn,
What a grand deserving sight!
In the distance I spot a small cute fawn,
This is such a delight!

Trees all over and some needed fresh air,
This is the place to be.
Hills and rivers and even a bear,
This is a wonderful place to see!

As I walk down the road of stone,
I may find some people biking--
I sprint to my favorite stables alone,
People can do anything to their liking!

I see my horse Boise, ready for a ride,
As I decide to go on the trail.
I can see nature is on my side
So I know for sure I won't fail!

KEEP WALKING

Mayur Vivek Kalbag

PS: Mayur was scheduled to address the Konkani youth for the KS-2002. But, the US Consulate in Mumbai turned down his visa

Road may be dark, road may be bright
It may be crooked or simply straight
Remain unruffled; be strong and focused

Times will be tough; you may fall at times
Stand up, strengthen your will; keep walking
Alone, you never are, God is with you
He is omnipresent, like the sky above

Paths may be many; paths may overlap
Confuse you, they may; you may get scared
Remember then, the journey is only one
Reinforce this belief; just keep walking

Life is a boon; life is a beautiful opportunity
Waste your life, never; realize its true meaning
On a journey, you are, a journey without trains or planes
Journey is within and not without, just keep walking

Mind is your vehicle, a medium to take you through
On the footsteps of your JAPA you will reach your goal
The journey may be long , its destination, far
Journey itself, an experience of happiness and peace

Attain your goal, you will, a state of immense bliss
A feeling you will feel, a feeling with no feelings
In HIS caress, you will perpetually be
Journey will end in HIS soul, no more life, no more death
Just keep walking, just keep walking

The Grand-Unifying Ideas (GUIs) of the Vedic Religion

By Dr. Suresh K. Shenoy

What are Grand-Unifying Ideas?

Every system of thought, whether religious or secular, contains ideas, which may be called the Grand-Unifying Ideas (GUIs) of that system. The GUIs are the central truths of the thought-system; all other truths within the system are either derived from the GUIs or are connected to them in some demonstrable way. For example, the GUI of the Abrahamic religions -- Judaism, Christianity, and Islam -- is the idea of an exclusive-monotheistic God. God, according to the Abrahamic religions, is the creator of the universe and His grace leads to salvation. Thus the GUI, God, is closely connected with the cosmological model and the idea of salvation, both of which are important aspects of religious thought. These ideas, formed long ago in the Old Testament, were somewhat modified in the New Testament and the Holy Koran. Though the idea of an exclusive-monotheistic God is a powerful feature of the Abrahamic religions, the constraints inherent in the idea have led to religious intolerance and much violence throughout the course of history.

The Grand-Unifying ideas of the Vedic Religion

The Vedic religion, or Hinduism, has given the world not one but two magnificent GUIs, the first being the idea of *Ishwara* or the Lord, and the second being *Advaita*, or non-dualism. The idea of *Ishwara* is fully developed in the Vedic mantras and is explored further in the *Upanishads*. The origin of *Advaita* is also found in the Vedic mantras, e.g., in the *Nasadiya Suktam* in *Rigveda*. However, the full unfolding of the *Advaitic* theme occurs only in the *Upanishads*. The ideas of *Ishwara* and *Advaita* are not mutually exclusive; rather, the idea of *Ishwara* naturally leads to the idea of *Advaita*. These two ideas are at the core of the Hindu religious world-view and are the very basis of Indian civilization. The Vedic religion has also developed other important unifying ideas, such as those of *Dvaita Vedanta*, *Visistadvaita* and the dualistic *Sankhya*. However, even a brief examination of these will not be possible in this short paper.

The inclusiveness inherent in the ideas of *Ishwara* and *Advaita* confers to the Vedic religion the ability to bring peace and harmony to all the religions of the world. In addition, *Advaita* possesses the potential to reconcile the seemingly incompatible world-view of modern science with that of religion. A satisfactory exploration of these important themes will require the writing of a long paper or even a book. However, we will chiefly concern ourselves here with a brief examination of the idea of *Ishwara* in relation to that of an exclusive-monotheistic God. In addition, we will take a brief look at two approaches to the subject of *Advaita*, a theistic approach and a philosophical approach.

Ishwara and God

“Truth is One, the wise call It by various names as Agni, Yama, Matarishvan.” These famous lines from *Rigveda* concisely state the ideal of *Ishwara*, or the Lord, which holds that all the deities are but various manifestations of *Ishwara*. This conviction, that the same Lord is being worshipped all over the world in different forms (or without any form) and by different names, is quintessentially a Hindu idea. Conversely, any deity of one’s preference (*Ishtam*) may be worshipped as *Ishwara*. In contrast, the First Commandment of the Old Testament states “You shall have no other gods before Me” and is interpreted by the followers of the Abrahamic religions to mean, “You shall worship no god other than Me.” The exclusivity intrinsic to the Commandment results in the branding of the deities of all other sects and religions as “False gods.” The Hindus accept all religions of the world as valid paths to salvation in spite of the differences that may exist in their basic tenets. More than a hundred years ago, Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa expressed this liberality of view: “The one *Sat-Chit-Ananda* (Existence-Consciousness-Bliss) is invoked by some as God, by some as Allah, by some as Hari and by others as Brahman.”

The concept that “The Lord is infinite, His names are infinite and His forms are infinite” (*Hari ananta, Hari nama ananta, Hari roopa ananta*) validates all names and all forms that humans may ascribe to *Ishwara*. In contrast, the Second Commandment states, “You shall not make any graven images.” This effectively confines the followers of the Abrahamic religions to worshipping God without giving him form even though the Biblical God is anthropomorphic. The Biblical God is thought to have the form of a human being, or, more accurately, He has created man in His own image.

Many young Hindus in the USA tend to look at their own religion through the lens of Christian ideas. Thus, they harbor thoughts that the Vedic religion is polytheistic and that the Hindus worship idols. Many of these youngsters are frankly ashamed of their own religion. It is important for them to understand that the Hindus worship *Ishwara* in countless forms, and that the Hindus respect the choices made by every other religion of the world in matters of worship and faith.

Historically, the implications of the First and the Second Commandments have roused the followers of Christianity and Islam to a missionary zeal and an iconoclastic fervor not seen among any other of the world religions. This is however not true of the Jews, to

whom the Ten Commandments were given by God in the first place as recorded in the Old Testament. How is one to understand this paradox? The Jews have never tried to convert others to their faith, nor have they persecuted others because of religion; on the contrary, the Jews have themselves been persecuted throughout their long history. The interpretation that I attempt here is influenced by the Hindu way of looking at religious differences. We Hindus accept that the Biblical God is also *Ishwara* and is therefore infinite. The human mind, however, is finite. Revelations from God, such as the receiving of the Ten Commandments, are readings of the infinite by the finite mind, and are thus limited by the circumstances of the revelations. The first and the second Commandments were given to the Jews to save them from being swallowed up by their much stronger neighbors; the Egyptians, the Babylonians, the Greeks, etc. Moses received the Ten Commandments at a very crucial period in Jewish history, during which the Jews were fleeing slavery in Egypt. To survive as a people they had to set themselves starkly apart from their often-hostile neighbors. The First and Second Commandments achieved this purpose by creating a defensive fence around the Jews. The First and Second Commandments became arguments for conversion only after the advent of Christianity, at which point the deity of the Old Testament came to be projected as the universal God who alone should be worshipped by all the people of the world through His only begotten son, Lord Jesus.

Two Approaches to Advaita or Non-dualism: Theistic and Non-Theistic

Purusha Suktam, which is found in all the four Vedas, states, “The *Purusha* (or *Ishwara*) indeed is all this (i.e., the universe), what was and what will be. The Lord of immortality transcends all material forms.” This understanding of *Ishwara* as the unity underlying the apparent diversity of the world constitutes the theistic approach to *Advaita*. *Ishwara* is both immanent and transcendent. He is both the material cause of the world and its efficient cause. The multiplicity of names and forms in the universe is nothing but an appearance. In truth, the universe, the worshipper, and the worshipped are nothing but *Ishwara*. It is not just that *Ishwara* is one, rather, there is only *Ishwara*. People who are ignorant of this truth suffer the travails of *samsara*, the phenomenal world. The wise ones who realize this truth by knowing *Ishwara* attain immortality by overcoming *samsara*. This vision of unity in the Vedas can be contrasted with the teachings of the Abrahamic scriptures, which are almost entirely dualistic. They consider it a blasphemy to proclaim, “I am He.” However, we hear the echoes of *Advaita* in some sayings of Lord Jesus, for example, “I and my Father are one.” Christians admit the truth of this statement only in the case of the Christ, but not in others. In Islam, many Sufi saints have made ecstatic declarations of unity with the divine. However, in the Abrahamic traditions, the policies of the clergy and of the dominant churches are not in favor of exploring *Advaita*. It is quite possible that these *Advaitic* trends in the Abrahamic religions were stimulated by their contact with Indian thought.

The second approach, an intellectually rigorous and philosophical approach to *Advaita*, is found in the Upanishads. This approach, which goes beyond the idea of a personal deity, may be called the non-theistic approach. The Upanishads undertake an analysis of the relationship between the observer and the observed, and of the valid means of knowledge. The complete identity of the observer with the observed is declared in the *Maha Vakyas*, e.g. “*Tat Tvam Asi*,” or “That You Are.” The non-dual truth is shown to be beyond all categories of space, time, and causation, yet it is the source, the sustenance, and the final refuge of the phenomenal world. These ideas have entered modern physics only in the last hundred years or so. The implications of non-dualism have been explored exhaustively by both Buddhist (e.g. Nagarjuna) and Hindu (e.g., Gauda Pada and Shankara) philosophers. Their contributions have built the rigorous intellectual structures of the religions of India, which are capable of assimilating even the latest discoveries of modern science.

Conclusion: The Importance of Articulating Our Religious World-view

The Vedic religion has a message of peace and hope to offer the world. The essence of the message is contained in the two grand-unifying ideas of *Ishwara* and of *Advaita*. It is crucial that we fully understand the relevance of this message and articulate it to our non-Hindu friends. Perhaps more importantly, we must explain these ideas to our children growing up in the USA. The young Hindus in the USA face pressures and entertain doubts about their religion that we did not experience while growing up in India. It is essential that we teach them the intellectual structure of the Vedic religion so that they can be confident about the validity of their religion and be able to hold their own in discussions with their non-Hindu friends. Peace, understanding, and harmony among the various religions and between science and religion can be achieved only through the proper understanding and articulation of the grand-unifying ideas of the Vedic religion.

Biographical Notes

Suresh Shenoy grew up near Mangalore in Karnataka. He got his B. Tech from IIT, Madras in Mechanical Engineering and attended graduate school at the University of Florida, where he earned a Ph. D. in Nuclear Engineering. He is currently employed at Alstom Power Company in Connecticut as a senior consulting engineer. Suresh lives in Wallingford, CT with his wife and two children. His interests include the study of world religions, religious and secular philosophies and the emerging world-view of modern science.

UPDATE ON MITHUN – June 2002

Mithun does not need to make his quarterly trips to OHSU (Oregon Health Sciences University) at Portland because the first experimental protocol in which he was enrolled in was discontinued on February 1. Due to dramatic results in subsequent trials and the rapid approval of this miracle drug, Gleevec, OHSU decided that local oncologists could care for their patients. Mithun is continuing to take his ‘miracle’ pills under the supervision of Dr. Raj Warriar at Children’s Hospital in New Orleans. We owe our deepest gratitude to Dr. Druker, who was responsible for the development and testing of this breakthrough drug, and for accepting Mithun for treatment into his new protocol in December 1999. Mithun is the second pediatric patient in the trial of this drug. We pray and wish Dr. Druker continued success. We feel he is a strong contender for the Nobel Prize for this breakthrough discovery of molecularly targeted oral medicine with hardly any side effects.

Mithun is finishing his 10th grade and studying for his SAT exam this summer. We are looking forward to the Konkani Sammelan 2002 in Houston this July 4th weekend. We will be helping in the bone marrow drive held there. If you are not already registered, we hope and urge all of you to consider registering at this time. We will be happy to talk to you about the importance of being a donor.

We are grateful to the Konkani community and Khabbar for all their support. We will be happy to share our experiences with anyone who is going through a similar crisis and who may need advice and support. Thanks also to those of you who donated last month to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) in response to Maya Shenoy’s (Mithun’s aunt) appeal. The LLS heavily funded Dr. Druker’s studies, which resulted in this miracle drug, Gleevec.

Even though Mithun may not need a bone marrow transplant any more, we continue to work towards adding more bone marrow donors to the National Registry for the sake of many other less fortunate cancer patients whose life depends on bone marrow from a matched donor. Through our crisis, we have realized how important the Gift of Life is. Bone marrow, when donated to save a life, replenishes within 3-4 weeks, just like blood donation with absolutely no loss to the donor. Without a suitable HLA matched donor, the chance of survival is slim for many cancer patients. Those of you, who have not yet become a part of the registry, please give it serious consideration. You may be able to save a life.

Contact us for information on how you can become a donor and how to organize a donor drive.. You can also get more information at <http://boloji.com/bonemarrow/index.html> and at <http://www.samarinfo.org>

Burde Laxminarayan/Urmila Kamath
2228 Killdeer Street
New Orleans, LA 70122

e-mail: bkamath@xula.edu
Phone: 504-288-9780
Fax: 504-286-3308

“We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give” – Winston Churchill

KONKANI CALENDER

July 2002	August 2002	September 2002
4th to 6th Konkani Sammelan 2002	8 th Amavasya	6 th Amavasya
9 th Amavasya	12 th Naga Panchami	9 th Gowri Thrithiye, Ganesh Chaturthi
16 th Sankranthi	18 th Ekadashi	16 th Ekadashi
23 rd Poornami	22 nd Poornami - Yajurpakarma	19 th Anantha Chaturdashi
27 th Sankashta Chaturthi	26 th Sankashta Chaturthi	21 st Poornami
	30 th Sri Krishna Janmashtami	22 nd Mahalaya
		24 th Angaraka Chaturthi

Khabbar thanks Sri P. V. Kamath of Shrewsbury, MA for furnishing the Panchang and My Astrologer-version 1.0 by Mr. Muralidhar Shenoy of Durham, NC

My Sincere Thanks to

Some readers go out of their way to help Khabbar. Monetary means is one of them. The Advisory Committee of Khabbar has decided on publishing the names of the families that has contributed \$50.00 or more to Khabbar. This quarter, the following have extended their help and thanks to you

Names	Amount, \$
Ganesh & Nandini Baliga, Brentwood, NY	100.00
Ajith & Archana Pai, Toledo, OH	50.00
Ratnakar & Jayanthi Pai, Farmington Hills, MI	50.00
Srinivas & Ashalatha Prabhu, Lincolnwood, IL	50.00
Gopal & Pratibha Bhandarkar, Bayport, NY	101.00
Mohan & Mohini Kamath, Cerritos, CA	50.00
Balakrishna & Indumathi Pai, Bloomfield Hills, MI	75.00

Jayashree & Jayaraman Rao, New Orleans, LA	100.00
Dattananda & Shanta Bhat, Jamaica, NY	115.00

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Description	Amount, \$
Balance Carried over since Khabbar Vol. XXV No. 1	1,760.00
Money Received:	
Subscriptions (82) and donations	1,941.00
Advertisements (7)	165.00
Interest	4.00
Sub Total:	2,110.00
Money Spent (Khabbar Vol. XXV No. 1):	
Printing-Khabbar (900) - 20 pages	810.00
First Class Mail-Khabbar (810)	461.70
Canada Khabbar (30)	25.50
Overseas (20)	60.00
Mail Fines, computer paper & labels, envelopes, service fees, etc	342.80
Ad for KS-2002	150.00
Sub Total:	1,850.00
Final Balance:	2,020.00

Money spent on this issue was not available during press time.

KWIZ

This Quarter's Quiz

By

“Vasanthmaam”

Continuing with the Konkani tradition of quizzing, here's the brainteaser for this quarter. If you can solve this correctly, send it to Khabbar address to have your name published in the next issue.

Since NOBODY was able to solve last quarter's quiz, it is repeated to see whether ANYONE can get the correct solution.

Two jockeys were fighting for the hand of a beautiful girl. The father of the girl who liked neither of these men to become the future husband of his daughter, came up with a clever plan: a race would determine who of the two men would be allowed to marry his daughter. And so he organized a horse race and the one whose horse would arrive **LAST** in race would be allowed to marry his daughter! The two jockeys, realizing that this could be come a rather lengthy expedition, finally decided to consult a Wise Konkani Man of their village. Arrived there, they explained him the situation, upon which the Wise Konkani Man raised his cane and spoke three wise words. Relieved, the two jockeys were ready for the contest! What were the Konkani Wise Man's three words that helped them to compete?

Dr. VILAS PRABHU has been appointed Associate Provost for Academic and Student Affairs at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

Prabhu has served the past four years as Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, the largest school on the SWOSU campus. Before being named Dean in 1998, Prabhu served four years as chairman of the Pharmaceutical Sciences Department in the SWOSU School of Pharmacy. He joined Southwestern as a faculty member in the School of Pharmacy in 1980. As Associate Provost, Prabhu will serve as an integral part of the University's executive team and act on behalf of Provost Bet Becker during her absence. He will be involved with all aspects of the University and will provide leadership in the creation, development, coordination, and implementation of academic goals, educational policy, service to students and an integrated marketing system.

Since coming to Southwestern in 1980, he has assumed a variety of leadership positions on campus and in the community. Prabhu received the inaugural Bernhardt Academic Excellence Award in 1994. He has served on the SWOSU Faculty Senate for more than 12 years and served as president in 1990-1991. As chairman of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program Development Committee, he was instrumental in SWOSU offering the Interdisciplinary Studies degree program starting this fall. He has served on numerous university and school committees and panels. He is a graduate of the 1999-2000 Educator's Leadership Academy. Also active in the community, Prabhu was elected in 1997 to a five-year term on the Board of Education for the Weatherford Public Schools. He served as president of the Weatherford Rotary Club in 1995-96 and has been involved in several fund raising efforts for community projects. He served as VP of the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics Parents' Association from 1995-97.

Among the several honors and awards he has received for his community service activities are Rotary International's Paul Harris Fellow Award in 1999 and Citizen of the Year - 2001 Award from the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. He is a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma Class XV.

Prabhu has broad academic background, earning a bachelor's degree in chemistry, master's degrees in both pharmacy and business administration, and a doctoral degree in pharmaceutical sciences.

It is a honor to have Dr. PRABHU as the Keynote Speaker for the Konkani Sammelan 2002

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The Advisory Committee of Khabbar has unanimously decided NOT to accept any ads. wherein the advertisers prefer to stay anonymous by using Khabbar reference.

WANTED:

Any Hoon Khabbar, sunshine news, your or your child's promotion or achievement, articles of interest, etc. are always in need to be published in Khabbar. Share your joy or grief with fellow Konkans. Send your contribution to: Khabbar, P. O. Box 222, Lake Jackson, TX 77566-0222. email: khabbar@hotmail.com

KONKANI CHARITIES

The American Konkani Association (A. K. A.) is helping eligible Konkani youth by granting College Loan Scholarships. Send your generous contributions to:

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The Saraswat Foundation is helping poor deserving Bhanaps in India. Send your donations to: Saraswat Foundation

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Morrisville, PA 19067

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The Three river Area Konkani Association (TAKA) is a non-profit organization helping the needy Konkans in North America and India. Send generous contributions to:

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World Konkani Conference (WKC)-1995 Video

As a fundraiser, the Konkani Basha Mandal of Mangalore has provided a rare video-"Coming Together" of the WKC-1995. This 35-min. video covers the highlights of the December 1995 historic event held in Mangalore. The social and cultural events are a treasure every Konkani should have. Please, send \$20 (cash or check made out to WKC-1995) and mail to:

Ms. Nina Padukone, 430W 22nd Street, New York, NY 10011

KONKANI COOK BOOKS

The two Konkani Cook Books, "Indian Cooking Konkani Style" and "Millennium Masala Konkani Style" published by American Konkani Association (A. K. A.) are for sale. The cost per book is \$12.00 + \$1.50 for S & H. Mail check payable to A.K.A. to:

Mrs. Sandhya Kamath, 440 Glencrest Dr.,
Barrington, IL 60010, Phone: (847)-271-9771
skamath@aol.com

MATRIMONIAL ASSISTANCE

As a service to Konkani community, Sri. B. N. Baliga will offer free matrimonial assistance and send "SOIRIKA" monthly. Contact: Sri B. N. Baliga, 5th Main, Near Band Box, Bangalore 560 009 (INDIA)

<http://www.soirika.com>

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As a service to Konkani community, Sri. R. C. Nayak will offer free matrimonial assistance. Contact: Sri. R. C. Nayak

Pais Compound, Microwave Station Road
Mangalore 575 006 (INDIA)

APPEAL

I hope you are aware of my free service of Matrimonial Information to our Samaj since 1988. To meet the expenses towards the free publication of the SOIRIKA, your financial help is required. Your contribution will also be utilized to provide Mangalasutra, Sarees, and marriage expenses of the poor brides and also for the remarriage of young widows. Your contribution, big or small, may kindly be sent to by way of DD or check in favor of "GSB Matrimonial Trust" and sent to: Sri B. N. Baliga, 5th Main, Near Band Box, Bangalore 560 009 (INDIA)

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NOTICE

Of the four kindred Saraswat Maths of Kashi, Kavle, Partagali and Chitrapur, Chitrapur Math had no Mathadhipathi from 1991 till early 1997. **HH Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji** was anointed as the Mathadhipati of the Chitrapur Math in February 1997. Since then there is a resurgence of religious and social activity not just in the Math but also in the whole community. Swamiji has a vision for the social and spiritual upliftment of the community and the region, and particularly the youth.

To make the overseas Konkani aware of the activities being undertaken at the behest of HH Swamiji and His future plans, a short presentation will be made at the **Konkani Sammelan 2002** during 04 to 06 July 2002 at Houston titled "**HH Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji's vision for Shirali**". The presentation will be made jointly by **Mohan Hemmadi** and **N. Jayavanth Rao**, Vice President and Member respectively, of the Standing Committee of the Chitrapur Math.

APPEAL

A Revolution Called Pratham.....

On behalf Pratham, we would like to invite you to attend the PRATHAM GALA NIGHT on Aug. 31st in New York City. (On August 24th in Houston, TX)

Pratham is a NGO, which aims to enable an educational revolution in India through a grassroots literacy movement. Pratham focuses on educating the children in the urban slums of India. Started in 1993 in Mumbai, Pratham has sparked the interest of thousands in the U.S. and India. It has been so successful that this movement has not only spread to other Indian cities, but various local governments have adopted this model for education.

Poor children are educated in local "Balwadis" - informal community schools containing 10-20 students each. Pratham provides training to local volunteers and leaders on teaching and running the balwadi. Each balwadi costs about \$150 per year, which is proof of how little it takes to provide an education to a child. More information can be obtained on Pratham's web-site at <http://www.pratham.org>

This is not about giving a one-time meal or charity, but an investment in a child's future. 99% of funds collected reach the target audience. Pratham's decentralized model makes it very flexible and low-cost.

To raise awareness of Pratham & to raise money for this cause, Indians in the tristate area are organizing a PRATHAM FUND RAISER NITE on Aug. 31st in New York City. This is an excellent opportunity for you to meet like-minded socially conscious people. Dinner and light entertainment will be provided. Waheeda Rehman (60s & 70s Hindi movie star) will be the guest speaker.

We intend to surpass the \$300,000 that Pratham Houston raised in one night! This can only be achieved with your support, so please make an effort to attend. We also accept pledges/donations in case you cannot attend. RSVPs can be sent to us via e-mail or phone at the following -

E-mail :- ashenoy68@hotmail.com
surishenoy@hotmail.com

Tel. # :- 973-742-0828

Look forward to hearing from you. Thank you!

On Behalf of Pratham,
Ashok and Surekha Shenoy

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