

Khabbar

North American Konkani Newsletter

Volume XXXI No. 1

January, February, March - 2008

From:

The Honorary Editor,
"Khabbar"

P. O. Box 222

Lake Jackson, TX 77566 - 0222

XXXI-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.....

The Konkani Sammelans, six of them so far, have been nothing but successes in North America. It has been a showcase of Konkani talents within the community. Most of the people who attended these Sammelans agree with me. But, unknown to me, there were other hidden talents that were exposed during these Sammelans. Case in point is an incident that happened during KonCANi Sammelan (KS-2006):

The professional photographers who were supposed to take the video of the KS-2006 for some reason had an over exposed

video of the first one hour of the function, probably the most important event. The video was dark with neither sound nor scene for one hour! How can the organizers sell the Sammelan videos to people who have ordered them!! Hence, a hectic search was done to find whether any family had taken the video of that beginning function and are they willing to share it with KS-2006. Luckily, the search ended when the organizers found that this family from MD had taken the video and was willing to share it with the KS-2006. To the amazement of everyone, this family's video was much much better than the professional's video. Commented the President of KS-2006, "This family not only came to our rescue, now we know who can be our official videographer".

SUBSCRIPTION FORM:

Dear Konkani family,

It is time to renew your subscription for 2008, if you've not done so. The numbers on the mailing label clearly indicate the year/s the dues for *Khabbar* has been received since 2006. Please, note that you have the FREE access to the e*Khabbar*, the electronic version of *Khabbar*, by logging on to ekhabbar.com. If you want hard copy, then only remit your subscription at \$15.00/yr. **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 XXXI No. 1

January, February, March - 2008
Honorary Editor: Mr. Vasanth Bhat
Mailing Address:

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

www.ekhabbar.com

Tel: (979)-299-3210

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.

This issue of *Khabbar* has been mailed to **ALL** families that have paid dues **at least once since 2006**. In other words, families who **have not** paid since 2005 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 2006 and if there is any error let me know.

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

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 2008 *Khabbar* Mailing List has been mailed **only** to families that have paid their subscriptions for 2007. 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!

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. This quarter, NAKA provided the much needed seed money to the 2008 Konkani Sammelan by advancing \$30k. The NAKA sponsored **Konkani Sammelan – 2008 (KS-2008)** in Santa Clara, CA will be an experience no Konkani in North America should miss! Visit their website (<http://www.konkanisammelan.org/2008/default.asp>) to find out all the details of this great event.

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).

On the Quiz front, congratulations to **Praveen Kamath** of Centreville, VA, who has solved 4 consecutive *Khabbar* quizzes correctly. He has won a free subscription to *Khabbar* for 1 year. Overall, *Khabbar* has still remained as a champ. Please note this prize has been discontinued effective immediately.

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.

The year 2008 started with a greatest news any Konkani should be proud of. An honor of Padma Bhaushan award was bestowed by Govt. Of India on **Sri K. V. KAMATH**, Chairman & CEO of ICICI Bank, during the 2008 Republic Day celebrations. This is probably the highest award any Konkani has ever received!

As they wind down their business, *Khabbar* takes this opportunity to thank **Sri & Smt G.D. Bhat** of Jamaica, NY who continuously advertised in *Khabbar* for a long time to remember and wish them all the best in their future plans.

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.

Hi Vasanth,
Could you include the attached request to our call for nominations for awards for the next sammelan KS-2008 in the next issue of *Khabbar*?
Thanks a lot.

Bharat
bshiralkar@gmail.com

Dear Vasantmam:
I am writing to request your support for the Souvenir issue being prepared for the 2008 Konkani Sammelan. The Souvenir Committee is accepting advertisements for publication in the souvenir. The prices for the advertisements are as follows:
Full Page: \$1,000
Half Page: \$500
Quarter Page: \$300
I look forward to seeking your help in making the 2008 Sammelan a success. Kindly contact me if you have any questions.
Sincerely

Arun Kamat
kamat.arun@gmail.com
1655 Mariani Drive
Sunnyvale, CA 94087
T: (408)733-3219
F: (408)733-8438
M: (408)529-0042

Gowda Saraswath Samaj Bangalore, now have a convention hall, owned by the Samaj, named as G. S. B. CONVENTION HALL. This is a centrally located, well designed, Air-conditioned facility for Marriage, Brahmopadesh, and other religious and social functions, made available to the general public on day to day rental basis. Details, with photos are available on website W.W.W.KANNADARATNA.COM UNDER PARTY HALLs & MARRIAGE HALLS IN BANGALORE. THIS IS ONE OF THE FINEST CONVENTION HALLS OWNED BY ANY GOWDA

SARASWATH SAMAJ ANY
WHERE.
K.UPENDRA NAYAK &
H.DINESH NAYAK
PRESIDENT CHAIRMAN-
BUILDING COMMITTEE Gowda
Saraswath Samaj, Bangalore.
nayak_h_d@yahoo.co.in

Dear Vasanth,
I am enclosing article on our pilgrimage in Part 1 and Part 2 and two photos of Swamiji taken at Haridwar on March 20, 2007. Part 1 includes trip details of Vaishnodevi, Amritsar, Jallianwala Bagh and Wagh Border. It may take about two pages. If space does not permit, you may omit Jalianwala Bagh and Wagh border. If possible, try to include one of the photo of Swamiji. Part 2 includes temples in Himachal Pradesh, Haridwar Rishikesh, Delhi and Mumbai. Part 2 also may take two pages. You may print Part 2 in next issue.

Sadananda Pai
snpai@yahoo.com
Sent: Sat 6/02/07 12:38 AM

Dear Vasanth,
Here is this year's analysis of the 2008 *Khabbar* Mailing List dated 12-10-2007:
Of the 2,160 families in the list (it was 2,120 last year!), we have Konkani living in 44 states & DC (same as last year!). We still do not have any Konkani living in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming!!
Also, we have:
221 Kamat(h)
208 Shenoy, Shenai, Shanbh(o)ag(ue)
211 Pai
149 Nayak (Naik)
121 Prabhu
90 Rao (u)
83 Bhat(t)
42 Baliga
34 Kini
34 Mal(l)ya, Mallia, Mahale

32 Nadkarni(y)
20 Bhandarkar, Bhandari(y)
18 Kudva
17 Hegde
14 Acharya.
15 Hatt(i)angadi(y)
12 Kop(p)ikar
The Kamat(h) families have maintained their lead. California still leads with 510 families (11 more than last year!) and San Jose, CA has the highest number of Konkani families living (74)! It was 73 last year!!
Keep up the great work.

Ravindra Nayak,
Flanders, NJ

Hi,

This is a link to a very good article Every Hindu Brahmin read it and respond to it.

"Stop Brahmin Bashing"
<http://www.udaypai.in/>

Cheers

RK
radhakrishna100@hotmail.com

Dear Vasanth Bhat,

Please find an appeal for publication in your magazine '*Khabbar*'. I have every hope you will kindly publish the same and oblige.

Devu Baren Koro,
- BASTI VAMAN SHENOY
bvs_193@hotmail.com

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

Hoon Khabbar

Congratulations:

Houston Restaurant Guide's *Fearless Critic*, that has gained repute for its brutally honest reviews, has lauded local vegetarian eatery, Udipi Café, owned and operated by **Satish & Sangeeta Rao**, of Humble, TX with the Total Pleasure-Grade A award, the highest for any South Asian restaurant in this city in December 2007.

BETH KULKARNI of The Woodlands, TX is the founding trustee of the Hindu Temple of The Woodlands. This is a special temple in terms of its involvement in many educational activities from the beginning. See www.WoodlandsHinduTemple.org for more information.

During the Republic Day celebrations in Jan. 2008, Government of India awarded the most coveted *Padma Bhushan Award* to **Sri. K. V. KAMATH**, CEO of ICICI Bank. The category was Trade & Industry. Under Kamath's stewardship, the Bank has catapulted to new heights on a global scene.

The ACE Awards Program in the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care recognizes Achievement, Commitment and Excellence (ACE) of its employees. **ANJANA PAI** and her project team won in the Customer Service category for the year 2006. The award was handed out in a ceremony on January 21, 2008 by the Minister of Health George Smitherman and Deputy Minister Ron Sapsford.

Three 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 15th 2008.

The awardees are:

1. **Mr. S. V. PIKALE**,
Renowned advocate,
Supreme Court, Mumbai

2. **Mr. G. V. MASURKAR**,
Eminent Pharmaceutical
Manufacturer, Mumbai and
3. **Mr. JOHN D'SILVA**,
Renowned Promoter of Co-
op Banks, Mumbai.

New Arrivals:

MEERA, a baby girl to Premila & Kiran Mandrekar on November 16th 2007 in NYC. The maternal grand parents are Ganesh & Seema Bhat of Malba, NY.

MALVIKA, a baby girl to Vivek & Manasi Kolpe of Simi Valley, CA on Dec. 20th 2007 in Thousand Oaks, CA. A little sister to Vir. The proud grandparents are Vijaykumar & Jyoti Kolpe of Mumbai and Maya & (late) Suresh Maskeri of Mumbai.

KHUSHAAL, a 6 lb 6 oz, baby boy to Narasimha & Rekha Nayak of Tallahassee, FL on January 15th 2008. A baby brother to Khushi. The paternal grand parents are Nagesh & Sharada Nayak of Mangalore and visiting young Khushaal are his maternal grand parents Prabhakar & Jaya Kamath of Mangalore.

ANYA, a 6 lb 9.6 oz, 19-1/2" tall baby girl to Richard & Priya Page of New York, NY on February 5th 2008, a baby sister to Aasha. The paternal grand parents are Michael & Olwen Page and the maternal grand parents are Chandrakanth & Sheila Mahale of High Bridge, NJ.

ARMAAN, a baby boy to Hemant & Linda Keny of San Jose, CA on Feb. 8, 2008, a brother to Megan and Taj. The proud grandparents, Vasant & Surekha Keny of La Palma, CA.

ANIKA KRISHNA, a baby girl to Sanat & Priya Amladi of Brentwood, CA on Feb. 23, 2008 in Santa Monica. The proud grandparents are Shyam & Meera Amladi of Los Angeles and Kishore and Sudha Adur of Santa Cruz, Mumbai.

Engagement:

Suresh & Usha Shenoy of Sugar Land, TX celebrated the engagement of their daughter, **Kum. SHEILA** with **Chi. SANTOSH**, s/o Prabhu & Kanta Reddy of The Woodlands, TX on Saturday February 23rd 2008 at their residence.

Newly Weds:

Chi. NARENDRA of Santa Clarita, CA, s/o Drs. Nayan & Pratibha Nayak of Pune married to **Sow. ANUSHREE**, d/o Kiran & Mrunalini Laturkar of Pune on Dec. 28th 2007 in Pune, India.

Relocation:

The **KAMATH** family, Ramachandra & Sunita together with their son, Rohan, relocated from Kansas City, MO to 14324 Norwood Street, Leawood, KS 66224-3912. The new telephone is (816)-550-6554 (Cell).

The **BHANDARKAR** family, Ratnakar & Srimathi, have relocated within Mississauga to 3650 Kaneff Crescent, # 2007, Mississauga, Ont. L5A 4A1. The telephone remains at same at (905)-896-4539 and email ID: pd.sudha@sympatico.ca

The **PAI** family, Ramdas & Sudha have relocated from Colton, CA to 1409 Elizabeth Street, Redlands, CA 92373. The new telephone is (909)-894-4054.

The **BYKER** family, Shalini & Erik have relocated from Washington, DC to 222 Northlawn Avenue, East Lansing, MI 48823. Their email: rickandi@hotmail.com

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

KONKANI HAPPENINGS

Houston Area Amchigale Association (HAAS) had a dinner cruise aboard the Spirit of Texas on Saturday Dec 22nd 2007. It was a great chance for everyone to have a good time with great music, delicious food and of course, superb company! The young children were thrilled to have a Santa there with gifts for them. Many thanks to Ayshwarya and Chetan for choosing the gifts for the children, wrapping them beautifully and even including a gift certificate with each gift! Ira did a splendid job as Santa! All got a chance to join our friends who were celebrating days that were special for them in December- there were birthdays, anniversaries and even a graduation. Many thanks to Chaya for the tasty cake! A big thanks to Kumar and Nikhil Pai for providing the great music for us to dance to. The night would have been just perfect if the weather had cooperated. It was great to have a large turn-out, of all age groups, having fun together.

Best wishes for 2008!

HAAS

The annual **Konkani Association of Southern California (KASC)** sponsored Shivaratri Bhajan was held on Saturday, February 22, 2008 at the residence of **Drs. Shobha and Ashok Naimpally** in Cerritos. The social hour started at 4 pm with delicious dhokla, munchies and tea. The bhajan was led by Nandini and Sridhar Rao. There were about 25 people in attendance singing the bhajans and chanting the shlokas. After the arati, there was guided meditation facilitated by Shobha Naimpally. It was a satisfying spiritual experience. This was followed by a sumptuous potluck dinner and more socialization. We are very grateful to the Naimpallys for welcoming us to their beautiful residence and their hospitality..... (By Ajit D. Pai and Sudha M. Pai)

Houston Area Amchigale Association (HAAS) celebrated their annual SatyaNarayan Puja on Saturday Feb 9th 2008 at the Sugar Land Community Center in Sugar Land, TX. The first event of 2008, included the Puja, Bhajans, act in the Katha, and delicious food.

A big thank you to Sadanand Pai, Ramkrishna Prabhu and Surendra Bhat for performing the puja and explaining the steps. Our thanks are also in order again to Ramkrishna Prabhu our MC who made this function livelier. Many thanks to Umesh Baliga and Kumar Sirur for coming early to set up the sound system and keep it running well throughout the program. We sincerely thank Didi Baliga who made sure that the appetizers were warmed up and ready for everyone when they arrived. Thanks to Maya for the Satyanarayan photograph, Sharda Pai for setting up the puja, Poornima Bhat for making a nice mala, Manikkam mai Bhat and Pushpa Desai for providing us with the mango leaves. It was a pleasure to listen to the katha written by Gauri Sirur and read by Rohit Kamath, Rohan Kini, Ankur Bhagwat, Sharath and Kiran Bhatt, Varun Nayak, Ramesh Kamath, Hema and Raj Kamath, Ram Nayak, Anu Malya, Mohit Nilekini, Suresh Nayak, Pushpa Desai, Akhila Bhat, Deepak Nayak, Amol-pacchi, Jyoti Nayak, Anu Nayak and Chaya Ubhaykar. We were lucky to have our talented members like Gaurav Nayak, Samhita Bhat, Uma Kamath, Hema Kamath, Pushpa Desai, Maya Prabhu, Ramkrishna Prabhu, Ramesh Kamath and Aparna Kamath, sing bhajans or recite sholkas while the rest of us were enjoying lunch. Thanks to Ranjana Golikeri, Hema Kamath, Gauri Sirur, Neeta Balsavar and Jayanth Kabad for making the sapat baksha for us. And of course our special thanks to Prem Mam, Ram Nayak, Ravindra Pai, Shanti Pai, Santosh Bhagwat, Tara Baliga and every one else for arranging the chairs, tables and food. It was a pleasure to have so many friends help in serving lunch, clearing, cleaning the hall and disposing of the trash. Thanks to all whom we might have inadvertently overlooked. We missed those who could not make it to this function. We did pray on your behalf to the Lord SatyaNarayan for unity, peace and prosperity. Hope to see you at our next function!

KHABBAR FROM KULAR

By: - Vishwa Konkani Sardar BASTI VAMAN SHENOY

All India Konkani Parishad 26th Conference will be held at Kochi(Kerala) in the first week of February 2008. Shri T.M.V. Shenoy will be the Chairman, the Reception Committee, Konkani Prachar Sabha will host the Conference.

Noted Stage and Film Director, Actor Kasaragod Chinna and his team staged Konkani Drama 'Gaanti' at Town Hall, Mangalore on 04.10.2007 and witnessed by a packed audience. 'Gaanti' Konkani drama was also staged at Bantwal S.V.S. Temple. H.H.Sri Shivananda Saraswathi Swamy of Sri Kaivalya Mutt was present.

'Sahiitya Akademi Fellowship' was conferred on Shri Ravindra Kelekar, Veteran Konkani writer, freedom fighter, ardent follower of Mahatma Gandhi was felicitated at Panaji, Goa on 06.10.2007.

Seminar on 'Vishwa Konkani Parichay Kosh' was held at Saraswath Vidya Mandir, Mumbai, at Panaji, Goa and Canara College at Mangalore. Large number of Konkani writers, historians, columnists were present.

Golden Show(50th) of famous Konkani Drama 'Nanda Deepa' by Konkani Triveni Kala Sangam, Mumbai was staged at Town Hall, Mangalore. Shri K.K.Pai, Manipal presided. Basti Vaman Shenoy was Chief Guest.

`Ullal Srinivas Mallya - Life and achievements' Konkani Book written by Basti Vaman Shenoy is now translated to Tulu language by Shri Muddu Moodubelle, Assistant Director, All India Radio, Mangalore and released at a function by noted Kannada Professor and Research fellow Mr. Amrith Someshwar at Mangalore on 7th December 2007.

Mr. Kumble Narasimha Prabhu has been elected as President of Kanara Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Mangalore for the year 2007-2008 and Mr. Narendra L. Nayak(of Expert Coaching and Educational Institutions), Mangalore has been nominated as Member of the Advisory Board of L.I.C. of India. Both are felicitated by Vishwa Saraswath Sammelan Anniversary Celebration Committee on 8th December 2007. Vice District Governor, Dist. 324-D5, Lions Clubs International Mr. K. Mohan Kamath(Tile Industry) was the Chief Guest.

Sahasra Chandra Darshan Celebrations of Shri S.V. Pikale, Founder President All India Saraswat Cultural Organisation was celebrated at Pikalewadi, Collem, Goa during 4th to 6th December 2007. Seminar on A.I.S.C.O. was held during the 3 days' celebrations. H.H. Swamijis of Sri Gokarn Partagali Mutt, Sri Kaivalya Mutt and Sri Chitrapur Mutt blessed Sri Pikale and the Samaj.

OUR PILGRIMAGE IN MARCH 2007

By: - Sadanand Pai, Houston, TX

Four Goals in Life: Four major goals in life of every followers of Sanathan Hindu religion are, Dharma Arth, Kama and Moksha. After fulfilling our duties to our children, seeing them well settle in their lives with their families, we decided to go on pilgrimage in India as a part of celebration of our Ruby Wedding Anniversary.

Our Places of Pilgrimage included Mata Vaishnodevi Shrine, Raghunath and other temples in Jammu, Golden Temple and other temples, Jalianwala Bagh in Amritsar and Wagha Border as a part of tour package. Other places in our own tour plan included Chintpurni Devi, Bagla Mukhi, Jwalaji, Kangra, Chamunda, Bapsunath, Dalai Lama's Tibetan temple and Chinmaya Mission's Tapovan Ashram, Siddhabari in Himachal Pradesh; Haridwar and Rishikesh temples and Shri Vyasashram of Shri Kashi Math Samsthan, where we could meet Swamiji for nearly half an hour on one to one basis; ISKCON Temple, Akshardham of Swami Narayana, Birla Mandir, Indira and Mahatma Gandhi Memorials, Qutub Minar, Bahai Lotus temple, Bangla Saheb Gurudwara in Delhi; Ganesh temple in Titavla and ISKCON temple at Juhu, Mumbai.

Mata Vaishnodevi Shrine: URL <http://maavaishnodevi.org> provides more details of this shrine. We were planning to visit Vaishnodevi shrine for long time. It is located in a cave in Trikuta Mountains at elevation of nearly 6250 feet nearly 14 Kilometers from Katra, which is at elevation of 2500 feet. 15 feet wide, 14 Kilometer long road is made of concrete tiles for better traction. There are plenty of shops and rest areas along the route. Street light, electric power and STD, ISD phone facilities etc. are available along the route. Route provides magnificent view of surrounding area and fresh air. We had always desired to walk for Darshan of Mataji and she blessed us to fulfill our wishes. Day before our trip, a section of the road was closed due to heavy rain and snow and nearly 4000 people were stranded. Luckily with Mataji's blessing, weather cooperated and it was sunny day in the morning during our trip. However when we reached top of the mountain, hail storm started and at that time we were walking in a covered area.

One should get sturdy walking sticks while walking up the hill. There are many restaurants along the way and food prices are very reasonable. Free Langar or Prasad is provided near the shrine. We saw many ordinary people, young and old, some traveling with bare feet, and even some muslim pilgrims, who believe in powers of Devi. We heard muslim children telling each other not to tell lies while visiting Darbar of Mataji. Leather items, pens, cameras are not allowed inside the temple, but lockers are provided closer to temple for their safe keeping. After having Darshan of Mataji, Prasad is offered to devotees with a small coin. Pilgrims are advised keep Mata's coin in safe place at home to continue receive her blessings. Mata fulfills every legitimate wish of devotee in his lifetime and no one returns empty handed after completing her great pilgrimage.

Brief history of origin of Vaishnodevi is as follows: Demon Mahishasur got a boon from Lord Brahma that he could transform his body at will and he could be killed by only an unmarried girl. After getting the boon, Mahishasur defeated Indra and occupied Swarg (Heaven) and started troubling people of all worlds. To kill Mahishasur, Brahma, Vishnu, Shankar and other Devatas pooled their energy and created powerful Durga or Bhagavati, who was riding on a lion and Killed Mahishasur. Then Demons by the name of Shumbha and Nishumbha started harassing Devatas. Bhagavati killed Chanda and Munda who were military leaders of Shumbha. Then next leader by the name of Rakthbeeja started the war. Whenever blood dropped from Rakthbeeja, several clones came into existence. Then Mata Bhagavati ordered Kaali to drink all blood droplets. Finally Mata Bhagavati and Kaali killed Rakthabeej. For this very reason Kaali is depicted with stretched bloody tongue. Afterwards Bhagavati killed Nishumbha and Shumbh. Mata Bhagavathi represents MahaKaali (Tamas Nature), MahaLakshmi (Rajo Guna) and Maha Saraswati (Satvika Nature). As she is part of Shri Vishnu, she is called Vaishnavi or Vaishno Devi Mata. In Tretayuga she wanted to marry Shri Ram, but Shri Ram ordered her to wait till Kalki Avatar of Kaliyuga. So Vaishnavi Devi decided to do penance in Himalaya and selected to reside in Trikuta Mountain Range in a cave. Mata Vaishnodevi is worshipped as three natural formations in rock representing each of three Devis. Mata Vaishnodevi is worshipped by people of all faiths and she fulfils requests from her devotees. There are several anecdotes praising her prowess and can be read from locally available books.

Raghunath Temple, Jammu: There are 15 magnificent temples in this complex. Maharaja Ranavir Singh built the complex in 1856. Main temple has beautiful Murtis of Ram Lakshman and Sita. Other temples have Ganesh, Shri Krishna temples and beautiful transparent Sphatik (Clear Quartz) Shivalinga. In six big halls, thousands of Shaligrams are installed. Strict security arrangements are made near the temple, where one has to check in bags cameras etc. This temple complex is located near Jammu Bus stand.

Koul Kandholi temple in Nagarota: This temple is located 8 KM from Jammu. According to anecdotes, Mata Vaishnavi as a young maiden used to play in this area along with other young girls. Koul means a small Katora and Kandhol means shake. Mata had given the girls a small Koul. In dry areas after shaking the Koul water was obtained to satisfy the thirst of young girls. So this place is named Koul – Kandholi. During nine days of months of Ashwin (October- November) and Chaitra (March) they hold ChandiPaat and Maha yajna (Fire sacrifice) and on tenth day worship young girls and hold Bhandara (Feast for all townspeople). As per anecdotes, Mata Vaishnodevi held four times Bhandara, serving 36 different kinds of food in silver plates.

Golden Temple Amritsar: Amritsar means Amrit Sarovar or lake of nectar. Valmiki's hermitage was in the vicinity of this place. During her banishment Sita stayed in Valmiki's ashram and raised her children Lav and Kush. At the time of Ashvamedha Yajna by Shri Ram, Lav and Kush killed army of Shri Ram, which was revived later when Devatas poured Amrit or nectar. So this place is connected with Amrit. Sikhs believe that drop of Amrit fell at the location of this lake. Guru Ram Das, fourth guru of Sikhs, supervised construction of the lake from the year 1577 to 1581 sitting under a Shami tree, and believed to have released nectar in lake water. The Shami tree is still living here.

Golden temple in Amritsar is also referred as Har Mandir Sahib. It is one of the holiest temple of Sikh religion. Golden temple is located in the middle of lake with access from foot bridge. Lake water is filtered water and is clean. Refer to URL <http://sgpc.net/golden-temple/index.asp>. Other sites could be found from Google. Sacred Guru Granth is kept in this temple and continuous recital is held everyday. All courtesy is rendered to pilgrims inside the temple and whole complex. Pilgrims can sit inside the temple as long as they desire, none are pushed out to make room for others.

Sign outside the door where Guru Granth is kept, advises pilgrims to drink Amrit from the lake. Similarly on the other side of the lake there is a 400 year old berry tree, called Dukh Bhanjani Beri, Healer of sorrows. Lake water has healing power. Sign here reads that by drinking the water from the lake, one will lose all pain and disease. We followed the message from the signs. Hope we have taken few droplets of Amrit from the lake and will attain salvation. Temple is lit at night time and it was a beautiful sight. We visited the temple on night of March 15 and morning of March 16, 2007. This temple has several rooms for pilgrims to stay overnight and Langar (Prasad) is provided throughout the day. Most of the service is provided by volunteers. This temple provides a pleasing sight and should be visited by every Indian.

Durgiana Temple Complex, Amritsar: This temple complex resembles Golden Temple of Har Mandir Sahib, main temple with gold plated dome located in the middle of the lake and other temples along the four sides. Lake is fed from River Ravi and its water is not as clear as that of Har Mandir Sahib. Lakshmi Narayan, Radha Krishna and Ram Darbar are located in the main temple. Other temples such as Durga, Goswami Tulsidas temple etc are located along the inner Parikrama. In Goswami Tulsidas temple one can see complete Tulsi Ramcharita Maanas with each letter written with "RAMA". Similarly there is a paintings of Hanuman drawn with letters "RAMA" and second one with letters "OM" written in Sanskrit letter. This temple complex was built by Guru Harshai Mal Kapoor in 1925.

Mata Lal Devi Temple, Amritsar: Mata Lal Devi built this temple mainly to duplicate on smaller scale temples of Mata Vaishnodevi of Jammu and other deities from important temples of India. One can find smaller replica of Tirupati Balaji, Laddo Gopal, Meenakshi Devi, KanyaKumari, Rameshwar Dham, Puri Jagannath, Amarnath, Badrinath, Kedarnath, Pashupatinath, Shri Dwarakadish, Shri Lakshmi Narayana, Shri Satya Narayana, Mata Chintpurni, Pindis of Vaishnodevi, Devi maiya, Charan Paduka, Adh Kuwari, Garbh Joon, Bhairavji, and 12 JyotirLingas. Mata Lal Devi is instrumental in building similar temple in Haridwar also. Her devotion to God is really commendable. She was born in February 21, 1923 and left this world on January 9, 1994. Mata Lal Devi charitable trust maintains these temples and provides social services also. The temple provides Langar (Prasad or full meals) to pilgrims.

Jallianwala Bhag, Amritsar: This beautiful garden is reminder of atrocities committed on April 13, 1919 by British and Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer by killing more than 1000 and injuring nearly 1200 innocent people who had gathered for Baisakhi Day, a Sikh religious day at the Bagh. Tension was increasing since April 10th and many people were not aware that martial law was declared. Michael O'Dwyer was Lieutenant Governor of Punjab at that time and he condoned Dyer's action. The massacre infuriated lot of Indians. The museum has paintings of martyrs and narration. Dyer died in England in 1927. Sir Michael O'Dwyer was shot by Udham Singh in Britain on March 13, 1940. Udham Singh was sentenced to death by British courts and his body was returned to this site in 1974.

Wagah Border: Delhi – Lahore – Delhi Samajhuta Bus passes from Indian side to Pakistan side around 5.00 PM at this check post. Everyday at 5.30 PM Flags of India and Pakistan are ceremonially lowered. Neither side lowers its flag earlier by even a second.

Lowering of the flag is preceded by colorful military march of both sides and captains of each country shake hands with their counterpart when gates on both the sides are opened briefly. Patriotic music is played loudly on both sides. People on both the sides display their patriotism by marching with the flags with great vigor. Daily large number of people attends on Indian side to witness the ceremony. A festive market is created to cater the needs and sell songs, VCDs, flags etc.

Above described pilgrimage tour was organized by Amrita Travels of Navi Mumbai (e-mail: amrita_travels59@rediffmail.com Phone: 2769-3867) operated by Mr. Balakrishna Shenoy. Details of remaining travel will be provided in next article:

OUR PILGRIMAGE IN MARCH 2007 – Part 2

Temples of Himachal Pradesh: Himachal Pradesh declares it to be Dev Bhoomi or land of Gods. Devi, Shiva, Vishnu and Krishna are worshipped in many of the temple in this state. Devi or Durga is known as Uma, Parvati, Kali, Mahakali, Tripura Sundari, Chamunda etc. According to Shiva Purana, Sati is Daughter of Daksha Maharaja and she was married to Shiva. In a congregation of Devatas, Shiva ignored Daksha, which infuriated Daksha. When Daksha performed big Yajna at Kankhal near Haridwar, he invited all Devatas except Shiva and Sati. Sati went to the place of Yajna and killed herself by jumping in sacrificial fire of Yajna. On hearing news of death of Sati, distraught Shiva ordered his Ganas to spoil the Yajna. The Ganas spoiled the Yajna and cut off head of Daksha and threw the head in fire. When the Yajna ended abruptly without completion, Devatas requested Shiva to forgive Daksha and bring him back to life. As Daksha's head had burnt in fire, Shiva joined a head of goat to the body of Daksha and revived Daksha. With the goats head, Daksha could recite only Bam, Bam to praise Shiva. Thus if devotees recite, Bam, Bam Bholenath, Shiva is pleased. With the death of Sati, distraught Shiva carried her body on his shoulders and traveled all over three world performing Tandava dance. To save the world and remove grief of Shiva, Vishnu cut parts of Sati with his Sudarshan Chakra. Wherever Sati's body parts fell that place is worshipped having great celestial power. Temples are built in such places and they are known as Shakti Peeth. There are 51 such Shakti Peeth temples, famous among them are as follows:

1. Naina Devi temple in Bilaspur district, H. P, where Sati's eyes fell.
2. Chintpurni temple, where Sati's feet fell. She is remover of Chinta or all worries.
3. Kangra temple at Nagarkot or Kangra, where Sati's breast fell. Deity is Vajreshwari.
4. Mata Jwalaji's temple, where Sati's tongue fell. There are 9 nine flames continuously burning from ground, wall etc, representing Mahakali, Annapoorna, Chandi, Hinglaj Bhavani, Vindhyavasini, Mahalakshmi, Saraswati, Ambika and Anjana Devi. This temple has gold plated dome. According to historical record Akbar's army tried to cover the flame with metal plates and then tried to flood the area with a canal. Still flames continued to burn through metal plates or water. Devotees who conduct Devi Jagran at their homes come to light their lamps from the eternal flames of Mata Jwalaji.
5. Chamunda and NandiKeshwara temple in H.P. According to Durga Saptashati, Kalika came from the eyebrows of Ambika and killed Chanda and Munda demons and she was blessed by Ambika to be known as Chamunda Devi. There is a Chamunda Devi temple in Haridwar also.
6. Manasa Devi temple at Manimajra near Chandigadh, where Sati's forehead fell. There is a Manasa Devi temple in Haridwar also. Devi fulfills devotee's wishes coming from their mind (Manasa).
7. Shakumbhari temple near Saharanpur, where Sati's head fell.
8. Kalika Devi temple in Kolkatta (Formerly Calcutta), where Sati's hair fell. There are three Kali Devi temples namely. Rakthambara, Mundamalini and Mukthakeshi.
9. Bhadrakali temple near Kurukshetra, where Sati's left ankle fell.
10. Baglamukhi temple.

We visited Chintpurni, Baglamukhi, Jwalaji, Chamunda and Bapsunath temple at Mclodganj, and Tibetan temple in Dharamshala. We also visited Chinmaya Mission's Tapovan Ashram in Siddhabari, which has Ram Mandir, Hanuman Mandir and Samadhi of Chinmayananda. Chinmaya mission has office of CORD, (Chinmaya Organization for Rural Development). Tapovan Ashram provides spiritual training to people free of cost. Such trainees will work at various Chinmaya centers throughout the world. CORD provides medical facility, leadership and occupations to lead productive life to women in rural areas of Himachal Pradesh. We witnessed several training sessions in action. CORD spends charitable contributions in an effective way. One can see beautiful snow capped mountains and breathe in fresh air in Himachal Pradesh.

Haridwar and Rishikesh: At Haridwar we had the privilege of meeting our elder Swamiji with few other people at Vyasashram of Kashi Matt. Swamiji told us that when Pandavas went to heaven from Himalayas, they had gone through Haridwar. Hari dwar means gateway to Hari or Vishnu. Similarly Vedvyasji, who had written Mahabharath and Shrimadbhagavathm, was born in Kalpi, Uttar Pradesh. For these very reasons, Swamiji established Kashi Matt branches in Haridwar at the bank of River Ganga at Kalpi to worship Vedvyasji. Water of Ganga near the ashram is clean and flows with forceful currents. Swamiji said that it is duty of every parent to teach their children values of our religion and impart those true traditions of Sanathan Dharma. Vyasashram has lodging facility available at nominal rent of Rupees 150 per day for a room with three beds. Breakfast and meals are provided here, for which one can donate reasonable amount. Ashram has several milking cows and milk is provided free of charge to general public. Ashram provides free meals to Sanyasis and other needy people.

Haridwar is gateway to Char Dham Yatra and several hill stations such as Dehradun, Manali, and Shimla etc. Haridwar has large number of temples. Ganga temple at Har ki Pori is oldest one. Manasa Devi temple and Chamunda Devi temples are located high on mountains on opposite banks of river. Each of these temples are connected with a ropeway reducing travel time from hours to minutes. Ropeway provides majestic view of surrounding mountains, nearby town and River Ganga. There are other smaller temples in the vicinity of these temples. Everyday after sunset, priest from several temples offer tall Aarti to Ganga at Har Ki Pori in Haridwar as well at Rishikesh. Large number of people assembles at these places to witness the ceremony and to float earthen lamp and flowers in the river. Several charitable organizations collect donations from the crowd to promote social activities.

In various large buildings such as Bharat Mata Mandir and Mata Lal Deviji Mandir of Bharath Darshan and Holy cave of Mata Vaishnodevi at Haridwar and 13 story Kailas Niketan temple near Lakshman Jhoola in Rishikesh, Statues of several Gods and Goddesses are installed to provide visitors a glimpse various Gods installed in temples in different parts of India. It is like one stop Darshan of all Gods. These temples cover episodes from Ramayana, ShrimadBhagavat, Krishna leela and Shiv Purana. One should have lot of patience and time at disposal to visit all these temples.

At these places one can see lot of foreign tourists, who are infatuated with mountains, river Ganga and a foreign religion worshipping several Gods. People return from these places with Holy Water from Mother Ganga, which is always pure, washes all sins and liberates one from cycle of rebirth. Many people offer homage to mother Ganga by offering (throwing) coins. With fast currents, these coins end up in river banks or in shallow waters. Local people collect such coins for resale. One could find coins as old as 1898 to 1970 and coins from other countries also. I could not resist temptation of buying few such rare coins. Hopefully I may find similar coins in my future trip to this city.

ISKCON temples in Delhi: Our goal was to visit these two new temples, as we had seen many other attractions in Delhi in earlier trips. ISKCON temple is located high on hilly area between East of Kailash and Nehru place. Vedic expo at this temple includes Light and sound show of Bhgavad Gita experience, Animatronics robot show, Museum of Ancient Indian History, History of Ramayana and Quadrascope, which creates effect of hundreds of monitors in a gigantic video globe to disclose sublime Vedic wisdom.

SWAMI NARAYAN AKSHARDHAM in Delhi: It is built under the guidance BAPS Guru Pramukh Swami Maharaj and others. It is indeed gigantic, marvelous temple built without the use of steel. It is located on 100 acre site east of Yamuna river. It is built within 5 years by 7000 sculptors spending more than three million man hours. Main Akshardham monument is 141 foot high, 316' wide, and 356' long. It has nine domes with 11 foot high Murti of Bhagawan Swami Narayan in main dome. Each dome is intricately carved. External wall is 611 feet long with several carvings. Gajendra Peeth or Elephant Row has 148 sculpted stone elephants. It has ten gates, two Main entrances called Bhakti Dwar and Mayur Dwar and Narayan Sarovar, which surrounds on three sides. There is a 300' by 300' Yagnapurush Kunda and Musical fountain show at 7.30 PM or as dusk settles in. There is Sahajanand Darshan depicting life of Bhagawan Swaminarayan in childhood, Imax theater depicting Neelkanth Darshan, same as Mystic India film shown in USA and Swan boat ride of Samskruti Vihar taking one through India's glorious past. Swan boat ride is like Small World ride in Disney theme parks, except with complete Indian touch. Temple is closed every Monday to visitors and it takes 5 to 6 hours to see the whole complex thoroughly. Photography is not allowed inside the complex, visitors can buy DVDs, books and other souvenirs in gift shop.

Next day we started the tour with visit to Birla Mandir, Bahai Lotus temple and ending the day with a visit to Bangla Sahib Gurudwara. In between, we visited Indira and Rajiv Gandhi memorial, Mahatma Gandhi memorial at Birla house, Qutub Minar. We skipped other monuments such as Red Fort, Old Delhi, Humayun and Safdarjung's Tomb, Raj Ghat, Shantivan, Nehru museum etc. as we had seen them earlier.

Ganesh Temple at Titawla, ISKCON temple at Juhu, Mumbai. WE visited these temples. We visited Fort area and VT (Chatrapati Shivaji terminal) to do some shopping. On March 27, 2007, we attended Ram Navami celebration held by G.S.B Mandal, Dombivli. On the same day bigger celebration is held at Ram Mandir of Wadala. During the ceremony at Dombivli, Mandal awarded several scholarships to students who had excelled in their examinations. There were scholarships for students from needy families. A slogan says "Janata Seva is equally important to Janardhan Seva" (serving people is as important as serving God). With the end of pilgrimage, we thought of adding finishing touch by adding scholarships to needy families in memory of departed parents. With 10% interest in India, a small sum of \$500 goes a long way in helping the needy perpetually. Through education alone our community will prosper. There are other equally important temples in Mumbai such as Siddhi Vinayak, Mahalakshmi, Mumba Devi, Prabha Devi temples, but due to lack of time we could not visit them.

The Secret Revolution of Lord Krishna

The Historical Context of the Bhagavad Gita

Chapter: 4 The Theory of Karma

By: - K. P. S. Kamath, M. D., Cape Girardeau, MO

The theory of Karma evolved over several centuries before the Gita was composed. It explained why people suffered misery on earth even when they had done nothing wrong in this life to bring it on themselves. The answer was: it was what was coming to them due to their evil actions from their previous lives. The logic of Karma goes this way: Every action has a consequence. Some consequences are good and others are bad. Some have mixed results. Some consequences are felt immediately and others are felt much later on. If these consequences accumulate and are not paid for before one's death, they would come back to haunt him in his next life. This happens because, when Atman leaves the body, it carries with it the accumulated Karmaphala like "the wind carries the scents from their source (15:8)." When the Atman enters another body, that body suffers the consequences of the actions from Atman's previous life. Since all selfish and evil acts that earn Karmaphala are rooted in the Gunas, controlling one's Guna-based weaknesses leads to decreasing Karmaphala. This is the basis of the Gita's repeated warnings to "cross over Gunas." In general all actions rooted in Guna-rooted Weaknesses result in serious long term consequences, and all actions rooted in Wisdom lead to few long term negative consequences.

The voyage to heaven came with compulsory return ticket!

The goal of all desire-ridden sacrificial rites (Kamyā Karma) was not only to obtain pleasure and lordship on earth but also to attain heaven after death (2:43). Initially the priests guaranteed the aristocrats quick success on earth if they performed sacrifices (4:12). Inevitably the question arose in the minds of the aristocrats: "What if we earned more Karmaphala than we could use up in one life time?" Well, the clever priests had a ready answer for it, too. "Don't worry; you will go to heaven and have wonderful time there mingling with various Devas!" (9:20). That assurance gave the sponsors of sacrifices some peace of mind. The problem with this was the fact that the theory of Karma said that once the Karmaphala was exhausted, they would take birth on this miserable earth again (9:21). *The voyage to heaven of Devas always came with the compulsory return ticket.* This meant Kamyā Karma, promoted by the Vedas and dedicated to the Vedic gods, not only caused Dwandwa (unsteadiness of mind), but also promoted Samsara or transmigration of the Atman. The prevalent sentiment, as exemplified by the Upanishadic theories, however, was that returning to this joyless, miserable earth (9:33) was more a punishment than reward. The Upanishadic seers knew the secret of countering Dwandwa and escaping from this miserable earth for good, but the upper classes were too busy with their Kamyā Karma to heed to this wisdom. The Bhagavad Gita made it its business to bring this secret to the masses. Unlike the ticket to heaven, the ticket to Lord Krishna's abode was issued one way only (15:4).

The sacred ancient Vedic Dharma became Adharma

There came a time when the greedy priests gave so much importance to the performance of the increasingly complicated Yajna that they claimed that without them the universe itself would be destabilized! The performance of sacrificial rites became more important than even the gods for whom they were supposed to be dedicated! For every affliction of society, there was only one cure: performance of sacrifices (2:42); more sacrifices, and more elaborate, expensive and ostentatious sacrifices (16:15-17). To top it all gruesome animal sacrifices became rampant and important part of Vedic sacrificial rites. Thousands of innocent horses, buffaloes, bulls, cows, goats and birds were slaughtered mercilessly every year all over the country. Gradually the sacred Vedic Dharma degenerated into despicable *Adharma* (4:7). As the essentially ennobling and sublimating sacrificial rites (18:5) became tainted by corruption, the prestige of the sacred Vedas and the moral authority of Brahmins steadily declined. Such was the situation in India during the post-Vedic period of 1000 B. C. – 500 B. C.

Uncertain times of post-Vedic period

The post-Vedic period was one of great tumult, uncertainty and insecurity. There was much political and social instability in the land. Kings were being dethroned, kingdoms were being swallowed-up and tribes were breaking up. Old orders were being replaced with new ones. There was a deep sense of disillusionment in the air. Maitraayani Upanishad (MU:1.4) went so far as to say, "Demigods and demons are dying! The oceans have dried up! Mountains have crashed down! The Pole Star is unstable! Even the Earth is foundering! We are all like a frog in the dry well!" Intellectuals of India were not satisfied by the mindless and intellectually sterile Kamyā Karma as panacea for all the ills and miseries of life. Gradually it dawned on them that the desire-ridden sacrificial rites themselves had a terribly corrupting influence on the society (2:43-44). They frantically searched for solutions for the pressing life-problems.

Upanishads: Lotuses in the cesspool

During this period numerous great texts known as Upanishads, *confidential discourses*, were composed by great unknown authors, most certainly many of them royal ascetics (Kshatriyas) (4:1-2; 9:2). Even though the literal meaning of Upanishad was "sitting near devotedly," by long use it came to mean a secret (Rahasya). In contrast to the mindless performance of sacrifices, Upanishads were *thought-provoking discourses* that dealt with truly mind-boggling concepts of all-pervading Brahman, the Impersonal

Universal Spirit (12:1, 3) and Atman, the Self, the essence of man (2:16-30). The Brahman was identified as the seat of absolute tranquility (5:21, 24-6) and was without any attributes (Nirguna 13:31). Brahman could only be described in negative terms (12:3): not this, not this (Nyeti, Nyeti). The central theme of Upanishads was “Tat tvam asi”: That thou art, meaning the Atman/Self and the all-pervading Brahman are One and the Same. Another way of putting this was: “Aham Brahmaasmi”: I am Brahman.

In stark contrast to Vedic sacrifices that promoted Dwandwa here on earth and Samsara hereafter, Upanishadic teachings promoted steady state of mind (Buddhiyukta/Sthithaprajnya) here on earth and Liberation (Nirvana) hereafter (2:50-51; 54-58; 64-66; 71-72).

Upanishads versus Vedas

Many of the Upanishads were blatantly skeptical about or hostile to Vedic sacrifices in the prevalent spirit of the day. Some of them even ridiculed the greedy priests mercilessly. Chandogya Upanishad (CU: 12:4) compared the orthodox priests to a procession of dogs holding the tail of the dog in front chanting piously, “Om, let us eat! Om, let us drink! Om, may divine Varuna, Prajapati, Savitri bring us food! Lord of food, bring hither food, bring it, Om!” In fact the Upanishadic teachings of *non-attachment* struck at the very root of orthodox Vedic Dharma of sacrificial rites that promoted Dwandwa and Samsara (15:1-4). Intellectually, Upanishadic insights were light years ahead of the sterile and mindless desire-driven sacrificial rites. Nevertheless, the clever Vedic priests did to Upanishads what modern businesses do to whistle-blowers: promote them to oblivion. They interpolated into the texts of the Upanishads whatever pro-sacrifice stuff that served their purpose and incorporated them into the Vedic corpus as *Vedanta*, the end of the Vedas, and gave them the sacred status of Shruthi, *that which was heard*. The net result was that the Upanishads became, more or less, *that which you won't hear any more*. Unbelievable amount of obscure stuff was added to the original texts till no ordinary person could comprehend what was already a rather complex concept. This is how the explosive new thought was contained and kept under wraps away from the lower classes. The basic tactics of Orthodox Vedic Brahmins in dealing with ideas adverse to them were to destroy the literature, as they did the Lokayata philosophy; classify them as top secret, as they did the Upanishads; interpolate pro-Brahmanism verses to counter anti-Brahmanism verses, as they did to the Bhagavad Gita. When none of these tactics was possible, they resorted to interpreting the meanings of the verses by giving them a mind-boggling spin (Read commentaries on 15:1-4). In the case of the Bhagavad Gita, because of many deliberate Brahmanic manipulations, the text often comes across as repetitive, contradictory, confusing and incoherent. Lord Krishna often comes across as if He is talking from both sides of His mouth.

Misdeeds of upper classes yield Karmaphala: The Great Nastik Revolt!

To the upper classes of the period steeped in Kanya Karma, the very intent (Sankalpa (6:2, 4)) of performing various Yajnas was to earn Karmaphala. The intent of the Upanishads was to eliminate Karmaphala (2:47-49). To the upper classes, the Upanishadic teachings of freedom from Dwandwa and Samsara were of academic interest only. However, the misdeeds of the Vedic priests and aristocrats began to yield fruits (Karmaphala) pretty soon here on earth. As the bloody sacrifices flourished, a great revolt began to brew on the Indo-Gangetic plain, which led to very serious consequences: the birth of two great Nastik religions, Buddhism and Jainism; and also of several other highly anti-Vedic philosophies the chief among which was the Lokayata or Materialist philosophy. However, for now, the sacrifice-obsessed Orthodox Vedic Brahmins and Kshatriyas were blissfully indifferent to the graffiti on the walls. 2/10/ 2008 Pkamath001@gmail.com (To be continued)

KONKANI CALENDER

April 2008	May 2008	June 2008
4 th – 6 th KISS Picnic	5 th Amavasya (Dark Moon)	3 rd Amavasya (Dark Moon)
5 th Amavasya (Dark Moon)	7 th Akshaya Thritiye	13 th Yekadashi
6 th Yugadi	10th Satyanarayan Pooja - KAO	14 th Mithun Sankranthi
12th Ugadi Function – KAO	13 th Vrish Sankranthi	14th Konkani Sabha Picnic
12th Ugadi Function – KAOCA	15 th Yekadashi	18 th Poornami
13 th Shri rama Navami	17 th Shri Narasimha Jayanthi	21 st Sankashta Chaturthi
13 th Mesh Sankranthi	19 th Vaishaki Poornami	
14 th Saura Yugadi	23 rd Sankashta Chaturthi	
15 th Yekadashi		
19 th Shri Hanuman Jayanthi		
23 rd Sankashta Chaturthi		

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, \$
Sachin & Sangeetha Kamath, Plainview, NY	96.00
Damodar & Shobha Baliga, Brooklyn, NY	100.00
Burde Laxminarayan & Urmila Kamath, New Orleans, LA	50.00
Ramesh & Pratibha Kamath, San Carlos, CA	50.00
Surendra & Shalini Shenoy, St. Louis, MO	51.00
Kochikar Ramnath & Rajashree Pai, Tampa, FL	150.00
Mohan & Mohini Kamath, Cerritos, CA	51.00
Ramesh & Roopa Nayak, Indiana, PA	51.00
Dattananda & Shantha Bhat, Jamaica, NY	100.00
Vasant & Kirti Acharya, River Forest, IL	51.00
Sudha R. Kini, Bloomfield, MI	50.00
Gurudutt & Bina Trasy, Princeton, NJ	51.00
G. K. Bhat, Mooresville, NC	50.00
Vasudev & Shobha Shenoy, Houston, TX	51.00
Muralidhar & Sudha Shenoy, Durham, NC	50.00
Ramdas & Sudha Pai, Redlands, CA	50.00
Pradeep & Geetha Bhandarkar, Bloomfield Hills, MI	50.00
Jai Prakash & Susan Nagarkatti, Chesterfield, MO	50.00

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Description	Credit, \$	Debit, \$
Balance Carried over since Khabbar Vol. XXX No. 4	3,445.00	
Money Received:		
Subscriptions (98) and donations	2,426.00	
Advertisements (2)	50.00	
Interest	4.00	
Sub Total:	2,480.00	
Money Spent (Khabbar Vol. XXX No. 4):		
Printing- Khabbar (425) - 20 pages		382.50
Printing- Khabbar Mailing List (360) - 29 pages		469.80
First Class Mail-Khabbar (390)		226.20
First Class Mail-Khabbar mailing List (273)		226.20
Canada Khabbar (15)		27.00
Canada Mailing List (10)		20.00
Overseas (20)		60.00
KS-2008 Souvenir Ad		500.00
Mail Fines, computer paper & labels, envelopes, service fees, etc.		509.75
Sub Total:		2,400.00
Final Balance:	3,525.00	

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



The last quarter's quiz: To the best of *Mensa* knowledge, only one other word can be made from all the letters in the word **CALLIGRAPHY**. Can you figure out what it is?

The Answer: GRAPHICALLY

The following gave the correct solution:

Govind Kamath, Austin, TX

Praveen Kamath, Centreville, VA

Vivek Prabhu, Milpitas, CA

Shivdev Ubhayakar, Rancho Palo Verdes, CA

Anil Rao, Friendswood, TX

Jyoti Nayak, Houston, 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

From “Ask Marilyn”

Q: What three numbers complete this series?

4 0 3 1 0 1 1 1 4 0 2 1 8 8 3 1 0 1 2 2 1 2 4 x x x

Upcoming Konkani Events



Konkani Sammelan 2008

July 3rd- July 5th Santa Clara, California

Update on Konkani Sammelan 2008 Activities

With only 4 months to go, the various committees are busy ensuring that all details are handled and our guests have a wonderful experience. Our website is constantly changing as our plans get more and more final, so keep an eye on the [homepage](#) for the latest updates and feel free to send us questions at help@konkanisammelan.org.

Registration has begun to pick-up and we are now over 330 registrants, growing every day, from all over the World. We've been hearing from a lot of folks that they are “planning to come” and will register soon. **For those of you saying that, keep in mind that on May 1st registration fees will jump to \$200 for an adult registration.** \$200 is still a great deal for the entertainment and food that awaits you, but the earlier you register, the better we can plan to ensure we amaze you!!

In addition to registering, be sure to book your hotel rooms at the Hyatt!! For the best experience we highly encourage everyone to stay at the hotel. It will really help make the most of your time!! Rooms will be available at the discounted rate until June 1st, and can be booked directly on the Hyatt Website. Please follow this link to make your reservations: <http://santaclara.hyatt.com/groupbooking/claranaka2008>

To get your juices flowing, here's a quick highlight of what we have planned, and just in case you think we forgot, we have left plenty of time for the breakfasts/lunches/snacks and dinners; o yeah our dining hall seats everyone at once, so don't line up!!

For more details, you can visit the [Program Page](#).

July 3rd 2008

- The morning of July 3rd we will be offering a Medical Symposium. More details will be available on the website soon. <http://konkanisammelan.org/2008/medicalsymp.asp>
- Registration will open at 3:00PM
- We have setup a Panchadik Lounge right next to the registration area, so feel free to meet old friends and socialize in the lounge before or after you register.

- In the evening, we will have a happy hour featuring some California wines and an up and coming Konkani Stand-up Comedian.
- The evening will culminate with a classical music program by a noted artist after a sumptuous Konkani dinner
- The Panchadik Lounge will be open until 11PM to allow everyone to relax and catch up with friends.
- **The Youth will be holding a welcome event from 9PM to midnight, so for the Youth be sure to come early on the 3rd.**

July 4th 2008

- Registration will be open all morning for those of you that couldn't make it on July 3rd
- **The program will start promptly at 9AM, and believe us, you don't want to miss this.**
- Chief Guest [Prakash Padukone](#), Badminton World Champion, will motivate and inspire us!!
- In the afternoon our seminars/breakout sessions will kickoff with a talk from [Padma Vibhushan K.V. Kamath](#) Managing Director & CEO of ICICI Bank and [Smt. Jaya Row](#), Management Consultant and Founder of Vedanta Vision
- A unique blend of classical and modern music will be presented by our Konkani Youth and [Prasanna](#), a highly accomplished and versatile professional musician

July 5th 2008

- The day starts with Regional programs, including plays from Chicago and Los Angeles.
- We'll have another exciting year of Konkani Idol, so be sure to come out and cheer on the Youth as they showcase their talents!!
- The weekend wraps up with an amazing closing ceremony and a formal banquet dinner to celebrate the weekend.

Based on feedback from previous Sammelans, we have tried our best to reserve several hours each day for meeting and greeting long-lost friends, relatives and loved ones. The Panchadik Lounge will transport you back to Konkani towns and hamlets where you can sit back, relax and chat into the wee hours!!

We look forward to seeing you soon and wish you a very enjoyable and exciting Sammelan!

Devu Baren Karo

2008 Konkani Sammelan Committees

Nominations for Distinguished Awards of Excellence for the next Sammelan (KS-2008):

Do you have friends or relatives that have outstanding achievements? Here is your opportunity to get them recognition at the Konkani Sammelan 2008. The Sammelan plans to honor distinguished Konkani from North America for their achievements. Please take a few minutes to nominate deserving candidates. The Awards Committee is soliciting nominations of candidates in the following six categories:

1. Arts – for demonstrated excellence in the performing, visual, or liberal arts.
2. Science/Research – for achievements in the fields of biological, physical, mathematical or medical sciences.
3. Technology – for contributions to engineering and technology in engineering, computer science or other technical fields.
4. Entrepreneurship/ Professional Achievement – for having demonstrated leadership, business acumen and management skills in their chosen fields.
5. Education/Public Service – for outstanding teaching or administrative skills in Education, having held public office or performed social/ spiritual work.
6. Outstanding Youth – for distinguished academic and extracurricular achievements.

Nominations (including the award category and a description of the candidate's achievements) should be addressed to: KS 2008 Awards Committee at : bshiralkar@gmail.com (preferable) or mailed to c/o Bharat Shiralkar, 1127 Quail Ridge Ct., San Jose, CA 95120. Thanks !

Konkani Sarmelan 2008 Fund Raising in Houston, TX

Date: Saturday March 22nd 2008

Konkanis from Houston area are getting together at Madras Pavilion in Sugar Land, TX for raising funds for the Konkani Sarmelan 2008. **The donation is \$100/person (minimum).**

Please RSVP to any one of the following :

Vasanth Bhat : khabbar@hotmail.com 979-299-3210
Suren Kamath: kamath77@gmail.com 210-493-1474
Suresh Shenoy: shenoysuresh@hotmail.com 281-494-0153
Suresh Pai: paitx@hotmail.com 281-208-3172
Sudhir Golikari sgolikeri@comcast.net 281-486-0180

K.I.S.S. Picnic - 2008

It is time for a weekend of fun and excitement with your family and friends at the KISS (Konkanis in Southern States) 2008 picnic. It will be held at Fort Parker State Park from **5 PM, Friday, April 4th to noon on Sunday, April 6th 2008**. 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 (catered by Madras Pavilion), 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: **Early Registration – on or before March 15, 2008** **after March 15th 2008**

Adults (10yrs and above) - \$40 \$45
Senior Citizens (65yrs and above) & Children (5 - 10yrs) - \$20 \$25
Children 5yrs 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 site heated barracks with 96 bunk beds. Beds have mattresses. Availability is on a "first-come-first-served" basis for on site accommodation. We have discounted rates for KISS picnic guests at The Best Western Limestone Inn & Suites (Tel: 254-562-0200) Please mention KISS Picnic or KONKANI Reunion when booking the rooms.

Area Coordinators:

Austin

Ashlesha: 512-347-9681; ashlesha2@gmail.com Dinkar Rao: 512-837-7159; cdrao@sbcglobal.net

Dallas

Chief Coordinators: Usha Nayampalli 469-222-6303; dha_lady@yahoo.com
Prakash Kagal 214-415-6035; kagalp@yahoo.com
Dinesh Kagal 940-453-5654; dentonvidya@hotmail.com

Entertainment: Prashant Mavinkurve 972-396-8945

Youth Activities: Priya Bijur 972-747-0394, Neha Betrabet

Sports & games: Uday Khambadkone 682-234-2805, Siddharth Philar 732-491-6557

Please contact the respective coordinators if you would like to help.

Houston

Neela Kamath: 281-498-3188; neelakamath@yahoo.com
Sudhir Golikeri: 281-486-0180; sgolikeri@comcast.net
Suresh Shenoy: 281-494-0153; shenoysuresh@hotmail.com

For more information, visit Fort Parker State Park website at: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/fortpark/>

Payment:

Please make checks payable to **Usha Nayampalli** and mail it along with the attached registration form below to: **Usha Navampalli.**

Address: 5869 Copper Canyon Dr., The Colony, TX 75056

Cell # : 469-222-6303; **Email:** dha_lady@yahoo.com

Registration Form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

Adults and children above 10: (\$40): _____

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

Children under 5: FREE

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Konkani Sabha

Following are the highlights of the KONKANI SABHA activities for the year 2008

Picnic: Rain or Shine

Date: Saturday, June 14th, 2008

Time: 10 AM to sunset

Location: Reichler Park, South Brunswick Township, Middlesex County, New Jersey (This is a New Location this year). Located behind the Municipal Building/Police Headquarters at the junction of Rt. 522-Ridge Rd and Kingston Lane. 540 Ridge Road, Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852. Phone: 732-329-4000 x7682 (weekdays 8:30 - 4:30).

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 Diwali function will be accepted on this day. So, come on, don't miss out on the fun

Diwali:

Date: Saturday, October 25th 2008

Time: 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Location: Shri Venkateswara Temple Community Center, Bridgewater, NJ

780 Old Farm Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807. Tel: (908) 725-4477

Cost: Registration and Payment by October 1st - \$16 (12 years and older) and \$9 (ages 6 to 12)

Registration after Oct 1st and at the door - \$18 (12 years and older) and \$11 (ages 6 to 12)

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, directions and updates on our activities. Anyone interested in volunteering to organize the events and activities, and/or in performing at the Diwali function please contact the office bearers.

President	Ganapathi Kamath	(732) 422-0175	gkamathcpa@yahoo.com
Vice President	Gurudatt Kamath	(732) 274-9542	gurudatt_kamath@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Rajesh Nayak	(973) 779-3119	rajesh_nayak@yahoo.com
Secretary	Ganesh Kudva	(908) 251-5162	ganeshmkudva@yahoo.com

NAKA, the North American Konkani Association

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).

This quarter, the NAKA Board approved to give \$30k seed money to Konkani Sammelan – 2008. The Board has been busy developing fund raising strategy for **KS-2008** and other ways to help preserve our culture here in North America.

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: nakal@indiatimes.com

NAKA - Statement Of Accounts

Date	Description	Credit, \$	Debit, \$
12/01/2007	Balance from last report	74,870.12	
01/06/2008	Seed money to KS-2008		30,000.00
02/28/2008	Interest	352.83	
02/28/2008	Final Balance:	45,222.95	

Signed: Damodar Baliga
Treasurer, NAKA

KONKANI APPEALS

VISHWA KONKANI KENDRA (WORLD KONKANI CENTRE)

You may remember that to facilitate the preservation and development of Konkani language and culture, a mammoth effort was made in 1995 - **First World Konkani Convention 1995** - held for the first time at Mangalore with the united effort of all Konkani bodies. The first World Konkani Convention attracted more than 5000 delegates apart from thousands of visitors and the seven-day event was a great success.

Subsequently, in the year 1996, the **Konkani Bhas Ani Sanskriti Pratisthan** (Konkani Language and Cultural Foundation), a registered non profit cultural organisation, was established. The main goal of the Pratisthan is to actualise the mandate given at the World Konkani Convention 1995 establishment of **Vishwa Konkani Kendra** which will manifest itself at Konkani Gaon - 'The Konkani Village' located in 3 acres in the Shaktinagar, Mangalore with estimated cost of Rs. 6.00 crores. The various projects are given below:

- 1. VISHWA KONKANI LIBRARY:** A World class Library will be set up for housing a comprehensive collection of published Konkani literature in Roman, Devnagari, Kannada and Malayalam scripts, apart from adding the new books published annually. Ancient palm leaf scripts too will be preserved at the library.
- 2. KONKANI HERITAGE MUSEUM:** This will feature a wide collection of exhibits and artefacts pertaining to Konkani culture and heritage collected from various sources for the purpose of preservation of Konkani identity (Asmithai)
- 3. HERITAGE HOMES:** An entire block of heritage homes will be constructed in the traditional fashion, incorporating all modern facilities to serve as accommodation for guests and visiting dignitaries.
- 4. PROMOTION OF KAVI KALA :** Special effort will be made to promote Kavi Kala, the fine art of mural painting, earlier common at Konkani temples, but which is now on the wane due to want of patronage.
- 5. CONFERENCE HALL:** A well-equipped conference hall will be constructed with a seating capacity of 700 for the purpose of hosting seminars, workshops and intellectual interaction. In addition there will also be smaller lecture halls to serve various training programmes.
- 6. HOSTELS:** A well furnished hostels will be built to provide accommodation to the students and faculties of the residential training programmes conducted at the Kendra.
- 7. OPEN AIR THEATRE:** This will facilitate the staging of plays, concerts and performing arts.
- 8. KONKANI BHASHA SAMSTHAN (Konkani Research Centre) Propagating Konkani with a Global Perspective :** With the advent of the internet, the opportunity is now wide open to unite the Konkani people as one family cutting across barriers like time and space. This task will be spearheaded through the Konkani Bhasha Samsthan (The Konkani Research Centre), which will facilitate research and academic pursuits in Konkani with residential facilities.
- 9. WORLD KONKANI WEBSITE and Online News Magazine:** A World Konkani website will be set up and maintained for the worldwide dissemination of information and knowledge pertaining to Konkani.
- 10. ONLINE KONKANI TRAINING:** An online programme in Konkani, developed in collaboration with the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, will be offered for the purpose of teaching Konkani. This will be especially useful to the 2nd generation American Konkanis and also the children of Non Resident Indian Konkanis residing in other parts of the World.

AN APPEAL

Please patronize with your donation towards completion of the First and biggest ever Konkani project in the World.

Membership

Patron Trustee - Rs. 5 Lakhs, Benefactor - Rs. 1 Lakh and above, Donors - Rs. 25,000/-, Life Member - Rs. 10,000/- and donations will get. 80G I.T. exemption.

Our Bank Accounts:

1. Corporation Bank SB A/c No – 16284
2. Canara Bank SB A/c No – 9670
3. ICICI Bank Limited SB Gen A/c No – ANWB 001401021956

Devu Baren Koro,

**KONKANI BHAS ANI SANSKRITI PRATISTHAN
(Konkani Language & Cultural Foundation)
Navarathna Palace, K.S. Rao Road, Mangalore – 575 001.
Ph: 0824 – 2429377 / 4274377**

Klassified

Please patronize the Khabbar advertisers. Khabbar reaches over 1,700 families in North America. The advertisement rates are:

	Matrimonial (5 Lines)	1/4 Page	1/2 Page	Full Page
Subscribers	\$15.00	\$25.00	\$45.00	\$85.00
Non Subscribers	\$25.00	\$45.00	\$85.00	\$160.00
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 Konkans. Send your contribution to: Khabbar, P. O. Box 222, Lake Jackson, TX 77566-0222. email: khabbar@hotmail.com

KONKANI CHARITIES

The American Konkani Association (A. K. A.) is helping eligible Konkani youth by granting College Loan Scholarships. Send your generous contributions to: American Konkani Association, 1613 Maple Avenue, Berwyn, IL 60402

KONKANI CHARITIES

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

KONKANI CHARITIES

The Three river Area Konkani Association (TAKA) is a non-profit organization helping the needy Konkans in North America and India. Send generous contributions to: Three river Area Konkani Association 111 Volpe Dr., MONROEVILLE, PA 15146

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

FREE

"Proud To Be Konkani" CD

Courtesy of KS-2002, the hit song "Proud To Be Konkani" CD's are available for FREE. Contact: khabbar@hotmail.com to get your FREE copy.

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: bastishenoy@gmail.com

Please call weekends only 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 ASSISTANCE

As a service to Konkani community, Sri. B. Srinivas Kamath will offer free matrimonial assistance. Contact:

B.S.Kamath

Block #5, 1st Floor, Deepak Building,

Hari Shanker Joshi Road

Dahisar East, Mumbai-400068

Tel: 011-91-22-2828-3392

Klassified(Cont)

We specialize in:

Elaborate wedding decorations & mandaps of your choice,
Church ceremonies & choopas, Reception set-ups,
Engagement, Sangeet, Mendi & Garba decorations, Wedding
favors, Fresh flowers for all occasions, Theme parties,
Convention & corporate gatherings, Nationwide Services

Contact:

ELEGANT AFFAIRS

The Event Coordinators

Show Room:

1275 Bloomfield Av., Bldg. 8, Unit 70

Fairfield, NJ 07004

Ph: 973-882-8001 FAX: 973-882-8002

www.elegant-affairs.com

For further information, Please Contact:

Sharda Shenoy
(973)-334-7340

Shobha Rao
(215)-957-1418

Suman Pai
(817)-483-0133

Shri Laxmi Venkateshaya Namah RAGHUCHANDRA BHAT Konkani Priest

- Puja Services as per Vedic rituals
- Sudarshana Homa & Pavamana Homa
- Hindu weddings, Upanayanam, Naming ceremony, etc.
- Chandi Path, **Bhagavath Katha**, etc.
- Shanthi Paatha/Homa, Housewarming
- Religiousclass – stotra's samskith etc.
- Shradha/Apara Samskara (last rituals)
- Astrological consultation by phone and in person
- Abhisheka-Vayustuti, Shiva, Vishnu, Ganesha Navagraha
- Satyanarayan Puja & other services
- 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

(262)-717-9370 (H); (262)-424-6641 (Cell)

www.puja123.com Email: rvbprb@yahoo.com

at&t

As a proud and dedicated AT&T employee, I'd like to take the opportunity to inform you about the great value our AT&T products and services have to offer

Internet Services

- AT&T Yahoo! High Speed internet/Dial Internet Services

Digital TV

- AT&T ! DISH Network
- AT&T Homezone
- U-verse

Voice

- Local Service
- Long Distance Service

Wireless Services

Customized Business Solutions

Go to www.att.com to determine availability. To order the products and services we discussed, please, call toll-free:

1-877-827-5288

(1-877-U-ASK-ATT)

Referral Code: PB3242 (User ID)

Suresh & Usha Shenoy of

KIRTI JEWELERS & KV DIAMONDS

Welcome You to their Brand New Showroom
located at:

6655 Harwin Drive, #A101, Houston, TX 77036

Come, see our collection of gorgeous Gold and Delectable
Diamond, Ruby, Pearl and Emerald Jewelry.

(713)-789-GOLD (4653)

Suresh & Usha Shenoy wish to thank members of the
community for their support to Kirti Jewelers & KV Diamonds
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 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