

Khabbar

North American Konkani Newsletter

Volume XXXI No. 4

October, November, December - 2008

From:

The Honorary Editor,
"Khabbar"

P. O. Box 222

Lake Jackson, TX 77566 - 0222

XXXI-4

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



FIRST CLASS

TO:

Khabbar Follies

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

There is no doubt in my mind that *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.....

It is a well known fact that the North American Konkanis eagerly await the arrival of their copy of the quarterly issue of *Khabbar* every quarter.

I did not know how much of an impact *Khabbar* has on this family from NY. In fact, I think, *Khabbar* has played a successful role in making their marriage stronger. Actually this couple celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary recently and I am convinced *Khabbar* made it happen.

You see, as soon as they receive *Khabbar*, this family keeps it in their vehicle instead of fighting over who gets to read it first (like most households do)! Then, when they go out on long drives, the wife opens *Khabbar* and reads it from page 1 thru 20 to the husband. Both the husband and wife then discuss every news item in detail and relish it!! I mean they discuss, review and analyze it to fine details! They tell me not only all their long drives have become shorter but also they've been quarreling less among themselves!!

Now, don't you think *Khabbar* should get credit for this couple's long and happy married life!?!

SUBSCRIPTION FORM:

Dear Konkani family,

It is time to renew your subscription for 2009, 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 e*Khabbar*.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
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Comments, if any: _____

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

October, November, December - 2008

Honorary Editor: Mr. Vasanth Bhat

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

EDITORIAL

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

The North American Konkani Association (NAKA) sponsored event, the Konkani Sammelan - 2008 (KS-2008) has indeed successfully awakened the Konkani in all of us in North America! This event has materialized surplus money which will help NAKA to help our community in North America or India. The newly formed NAKA Charitable Trust under the NAKA umbrella will make our dreams of helping the needy a reality. Please, extend your support.

Already plans are underway for the next Sammelan in Chicago in 2010! *Khabbar* will publish details as they become available.

Even in these tough economic times, the Advisory Committee of *Khabbar* has decided 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.

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 mailing the hard copies.

The 2009 *Khabbar* Mailing List will be mailed only to families that have paid their subscriptions for 2008. 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 NAKA on an on-going basis. Send your constructive suggestions to any of the Directors of the NAKA Board. This quarter, **Dr. Ravi Baliga** of Danville, CA, joined the NAKA Board. Also, the Board agreed to fund the newly formed NAKA Charitable Trust \$20k.

The Konkani Youth will be hosting the Konkani Youth Convention in 2009 in Washington DC area. Visit their website (<http://www.kyc2009.com>) to find out all the details of this great event. Extend your support to our youngsters who are doing such a great job in maintaining our culture here in North America.

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 can send the news items via email (khabbar@hotmail.com).

Thanks to Dr. K. P. Kamarh for his enlightening articles on Stress Management. I hope the readership benefitted from his vast knowledge.

On the Quiz front, *Khabbar* has still remained as a champ. Only one person got the right answer to the last quarter's quiz!

The progress of the ambitious project, **Konkani Kendra**, the **Konkani Bhas Ani Sanskriti Pratistan** is good. 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. Join ***Khabbar Kares Email List*** if interested in helping the needy.

The terrorist attack in Mumbai is a shameful act and hope India will come through these difficult times successfully.

With the year 2009 fast approaching, I hope the struggle to rid terrorism from this world will materialize soon. Hope Peace & Tranquility will prevail.

Happy Holidays & Happy New Year 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 Amchis,
"GOSREEPURESHAA
LAKSHMEERAMANAA..."

This is a popular Konkani devotional song from Cochin, embedding the legend of the Lord Venkatesha enshrined in Cochin Tirumala Temple -The story of a King who doubted on and wanted to test Lord Venkatesha, had to eventually lose one eye.

Gosreepuram is an ancient name for Kochi, and Cochin Tirumala Temple is one of the ancient GSB Temples in Kerala. The song is melodiously presented by **Sri. Muralidhar Shenoy**.

You can listen the song in my esnips folder :

<http://www.esnips.com/web/KONKANISTUFF>

One needs to listen the song attentively, while enjoying the music, as the lyrics takes one through the legend, so that one visualizes and experiences the Gosreepuresha Mahima. Indeed a gem among our devotional songs....!

Also, here is some good news of a milestone achievement of our young talented singers :

You might have heard of **Ms. Roopa R Pai and Ms. Sangeetha Prabhu** who have already carved their niche in the music world. Ms. Roopa won the 'Amrita Superstar Global' crown this year, in the talent hunt show host in the 'Amrita TV' channel. Ms. Sangeetha Prabhu is a regular anchor and singer in the 'Asianet' TV channel and a playback singer in several Malayalam movies. **Mr. Arun Naik**, another rising star, appears in the 'Kairali TV' channel, singing good Malayalam melodies.

All the above singers have recorded their Konkani songs for the first time, singing out the lyrics composed by me, which is what I mentioned as their milestone achievement. These bhajan karaokes were recorded recently at Riyan studio, Ernakulam. Along with the above singers, two other youngsters - **Sreegovind Prabhu** and

Dileep Kumar - have also sung some Konkani melodies.

You can listen these songs uploaded in the following web folder :

www.esnips.com/web/konkanibhajankaraokes

One of the bhajan songs is my Konkani translation of 'Bhaagyada Lakshmi Baarammaa', the famous Purandaradas Kirtan. These are being brought out as an audio CD, so that Konkani lovers keep it to play and listen whenever they like. On 10th Oct '08 (Sunday) it will be formally released during the 10th Annual Day celebrations of 'Vaishnava Ratna' magazine, at a function in YNP Trust, Kochi. I will be glad to have your feedback on the songs.

Jai Konkani, Jai Samaj !!

Best regards,

Payyanur Ramesh Pai

rameshpai9@hotmail.com

Dear Mr. Vasanth Bhat,

As per the telephone talk I had with you, I am sending herewith a brochure issued by GSB Sabha, Dahisar, Borivali for developing a building for the Saraswat Cultural and Recreation Centre. The foundation stone for the project is laid down by Srimad Sudhindra Theertha Swamiji of Kashi Matt and the work has already started. I request you to please publish this appeal in your next Khabbar and send me a copy.

Affectionately yours,

Kumble Sathish Nayak (visiting from India)

4060 Lake Side Dr
San Jose, CA 98148

Editor's Reply:

The following link will enable readers to access the appeal and do the needful:

<http://www.ekhabbar.com/KashiMuttAppeal.PDF>

Dear Vasant,

Attached please find the FINAL chapter on the BG. There is a lot more to write on this topic, but I want to stop it here. Those who are interested

in knowing more can access my blog: www.yogaofmind.com Or, I can send them my forthcoming book by email titled: "The Secret Code of the Bhagavad Gita: How Brahmanism Hid the True Purpose and Destroyed the True Spirit of the Bhagavad Gita".

Thanks for publishing my articles in *Khabbar*.

Season's Greetings!

Prabhakar

pkamath001@gmail.com

Hi Vasanth,

I am happy to report that NAKA charitable foundation is now in operation. We have developed the mission statement, basic guide lines and the causes the foundation will fund. Our preliminary review of NAKA charter has confirmed that we can operate as a charitable foundation within the NAKA guide lines.

We will conduct a more detailed review at the earliest. The office bearers of the foundation are:

Chair person- Ramesh Kamath

Vice- chair -Vinayak Kudva

Comm./marketing- Vinayak Kudva

Implementation- Ravi Baliga/ Sumeeth Bhat

Publicity &Fund raising- Surendra Shenoy

Finance &Secretary- Ashok Bhatt

Our goal is to begin fund raising promptly. The implementation team will begin efforts to identify deserving charitable organizations in India. The office Bearers will donate \$1,000 each (minimum) to demonstrate our commitment to this cause. Currently we have a balance of \$21K in our account. We will submit a quarterly update in *Khabbar*- both financial and summary of activities.

I am requesting you to publish the charter (attached) in the next issue of the *Khabbar* and include an appeal for donations. Please circulate this to NAKA Board members before it appears on the *Khabbar*.

Thanks.

Ramesh Kamath

karkalmam@yahoo.com

Hoon Khabbar

Congratulations:

NEENA HEMMADY of Chicago, IL has been promoted to Director of Environmental Health & Safety for ComEd. She will assume responsibility for improvements in safety, environmental, and human performance, ensure regulatory compliance, and increase organizational awareness and excellence. She has been with ComEd for 12 years. Neena holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) and a M.S. in Environmental Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology. She is the daughter of Nayan and late Jayant Hemmady of Naperville, IL.

Pandit UPENDRA BHAT was awarded the most coveted "KARNATAKA RAJYA PRASHSTI AWARDED -2008" on 1st November, 2008 for Hindusthani Classical Music, on the occasion of the Karnataka Rajyotsav at the hands of Karnataka Chief Minister, Hon' ble Shri.B.S.Yediyurappaji. A Gold Medal and a cash award of Rs.1,00,000/- letter of appreciation was awarded. Pandit Upendra Bhat thanked his Gharana, the grace of his Guruji Pandit Bhimsen Joshi and encouragement and goodwill of all the people.

SURESH PRABHU of Atlanta, GA was on the "World Series of Poker 2008" broadcasts on Tuesdays of October 14th & 21st 2008. He was ranked with 92.81 points!

Dr. KANTHI YALAMANCHILI (Shenoy), d/o Sudhakara & Prathima Shenoy of Houston, TX, successfully completed her Gastroenterology fellowship from UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, TX in June 2008 and started her own practice (Kavi Health) on December 1st 2008 in Dallas, TX.

ANITA NAYAK, d/o Raghunath & Veena Nayak of Toronto, Ont. has been promoted to the position of Director at John Hancock/ManuLife

Financial of Canada, Toronto in their Project Management Office. We wish Anita all the best in her new position. Her parents are very proud of her achievement.

Mr. RAVI V. SHENOY of Montville, NJ was elected as President of the Society of Indian American Engineers and Architects (SIAEA) for a 2-year term starting in March 2009. He has been very active last six years serving on the Board and Executive Committee. Shenoy is the Founder and President of Shenoy Engineering, P.C., a consulting engineering firm located in Fairfield, NJ

Dr. ROBERT RAINER of New York, NY published the book, "A Doctor's Guide to Wealth". The book can be purchased at:

<http://books.barnesandnoble.com/search/results.aspx?WRD=robert+rainer+md&r=1>

An interesting website glorifying the talented individuals of the Konkani community. Please visit:

<http://gsbgenius.indiamahesh.com/>

Konkani Graduates:

VAISHALI, d/o Vasant & Veena Kamath of Rehoboth, MA graduated from Tufts-Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, Grafton, MA in May 2008 with a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine. She is presently working at VCA Veterinary Referral and Emergency Center in Norwalk, CT.

ARJUN, s/o Ashwin & Nita Baidur of San Jose, CA, graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL with a Bachelor's in Computer Engineering and has joined Cisco Systems, Inc. as a Software Engineer.

ANITA, d/o Dinesh & Chandri Chandavarkar from Cupertino, CA, graduated with dual Bachelors' degrees in Music (flute performance) and Spanish from Northwestern University where she was consistently on the Dean's list for academic

excellence during her studies. She is currently enrolled in a 2 year Masters Program in Flute performance at New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, MA.

Dr MENAKA PAI, d/o Dr Mohan & Nalini Pai of Dundas, Ont., successfully completed her FRCP examination in Hematology in September 2008. Menaka now holds two fellowships with Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada – in Internal Medicine and Hematology. She is currently working as a consultant Hematologist at McMaster University in Hamilton and is doing research in Thrombosis as well as a Master's degree in Research methodology.

PRAHLAD PAI was awarded CMAA designation in the Convocation Ceremony held at Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, Toronto on October 25th 2008. Prahlad who did his BBA (Honours) from Schulich School of Business, York University is currently working as Financial Analyst with Accenture Inc, Toronto.

GAUTAM, s/o Venkatraya & Padma Kamath of Hamilton, Ont. graduated *Summa Cum Laude* from high school in June 2008 with a 99.22% average in his last year at high school. He has won numerous awards of merit from school and also from the many contests he participated in throughout his high school years. He participated actively in the school Jazz and Senior band with his Alto Saxophone. He is currently enrolled in Cornell University, Ithaca, NY in the 1st year Electrical & Computer Engineering Program.

RISH K. PAI, MD., PhD. of Chicago, IL is finishing up his fellowship in Gastrointestinal and Liver Pathology at University Of Chicago on June 30, 2009. He has accepted a position as assistant professor of Pathology & Immunology at Washington University Medical School in St. Louis, Missouri. He is board certified in Pathology in 2008.

ELIZABETH FISHER-PAI, BA, of Chicago, IL will be finishing up her Masters in educational policy in June, 2009 from Northwestern University. She will be starting in PhD program at Washington University in Educational policy July of 2009.

The Pai family together with their kids, Dashram (4) and Wrenna (3) are looking forward to moving to St. Louis during summer of 2009.

NEIL, s/o Maitreya & Nina Padukone of New York City recently graduated *Magna Cum Laude* from George Washington University's Elliott School of International Relations. He graduated with a major in International Security and minors in Religion and Management.

In addition to his academic achievements, on graduation day Neil and 3 of his associates were honored by the university with the prestigious Manatt-Trachtenberg Prize, for "significantly challenging the social and intellectual conscience of the University and displaying exceptional leadership, competence and integrity." The prize was awarded for their pioneering work in founding the 2-year old organization Banaa.org. The organization selects qualified individuals from conflict-affected areas of Sudan and fully funds their undergraduate education and conflict resolution training, enabling them to return to Sudan and help rebuild the country.

Since graduating Neil has been awarded a Fellowship at the Observer Research Foundation, a leading international think tank based in Delhi. He works with Gen (ret.) Ved Malik, former Indian Army Chief of Staff, and Lt. Gen. (Ret) Vinayak Patankar on a project that addresses the Future of Conflict.

DIVYA, d/o Divakar & Geetha Shenoy of West Simsbury, CT passed Pennsylvania and New Jersey Bar examinations.

RAHUL, s/o Shrinivas & Sharada Kamath, and grandson of Mrs. Indira Kamath of Downers Grove, IL won the Boys' Tennis 2008/2009 Wendy's Heisman High School Award. A Senior Tennis star, Scholastic Bowl member and Orchestra standout, Rahul

Kamath was picked from more than 5,000 entries across the State of Illinois, will go on to represent Illinois in regional competition. Rahul is the first South student to have ever been selected for this honor.

VIVEK ARVIND PAI, s/o Dr. Arvind K Pai & Shobha Pai of Redding, CA, received his PhD in Economics from U C Irvin. Currently he is working at Deloitte & Touche USA LLP

New Arrivals:

JANAVI RIYA, a baby girl to Drs. Viveca and Jeffrey Livezey, currently of San Antonio, TX on July 23rd 2007 at the Bethesda Naval Hospital, in Bethesda, MD. The proud grandparents are Mohandas & Chitra Bhat of Rockville, MD and James & Irene Livezey of Salisbury, MD.

VIJAY, a baby boy to Pooja & Ryan Deveau of Plymouth, MA on September 30th 2008. The proud grand parents are Madhu & Sunila Shenoy of Waterville, ME.

GAYATRI SARA PAI STEIN, a baby girl to Shraddha & Lincoln Stein on Saturday, October 11th 2008 in Long Island, NY. The maternal grand parents are Shivdas & Sheetal Pai of Scarborough, Ont.

AVANTIKA, a baby girl to Aneesh & Archana Prabhu of Coral Springs, FL on Friday October 17th 2008 at 12:09 PM. The paternal grand parents are U. Vasudev & Shalini Prabhu and maternal grand parents are Ballambhat Ganesh & Rajani Pai.

Brahmopadesha:

Ram & Bela Shenoy of Westborough, MA celebrated the sacred thread ceremony of their son, **Chi. JAYANTH** (grandson of Smt. Pavuma & late Sri G.D. Shenoy and Dr. Mohandas Bhat & Smt. Chitra Bhat, of Rockville, MD) at 10 AM (Simha Lagnam Muhurtham) on Sunday, May 11, 2008 at their home in Westborough, MA. Family and friends attended the function. The priest was Krishna Bhatt of the Lakshmi Temple in Ashland, MA.

Smt. Meetha & Sri Kyle Gould of Cleveland Heights, OH celebrated the sacred thread ceremony of their second son, **Chi. LUKE LAKSHMAN**, grand son of Smt. Shanthi Pai & late Sri Gopalkrishna Pai on Saturday October 18th 2008 at the Mad Greek Restaurant in Cleveland Heights, OH followed by reception at their residence in the evening.

Needless to mention, the vatus are extremely busy doing sandyavandanams

Newly Weds:

Drs. Ashok & Suman Bhat of Tampa, FL celebrated the wedding of their only daughter **Sow. PRIYANKA to Chi. SENDHIL**, s/o Dr. Muhu & Bhanu Krishnan from Osage Beach, MO on March 08 and 09, 2008 in Bangalore, India. Engagement took place in Tampa, FL in Dec. 2007. Reception took place in Tampa, FL on July 4th weekend 2008. Sendhil is doing fellowship in Cardiology and Priyanka is completing Internal Medicine and planning to pursue Endocrinology, both at University of South Florida, Tampa, FL.

Drs. Ganesh & Sharada Pai of Columbia, SC celebrated the marriage of their daughter, **Sow. MAYA with Chi. NEAL** s/o Dr. Basanth & Mrs. Monica Chawla of Gillette, NJ. on Saturday Sept. 6th 2008 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center in Columbia, SC.

Vasudev & Jyoti Nayak of Houston, TX celebrated the marriage of their son, **Chi. NIRAJ with Sow. CHANDA**, d/o Donald & Joan Nardone at Safari Texas Ranch on Saturday October 11th 2008 at 6:00 PM followed by dinner reception.

Bharat & Suman Shiralkar of San Jose, CA celebrated the wedding of their son, **Chi RANJIT with Sow. REENA**, d/o Mr & Mrs Kuba on Saturday November 22, 2008 at 4:45 PM at Dallas/Plano Marriott at Legacy Town Center in Plano, TX followed by a reception. In San Francisco, another reception was at the Julia Morgan Ballroom on the 15th floor of

the Merchants' Exchange Building on Friday November 28, 2008 at 6:30pm.

Raghunath & Veena Nayak of Toronto, Ont. Celebrated the wedding of their daughter, **Sow. ANITA with Chi AJIT**, s/o Ravindra & Saroj Satoskar on Friday, November 28, 2008 at Toscana Banquet & Conference Centre, Hilton Garden Inn, Vaughan, Ont. The reception was also held at the same venue on the following day Saturday, November 29, 2008. Anita works for ManuLife Financial as a Director in their Project Management Office. Ajit also works for ManuLife Financial as a Manager/Consultant in their IT Department in Toronto. The newly weds reside in Toronto Beaches in their newly purchased home. We wish Anita and Ajit a very happy, healthy and long married life.

Sadashiva & Shashi Rao of Newark, DE celebrated the marriage of their daughter, **Sow. ANJALI with Chi GREGORY**, s/o Richard & Linda Martin on Saturday November 29th 2008 at 2:30 PM at Dolce Valley Forge in King of Prussia, PA followed by reception at the same venue.

Relocation:

The **SURKUND** family, Shashin & Shilpa with their kids, Om & Uma, have relocated within Cary, NC to 403, De Shire Mist, Cary, NC 27519. The new telephone is (650)-573-5145.

The **PAI** family, Rakesh Kochikar & Ajnya, together with their sons, Nandan & Lakshan, have relocated from Reno, NV to 2468 N Bogus

Basin Rd., Boise, ID 83702-0904. The new telephone is (208)-286-2685 and the email ID: rajnya@gmail.com.

The **SHENOY** family, Vasudev & Shobha relocated within Houston, TX to 35 North Creek Side Ct., Houston, TX 77055. The telephone remains the same at (713)-355-3210 and the email ID: shobhavshenoy@yahoo.com

The **SHENOY** family, Madhu & Sunila Shenoy, have moved from Dover DE to 1 Dylan Circle, Waterville, ME 04901. The new telephone is (207) - 660-6293 and email ID: shenoy@aol.com

The **KALLE** family, Prashant & Anupama with their kids, Arya & Antara, have moved from Trabuco Canyon, CA to 57 Viaggio Lane, Foothill Ranch, CA 92610. New telephone (949)-215-1925.

Change of Phone & email:

The residential phone number of the PAI family, Mohan & Vasumathi, of Fresh Meadows, NY has been changed to 718-631-0129.

60th Birthday Bash:

Families and friends of **Dr. VILAS PRABHU** of Millersville, PA threw a surprise 60th Birthday Party to him on Saturday September 20th 2008 at

Families and friends of **Dr. SATISH NAYAK** Wexford, PA celebrated the 60th Birthday Party to him on Monday September 22nd 2008 at his residence.

Families and friends of **ASHOK RAO** of Ivyland, PA celebrated the 60th

Birthday Party to him on Saturday November 22nd 2008 at his residence.

Obituary:

Smt. SHARADA SHENOY (76) passed away unexpectedly but peacefully in Puttur, Karnataka on Friday, September 26, 2008 at 6:20 p.m. (IST). *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to her daughters, Padma Kamath & family of Hamilton, Ont. and Surekha Shenoy & family.

Smt. SUBBANNA BOLOOR (86) passed away peacefully on Thursday October 2nd 2008 in Mangalore. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to her son, Govind Bloor & family of Houston, TX.

Smt. SAVITHRI SHENOY (71), w/o Basti Vaman Shenoy, President of Vishwa Konkani Parishath died of a heart problem on Tuesday the 28th of October 2008 in Mangalore. She is survived by her husband and 2 sons, a daughter and 5 grand children. She was a great hostess in life and a great donor in death. She donated her eyes to the Eye Bank in Mangalore. Nearly 200 hundred relatives and friends visited this small town of Thumbe, near Bantwal to give their final respect and attended the funeral.

Khabbar sends heartfelt condolences to her husband, Sri Vaman Shenoy and family of Bantwal and brother-in-law, Sri. Basti Ganapathi Shenoy of Las Vegas, NV.

KONKANI HAPPENINGS

The **Konkani Social Club (KSC)** of South Texas celebrated their annual Diwali function on Saturday October 25th 2008 at the Madras Pavilion from 7:00 PM to midnight. The program started with invocation of Goddess Lakshmi by **Meera Lotlikar. Sudhir Golikeri** welcomed the audience for the fun-filled event sponsored by **Suresh & Usha Shenoy** of Sugar Land, TX. **Sneha Shenoy** did her maiden dance performance, a Bollywood dance, followed by a dance duet by **Samhita Bhat & Sheela Prabhu**. The Karaoke singing by **Ramesh & Aparna Kamath, Prashanth Lotlikar, Vijay Nath Kamath of Chicago, Suresh Shenoy** thrilled the audience. **Radha Golikeri (Amuli pacchi)** gave a hilarious illustration of the versatility of Konkani Language by reading some adages and puns. Dandiya & the dance to popular music were followed after the sumptuous dinner.

Konkani Sabha Diwali - 2008:

Konkani Sabha Diwali function was a Grand Success which was on October 25, 2008 at Sri Venkateswara Temple auditorium, in Bridgewater, NJ. The enthusiastic patrons indulged in panchadika over variety of traditional steaming snacks and refreshments prepared by volunteers. Special Thanks to **Vrinda Kamath, Veena Nayak, Usha Bhat, Nandi Baliga, Sheela Manelkar,**

Suvarchala Kamath, Poornima Kamath, Nandita Nayak, Vidya Kudva, Jaymini Kamat, Arathi Kamath, Radhika Mallya, Reshmi Nayak and others for preparing the appetizers, snacks and desserts.

Registration desk was buzzing with activity as a record number of patrons turned up for the event this year. The desk registered around 285 people in all, young and old included. Guests were busy buying raffle tickets and enrolling for the 'Konkani Idol' competition.

The strong turnout at the event was complemented by a record number of performances and performers. The list is too long to mention here but the flyer handed out with the evening's events to the guests said it all. Our new vivacious Master of Ceremonies **Sushma Kamath** flagged off the event with flair. The participants lit up the stage with their dazzling, colorful and variegated entertainment performances. The highlights of the program were Ghoomar dance, 'Puyakoti' play, the 'Dance Masti' featuring 6 couples in a dance extravaganza; the humorous, witty and side splitting skits 'Ek ghadi hasunu kadi' and 'Konkani Kismoori'. The smattering of Konkani and English employed in the skits was particularly interesting as it had a hilarious impact. The perennial favorite Konkani Idol Season 2 ensued and was won by **Sriram Koppikar** with **Priti Kandler** as runner up. The lucky winner of the raffle was **Shobha Baliga**.

The evening's entertainment program built and whetted all our appetites. Thanks to **Shankari Pai** for catering the authentic Konkani food for dinner. Thanks to '**Elegant Affairs**' for their generosity on the fabulous job in decorating the stage, reception and dining area. Thanks to the volunteers in the dining hall led by **Vrinda Kamath** and her husband **Satish Kamath**. Hats off to **Usha & Dinkar Bhat, Nandi & Ganesh Baliga, Veena Nayak, Sampurna Kamath** and others who worked hard managing food and dinner disbursement and ensuring an orderly conduct of proceedings in the dining area. Thanks to **Vineeth Nayak** for managing the sound system and website throughout the year. Special thanks to **Vivek Shenoy** for scores of pictures taken to capture various Kodak moments (www.Konkanisabha.org) of the proceedings and for all the colorful banners, flyers and props that he created and procured for this event. Thanks to **Amit Kantak** for picking up and dropping off the sound system.

It was indeed a pleasure to organize the Diwali function and was very satisfying for the office bearers to witness such a tremendous response and participation this year. The enthusiasm was much more pronounced this year and the number of volunteers who came forward selflessly to contribute to the success of this event was very gratifying. A "Big Thank You" to all the volunteers who contributed to the resounding success of the function.

By: Ganapathi Kamath, President, Konkani Sabha

American Midwest Konkani Association (AMKA) celebrated their annual Diwali function on Sunday October 25th 2008 at SVS Balaji Temple in Aurora, IL.

Michigan Konkani Association (MKA) held their annual Diwali Mela on Saturday Nov. 1st 2008 at Southfield Civic Center in Southfield, MI.

Konkani Association of Ontario (KAO) celebrated their annual Diwali function on Saturday November 1st 2008 at Chingaucousy Secondary School in Brampton, Ont. **Ashok & Aruna Kalle** of Thornhill, Ont. Were the chief guest.

The **New England Konkani group** held their annual Diwali Celebrations on November 1, 2008 at the Westboro Church. The celebration was a success with 30 families joining in the bhajans and pooja followed by a well rounded entertainment program, and the sumptuous Konkani 'jeevan' that followed.

The Entertainment program began with gusto with a Bollywood Medley Dance number by **Manjushree, Mithali, Rupali Shenoy, and Shreya Pai**. The puppet show highlighting the significance of Diwali put by the lady team of **Geeta Prabhu, and Seema Kamat** along with a Hindi dance medley number with all the Acton Konkani kids held the audience to their seats. A classical well performed Bharat Natyam dance by **Anjana Shenoy** drew a great applause. **Meghana Kini** had the audience clapping to her Hare Rama and Hare Krishna Beat. The Instrumental entertainment program included violin recital by **Rupali Shenoy**, and piano by **Nihal Kamath, and Meghana Shenoy**. Bhajan and a dance number were performed by the brother-sister combination of **Neel and Maya Pandit** followed by Nursery rhymes by lovely **Mira and Indra Nayak**. The Magic show by **Ramdas Pai** was a hit with the kids and the old alike and the Entertainment program was closed by a Vote of Thanks and Dev Bare Karon Blessing by **Dr Ram Nayak**.

The yummy Konkani pot-luck Jeevan had people going for second's that included Kuldev Dalitoy, Idli Sambhar, Chacko, Ghassi, Suke, Chhole, Pulao, Rice with deserts like gulab jamun, khicdi, and baklava.

This Celebration success was due to the hard work and organizational abilities of **Sabitha Pai, Chitra Shenoy, Ravikala Bhat, Seema Shenoy, Sheila Kini and Lata Banavali** and young performer's who are keeping the Konkani flame going.

Charlotte/Triad Konkans hosted the annual Diwali party to **Mid Atlantic Konkani Association (MAKA)** at Jetton Park Waterfront Hall in Cornelius, NC on Saturday, November 1, 2008 from 11:30AM to 4:00 PM. The Potluck Picnic with Navrathri/Diwali Traditional dishes combined with entertainment was enjoyed by one and all.

Konkani Association of California (KAOCA) held their annual Diwali function on Saturday Nov. 8th 2008 at Soto theatre CET auditorium in San Jose, CA

Houston Area Amchigale Society (HAAS) celebrated their annual Diwali at Sugar Land Community Center in Sugar Land, TX on Saturday, November 8th 2008.

KHABBAR FROM KULAR

By: - Vishwa Konkani Sardar BASTI VAMAN SHENOY

Vishwa Konkani Sahitya Ratn Shri Ravindra Kelekar was rewarded “**Jnanapith Award**”, the most prestigious literary award of the Country. Shri Kelekar is the first writer to get this award and is given for his 70 years’ literary work mainly in Konkani and he has many a titles in Gujarathi, Marathi, English languages. A freedom fighter for Indian and Goa liberation, he is also a Gandhian in thoughts and deeds. This year in 2008, he was given “**Padmabhushan**” title by Government of India, got “**Fellow**” from Kendra Sahitya Akademi, Delhi and “**Bhasha Bharathi Samman**” from Central Institute for Indian Languages. Konkani Language and Cultural Foundation got Ravindra Kelekar’s Konkani essays translated to English by Mrs. Vidya Pai, Kolkata and the Book “**Kaleidoscope**” was released at a grand function by Mr. Digambar Kamat, Hon. Chief Minister of Goa on 28.09.2008. **Basti Vaman Shenoy**, President, Konkani Language and Cultural Foundation is the publisher. **Mr. R.V. Deshpande**, Chairman Emeritus of Konkani Bhas Ani Samskriti Pratistan presided.

Coffee Table Book, “**A VISION**” of **Shri Basti Vaman Shenoy** giving the objectives, colourful pictures on Konkani literature, art and culture and Konkani Lokaveda (folklore) was distributed at the North American Konkani Adhiveshan held in San Francisco, U.S.A. Also books were distributed to delegates attending Konkani Convention at Canada and London.

Mr. Pundalik Nayak, President, Goa Konkani Akademi and Mr. Menino Peres released two Konkani books “**Konkanyaali Kavi Kala**” by late **Dr. Krishnananda Kamath** and “**Dhruvathare**” by **Dr. Kasturi Mohan Pai**, respectively, published by Goa Konkani Akademi, Panaji, Goa at a grand function held at Srinivas Pathashala, Mangalore on 9.8.2008. **Mr. Basti Vaman Shenoy** was the Chief Guest.

All India Konkani Parishad has decided to organise the 19th All India Konkani Sahitya Sammelan at Kundapura (Udupi District) in February 2009 in a grand manner wherein large number of Konkani writers, Poets, Journalists will meet in the Sahitya Sammelan.

Mr. R.V. Deshapande, Former Minister, Government of Karnataka has been elected as President of Karnataka State Congress Committee by All India Congress Committee.

“**Vishwa Konkani Abhiyan**” at **New Delhi** : On 12.10.2008 was declared inaugurated by lighting the lamp by **Mrs. Margaret Alva**, former Union Minister. **Mr. Basti Vaman Shenoy** gave details of Vishwa Konkani Abhiyan. Hindi translation of **Mahakavi Govind Pai (Manjeshwar)** written by famous Kannada writer **Kayyara Kinhabanna Rai**, translated to Hindi by **Dr. Suneetha Bai**, Kochi and published by Vishwa Konkani Sahitya Akademi, World Konkani Centre was released by **Mr. M. Veerappa Moily**, former Chief Minister of Karnataka State. The programme was followed by Seminar on the Theme “**Indian Literature is one - written in many languages**” and “**Integration through languages**”. Eminent writers from Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu, Persian, Kannada and Konkani were participated. **Dr. Tanaji Halarnkar**, Chief Editor Vishwa Konkani Parichay Kosh was the moderator.

The Seminar was followed by Konkani Drama “**Gaanti**” directed by famous Hindi Kannada Konkani Dramatist Kasaragod Chinna. On 14th October 2008, **Vishwa Konkani Abhiyan** programme held at **Baroda** under the leadership of **Dr. M. Baba Pai**, President, G.S.B. Sabha, Baroda, Vadodara(Gujarat).

On 18.10.2008, famous “**Taranga**” Kannada Weekly of Manipal celebrated Silver Jubilee at Dr. T.M.A. Pai Convention Hall at Mangalore. **Mr. Nagathi Halli Chandrashekhara**, famous Director, Kannada Cinema and T.V. Serials was the Chief Guest. **Mr. Sathish A. Pai and Mrs. Sandhya Sathish Pai** welcomed the Guest. ‘Taranga’ has over 1.50 lakhs readership the largest circulation in Kannada.

Mrs. Basti Savithri Shenoy (72 years), wife of **Vishwa Konkani Sardar Basti Vaman Shenoy** expired on 28.10.2008 at Thumbay, Bantwal. Large number of mourners coming from Udupi, D.K. Districts attended funeral.

“**Mogrem-Kaarann**” Research book on Konkani folklore and art by famous Konkani writer **Mr. Paul Moras** was released on 16.11.2008 by **Shri K.K.Pai**, Manipal. **Dr. K. Mohan Alva**, Moodbidri was the Chief Guest. **Basti Vaman Shenoy** spoke on Konkani folklore.

The Secret Revolution of Lord Krishna The Historical Context of the Bhagavad Gita Final Chapter: The Bhāgavatha Revolution

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

The Bhāgavatha creed

The Bhāgavatha creed was centered on Lord Vāsudeva and its mode of worship was known as Bhakti, which has come to mean personal devotion. The cult of Vāsudeva was popular in western part of north India, at least during the second century B.C. E. Somewhere along the way, the identity of Vāsudeva (11:50) merged with that of Lord Krishna. In the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna identifies Himself with Vāsudeva (7:19: "Vāsudeva is all that is" and 10:37: "Of the Vrishnis I am Vāsudeva.").

From Monism to Monotheism: The Upanishadic Gita was taken over by the Bhāgavatha Dharma in order to establish a broad-based Dharma centered on one Supreme God and Lord Krishna as His earthly avatāra. The Bhagavatha revolution converted the monistic Upanishadic Dharma into monotheistic Bhāgavatha Dharma, the predecessor of Vaishnavism. Lord Krishna replaced Brahman and Atmān as the Supreme Divinity (10:12, 20); Bhaktiyoga replaced Buddhiyoga as the means of worship (9:26-27); and Mōksha (liberation from Samsāra followed by reunion with the Supreme Lord) replaced Nirvāna as the goal of worship (9:28; 18:66).

1. "I am the essence of everything in the Universe": To establish His supremacy over everything in the Universe, Lord Krishna places himself at the head of every class of living and non-living entity known to mankind. Unlike Brahman's "Not this, not this!" Lord Krishna says, "I am this and this!" 7:7: There is nothing whatsoever higher than Me, O Dhananjaya. All this is strung on Me, as rows of gems on a string.

2. Lord Krishna replaces Brahman/Atmān as the new Divinity: 10:12: Arjuna says: You are the Supreme Brahman, the Supreme Abode, the Supreme Purifier; the Eternal, Divine Purusha, the Primeval Deity, the Unborn, the Omnipresent. Simultaneously, Parameshwara took over Atmān in the body (10:20; 15:15): I am the Self, O Gudakesha, seated in the hearts of all beings.

3. Lord Krishna becomes Parameshwara (Supreme Lord): The Bhāgavatha seers declared Lord Krishna as the Supreme Lord in 11:3. Then Lord Krishna displays His Universal Form to Arjuna. The whole of BG Chapter Eleven is dedicated to describing Lord Krishna's Universal Form. The point is everything in this universe exists in Him. An enthralled Arjuna exclaims: 11:38: You are the Primal God, the Ancient Purusha; You are Supreme Abode of all this; You are the Knower of the knowable and the Supreme Abode; this Universe is pervaded by You, O Being of infinite form!

4. Bhaktiyoga becomes the means of worship: The Bhāgavatha seers combined Yoga with Bhakti -devotion. Like Yoga, Bhakti did away with sacrifices and mindless rituals. Thus devotional worship (Bhakti) combined with Yoga of detachment from sense objects (Sanyāsa) and selfless acts (Tyāga) became Bhaktiyoga. The combination of Bhakti and Yoga would bring Bliss here on earth and Mōksha hereafter. From now onwards, all deeds would be dedicated to Lord Krishna ("Krishnarpana"). In contrast to the ostentatious Yajnas of Brāhmanism, Bhaktiyoga is epitome of simplicity (10:10; 9:14; 9:26-29; 18:55).

5. Lord Krishna declares His supremacy over the doctrine of the Gunas and Karma: 14:26-27: He who serves Me with unswerving Bhakti, he, going beyond the Gunas, is fitted for becoming Brahman. For I am the Abode of Brahman, the Immortal, and the Immutable, the Eternal Dharma and Absolute Bliss. 8:16: All worlds including that of Brahma are subject to rebirth, O Arjuna; but on reaching Me, O Kaunteya, there is no rebirth.

6. Lord Krishna condemns Vedic ritualists (7:20, 23):7:20: Those whose discrimination (Intellect) has been led astray by this or that desire go to other gods, following this or that sacrificial rite, constrained by their own nature (Gunas).

7. Lord Krishna absorbs Vedic Devas into Himself: 10:2: Neither the hosts of Devas nor the great Rishis know My origin (they are deluded by their Gunas). For in every respect I am the source of Devas and the great Rishis. Arjuna affirms: 11:39: You are Vayu, Yama, Agni, Varuna, the Moon, Prajapati, and the Great-grandfather. Salutation, salutation to You, a thousand times, and again and again, salutations to You.

8. Lord Krishna downgrades Vedic sacrifices: 11:48; 53: Neither by the study of the Vedas, nor by Yajnas, nor by charity, nor by rituals, nor by severe penances, can this form of Mine be seen in the world of men by anyone else but you, O hero of the Kurus.

9. Lord Krishna takes over Vedic Yajnas: 9:16: I am Kratu, I am Yajna, I am Svadha, I am the medicinal herb, I am Mantra, I am also the clarified butter, I am fire, I am oblation. 9:24: I am verily the Enjoyer and the Lord of all Yajnas. But these men (Vedic ritualists) do not know Me in reality; hence they (who perform Kāmya Karma dedicated to Devas) fall.

10. Lord Krishna warns dissenters and critics of His Dharma: 7:15: The evil-doers, the deluded, the lowest of men, deprived of discrimination by Maya (the power of the Gunas) and following the way of the Asuras (demons), do not seek refuge in Me.

11. Lord Krishna condemns Ascetics (17:5-6)

12. Lord Krishna condemns Nastik Materialists or Lokāyatas:16:8-11: They say, 'the universe is unreal, without a moral basis, without God, born of mutual union, brought about by lust; what else?' Holding this view, these souls of small intellect, of fierce deeds, rise as the enemies of the world for its destruction. Filled with insatiable desires, full of hypocrisy, pride and arrogance, holding evil ideas through delusion, they work with impure resolve. Beset with immense cares ending only with death, regarding gratification of lust as the highest, and feeling sure that that is all there is to it.

13. Lord Krishna throws the doors of His Dharma wide open to one and all: 7:21: Whatever form any devotee with Faith wishes to worship, I make that Faith of his steady. Endowed with that Faith, he engages in the worship of that form, and from it he obtains his desires, which are being actually ordained by Me. (Also read 9:29-33). By taking refuge in Lord Krishna and dedicating one's deeds to Him, one overcomes the doctrines of the Gunas and Karma and thus transcends the class system. Now Lord Krishna become the Equalizer of people.

14. Lord Krishna gives his devotees His most profound word and solemn pledge: 18:64-65: Listen again to My supreme word, the profoundest of all. You are beloved to Me and steadfast of heart; and I shall tell you what is for your good: Fix your mind on Me; be devoted to Me; sacrifice to Me; prostrate before Me; so shall you come to Me. This is My pledge to you, for you are dear to Me.

15. Now Lord Krishna pronounces His Ultimate Bhāgavatha Shloka of the Bhagavad Gita: 18:66: Abandon all Dharmas and surrender unto Me alone. I shall liberate you from all evil; Do not grieve.

In one stroke of genius, Lord Krishna establishes a New Dharma; appoints Himself as its Godhead. Lord Krishna is the Eternal Dharma (14:27). Those who take refuge in Him alone will not need any other Dharma. He exhorts people of all Dharmas to abandon their Dharmas (Brāhmanism and all its sub-Dharmas such as Varnāshrama, Jāti and Kula Dharmas; Buddhism, Jainism, Asceticism, Lokāyata, Ajīvika, etc.) and take refuge in Him alone to attain Sukham (Bliss) here on earth and Mōksha hereafter. Taking refuge in Lord Krishna would help one to overcome the Gunas and thus eliminate Shōkam and Dwandwam. Surrendering all fruits of action to Lord Krishna would eliminate all Pāpam, bad Karmaphalam. Bhaktiyoga (devotion combined with Sanyāsa and Tyāga), devotional service to the Lord, would, therefore, overcome the evils of Shōkam, Dwandwam and Karmaphalam engendered by the doctrines of the Gunas and Karma. By overcoming the doctrines of the Gunas and Karma, one is beyond the clutches of the hierarchical Varnāshrama Dharma, Jāti Dharma, and Kula Dharma. In the eye of the Lord, all people who surrender to Him alone, regardless of his Dharma, class, caste or family, are equal.

END

From My Diary November 29, 2008

By: - Smruti Koppikar

Smruti Koppikar has been teaching the principles of Journalism at the Social Communications Media Dept. of Sophia College in Mumbai, for the last 12 years. She has worked as a print journalist for over 16 years, and held positions such as City Editor for Indian Express and Principal Correspondent for India Today. She was also briefly involved with TV news, as the Western Region Head for Star News. She has won the Sanskriti award for Excellence in Journalism. She is currently the Bureau Chief for Outlook India, Mumbai. More of her articles published in Outlook can be accessed at

<http://outlookindia.com/author.asp?name=Smruti+Koppikar>

I did not lose any family or friends in the horrific attacks, yet I have lost. I feel violated, hurt and very angry. But I am not alone. Who amongst us does not feel violated and hurt and angry? Who amongst us has been able to douse our rage of the last few days? Who amongst us can forget the 60-hour-long attack, the flames, the bodies, the grief of relatives and friends? Who amongst us has not come out of our de-sensitized shell, transfixed by the sheer enormity of the tragedy and the utter incompetence of people we trusted our lives with? Who amongst us has not shed a tear? Who amongst us today believes that we will return home in one piece every night after work or after dinner? Who amongst us is not praying, or at least hoping, that there will be a difference? And, who amongst us is not willing to go out and do something, anything, that will make that difference possible?

There is so much outrage, so much anger, so much disgust amongst people like you and me, I am surprised there haven't been reactive incidents.

On Friday night, 48 hours to the attack and still counting, I was prepared to hear that someone like us had lobbed a home-made grenade at the chief minister's bungalow, or that of some politician who took an oath of office, on the Constitution of India, to protect her people.

Or that someone who professes to be a Hindu, under the garb of being an ultra-nationalist Indian, had gone hunting for his Muslim neighbour whom he equated with Pakistan

Or that there was a growing clamour for an all-out war with Pakistan.

Or that outrage took demonic forms and pitted Indian against Indian.

That none of this has transpired, so far, means that this time we behaved with incredible maturity at a time of great distress.

It means that we see the possibility of directing their anger and passion into something constructive.

There is now no doubt that the glorious and celebrated spirit of Mumbai, an inexplicable mix of commerce and attitude, was not in its soporific dance on Day 1 after an attack, as it has been on every single occasion in the past.

March 1993, Dec 2002, Jan 2003, August 2003, July 2005, July 2006.

And several instances of violence, or the threats of violence, in between.

The spirit of Mumbai was always a cliché that those outside Mumbai chose to describe the no-nonsense attitude and the demands of a commercial system.

Mumbaikars simply put their heads down, subjugated their fears to their roles as cogs in the commerce wheel, and resumed the rhythm of life.

Not because we wanted to, but because we had to, because that was the only way we knew.

No one asked us if we wanted to retreat and nurse our wounds. No one asked how we could be so resilient, or even if we wanted to be resilient.

The resilience, that spirit, dissipated sometime in those 60 hours.

Mumbaikars chose to retreat.

It's a welcome change because people elsewhere will take note, and cease to pretend that nothing major happened.

As an Indian, as a shaken Mumbaikar, as a trying-to-be-dispassionate journalist, I am hoping that constructive change, or changes, will gradually begin to take shape over the next few weeks and months.

It's important that we do not stop being angry or hurt. You or me or anyone else.

And, it's important that we do not dissipate these emotions by fulminating in our drawing rooms and online chat rooms.

Sign all the petitions for peace, light all the candles possible, march in all the demonstrations that will be, hold up placards and banners, but safe-keep the emotions.

These are our strengths now, these are the driving forces, these are the tools to effect the changes we wish to see.

In the rubble of the hundreds of lives lost and maimed, of the iconic buildings burnt, of the incompetence of the processes and institutions we trusted, however cynically, there's hope.

And that's the cliché of Nov 2008. Hope amidst ruins

My hope is that the anger and the hurt will be channelised as they ought to be.

To bring individual losses on a collective platform and demand fundamental changes in the way we are governed.

My confidence, despite everything loaded against it, is that the Idea of India -- the idea of Mumbai -- has taken a physical blow but will not disintegrate or change to suit the designs that our friends or enemies may have.

I remember many lines from many pages but one sticks in the head.

"When you're running down my country, man, you're walking on the fighting side of me"

Friends say fight back is a negative term, but it need not be.

This is indeed a fight back, but it has to be a peaceful, passionate, consistent and constructive one.

Because Mumbai matters.

Because India matters

Website on Bhagavan Sri VedaVyasa

Here is a praiseworthy effort to present comprehensive information through an Internet website, one of the modern sources of information, about Bhagavan Sri VedaVyāsa, the author of the Mahabharata and one of seven immortals...

Every scripture in Hinduism begins with adoring salutations to Bhagavan Sri VedaVyāsa. Sri VedaVyāsa is the greatest guru, author, poet, seer, and philosopher in Hinduism. Bhagavan Sri VedaVyāsa, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, is considered by Hindus as one of the seven Chiranjeevi (immortals), who lives for the welfare of the world.

Bhagavan Sri VedaVyāsa's immortal writings inspire the whole world to this day -- he has illuminated the world by his divine literary masterpieces. He divided the single sacrosanct Veda and arranged it into the four Vedas. He authored the Brahma Sutras, eighteen Puranas and several Upa-Puranas. He is the author of the great epic Mahabharata, which contains the Bhagavad Gita, the crown jewel of Hindu Scriptures. He wrote the most-chanted Vishnu Sahasranama also.

The website, <http://www.srivedavyasa.org>, privileged to be the first website on the Internet dedicated to Bhagavan Sri VedaVyāsa, presents information about the extraordinary life and exemplary literary and spiritual works of VedaVyāsa. Visit the website to learn about the legend of Bhagavan Sri VedaVyāsa. The website features:

- Divine Birth of Vyāsa; Ancestors and Descendants of Vyāsa
- Divine Literature and sayings of Vyāsa
- Vyāsa, the Chiranjeevi, as Vishnu Avatar
- Badari Ashram and Disciples of Vyāsa
- Photo Gallery and Temples of Vyāsa
- Transliterated Vyāsa Sthotras and Melodious Vyāsa Bhajans
- Short Stories on Vyāsa and more...

This website was launched on the auspicious day of Sri VedaVyāsa Jayanthi, 29th April 2007, with the divine blessings of H. H. Srimad Sri Sri Sudhindra Thirth Swamiji, Matadipathi of Sri Kashimath Samsthan, Varanasi and H.H. Srimad Sri Sri Samyameendra Thirth Swamiji, Pattashishya of Srimad Sri Sri Sudhindra Thirth Swamiji, Matadipathi of Sri Kashimath Samsthan, Varanasi.

This non-profit website is the result of collaborative efforts of several people, based in Mangalore, and the USA having strong ties with Mangalore. The website has recorded over 6000 visitors from all over the world in the first eight months*. The visitors have universally found the website content informative, and the presentation very appealing.

In the present times when open source of information is valued, it is a proud accomplishment to have informative content on the Internet about this extraordinary ascetic and of his marvelous literature. The individuals who made this possible should be appreciated. Likewise, every aspect that brings out the importance and richness of Indian culture should be made available for the enthusiasts world wide. Use of Internet and such modern communication media and tools should be aptly proliferated for such objectives.

Bhagavan Sri VedaVyāsa

Vyasaya Vishnu Roopaya,
Vyasa Roopaya Vishnave
Namovai Brahma Nidaye,
Vasishthaya Namah

Salutation to Vyasa
who is in the form of Vishnu and
Vishnu who is in the form of Vyasa and
One who is the treasure house of the Vedas
Salutation to one who was born in the
noble family of Vasihatta

Every scripture in Hinduism begins with adoring salutations to Bhagavan Sri VedaVyāsa. Bhagavan Sri VedaVyāsa is the greatest seer, guru, author, poet and philosopher in the Hindu religion. Bhagavan Sri VedaVyāsa is an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, is considered as one of the seven Chiranjeevi (immortals) in the Hindu religion who lives for the welfare of the world.

Bhagavan Sri VedaVyāsa exemplifies righteousness and perfection. He is the ocean of knowledge who has illuminated the world through his divine literary accomplishments. Bhagavan Sri VedaVyāsa's immortal writings inspire the whole world to this day. He divided and arranged the single sacrosanct Veda into four Vedas. He authored the Brahma Sutras and eighteen Puranas. He is the author of the great epic Mahabharata, which contains the Bhagavad Gita, the crown jewel of Hindu Scriptures. He also wrote the most chanted Vishnu Sahasranama.

This digital collection is dedicated to the extraordinary life and exemplary literary and spiritual works of Bhagavan Sri VedaVyāsa. Visit the website to learn about Bhagavan Sri VedaVyāsa. Sign our [guestbook](#) and let us know that you have visited this website.

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Website Snapshot

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Konkani S sammelan 2008

July 3rd- July 5th Santa Clara, California

नमस्कार ! तुम्ही सर्वांन्क आमगेल धन्यवाद!

First of all, my wife Ujjala and I want to thank you for inviting us and according us the great honor of being the Chief Guests at this wonderful Konkani S sammelan. This S sammelan is a great event made possible by the hard work, dedication, good will and love of all Konkanis in the Bay area as well as in the United States. We are very grateful for this opportunity to travel to this area and meet all of you and share some thoughts and ideas. So, Thank you for this honor.

I feel fortunate to be born in India and particularly as a Konkani. Our values and traditions are solid bedrock of our existence which propel us to put forward best efforts and accomplish many things not only for personal achievements but also to help the community and people at large.

I must confess that I am not a great speaker, especially when we have our midst eminent speakers and scholars like Mr. Kamath and Ms. Jaya Row both of whom I admire and hold in very high regard. Even at this age, I would prefer to play rather than talk.

The theme of this sammelan 'AWAKEN THE KONKANI IN YOU' is very thought provoking. It is very valuable in making us evaluate our own lives and achievements and in charting future actions. It is also helpful for the younger generation to help understand our roots, heritage, philosophy and develop future actions to be better themselves and the community. In order to awaken the Konkani in you, first the younger generation must decide what interests or fields they want to pursue.

We are all aware that though the Konkani community is very small, we have achieved great success in different fields at the highest levels. But I wonder sometimes whether we as a community have pursued our passions or have we merely followed the traditional path of excelling in the chosen fields like Engineering, Medicine, Law, Finance, Business? I personally feel that we may not have really followed up on our passions and made a career in many of the non-conventional fields. Therefore, a time has come when youngsters, if they feel passionately about something (which is considered non traditional in the normal sense), should continue to pursue their interests to make a career in that field. The chances of success in such cases are likely to be high as they will be pursuing something which they love and enjoy. They might even go on to become world famous in their chosen fields. Enjoying whatever one does for a career is the KEY TO SUCCESS. I can say this with a fair bit of certainty drawing upon my own experience and from the little experience we have had in raising our two daughters Deepika and Anisha.

I don't know how many of you are aware that my elder brother Pradeep who lives here in San Jose with his family was equally good in badminton in his younger days. Both of us were the national Junior boy's doubles champions in India in 1970 /71. Around that time when we finished schooling, Pradeep chose to go into engineering and I preferred to pursue badminton while continuing my studies in Commerce. At that stage my parents never forced me to take up engineering or other traditional career even though I was good in academics as well. Instead they allowed and encouraged me to pursue my passion, which was badminton, but without sacrificing my studies. Just imagine what would have happened if my parents had insisted on me taking up engineering or medicine! I would not have achieved the same kind of success either in academics or in badminton for science was certainly not one of my favorite subjects. Mind you in those days there was no money in badminton. It was only much later that the game became popular and prize money was introduced at the world level.

I personally feel that we as parents need to encourage our children in pursuing alternate careers especially if they have exceptional talent in any field. It could be music, films, art, theatre, dance, ballet etc. Some of you in this audience may not agree with my views but I am sincerely convinced about it. That is also one of the reasons why Ujjala and I have allowed our daughters to pursue a profession of their choice. While our older daughter Deepika is pursuing a career in films, our younger daughter Anisha is keen on becoming a golf professional. And we as parents have supported their choice. This does not mean that success is guaranteed if one pursues alternate careers. At least one will have the satisfaction of having tried his or her best in a field they passionately love. In case success does not come in a reasonable period of time, always encourage other options.

Generally Konkans are known to be docile, peace loving and not aggressive in nature. These traits can be useful in life. However, the world is now changing and in this age of globalization, internet and rapid technological advances where national and ethnic barriers are coming down, we (and particularly the younger generation) have to be more assertive and demand genuine progress and changes.

We as a community should not allow ourselves to be taken for granted. I am in no way suggesting that we become brash, inconsiderate or trouble makers but only that we should learn to be more forthright and goal oriented for both personal and global progress.

The other point I would like to impress upon is to try to be the best in the world in your chosen field and not be satisfied with being the best only in your own community. Aim for the highest and work towards the goal passionately. If you have belief in your own ability, nothing can stop you from reaching the highest level. Of course, one needs to have a lot of patience, willingness to put in hard work and dedication and not be discouraged by any initial setbacks.

I would also like to point out one strategy I adopted in my playing career to achieve for success. And that was "not to blindly copy or follow the style adopted by the leaders in the game". To give you an example: The world powers in badminton such as Indonesia, Thailand, Korea and Malaysia played exactly the same kind of game at the world level. Just because that particular style suited them, I did not copy their style. Instead, I incorporated the good points from their games into my own style without sacrificing my strengths. This enabled me to develop a style of my own which was unique and different. This strategy paid me rich dividends in the long run. The point I am trying to make is that all of us have our own individual strengths. Analyze those strengths and make use of them to achieve success. In short my simple recipe for success is: "take the good points from the leaders in your field, add your own strengths and come up with a winning formula of your own which will be a little different from the rest." It is not only saying ... **DO YOUR OWN THING** but do it with proper thought, purpose and action.

Many Konkans have achieved success and distinction in business, technology and medicine. For a small community like ours these are phenomenal. This success was possible not only due to their intelligence, hard work and dedication but also, in large part, due to their heritage, family support and good values. These are the very bedrock of success for us and something we all must remember and be grateful for. More importantly, we must impart them to our children. We have come a long way from the villages of North and South Kanara and we can go much, much further if we learn of our past and our values. While the teaching part rests on us the parents, the execution lies on the younger generation to carry this progress forward for reaching greater heights.

I will urge the younger members of our community to learn of the lives of your ancestors, the love and dedication which inspired them and build further on it. Hard work, family values, love for the community and fellow beings and service to everyone is what we are all about. These values are based on our religious philosophy and our holy books and scriptures. The world is becoming a global village due to technological advances and you can create your identity by learning and following Konkani traditions and learning about past accomplishments. This will bring the Konkani in You ... it will bring out the humanity in you ..it will help unleash your potentials for greatness ...

Today we stand tall not only due to our accomplishments but also on the shoulders of our ancestors. In the future years the generations which follow you must feel that they stand much taller from your values and achievements.

I want to conclude with these words of President Kennedy: **Ask Not What the Country Can Do For You, Ask What You Can Do For Your Country. Similarly, do not say what can Konkans done for me .. instead ask What Can I Do For the Konkani Community and the World ... ?** I hope that you will reach for the Stars and your sincere and genuine efforts will succeed.

We both want to express our gratitude and appreciation for inviting us for this Sammelan and become a part of your celebrations. We are very impressed by the entire planning, teamwork and execution and very touched by your

love and friendship. Our gratefulness goes to the Executive Team and all the members who put in long and difficult efforts for hosting this event.

Devu Bare Koro

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, \$
Sudhakar & Nandini Mallya, Wanaque, NJ	60.00
Dinanath & Shashikala Nadkarni, Fort Myers, FL	50.00
Ravi & Asha Baliga, Danville, CA	50.00
Jayashree & Jayaraman Rao, New Orleans, LA	150.00
Anonymous from NY	75.00

Statement of Accounts

Description	Credit, \$	Debit, \$
Balance Carried over since Khabbar Vol. XXXI No. 3	4,170.00	
Money Received:		
Subscriptions (48) and donations	1,205.00	
Interest	5.00	
Sub Total:	1,210.00	
Money Spent (Khabbar Vol. XXXI No. 2):		
Printing- Khabbar (2,300) - 20 pages		2,217.89
First Class Mail-Khabbar (2,033)		1,199.47
Canada Khabbar (232)		222.72
Overseas (20)		60.00
Mail Fines, computer paper & labels, envelopes, service fees, etc.		669.92
Sub Total:		4,370.00
Final Balance:	1,010.00	

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

Konkani Calendar

January 2009	February 2009	March 2009
7 th Yekadashi	1 st Ratha Saphthami	10 th Holi – Poornami
10 th Poornami	5 th Yekadashi	13 th Sankashta Chaturthi
13 th Angaraka Chaturthi	9 th Poornami	13 th Meena-Sankranthi
13 th Makara-Sankranthi	12 th Sankashta Chaturthi	26 th Amavasya(Dark moon)
25 th Amavasya(Dark moon)	12 th Kumbha-Sankranthi	27 th Ugadi- New Year Day
	22 nd Maha-Shivaratri	
	24 th Amavasya(Dark moon)	

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.

Kwiz

The last quarter's quiz: Ten fish I caught without an eye, And nine without a tail, Six had no head, And half of eight, I weighed upon the scale; Now who can tell me as I ask it, How many fish were in my basket?

The Answer: MT (0)

10 fish with no eye....remove the I from IO to get 0.
 9 with no tail...get rid of the tail in 9 and that leaves 0
 6 with no head... get rid of the head in 6 and that leaves 0
 half of 8...look at either top half or bottom half and that leaves 0

The following gave the correct answer:

Praveen Kamath, Centreville, VA

This Quarter's Quiz

By

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.

How many commonly used words in English language end in "dous"?

Upcoming Konkani Events



The 2009 Konkani Youth Convention will be held in Washington, D.C from Aug 7th to 9th 2009. Youth conventions have served an important role in the Konkani community since the first one was held in Boston. They allow the Konkani Youth the opportunity to gather in an open and honest forum to get to know one another, explore a new city, and most importantly, learn more about Konkani Culture.

The Youth from the Washington, D.C. metro area have planned an exciting weekend for the attendees.

- Amazing meals, including two dinners with some of the best food and views that Washington, D.C. has to offer.
- A tour of the city that highlights some of the most famous aspects of the D.C. area.
- Seminars on topics such as Konkani Language, Religion, Relationships, and Career Opportunities.
- Ice Breakers and Networking events to ensure that you meet new people and leave the Convention with a newfound love of Konkani Culture.

We are still finalizing some of the details, particularly the Hotel/Conference Space. For this reason we still do not have the final attendance fee for the Youth Convention, but we will do our best to keep the registration cost low for those of you that register early.

The youth are the future leaders of our local associations. The youth are the future men and women that will plan Sammelans. We want to cultivate the youth now so we can be ready for that challenge when it comes. To keep registration costs low, and to ensure that we can offer the Youth everything the best experience possible, we are asking for donations towards the 2009 Youth Convention. All donations are tax deductible. All donors will be thanked in our official program.

Please make checks payable to **North American Konkani Association**, and mail donations to:

North American Konkani Association (c/o Kiran Shenoy)

1020 N Highland Ave. Suite 709

Arlington, VA 22201

For more information please visit our website at <http://www.kyc2009.com> or you can email the planning team at info@kyc2009.com

Konkani Sammelan 2010

The much anticipated event, the next Konkani Sammelan, will be held in Chicago in 2010. The details of this superb event will be published in Khabbar as they become available.

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, Ravi Baliga. Seema Kamath, Ranjit Shiralkar & Sheila Shenoy Reddy (Youth).

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

This quarter, the NAKA Board approved on the following:

1. Invited Dr. Ravi Baliga to join the Board and he accepted the offer.
2. Formed a Charitable Foundation with **Ramesh Kamath, Ashok Bhatt, Ravi Baliga, Surendra Shenoy, Sumeeth Bhat and Vinayak Kudva** as a sub committee members (per NAKA initiative #6 published earlier). An amount of \$20k from NAKA has been deposited here with each committee member giving \$1k. Through *Khabbar* NAKA will publish this Foundations progress on a regular basis

NAKA - Statement Of Accounts

Date	Description	Credit, \$	Debit, \$
08/31/2008	Balance from last report	43,216.08	
9/30/2008	Seed Money refund-KS-2008	30,000.00	
9/30/2008	KS-2008 surplus	65,112.16	
10/15/2008	NAKA Charity Trust		20,000.00
11/28/2008	Interest	138.56	
	Final Balance:	118,466.80	

Signed: Damodar Baliga
Treasurer, NAKA

NAKA, Charitable Foundation

MISSION:

The mission of 'The NAKA Foundation' is to provide an opportunity for the Konkans to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

The Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation supported solely by voluntary contributions from Konkans and friends of the Foundation who share its vision of a better world.

PROGRAMS:

Through Foundation grants and programs, Konkans and other contributors can help change the world. These programs and projects are for the benefit of Konkans and Konkani organizations in India and other developing countries. Executive committee will also review all other project requests and proposals to help deserving Konkans in other parts of the world such as US and Canada.

Proposed grants and programs include but are not limited to

1. Providing scholarships to the needy students through educational institutions;
2. Provide support for orphanages;
3. Feed the hungry through meal programs;
4. Advance education by supporting educational institutions;
5. Help the elderly in need by supporting old peoples' homes;
6. Increase job opportunities by providing aid to cooperatives businesses.

The Foundation Executive Committee will entertain other similar proposals that are within the guidelines of the foundation intended to help the needy in Konkani community.

BASIC GUIDELINES:

1. Aid would be channeled through reputable local organizations and not directly distributed to an individual.
2. No aid will be provided to build or improve private property or assets.
3. Funds cannot be targeted for the benefit of donors' lineage or relatives (brothers, sisters, sons daughters or their children).
4. Aid cannot be provided for direct salary support, fee for management or consultations.
5. Money must be spent within the specified period.
6. Organizations receiving aid should submit project summary including the details of fund disbursement with supporting documents in the final report.
7. Members of the executive committee serve on a voluntary basis and will not receive any remuneration for time and effort
8. Executive committee would maintain a detailed account of financial activities and provide a report of income and expenditure to all members of the foundation.
9. Over heads and administrative expenses should be restricted to a minimum .
10. The Foundation will consist of 6 members (this may be modified with due information to the members).
11. In case of extraordinary situations the members of the board will vote to resolve the situation.

Klassified

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

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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

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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)

APPEAL

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

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

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Shyam Taggars, 20169 Chateau Drive, Saratoga, CA 95070

Please, include your name and address with your order.

Appeal: Join the KHABBAR KARES Email List

I get numerous appeals, mostly from India for a cause that is worthy to them. It could be for a scholarship fund; it could be to help a temple project; it could be an arts project; just to name a few. But, **these are really dear to them.** I publish all of them in Khabbar. Khabbar being a quarterly publication, sometimes, the urgency of the appeal is lost.

Recently, the response from Konkani families in North America for an appeal was overwhelming. The appeal was from the Gokarn Mutt Swamiji to get water samples from North America. It was accomplished even before I could publish it in Khabbar!

Hence, this idea came to me- If you are **REALLY** interested in helping, then join the "**Khabbar Kares**" email list. Any appeal I get, I will forward it to you. There is absolutely **NO** pressure. If you want to help, go ahead and if you don't, no feelings are hurt.

Contact khabbar@hotmail.com if you want to an elite member of Khabbar Kares!

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to come

APPEAL

A great opportunity to serve an Indian Charity Organization (Anandashram) which shelters already 26 poor old people and which also offers the free services of a "Hospice" (Palliative Care center)-a home for the terminally ill Cancer patients of our society. Income Tax Payees in USA get the benefit of Income tax Exemption for their donations, if they donate directly to Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) - America with the suggestion that they should donate the same amount to Anandashram Seva Trust @, Puttur, since CAF America has recognized Anandashram as one of the recipients of their grants. Hence, the donors in 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