

Hoon Khabbar

Congratulations:

AJIT PAI was selected as the FCC Chairman under the new administration of President Donald Trump. Pai, an Indian-American from Kansas, has been an FCC commissioner since 2012. During his roughly 15 years in government, he's been a Senate staffer and worked at the FCC and the Justice Department. He was also a lawyer for Verizon and an attorney at the law firm Jenner & Block. He is the son of Drs. Varadaraj & Radha Pai of Parsons, KS.

New Arrival:

NEVIN PRABHU, a 5 lb. 10 oz. baby boy to Sheila & Santosh Reddy of The Woodlands, TX on February 3, 2017. A brother to big sisters Priyanka & Anushka. Congratulations to the maternal grandparents Balkunje Suresh & Usha Shenoy of Sugar Land, TX and the paternal grandparents Prabhu & Kantha Reddy of Woodlands, TX.

SURINA SACHIN, a 6 lb. 6 oz. and 20.5" baby girl to Sachin & Sneha Shanbhag of Spartanburg, SC on February 7th, 2017. The proud paternal grandparents are Mr. Chandrakant & Mrs. Geeta Shanbhag of Spartanburg, SC and proud maternal grandparents are Dr. Harshad & late Mrs. Yogini Patel of New Orleans, LA.

AVI, a baby girl to Ajay & Ashita Nayak on February 14, 2017. A sister to big sister Aara. The proud paternal grandparents are Narayan & Nirmala Nayak of Lafayette, CA and the proud maternal grandparents are Ashok & Amita Bhatt of Richmond Hill, Ont.

Phone Number Changes:

Vasudev & Aparna Saraf of Lake Charles, LA changed their phone from (337)-480-0855 to (337)-842-4395.

Subraya & Shamala Shenoy of Monroe Township, NJ changed their phone number from (973)-778-8861 to (609)-649-6958.

Nirmala Bangalore of MeQuon, WI changed her phone number (414)-530-3142.

Newly Weds:

Chi. ROHAN, s/o Vinod & Radhika Hattiangadi of Tustin, CA, got married to **Sow. SUCHETA**, d/o Vinay & Geeta Desai of Maine on Friday Nov. 25th 2016 in Anaheim, CA.

Relocation:

The **KUNDAJE** family, Bharat & Kalpana of Buena Park, CA, have moved to 4415 Viejo Way, Union City, CA 94587. Their tel. no. is (714) 670-1127.

Email Changes:

Madhav Ubhayakar of Houston, TX has changed his email to ubhayakarm@gmail.com effective immediately.

50th Wedding Anniversary:

DR. NARASINHA R. KAMATH & LALITA N. KAMATH of Flushing, NY celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in Periyar Munnar in Kerala on Dec 20th 2016. The 1966 wedding still photos in the video can be seen by clicking the YouTube LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4DeSV7zwBww>.

Also, a short Video taken at Periyar, Munnar when Function was organized can be seen at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5TL59jngu2k>

DAMODAR & SHOBHA BALIGA of Brooklyn, NY celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday, 15th January. The day started with Satya Narayana Pooja at Shri Krishna Vrundavana Temple in Edison, NJ with immediate family members. Later a surprise party was given by their children Priti Baliga Rainer of Walnut, CA and Samir Baliga of Brooklyn, NY and was attended by family and friends from all over USA and India. Over one hundred people attended the function which took place at Guru Palace in North Brunswick, NJ. The fun filled gala event included celebrity roasting and sumptuous food.

60th Birthday Bash:

A surprise birthday bash was held at Pines Manor, NJ, in honor of **GANESH BALIGA** of East Brunswick, NJ, turning 60 years. Family and friends had a great night of fun, drinking and dancing to the DJ, enjoying Manor's delicious food and taking funny pictures at the Selfie booth.

Obituary:

VISHWANATH SHENOY (80) of Burlington, ONT passed away peacefully on December 23rd at 8:05 PM at Joseph Brant Hospital in Burlington surrounded by his wife, Nalini, his children Sujatha (Sharon) and Ramu, son-in-law Andy (Anup) and daughter-in-law Sheetal, and his four grandchildren Meghana, Devin, Neil and Maya. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to the family.

Shri BHAVANISHANKER TAGGARSE passed away on Thursday, December 29th 2016, in India. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt

condolences to his daughter Archana Rao & family of Katy, TX.

Miss MIRABAI PRABHU (85) of Richmond Hill, Jamaica Queens NY passed away peacefully on Thursday January 5th 2017. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to her brothers Krishna Prabhu & family of East Elmhurst, NY and Ramachandra Prabhu & family of East Elmhurst, NY and sister Tara Prabhu of Richmond Hill, NY.

SUJIR RAJARAM NAYAK (73) of Mangalore passed away suddenly in Hardwar India on Jan 7, 2017. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his daughter, Anusuya Pai and family of Alpharetta, GA, sister Shubha Kamath and family of Fairport, NY.

SRIMATHI KUSUM NARAYAN SHENOY (88) passed away unexpectedly but peacefully on Saturday, Jan 14th (*Makar Sankranti*) at 2:40 am surrounded by family. She was the daughter of Dr. & Mrs S.S.Rau and married to Sri Balkunje Narayan Shenoy. She did her schooling in Bombay at King George school and Ruia College. She worked in Bombay and

Canada while helping the family with her unconditional love.

A celebration of her life on Jan 28th was well attended by family and friends spanning 8 generations. She was much loved and will be tremendously missed.

Khabbar sends heartfelt condolences to her daughter Vidya Kamath & family of Hamilton, Ont.

SHRIKAR ANNAJI BANGALORE (77) of Mequon, WI passed away peacefully in Grafton, WI on the morning of Wednesday, January 18th 2017 after a brief battle with respiratory illness. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his wife, Nirmala (Nimmu), his sons, Nitish & family of Grafton, WI and Samir & family of Las Vegas, NV.

Smt. REKHA VEDAVYAS RAO (69) passed away suddenly on Monday January 23, 2017 in Mysore. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to her daughter Renuka Kamath & family of Mississauga, Ont. And son Vinay Rao & family of Los Gatos CA

Smt. NANDINI NAYAK (64) of Mumbai passed away on Wednesday Feb 1, 2017 in Mumbai. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to her daughter,

Akhila Bhat & family of Cypress, TX

Dr KUMBLE PREMANAND NAYAK (81), who belonged to the famous Nayak lineage from Kumble, and who was a renowned orthopedic surgeon settled in USA, breathed his last in that country on February 16, 2017.

He is survived by wife, Suneethi P Nayak, (d/o the late Padmashree Dr T M A Pai), and two sons, Dr. Naresh Nayak and Dr. Suresh Nayak, both of whom are doctors serving in USA, and daughter, Sangeetha Nayak.

Nayak had completed his MBBS and MS degrees through Kasturba Medical College Manipal, before securing FRCS degree from Canada. He had settled down in Cincinnati, USA, where he was respected to be one of the finest orthopedic surgeons.

Khabbar sends heartfelt condolences to the family.

(As appeared in www.daijiworld.com).

Shri VITHAL BHANDARY (74) of Mangalore passed away on Thursday February 23rd, 2017 in Mangalore, India. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his daughter Jayanthi Nayak & family of Katy, TX.

KONKANI HAPPENINGS

HAAS (Houston Area Amchigale Samaj) Satyanarayana Puja:

Hello everyone,

Thank you to all who attended the HAAS Sri Satyanarayana Puja on Saturday, February 18th at the Katy Woodland Park Community Center.

Dr. Ramakrishna Prabhu conducted the puja and did a wonderful job explaining the meaning behind each mantra and provided a deeper understanding of the importance and history of this auspicious puja.

Ashish Sonde, who will be graduating from Cinco Ranch HS this spring, performed the puja as per our HAAS tradition. Joining him were **Mamata and Maruti Bhandarkar and Deepa and Prakash Karkal**.

Upon arrival, people enjoyed tea, coffee, and *pakor*s. The menu for lunch, which was catered by *Annam*, included our Konkani delicacies such as *thendle bibbo upkari, avial, and dalitoy*.

HAAS events are successful only because of the help of all our volunteers who will assist in any way from setting up the venue, serving the food, and clean up. We want to thank everyone who helped us and would like to recognize some of them

Dr's Ramakrishna and Maya Prabhu for performing the puja and sound system set up.

Chaya and Madhav Ubhayakar for decorating the *mantap*, set up at the venue, and serving lunch.

Tom and Sujatha McFadden for helping with the sound system set up and managing the check in table respectively.

Seema Bhat for making the *sapat prasadam* and **Usha Chikepally** for picking up the *pakoras*.

Ravi and Shanti Pai for assisting with set up, serving lunch, as well as post event clean up.

Finally, thanks to **Neha Bhat**, one of our youth coordinators, for managing the children's craft area and serving the *prasadam*.

A special thanks to HEB for their donation which went towards the purchase of craft supplies and bottled water for this event.

Please be on the lookout for our email in the next few days with information about our upcoming event in April.

Lastly, we request that everyone RSVP in a timely fashion and make prompt payments for an event. This will enable us to plan accordingly, especially food and beverages.

Thanks

HAAS Management Committee

www.ourhaas.com

Konkani Association Of California (KAOCA) Update:

Namaskar from KAOCA 2017 committee!

We believe that a healthy community is a happy community.

That said we are happy to announce that we started a hiking club for our community members, meeting every second Saturday of the month at different hiking trails. Community members look forward to these fun hikes.

We also had a pleasant evening on February, 4TH 2017 celebrating Valentine's Social with Karaoke, held in Saratoga, CA. This event was well received with over 125 people attending. There were lots of accolades for food, decorations and the fun singing & dancing. The committee members came together with lots of enthusiasm, and we had a very successful event.

We are now looking forward to our Holi event on 3/18/17. We will be celebrating *Ugadi* in Woodside, CA on 3/25/17, there is super fun entertainment & food line up.

We have lot more events planned for this year. Looking forward to sharing them soon.

Dev bare koro,

By: Mangala & Venugopal Pai

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Konkani Association of Southern California (KASC) Diwali 2016

The festival of lights, Diwali was celebrated with pomp and circumstance by KASC; with young and old all joining together to have a joyful evening with good music, good food and a lot of fun! The venue was Bombay Tandoor in Torrance on Sat. November 5th 2016 from 4:30 to 8:00 pm. The event like all KASC events was packed to the hilt with dance, drama and games that rest assured would leave the guests thoroughly entertained.

The event began with the offering of prayers to God and the *aarti* ceremony where all attendees performed the *aarti* to God. Following this, our emcee for the evening, **Priya Gadiyar**, welcomed everyone and new KASC members introduced themselves one by one. Evening snacks were served which included *samosas*, *pakodas* and coffee.

Following the intros and the snacks, the evening's entertainment started. The evening's entertainment began with a Indian classical dance performance by **Aadhya Shenoy** and followed by a short speech on Diwali by **Om Shanbagh**. The past president of KASC- **Rajesh Prabhu** surprised everyone with a magic show along with his assistant and son, **Atul Prabhu**. A lot of Diwali themed games were played such as word puzzles, quick *rangoli* competition, guess the Diwali film songs and a *Ramayan* based kids quiz which all the kids aced! . The showstopper for the evening was an all kids drama called, "**KASC job fair**" written and directed by KASC's very own talented

Vishwanath (Vishy) Bhat that had the audience in splits!. All the performances and games were greatly appreciated by the guests.

The KASC traditional *Mithai* competition was also held like every year and saw many yummy homemade Diwali sweets entries. The judges faced a tough decision but the prize was won by one of the guest attendees of the evening for her scrumptious *Gajar ka Halva*. Following all of this, the dance floor was thrown open to everyone and KASC members were given a chance to shake a leg to hits such as “Baby Doll”, “Laila Main Laila” among others. The dancing helped us build an appetite for the delicious dinner that followed.

By: Priya Gadiyar

KASC SHIVRATRI BHAJAN 2017

The annual Shivaratri bhajan was held at the residence of **Meena and Jaidev Rao** on Feb. 24th 2017 in Los Angeles. The function was well attended by over 50 individuals. The program was preceded by snacks and drinks. The program started with recitation of *Lingashtak* led by **Meena Rao**. **Jaidev Rao** led everyone through a prayer for the soul of **Srinivas Kuchibotla** who was unfortunately and tragically gunned down in Kansas.

This was followed by individual and group *bhajans*. The singers were of all ages. The presence of instrumental accompaniment of harmonium and *tabla* and good sound system enhanced the music. The *bhajan* was followed by *arati*, and then potluck dinner. Everyone felt enlightened with the therapeutic effects of devotional music. Both adults and children had a great time.

Special thanks to Rao’s for letting us have their home as a venue for the *bhajan*, committee members for setup and arrangements, volunteers for cooking, setup and cleaning after the function, the many talented singers, the instrumentalists, and the audience that made the function well attended and worthwhile.

By: Vivek Ullal
vivekullal@sbcglobal.net

KHABBAR FROM KULAR

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

On 19-12-2016 **Late Ullal Srinivas Mallya** (Maker of Modern Mangaluru) 51st Smruthi Diwas was observed at World Konkani Centre. Chancellor of Nitte University, **Mr. Vinay Hegde** was the Chief Guest. Mr. Hegde narrated services of the great Late Sri Mallya to the people of coastal Karnataka as a Member of Parliament for 17 years. The National Highway, New Mangaluru port, Surathkal Engineering college, Mangaluru Airport, The Town Hall etc. The Hon’ble Mayor of Mangalore City Corporation **Mr. M. Harinath Bondel** distributed prizes to the High School Students of coastal Karnataka who won prizes in the Essay competitions. **Mr. Basti Vaman Shenoy** Founder & President World Konkani Centre welcomed the gathering.

On 22/1/2017 **The GSB Hitarakshana Vedike** organized mammoth gathering on “**Vishwa GSB Sammelan 2017**”. H.E. Governor of Nagaland **Mr. P.B. Acharya** Inaugurated, **Mr. Manohar Parrikar**, Minister of Defense Govt. of India was presented with a Cheque of Rs. 1.00 crore for the welfare of Defense personal. **Mr. T.V.Mohandas Pai**, **Mr. Ramdas Kamath U**, **Mr. Ulhas Kamath**, **Mr. Basti Vaman Shenoy** were present. **Mr. Subray Baliga** Mysuru had donated Rs. 50.00 lakhs to Defense fund. **Mr. Vivekananda Shenoy**, **Mr. Sanur Narasimha Kamath**, **Mr. Nanda Gopal Shenoy**, **Mr. Pradeep G.Pai**, **Mr. Venkatesh N. Baliga**, **Sri Vilas Naik** were present.

1st death Anniversary of Vrindavanastha **Sri Sri Sudheendra Thirtha Swamiji** was held at Haridwar. Thousands of Devotees of Late H.H. Swamiji were assembled coming from all parts of India to pay their Homage. **H.H. Srimad Samyameendra Thirtha Swamiji** was present during the function.

3 days Konkani *Lokotsav* was organized from 10th Feb to 12th Feb 2017 by Karnataka Konkani Sahitya Academy at Town Hall Mangaluru. Hundred Konkani artistes from all Konkani communities staged their art and Culture items. **Sri B.Ramanath Rai** Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, Karnataka, **Mr. U.T. Khader** Minister for Food and Public Distribution in Karnataka, **Mr. Basti Vaman Shenoy** Founder President World Konkani Centre, **Mr. Roy Castelino** President of Karnataka Konkani Sahitya Academy, **Dr. M.Jagannath Shenoy**, managing Partner Mangaluru Ganesh Beedi works Mysuru, **Mr. Eric Ozario**, Gurkar Mandd Sobhan was present.

H.H. Srimad Vidyadhiraj Thirtha Sripad Vader Swamiji of Sri Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Math '*Shishya Sweekar*' ceremony was held at Sri Samsthan Gokarn Mutt at Partagali, Canacona in Goa on February 9th 2017. The disciple is **Uday Bhatt**, second son of **Vedamurthy Laxminarayana Bhatt** of Belagavi. He was a student of engineering prior to this religious calling under the guidance of **Srimad Vidhyadhiraj Thirtha Swamiji**. **H.H. Srimad Vidyadhiraj Thirtha Swamiji** gave him the '*Pranav Mantropadesh*' at the auspicious *Muhurath* and named him **Sri Vidyadheesha Thirtha Shishya Swamiji**. The 360-year-old math will stand testimony to this event. Thousands of devotees of the math from Goa, Karnataka, and Maharashtra attended the function

Vishwa Konkani Sahitya Samaroh 2016

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

Vishwa Konkani Sahitya Samaroh 2016 commenced with the inaugural function at 9.30 a.m. at World Konkani Centre auditorium. It was presided over by **Prof. K. Byrappa**, Vice-Chancellor of Mangalore University. Eminent Kannada poet and writer **Dr. Jayant Kaikini**, eminent translator and writer **Dr. Geeta Sheno**i, Founder and President of WKC **Shri Basti Vaman Sheno**i, Dean of Faculty of Languages and Literature, Goa University **Dr. Kiran Budkuley** and Secretary of World Konkani Centre **Prabhakar Prabhu** were present on the dais.

The inaugural talk was delivered by Dr. Geeta Shenoi. She spoke about the life and works of the renowned scholar **Acharya Dharmananda Kossambi** to whom the Samaroh was dedicated. Then, Dr. Budkuley put forth the aims and objectives of organizing this national seminar titled 'Presence of Mythos and Ethos in Literature'. She also took a stock of various activities carried out by Goa University in collaboration with World Konkani Centre gave the welcome address.

The key-note speaker Dr. Jayant Kaikini then addressed the gathering. In his address, Kaikini emphasized the significance of personal experiences in the lives of writers. He said, literature comes from a restless, unprotected, vulnerable and naked space. Speaking about today's situation of misusing religion, he expressed the need to use religion as a tool to transcend into spiritual liberation. According to Kaikini, art forms including literature are a window to this spiritual liberation.

On this occasion, four books published by World Konkani Centre were released at the hands of dignitaries. Among them were, Basti Vaman Shenoi's autobiography titled 'Vandu Bhikshuk Chakravartiya Atmkathe', translation of Gokuldas Prabhu's 'Prathiveye Namaha' into Kannada by **Smt. Shakuntala Kini**, Aksharpath a collection of critical essays on Goan writing edited by Dr. Kiran Budkuley and first bilingual book in Kudubi Konkani titled 'Vaag ani Shedu' by **Surya Naik**.

The book release was followed by presidential address by Prof K. Byrappa. Speaking about his admiration for Konkani language, Prof Byrappa stressed on the multi-dimensional nature of this language. President of Kannada Sahitya Akademi, **Dr. Malati Pattanshetty** expressed her admiration for Konkani community. She acknowledged the humility and hardworking nature of this community.

The next session was the interview of the Vishwa Konkani award winners for the year 2016 namely **Smt Sudha Kharangte, Shri. Melvin Rodrigues and Shri. Arvind Bhatikar**. Eminent Konkani critic **H. M. Pernal** interviewed the three awardees. The awardee of Vishwa Konkani Sahitya Puraskar for her fictional work '*Kapyaalle*', **Sudha Kharangate**, narrated her journey in writing, **Melvin Rodrigues**, the winner of the Vishwa Konkani Sahitya Puraskar for his poetry collection '*Devi Ninkasi*' described the experiences that shaped his writing. **Shri Aravind Bhatikar**, winner of *Vishwa*

Konkani Jeevan Siddi Puraskar, elaborated on the movements carried out for the upliftment of Konkani language.

The literary deliberations of the Samaroh paused to make way for the Vishwa Konkani Puraskar ceremony, held at Town Hall, Mangaluru.

Day two of Vishwa Konkani Sahitya Samaroh commenced with the **J. M. Lobo Prabhu** and Louella Lobo Prabhu Memorial Annual Lecture chaired by writer **Ms. Giselle D. Mehta** and had **Ms. Sampurna Chatterji**, eminent writer and poet, as the speaker. Ms. Mehta spoke about the work carried out by her mother Loulla Lobo Prabhu in the field of literature and she also introduced the speaker Ms Sampurna Chatterji. Ma'am Chatterji in her talk, titled 'Bonding of native ethos and external influence in poetry and literature' explored the theme in a very technical and scientific manner. Yet, she made her talk extremely interesting by assessing the nativity in poetry and literature by citing examples of the Benagli poets she has been studying. She also brought out her own experiences with regard to modernity and nativity by sharing some of her poems.

The lecture was followed by a panel discussion on the topic Challenges of Modernity and Urbanisation in Native Ethos. Dr. Kiran Budkuley, Professor in English at St. Agnes College, Mangaluru **Dr. Geralyn Pinto** and Sampurna Chatterji. The discussion was chaired by Dr. Jayant Kaikini. The discussion full of metaphors and imageries set a way towards exploring the theme of the seminar through the personal experiences of the panelists. They spoke about how the term 'native' is perceived in various contexts and further discussed the consequences of being in various cultural scenarios. A need of the push from the cultural baggage yet being inclusive was the focus of this discussion.

The post lunch session was a panel discussion on the topic 'Native Ethos and Indigenous Mythos in Konkani: Yesterday, Today and tomorrow'. The panel was moderated by Dr. Kiran Budkuley and the panelists included **Ms. Tanvi Bambolkar, Ms. Ambika Kamat, Ms. Palia Gaonkar, Ms. Svetlana Fernandes and Ms. Glenis Mendonca**. The discussion involved various perspectives related to Konkani ethos, identity, status of women in Konkani folklore and literature, its wide spread impact through translation and the advent audio visual media in influencing, enhancing and enriching the Konkani community.

The valedictory function was held in the presence of **Smt Kishori Naik**, Professor of English at Mangalore University, Dr. Kiran Budkuley, Basti Vaman Shenoi and Prabhakar Prabhu.

On this occasion, Surya Naik, writer of first Kudubi Konkani book 'Vaag ani Shedu' was felicitated at the hands of Basti Vaman Shenoy, Dr. Jaywant Naik proposed vote of thanks and Ms Palia Gaonkar compered the valedictory function.

Thus, it was an insightful, enlightening and illuminating experience for everyone who belongs to Konkani community.

