

Khabbar

North American Konkani Newsletter

Volume XXXVIII No. 1
January, February, March- 2015

From:
The Honorary Editor,
"Khabbar"
P. O. Box 222
Lake Jackson, TX77566 - 0222
XXXVIII-1

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Dear Konkani family,

It is time to renew your subscription for 2015.The numbers on the mailing label clearly indicate the year/s the dues for *Khabbar* has been received since 2013. Please, note that you have the FREE access to the *eKhabbar*, the electronic version of *Khabbar*, by logging on to *eKhabbar.com*. If you want hard copy, then only remit your subscription 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*, P. O. Box 222, Lake Jackson, TX77566-0222. (Canadian Konkanis please pay cash or MO in US\$)

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_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Comments, if any: _____

Quarterly Newsletter
For Circulation to the Konkani Community in North America
Volume XXXVIII No. 1

January, February, March - 2015
Honorary Editor: Mr. Vasanth Bhat

Mailing Address:
P. O. Box 222
Lake Jackson, TX77566-0222

www.eKhabbar.com

Tel: (979)-299-3210

Email: khabbar@hotmail.com

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

EDITORIAL

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

This issue of *Khabbar* has been mailed to **ALL** families that have paid dues **at least once since 2013**. In other words, families who **have not** paid since 2012 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 2013 and if there is any error let me know.

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 *Khabbar* Mailing List is a prized possession of our community. Please 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!**

YES! There will be a Konkani Sammelan in 2016!! The interim North American Konkani Association (NAKA) has accomplished a major victory. NAKA

worked with **Konkani Association of Georgia (KAOG)** to host the Konkani Sammelan in 2016 in Atlanta. While the Teams KAOG & NAKA are busy preparing for KS-2016, the Team NAKA is also busy in making NAKA a viable organization in North America by holding an election for NAKA during KS-2016.

Khabbar will publish all the developments and progress made by **NAKA** on an on-going basis.

Khabbar will also publish progress made by **Konkani Charitable Fund (KCF)** on a regular basis. The team KCF needs all our support to help our folks anywhere in the world. **Dr. Gopal Bhandarkar** and his team are doing a fantastic job in making our community aware of KCF and hope you will help him to help our people.

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).

On the Quiz front, it is the same story! *Khabbar* has still remained a champ!! What a pity, only 3, I repeat, only 3, people were able to solve last quarter's practical quiz! Let us see how you will do with this 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 volunteered his services to help **Konkani Bhas Ani Sanskriti Pratistan**. Please, call him at (702)-341-6706 or email: bastishenoy@gmail.com if interested to extend your help for this worthy cause. Indeed, the Kendra has become a center of attraction and I urge all North American Konkanis to visit the Kendra to see in what way they can benefit from this. Also, see in what way we can help our brethren who are doing an outstanding job in preserving our culture.

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 or thru KCF if approved by KCF. *Khabbar* firmly believes in helping our people whether it is in India or here. Here's a link to all the special appeals I have gotten so far: <http://www.eKhabbar.com/special%20appeals/special%20appeals.htm>

I hope the struggle to rid terrorism from this world will materialize soon. Hope Peace & Tranquility will prevail.

Happy *Yugadi* to you all.

Devu Boren Karo.

Vasanth
Honorary Editor

Konkani S sammelan 2016 in Atlanta GA

Dear Konkani Family,
Namaskaaru!

Aykayati! Aykayati! (Hear ye! Hear ye!) This is Hoon, Hoon Khabbar! The heat is on in Atlanta, Georgia. The city that took pride in holding the Centennial Olympics in 1996 will be hosting the first quadrennial event. We are proud to announce that **The Konkani Association of Georgia (K A O G) is gearing up with its southern charm and hospitality, to host the Konkani S sammelan 2016.** The two and a half day fun filled event will be held at the spectacular **Georgia International Convention Center, in College Park, GA from July 1 – July 3 (Fri – Sun).** Atlanta, is a metropolitan city, rich in history, music, culture, is home to Coca Cola, CNN and the world's largest aquarium. We have chosen the venue with careful thought, such that your short commute to the hotel from the world's busiest airport is not just convenient but, also very comfortable and delightful.

A zealous and committed team of K A O G members has been planning and working on the minute details and logistics necessary to prepare for the event. Our team envisions in making your S sammelan experience and visit to Atlanta, a very special, heartwarming, unique, fun filled weekend that will last for a lifetime. In a short span of time while in its preliminary planning phase, the organizing committee has accomplished a lot and each one would like to share some updates.

Project Management Committee- Various committees have been busy with the planning and execution. K A O G S sammelan committee and NAKA board have been meeting at least once a month, making great progress with timely decisions and financing the event. Our current plan is to open the early registration for the S sammelan in the later part of 2015.

Venue Committee – The contract with Georgia International Convention Center (GICC) is currently under final review. Final deposit will be made while this article goes in print. The spectacular GICC, is close to Atlanta Airport and is just 10 minutes from downtown Atlanta.

Finance/Treasury Committee - Atlanta team has prepared a preliminary budget and discussed with the NAKA Board members. Venue and Food, being 75% of the total budget expenses, were our first priorities to dive deep into detailed line items and lock the deals. Next in the list of expenses are Audio Visual, Registration Infrastructure and Publicity. On the income side, scenarios for registration fees are being worked out to finalize the fees soon. Our goal is to finalize these set of activities by mid-April of this year.

Entertainment Committee- Celebrating Konkani Heritage - Song & Toi on My Mind!' will be the theme of the Konkani S sammelan 2016. The entertainment committee is all geared up to present a multi layered program to appeal to every age group! We have drafted a formal process to solicit and select the best of Konkani talent from all over North America to perform at the S sammelan.

Food Committee - The Konkani S sammelan 2016 food committee, aptly named as *Sri Annapoorneswari Food Committee*, has made great progress working with caterers to obtain quotes and in finalizing the menu. We are very excited to make this a truly fun event and are planning to include the choicest Konkani delicacies.

Accommodation Committee - Your comfort away from home is of prime importance to us. We have negotiated a discounted rate with Marriott, which is conveniently located next to GICC.

Registration Committee - Initial discussions are in progress with the website developers for setting up the online sign up page and the online/ manual payment process. Fee structure is also being discussed internally, and with NAKA.

Publicity Committee - Publicity team is actively working on getting the Logo finalized. Initial discussions are ongoing to get the website up and running. Please bookmark and check our website regularly for S sammelan updates. Watch out for more updates at **Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Radio Idli.** More exciting updates will follow soon!

Please mark your calendar and save the date. Toy with your own song, "Konkani S sammelan in Atlanta on my mind."
Devu Baren Karo

Hoon Khabbar

Congratulations:

Dr. VANITA BRAVER, M.D., Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist and best-selling author upon the release of her 5th children's book, Madison and the New Neighbors in the Teach Your Children Well series. In this book, Madison is on another adventure involving her neighbor, Seema Patel and learns about accepting differences and tolerance. Please visit www.drvanitabraver.com for more information.

RISH KOCHIKAR PAI, MD, PhD has accepted faculty position as associate Professor of Pathology at Mayo Clinic of Scottsdale, AZ. He and his family will move to Scottsdale in June this year. Mayo will start a new Medical school in Scottsdale in 2016, where he will be a faculty also.

VINAY PRABHU has been promoted to Managing Director for Morgan Stanley. Before he held the position of Executive Director. His parents, Dr. Vasudev and Sunita Prabhu, of Mission Viejo, CA congratulate him and wish him further success in future.

In December, 2014, **Dr. RAKESH K. PAI, MD**, of Portland, OR completed the Physician Executive Master of Business Administration at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He graduated in the top 10% of his class, and was inducted into the Golden Key International Honor Society. In the summer of 2015, he will begin the prestigious Dartmouth College Master of Health Care Delivery Science (MHCDS) program, which is a joint program administered by the Tuck School of Business-The Dartmouth Institute. He is expected to graduate in 2017.

PUSHPA SHENOY of Houston, TX who learns Ballroom dancing at Fred Astaire Memorial Studio, was awarded the Top Female student of 2014 at the Freddie Ball 2014 held at Hotel Sonesta, Houston during the Valentine's day weekend.

She also won the top solo performance award with the highest score average of 97.33 (Individual scores from 3 judges 100, 96, 96) at the same event. She danced to a fitting finale "How do I live without you" by Lee Ann Rhimes (in memory of her late husband), theatrics and Bolero with her Smooth Dance Instructor Joshua Bradford.

Dr. NARENDRA PAI of Lewistown, PA was part of the American Association of Physicians of Indian origin (AAPI) which organized the ground breaking 9th annual Global Healthcare Summit (GHS) 2015 in Mumbai which concluded on Sunday, January 4th, 2015 with the pledge by Bollywood Superstar Amitabh Bachchan committing to be the Ambassador of AAPI's campaigns to create awareness on Head Injury, Trauma, and Hepatitis In India.

Congrats to **SRIKANT NAYAK** of Canada for qualifying as a Canadian CA, and earning the designation CPA.

Congrats to **LAKSHMAN RAGDE** of Kitchner, ONT for being selected for the Kala Seva Mani Award from Cleveland Tyagaraja Festival Committee this year in recognition of his service to Karnatak music buffs.

Konkani Graduates:

ANEIL KOCHIKAR PAI, s/o Amar & Teresa Pai of Falls Church, VA recently graduated from Cardozo School of Law in NY with a JD. He also passed NY Bar exams on first attempt. He recently joined AppNexus, a boutique internet marketing enterprise, as an Associate in Business Operations.

New Arrival:

KAYA, a baby girl to Sapan & Devika Shenoy of Monrovia, CA on Nov. 20th, 2014, a younger sister to Leela. The proud paternal grandparents are Umesh & Savitha Shenoy of Karkala and the maternal grandparents are Ramrao & Swarnalatha Kamath of Mumbai.

NATHAN DOEDEN KOCHIKAR PAI, a baby boy to Dr. Reetesh Kochikar & Dr. Katherine Doeden Pai on February 13th, Friday @ 2.38 PM. A brother to big brother Kiran (6). Very happy and blessed paternal grandparents are, Dr. Ramnath (Bapu) Kochikar Pai & Smt. Rajshree K. Pai of Tampa, FL. Nathan has 3 cousin brothers, 2 cousin sisters and many aunts. His great grandfather @ 94 is Sri. B. N. Kamath of Shimoga.

Engagement:

Kum. ASHIMA, d/o Aravind & Beena Shenoy of Granada Hills, CA, got engaged to **Chi. AYUSH SINGHANIA** in October of 2014. Ashima will be completing her Internal Medicine residency from The University of Connecticut in June and will be moving back to Los Angeles to begin working. Ayush has completed his MBA from Harvard Business School and works in private equity firm in the Los Angeles area

Relocation:

The PRABHU family, Raghurama & Rakhee, have relocated from Elkridge, MD to 2454 Anderson Hill Street, Marriottsville, MD 21104. Their telephones remain the same as Home: 410-379-8320 and Cell: 410-340-0774 and email: raghup7@yahoo.com

Brahmopadesham:

Dr. Rakesh Kochikar & Mrs. Ajnya Pai of Portland, OR celebrated the sacred thread ceremonies of their sons, **Chi. NANDAN** and **Chi. LAKSHAN** (Great grandsons of Sri B. N. Kamath, Shimoga, grandsons of Dr. Ramnath (Bapu) Kochikar Pai & Mrs. Rajashree Kochikar Pai of Tampa, FL and Mr. K. Vaman Kamath & Mrs. Rajalakshmi Kamath of Mumbai) on December 26th and 28th 2014 at Silent Shores Resort & Spa, Mysore at 10:30 AM and 11:30 AM *muhurthams*.

Surendra & Akhila Bhat of Houston, TX celebrated the sacred thread ceremony of their son, **Chi. SHLOK**

(grandson of Shantharam & Vasumathi Bhat of Mumbai and Prashant & Nandini Nayak of Mumbai) on Thursday March 12, 2015 at 11:27 AM (*vrishabha lagna*) at Shrimad Madhavendra Sabhagriha of Dahisar Kashi Math in Dahisar Mumbai.

Per reliable sources, these vatus are very busy doing Sandyavandams!

Obituary:

Sri. GOPINATH PAI of Mumbai, India passed away on December 25,

2014. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his son Sudhir and family of Houston, TX.

Sri KONCHADI ACHUTHA SHENOY (78) passed away on Jan 19th 2015 in Baroda, India. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his wife, Konchadi Srimathi Shenoy, of Baroda, son Konchadi Ramakrishna Shenoy and family of Baroda and Konchadi Raghavendra Shenoy and family of Sugar Land, TX.

GURUNANDAN KELKAR (86) of Camarillo, CA passed away suddenly but peacefully on Jan. 4th, 2015. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his wife, Shalini and sons Anand and Krishna and their families.

Sri YASH (YASHWANTH) RAO (74) of Chandler, AZ passed away on Feb 24, 2015. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his wife, Anjali, daughter Shilpa and son, Sid of Chandler, AZ.

KONKANI HAPPENINGS

Konkani Sabha (KS) Diwali 2014

The Konkani Sabha celebrated its annual Diwali program in the Bridgewater temple community hall in NJ on Saturday, October 24, 2014. This eagerly awaited community event was attended by a record 380 attendees, the highest ever in the history of KS.

Favored by unusually warm weather, the program commenced with registrations at 2.45pm along with scrumptious appetizers. As usual, the sequence of events began with the eagerly awaited Dandiya where our Konkani bandhavas invoked their inner dancer(s) and relinquished their inhibitions. This was followed by invoking blessings of the Almighty, as everyone gathered offered their prayers to goddess Lakshmi, the presiding deity of culture and prosperity.

Our variety entertainment commenced on stage at 4.00pm and was ably coordinated by the articulate and entertaining team of MC's : **Maya Shenoy, Sudhesh Nayak, Akshay Kamath and Roma Trikannad**. Sequencing of programs was planned in advance and the entertainment was an ideal mix of solo, group, kids' and adult performances. Children and adults alike, entertained everyone with their talent and sheer enthusiasm. The performances included bhajans, classical dances, instrumental, skits, classical singing, festival dances and bollywood dances, by kids as well as adults.

Continuing their generosity as in the past, the talented team from Elegant Affairs led by **Mrs. Sharda Shenoy and Mrs. Shobha Rao** elevated the community experience through their marvelous backdrops and venue decor. They deserve special recognition not only for their generosity and community spirit but also for their unwavering support to the Konkani Sabha.

Konkani Sabha outgoing President, **Mr. Vivek Shenoy**, spoke during the occasion and handed over the mantle to our new President, **Mr. Amit Katak**, who also delivered the vote of thanks. Amit also introduced the newly appointed committee members for the year 2015, listed below:

Amit Katak - President
Venkaresh Kamat - Vice President
Aravind Nayak - Treasurer
Vinatha Pai - Secretary
Neeta Shenoy - Joint Secretary

The fairly priced registration fees enables committee members to budget costs required to host our annual Diwali event successfully. This includes the cost of food and refreshments, cost of consumables, rental charges for the temple hall and other miscellaneous expenses. One of the measures of aiding the budget has been through Raffle Draw, which permits the committee to conduct the Diwali program efficiently and to keep a small buffer for emergencies. The committee thanks all those who participated generously in this year's successful Raffle Draw.

Food is an integral part of any community event and even more so for a Konkani gathering. Appetizers and dinner were catered by Hoysala Restaurant and was well appreciated by all.

The Konkani Sabha committee takes this opportunity to thank those countless volunteers who stepped up and helped us make this community event such a grand success. Due to these selfless individuals, the task of organizing and executing an event of this nature becomes rather simple and we hope to enjoy continued support from everyone in the forthcoming year.

We must thank the entire community for the overwhelming response we received this year; attendees, performers and volunteers. Many registrants planned and paid well in advance, which enabled us to project and plan better. We hope this patronage and support

continues and grows each year which will enable us all to come together and celebrate our community and cultural heritage together as Konkani brethren.

On Behalf of the Konkani Sabha Committee
Vinatha Pai

Houston Area Amchigale Samaj (HAAS)

HAAS started this year with the Satyanarayan puja held on Sunday, Feb 15th at the Sri Satyanarayan Temple of Greater Houston, one of the first temples started by members of our own community- **Krishna and Ranjisha Bhat**. We would like to thank them for letting us use their premises to perform the auspicious Satyanarayan puja.

As per HAAS tradition, the puja was performed by our high school seniors- **Sreesh Shenoy, Ria Rao and Atul Nayak** as well as 3 more families- **Prakash and Deepa Karkal, Prateek and Bhageshri Karkal, and Dell and Sanjyot Naik**. The puja was led by **Dr. Ramkrishna Prabhu**, who explained with great simplicity the deeper meaning behind performing the puja and the meaning behind some of our old Hindu traditions. **Surendra Bhat** also helped with parts of the puja. The puja went off as per our schedule from 10 AM-12:00 PM.

After the *arti*, our senior most community member, **Amulipachi**, presented the seniors with a certificate of recognition and gift cards with blessings for a bright future- on behalf of all of us at HAAS. She also gave them some great pearls of advice for their future.

This was followed by a sumptuous Konkani lunch from Udipi Cafe by **Satish Rao**, which was enjoyed by all.

After a hearty lunch, everyone made their way outside, and celebrated Sankranti- with kites, provided by HAAS, for all to enjoy and have some fun. Kids and adults had some good quality time flying kites outside the temple. The weather held out for us, and we were lucky to have some good breeze to help us with the kites.

Red roses were handed out to all ladies as part of a "Konkani Valentine" celebration!

Pictures of this wonderful event have been uploaded on to our HAAS page on Facebook. Hope you all have had an opportunity to view them.

Last, but not the least we would like to thank all the wonderful and very responsible Youth volunteers who helped us with this event- **Ria Rao, Rohit Kamath, Sreesh Shenoy, Sneha Shenoy, Atul Nayak, Pooja Nayak, Pranav Rao, Neha Bhat & Rohan Bhat**.

Thanks

HAAS Management Committee

Election Results of the recent HAAS Committee:

Sunil Shenoy - President
Sanat Nileshwar - Vice President
Sheetal Shashital - Co-Secretary
Surekha Pai - Co-Secretary
Gurudath Kamath - Treasurer
Youth Board
Ria Rao - President
Pooja Nayak - Secretary
Rohit Kamath – Treasurer

Election Results of Konkani Association of California (KAOCA) 2015 Committee Members:

Nandini and Bharath Shenoy
Chakori and Subodh Bhattacharya
Nandini and Shivram Bijoor
Archana Kamath and Jayan Krishnaswami
Archana and Sathish Kamath
Gowtham Kamath
Naresh Kamath
Chandana and Chaitanya Manjeshwar
Rithika, Rohan and Vinit Nayak
Sowmya and Gopalakrishna Nayak
Asha and Sudheendra Pai
Prashanth Pai
Shilpa and Raghavendra Pai
Sumana and Suresh Pai
Vanditha and Nithin Pai
Deepa and Arun Rao
Vidya and Jagan Rao
Deepali and Anand Shenoy
Sunitha and Prakash Shenoy
Sanjana and Ram Shenoy
Sneha and Sunil Shenoy

Election Results of American Midwest Konkani Association (AMKA) Committee-2015:

President: **Krishnanand Nayak and Tripti Pai**
Treasurer: **Vasundhara Baliga**
Committee Members:
Vishwanath and Vasundhara Baliga
Sanjay Wagle and Aarti Pandit
Sanjay and Seema Baliga
Jatin and Deepti Kulkarni
Sunil and Sumedha Shenoy
Manjunath and Hema Prabhu
Surendra and Shobha Basti

KHABBAR FROM KULAR

By: - **Vishwa Konkani Sardar BASTI VAMAN SHENOY**

Vishwa Konkani Natak Abhiyan:

‘‘Amhi Rangakarmi’’ a famous Konkani Drama Troupe from Mumbai under the able Director **Dr. C.N.Shenoy** (a Cancer Scientist and actor) presented ‘*Ek Ashilo Rayu*’ Konkani Drama at Bangaluru, Mangaluru, Udupi and Kundapur and was well received. **Vishwa Konkani Kendra** organized the tour programme under Vishwa Konkani Nataka Abhiyan.

G.S.B. Kalyan Mandir, Shimoga (Karnataka) celebrated Golden Jubilee on 10.1.2015. H.H. Shishya **Swamiji Shrimad Samyameendra Thirtha Swamiji** of Shri Kashi Mutt was present and blessed the Shimoga Samaj and Past Presidents and Secretaries. Past President **Basti Vaman Shenoy** was also blessed and honoured by H.H. Swamiji during the celebrations.

Konkani Kavita Fest: Kavita Trust founded by **Mr. Melvyn Rodrigues**, organized KAVITA fest AT Barkur Countryside near Kundpur. Trust had organized All India level Konkani Poetry Competition for School students. Prizes were distributed and arranged ‘‘Bhurgyanchi Kavita Vachan’’ Competition on this occasion. Bahubhasha Kavi Gosti’ consisting of Konkani, Tulu, Kannada, Beary, Tamil and English language Poets participated.

Mangaluru Sri Veera Venkatesh Venkatramana Temple Car Festival, Mogarnadu Shri Laxmi Narasimha Temple, Car Festival and Bantwal Sri Tirumala Venkatramana Temple Car Festivals were celebrated in grand scales in January and February 2015.

‘Saptati Celebrations (70th year) of **H.H. Sri Vidyadhiraja Thirtha Vader Swamiji** of Shri Jeevotham Gokarn Parthagali Mutt Samsthan was celebrated at Gokarn Mutt, Mangaluru. H.H. Swamiji was present and blessed the Samaj.

The ‘Navathi’ (90th year) of **Shri Sudhindra Thirtha Swamiji** of Shri Kashi Mutt Samsthan will be held at Haridwara (UP). G.S.B. Shishya Varga from throughout India and abroad are gathering at Haridwar to participate in the historic occasion as H.H. Swamiji is the only Swamiji in the history of Sri Kashi Mutt Samsthan is celebrating ‘Navathi’ occasion.

All India Konkani Parishad Sahitya Sammelan held on 13th, 14th & 15th February at Kozhikode, Kerala in P.G.Kamath Pandal. It was inaugurated by well-known Malayalam writer **Mr. Damodaran**. Konkani writers and littérateurs coming of Mumbai, Goa, Karnataka and Kerala participated in large numbers.

A Get together of ‘Motra Madhav Family’ was held at Bantwal and Vishwa Konkani Kendra, Mangaluru. Late Basti Madhav Shenoy, popularly known as ‘Motra Madhav’ in last Century was the first Bus Agent of C.P.C. Bus Company established in 1924 from Mangalore to Bantwal is father of **Vishwa Konkani Sardar Basti Vaman Shenoy and Basti Ganapathi Shenoy** Las Vegas), U.S.A. The Motra Madhav family members numbering 77 gathered at Bantwal (coming from U.S.A., UAE, Mumbai, Bangaluru, Madikeri, etc.) visited Bantwal Temple, SVS High School, Yeshawant Vyayama Shala (Godhe Shala), their born house on the bed of river Nethravathi, etc. And in the evening gathered at Vishwa Konkani Kendra and exchanged their memories at Bantwal and finally donated Rs.80,000/ to World Konkani Centre.

Intangible Konkani Cultural Heritage (ICH) project:

UNESCO has conventions regarding ICH programmes world over to document World Cultures. Under this programme, World Konkani Centre has drawn a Road Map, a programme for Konkani Speaking Communities living in Goa, Karnataka and Kerala. **Dr. Shubha Chaudhuri**, Associate Director General (Academic) Archives and Research Centre for Ethnomusicology American Institute of Indian Studies for India, Bhutan, Nepal was invited to deliver Keynote address to Groups, heads of various Konkani Communities gathered for the workshop at World Konkani Centre on 8th February 2015 Sunday. All the community leaders and delegates shown keen interest in the subject and responded with full co-operation to the project. The Universities of Mangaluru and Goa Konkani Akademi, Goa, Karnataka and Kerala and Kannada and Culture Department, Government of Karnataka also associated with the workshop of Intangible Konkani Cultural Project.

The Story of B. P. BALIGA, the Aviation Pioneer

By: - HarshithMallya | January 01, 2015 at 12:28 pm (As appeared in yourstory.com)

If you have ever had a wonderful flying experience on Air India B-747 or Boeing 737 you would have to thank many of the pioneers in the Indian aviation sector. One among them is **Bantwal Purushottam Baliga**.

B P Baliga was an active member for over five decades in civil aviation related to Aircraft Engineering & Maintenance and Corporate Management at Air India from 1954-1991 and Jet Airways from 1992-2009. Through technological innovations and effective management practices he played a big role in helping the Indian aviation sector grow to the stage it has reached today.

YourStory had the opportunity to interact with him, here is his story.

Beginnings

B P Baliga was born in a humble family in Cannanore, Kerala, on April 4, 1933. Tragedy struck the family of nine children in 1950 as their father suddenly passed away, when most of them were still in their teens. The eldest brother took the responsibility of educating and settling his siblings and took over the family business to set a firm base.

B P Baliga's first interaction with an airplane was at the age of 11 when he spotted a small aircraft whirling over his home and sprinted to the open maidan to figure out how a plane actually landed.

Baliga completed his Pre-University education at St. Aloysius College, Mangalore, in 1951. He wanted to pursue something interesting and decided to explore engineering. At that time there were only three main avenues — mechanical, electrical and civil. Aviation was not yet popular or well known. So he considered applying for the merchant navy but was dissuaded by many because of the dangers and perils one faces at sea. A little dejected, he immersed himself in studying for the Bachelor of Arts.

A life changing event took place in July 1951 when his eldest brother, Madhava Baliga, who was now a mentor and father figure, brought to his attention an advertisement in 'The Hindu' announcing a course in Aircraft Maintenance Engineering at the Civil Aviation Training Center (CATC) at Allahabad. But by the time he got the news there were only two weeks left to apply for it. So he sent a telegram to the centre stating that he was interested in applying and personally went there to complete the formalities as the regular procedure may have taken too long.

The interview

In the first week of August 1951, Baliga was summoned for an interview with the board. The interview went well and towards the end of it he summoned the courage and boldly asked, "I have come all the way from Mangalore. It has been a three-day journey. If you can give me the slightest indication of my chances I will stay back." This was in fact a white lie, as he had barely packed enough clothes to last him more than a few days. The board gave him a hint of his chances and requested him to stick around and in two weeks, he got the intimation that he was eligible for the course.

Civil Aviation Training Centre

The training at the CATC would last three years. R. N Khatju, who would go on to become the Director General of Civil Aviation, was the principal of the school at the time. Khatju meticulously taught the fundamentals of aircraft maintenance to his pupils reiterating his 'safety first' philosophy. This class of graduates would go on to constitute the backbone of the Indian aviation industry in the years to come, with many of them joining different airlines and putting to use their know-how of what was taught to them.

"You are the cream of the country," Khatju would tell his students, "You must think about the progress in Indian aviation ahead of you. Always aspire to be the best you can; don't stop at a mediocre level."

First innings in aviation: Air India

There were vacancies in Air India and Indian Airlines by the time Baliga got his licenses. He gave an interview with Indian Airlines and was selected but the international appeal of Air India beckoned him and he landed in Mumbai to pursue the possibilities there.

On the morning of November 30th, Baliga knocked on the doors of A.C Gazdar, Technical Director of Air India, at the time. "Are you ready for the interview?" Gazdar asked. Baliga was informed that they were starting training in two weeks and that they needed to recruit engineers soon. A little flustered, he relented with the aim of not seeming under confident.

At the end of the interview, Baliga was asked, "Would you like to take the medical?" Baliga was overjoyed and completed the medical examination on the afternoon of the same day. He then bought a two-way Indian Airlines ticket for INR90 and flew to Mangalore the very next day to meet his family in Cannanore, as he had not seen them for three years.

On December 7th 1954, Air India inducted Baliga as a junior trainee. Licensed candidates were trained on the Lockheed constellations. Subsequently, he qualified as an aircraft maintenance engineer on several other aircrafts, including 1049 constellation, Boeing 707 and 747 aircrafts and power plants. Within six months, he passed the required exams and in 1956 he was stationed in Chennai — in less than two years he had a posting as a Station Engineer. He also got married in 1956 and had his first child.

By the time he had finished his first posting, he was offered a posting abroad at Cairo, since the senior engineer had been sent for training. Then from 1961 to 1964, he was stationed in Moscow, Russia, for another posting as a Maintenance Engineer. Air India became an all Jet airline in 1965 and he returned to Cairo in 1965. The young couple decided to leave their two sons Vinod and Satish behind in Mangalore, not wanting to disrupt their education and took only their one-year-old daughter Asha with them to Cairo.

On his return from Cairo, Baliga was promoted to Assistant Engineering Manager. Thereafter he saw through many other departments in the airline such as Line Maintenance, major maintenance and production planning.

He had just been promoted to the post of Director of Engineering, but the board had not yet confirmed it. Unfortunately due to an incident that occurred on a flight carrying Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi, disciplinary action was taken, which held back his promotion. He reconciled to having his promotion declined through no fault of his own, but made clear to the authorities that there was only so much he could bend. A post of 'Special Duty Officer' was created for him and he was sent to Toulouse, France, for the technical acceptance of the A310s, which the airline was about to induct into their fleet. He was required to stay there for six months until the completion of the project. This experience would prove invaluable to him later on at Jet Airways.

Baliga contributed to a large amount of foreign exchange saving for Air India. He was confident of the expertise of Indian engineers and insisted that Air India should carry out Section 41, a major modification on four of its Boeing 747s. The aircraft, which had completed 40,000 cycles, replacing 6000 parts, were modified in-house with the help of engineers of the airline and Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., thus saving valuable dollars.

Also during the Gulf War, Baliga coordinated the operation of Air India flights to Amman for the evacuation of more than a hundred thousand Indian citizens. On his return to Bombay, he was officially reinstated as the Director of Engineering in 1987. He officially retired from Air India in 1991.

Air Lanka, 1991-1992

Air Lanka requested for Baliga's assistance as he had been a chairman of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Technical Committee. The Sri Lankan carrier had applied for a World Bank loan to acquire an aircraft and needed a project report. They asked Baliga for advice on the A340s and A320s they were planning to order and the commercial and engineering viewpoints on them.

Baliga agreed to work as a consultant with them for three months. He made the report and submitted to them. Then after Air Lanka acquired the aircraft, they reached out to him again, requesting for help with the implementation. Later on his recommendation, Air Lanka sent their engines to Air India for maintenance too. The report came to be called the 'Baliga Report' and the book was followed for subsequent implementations as well.

Second innings at Jet Airways

By March 1992, the idea for Jet Airways had germinated and it was incorporated on April 1st 1992. Naresh Goyal, Founder Chairman of Jet Airways had on-board with him Capt. Williams for flight operations and now needed someone to look after engineering. Rajan Jaitley, MD of Air India, suggested B P Baliga for the post, but Baliga was involved in an accident investigation. So he was not easily reachable and was constantly moving between Mumbai and Kolkata. Baliga was finally able to go and meet the chairman, who gave him an overview of Jet Airways, their proposed plans and how they needed his assistance.

Baliga listened but was in two minds. All his children were abroad and settled and he wondered if he should continue working or take a much needed break as he was approaching 60. But then he decided to join Jet Airways for a short period on a consultancy basis. This short period stretched to almost 17 years as he only retired later in 2009 as the VP, Support Services, at Jet Airways.

A team of enthusiastic individuals would work in a crowded office in Maker Chambers in Mumbai. They suggested to the chairman that a more suitable premise in the suburbs would be a better alternative. At the time Baliga's wife was away in the US as their daughter was expecting a baby. Since they had two flats in Juhu that were combined, he had them partitioned to make an office in one of them. Once the decision was made, necessary office supplies procured, the core team of Jet Airways shifted their base and started working from their new premises in Baliga's home. They would send daily fax reports to the Chairman on their progress. When Baliga's wife returned from the US, she was initially shocked as she was unaware of this arrangement.

The Jet Airways team completed the necessary paperwork and legalities and the Government approved their report in late 1992, and granted them permission to operate. A few more months were spent in procuring the necessary aircrafts and then they started operations on 5th May 1993 with a fleet of 4 B737-300 aircrafts.

In the years, 1993-94, they had 28 daily flights connecting 28 Indian cities. In 2004, they flew to 42 Indian cities in India and to Colombo, Sri Lanka, Nepal with more than 265 flights a day. They had a market share of 46% at their peak in 2004. Jet Airways currently has the youngest fleet in the world, with over 115 aircrafts which include 12 Airbuses, 59 Boeing 737-800 etc.

When a massive earthquake struck Gujarat in 2001, Jet Airways employees donated a percentage of their salaries to help rehabilitate those affected by contributing to make shift tents and other urgent provisions. L K Advani and India's current Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, greeted Baliga and thanked Jet Airways for the help they had rendered. Baliga and his team also assisted in rebuilding of the Bhuj Airport.

From being a consultant, he went on to be the VP of Engineering and then the VP of Support Services until his retirement. Jet Airways went on to win several national and international awards, including best domestic airline award from H&FS for four years in succession and the prestigious ATW Market Development Award in the year 2000. It was also the first Airline in India to win the TTG Travel Award for best domestic airline in Asia Pacific and FE Business Traveler Award for best domestic airline economy class, business class, airport and inflight services.

In 2006, Baliga was inducted into the International Who's Who Historical Society (IWWHS) in Washington USA. He was also awarded for Excellence in Aerospace education by the Aeronautical Society of India in 2004.

A Rotarian B P Baliga was also conferred a Special Award for lifetime achievement for Aviation at the 2008 Konkani Sammalen on 5th July at International Convention Centre in Santa Clara, California. The award was presented to him by Padma Shri Prakash Padukone.

Belief, work ethics and idols

As VP at Jet Airways, Baliga had an open door policy — everyone from cleaners to trainees to maintenance engineers, all were free to interact with him. He still loves interacting with people and making friends, and believes in the policy of 'give and take'. He feels that if one is doing something for others, then one shouldn't be shy asking for favours when the need arises. His guiding principle is the 3-D philosophy – Discuss, Decide and Delegate.

JRD Tata was one of Baliga's idols and source of constant inspiration. Tata always laid emphasis on 'safety and maintenance' to provide clean and comfortable rides. Baliga remembers him as a kind and humble person who motivated and urged people around him to do their best.

One particular incident which stands out was when Baliga and his wife Radha had confirmed tickets on SwissAir for Geneva to London, but Tata was not able to get a ticket as the flight was already full. As Baliga was a certified Maintenance Engineer, he spoke to the pilot and was permitted to sit in the cockpit, while Tata occupied his seat. While disembarking from the flight, Tata did not permit Baliga's wife to carry her hand baggage and insisted on carrying it for her.

His humanity and simplicity touched my heart. He was simplicity personified and showed me how to conduct myself in my future life, recalls Baliga.

Coaching the Air India women's hockey team and having tea with Indira Gandhi

Though Baliga spent over five decades in aviation, it wasn't his only passion. He was also a keen sportsman and had represented Air India in tennis, soccer and hockey. He also served terms as the president of Air India Sports Control Board, VP of All India Public Sector Sports Association and President of Khar Gymkhana from 1973- 1977.

He along with the Air India Women's hockey team were invited for a tea party with former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. At a certain point, Air India had never had a women's hockey team.

So we created a women's hockey team and within two years they went on to win the National Hockey Women's Championship, says Baliga.

Many years later when 'Chakde! India' starring Shah Rukh Khan released, many of Baliga's friends teased and asked him if the movie was based on his life as there were many parallels in what he had done for the women's hockey team in coaching them.

Life post retirement and words of advice

Baliga is currently enjoying a life of retirement and was active in sports, till a minor injury forced him to take rest from sports. His sons and daughter, stationed in the US, constantly visit him and he also visits them from time to time. As a trustee, he would actively participate in various activities of the JRD Memorial Trust. He recently moved from Mumbai to Bangalore.

Baliga had also worked on a report titled, 'How to start an airline' and listed out the technical as well as management principles that a company needed to follow. Many upcoming airlines all over Asia referred to this manuscript.

On the current scenario of Indian aviation, Baliga feels that though it is not a good time to startup in the aviation sector there is still a tremendous scope for engineers in this field in the long run, as aviation is among the fastest and most convenient modes of transport.

On advice to youngsters, he said, "Nothing but hard work succeeds. One has to take every task as a challenge and results come automatically. As long as your intentions are good and honest, success will come your way."

On how he was actively working till the age of 78, he says, "One must know their limits. Whenever I thought of retirement, there were people around me to inspire me to keep going till the time I could."

January 1, 2015, also marks the 59th wedding anniversary for the Baligas and as they step into their 60th year of married life, we at YourStory wish them a very happy anniversary and many more years of togetherness.

Padmashree T. V. Mohandas Pai

Note: Sri Pai was the chief guest for Konkani Sammelan - 2012

Chairman, FICCI Higher Education Committee

Chairperson, Board of Manipal Global Education Services

Co-Founder, Aarin Capital Partners and Reservoir Investment Managers (Exfinity Technology Fund I)

Mr. Mohandas Pai is the Chairman, FICCI Higher Education Committee. He is the Chairperson of the Board of Manipal Global Education Services and Advisor to the Manipal Education and Medical Group. He is also on the Board of Ascendas Property Fund Trustee, as Trustee-Manager of Ascendas India Trust.

He co-founded Aarin Capital Partners to fund opportunities in Health Care, Life Sciences, Education and Technology. He also co-founded Reservoir Investment Managers to launch Exfinity Technology Fund I focused on providing capital and operational support to technology companies with an India base or focus. Prior to this, he was a Member of the Board at Infosys Ltd., where he also served as CFO and the lead for Human Resources and Education & Research earlier.

He is also the Chairman of SEBI Primary Markets Advisory Committee (PMAC). He was a Trustee of the International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") Foundation and a Member of the Dr. Anil Kakodkar Committee on Autonomy for the IITs and the Karnataka Knowledge Commission. He is currently a Member on the Boards of IIT, Hyderabad and IPE, Hyderabad.

He was a Member of various important national committees like the Kelkar Committee, constituted by the Ministry of Finance, GoI; the Non-Resident Taxation Committee as well as the Chair of the Karnataka ICT Group 2020.

He was a key player in the development of the IT services industry in India and instituted several industry-firsts in the Country. He is pioneer and thought leader instituting several India first's :broad based employee stock option plan, Indian company to list in the US, Indian company to adopt SOX compliance and large IT outsourcing deal. He is also a keen philanthropist who set up the Akshaya Patra Foundation in Bangalore along with other likeminded persons.

On advice to youngsters, he said, "Nothing but hard work succeeds. One has to take every task as a challenge and results come automatically. As long as your intentions are good and honest, success will come your way."

Mr. Pai has a Bachelor of Commerce from St. Joseph's College of Commerce, Bangalore and his Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from the University Law College, Bangalore

Padmashree N. Purushothama Mallaya

Based on an article "Honouring His Love for Konkani" By Express News Service Published: 26th January 2015

KOCHI: N Purushothama Mallaya, the only Keralite among the 75 honorees named for the Padma Shri awards on Sunday, is regarded as a dedicated educationist, who wrote letters persistently and passionately for the recognition of Konkani language. And it was mostly because of his letters that Konkani was included in the Eight Schedule of the Constitution.

According to former Kochi mayor K J Sohan, Mallaya is a part and parcel of Mattanchery and has been actively engaged in "precise research" on Konkani for its promotion. "He can speak authoritatively on the subject and has been instrumental in setting up the Konakani Bhasha Prachar Sabha in Mattanchery in 1966," Sohan said. Born in 1929, Mallaya did his schooling in Mattanchery and obtained a diploma in commerce from the Government Technical Institute at Edappally.

Later, he set up Sree Rama Krishna Technical Institute in Mattanchery to provide coaching to students in the disciplines of commerce. He turned his focus towards promoting Konkani after the language was listed as a dialect of Marathi in the 1954 census.

Based on the census, when Maharashtra demanded the Karwar-Belguam region in Karnataka, that has a sizable population of Konkani-speaking community, to be included as a part of it, it was Mallaya's work that helped Karnataka retain the regions.

Mallaya listed a group of words that have different pronunciations but convey the same meaning in Konkani and Marathi to establish that Konkani is distinct from the latter. In the 1970s, his efforts led to the state government according minority language status to Konkani.

The Fountainhead Of Faith

By: - K. V. Kamath

Kundapur Vaman Kamath is the Chairman of ICICI Bank. Previously associated with the Asian Development Bank, he has been a co-chair of the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos. He has been conferred the Padma Bhushan by the Govt. of India



I had always looked at what Baba had done - from a distance, never having had the opportunity to interact with him. The conference of "Ethics and the World of Finance" that was held in Puttaparthi gave me an opportunity to see, feel and understand what Baba was doing.

The first impression that you have when you go to Puttaparthi and stay in the facilities is one of care and affection. You then realise that this is all voluntary and the people who are caring for you are all there because of their faith irrespective of their status in life. Ordinarily, you will not expect people to volunteer with an open heart, but that is what we see in Puttaparthi. You also sense the general air of calm and peace that is there all around as if it was an extension of what he thought and did.

The conference on Ethics was very timely because it came post the critical global events that took place in 2008. The root cause of the crisis can be attributed to the deficit of ethics and excess of greed. The purpose of the conference was to see how this root cause could be addressed. The conference was very well organized.

During the conference we had the opportunity to see and meet Baba. That itself was an experience. You see a very large number of people, all of whom are overflowing with faith, assembling to see baba. What inspired me is that it was across denominations. When you see Baba, you are enveloped by the faith and that is what struck me when I saw him. Very few people have the ability to hold and embrace all with love and faith. And he was reaching out to all who had assembled there. The message that comes out really is very simple: "Look within you and you will find what you are seeking". That, for me, was a true miracle- of giving you that ability to have faith in yourself. That transcends a whole lot of other experiences that one may have. With the result, you come out a much better person in terms of your ability to look at things in context, the ability to have unflinching faith in the outcomes.

To me, the single most experience with Baba was a fountain of faith. The interesting part was that everybody believed that they had a personal equation with baba. I felt it, my wife felt it, I'm sure all the 50,000 people sitting there felt it. That is something very unique and distinctive about the whole experience we had. I carried away with me this deep feeling that-love, compassion, ethics; all flow from the single feeling at the apex, namely faith.

While I visited the school and college and the various facilities, I did not have the opportunity to see the hospital, but my wife did. I had an occasion to hear about it. Virtually, what was described to me was a miracle. I have had the opportunity to meet the doctors who were volunteering there, doctors were from across faiths. One also ponders on what are miracles. To me, that question was more important than the miracles various people talked about. For example the miracle of bringing water to Chennai. Faith, devotion and concentration on the task, and timely execution made this impossible task possible. I think this is a lesson that can be replicated. And I would think that he would be most happy if he sees what he did being replicated in many many areas across the country. Why is it that we are not able to do it? What holds us back? Once you channelize energy, time is not a constraint, time just collapses. That is part of the miracle. Everyone needs to really get down to action in its truest sense for the common good. Finally the greatest miracle is transformation of the heart.

It was an amazing experience, to see Baba, and feel the faith. To say you have met him is not right. Baba is to be felt. It was universal. There were a set of bankers there and all felt the same way. It was the same second time that I met baba in Mumbai in 2009. You sense the love and affection that permeates the room and carry the faith in your heart.

Konkani Calendar

April 2015	May 2015	June 2015
3rd – 5th KISS Picnic	2 nd Shri Narasimha Jayanthi	2 nd Poornami
4 th Shri Hanuman Jayanthi	3 rd Vaishaki Poornami	5 th Sankashta Chaturthi
4th KAOCA Ugadi	7 th Sankashta Chaturthi	15 th Mithun-Sankranthi
7 th Angaraka Chaturthi	9th AMKA Social Gathering	16 th Amavasya (Dark Moon)
11th AMKA Ugadi	14 th Vrisbh-Sankranthi	20th SF Father's Day Nature Hike
12th Honor Padmabhushan K.V.Kamath	17 th Amavasya (Dark Moon)	27 th Ashada Yekadashi
13 th Mesh-Sankranthi	29 th Yekadashi	
14 th Saura Ugadi	30th KAOCA Sports Day	
18 th Amavasya (Dark Moon)		
25th Annual OKA C & L Workshop		
29 th Yekadashi		

Khabbar thanks My Astrologer-version 1.0 by Mr. Muralidhar Shenoy, Durham, NC and Vedamoorthy Raghuchandra Bhat of Brookfield, WI

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, \$
Gopi & Sheila Pai, Germantown, TN	50.00
Ramesh & Pratibha Kamath, San Carlos, CA	51.00
Shanthi Pai, Oviedo, FL	50.00
Surendra & Shalini Shenoy, Olivette, MO	51.00
Pradeep & Geetha Bhandarkar, Bloomfield Hills, MI	100.00
Rajesh & Radhika Mallya, New Providence, NJ	50.00
Shrikar & Nirmala Bangalore, Mequon, WI	51.00
Krishna & Vasanthi Mallia, Rockford, IL	51.00
G. K. Bhat, Mooresville, NC	55.00
Kochikar Ramnath & Raju Pai, Tampa, FL	125.00
Vasant & Kirti Acharya, River Forest, L	51.00
Ashok & Suman Bhat, Tampa, FL	51.00
Ramadas & Avithri Kamath, Martinsburg, WV	65.00
Balakrishna & Indumathi Pai, Bloomfield Hills, MI	115.00
Kaup Muralidhar & Sudha Shenoy, Durham, NC	50.00
Sudha R. Kini, Katy, TX	50.00
Mohan & Mohini Kamath, Cerritos, CA	50.00
Shrikant & Sujata Prabhu, Oslo, Norway	100.00
Rajarama & Aneetha Shenoy, Stratford, CT	50.00
Vivek & Jyoti Ullal, Simi Valley, CA	50.00

FOR YOUR INFORMATION Only

The book "History of the DakshinatyaSaraswats" has been published in Kannada by the SGS Sabha of Chennai.

Statement of Accounts

Description	Credit, \$	Debit, \$
Balance Carried over since Khabbar Vol. XXXVII No. 4	3,435.00	
Money Received:		
Subscriptions (90) and donations	2,541.00	
Interest	4.00	
Sub Total:	2,545.00	
Money Spent (Khabbar Vol. XXXVII No. 4):		
Printing- Khabbar (330) - 20 pages		457.23
Printing- Khabbar Mailing List - 295 (31 pages)		610.94
Mailing - First Class Mail-Khabbar (289)		202.30
Mailing - First Class Mail-Khabbar Mailing List (241)		219.31
Mailing Canada Khabbar (9)		10.35
Mailing Canada Khabbar Mailing List (5)		9.30
Overseas (20)		60.00
Mail Fines, computer paper& labels, envelopes, service fees, etc.		480.57
Sub Total:		2,050.00
Final Balance:	3,930.00	

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

Kwiz**The last quarter's quiz:**

This is a real life quiz! Last year I had the privilege of meeting this gentleman. Recently, he was awarded the highest award in his field! Hoping you know who the honorary editor of Khabbar is, can you tell who the other person is and what was his accomplishment in 2014?

Answer : Dr. Manjul Bhargava, Professor at Princeton and he won the Fields Medal in 2014 (Equivalent to Nobel Prize!).

The following gave the right answers:

Dinakar Rao, Austin, TX

NarenBhat, Orange, CT

Uma Yadunath, Freehold, NJ

This Kwarter's Kwiz

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 if your subscription is current.

A Konkani family buys a 20-story building. The elevator has only two buttons, one to take you up 8 floors and the other to take you down 11 floors! Can you figure how many times they have to press the buttons to get all the way up to 20th floor? Building starts out on the 1st floor.

**Aspiring Entrepreneurs, Inspiring Outcomes**

Upaya Social Ventures builds businesses that create dignified jobs for the poorest of the poor in India. Upaya is a non-profit organization that believes in providing a "hand up" and not a "hand-out" in order to alleviate extreme poverty. To date, the

organization has supported the development of five businesses that have created over 1,100 jobs. Please visit www.upayasv.org to learn more, or please feel free to contact Executive Director and Co-Founder Sachi Shenoy at sshenoy@upayasv.org

Book for sale

Journey Of A Konkani Family, a book published by Ajjalkani Books, explores the roots of the Konkani community: its legends and history, customs and traditions and the story of its exile and dispersion from 16th century Goa. For details please access: <http://www.ekhabbar.com/two-pageAdAprilJuneKhabbarJune27,14.pdf>

NAKA, the North American Konkani Association Update



Dear Fellow Konkanis,

Here's the quarterly update on NAKA for this quarter:

First, the good news. There will be a Konkani Sammelan in 2016! It will be in Atlanta, GA. The Konkani Association of Georgia (KAOG) will be the hosts. See more details about KS-2016 in this issue of Khabbar.

The Interim NAKA team meets regularly to discuss how to make NAKA a viable organization in North America. The team now consists of:

President: **Sheila Shenoy Reddy**,
Vice President: **Sadanand Mankikar**,
Secretary: **Vasanth Bhat**,
Treasurer: **Suresh Shenoy**
Executive Board Member: **Ranjit Shiralkar**.

The much anticipated NAKA website (www.myNAKA.org) is up and running. Please visit the website and send your constructive comments about the website or any other activity about NAKA. Again, thanks for all your support!

Path forward:

The interim NAKA Board is striving hard to make NAKA a viable organization in North America and has set following two main goals:

1. Hold the Konkani Sammelan in 2016 (KS-2016) with KAOG as hosts.
2. Hold an election for NAKA so that NAKA truly represents the North American Konkani community. Details about this will also be published soon.

All the financial dealing of NAKA will be transparent and here's the statement for this quarter:

NAKA - Statement Of Accounts

Date	Description	Credit, \$	Debit, \$
11/30/2014	Balance from last report	124,831.58	
	Interest for the quarter	13.92	
2/28/2015	Final Balance:	124,845.50	

Signed: **Damodar Baliga/Suresh Shenoy**, Treasurer, NAKA

Dev Baren Karo.

Sheila Shenoy Reddy
President, North American Konkani Association northamericakonkaniassociation@gmail.com

Editor's Note:

Congrats to Sheila. She had worked very hard to make the Konkani Sammelan – 2016 a reality! The Team KAOG consists of great people. The blue print that NAKA and KAOG jointly developed can be used for future sammelans. Please, extend your cooperation to make KS-2016 a success. Also, help make NAKA a viable organization in North America

Konkanis In Southern States (KISS) Picnic – April 3rd to 5th 2015

It's time for a weekend of fun and excitement with your family and friends at the KISS (Konkanis in Southern States) 2015 picnic! This is an annual picnic that we have held since 1988 with Konkani families from Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. Let us continue this rich tradition and we look forward to having you join us in April. As usual it will be combined effort with all the Konkanis in the different areas participating in the events, though Houston will be hosting it.

The picnic will be held at Bastrop State Park, 100 Park Road 1A, Bastrop, TX 78602 (Ph: 512-321-2101) from 5 P.M. on Friday, April 3rd to Noon on Sunday, April 5th 2015 (<http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/bastrop>). There will be pizza on Friday evening (Pizza Hut). Meals on Saturday will include breakfast, lunch and dinner (by Udipi Restaurant), and on Sunday there will be "BRUNCH."

Come ready to have fun!

Agenda:

Friday April 3rd 2015:

5:00 PM to 8:00 PM Registration, Panchadika and Pizza
 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM Karaoke, Anthakshari, Jokes, and other misc.

Saturday April 4th 2015:

7:00 AM to 9:00 AM Breakfast (Indian style)
 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon Volleyball, cricket and other games
 Kids will have face painting, races and games; Easter egg hunt for kids under 6 years
 12:00 Noon to 1:30 PM Lunch- Konkani style
 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM Kids program
 4:30 PM Light Snacks, Tea and Coffee
 7:00 PM to midnight Dinner, Entertainment, Dance and Camp fire

Sunday April 6th 2015:

8:00 AM onwards Brunch, Auction and clean up

Registration Charges:

Early Registration: On or before March 20, 2015: Adults (13 and above) - \$60.00
 Senior Citizens (65 and above) and Children (between 5 and 12) - \$45.00
 Children 5 and under – FREE
 Late Registration: On or before March 21, 2015: Adults (13 and above) - \$70.00
 Senior Citizens (65 and above) and Children (between 5 and 12) - \$55.00
 Children 5 and under – FREE

The park admission fee is NOT included and each family has to pay at the park entrance (\$2 per day per person 13 years or older)

Accommodations:

On site- Charges are included in the price. There are 4 heated (and A/C) barracks with 20bunk beds in each barracks. Beds have mattresses; you just have to bring sheets, blankets and pillows. Availability is on a "first-come-first-serve" basis.

Off site – We have negotiated special rates for KISS guests at the following hotels:

1. Days Inn, 4102 Hwy 71 East at Loop 150, Bastrop, TX 78602 (Tel: 512-321-1157). Special Price: \$59.99 per night.
2. Super 8, 3110 State Hwy 71E, Bastrop, TX 78602 (Tel: 512-321-6000). Special Price: \$65 per night.

Please mention KISS Picnic or KONKANI Reunion when booking the rooms.(Note the rates will go up after March 7th)

Area Coordinators:

Austin: Aparna Hattangadi (512-346-6871)
 Dallas/Ft. Worth: Prakash Kagal (972-633-5605), Santosh Pai (972-396-7479)
 Houston: Neela Kamath (281-778-1157); Suresh Shenoy (281-935-4653); Sunil Shenoy (281-320-1851)

Please contact Sunil Shenoy (281-320-1851) if you or your kids would like to perform at the picnic.

Registration:

Please make checks payable to Neela Kamath and mail Registration Form with check to Neela Kamath, 5603 Twin Rivers Ct, SUGAR LAND, TX. Tel: (281)-778-1157; e-mail: neela.kamath@gmail.com

Questions: Please call any member of the Houston Team

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

	# of people	Before March 15th	After March 16 th	Total
Adults 13 and above	_____	\$60.00	\$70.00	_____
Senior Citizens Above 65 Years	_____	\$45.00	\$55.00	_____
Kids Between 5 and 12	_____	\$45.00	\$55.00	_____
Kids Below 5	_____	Free	Free	_____
Grand Total	_____			_____

APPEAL

MODEL HIGHER PRIMARY SCHOOL Gudigargalli, Kumta – 581 343

Place: Kumta
Date: 15-12-2014
Mob.: 9343510647
08386-221600 R

EARNEST APPEAL

(To whomsoever it may concern)

Dear Brother/Sister

Sub: Request for the munificent contribution or for the Sponsorship of Class Room Block

We are pleased to submit this genuine proposal in respect of the ancient and renowned Higher Primary School of Kumta in Uttara Kannada District i.e. Model Higher Primary School GudigarGalli, Kumta soliciting your kind help and support.

This is a century old and renowned school of this area, which has graced education to the gigantic mass since more than hundred years. The teaching system is fine and the teaching staff is striving hard and with hard devotion. The academic result of the school is standard one and excellent being appreciated by the Education Department as well as the parents. This is well disciplined and model school in this area to be supported by all of us. Recently, we have introduced English medium classes from VI to VIII Standard. The pupil strength of the school is around 230 and most of them belong to backward and financially weaker sections of the community. As per the Govt. policy, basic computer education is to be given to the students. Some of our teachers are trained in computer training and we will have to start this wing early. We wish to inform you at this juncture that one of our students has passed in the IAS exam. very recently and we are proud of it. It gives us immense pleasure that a large number of our old students of this school are well settled in life in the country and abroad.

As indicated above this is a century old school and as such some of the existing class rooms have become old and decayed and hence we will have to reconstruct them unavoidably. Moreover as the strength of the school is increasing year by year, we urgently require additional 3 class rooms. So a great responsibility has fallen on the Management of the school and we are sure and hopeful that we would succeed in our mission with the liberal and hearty support of you all. Moreover an auditorium also has to be provided to conduct indoor debates and other school activities. An open air theatre also has to be added.

The Plan and Estimate in respect of all the proposed works have been prepared by the Engineer and as per the calculation it is estimated to cost about Rs. 50 lakhs. Each class room will cost about Rs. 6.5 lakhs tentatively. The auditorium will cost about Rs. 18 lakhs and the open air theatre will cost about Rs. 12 lakhs.

So we earnestly request your kindness to gracefully adopt either the sponsorship of the proposed works or contribute liberally and thus support us in this laudable cause and oblige.

We shall be grateful and indebted you all for the help and support.

We proudly and gayfully wish to inform you that we will affix the name plaque of the donor at the right place of the construction block in recognition of the gigantic help rendered to this holy and motherly institution.

The sponsorship remittance may be sent through the Bank Draft/Cheque in the name of the Betterment Committee Higher Primary School GudigarGalli, Kumta.

We have S. B. A/c in the above mentioned name in the Syndicate Bank Kumta and the A/c No. 03012010077188, IPS Code SYNB0000301/MIPR Code: 581025652/Swift Code: SYNBINBB121.

We hopefully solicit your support. Thanking you and profound regards

Yours faithfully

Krishna Baba Pai
On behalf of the School Betterment Committee,
Model Higher Primary School, Gudigargalli, Kumta-581 343

The details of direct funds transfer may please be informed to kamatarun18@gmail.com



Konkani Charitable Fund, Inc.

43 Spray Court, Bayport, NY11705

(631) 472-1418

Tax ID: 90-0482868

Web Address: www.Konkanicf.org

March 8, 2015

President:

Dr. Gopal Bhandarkar

Treasurer:

Prof. Vinayak Kudva

Directors:

Ashok Bhatt

Dr. Surendra Shenoy

Ananth Prabhu

Veena Kamath

Emeritus Directors:

Ramesh Kamath

Ravi Baliga

Dear Konkani Brothers & Sisters

We would like to thank all the donors & well wishers of Konkani Charitable fund. With your help we were able to raise \$ 185,000 last year, a 22 % increase over previous year. We sent \$ 165,000 to various konkani charities in India last year. We request you to give back to your community & your country of birth & help the poor, needy & unfortunate brethren.

You can help Konkani charitable fund by shopping online at smile.amazon.com. For every \$ 100 you spend, Amazon will donate 50 cents to KCF. Price you pay is not affected. You need to register with smile.amazon.com only once & then go to smile.amazon.com for all your future shopping. If every Konkani takes five minutes to register at Smile.Amazon.com, you will be donating while shopping & will bring smile to many poor Konkanis in India.

Konkani Charitable Fund is an officially registered non-profit charitable organization under IRS code 501(C)(3). You can now support your favourite charities in India that provide humanitarian service to Konkani through KCF. These charities may include educating the needy college students, helping with alleviation of poverty, helping with better healthcare, taking care of the elderly & helping children with mental & physical disabilities & any such activities that are deemed humanitarian

We only support charities in India which are approved by Government of India.

Our Charter:

We are an organization whose goal is to conduct activities for the benefit of needy Konkani-speaking people in India & world wide

Our Mission:

We want to engage in activities which are going to be positive for our community.

We are not limited to, but do

- Funding orphanages and old age homes in India
- Raising and dispersing funds for educational scholarships
- Helping children with physical & mental disabilities.

You can support in many ways. You can make financial contribution through Konkani Charitable Fund, Inc to one of the approved charities. You can make a general contribution. You can recommend organizations that provide service to betterment of Konkani people. Remember that all your financial contributions through Konkani Charitable Fund qualify for tax deductions.

We appreciate your past support. & hope you continue to help this noble cause. The most important thing in life is not how much you have, but how much you gave!

DevuBarenKoro

KCF Board of Directors.

P.S. Please send in your checks to KONKANI CHARITABLE FUND. 43 Spray Court Bayport, NY 11705. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call (631) 472-1418.

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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, 1153 Tamarack Pl., Munster, IN46321

KONKANI CHARITIES

The Saraswat Foundation is helping poor deserving Bhanaps in India. Send your donations to: Saraswat Foundation 178 Norman Drive, Morrisville, PA19067

MATRIMONIAL DIRECTORY

Mr. BastiGanapathiShenoy 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. BastiGanapathiShenoy

8017 CelebreezeCrt., LAS VEGAS, NV89145

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

The *soirika* magazine edition (<http://www.soirika.com>) has been named as SAMBHANDU and will be done by:

Sambhandhu, C/o Bangalore Sri Kashi Math, # 14,

Sri Kashi Math Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore 560 055

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, HariShanker Joshi Road, Dahisar East, Mumbai-400068

Tel: 011-91-22-2828-3392

F O R S A L E

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