

Khabbar

North American Konkani Newsletter

Volume XXX No. 2
April, May, June - 2007

From:

The Honorary Editor,
"Khabbar"

P. O. Box 222

Lake Jackson, TX 77566 - 0222

XXX-2

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



FIRST CLASS

TO:

Khabbar Follies

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

There is no doubt in my mind that *Khabbar* is a part & parcel of life of Konkanis in North America. In fact, *Khabbar* has developed a special relation with most of the Konkani families and here are some examples of those close encounters of a different kind.....

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The *Khabbar* reaches the Konkani community across North America on time, every time, every quarter. I was proud of this *Khabbar* punctuality (untarnished image, that's what I thought) till I got this note from this *Khabbar* reader from MI: "Hi,
Just wanted to notify you that I have not received any newsletter since Jan 2007. I was wondering if the circulation had stopped or somehow our address was missed out. The last newsletter we received was Dec 2006.

Thanks,"

Editor's Reply:

Certainly, this family is impatient! *Khabbar* is a quarterly newsletter and they are looking forward for the next issue within a month!?! Moreover, how can anyone think *Khabbar* has ceased publication!?!

Khabbar is always looking to add new subscribers and I was delighted to get this note from the second generation of Konkanis. This recently married bride writes:

"Hello, It's time I had my own subscription for *Khabbar*, instead of reading my parents copy when it comes! I have mailed the 2007 subscription, so you should have it by mid next week. As well, please do note my change of address....."

SUBSCRIPTION FORM:

Dear Konkani family,
It is time to renew your subscription for 2007! 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 for 2007 at \$15.00 a year. Please, don't pay for future years! Fill the form below and send your subscription with a check payable to *Khabbar* to P. O. Box 222, Lake Jackson, TX 77566-0222. (Canadian Konkanis please pay cash or MO in US\$)

Name: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email ID: _____

Children.....

| Name | Boy/Girl | d.o.b. | Hobby/Interest |
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Comments, if any: _____

Quarterly Newsletter
For Circulation to the Konkani Community in North America
Volume XXX No. 2

April, May, June - 2007

Honorary Editor: Mr. Vasanth Bhat

Mailing Address:

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

www.ekhabbar.com

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Annual Subscription: \$15.00

Make check payable to "Khabbar" & mail to P.O.Box 222, Lake Jackson, TX 77566-0222

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

EDITORIAL

Dear Konkani family,

I hope all is well with you and your family.

This issue of *Khabbar* has been mailed to **ALL** families that have paid dues **at least once since 2005**. In other words, families who **have not** paid since 2004 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 2005 and if there is any error let me know.

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

It is time to renew your subscription for 2007. Send your subscription with a check payable to Khabbar to P. O. Box 222, Lake Jackson, TX 77566-0222.

The Advisory Committee of *Khabbar* is glad that the annual dues will remain the same at \$15.00 a year and for that you get:

- Four issues of the *Khabbar*,
- Annual Mailing List and
- Discounted advertisement rates.

The *Khabbar* Mailing List is a prized possession of our community and help me to keep it up-to-date. Send names and addresses of Konkani families that are not in the list to P. O. Box 222, Lake Jackson, TX 77566-0222, or email

khabbar@hotmail.com and rest be assured that I'll "*khabbarize*" them!

Khabbar will publish all the developments and progress made by **The North American Konkani Association (NAKA)** on an on-going basis. This quarter, the Board has been busy in developing a strategy to help the Konkani causes here in North America. Send your constructive suggestions to any of the Directors of the NAKA Board.

The Konkani Youth Convention in San Francisco, which will be held Aug. 3 – 5, 2007, will be success. Please, extend all your support.

The progress for the **Konkani Sammelan 2008** is going very well. Again, active community support is needed to make this an event a success. Please visit their website www.konkanisammelan.org and see in what way you can help this event.

The articles of interest are pouring in constantly and *Khabbar* will make every effort to publish them all. I must thank **Dr. K. P. S. Kamath** of Cape Girardeau, MO for his new series of articles on The Historical Context of Bhagavad Gita.

The unofficial *Khabbar* correspondents in your area who send in the *hoon khabbars* on a regular basis are doing an outstanding job. **Remember, if it did not appear in Khabbar, then it did not happen in North America!** If your area is not represented wholly, let me know and I'll recruit more volunteers. You send

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

On the quiz front, *Khabbar* really has an upper hand. Very few readers try to solve these quizzes! Is it too hard !?! Again, get correct solutions to 4 consecutive issues and win a free subscription to *Khabbar* for one year!

With the Foundation Stone laid for the ambitious project, **Konkani Kendra**, the **Konkani Bhas Ani Sanskriti Pratistan** is looking for more financial support. Thanks to **Basti Ganapathi Shenoy** who has devised a method wherein families wanting to help **Konkani Bhas Ani Sanskriti Pratistan** can do so with relative ease! Call him at (702)-341-6706 or email: bshenoy@cox.net if interested to extend your help for this worthy cause.

Khabbar will always publish appeals for charity free of charge but cannot collect money on behalf of any charity. Families are encouraged to send the money directly to the concerned charities. It is amazing to see so many appeals come to *Khabbar* on a regular basis. *Khabbar* firmly believes in helping our people whether it is in India or here.

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

Devu Boren Karo.

Vasanth
Honorary Editor

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor will be considered for publication unless the writer requests otherwise. Letters may be edited for publication. Editor reserves the right not to publish anonymous letters. Initials only on request if the writer includes his or her name.

HARI OM

My dear friend,

I am back from India. I am happy to inform you that the hospital is coming up well. We hope to inaugurate it in 2007 itself. Your support is very much appreciated. I am attaching a recent photograph. Please look up our web site www.anandashramfoundation.org for details.

With regards,

Dr. Jay Raman, Houston, TX

jaykraman@yahoo.com

Dear Vasanthmaam,

Forwarding the msg I recd. Like to share with North American Konkani Community. By now some of you know about this already.. Radio Idli is making a lot of waves and has got good coverage in the press.. Here is a message from Radio Idli Founder.

Manjeshwar Ganesha Kamath,

Morristown, TN

glvkamath@hotmail.com

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Hello Friends,

My group of GSB friends in Mumbai, Pune and around the world, who constitute a group named Idli House Council, meet regularly in Mumbai and have fun activities over evening weekend meets.

To involve and bond with people far and wide beyond Mumbai, we launched a concept named "Radio Idli" available on the following link

<http://radioidli.blogspot.com>

Radio idli was recently covered as a case study by DNA newspaper in Mumbai of the Zee Group...

http://70.87.69.50/DNA/artMailDisp.aspx?article=05_03_2007_007_004&tp=1&pub=577

The concept is to hear all your friends and be heard. You may share songs, Stories, instrumental renditions, Jokes or anything creative that you can do with your own voice or instruments. The first two weeks has shown good response from all my friends.

You can use freely available softwares like Audacity and send me your recordings on radioidli@gmail.com

we come out with releases every week on Saturday.

I Invite each one of you to go through the blog ... hear our voices.. and contribute yours!!

Feel free to comment too!

Cheers

Nagesh Pai

Dear Vasanth,

I am submitting a series of new articles not focused on the philosophy of the Gita but on the revolutionary nature of it in the historical context. In fact, only when we examine the Gita in the historical context does it make complete sense. This is the first of at least six chapters I will submit.

KPS Kamath, Cape Girardeau, MO

pkamath001@gmail.com

Dear Vasant Bhat,

Our GSB community, though a well educated and occupying some of the coveted positions in Banks and corporate field, still has some age old beliefs and coming out of the shackles is perhaps a difficult one

People living far away from typical GSB Samaj, Swamijis, Mutts, are perhaps not aware that Swamijis do not bless the widows. Swamiji does not give her the Prasad, nor is she allowed to prostrate before the Swamiji.

Some time back in 2004, a couple of us had met at our place, as I had organized a talk at my place. We decided to make an appeal to Swamiji, to sympathetically consider this issue of giving Prasad to widows and also blessing them. Thereafter, we made an appeal to the Swamiji, wrote letters to all GSB Institutions in Mumbai, Bangalore, Cochi, and other places. After two years of silent work, Rev, Swamiji at Walkeshwar gave Prasad and graciously spoke to us widows and said how beneficial it is for the ladies to come forward and work for the future of community. How good upbringing of the children can be done only through the ladies. Therefore Swamiji's blessings are necessary to

morally support the widowed ladies in the community..

To this effect we had sent a small write up to Konkani Magazines and we had very good response.. If you can put this in your prestigious *Khabbar* Magazine,, more Indian people in North America will come to know the changes that have taken place in our religious circles..

Best regards,

Gita R.Pai

gitarpai@hotmail.com

Dear Mr. Bhat,

I was glad to know that you as the Editor are running a quarterly from the US for last 20 years. Great work I must say. I am a Chitrapur Saraswat from Mumbai doing pictorial photography for last about 40 years with more than 700 awards & acceptances in international & Indian photographic salons. The achievements include 2 Gold Medals from US & Honourable Mentions from Japan, Germany & Belgium. I am ex-Jt. Hon. Secretary of the Photographic Society of India (the largest & oldest photographic society in India -estd 1937) & presently Course Director for their Basic Comprehensive Photographic Course specializing in black & white photography which is fortunately seeing a revival worldwide.

I am planning to visit US from June end to October end 2007 and would like to explore the possibility of holding an exhibition of my photographs. If all goes well, I would need a good amount of time to prepare quality enlargements for the exhibition and hence would highly appreciate an early response.

With kindest regards.

K. B. Jothady APSI

jothadykb@yahoo.co.in

Editor's Reply:

I have sent you the list of Konkani Associations in North America. I hope Konkanis in North America will take advantage of your visit to the US to host your show and I wish your trip to the US will be a success.

Hoon Khabbar

Congratulations:

As announced by the Office of Bob Beauchamp, President & CEO, BMC Software:

I am pleased to announce that **PANKAJ DHUME**, Vice President, Global Practices, will take on responsibility as head of BMC's India operations, effective immediately. Pankaj brings a unique blend of talents and insight to this role, having established BMC's operations in India with the opening of our Pune office in 2001.

Pankaj's primary role will be to oversee the day-to-day operations of BMC's second largest global office, which now includes employee teams from Business Operations, Finance, ESM, Human Resources & Administration, Customer Support, Sales & Services, Education and Marketing. All business and functional units in India will have dotted line reporting to Pankaj.

Pankaj joined BMC in March 1998 through the acquisition of BGS Systems, where he held various managerial and technical positions. He holds a master's degree in Computer Science from the University of Lowell (Massachusetts), and spent an earlier part of his career at Digital Equipment Corporation. Pankaj and his family will be relocating to Pune in the coming months.

Please join me in congratulating Pankaj and lending him your support.

Panorama India celebrated India's 58th Republic Day on Sunday, January 28th at Pearson Convention Centre, Brampton, Ont. It was a well presented program showing India's cultural variety and unity in diversity.

Raghu Nayak of Scarborough, Ont. Was the co-chair of Panorama India, and along

With his wife, **Veena** and daughter, **Anita**, was instrumental in the success of the program. Anita Nayak was one of the MCs of the show as well.

VIDYA NAYAK, of Cupertino, CA, director, DES Product Development, Cardiac Therapies, was honored as one of the California Silicon Valley's

outstanding executive women by the YWCA of Silicon Valley at their Tribute to Women (TWIN) awards event in May 2007 in San Jose, CA.

Nayak was among a select number of local and regional executive women honored at the annual event, which recognizes successful female executives and the companies that employ them for their outstanding achievements. Nominees are evaluated through a blinded selection process by a committee of former TWIN honorees and prominent industry leaders; selection is based solely on the nominee's achievements.

Konkanis honored at University of Connecticut:

The School of Engineering at University of Connecticut honored five outstanding individuals by inducting them into the School's Academy of Distinguished Engineers during the annual banquet and awards ceremony on April 17th, 2007. Sudhakar V. Shenoy of Great Falls, VA was among the five inductees.

SUDHAKAR V. SHENOY (M.S. Electrical Engineering, '71; MBA '73) is founder (1981), Chairman and CEO of Information Management Consultants, Inc. (IMC), which received the Golden Hammer Award, presented by the Vice President of the U.S., and the Government Computer News Industry Information Technology Award. Earlier in his career, Mr. Shenoy was a Senior Business Analyst with American Management Systems ('78-'80), held technical positions with Windsor Manufacturing ('73-'78) and was an adjunct faculty member in the UConn School of Business ('72-'74).

The event, also included the award of merit scholarships to outstanding students and **VIKRAM K. SHENOY** (entering sophomore), s/o Rajarama & Aneetha Shenoy of Shelton CT, was among the scholarship recipients. University of Connecticut President Philip E. Austin, along with Interim Dean Erling Smith, welcomed guests and presented opening remarks. University Provost Peter Nicholls and Dean Smith then introduced the

Academy of Distinguished Engineers inductees and service award recipient.

Dr. RAKESH KOCHIKAR PAI, of Salt Lake City, UT has completed his training in Cardiac Electrophysiology and will join Reno Heart Physicians as a Cardiac Electrophysiologist in September 2007.

Support the Hindu Temple Society of North America:

Most Indians who have lived or spent time in the New York metropolitan area have visited the Hindu Temple in Queens at least once. For adults and children alike on the East Coast, this may have been the first Hindu temple in the US to be visited. It is one of the oldest Hindu temples in North America, having opened its doors to the public in 1977. The Hindu Temple in Queens welcomes tens of thousands of individuals every year, and also has a community center, in which weddings and other events are held. The Temple holds educational classes that focus on religion, math, English and many Indian languages, yoga, among other subjects. Recently, **DATTANANDA & SHANTA BHAT** of Jamaica, NY contributed \$5,000 in support of the Temple and its expansion projects. Mr. and Mrs. Bhat encourage others for whom the Hindu Temple has played an important role to make a donation of any amount so that the Temple can continue to serve as a place of worship and education for years to come.

To learn more about the Hindu Temple and how to donate, visit the following website at

<http://www.nyganesh temple.org/home.htm> or call (718)-460-8484.

Konkani Graduates:

VIVEK, s/o Ganesha & Lakshmi Kamath of Morristown, TN has graduated from West High School, Morristown, TN. He'll join University of Tennessee at Knoxville, TN.

VINDYA BHAT, of New York, NY, d/o Vasanth & Poornima of Lake Jackson, TX graduated with a

Master's degree in Mathematics from Columbia University, New York, NY on May 16th 2007.

DURGESH BHAT KALYA of Houston, TX graduated with a Masters in Computer Science from University of Houston, TX on May 19th 2007.

REKHA, d/o Chandrakanth & Sheela Mahale of High Bridge, NJ graduated as a MD on 18th of May 2007 from Drexel Medical College, Philadelphia, PA. Graduation was at Kimmel Center in Philadelphia. Rekha will do her Pediatric Residency at New York Medical Center, New York, NY.

The US secretary of Education announced that **NEIL**, s/o Dinesh & Suchita Nayak of Hockessin, DE, is the 2007 Presidential Scholar for the State of Delaware. Every year just one young man and one young woman is chosen from each state as the highest achieving graduating high school student. These students will be honored in a special White House Ceremony in June, when a medallion is personally presented to them by the President. Further info is available at www.presidentialscholars.org

AJAY, s/o Dr. Vilas & Sneha Prabhu of Lancaster, PA, was accepted into the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) Program at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie, PA. He will begin the three-year, accelerated doctoral program in September 2007.

NISCHINT, s/o Arun & Sheela Manelkar of Edison, NJ, graduated May 2007 from Rutgers University, Business school with a B.S in Business Administration (Finance). He will join MetLife in their Investment division as Investment analyst.

SMITHA KAMATH, d/o Narayandas & Sangeetha Kamath of Richmond Hill, Ont., Canada received Master's degree in Clinical Psychology and was awarded Dean's Achievement Award for outstanding scholastic accomplishment from Midwestern University, Downer's Grove, IL. Smitha is continuing her

Doctoral studies in Clinical Psychology.

IAN GOPAL, s/o Meeta & Kyle Gould of Cleveland Heights, OH graduated from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH on May 20, 2007 with a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry. He wrote for the University humor publication, *The Athenian*. He was a member now alumnus of the Fraternity Phi Kappa Theta where he lived in the House and participated in many of their activities, including holding officer positions and philanthropy. Ian volunteered regularly, including tutoring elementary school children, landscaping at Ronald McDonald House and helping with the Cleveland area Science Olympiad for High School Students. Over the summers he travelled abroad to Europe, across Canada and Peru, boating down the Amazon River. He also worked during the school years and over the summers in medical research labs. Ian is looking to work in the field to gain experience leading to graduate school. His interests focus in Toxicology.

MANU, s/o Vikram & Anita Bhat of Stamford, CT has been accepted into the Jerome Fisher Management & Technology (M&T) double degree undergraduate program at Wharton/U.Penn starting Fall 2007.

PRANAVA, d/o Yogesh & Vidya Alekal of Lakewood, CA, graduated from University of California, Berkeley in May 2007 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

PRAGNYA, d/o Yogesh & Vidya Alekal of Lakewood, CA, graduated from MIT in June 2007 with a second Master's degree in Technology and Public Policy after having completed her first Master's degree also from MIT in Civil & Environmental Engineering.

PRASHANTI, d/o Yogesh & Vidya Alekal of Lakewood, CA, finished her residency from Loma University Medical Center in June 2006 specializing in Internal Medicine cum Pediatrics after getting her M.D. from Medical College of Wisconsin in

2002. She starts her fellowship in July 2007 when she will be specializing in infectious diseases at Cedar-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. She enjoys volunteering her time in medical camps organized by various charitable organizations.

ADITI, d/o Jaidev & Meena Rao of Los Angeles, CA, graduated with a dual-degree program in architecture and city planning, focusing on housing and urban design. She received M.Arch.I. (Master of Architecture) and M.C.P. (Master of City Planning) from the College of Environmental Design, University of California, Berkeley.

AMBIKA, d/o Dilip & Patricia Saletore of Saugus, CA, graduated with Masters Degree in Mathematics from California State University, Northridge (CSUN).

AMAR, s/o Jaidev & Meena Rao of Los Angeles, CA, graduated from University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) with B.S. in Geology and B.A. in Environmental Studies.

ASHIMA, d/o Aravind & Beena Shenoy of Granada Hills, CA, graduated from University of California, Riverside in Biology.

PRIYA, d/o Jagdish & Jothi Gangolly of Claremont, CA, graduated from the University of California, San Diego, with double major in Public Health and Psychology in June 2007. Her future plans include continuing to work towards graduate school as well as pursuing a career in Public Health & Health Care Administration.

SHUBIR, s/o Nikil & Sujata Dutt of Irvine, CA, graduated from University High School and will join University of California, Berkeley this Fall 2007.

AMOL, s/o Aravind & Beena Shenoy of Granada Hills, CA, graduated from Granada Hills High School and will be joining University of California, Riverside from Fall 2007.

RACHNA, d/o Pana & Anita Shenoy of Mission Viejo, CA, graduated from Mission High School and will be

joining University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) from Fall 2007.

SEEMA, d/o Vivek & Jyoti Ullal of Simi Valley, CA, graduated from Santa Susana High School and will be joining University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in their Honors program from Fall 2007. She was salutatorian of her graduating class. She is a recipient of many scholarships. She served as a Lt. Governor of Key Club of her Division for 2006-2007.

KUNAL, s/o Bharat & Kalpana Kundaje of Buena Park, CA, graduated with a Bachelors of Science degree in Computer Science from UCLA. He will be moving to NYC in July to start work at Morgan Stanley, as a Technology Analyst.

New Arrivals:

ARJUN and SIDDHARTH, twin baby boys to Anita & Rick Bajaj of Franklin Park, NJ on Feb. 14th 2007. The maternal grandparents are Laxman & Nirmala Mallya of Glenelg, MD and paternal grandparents are Gurpartap & Davinder Bajaj of Bellerose, NY.

ADITYA, a baby boy, to Gurunath & Vinaya Pai of Scarborough, Ont. on March 11th 2007. Visiting Aditya are his maternal grandparents, Ramdas & Shaila.

BELLA PRIYA, a baby girl to Nihaal & Deepa Rao of Phoenix, AZ, on April 4, 2007 in Phoenix, AZ. The proud grandparents are Mohan & Suman Rao of Litchfield Park, AZ and Kirti & Bharati Shah of El Centro, CA.

SACHI, a baby girl to Vivek & Shantala Kaisare of Thousand Oaks, CA, on April 19, 2007 in Thousand Oaks, CA. The proud grandparents are Waman & Anjali Kaisare of Pune and Padmini & late Santosh Kaikini of Bangalore.

KIRAN, a baby girl on May 23, 2007 to Mahesh & Sharan Nayak of Troy, MI. Big sisters are Tara and Maya. Her proud grand parents are Kochikar Arun & Geetha Pai of Canonsburg, PA and Krishna & Padmini Nayak of

Grosse Pointe, MI. Her proud great grandparents are Ullal Pundalika & Sulochana Mallya of Mangalore, India and Kochikar Bhavani Pai of Pittsburgh, PA.

ANAYA, a baby girl to Dr. Ravi & Meenal Gokarn (nee Surkund) of Omaha, NE on 6th June, 07 at Omaha, NE. The proud grand parents are Raghunath & Kumud Gokarn and Shivshankar & Suchitra Surkund from Mumbai.

Thread Ceremony:

The *Upanayanam (munjhi)* of **Chi. ROSHAN**, s/o Prasan & Sabitha Pai of Mission Viejo, CA and grandson of Raghu & Ramabai Pai, was performed on Sunday, April 8, 2007.

Newly Weds:

Sow. SANGEETA, d/o Ashok & Mailini Shenoy of Warren, OH married to **Chi. RAHUL**, s/o Subhash & Chander Prabha Mehta of Pembroke, Ont in Girard, OH on August 12th 2006.

Chi. RAHUL KAMATH of Valley Village, CA, s/o Bola Gopalkrishna & Gowri Kamath, got married to **Sow. DIVYA**, d/o Sujir Ravindra & Geeta Nayak of Mangalore on Dec. 22, 2006 at Sanghinetan, Mangalore.

Relocation:

The **NAYAK** family, Narasimha & Kanaka, have relocated from Hazard, KY to 964 Princess Doreen Dr., Lexington, KY 40509. The new telephone is (859)-264-9534.

The **SHENOY** family, Sanur Subraya & Shamala, have relocated from Wallington, NJ to 99 Mayer Drive, Clifton, NJ 07012. The telephone remains the same at (973)-778-8861 and email ID: ssshenoy@verizon.net and sanur.shenoy@gmail.com.

DURGESH KALYA BHAT has relocated within Houston to 2001 Gemini Street, #1124, Houston, TX 77058. The telephone remains same at (832)-816-5302 and email ID: durgesh.bhat@gmail.com

The **BHARADWAJ** family, Shantaram & Shaila Bhat have relocated within Winston-Salem, NC

to 2390 Bromley Terrace, Apt 101, Winston-Salem, NC -27103. The telephone remains the same at (336)-773-1307 and the email ID: shailabhat@yahoo.com

The **MacPhee** family, the newlyweds, Rashmi Bhandarkar & Ed, have relocated within Ottawa, Ont to 29 Kimberwick Crescent, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1V 1K6. The email ID: sunray_23@hotmail.com

The **PRABHU** family, Ganesh & Leena, with their daughter, Anita, have relocated within Allen, TX to 932 Sloan Dr., Allen, TX 75013. The new phone is (214)-495-0261 and email ID: gprabhutx@yahoo.com

The **PAI** family, Rakesh & Ajnya, together with their kids, Nandan & Lakshan, relocated from Salt Lake City, UT to 4861 Ramcreek Trail, Reno, NV 89519-8028. The new telephone is (775)-473-2437 and FAX (775)-285-3226 and email ID: rajnya@gmail.com

The **SHENOY** family, Ambarish & Asha with their children Vishnu & Priyanka, have moved to 17, Stafford Drive, Princeton Jn., NJ 08550. The new telephone is (609)-799-1415.

The **SHENOY** family, Vivekanand & Neeta, with their son, Vinit, have moved from Avenel, NJ to 108 S. McKinley Ave., Iselin, NJ 08830. The new telephone is (732)-218-5494.

Engagement:

Ganesh & Sharada Pai of West Columbia, SC are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter **Kum. MAYA** to **Chi. NEAL**, s/o Basant & Monica Chawla of Gillette, NJ on April 20, 2007.

Email Changes:

The **MAHALES** of High Bridge, NJ, Chandrakanth & Sheela, have changed their e-mail addresses to chadmahale@gmail.com and sheilamahale@gmail.com.

25th Wedding Anniversary:
DAMODAR & SHANKARI PAI of Dix Hills, NY celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary at a party hosted by family and friends on 9th June

2007. A good time was had by one and all.

VINOD & RADHIKA HATTIANGADI of Tustin, CA, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on January 14, 2007.

60th Birthday Bash:

Family & friends of **Mrs. VIJAYA PAI** of Cherry Hill, NJ gave a surprise 60th birthday party to her on May 19th 2007 in Cherry Hill, NJ.

80th Birthday Celebrations:

Smt. MANICKHAM BHATT of Houston, TX celebrated her 80th birthday "*Ashtipoorthi*" with family & friends on May 26th 2007 at the residence of Ashwin & Kasturi Bhatt of Houston, TX.

Obituary:

Smt. SHARADA KAMATH (93) passed away November 20, 2006. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to her daughter, Asha Baliga & family of Danville, CA.

Sri RAM NAYAK (78) passed away peacefully in his Bantval home on January 14th 2007. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his son, Vivek Nayak and family of Mississauga, Ont.

Sri. TONSE TRIVIKRAM PAI (82) passed away peacefully on March 20, 2007 in Mumbai. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his daughter, Beena Shenoy & family of Granada Hills, CA.

Sri VENKATESH KUDVA (81) of Mangalore died on April 18th 2007. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his son, Ganesh Kudva & family of Austin, TX.

Smt. SUSHILA A. KAMATH (85), w/o Late Shri A. M. Kamath (Macson) passed away in Mumbai on April 21st 2007. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to her daughters Mrs. Sharda Shenoy & family of Montville, NJ, Mrs. Shobha Rao & family of Ivyland, PA, Mrs. Sumana Pai & family of Arlington, TX, and Mrs. Vidya Nayak & family of Saratoga, CA and grand kids in the US – Sachit Kamath, Priyanka Kamath & Amrita Kamath.

ADITI RAO IS ONE OF THE WINNING RECIPIENT OF GERALD D. HINES STUDENT URBAN DESIGN COMPETITION

A development proposal drafted by the University of California, Berkeley team to redevelop a 16.5 acre block in Los Angeles, has been selected as the winning scheme in the fifth annual Urban Land Institute Gerald D. Hines Student Urban Design Competition. Other finalists were those from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and two teams from Harvard University. Initially there were 93 teams from 26 Universities that participated in the competition. The graduate student teams competing were charged with forming a quasi-public agency to redevelop East First Street corridor from Alameda to Mariachi Plaza, revitalize the L.A. River, to the new Gold Line Eastside Extension, and the development of the constructing staging sites surrounding the Mariachi Plaza, after the MTA completes the subway.

As a winner, UC-Berkeley team was awarded \$50,000. The other finalists were awarded \$10,000 each. Among the five team members that comprised the UC-Berkeley team, **Aditi Rao** (d/o Jaidev & Meena Rao of Los Angeles, CA) was one of them.

KONKANI HAPPENINGS

Konkanis In Southern States (KISS) held their annual picnic from Friday April 6th thru Sunday April 8th 2007 at Bastrop State Park in Bastrop, TX. Record numbers of proud Konkanis from Southern States enjoyed the Friday night with Karaoke and pizza. With the incumbent weather, most of the activities were held indoors. The tasty typical Konkani food was catered by Madras Pavilion. The indoor activities were enjoyed by young and adults alike. **This was yet another best KISS picnic ever!** **Smt. Radha Golikeri (Amuli Pacchi)** of Clearlake, TX was awarded the "Lifetime Achievement" award by Suresh Shenoy on behalf of the KISSers for her outstanding commitment to KISS picnic and Konkani causes.

Konkani Association of Southern California (KASC) celebrated Yugaadi 2007 on Sunday, March 25, 2007 at the City of Arcadia Community Center. After the fulfilled evening of entertainment and food, the bi-annual elections were held. The new team members:

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| President: | Ramdas & Sudha Pai | Cultural Coordinator: | Jaidev & Chitra Chandavarkar |
| Vice President: | Aravind & Beena Shenoy | Youth Representative: | Kedar Gulvady & Ajit Pai |
| Treasurer: | Vishwanath & Shalini Bhat | Editor: | Vivek & Jyoti Ullal |
| Secretary: | Rahul & Divya Kamath | Webmaster: | Dinesh & Anupama Kini |

Konkani Association Of California (KAOCA) celebrated their annual *Yugadi Mela/Anand Bazaar* on Saturday April 7th 2007 from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Hindu Community and Cultural Center at Sunnyvale Hindu Temple in Sunnyvale, CA.

Konkani Association Of California (KAOCA) celebrated KAOCA Olympics on Sunday May 13th 2007 at the Amador Valley Park in Pleasanton, CA.

Houston Area Amchigale Samaj (HAAS) celebrated the *Ram Navami* function at Sugar Land Community Center in Sugar Land, TX on Saturday April 14th 2007.

The **Konkani Sabha** held their annual summer picnic on Saturday, June 2nd 2007 from 10 AM to sunset at Mercer County Park East, New Jersey. More than 90 kids and Adults alike enjoyed themselves thoroughly whether it was Cricket, Volleyball, three legged race, Charades or the drawing contest.

KHABBAR FROM KULAR

By: - Vishwa Konkani Sardar BASTI VAMAN SHENOY

'Sughandile Dukh' anthology of Konkani Short Stories written by famous writer R. Bhakta Kanhangad and published by Basti Prakashana was released by Dr. Tanaji Halarnkar Goa at Mangalore Nalanda High School.

R. V. Deshpande MLA., (Former Minister Government of Karnataka) was nominated as Chairman Emeritus of Konkani Bhas Ani Samskriti Pratisthan (Konkani Language & Cultural Foundation) Mangalore.

First Meeting of Konkani Samaj Parichay Kosh (Encyclopedia) Committee met at Mangalore & resolved to initiate process by sending informatory letters to above 450 Konkani Writers, Historians, Institutions & organisations from Delhi to Kochi & by email to those residing outside.

Mrs. Vasanthi R. Nayak, famous Konkani Singer and founder of Swarashree sangeetha Shala conducted 'Ankur Summer Camp' for young students from 9th to 18th April 2007 at Canara High School (Main). Konkani lullabies, Story telling, dance and music, Skits in Konkani, Quiz programmes were initiated to the young.

Shri K.K.Pai, Basti Vaman Shenoy, Msgnr Alexander d'Souza, Dr.Kasturi Mohan Pai, Dr.Mohandas Nayak, Paul Moras Fr. were honoured at a function arranged by Konkani Bhasha Mandal Karnataka to honour them for their initiatives & efforts to get recongration from Karnataka govt. to teach Konkani Languages as a Medium of Instructions from 6th Std in Schools in Karnataka.

A 3 days' 18th All India Konkani Sahitya Sammelan was held at Kudchade (Curchorum) Goa from 4th to 6th May 2007 presided over by famous Konkani poet Kaviraj J.B.Sequeira. The Sammelan was inaugurated by Shri Mishra former President National Book Trust good member of Konkani Writers and poets from Kerala to Mumbai States participated. Smt Shiva Shankari famous Short Story Writer was the Chief Guest for concluding session.

Mrs. Sushila A. Kamath (85) wife of A.M.Kamath (MACSON) died at Mumbai on 21.04.2007 known for her hospitality and philanthropy. She was a highly respected lady among GSB's at Mumbai and Mangalore.

Rajarshee Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade Dharmadhikari, Shri Dharmasthala Kshetra, Mr.Nagaraj Shetty, Hon. Minister, Govt. of Karnataka, Mr. M. V. Kamath, Chairman, Prasara Bharathi, Haridas Bhadragegi Achutadasji, Bangalore, Mr. Ananth Krishna (Chairman Karnataka Bank Ltd.) visited World Konkani Centre site and shown keen interest in the construction of the biggest project for Konkani in the world.

Konkani Sahitya Academy awards announced Mangalore , March 15:

The Karnataka Konkani Sahitya Academy has selected **Sandhya Shevagoor**, **Suvarna Gada** of Honnavar and **Manu Bahrain** for the 2005 awards. **Shevagoor** was selected for the work *Tapaswini* (Kannada-Konkani Translation), **Suvarna Gada** of Honnavar for his '*Aaj (Today)*' (Collections) and **Manu Bahrain** for '*Chandra Rekha*' (Novel). **Ancy Paladka** of Mumbai and **Setven Quadrus** of Mangalore were selected for 2003 awards for *Puthu Shetichy Kaniyo* (Stories of Puthu Shet) and *Sahityo Aani Vimarso* (Literary Discription) respectively. Announcing this at a press conference here on Wednesday, **Eric Ozario**, Chairman of the Academy said the 2003, 2004 and 2005 awards would be given away together. **Alvi Carmelith** and **J F D'Souza** (both Mangalore) have been selected for 2004 awards for their '*Pinthuram*' (Pictures-Collections) and '*Bangarachi Masti*' (Golden Fish Small Stories) respectively, he said. **Valli Quadrus** of Ajekar has been selected for the special award for his work '*Kavitapaath*'-part one (Lessons in Poetry), he said.

The award carries a cash prize of Rupees 5,000, a citation and a certificate, he added. The award will be presented on March 23, at Karkala in Udupi District, he said.

As appeared in Udayavani:

Baliga nominated for Jonathan Mann award

Mangalore, May 22: Kasturba Medical College (KMC) Mangalore Peadiatrician **Dr Shantha Ram Baliga** has been nominated for the Jonathan Mann Award for 'Global Health and Human Rights' to be announced at the 34th international conference on global health at Washington scheduled between May 24 and June 1.

As many as 120 doctors and human rights actives from around the world have been shortlisted. From India alone, 14 nominees have been selected Dr Baliga, who works at Government Wenlock Hospital in Mangalore is one of the three nominees from Karnataka.

Dr Baliga has been closely associated with the Mangalore Medical Relief Society (MMRS) and in building the new Infosys sponsored Regional Advanced Paediatric Care Centre (RAPCC) of the Government Wenlock Hospital in the city.

The award is named in memory of Dr Jionathan Mann, who was a former head of World health organisation. During Jonathan Mann's leadership, AIDS programme became in the organisation's history. He was a key figure in highlighting the need for a global response to the crisis. He died in the crash of Swiss Air flight along with his wife. AIDS researcher Mary -Lou Clements-Mann, in 1998.

So What Exactly Is Radio Idli ???

At first glance, Nagesh Pai comes across as a typical young, upwardly mobile MBA who works as a planning manager at Mindshare Fulcrum, a media-buying arm of WPP, the world's largest advertising agency. Scratch below the surface, however, and his various other personae emerge-that of a radio chat show host, singer, producer, sound engineer, etc.

Hardly surprising considering the fact that Nagesh is the founding chief of Radio Idli, Mumbai's first community Web radio project, a sort of online studio for the Saraswat community for showcasing their talents. The project is named after the famous Idli House restaurant in Matunga.

Pai's programmes on Radio Idli include songs, chat shows, interviews and spoofs-mostly in Konkani language, except some Bollywood songs, which are sung by him and his friends. To create greater interest among the community, Pai has also introduced Chutney Chat, a weekly interview with one prominent member of the community.

Says Nagesh, " With many of the youth spread away from their roots, community radio binds them together from the comfort of wherever they are located". When it began in January this year, Radio Idli had just 10 members. Today, the strength has increased to more than 4000 Saraswats with Konkani as their mother tongue and has contributors from Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore, Kochi, the UK and the US.

Most contributors record their own songs or shows. Those who are technology-challenged, go over to Nagesh's home over the weekend to do the recordings, while others send the files through a web messenger. Once the files are recorded, they are then edited, and uploaded on Radio Idli's blog at radioidli.blogspot.com. Concludes Nagesh, "My friends and I would love to see Radio Idli setting an example as a community unifier-a platform through which members interact, help each other and grow together".

Check out Radio-Idli for some Chutney Chats and Lokabhiram Phardi (funny incidents told by Lokhabiram) and Many more songs and instruments played by our very own Amchigele youth :-). Awesome piece of work contributed by all.

Hmm Radio-Idli is sure getting famous.. its becoming every Konkani's favorite and catching some more attention from Non-Konkanis.

Let us all encourage this great initiative by one of our own... Join, Share with others and Enjoy
Watch out for Konkani bits and pieces from Nagesh Pai

More news on Radio Idli... <http://radioidli.blogspot.com> Earlier it was just in Newspapers, now it is on TV too.. Watch for the clip here <http://www.ibnlive.com/videos/36106/radio-a-tool-to-save-culturehtml>

A Profile...

Smt. RADHA GOLIKERI

On Nov 4, 2006, India Culture Center of Clear Lake, TX presented Smt. RADHA GOLIKERI a Distinguished Community Service Award. She has been volunteering at the United Way's Neighborhood Centers since the early '90s. She has also played a leading role in the activities of Indian Senior Citizens in Clear Lake, TX.

In 2006, she received a certificate of appreciation from Mayor of Houston, TX, Bill White for her work with Neighborhood Centers. It reads, "The City of Houston Volunteer Initiative Program and Volunteer Houston commend Radha Golikeri for outstanding volunteer service. Honor and achievement through your service exemplifies good citizenship and improves the quality of life in our city."

Earlier she received a Gold Award for her volunteer service from President George Bush. The letter of commendation reads, "Congratulations on receiving the President's Volunteer Service Award from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. Through service to others, you demonstrate the outstanding character of America and help strengthen our country. In January 2002, I called on all Americans to dedicate at least two years - or 4,000 hours - over the course of their lives to serve others at home or abroad. I congratulate you and all Americans who have answered this call and have earned a Gold Award from the President's Council. Americans of all ages can serve others in countless ways, such as mentoring a child, caring for an elderly neighbor, teaching someone to read, cleaning parks, and creating safer neighborhoods. My Administration encourages every American to help their communities and our country. Through the USA Freedom Corps and the President's council, we are building a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility in America that will last for decades to come. Americans continue to serve and are part of the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and decency that are changing America, one heart and one soul at a time. Your actions are part of this change. I urge you to continue serving your neighbors and earn the Lifetime Call to Service Award.

I also hope that you will ask your friends, family, and colleagues to join you in serving your community and our Nation. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.

Sincerely,

George Bush”.

Book Release.....in July 2007.

Modern Indian Cooking

By Hari Nayak & Vikas Khanna

The Next Generation of Indian Cooking!

This book (192 pages hard cover by silver back books) represents a take on Modern Indian Cuisine, prepared using fresh flavorful ingredients, designed to accommodate the modern lifestyle. Indian cooking is often perceived as intimidating due to the use of wide range of unusual ingredients and complex cooking procedures. The book attempts to recreate classic Indian dishes by using simplistic techniques along with a delicious juxtaposition of non Indian ingredients. The authors have strived to bring traditional Indian cuisine to simplified levels fit for modern living and entertaining, while keeping the flavors and authenticity intact.

Modern Indian Cooking celebrates the grandeur of the food of India while preserving the character of each region’s distinctive style of cooking. While creating this book, the authors have taken into account the different ways people cook and eat food in modern life and the new kinds of ingredients that are now readily available. This book adapts a contemporary style of cooking great tasting food for easy entertaining or a busy lifestyle. It provides a wonderful insight into the richly diverse nation of India and the many flavors it brings to our tables.

This book is the perfect guide to flavorful yet quick preparations, easy cooking techniques and inventive and Modern presentation ideas. Indian cooking doesn’t have to be a stressful laborious process. It can be fun, chic, light and refreshing. The collection of delicious, eclectic and yet simple recipes can make any meal with friends or family a memorable occasion. As you get better acquainted with the spices, herbs and produce used in Modern Indian Cooking, you too will begin to build a personal repertoire of delectable dishes! Modern Indian Cooking is a concept – it truly is the next generation of Indian Cooking. Once you get comfortable with the recipes in this book, feel free to substitute ingredients to create your own custom recipes. Don’t be afraid to experiment. Let your creativity run wild, you might be pleasantly surprised at the amazing creations you may end up with. Good food is one of the life’s greatest pleasures. So pick a menu, invite your guests and have fun entertaining with Modern Indian Cooking.

Please check the below links for more info: www.harinayak.com and www.ifood.tv/hari

Hari Nayak, a professional chef, started his culinary career at an early age in India. His early years were influenced by the cooking shows on TV by masters like Julia child, Martin Yen & Graham Kerr.

Born to M. Balakrishna Nayak (Retired Banker Syndicate Bank) & Mother Suguna Nayak (Retired Nurse Udupi), Hari grew up in Udupi, Karnataka. He graduated from the prestigious Welcomgroup School of Hotel Management in Manipal India. He was trained at several 5 star restaurants and apprenticed under some of legendary Master Chefs in India. He lives in NJ with his wife Priyu Nayak.

Hari always admired finesse, class, and novelty. He gained formal training and practical experience in different world cuisines, all aspects of kitchen management, and the exquisite world of pastries.

To give his culinary quest a more formal direction, Hari joined The Culinary Institute of America (www.cia.edu) to receive advanced training in Pastry and Culinary Arts. He graduated at the top of his class as an honor student in 1998. There has been no looking back for since then. Hari has been working as an Executive Chef for an international Company Sodexo and been a consultant on various projects around the globe. He has won several awards and recognition in the pastry world including pioneering the first Ice cream Patisserie of America! Halo Fete which opened in Princeton in 2005.

He is a Co Founder of Cooking for life a non profit organization that brings together celebrated chefs for tasting events to raise funds for relief efforts around the world. Recently “Cooking for Life” hosted an event “The Living Pyramids” www.thelivingpyramids.org at the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt to promote accessibility at the world Wonders, which will be followed by “Soul of Taj” at The Taj Mahal, India in 2007.

He has been charming his fans by his innovative, original and most of all passionate cooking. His career has been a celebration of food every step of the way!

Note: *Khabbar* will publish mouthwatering recipes from Hari Nayak in future issues depending on availability of space

Social Reforms.....A Way Forward

Contributed by:

Smt. Sanjivi Bhat, Smt. Sudha V. Kini,, Smt. Chandrakala Baliga, Smt. Meera Acharya, Smt. Mridula S. Kamath, Smt. Gita R. Pai

Guru Charitra states, 'No one has the right to change the basic principles mentioned in Hindu *Shastras*. The fundamental truths for all times are-SATYA, DHARMA, TAPA, and DANA.' These are the foundations of Strong Truthful India. If you try to make structural changes in a building, the whole building will collapse. So are the truths strengthening the Foundations of Strong India. *Guru Charitra* also says that changes in the society are required according to the changes that are taking place due to new technology. The age-old Sati system started in Rajasthan, because of the invasion of Muslim rulers and frequent wars, where men became martyrs and life of the widows was much unprotected.

Changes in Status of Women in the society, have taken place because of the social reforms by our great leaders like Raja Rammohan Roy, Balgangadhar Tilak, more recently, Dr.T.M.A.Pai, Lot of changes have taken place in the life of a girl child. Parents have started encouraging and giving equal opportunities to them in the field of higher education. Girls have become financially independent and are capable of competing with men in many fields.

All these changes have come in the GSB community also. However, we have to adopt many more reforms. Specially, the social status of a widow.. Widows in the community are still considered as outcasts. Of course in metros, people are much more broad minded. In smaller places the presence of a widow in auspicious occasions is not solicited. We need radical changes in this respect. Ladies are considered the strong pillars of the society in bringing up children. When the widow is totally disturbed after the death of her life-partner, does she not require the moral support from the society, so that she can lead a courageous life and take care of her children? If she is not given the dignified position she deserves, will her children participate in religious matters? Is it not the responsibility of the society to see that the future generation upholds the community norms?

.A few widowed ladies took up the issue and made a fervent appeal to the Dharmaguru of Shree Kashi Mutt Samsthan,to bless the widowed ladies. Many people in the community supported this view. Specially, the wholehearted support came from the G.S.B.Seva Mandal, Mumbai. Swamiji graciously reviewed all the requests and Swamiji's inimitable style decided to move with the times and grant blessings to the widows.

Rev. Smd. Sudhindra Thirtha Swamiji of Shree Kashi Mutt Samsthan, has taken a powerful stand and blessed the widows of the community. Swamiji wants the widows to lead the youngsters to become good citizens of the community. This moral support from the Dharmaguru will go a long way in the upliftment of the community widows to enable them to take their rightful position in the society. We are all grateful to Swamiji for blessing the widows.

Starting A Revolution in the Slums of Mysore by Pratham

As appeared in Deccan Herald Thursday, August 24, 2006 edition

Pratham, an NGO aiming to promote Universal Elementary Education (UEE), is heading towards revolutionising education in the slums of Mysore.

Launching its operations in Mysore during 2002, Pratham is today assisting more than 7,500 poorest of the poor in about six slums of Mysore by partnering with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), Government of Karnataka. It has plans to expand its services to all the slums. In fact, Pratham's annual budget of about Rs 50 lakh makes it one of the largest NGOs in Mysore. Well-known actress Waheeda Rehman is the ambassador of Pratham.

"Pratham's approach is innovative, informal, cost effective, and easily replicable. It is based on balawadi, balasakhi and bridge course programmes along with mobile libraries. Despite the size and reach of the programmes, Pratham is still not known to Mysoreans. But the silent revolution started by Pratham has certainly caught the imagination of the slum dwellers," say **Dr Bhamy V Shenoy** and Ashvini Ranjan, who are associated with Pratham.

By the end of this academic year, Pratham will have 200 balawadi schools providing pre-school education to more than 4,000 slum children aged between three and five years. This will add another 2,500 children to the existing 7,500 children.

Pratham learning centres are not the 'convent' type of schools where reading and writing are forced with 'robotic discipline.' "Children are taught using play way methods using low cost toys and learning tools made out of industrial waste. The child is made to enjoy the school going experience. Such a child is bound to pursue studies and less likely to drop out," opines Dr Shenoy, advisor, Pratham told Deccan Herald.

Pratham recently conducted a 'house-to-house' survey covering 5,000 houses in different slums of Mysore like Kesare, Aziz Sait Nagar, Shanthi Nagar, Ghousia Nagar etc. This baseline survey was to study the educational level of 14,000 children aged between six and 14. A shocking 75 per cent could not read and write.

"Pratham's Balasakhi programme focuses on slow learners at the primary and secondary school levels through specially trained tutors. A team of volunteers, teacher monitors and programme coordinators are a valuable source of information to assess its teaching methods constantly. This enables to develop new tools for training and teaching content," they explain.

According to Dr Shenoy, the DPI had sent primary school teachers for specialised training using the innovative models of teaching. "Every year teachers are trained from our trainers to improvise teaching skills for reaching out to the children better."

Dr Padmini, a retired head of the department of education at Mysore University, and a trustee of Pratham has been instrumental in developing several innovative teaching methodologies. Her math package is popular with the students and teachers. According to Pratham, the package is also in demand in the Pratham centres across the country.

How does one assess the value of a product or service that is available for free? Put a cost to it and count the number of takers. "Pratham just did that. It selected a group of Balawadi teachers and asked them to collect a nominal fee. To our surprise, parents willingly paid and now we have a new breed of educationists in the slums," points out Ashvini Ranjan, managing trustee, Pratham.

Another initiative started by Pratham since a year is the mobile library. It is under the leadership of Vedha Anilkumar, a small scale industrialist. A teacher goes from house to house with a set of carefully selected books. Thus instead of children going to the library, the teacher goes to them. The teacher also sits with the children, reads them books and tells stories. The library will not only expand the reading capabilities of the children but also arouse their curiosity.

Kannada learning

Pratham is making efforts to popularise Kannada in the slums where Urdu is the mother tongue of the majority. Not so surprisingly all their parents also want their children to improve their Kannada, they add.

It has also developed a special English teaching programme and 'Do and Learn' programme to foster scientific attitude under the initiative of Dr Krishnan, a retired scientist.

Pratham has now started a catalytic programme of working with the government school teachers to improve reading ability of government school children both in Mysore and rural areas.

Currently 25 schools in Mysore have agreed. They will have special periods to implement the special Kannada reading programme developed by Pratham. "This is a good example of public- private partnership. It was possible thanks to the interest shown by DDPI, Block Education Officers, Deputy Project Coordinator of Serva Shiksha Abhiyan and government school teachers. This is a remarkable development," they maintain.

Today, Pratham is meeting less than 40 per cent of the needs of the slum children. But this itself has resulted in starting a silent educational revolution in the slums.

"Imagine what Mysore can achieve if more talented and concerned educated citizens join the Pratham movement to universalise the primary education? Pratham's volunteers and teachers numbering more than 250 are paid only a small honourarium. We need more involvement of educationists, teachers to achieve our goals," Dr Shenoy said.

According to him, Pratham needs more volunteers to help raise donation, to monitor the operations of various programs, to conduct surveys, document results, train Pratham teachers etc.

Chapter: 1 The Secret Revolution of Lord Krishna The Historical Context of the Bhagavad Gita

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

The apparent agenda of the Bhagavad Gita

To most readers of the Bhagavad Gita, it is a sacred religious text of Hindu Dharma that summarizes the ancient Vedic philosophy; a part of the great epic Mahabharata; and its essential message was delivered to Pandava prince Arjuna by Lord Krishna in the battlefield of Kurukshetra. Almost all commentaries on the Gita by various Indian authors exclusively focus on the three Yogas –Karmayoga, Jnanayoga and Bhaktiyoga- as the means to achieve peace of mind here on earth and Moksha or Liberation from Samsara following death. This is the *apparent agenda* of the Gita.

The hidden agenda of the Bhagavad Gita

What most readers are perhaps not aware of, and most Indian commentators do not know or want to acknowledge, is that the Bhagavad Gita had another, even more important, agenda. As it exists today, it was the *manifesto of a grand religious and social revolution* whose *primary* goal was to overthrow the decadent, elitist orthodox Vedic Dharma centered on sacrificial rites dedicated to various Vedic gods (Devas); and to establish in its place a broad-based *New Dharma* centered on One Supreme Lord, and Lord Krishna as His earthly avatar. The *secondary* goal of the New Dharma was to replace desire-ridden sacrificial rites, a.k.a. Karmya Karma, which promoted Dwandwa (mental stress) and Samsara (rebirth), with Atman-centered Yoga that promoted tranquility of mind (Sthithaprajnya) here on earth and Moksha (Liberation) hereafter.

Study of India's history is essential to understand the Bhagavad Gita

This *hidden agenda* of the Bhagavad Gita can be unraveled only in its historical context. To understand its historical context we must temporarily set aside the usual Mahabharata (epic) context –Arjuna's despondency at the critical moment of the Mahabharata War- and study it in the light of various historical events and processes that took place in India between 2000 B. C. and 200 A. D. The Revolution of Lord Krishna marginalized not only the orthodox Vedic Dharma (Brahmanism), but also several reactionary, atheistic heterodox religions including Buddhism, Jainism; and various heterodox philosophies including Lokayata. Without knowing this historical context, the whole of the Bhagavad Gita comes across as poorly edited collection of irrelevant, inscrutable and often contradictory verses.

The problem of interpolation

The Bhagavad Gita, as we find it today, seems to have undergone numerous additions, changes and interpolations, no different than every ancient scripture in India, including Rig Veda, Mahabharata, Upanishads, Sankhya and Yoga Sutras. Most of the added verses in it are related to the revolution to establish the New Dharma. At the time of interpolations into the Gita, the sanctity of the Vedas was so great that the revolutionary authors had to use cryptic words, pun, symbols, allegory, metaphor, double entendre and other techniques to deliver their message as carefully as possible. Their attack against orthodox Vedic Dharma was delivered ever so gently at times (1:29; 4:15), in harsher tones at other times (2:41-53). The attack against selfish and arrogant Kshatriya ritualists was so harsh that, to diminish its impact, the later pro-Vedic authors hid them in the sixteenth chapter (16:10-20) dealing with Divine and Demonic qualities. Lord Krishna's admonitions of orthodox Vedic Dharma were like the good scolding given by a wise man to his well-behaved son within the earshot of his misbehaving nephew. The advice given was not meant for the noble son (Arjuna) but to chastise the errant nephew (Vedic priests and Kshatriyas). However, many verses seem to have been added later on by Vedic apologists to lend qualified support for Vedic sacrificial rites, class system based on color (Varnashrama Dharma) and the concept of Gunas, the nature-born forces within the body that bind the Atman to the body (Chapters 14, 17 and parts of Chapter 18). To complicate matters even further, they divided the Bhagavad Gita into eighteen chapters and scattered the revolutionary verses throughout them to dilute their effect. In a sense, one could discern a war going on in the Bhagavad Gita between the pro-revolutionary authors on one side and the pro-Vedic old guard on the other.

Read between the lines and beyond the literal meaning

To get at the Gita's hidden agenda we must first identify those verses in it that promote the revolution. Secondly, we must focus on its *deeper layers*, beyond and behind what we read. When we shift our focus beyond the literal meaning of the verses, the hidden meaning gradually appears in all its dimensions. Not only must we focus on what was said and how it was said, but also what was left unsaid, and thus implied. We must also read the Gita carefully *between the lines* to make sense of many of its seemingly inscrutable (2:69; 4:18) or enigmatic (15:1-4) verses spread throughout the text. In fact, numerous verses of the Bhagavad Gita have been written in such a way as to give dual meanings (2:47), one with reference to the Mahabharata context (Arjuna's dilemma) and the other the historical (decadence of orthodox Vedic Dharma).

As we proceed with this book we will unravel, step by step, the Bhagavad Gita's hidden, *revolutionary agenda* focusing on the relevant verses. This will also give us the rationale for various Yogas recommended by Lord Krishna. In the text below the words in *italics* are those we will read with reference to the Bhagavad Gita. Our search for Lord Krishna's Secrets Revolution begins in the Steppes region of Central Asia.

Central Asian semi-nomadic Aryan tribes invade India

Historians tell us that around four thousand years ago there occurred a wholesale outward migration of numerous semi-nomadic pastoral tribes from the Steppes region of Central Asia north of Black, Caspian and Aral Seas, what are today known as Ukraine, Russia and Kazakhstan. No one knows what compelling reason, natural or man-made, triggered this massive movement of humanity. They all shared the same ancient language, semi-nomadic culture and primitive religion centered on *fire sacrifices*. They spoke a group of languages known as Aryan or Indo-European, which later gave birth to Latin in Italy, Greek in Greece, Persian in Persia and Sanskrit in India. They performed primitive *sacrificial rites* to appease their various *nature gods* such as Fire god, Wind god, Sky god, Rain god and the like. Waves after waves, they marched west, south and southeast invading lands, conquering ancient

civilizations, merging with the defeated natives and becoming the ruling class in the newly-won lands. A few tribes of these tall, white-skinned Aryans crossed through the narrow passes of Hindu Kush Mountains of the Himalayan Range and entered the Indian subcontinent.

The Aryans were a hard drinking, boisterous people who loved to gamble and wage wars. Long before they entered India they looked upon *fire as sacred* as it kept them warm against bitter cold of Central Asia; cooked their meat and grains; cleared their land and took their sacrificial offerings to their nature gods. These sacrificial rites were known as *Yajna*. As the Aryans settled down in northern India the sacrificial rites became increasingly important and complex. Also, ritual sacrifice of animals became more common.

The end of the ancient Indus Valley Civilization

When Aryans entered India around 2000 B. C. the advanced civilization they conquered in the great Indus River valley was already several thousand years old. This civilization is also known as Harappan, being named after a great city by that name in the Indus River valley. In fact, its cities were so well planned that even to this day the vast majority of mid and small-sized cities in modern India are relatively primitive in comparison. These people were physically quite the opposite of the Aryans. They were dark-skinned, broad-nosed, thick lipped and relatively short. They regularly traded with the people of Mesopotamian civilization, most likely by the sea route. The baked clay seals of these people indicate that they knew writing. Probably they worshipped a prototype of Lord Shiva known as Pashupati, the Lord of Animals. The baked clay seals with pictures of both standing and sitting human figures in meditative postures suggest that they practiced *meditation* and *Yoga*, which later became an important part of the later Vedic Dharma. They made statues of humans and animals for civil or religious purposes. Aryans defeated these ancient, mercantile people of Indus Valley Civilization by virtue of their horse-driven chariots (*Ratham* 1:21), superior weaponry, martial prowess and brute force; and they settled down in the eastern region of the Punjab between the river Sutlej and Jamuna. This region later came to be known as Brahmavarta, the land of Brahmanic Dharma. (To be continued) pkamath001@gmail.com 5/16/2007

KONKANI CALENDER

| July 2007 | August 2007 | September 2007 |
|---|---|--|
| 3 rd Sankashta Chaturthi | 1 st Sankashta Chaturthi | 3 rd Shri Krishna Janmashtami |
| 14 th Amavasya (Dark Moon) | 3rd – 5th Konkani Youth Convention | 10 th Amavasya (Dark Moon) |
| 14 th HAAS Konkani Extravaganza | 12 th Amavasya (Dark Moon) | 14 th Gowri Thrithiye |
| 16 th Kark Sankranthi | 16 th Simh Sankranthi | 15 th Ganesh Chaturthi |
| 25 th Ashada Yekadashi | 17 th Naga Panchami | 16 th Kanya Sankranthi |
| 29 th Poornami | 24 th Yekadashi | 22 nd Yekadashi |
| | 25 th KAOCA Picnic | 25 th Anantha Chaturdashi |
| | 27 th Poornami | 26 th Poornami |
| | 31 st Sankashta Chaturthi | 27 th Mahalaya |
| | | 29 th Sankashta Chaturthi |

Khabbar thanks Sri P. V. Kamath of Mumbai for furnishing the Panchang and My Astrologer-version 1.0 by Mr. Muralidhar Shenoy, Durham, N C.

My Sincere Thanks to

Some readers go out of their way to help Khabbar. Monetary means is one of them. The Advisory Committee of Khabbar has decided on publishing the names of the families that has contributed \$50.00 or more to Khabbar. This quarter, the following have extended their help and thanks to you

| Names | Amount, \$ |
|---|------------|
| Dayananda & Vidya Pai, West Chester, PA | 50.00 |
| Ramkrishna & Vaishali Acharya, Rockville Centre, NY | 66.00 |
| Sudhakar & Nandini Mallya, Wanaque, NJ | 50.00 |
| Dattananda & Shanta Bhat, Jamaica, NY | 100.00 |
| Pandurang & Jayanthi Nayak, Katy, TX | 100.00 |
| Sudha R. Kini, Bloomfield Hills, MI | 50.00 |
| Anaymous from OH | 200.00 |
| Ravi & Vidya Joshi, Mission Viejo, CA | 50.00 |
| Sudha & Ashok Rao, Shreveport, LA | 130.00 |
| Sadanand & Veena Nayak, Great Meadows, NJ | 100.00 |
| Vasudev & Shaila Nayak, Mays landing, NJ | 60.00 |

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

| Description | Credit, \$ | Debit, \$ |
|--|-----------------|-----------|
| Balance Carried over since Khabbar Vol. XXX No. 1 | 2,867.00 | |
| Money Received: | | |
| Subscriptions (74) and donations | 1,891.00 | |
| Advertisements (5) | 115.00 | |
| Interest | 4.00 | |

| | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Sub Total: | 2,010.00 | |
| Money Spent (Khabbar Vol. XXX No. 1): | | |
| Printing- Khabbar (455) - 20 pages | | 409.94 |
| First Class Mail-Khabbar (414) | | 260.82 |
| Canada Khabbar (16) | | 14.40 |
| Overseas (20) | | 60.00 |
| Mail Fines, computer paper & labels, envelopes, service fees, etc. | | 554.84 |
| Sub Total: | | 1,300.00 |
| Final Balance: | 3,577.00 | |

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



The last quarter's quiz:

If you have a stack of (US) currency 1 mile high, how many notes would you have?

The Answer: According to US Mint, 14.5 million notes

The following gave the correct solution:

Govind Kamath, Austin, TX
Praveen Kamath, Centreville, VA

Amie Miklavcic Pai, Richmond, NC
Vidya Kamath, San Antonio, TX

This Quarter's Quiz

By

"Vasanthmaam"

Continuing with the Konkani tradition of quizzing, here's the brainteaser for this quarter. If you can solve this correctly, send it to Khabbar address to have your name published in the next issue **Moreover, if you get correct solution for 4 consecutive quizzes, you will get FREE subscription to Khabbar Newsletter for a year!.**

Anagrams... How many new words can you make out of any and/or all the seven days of the week?

Upcoming Konkani Events

2007 Konkani Sabha Activities: Diwali

Date: Saturday, November 3rd, 2007
Time: 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Location: Shri Venkateshwara Temple Community Center, Bridgewater, NJ 780 Old Farm Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807
Tel: (908) 725-4477
Cost: We will let you know at the Picnic
Advance Registration and payments will also be accepted at the picnic
Activities: Variety Entertainment, Socialization, Appetizer and Dinner

Anyone interested in receiving the Konkani Sabha flyers, please contact the office bearers, or, email your contact information including email addresses to KonkaniSabha@gmail.com

Visit our website at WWW.KonkaniSabha.org for further details and updates on our activities. Anyone interested volunteering to organize the events and activities, and/or in performing at the Diwali function please contact the office bearers.

| Title | Name | Phone Number | Email |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------------|--|
| President | Ganapathi Kamath | (732) 422-0175 | gkamathcpa@yahoo.com |
| Vice President | Gurudatt Kamath | (732) 274-9542 | gurudatt_kamath@hotmail.com |
| Director of Communication | Rajesh Nayak | (973) 779-3119 | rajesh_nayak@yahoo.com |

2007 KONKANI YOUTH CONVENTION:

The 2007 Konkani Youth Convention will be held on August 3-5, 2007 in Downtown San Francisco, CA. Their website is www.bay2007.com . Please encourage your children aged 18 years and above to attend this convention and meet other Konkani youth.

Konkani Sammelan – 2008 Update



Konkani S sammelan 2008

July 3rd- July 5th Santa Clara, California

Update on Konkani S sammelan 2008 Activities

First of all we invite you to visit the Konkani S sammelan 2008 home page, www.konkanisammelan.org. The website currently provides details on Venue, Hotel, Travel, Registration, Entertainment, Souvenir Contributions, Advertisements, Essay Contest and Fundraising. We plan to update it regularly, and urge you to check back periodically.

Registration for the event is scheduled to open during July'07

Chief Guest: Sri Prakash Padukone will be the chief guest of the S sammelan. He is a legend in Indian sports for having won many Badminton titles. His numerous victories, including the All England Open and the Commonwealth Games, made us all proud. He currently lives in Bangalore and runs the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy. He was conferred the Arjuna award in 1972.

Souvenir: The souvenir committee is actively seeking your participation in the form of articles for the publication. Get your creative juices flowing through your pen (or preferably, keyboard!) and send us your thoughts on Konkani heritage, history, religion, spirituality, cuisine, or tried-and-trusted health remedies. No matter what the subject, if it has any relevance to "Konkani-ness", we want to hear it! Please send all articles as Microsoft Word documents to the following email address: konkvenir08@gmail.com.

To advertise in the souvenir, please contact Arun Kamat at souvenirads@gmail.com.

An Essay contest is being planned. Send us an Essay, Poem, Play or Short story which demonstrates the theme of the Konkani S sammelan 2008: "Awaken the KONKANI in You". Entries must be submitted as Microsoft Word documents, to awakenthekonkanicontest@gmail.com.

Last date for submitting articles, advertisements, and essays for the souvenir: January 1st 2008.

For more details, visit the S sammelan website: <http://www.konkanisammelan.org/2008/souvenir.asp>

Recognition & Awards: The Konkani S sammelan 2008 plans to honor distinguished Konkanis from North America for their achievements. The Awards Committee is soliciting nominations of deserving candidates in the following six categories:

1. **Arts:** for demonstrated excellence in the performing, visual, or liberal arts.
2. **Science/Research:** for achievements in biological, physical, mathematical or medical sciences.
3. **Technology:** for contributions in engineering, computer science or other technical fields.
4. **Entrepreneurship/ Professional Achievement:** for leadership, business acumen and management.
5. **Education/Public Service:** for achievements in academia, or social work
6. **Outstanding Youth:** for academic, extracurricular achievements, public involvement, and social work.

Please visit the S sammelan website for more detailed information and guidelines. Nominations should be addressed to: KS 2008 Awards Committee at: bshiralkar@gmail.com (preferable) or mailed to c/o Bharat Shiralkar, 1127 Quail Ridge Ct., San Jose, CA 95120.

Devu Baren Karo

KONKANI APPEALS

This is an appeal by the disciples of **Vidwan Udupi Vasudev Bhat** to donate generously for the cause of classical music.

Our Guru **Sri Vasudev Bhat** was born at Udupi in 1938 & began to learn Karnatak Music from the age of three from his maternal grandfather Piteelu Manjunathayya Udupi who was the disciple of Asthana Vidvan Sri Mysore Bidaram Krishnappa. The guru gave his first concert at the age of 12 and has never looked back.

After his formal studies, he worked as a journalist for some time but the call of music was irresistible, so decided to spend full time on music. He is a well versed master of not only vocal music, but is also a master of musical instruments like Veena, violine, harmonium,

Tabla etc and teaches to people from all walks of life. He has produced about 100 audiocassettes, out of which Kristha Geethanjali has won appreciation from Pope John Paul II. With local artists he also produced a movie, Bhuvana Jyothi on the life of Jesus the Christ, which earned him name and fame but proved to be a fiasco in the money game of box office!

Around 1982, he founded Nadavibhavom – a musical educational research institute in Udupi. Nadavibhavom means luxuriance of sounds - the sound of different musical instruments along with the voice of humans in the form of singing. All these years he has conducted research on pacifying capacity of music on human mind and body by singing accompanied by different musical instruments in different ragas.

In this silver jubilee year he intends to bring out CDs on the curative therapy of music to soothe human mind and body. There are also plans to conduct seminars & discussions about different aspects of music and to honour a few musicians who have contributed a lot to the field of music.

His address: Udupi Vasudev Bhat, Nadaviabhavom, 7-1-90, Bailakare, Udupi, KA 576 101, India; Tel: +91 820 252 4345/ 4190

Thank you for your time & for the efforts to make the guru's dream come true. May god bless you.

NAKA, the North American Konkani Association

The NAKA Board now consists of:

Vasanth Bhat, Damodar Baliga and Nina Padukone (Founding members), Ramesh Kamath & Bharat Shiralkar, Vasant Acharya & Sandhya Kamath, Suren Kamath, Sudhir Golikeri & Suresh Shenoy, Ramadas Kamath, Ashok Bhatt & Sadanand Mankikar. Seema Kamath, Ranjit Shiralkar & Sheila Shenoy (Youth).

This quarter, the Board has been busy developing fund raising strategy for **KS-2008** and other ways to help preserve our culture here in North America.

Naka Appreciation lunch

As a token of appreciation an Appreciation lunch was arranged by the Executive Committee of the Konkani Sarmelan 2006 for the Sarmelan Committee members and their families. As a final Hurray, the Board of Directors of the North American Konkani Association has been generous in sponsoring this Appreciation Lunch. The Day: February 18, 2007. KAO present a plaque to the Sarmelan EC and sub-Committees. The plaque reads:

Presented to

Konkani Sarmelan 2006 Executive Committee & Sub Committees

In grateful appreciation of your dedication, leadership and selfless work in bringing our community together for a worthy cause Congratulations to the team for a successful and grand Konkani Sarmelan 2006

Date: Feb 18, 2007

KAO Executive Committee 2006-2007

NAKA - Statement Of Accounts

| Date | Description | Credit, \$ | Debit, \$ |
|-----------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| 3/5/2007 | Balance from last report | 54,733.09 | |
| Thru May | Interest | 356.40 | |
| 5/31/2007 | Final Balance: | 55,089.49 | |

Signed: Damodar Baliga
Treasurer, NAKA

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

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

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| Non Subscribers | \$25.00 | \$45.00 | \$85.00 | \$160.00 |
| Non Konkani | \$50.00 | \$90.00 | \$170.00 | \$320.00 |

The Advisory Committee of Khabbar has unanimously decided NOT to accept any ads. wherein the advertisers prefer to stay anonymous by using Khabbar reference.

WANTED:

Any Hoon Khabbar, sunshine news, your or your child's promotion or achievement, articles of interest, etc. are always in need to be published in Khabbar. Share your joy or grief with fellow Konkanis. Send your contribution to: Khabbar, P. O. Box 222, Lake Jackson, TX 77566-0222. email: khabbar@hotmail.com

KONKANI CHARITIES

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

KONKANI CHARITIES

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

KONKANI COOK BOOKS

The two Konkani Cook Books, "Indian Cooking Konkani Style" and "Millennium Masala Konkani Style" published by American Konkani Association (A. K. A.) are for sale. The cost per book is \$12.00 + \$1.50 for S & H. Mail check payable to A.K.A. to: Mrs. Sandhya Kamath, 440 Glencrest Dr., Barrington, IL 60010, Phone: (847)-277-9771 skamath@aol.com

MATRIMONIAL

Inviting correspondence for GSB Konkani girl, 22, 5' 2", B.E. Computer Science. Employed in Bangalore. Willing to settle in U.S. Parents in Bangalore. Sister in U.S. India contact: 80-2663-8129 (H) / 988-68-14282 (M). E-mail: shan.umesh@gmail.com.

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This book shows to the members of our younger generation that the Vedanta is science-friendly and that they do not have to be apologetic when discussing with others about their cultural heritage. Therefore, I appeal to you to give publicity to this piece of information in the next issue of Khabbar. If necessary you may charge me for the service.

Thanking you,

Sincerely,

(M.A.Bhakta) mabhakta2006@yahoo.com

MATRIMONIAL DIRECTORY

Mr. Basti Ganapathi Shenoy of Las Vegas, NV is maintaining a list of Konkani youth that are eligible for matrimony. Interested boys and girls can send in their information to:

Mr. Basti Ganapathi Shenoy

8017 Celebreeze Crt., LAS VEGAS, NV 89145

Phone: (702)-341-6706; Email: bastishenoy@gmail.com

Please call during weekends only from 10:00 AM to 10:00PM (PST)

APPEAL

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

MATRIMONIAL ASSISTANCE

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

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and look forward to serving you for many years to come.

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