

# Hoon Khabbar

## Congratulations:

**SMITA PRABHU**, d/o Vilas & Sneha Prabhu of Lancaster, PA, joined the Baltimore County School District as a high school teacher in Spanish. Smita has a BA in Spanish and International Studies and recently completed her M.Ed. in Language and Literacy from Millersville University of Pennsylvania. She earned teaching certifications in Spanish and English as a Second Language.

**VASANTH BHAT** of Lake Jackson, TX was elected as the President of the Houston Gulf Coast Section of AACE International for the program year of 2011 -2012. AACE International is a 501(c) (3) non-profit professional educational association founded in 1956. It is the largest organization globally serving the entire spectrum of the cost and management profession. Vasanth works for BASF Corp in Freeport, TX as Senior Cost Engineer.

## Konkani Graduates:

**Dr. MANJU PAI**, s/o Premchand & Sujatha Pai of Modesto, CA has been accepted by the Cleveland Clinic to do his Fellowship in. He did his Internal Medicine Residency from Boston & MD from Ohio State. His sister **MEGAN** works at Stanford University Human Resources after graduating from UC Berkeley.

**RAJIV MAHALE** started his MBA programme at Wharton, Philadelphia, PA this August 2011. Rajiv did his BS in Integrated Business and Engineering (IBE) from Lehigh University. He worked at Deutsche Bank at 60 Wall Street, NYC in Global securities Dept. Rajiv also worked two years each at Altaris Capital (private equity firm) and Merrill Lynch in NYC and Duff and Phelps. Rajiv is s/o Chandrakant & Sheila Mahale of High Bridge, NJ.

**ARCHANA, 17**, d/o Vasanth & Maya Bhat of Sugar Land, TX graduated from William B Travis High School this June in the top 2% of her class. She was involved with the Math Honor Society (Vice-President),

National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Business Professionals of America, HOSA (Secretary), American Red Cross (Secretary). She has volunteered extensively in the community as a member of the Sugar Land Mayor's Youth Council throughout high school and as a People to People Student Ambassador. As a high school senior, she was selected to be a part of ICC Houston's Youth Leadership Development Program, wherein she was awarded the "active participation young leader" award. Archana is an Advanced Placement scholar with distinction, National Merit commended scholar as well as a University Interscholastic League Academic scholar and has represented her high school in UIL and BPA financial events at State level. She will be attending the University of Texas, Austin this fall to major in Business.

**RACHNA**, d/o Pana & Anita Shenoy of Mission Viejo, CA, graduated from University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), with Bachelor of Arts in History with *Magna cum Laude*. She is enrolled at UCLA School of Law starting Fall 2011.

**SUNIL**, younger s/o Arvind & Neela Kamath of Sugar Land, TX has graduated with Master of Engineering in B M E ( Bio Medical Engineering) from Rice University, Houston, TX in May 2011. Sunil has joined Jacobs Engineering Group , Houston, TX as Control Systems Engineer.

## Engagement:

Dr. Lakshmikantha & Mrs. Anju Kumbla of Birmingham, AL celebrated the engagement of their daughter **Kum. Dr. REKHA ANJALI with Chi ASHVIN** (fourth year medical student at UC San Diego), s/o Drs Ramadas & Udaya Kamath of Apple valley, CA on Saturday June 25th 2011 at Pehlham Civic Complex in Pehlham, AL. The wedding is planned for the summer of 2012.

## Relocation:

The **DOMNITZ** family, Rupa Rao & Ira with their kids, Rivan and Natanya, have relocated from Sugar Land, TX to 17406 Bland Mills Lane, Richmond, TX 77407. The phone remains the same at (281)-879-6444 and email ID: [raorupa@hotmail.com](mailto:raorupa@hotmail.com)

The **KAMATH** family, Ramesh & Aparna, together with their kids, Rohit and Uma, has relocated from Houston, TX to 27407 Hurston Glen Ln, Katy, TX 77494. The new phone is (281)-712-5838 and email ID: [rameshskamath@rediffmail.com](mailto:rameshskamath@rediffmail.com).

The **KAMATH** family, Manjeshwar Ganesha & Lakshmi, with their son, Vivek, have relocated to 1604, Lightfoot Circle, Marietta, GA 30062. The new phone is (704)-867-8104 and email ID: [glvkamath@hotmail.com](mailto:glvkamath@hotmail.com)

The **PAI** family, Ajit & Amie, with lil' Ayla Marie, have moved within Richmond, VA to 31 Lexington Road, Richmond, VA 23226. The phone remains the same at (804)-231-3763 and email ID: [mdpai79@gmail.com](mailto:mdpai79@gmail.com)

The **RAO** family, Karambar Gurudath & Usha, have relocated within York, PA to 211 Pauline Drive, Suite 311, York, PA 17402. The email ID: [raok.us@gmail.com](mailto:raok.us@gmail.com)

The **NAYALKARS**, Suresh & Jyoti have moved within Sugarland, TX to 1707 Randons Point Dr., Sugar Land, TX 77478. as of Monday May 9th 2011. Their new phone number is (832)-886-5919 and email IDs: [suresh@nayalkar.com](mailto:suresh@nayalkar.com) and [jnayaal@hotmail.com](mailto:jnayaal@hotmail.com)

The **KAMATHS**, Arvind & Neela Kamath along with Sunil have relocated from Houston, TX to their new home in Riverstone Sub Division at 5603 Twin Rivers Ct., Sugar Land, Texas 77479. The new telephone is (281)-778-1157 and email ID: [neela.kamath@gmail.com](mailto:neela.kamath@gmail.com).

### Change of Email:

**KRISHNA PRABHU** of East Elmhurst, NY has changed his current email ID from [kprabhu@earthlink.net](mailto:kprabhu@earthlink.net) to [prabhu.kadambi@gmail.com](mailto:prabhu.kadambi@gmail.com)

### New Arrival:

**AANIK**, a baby boy and **KEIRA**, a baby girl to Sujai & Shilpa Keny Chari of Bay area, on April 12, 2011. The proud maternal grandparents are Vasant & (late) Surekha Keny.

**ARJUN**, a baby boy to Sanat & Priya Amladi of Oak Park, CA, on June 1st, 2011. A little brother to Anika Krishna. The proud grandparents are Shyam & Meera Amladi of Los Angeles and Kishore & Sudha Adur of Santa Cruz, Mumbai.

**SABINA KALANI**, a baby girl, weighing 7lbs and 21 1/4" tall to Nikhila Pai & Jeff Cooksey of Oakland, CA on June 7th 2011. The proud maternal grandparents are Nityananda & Neeta Pai of Rochester, MN.

**NIKHIL**, a baby boy to Smriti & George Joseph of Moorpark, CA on Saturday, June 20th 2011 at Moorpark CA, a brother to Mihir. The maternal grandparents are Subraya & Shamala Shenoy of Clifton, NJ and the paternal grandparents are J. & Reena Joseph of Mumbai.

**RIA ARYA**, a baby girl weighing 7 lbs 4oz. to Anita & Ajit Satoskar on June 24<sup>th</sup> 2011. The proud maternal

grandparents are Raghunath & Veena Nayak of Scarborough, Ont.

**TOBY**, a 7 lbs-14 oz baby boy born to Vinay & Tanya Prabhu of Sherman Oaks, CA on Thursday July 28, 2011. A brother to Miles. The proud paternal grandparents are Palimar Dr. Vasudev & Sunita Prabhu of Mission Viejo, CA and the proud maternal grandparents are Esther & Ruben Chinniah of Santa Monica, CA

**ANJALI**, a 6.5 lbs baby girl to Roshan & Priya Pai on July 31, 2011 at Boston. The proud grandparents are Ravi & Jayashree Pai of Markham, Ont.

**KAREENA LYNDON**, a 7 lbs. 13 oz and is 19 inches long baby girl to Sangeeta & John Beauchamp of Round Rock, TX, on August 2nd, 2011 at 3:48 pm. A sister to Presley & Nila and 5th grandchild to Suresh & Seema Bhat of Houston, TX.

### Choulopanayanam:

Rajesh & Deepa Prabhu of Monterey Park, CA, celebrated their son, **Chi. ATUL's** "Choulopanayanam" (Hindu practice of first hair-cutting ceremony) with their family and friends in July 2011.

### 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash:

**Dr. SHAILA NAYAK** of Mays Landing, NJ, with daughters **Dr. Veena Aribindi** & family of Willow Brook, IL and **Sangeeta Datta** & family of Palo Alto, CA and son **Harish Nayak** & family of Fairport,

NY celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of **Dr. VASUDEV NAYAK** at The Mirage in Edison, NJ on Sunday August 7<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

### Obituary:

Smt. **KATHLENE M PAI (49)** passed away in Dunedin, FL on May 18, 2011. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to her husband, Suresh V. Pai, and 2 children Sydney (11) and Deven (6), her in laws Vasanth & Mala Pai of Lake Wales, FL, and Sunil & Jyoti Pai of VA and their 2 children, Leena and Roshan.

Smt. **VATSALA SASHITAL**, passed away on July 14th, 2011 in Newport Beach, CA. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to her son, Sanat Sashital & family of Irvine, CA and daughter Maya Alve & family of Neptune, NJ.

**Sri UMESH BHANDARY (76)** of Mangalore passed away peacefully in Mangalore on July 26th 2011. *Khabbar* sends heartfelt condolences to his son, Srinivas Bhandary & family of Chula Vista, CA and daughter, Poornima Kini & family of Fishers, IN.

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Send your "hoon Khabbars" to:  
*Khabbar*,  
PO Box 222  
Lake Jackson, TX 77566-0222  
Email: [khabbar@hotmail.com](mailto:khabbar@hotmail.com)

## KONKANI HAPPENINGS

### Konkani Association of Ontario (KAO) Picnic

On July 23rd we had our annual KAO Picnic. It was a great opportunity for all the people to gather and enjoy a beautiful summer day! We played many sports, ate a lot of delicious food, and enjoyed the cold water on the beach! Although the day was very long, it was a lot of fun! We were at the beach and the cold water felt so nice and refreshing on a hot day. Then we played many fun sports like soccer, badminton, volleyball, cricket and even Frisbee! After being in the sun for a long time, playing sports and getting tired, we had so much of yummy food to eat! While people were playing and socializing, some adults barbecued chicken and vegetables. It was super yummy! For lunch we had different types of pastas, noodles, idly, vada, and many more items! Then for an evening snack we had cold, juicy watermelon and bhel! It was so mouth-watering! Overall, the picnic was a great success; everyone enjoyed it and had a great time! In the future, to make our picnic even better, we encourage more people to come out and join in the fun! More the merrier!

From our staff reporters Aparna & Rishab Udiaver

### Konkani Association of Southern California (KASC)

#### 2011 UGADI CELEBRATION

The 2011 Ugadi function was celebrated on April 2nd at the Laguna Woods Center. The event was well attended by friends and families of KASC. The evening as usual started with prayers and social hour. The entertainment (thanks to **Prasan and Sabitha Pai**)

that followed, was very well appreciated by everybody present. An array of talented singers, musicians, and dancers, young and old made the evening fun and lively.

Our Classical singer, **Sushmita Bhat** age 10 under the guidance of our member/teacher **Prasad Upasani** serenaded us with classical songs. Our budding performer, **Ruthie Shenoy** age 8 sang a beautiful Marathi song and also performed a dance to the tune of a Hindi song. She also joined the group of youngsters performing a dance to welcome Spring. The young performers in the Spring dance were **Arya Kalle** (age 7), **Antara Kalle** (5), **Anika Bhat** (3), **Brenna Rao** (7), **Raj Pai** (7), **Rahul Shenoy** (5), **Ruthie Shenoy** (8), and **Uma Upasani** (6). Our ever enthusiastic **Radhika Hattiangadi** took us back in time with some famous Hindi songs on the Karaoke.

Our musicians **Uma Upasani and Raj Pai** entertained us with short and sweet piano pieces on the Piano. **Samar Bhat** (age 14), our Violin Maestro, among other songs played for us “*Mera jootha hai japani*” on the violin! Our Editor and musically talented **Vivek Ullal**, entertained us thoroughly on Harmonica and Accordion.

**Anant Pai** (age 13) rocked the stage and evening with his Hrithik Roshan-like dance moves. Finally a beautiful song/dance performed by **Jyothi Pradhan** as Yashodha and her Kanhaya played by her son, 8 month old **Ajay** stole everybody’s heart. Bits of comedy and riddles by **Radhika Hattiangadi and Sabitha Pai** peppered the evening and made it more enjoyable.

The entertainment was followed by nominations and election of the board with **Rajesh and Deepa Prabhu** as the new President for 2011-2013. The evening ended with a sumptuous dinner, perfectly planned and arranged by **Jyothi & Ashish Pradhan**.

Many thanks to **Venkatesh and Padma Rao** for arranging the hall. Our appreciation to **Mohan and Mohini Kamath** for sponsoring the hall and to members who generously donated to the KASC....!

By: Sabitha Pai, Mission Viejo, CA

## **Picnic 2011**

Konkani Association of Southern California (KASC) held its annual picnic on August 27, 2011 at picturesque William Mason Regional Park, Irvine from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The picnic was well attended by 75 KASC members and their family. The theme of this year’s picnic was “Celebration of India’s 64th Independence Day”.

Picnic started with committee getting ready to welcome the members participating in the picnic by arranging snacks, beverages, displaying Indian flag and playing of Indian patriotic songs.

While socializing by adults was in full swing, kids and teenagers entertained themselves by flying kites, climbing on the trees, blowing of bubbles, watching ducks, swans and turtles in the lake or doing what kids do best i.e., just running around.

This being the first event of the new committee nominated during Yugadi 2011 function, KASC members was re-introduced to (or at least refreshed the memory) to new committee. This was followed by announcement regarding Konkani Sammelan to be held in New Jersey, hosted by the Konkanis from the northeast (NY, NJ, CT, PA, and ...) on June 29 – July 1, 2012. Members were informed that there will be fund-raising event in support of Konkani Sammelan to be held in October or November of this year. Thereafter, new members were introduced and given a brief introduction about KASC annual events.

At 4:30 p.m. it was right time to start the games. Adults and kids equally participated in games that included sack race, lemon-and- spoon race, couples catch the water-balloon without bursting games. All members collectively participated in games that included treasure hunt, identify the Indian monuments and interesting places in the photos and Independence Day quiz. This was followed by interesting speeches regarding their experiences about pre and post Indian Independence day, significance in today’s era especially to Indians living in United States. We thank a million to Mr. Sridhar Rao, Mr. Ravi Joshi and Mr. Raghuram Pai for sharing their sweet-bitter experiences that took us back to August 1947. Best dressed person in spirit of Indian Independence day was unanimously presented to **Mr. Raghuram Pai** (as Mahatma Gandhi) and **Mrs. Ramabai Pai** (as Kasturba Gandhi).

The evening ended with mouth-watering dinner that included pav-bhaji, khaman, kachori, samosa, shev-puri, chapattis, dum-aaloo, fruits, and kalaakand.

Thanks to all volunteers who helped the committee to clean up, pack the goods and keep the park clean. Though the gifts were given to all winners of the games, we believe everybody is the winner as the picnic was celebrated with great joy and enthusiasm.

By: Rajesh Prabhu

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## **Konkani Association of California (KAOCA) Activities**

### **Sports, Food Extravaganza, Karaoke Day:**

KAOCA organized its annual sports day on June 4th, 2011 at the Warm Springs Community Center in Fremont, California. There was a very good turnout and community members displayed their talent in a variety of indoor sports including Table Tennis, Carom, Chess,

Cards, and Wii Games. A Konkani food extravaganza was also organized with this event to celebrate Konkani culture and food. Chefs brought the following mouthwatering dishes to showcase their culinary skills: *Chana Upkari, Powa Chutney, Kulitha Koddal, Batata Song, Daali Ambat, Ambe Sasam, Karathe Kosambari, Batata Gojju, Jhalke Ambat, Kunkda Randhai, Kichadi* and *Dudhpak*. The best dishes in different categories were chosen as winners. The evening was also filled with melodious music from a variety of Karaoke singers. The program closed with a great round of bingo.

### **Summer Picnic:**

The annual KAOCA summer picnic was held on August 20th, 2011 at the Santa Clara Central Park. It was a fun filled all day event with a tropical / Hawaiian theme. The morning started with a great game of cricket. Little kids enjoyed the jumper and popcorn while the rest were feasting on snacks, panak and jiving to the beats of calypso music. Lunch featured a variety of barbecued items prepared on site by the KAOCA team including chicken, paneer, corn on the cob, and vegetables along with other savory curries. To cool off from the hot sun, there was tropical fruit salad accompanied with mango and chocolate ice-cream along with some delicious cantaloupe harshale. This was followed by a variety of activities. The first one was a Hula dance show / class. Many members who had come in Hawaiian attire enjoyed watching and participating in the show. This was followed by some outdoor sports races. The volleyball game had a nail biting finish with the winning team scoring one more point than the opponent. All members returning from the sport activities were treated to some sumptuous charumbure chutney, sweet melon slices and traditional tea. As is customary, the last event of the day was bingo that was enjoyed by one and all.

### **Upcoming Events:**

KAOCA has planned for a Dandiya event to coincide with Navrathri festivities. Additional details about the event will be published on the KAOCA web site soon.

The annual KAOCA Diwali function is planned for Saturday November 12th at the Milpitas Jain Center. Registration details will be available on the KAOCA web site soon.

KAOCA Committee  
[www.kaoca.org](http://www.kaoca.org)

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## **Houston Area Amchigale Samaj (HAAS)**

### **2011 Janmashtami**

The *Janmashtami* was celebrated at Austin Parkway, First Colony Conference Center in Sugar Land, TX on Sunday, August 28 from 10 am to 2 pm.

### **The Big Bollywood Bash**

The Big Bollywood Bash was held on Saturday, June 25, 2011 from 5:30 PM to 11:00 PM at Austin Parkway, First Colony Conference Center in Sugar Land, TX

For more information, visit: [www.ourhaas.com](http://www.ourhaas.com)

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**SUNIL KOCHIKAR PAI**, s/o Nagaraj & Sujata Pai of Houston, TX was one of the ten Indian American high school seniors in the Intel Science Talent Search-2011(There were 3 seniors from Northern California, 2 from Texas and 1 each from Michigan, Minnesota, New York and Florida). These are among the 40 students named finalists nationwide in the Intel Science Talent Search, the country's most prestigious science and math competition. Sunil, 17, of the Kinkaid School of Houston, TX developed a new approach to measure electron transfer properties of the molecules. He is the president of the math club and a member of the varsity cross-country team. He plays in the orchestra and is the secretary of the Orchestra Board. In his spare time, Sunil enjoys playing chess, tennis and golf. He is the youth president of the HAAS (Houston Area Amchigale Samaj). Sunil has admissions to MIT, Stanford, Princeton, Rice, Yale and Caltech but, he will join Stanford University, one of the world's leading research and teaching institutions, located in Palo Alto, CA this Fall.

Here are some of Sunil's accolades:

1. Grand Award- Physical and Engineering Sciences – Science and Engineering Fair of Houston 2010
2. 1st Place –Senior Chemistry division – Science and Engineering Fair of Houston 2009 and 2010
3. Regional Finalist (Region 6)- Siemens Competition (Math: Science: Technology) 2009
4. National Semifinalist - Siemens Competition (Math: Science: Technology) 2010
5. International Finalist - Intel International Science and Engineering Fair 2010.
6. National Finalist - Intel Science Talent Search Competition 2011
7. Davidson Fellow 2011 – Prodigious achievement in the field of science.

Among all the above, the Intel STS competition is the highest honor for a high school senior in Science and Math in the USA. He went to Washington DC for the finals which included meeting with President Obama in the Whitehouse.



The Intel STS has been going on for the past 70 years (used to be called Westinghouse Competition). Sunil has joined a very special group of 2800 talented individuals, 7 of whom have gone on to win the Nobel Prize in the past. In addition, only 77 kids from the State of Texas have achieved this honor in past 70 years.

Sunil was recognized for his achievements by Harris County in Texas and September 9 is declared as "Sunil Pai Day" for the county as officially proclaimed and signed by the district judge.

Sunil has his own website: <http://pai-innovations.com/> Click on the link and check it out!

## Other News of Importance from abroad

### Dr Murlidhar Pai gets national faculty status

June 24,2011



**Dr Murlidhar V Pai, MD**, Professor and Unit Head, ObGyn, at KMC, Manipal has been given the status of National Faculty by Federation of Obstetrics & Gynecological Society of India (FOGSI). With this newly found status, Dr Pai, who is also Chairman Cultural Committee, Manipal University, will be invited to deliver lectures at CMEs conducted by different sub-committees of FOGSI at its member societies.

And, to begin with, the reproductive endocrine committee of FOGSI has invited Dr Pai to be the national faculty for the CME on Premenopausal Bleeding --- Controversies and Consensus to be held at Mysore on June 25, 2011.

### Udupi: Dr T M A Pai Foundation's 'Distinguished Konkani Person of Year' Award on Mar 26

Daijiworld Media Network – Udupi (SP)

Udupi, Mar 22: A function is being organized at Hotel Valley View International Manipal auditorium for conferring the 'Distinguished Konkani Person of the Year' award instituted by Dr T M A Pai Foundation, a Konkani minority linguistic organization on Saturday March 26 at 5.30 pm.

### Dr M V Kamath, Dr Anil Kakodkar, Prof Arvind P Kudchadkar, H V Kamath

**Dr M V Kamath:** Madhav Vittal Kamath, born in Udupi in 1921, completed his primary education in Udupi and degree education at Mumbai. He was a student of chemistry and physics, and initially started work as a dye chemist. He later took to journalism. He is the only living journalist to have reported the first Indian freedom celebration of 1947. He discharged duties in various important assignments, and had worked as the editor of Illustrated Weekly of India, and Sunday editor of Times of India. He also was the chairman of Prasar Bharati. He is presently functioning as governing council member of Manipal University and Dr T M A Pai Foundation, apart from being the honorary director of Manipal Institute of Communication.

**Dr Anil Kakodkar**, who joined Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in 1964, became its director in 1996. He later served as the chairman of Atomic Commission of India and secretary in the department of atomic energy. At present, he is the professor of Homi Bhabha Chair at BARC. His achievements in nuclear reactor, peaceful nuclear explosives etc, have been hailed everywhere. He got Padma Shri title in 1998, Padma Bhushan in 1999, and Padma Vibhushan in 2009. He is the recipient of numerous awards, felicitations, and honours.

**Prof Arvind P Kudchadkar**, honorary professor of Mumbai IIT, had worked as advisor to Reliance Industries, and Gujarat Energy Research and Management Institute. He had worked hard for setting up of Deendayal Petroleum University set up by Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation in Gandhinagar. He retired as the professor in the department of chemical engineering, Mumbai IIT. Later, he served as the advisor (quality and technical management) to Indian Merchants Chamber. About 50 of his essays were published in international publications, and he has also written a number of books.

In 1983, he won the NRDC honour, K G Naik gold medal in 1994, and award from Marathi Science Council in 1996 for his achievements in the fields of science and technology.

**Hattiangady Venktraya Kamath**, better known as H V Kamath, joined Syndicate Bank after getting BSc degree. He retired as additional general manager of the bank after 30 years of service. He had close association with Dr T M A Pai, T A Pai, and K K Pai, who functioned as chairmen of Syndicate Bank during different periods. He was an office bearer of Dr T M A Pai Foundation, Konkani Bhashoddhara Trust, Manipal University, KMC, Manipal Institute of Technology, and Basrur Sharada College Trust. Kamath is getting this honour posthumously.

Dr T M A Pai Foundation's 'Best Konkani Book Award' will be bestowed on Melvyn Rodrigues during the same occasion. Melvyn Rodrigues has been chosen for this award for his poetry collection 'Prikriticho Paas'. The award carries cash prize of Rs 25,000 and a citation. Appreciation awards will be given to Gerry D'Mello, Canada for his book 'Do Re Me Fa' and Ramesh Laad, Goa for his translation work of 'Dhruvataare'. This award consists of cash prize of Rs 5,000 each and a citation.

## NAKA, the North American Konkani Association

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

**This quarter, with the successful Konkani Youth Convention behind it, the NAKA Board has been busy in helping the Konkanis of the Northeast area of NY/NJ/CT/PA to make their sweet sixteen Sammelan for 2012 the best ever!**

### NAKA - Statement Of Accounts

Date	Description	Credit, \$	Debit, \$
5/31/11	Balance from last report	<b>124,259.70</b>	
6/5/11	Seed money for KS-2012		20,000.00
8/31/11	Interest	27.46	
8/1/11	Seed money for KYC-2011		10,000.00
8/31/11	Bank Fees		20.00
	<b>Final Balance:</b>	<b>94,267.16</b>	

Signed: Damodar Baliga, Treasurer, NAKA

**कोंकणी इकल्लोळ-२०१२**  
Edison, New Jersey \* June 29 - July 1

Connecting Konkanis, Heart to Heart, Home away from Home

Dear Konkani samaj bandhavas, bhaginis and well-wishers,

Namaskaru,

Some of you may have already heard this through the grape vine, Khabbar or tweets. Yes, the next Konkani Sammelan is coming back to its birthplace in New Jersey after 16 years and we have the privilege to celebrate sweet sixteen of the Sammelan! It will be hosted at the **New Jersey Convention and Exposition Center in Edison, NJ from June 29-July 1, 2012 (Fri-Sun)**. Please mark your calendars and save the dates.

The North East region was finalized for hosting the 2012 Konkani Sammelan only in May 2011. Since then, we have raced against time to put together a dedicated and motivated team of volunteers for organizing this mega event. The team's vision is to host the best Konkani Sammelan to date and provide all attendees with outstanding cultural and entertainment programs, seminars, authentic and sumptuous Konkani food, social and professional networking opportunities, youth and children events.

Edison, NJ is at the heart of Indian and Konkani community in the North East. It is approximately 25 miles south west of New York City. The area is serviced by three major airports; the nearest airport being Newark, NJ (airport code EWR). The NJ Convention Center is an ideal place for holding the Sammelan, as it is NJ's largest private venue with modern facilities to host big entertainment programs, meetings, vendor booths, and has a huge dining area. We have negotiated exclusive discounted rates with Sheraton and Hilton Garden hotels in Edison, which are near the Convention Center. Details on hotels in the vicinity, room rates, and how to make hotel reservations will be published on our website.

The theme for our Konkani Sammelan 2012, very aptly, is: **"Connecting Konkanis, Heart to Heart, Home away from Home"**. The various Konkani associations in North America and events like the biennial Konkani Sammelan are indeed catalysts for us to connect with our fellow Konkanis, culture, traditions, language and of course to enjoy our food. For our children and the youth growing up in North America, and also for adults and seniors, the Sammelan promises to be a great cultural experience and retreat, home away from home. We are aspiring for and expecting around 2000 Konkanis under one roof for 3 days in this upcoming Sammelan. This in itself should make us all Konkanis very proud!

In 2012, as July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday in the US falls on Wednesday, we decided to hold the Sammelan on the earlier weekend, as this would give out-of-town attendees chance to take advantage of the short week ahead for extended vacation with friends and relatives or touring the incredible North East region. More information on nearby sight-seeing areas and tourist attractions will be published on our website.

The excitement is in the air. The volunteers are putting in countless hours. We hope that the attendees and sponsors will respond positively in huge numbers. Details on Registration Fee for Sarmmelan are listed below. We had thorough deliberations for setting an appropriate pricing structure. The registration fee covers full scrumptious breakfast, meals and snacks during the entire Sarmmelan period for 2 and half days. It also includes admission to all the cultural and entertainment programs, seminars and most of the other events held at the Sarmmelan. There is an early bird discounted pricing till Dec 31, 2011. So, please register as soon as possible through our website (<http://konkani2012.org>). Besides providing discounted price to you, this would also help us tremendously for planning purposes. Please bookmark and check our website regularly for Sarmmelan updates. You may reach us at [info@konkani2012.org](mailto:info@konkani2012.org) with questions, concerns and suggestions regarding Konkani Sarmmelan 2012.

We request you to be our ambassadors in informing your nearest and dearest from North America and around the world about this event. We look forward for your continued participation and support. We will open our hearts and welcome you to the Konkani Sarmmelan 2012 and endeavor to make it an absolutely fabulous and memorable experience.

Devu Baren Karo,

Konkani Sarmmelan 2012 - Organizing Committee

#### Registration Fee for Konkani Sarmmelan 2012

Registration Fee	Payment done before Dec 31	Payment done between Jan 1- Apr 30	Payment done after Apr 30
Adults (ages 13-65)	\$ 165	\$ 185	\$ 210
Seniors (> 65)	\$ 130	\$ 150	\$ 175
Overseas University Students*	\$ 99	\$ 110	\$ 135
Kids (6-12)	\$ 99	\$ 99	\$ 99
Kids < 6	FREE	FREE	FREE

\* Overseas university students currently studying in US and Canadian universities on student visas

#### Cancellation Policy:

If the request for cancellation received:

- Before Mar 1, \$25 will be deducted for each paid attendee and rest of all paid amount refunded to requestor
- Between Mar 1 and Apr 30, 50% of paid amount will be deducted and the remaining amount refunded to requestor
- After April 30, no refunds

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### Call for Articles, Short Stories, Poems, Essays, Artwork

Welcome to the Konkani Sarmmelan 2012!

The Konkani Sarmmelan Souvenir is an instrument of collective rumination, thought assimilation and an opportunity to document and immortalize the opinions of its contributors.

Authors/Contributors are invited to send in original Articles, Essays, Short Stories, Poems based on the Sarmmelan 2012 theme, **“Connecting Konkanis, Heart To Heart, Home Away From Home”**.

While this is the primary theme, we invite contributions covering different categories of this theme (but not limited to these categories)

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

A few guidelines to be followed while submitting entries for the Souvenir:

#### Articles and Short Stories:

Topics pertaining to the Sarmmelan theme should have a maximum limit of 3-4 pages with a word limit of 2000 words.

#### Poems :

Poetry should be limited to 2 pages with a word limit of 800-1000 words.

**Essay Competition:**

Topic: *Being Konkani and retaining our essence far away from the homeland.*

Categories : Ages 12 and under ; 13 to 19 ; above 20 years

**Drawing Competition:**

Creative Theme: *Celebrating Indian Festivals with Konkani Flavors.*

Categories : Ages 5-8; 9-12 ; 12-15 years.

**Note:**

The final date for submitting Articles/Essays/Poems/Artwork etc is 30th November 2011.

Please send in your queries/clarifications and your entries to the following e-mail address

[souvenir@konkani2012.org](mailto:souvenir@konkani2012.org)

**Advertisement:**

Every Sammelan has seen an outpouring of support from within the Konkani community as well as from well-wishers outside the community. The Souvenir is the legacy of each Sammelan, the literary connection that reaches out to all the Konkani's in distant lands and a wonderful medium to "Connect Konkani's Home Away from Home".

It is our endeavor to deliver a magazine that highlights the aspirations, interests, interactions of Konkani's in India and abroad and to chronicle the diversity and cohesiveness of the entire Konkani community.

We invite contributions by means of advertisements for the Konkani Souvenir. It is a means of addressing and reaching out to Konkani's across the region and we guarantee that your advertisement will get the attention it deserves!

The rates for advertising in the Souvenir are as under:

	<b>Color</b>	<b>Black &amp; White</b>
Full page	\$ 1500	\$ 1300
Half page	\$ 1000	\$ 800
Quarter page	\$ 600	\$ 500

To advertise in the Konkani Sammelan Souvenir, kindly email: [souvenir@konkani2012.org](mailto:souvenir@konkani2012.org)

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**Nominations for Distinguished Awards of Excellence for the next Sammelan (KS-2012):**

Do you have friends or relatives that have outstanding achievements? Here is your opportunity to get them recognition at the Konkani Sammelan 2012. The Sammelan plans to honor distinguished Konkani's from North America for their achievements. Please take a few minutes to nominate deserving candidates. The Awards Committee is soliciting nominations of candidates in the following six categories:

1. Arts – for demonstrated excellence in the performing, visual, or liberal arts.
2. Science/Research – for achievements in the fields of biological, physical, mathematical or medical sciences.
3. Technology – for contributions to engineering and technology in engineering, computer science or other technical fields.
4. Entrepreneurship/ Professional Achievement – for having demonstrated leadership, business acumen and management skills in their chosen fields.
5. Education/Public Service – for outstanding teaching or administrative skills in Education, having held public office or performed social/ spiritual work.
6. Outstanding Youth – for distinguished academic and extracurricular achievements.

Nominations (including the award category and a description of the candidate's achievements) should be addressed to: KS 2012 Awards Committee at : [Vdevnayak@gmail.com](mailto:Vdevnayak@gmail.com) or mailed to c/o Vasudev Nayak, 32 Vender Lane, Mays Landing, NJ 08330. Thanks!

## Konkani Sabha

Following is the highlight of the KONKANI SABHA activity for the year 2011

### Diwali:

**Date:** Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011

**Time:** 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM

**Location:** Shri Venkateswara Temple Community Center, Bridgewater, NJ 780 Old Farm Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

**Tel:** (908) 725-4477

**Cost:** Registration and Payment by October 1st - \$16 (12 years and older) and \$9 (ages 6 to 12) Registration after Oct 1st and at the door - \$18 (12 years and older) and \$11 (ages 6 to 12) Advance Registration and payments will also be accepted at the picnic

**Activities:** Variety Entertainment, Socialization, Appetizer and Dinner

**Communication:** Email, Phann newsletter postings, web site postings, and postings in the *Khabbar* will be the usual modes of communication. Please encourage all Konkani you know to update their contact information and email addresses with us. We also have a monthly newsletter Phann. Rajesh Nayak, treasurer of Konkani Sabha, is the editor of Phann. The newsletter is published to members of Yahoo groups. There is no fee to join the Yahoo groups. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter, please visit our website <http://www.konkanisabha.org/>. Click on the left side Subscribe to Newsletter. Web Site: We will be striving to post information on various activities, on a timely basis, on our website <http://www.konkanisabha.org/>. Please spread the word about our website.

**Email:** Our email address is [konkanisabha@gmail.com](mailto:konkanisabha@gmail.com) Additional Activities: Based on success of our initiatives this year, we hope to have more activities in the coming years. More activities will require more volunteers. We encourage anyone interested in getting involved to contact us.

Ganesh Kudva (President) [ganeshmkudva@yahoo.com](mailto:ganeshmkudva@yahoo.com)

Dinakar Bhat (Treasurer) [dbhat2@yahoo.com](mailto:dbhat2@yahoo.com)

Santosh Kamat (Vice President) [santosh.kamat@utoronto.ca](mailto:santosh.kamat@utoronto.ca)

Amit Kantak (Joint Secretary) [kvamit@yahoo.com](mailto:kvamit@yahoo.com)

Vivek Shenoy (Secretary) [vivekshenoy@gmail.com](mailto:vivekshenoy@gmail.com)

We once again thank you all for your support. We hope to have continued support and involvement from all of you in the coming years. We also ask each of you to spread the word to any Konkani you know and have them send their contact information and email addresses. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact any of us. Our email address is [konkanisabha@gmail.com](mailto:konkanisabha@gmail.com) Also visit our website at <http://www.konkanisabha.org/> for details and updates.

## Konkani Youth Convention - 2011

The Konkani Youth Convention took place in Houston, Texas during the weekend of August 5-7, 2011. The committee, comprising of Konkani youth across the state of Texas, had a huge task at hand - organizing a convention to the caliber of years' past. As attendees will attest, the convention was extremely successful in ensuring that there were enough social and cultural events allowing participants to build friendships while taking in the local attractions of the greater Houston area.

The convention commenced on Friday evening with a social mixer at a popular bowling alley, Lucky Strike. Attendees dined on delicious appetizers while interacting with their fellow peers through organized activities, bowling, and playing pool. Saturday began with seminar sessions addressing the following topics, 'Preserving our language in a digital age,' 'People from different regions of the country and their interaction with the Konkani culture,' and ended with a fun game of 'Konkani Jeopardy.' Immediately after, participants were whisked away to take a group shot wearing their KYC 2011 t-shirts designed by the committee at the famed Williams Water Wall located in the Galleria district. Despite the heat, participants enjoyed the adjacent park with a couple of ice breaking activities. Lunch was at a local South Asian restaurant, India's, which had a buffet featuring a wide variety of South Asian delicacies. Due to the record-breaking heat in Houston in the month of August, participants were then taken to the local Museum of Natural Science where they visited the Butterfly center and exhibit on Texas. Saturday evening ended in true Texas fare, with a Tex-Mex dinner at El Real restaurant, where attendees ate such local favorites as puffy tacos, fajitas and tres leches.

The convention ended Sunday morning with a seminar session allowing participants to reflect upon the weekend and conventions past. With a smaller attendance, participants felt that they were able to interact with others and build stronger relationships. Many felt that the programming allowed participants to really take in the city and enjoy what it has to offer. All in all, the Houston Konkani Youth committee did an excellent job in organizing a convention with a tremendous amount of activities that helped bring together Konkani youth while cultivating our heritage. Congrats!

- Submitted by an attendee of the Houston 2011 Konkani Youth Convention

**Editor's Reply:** I also received the following emails from the two of the attendees and here they are:

1. *Hello Vasanth maam,*

*The Konkani Youth Convention was an experience I won't forget for a very long time. I had a good feeling right from the start when I first started talking to KYC-2011 organizers on the phone. The organizers did a fantastic job planning the whole thing, there was lots of attention to detail, no delays/hiccups, great venues, and plenty of activities to help connect and bond. I met lots of great people, women too, heh, and I look forward to keeping in touch with all of them. I also can't wait to go to next year's convention in New Jersey. The weekend went by very fast, and before I knew it, I was on the plane ride back home dealing with a good dose of post-vacation blues. Thank you so very much for recommending this to me, and also for checking in to see how it went.*

*I hope you've been well. It gets very hot in your neck of the woods!*

*From: NN*

*2. Dear Mr. Bhat,*

*I had registered 3 attendees (My brother, his friend, myself) for the KYC and we had a great time last week. KYC was very well organized. KYC-2011 organizers did an excellent job and it was flawless. I made a lot of new friends and hope to stay in touch with them. :)*

*Actually, we had not met any other Shenoy in the US!! :) :)..This is the first time I saw so many Konkani's in US... After attending KYC, I realized how much I missed these kinds of Konkani events. My parents were in the organizing committee for the GSB-Konkani regional events in Mumbai...participating in them was a huge part of us while growing up. Thanks again for letting me know about KYC. I thoroughly enjoyed it!! :)*

*Thanks and Regards,*

*From: TS*