

Khabbar

North American Konkani Newsletter

Volume XXV No. 4

October, November, December - 2002

From:

The Honorary Editor,
"Khabbar"

P. O. Box 222

Lake Jackson, TX 77566 - 0222

XXV-4

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.

There is no doubt in my mind that some *Khabbar* readers read the first page through the last page of each and every issue! Some even go through all the pages with a fine tooth comb attached with a magnifying glass!!

Case in point, here's a letter I received from this family in MA:

Dear Vasanthmaam,

Rec'd yr latest *khabbar* (Vol. XXV No.3) y'day and it is very interesting to see anew info and that is giving the email id of many Konkanis. It is very helpful if any Konkani wants to contact others with greater ease.

However on page 6, center column under New Arrivals: RHEA: nice to hear about the birth but the child cannot have two paternal grandparents. Trust Vasudev and Nirmala Bhat of Mumbai must be the maternal grandparents.

Under Konkani Calendar Navaratri (not VAVARATRI) begins on October 7th and not 6th according to *Panchang* and 6th is *Mahalaya Amavasya*. Moreover if December 16th is *Mukkoti Dwadashi*, *Ekadashi* shud be the previous day i.e., December 15th. Is it not?

Regards,
(name withheld)

Reply from the Advisory Committee:

Khabbar takes extra efforts to minimize errors (typo, grammatical, etc) and sometimes purposely includes errors to see whether the readership is aware of these mistakes or not?! In the same page 6, Baby girl Nithya is NOT a grand son to her grand parents! Could it be that your magnifying glass was clouded with!!!

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 2003 at \$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 |
|------|----------|--------|----------------|
| | | | |
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| | | | |
| | | | |

Comments, if any: _____

Quarterly Newsletter
For Circulation to the Konkani Community in North America
Volume XXV No. 4

October, November, December - 2002

Honorary Editor: Mr. Vasanth Bhat

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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 issue of *Khabbar* has been mailed to **ALL** families that have paid dues **at least once since 1989**. 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 1989 and if there is any error, please, let me know.

The 2003 *Khabbar* Annual Mailing List will be mailed separately **only** to families that have paid their dues for the year 2002. The Mailing List has 1,728 families addresses and phone numbers. I am sure there are more of us in North America. If you know of families that is not in the list, please, send their details to me and I'll surely "khabbarize" them.

For the dues 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.

The Konkani Sammelan 2002 (KS-2002) is behind us but the Konkani spirit is alive with all the North American Konkanis. Already the Konkani Youth are planning

their 2nd Convention in 2003 in Austin, TX. The efforts are underway for the grand Sammelan of 2004 in Southern California. And looks like the venue for the 2006 Sammelan is already set. More on this later.

Back in India, the Konkani spirit is also very much alive. Plans are there for a Rs. 4 crore project, "**Vishwa Konkani Kendra**" to revive the Konkani literature and culture by **Konkani Bhas Ani Sanskriti Pratistan**. I hope North American Konkanis will participate in this great undertaking by donating generously.

Thanks to **Sri Sarvothamdas Pai** of the legendary Bhadrhiri brothers, the Konkani families across North America had the pleasure of listening to the *hari keertans*.

Also, a Konkani speaking sage, **Swami Jyotirmayananda**, is presently in the US. He had come here to participate in the World Association for Vedic Studies (WAVES) Inc. in July 2002. I hope Konkani families will avail his spiritual knowledge by contacting him directly at swamijyoti@vivekanandagospel.org.

Thanks to **Dr. K. P. S. Kamath**, *Khabbar* will start a series of articles by him on Stress & the *Bhagavad Gita*. His seminar at the KS-2002 was very much appreciated by the participants.

Khabbar is glad about the progress done by **Mithun Kamath**. The updates on Mithun which started in 1998 will not be

needed anymore. *Khabbar* thanks for all the Konkanis help to the family and wishes the Kamath family of New Orleans, LA all the best.

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, *Khabbar* has remained as an undefeated champion for a long time! It is really a pity to see only a handful few got the correct solution to the last quarter's quiz!! Moreover, some are even complaining the quizzes are too easy!!!

As the year 2002 comes to an end, it is time to reflect on needs of the community. A lot needs to be done to help the needy of our community either in India or here. *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.

With the year 2003 fast approaching, I hope the struggle to rid terrorism from this world will materialize soon.

Happy Holidays & Happy New Year to you all. *Devu Boren Karo*.

Vasanthi

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 Vasanth,

I will mail you in installments an article on Stress Management according to *Bhagavad Gita*. If you think it is worth publishing, you may do so. If not, I understand. No problem. Thanks,

*Prabhakar Kamath
Cape Girardeau, MO*

Editor's Reply:

Thanks. Your seminar on Stress Management during the Konkani Sammelan 2002 was very well received. Numerous people have called in or emailed in admiration of this seminar. The credit goes to the Seminar Committee of KS-2002 and you for benefiting the community. I hope the 2004 Sammelan will avail your expertise to help the community. *Khabbar* on its part will publish this on a regular basis. Thanks again.

Dear Vasanth Bhat

Our son, Mohit Bhende, has started a new magazine with other Gates Scholars named "*Topic*". The magazine is based in Cambridge, England, and has been distributed in the U.S. and other parts of the world. You published an article in *Khabbar* (Summer 2001) about Mohit after he was awarded a Gates Cambridge Scholarship. Mohit is a grandson of Tonse Ganapathi & Kasturi Kini and the late Dr. & Mrs. Bhende of Saraswat Colony, Mahim.

Topic is keen on attracting Konkani and other Indian writers and subscribers. It would be nice if you kindly publish news about it in the upcoming *Khabbar* and encourage the efforts of our Konkani youth.

Attached is an informational write-up about the magazine. Please let me know if you'd like to receive a complimentary copy of the first issue on WAR.

Feel free to contact us or Mohit mobhende@hotmail.com if you have any questions.

Thank you,

*Shailesh & Mananda Bhende
bhendes@infi.net*

Dear Mr. Bhat

I have attached the .pdf versions of the first issue on War, and the second issue on Fantasy with this email. I thought this would be a quicker way of getting the information to you. War featured a piece on Kashmir by a senior U.S. policymaker and his aid (Morton Halperin and Amit Pandya), and Fantasy features photographs from Bombay and Agra (taken by prize-winning Magnum photographer, Steve McCurry). Cities, our third issue (coming out in February) will feature an interview I conducted while in Bangalore.

Topic is sold on bookstands across the UK, and will be coming to the U.S. bookstands soon. People can also subscribe online at www.topicmag.com

I'm keen on attracting more Indian writers and subscribers, and hope write-ups such as those in India Abroad and potentially *Khabbar* will help in this effort.

Look forward to hearing from you,

Mohit Bhende
Publisher, Topic Magazine
mobhende@hotmail.com

Editor's Reply:

Thanks. Very impressive magazine and interesting articles. I encourage all Konkani authors to contribute their articles. I wish your venture all the best.

Dear Vasanth,

Thanks for the prompt acknowledgement. I arrived at NJ on July 8th to participate in the WAVES Conference at the Umass at Dartmouth (July 12-14, 2002) which, I am glad, is completed successfully. An audio-visual Power Point Presentation titled: "Vivekananda--100 Years Later"(about 45 minutes) in the context of the centenary of the mahasamadhi of Swami Vivekananda (July 4th 2002) has already been prepared. Also another one titled "Spirituality--India's Greatest

Contribution to the World", is almost ready.

There is an idea to visit all the Vedanta Centres in the US to show presentations for the benefit of all the devotees there. Also there is a possibility of visiting some of the Universities and Colleges in the US among the 500 to whom my book on Swami Vivekananda were presented last year by a devotee) with a view to show the PowerPoint Presentations to the student community as well as the teaching staff. I am sure the Presentations will be inspiring and informative to them.

This will be my main pre-occupation during this visit to the US. Details in due course.

Suggestions and guidance from you for the effective and successful accomplishment of the present mission are most welcome.

Kind regards

*Jyotirmayananda
swamijyoti@vivekanandagospel.org*

Dear Mr. V. Bhat,

Can you please print this appeal on next *Khabbar* for donation for a good cause under my personal appeal followed by this letter from B. Malini Mallya who took care of late Dr. Shivram Karanth until his death whom late Dr. Karanth called as his mother as well as daughter? You can also add to contact me to get further details and give my email address. Thanks.

*Sudhakara Shenoy
Houston, TX
bsshenoy@hotmail.com*

Dear Vasanth,

I would like to suggest this. In the "Statement of Accounts" section, there is enough room to make two columns : (1) Income and (2) Expense. This system will make it easy to read. Hope you don't mind my suggestion.

*Puspha Desai,
Missouri City, TX*

Editor's Reply:

Thanks. Its done!

Hoon Khabbar

Congratulations:

SURESH SHENOY & VASUDEV PRABHU of Houston, TX were the lead entertainers for the Amateur Talent Night hosted by Brazoria County's Indian Subcontinent Association (ISA) held on Friday September 28th 2002 at the Clute Municipal Building in Clute, TX.

An article "Time Management- A Design-Build Builder's Perspective" by **Srinath Pai Kasturi** of Dallas, TX was published in the September 2002 issue of *Cost Engineering* magazine of the Association for Advancement in Cost Engineering International (AACEI).

VINDYA of NYC, d/o Vasanth & Poonima Bhat of Lake Jackson, TX competed in the NYC marathon on Sunday November 3rd 2002. It took Ms. Bhat little over 4 hours to finish the 26.2 mile race.

SANJAY BHATT, of West Palm Beach, FL, s/o Ashwin and Kasturi Bhatt of Houston, TX recently received a FIRST PLACE award from the Florida Press Club in its 2002 competition for general excellence in the "War On Terrorism Coverage - Individual" category. Sanjay, who also recently spoke at a media workshop for leaders from 40 nations at the International Health Summit in Miami, has received two other prestigious awards for his coverage of the 2001 Anthrax attacks in Florida. Sanjay is the senior medical writer for The Palm Beach Post in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Only a selective Indian business executives met Bill Gates during his recent visit to India in November 2002. Among them was **Mr. K. V. KAMATH**, CEO of ICICI of Mumbai.

Konkani Graduates:

DIVYA, d/o Panduranga & Shilpa Bhakta of Glendale, NY graduated from High School and has joined Long Island University majoring in

Communication Sciences and Disorders.

ASHITA, d/o Ashok & Amitha Bhatt of London, Ont., Canada has been accepted into the prestigious Biology Pharmacology Co-op program at McMaster University.

SEEMA, d/o Padmanabh & Shashi Bhandarkar of Ontario, Canada has graduated from the Kinesiology program at the University of Waterloo.

SEEMANTINI, d/o Kishore & Sucheta Nadkarni of Ontario, Canada successfully defended her PhD thesis entitled "Cardiac motion synchronization for 3D cardiac ultrasound imaging" on June 12th 2002 at the University of Western Ontario. During her tenure as a graduate student, she was awarded post-graduate scholarships over a four year period by the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC, Canada) in addition to graduate tuition scholarships awarded by her University. She was also recently rewarded a two year scholarship by NSERC to pursue future post-doctoral research at institutions of her choice. On July 15th 2002, Seemantini was presented with the "Third Place Young Investigator Award" for an outstanding paper presentation entitled, "Retrospective Cardiac Gating for 3D Intravascular Ultrasound Imaging using an Image Based Technique", by the American Association of Physicists in Medicine.

VILAS PRABHU of Ontario, Canada, successfully completed the Executive M.B.A. programme from Richard Ivey School of Business.

PADMA KAMATH of Ontario, Canada, successfully completed the Executive M.B.A. programme from Rotman school of Management, from University of Toronto.

ABHAY, s/o Vivek & Maya Kulkarni of Mississauga, Ont., Canada obtained F.R.C.S. in Neurology.

ANAND, s/o Venkatraya and Padma Kamath of Hamilton, Ont., Canada graduated from High School and has been accepted into the Computer Eng. Programme at MacMaster University of Hamilton.

ARCHANA, d/o Ashok & Asha Shenoy graduated from High School and is now doing 1st. Year Life Sciences programme at University of Toronto.

New Arrivals:

RISHI, a baby boy to Ashwin & Priya Amladi of Ontario, Can. on August 1st 2002.

ESHAN, a baby boy to Nitin & Pratibha Betrabet of Ontario, Can on August 13th 2002.

SNEHA, 8.1 lb & 21" tall baby girl to Sunil and Sandhya Shenoy of Spring, TX, on September 19th 2002. A baby sister to Sreesh. The paternal grand parents are R. G. K. Shenoy & (late) Prema Shenoy, Vashi and the maternal grand parents are Devappa & Meera Pai, Chembur.

RONAN, a baby boy to Mahesh & Seema Nayak of Highland Park, IL on Sept 21st 2002. Paternal grandparents are Narayan & Nirmala Nayak of Lafayette, CA and maternal grandparents are Anil & Shanta Shenoy of Los Altos, CA. Great grand mothers are Sunitha Shanbhag of Los Altos, CA and Vijaya Prabhu of Bangalore

MEGAN, a daughter to Dr. Hemant and Linda Keny of Gilroy, CA on Sept. 27th 2002. The paternal grand parents are Vasant & Surekha Keny of La Palma, CA.

ROHAN, a baby boy to Ashwin & Meghana Shanbhag, Richmond Hill, Ont., Canada on October 3rd 2002. A brother to Neha, Paternal grand parents are Chandrakant & Sindhu Shanbhag, Mumbai and maternal grandparents are Umesh & Vineeta Kulkarni, Mumbai.

ARJUN, a baby boy to Gopal and Deepa Prabhu of San Jose, CA on October 20th 2002. Arjun's paternal grandparents are Bantwal Srinivasa & Swarna Prabhu from Madras and maternal grandparents are Devakikrishna & Nirmala Prabhu from Pune.

SAMIR, a baby boy to Sanjay & Sarita Mallya of Farmington, CT on October 30th 2002.

The paternal grand parents are Mohan & Tara Mallya of Mangalore and visiting Samir are his maternal grand parents Cmde K.S. Pai & Malini Pai of Mumbai.

SACHIN, baby boy to Dinkar & Usha Bhat of South Brunswick, NJ on Nov. 2nd 2002. A brother to Srikant.

His paternal grandparents are Dr. Raghavendra and Prema Bhat of Powai, Mumbai and visiting Sachin are his maternal grandparents Umesh and Chitra Rao of Versova, Mumbai.

SALIL, a baby boy to Sachin & Sangeetha. Kamath of Plainview, LI on November 19th 2002. A grandson to Narasinha & Lalita Kamath of Flushing, NY and Umesh & Surekha Kamath of Mumbai. Great-grandson to Mrs. Radhabai Kamath of Plainview, LI. and Great-grandson to Mrs. Usha A. Nayak of Mumbai.

Brahmopadesham:

Pradeep & Uma Gulvady of Saugus, CA, celebrated the Upanayanam of their son, **Chi. KEDAR**, on May 18th 2002 at their residence.

Venkatraya & Padma Kamath of Hamilton, Ont. Canada celebrated the sacred thread ceremony of their son, **Chi. GAUTAM** on July 18th 2002 at Palke Krishnamacharya Hall in Urwa, Mangalore.

Vinod and Radhika Hattiangadi of Tustin CA, celebrated the Upanayanam of their youngest son, **Chi. VIJAY** at Shri Vamanashram Samadhi Math in Mangalore on August 28th 2002. H.H. Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji graced the occasion and blessed the vatu.

It has been reported that all these vatus are busy doing Sandhyavanandanam..

Newly Weds:

Chi. NARENDRA, s/o Yeshavantha and Anasuya Baliga of Villa Park, CA, married to **Kum. JYOTHI**, d/o late Prabhakar and Smt. Hemalatha Prabhu of Ernakulam, on August 25, 2002, at S.S. Kalamandir in Ernakulam. A reception in honor of the Happy Couple was also held in the Shesha Shayana Hall in Udupi on September 1, 2002.

Sow. PREETI, d/o Mr. & Mrs. Vittal Acharya of Des Moines, IA married to **Chi. SHON**, son of Mr & Mrs. McCall of Baltimore, MD, Saturday, on September 7th at 4:30 PM in a traditional Hindu wedding ceremony at the Greater Baltimore Hindu Temple in Finksburg, Maryland. The couple resides in Rossville, Maryland.

Chi. SALIL, s/o Subash and Sarita Gaitonde of Dallas, Texas weds **Sow. NEHA**, d/o Bhasker and Meena Patel of Corpus Christi, Texas, on Sunday November 23, 2002 at Omni Bayfront Hotel, Corpus Christi, Texas.

Konkani Happenings:

The Konkani Association of Ontario (KAO) Canada held their annual Summer Picnic in the beautiful J. C. Saddington Park in Port Credit area of Mississauga on July 27th 2002 and was attended by record number of new members and other out of state guests. There were games, music, snacks, pizza for the kids, and delicious food like BBQ Chicken, grilled corn, tasty Bhelpuri, succulent Watermelon and pastry just to name a few.

The new Executive Committee was elected and they are:

President:

Ramanath & Vidya Kamath

Vice President:

Sadanand & Suvarna Mankikar

Secretary/Treasurer:

Avinash & Madhuri Gaitonde

Joint Secretary/Treasurer:

Ashok & Asha Shenoy

Food Coordinator:

Dinker & Sheela Kamath

Joint Food Coordinator:

Nitin & Pratibha Betrabet

Entertainment Coordinator:

Kishore & Sucheta Nadkarni

Joint Entertainment Coordinator:

Sujeet & Vanita Kini

Youth Coordinator:

Chinab Shanbhag

Joint Youth Coordinator:

Shashank Pai & Rahul Nayak

Adisory Committee:

Ashok Bhatt

Mohan Pai

Raghunath Nayak

Ratnakar Bhandarkar

Sadanand Benegal

Shanta Chikarmane

Vishvanath Shenoy

The Konkani Association of Southern California (KASC) held their annual Summer Picnic in the beautiful Cerritos Park East on August 25th 2002 and was attended by over 80 Konkans from Southern California, and their out of state guests. There were games, music, snacks, pizza for the kids, and delicious food catered by Mother India Restaurant of Chatsworth. The games included Antakshari, "passing the buck" and other activities. Some of the Core Committee members for the **Konkani Convention 2004 (Sammelan)** held an impromptu presentation of the decisions taken by the committee, in form of an informal question and answer session, to which all members were invited to participate. Special thanks to **Mohan and Mohini Kamath**, for reserving this wonderful location with excellent facilities, and also coming early and help to set up the place.

The Konkani Association of Ontario (KAO) Canada organized *Dandia Raas* on Saturday October 19th 2002 from 5 to 9:00 PM at Kalibari Temple in Mississauga, Ont., Canada

The Konkani Association of Ontario (KAO) Canada held their popular Diwali function on Saturday November 2nd 2002 at Chinguacousy Secondary School in Brampton, Ont., Canada .

The Konkani Sabha held their annual Diwali function on Saturday November 2nd 2002 at Balaji Mandir in Bridgewater, NJ.

Houston Area Konkani Association (HAKA) held their annual Diwali party on Saturday November 9th 2002 at the First Colony Conference Center in Sugarland, TX. The following were elected as the new office bearers for the coming year:

President:

Dr. Ramakrishna Prabhu

Secretary:

Dr. Ramachandra Malya

Treasurer:

Madhav Ubhayakar

Konkani Association of California (KAOCA) celebrated Diwali with 450 people in attendance at the Sunnyvale temple hall on November 9th 2002. The event started with a social hour. *Rullavu* and *Godu Phovu* were served to keep the *panchadik* lively. The main event theme was "Bollywood". Music/dance from 1950's to 2002 movies were presented- from *Lapak Jhapak to Dolare Dolare*. The entire audience were on their feet throughout the 3 hour entertainment. Highlight of the day was the presentation of "*Ek Chathur Naar*" from Padosan, a scene from Sholay and a compilation of songs and dance related to various seasons. The event confirmed once again the abundant talent of Konkani's in Bay Area. This was followed by an authentic Konkani dinner. Everyone loved *Chane Ghashi, dalithoy* and *Mudgane* to name a few items.

Next year's committee was sworn in with the young and energetic **VEENA HUNDI KAMATH** as the president. Watch out as KAOCA is ready for a great year of Party and cultural events.

Relocation:

SANAT AMLADI has relocated from Los Angeles, CA to 960 S. Westgate Ave., #208, Brentwood, CA 90049. His telephone: (310)-826-0018 and email ID: sanam2k@msn.com

Ms. SHALINI SHENOY has relocated from Falls Church, VA to 1518 Pennsylvania Av. SE Rear Washington, DC 20003. The new telephone is (202)-546-1642.

The **PRABHU** family, Gopal and Deepa, together with their new born boy Arjun, have relocated from Sunnyvale, CA to 3500 Quarry Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95136. Their new telephone is (408)-978-3746 and email ID: dprabhu1@yahoo.com

The **BHAKTA** family, Kumbha Pandurang & Vatsala have relocated from Flint, MI to 3603 North Century Oaks Circle, Oakland, Michigan, 48363-2655. The email ID: KPBhakta@aol.com

The **PRABHU** family, Manjunath & Hemamalini, together with their daughter, Vandana have relocated from Novi, MI to 275, Dalton Drive, Rochester Hills, MI 48307. The new telephone is (248)-650-0806 and email ID: prabhuman@hotmail.com

The **NAGARKATTI** family, Jai Prakash & Susan have relocated from Mequon, WI to 14967 Straub Hill Lane, Chesterfield, MO 63017. The new telephone is (636)-527-3699 and the email ID: exec51@charter.net

Email ID Change:

The **ULLALS** of Simi Valley, CA, Vivek & Jyoti, changed their email ID to vivekullal@sbcglobal.net.

25th Wedding Anniversary:

Friends & families of **RAJARAMA & ANEETHA SHENOY** of Huntington, CT gave surprise 25th wedding anniversary parties to them twice. Once at the residences of Mohan & Vasumathi Pai of Fresh Meadows, NY and second time at the residence of Umesh & Bharathi Shenoi of Trumbull, CT.

Friends and families of **VENKATRAO & VASANTI PAI** of Stamford, CT gave a surprise 25th Wedding anniversary party at a friend's residence in Yorktown Heights, NY in November 2002

Return to India:

The **KAMATH** family, Vasudev & Sudha of Shrewsbury, MA have returned back to Mumbai, India on October 14th 2002.

Obituary:

Smt. SHALINI RAO BHAT (69) passed away on October 9th, 2002 in India. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to her daughter, Mrs. Lata Prabhu and family of Austin, TX.

Sri. BHAMI KRISHNA SHENOY (75), passed away on October 20th 2002, at West Windsor, NJ following a cardiac arrest. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his wife Prafulla, and daughters Dr. Sudha Kamath and family of West Windsor, NJ, and Shubha Baliga and family of East Northport, NY.

Dr. PANDURANG PAI (66) of Mumbai passed away on November 16th 2002. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his sisters Shobha Baliga & family of Brooklyn, NY and Vijaya Pai & family of Cherry Hill, NJ.

Send your "*hoon khabbars*" to:
Khabbar,

P. O. Box 222,
Lake Jackson, TX 77566-0222 or
email: khabbar@hotmail.com

Na Kanda Sammelan (The Sammelan I saw)

Konkani Sammelan 2002 - A Las Vegas Bantwalkar's View

By: Basti Ganapathi Shenoy, Las Vegas, NV

I have attended quite a few conventions in Washington D.C. Convention Center, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Las Vegas and many other places including the Konkani Sammelan of 2002 (KS-2002) in Houston. **Positively this is the best-organized convention I have ever attended if one compares apples to apples.** Don't compare this Sammelan to IBM conventions in Mirage Events Center under 90000 Sq. Ft. of suspended dome. IBM has money, it has a financial need to impress the attendees and they have been holding conventions 4 to 6 times in a year in almost every country they operate for about 50 years or more. They are not a volunteer force. They have highly paid pros on payroll just to do it year after year. **Whereas KS-2002 team was a voluntary force.**

On the first day the Microphone wasn't working well. I was standing at the end of the hall. I heard this lady standing next to me telling her husband and other friends "*Kassale Karma Mike Ki Abha, Aykii Panaa*" and the husband was quick to say, "It reminds me of my trip to Niagara Falls. I was on the boat on Maid Of The Mist tour and I heard the guide say, IF YOU WOMEN CAN HOLD YOUR BREATH FOR A MOMENT, YOU CAN HEAR THE EAR DEFFENING ROAR OF THE NIAGARA FALLS". After that this Konkani Sister of mine never said a word. That lady must have got the message, that if the mike is bad there is nothing you can do about it in the middle of the speech but to be silent and give some more attention to what the speaker is saying.

First and foremost thing that impressed me is the KS-2002 team under able leadership of Suresh, Suren & Sudhir. The desire to conduct an excellent operation was a prime example of the old saying that "When a man sets his mind to do a thing, only he can stop it from happening". In Houston, I was reminded of the dictum again and again, which says "IF EXCELLENCE IS AN OPTION, WHY SETTLE FOR LESS". I am sure when things like *Pathrode* and *Pattholi* were proposed, there were quite a few nay sayers who had convincing arguments saying it is too much of a work and we should focus on more discussions rather than *Jevan*. But, let me tell you, if this convention will ever be remembered, it will be remembered more for the spirit of hospitality of which *Patholi* and *Ubbati* were a symbol than the forums we held. This is not to say those forums did not contribute to our enlightenment about Konkani Youth, Konkani Businessmen and Konkani talents. This Sammelan, right from the time we set our foot in the Humble Civic Center, treated us like we were attending a rich man's daughter's marriage in Mangalore, by giving us a taste of *Panak* (the sugar cane juice with spices) which most of us had forgotten. From there on, every breakfast and meals were an occasion to hear "Wow" after "Wow" only with different lengths of breath.

Second thing I noticed is there are a lot of Konkani values we just didn't forget just because we have landed in CA or in TX. In one of my sister's house in India, there are four sisters-in-law live together and work together with such a cohesiveness, it is one of my biggest pleasures to sit in their kitchen and watch all of them working together, laughing together and enjoying together. When I saw 3 sisters-in-law in Houston helping each other to clean the Convention Hall on the last day after the banquet when every one was leaving in a hurry, it reminded me of my sister's house. I also saw another family of 3 brothers from Karkal sitting together all the time and their wives sticking to each other. That's what I miss in this country most of the time where the bonding is just as thick as a coat of lipstick.

Now one may wonder what has this kind of sentiments got to do with the convention. Let me tell you. It is this kind of love for each other which brought us, the Konkanis this far. It is this kind of love and affinity for each other that created the temples in towns like Bantwal, Mangalore and Karkal etc. which ultimately gave birth to institutions like Canara High School. If our children are in Harward and Princeton today, a lot of it has to do with those institutions back home.

I also saw some funny things. This one older gentleman was looking for his long lost classmate whom he had not seen since he left high school about 40 years back. He could see in the mirror how far he has come in the last 40 years in appearance. He had turned from Tom Cruise to Marlon Brando. But, he seemed not sure how his friend looked like. He was going to women and reading their nametags, which were mostly planted at an elegant part of the human anatomy. Lot of ladies were a bit agonized at the way he was looking. Some thought the old man was trying to read the small letters on those nametags. Then at last I heard this conversation:

Q: Sir how old is your long lost classmate?

A: Ho, she is about 55.

Q: Sir, then why are you reading the nametag of my daughter who is 23?

It was a small convention by comparison to some of the conventions I see in Las Vegas and some of which I have attended. But, it was definitely a bigger undertaking than most I know of. Here were the 1300 attendees with about 3900 degrees to their credit. These were not men & women whose children qualified for need based education grants. These were men and women who were with in the top 10% of the Americans as far as their income and success is goes. Organizers, I am sure, had to worry about all sorts of reactions from a small motley group like this. I know how difficult it is because I have, with the help of my family and a couple of friends organized the Indian Association Night in CA. that had over 300 attendees. It is tough to satisfy every committee member's concern more than that of the attendees. Every member will come up with this generic sentence like "a lot of people say we should

concentrate on bla, bla, bla than x.y.z". If you ask him can you name a few of those so-called "lot of people" he wouldn't answer. Considering that common phenomena, it was definitely not easy.

Coming back to the old man looking for his classmate, on the second day I saw him introducing his friend to others whenever they were together. At last I ran into them and he readily introduced her to me. This is how it went on:

Him: Meet my classmate Ms. XX. We never met since we graduated from High School.

Myself: Could you easily recognize each other?

Him: No, Can you believe it has been 40 years since I saw her last.

Her: You are just telling him how old I am, if you can calculate, so could he!

The time we had to stand in line was not really long but the aroma of the food made it hard for everyone to adhere to the rules of the colored dots on our nametags. After waiting for a while for a good Konkani food, that dot looked like the chads on the ballots that kept Al Gore out of the Whitehouse Kitchen!

As I was standing in line, the gentleman next to me was heard telling his wife "Look Honey, that family out there ahead of us, must be from Calif." And she said, "How do you know that, do you know them?" and he replied "No, I don't know them, but they are changing lanes so often, they must be from Calif. Those darn Californians".

The highlight of the convention was the Medical Forum and the Stress Management Class. The Medical Forum was probably the best health clinic I ever attended. The spokespersons were precise, thorough and masters of communication. Positively, people added more years to their lives in that one hour than any other clinic I can imagine, unless you were close to people at Niagara Falls.

And, in the end, ladies who are in the habit of cooking *Dali Thoya* and *Panna Upkari* everyday or most of the days, seemed to be more thankful to those doctors on the stage than their counterparts. Because, those doctors told people mostly what you can't eat and their list included everything that humans generally eat. In the spirit of enhancing their husbands' life span, most ladies had taken decisions not to cook any more.

Then there was the youth forum, which really went very well. I truly wish there was more time for discussion about the 2nd generation and their problems. Still, it was a great idea to put the people on the stage and make them talk like they were talking openly in a chat café. I hope next convention organizers will give more time to discuss their problems in open forums without separating the youth and the parents. I also wish there was an open discussion about the pluses and minuses of the organized marriages of India and date and marry system of America. I know it is a touchy situation for every parent. It would have been a wonderful solution to a lot of people's dilemmas. Lot of parents are not sure how to approach their children and ask them this open ended question whether you are ready for a marriage and what kind of a spouse you are looking for and can we help you in finding that person.

During the question hour I saw this one not so young person stand up and ask this question "Every time I try to tell my kids how to do a thing, they say I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU, what am I supposed to do?" I immediately I heard a kid from the back seat saying "Sir, what your children are telling you is to Shut up". After coming home from the Sammelan, a lot of times I feel, the kid was after all may not be wrong, whenever I try to tell my 14 years old daughter something she doesn't want to hear.

Then there was the *Harikatha* by Santh Sarvothamdas. No comments, because those Das brothers, Late Sri. Keshavdas, Sri. Achutdas and Sarvothamdas are all blessed with a kind of talent like Kalidasa and no one can critique them. They are always the best.

I had only heard of Puttur Narasimha Nayak but never heard him in person. Wow! What a talent and what a voice. I am sure he gave his best performance in Houston, if it isn't, I am sorry I missed out on his other performances. He was simply great. Thanks to organizers for bringing such talent all the way from India.

The skits were not necessarily the best I have seen, but considering the fact that these were people who are doctors and researchers in real life, I am sure they did their level best to make our stay in Houston a pleasant one. We all should appreciate the spirit behind their performances and forget the shortcomings in their performances. God bless them and their families who sacrificed their time and attention while these guys were rehearsing the drama. The best in the entertainment segment of the entire convention was definitely the Fashion Show on the last day. It was choreographed so well, I am sure the Gucci and Armani fashion show organizers have a lot to learn from the ballerina Sheela Shenoy.

Then I saw this group of cousins and their children from Karkala Vakil Santhayya Kamath family trying to take a group photo. They were so many, they definitely needed a wide-angle lens. I was asked by each cousin to take a photo in their own camera, and pretty soon I was loaded with cameras all over me. It reminded me of the smuggled wristwatch sellers in Flora Fountain, Bombay. They used to carry about 100 watches on their body all the time on the sidewalk. There were about 300 of these Karkalite cousins in the hall and they could hold a convention of their own in the US. I was thinking what kind of a brilliant guy their grand father must have been to plant this many grand kids in the US. And, one of them said another 30% of their cousins couldn't make it to Houston!

Bhagavad-Gita as a Stress Management Guide

By: K. P. S. Kamath, M. D.

Psychiatrist in private practice in Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Chapter One

One late night about 15 years ago, while I was rushing to the baggage claim area at St. Louis airport, a Hare Krishna (ISKCON) volunteer offered a “free copy” of the leather-bound *Bhagavad Gita* in return for a ten-dollar donation. Back home, I put the book on the shelf and forgot all about it. Two years later when, to my complete surprise, an American doctor colleague of mine called me to inquire if I had a copy of *Bhagavad Gita*, I lent him the book and did not expect it back. He returned the book two years later with this terse note: “Thank you for loaning me this book. I found it tough going but interesting. I should probably read it a dozen times to understand more of it. Thanks, Phil.” “Tough going” (*bhari kashta*) is what I have heard from everyone I have talked with about *Gita* ever since.

About three years ago, an Indian lady invited me to join a *Gita pravachana* she was holding for Indian families in this area. Regretfully, I passed up this opportunity by joking with her that I was getting an earful of *Geetha pravachana* from my wife on daily basis. About a year ago, I decided to study *Gita* on a whim and, I, too, found it tough going, indeed! However, an interesting event took place shortly thereafter. After we returned home from hiking in a heavily wooded area, my wife lost her gold necklace with a 9-diamond pendant. My first reaction was to get upset (stressed) and scold her for wearing an expensive necklace while hiking in the woods (“ *Ranna vatthana bhangra sarpaLi ghalcheven?* ”). Instead, I told her and myself that this was a test to see if there is a lesson from *Gita* in this incident for us both. What we had lost was merely a gold necklace, a material thing. We did not bring it with us, nor would we take it with us. We left our telephone number with the local Walgreens shop where we had shopped before we went to the woods, briefly searched the wooded area in vain, and gave up on the necklace. Neither of us lost any sleep over it. Three days later, Walgreens called us to report they had found the necklace! By then it did not matter at all.

I continued to study *Gita* over the next few months and shared with Geetha some of my psychological insights about coping with everyday life stress according to *Gita*. Another incident took place three months ago. A tornado hit the outskirts of a small town called Marble Hill, 30 miles from our city, swathing a 5-mile long and one half-mile wide path of destruction and killing one person. We did not know if the tornado leveled a recently renovated cute little cottage we owned on a property in that area. We found ourselves not worrying about it. Over the next few days, several of my wife’s friends asked her anxiously if there was any damage to our property. Geetha coolly replied much to their bafflement , “ We have not had time to go there to inspect the area. We will go there the coming weekend. “ When she told me about this with amusement I replied smiling, “ I guess they don’t know our little secret! ” (*Amgelo ghuttu thanka gotthasve?*)

Many of us Konkanis are approaching retirement age (*Ammi poora hagoora manthare jattha assachi!*). We will soon be facing trials and tribulations related to getting old: children leaving home (*Ghara khali paLLa!*); friends and relatives passing away (*Ekakley jurtha assachi*); financial losses; health problems (*Jeeva sankata*); loneliness; reduction of income and what have you. Unless we are equipped with certain mental attitudes and coping skills, we would soon fall prey to stress-related disorders such as high blood pressure, depression and anxiety. Even though most of us are familiar with Hindu culture, heritage and philosophy, many of us might not know how to apply to our lives the insights and wisdom therein due to the inherent complexities of the concepts and literature. It is to meet this dire need among the aging Konkanis that I decided to write an article in Khabbar regarding the usefulness of *Bhagavad -Gita* as a stress and life management guide. What could be more natural than *Gita* for those of us who were nurtured in Hindu Brahminic culture?

I am not an authority on *Bhagavad Gita*. In fact, I had to read it seven times over the past 6 months to get a fairly good idea of its central message. I cross checked with four other versions of the book to confirm accuracy in translation: Kannada version (with Sanskrit *shlokas* in Kannada script) by Swami Aadidevananda, 11th edition; English version by Eknath Easwaran, 1985 edition; English version by Mahatma Gandhi, Dec. 2001; and English version by J. A. B. van Buitenen, 1981. I am not qualified to discuss various religious and philosophical fine points of *Gita*. Being a psychiatrist specializing in stress and stress-related disorders, I am going to limit my observations to practical issues related to stress management according to *Bhagavad Gita*. I have found *Bhagavad Gita* to be surprisingly modern, scientifically accurate, truly secular and universally applicable stress management guide.

As you all know, *Bhagavad Gita* is in the form of a conversation between *Mahabharata*’s greatest hero Arjuna and its greatest protagonist Lord Krishna, his friend, philosopher, guide, brother-in-law and charioteer on the battlefield of Kurukshetra at the very moment the *Mahabharata* war was to start. At this supremely critical juncture, Arjuna becomes extremely stressed (upset) over the prospect of having to kill not only his hateful cousins Kauravas, but also the respected elders (*Poojya mahlgade*) like Bheeshma and gurus like Dronacharya and Kripacharya whom he worshipped from his childhood. Faced with this gruesome task, his mind suddenly gets filled with various painful emotions (like air filling up an empty balloon) : sadness, fear of committing sin and going to hell, fear of serious consequences on family and social traditions that would follow the war, etc. Unable to deal with the emotional overload brought on by his mental conflict (*dharma sankata*) he becomes stressed-out and experiences numerous severe stress symptoms: trembling of the body, hair standing on end, burning of skin, reeling of mind, weakness of hands, confusion, self doubt, loss of judgment, and the like. He says it is better they kill him than he kill them. He throws down his *Gandiva* and refuses to fight.

(Chapter 1:Text 26-46). (*Ani tho ek dum vairagya ullocha sur karta*): It is better to live by begging than to kill the respected elders; our spoils will be tainted with blood; those that I am fighting might be greedy but they are my superiors; even if I gain the kingdom I won't be able to overcome my grief and enjoy life. So on and so forth. (Chapter 2: Text 4 - 8)

Lord Krishna (*Krishnu tho kassalo!*), who never misses an opportunity to teach a lesson or two to friends and foes alike, decides to put some sense into Arjuna's disturbed mind and plays the role of a superb psychiatrist. His challenge was three fold: 1. To control Arjuna's immediate stress by getting rid of painful emotions from his conscious mind ("shrink his balloon") so he could be re-motivated to fight like hell to win this righteous war. 2. To teach him how he could bring peace and tranquility back into his mind by getting in touch with his hidden mind, the seat of his true Self, his Wisdom, his Soul and his Divinity. 3. How he could make himself immune to stress by learning to be a *Siitha prajnya*, (so his balloon would neither deflate nor inflate in response to life's ups and downs). What a wonderful medical model we have here! It is no different than a doctor 1) treating one for a case of typhoid; 2) teaching him how to avoid contracting typhoid again by practicing proper hygiene, and 3) vaccinating him against typhoid!

The main focus of *Gita* is on the mind. The main goal of *Gita* is to bring peace and tranquility to the mind. The main thrust of *Gita* is how to control the mind. The main result of *Gita* is that one becomes a better, wiser and stronger person. On the seemingly elusive battleground of the mind we struggle constantly with our innermost desires, impulses, emotions and beliefs in the context of real life bad events and problems. And this struggle manifests itself in the form of stress symptoms: physical, emotional, mental and behavioral, no different than those of Arjuna. When we lose this battle, mental peace and tranquility becomes the first casualty. We feel stressed-out. *Gita* teaches us how we can win this struggle, calm ourselves down, and bring peace and tranquility back into the mind. This is stress management at its best.

What is the mind like according to *Bhagavad Gita*? We will study this in Chapter 2. I strongly recommend the interested reader to have an English version of *Bhagavad Gita* with him/her while reading the future chapters. Readers may contact me at pkamath@prodigy.net with suggestions, advice, admonition or correction.To Be Continued

In Memoriam: A poem for my dear grandmother

By: Sujata Prabhu, Austin, TX

**Your face is pressed against the shallow glass
The endless rain dripping shadows across your own tear streaked face
An echo of yesterday bounces through your riddled mind
As you gaze ahead into the darkened space**

**Whispers of sadness creep across your ears
As you try and blink away the days passed
Each lash moistened by a distinct memory
Which you hope will not be the last**

**And as days pass so eagerly for all who have not lost
Your own self cannot stride along so easily
Your heart steps heavy, with your feet following suit
But there will be a peace that pursues you timidly**

**We wake with open eyes and still are not able to see
All that is in front of our weary eyes
But remember that the Sunlight does break free
Between our own quiet tears and sighs.**

UPDATE ON MITHUN – December 2002

Since Mithun is close to a molecular remission, we will make this the last of the quarterly update on his status. We will continue to respond to any questions by e-mail or phone. We certainly would like to help those who face these terrible life-threatening diseases like leukemia and share our experiences with them.

We started this update in 1998 shortly after Mithun was diagnosed with CML (Chronic Myeloid Leukemia) on August 10, 1998. At that time, a bone marrow transplant from a HLA matched donor was the only curative therapy available for this life threatening disease. Even after several bone marrow drives were conducted by our friends and well-wishers, especially in our Konkani communities, at several locations throughout the U.S. we could not secure a well matched donor for Mithun. Prayers from friends and

blessings from Swamijis, Gurus and Elders helped us find Dr. Brian Druker at Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU) at Portland, Oregon and his magic pill, STI 571, now known as Gleevec. Mithun was the second pediatric patient in an experimental protocol at OHSU. He started this new drug (450 mg orally once a day) in December 1999. Within a few weeks his leukemic cell counts started coming down very rapidly. There were no side effects. We now knew that God had answered all our prayers by giving us this miracle pill at the right time for Mithun. His steady progress continued over the last three years as documented in the quarterly updates in Khabbar. Now he is very close to remission.

Thanks to *Khabbar* for including these updates so that we could regularly communicate Mithun's status to all our Konkani *Bhandhavas*. Thanks to all those who responded to our appeals and became a part of the National Marrow Donor Program Registry so that one day you may get a chance to save a life.

One other purpose of our regular communication through these updates was to make everyone aware of the importance of being a bone marrow donor. We will 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

| January 2003 | February 2003 | March 2003 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2 nd Amavasya | 8 th Ratha Saptami | 2 nd Amavasya |
| 13 th Makar Sankranthi | 12 th Yekadashi | 14 th Yekadashi |
| 17 th Poornami | 16 th Poornami | 17 th Poornami |
| 21 st Angaraka Chaturthi | 19 th Sankasta Chaturthi | 20 th Sankasta Chaturthi |
| 26 th Republic Day - India | 28 th Maha Shivarathri | |
| 31 st Amavasya | | |

Khabbar thanks Sri P. V. Kamath of Mumbai, India 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, \$ |
|---|------------|
| Uma & Madakasira Yadunath, Freehold, NJ | 116.00 |
| Gopinatha & Padmavathy Mallya, Delran, NJ | 60.00 |
| Shrikar & Nirmala Bangalore, Elmhurst, IL | 60.00 |
| Pankaj & Asha Dhume, Pune, India | 100.00 |
| Radha Golikeri, Houston, TX | 60.00 |
| Ammunje Sadanand & Veena Nayak, Great Meadows, NJ | 50.00 |

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

| Description | Credit, \$ | Debit, \$ |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Balance Carried over since Khabbar Vol. XXV No. 3 | 1,620.00 | |
| Money Received: | | |
| From Konkani Sammelan 2002 (KS-2002) | 2,500.00 | |
| Subscriptions (35) and donations | 921.00 | |
| Advertisements (2) | 30.00 | |
| Interest | 5.00 | |
| Sub Total: | 3,456.00 | |
| Money Spent (Khabbar Vol. XXV No. 3): | | |
| Printing-Khabbar (1,800) - 20 pages | | 1,530.00 |
| First Class Mail-Khabbar (1,670) | | 1,002.00 |
| Canada Khabbar (78) | | 66.30 |
| Overseas (20) | | 61.70 |
| Mail Fines, computer paper & labels, envelopes, service fees, etc | | 340.00 |
| Sub Total: | | 3,000.00 |
| Final Balance: | 2,076.00 | |

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



The last quarter's quiz: This Konkani father gives his daughter \$2.46 worth of coins. The coins are of four different denominations, and has the same number of each denomination. What are the four denominations, and how many of each?

The answer: **Six each of penny, nickel, dime & quarter to \$2.46.** The following gave the correct solution:

Vivek G. Kamath, Morristown, TN

Deepa Goli, Wilson, NC

Nilima Shet, Neshanic Station, NJ

D.C.Mankikar, Novi, MI

Anil M. Bhat, Canton, MI

Panduranga K. Bhakta, Glendale, NY

Govind Kamath, Austin, TX

Ashwin Rao, Los Angeles, CA

Anjali PaiPanandiker, Austin, TX

Narasinha Kamath, Jersey City, NJ

Seema Kamath (16), Downers Grove, IL

Krishna Kudva, Alta Loma, CA

Even though the response from the readership for the above quiz was poor (as expected), quite a few felt the quiz was not upto the Khabbar standard! I have taken liberty in publishing some of the responses:

1. To: The people at "Khabbar" magazine
Hi,

My name is Seema Kamath. I am 16 years old and in 11th grade. My family and I were eating dinner when I happened to see this issue of Khabbar (Vol. XXV No.3) on our counter. After dinner, I picked it up, browsed through the pages and tried to solve the "Kwiz" just for fun. I thought it would be really hard, but, I solved it in under 5 mins on my first try. I was happy to get the answer, but, disappointed that the "Kwiz" was so simple. Please, try to put a more challenging one in your next issue.

*Sincerely, Seema Kamath
Downers Grove, IL*

2. Dear Vasanthmaam,

This quarter's quiz is a no-brainer! Is our track record so bad that *Khabbar* is underestimating the Konkani brainpower ?? The answer to the quiz is : six coins each of penny, nickel, dime and quarter denominations. I'll stay anonymous although you may recognize me from my e-mail address, but please....don't give out that either !!!

Anonymous

3. Hi:

Is it in Canadian or US coins?

In any case the answer is six each of quarters, dimes, nickels and cents.

(Is it a trick question or you just want to see how many will bother to solve the quiz?)

*Sadanand Mankikar
Burlington, Ontario*

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.

This Konkani father gave two hourglasses-a 4 minute glass and a 7 minute glass- to his son and told him to measure 9 minutes. How did the son do it?

Konkani Youth Convention 2003

in austin, tx from friday, july 4th till sunday, july 6th

The convention is a great way to meet new people and reminisce with old friends. There will be interesting seminars, many ice breakers, fun trips around Austin, and most importantly great food! We have lots of surprises rolled up our sleeves, but you must come to find out!

got questions?

e-mail us at youthkonkvention@hotmail.com,

check us out www.konkaniyouth.com, or call Ranjit Shiralkar @ (617) 905-8776 or
Sheila Shenoy (512) 554-3334

Attendees will have to be at least 18 years old to attend the convention by July 4th 2003.

Konkani SammelAn 2004 (Update)

I. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. President: | Drs. Ramadas & Udaya Kamath |
| 2. Vice President: | Dr. Mohan and Mohini Kamath |
| 3. Treasurer: | Sridhar & Nandini Rao |
| 4. Secretary: | Jaidev & Chitra Chandavarkar |
| 5. Youth Representative: | Malavika Gangolly |

II. CHAIR PERSONS:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Budget & Fund Raising: | Drs. Ramadas & Udaya Kamath |
| 2. Decoration: | Anuradha & Dr. Purandar Mallya |
| 3. Entertainment: | Shivadev & Lata Ubhayakar |
| 4. Events Coordinator: | Drs. Shantharam & Muktha Pai |
| 5. Food: | Bina & Aravind Shenoy |
| 6. Heritage Promotion: | Mithra & Dr. Sudhakar Nayak |
| 7. Host & Hospitality: | Hemu & Mamata Kalle |
| 8. Medical Emergency Team: | Drs. Ramdas & Sudha Pai |
| 9. Promotion & Publicity: | Shankar & Bindya Baliga |
| 10. Registration: | Vishwanath & Shalini Bhat |
| 11. Seminars & Workshops: | Krishna & Meenal Kelkar |
| 12. Senior Volunteer Group: | Gurunandan & Shalini Kelkar |
| 13. Souvenir & Publications: | Dr. Vivek & Jyoti Ullal |
| 14. Stage Management: | Shelley & Suvarna Malil |
| 15. Volunteers and Special Needs: | Dr. Girijanand & Jyothi Bhat |
| 16. Website: | Prasad & Deepa Upasani |

III. NON-PROFIT STATUS: We are grateful to the **North American Konkani Association (NAKA)** for having taken us under their umbrella because we do not have to file an application with the IRS for a non-profit status as NAKA is already a non-profit entity. NAKA was registered in New York in 1998 with **Damodar Baliga, Vasanth Bhat and Nina Padukone** as office bearers. Damodar Baliga has obliged us with his quick response in providing documents to be filed with the State of California and the State Franchise Tax Board. We hope to be approved for non-profit status very soon. **As of this date, we have a pledge of \$18,500 from the Konkani Community in Los Angeles. We appeal to the Konkani Community in the country to donate generously to this big budget event.**

IV. LOGO: We request readers of 'Khabbar' to send their entries for a Logo for Konkani Sammelan 2004. The deadline for entry is 2-28-03. The winning entry will be awarded a prize. Please mail it to:
Konkani Sammelan 2004, P.O. Box 683, Walnut, CA 91788-0683

V. VENUE: We have chosen Hyatt Regency, Anaheim in Orange County (close to Disneyland) as the venue.
For up-to-date information, please, visit our website: www.konkani2004.com
Devu Bare Koro,

The Executive Committee / Dec 10th 2002

ORDER FORM for KS-2002 Video/CD/DVD

| No. | Description | Cost per set, \$ | Your Order, \$ |
|-----|--|------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Sammelan Souvenir & Program Guide | 20.00 | |
| 2 | Sammelan video (24 hours) in 12 DVDs | 95.00 | |
| 3 | Sammelan video (24 hours) in 12 VHS tapes | 60.00 | |
| 4 | "Proud to be Konkani" Audio & Karaoke Sound Track CD | 10.00 (*) | |

All the above cost includes shipping & handling

Total:

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A P P E A L S

**DR.KOTA SHIVARAMA KARANTH RESEARCH & STUDY CENTRE TRUST®
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To,
Mr. Sudhakara B. Shenoy,
9934, BURT FORK ST.,
HOUSTON, TX 77064

Dear Mr. Sudhakara Shenoy,

I am extremely thankful to you for your very kind letter of 19th Sept.2002.

After the demise of late Dr. Shivaram Karanth, I have been trying my best to preserve his 'work' for the benefit of posterity. Due to corrupt Govt. machinery it is almost impossible in our country to carry out any public works in the name of a person however great were his contributions to the society. Yet, I am trying my best (out of my meager income) to do something at least. I am really grateful for your encouraging letter. I remember, Dr.Karant had told me some good words about you and also told me about videotaped interview in which you asked questions about me also!

About Dr. Shivaram Karanth Museum:

A very, very interesting project. I could carry out only one fourth of the work due to financial shortage. In about 1,000 sq. ft. area I have displayed many, many interesting, spectacular and study-oriented materials. Another 2,000 Sq.ft. display area (Museum hall) is required. The estimated would be about Rs.15 lakhs (well furnished with electrical fittings, display furniture's etc)

In our country, it is very difficult to raise donations because most of the people are dishonest in money matters so that those who are honestly work also find it difficult to raise funds.

If you could help me, I assure you that not a single *pai* of yours will be misused and proper account will be given to the donors. Besides, in the Museum Hall's wall, the name of the donor /s will be carved. Also, the museum will be shown to the public free of charge. This is purely a social work. People from elsewhere are visiting this house "Manasa" even after the demise of Dr. Karant. So your charity will be duly recognized.

I have made a Trust as above which is a Regd. Trust. Applied for Tax concessions to the donors. But, the Income Tax Dept. takes its own time to reply, which may take several months. In our country, 100 years of life is also insufficient for a person to complete any public work. A Bank A/c is opened in THE KARNATAKA BANK LTD. CHITRAPADY, SALIGRAMA- 576225, KARNATAKA,S.B.A/c No.6081 in the name of the above Trust. PLEASE KINDLY HELP.

Yours sincerely

B. Malini Mallya
Managing Trustee
guru_m_s@sify.com
Dated: 28-Sept-2002

Om Sri Ram Jai Ram Jai Jai Ram

Sri Veera Maruti Temple Renovation Committee

Nandavar--574231, Near Panemangalore, Bantwal Taluk, Dakshina Kannada., Karnataka, India.

Tel: 0824-436683, 491147

Web Site: www.veeramaruti.org

Email: nandavarveeramaruti@indiatimes.com

Dear Friend/Devotee,

Sri Veera Maruti Temple Renovation & Development Project

May I request you to kindly visit our web site: www.veeramaruti.org which will give you all the details about Sri Veera Maruti Temple at Nandavar (25 kms from Mangalore) including its Renovation and Development Project.

Besides contributing your mite to the noble cause of renovation of this ancient temple, you may also kindly introduce it to other devotees, friends and acquaintances, and see what best can be done for the speedy and successful completion of the Renovation Project, thus receiving the blessings of the Presiding Deity of the Temple, Sri Veera Maruti.

Your valued contributions may please be sent by checks drawn in favor of "**Sri Veera Maruti Temple Renovation Committee**", S. B. Account No. 20526, Canara Bank, Market Road, Mangalore --575001, Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka.

Devotees contributing \$ 1000 and above will become the *Daanis* (donors) of the temple and their names will be inscribed on a marble plaque and affixed to the temple premises.

A special pooja will be conducted every year (on Hanuman Jayanti Day) in the name of the *Daanis* and the prasadam will be sent to them with prayers to and blessings from the deity.

When the *Daanis* visit the temple, they can have free use of the Temple Guest House for seven days a year. (They can make use of their sojourn by visiting the holy places in and around D.K. District, in which case all possible guidance and assistance will be extended, on receiving prior information from them).

The *Daanis* will also receive a gift of the book entitled "*Hanuman Chalisa and Ashtaka*" (with original text, transliteration and Hindi and English translations, side by side), which reveals (in Part Two) "**The Glory of Sri Hanuman**", "**The Glory of Hanuman Chalisa**" and "**The Glory of Ramnam**", and (in Part Three) presents "**A Pilgrim Guide to Some Holy Places in Dakshina Kannada and Around**" to facilitate the pilgrimage of the devotees.

The *Mahaa Daanis* (munificent donors) wishing to sponsor exclusively one or more items of the Temple Renovation and Development Project (viz. Temple *Prakaram*, Community Hall, Residential Quarters, Guest House, Meditation Hall and Spiritual Training Center) can do so in memory of their near and dear ones, in which case those buildings will be dedicated to their loving memory and their names inscribed on a marble plaque will be affixed to the respective premises. The *Mahaa Daanis* will also enjoy the above privileges of the *Daanis*. Thanking you in anticipation.

Nandavar Yogish Bhat, B. Sc., M.L.A.,

(President, Sri Veera Maruti Temple Renovation Committee),

Res: "Ganesh Kripa", New Field Street, Mangalore-575001, Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka, India.

Tel: 0824-493288 (Res.), 080-2209308 (Legislators Home, Bangalore),

Fax: 0824-491147, Mobile: 9844-04928.

Email: yogishbhatn@indiatimes.com

The Council of Hindu Temples of North America

Chairman/Secretariat: Dr. Uma Mysorekar

45-57 Bowne Street, Flushing, NY 11355 Tel: (718)-460-8484 * FAX: (718)-461-8055

ESSAY COMPETITION for Middle School, High School and College students.

Prize of \$151 each will be awarded to the top two Middle School students, High School students and prize of \$201 each to the top two College students.

Essay Topics are:

Middle School (750 words) **Teachings and lives of ancient Hindu sages inspire us even today**

High School (1000 words) **Hinduism teaches values that will help in global understanding**

College students (1500 words) **The principles of Hindu Dharma and karma can explain the complexities of human life.**

The entrants to the competition may please send four copies of their essays. Entrants must also give their particulars including: Name, Address, Telephone no. on a separate sheet and their current academic standing before **January 31st 2003**. A panel of judges has been established to adjudicate the entries and they are:

1. Mrs. Kanaka Prabhu

2. Mr. M. G. Prasad

3. Mrs. Beth Kulkarni and

4. Dr. K. S. Raju

Entries must reach Dr. Uma Mysorekar,

Chairman/Secretariat: Dr. Uma Mysorekar

45-57 Bowne Street, Flushing, NY 11355 Tel: (718)-460-8484 * FAX: (718)-461-8055



H. H. SHRIMAD SUDHINDRA THIRTHA SWAMI
SHREE KASHI MATH SAMSTHAN
VARANASI

Sri Vyasaaram
Camp.....

Haridwar
Date..... *4.8.2002*

Ref:

PROCLAMATION

By virtue of the inherent powers in us, it is hereby proclaimed as follows:

As all of you are well aware, by the divine grace of Sri Vyasa Raghupathi and our own revered Gurus, we have initiated and granted Sanyasa Dheeksha to a suitable vatu, Umesh Mallya and named him as Sri Samyamindra Thirtha on Thursday, 20th June 2002 who has been selected to be our Shishya and deserving successor, after going through all the due process of selection from amongst many horoscopes received by us.

We are pleased to see the active participation of a large number of disciples hailing from all over the country in the aforesaid Shishya Sweekar Ceremony held at our Haridwar Math. The Shishya, Sri Samyamindra Thirtha is being provided with necessary training here in the requisite manner in all respects.

Be this known to all concerned.

Sri Vyasaaram

Audiovisual Presentation on Swami Vivekananda Tours USA

Source: swamijyoti@vivekanandagospel.org

KERALA, INDIA, November 9, 2002: **Swami Jyotirmayananda** of Karnataka, an independent monk of the Ramakrishna tradition, is the author and publisher of a book on Swami Vivekananda. Swami participated in the 1993 Parliament of Religions held in Chicago, in commemoration of the centenary of the First Parliament held in 1893, and the Global Vision 2000 Program in Washington, in commemoration of the centenary of Swami Vivekananda's visit to America. In August, 2000, he attended the U.N. Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders. In the context of the centenary of the Mahasamadhi, July 4, 2002, of Swami Vivekananda, Swami Jyotirmayananda has prepared an Audiovisual presentation on Swami Vivekananda. 45minutes in length, and titled "**Swami Vivekananda -- The Great Hindu Monk of India and His Lasting Spiritual Legacy to Humanity,**" it is being shown to the student community in some of the educational institutions in the U.S., through the auspices of the Hindu Students Council. Swami Prabuddhananda, Head of the Vedanta Society of Northern California, San Francisco, has arranged for the presentation on Swami Vivekananda for January 1, 2003, at his center.

Any institution, religious, cultural, social or educational, which would like to know more about the presentation can contact Swami at "source" above.

Vishwa Konkani Kendra An Abode for the Konkani Heritage

Despite the 5000 year old heritage encompassing a cultural variety perhaps unmatched in diversity in proportion to its population, Konkani sadly continues to suffer neglect and faces threat of extinction. Aware of this looming danger, a steady movement has been building up to establish a common cultural identity among Konkanis. Significant achievements have been made; the chief among which are the recognition of Konkani as an independent language by Kendra Sahitya Academy (1976); recognition of Konkani as the official language of Goa (1987) and the inclusion of Konkani in Schedule VII of the Indian Constitution (1992), thereby bestowing on it the status of a national language. And in 1994, Govt. of Karnataka established Karnataka Konkani Sahitya Academy for the promotion of Konkani Language, literature and culture. Due to mammoth effort in 1995, the First World Konkani Convention was successfully held in Mangalore to unite all Konkani bodies and establish a common platform. This Convention facilitated a mandate for establishing a permanent abode for the preservation of Konkani language, art and culture. Hence in 1996 The **Konkani Bhas Ani Sanskriti Pratistan**, a non profit cultural organization was established to materialize the mandate of the World Konkani Convention of 1995. The result is a Rs. 4 crore project "**Vishwa Konkani Kendra**" to be executed under the able guidance of Konkani stalwarts like **K. K. Pai, Basti Vaman Shenoy, Kudpi Jagadish Shenoy, Raghunath Shet et al**

Konkani Bhas Ani Sanskriti Pratistan

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

American Konkani Association, 1613 Maple Avenue,
Berwyn, IL 60402

KONKANI CHARITIES

The Saraswat Foundation is helping poor deserving Bhanaps in India. Send your donations to: Saraswat Foundation
178 Norman Drive, Morrisville, PA 19067

KONKANI CHARITIES

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:

Three river Area Konkani Association
111 Volpe Dr., MONROEVILLE, PA 15146

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>

MATRIMONIAL ASSISTANCE

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)

A P P E A L

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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MATRIMONIAL

Sister invites matrimonial alliance for her only brother who is 32, 5'-7", has his own Health & Fitness business, prefers good looking, family oriented girl. Contact sister at 818-374-9133 or suvarnamalil@yahoo.com

MATRIMONIAL

GSB parents invite correspondence for their son, 31 years old, 5'-6", fair, USMD, born and brought up in the USA, from professional GSB/SB girls preferably also raised in the US. Please send photo and biodata to:

vandana02@worldnet.att.net

MATRIMONIAL DIRECTORY

Mr. Basti Ganapathi Shenoy of Las Vegas, NV is maintaining a list of Konkani youth that are eligible for matrimony. Interested boys and girls can send in their information to:

Mr. Basti Ganapathi Shenoy

8301 West Charleston Blvd., # 2078, LAS VEGAS,
NV89117 Phone: (702)-341-6706
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