

Hoon Khabbar

Congratulations:

Ms. GAYATHRI RAO of Sugar Land, TX won the 2nd Runner Up Mrs. Bollywood USA 2016 at the 4th Annual Bollywood Pageant held on Sep 4, 2016 at Hotel Sorella in City Center in Houston, TX. The beauty pageant was aptly named “Beauty with a purpose” as Gayathri used the platform to raise awareness about Bone marrow/Stem cell donation which she is passionate about. She donated her Bone marrow to an 11 year old boy suffering from Leukemia in India. Since then she is involved with educating public about bone marrow donation. She is currently the Vice President of Indian American Cancer Network. She competed with 16 ladies from all over USA.

Gayathri, d/o late Jayaram Pai and Shantha Pai from Eloor. She grew up in Kerala. After finishing her Engineering degree at Thrissur Engineering College and getting married, she is currently settled in Houston, USA where she works as Structural engineer in Oil & Gas field. She is married to Narendra Rao for 20 years and has two kids. Pranav Rao (17 years) and Sayali Rao (11 years).

Gayathri is learning *Mohiniyattam* from famous Malayalam actress Divya Unni for past 3 years and performed at many stages. She is very passionate about photography and Yoga. One of her main hobby is working and maintaining her all organic kitchen garden where she grows many vegetables and fruits. Gayathri Rao who is 43 years old and was the oldest contestants in the beauty pageant want to encourage all the woman and girls out there and want to send a message that age is just a number and you can achieve anything you want if you set your goals and work hard towards it.

UMESH BALIGA of Sugar Land, TX was one of the five individuals inducted into the American Society of Indian Engineers (ASIE) Class of 2016 at a gala at India House in Houston, TX on Friday November 11, 2016.

Umesh Baliga, an inductee in the Construction/Project Management category, is a Chemical Engineer and currently the Chief Technology Engineer and a senior member of the Process C Global Discipline Leadership Team at KBR, Houston. He has 40+ years of experience in Process Engineering, design, start up, design of grassroots, restart/revamp/debottlenecking of facilities for Oil & Gas processing, refining, ammonia plants, Ethylene, LNG, specialty chemicals and polymers. Umesh is the sole KBR representative on the PIP Executive Committee, Steering Team, a Sponsor for the Civil/Structural and Architectural team, and a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers for over 20 years. With music as his hobby, he also gives back to the community via service and activities.

Dr. MEENA PAI of NY recently wrote and published an Emergency Medicine Board Review Book targeted for those who practice in the field of Emergency Medicine. The book is entitled “Emergency Medicine: To The Point! Written and Oral Board Review”. The book addresses the most important aspects of the Model of Clinical Practice of Emergency Medicine. It includes Chief Complaints, Differential Diagnoses, Pertinent Questions to Ask, Mnemonics, Written and Oral Board Review Topics, A Rapid Review Section with Must Know Bullet Points in

Question/Answer Format and Questions to Ask on your Job Interviews. Dr. Pai is a Board Certified Emergency Medicine Physician, currently practicing in New York. The links where you may access the book are as follows (Amazon, Barnes and Noble):

Amazon:

https://www.amazon.com/Emergency-Medicine-Point-Written-Review/dp/0692804242/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1481139459&sr=8-1&keywords=meena+pai

Barnes and Noble:

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/emergency-medicine-meena-pai-md/1125258333?ean=9780692804247>

In Mumbai, in October 2016, the Economic Times of India awarded the Lifetime Achievement award to **Sri KUNDAPUR VAMAN KAMATH**, 68, the former ICICI Bank executive who now heads the New Development Bank of the BRICS nations.

When it came to choosing the winner of the award for lifetime achievement, there was hardly any debate. K. V. Kamath got six votes against three for the next candidate at the shortlist stage. The jury didn't feel the need for a second ballot.

If India is proud of its burgeoning consumer economy and the fact that millions are able to afford many things that they could only dream of before the 1990s, then Kamath is the banker who led the changes that made this possible.

After returning to India from the Asian Development Bank in the mid-1990s at the persuasion of the then Industrial Credit and Investment Corp of India chairman N Vaghul, the ambitious Kamath sowed the seeds of consumer lending, partly to wean away the industry leaning ICICI Bank. As

the CEO of India's second-largest lender, Kamath changed the rules of the game in banking. He served as managing director and CEO from May 1, 1996, till his retirement from executive responsibilities on April 30, 2009. Kamath's resume is studded with achievements. He created India's largest bank in the private sector by assets, took banking technology to the people and created a retail finance market from scratch. He's also an elder statesman of India Inc., and helped broker a peace deal between the Ambani brothers. What has set Kamath apart from the rest of Indian bankers or professionals was his big thinking. Executives planned ahead for a year or two, or five. But Kamath did so for a decade or even more. When companies were contemplating raising funds of Rs 2,000 crore or Rs 3,000 crore in share sales, he went ahead and raised about Rs 20,000 crore (\$5 billion) in 2007, a record that remains unbroken. Kamath secured his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the Karnataka Regional Educational College (KREC). After graduating from KREC in 1969, he joined the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, for a master's degree in business administration. He introduced ICICI to new concepts and best practices from sectors such as auto, hospitality and aviation. Years before the internet became ubiquitous, Kamath took a call that every new product should be e-enabled. He also demonstrated how mergers could be successfully managed. The most notable of all has been his ability to let go of things that don't work, which is why ICICI gave up the concept of standalone development banking before it died a natural death. His ability to spot and nurture talent has contributed to the banking sector as a whole. Many

top institutions are today headed by those groomed by him, such as Shikha Sharma of Axis Bank, Sonjoy Chatterjee of Goldman Sachs and Renuka Ramnath of Multiples Equity. When Kamath decided to hang up his boots, the board selection committee had a number of bright young leaders to choose from.

That the Prime Minister Modi has called on him to play the role of a banker and diplomat as head of the New Development Bank of the BRICS reflects Kamath's stature.

Konkani Graduates:

Dr. GAYATHRI SHENOY of Boston, MA, currently in the international dentist program at the Tufts School of Dental Medicine, was elected to the American Student Dental Association (National Leadership Council) as a member of the International dentist advisory committee. It is a five student committee that helps and guides international dentists in their pursuit to gain licensure by applying to dental programs in the US. Foreign trained dentists in our community that maybe on this path and seeking guidance can reach out to Dr. Shenoy for guidance.

SAMANTHA, d/o Vanita & Joel Braver of Warren, NJ and granddaughter of Venkatesh & Ajita Kamath of Northvale, NJ was inducted into *Phi Beta Kappa* and a recipient of the generous McGlennon Scholarship Award through the Government Dept. at William & Mary. She was admitted to one of the top masters' program in the world in International Relations & Politics-Cambridge University in the U.K. Samantha graduates after three years in May 2017 - double majoring in Government and Gender & Women Studies.

Newlyweds:

Dr. & Mrs. Panduranga & Shobha Kini of Swansea, IL celebrated the marriage of their daughter **Sow. Dr. SEEMA** with **Chi. Dr. NEAL**, s/o Drs. Karan & Gita Bhatia of Orlando, FL on Saturday Sep.10, 2016 at the Peabody Opera House in St. Louis, MO. Seema is an Assistant Professor in the Emory University Department of Dermatology and Neal is Chief Cardiology Fellow also at Emory. The newlyweds reside in Atlanta, GA.

Relocation:

The **BOLOOR** family, Govind & Pratibha, have relocated within Houston, TX to 5406 Marble Acres Court, Houston, TX 77059.

The **BHAT** family, Naren & Seema have relocated from Orange, CT to 2 Bradford Court, Morristown, NJ 07960. The new telephone is (973)-539-3458 and email ID: annu_bhat@yahoo.com

The **SHENOY** family, Surathkal Vaman & Jyothi have relocated from Keyser, WV to 9242 Marble Stone Drive, Naples, FL 34199. Their new telephone (304)-813-8060 and email: vamshenoy@gmail.com

The **SHENOY** family, Sanur Subraya & Shamala have relocated from Clifton, NJ to 175A Concordia Cir., Monroe Township, NJ 08831. Their new telephone (973)-778-8861 and email: sanur.shenoy@gmail.com

The **BELTANGADY** family, Srirammohan & Shamal, have relocated within Gainesville, VA to 6920 Tred Avon Pl, Gainesville, VA 20155. Their telephone remains the same at (860)-434-1423 and email: mcelestial@msn.com

40th Wedding Anniversary:

Suren & Vidya Kamath of San Antonio, TX celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with a guided group tour to the Canadian Rockies. They flew into Calgary and visited Lake Louise- Pristine Waters and Flora & Fauna, Jasper - Ice Fields and Canyons, and

Banff- Canada's First National Park.

70th Birthday Bash:

Families of **Vasanth Bhat** of Lake Jackson, TX celebrated his 70th birthday in NYC area.

Obituary:

Dr. LABADAYA MOHAN RAO (85), of Hemet, CA passed away peacefully on Sept. 2, 2016 in Hemet, CA. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his wife, Vinita, and son Vinay Rao & family of San Jacinto, CA.

CHANDRAKANTHA KALA (Geeta Haldipur) of Trabuco Canyon, CA (earlier Laguna Woods), passed away peacefully

on Oct. 31st, 2016. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to her two sons, Sanjay and Ketan Kala and a daughter, Raksha Dudhekar & their families.

VAMAN ACHYUT BHANDARKAR (83) of Borivili, Mumbai, passed away peacefully on Monday Dec 5th 2016

He did his schooling from the well renowned Gopalji Hemraj school in Mumbai. He graduated his Matriculation with honors and thereafter he pursued his Diploma in Radio Engineering at the premier Institute of V.J.T.I in Mumbai. He was so innovative, enthusiastic and inquisitive that he made his own radio set, which he used until recently. He was a voracious reader on all topics ranging from Geographic to

political affairs of the country. Was one of the few subscribers of the "Readers Digest" for the longest period of his times. At the same time, went on to pursue Diploma in pharmacy, got registered and put to good use and practice during his 55 years' tenure at the " Bhandarkar Pharmacy ", one of the leading pharmacy in Mumbai. He was honored by the Rotary club of Borivili for his sheer social work for the community. He was known for his philanthropy towards the poor class with unaffordable medicines and healthcare at any cost. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his brother Dr. Gopal Bhandarkar of Bayport, NY and family.

KONKANI HAPPENINGS

HAAS (Houston Area Amchigale Samaj) Diwali Celebrations:

The HAAS Diwali Gala was held on Saturday Nov 5th at Madras Pavilion in Sugar Land, TX. The place was decorated tastefully, with a beautiful festive backdrop behind the stage, and lamps at each table for our Festival of Lights. The evening started off with some *panchadika* and appetizers. Everyone mingled and wished each other, while also indulging in some tasty hors d'oeuvres!

The entertainment program was hosted by our youth committee members- **Rohit Kamath and Mallika Nagarkatti**. It started off with talented **Sneha Shenoy's** dance to Lord Ganesha. She had composed the dance herself! Our young HAAS members- **Aditya Shenoy, Chaitra Shenoy, Shreyas Kini, Sanjita Kini, Prakrati Shenoy, Pranati Shenoy, Serene Pai, Sahana Sashital and Meera Nagarkatti** did a skit to depict the significance of the 5 days of Diwali and how each day is celebrated. The skit was written by **Keerthi Shenoy**.

The HAAS dance divas- **Reim Rao and Uma Kamath** did a Bollywood Fusion dance which was followed by another dance by an upcoming dance star- **Priyanka Reddy!**

Our sweet **Amuli pachi** shared some hilarious jokes with everyone.

All the children who participated in events this year were given certificates of appreciation by **Amuli pachi**.

The current HAAS committee then welcomed the new committee and introduced them to everybody.

The 2017-18 HAAS Committee comprises of:

- **Jayanthi Nayak as President**
- **Sheila Kini as Vice President**
- **Archana Rao as Secretary**
- **Akhila Bhat as Event Co-ordinator**
- **Aparna Shenoy as Treasurer**
- **Mallika Nagarkatti, Samhita Bhat, Neha Bhat in the Youth Committee**

We wish them good luck and an enjoyable 2 years ahead!

The entertainment program continued with a Bollywood song by **Archana Rao and Pandu Nayak**. The **Karkal and Bellare families** entertained everyone with dances from various Bollywood songs, spanning 4 decades! **Gayathri Rao** did a graceful *Mohiniyattam* style dance. **Prashant Lotlikar, Meera Lotlikar pachi, Pandu Nayak, Vijay Shenoy & Suresh Shenoy** sang some beautiful songs to karaoke. **Sujatha Desai** sang a melodious Marathi song. **Mallika Nagarkatti** did a beautiful kathak dance accompanied by her dad, **Mahesh Nagarkatti** on the tabla. **Deepa Karkal** entertained us with some classic jokes!

After the entertainment program concluded- there was a special Diwali dinner spread, waiting for everyone!

Each family was given Konkani style sweets in a festive bag from HAAS, as per our Diwali tradition back home! We would like to thank **Vardaraj Rao** for the decor, **Govind Boloor mam** for the sweets and **Drs Maya and Ramkrishna Prabhu** for helping with the sound. We appreciate help with the registrations by **Charani Kamath, Anu Malya and Sneha Shenoy**. Special shout out to **Serene Pai, Sahana Sashital, Meera Nagarkatti and Mahesh Nagarkatti** for jumping in to help with some last minute tasks! **Shobha Shenoy and Prabha Malya** helped manage a table to collect donations for **Upaya**. The night and festivity finally ended with music and dance! We hope you all had a great time at the Diwali event- and those who couldn't make it- we missed you and hope to see you at the next HAAS event!

Thanks

HAAS Management Committee

www.ourhaas.com

Konkani Association Of California (KAOCA) Diwali (Nov 5)

Diwali celebrations have just got over and we are now officially in the holiday season. KAOCA celebrated its final Diwali function with festivities. More than 500 community members attended this function. We presented some fun filled entertainment to our community, with never performed dances moderns as well as traditional ones which blended so well with our theme this year, Integration, Interaction, Inspiration. Diwali goody bags with Diwali *khaan* and directory were given to each family.

Food committee prepared awesome traditional Konkani dishes with mouthwatering menu. Committee did a great job of delivering all of the events with great style and substance. Ugadi, Annual Sports Day, Picnic, Classical Concert(Omkar Gulvady,Balchandra Prabhu) and Diwali were all very well received by our community here in the Bay Area. Committee was very happy to donate funds to NAKA this year and a check was presented to the incoming President of NAKA during our Diwali function. Our term has ended and our best wishes to the new KAOCA 2017 committee. Wishing you all a very Happy New Year and safe travels!

Dev Baren Koro!

Deepa & Arun Rao (Presidents) on Behalf of the KAOCA 2016 Committee

Konkani Sabha (KS) Diwali 2016

The Konkani Sabha celebrated its annual Diwali program in the Bridgewater temple community hall in New Jersey on Saturday, October 22, 2016. This hallmark event included variety entertainment program and delicious Konkani food (catered). Nearly 300 people attended the function.

Ontario Konkani Association (OKA) Diwali 2016

OKA held their annual Diwali on Saturday Nov 19th 2016 at Chinguacousy Secondary School in Brampton, Ont.

The function included Socializing, enticing appetizers, Rangoli and gala performances. The event ended with sumptuous Konkani food.

American Midwest Konkani Association (AMKA):

The 2016 Diwali Event was held on Saturday October 22nd at the Hinsdale Community Center, which is well located for almost every Chicago Metro area suburb. The event started at 5:30pm with registration and snacks. The function concluded with variety entertainment program and delicious Konkani food.

Konkani Association of Southern California (KASC) Diwali 2016

The KASC celebrated its annual Diwali program at Bombay Tandoori Restaurant in Torrance, CA on Saturday, November 5, 2016. After the social hour, there was entertainment including kids' drama titled "KASC Job Fair". The hallmark event included variety entertainment program and delicious Konkani food.

KHABBAR FROM KULAR

By: - Vishwa Konkani Sardar BASTI VAMAN SHENOY

On 11.09.2016 two Saraswath Sadhakas (Achievers) **Mr. Ulhas Kamath**, Joint M.D. Jyothi Laboratories Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai and **Mr. Harish Bhat** now board Mumbai Tata Sons Mumbai were honored and blessed by **H.H. Vidyadhiraja Thirtha Wader Swamiji** of Sri Gokarn Partagali Mutt, Mangaluru.

On 14-09-2016 A Konkani Drama "Railway Platform" was staged at Town Hall, Mangaluru by Sadhana Balaga to a packed audience. The Drama was sponsored by World Konkani Centre, Shaktinagar.

On 6th Nov 2016 Kavita Trust Held finals of Konkani Poetry Reciting competitions for the High School and college students of Goa, Karnataka and Kerala at World Konkani Centre. Famous Konkani Poet and Founder of Kavita Trust had arranged the Konkani Poetry competitions. **Sri Basti Vaman Shenoy, Sri Rohan Monterio** were guest about 30 students from High Schools and Colleges attended the Competitions.

In connection with "All India Children's Day" World Konkani Centre arranged "Odemalyo Kanyo" (Grand Ma Tales) story telling Competition for Elementary class students and Higher Middle class students on 13-11-2016 at W.K.C. 80 students from Uttara Kannada, Udupi and Mangaluru Districts were participated. Veteran Kannada and Konkani writer **Padma Shenoy and Dr. Meera Aranha**, General Manager, Karnataka Bank distributed Prizes to the winners. The Grand Ma Stories will be published in Book form soon from World Konkani Centre.

Rashtrakavi (Poet litterateur) Manjeshwara Govinda Pai residence will be named as "Gilivindu" his famous poem. Govts of Karnataka and Kerala have taken up construction of large buildings complex with a cost of Rs. 6.00 crores. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed to digitalise all his 5000 plus books in 22 Indian and foreign languages collected by Late Rashtrakavi during his life time is signed between the Trust and World Konkani Centre recently.

'Karthik Poornima Mahotsava' was celebrated in many a Temples in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada districts in the 2nd week of Nov 2016.

On 21-11-2016 The Central committee office of Vishwa GSB Sammelan was Inaugurated at Mangaluru. The Mega event will be held at Hejmady (near Udupi) on 25-12-2016 and nearly 3000 GSB people are expected to the Sammelan. **Dr. P. Dayananda Pai** Bangaluru is the Chairman of the Reception Committee.

"Acharya Dharmananda Kosambi Vishwa Konkani Sahitya Samaroha" was held at World Konkani Centre on 3rd and 4th December 2016. **Dr. Geetha Shenoy** spoke about Acharya Kosambi and gave details about his life and approach to Buddhism, Gandhian philosophy, Freedom struggle and his biography 'Nivedana'.

Famous Kannada – Konkani writer, poet, film music director **Mr. Jayanth Kaikini, Dr. Kiran Budkuley** (Head English Dept, Goa University) writer and poet **Sampurna Chattarji** Kolkatta, **Dr. B.A. Vivek Rai, Dr. Geralyn Pinto** Mangaluru, **Mr. Jayawanth Nayak**, Co ordinator, Konkani Chair, Mangaluru University, took part in the two days Samaroh. Vice Chancellor Mangaluru University, **Prof. K. Byrappa** Inaugurated the Vishwa Konkani Sahitya Samaroha. World Konkani Centre Founder President **Sri Basti Vaman Shenoy** Chaired the function.

Vimala V.Pai Vishwa Konkani Sahitya Awards and Basti Vaman Shenoy Vishwa Konkani Seva Puraskar-2016 Ceremony was held at Mangaluru Town Hall on 3rd Dec 2016 evening.

Smt. Vimala Pai Vishwa Konkani Sahitya Puraskar 2016 was conferred on veteran Goan Konkani writer **Smt. Sudha Karangate**. The Vimala Pai Vishwa Konkani Kavita Kriti Puraskar 2016 was conferred on veteran Konkani poet **Sri Melvyn Rodrigues**. The Vimala V Pai Vishwa Konkani Jeevan Siddhi Samman 2016 was bestowed upon former bureaucrat and Goan Konkani activist **Sri Aravind Bhatikar**. The Basti Vaman Shenoy Vishwa Konkani Seva Puraskar were presented to veteran social worker **Dr.Olinda Periera** (93) and **Bhaskar Kogga Kamath** of Uppinakudru puppets fame.

Each of these five awards consisted of Rs 1 lakh cash with citation, shawl and memento.

Delivering the keynote address Chairman of Manipal Global Education, **Mr. T.V. Mohandas Pai** said, "We the Konkani-speaking people constitute about 25 lac of the 129 crore population of the country. So when it comes to numbers we are a small community. Our true assets are education and the rich culture we inherit. If we do not honour the writers and artisans, there is a danger that all the art and culture might become extinct in the next 15-20 years. So keeping aside our religious and regional differences we must come together and work at preserving our Konkani Culture."

In her presidential address, President of Kannada Sahitya Academy **Malathi Pattanashetty** said that honouring artistes and achievers was the need of the hour. "The achievers, the writers and the artisans do not work for awards. If they do so, it affects their creativity. The work of Vishwa Konkani Kendra in this recognizing achievers is appreciable," she said.

All the recipients of the awards thanked the Vishwa Konkani Kendra and Konkani Language and Cultural Foundation for the honours.

Dr Sr Olinda Periera in her address said, "We must help each other and show concern for each other. If we cannot do anything for the ones in need of help we have to at least say a few good words of kindness."

Poet **Melvyn Rodrigues** compared the joy of receiving the award to the joy of eating a coconut kernel in the kitchen when his mother was not watching. "The coconut kernel was kept at a particular spot in the kitchen so that it could not be eaten by the mice or insects. As children, when no one's around, we yearned to eat it and also the jaggery along with water. Such is the joy in my heart today," he said.

Bhaskar Kogga Kamath of Uppinakudru puppets fame said that even though he has performed puppet shows in more than twenty countries, this was one of his most joyous occasions. "This art has spread for over 350 years since my forefathers, and I belong to the sixth generation. I feel proud to be a Konkani- " he said.

President of World Konkani Centre, **Basti Vaman Shenoy** welcomed the gathering Chief Editor Kodial Khabar, Vice-president of World Konkani Centre **Mr. Venkatesh N. Baliga** compared the programme.