

Konkani sees sharpest drop in speakers in India

By: Gauree Malkarnekar (July 29, 2018 Times Of India)

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Note: This article as appeared on TOI newspaper on 29.06.2018. This is the reason why we should insist on our people to speak Konkani at home and specially with family. Please do not entertain our next generation to converse in English as a fashion statement. Save our mother tongue for generations to come or else it is a question of time where it goes to extinction.

Panaji: Across India, 22.5 lakh people identify Konkani as their mother tongue. Of these, 9.6 lakh form 68% of Goa's population. Unfortunately, the number of people calling Konkani their first language has dropped in the country by over two lakh since Census 2001.

Other than Urdu, therefore, Konkani is the only scheduled language in the country to have seen a decadal growth between Census 2001 and Census 2011, according to recently released data. While Urdu speakers in India were down by -1.4%, the decline in Konkani speakers was much sharper at -9.3%. Of the 22 scheduled languages in the country, Konkani has been pushed to the 19th spot when one counts the number of those in India who regard the language as their mother tongue.

Dogri speakers have surpassed those speaking Konkani in pure numbers since the previous census.

Among India's scheduled languages, Manipuri, Bodo and Sanskrit are the only languages after Konkani that have fewer people identifying as their mother tongues.

In Goa itself, for every 10,000 individuals, there are over 6,500 who identify Konkani as their mother tongue. But, those identifying Hindi (1,029) and Kannada (466) as their first language was recorded to be rising for every 10,000 people in the state.

As many as 1.6 lakh identify Marathi as their mother tongue in Goa. Urdu, Malayalam and Telugu also have over 10,000 individuals in the state who call it their first language.

Nationally, of the 22.5 lakh calling Konkani as their mother tongue, 21.4 lakh speak the main stream version of the language, followed by over 50,000 who speak a dialect called Gorboli/Goru/Gorwani. Then, there are over 23,000 who speak Malwani version of Konkani, 17,000 the Kudubi/Kudumbi version, 13,000 the Nawait version, and 5,388 other dialects.

Mangalore Today Legends

<http://www.mangaloretoday.com/opinion/A-Mangalorean-PM-and-his-RBI-Governor-Brother-The-Extraordinary-story-of-the-Benegal-Brothers.html>

A MANGALOREAN PRIME MINISTER AND HIS RBI GOVERNOR BROTHER: THE EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF THE BENEGAL BROTHERS.

Despite their glorious legacy and contribution to the nation, the trio of Sir Benegal Narsing Rau, Sir Benegal Rama Rau and Benegal Shiva Rau are today sadly forgotten.

By Dr Anil Shetty

MANGALORE TODAY NEWS NETWORK

What if I told you that a Mangalorean was once a Prime Minister and was also one of the principal framers of the Constitution of India? And that his equally accomplished brother was the longest serving Governor of the Reserve Bank of India? The headline might sound like click bait, but all of it is true - this is the incredible true story of Mangalore's Benegal brothers.

Our city has had many eminent and distinguished citizens but probably the most illustrious family ever in Mangalore and probably one of the most illustrious in this country was the Benegal family. But sadly, hardly anyone knows that these super achievers were Mangaloreans nor is Mangalore associated with their numerous

accomplishments, something this article hopes to remedy. The sons of **Benegal Raghavendra Rau** an eminent doctor in Mangalore, the eldest son and probably the least well known among the siblings, **Benegal Sanjiv Rau**, was a Dean of Benares University.

The second son **Sir Benegal Narsing Rau**, was born in 1887 in Mangalore. He studied at Canara School and was the topper in the Madras Presidency and joined Presidency College, Madras. There he earned degrees in English, Sanskrit, Physics and Mathematics. He then obtained a scholarship which enabled him to study at Trinity College, Cambridge. In 1909 he returned to India and cleared the Indian Civil Service Examination and joined the Civil Service but shortly thereafter shifted to the judiciary. Due to his stellar work he was awarded the Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire in 1934. In 1935 he was appointed as a judge of the Calcutta High Court. He also chaired the Indus Water Commission on the sharing of river water between Punjab and Sind.

He was knighted in 1938, retired from service in 1944 and was then appointed as the Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir! Yes, I am not making any of this up. He was appointed the Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir from February 1944 to June 1945 by the Dogra Kings. The chief executive of Jammu and Kashmir was called the Prime Minister and this continued even after Independence until March 1965, when the elected post was re-designated as the Chief Minister after a constitutional amendment. In 1945 Sir Benegal Narsing Rau resigned from the post of the Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir following major differences with the Maharaja of Kashmir.

In 1946, he was invited by U Aung San, the Prime Minister of Burma to assist in drafting their constitution. After completing his task there, he began working at the reforms office of the Government of India and was subsequently appointed as the constitutional advisor to the Constituent Assembly. So the first draft of the Indian constitution was prepared by a Mangalorean! Sir BN Rau prepared 243 articles of the constitution. Later the drafting committee headed by Dr B. R. Ambedkar expanded it to 315 articles. Dr Ambedkar himself credits Sir Benegal Narsing Rau for doing a major portion of the work of drafting the Constitution. From 1949 to 1952 he served as India's permanent representative at the United Nations and was the President of the United Nations Security Council in 1950. In 1952 he began to serve on the bench of the International Court of Justice but a year into his tenure he succumbed to ill health and died at Zurich in 1953.

The third brother, **Sir Benegal Rama Rau** was born in 1889. Like his elder sibling he too studied at Presidency College in Chennai, and then further at King's College in Cambridge. Following his brother's career path, he joined the civil service in 1919, worked as undersecretary and then deputy secretary to the Government of Madras and subsequently as Secretary to the Government of India first at the finance department and then the industries department. Later he was the Deputy High Commissioner for India in London from 1934 to 1938 and High Commissioner of India to South Africa from 1939 to 1941. In 1939 before he was elevated to High Commissioner he, like his brother earlier, was knighted.

He was appointed the first ambassador to Japan in 1947, and in 1948, the Indian ambassador to the U.S. From July 1949 to January 1957 he served as the 4th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. Among all the Governors of the RBI, past and present, he holds the longest tenure. Sir Benegal Rau resigned from the post of the Governor of the RBI because of serious differences with the then Finance Minister of India T. T. Krishnamachari, the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru sided with his Finance Minister and this made the Governor's position untenable and he gracefully resigned.

Sir Benegal Rama Rau's wife, Lady Dhanvanthi Rama Rau, was as illustrious as her RBI Governor husband. A Kashmiri pandit raised in Hubli, she had first met her husband in Madras. She founded the Family Planning Association of India and served as the President of the International Planned Parenthood Federation. She was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1959.

The youngest brother, **Benegal Shiva Rau** was born in Mangalore in 1891. He graduated like his brothers from Presidency College in Chennai, worked as a journalist for the Hindu and then the Manchester Guardian. He was a member of the Constituent Assembly and a member of the Lok Sabha from 1952 to 1957 and the Rajya Sabha from 1957-1960. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan. He died in 1975.

The family name 'Benegal' comes from Benegal a small village between Karkala and Mangalore. The Raus were Chitrapur Brahmins. Like the Jews and Parsis, this small community of 30,000 people has had an overwhelming influence on society. Today it seems we have consigned to oblivion our city's and its citizens' history. Nostalgia often renders a rose tinted perspective of the past, but sometimes we have to look back at our glorious past to realize the accomplishments and contributions of our forefathers, the great deeds and significant actions that shaped our present and will determine our future.

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KONKANI FOOD GETS RECOGNITION : Surnoli, everybody's favorite in Mangalore.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/22/magazine/a-superior-pancake.html?action=click&module=Editors%20Picks&pgtype=Homepage>

A Superior Pancake

Aug. 22, 2018



Gentl and Hyers for The New York Times. Food stylist: Frances Boswell. Prop stylist: Pamela Duncan Silver.

Surnoli, the delicious south Indian griddlecakes made from rice and coconut, do look a bit like pancakes. They're soft, round and puffy, about the size of a diner's silver dollars, and can be served as a warm stack with a piece of melting butter on top. I like mine with ghee and honey, and a cup of black tea. But surnoli batter contains no egg and no flour. Made from rice and coconut, puréed in a blender, surnoli batter is usually fermented with yogurt or buttermilk overnight. And in hot kitchens, where the fermentation can't help rushing ahead, even less time is required for the tiny air bubbles to form and a gentle tang to develop.

Raw, the batter is thick and almost gritty. It behaves differently in the bowl from any pancake batter I know. Poured into a hot pan with clarified butter, the surnoli cooks all the way on one side only, receiving no flip at all — because it's not a pancake, not exactly — and when it's done, it's fat and spongy and beautiful, pitted all over with a distinct network of holes. It might still look like a pancake, but it's softer and more cushiony, filled with a sweet, coconut-scented steam. Comparing it to a pancake is a kind of injustice.

My Konkani father grew up eating surnoli, which my grandfather made at home in Nairobi to have for breakfast on Sunday mornings. He let the batter sit out in the warmest spot of the un-air-conditioned kitchen with a cloth over the top for however long it took the batter to bubble up and burp with life. Actually he made two separate batters: one plain for himself and my grandmother, and one with added jaggery — a rich, butterscotch-like sugar made from date palms or sugar cane — for my father. They ate the surnoli still warm, drizzled with homemade ghee.

But it wasn't the pancake of choice in my own childhood home, because my father was more comfortable cooking French food than Indian. When my father made pancakes, he made huge, thin crepes, soft to the touch except on their outermost, browned, lacy edges. And we ate them rolled up with white sugar and lemon juice, which inevitably dripped out on one end and made the table sticky. I cooked those kinds of pancakes, too, until an auntie living in Chicago gave me a couple of South Indian cookbooks as a present.

These books were full of pancakes, a whole universe of pancakes that deviated from the ones I knew. They were made from tapioca and arrowroot, from steamed jackfruit seeds and shredded coconut, cucumbers and even the grated, inner white rinds of watermelons. Many required time to ferment or, lacking time, a little blue-capped bottle of Eno. Though it's generally advertised as an antacid, Eno is often used in Indian kitchens to hurry the fermentation process with a lot of Indian-style batters. Once it's added to a wet base, the sodium bicarbonate and citric acid immediately get to work, fizzing up, aerating and souring the mix within a few seconds. A few writers suggested that you could, in a pinch, add a half teaspoon or so to the surnoli batter just before you were ready to start cooking it, and skip the fermentation. Or simply help it along if it was sluggish and you were hungry and ready to eat.

Gentl and Hyers for The New York Times. Food stylist: Frances Boswell. Prop stylist: Pamela Duncan Silver.

On a first try, I made the surnoli wrong, too liquid, too thin, shaping them in the pan with the back of a ladle so they were unevenly thin and thick. My reference point was the wrong kind of pancake. So I called my father and studied some photos and tried again. "They should be fat in the middle and full of holes," he told me. "And they should taste simply of coconut and rice, with only a hint of sourness."

I cooked surnoli on the day I was meant to leave town to visit him and the rest of my family in Los Angeles, pre-buttering a couple of good-looking piles in my Brooklyn kitchen and carefully loading them in my backpack. I thought I'd share them with my father and surprise him, but also ask him, with his firsthand memories of surnoli, for a few more answers. Were these like the ones he remembered? Were they fermented far enough, or maybe a little too much? Were the ones made with Eno an acceptable substitute? And if they were so easy to make, which they were, why had he never made them for me? But I'd skipped breakfast, and rushed out the door hungry, and within the first hour of my flight, all the pancakes I'd made for him were gone. "That's all right," he said when I told him later and he finished laughing at me. "We can make them together at Christmas."

Biography: Sri K. Venugopal Nayak (birth 2-10-1918; death 28-7-1974)

From the collection of: - Dr. Krishna Nayak, Rochester Hills, MI

Published by beloved children:

Sri. K. Rama Nayak

Dr. K. Krishna Nayak

Smt. Kasturi Yathish Kini, Mumbai

Smt. Sumitha Anand Rao, Mumbai and

Smt. Shobha Devdas Shenoy, Bangalore

OFFERING

"You don't need a mirror to see your palm". However, for inspiring future generation constantly a need for permanent memorial of Sri. K. VENUGOPAL NAYAK was felt. The Junior College Betterment Committee decided in 1974 to install his statue within school premises. Government permission was obtained in 1979. The statue was installed on school's annual day and unveiled by the programme committee chairman Sri. Erya Laxmi Narayana Alva. On this occasion a brief life history is being brought out and placed before all those who were dear to him as prayful homage to Sri. Venugopal Nayak.

HOMAGE

Sri Venugopal Nayak was born on 2-10-1918 in Uppinangady which is another name for holy place Gayapada or South Kashi in Malnadu. He was the only son of Sri Rama Nayak and Smt. Radha Nayak. They belonged to famous Pangal Nayak Family. He lost his father at a tender age of three and mother at ten. Thus, he had to shoulder the responsibility of looking after his six sisters and getting them settled in life. He could complete his high school education up to 8th standard in his native place.

He joined Congress Party in 1937 at the age of 18. He was the member of South Kanara District Congress Committee. Later he became an active member and working committee member. He served as President of greater circle congress committee which was then called as 'Circle Congress Committee'. This represented one lakh population divided into 17 circles and 93 villages. He worked with devotion, in national programmes like Khadi for self-reliance, Use of indigenous goods, Prohibition of Liquor, Eradication of Untouchability, Welfare of Backward classes, Promotion of Hindi language, Reforms in co-operative institutions, eradication of illiteracy, schools for the aged, and solving unemployment problem. He encouraged youth to undertake social service activities. As a member of Karnataka Regional Congress Committee, he won the admiration of people and senior leaders in addition to gain vast experience in political affairs. He attended meetings regularly of All India Congress Committee as a member. He was instrumental in solving several socio-political problems amicably. He won the confidence of national leaders like Sri Kamaraj Nadar, K. Hanumanthaiah, S. Nijalingappa, Srinivas Mallya, T. A. Pai, T. M. A. Pai, and Lal Bahadur Shastri. Even though he evinced keen interest in several facets of public life he did not hanker after positions of power and rendered selfless service to society.

He was elected to South Kanara District Board in 1953. As he played an important role in opening of New Primary Schools and upgrading existing ones to Secondary Schools. He mobilised the old students of primary school of Uppinangady in meeting the people of the town and enabled them to form High School Committee. He succeeded in persuading Sri Naimpally Rama Rao and Shivarao brothers to donate 6 acres and 40 cents of land for construction of school in 1955. The Chief Minister of then Madras State Sri C. Subramanyam inaugurated the Middle school on 13-10-1956. The foundation stone was laid by Sri H. Narasimha, South Kanara District Deputy Commissioner. He had to travel to Madras several times while following up Government Approval for school. His personal needs had less importance in the list of his priorities. He led the group to Bombay and Bangalore collecting contributions from well-wishers, friends and others and mobilised Rs. 1,30,000 which was utilized in the construction of 3 buildings, purchase of Academic and Sports Equipments, construction of toilets, water wells, library, laboratory, playground, etc. Administration of the school was entrusted to the district board. He solved the problems of students and teachers with keen interest. He donated wall clock, flag post which was necessary for the school. He helped the school whole heartedly as founder, well-wisher and patron.

He was responsible for many developments in his constituency by virtue of his personal influence in State and Central capitals. Telegraph, Telephone, Hospital, Veterinary Hospital, Bridge, Drinking Water for the town, Road Link between Hassan and Mangalore are some of the significant achievements. He worked for the upliftment of people. Caste, Creed and Religion were no bar for him. He became an accomplished figure in public life. Everyone who came in contact with him was benefitted and gracefully recognized change in their lives economically or otherwise as due to him. He welcomed and received people who came to him with personal problems and helped to wipe their tears in moments of their sorrow.

He was the president of the welcome committee for political conference in Putter in the year 1965. Lal Bahadur Shastri inaugurated the conference. He was member of Advisory Committee for National Taluk Development Plan and served the cause of rural development. He toured every village and town in his zone collecting donations for All India Memorial Fund dedicated to the departed Bapuji, Father of the Nation. He earned the appreciation from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru for his exemplary service.

The division of Congress in 1969 demoralised him. His principled political belief was shaken. He kept aloof from politics of elections and power. He participated and served in social, cultural and religious programmes. He was member and Vice President of Rotary Club of Putter for some time. He was President of Sri Satya Sai Samithi of Uppinangady. He loved art and music ardently. The renowned classical group of Kanchan received continued encouragement during his lifetime. He was more than blessed to have been known closely by the generations of Hegdes of Sri Dharmasthala. He also attended the poet conferences and encouraging classical dances.

He was devoutly religious in which he respected elders, teachers, mem of letters, friends and relatives. He visited holy places of Sri Tirupathi, Bhadri, Kedarnath, Rameshwara, Kashi and Kanyakumari. He served as Managing Trustee of Sri Laxmi Venkatramana Temple of Uppinangady for 7 years and as Trustee for 30 years. He patronised Religious bodies by donating liberally. The Kalyan Mantap of the temple was built under his stewardship at a cost of Rs. 1,50,000 from public donations. Head of Kashi Mutt dedicated the same to the temple and the community. This can be said to be last of his service activity before his sad demise.

He married Indira Nayak the daughter of Late Sri Padmanabh Raghunath Pai of the renowned Baba Pai Family. He is survived by two sons and three daughters.

He was receiving medical treatment at CMC, Vellore for cancer. He breathed his last on 28-7-1974 near Cannanore on the train enroute to hometown., due to Cardiac failure. There was unusual devastating river floods in Uppinangady on 26-7-74, as though signaling the sad event coming to pass on the town. Perhaps the beloved son of the soil of Uppinangady, did not wish to see the sufferings of the people of the town due to the nature's fury.

People from far and near came in large numbers from neighbouring villages and towns to pay their last respects to the departed Leader nay the Kinsman. The bright star of Uppinangady was no more. But he left marks on the sands of time. All his good deeds will be remembered. His life history will serve as guiding spirit and light for future generations.