

Khabbar

North American Konkani Newsletter

Volume XXXIII No. 1

January, February, March - 2010

From:

The Honorary Editor,
"Khabbar"

P. O. Box 222

Lake Jackson, TX 77566 - 0222

XXXIII-1

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.....

I get numerous queries about the *Khabbar* dues. I would like to summarize my answers to them as follows:

Khabbar is mailed to families who pay \$15/yr as dues. The address label clearly indicates the year/s the dues being rec'd by me. I keep track of all the monies I have received by subscribers since 1987 but, mail *Khabbar* to families that have

paid at least once in the last three or four years depending on the *Khabbar* issue. If your label showed 8 7 (it meant dues were received for 2008 & 2007). But, you keep getting *Khabbar* in 2009 because of the above policy!

Some people are so concerned about their dues payment to *Khabbar*, I actually got a signed blank check from this family in NY saying, "I do not understand your dues payment label. The last thing I want is owe money to *Khabbar*. Please, accept this signed blank check and put the amount I owe!" Of course, that check was **not** cashed!!

SUBSCRIPTION FORM:

Dear Konkani family,

It is time to renew your subscription for 2010, if you've not done so. The numbers on the mailing label clearly indicate the year/s the dues for *Khabbar* has been received since 2007. Please, note that you have the FREE access to the e*Khabbar*, the electronic version of *Khabbar*, by logging on to e*Khabbar*.com. If you want hard copy, then only remit your subscription at \$15.00/yr. **Please, don't pay for future years!** Fill the form below and send your subscription with a check payable to *Khabbar* to P. O. Box 222, Lake Jackson, TX 77566-0222. (Canadian Konkanis please pay cash or MO in US\$)

Name: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email ID: _____

Children

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

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

January, February, March - 2010
Honorary Editor: Mr. Vasanth Bhat
Mailing Address:

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

www.eKhabbar.com

Tel: (979)-299-3210

Email: khabbar@hotmail.com

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 2007**. In other words, families who **have not** paid since 2006 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 2007 and if there is any error let me know.

Even in these tough economic times, the Advisory Committee of *Khabbar* has decided that the annual dues will remain the same at \$15.00 a year and for that you get:

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

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

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

The North American Konkani youth are really into maintaining and preserving our culture here. The newly formed North American Konkani Youth Association

(NAKYA) is an indication. Thanks for all of you for supporting our youngsters who are doing such a great job in maintaining our culture here in North America.

Khabbar will publish all the developments and progress made by NAKA on an on-going basis. Send your constructive suggestions to any of the Directors of the NAKA Board. Also, the much anticipated Konkani Charitable Fund (KCF) was incorporated. In my opinion, KCF is the best thing that has happened and I hope we can extend help to our needy in India or here. More details will be published in due course of time.

The response to the Konkani Cruise 2010 was overwhelming. Majority felt that we as a community should maintain our biennial meetings and hence the Konkani Cruise in 2010. Please, extend all your support to this venture.

The unofficial *Khabbar* correspondents in your area who send in the *hoon Khabbars* on a regular basis are doing an outstanding job. **Remember, if it did not appear in *Khabbar*, then it did not happen in North America!** If your area is not represented wholly, let me know and I'll recruit more volunteers. You can send the news items via email (khabbar@hotmail.com).

On the Quiz front, *Khabbar* has still remained as a champ. We had only 11 correct responses to the last quarter's quiz (which was relatively easy)! Let us see how you will do with this quarter's quiz!?! As usual, winners name/s will be published.

The progress of the ambitious project, **Konkani Kendra**, the **Konkani Bhas Ani Sanskriti Pratistan** is good. Thanks to **Basti Ganapathi Shenoy** who has devised a method wherein families wanting to help **Konkani Bhas Ani Sanskriti Pratistan** can do so with relative ease! Call him at (702)-341-6706 or email: bshenoy@cox.net if interested to extend your help for this worthy cause. Indeed, the Kendra has become a center of attraction and I urge all North American Konkanis to visit the Kendra to see what way they can benefit from this. Also, see in what way we can help our brethren who are doing an outstanding job in preserving our culture.

Khabbar will always publish appeals for charity free of charge but cannot collect money on behalf of any charity. Families are encouraged to send the money directly to the concerned charities. 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.

Happy *Yugadi* to you all.

Devu Boren Karo.

Vasanth
Honorary Editor

Letters to the Editor

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

Hey Vasanth uncle,
How are you doing? I have written something about the MS 150 as you said and it's attached. I have never written an article so please forgive me if you find gross violation of grammar, which I am sure you will. Please let me know if you need any changes or want me to include something else in it. Thank you.

Regards,

Shannu

rakshithnaik@hotmail.com

Dear Sri Vasanth Bhat,

I am forwarding an article to be published in *KHABBAR* Magazine. It is useful to all Saraswats. People staying in US who are my friends request me to send articles to *Khabbar*. Kindly do the needful.

Regards

PROF. K. R. PRABHU,

Konkani Cultural Anthropologist

prabhu_ramdas@yahoo.com

Here is one more Konkani bhajan karaoke on the web.

Sharana Dee Devaa; Sadaa Abhaya Dee Devaa - To desire salvation is human; But one should deserve the same; and for that the Divine Grace is required. Listen if this prayer can appeal to the glorious lord - link given below :

<http://www.esnips.com/doc/d8f3997a-5735-4e9c-9ba0-8474c5a4700b/HARI-KRIPENA-DEE>

Sung by Sri.Arun Naik from Ernakulam (Idea Star Singer Contestant of Season 4, 2009 in Asianet TV) my lyrics would recall a popular Ayyappa song by Yesudas.

Jai Konkani, Jai Samaj !!

Best regards,

Payyanur Ramesh Pai

rameshpai59@gmail.com

Dear Fiends

We are happy to inform you that the video of the recently concluded GSB Yuva Sammellan is available on www.kodialkhabar.blip.tv Kindly watch the videos and post your comments.

Venkatesh Baliga

Vebas Advertising & Marketing

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Mangalore 575 003

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Dear friend and supporter,

I am very happy to update you on the progress of Satchidananda Institute Of Medical Sciences (SIMS) , a charitable non-profit hospital at Kanhangad in North Kerala.

SIMS was inaugurated by Puniya Swamiji Satchidananda in February 2008. The hospital is making slow but steady

progress. (www.anandashramfoundation.org)

Presently we have about 100 beds. In addition we have emergency services and also provide services in medicine, surgery, ob&gy., ophthalmology, dialysis, endoscopy and radiology. We hope to start a cardiology section and an alcohol detoxification center soon, finances permitting

About Rupees 10,00000 worth of charity care has been given this year. In addition, 328 patients have been given dialysis at a nominal cost. The eye section has performed 533 cataract surgeries free of cost. We hope to provide more charity care in the future with the financial situation improving.

We want to thank you for your kind support and look forward to your continued support and encouragement. You are cordially invited to visit the hospital if you travel in that direction. WISHING YOU A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

Regards,

Jay

jaykraman@yahoo.com

Dear Vasanth,

Here is this year's analysis of the 2010 *Khabbar* Mailing List dated 12-10-2009:

Of the 2,143 families in the list (it was 2,086 last year!); we have Konkans living in 45 states & DC (same as last year!). We still do not have any Konkans living in Alaska, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming!!

Also, we have:

218 Kamat(h)

210 Shenoy, Shenai, Shanbh(o)ag(ue)

198 Pai

152 Nayak (Naik)

117 Prabhu

85 Rao (u)

78 Bhat(t)

46 Baliga

36 Kini

32 Nadkarni(y)

28 Mal(l)ya, Mallia, Mahale

23 Kudva

20 Bhandarkar, Bhandari(y)

18 Hegde

14 Acharya.

11 Hatt(i)angadi(y)

11 Kop(p)ikar

The Kamat(h) families have maintained their lead. California still leads with 542 families (20 more than last year!) and San Jose, CA has the highest number of Konkani families living (88)! It was 83 last year!!

Keep up the great work.

Ravindra Nayak,

Flanders, NJ

Editor's Reply:

Thanks for timely evaluation of the Annual List. You are right, we still do not have any Konkans in those 5 States and hope someone will discover Konkans in those States!

Send your "hoon *Khabbars*" to:

Khabbar,

PO Box 222

Lake Jackson, TX 77566-0222

Email: khabbar@hotmail.com

Hoon Khabbar

Congratulations:

The project, Genentech's ECP-1 Manufacturing Facility located in Singapore was selected by the ISPE, INTERPHEX and Pharmaceutical Processing magazine as the Project Execution Category Winner for the 2010 Facility of the Year Awards program. This project, completed by **RAMESH KAMATH** of San Carlos, CA, before he retired in Aug 2009, was selected from a group of 21 state-of-the-art projects that were constructed in 12 different countries.

JAI PRAKASH NAGARKATTI of Chesterfield, MO, CEO of Sigma-Aldrich was featured on "Eight most prominent Indian CEOs in US" by the premier business magazine Forbes. The article chronicled the rise of Indians in corporate America as CEOs who lead US Corporations with revenues of at least \$2 billion. The other seven of the eight listed were Indira Nooyi of PepsiCo, Vikram Pandit of Citigroup, Francisco D'Souza of Cognizant Technology Solutions, Shantanu Narayen of Adobe Systems, Surya Mohapatra of Quest Diagnostics, Dinesh Paliwal of Harman International and Abhijit Talwalkar of LSI. Jai P. Nagarkatti joined the St. Louis Company in 1976 and was appointed COO in Aug 2004.

UDAY RAU, s/o Bob & Vijaya Rau of Sunnyvale, CA, has joined Tiger Legal Venture Group (www.TigerLegalVenture.com) to serve as the firm's Managing Partner of the Silicon Valley office. Uday provides corporate and intellectual property legal representation for companies during their entire life-cycle (from start-up and venture capital financings to initial public offering or merger/acquisition). He also represents a wide variety Angel investors and several of the country's top venture capitalists (including Kleiner Perkins, Accel Partners, Benchmark Capital, DCM Partners, Nexus Venture Capital and Helion Venture Partners) in structuring portfolio investments in both the United States and India. Prior to

joining Tiger Legal Venture Group, Uday worked as a partner in a Silicon Valley law firm, a senior attorney at Gunderson Dettmer, an investment banker at Lehman Brothers Inc. and clerked for the Hon. Priscilla Owen of the Texas Supreme Court. Konkani entrepreneurs can reach Uday at Uday@TigerLegalVenture.com to discuss beginning a new business, venture capital investments, legal advice on running a business, intellectual property agreements and structuring contracts.

Konkani Graduates:

SMITHA, d/o Narayandas & Sangeetha Kamath of Richmond Hill, ON, graduated with Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Midwestern University, Downers Grove, IL, winning the Dean's Achievement Award in July 2009 for top academic, professional and personal accomplishments in her graduating class and is now completing a one year post-doctoral residency in South Florida.

VINAYA, d/o Ramakrishna & Mathura Shenoy of Chembur, Mumbai, graduated from Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA with M.S. in Computer Engineering December 2009. She will join Epic Healthcare system in Madison, WI. Her *mamu* (Maternal Uncle) Dr. Vasudev & Sunita Prabhu of Mission Viejo, CA sends congratulations and good wishes for her new career.

SHRADDHA PAI, d/o Shivdas & Sheetal Pai of Scarborough, Ont., successfully defended her doctoral thesis in systems neuroscience on Jan 14, 2010. Shraddha is currently a graduate student at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (New York, USA) and will be awarded her degree (PhD) in the Biological Sciences in April. She will continue research in the epigenetics of psychiatric disease in her hometown of Toronto.

SACHIN, s/o Suresh & Usha Shenoy of Sugar Land, TX has joined Kasturba Medical College in Manipal

India. Sachin will be returning to the USA in two years to complete his U.S. medical degree.

New Arrivals:

ARIN-ATHARVA, a baby boy to Vivek & Rashmi Pai of Irvine, CA on Sept. 18, 2009. The proud Paternal Grandparents are Aravind & Shobha Pai of Redding, CA and Maternal Grandparents are Shivram & Meera Kulkarni of Mumbai.

DEVAK JOHNSTON, a 6.5 lbs. and 19 inches tall baby boy to Anjali & Greg Martin of Newark, DE on Sunday, December 20, 2009 at 1:09 a.m. Proud maternal grand parents are Sadashiv & Shashi Rao of Newark, DE.

VINAY, a baby boy, weighing 6 lb 2 oz, and 19" tall to Ganesh & Urmila Kamath of NY on January 6, 2010 a little before 8AM. The proud maternal grand parents are Mohan & Vasumathi Pai of Fresh Meadows, NY.

Brahmopadesha:

Nitin & Geeta Pandit of Burlington, MA celebrated the sacred thread ceremony of their son **Chiranjeevi NEIL**, grandson of Ahalya & Krishnanand Jagannath Udiyaver of Mumbai and grandson of Shalini & Dr. Chandrakant Pandit of Bangalore on November 30, 2009 at Pune, India.

Konchady Krishnananda & Shaila Shenoy of Jackson Heights, NY celebrated the sacred thread ceremony, *mungi*, of their son, **Chi. ANISH**, on Sunday February 7th 2010 at Laxmi hall, the Hindu Temple of NA in Flushing, NY at 11:35 AM *muhurtham*.

Per unconfirmed reports, the vatus are extremely busy doing sandyavandanams

Newly Weds:

Sow. SONALI, d/o Shivadev & Lata Ubhayakar of Rancho Palos Verdes, CA married to **Chi. GAUTUM**, s/o Kamala and (Late) Damoor Venkatesh

of San Diego, CA on November 22, 2009 in Torrance, CA

Dr. Shashidhar & Purnima Pai of Mount Pleasant, SC are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter, **Sow. SNEHA with Chi. ERIC**, s/o Mrs. Jogi Darshan Singh and the late CMDR. Darshan Singh, on December 20, 2009. The couple will reside in Atlanta, GA.

Relocation:

The **PAMNANIS**, Amita Kamath & Sanjay, relocated from San Francisco, CA to 10 E 29th Street, 45C, New York, NY 10016. The email ID: amitakam@gmail.com

The **RAO** family, Pramod & Archana, together with their girls, Ria & Reim, moved from Houston, TX to 4618 Cedarfield Rd., Katy, TX 77494. The new telephone is (281)-394-7503 and email ID: aprao4618@gmail.com

The **SHENOY** family, Kaup Muralidhar & Sudha, relocated within Durham, NC to 1609 Cultivar Lane, Durham, NC 27713. The new telephone is (919)-484-0363 and email ID: mks_us@yahoo.com

The **AMLADI** family, Shyam & Kalyani, relocated from Malibu, CA to 8 West Monroe St., Unit 1908, Chicago, IL 60603. The new telephone is (312)-939-0284 and email ID: shyam70sunder@yahoo.com

The **PRADHANS**, Jyothi & Ashish, have relocated from La Palma, CA to 2072 Palisades Drive, Fullerton, CA

92831. The new telephone (714) 526-5372.

The **BHATT** family, Ashok & Amita have relocated from London, Ont to 2 Mauro Court, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 3J8. The new telephone is (905)-881-0022 and the email ID: ashokbhatt@sympatico.ca

30th Wedding Anniversary:

ANIL & MRIDULA RAO of Friendswood, TX celebrated their 30th Wedding Anniversary by taking a trip to Egypt cruising the Nile in February 2010.

50th Wedding Anniversary:

Manoor Devdas & Shanta Prabhu, parents of Manjunath & Hema Prabhu, Bloomington, IL (Grand Children Pramod and Vandana Prabhu), Panduranga & Vidya Prabhu Hoffman Estates, IL (Grand Children Anirudh and Aditi Prabhu), Lalitha Kamath & Gurudath Kamath Cumming, GA(Grand Children Radhika and Harish Kamath) was held in Bangalore in the presence of relatives and friends on February 7th 2010.

The function started with Omkara chanting, Om namo Bhagavathe vasudevaya chanting, Om namashivaya chanting. All the guests participated. There was beautiful bhajan program for 45 minutes by Ms Divya, Karnatic vocalist. She sang many kirtanas. Then all guests chanted Bhagavadgita chapter 12 - Bhakti yoga with all the people participating. After

that there was dinner. Everybody said, it was a unique spiritual experience.

Submitted by Manjunath Prabhu, prabhuman@gmail.com

Obituary:

Smt. MUKTA R. KARKAL 80, (wife of late Rabindranath P Karkal) passed away peacefully on December 9, 2009 in Princeton, NJ after brief illness. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to her daughter Bina, son-in-law Gurudutt Trasy of Princeton, NJ, her grand-daughter Anjali, her husband David and her great grandson Baby Ethan of Basking Ridge, NJ, and all relatives & friends.

Smt. RADHABAI (SAROJINI) BALIGA (77), w/o Gopalkrishna Ram Baliga of Baliga Stores, Mangalore, passed away on Dec 28, 2009. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to her son, Harsih Baliga and family of Flushing, NY.

Smt. MALINI SHIRALI (78) passed away in Mumbai on Jan 7th 2010. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to her daughter, Gauri Sirur and family of Houston, TX.

Sri SADANANDA PAI (88) passed away on Jan. 12th 2010 in Mumbai. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his wife Asha Pai of Mumbai, daughter Veena Borkar & family of Moorpark, CA and son, Mukund Pai & family of Portland, OR.

KONKANI HAPPENINGS

Kala Vaibhav honours Pt. Upendra bhat with Bhimsen Joshi Award

Pune: Noted Hindustani singer, Pt UPENDRA BHAT has been conferred with the first Swar Bhaskar Pt Bhimsen Joshi Award by socio-cultural organization Kala Vaibhav, Aurangabad, Maharashtra.

In a recent function at Aurangabad, Pt Bhat received the Award which consists of Rs. 5,000 cash, Shreefal and a momento.

On receiving the Award Pt Bhat said, "This is not a personal honour for me but it is the honour of Bhimsen Gayaki (style) so ably created by Panditji through his singing career of many decades. I accept the award in all humility on behalf of the hundreds of disciples of Panditji."

Pt Bhat added that the Award has a special importance as it is conferred in the city of Aurangabad which is the karma bhoomi of Late Vatsalabai (Pt Bhimsen Joshi's wife) who worked with the local radio station for many years as a staff artist. "Aurangabad is vatsalabai's maternal home and an award from this place makes me more proud." Pt Bhat said.

Celebration worthy verdict from the Indian Supreme Court

As appeared in www.daijiworld.com

Link:
http://www.daijiworld.com/news/news_disp.asp?n_id=69150&n_tit=Kashi+Mutt+%96+Supreme+Court+Dismisses+Sri+Raghavendra+%92s+Appeal

New Delhi: Kashi Mutt – Supreme Court Dismisses Sri Raghavendra’s Appeal

New Delhi, Dec 3, 2009: An appeal preferred by Sri Raghavendra, former junior Swamiji of Sri Kashi Mutt Samsthan, against the verdict of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, which had held through a decree dated March 25, 2009, that Srimad Sudhindrateertha Swamiji was the actual spiritual head (Mathadhipati) of Sri Kashi Mutt Samsthan, has been dismissed by the Supreme Court. The Andhra Pradesh High Court had ordered Sri Raghavendra, the erstwhile Shishya (next in succession) of Sri Sudhindrateertha Swamiji before getting relieved from the position, to hand over all the things, including the presiding deity of Sri Kashi Mutt, other idols and paraphernalia belonging to Sri Kashi Mutt but kept in his possession, back to Sri Sudhindrateertha Swamiji.

With this, the disciples of Sri Sudhindrateertha Swamiji, who form a overwhelming majority in the Gowda Saraswat Brahmin community, have heaved a sigh of relief, as the long-drawn dispute raised by the former junior Swamiji of the Mutt since the last ten years, has reached a decisive juncture.

The division bench of the Supreme Court, comprising Justice Tarun Chatterjee and Justice H L Dattu, had heard arguments placed before the bench by both the parties on April 17 this year, and had reserved its judgment on the appeal as well as over the request of the petitioner to stay operation of the High Court verdict. With the dismissal of the appeal and refusal to issue stay order against the earlier High Court judgment, Sri Raghavendra is now bound by the High Court verdict and an obligation to act upon as per its terms. The persistent arguments placed before the courts by Sri Raghavendra to declare himself as the spiritual head of Sri Kashi Mutt Samsthan have accordingly, failed to appeal the judiciary.

The elated Shishyas of Sri Sudhindrateertha Swamiji from GSB community congregated at the local Sri Venkatramana Temple to share their joy by bursting crackers. The decision of the division bench of the Supreme Court has vindicated the position of Sri Sudhindrateertha, a very charismatic and iconic head of the Mutt, which has a rich history of over 500 years, as the undisputed head of the Mutt. Sri Sudhindrateertha Swamiji, because of his knowledge, friendly manners, charismatic personality and acquaintance with almost all the members of the community, has been held in reverence by the GSB community, and the victory of the Swamiji, coming at a time when he has completed 60 years of service to the community, has made his disciples very happy. It may be recalled that the unexpected rebellion of the then junior Swamiji of the Mutt, Sri Raghavendra, had sent shock waves through the GSB community a decade ago, as till then, the community had not experienced any problem in the Mutt administration.

AMKA Volunteers at “Feed My Starving Children”

American Midwest Konkani Association (AMKA) started the New Year 2010 with a spirit of giving by volunteering as a community. A group of 50 AMKA members (20 kids and 30 adults) hand-packed meals which will be used to feed starving children around the world. This was a unique opportunity for parents to join hands with children in a volunteering event. It was a lot of fun with kids helping to scoop the ingredients, moms weighing and packing the meals and dads moving heavy boxes around the warehouse. The volunteering event was hosted by an organization called “Feed My Starving Children” in Aurora, Illinois.

DesiClub.com's Top 50 Coolest Desis of 2009 includes two Konkanis!

Politics, power, influence, entertainment and greater success in technology and science, the year was marked by stories filled with pride and excellence.

by Hiral Dholakia-Dave

Of the top 50 desis of 2009 per the above list, two of them were our own and also from Houston area! And they are:

39. Sanjay Bhatt

Location: Seattle, WA



Who is He: Journalist with The Seattle Times

Why is He Cool: Bhatt is one of the two Indian American journalists among four winners of the prestigious 2009 Knowledge@Wharton Awards for Business Journalism, sponsored by the South Asian Journalists Association (SAJA), the Wharton School and the Knowledge@Wharton online business journal.

What's Next: The awards provided journalists with a scholarship to attend the prestigious Wharton Seminars for Business Journalists at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Cool Fun Fact: A recipient of regional and national journalism awards, Bhatt has led three successful fund development campaigns for non-profits (\$165,000 raised).

14. Vivek Pai

Location: Princeton, NJ

Who is He: Associate Professor, Princeton University

Why is He Cool: HashCache, the technological brainchild of a team of Princeton computer science researchers led by Vivek Pai has drawn recognition as a revolutionary way to expand internet access around the world. The new efficient data storage system was featured as one of the top 10 emerging technologies of the year in Technology Review, a scientific magazine published by Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



What's Next: HashCache, features a new data-caching system that stores information more efficiently than current methods. By making Internet access more affordable, HashCache has the potential to expand web use in developing regions around the world.

Cool Fun Fact: Instead of relying heavily on RAM, HashCache stores information from frequently visited web sites on a local hard drive so the data can be accessed directly. The system significantly increases the efficiency of internet data transfer, which can reduce the cost of maintaining a one-terabyte hard drive tenfold. It can be implemented in cell phones, laptops or nearly any other hardware.

KHABBAR FROM KULAR

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

Shri Allen C. Pereira, Chairman & Managing Director, Bank of Maharashtra visited World Konkani Centre and appreciated the establishment and donated Rs 5.00 lakhs to World Konkani Centre.

Vishwa Konkani Abhiyan was held at Puttur. Large number of Konkani people gathered at the Venue. There was Video Show on World Konkani Centre followed by Konkani Kudumbi dance programme.

Board of Directors of Saraswat Co-op. Bank Ltd. honoured and felicitated Vishwa **Konkani Sardar Basti Vaman Shenoy** at their Head Office, Dadar, Mumbai and presented a D.D. of Rs.20.00 lakhs to World Konkani Centre to establish Two fellowships to promote Research and Study at World Institute of Konkani Language at World Konkani Centre.

First World Tulu Sammelan was held at Ujire, Dharmasthala from 9th December to 12th December. **Rajarshi Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade** was the Chief Patron. Lakhs and lakhs of people from Tulunadu and other places has assembled. **Dr. P. Dayananda Pai** was honoured and felicitated during concluding Session held on 12.12.2009. Seminars on Tulu language, heritage, history, Exhibitions, were also held.

Shri Devendra Thirtha Hall at Shri Kashi Mutt, Bantwal was inaugurated by **H.H. Srimad Sudhindra Thirtha Swamiji and Patta Shishya H.H. Sri Samyamindra Thirtha Swamiji** on 10.12.2009. Konkani Bhajan C.D. by **Smt. Vasanthi R. Nayak** was also released at the function.

Past Lion District Governor **Dr. Austine D'Souza Prabhu** of Chicago, Kalasampath Lions Club, visited World Konkani Centre. A Book 'Vajram', collection of about 3000 'Chutuka' in Konkani was released by Mr. Albert D'Souza, Mumbai. **Shri Basti Vaman Shenoy** presided.

Great Kannada Cine Actor '**Vishnu Vardhan**' died on 30.12.2009 at Mysore.

Vishwa Konkani Sardar Basti Vaman Shenoy Amrithotsav Celebrations (Platinum Jubilee) was held on 17.1.2010 at Mangalore under the Chairmanship of great Konkani donor **Dr. P. Dayananda Pai**. Former Union Minister **Mr. Oscar Fernandes** was the Chief Guest. **Mr. Yogish N. Bhat**, M.L.A. and **Adv. Uday L. Bhembre**, great Konkani Movement of Goa made the Felicitation speeches. The day long programme was commenced with seminar on the theme 'Integration through Languages' with the participation of Scholars of Kannada, Tulu, Beary, Kodava and Konkani Academies. At the end **Dr. P. Dayananda Pai** announced that the Hostel Block which will be constructed soon at World Konkani Centre will be named after **Vishwa Konkani Sardar Basti Vaman Shenoy** for his yeoman services to Konkani language and other social, cultural fields.

G. S. B. Yuva Sammelan was organised by **Mr. Venkatesh Baliga**, Editor '*Kodial Khabbar*' at Mangalore from 18.01.2010 to 20.01.2010. The seminars were well attended by G.S.B. Youth and College students from various parts of Karnataka young G.S.B. entrepreneurs from all parts of country participated as resource persons. GSB Youth Organizations and entrepreneurs were felicitated.

'Kodial Theru' was celebrated on 22.01.2010 with pomp and gaiety at Mangalore. **H.H. Shri Sudhindra Thirtha Swamiji** was present and blessed the Samaj.

All India Konkani Parishad 27th Adhiveshan was held at Sankli, Goa. **Dr. H. Shantharam**, Manipal was elected as President of the Parishad. Konkani people coming from all parts of the Country in large numbers.

Silver Jubilee of 'Ranga Chinnary' a foremost Konkani drama troupe under the leadership of **Kasargod Chinna** famous Kannada, Hindi, Tulu, Cinema. The celebrations were held at Mangalore on 22.02.2010. **Mr. B Ganapathi Pai**, (Bharath Beedi Works Ltd.) and **Mr. Madhusudan D.Kushe** (PVS Beedi Pvt. Ltd.) were present. **Vishwa Konkani Sardar Basti Vaman Shenoy and Ln. P. Vitobha Bhandarkar** were honoured and felicitated on this occasion.

Vishwa Konkani Sardar Felicitated on his Amrut Mahotsav

From Daijiworld Media Network – Mangalore (FR)

Mangalore, Jan 17: The Amrut Mahotsav celebration programme to mark the 75th birthday of **Vishwa Konkani Sardar Basti Vaman Shenoy**, at T V Raman Pai Convention Hall, Mangalore had all ingredients to make it an exciting event. All those who hold him in awe for the sheer energy he possesses and his passion for Konkani and for those who draw inspiration from this ever young and energetic man were present in large numbers to felicitate him on having completed 75 fruitful years of his life, majority of which have been devoted working for the promotion and preservation of Konkani language and culture.

Oscar Fernandes, Member of Parliament who was the VIP guest in the absence of **Digambar Kamath and R V Deshapande**, who could not make it to the event, surprised the assembled gathering by getting into a singing mode with his sonorous voice when he sang the English song "You will never grow old" for Basti Vaman Shenoy. The crowd went into a peel of laughter when Oscar candidly said "I usually sing this song to my wife and I hope she will not take an offence if I sing the song to Vaman Shenoy".

Oscar Fernandes who also released the commemorative volume to mark the occasion equated Basti Vaman Shenoy to a warrior, who always fought for the welfare of Konkani language. "Konkani Society has contributed enormously for the wellbeing of the society.

We need to remember stalwarts like Karnad Sadashiva Rao who had galvanized scores of people in our district during the freedom struggle of this country. We have to remember people like Srinivasa Mallya, T A Pai, K K Pai and U S Nayak because they are part of our heritage and in this heritage Basti Vaman Shenoy's name is also included", he pointed out.

He further added "Konkani community has given leadership to the country in the banking sector and that is why 'cultivating money' has become our main occupation. Today if Dakshina Kannada has made tremendous achievements in the field of education and has succeeded in getting national and international recognition, major portion of this credit goes to the Konkani Community. Their services have helped in building this nation". He stated that the best way to promote our language is to encourage our children to speak the language at home.

A ten minute documentary on Basti Vaman Shenoy showed the journey he had traversed culminating in the setting up of the Work Konkani Centre and now completing 75 eventful years of his life.

Basti Vaman Shenoy was felicitated by Oscar Fernandes with traditional shawl by Oscar Fernandes, with a peta by **Dayananda P Pai**, garland by **MLA Yogesh Bhat** and fruits and memento by **Uday L Bembhre**, eminent Konkani movement leader of Goa. **B R Bhat** read out the citation giving a glimpse of the achievements of Basti Vaman Shenoy.

In his welcome address, **P Dayananda Pai** Chairman of the Organizing Committee pointed out "it is not enough to live a longer life. How well we have led this life and what we have done for the betterment of the society is important than just leading a longer life". He called upon the people to take pleasure in donating for the wellbeing of the society. "Give just like a rose gives its perfume because it is natural for the rose to do so", he stated. **Dayananda Pai** also stated that he will put a proposal to the committee to name either the hostel or the heritage building after Basti Vaman Shenoy in recognition of his gigantic contribution for the promotion of Konkani language and literature.

M L A Yogish Bhat pointed out "though we belong to two different political parties it has not come in the way of blossoming of our personal relationship". Recalling his association with Basti Vaman Shenoy Yogish Bhat stated that Vaman Shenoy never spoke ill about others. "He possesses positive attitude and is a complete giver. Though 75 years he has grandeur plans to organize second Vishwa Konkani Sammelan, which amply exhibits his passion for promoting this language", he stated.

In his felicitation speech **Uday Bembhre** stressing on the need to preserve Konkani language stated "if diversity is the prerequisite for successful humanity then preservation of linguistic diversity is essential. Language lies in the heart of what it means to be human". He stated that according to UNESCO in the next 100 years 3000 languages will disappear and called upon Konkani speaking community to work towards preserving our language and culture and add to the linguistic diversity of the country.

In his speech **Basti Vaman Shenoy** gave entire credit to God and the elders, who he said are responsible for whatever his has achieved. "But for the support and co-operation of elders, friends and well wishers I would not have been able to achieve whatever little I have been able to do in the last 75 years of my life. "You people have wished me to live for 100 years. Now I have chalked out enough plans for the next 25 years" he said amidst laughter from the assembled crowd.

The day long function was inaugurated 10 am in the morning. There was a seminar in the morning on "integration through language", where eminent personalities participated. Seminars/discussions were also held on Inter-cultural relationship – Konkani and other languages.

There was a cultural programme soon after the felicitation programme of Konkani Folk Dance by Bhujang Siddi and Party, Yellapur and Vasu Gowda and Party and Konkani Sugam Sangeet programme by swarashree Kalavedike, Mangalore. Members of Organising Committee **M Jagannath Shenoy, M Raghunath Shet, Mohini Dayananda Pai, Blossom Fernandes, B R Bhat** were also present on the dais.

It was indeed a good show of solidarity in the interest of protecting Konkani language and culture. Once again **Basti Vaman Shenoy** played his cards carefully – of using the forum of his Amrut Mahotsav to dream big for the next 25 years, of working for the cause of Konkani. One has to salute his spirit and passion for Konkani.

WHY SARASWATS ARE ELEVATED BRAHMINS?

(Reporting by Prof. K. R. Prabhu, Konkani Cultural Anthropologist,

RIVER SARASWATI

The only name of a river appearing in Rig Veda is name of Saraswati Hence, River Saraswati is the not only Punya (holy) river, it is also the Deva (Gods') river. It appears that River Saraswati is older than the Vedas whose time is unknown (Sanatana) to the mankind. She starts from the Mount Everest a place known as "Plaksha Prasravana".

The fertile & holy land in between River Saraswati & River Dhrishadwati is termed as Aryavarta or Bhramavarta where Saraswati Brahmins were settled. These Brahmins were performing Yajna, Japa and Tapa acquiring the Divya Jnan (World Knowledge) and became authority to propagate Vedas and Vedantik Knowledge.

In other literatures like Mahabharata and Matsya Purana, the same area of Bhramavarta is called as Kurukshetra. It is 70 miles in length and 30 miles in width where Pavitra (Holy) grass by name 'DARBE' was growing abundantly. This is the place where the Pandavas and Kavravas had their battle known as Dharma Yudh. In another reference, the Kurukshetra was formed by Sage Parashuram after he destroyed all Kshatryas to perform Yajna. He formed 4 villages known as Tarantuk, Arantuk, Ramahrad and Machutnak marking as boarders to the Aryavarta.

In Vedas you find the name of 3 Goddesses namely, Gayatri, Savitri and Saraswati The sloka in Veda about the Goddess Saraswati is, ,

"DEVI TAME, AMBI TAME, NADI TAME, SARASWATI" (Meaning, - Among Goddesses, Among Mothers and Among Rivers - Saraswati is Supreme."

The Saraswats are those Brahmins who were residing on the banks of Saraswati River. as per the evidences available as on date. They were Yajna Brahmins besides the Scholars in Vedas as they were well known to the entire Brahmin segments.

The reason being, Lord Vishnu and Devatas have thought that during the time of Pralaya, the Vedas are to be kept in a secured place where the Demons are not able to locate easily. Earlier the Vedas were hidden under the bottoms the oceans (Bhu Garbh). That is how in the previous case, Lord Vishnu was to take up the Matsy avatar to protect the Vedas and liberate from the hands of Demons. The Saraswati River was a river on the land and may not be easily forecasted by the Demons. Vedas are the most precious wealth from the time immemorial and it was the duty of Devas to protect them at any cost for the Humanity. Vedas contain Mantras/Slokas and all Gods and Spirits. .

Saraswati River was the most Holy river and a Vedic River as per Shalya Parva from . A dip in Saraswati River starting from Plaksha Praravana from Mount Everest which runs upto Prabhas (near Somnath- Kutch) at Gujarat all along was surrounded by fertile lands, landscapes and clean environment. People around the River were more religious, creative and scholarly. This is the power of the River Saraswati.

HOW WE BECAME SARASWATS?

Sage Bhragu was the son of Lord Brahma. Bhrgu's son was Sage Dadhich. Sage Dadhich was a great Jnani due to his penance for thousands of years in Himalayas once decided to come down to the planes to stay on the banks of a Holy River . He found that place is River Saraswati. Large numbers of humanity used to take dip in River Saraswati like River Ganga and River, to eradicate their sin. Hence the River Saraswati was to ease out the sins left by the pilgrims. By giving service to the great Sage doing his Meditation and the daily anustan, the sins of the river gets eased out. Hence in the night, the Goddess Saraswati carrying sins used to keep the hermitage and surrounding clean, in the process the sin used to get rid off by the penance power of the Sage.

One evening as usual when he was performing the evening Sandhya, Sage Dadhich saw the mating of Gandharvs (angels) on the sky. Dadhich became emotionally energized and as a result, his semen was discharged in the River Saraswati. Being a devotee of Sage Dadhich and by knowing that his semen is most powerful due to his long penance and that , it should not go waste, River Saraswathi

accepted to protect the semen under the water (Bhu Garbh). The child born in that semen of Dadhich was named after his mother Saraswati as SARASWAT. In the Vedic times, the mother's name was more prominent like Ganga Putr, Kaunteya, Yashodha Nandan etc.

The Saraswat as a child sage, has learnt all the 4 Vedas from his mother Saraswati. He became a custodian of these scripts and thus became the owner or authority of the Vedas because he was the First Person to read the Vedas after pralaya. To learn Vedas, one has to worship Saraswati by chanting the Sloka as contained in Rig Veda

Dorbhiryukta chaturbhim sphatika maninibhai rakshamalandadhana Hastenaikena padmam sitamapicha shukam pustakam chaparena |
Bhasa kundendushankhasphatikamaninibha bhasamana.asamana Sa me vagdevateyam nivasatu vadane sarvada suprasanna || "

Saraswat was the first sage who was performing Yajnas by chanting Mantras near the Saraswati River. This news went around the Bharath Khand that the Vedas are the collection of Mantras and those Vedas were in the custody of a young sage by name Saraswat.

They all came to see him and requested him to give the Vedas. Saraswat tells them that Vedas cannot be just possessed. It should be administered by (learned from) a Guru. That shocked the so called Brahmins who were following mantra less rituals. They were all elderly and refused to touch the feet of a young boy and accept him as their Guru. Saraswat remained firm and they all went back. Again they thought that by accepting him as a Guru they get precious Vedas and what if they touch his feet?

The whole group came back to the Saraswati River to meet the young Sage Saraswat. They prayed to him that all of them have accepted Sage Sarsawat as their Guru. Saraswat held Training Camps to the lakhs of Brahmin aspirants on the banks of River Saraswati. After training them, he awarded them the Degrees such as Agni-hotri, Dwivedi, Thrivedi, Chaturvedi, Misra, Thripiti, Puranik, Purohit, Joshi, Vaidya, Avdhari, Samaga etc depending on the specialization they have made in Vedic scripts.

Hence the First Guru of Vedic Brahmins was Sage Saraswat. We are the descendents of Saraswat Rishi and we have become Saraswat Brahmins - the Vedic Brahmins. We have studied all Vedas and rituals. We became Avdhanis, Upadhyayas, Pandits, Acharyas, Joshis, Sharmas, Mishras, and Bhats (Purohits) etc by profession.

Beyond idli, dosa, sambar

Seventy And Still Cooking... Chandri Bhat

Email contribution by Damo Baliga, Brooklyn, NY

Chandri Bhat's a sport. She cheerfully juggles loaves of still-warm multigrain bread in the bakery at Savera Hotel. She smiles beside a house plant in her vivid green sari, talking rapidly all the while. Then, the photographer suggests a final shot by the pool. "But it's raining. I'll get wet," she squeaks plaintively. A minute later, she's spiritedly charging through puddles waving a voluminous umbrella. "I have to be careful, you know," she whispers, "I'm 70 plus. And I have arthritis." Then, on request, she smiles regally for the camera. Chandri's possibly one of Chennai's most remarkable women. Despite not being a chef, she's influenced the food industry tremendously. She's taught a huge number of Chennai-ites how to cook over the past four decades. "In some cases, I've taught four generations of a family..." And she's been the face of traditional Indian home cooking for a large number of chefs, industrialists and food experts from across the world.

"I was always interested in cooking, but in my day we never knew it could become a profession." When she finished her schooling and college in Mangalore, her mother sent her to Mumbai and Delhi to stay with her sisters and get a taste of big city life, while the family looked for a suitable boy. That's where Chandri had her first glimpse of just how rich and varied India's culinary culture could be. "One of my sisters lived in a railway colony, and they were always having potlucks and kitty parties. I learnt nankhattai from the Parsis, dhokla from the Gujaratis, laccha parathas from the Punjabis..."

Then, Chandri was married to a dentist from Chennai. She went on to teach at the Cultural Academy, which was a sort of finishing school for young women in the 1960s and 70s.

Getting adventurous

By then, home cooks were getting adventurous. So while the days of sushi lunches and Korean hot pot dinners were still far away, it wasn't all idly-dosa-sambar. "We did gratins, bakes, soups, roasts," she says, adding, "Chinese was getting popular — so we made sweet corn chicken soup. Also desserts such as bread pudding, caramel custard, trifles and gateaux. Even some bread, mainly dinner rolls and stuffed buns."

While she was teaching home cooks, mainly housewives and brides-to-be, Chandri hosted a cooking show on Doordarshan ("It was as soon as DD started") and also branched out into consultancy for appliance companies. Panasonic wanted her to help them target their blenders at home cooks. Vivek & Co. needed her to show housewives how to use their 'Ideal Kitchen.' And Butterfly sent her across Sri Lanka to teach people how to use their pressure cookers.

"Multi national companies began to understand that Indians used products differently," she says, explaining how she helped. "For example, a blender is of no use to us, because we use a mixer grinder instead." She adds, "A rice cooker would not sell with just one function. So, I developed recipes for soups, roasts and steamed dishes that could be made with it. I also explored the 'keep warm'

option and found it could be used for delicate desserts.” Chandri went on to travel across the Middle East, developing a Lebanese menu and teaching people how to cook it with Panasonic’s ‘rice’ cookers. Meanwhile, she was also helping to develop food products.

“Kissan, Arun... any number of cooking oils...”

Chandri’s biggest advantage is the fact that she truly understands the home cooks. “Chefs are far removed from home cooking. A housewife cannot identify with that style,” she says, talking of how chefs never need to worry about peeling, chopping, washing dishes or balancing the household budget.

In a bid to reach out to more than just the “fancy crowd making fancy dishes” she began working with restaurateur M. Mahadevan about ten years ago with the Chennai Culinary Institute, which made money teaching Chennai-ites how to cook Thai, Mexican and Chinese, and then used it to teach underprivileged women, and help them earn a livelihood. They then went on to start Winners, a bakery for economically-deprived young boys, that teaches them to bake, and then eventually places them in five star kitchens and bakeries across the country.

Then, a couple of years ago, exhausted by arthritis, Chandri decided to retire. “I thought, maybe it was time. So I stopped classes. Then, Nina Reddy (of Savera) met me at the gym here and now I’m working with Savera as a consultant,” she smiles. And meanwhile, she’s still in touch with her many, many students around the world and it’s a good feeling. “Especially when young people come to me and say, ‘Aunty, I have the recipe you gave mum. And I’m still using it.’”

HINDU WAY OF LIFE

Written by a Konkani Maj Gen, (Ret. Army Officer)

Submitted by kamath77@gmail.com

I am a Hindu because I was born in a Hindu home. The Hindu way of life appeals to me because it gives me freedom to think and act. It does not bind me to rigid codes or to some particular book, but only requires that I try to follow the first two parts of the eight-fold *ashtanga yoga*, namely, *yama* or abstentions and *niyama* or observances, expecting me to do nothing more than being a good member of society. Practice of the next six parts is optional.

Hindu philosophy admits the atheist and the worshiper of the formless God, *nirguna brahman*, as well as those who worship one or more deities of the Hindu pantheon. I am not an atheist; neither do I pray or perform *puja*. Yet, I am a Hindu.

The Hindu accepts all other ways — Buddhist, Jain, Christian, Muslim, Sikh — as valid, demonstrating the universality of Hindu philosophy of which I am proud; but I’m ashamed of the system that denigrates and oppresses others within and outside the Hindu fold.

I was born into a Konkani-speaking family; so my mother tongue is Konkani. My inherited physical characteristics, language and religion are all by chance of birth. But in my 60-plus years, I have come to hold opinions and perform actions for which only I am responsible.

Caste is a Hindu social construct that depends on the work an individual performs to earn a livelihood:

- **Brahmin** - "Brain-workers",
- **Kshatriya** - Those who work the land and/or defend it,
- **Vaisya** - Those who conduct business for profit, and
- **Sudra** - Those who provide services and labor for their society.

With such an interpretation of caste, I am today a mix of all the four castes as indeed most of us are. My being born a Saraswat Konkani does not give me hereditary claim to the Brahmin caste.

I am Brahmin because I use my knowledge and intelligence to earn a living. I am also Kshatriya because I served in the army to earn a living. I have saved some money and invest it so that it will multiply, and that makes me a Vaisya, too. I personally clean my house toilets. I carry household garbage to the trash container, I dig and plant in the garden — and that makes me Sudra (untouchable) also.

In my daily life I meet, mix and dine with people of all 'castes' as well as with non-Hindus. None of this makes me any less a Hindu, just as my worshipping in a temple will not make me a better Hindu.

Religion should inspire a person to a higher level of thought. Co-operation and understanding are the necessary and sufficient requirements for happiness in any society. Tolerance and non-violence are my guiding principles, but I don't believe that they mean cowardice or meekness.

Hindu philosophy tells me that faith in God and whether and how to worship is a matter of belief that is personal and private. I cannot prove the existence or attributes of my God nor disprove the existence or attributes of anybody else's God.

I cannot change my neighbor's belief just as I cannot change even my children's beliefs, for they believe according to their individual experiences. But I can try to influence their thinking if I think the issue is important enough. I can only try to change myself according

to my belief and experience, and God has nothing to do with it. I should not allow God or religion to intrude into interpersonal and social matters, as it only leads to discord and conflict.

Hindu philosophy is one of peace for the individual and society. An important Hindu prayer says- Original in Sanskrit:
"Asatho ma Sadgamaya, Thamaso ma Jyothirgamaya, Mruthyor ma Amrithum gamaya. Om Shanthi, Om Shanthi, Om Shanthi"

"(Take me) From untruth to (realizing) truth, from darkness (of ignorance) to light (of knowledge), from (corporal) death to eternal life. Let there be peace, Let there be peace, Let there be peace"

Why I participated in the MS-150 Race

By: Rakshith Naik (Shannu), Houston, TX

To start, I would like to thank my family (including all uncles and aunties) and friends for supporting me and helping me to bring awareness and raise funds for helping, individuals and their families, affected by MS to lead better quality of life. About Multiple Sclerosis, it's a disabling disease of the central nervous system. The nature of MS in any one person still cannot be predicted. Recent advances in research have helped in managing the disease; however, more is required to find a cure. BP MS 150 is a largest fundraising event of its kind for advancing research for treatment of MS. The 2009 BP MS 150 had about 13,000+ people registered for riding and many more volunteers with a goal of raising at least \$17 million.

Now how does it help India? With about 2.5 million people affected worldwide and considering lack of funds and treatment options in India this has a significant affect and some digging through the internet revealed that the cases have doubled in the last 15 years, which is mainly attributed to improved medical facilities. However, considering that most of the population does not live in big cities, this number could still be higher, which in turn gave me all the more reason to write this article so that similar initiatives may be undertaken in India to increase awareness and provide aid to cash strapped research institutes to come up with an affordable treatment and cure for MS.

We registered for the ride after attending a company sponsored awareness seminar on MS. Attending seminars is one thing, but it was the meeting with people affected with MS that drove home the point. Over the course of next few weeks, we met all kinds of people who have MS but the most touching one was when we saw few kids who barely knew their names being treated for MS. Meeting them made us realize, things that we take for granted and how these people with their will and determination are fighting for the same. There was now enough drive and motivation in our team to put in a sincere effort for the cause.

Considering our fitness level, we decided to get a head start on training and started about 6 months earlier with doing some practice rides about 3 months before the actual ride. We didn't really have a trainer per se but it's helpful to have someone who has done the ride seven times. We also had a few people in our team who religiously take part in Ironman Triathlons around the world. The only disadvantage in training alongside these people is that, the excuse that you are busy at work is not applicable since they are your colleagues.

The training consisted of weight training, a lot of cardio and also drinking lots of water since dehydration is one of the biggest problems you have in endurance events. The diet was also well controlled with occasional trips to Fuddrucker's. Most of the initial rides were to get accustomed to the bike (mostly the seat and the shorts), shifting gears and fixing flats. The latter rides were the ones which tested our new found excitement in bike rides. One of those rides was in Bastrop State Park. Since, the park was part of the MS 150 route; it was a good primer to what we would experience on the ride. Needless to say as much pain it was to go uphill, going downhill was a thrill. The one other ride that we went on was "Space Race". Contrary to its name, there were no prizes for finishing first and we were not the quickest either. The route was flat all throughout 100 miles with the only resistance coming from the wind and heat. All said and done, the hills are manageable but the very unpredictable nature of wind is not.

Unfortunately after all the training and scrapes, come the ride day, the organizers cancelled the first day owing to bad weather and flooding at our night stop. The ride now was rechristened to MS 80 from La Grange to Austin. Although, this is less than half the distance originally planned, the 80 miles were all hills and head winds all throughout the way didn't make it any easier. With 11,000 riders clogging up La Grange streets, the start time turned out to be more like 9:30 AM instead of 8:00 AM. We were amazed to see riders as young as 10 years old, a 60 year old lady, a guy who had lost both his legs but used his hands to pedal and the Round Rock Express mascot "Spike". The volunteers did a great job at all the breakpoints, making sure that sufficient fluid and fruits available so that the riders can recharge and also the bike repair facilities. Taking care of 11,000 riders is a great challenge and the organizers did an amazing job of it.

As the day wore on, all our celebration plans at the finish line remained just that. That's not to take away anything from how we felt when we finished. It's a profound experience for anyone who is not a professional athlete or celebrity when you have thousands of people cheering for you as you get close to the finish line. As tired as you are during the last few miles, the energy exuded by the people on the streets makes you feel like you got new pair of legs especially when they went missing half way. The feeling is worth all

the sweat, scratches, scrapes and bruises that you go through when training and in the ride. Even better, it gave us a sense of accomplishment and a cause that we are passionate about.

While there are many diseases in the world, with new ones adding to the list, and as much as we would like to find a cure for all of them, in reality there is very little one can do to support any cause. But, strength is in numbers and it is our responsibility as part of being human to support at least one such cause with passion and sincerity even if the reason is a selfish sense of accomplishment.

Editor's Note:

Two young Konkans are participating in this year's MS-150 race and readers wishing to help for their cause can do so by following the link below:

Rakshith Naik of Houston, TX:

http://main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR?px=5890457&fr_id=12962&pg=personal

Sunil G Shenoy of Spring, TX:

http://main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR/Bike/TXHBikeEvents?px=7597852&pg=personal&fr_id=12962&et=ZhLbiYQHghSw6RfNMDULdA.&s_tafId=140796

Konkani Calendar

April 2010	May 2010	June 2010
1 st Sankashta Chaturthi	1 st Sankashta Chaturthi	11 th Amavasya(Dark moon)
2 nd -4 th KISS Picnic	13 th Amavasya(Dark moon)	14 th Mithun-Sankranthi
10 th AMKA Ugadi	14 th Vrisbh-Sankranthi	26 th Poornami
13 th Amavasya(Dark moon)	16 th Akshaya Thritiye	29 th Angaraka Chaturthi
13 th Mesh-Sankranthi	23 rd Yekadashi	
14 th Saura Ugadi	26 th Shri Narasimha Jayanthi	
24 th Yekadashi	27 th Vaishakhi Poornami	
28 th Vaishakhi Poornami	30 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, \$
Sudhakar & Nandini Mallya, Wanaque, Nj	50.00
Mohan & Mohini Kamath, Cerritos, CA	50.00
Ravi & Sharda Shenoy, Montville, NJ	250.00
G. K. Bhat, Mooresville, NC	51.00
Deepak & Protima Bhandarkar, Sunnyvale, CA	115.00
Vasant & Kirti Acharya, River Forest, IL	51.00
Ravi & Vidya Joshi, Mission Viejo, CA	51.00
Ramesh & Pratibha Kamath, San Carlos, CA	50.00
Amar & Teresa Pai, Whitehouse Station, NJ	55.00
Kochikar Ramnath & Rajashree Pai, Tampa, FL	150.00
Chandrakanth & Geeta Shanbhag, Roebuck, SC	51.00
Kaup Muralidhar & Sudha Shenoy, Durham, NC	50.00
Ashok & Suman Bhat, Tampa, FL	51.00
Shyam & Kalyani Amladi, Chicago, IL	80.00
Vinod & Renu Kallianpur, Niskayuna, NY	50.00
Anil & Mridula Rao, Friendswood, TX	100.00

Statement of Accounts

Description	Credit, \$	Debit, \$
Balance Carried over since Khabbar Vol. XXXII No. 4	1,590.00	
Money Received:		
Subscriptions (92) and donations	2,415.00	
Ad (9)	215.00	
Interest	5.00	
Sub Total:	2,635.00	

Money Spent (Khabbar Vol. XXXII No. 4):		
Printing- Khabbar (425) - 20 pages		664.05
2010 Khabbar Mailing List (325) – 28 pages		659.10
Mailing - First Class Mail-Khabbar (373)		227.53
Mailing - First Class Mail-Khabbar Mailing List (248)		193.44
Mailing Canada Khabbar (14)		14.00
Mailing Canada Khabbar Mailing List (8)		14.08
Overseas (20)		60.00
Mail Fines, computer paper & labels, envelopes, service fees, etc.		567.80
Sub Total:		2,400.00
Final Balance:	1,825.00	

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

Kwiz

The last quarter's quiz: A plane departs from city A at 10:00 AM flies due east and arrives at city B at 7:00 PM. Another plane takes off from city B at noon and lands at city A at 3:00 PM. What is the difference in their time zones? (All times are local. Also, exclude the effect of the jet stream on flying time)

The Answer: 3 hours

The following gave the correct answer:

Manjeshwar Ganesha Kamath, Gastonia, NC

Sridharan Raman, Atlanta, GA

Swathi Kamath, Las Vegas, NV

Govind Kamath, Austin, TX

Sahana Rao, Centreville, VA

Sachin Kamath, Plainview, NY

Sachin Shenoy, Houston, TX

Jyoti Nayak, Houston, TX

Praveen Kamath, Centerville, VA

Chetan Kamath, Budd Lake, NJ

Shivadev Ubhayakar, Rancho Pales Verdes, CA

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

The following multiplication problem uses each number from 0 to 9 once and only once! Three numbers have been filled in to get you started.

$$2 \ ? \ ? \ X \ ? \ 4 = ? \ ? \ 0 \ ? \ ?$$

North American Konkani Youth Association (NAKYA)

Dear Konkani Community,

A group of Konkani youth recently came together to create the North American Konkani Youth Association, NAKYA. Our mission is to instill shared Konkani values and culture while recognizing the unique experiences of Konkani youth in North America. We aim to foster and cultivate the Konkani community by educating Konkani youth about our ancestral past while creating a community consciousness that supports professional and social development.

As we move forward, we plan to operate as autonomously as possible to foster, advise, encourage and support all Konkani youth-related activities, asking for guidance and support when needed. Since NAKYA's inception, we have been working diligently to create a mission statement, organizational structure, and youth programming. A community service trip in Mangalore, India and a Konkani language webinar are anticipated for January, with more events to follow.

NAKYA currently has 6 planning members (in alphabetical order): **Suncheth Bhat, Archana Bhatt, Seema Kamath, Vaman Kamath, Vijay Kamath and Ajay Nayak**. We would also like to recognize (in alphabetical order) **Ashita Bhatt, Sheila Reddy, Chaitra Shenoy and Ranjit Shiralkar** for their involvement in the planning process. All of us have actively participated in the planning of Konkani conventions, youth conventions, and other youth-related programs in our respective cities. We are quite enthusiastic to introduce our initial plan to the youth community as we recruit the next generation of youth leaders from the community that will help bring structure and create activities within the organization. Our hope is that this organization will help sustain our community.

As we finalize our structure, we will be actively seeking enthusiastic Konkani leaders. Several roles will be available as we grow and expand our board to create a strong leadership for our future. Please stay tuned for the official launch of NAKYA in early 2010, as well as more information on how you can participate. If you have any questions about NAKYA, please feel free to contact us at info@nakya.org

Thank you,
The NAKYA Board

Update: Konkani Charitable Fund (KCF)



Chair Persons:

Ramesh & Pratibha Kamath
kamathrck@gmail.com

Vice Chair Persons:

Vinayak & Radha Kudva
vinniek42@hotmail.com

VP Finance & Secretary:

Ashok & Amita Bhatt
abhata.ca@gmail.com

VP Implementation:

Ravi & Asha Baliga
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VP Publicity & Fund Raising:

Surendra & Shalini Shenoy
shenoy@wudosis.wustl.edu

VP Youth:

Sumeeth Bhat
sumeethbhat@gmail.com

Konkani Charitable Fund, Inc.
230 Oakley Avenue, San Carlos, CA. 94070
(650) 596-0716
email: konkanicf09@yahoo.com

March 6, 2010

Report from Konkani Charitable Fund

Konkani Charitable Fund (KCF) provides an opportunity to help needy Konkanis in many ways. The fund has collected \$17,700 in contributions so far.

\$3,000 was sent to Anandashram Seva Trust in Puttur, a retirement home for old people. It provides a shelter and comfort for elderly people. Some pay a minimal charge and others are supported on charity basis. They provide boarding, lodging, and medical help. Opportunities are provided for an active social life with yoga classes, religious discourses, bhajans, and celebrations of religious festivals.

Contribution by KCF, is used to buy solar water heaters and solar lights for the benefit of the residents. It has already made a difference in the life of these residents. Now they can sit out in the garden in the evenings. They can use solar lights in their rooms when the power goes out.

Another \$3,000 was sent to an institution that has done a lot of work with handicapped children. Mrs. Sumathi Shenoy started the organization called Chethana. Along with Dr. Sabitha they continue to provide service which brings new hope to the handicapped.

The contribution will be used to buy a pair of special shoes to a deserving Konkani girl who is suffering deformities of both legs. These special shoes cost around 40,000 rupees and need upgrading as the girl gets older. According to Dr. Sabitha they have been waiting for the funds to buy the shoes for the last two years. Thanks to the contribution from Konkani Charitable Fund that girl can now walk and that will bring joy to her and her parents. The balance of the money will be used to buy computers needed to continue their service.

KCF is now looking to help three needy Konkani Students with their Engineering studies at Canara Engineering College. It will cost \$2,000 per student to cover tuition, boarding and lodging. Also, KCF just mailed a check for \$6000 to Canara High School Association. This money will be used to award three scholarships to deserving Konkani Students pursuing their Engineering studies.

If you like to sponsor a student, or contribute to any cause of humanitarian nature, please contact any member of KCF. 100% of your contributions will be remitted to the cause of your choice as long as it meets the guidelines of the fund. We won't charge any transaction cost. So please help; you can make a difference in this world – one step at a time

NAKA, the North American Konkani Association

The NAKA Board now consists of:

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

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

This quarter, the NAKA Board has been busy in finding ways to accommodate the newly formed youth organization (NAKYA) into the community fold. Also, reviewed ways to publicize the newly formed Konkani Charitable Fund to the North American Konkani

NAKA - Statement Of Accounts

Date	Description	Credit, \$	Debit, \$
11/30/2009	Balance from last report	118,633.59	
12/31/09	Interest	13.19	
1/31/10	Interest	12.34	
2/28/10	Interest	11.92	
	Final Balance:	118,671.04	

Signed: Damodar Baliga, Treasurer, NAKA

Konkanis In Southern States (KISS) Picnic – April 2–4, 2010

Theme: Black and White Cocktail Party

It's time for a weekend of fun and excitement with your family and friends at the KISS (Konkanis in Southern States) 2010 picnic! This is an annual picnic that we have held since 1988. Let us keep this rich tradition going. The picnic will be held at Fort Parker State Park from 5 P.M. on Friday, April 2nd to Noon on Sunday, April 4th. The park (<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/fortpark/>) is located 7 miles south of Mexia and 6 miles north of Groesbeck on State Highway 14. The entrance is on Park Road 28. There will be pizza on Friday evening. Meals on Saturday will include breakfast, lunch and dinner, and on Sunday there will be „brunch“ . Come ready to have fun!

Early Registration: Please register on or before March 15, 2010 :

Adults (12 and above)- \$45

Senior Citizens (62 and above) and Children (between 5 and 12) - \$30

Children 5 and under – FREE

Late Registration: Beginning March 16th, 2010:

Adults (12 and above)- \$50

Senior Citizens (65 and above) and Children (between 5 and 10) - \$35

The park admission fee is NOT included in the KISS registration charge. Each family has to pay it at the park entrance. The admission fee is \$2 per day per person 13 years or older.

Accommodations: On site- Charges are included in the price. There are heated (and air-cooled) barracks with 96 bunk beds. Beds have mattresses; you just have to bring sheets, blankets and pillows. Availability is on a “first-come-first-served” basis for on site accommodation.

Off site – 1) We have discounted rates for KISS guests at The Best Western Limestone Inn, Mexia (Tel: 254-562-0200) located about 7 miles from the park. The rates are \$75.95/night. We have reserved 25 Rooms and need to be booked before March 2nd to get this rate and .

2) The Holiday Inn Express in Mexia (<http://www.hiexpress.com/hotels/us/en/mxatx/hotel/detail?hpIataNumber=996165808>)

Area Coordinators:

Austin: Mr. Dinaker Rao (512-837-7159)

Houston: Ms. Neela Kamath (281-498-3188),

Dallas: Mr. Prakash Kagal (972-633-5605)

Mr. Suresh Shenoy (281-494-0153)

Registration: Please make checks payable to Mr. Asit Kini and mail it along with the registration form to: PO Box 270905, Flower Mound, TX 75027 Phone: 972-874-3642 E-mail: asitkini@gmail.com

Registration Form

Name:

Adults and children above 12: _____

Children (between 5 and 12): _____

Senior Citizens (62 and above): _____

Children under 5: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

Arriving Friday: Yes _____ No _____

AMKA Ugadi Function

American Midwest Konkani Association (AMKA) will host the Yugadi function on April 10, 2010 at the Balaji temple in Aurora, Illinois. Some of the events planned for Yugadi are AMKA Karaoke Idol, Chess & Carrom competitions, children's entertainment program, an ensemble of Indian folk dances by AMKA ladies and a Konkani skit. Please contact amkapresident@yahoo.com if you would like to receive more information about the event.

2010 Konkani Cruise



DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN! SUMMER IS ALMOST HERE! JULY 5-9, 2010

In lieu of the 2010 Sarmelan (which will be postponed to 2012 in Chicago), the Southern California Konkani Cruise Committee has arranged an exciting four-day cruise from Los Angeles, California to Ensenada, Mexico (with stops at Catalina Island and Ensenada) on July 5-9, 2010, aboard the Carnival Paradise. The ship sails from Long Beach, California, on Monday at 5 p.m. and returns on Friday at 8 a.m. You must book your own plane tickets accordingly. Details of the cruise and the ship and its amenities can be found at www.Carnival.com

Plan to relax with your fellow Konkans in this unique four-day excursion! An ideal opportunity for first-time cruisers to "test the waters" with friends and family and for experienced cruisers to experience Konkani group travel! The itinerary provides for plenty of time to visit various attractions in Southern California before or after the cruise (Disneyland, Universal Studios, Hollywood, etc.).

Arrangements also are being made to have Indian food available in the dining room for all cruise participants if desired. On board ship activities typically include a Casino, Bingo, Art Show and Auction, Pool, Fitness Center, Ping Pong, Comedy Shows, Music and Variety Shows, Youth Activities (Carnival's Kids Club), Shopping, Spa Treatments, 24/7 Food, and Shore Excursions (to Catalina Island and Ensenada, Mexico), etc. We are also trying to arrange some CME credit programs for medical professionals who attend the cruise. Note that this will NOT be a Sarmelan function - just a cruise with your Konkani friends and relatives.

AGENT: Our dedicated travel agent is Joni Notagiacomo. Her telephone number is 800-600-4548 or 310-338-2155. Her email address is jnotagiacomo@cruiseone.com. Joni will respond to all your questions. We have reserved a block of cabins for our group. The earlier you book, the better cabin you will get! You must put a deposit of \$50 per person to reserve a cabin (deposit requirements may vary depending on the type of cabin you reserve and the number of people in the cabin). The special reservation period will end on February 28th - after that date, the price may go up. Please contact Joni directly by phone or email for details.

COST: Prices we have been quoted are as follows:**

Interior Cabin: 1st and 2nd Person, \$441.70 each; 3rd and 4th Person in the same cabin, \$331.70 each.

Oceanview Cabin: 1st and 2nd Person, \$481.70 each; 3rd and 4th Person in the same cabin, \$351.70 each.

Balcony cabins and suites are available upon request.

**Book early to get your choice of stateroom and avoid any price increases. Prices include port charges and taxes/ fees. Cabins reserved are mid-ship for smoother sailing. Those booking through the agent will be attending a cocktail party and receive at least \$25 in ship credit. Mandatory gratuities (\$40 per person total) are extra. Remember: Summer is prime time for sailing and the ship is booking up fast! Prices may be higher after February 28, 2010.

QUESTIONS: Still have questions? Go to our website: <http://www.eteamz.com/konkanicruise2010>. Be sure to check our "FAQs" section or send a question of your own! You can also respond to the new poll on the website - let your fellow Konkans know you will be on board! See website for details. You can also follow us on [Twitter!](#)

We look forward to seeing you all there!

Contact Info:

Ramadas Kamath (ramkamathmd@gmail.com)

Purandar Mallya (drpkmallya@yahoo.com)

General Information (konkanicruise@gmail.com)

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

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KONKANI CHARITIES

The American Konkani Association (A. K. A.) is helping eligible Konkani youth by granting College Loan Scholarships. Send your generous contributions to: American Konkani Association, 1153 Tamarack Pl., Munster, IN 46321

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

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MATRIMONIAL

Inviting correspondence for GSB girl, 24, 5'-2", B.B.M., working for Home Health Care. For details, please, contact varsha612@yahoo.co.in with boy's biodata and picture. Looking for a boy who is willing to settle in the US permanently.

MATRIMONIAL

Inviting correspondence for GSB girl, 24, 5'-6", B.E. (Comp Sci) working in Bangalore, India. For details, please, contact girl's father T. Naresh Prabhu at tnprabhu@ymail.com or (91) 8026691053. You may also contact girl's uncle, Ganesh Prabhu, at 972-948-1789.

MATRIMONIAL

Inviting doctor alliances for GSB girl, 23, 5'4", M.B.B.S., doing internship in Mangalore, For details contact: 0091-9846015961 / bhaktan@emirates.net.ae

MATRIMONIAL DIRECTORY

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

Mr. Basti Ganapathi Shenoy

8017 Celebreeze Crt., LAS VEGAS, NV 89145

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

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

Soirika to Sambhandu

From January 2009, the *soirika* magazine editions (<http://www.soirika.com>) have been named as SAMBHANDU and will be done by: Sambhandu, C/o Bangalore Sri Kashi Math, # 14, Sri Kashi Math Road, Malleshwaram Bangalore 560 055

MATRIMONIAL ASSISTANCE

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

B.S.Kamath

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to come

APPEAL

A great opportunity to serve an Indian Charity Organization (Anandashram) which shelters already 26 poor old people and which also offers the free services of a "Hospice" (Palliative Care center)-a home for the terminally ill Cancer patients of our society. Income Tax Payees in USA get the benefit of Income tax Exemption for their donations, if they donate directly to Konkani Charitable Fund (KCF) Inc., with the suggestion that they should donate the same amount to Anandashram Seva Trust @, Puttur, since KCF has recognized Anandsharam as one of the recipients of their grants. Hence, the donors in USA can help us directly or indirectly thru KCF, 230 Oakley Avenue, San Carlos, CA 94070, to build this Palliative Care Centre. Please, visit our website: www.oldagehome-india.org