

Khabbar

North American Konkani Newsletter

Volume XXX No. 1
January, February, March - 2007

From:

The Honorary Editor,
"Khabbar"

P. O. Box 222

Lake Jackson, TX 77566 - 0222

XXX-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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The *Khabbar* has an untarnished image of reaching the Konkani community across North America on time, every time, every quarter. I did not know how much the Konkanis really appreciated that until I got this note from this voracious *Khabbar* reader from NJ:

“Hats off again to the Editor and the Executive Committee for your excellent service to the community. Winter may be unpredictable but arrival of *Khabbar* is guaranteed!”

Also, *Khabbar* receives a lot of “job well done” notes and last quarter, this note from CA read:

“*Khabbar* is really a delight to read. Keep up the good work. Thanks for your continued effort in keeping this going”

Editor’s Reply:

It’s strange! Even though these two comments came from East & West Coast, these two families belong to the same clan!! Also, with these families expectation of *Khabbar* is so high, I think, the Executive Committee of *Khabbar* is under the gun to perform every time!!!

SUBSCRIPTION FORM:

Dear Konkani family,
It is time to renew your subscription for 2007! 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 2007 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 XXX No. 1

January, February, March - 2007
Honorary Editor: Mr. Vasanth Bhat
Mailing Address:

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

www.ekhabbar.com

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Email: khabbar@hotmail.com

Annual Subscription: \$15.00

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.

Beginning this year, the Advisory Committee of *Khabbar* has decided on mailing hard copies of *Khabbar* to **ALL** families that have paid dues **at least once in the last three years**. In other words, families who **have not** paid since 2003 will not be receiving this issue. The numbers on the mailing label clearly indicate the year/s the dues for *Khabbar* has been received since 2004 and if there is any error let me know.

This issue has **not** been mailed to families that have indicated that they will access the on-line version of *Khabbar*, [ekhabbar](http://ekhabbar.com). [ekhabbar](http://ekhabbar.com) will be on web a **quarter** after the hard copies been mailed.

It is time to renew your subscription for 2007. 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 and rest be assured that I'll "*khabbarize*" them!

The North American Konkani Association (NAKA) is making considerable progress in meeting the community's requirement at the social and cultural level. *Khabbar* will publish all the developments and progress made by NAKA on an on-going basis. The NAKA sponsored Konkani Youth Convention in August 2007 is attracting Konkani youth at record numbers! I encourage all young Konkanis to take advantage of this event. I am happy to report the NAKA sponsored **KonCANi Sammelan - 2006 (KS-2006)** in Hamilton has repaid their seed money and will send the surplus to NAKA soon. The NAKA sponsored **Konkani Sammelan - 2008 (KS-2008)** is off to a great start. Their logo and theme **awakens the Konkani in each and every one of us**. Make sure to be a part of this great event by helping them in all possible ways including sending much needed monetary support. Send your constructive suggestions to any of the Directors of the NAKA Board.

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).

The major milestone event of *Sahasra Chandra Darshan* of our revered guru, H. H. Sudheendra Thirtha Swamiji of Kashi Math, was held in Mangalore this quarter. There were quite a few other accomplishments that happened this quarter also. Read them all in the "*Hoon Khabbar*" section of *Khabbar*.

The Quiz front, if you solve 4 consecutive *Khabbar* quizzes correctly you will win a free subscription to *Khabbar* for 1 year. Let's see whether we'll have any winners!

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 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.

Happy Yugadi to you all.

Devu Boren Karo.

Vasanth
Honorary Editor

Letters to the Editor

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

Dear Vasanthmam,
Attached is an article about our pilgrimage to Kailas in July 2006 for publication in the next *Khabbar*

Jaidev
chandavarkarc@vcss.k12.ca.us

Blessings to our beloved Disciple Sri Vasanth Bhat with meditations of Lord Shree Narayana.

We have received your Vinantipatram dated 6-22-2006 along with the copy of *Khabbar* offered by you in token of your respect and devotion to the Samsthan.

With prayers of Shree Vyasa Ragupathi for the welfare and prosperity of all of you, we send you our blessings along with Srighandha Prasadakshatam. We are very much pleased to express our joy to know that you the members of the Konkani samaj in North America are keen in preserving the long cherished tradition to the best of your ability which shows your love to Bharath, our culture and your desire to keep up the entity of our forefathers.

We desire you to be generous, God fearing and desirous of keeping up self-respect.

Once again, with loving blessings Shrimad Sudhindra Thirth Swami Shree Kashi Math Samsthan, Varanasi
Dated: 8-10-2006

Dear Mr. Vasanth Bhat,

I am Dr. P. Anantha Krishna Bhat, Professor, Canara College, Mangalore. I am also the convener of an Orphanage, Balasamrakshana Kendra, run by Mangala Seva Samithi Trust (R). I would like to appreciate if you kindly publish the attached appeal.

Regards.

Dr.P.A.Bhat
dr_pabhat1949@rediffmail.com

Hi Vasanthmam,
Sri Manjeshwar mam in the email below mentioned about e-khabbar the Konkani gateway. I am very happy to see the Konkani website.

I have been writing about Konkani traditional recipes and similar other traditional recipes on my foodblog/website on <http://www.AayisRecipes.com> I think it may be helpful for other Konkanis who read ekhabbar to share this website.

Here are the details.

website address:

<http://www.aayisrecipes.com>

name: Mrs.Shilpa Shanbhag

I live with my husband in Kansas City.

Thanks for your time,

Best Regards,

Shilpa

email: aayisrecipes@gmail.com

Editor's Reply:

Thanks for the email.

Indeed, I visited the website and was impressed with the contents. Good luck.

Dear Vasanth,

Here is this year's analysis of the 2007 *Khabbar* Mailing List dated 12-10-2006:

Of the 2,120 families in the list (it was 2,051 last year!), we have Konkanis living in 44 states & DC (same as last year!). We still do not have any Konkanis living in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming!!

Also, we have:

218 Kamat(h)

205 Shenoy, Shenai, Shanbh(o)ag(ue)

205 Pai

145 Nayak (Naik)

120 Prabhu

89 Rao (u)

82 Bhat(t)

41 Baliga

35 Kini

34 Mal(l)ya, Mallia, Mahale

32 Nadkarni(y)

20 Bhandarkar, Bhandari(y)

18 Kudva

16 Hegde

13 Acharya.

13 Hatt(i)angadi(y)

12 Kop(p)ikar

The Kamat(h) families have maintained their lead. California still leads with 499 families (59 more than last year!) and San Jose, CA has the highest number of Konkani families living (73)! It was 63 last year!!

Keep up the great work.

Ravindra Nayak,
Flanders, NJ

Editor's Reply:

Thanks for your timely analysis. I am sure there are Konkanis 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.

Hi Vasanth,

I have an announcement to make regarding great public service Mr. B.Srinivas Kamath does in Bombay. He is the brother of Bola Ragu Kamath of Long Island. He has been doing free matrimonial service for hundreds in the last 6 years. Hundreds of people contact him sending their daughter's or son's bio data and horoscopes with pictures to find suitable match. He himself reads horoscopes and puts the right matched parties in contact. He spends his own moneymaking copies making horoscopes calling the parties until a successful match is found. I stayed with him for a few days in Dahisar and was amazed by the number of calls he receives for match making. I encourage people in the USA to contact him also. He gets enquiries not only from Bombay, from Mangalore and other towns, Baroda and other cities. I thought he could be of help for people in the USA also. His particulars are as follows:

B.S.Kamath

Block #5, 1st Floor, Deepak Building,
Hari Shanker Joshi Road

Dahisar East, Mumbai-400068

Tel: 011-91-22-2828-3392

Thank you,

Regards,

Divakar
shenoydiva@yahoo.com

Hoon Khabbar

Congratulations:

The Board of Directors for Lincoln Park Bancorp and Lincoln Park Savings Bank announced today the appointment of **NANDINI S. MALLYA** of Wanaque, NJ to the position of Chief Financial Officer. Ms. Mallya has served as a Vice President and the Treasurer of the Bank since 1997, and as interim Chief Financial Officer since July 2006.

As appeared in:

<http://www.konkaniworld.com/latestnews/index.asp?id=576>

Surgeon from Puttur performs record-breaking surgeries in NY:

Puttur, January 12: **Dr C Annapoorna S Kini**, a native of Puttur, has created a world record by performing 1,113 Angio plasti operations in a space of one year. What makes the world record more memorable for Annapoorna Kini is that out of 1,113 operations she performed in 2006 none has failed.

Kini, who is serving as the Associate Director at the Cath Labs of the New York Mount Sinai Medical Centre in Manhattan, finds little time for the rest as she has to work between morning 6 am and 10 pm on five days of the week.

Kini's world record holding performance is being recorded by the New York Health Department and will be published officially in the next two years.

Daughter of Puttur Namadev Prabhu and Pushpalatha Prabhu, Kini did her education till PUC in Puttur. She did her medical education at KMC, Mangalore during which education she won the gold medal. She pursued her higher education in medicines in Cardiff in England for six years.

Shri M.V.KAMATH, Chairman, Prasar Bharati, noted-reputed journalist, has been conferred/honoured with Doctorate by Mangalore University, recently.

Four 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 Tuesday January 23rd 2007.

The awardees are:

1. **Mr. Victor Menezes**, Retd. Sr. Vice Chairman, Citigroup Inc., New York.
2. **Mr. Prakash Padukone**, Eminent Sportsman (Badminton), Bangalore
3. **Pandit Tulsidas Borkar**, Outstanding Musician, Mumbai, and
4. **Mr. Manoharrai L. Sardesai**, Eminent Konkani Poet & Essayist, Panaji- Goa. (Posthumously)

Sri M.A.BHAKTA, of Farmington Hills, MI has written a book on "Vedic String Theory".

He has compared the two string theories of everything (T.O.E.)--the five millennia-old Vedic, based on the concept of strings of consciousness and the three decades-old science's, based on what Steven Weinberg calls "relativistic quantum mechanical" strings from which emerged quarks and the material universe. This convergence of the views of the Vedas and science, at the primordial level of strings--quantum mechanical or of consciousness, and on many other basic questions, is a development of profound significance. This book attempts to show that science and the Vedas, which until five decades ago looked irreconcilable, are, in reality, long-separated brothers, now, discovering each other. Please read the review of this book in this issue of *Khabbar*.

PRIYANKA (10), d/o Rajeev & Shobha Kamath of Cary, NC bags top spot in North Carolina gymnasts' meet.

Sri U. DAMODAR PRABHU of Pittsburgh, PA was invited by "Nightingales Elders Enlightenment Center" - (Sr. Citizens Group) - to give a talk on "Essence of Sanathana Dharma" on January 11th 2007 followed by a lively open-ended discussion and also on January 26th 2007 (India's Republic Day). He was invited by LASER INFOSYSTEMS

Co. of Chennai to address its employees on "ABC of Hinduism" on December 27th 2006.

As published in Houston's *India Herald* dated Dec 29, 2006:

5-year-old **VARUN**, s/o Deepak & Veena Nayak of Stafford, TX was felicitated at the Chinmaya Family Spiritual Camp banquet for memorizing 250 Sanskrit hymns.

SHOBHAN BANTWAL has sold the rights to her first novel, **THE DOWRY BRIDE**, to Kensington Books. The book is scheduled for release in September 2007. It is the first in a two-book contract with Kensington. **THE DOWRY BRIDE** is set in India and tells the story of one young woman trapped in India's dowry system and her emotional and action-packed journey to freedom. More information is available on Shobhan's website: www.shobhanbantwal.com

New Arrivals:

SURAJ, a 7 lb. 6 oz. baby boy to Navinn & Sharmila Mallavaram on September 15, 2006. The paternal grand parents are Anand & Rama Mallavaram of Denver, CO and maternal grand parents are Raj & Preetha Acharya of Ocean, NJ.

SACHIN, a baby boy to Keshav & Suman Nayak of San Diego, CA on November 15, 2006. The proud grandparents are Ramchandra & Malathi (Sheela) Nayak of Doylestown, PA and M. Padmanabha & Priya Pai of Mangalore.

SATHYA, a 7lbs. 4oz. baby girl to Velan Sivasubramanian & Geeta Kamath on Dec 11th 2006. The maternal grandparents are Vanamala & (late) Annappa Kamath of Vancouver, BC and paternal grandparents are Dr. Pakkirisamy & Mrs. Meena Sivasubramanian.

AKSHAY, a baby boy to Sanjay & Suvarna Nadkarni of Perth, Australia on December 14th 2006, a brother Ashiyana. The proud grand parents

are Nilakanth & Sarojini Nadkarni and Purandar & Anuradha Mallya of Whittier, CA.

AKASH, a baby boy born on February 14th 2007 in Walnutcreek, CA to Sunil & Anupama Gandhi, a brother to Rohan. The paternal grandparents are Mrs. Jyothi Gandhi & the late Narendra Gandhi of Walnutcreek, CA and the maternal grand parents are Praveen & Prema Prabhu of Greensboro, NC.

NEELA MICHELLE, a baby girl to Jason & Reina Pai Bender on January 28th 2007. The paternal grand parents are Robert & Joyce Bender and the maternal grand parents are Dayananda & Vidya Pai of West Chester, PA.

Newly Weds:

Sow. PRIYA, of MD, d/o Vishwanath & Aruna Joshi of Mumbai married to **Chi. ADITYA** of MD, s/o Anand & Vidya Kalyanpur of Mumbai on Wednesday December 13th 2006, Muhurtam: 12:32 PM at G. A.Kulkarni Hall in Khar, Mumbai followed by reception that evening.

Sow. SHEILA, d/o Ramdas & Chitra Bhandari of Miami, FL married to **Chi. SAMIR**, s/o Shrikar & Nirmala Bangalore on Saturday December 23rd 2006 at the Bhandari residence in Miami, FL.

A wedding reception for the newlyweds was also held at Ashyana Banquet Hall in Downers Grove, IL, on January 13th 2007. The parents of the bride and groom elaborated on the wedding celebration and warm - heartedly welcomed all the guests. The brothers of the bride and groom presented a beautiful video of the wedding and made very touching speeches as well. The highlight was the beautiful poem written and recited by Nirmala Bangalore about her two sons, their wives and her grandchildren. A fabulous buffet luncheon was served with mouth-watering food and delicious dessert. Topped off with masala chai and coffee.

Relocation:

The **PAI** family, Kochikar Ramnath & Raju, relocated from Carlsbad, NM to 8452 Dunham Station Dr., Tampa, FL

33647. The new telephone is (813)-746-9156 and emails: ramnathkpai@hotmail.com and rajukpai@hotmail.com.

The **BHANDARKAR** family, Ratnakar & Srimathi, have relocated from London, ONT to 1511 - 55 Elm Drive West, Mississauga, ONT L5B 3Z3.

The **BHANDARKAR** family, Ganesh & Savithri, have relocated within North Brunswick to 1 Rachel Way, North Brunswick, NJ 08902. The telephone remains the same at (732)-940-8854.

The **KAMATH** family, Ramesh & Pratibha, have relocated from Redwood City, CA to 230 Oakley Ave., San Carlos, CA 94070. The telephone remains the same at (650)-596-0716 and the email is: karkalmam@yahoo.com

The **KAMATH** family, Ramadas & Udaya have relocated within Apple valley, CA to 20143 Cameo Road, Apple Valley, CA 92308. The new telephone is (760)-240-7040 & email ID: ramadaskamath@hotmail.com

The **KAMATH** family, Manjunath & Padmaja, have relocated from River Forest, IL to 26 Howard Dr., Coram, NY 11727. The new telephone (631)-696-2608.

The **PAI** family, Panemangalore Vishnudas & Seema Nayak, with their sons, Adithya & Ananth, have relocated from Syracuse, NY to 110-8 Spring Meadow Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221. Their email ID: seemagn75@yahoo.com

25th Wedding Anniversary:

On January 13th 2007, The **KAMATHS**, Ramanand & Gayathri, of Downers Grove, IL were pleasantly surprised by friends at a party to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. **Kalavathy Shenoy, Shona Dave, and Vandana Rao** planned and coordinated this enjoyable event.

Flower garlands were exchanged and the traditional arati was performed. A dance performed by tiny tots was just awesome. **Seema Kamath**, the

couple's daughter, stole the show with a beautiful dance and a heart warming speech. The couple were gifted numerous items, but the most precious was a scrapbook and an album made by kids, **Reema Rao, Kavya Pai, and Mitali Dave**. It was a true work of art. A lot of time and effort had been invested in it.

The buffet dinner cooked by the women present was a terrific exhibit of culinary skills. Many a digital camera captured the celebration from all angles.

Ramanand and Gayathri had a truly magical evening.

The couple celebrated their second honeymoon in Paris!

40th Wedding Anniversary:

The **BALIGAS, Damodar & Shaobha**, of Brooklyn, NY celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary with family and friends at the residence of Mohan & Vasumathi Pai of Bayside, NY on Jan 1st 2007.

The **BHANDARKARS**, Gopal & Pratibha, of Bayport, NY celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary on March 1st 2007 with their families & friends while cruising the South American continent from Chile to Argentina.

Obituary:

Sri RAGHAVENDRA D. PAI (75) passed away peacefully in Mumbai on August 29th 2006. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his daughter, Jyothi Prabhu & family of Elkridge, MD.

Mrs. VIMAL SHIRALKAR (86) of Mumbai passed away in Mumbai in the early hours of December 19th 2006. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to her sons, Bharat Shiralkar & family of San Jose, CA and Gautam Shiralkar & family of Sugar Land, TX.

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

KONKANI HAPPENINGS

KONKANI SABHA Diwali program that was held on October 28, 2006 started promptly at 3pm. The unbelievably tasty, hoon snacks and refreshments, panchadik, meetings and greetings took place and the stage was set for a wonderful and entertaining evening. The 'Dandiya' program began at 4pm with wholehearted participation to the metronomic beats of Dandiya music. The proceedings then formally began with Lakshmi Puja followed by Aarti and prayers.

Our ever jovial, witty and vivacious 'Master of Ceremonies' Mr. Arun Manelkar made his presence felt and took all the attendees through a variegated, colorful and musical journey of entertainment events that were presented voluntarily by the members of the Konkani Sabha and their children on stage. The collage of performances included devotional vocal songs, haunting instrumentals that included the flute, tabla, harmonium and keyboards, cultural and western dances by children with ages ranging from 3 yrs to the teens, a wonderful skit and of course the perennial 'Antakshari'. All the children did a great job in marching up to the stage and performing their item in front of a live audience, kudos to them and their parents for encouraging participation and supporting them in this effort. Last but not the least, the culmination of the evening's celebration happened in the midst of vivacious company of fellow Konkanis as all of us made a beeline for amchigele jevan/dinner. This is the only occasion in the whole year that we get to feast on authentic Konkani food whose quality and authenticity is unmatched in the U.S and made lovingly for us by Shankari Pai. The 'bibya upkari' was our favorite with everything else being equally good!

The Konkani Sabha Office Bearers would like to thank:

Arun Manelkar for being a Wonderful MC

Elegant Affairs - Decorations. The 'Elegant Affairs' personnel decorated the hall, stage and its backdrop handsomely, as always.

Vinith Nayak for Konkani Sabha website maintenance

Rajesh and Radhika Mallya for their \$65.00 contribution towards Diwali Program AND

Participants for their wonderful performance and their families for encouraging and supporting the participants

Volunteers and their families for making all of this possible and helping in organizing and cleaning up!

Houston Area Amchigale Samaj (HAAS) held their annual Group Satyanarayana Pooja on Saturday Feb.10th 2007 at Sugar Land Community Center in Sugar Land, TX.

The Konkani Association of Southern California (KASC) celebrated their annual Shivaratri Program at Shadow Park, Cerritos, CA on Saturday February 17th 2007 from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Our heartfelt thanks go to the Narayandas family for arranging this in their lovely clubhouse on a warm and beautiful day.

The program was well attended by 32 people. All the devotees engaged socially with each other from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM. The panchadika was made more tasteful by Phovachutney, Karo, Chakuli, sweets and beverages.

The idols and photos of Lord Shiva and Nataraja were beautifully decorated by a wide variety of colorful flowers, garlands and environmentally friendly divos (lamps). Many sweets and pholerus (plates of coconut, nuts, dried and fresh fruits) were placed as offerings.

The bhajans commenced at 4:15 PM with Lord Ganesha Prarthna by Radhika Hattiangadi "Gajanana Shri Ganaraya Adhi Vandu Tujha Muaraya". This was followed by Lord Shiva Bhajans sung in turns by Nandini Rao, Mohini Kamath, Jyothi Bhat, Shalini Bhat, Pammi Narayandas, Chitra Chandavarkar, Jyothi Pradhan, Sridhar Rao, Jaidev Chadavarkar, Bharat Kundaje, and Yogesh Alekal. All the attendees joined in chorus to each bhajan and created a truly spiritual atmosphere. The hour of bhajans concluded with "Om Jai Jagdish Hare" with each attendee offering Aarti to Lord Shiva and distribution of Prasad.

The heartfelt bhajan was followed by soulful Konkani "bhojan" (dinner) made by all the members of KASC. Javana included rice, dalitoy, channa gashi, alsanda upkari, cauliflower and green peas upkari, raita, dahi, phanna taaka (seasoned buttermilk), papod and nonche. For dessert there was gulab jamun, jalebi, laddoo, different khadis and fruit salad. The Program concluded with everyone helping to clean the hall and more panchadika (chat).

We thank all KASC Shiva devotees for their gracious attendance and participation; and outstanding and wonderful teamwork. They made this occasion a grand and memorable success.

KHABBAR FROM KULAR

By: - Vishwa Konkani Sardar BASTI VAMAN SHENOY

World Konkani Sahitya Akademi formed under the auspices of Konkani Bhas Ani Samskriti Pratistan (Konkani Language and Cultural Foundation) has undertaken translation of

(i) Rashtrakavi Manjeshwar Govind Pai(Kannada to Konkani and Hindi), Smt. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya(Kannada to Konkani and Hindi), Dinakar Desai's Kannada poems to Konkani, Publication of Kannada – Konkani Dictionary, Konkani Samaj Parichay Kosh, Transliteration of 3 Konkani books of 1) Dr. V.J.P. Saldanha : Moga Maka Shikay 2) A.T. Lobo: Tum Boro Za

3) J.S. Alvares : Angel in Kannada Script to Devanagari Script.

Mr. S.M. Rao, Industrialist, UAE and Canara Bank have sanctioned Rs.25.00 lakhs each for World Konkani Library and Administrative Blocks, respectively, of World Konkani Centre project.

Lion Dr. Austin D'Souza Prabhu of Chicago(Past Dist. Governor Lions, U.S.A.) visited World Konkani Centre project and appreciated the progress. Dr. Austin was felicitated at Konkani Bhasha Mandal Karnataka (R.) Foundation day celebrations, G.S.B. Mahila Mandali 25th Silver Jubilee Function and H.R.Alva publicity organization. Dr. Austin is the founder Secretary of Konkani Bhasha Mandal Karnataka(R.), Mangalore.

G.S.B. Mahila Mandali, Mangalore celebrated Silver Jubilee at T.V. Raman Pai Auditorium for 2 days' Gala function under the dynamic Presidentship of Mr. Nirmala Kamath and Mrs. Malathi Kamath(founder), Shri K.K.Pai, R.V. Deshpande(former Minister), K.Gopalkrishna(E.D., Corporation Bank) were present. Konkani Mahila Kavi Sammelan was presided over by Mrs. Jayashree Shanbhag(Former Director, All India Radio), attended by 22 Konkani Lady poets. Smt. Veenadhari, HIV Activist and Social worker was felicitated.

Three Konkani books 'Com. A. Shantharam Pai (Biography)', 'Late Surkund Annaji Rao's Porne Konkani Sahitya' and 'Sugandhile Dukh' by renowned Konkani writer R. Bhakta Kanhangad were published by Basti Prakashana, Bantwal by Shri K.K.Pai, Dr. Tanaji Halarnkar and Mrs. Jayashree Shanbhag, Kumta.

Karnataka Konkani Sahitya Academy has published English-Konkani dictionary at a function arranged at St. Aloysius College Auditorium. Lord Bishop of Mangalore Dr. P.A.D'Souza and R.V. Deshpande(Former Minister) attended.

Konkani Udupikars' Get Together was held at Udupi with slide show. Mr. K.K. Pai, P.Rabindra Nayak, Mrs. Sandhya Pai (Udayavani), Gujjadi Prabhakar Nayak (former Mayor of Udupi). Head Priest of Mother of Sorrows Church attended.

'Sahasra Purna Chandra Darshan' of H.H. Sudhindra Thirtha Swamiji was celebrated for 5 days at Konchadi, Mangalore from 27th January 2007 to 1st February 2007 under the auspices of G.S.B. Seva Mandal, Mumbai. Mr. K.V. Kamath(ICICI) Chief Promoter, Mr. B. Jagannath Shenoy, President, Shri Samyameendra Thirtha Shishya Swamiji also attended. There was Mega Show of G.S.B. Community at Mangala Stadium where more than 5000 Saraswaths attended.

18th All India Konkani Sahitya Sammelan will be held at Kudchude, Goa for three days from 4th May 2007.

Shri K.K.Pai, Past President of All India Konkani Parishad was honoured and felicitated by Kullagara Prakashan at Madagaon, Goa for his valuable services to Konkani language, culture, literature, etc.

A new Konkani fortnightly 'Kodial Khabber' publisher & Editor Venkatesh N. Baliga Konkani promoter was released on 24th January 2007 during Kodial Teru.

KONKANI AT SCHOOLS : Government of Karnataka has decided to introduce Konkani as a 3rd Language (I - Hindi, II - English) option from 6th to 12th class in Schools in Karnataka. By this dream of Konkani Movement has come true.

A PILGRIMAGE TO MOUNT KAILAS AND MANASAROVAR

By: Jaidev Chandavarkar, Thousand Oaks, CA

In July this year, we undertook a pilgrimage to Mt. Kailas that was in the planning stage for several years, and postponed for various reasons. So when we met our travel agent in Kathmandu after years of email contact, it was almost as though we were meeting an old friend, even though this was the first time we had met.

We started as a group of ten people - Chitra and myself, Surekha and Prithvi Sharma, Rajni and Kailash Narayan, Sadhna and her twelve year old daughter, Radhika, Dawn Marie from Hartford, Connecticut and Lee Paddy, from Boston. All of us had different departure times, and met for the first time as a group in New Delhi International Airport. So while we were waiting to board the flight to Kathmandu, we were getting to know our friends from the East Coast. Those from California knew each other, of course, but there is a special mood at the start of a vacation, a mood of release from the cares and deadlines of the work mode, which energized all of us, and we were busy chatting.

We landed in Kathmandu. The airport appeared to be small, after the huge mega-airports in Taipei and Kuala Lumpur and New Delhi, like the airport of a small provincial hill town. After some inevitable paperwork, when we recorded details of how long we were going to be in Kathmandu and all that, we gathered up our luggage, and headed out of the airport, to be greeted with garlands by a Dechen Sherpa, our travel agent's daughter and group of people from her office.. We loaded a van with all our luggage, and drove through Kathmandu to our hotel, which was in Thamel, the heart of the shopping district. Thamel was a lot like San Francisco's Chinatown, with small, crowded streets, and bursting with stores, roadside temporary stalls, and lots of people.

We ran into some sad news on the first morning in Kathmandu. Shortly after breakfast, Prithvi Sharma got a call about his mother passing away. The Sharmas, shocked by the news, took some hours to reformulate their plans. They cancelled their Mt. Kailas trip and took a noon flight back to New Delhi, from where they would drive to Ambala.

Later that morning, we went for a hike in the hills surrounding Kathmandu town, which sits in the heart of the Kathmandu valley. The path offered some beautiful views of the Kathmandu valley, green and pleasant, with sections of the valley broken into red-roofed buildings. Somewhere along the really steep stairs that went up to a Devi temple high up on a hill, a leech bit me. Leech-bites are painless, because the leech injects a local anesthetic into its victim, so that they don't even realize that a bloodsucker has attacked them. I realized it only because I felt the wetness of the blood oozing from my leg, and the red stain had spread over a wide area of my Old Navy run-pants. The event caused much excitement in the rest of the group, who came to calm down the stricken victim (me) and to offer aid and sympathy. It was the first adventure of the trip (at my cost) and who knows what the rest of the trip had to offer? I basked in the glow of the attention, a wounded soldier in the cause of an adventure trip.

We visited Pashupatinath Temple, a famous Shiva temple. The temple experience was an authentic Hindu experience, crowded, full of the smell of flowers and incense and chanting. I noted the South Indian features of the Brahmin priests who worked inside the shrine, accepting the offerings of the devotees and marveled at how Hindu tradition had connected points that were so far apart.

The temple is right on the banks of the Baagmati River, which joins the Ganga later on its way to the sea. On the steps leading down to the light-brown waters of the Baagmati, you see the phases of life exposed to public gaze. A young boy, having recently gone through the yagnopavitam, has come to the Baagmati to make his devotional offerings. A newly married couple is on the banks, and less than ten feet away, a prone body, covered with a ochre cloth that had the name of Rama written all over in bright red Devanagari letters, was going through the last rites prior to cremation.

In the afternoon, we visited the Boudhanath stupa, in the heart of the business district of Kathmandu. The stupa had large eyes painted on one side, a representation of the compassionate eyes of the Buddha, which looked at the world with a completely different perspective, that of wisdom and compassion, instead of selfishness and passion. The stupa was surrounded by a circular shopping area. We found a good Nepali restaurant and stopped for lunch.

We left for the border early on Thursday, July 6th. Our travel agent's bus drove through some beautiful, lush green country on a slow gradient up into the hills that divided Nepal and China. Some of the people who worked for the travel agent sang Nepali songs, and the rest contributed our repertoire, which included bhajans, patriotic Indian compositions, film songs from the sixties, as well as some numbers from the Beatles. About four miles from the border, we found the road blocked because of a massive landslide. Tons of mud and rock completely covered the road, and earthmoving equipment was working slowly to remove the rubble. We got out of the bus, and carried our backpacks across to the other side of the landslide. Our sherpas managed to find transport on the other side of the landslide, to take us to the Nepal-China border. The border between the two countries is actually in the middle of a bridge that spans a deep gorge with swiftly flowing river.

The Chinese border security guards appeared thoroughly bored with their jobs, and cursorily looked at our papers, while smoking and singing along to songs that came from a radio in the security room. We were waved on, and were introduced to our guide for our trip in Tibet. One more round of paper scrutiny and then we were on our way.

We spent the night in a hotel in Zhangmu, the border town across the gorge from Tatopani, the border town in Nepal. The next morning, after eating a hearty breakfast that the Sherpas made, set out for Nyalam, which is at 10,000 feet (Zhangmu is at 5,000 feet). We settled into the guest house at Nyalam, a somewhat remote mountain town, wandered around getting used to the higher elevation and the lower oxygen level. We saw our first yak, a smaller version of the huge yaks that start appearing at higher elevations. At this point, everybody was making a big deal of a small yak; we were unaware that more magnificent specimens were to be seen near Mt. Kailas.

Next stop, Saga. By now, things had settled into a routine of somewhat rough sleeping arrangements, followed by masala chai and hot breakfast, then six to eight hours of bone-numbing bumping in a desolate lunar landscape, where mountains were like giant sand dunes against the backdrop of a bright blue sky. At every stop (for lunch, tea etc.), we crawled out of the Land Cruisers like lobsters with angular arms and legs. It took some shaking and stumbling before we walked like humans again.

At Saga, we were all laid low by the high elevation (15,000 feet). Some were throwing up, some were gazing expressionless into the distance. Our group's most talkative member sat glumly at his tent entrance, in stony silence. It looked like a scene from the Devi Mahatmyam, where the Devi routes the army of the asuras, and the asuras fall back, defeated, back into their camps. But elevation medication fixed us during the night and next morning, most of us were back in action, eating a hearty breakfast.

Next stop, Paryang, where we found a dharmashala, and stayed the night there. A bath and a clean room was luxury. We reached Manasarovar at 2.30 pm in the afternoon, with a magnificent view of Mt. Kailas. No clouds, no fog, just uninterrupted clear view of

Mt. Kailas. The view touched my heart, and tears ran down my cheeks. Perhaps I had devotion after all. The same afternoon, we got into the Manasarovar, and sprinkled the waters over our head. Here was the ancient lake that Lord Brahma had dreamed up.

Two days later, we began the parikrama around Mt. Kailas. The first day was a long, long walk along a fairly level ground. To our right, obscured by cloud and fog, was Mt. Kailas. We did not talk much. Some were absorbed in reverie, some were chanting their Shiva mantras. The second day's stretch was really steep, and most of us used ponies to climb to 18,500 feet, the highest point on the parikrama. I stayed for about 20 minutes at the high pass, praying and then began the equally steep descent on the other side. It felt like it would never end, but we finally reached camp. The third day was more like the first, it was hiking fairly level ground, but at various points the going was rough, because you have to negotiate mountain rivers with boulders scattered through the waters.

Towards the end of the parikrama, we saw a Tibetan family of a young man, his wife and five year old daughter. The wife had pledged to do a parikrama of Mt. Kailas with full-length prostrations. They smiled when they saw us, wonderful, beautiful, wholehearted, loving smiles that you seen only in the poorer areas of Tibet.

Then began, in reverse, the same bone-numbing drive across Tibet, this time from West to East, till we reached Shigatse and Lhasa. Shigatse is the second-largest town in Tibet, but there is a large difference between Shigatse and Lhasa. Shigatse is a small, provincial town, Lhasa is a huge metropolis with six-lane thoroughfares and glass-and-steel high-rises and shopping malls and the shrieks of rush-hour traffic. We visited the famous monasteries and the Potala. What stayed in my mind was the discussion hour at the Sera Monastery, where student monks engage for 90 minutes in a passionate debate in the open courtyard, and the quietness of the room where the Dalai Lama used to have his lessons in the Potala.

On the flight back to Kathmandu, we overflew Mt. Everest. We were cruising at 32,000 feet, and there, a few thousand feet below us, was the famous peak, the tallest in the world. We landed at Kathmandu, and went shopping for curios. A day later, we took the flight back to New Delhi.

I bought a one-inch khukri, which got me in trouble with the aircraft security. The one inch khukri was a harmless one, and would not have hurt a fly. But it was rated "not allowed" and I had to check it in, and collect it at New Delhi. The trip was over, but the pilgrimage was not over. No pilgrimage is ever over. A part of you changes for good.

Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Information

By: Surendra Bhat, Houston, TX

Getting an Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) is a fairly straight forward experience for me & my family (including my 2 kids born in the USA).

I was able to send my application form along with notarized copies of required documents to the local consulate. I kept track of the status of my application on the website of India's home ministry. Once the OCI card (sent from Delhi) was available at the Houston consulate, I dropped my US passports in the morning and picked them up later the same day. Alternately, I could have mailed my passports to the consulate and they would have mailed me the OCI card. In other words, the entire process can be done by mail if you don't want to go the Indian Consulate. You basically end up with a U visa stamped on your US passport along with an OCI card. OCI fee was \$275 per person when I applied.

Main benefits of OCI:

- (i) A multiple entry, multi-purpose life long visa for visiting India.
- (ii) Exemption from registration with local police authority for any length of stay in India.
- (iii) Parity with Non-resident Indians (NRIs) in respect of economic, financial and educational fields except in relation to acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties.

Following is a link to the Indian Consulate General in Houston

<http://www.cgihouston.org/OverseasCitizenship.html>

Following is a link to India's ministry of home affairs for detailed information on OCI:

<http://mha.nic.in/oci/oci-main.htm>

Book Review: Ancient Eastern Philosophy Meets Modern Theoretical Physics

Manjeshwar Bhakta's The Vedic String Theory of Everything details how Vedic understanding of life and universe, parallels quantum mechanics and string theory

FARMINGTON HILLS, MI - In The Vedic String Theory of Everything, physical chemist Manjeshwar Bhakta explores the remarkable relationship between modern physics and the insights of Vedic philosophy. Spanning multiple cultures, continents, and centuries, the book details the evolution of human thought in this critical field.

While little known in the Western world, the Vedas are the oldest preserved Indo-Aryan texts. They present an explanation of the origins of the universe and of life, meshing remarkably well with our emerging understanding of quantum mechanics, string theory, cosmological evidence, expansionary models of the universe, and how all of these are converging into the holy grail of modern physics: a "theory of everything." But this consistency between an ancient philosophy and cutting-edge science has been little realized or appreciated -- until now.

Bhakta's book pulls together the disparate threads found scattered throughout Vedic lore, integrating them into a working framework that goes beyond physics to explain how the Vedic philosophy stresses the unity of all life, how it should be lived, and how it too can become infinite. Anyone with an interest in the origins of the universe, consciousness, and life itself, should pick up a copy of Bhakta's The Vedic String Theory of Everything.

For more information or to request a free review copy, please contact the author at mabhakta2006@yahoo.com The Vedic String Theory of Everything is available for sale online at www.Amazon.com , www.Borders.com , www.BookSurge.com , and through additional wholesale and retail channels worldwide.

About the Author

Manjeshwar Bhakta was born in Mangalore, in the western part of India, in 1923. He pursued an extensive education; has been awarded B.S. and M.S. degrees from Banaras University, Ph.D. in chemistry from New York University; was a post-doctoral fellow at the Radiation Laboratory from the University of Notre Dame. He has served as a lecturer in chemistry at R. Ruia College, and a reader in chemistry at Dhempe College, Goa. He has also done extensive research, and specialized in physical chemistry, reaction kinetics, and heterogeneous catalysis. Bhakta was married for 31 years. He retired in 1984, moved to the United States in 1986, and is currently dividing his time between his daughter's and son's families.

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Sahasra Poornachandra Darshan Shanthi of Swamiji

Mangalore, February 2: The blessings and compassion of the God and observing the traditions, thoughts and values of life as practised by the elders would lead the society towards salvation, said **Shri Sudheendra Thirtha Swamiji**, the pontiff of Shri Kashi Mutt.

The Swamiji was addressing a large gathering during his preach to a mega GSB community members, organised as part of Swamiji's Sahasra Poornachandra darshan Shanthi (a ritual to mark the observation of 1000 full moons in his life), at Mangala Stadium here on Wednesday.

The Community is lucky to have the guidance of the elders. The members of the community should follow the path laid by the seniors, the Swamiji said.

On the occasion, the authorised disciple, **Shri Samyameendra Thirtha** garlanded the Swamiji on behalf of the GSB community.

The Shanthi celebration Committee Chief Co-ordinator **Dinesh S Pai** welcomed. **Santha Bhadrageeri Achyuthdas**, entrepreneur **P Dayananda Pai**, spoke. Meanwhile, the general patron of the programme, **K V Kamath**, who is also the CEO of ICICI Bank and Committee President and Mangalore Ganesh Beedi President **Jagannath Shenoy** garlanded Shri Samyameendra Thirtha. Swamiji.

P Dayananda Pai and his brother P Sathish Pai handed over an amount of Rs 1.65 crore to Kashi Mutt Swamiji. The amount goes to the development works of Kashimutt branch in Tirupathi and Oriental Research Centre in Sanskrit and Ayurveda situated in Kochi.

PROFESSOR J. V. BHAT ENDOWMENT

In December 2006, Dr. Vinod Bhat, Registrar of Manipal University (now known as Manipal Academy of Higher Education) chartered the Professor J.V. Bhat Endowment in memory of the eminent, internationally renowned scientist, Late Professor J. V. Bhat. The vision of this Endowment is to inspire future generations of scientists to emulate the example he set through his lifelong dedication to furthering science in the fields of Fermentation Technology; Microbiology, Nutrition, Biochemistry, Medical, Dental and Mental Health Sciences; Pharmacology, Pharmacy, Ayurveda, and Homeopathy among other disciplines.

To achieve this vision, the mission of the Endowment is to hold an annual scientific lecture to be delivered by an invited eminent scientist. On March 3, 2007, (Late Dr. J.V. Bhat's birthday), the first invited lecture was delivered in the Auditorium of the Dr T. M. A. Pai Planetarium at Manipal at 4.00 pm by Professor I. Karunasagar, an eminent micro-biologist and bio-technologist in the area of fishery science. Dr. Karunasagar was nominated as National Professor by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi. His doctorate advisor was Dr. J. V. Bhat.

Late Dr. J .V. Bhat taught and researched at St Xavier's College, Bombay and the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore before joining Manipal University. Besides being the head of the Microbiology Department at Manipal University, he was also the Director of Research. He touched many lives. He lived simply and humbly and did not seek honor, name or glory. He did everything he could for his family, students, colleagues and friends without wanting anything in return except to see them succeed and do well in their lives. He achieved this goal during his lifetime. In his heavenly abode, his spirit will be thrilled to know that his well-wishers want to continue his legacy, to benefit present and future generations.

The Academy of General Education, now called Manipal University, with its many institutions has given many of us an outstanding education and start to good careers and lives. Many who started in Manipal and Mangalore; St Xavier's College and the Indian Institute of Science from humble beginnings have gone on to bigger and greater things and hold highly prestigious and responsible positions in many walks of life, all over the world. They have become teachers, role models, advisors and mentors to many generations of scientists. To continue and champion this worthy cause, Professor Gopinath, Senior Scientist, MAHE Life Sciences Center requests you to kindly support this endeavor and help achieve this Endowment's goal.

Professor J. V. Bhat's son, Dr. Girijanand Bhat lives in Southern California with his family.

KONKANI CALENDER

April 2007	May 2007	June 2007
2 nd Shri Hanuman Jayanthi	1 st Vaishaki Poornami	2 nd Konkani Sabha Picnic
5 th Sankashta Chaturthi	5 th Sankashta Chaturthi	3 rd Sankashta Chaturthi
6 th – 8 th KISS Picnic	14 th Vrisbh Sankranthi	14 th Amavasya (Dark Moon)
7 th KAOCA Yugadi	16 th Amavasya (Dark Moon)	14 th Mithun-Sankranthi
13 th Mesh-Sankranthi	27 th Yekadashi	25 th Yekadashi
14 th Saura Ugadi	31 st Poornami	30 th Poornami
16 th Amavasya (Dark Moon)		
19 th Akshaya Thritye		
27 th Yekadashi		
30 th Shri Narasimha Jayanthi		

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, \$
Pradeep & Geetha Bhandarkar, Bloomfield Hills, MI	50.00
Ravindranath & Asha Baliga, Danville, CA	50.00
Ramesh & Pratibha Kamath, Redwood City, CA	50.00
Balakrishna & Indumathi Pai, Bloomfield Hills, MI	80.00
Vasant & Kirti Acharya, River Forest, IL	50.00
Mohan & Mohini Kamath, Cerritos, CA	50.00
Kochikar Ramnath & Raju Pai, Tampa, FL	125.00
Surendra & Shalini Shenoy, Olivette, MO	51.00
Pundalik & Roopalatha Shenoy, Bethlehem, PA	50.00
M. Vasudeva & Sujatha Kamath, The Woodlands, TX	50.00
Anil & Mridula Rao, Friendswood, TX	100.00
Ganesh & Savithri Bhandarkar, North Brunswick, NJ	90.00

Kaup Muralidhar & Sudha Shenoy, Durham, NC	50.00
Shrikar & Nirmala Bangalore, Oak Creek, WI	51.00
Ashok & Suman Bhat, Tampa, FL	50.00
Krishna & Padmini Nayak, Grosse Pointe Hills, MI	60.00
Jyoti G. Shanbhag, Moore, SC	50.00

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Description	Credit, \$	Debit, \$
Balance Carried over since Khabbar Vol. XXIX No. 4	1,875.00	
Money Received:		
Subscriptions (135) and donations	3,072.00	
Advertisements (1)	15.00	
Interest	5.00	
Sub Total:	3,092.00	
Money Spent (Khabbar Vol. XXIX No. 4):		
Printing- Khabbar (450) - 20 pages		450.00
Printing-Mailing List- (360) – 29 pages		540.00
First Class Mail-Khabbar (408)		257.04
Canada Khabbar (14)		12.60
Mailing List- First Class-280		232.40
Mailing List-Canada (6)		6.60
Overseas (20)		60.00
Mail Fines, computer paper & labels, envelopes, service fees, etc.		541.36
Sub Total:		2,100.00
Final Balance:	2,867.00	

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



The last quarter's quiz:

To the best of the knowledge of MENSA, only one word can be made from all the letters below. What is it?

B D E E F I I L N N S Y

The Answer: INDEFENSIBLY

The following gave the correct solution:

Praveen Kamath, Centreville, VA
Govind Kamath, Austin, TX

Mikhail George, Novi, MI

Amie Miklavcic Pai, Richmond, NC

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!***

If you have a stack of (US) currency 1 mile high, how many notes would you have?

NAKA, the North American Konkani Association

A Speech Not Made By Vasanth Bhat, Founding Member, NAKA

During the “*Kalash Transfer*” at the KS-2006, I wanted to speak to the Sammelan attendees but chose not to. Anyway, here is what I wanted to say... May be it is better to publish it today...

Dear Konkani family,

On behalf of the NAKA Board, it is an honor to accept this *Kalash*. First of all, I want to thank KS-2006 team for a job very well done. You have proved one thing- we as a community can come together and celebrate our culture and heritage in style, that too, at a place far away from our motherland.

It is really amazing to see how we have evolved after the first Sammelan of 1996. Thanks to you all who have attended these Sammelans and supported us through out. Without your involvement and support, we would not have been here. When the first Sammelan in 1996 was held, we had no idea how successful we will be. It was Nina who suggested (in 1996) that we have an organization called **NAKA (North American Konkani Association)** to help preserve our heritage and culture in North America. Both Dammu and I joined her as founding members of NAKA. As future Sammelans drew successes, we decided to join the key people of these Sammelans to NAKA to represent Konkani community across North America. These people, **Ramesh Kamath, Bharat Shiralkar, Vasant Acharya, Sandhya Kamath, Suren Kamath, Sudhir Golikeri, Suresh Shenoy, Ramadas Kamath, Ashok Bhatt & Sadanand Mankikar** have gone through the rigorous exercise of hosting Konkani Sammelans. And, the youngsters, **Seema Kamath, Ranjit Shiralkar & Sheila Shenoy** represent the Youth for the same reason as getting involved in Youth Sammelans.

I know this is a semi autonomous Board with no formal vote or election. But, **I assure you that this group has the Konkani interest at heart and nothing will stop them from working for the best interest of our community.** We as a NAKA Board, have work cut out for us in helping preserve our culture here in North America.

We really had done our homework in finding the host for the 2008 Sammelan but due to unavoidable circumstances it just did not happen! But, I assure you that we will hold our biennial Sammelans in 2008 and beyond (It is now official that the 2007 Konkani Youth Convention and the biennial KS-2008 will be hosted in Northern California).

Long live the Konkani spirit..

Thank You

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

NAKA - Statement Of Accounts

Date	Description	Credit, \$	Debit, \$
12/04/2006	Balance from last report	34,353.86	
	Contribution received from United Way	37.23	
	KS-2006 Seed money refund	20,000.00	
	Interest	342.00	
3/5/2007	Final Balance:	54,733.09	

Signed: Damodar Baliga
Treasurer, NAKA

Vasanth,

For the first time in its short history, NAKA has received a public contribution. We have a check from the United Way of Eastern Fairfield County in the amount of \$37.23. My sincere thanks to Dr. Rajaram Shenoy and Sikorsky Aircraft.

Dammu.

2007 KONKANI YOUTH CONVENTION:

The 2007 Konkani Youth Convention will be held on August 3-5 in Downtown San Francisco, California. Their website is www.bay2007.com . Please encourage your children aged 18 years and above to attend this convention and meet other Konkani youth.

Here's an update on the status of the Youth Convention.

BUDGET

As of February 1, 2007, we have raised \$21,626.00. This includes the \$5,000 seed money from NAKA, as well as registration income. This number does not include the sponsorship of our Saturday Evening Dinner, which is being sponsored by Pundi Kini. We have spent \$2,000 so far on deposits for dinner Friday night and to put a hold on our conference room space at the hotel. A final budget will be provided by the first of March. The team is fairly confident that current fundraising efforts will be enough to support this convention. We will, however, continue to raise money to help payback the \$5,000 NAKA seed money and most importantly, raise money for future Youth Conventions. We believe that this will help future Youth Convention Committees and provide them a head start on fundraising.

REGISTRATION

We are excited to say that 73 individuals have registered as of February 1, 2007. This is exciting news because 73 individuals are more than the number of attendees for the Austin Youth Convention in 2003 and the Chicago Youth Convention in 2005. Based on general feedback and comments, we anticipate hitting close to 100 registrants. The list of currently registered individuals is available via this link: http://bay2007.com/who_registered.html

EVENTS

A brief synopsis of our scheduled activities and events:

- Friday Night: Dinner at McCormick & Kuleto's in Ghiradelli Square
- Saturday Morning: Community Service Activity
- Beach cleanup or a community-related activity
- Saturday Lunch: TBD
- Saturday Afternoon: Constituents are back at the hotel for seminars
- Seminar details to be finalized soon and will available on the Web site
- Saturday Evening: Quick trolley tour of the city & Dinner at Gaylord Indian Cuisine
- Saturday Night: TBD
- Sunday Morning: Final Seminar and Closing Remark

The purpose of the planning is to provide a good mix of events and to ensure that everyone is involved. We are aware of the concerns regarding underage consumption of alcohol. The Core Team will do our utmost best to control this situation. The restaurants and hotel on the itinerary have strict alcohol policies that must be followed. All constituents will be required to sign a waiver form when registering, which will limit the responsibility of NAKA and the Organizers and placing responsibility on the individual him/herself. As can be expected, there is only so much the Core Team can do, and in the end, it is the responsibility of the individual to make mature decisions. Officially, the Core Team will NOT endorse or sponsor events that encourage underage consumption of alcohol. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to e-mail the group at bay2007@gmail.com, or e-mail us individually.

We appreciate everything all of the advisors and donors have done to encourage the Konkani Youth to grow and develop into not just a national, but global network. Your time, donations, helpful advice and feedback have given us the strength and legs to bring this year's Convention to fruition.

Thank you, again, for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Vijay Kamath - vjckamath@gmail.com

Vaman Kamath - vkamath@gmail.com

Ajay Nayak - anayak@gmail.com

Sarita Kamath - kamsari@aol.com

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Meghana Acharya - meghana.acharya@gmail.com

Suncheth Bhat - suncheth@yahoo.com

Ashish Kapadia - ashish@1800radiator.com

Konkani Sammelan (KS-2008) Update:

The Sarmelan committees are busy driving the various activities towards holding a fun-filled and active program filled with entertainment, pomp and food (not necessarily in that order!). You and your family can look forward to three fun-filled summer days, where fine arts, intellectual discussions, entertainment, educational workshops and palate-tickling Konkani cuisine are the norm.

Our Konkani Sarmelan 2008 logo has been unveiled! The idea behind the logo is our theme **"Awaken The Konkani In You"**, depicting:

- Good character, discrimination, integrity, and morality as symbolized by the Lotus.
- Brilliance, illumination, entrepreneurship, intelligence and wisdom as represented by the Flame.
- Devotion, compassion, charity and a loving nature are "all Heart".
- The word "Awaken" implies some action to bring forth these values.
- The pair of Hands symbolizes the action of nurturing and bringing forth the qualities.

These characteristics are already within us Konkanis.

The Entertainment committee is looking forward to showcase two days packed with heart warming entertainment that will Awaken the Konkani in You! Look for out-of-this-world song sequences especially created for your pleasure, amazing dance numbers and skits that will have you in side-splitting laughter. Be enthralled by an accomplished, dynamic, and distinguished Chief Guest, and come enjoy an evening of special entertainment. The entertainment committee is looking for participants, so polish your talents and contact us at: entertainment@konkanisarmelan.org

It is clear that over the years the attendance has increased to over 1600 – this time around, we expect over 1800 people to attend this event. As can be imagined, the financial implications of organizing such an event are challenging.

While the registration fees cover a portion of the overall costs for the venue, food and entertainment, the remainder is covered by the generous donations of members of the community - such as you. The success of this Sarmelan depends on your kind contribution.

We request the Konkani community to open your wallets and hearts to donate any amount you can towards the Sarmelan. As we are a non-profit organization, all donations are tax-deductible – we even suggest that you can make these donations for both 2007 and 2008 and increase your contribution to supporting our Konkani community.

Please contact fundraising@konkanisarmelan.org or Venugopal Pai at (408) 943-1726 and we will be happy to assist you in this matter or send in your donation checks made to

NAKA,
c/o Dr. Narayan Nayak,
3394 Silver Springs Court,
Lafayette, CA 94549.

Devu Baré Koro!

Upcoming Konkani Events

KISS 2007 PICNIC

It is time for a weekend of fun and excitement with family and friends at the **KISS (Konkanis in Southern States) 2007 Picnic**. It will be held at Bastrop State Park from 5 p.m. Friday April 6th to noon Sunday, April 8th. The park is located at BASTROP, Texas. (35 miles southeast of Austin). For more information, visit Bastrop State Park website at

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/bastrop/>

We start off with a Pizza dinner on Friday. Saturday meals include breakfast, lunch and dinner (catered by MADRAS PAVILION). Picnic concludes with a brunch on Sunday.

Agenda:

Friday, April 6th:

5.00 P.M. to 8.00 P.M. - Registration, Panchadika & Pizza

8.00 P.M. to 11.00 P.M. - Karaoke & Anthakshari.

Saturday April 7th:

7.00 A.M. to 8.30 A.M. - Breakfast

9.00 A.M. to 12.00 P.M. - Volley Ball, Cricket, Table Tennis (Kids will have face painting & other activities)

12.00 P.M. to 1.30 P.M. - Lunch
 2.00 P.M. to 4.30 P.M. - Tug of war, Balloon Toss, Musical Chairs etc
 4.30 P.M. to 5.30 P.M. - Light Snacks, Tea & Coffee.
 7.00 P.M. till Midnight - Entertainment & Gather around Camp fire for Jokes

Sunday April 8th

8.00 A.M. Onwards: - Brunch, Easter egg Hunt for the Kids, clean up.

Registration Charges:

Adults (10 and above) \$30 (\$35 at the park)
 Senior Citizens (65 and above) and Children (between 5 and 10) \$20 (\$25 at the park)
 Children under 5 - FREE
 Park admission fee is NOT included in the registration charge. The admission fee is \$4 per day per person 13 years and older.

Accommodations:

On site- charges are included in the price. There are heated barracks with 90 bunk beds. Beds have mattresses. Availability is on a first-come-first-served basis. We have discounted rates at Best Western Inn (512-321-6000) just one mile outside the park. The rates are \$64.95/night up to 4 people per room, and at Day's Inn (512-321-1157) for \$62.00 per night. Please mention KISS Picnic or KONKANI Reunion when booking the rooms.

Area Coordinators:

Austin: Ashlesha and Rajiv Hattangady (512-347-9681), Dinkar Rao (512-837-7159)
 Dallas: Gaurang Kalyanpur (214-455-6628)
 Houston: Mridula Rao (281-992-0132), Sunil Shenoy (281-320-1851)

Entertainment: Contact Asha Dhume (281-313-2284) if you or your kids would like to perform.

Please return the Registration Form with following information

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State & Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 E Mail: _____

	# of People	Registration Fees
Adults Each @ \$30.00.....		
Senior Citizens (Above 65 Years) Each @ \$20.00		
Kids (Between 5 and 10) Each @ \$20.00.....		
Kids Below 5 Free.....		
Grand Total		

Please make checks payable to Neela Kamath and mail with this registration form to:
 Neela Kamath, 8810 Heatherly Drive, Houston, TX 77083; Phone: 281-498-3188 & e-mail: neelakamath@yahoo.com

2007 Konkani Sabha Activities

Following are the highlights of the KONKANI SABHA activities for the year 2007

Picnic: Rain or Shine

Date: Saturday, June 2nd 2007
 Time: 10 AM to sunset
 Location: Mercer County Park East, New Jersey
 Cost: \$5 (18 years and older) and \$3 (ages 3 to 17)
 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. Dessert will be provided by Konkani Sabha.
 For details including directions, visit our website at 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, November 3rd, 2007
Time: 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Location: Shri Venkateshwara Temple Community Center, Bridgewater, NJ
780 Old Farm Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807
Tel: (908) 725-4477
Cost: We will let you know at the Picnic
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

Visit our website at 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	gkamathcpa@yahoo.com
Vice President	Gurudatt Kamath	(732) 274-9542	gurudatt_kamath@hotmail.com
Director of Communication	Rajesh Nayak	(973) 779-3119	rajesh_nayak@yahoo.com

KONKANI APPEALS

SHRINIVAS CHARITABLE TRUST (Regd.)
(A multi faceted Human concern & Cultural care)
KUMTA – 581 343.
(Uttar Kannada) Karnataka India.
AN APPEAL

Dear Sir/Madam,

Greetings and good wishes to you. It is observed that the modern times are marked by impressive Technological and economic progress without concomitant social, moral and spiritual improvement in the lives of the people. This is more particular in India where it has jolted the traditional joint family system and even the family system itself, the long cherished values of home and hearth, the very bedrock of Samskara and filial and parental relationships are fast vanishing under the pressure of the exigencies of modern life. An acute and sad awareness of this Socio-Cultural problem (especially in the rural and semi-urban areas) urged the Trustees to do something positive and reassuring in this matter. It is heartening to note that 0-4-0 Guntas of land has been generously and graciously donated to the Trust by the four daughters of late Shri Shrinivas Govind Shanbhag of Herwatta and another 0-11-0 guntas of land has been acquired adjoining the donated site. Recently another 21/2 Guntas of land has also been donated by Sri G.R. Nayak & Brothers adjoining the site for making a beautiful garden in the sweet memory of their parents. We are thus slowly but surely translating our good intentions into action and activities.

On this spacious and precious land, we have envisioned building a rare human habitat where the glorious ancient Wisdom of India and the best of modern life meet and interact for the betterment of the quality of human life, materially, morally and spiritually, **a Home for the Aged, a play Home for Children, Yoga Classes**, a hostel for the working woman, a beautiful Garden, soul stirring and inspiring. Besides this core-commitment the Trust will offer scholarships and financial aid to the needy and deserving to enable them to pursue education at lower and higher levels.

The Trust has set before it a task or a number of tasks which seem to be daunting as the estimated cost is Rs. 1.5 Crore “Hope burns eternal in the human breast” yes, it is the hope of your support for this humanitarian cause that has propelled us to go ahead with the work. Your invaluable contribution either in cash or kind will be gratefully accepted, acknowledged and suitably recognised. You may contact the trust at the following address for any clarification or information.

YASHODHAM
Herwatta, Kumta,
Kumta (U.K) 581 332
Ph: 08386-222998

Yours sincerely

Meera Shanbhag
President

Appeal to feed the children at Mangala Seva Samithi Trust

The above trust manages an orphanage situated in a rural place on the way to Mangalore University Campus at Konaje, 12 km from the center of Mangalore. This orphanage started in 1980 now houses 82 orphans. The children at the orphanage are provided free food, shelter, education in nearby schools, medical facilities etc. Monthly expenses required to take care of these children is approximately \$2,000. Our trust has been registered and has income tax exemption.

There are several schemes to sponsor a child: (1) interest earned from a \$ 4,000 donation will support a child forever, (2) a donation of \$ 150 will support a child for a year, (3) a donation of \$ 50 will supply one meal to all the children at the orphanage.

The donations can be made by cheque drawn in the name of Mangala Seva Samithi Trust, Mangalore and mailed to Mangala Seva Samithi Trust, "Dwaraka", Kodialguthu East, 2nd Cross, Kodialbail, Mangalore-575003, India.

Dr. P. Ananthakrishna Bhat, Convenor of the Trust.

Please Visit our website for further information: www.mangalaseva.org OR www.mangaloreworld.com (hall of fame)

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Non Konkani	\$50.00	\$90.00	\$170.00	\$320.00

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

WANTED:

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

KONKANI CHARITIES

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

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, NV 89145

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

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

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

MATRIMONIAL

Parents invite matrimonial correspondence for their sons, 28 years old, 6'-1" and 27 years, 6-3" from GSB Konkani girls, fluent in English from India or US, willing to settle in NY. Please, mail or email photo and bio data to: K. Prabhu, 32-57, 86th Street, East Elmhurst, NY 11369; email: kprabhu@earthlink.net.

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- All Puja/Homa services can be offered at the patron's/priest residence. For patrons' convenience, puja can be conducted in absentia by the priest at his residence and Prasad sent by mail.

366 Terrace Dr., Brookfield, WI 53045
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A P P E A L

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 Anandsharam as one of the recipients of their grants. Hence, the donors in USA 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

Dr. (Miss) P. Gowri Pai

Anandshram Seva Trust @, Darbe P. O. 574 202, Puttur, D. K., Karnataka, INDIA Email: drgowripai@gmail.com