

# Khabbar

North American Konkani Newsletter

Volume XXIX No. 1

January, February, March - 2006

*From:*

The Honorary Editor,  
"Khabbar"

P. O. Box 222

Lake Jackson, TX 77566 - 0222

XXIX-1

**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 *Khabbar* is a part & parcel of life of Konkanis in North America. In fact, *Khabbar* has developed a special relation with most of the Konkani families and here are some examples of those close encounters of a different kind.....

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Konkanis in North America have been quite accustomed to getting quarterly issues of *Khabbar* on a regular basis. I mean, on time, every time. I did not know how much they were hooked on receiving *Khabbar* until the two incidents that happened recently.

Firstly, this family from Canada sends the following email on December 14<sup>th</sup> 2005:

“Dear Mr. Bhat,  
I am wondering if this year’s Dec *Khabbar* issue and also accompanying address list was sent to subscribers! I am a

regular paid subscriber and we have not received one yet in Canada”

Secondly, I receive a phone call from this family in Indiana on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> 2005:

“You know, we have NOT received our *Khabbar* nor the Mailing List. We normally get these during this time of the year and we are concerned whether it is lost in the US Mail! Will you be kind enough to send a spare copy of *Khabbar* & the Annual mailing List, if you have them?”

### Editor’s Reply:

*Khabbar* normally gets mailed within the 7 days window of the regularly scheduled date. But, I was not aware that our folks are so much dependent on *Khabbar*...!?!

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### SUBSCRIPTION FORM:

Dear Konkani family,

It is time to renew your subscription for 2006! 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 remit your subscription for 2006 at \$15.00 a year. **Please, don't pay for future years!** 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 XXIX No. 1

January, February, March - 2006  
Honorary Editor: Mr. Vasanth Bhat  
Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 222  
Lake Jackson, TX 77566-0222

[www.ekhabbar.com](http://www.ekhabbar.com)

Tel: (979)-299-3210

Email: [khabbar@hotmail.com](mailto:khabbar@hotmail.com)

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Make check payable to "Khabbar" & mail to P.O.Box 222, Lake Jackson, TX 77566-0222

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 2002**. In other words, families who **have not** paid since 2001 will not be receiving this issue and for families that have paid only in 2002, this will be the **last time** they will receive the hard copy of *Khabbar*. The numbers on the mailing label clearly indicate the year/s the dues for *Khabbar* has been received since 2001 and if there is any error let me know.

The on-line version of *Khabbar*, ekhabbar, will be on the web a **quarter** after the hard copies have been mailed. This issue has **not** been mailed to families that have specifically indicated that they will access ekhabbar.

**It is time to renew your subscription for 2006. Send your subscription with a check payable to *Khabbar* to P. O. Box 222, Lake Jackson, TX 77566-0222.**

The Advisory Committee of *Khabbar* is glad that the annual dues will remain the same at \$15.00 a year and for that you get:

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

The *Khabbar* Mailing List is a prized possession of our community and help me to keep it up-to-date. Send names and addresses of Konkani families that are not

in the list to P. O. Box 222, Lake Jackson, TX 77566-0222, or email [khabbar@hotmail.com](mailto:khabbar@hotmail.com) and rest be assured that I'll "*khabbarize*" them!

*Khabbar* will publish all the developments and progress made by **The North American Konkani Association (NAKA)** on an on-going basis. Send your constructive suggestions to any of the Directors of the NAKA Board.

The preparations for the event of 2006 are taking shape on a grand scale. **The KonCANi Sammelan - 2006** in Hamilton will be an event no Konkani in North America or in the world should miss! Already over 800 people have registered for this gala event!! All indications are that 2,000 people will attend. The various committees and their volunteers are already at work to prove that this will be worth your time and money. Visit their website ([www.konkani2006.com](http://www.konkani2006.com)) to find out more about this great event of 2006.

The unofficial *Khabbar* correspondents in your area who send in the *hoon khabbars* on a regular basis are doing an outstanding job. **Remember, if it did not appear in *Khabbar*, then it did not happen in North America!** If your area is not represented wholly, let me know and I'll recruit more volunteers. You send the news items via email ([khabbar@hotmail.com](mailto:khabbar@hotmail.com)).

On the Quiz front, *Khabbar* has still remained as an undefeated champion! **Remember, anyone getting correct**

solutions to 4 consecutive issues will get free subscription to *Khabbar* for a year.

With the Foundation Stone laid for the ambitious project, **Konkani Kendra**, the **Konkani Bhas Ani Sanskriti Pratistan** is looking for more financial support. Thanks to **Basti Ganapathi Shenoy** who has devised a method wherein families wanting to help **Konkani Bhas Ani Sanskriti Pratistan** can do so with relative ease! Call him at (702)-341-6706 or email: [bshenoy@cox.net](mailto:bshenoy@cox.net) if interested to extend your help for this worthy cause.

*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. It is amazing to see so many appeals come to *Khabbar* on a regular basis. *Khabbar* firmly believes in helping our people whether it is in India or here. In this issue, I have published the appeal from **Dr. P. Gowri Pai** of Puttur, D. K., who has done a tremendous job in helping our elderly. She needs our support. Please, extend your help to the maximum extent.

On a personal note, I thank **H. H. Shreemad Vidyadhiraj Teertha Shreepada Vader Swami** of Gokarn Math for recognizing & showering His blessings on me for my work as honorary editor of *Khabbar*.

Happy *Yugadi* to you all. Hope peace & tranquility prevails on earth  
*Devu Boren Karo.*



# 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,  
Here is this year's analysis of the 2006 *Khabbar* Mailing List dated 12-6-2005:

Of the 2,051 families in the list (it was 1,871 last year!), we have Konkans living in 44 states & DC (same as last year!). We do not have any Konkans living in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming!!

Also, we have:

216 Kamat(h)  
214 Shenoy, Shenai, Shanbh(o)ag(ue)  
199 Pai  
145 Nayak (Naik)  
113 Prabhu  
96 Rao (u)  
79 Bhat(t)  
43 Baliga  
35 Kini  
32 Mal(l)ya, Mallia, Mahale  
30 Nadkarni(y)  
21 Kudva  
17 Bhandarkar, Bhandari(y)  
15 Acharya.  
14 Hegde  
13 Kop(p)ikar  
13 Hatt(i)angadi(y)  
10 Amladi

The Kamat(h) families have maintained their lead. California still leads with 440 families (13 more than last year!) and San Jose, CA has the highest number of Konkani families living (63)! It was 66 last year!!

Keep up the great work.

*Ravindra Nayak,  
Flanders, NJ*

## Editor's Reply:

Thanks for your timely analysis. I am sure there are Konkans in those six states and hope someday, we'll discover them! Once again, I appeal to all families to send in the names of their friends and relatives who are not in the list to make this list complete.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Mr. Bhat,

It was nice meeting you and your wife after a long time.

I am happy to inform you that the charity hospital in Kanhangad is coming up. We hope to inaugurate it

in May 2006. We do have a tax-exempt trust in USA now for donations. Please spread the news among your community especially among those from that area. Please look up our web site [www.anandashramfoundation.org](http://www.anandashramfoundation.org) for details.

With regards,

Dr. Jay Raman,  
Houston, TX

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Vasantmam,

I just moved to Washington State and live close to the Seattle area. I was wondering whether there are any Konkans living in this area, who would like to get together. It is good way to get to know new people. I think, may be by putting this letter in your editorial section, it would encourage some one to get in touch with us.

Thanks

Sujata Acharya  
([sujataacharya@msn.com](mailto:sujataacharya@msn.com))

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Dear Vasanth:

My mother **Smt. Ramabai Shenoy's** new book *Sri Guru Charithamrutha* has been published. Today, I will be mailing you a copy of the book along with the above attachment for your review. I am sending the attachment by email for your preview and also for you to edit as you see fit, if you decide to include any information in *Khabbar*. The attachments are self-explanatory. If you need further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks,

Vittal Shenoy Charlotte, NC  
[bshenoy@carolina.rr.com](mailto:bshenoy@carolina.rr.com)

## Editor's Reply:

I really enjoyed reading the book and recommend this to one and all in the community.

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My dear Vasant Bhat,

Already you had helped us in various ways by publishing my appeal in "*Khabbar*" as well as personally

donating to our old age home. While appreciating and thanking you profusely, may I request you to publish the following bit of information in the "*Khabbar*"? I should have sent it last year itself, but somehow it got postponed, and I do not know how far it is going to help us also. It is my wish that I should do my duty. The result will be in God's hands.

I still remember the words in one of your letters that "You shall publish anything for a good cause rather than sending addresses of the donor friends". I had very well understood your feelings. Kindly help us in publishing this piece of appeal.

For your kind information, I would like to mention here that Anandashram has come forward this year to offer services of a "Hospice" (A Palliative Care Home) for the terminally ill.

With love and regards

Dr. Gowri Pai  
Puttur, D.K.

Dated 29th July 2005.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Vasanth,

Greetings. I am writing to you after a long time. During my recent visit to India, I had an extraordinary experience of visiting a place in Manipal called Heritage Village. You might have heard about Vijayanath Shenoy, the man behind this project. Please review the following informal web page to get better idea of his work in Manipal:

<http://hastashilpa.nfshost.com>

The main purpose of writing this letter is to raise awareness among Konkans about this project, which needs some financial help. I will be giving a 30-minute PowerPoint presentation at Konkani 2006 Convention in Hamilton, Canada.

Also, an alternative is to give *Khabbar* readers this address for them to view the pictures themselves. Any moral/financial help is welcome.

Thanks.

Dr. K. P. S. Kamath  
[pkamath001@charter.net](mailto:pkamath001@charter.net)

\*\*\*\*\*



# Hoon Khabbar

## Congratulations:

**Dr. RAJESH SHENOY** of Irvington, NY (a pediatric cardiologist at Montefiore Pediatric Hospital, Manhattan, NY) was one of the Doctors who successfully did Open Heart Surgery on one of the 4 Children who came from Iraq (via Rotary Club Sponsor: A Charity Organization) for this delicate operation. Other 3 children were also operated during that week in December 2005. Hospital bore the cost of all operations. You can read about the operation and the details of medical staff at

<http://www.montefiore.org/media/mission/>

Dr. Rajesh is son-in-law of Narasinha & Vasanthi Kamath of Flushing, NY.

**K. V. KAMATH**, Chairman and Managing Director of ICICI Bank, is *Business India's* businessman of the year 2005. This is the 24th year of the *Business India* awards.

In keeping with the magazine's tradition, the jury was chaired by Business India's businessman of the previous year, S Ramadorai, CEO, Tata Consultancy Services Ltd, who was selected for the award last year.

Kamath was honoured for his achievement in the transformation of ICICI from a development finance institution to a full-fledged commercial bank, now India's second largest after the State Bank of India after the mega reverse merger of ICICI Ltd with ICICI Bank in 2002. He took charge as MD and CEO in 1996.

Five distinguished Konkani personalities who have made rich contributions in their fields were presented distinguished achievement awards by Dr T M A Pai Foundation here on Sunday January 15<sup>th</sup> 2006.

The awardees are:

1. **V Leeladhar** (\*), Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India,
2. **B P Baliga**, Vice-President, Support Services, Jet Airways (I) Pvt Ltd,
3. **Ramdas Kamat**, renowned Marathi stage artiste,

4. **Madusudhan D Kushe**, Chairman and Managing Director of PVS Beedies Pvt Ltd and

5. **Prof R K Rao** (posthumously).

(\* Did not attend the function)

**Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell** establishes Governors Advisory Commission on Asian American Affairs and appoints **NARASIMHA (Nick) SHENOY** of Frazer, PA as the commissioner. Details of Commission and its activities at [www.asianam.state.pa.us](http://www.asianam.state.pa.us)

**New York Governor George Pataki** establishes Governors Advisory Commission on Asian American Affairs and appoints **ANANTH (Andy) SHENOY** of New York, NY as the Special Advisor to the Governor for South Asian Affairs.

Government Of India honored **Sri. NANDAN M NILEKANI**, CEO of Infosys with *Padma Bhushan* Award in Science & Engineering during the Republic Day function on Jan 26, 2006.

On Thursday February 17, 2006, The President of India, Dr. Abdul Kalam nominated noted filmmaker **Sri. SHYAM BENEGAL**, media magnate Shobhana Bhartia and eminent art historian Kapila Vatsayan to Rajya Sabha. They fill the vacancies caused by the retirement of leading jurist Fali S Nariman, melody queen Lata Mangeshkar and journalist Cho Ramaswamy. 72-year-old Benegal, who was credited with introducing what is called the 'middle cinema', shot to fame with *Ankur* in 1973 was awarded the *Padma Shri* in 1976 and *Padma Bhushan* in 1981.

On Feb 17<sup>th</sup> 2006, the Houston based Texas Power Generation LLC announced plans to invest up to \$10 billion in next ten years for setting up power plants in India. **Sri GOVIND R. BOLOOR** of Houston, TX, MD-Engineering/Construction, addressing a news conference in New Delhi, said to start with, Texas Power has signed

an MoU with Chhattisgarh Government for the 1,600-MW coal fired plant in the state at an investment of Rs.6,000 crore.

At the 2006 San Fernando Valley Engineer's Council National Engineers Week Awards Banquet, Second Place prize for the IEEE BME BIO-TECH CONTEST was awarded to **NARESH SHENOY KOTACHERRY** of Long Beach, CA, in recognition for engineering in concept design using electrical, electronics, biomedical or electro-optics to assist a person's disability to manage tasks that usually require assistance. The prize was awarded by the IEEE BME Society, Los Angeles Chapter.

**VASANTH BHAT** of Lake Jackson, TX was one of the few distinguished Konkans honored by H. H. Shreemad Vidyadhiraj Teertha Shreepada Vader Swami Guru-Maharaj, 23rd Mathadhipathi of Akhanda Guru-Peetha of Samsthan Gokarn Mutt during the Maha-Sabha on Sunday February 5<sup>th</sup> 2006 at Dwarakanath Bhavan in Wadala, Mumbai for his services to North American Konkani community as honorary editor of *Khabbar*.

The Indian Community in Charlotte, NC honored **Smt. RAMABAI SHENOY** of Charlotte, NC in August 2005 with an elaborate ceremony called *Suvarna Kankana* for her stellar achievements such as:

(a) the publication of three religious books (*Sri Guru Charitra* for which Swamiji Sudhindra Thirtha kindly wrote a foreword; *Shiva Leelamruta*, and the current book she wrote, namely, *Sri Guru Charithamrutha*);

and (b) the great service of imparting Hindu wisdom for the last decade to both children and adults in her Charlotte home - knowledge such as *Slokas*, *Stothras (Ganesha Stuthi, Vishnu Sahasranam, Gopika Gita, Sudarshana Ashtakam, Hayagreeva Stothram and Lakshmi Ashtakam)*, *Bhajans*, and *Adi Sankaryacharya's compositions (Guru Paduka Stothra,*

*Brahma Jnanavali, Dasha Sloki & Anapurna Ashttakam).*

The renowned Professor of English at Presidency College, Chennai, Professor Prema Panduranga, who comes to the United States annually to give lectures in English and Hindi on *Bhagavad Gita, Bhagavat and Ramayana* was present among other dignitaries. Recently, Sri Sugunendra Thirtha Swamiji of Putthige Math (Udupi Krishna Temple) also visited her home and blessed all.

**Dr. MAITREYA PADUKONE** of New York, NY was elected as the President of the New York County Dental Society for the year 2006.

### **Konkani Graduates:**

**SANTOSH KAMATH M.D.**, s/o Narayandas & Sangeetha Kamath of Richmond Hill, ON, Canada has accepted a residency at Englewood Hospital & Medical Clinic, NJ specializing in Internal Medicine.

**SMITHA**, d/o Narayandas & Sangeetha Kamath of Richmond Hill, ON, Canada received B.S (Hons) in Psychology in June 2005 from York University and has joined Midwestern University's Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology, near Chicago, IL.

**KALPANA** of New York, NY, d/o Gopal & Pratibha Bhandarkar of Bayport, NY completed her Masters in Public Health (MPH) from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health & MBA from Johns Hopkins School of Professional Studies in Business and Education in Dec. 2005.

**AMITHA BHATT** of London, Ont. graduated from Athabasca University, Alberta with an MBA degree.

**PRAMOD UDIAYER** of Mississauga, Ont. recently completed an MBA program from the Queen's School of Business, Queen's University, Ont. Prior to completing this program, he obtained his CFA designation from the CFA Institute in the US. Pramod has now been appointed as VP-Risk management at TD Asset management Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of the TD Bank

Financial Group and one of Canada's largest investment managers.

### **New Arrivals:**

**SOHAN**, a 7 lb. & 3 oz. Baby boy to Dayal & Meeta (Patel) Gaitonde of Menlo Park, CA on August 23<sup>rd</sup> 2005. A first grandson to Shantaram & Tara Gaitonde of Glen Ellyn, IL

**MALINI**, a baby girl to Mohan & Bhavana Kamath of West Bloomfield, MI on September 18<sup>th</sup> 2005. Proud grand parents are Mundkur Venkatraya & Rohini Kamath and Mr. & Mrs. B. S. Kamath.

**GIAN SUHAAS**, a baby boy to Santiago & Ashwini Nayak Lombeyda of Pasadena, CA, on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> 2005. First grandchild to proud maternal grandparents Ramchandra & Malathi (Sheela) Nayak of Doylestown, PA. Paternal grandparents are Omar & Susana Lombeyda of Quito, Ecuador.

**NIKHIL**, a baby boy to Sumant & Sandhya Chandavarkar of Ottawa, Ont. on December 8<sup>th</sup> 2005.

**SAFAL**, a baby boy to Dr. Sachin & Dr. Sangeetha Kamath of Plainview, Long Island on Feb 10<sup>th</sup> 2006. Brother to Salil and Grandson to Dr. Narasinha & Lalita Kamath of Flushing, NY and Great Grand son to Mrs. Radhabai Kamath.

**LAKSHAN**, a 7 lbs and 20.5 inches long baby boy was born to Kochikar Rakesh & Ajnya Pai of Salt Lake City, UT on Sunday Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> 2006 at 12:30 PM. A brother to Nandan.

His paternal grandparents are Kochikar Ramnath & Rajashree Pai of Carlsbad, NM, and his maternal grandparents are Vaman & Rajalakshmi Kamath of Mumbai.

**KIRAN**, a baby boy to Anand & Jennifer Rao of Aliso Viejo, CA on Thursday Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> 2006. A younger brother for Brenna. Proud grand parents are Venkatesh & Padma Rao of Walnut, CA

### **Engagements:**

**Chi. AJIT**, of Richmond, VA, s/o Balachandra & Vijaya Pai of Cherry Hill, NJ is engaged to his college

sweetheart **Kum. AMIE MIKLAVCIC** on Nov. 12, 2005. They have known each other for the last 4-5 years. Amie is doing her residency in OBGyn at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) where Ajit is also doing his residency.

**Kum. SHRADDA**, d/o Shivdas & Sheetal Pai of Toronto, Ont. engaged to **Chi. LINCOLN**, s/o Martin & Sara Stein of Poundridge, NY on US Thanksgiving day Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> 2005.

**Chi. ANIL**, s/o Balachandra & Vijaya Pai of Cherry Hill, NJ is engaged to **Kum. SHILPA**, d/o Vilas & Sneha Prabhu of Lancaster, PA. An engagement ceremony was held in Lancaster on Nov. 26, 2005. The future bride's grandmother Smt. Lalita Prabhu of Wanaque, NJ was present to give the couple her blessings.

### **Engagement Party:**

Vasanth & Poornima Bhat of Lake Jackson, TX celebrated the engagement of their son, **Chi. VINODH** of New York, NY, to **Kum. KALPANA**, d/o Gopal & Pratibha Bhandarkar of Bayport, NY on Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> 2005 at Madras Pavilion at the Lake in Sugarland, TX.

### **Newly Weds:**

**Chi. SANAT** of Brentwood, CA, s/o Shyam & Kalyani Amladi of Chicago, IL married to **Kum. PRIYAMVADA**, d/o Kishore & Sudha Adur of Santa Cruz, Mumbai on November 20, 2005 in Mumbai, India.

Dr. Ganesh & Seema Bhat of Malba, NY celebrated the marriage of their daughter, **Sow. Dr. PREMILA** with **Chi. KIRAN**, s/o Madhavi & late Lakshmikant Mandrekar at Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury, NY on Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup> 2005. Mr. Chaitanya Bijoor of Morrisville, PA conducted the marriage ceremony. *Phool Muddi* ceremony was held on December 10<sup>th</sup> 2005 at The Sterling in Bethpage, New York. A grand reception held at the T.M.A. Convention Center on January 10<sup>th</sup> 2006 in Mangalore was well attended by family and friends.

Mohan & Vasumathi Pai of Fresh Meadows, NY celebrated the marriage of their daughter, **Sow. Dr. URMILA**, with **Chi. Dr. GANESH**, s/o Suresh & Shoba Kamath on Wednesday December 21<sup>st</sup> 2005 at Dr. T. M. A. Pai International Convention Centre in Mangalore.

**Chi. NISHANT**, s/o Srinath & Mangala Rao of San Antonio, TX married to **Sow. KASHMIRA**, d/o Dr. Madhukar & Bshailaja Sonawane of Mumbai. A reception for the newly weds was held at Hotel Highway View (Shikara) in Navi Mumbai on Wednesday Dec 28<sup>th</sup> 2005.

### Relocation:

The **PAGE** family, Richard & Priya Mahale, together with their little daughter, Aasha, have relocated from San Francisco, CA to 50 Battery Place, Apt. 4S, New York, NY 10280.

The **PAI** family, Kochikar Bhasker & Tara, have relocated within Jersey City, NJ to 2787 JFK Blvd., #401, Jersey City, NJ 07306. The new telephone is (201)-963-4404 and email ID: [paimd9@gmail.com](mailto:paimd9@gmail.com)

**Ms VINDYA BHAT** has relocated within Manhattan to 120 West 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Apt 908, New York NY 10011.

The **SHENOY** family, Shantharam & Bhagini, have relocated within Plano, TX to 5812 Bassinghall Lane, Plano, TX 75093. Their new telephone is (972)-608-2608.

The **SHANBHAG** family, Girish & Padmaja, have relocated within Mississauga, Ont. to 5563 Brenchley Avenue, Mississauga, Ont L5V 2H3. The new telephone is (905)-821-8144.

### Mailing Address Change:

The **NAYAK** family, Drs. Vasudev & Shaile have changed their address to 32 Vender Lane, Mays landing, NJ. The telephone is 609-625-0557 and email ID: [Vdevnayak@aol.com](mailto:Vdevnayak@aol.com)

### Email ID Change:

The **BALIGA** family, Rajaram & Gayathri, of Winston Salem, NC have a new email ID: [gabaliga@bellsouth.net](mailto:gabaliga@bellsouth.net)

The **RAO** family, Vijaykumar & Prema, of Oak Brook, IL have new email ID's; For Vijaykumar: [vijayrao.md@gmail.com](mailto:vijayrao.md@gmail.com) and for Prema: [premarao305@gmail.com](mailto:premarao305@gmail.com)

The **PRABHU** family, Ramkrishna & Maya, of Houston, TX have changed their email ID to [nonche1@yahoo.com](mailto:nonche1@yahoo.com)

### 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party:

Sheela Manelkar, of Edison, NJ, with family and friends, threw an extremely enjoyable "Surprise" 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party for her husband **ARUN** on Feb 18<sup>th</sup> 2006. It was an awesome event, complete with a belly dancer who danced to Hindi music! Arun was roasted by one and all present.

### 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party:

Family and friends threw a surprise 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party to **RAVI SHENOY** of Montville, NJ at Bukhara Restaurant on January 30<sup>th</sup> 2006.

Daughters Savita and Sonali, and wife Lata arranged a grand 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday bash for **SHIVADEV UBHAYAKAR**, of Palos Verdes, CA on February 25<sup>th</sup> 2006 at the spacious and well designed Fred Hesse Community Park Multi Purpose Room in Palos Verdes, CA. Surrounded by lush green vegetation, the blue Pacific Ocean and picturesque rolling hills, the venue was well chosen for this landmark occasion. Friends, numbering about 100+ were treated to an enjoyable and well planned program, that included an interesting "Jeopardy" game based on trivia about the Birthday Boy by Savita, an imaginative PowerPoint slide show of Shivadev's eventful 60 years by Sonali, brief talks ("Roast Shiva") by some of Shiva's close friends (sometimes tongue in cheek), and a delicious catered lunch. Every detail was carried out in the most efficient and creative way, including the floral decorations and beautiful table runners on each table, that was the handiwork of Lata.

**25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary:**  
**DEEPAK & ASHA UBHAYAKAR** of Upland, CA, celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup>

wedding anniversary on Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> 2005. A party was given to them by their friends and relatives on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> 2005, at the residence of Vivek & Jyoti Ullal in Simi Valley, CA.

### 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary:

The 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of **Dr. RAGHAVENDRA & PREMA BHAT** was celebrated at "The Acres Club", Mumbai on Dec 28<sup>th</sup> 2005 with their children, relatives and friends. The celebration started with a pooja (Havan) followed by a wonderful musical evening by "Chinmaya Swaranjali" and concluded with a tasty dinner. It was a joyous occasion for them to meet a number of friends and relatives whom they have not seen in a number of years.

### Welcome Back to America:

The **DHUME** family, Pankaj & Asha, with their kids, Mahima & Gaurav, have returned back to America after a 4-1/2 year of successful assignment in Pune, India. Pankaj has joined BMC Software in Houston, TX as Director.

### Obituary:

**Smt. ANJANI KALLE** passed away after a brief illness on January 9<sup>th</sup> 2006 in Mumbai. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to her son, Prashant Kalle & family of Trabuco, CA.

**Sri. RAMESH INVALLY** passed away after a brief illness on January 17<sup>th</sup> 2006 in Mumbai. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his daughter, Radhika Hattiangadi & family of Tustin, CA.

**KOTTECHERRY DIVAKAR SHENOY (52)** of Houston, TX passed away suddenly on January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2006. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his wife, Pushpalatha and sons, Vinod & Venkatesh.

**Sri. KASTURI PANDURANGA PAI (68)**, popular Konkani businessman and philanthropist passed away on January 30<sup>th</sup> 2006 in Mangalore. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his sister, Mohini Kamath & family of Cerritos, CA and his sons, Sumanth Pai & family of

## Konkani Happenings:

**Konkani Association of Georgia (KAOG)** is proud to announce that their play staged last year 2005 - "*Baayal Jayi Baayal*" (which is a Konkani adaptation of the original Marathi play "Raatra Thodi Songe Far"), written by Smt. Chandrama Bijur and directed by Rajesh Koppikar; not only had a great reception in the Southeast- but is now scheduled to be played at the KonCANi Sammelan in Hamilton this July 2006. We hope to entertain all the Konkani crowds with this very farcical comedy. Further details to be spilled at the Sammelan only.

### Christmas Party:

**Southern Connecticut and Westchester County Konkani friends and families** celebrated Christmas at Anita and Trivikram Bhat residence in Stamford, CT on Christmas Eve. Despite his overwhelming schedule, Santa made a special visit and gave gifts to all kids, little and big. A sumptuous feast, games, fun competitions and music, courtesy of the hosts, were enjoyed by all. As Mel Brooks would say, It is good to be a Konkani!

Students, friends, and admirers of Late Pandit Bellare arranged a concert at McCoy Equestrian Center, Chino Hills, CA on Saturday, January 14, 2006 celebrating **Late Pt. Ravi Bellare's** lifetime contribution to Music and Art. The students performing included Shubha Bhat (vocal), Prahlad Chudasma (sitar), Vivek Ullal (flute), Greg Johnson, Narayan Kadekode and Rupesh Kotecha (tabla). The grand finale was an excellent tabla solo by Pt Ravi Bellare's twin brother, Pt Shashi Bellare, who came specially from Pune, India. There was an excellent video presentation on Pt. Ravi Bellare, his music, art, and his students, made by student, Rupesh Kotecha.

**Houston Area Amchigae Samaj (HAAS)** held its annual Satyanarayana Puja on 18th February, 2006. Dr. Ramkrishna Prabhu officiated as *pujari*. He explained the significance of the rituals and the prayers, making the *puja* meaningful to the thirteen couples who participated. The *puja* was followed by *bhajans* and *aarti*. A simple but delicious *amchigele* lunch added the finishing touch to the function.

**The Konkani Association of Southern California (KASC)** held their first function for 2006, Shivaratri Bhajan, at Shadow Park Recreation Center in Cerritos, CA on February 25<sup>th</sup> 2006 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

**Konkani Association of Georgia (KAOG)** staged another Konkani play called "*Sunya Baal Vankde*", under the directorship of Rajesh Koppikar. The curtains go up on 02/25/06, in Atlanta, GA. Again Smt. Chandrama Bijur is the author of this Konkani adaptation of the original Gujarati play 'Chakdol' by Mulraj Rajda. (Also adapted for the Hindi movie "Aaj ki taaja khabar"). This farcical comedy seeks to highlight how the essential nature of some people remains the same, no matter what happens, like the dog's tail that will never straighten! The plot revolves around Ganesh Gokarn, a sincere and loving husband and his wife Geeta, an extremely suspicious lady with a fertile imagination. Ganesh seems to have a tendency to get into all kinds of trouble. One day when he visits a fare he decides to take a ride on the giant-wheel. The mechanism of the wheel gives way and Ganesh is forced to spend the night trapped in the seat, suspended in mid-air. Not that he does not enjoy it, as he has the company of a comely young girl, Pooja. Pooja entrusts Ganesh with her valuable camera. The next morning Ganesh returns home to an irate and fuming Geeta. He explains truthfully his predicament of the previous night. But Geeta refuses to believe the ridiculous situation and accuses him of being unfaithful. Finally, to get out of this situation, Ganesh cooks up a story of having stayed the night with an old friend whom Geeta is not acquainted with. He gives the friend a fictitious name and address too. The name he thinks of is Bhringraj Kameshwar Guggul! And thus starts the sequence of lies that goes from one impossible hilarious situation to another. The resulting confusion & chaos is something that has to be seen on stage & enjoyed.

## Time Reckoning

By: Kaup Muralidhar Shenoy, Durham, NC

Modern and Vedic astronomy was born through man's first attempts to measure the passage of time by observing motions of Sun and the Moon. Thus, time reckoning is synonymous with astronomy even today. While modern method of time reckoning has changed over the years, Vedic methods remain unchanged as people continue to celebrate Ram Navami, Krishna Janmashtami etc as per Hindu calendar since Vedic days. This article presents different process of time reckoning and their significance in our daily life.

Modern

The moment we think of measurement of time, most of us recollect either grandfather's clock or our first Physics pendulum experiment using string and mass during school days. We also know how to adjust the period of this pendulum by increasing or decreasing its length. Yet another factor control this period is the earth's gravity while mass of the pendulum has no effect. This mechanical clock when synchronized with the mean solar time, it gives us the time on 24-hour basis. The mean solar time can be defined as a mean Sun which moves eastward along the celestial equator at average rate of true Sun. Greenwich Mean time(GMT) or

Universal Time(UT) is simply a mean solar time measured from Greenwich, England and used in navigation and surveying for hundreds of years. Each country adopts its standard time based on standard meridian with respect to Greenwich. Though look simple, what if earth does not spin in its axis at uniform and constant rate? Well, there is a problem, Earth loses about 45 to 50 seconds in one century and in one millennium, the planet is 1.25 hours behind expected time schedule. Therefore, a better standard for the absolute measurement of time is the use of solar system dynamics. The orbital motions of the planets and of the moon are predictable to very high accuracy and are directly verifiable through observations. The resulting time is referred to as Ephemeris Time (ET).

In 1957, the International Astronomical Union Adopted Ephemeris Time as the standard and defined ephemeris second as  $1/31,356,925.9747$  of the tropical year 1900 at January 0 at 12 hours Universal Time. The difference between ephemeris time and universal time (DT) is obtained through observations of the Moon. The Moon's position is predicted with respect to ET but observed with respect to UT. Between 1900 and 1980, the slowing of the Earth's rotation on its axis had caused Universal Time to lag 50.54 seconds behind Ephemeris Time.

The Ephemeris time remained the basis of all time measurements until 1984. Then with the technological development, the complexity of celestial mechanics is now over with the advent of atomic clock. The atomic or SI second is defined as  $9,192,631,770$  periods of radiation corresponding to the transition between two hyperfine levels ( $F=4$  to  $F=3$ ) of the ground state of the Cesium 133 atom. The SI second was carefully chosen to agree as closely as possible to be ephemeris second. Thus in 1984, SI second was adopted as the newest time standard and Terrestrial Dynamic Time (TDT) replaced Ephemeris Time. The accuracy of this atomic time is about 10-12. Currently, all electronic and computer clocks are calibrated with respect to this atomic clock and become independent of celestial system of time reckoning.

Today's calendar in its earliest form was based on the lunar cycle originated from the Romans. Each month had one lunar cycle and 12 such months in a year accounting for 354 days. To keep the year synchronized with the seasons, a leap month had to be added every other year. This is very much similar to the one adopted by Hindu calendar even today. This was later reformed by Julius Caesar in 46 BC and accordingly the year had 365 days and a leap day was added every fourth year. Thus, average length of a Julian year was 365 days and 6 hour but the tropical year (Sun returns to vernal equinox) is 11m 14s shorter. Consequently, after 128 year the Julian year start almost 1 day too late. In 1582, the difference was about 10 days and Pope Gregarious XIII reformed the calendar again and known as Gregorian calendar that we continue to follow even today. He made few exceptions for the leap year such as; the years divisible by 100 are not leap years except when it is divisible by 400. That is why year 2000 was a leap year.

Vedic

The word "Jyotishya" in the Vedic literature connotes "Astronomy" which was recognized as the foremost of the six auxiliaries of Veda. The Vedic life (1000 B.C. to 400 B.C.) was noted for the performance of several rituals and sacrifices at prescribed times to satisfy heaven and God. Vedanga Jyotishya was the earliest of all Vedic text on astronomy and was an integrated part of the life of the Vedic people of whom Vedic priests were well versed. Accordingly, a civil day was divided in to 30 muhurthas, 1 muhurtha in to 2 nadikas i.e., 60 nadikas (Ghati) for a day. The text also mention 27 nakshatras\* and tithis (longitudinal difference between Sun and Moon in steps of  $12^\circ$ ). The Moon covers  $360^\circ$  from new moon to new moon accounted for 30 tithis in a lunar month. A month was divided in two parts or pakshas, the bright half (Shukla paksha) and the dark half (Krishna paksha). A tithi that is current upon Sunrise is tithi of the day. Thus a day is reckoned from Sunrise to Sunrise and time is reckoned in nadi's or ghati's and in their fractions (1ghati = 24 minutes) from Sunrise. Names of the lunar months\*\* were given based on the nakshatra in which the full moon occurred. For example, during Chaitra month, Moon will be in or closer to Chitta nakshatra during full moon. Similarly, 12 solar months were also identified and when two new moons occur in a given solar month, the lunar month is reckoned as additional month thus correcting the difference between solar year and lunar year.

The first point of the nakshatra Aswini (near the star zeta) is the first point from which the longitude is measured. All the planets are supposed to have zero longitude (first point Ashwini) at the beginning of the mahayuga. The beginning of current Kaliyuga is an epoch, which is presumed to have commenced on the midnight between February 17 and 18, 3102 B.C. The number of civil days elapsed from a given epoch is known as ahargana. This is the basis for computation of all planetary positions in traditional almanac. A solar year is reckoned from Saka era (78 AD) in the south and Vikrama era (57 B.C.) in the north whenever Sun transit over Aswini. Similarly, a lunar year (samvatsara) is reckoned whenever a new moon occurs in or close to Aswini after the end of month Phalguni. This is how and when we celebrate Sauraman and Chandraman yugadi respectively as a Hindu new-year day. A cycle of 60 lunar years has been given names (Prabhava, Vibhava .etc) and this cycle repeats. Accordingly, the current lunar year is Tarana (2004-05), which will repeat again after 60 years.

Vendanga-jyotishya is in the form of various sutra - a style noted for its depth of contents continue to be in use for a long time until the invasion of India by Alexander the Great in fourth century B.C. After Greco-Roman contacts with India, a new class of astronomical literatures called sidhantas started emerging. An important development in this literature was the gradual replacement of nakshatra system by 12 signs of the zodiac, Mesha, Vrishabha, Mithuna, Meena, similar to the animistic notations of the Babylonians and Greeks. Accordingly, 27 nakshatras consisting of 108 parts ( $27 \times 4$ ) divided by 12 gives 9 parts for each sign. Thus, Mesha made up of Ashwini, Bharani and 1 part of Kritika ( $4+4+1=9$ ) and so on. In addition, name of the solar months was identified with the respective sign. A few centuries after Christian era Indian astronomers developed new mathematical tools and methods for promoting astronomical calculations. Spherical trigonometry is one such area developed side by side with algebra and geometry added veneer of accuracy to the study of several astronomical phenomena. Thus newly emerging siddhantas were set of rules (including thumb rules) arriving at solutions to the complex astronomical problems. Among the 18 siddhantas Varahamihira, the great grand master of astronomy as well as astrology, ably codified Saura (Surya), Paitamaha, Vasistha, Romaka and Paulisa during 505 A.D. He reiterated that Surya siddhanta was the most accurate of all and became the basis of many traditional almanacs published even today from

various parts of India. Surya siddhanta in the current form has no human authorship associated with it but, represents contribution from several noted astronomers over the years.

#### Significance

We all well versed with modern time keeping to the extent that most of us maintain hourly/daily/weekly/monthly log or schedule of activities with the help of computers since it has direct economic significance in our daily life. In the absence of modern time keeping systems, the almanacs (Vedic) were the only reliable and consistent timekeepers of all past events that enable people to celebrate and enjoy all traditional feast and festivals even to this date. Most important of all, living in harmony with the nature was the key to the successful, peaceful and happy life during Vedic days. Every species in this earth follows certain hidden rule of the nature in creation, development and destruction with respect to time. Biological make up all species should be in harmony with the nature during its entire development process. However, when ever this process goes out of balance or become arrhythmic the misery strikes. By nature, humans tend to go arrhythmic more often than other species, with the result encounter more challenges in every walk of life. Vedic people had solutions to such problems and came up with muhurthas (Auspicious time) for all major activities that can be found in any almanac for guidance - a tradition continuing even to this day. A logical extension of this gave rise to the evolution of Astrology (300 B.C to 500 AD) that formulated effect of different celestial objects and their movements upon an individual right from cradle to grave.

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#### \* 27 Nakshatras:-

1.Ashwini; 2.Bharani; 3.Kritika; 4.Rohini; 5.Mrigasira; 6.Ardra; 7.Punervasu; 8.Pushya; 9.Ashlesha; 10.Magha; 11.Hubba; 12.Uttara; 13.Hasta; 14.Chitta; 15.Swathi;16.Vishakha; 17.Anuradha; 18.Jeshta; 19.Moola; 20.Poorva Ashada; 21.Uttara Ashada; 22.Shravana; 23.Dhanishta; 24.Shatabhisha; 25.Poorva Bhadra; 26.Uttara Bhadra; 27.Revathi. ]

#### \*\*Lunar months:-

1. Chaitra (Mar-Apr); 2. Vaishakha (Apr-May); 3. Jyeshtha (May-Jun); 4.Ashada (Jun-July); 5.Shravana (Jul-Aug); 6.Bhadrapada (Aug-Sep); 7.Ashwija (Sep-Oct); 8.Kartika (Oct-Nov); 9.Margasira(Nov-Dec); 10.Pushya (Dec-Jan); 11.Magh (Jan-Feb); 12.Phalguni (Feb-Mar).

## **Saga Of Surnoli**

By: Shiv Shankar Surkund, Mumbai

Excerpts from his book "Ad-ventures Of A PR Man"

THE toughest challenge I can ever think of is this: how to chum out the cream of the many mouth-watering delicacies of South Kanara, particularly among the Gauda Saraswat and Saraswat Brahmins? 'Rasachandrika', the most popular cookery book among the GSBs, could not cope with that challenge and, thanks to the culinary skills of our forefathers (or 'foremothers'), nobody could accomplish that even in future.

Taste buds differ from person to person. My favourites include mondo, undalkaal, pattoli, sandna khotto, biskut roti, biskut ambode, kodbale, phenori and surnoli, the last two coming in two varieties- namkeen and sweet. Of the last couple, surnoli really takes the cake. It is at its best when served hot, topped with fresh butter or ghee. Some relish it with honey.

In the early' 40s, when I was in Standard VIII, milk flowed in our house in Udupi. There were only two cows in our shed; but whenever a calf was born, such was the milk yield that it was double our requirements at home. That provided a good opportunity to supplement our income by selling the excess milk. So every morning I had this special duty during the milky season-delivering milk to customers who preferred it absolutely fresh!

My first customers were an elderly couple residing in the compound of our temple near Kalsanka, a well-known landmark in Udupi. No one could pass through the town without touching this artery. (Now, with the National Highway skipping Udupi town, its importance is reduced.) Between 7.00 and 7.30 every morning I would arrive at the couple's home carrying fresh, right-from-the-udders, milk in a millet (a closed container). I would step into the kitchen and transfer its contents to a dudgali (a special vessel used for boiling only milk), unflinchingly kept in a corner. The old lady would immediately mount it on a choolah.

Gas or wick stoves were unheard of then. Firewood was the only source of energy and, more often than not, I had to inhale a lungful of smoke. The ventilation was quite bad since the compound wall outside almost touched the backyard of the kitchen, blocking out wind as well as shine. The tiled roof with wooden beams had one tile replaced with a glass pane to let in reasonable amount of daylight. If I was lucky, along with the smoke, sometimes I would also smell the aroma of upma, dosa, appam, doddak and seasoned poha- to name a few.

Every day, while I was pouring the milk in to their vessel, the old lady would invite me to share snacks/coffee with them. "Today I have made such and such an item", she would announce, though I had smelt the day's special almost as soon as I entered the kitchen. I would have loved to join in, but modesty and pride would not let me succumb to the temptation- at least not without even a semblance of resistance.

Acceptance of the irresistible offer also meant getting late to school.

Moreover I had other important errands to do, such as collecting flowers from the neighbouring compounds for pooja, keeping a watch on the bathroom blaze to ensure hot water for bath in time, not to mention sundry other jobs in the kitchen that don't deserve detailed mention. Hence I would politely thank her, promising to make it on a Sunday, when there will no tension of having to rush off to school.

At last, I gave in one Sunday when, as soon as I entered their kitchen, I the mouth-watering aroma of sumoli (alias rontaas or cousin brother of utappa) greeted me. "Today, I will not let you to go without having tanneek (refreshments)", asserted the lady lovingly, adjusting the firewood of the choolah, on which a surnoli of slightly yellowish colour was being fried. "It will be my pleasure, thank you", I said politely, even while in the act of pouring milk into her dudgali.

I had made her day. I discerned the extent of her happiness from the delightful smile that flashed on her face. She bustled around, located a manai (roughly hewn seat made out of a wooden plank), placed it on the floor and ordered me to park myself on it. A plate and a tumbler of water were also placed in front of me. Soon two piping hot surnolis were adorning the plate, the stearn embellished by the sun's rays filtering through the glass pane overhead.

I was about to pounce on it when the old lady said, "Just a second. I will pour some ghee on it. It is good for your brain." And she poured two teaspoonfuls of thick ghee on the golden moon on my plate.

That did it. The vision haunting me vanished, to be replaced by a nightmare with just a flick of her wrist. Though she had poured the to be nectar had turned old, stale and tasteless. In fact the ghee had not only lost its natural aroma, but also acquired a nauseating stink. In front of my horrified eyes, the unexpected invader began to melt atop the steaming hot sumoli, tending to spread all over. It was an extremely tragic sight.

My heart had not only skipped a beat, but it had almost stopped. In fact it had started sinking, the sensation being similar to the one you get when riding a giant wheel. I had to think quick and act fast if anything was to be salvaged from the menacing bacteria. Otherwise all will be lost in no time at all.

Immediately (and slyly too!), I dug my fingers in and separated 2/3 of the smviving surnoli-tearing from the comers, leaving the centre-spread intact-from the rest of it. After downing the salvaged choice portion, I started devising wily methods to dispose of the polluted parts inconspicuously. For a while I even considered gulping it down at one go and washing it down with the coffee. But I had no stomach for such a daunting task.

While I was ruminating, the situation went from bad to worse. Observing that the 'heart' of the surnoli, topped with the blob of ghee (or whatever remained of it), was still intact, the old woman smiled. Apparently she had jumped to the conclusion that I was safeguarding the ghee to prolong the pleasure of eating, as most children do while awaiting a second helping. (You may not grasp what I mean unless you have let the taste of badami halwa linger on your tongue much after you have finished the eating.) The outcome: she dumped a third surnoli on the first two- this one still more steaming hot. And, to add to my agony, she topped it off with yet another and bigger blob of stale ghee!

It is said any man worth his salt rises to the occasion when he is back to the wall. I was too immobilised to stir around freely; but that did not prevent me from pushing through my plan of action. The moment the old lady turned her back, I repeated the earlier part of the 'Operation Surnoli' -carving out the choice outer circle and plopping it into my mouth. Then came the second and toughest part. I grabbed the three centre-spreads, one perched above the other, in the hidden palm of the right hand and, as the left hand opened the lid of my milk container, with lightning speed, dumped it soundlessly at its bottom. The lid came down silently too.

By the time the good-old lady turned around, the surnolis had vanished lock, stock and barrel! Most impressive of all, I was wiping the plate clean and licking my fingers appreciatively!! When she enquired whether I would like a third serving, I politely told her I was too full. Then I thanked her for her great hospitality and bid her goodbye.

Once I reached home, it took me almost an hour to remove the stench of ghee from the milk container. I had to scrub, rinse and wash it with hot water, rub with tamarind, cow-dung and ash. Still I could not get rid of the smell cent percent. The next day, as she was about to pour milk into the container, I overheard my aunt murmuring, "How come the vessel smells of rotten ghee?!"

Though I knew the answer, I pretended that I had not heard her.

### **Some Misconceptions about Bhagavad-Gita**

Raj Acharya, Ocean, NJ – [rajacharya@optonline.net](mailto:rajacharya@optonline.net)

We live in times which have seen unprecedented scientific progress. Many new discoveries have come to surface which has made human life easier. At least that is what we think so. With all these modern comforts, human life has not been better in terms of

happiness, peace within and joy. I am not against progress. However, I think while scientific progress has its place in human life so does the spirituality. Our scriptures say that it is very difficult to get human life and so one should not trivialize it or waste it. Many will argue on this point alone saying that wasting is a point of view. However, we often find that certain events take place which wake us up. We realize the time-bound nature of things around us. When this awareness arises, this also starts a journey to discover the truth of life. Bhagavad-Gita holds a very prominent place in Sanatana Dharma (Eternal way of living). In it, Bhagvan has given a way of life and unfolded the message of our scriptures in a “capsule form”. Unfortunately, many Hindus either never study Gita at all or have some misconceptions about what it has to offer. The following are some of the misconceptions:

### **Gita is to be read only in later stage in life.**

Many people believe that Gita is to be studied only after one gets old. This is based on what they have heard growing up or sometimes just the notions they pick up without really looking into them. Gita unfolds a beautiful map to live one’s life. It unfolds the wonderful truth about us. At what age do we study Gita? There is no particular age, just the maturity to see that world around us is constantly changing. Some times an event takes place in our life that wakes us up to the realization of this fact. Thus begins the journey on the path of spirituality. Gita teaches us to lead our lives intelligently, not falling prey to our likes and dislikes. At times we find that our lives are driven by our likes and dislikes. It is as though our likes and dislikes are managing our lives. This is not an intelligent living but living under the grip of likes and dislikes which move us around like a yo-yo. Gita helps us to manage our likes and dislikes thereby living an intelligent life. The earlier we discover and understand the message, the better off we are in leading an intelligent living.

### **It is not sufficient to read Gita but one has to “practice” Gita also.**

People say that it is not just enough to study, one needs to “practice” it. Gita is a matter of understanding. The message is to be understood and assimilated. If I am ignorant of what my essential nature is, what I need is the knowledge to shed the ignorance. Bhagavan unfolds the truth and removes the ignorance by knowledge. It is the self-knowledge that is to be gained. The truth, however, is very subtle and requires a subtle mind to assimilate it. The meditation is a means to make the mind quiet so that one can inquire into the reality. All our efforts and the means that we deploy are to make our mind pure so that we can assimilate the message. All the “practice” that is talked about is to gain the purity of the mind and heart so the vision of Gita can be understood.

### **Gita is a preaching by Bhagavan to Arjuna**

Arjuna was confused on the battlefield. He could not bear the thought of fighting Bhismapitamah and Dronacharya on the battlefield. These two people shaped his life. We “fight” a battle too in our daily life. It is a battle of a different kind. It is a battle to manage our likes and dislikes and not have them drive our actions. There is “Arjuna” in each of us in that sense. The teaching of Gita is very relevant to our situations. The whole teaching is applicable to all human beings at large.

### **Central Message of Gita is somewhat unclear.**

This view is held by people who have either not completely studied Gita or have not given their mind and heart to it. The words of Gita are to be looked into and reflected upon. The central message of Gita is Tat Tvam Asi (That you are). Roughly first six chapters (except the first one) are dedicated to unfolding the nature of Tvam, i.e. you. Next six chapters are dedicated to unfolding the nature of tat, i.e. Isvara (Godhead) and the last six chapters equate the two sides, a seemingly impossible equation. If asked to introduce ourselves, we say things like “I am so and so, I am a physician, I am a son of so and so” etc. All these are incidental attributes. For example, being a physician is an attribute of your intellect; a son is a relation with respect to the father. Gita says that you are not any one of these incidental attributes. All of these belong to either your body or the mind-senses complex while you are ever free from all of them. Gita says “You are the atmaitanyam (consciousness) that is pure, eternal and all pervading”. This is a paradigm shift in our vision of us. Therefore, naturally, it requires a lot of listening, reflection and contemplation. Similarly, we have a vague idea of what Isvara is. Gita helps us understand the essential nature of Isvara. Understanding the essential nature of I and Isvara, we assimilate the final message.

### **Gita’s message is applicable in olden days: it has very little applicability to modern times.**

Many, who do not bother to study Gita, hold this view. Do we say the same about the ancient Sun? Something does not become inapplicable just because it is ancient. What is applicable thousands of years ago is also applicable today. This is because the human mind works the same way, functionally speaking, as it did several thousand years ago. We are mesmerized by the objects of the world, driven by the likes and dislikes. Gita changes our vision of ourselves and the world. This is an important human growth. We are born on the earth with this purpose only and all our means and desires, really speaking, sub-serve the goal of self-knowledge. Times have changed while the eternal truth remains the same. The message of Gita unfolds the eternal truth about us.

### **Gita’s message is a matter of belief.**

Some say that Gita’s message is a matter of belief. It is not. The message of Gita is a matter for understanding. The message is to be carefully listened to, reflected upon and understood properly. The student is the one who has to validate the words of Gita by reflection and contemplation. Gita removes the ignorance that we have about ourselves. The ignorance can only be removed by knowledge. Knowledge is not a matter of belief but something that has to be assimilated and understood.

Initially, one starts the studies with sraddha in the words of Gita. The word sraddha means a commitment to the words of Sastram (scriptures) pending discovery. Who is the discoverer? the student. One begins the study with this bit of understanding so that the aim is of the studies is clear.

### **Gita is for intellectuals, not for me.**

We are born as human beings. Human beings have the intellect which is required to “see” the message of Gita. Animals do not have discriminative faculty needed to gain the knowledge. It is only the human beings who can do this. To understand the message, one needs to gain the purity of the mind and heart and not necessarily a high IQ. Sometimes with the high IQ comes the ego which comes in the way of understanding. A sincere desire to look into the words of Gita is essential.

It is important that one studies Gita from a teacher who is well versed in Sastram and has the ability to explain the wonderful words of Bhagavan in a language that can be easily understood. With this understanding, a human life can be a privilege that can be lived in the Grace of Isvara. Every moment can be precious moment to be lived to the fullest extent.

Om Namah Shivay!

I welcome comments.

Raj Acharya – [rajacharya@optonline.net](mailto:rajacharya@optonline.net)

## **2006 Konkani Sabha Activities**

Following are the highlights of the KONKANI SABHA activities for the year 2006

### **Picnic: Rain or Shine**

**Date:** Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> 2006

**Time:** 10 AM to sunset

**Location:** Mercer County Park East, New Jersey

**Cost:** \$5.00 per person/\$10.00 per family to cover the cost of rent of the park, beverages, watermelon and supplies.

**Activities:** Volleyball, Cricket, Badminton, Bingo, Children’s activities and a Grand Raffle

**Note:** Please bring food items (entrée only) enough for 2 families. Desserts will be provided by Konkani Sabha.

For details including directions, visit our website at [www.KonkaniSabha.org](http://www.KonkaniSabha.org)

Anyone interested in sponsoring/contributing prizes for children’s activities, please contact the office bearers in advance.

Advance registration and payment for the Diwali function will be accepted on this day. So Come On, Don’t miss out on the fun

### **Diwali:**

**Date:** Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> 2006.

**Time:** Registration counters open at 3 PM sharp

Entertainment events start at 3 PM sharp.

**Note:** We have strict time constraints with the hall, and need to vacate by 8 PM.

We will be starting the events at 3 PM sharp to meet this time constraint.

**Location:** Shri Venkateshwara Temple Community Center, 780 Old Farm Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

**Tel:** (908) 725-4477

**Cost:** Registration and Payment by October 5th - \$13 (12 years and older) and \$6 (ages 6 to 12)

Registration after Oct 5th and at the door - \$15 (12 years and older) and \$8 (ages 6 to 12)

Advance Registration and payments will also be accepted at the picnic

**Activities:** Variety Entertainment, Socialization, Appetizer and Dinner

Anyone interested in receiving the Konkani Sabha flyers, please contact the office bearers, or, email your contact information including email addresses to [KonkaniSabha@gmail.com](mailto:KonkaniSabha@gmail.com)

Visit our website at [WWW.KonkaniSabha.org](http://WWW.KonkaniSabha.org) for further details and updates on our activities. Anyone interested volunteering to organize the events and activities, and/or in performing at the Diwali function please contact the office bearers.

Title	Name	Phone Number	Email
President	Ganapathi Kamath	(732) 422-0175	<a href="mailto:gkamatcpa@yahoo.com">gkamatcpa@yahoo.com</a>
Vice President	Manoj Bijoor	(914) 923-4550	<a href="mailto:bijoor@ieee.org">bijoor@ieee.org</a>
Director of Communication	Vivek Pai	(201) 776-7466	<a href="mailto:wewakepie@yahoo.com">wewakepie@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary	Rajesh Nayak	(973) 779-3119	<a href="mailto:rajesh_nayak@yahoo.com">rajesh_nayak@yahoo.com</a>
Treasurer	Gurudatt Kamath	(732) 274-9542	<a href="mailto:gurudatt_kamath@hotmail.com">gurudatt_kamath@hotmail.com</a>

## KISS 2006 PICNIC

It's time for a weekend of fun and excitement with your family and friends at the KISS (Konkanis in Southern States) 2006 picnic! This is an annual picnic that we have held since 1988. Let us keep this rich tradition going. The picnic will be held at Fort Parker State Park from 5 P.M. on Friday, April 14 to noon on Sunday, April 16. The park is located 7 miles south of Mexia and 6 miles north of Groesbeck on State Highway 14. The entrance is on Park Road 28. There will be pizza on Friday evening. Meals on Saturday will include breakfast, lunch and dinner, and on Sunday there will be 'brunch'. There will also be various sports, games, door prizes, evenings filled with first-class entertainment, and plenty of time to socialize, reminisce, and do '*panchaadika*'. Come ready to have fun!

Registration Charges:	on or before 3/31/06	Late Registration (After 4/1/06)
Adults (10 and above)	\$30	\$35
Senior Citizens (65 and above) and Children (between 5 and 10)	\$20	\$25
Children 5 and under - FREE		

The park admission fee is NOT included in the KISS registration charge.

Each family has to pay it at the park entrance. The admission fee is \$2 per day per person 13 years or older, \$1 per day per person for Texas residents older than 65.

### Accommodations:

On site- Charges are included in the price. There are heated (and air-cooled) barracks with 96 bunk beds. Beds have mattresses; you just have to bring sheets, blankets and pillows. Availability is on a "first-come-first-served" basis for on site accommodation.

Off site - We have discounted rates for KISS guests at The Mexia Inn (Tel: 254-562-5593) located about 7 miles from the park. The rates are \$40/night for single queen bed and \$50/night for 2 queen beds.

### Area Coordinators:

Austin

Sadu and Anu Bajekal (512-795-8627), and Dinkar Rao (512-837-7159)

Dallas

Uday Khambadkone ( 817-545-1795)

Houston

Mridula Rao (281-992-0132), Jyoti Nayak (281-440-9164), Sunil Shenoy (281-320-1851), Suresh Shenoy (281-494-0153)

For more information, visit Fort Parker State Park website at:

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/fortpark/>

### Instructions

To get accurate head count, please provide the following when you reply to this evite, under the section "Add a comment(optional)":

- # Adults

- # Children less than 10

### Payment:

Please make checks payable to Neela Kamath and mail it along with the registration form below to:

Neela Kamath, 8810 Heatherly Drive, Houston, TX 77083. Phone: 281-498-3188; e-mail: [neelakamath@yahoo.com](mailto:neelakamath@yahoo.com)

### Registration Form:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Adults and children above 10: (\$30): \_\_\_\_\_

# Children (between 5 and 10) and Senior Citizens (65 and above): (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_

# Children under 5: FREE \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## KAOCA Update

**Konkani Association Of California (KAOCA)** is planning a new project to connect all Konkanis in Northern America. The Konkani Directory is a service that aims to create a comprehensive listing of all Konkanis in USA and Canada. The new KAOCA committee members have been busy preparing for the Ugadi celebrations that is planned for April 1st, 2006 at the Sunnyvale Hindu Temple Auditorium. The theme this year is YUGANTAR ( Diversity over time... ).

## THE BOOK REVIEWS

Smt. Ramabai Shenoy's new book *Sri Guru Charithamrutha* has received good critiques in both India and in the US (where the book has been selling briskly among both Konkani and non-Konkanis).

Smt. Rama Bai Shenoy of Charlotte, NC has recently, at the express desire of H. H. Sudhindra Thirtha Swamiji of Kashi Math, published an English translation of a learned book SRI GURU CHARITHAMRUTHA (originally written in Konkani, using Kannada script, by Harikatha exponent Sri Bhadragiri Achuthdas). The book, one of very few books where the lives and history of all the venerable Swamijis of Kashi Math can be accessed, is very well produced and contains many historical pictures of interest.

Smt. Shenoy's credentials are high as she has already published two other books (Sri Guru Charitra on Lord Dattatreya and Shiva Leelamrutha). The current book is not a mere word-to-word translation of the original Konkani book. She has retained the invocatory sentiments typical of Harikathas at the beginning of each chapter in order to create a mood that facilitates absorption of its contents. She has also enriched her work by many informative footnotes such as the background of events, explanation of Sanskrit words etc. (apart from a glossary at the end) and these would be of particular interest to our younger generation around the world who want to know more of the history and cultural background of our community.

Those who purchase the book will, as the Konkani saying goes, "land two mangoes with a single stone". Readers have a wonderful opportunity to know about our Vedic culture, the mythological and historical background of our Konkani community, our Kashi Math and its Guru Parampara.

Smt. Rama Bai Shenoy's book was offered by her to Parama Poojya Srimad Sudhindra Thirtha Swamiji as Guru Kanika during His 80th Birthday Celebrations held in Haridwar, India, in May 2005.

The price of the book is US\$ 21.00 or CAN\$ 25+ S/H. Entire (not net) proceeds of the book sales are being donated to H.H. Srimad Sudhindra Thirtha Swamiji's Veda Patashalas in India. For those Khabbar readers, who may be interested in purchasing the book, please contact us by e-mail at [vshenoy23@hotmail.com](mailto:vshenoy23@hotmail.com) The book will also be available at the biennial North American KonCANi Sammelan in the summer of 2006 in Hamilton, Canada.

Have you enjoyed reading 'Malgudi Days'? Then you will certainly relish reading

### "ADVENTURES OF A P. R. MAN"

by S. N. SURKUND

Forward by M.V.Kamath Illustrations - Suresh Sawant

This unique book (Pages.240) narrates, lucid, real life and down to earth human-interest incidents, eight from author's school days in Udipi during late 40s, till he retired in 1994 as P.R.Man of a Public Sector Bank, Mumbai in 1994.

Over 70 chapters on whims and fancies of bosses, tantrums of media professionals, tricky and complicated travel situations make enjoyable reading.

In his foreward M.V.Kamath says-"Dale Carnegie would have applauded... Only R.K.Narayan could have done better. Do not start reading while cooking. The food may get burnt while your own mind is sizzling."

#### **Few extracts from feedback:-**

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'Once taken up, can not be putdown' Deccan Herald

'Light touch to otherwise serious issues' Business Line

Very few copies available of 2nd revised/enlarged edition

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Author- S.N.Surkund,

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Mumbai-400 007;

Phone-022-23802888;

e-mail: [snsurkund@yahoo.com](mailto:snsurkund@yahoo.com)

## KONKANI CALENDER

April 2006	May 2006	June 2006
<b>1<sup>st</sup> KAOCA Yugadi</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> Yekadashi	7 <sup>th</sup> Yekadashi
<b>1<sup>st</sup> KAO Yugadi</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> Sri Narasimha Jayanthi	<b>10<sup>th</sup> Konkani Sabha Picnic</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> Sri Rama Navami	12 <sup>th</sup> Vaishaki Poornami	11 <sup>th</sup> Poornami
8 <sup>th</sup> Yekadashi	<b>13<sup>th</sup> KAO Group Satyanarayan Puja</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> Sankashta Chaturthi
13 <sup>th</sup> Sri Hanuman Jayanthi	14 <sup>th</sup> Vrisbh Sankranthi	14 <sup>th</sup> Mithun Sankranthi
13 <sup>th</sup> Mesh Sankranthi	16 <sup>th</sup> Angaraka Chaturthi	25 <sup>th</sup> Amavasya
14 <sup>th</sup> Saura Ugadi	26 <sup>th</sup> Amavasya	
<b>14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> KISS Picnic</b>		
16 <sup>th</sup> Sankashta Chaturthi		
27 <sup>th</sup> Amavasya		
30 <sup>th</sup> Akshaya Thritiye		

*Khabbar thanks Sri P. V. Kamath of Mumbai for furnishing the Panchang and My Astrologer-version 1.0 by Mr. Muralidhar Shenoy, Durham, N C.*

### 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, \$
Meenakshi Nayak, Rosewell, NM	50.00
Surendra & Shalini Shenoy, Olivette, MO	50.00
Ramesh & Roopa Nayak, Indiana, PA	50.00
Vasudev & Shobha Shenoy, Houston, TX	100.00
Vivekanand & Kalpana Kini, Friendswood, TX	50.00
Ashok & Ameeta Adur, Westlake, OH	120.00
Suren & Vidya Kamath, San Antonio, TX	60.00
Sudhakar & Nandini Mallia, Wanaque, NJ	60.00
Ravi & Sharda Shenoy, Montville, NJ	340.00
Krishna & Padmini Nayak, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI	60.00
Pundalik & Roopalatha Shenoy, Bethlehem, PA	50.00
Ramesh & Pratibha Kamath, Redwood City, CA	50.00
Mohan & Mohini Kamath, Cerritos, CA	50.00
Premanand & Suneethi Nayak, Cincinnati, OH	101.00
Muralidhar & Sudha Shenoy, Durham, NC	50.00
Ganesh & Preeti Kini, Covington, GA	100.00
Vasudev & Shaila Nayak, Mays Landing, NJ	160.00

### STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Description	Credit, \$	Debit, \$
<b>Balance Carried over since Khabbar Vol. XXVIII No. 4</b>	<b>4,180.00</b>	
<b>Money Received:</b>		
Subscriptions (108) and donations	2,731.00	
Advertisements (9)	315.00	
Interest	4.00	
<b>Sub Total:</b>	<b>3,050.00</b>	
<b>Money Spent (Khabbar Vol. XXVIII No. 4):</b>		
Printing- Khabbar (550) - 20 pages		550.00
Printing – Khabbar Mailing List (410)– 26 pages		512.5
First Class Mail-Khabbar (476)		285.60
First Class Mail- Khabbar Mailing List (270)		224.1
Canada Khabbar (13)		11.05
Canada Khabbar Mailing List (8)		8.80
Overseas (20)		60.00
Mail Fines, computer paper & labels, envelopes, service fees, etc.		557.95
Khabbar Ad (KS-2006)		250.00
<b>Sub Total:</b>		<b>2,400.00</b>
<b>Final Balance:</b>	<b>4,830.00</b>	

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

**The last quarter's quiz:** Q: How many arms does a squid have?

**The Answer:**

Ten; Most squids have two long tentacles and eight shorter arms.

**Only one-person gave the correct answers:** Govind V. Kamath, Austin, TX

### **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 **Moreover, if you get correct solution for 4 consecutive quizzes, you will get FREE subscription to Khabbar Newsletter for a year!**

What food has the longest shelf life?

### **NAKA, The North American Konkani Association**

**The progress made this quarter:**

1. Here's an update from Ramesh Kamath *et al* on the much-anticipated Konklish lessons.

A core group of Konkani volunteers are working for the past 18 months on a Konkani tutorial. We are calling it Konklish. The target group is any one amongst us who is Konkani challenged. The objective is to provide a reference book that will enable the practitioners to speak simple Konkani. The book will have two versions- A Gowd Saraswat book and a Chitrapur Saraswat Book. The book will include a pronunciation guide, 14 lessons and a section on Glossary. We are using a slightly modified version of Romanagri script. The lessons will also be recorded on CD to enable practice while driving. The ultimate goal includes a Web page for interactive learning. The book is just about ready and is in editing stages. We plan to release the book with CD at the Konkani Convention in July. The book will be sold at cost. We are planning to print limited copies to start off. Those interested should buy the copy of the book as soon as it is released at the convention.

2. The Board sponsored three (3) Distinguished Awards of Excellence for the KS-2006.

3. The Board is still busy in revising the Constitution.

The NAKA Board now consists of:

**Vasanth Bhat, Damodar Baliga and Nina Padukone (Founding members), Ramesh Kamath & Bharat Shiralkar, Vasant Acharya & Sandhya Kamath, Suren Kamath, Sudhir Golikeri & Suresh Shenoy, Ramadas Kamath, Ashok Bhatt & Sadanand Mankikar. Seema Kamath, Ranjit Shiralkar & Sheila Shenoy (Youth).**

If any North American Konkani have any constructive suggestions, please, contact any of the NAKA Board Members or send them to NAKA, 2465 Bergen Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11234. Phone: (718)-251-4795 and Email: [naka1@indiatimes.com](mailto:naka1@indiatimes.com)

### **NAKA - Statement Of Accounts**

Date	Description	Credit, \$	Debit, \$
11/30/2005	Balance from last report	<b>60,071.66</b>	
2/16/2006	<b>KS-2006 Sponsor Awards of Excellence (3)</b>		900.00
3/10/2006	<b>Final Balance:</b>	<b>59,171.66</b>	

Signed: Damodar Baliga  
Treasurer, NAKA

### **Konkani Literature and Literary Activities**

Visit: [www.daaiz.com](http://www.daaiz.com)

This website promotes Konkani literature on the web. Though DAAIZ is mainly focusing on Konkani in Kannada script, it also wishes to promote Konkani in other scripts as well. Kavithadaaiz ([www.daaiz.com/kavithadaaiz/kavithadaaiz11.html](http://www.daaiz.com/kavithadaaiz/kavithadaaiz11.html)) is a new column, which has been started to give chance to those Konkanis, who wish to promote in other script, boli or region.



## KonCANi2006

KonCANi2006 will be held in Hamilton, Ont. on July 1st, July 2nd, and July 3rd 2006.

### UPDATE ON THE SAMMELAN:

The clock is counting down, and the Registration Meter is climbing up! The 100-day mark will be here soon. Excitement is building up among Konkans all over North America! Hectic preparations are underway for the Sammellan to be held in Hamilton, Canada from July 1 to July 3, 2006. We are pleased to be noted for:

- Being oversubscribed on the entertainment. Our entertainers and performers are all based out of North America. Being overwhelmed with the response we regretfully turned down various requests from artists/groups from India.
- Receiving **40 nominations for the DISTINGUISHED AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE for 10** categories. The selection committees drawn from the United States & Canada have a tough task of selection. To ensure fairness and objectivity, the names of the nominated persons and the names of those serving in the selection committee will both be kept confidential.
- Providing a separate room for the artists to display their art exhibits. Space is quickly running out.
- Receiving registration from vendors from India who want to come and exhibit their wares at our booths.
- Having ICICI Bank as our main sponsor with a record contribution along with Shamrao Vithal Co-operative Bank Limited who are sending a delegation from India to celebrate their 100-year celebrations.
- Being the first ones to send out Konkani Buzz..... the bi-monthly electronic newsletter that is entirely managed by one of our inspiring youth who is getting a fair amount of positive feedback.
- Having our keynote and endnote speakers finalized. Look for the announcements on our web site at [www.konkani2006.com](http://www.konkani2006.com)

### REGISTRATION & HOSPITALITY:

Registrations are coming in at a steady pace and have reached 834 registrants at the time of writing.

The Sheraton Hotel & Staybridge Suites are fully booked while there are some 50 rooms still available at the Ramada Inn so early booking is strongly encouraged. Anticipating a strong response, the Executive Committee have arranged additional accommodation at Holiday Inn, Hilton Garden Inn, Homewood Suites & the Best Western Hotel in Burlington, less than 30 minutes drive from the Sammellan venue.

Depending on the number of guests at the Burlington Hotels, plans are underway to provide transportation from the hotels to the Sammellan venue. There are a lot of hotel rooms available so please register and book your hotel rooms.

### Share-A-Ride to the Sammellan

Worrying about how to get to the Sammellan from Buffalo or Toronto airport to the Sammellan? Watch for our Share-A-Ride program coming soon. We hope to co-ordinate schedules for delegates renting cars and willing to share the rental with other delegates. Share A Ride and share the costs, everybody benefits! If large groups of people are arriving all at the same time, we can even arrange for a shared shuttle bus! Please email [hospitality@konkani2006.com](mailto:hospitality@konkani2006.com) for details.

### SPONSORS & DONORS:

While we are fortunate to have an exceptionally motivated group of volunteers who are very generously putting in a lot of time and energy into this endeavor, there is also the need for fairly substantial monetary funding for the activities and services at the Sammellan. This is your event and only your generosity can make it happen.

As in the previous Sammelans, registration fees paid by the delegates cover only a part of the expenses. The largest expenditures are for venue rental, food and entertainment (all voluntary, no paid performers). Generous donors and sponsors, publishing a souvenir on the occasion, and from the rental of a few exhibition booths at the venue, usually cover the shortfall.

We sincerely thank some of the voluntary donors who have contributed while registering for the Sammlean and appeal to everyone for their contributions. Visit our web site for a schedule of donations & sponsorship.

Enjoy vibrant Canada! Get ready for three days of fun, entertainment, delicious food and merrymaking. Meet you all at our Sammelan !

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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 Konkanis. Send your contribution to: Khabbar, P. O. Box 222, Lake Jackson, TX 77566-0222. email: [khabbar@hotmail.com](mailto: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: 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 Konkanis in North America and India. Send generous contributions to: Three river Area Konkani Association 111 Volpe Dr., MONROEVILLE, PA 15146

## 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)-277-9771 [skamath@aol.com](mailto:skamath@aol.com)

## MATRIMONIAL

Parents invite matrimonial correspondence for son, MD 27/ 5' 10", green card holder, graduate from reputed Indian medical school, finishing residency in the US in June 2006. Prefer MD or other well qualified professional girls presently in the US. Interested parties may contact by e-mail: shenoysrini@yahoo.com or tel#: 608-277-1044.

## SammeLAn – 2004 DVD's

We hope by now you have received your copy of the SammeLAn DVD that you ordered. If your copy of the DVD is defective for any reason, please, send an email to Shankar Baliga at [baligas3@cox.net](mailto:baligas3@cox.net)

## 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)

## 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**

**8017 Celebreeze Crt., LAS VEGAS, NV89145**

Phone: (702)-341-6706; Email: [bshenoy@cox.net](mailto:bshenoy@cox.net)

**Please call during weekends only from 10:00 AM to 10:00PM (EST)**

## 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) <http://www.soirika.com>

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Suresh & Usha Shenoy wish to thank members of the  
community for their support to Kirti Jewelers over the years  
and look forward to serving you for many years to come.

## APPEAL

A great opportunity to serve an Indian Charity Organization (Anandashram) which shelters already 26 poor old people and which is also going to offer the services of a "Hospice" (Palliative Care center)-a home for the terminally ill Cancer patients of our society. Income Tax Payees in USA get the benefit of Income tax Exemption for their donations, if they donate directly to Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) - America with the suggestion that they should donate the same amount to Anandashram Seva Trust @, Puttur, since CAF America has recognized Anandashram as one of the recipients of their grants. Hence, the donors in nUSA can help us directly or indirectly thru CAF America, King Street Station, 1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 150, Alexandria, VA 22314-2840, to build this Palliative Care Centre.

Please, visit our website: [www.oldagehome-india.org](http://www.oldagehome-india.org)

Dr. (Miss) P. Gowri Pai

Anandashram Seva Trust @, Darbe P. O. 574 202, Puttur, D. K., Karnataka, INDIA Email: [drgowripai@gmail.com](mailto:drgowripai@gmail.com)