

KHABBAR

North American Konkani Newsletter



Edition
April, May, June 2022



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From the Editorial Team

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 2022 edition of Khabbar.

This is the fourth issue of Khabbar organized by the volunteer team from the North American Konkani Association (NAKA), and we want to thank our volunteers for their efforts.

Khabbar editions are now available on our recently enhanced NAKA website. You can find the current and past issues at <https://mynaka.org/E-Khabbar>

We request all of you to contribute articles of interest to Konkanis, news of births, engagements, weddings, and change of address, as well as obituary, to ensure your Khabbar remains a source for the latest Konkani happenings.

Please send your entries to khabbar@mynaka.org

With best wishes, Stay Safe.

Khabbar Editorial Team

Note:

We are currently in transition to a fully digitized version of this newsletter. In the meanwhile, please sit back and enjoy this Issue and of course do not forget to send your comments (and contributions) to us at khabbar@mynaka.org



1. Goddess Saraswati



Source: Various; Submitted by **Dr. V. Girijanand Bhat**, Loma Linda, California

The festival **Vasant Panchami (Saraswathi Pooja)** is celebrated every year on the fifth day of **माघ Magha**, a month in the Indian calendar. On that day many young children start their first day of schooling to learn the alphabets. Countries such as Japan, Vietnam, Indonesia and Myanmar revere Devi Saraswathi as the goddess of education, music and arts.

“

Saraswathi also spelled Saraswati, Sarasvathi, Sarasvati or Saraswathy originates from Sanskrit as a combination of two words.

”

Goddess Saraswati, consort of Lord Brahma (Creator of the Cosmos), is the Hindu goddess of education, music, arts, knowledge and learning. She is often depicted wearing a pure white saree and is seated on a beautiful white lotus (Sanskrit: पद्म Padm, Kamal, Nalini) or swan (Sanskrit: हंस Hansa or Hansa).



Saraswathi also spelled Saraswati, Sarasvathi, Sarasvati or Saraswathy originates from Sanskrit as a combination of two words:

- Sāra (सार) meaning Essence
- Sva (स्व) meaning one self

The word "Saraswati" means one who leads to the essence of self-knowledge or one who possesses plenty of water. The hindu river Saraswati has been named after the goddess. It is said that our Gouda Saraswat and Saraswat ancestors lived on the banks of this great river. Sri Saraswati Stotram is the slokam composed by Sage Agastya in praise of and as prayer to the Goddess. You may access this Stotram at <https://www.hindugallery.com/sri-saraswathi-stotram/>

A collection of other slokas and their meanings on different Hindu deities and gods can be accessed at <https://www.hindugallery.com/slokas/>

You can find images of Goddess Saraswathi and a collection of vintage and unique images of various Hindu deities, temples, artifacts and more at <https://www.hindugallery.com/goddess-saraswati-images/> and <https://www.hindugallery.com/>

The above resources are beautiful and enlightening.

2. Autism Spectrum Disorder

By **Dr. Gurpur Shashidhar Pai** M.B.B.S, FAAP, FACMG,
Professor of Pediatrics and Genetics, Medical University
of South Carolina, Charleston



Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability. It may affect as many as 1 out of 100 children in the U.S. The CDC's "**Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network**" which includes Medical University of South Carolina, is a collaborative network to track the number and characteristics of children with ASD in multiple communities in the US. ADDM network researchers reported that 1 in 44 or 2.3% of 8-year-old children were identified with ASD in 2018, on the basis of tracking in multiple areas of the United States.

“ The CDC’s Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network which included Medical University of SC is a collaborative network to track the number and characteristics of children with ASD in multiple communities in the United States. ADDM Network researchers reported that 1 in 44 or 2.3% of 8-year-old children were identified with ASD in 2018. ”



Children or adults with ASD might not point at objects to show interest, nor look at objects when another person points at them. They have trouble relating to others or not having an interest in other people at all. They also have trouble understanding other people's feelings as well as talking about their own feelings, prefer not to be held or cuddled, might cuddle only when they want to, and appear to be unaware when people talk to them. Sometimes, they are very interested in people, but do not know how to talk, play, or relate to them. They end up repeating words or phrases said to them, or repeat words or phrases in place of normal language.

Diagnosis

A diagnosis of ASD now includes several conditions that used to be diagnosed separately, like autistic disorder, pervasive developmental disorder - not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS), high functioning Autism and Aspergers Syndrome. These conditions are now all called Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The early signs of Autism in young children include the following:



Avoiding eye contact



Getting upset by minor changes in routine



Having little interest in other children or caretakers



Limited display of language (for example, having fewer words than peers or difficulty with use of words for communication)



There is no simple medical test for diagnosing ASD. Pediatricians identify deviations from expected behavior and development to suspect a diagnosis. Simple screening tests / questionnaires used during routine healthcare visits may “flag” a child to be “at-risk” for ASD. The standard test for confirming a diagnosis of ASD is the “Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedules (ADOS)” developed in 2000. The diagnosis may also be made using criteria set forth in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders used by mental health professionals.

Causes and Testing

All the causes of ASD are not known as it is likely that there are many causes for it like environmental, biological, and genetic factors.

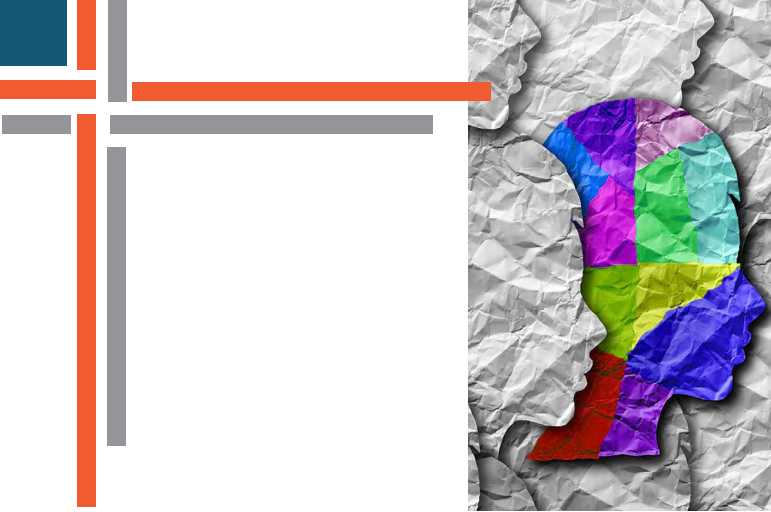
ASD can be a part of numerous genetic syndromes caused by **chromosomal** or

single gene mutations. While ASD occurs sporadically in most instances, siblings and other relatives may be affected in some families. Such syndromic and familial cases provide evidence of genetic predisposition to ASD.

Modern genetic testing technologies including **chromosomal microarray (CMA)** and **whole exome sequencing (WES)** analysis have identified several hundred specific mutations that are associated with ASD. Co-existence of intellectual disabilities and congenital malformations increase the likelihood that ASD has an identifiable genetic cause. Using these methods about **30% to 35%** of children are found to have a recognizable genetic cause for ASD. Therefore, genetic testing is recommended when a child is confirmed to have ASD.

Vaccines and ASD

Many parents are anxious about the wide-spread belief that Autism may be “caused” by childhood vaccines. This is a long standing concern and predates



the COVID-19 pandemic. The issue has been investigated and no scientific evidence has been found to indicate an association between **childhood immunization and Autism**.

Treatment

Currently, there is no cure for ASD. However, research shows that early intervention treatment services can improve a child's development. **Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy** helps children with ASD talk, walk, and interact with others. Therefore, it is important to talk to your child's doctor as soon as possible if you think your child has ASD or other developmental problems.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

IDEA is a federal statute that says that children under the age of 3 years, who are at risk of having developmental

delays including ASD may be eligible for services. These services are provided through an early intervention system that varies from state to state.

Parents can ask for ASD evaluation and services. In addition, treatment for symptoms, such as speech and language delays, do not need to wait for a formal ASD diagnosis.

In Summary

Autism Spectrum Disorder remains an important public health concern. The total costs per year for children with ASD in the United States was estimated to be between **\$11.5 billion – \$60.9 billion (2011 US dollars)**. This significant economic burden represents a variety of direct and indirect costs, from medical care to special education to lost parental productivity. There is an ongoing need for research to better understand ASD and its prevention and treatment.

3. Konkani Konsortium



In the quarterly 2021 edition of the first year of eKhabbar, topics on health and spirituality were highlighted.

“ On your behalf, I thank our Konkani Health Konsortium members
Dr. Ramdas Gurpur Pai,
Dr. Prabhakar Kalyanpur Baliga,
Dr. Chetan Girijanand Bhat,
Dr. Shantharam Tonse Pai
and Dr. Shashidhar Gurpur Pai
for their scholarly contributions. ”

We are all aware that our community is highly educated, well informed, resourceful and strongly connected. They know how to access spiritual and health information through books, gurus, experts and extensive literature on these topics and other subjects on the world wide web. As everything begins with Brahman, resources of hindu god and goddess' images, slokas and our ancient sacred River Saraswati, are shared with you in the Q4 edition.

Our expert Konkani Health Konsortium and I wish you goodbye to open doors for others to carry on this tradition. If spirituality and health matters are popular, we hope and pray, interested community members will take on the reins and continue them going forward



in 2022 and beyond. We thank our beloved Sri Vasanth Bhat and the ekhabbar editors for the opportunity to serve you.

Warm personal regards and best wishes to each of you in everything always.

Dr. Venkatesh Girijanand Bhat, Loma Linda, CA

4. Kastaa Vishay – The Tricky Stuff Much Ado About Plastic

By **Anuradha Rao** (Vancouver, BC)



"holiday movie "It's a Wonderful Life". It was filmed in 1946. One of the characters invited another to join him in a burgeoning new industry i.e. plastics. I wonder if the writers were psychic and saw how ubiquitous plastic would be in our lives today. Plastic has many important uses, but some estimates are that about **50% of plastic is used only once** and then thrown away!

My archaeologist colleagues often talk about what they have found when looking at ancient sites: stone tools, arrowheads, rocks laid out in coastal areas to trap fish as the tide recedes. What will the archaeologists of the future find from us? Likely a toothbrush, or a water bottle, maybe some earphones, or microscopic fragments of a shopping bag. Years ago, I remember watching the

As a marine ecologist, plastic waste is constantly in my mind, because so much garbage ends up in waterways, and eventually in the ocean and **our bodies**. Its impact ranges from large scale (**the Great Pacific Garbage Patch**, to individual scale (whales and sea turtles **dying after ingesting plastic** instead of their prey), to the tiniest of scales (microplastics in our health-conscious-



sea salt. I do my best to lead an environmentally-conscious life as it is my profession, after all. Yet plastic is still all around me – my pen, these computer keys, my clothing, the bins I use to carry my gear, the pots in my garden ... I could go on and on!

Some among us will remember India in the days before plastic. Unfortunately plastic is now as prevalent in India today as it is here – perhaps even more so. There has been an instance where I have struggled with a cow on the road in front of the Chitrapur Math, as I pulled a long piece of plastic out of her throat. But our elders and ancestors had a lot of the sustainability solutions that we need to bring back today, including to North America. India is beginning to make bold moves to reduce plastic waste. Our ancestral state of **Goa banned the use of plastic bags** and other single-use plastics years ago, and a process has recently begun to **ban single-use plastics across India**.

It can be a challenge to eliminate plastic from our lives entirely. We do live in a consumer-driven society where we find for sale the things the make and action we take is a vote. To refuse and reduce the use of plastic comes before recycling.

If you're looking for a new year's resolution, how about reducing the amount of plastic in your life?

Here are some ideas



Ask an elder to share an earth-friendly practice that they remember from India.



Carry a cloth or reusable bag with you whenever you go out. There are some made of parachute material that fold into a tiny ball.



Find your local recycling depot and see what they accept. Some will take soft and hard plastics, styrofoam, electronics, appliances and other items that are not picked up by curbside recycling programs.



Use glass containers with lids, or reusable beeswax paper instead of cling wrap.



Don't put your fruits and vegetables in those clear plastic bags. Is there any real harm to keeping them loose? Bring reusable mesh bags to gather up those handfuls of bhand or tandle.



We have an abundance of choice in the west. Choose to buy items that are not made of, or packaged in plastic. Ask your favorite stores to stock less wasteful products.



Support your local temple by sponsoring them to purchase stainless steel plates and cutlery, and a dishwasher.



Reuse or recycle any plastic bags that sneak their way into your life. Ziploc and other bags can be washed with soap and water, hung to dry and used multiple times.



Carry a refillable water bottle and avoid single-use beverage and snack containers. (Long live the tiffin carrier!)



Compost your food waste, so that you can reduce the amount of garbage you produce (particularly wet and stinky garbage), and use a paper bag in your garbage can. I keep vermicompost bins on my balcony as they are odorless.



Join or start a neighborhood litter clean-up effort to remove plastics out of our sewers and waterways. In Canada, we have a national initiative with this regard called the [Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup](#).

Your Thoughts

If you have any questions, feedback, or ideas for this column, you can submit them anonymously at this [link](#).

About the Author

Anuradha Rao (M.Sc., RPBio, Cert.RNS) is a conservation biologist, writer and facilitator. She is the author of the non-fiction book [One Earth: People of Color Protecting Our Planet](#) (Orca, 2020). Anu has worked on research, conservation, restoration, planning and stewardship projects with communities and organizations on the coasts of Canada and in 12 other countries.

5. Konkani Kwiz

By “Vindyakka” (New York, NY)



a business contact, or simply enjoying the scenic beauty of our country. Close your eyes, take a deep breath, and relive your pleasant train memories all over again.

More than 23 million passengers ride India’s trains each day, and so it is no surprise that some train routes and classes are notoriously overcrowded. There are typically 72 seats per car on a train, however people are often standing, hanging out the side, or maybe even dancing on the roof like in the music video Chaiya Chaiya. **Now coming to the Kwiz, How many people must be in a train car to ensure that at least 3 of them have the same birthday?**

You may assume that there are 366 (including February 29th) possible birthdays.

Last issue's Kwiz

Question:

The Konkan Railroad is nearly 500 miles of tracks and 69 stations connecting coastal families and businesses from Udupi to Mangalore, and beyond, by train. We all have those memorable moments on the train eating a certain food, visiting a special someone, traveling to a new place, meeting



Answer:

The correct answer is 733. Let us assume there are 366 possible birthdays, so $2 \times 366 + 1 = 733$. Therefore, the total number of people on the train should be 733 to ensure that at least 3 of them have the same birthday. This is proved using the Pigeonhole Principle. Note that the exact birthdate is not specified.

The following readers gave the correct answer:

- Krishna Nayak of Long Beach, CA
- Sridharan Raman of Hong Kong

This issue's Kwiz

Question:

Reduplication is a common feature of the Konkani language used to show quantity, relationship, action, emphasis, etc. Some examples of reduplication in Konkani are “don-don” meaning “two each”, bha-bau” meaning “brothers”, “vag-vagi” meaning “quickly”, and my brother’s favorite Konglish reduplication, “doub-double”.

Used in a sentence: His birthday and promotion on the same day called for a doub-double celebration!

Now let’s define a new reduplication called “speci-special”. A collection of n numbers is called speci-special if their sum and product are equal. For example, $n=2$, the collection of numbers 2 and 2 is speci-special because $2+2=2 \times 2=4$. Another example, $n=3$, the collection of numbers 1, 2, and 3 is speci-special because $1+2+3=1 \times 2 \times 3=6$. In fact, for every positive integer n , it can be shown that there is a unique collection of n numbers that is specispecial.

In general, what is the collection of n numbers that is speci-special? That is, find a collection of n numbers a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n that satisfies the property $a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n = a_1 \times a_2 \times \dots \times a_n$. You may express your answer in terms of n . Send your answer to Vindyakka at vindya.bhat@gmail.com. Those who submit correct answers will have their name published in the next issue.

6. Hoon Khabbar and Konkani Happenings

Kalpana Bhandarkar Elected to Erase Racism



In December 2021, Kalpana Bhandarkar of Port Washington, NY was elected to serve as Co-chair of the Board of Directors for ERASE Racism, a 20-year old civil rights organization on Long Island, NY.

ERASE Racism leads statewide advocacy and related initiatives to promote racial equity in areas such as housing, public school education, and community development.

ERASE Racism's vision is to enable transformed, integrated communities in which no person's access to opportunity is limited by race or ethnicity.

Learn more about the organization at www.eraseracismny.org

Relocation

The **BHAT family**, Vasanth & Poornima, have relocated from Lake Jackson, TX to 179 Grace Point Drive, Sugar Land, TX 77498. The email ID: poornimapaibhat@gmail.com and the telephone remains the same at (979)-299-3210.

The **BHAT RAMAN family**, Vindya Bhat and Sridharan Raman, together with their daughters, Daana and Selma, have relocated from New York City to Hong Kong on a 2 year assignment for Sri with Morgan Stanley.



children between the ages of 4-15 and the program was well received by the community.

Committee members, Vinod Bhat, Aravind Nayak, Mahesh Ramakrishna, Vasu Nayak and Balakrishna Shanbhag along with key volunteers such as Vivek Shenoy, Maya Shenoy, Anjana Baliga and Neetha Nayak worked together to make this a successful event.

Hoping that the ongoing pandemic will be mostly behind us in 2022, Konkani Sabha is planning an in-person gathering for next year's Diwali event at the Bridgewater Template auditorium.

Obituary

Smt. RAJALAXMI (PAI) KAMATH (69)

passed away suddenly on Friday July 30, 2021 in Mumbai. Khabbar sends heart-felt condolences to her husband Padma Bhushan Sri K. Vaman Kamath of Mumbai, son Dr. Ajay Kamath of Mumbai, daughter Ajnya Pai & family of East Grand Rapid, MI and sister Poornima Bhat & family of Sugar Land, TX.

Konkani Sabha of Tristate-Diwali Event

This year, due to the ongoing Covid pandemic, Konkani Sabha of Tristate hosted its Diwali function virtually on Sunday, November 14. This online program was cast live on its YouTube channel. The event featured a variety of cultural performances (Music vocals, dances, poetry, instrumental) across all age groups. Majority of the participants were



7. Konkani Association of Southern California KASC Picnic 2021

Article By: **Priya Gadiyar**



You could not have asked for a better day to host the annual KASC picnic. The day was sunny with a pleasant wind and the location was green and serene. The picnic became a much anticipated event since it was the first time the KASC members were meeting each other after more than a year of social distancing. We had a record number of attendees, many of them first timers, who were new to Southern

California and therefore eager to get acquainted with fellow Konkani in the area. Since it was the Halloween weekend, our picnic had a Halloween theme and all the kids turned up in their Halloween costumes. There were among others - a couple of witches in training from Hogwarts, a sweet little Minnie Mouse, a Disney princess, a fierce looking Mandalorian, a rather active avocado and the cutest little baby Panda!

Like every KASC event, the star of the show was of course the food that was served. Guests mingled with each other over Samosas, Dhoklas, and Jalebis, catching up on the past year and making new introductions.



Then it was time for some games! Veda Baliga and Daksh Prabhu conducted a brain teaser game that tested our presence of mind. Everyone participated enthusiastically. Next, we played a classic Halloween theme game called toilet paper mummy. Both kids and adults participated in the game, aiming to make a scary mummy out of their team member using a roll of toilet paper.

Lunch time rolled around and guests were served spicy Vegetable Biryani, Kurma, Raita, Idli, Vada, Chutney, Sambar and Rava Kesari pudding and Pizza for kids.

With our bellies full, the men headed out to play a round of Cricket, the kids made a beeline for the playground and

the women engaged in some good old banter!

But wait, no Konkani picnic is complete without some piping hot tea, yummy Churmuri upkari and Watermelon. Guests relished and polished off the yummy evening snack with much compliments to the chefs.

The event wound down with kids getting to trick or treat and show off their Halloween wear one last time.

The KASC committee headed by Venu And Vani Baliga left no stone unturned in making this picnic fun and memorable. While we did miss some of our KASC old timers, who could not be present, all of us were glad to meet the new members and eagerly welcomed them to our fold. Everyone departed with promises to meet again soon at our next KASC gathering.



Thanks to all KASC Committee members for organizing the picnic event 2021. In spite of a few challenges during these testing times they are trying their best to serve the Konkani community of Southern California. A request to all the association members to participate in the events, welcome new members and support the committee in their selfless efforts to strengthen the community and bring many more such events for the benefit of our bigger Konkani family.

We would like to extend our gratitude to the following members:

- All the KASC members who attended the picnic.
- Udaya and Ramdas Kamath for making it to the picnic all the way from Apple Valley.
- Maya Pai/Rethnaker and Vivek Shirvante and family, who made it to the picnic all the way from San Diego.
- Jayu/Vishy Bhat for making an early trip @8:30 AM to the picnic area to take possession of the shelter and also picking up food from the restaurant.
- Deepa/Rajesh Pai for picking up Pizza on the way to the picnic.

8. Khabbar from Kular

By: Vishwa Konkani Sardar

Late Sri BastiVaman Shenoy



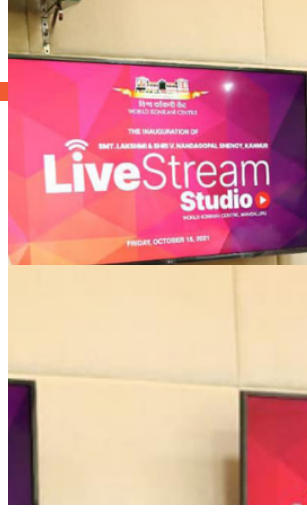
Live Stream Studio Inauguration at world Konkani Centre

The newly built **Smt. Lakshmi and Shri V. Nandagopal Shenoy, Kannur LIVE STREAM STUDIO** Inauguration Ceremony was held at World Konkani Centre and donated by World Konkani Centre Trustee Shri C.A. Nandagopal Shenoy in the memory of his grandparents. The program was held on the auspicious day of Vijayadashami on 15th October 2021. Mrs. Nirupama G. Shenoy inaugurated the LIVE STREAM STUDIO. Mr. Basti Vaman Shenoy (Founder & President

of Vishwa Konkani Kendra), Mr. Gilbert D' Souza (Vice President), Mr. B.R. Bhat (Treasurer), Dr. K. Mohan Pai (Trustee), Mr. Ramesh D. Nayak, Mrs. Usha Nandagopal Shenoy & family were present during the function. Mr. Gurudath Bantwalkar was the anchor of the program.

Vidyakalpaka Scholarship Programme

The 5th 'VIDYAKALPAKA' Scholarship programme (GSB Scholarship initiative for DK & Udupi districts), was held on 17-10-2021, at Sri Venkataramana Swamy Temple at Someshwara in Hebri Taluk. Mr. Ramdas Kamath U, President,



Vishwa Konkani Students Scholarships Fund inaugurated the programme by lighting the lamp. Mr. C.A. Nandagopal Shenoy, Chairman of Vidyakalpaka briefed about Vidyakalpaka Scholarship and delivered the keynote address.

Vishwa Konkani webinar series 4th episode, NEP -20 and Scope for Konkani Education held on 30-10-2021 by YouTube live

Founder President Mr. Basti Vaman Shenoy, presided over the function. Dr. Bhushan Bave, Principal, Vidya Prabhodini College, Goa spoke on the subject "Konkani Education in Goa". Mr. Muralidhar V. Prabhu, Secretary, Konkani Education Society, Kumta, spoke on the subject "Konkani language education in the schools of Karnataka". Dr. B. Devdas Pai, Convener, Konkani

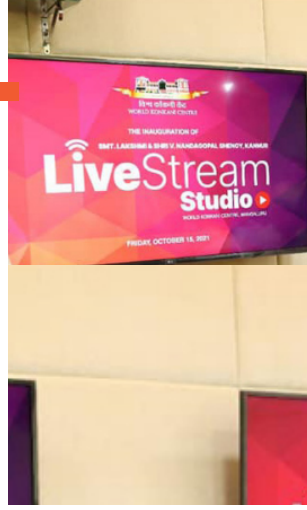
Adhyayana Peeta, Mangaluru University, spoke on the subject "Konkani language in the universities of Karnataka". Mr. Ramakrishna Kini from Ernakulam, spoke on the subject "Konkani literacy in Kerala".

Dr. Kasturi Mohan Pai, Trustee at Vishwa Konkani Kendra was the moderator.

Unveiling ceremony of portrait of Shaurya Chakra (Posthumous) Lt. Col. Ajith V Bhandarkar at the World Konkani Hall of Fame

The unveiling ceremony of portrait of Shaurya Chakra (Posthumous) Lt. Col. Ajith V Bhandarkar was held on 1st November 2021 at World Konkani Hall of Fame, World Konkani Centre Mangalore.

The ceremony was graced by Mrs. Shakuntala Ajith Bhandarkar, widow of the brave soldier. The World Konkani Center also honored this brave lady, who groomed her two sons to join armed forces and serve the country the way their father did. Shaurya Chakra (Posthumous) Lt. Col. Ajith V.



Bhandarkar is a role model for our younger generation. Capt. Ramdas Kamath, all the Trustees of World Konkani Center were present during the function.

World Konkani Centre (WKC) – Smt. T. Vimala V. Pai and Shri T. V. Raman Pai Hostel Decennial Celebrations

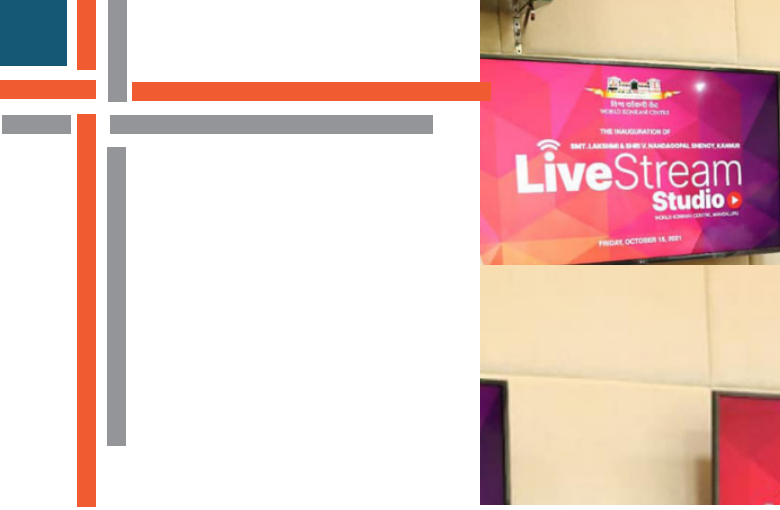
The two-days decennial celebrations of **“Shri T V Raman Pai and Smt. T Vimala V. Pai hostel block”** was held at World Konkani Centre on November 11 and 12, 2021.

Mr. Basti Vaman Shenoy, President, Konkani Language and Cultural Foundation in his presidential remarks highlighted the transformation that the centre has seen ever since T V Mohandas Pai evinced keen interest in its activities. Describing

Mr. T V Mohandas Pai to another visionary of the community – late T.A Pai, Mr Basti Vaman Shenoy said that the whole set-up of WKC fosters a sense of philanthropy that is intrinsic to the community and has helped the centre undertake various creative works for the cause of Konkani.

A website – ourhome.konkanischolarship.com that documents memories of the VAA students at the hostel and a decennial brochure were launched on this occasion.

Mr. T V Mohandas Pai, Chairman of Manipal Global Education, Bengaluru, attended the programme virtually. Responding to the virtual honor conferred on him, Mr. T V Mohandas Pai said the entire trust of the World Konkani Centre is to act as a catalyst to take the Konkani speaking community forward and make it a role model for other communities. The Konkani speaking community is globally small in number, with some estimates putting it at 20-lakh. With the number of those speaking



the language on the wane, the role of WKC in fostering the language is all the more important.

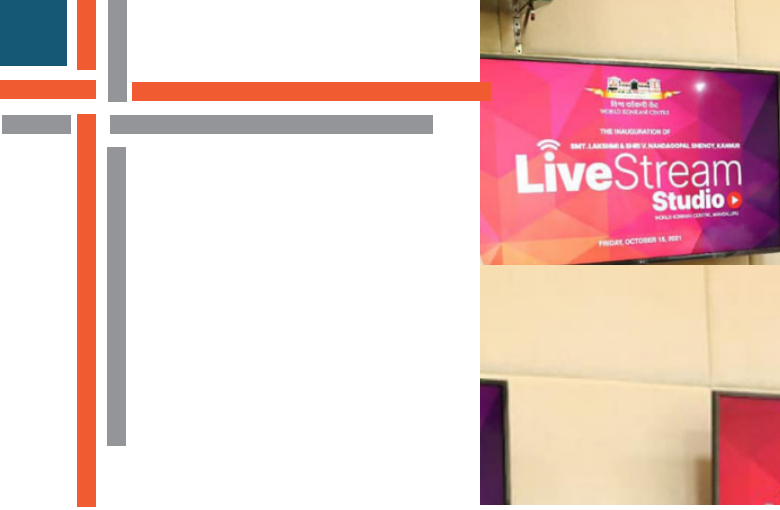
The trust of WKC is to act as a helping hand to the youth from the community, empower them and make them the torch bearers of ensuring that the rich legacy is fostered and handed over to future generations. The plethora of programmes that have been initiated under the banner of WKC will act as this bond, which will ensure that the community not only works for their nation but also the state and the town where the community has established its presence.

The Vishwa Konkani Student Scholarship Fund was initiated with the idea of ensuring that every deserving student

from the Konkani speaking community got the opportunity to access quality education and use it as a tool to empower them. Investing in the youth from the community, enriching them with life and personality development skills, setting up peer groups and peer networking and making training integral to the scholarship scheme have given desired results.

Drawing parallels to the world-class facilities that Infosys setup in Mysuru and Mangaluru, where future IT personnel were trained in a corporate atmosphere with commensurate facilities, Mr T. V Mohandas Pai said the hostel at WKC has had the same effect on future generations from the community. Staying at nice training facilities will help bring about confidence in students to aspire for a better quality of life and work hard to achieve the same.

The VKSSF Alumni Association (VAA) has been set up to train future generations of leaders from within the



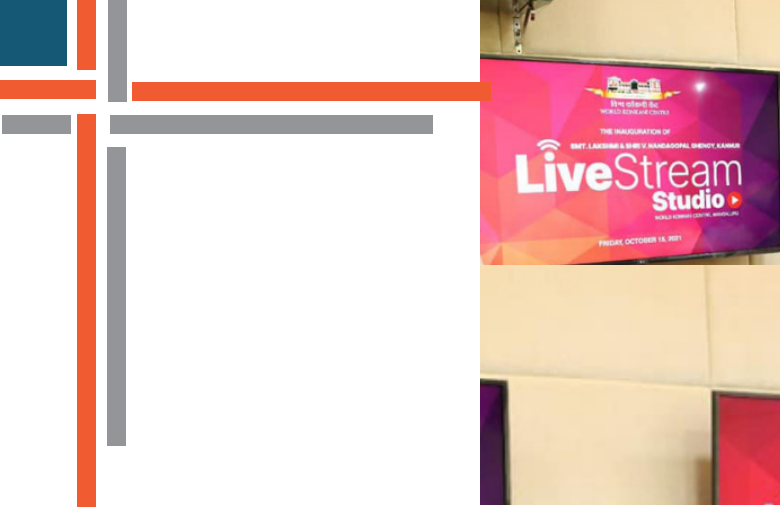
Konkani speaking community. While the elders from the community have been shouldering the activities at WKC so far, a plan of action will be drawn up to ensure that the VAA carries forth the vision for the community in the days ahead. "The WKC will also act as a rallying point for the Kharvi, Kudubi and Siddi communities who share the Konkani lineage", Mr. T. V Mohandas Pai said.

Inaugurating the decennial celebration, chief mentor of Kshamata, Mr. Ullas Kamath said, "The hostel has served as a focal point to help realize Mr. T V Mohandas Pai's vision for an empowered Konkani community by the year 2030. The hostel has helped spread positive vibes among youths of the community who must make optimal use of various training imparted to them at the WKC for a better future.

The fact that the hostel is also serving as a training centre for other under-privileged youth is worth emulating".

Citing examples of how the KSHAMATA UGetin Training Programme has changed the lives of students who have undergone this training, Mr. Ullas Kamath said, "The day is not far off when similar training facilities will be set up in places such as Bengaluru, Mysuru, New Delhi and even in the USA where most of the VAA scholars are presently working and bringing the name to the community. This will ensure that the vision of T V Mohandas Pai for an empowered community bears fruition".

Mr. Sandeep Shenoy, the VAA patron, citing the recent success of platform companies such as Nykaa and Zomato said that WKC has provided a similar platform for all Konkani speaking students to launch themselves. Noting that WKC is yet to fully realize its potential of empowering students



from the community, Mr Sandeep She-
noy said, “WKC is merely a purpose for
which a means has been found in Mr. T
V Mohandas Pai to take the goal to its
logical conclusion.”

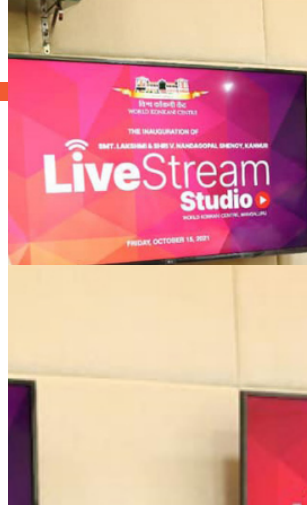
The highlight of the event was the
induction of the portrait of Mr. T V
Mohandas Pai, patron, WKC into the
Vishwa Konkani Hall of Fame. Mr. Ullas
Kamath, joint MD, Jyothy Laboratories
Ltd, unveiled the portrait of Mr. T V Mo-
handas Pai and said, “Mohandas Pai is
a guiding spirit for the entire Konkani
speaking community. The World Konk-
ani Centre has acted as the rallying
point for his vision to see an empow-
ered Konkani community by the year
2030”.

Mr. Giridhar Kamath, Convenor,
Kshamata Academy, announced

a scheme to adopt 10 students each
from the Kudubi, Kharvi and Siddi
communities, which will be launched
in December 2021. Under this, WKC will
bear the educational expenses of the
students so chosen and ensure that
even these students have access to
the same kind of education that their
peers have.

Mr. Ramdas U Kamath, chairman,
VKSSF. Mr. Pradeep G Pai, secretary,
VKSSF, Mr. Gilbert D’Souza and Mr. Kud-
pi Jagadish Shenoy, vice-presidents,
Konkani Language and Cultural Foun-
dation, Mrs Sneha V Shenoy, president,
VAA were present. Mr. C.A. Nandagopal
Shenoy, General Secretary of Konkani
Language and Cultural Foundation
welcomed the gathering.

Treasurer Mr. B R Bhat proposed a vote
of thanks. Mrs Shakuntala R Kini was the
master of ceremony. Jagruthi, Vaishna-
vi and Vinayak rendered the prayer. On
the occasion of the decennial celebra-
tions of Shri TV Raman Pai &



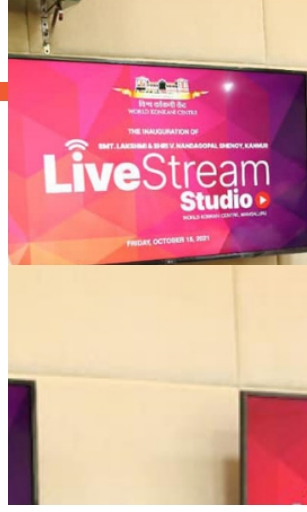
Smt.T Vimala V Pai hostel block,

KONKANI WOMEN - WAY FORWARD – A WORKSHOP was held on 12-11-2021.

Mr. C.A. Sri Nandagopal Shenoy was the moderator in the women 's conclave. So many women entrepreneurs were present and discussions were held in various matters during the function. Also, the Konkani Kharvi Community way forward discussions were held by Mr. K.B.Kharvi, President of Akhila Bharatah Konkani Khari Mahajana Sabha, who was the moderator. Konkani Kudu-bi Community way forward discussions were held by Mr. Narayan Naik, Konkani Samajodharaka Sangha, who was the moderator. In Konkani Teaching discussions, Dr. K. Mohan Pai, Convener, Konkani Education in Schools, was the moderator. Various discussion forums were held during the decennial celebrations.

Valedictory programme was held on 12-11-2021. Mr. Basti Vaman Shenoy, Mr. C.A. Nandagopal Shenoy, Mr. K.B. Kharvi, Mr. Ashok Kasarkod, Mr. Narayan Naik, Dr. K. Mohan Pai, Kum Sneha V. Shenoy, Mr. Mohan Banavalikar were present. Mr. Gurudath Bantwalkar was the anchor of the programme.

Mandarke Madhav Pai no more
Konkani Shabda Ratnakar – Mandarke Madhav Pai from Shimoga (91 Years) expired on 17-11-2021 at his residence. He was the Chief Editor of the books Upanishad and Kannada Konkani Ratnakosha, Konkani Vyakarana Sanskrita Tadbhava Shabda Kosha, etc. published by World Konkani Centre. Mr. Basti Vaman Shenoy along with all the members of World Konkani Centre offered condolences on the demise of the renowned Konkani writer and prayed for “Sadgati” to the departed soul.



The Annual General Body Meeting of Konkani Language & Cultural Foundation held on 24-11-2021 at World Konkani Centre, Shaktinagar, Mangaluru

Following members elected for the executive committee of the Konkani Bhas Ani Sanskriti Pratishthan.:

1. President: Mr C.A.Nandagopal G. Shenoy,
2. Vice President: Mr. Kudpi Jagadish Shenoy
3. Vice President: Mr. Gilbert D'Souza
4. Vice President: Dr. (Mrs.) Kiran J. Budkuley
5. Treasurer: Mr. B. R. Bhat
6. Secretary: Mr. Giridhar Kamath
7. Joint Secretary: Kum. Sneha V. Shenoy

Following members are the 16 Trustees for Konkani Bhas Ani Sanskriti Prathistan:

1. Mr. Basti Vaman Shenoy
2. Mr.Kudpi Jagadish Shenoy
3. Mr. Gilbert D'Souza
4. Mr. K. B. Kharvi
5. Dr. Kasturi Mohan Pai

6. Mr. Muralidhar V. Prabhu
7. Dr. Kiran J. Budkuley
8. Mr. U. Shakuntala R. Kini
9. Mr. Payyanuru Ramesh Pai
10. Mr. Giridhar Kamath
11. Mr. Melvyn Eugene Rodrigues
12. Mr. D. Ramesh Naik
13. Mr. Narayan Naik
14. Mrs. C. Vathika Kamath
15. Kum. Sneha V. Shenoy
16. Mr. Venkatesh Prabhu

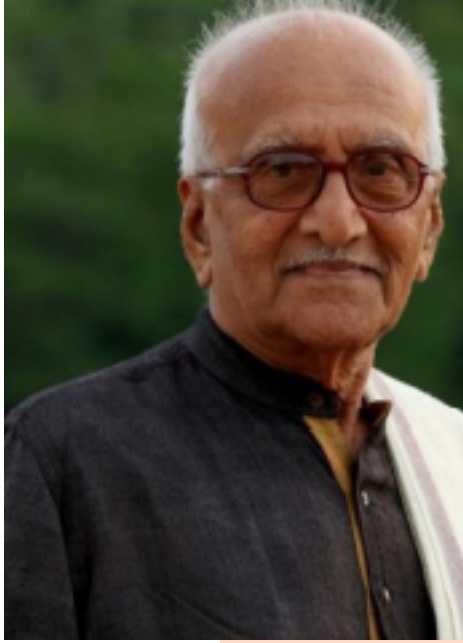
The newly elected Board of Trustees took charge of the Konkani Bhas Ani Sanskriti Prathistan for the period 2021-24

Considering the yeomen service to the World Konkani Centre rendered by the Founder and the outgoing President Shri Basti Vaman Shenoy, the members of the Board unanimously requested him to continue to be a source of guidance as Co-Chairman Emeritus.

Board also recorded the gratitude to Shri R. V. Deshapande, Chairman Emeritus and Dr. P. Dayananda Pai, Chairman, and requested them to continue to grace their positions on the board.

Obituary

“



Basti Vaman Mam is a virtuous visionary with a rare compassionate common sense, who sowed seeds for trees for next generations, to get shade, flowers, fruits and birds. He believed that Konkani language is a collective space with lots of windows for new thoughts and lights to come in. He continues to be an inspiring restless and Jeevanmukhi elder of our affectionate undivided Konkani kutumba. Silent salutes to him.

”

Jayant Kaikini

*(Well-known Kannada Writer,
poet, and lyricist)*

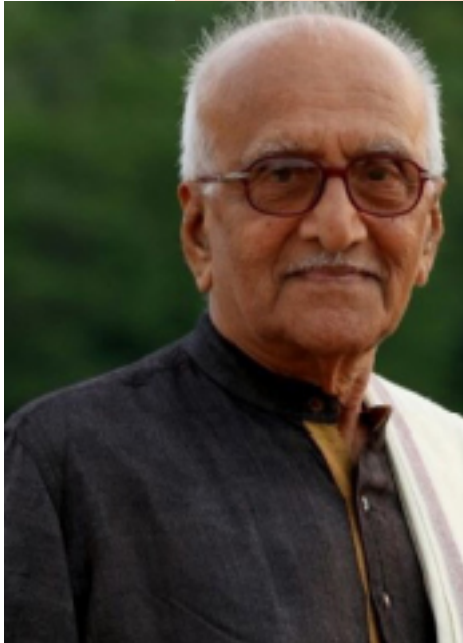
Vishwa Konkani Sardar, Basti Vaman Shenoy, Founder and Co-Chairman

Emeritus of the World Konkani Centre, passed away on 2nd January 2022.

Khabbar sends heartfelt condolences to Vaman mam's family. He contributed to the Khabbar from Kular every quarter and had sent us the above version in early December. We will miss you, Vaman mam.

Paraphrasing the life of a great Konkani Hero

9. Basti Vaman Shenoy



By: **Basti Ganapathy Shenoy**

Las Vegas, NV

But there was no dearth of the proofs about the leadership in his veins. He was a complete package. There was very little in this world that he didn't get involved in while he was in and around his birthplace in Bantwal, South Kanara. To chronicle a few of his achievements:

- At 16 he contested and won the school student leader position in the final year of high school.
- He started INTUC (Indian National Trade Union Congress) to counter the Communist influence amongst the Bantwal Beedi laborers. He was not going to sit idle and discuss. He wanted something to be done about communist labor movement and he did it.

Here are some of the great things this great man did in one life.

It may not be much compared to what some other Konkani stalwarts might have achieved in their lives, but, when you consider some of the facts of his life it's inspiring. Only one of his parents reached up to 3rd grade in academics and the other never went to school, but this guy graduated from high school and never had a shot at college. In the Bantwal of the 1950s, that was a big achievement worth throwing a graduation party.



- He started Saraswathi Kala Pracharak Sangha, which created Saraswathi Sangeetha Shaala to streamline the training of talented people in classical music and instruments such as Tabla and Harmonium, in and around Bantwal. He himself was a student there for a while. He also started drama production and his dramas were permanent entertainments on the agenda during the Mahanavami Pooja period of 9 days.
- In 1977 he became the correspondent of SVS Schools in Bantwal.
- He managed Late Mr. Vaikunta Baliga's MLA election, canvassing machinery and brought a lot of high school students into the Con-

gress Party fold as volunteers by indoctrinating them against the evils of communist philosophy. Late Mr. T.A. Pai who was the president of the South Kanara Congress Party was so impressed that he offered Vaman Shenoy a job in Syndicate Bank in Panemangalore. Once he joined Syndicate Bank, there was no looking back. He helped innumerable youngsters from Bantwal get a job in Syndicate Bank, some of whom ended up in upper echelons of Syndicate Bank.

- He won awards for deposits canvassing every year for his category of the branches of Syndicate Bank. He was also promoted as Assistant Manager.
- Within 6-7 years he was awarded a manager's position in Raibag on the condition that he will go to that god forsaken village in Belgaum District and open a branch of Syndicate Bank in 1968. To put it



in perspective, what he got into when he accepted the challenge, this village was a Taluka headquarter in Belgaum District just like Bantwal was South Kanara. In Bantwal at that time there were 4 banks and Syndicate Bank alone had 96 taxi loans and Raibag had no taxis and only one 1939 model Vauxhall car. And one of the ministers in Karnataka State Government at that time hailed from and lived in Raibag. In spite of it, development was totally unknown. There was no toilet in that village for anybody. Men and women went to the hills to relieve themselves with a can of water. People would walk into the bank with bodyguards carrying guns like in the movies. They spoke a certain dialect of Marathi dominated Kannada, which none of the staff from South Kanara understood. That's how backward this village was. Infact,

attributing a term like god forsaken was a promotion. Despite all the challenges he went there with his family of 3 children, one of whom was barely 4 months old and his mother, who needed help to move. But one year later, this branch won the national award in farm loans, number of loan accounts and the volume in rupees. That was his leadership quality.

- After 4 years when he left Raibag, it had a Cricket team, a recreation club with Table Tennis, Bingo Parlor and Cards room. He had raised the branch to the level of 12 employees. On the last day in Raibag, his farewell party was a memorable event in Raibag's history.
- Then he took over the management in Panemangalore. After a short stint in Panemangalore he became the manager of Bantwal. This is when he showed the world what it can do when there is a leader on a mission.



- He was instrumental in raising funds for performing Sahastra Kumbhabhishekha for the first time in Bantwal Temple's history.
- Support in creating a Silver Rath (Chariot) at the Bantwal Sri Venkataramana Swamy temple.
- Became the President (in Bantwal High School, that position is called Correspondent) of the SVS High School. In a very short span of time he built a new building with more than 10 rooms. Between 1950-70 there was no other addition to Bantwal High school. All these things happened in a span of 3-4 years.
- He became involved in Yashwanth Vyaayaamashaala which was close

to 100 years old but literally had become a non-existent institution due to lack of enthusiasm. He came in and rejuvenated the institution by bringing in talented students in Mall khamba and many other artistic performances that were unique to Bantwal Vyaayaamashaala. He took these students to give performances in Mysore Palace and many other places. In association with Kasturba Medical College he set up an "Outreach Specialist Clinic" in Vyayama Shala premises in 1988.

- In 1974 villages on the banks of River Netravati in Bantwal Taluk got submerged in the flood. Basti Vaman Shenoy took initiative in setting up several relief camps in the Taluk and supported the industry and trade activities by refinancing the traders through Syndicate Bank.
- Then he managed Syndicate Bank branches in Moodabidri, South Kanara, Shimoga, and Bangalore.



- From there he landed in Mangalore and he retired from Syndicate bank to become a proponent of Konkani Language.

It is hard to believe he was inspired by none other than Dr. B. M. Hegde, a non-Konkani who spoke Konkani as well as any other Konkani could, to create a World Konkani Center which will be open to all Konkanis irrespective of their religion whether they are Hindus, Muslims or Christians. Sometimes God sends a messenger to ignite the dormant fire in another of his creations. Dr. Hegde was that messenger. And Vaman Shenoy jumped with both feet. First, he started studying the history of Konkani Language and started meeting some of the authors in Konkani etc. and he organized a Vishwa Konkani

Convention in Mangalore. That convention hasn't been matched by any other till date. During that convention, he floated the idea of creating a World Center for Konkanis and creating a world organization for the Konkanis.

From that idea the **Vishwa Konkani Kendra** and **Vishwa Konkani Parishath** were born. Against all odds, he stood by his dream of building the Konkani Center in Mangalore. Hundreds of people thought a plan with an outlay of 4 crore rupees will never get off the ground. But he proved the old dictum that says "ONE MAN WITH CONVICTION IS MAJORITY". During the sojourn in quest of money to complete the project, he visited America 4 times and Europe too only to be disappointed due to lack of support coming from the Konkanis in the USA. Getting disillusioned over other people's inability to share his dream was not his way of life. He kept going, meeting people in Dubai, Bombay and other major cities



and one fine morning the Vishwa Konkani Kendra became a reality. That building is testimonial to his grit and determination.

Nothing succeeds like success, they say. Then came major contributors in hoards because of the success of the first project of building the Konkani Kendra. And they also brought great ideas such as giving free scholarships to the Konkani Students. Today, everything over here works like a major US Corporation.

10. Naka Financials



Reported by: **Milind Gokarn**
- as of March 31, 2022

NAKA Financials as of March 31, 2022

Bank Balance as of March 31, 2022

\$123,628.45

11. Message from NAKA



Namaskaru,

I would like to give a short update on behalf of the NAKA board of directors. We are happy that the pandemic is finally coming under control in North America. We also hope that you and your families stay safe and healthy!

We are working on several ideas in:

1. Promoting our culture, heritage, and language
2. Creating more networking opportunities for the Konkani community, including youth and young adults. You will hear more details in this regard in the coming months.

Our website (<https://mynaka.org>) has been renewed with relevant information on NAKA activities:

- The present and past issues of Khabbar have been moved to mynaka.org website. You can find the current and past issues at <https://mynaka.org/E-Khabbar> .
- We have added some of the videos from our past programs. We plan to add more archive videos from past Sammelans and past events from regional Konkani organizations. NAKA will also work on creating unique programs of interest, including entertainment, music, and seminars.
- We are also in the process of renewing information and discussion forums for other activities. Please stay tuned.

We are happy to announce that Sheila Bangalore and Chaitra Shenoy have joined the Khabbar editorial board. We welcome and thank both for agreeing to volunteer their time and efforts. Devu Baren Koro.

Ram Acharya

President, North American Konkani Association

12. Konkani Charitable Fund (KCF) Update



- President:** Dr. Gopal Bhandarkar
- Secretary/Treasurer:** Mrs. Veena Kamath
- Directors:** Dr. Surendra Shenoy, Mr. Ravi Shenoy, Dr. Vijayakumar Rao,
Mrs. Aruna Acharya, Dr. Vasudev Shenoy,
Dr. Gajanan Shanbhag
- Founder/Director:** Mr. Ramesh Kamath
- Emeritus Directors:** Mr. Ravi Baliga, Mr. Ashok Bhatt, Dr. Ganesh Bhat,
Mr. Ananth Prabhu & Prof. Vinayak Kudva

Here are the activities & fundraising by The Konkani Charitable fund in the year 2021:

Emergency COVID Relief Fund

Thanks to all the donors for their generous donations to Konkani Charitable Fund's India Covid-19 Emergency Fund. The total money raised was \$118,000. Below is the breakdown of money sent to charities working for relief efforts in India. Please note that we received a pledge from every American charity that every penny will go to India for Covid relief efforts.



AAPI CHARITABLE ORG	\$ 10,000
AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION	\$ 10,000
AMERICARES	\$ 2,500
CARE INDIA	\$ 5,000
GOWD SARASWAT SEVAK SAMAJ	\$ 3,000
GSB DAHISAR BORIVALI	\$ 5,000
GSB SABHA MATUNGA	\$ 10,000
OXFAM	\$ 3,000
PM CARES FUND	\$ 20,000
PRATHAM	\$ 5,000
GPROJECT HOPE	\$ 3,000
SAVE THE CHILDREN	\$ 5,000
SEWA INTERNATIONAL	\$ 12,000
UNICEF	\$ 5,000
SRI SATYA SAI SARLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	\$ 5,000
WORLD KONKANI CENTER MANGALORE	\$ 10,000

Thus, we have dispersed all the money raised for Covid Emergency Fund. Thanks again for your generosity. Together, we will help the country of our birth during the biggest crisis in history, since independence. Our salute to the generosity of the Konkani community in the USA for raising a significant amount of money for fighting Covid-19 in India.



PAI Family Fundraising

Inspired by their grandparents, KV Kamath & late Rajalakshmi Kamath & Dr. Ramanath Pai & Rajashri Pai, Nandan (16), Lakshan (15) & Arya (10) have always been taught by their parents, Ajnya & Rakesh Pai, to strive for excellence and to do their part in making a difference. Nandan founded Pai Team Fundraising in January 2021 and roped in his younger siblings so that they could learn to give back. The team's goal for 2021 is to raise funds for educational initiatives in India. Their first fundraiser was for Pratham India. Pratham has served over 75 million disadvantaged students in the poorest neighborhoods in India since 1995. Since March 2020, they have provided technological platforms to disadvantaged children enabling them to continue with their education during school closures.

Pai Team Fundraising's second fundraiser is a partnership with the Konkani Charitable Fund to benefit the GSB Scholarship League in Mumbai, India. The GSB Scholarship League has been providing need-based scholarships to high-achieving GSB and Saraswat students for the last 109 years. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of supporting our students as many GSB and Saraswat families are struggling with job insecurities, financial loss, homelessness, and even death.

Nandan, a junior at East Grand Rapids High School in Michigan, is a member of his school's Key Club, Student Council & National Honors Society chapter. He is also on the Youth Action Board of the Kids' Food Basket, a nonprofit organization in West Michigan serving snack suppers to children facing food crisis. He also rows for the



East Grand Rapids High School men's crew team, which won the 2021 Michigan State Rowing Championship.

He is a candidate for the East Grand Rapids High School Class of 2022 IB Diploma program. Nandan prides himself on being a foodie and enjoys alpine skiing, adventure sports, and traveling.

Lakshan is a freshman at East Grand Rapids High School in Michigan. He is a nationally ranked foil fencer and has been named to USA Fencing's All-Academic first team for excellence and achievement in fencing and academics. An accomplished alto saxophonist, Lakshan is a part of his school's marching and concert bands. Lakshan enjoys jazz music, politics & traveling.

Arya has been raising awareness and funds as a youth ambassador for the American Heart Association since she was 6 years old. She is currently a 4th grader and enjoys dance, basketball, art, and traveling.

This fundraiser started in April & ended in November of this year. The amount collected in India was \$67,246, amount collected in the USA was \$91,050, and the amount collected in the Middle East was \$10,000. The total amount was \$168,296.

ARPANA 2021

Arpana 2021 was organized by Aruna & Ram Acharya, along with Veena Kamath, Kaoca & scores of volunteers.



Arpana 2021 collection was close to \$83,000. Another great year for the Arpana- 21 fundraiser. We never thought we would collect anywhere close to \$ 83k. We thought because of covid-19, fundraisers from multiple charities including KCF, people will have donor fatigue, but we were wrong. Bay Area residents & friends generosity was strong enough to still donate for a good cause.

Other Developments

Other significant developments for KCF this year are the induction of 3 new charities to whom you can donate.

- Mahila Dakshta Samiti, Bangalore: This is the organization, which is founded by women, run by women & striving for women's rights, equality & job opportunities.
- Youth 4 jobs foundation, Hyderabad: This organization focuses on the education & employment of persons with disabilities.
- A V Baliga college of arts & science Alumni Trust: This is especially formed to help the college's much-needed work to improve the crumbling infrastructure. Anybody can donate to the cause as A V Baliga college is very famous & has produced some distinguished alumni including one of our directors Dr. Gajanan Shanbhag.

We raised a record amount of money this year. The total is over \$ 425,000, We thank you for your generosity. Please visit our website for more information (www.konkanicf.org). The most important thing in life is not how much you have but how much you gave!

Gopal Bhandarkar M.D.
President

13. ARPANA Fundraiser – 2021



“Arpana” is an annual fundraiser event for Konkani Charitable Fund that showcases talented Konkani dancers in the Bay Area while raising money for various needy charities in India. Medha Acharya started this event with the help of her parents and Bay Area volunteers in 2015. Arpana 2021 was broadcasted via YouTube on November 21st to Konkani audiences around North America.

The program featured five outstanding Indian classical dancers: Archana Kamath, Rajnita Kamath, Shreya Kamath, Krithi Pai, and Niya Shenoy.

The program started with a beautiful rendition of invocation from Ganesh

Shenoy and his team. The dancers showcased beautiful Bharatnatyam and Odissi dances. Short videos of the following charities were also shown between the dances:

- Youth4Jobs, Hyderabad
- Vishwa Konkani Kendra, Mangalore
Tamahar Trust, Bangalore
- Mangala Seva Samithi Trust,
Mangalore
- Srivali Trust, Shirali

This program received enthusiastic support and positive comments during and after the event. Generous donations raised over \$83,000 this year, contributing to the grand total of over \$380,000 that the Arpana fundraiser has raised in the past six years. 100% of this collection will be distributed to charities in India.



Arpana 2021

A Fundraiser for Konkani Charitable Fund, Inc.



DATE:
Sunday
November 21, 2021

TIME:
3 - 4:30 PM
Pacific Standard Time

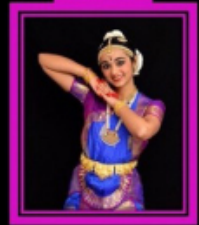
Streaming on YouTube:
<https://tinyurl.com/ArpanaOnline>

WITH CLASSICAL DANCE PERFORMANCES BY

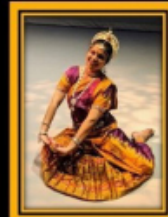
Shreya Kamath



Krithi Pai



100% of
donations will
go toward
grassroots
charities in
India.



Archana Kamath



Rajniita Kamath



Niya Shenoy



Aruna & Ram Acharya, the organizers, thanked everyone for their support and generosity and shared their plan to continue Arpana over the years as a fundraising opportunity and a platform for young Konkani talent in the Bay Area.

14. Konkani Sammelan Update

Namaskaru,

We hope you and your family are staying safe and healthy! In this edition, we would like to update you about the Konkani Sammelan 2022.

We are happy to announce that we have decided to stay with the decision to hold the Konkani Sammelan from July 2nd to 4th, 2022, at San Jose McEnergy Convention Center, San Jose, CA.

The Sammelan committee debated several scenarios before arriving at this decision:

- For the planned convention in 2020, we had negotiated the best rates with the convention center and hotels, which included a particular contract to have our own catered Amchigele food in the convention center. These deals were critical for our ability to hold a convention in the Bay Area and possible through prolonged negotiations and follow-ups. We have held on to these rates through contract extensions in the last two years. The convention center and the hotels have opened for normal operations now, and we would have incurred a loss of over \$160K by canceling the Sammelan.

- We are encouraged by the speedy recovery from the pandemic leading to the opening of domestic and international travel and a full spectrum of indoor and outdoor activities. The sports activities have already been in full swing since last year. Several conventions (such as Marathi, Odisha, Havyaka, etc.) and concerts (such as Arjit Singh, Atif Aslam, Aman Malik, Shankar Mahadevan, etc.) have already been announced for the Summer of 2022.
- Many Konkani families have shown overwhelming enthusiasm to attend the in-person events and participate in online events. We plan to make the programs interactive for more people to connect, after a long break of 2 years.

The committee is swinging into full gear in its preparations for the Sammelan. You will receive weekly emails with details on entertainment, seminars, etc.

Registration

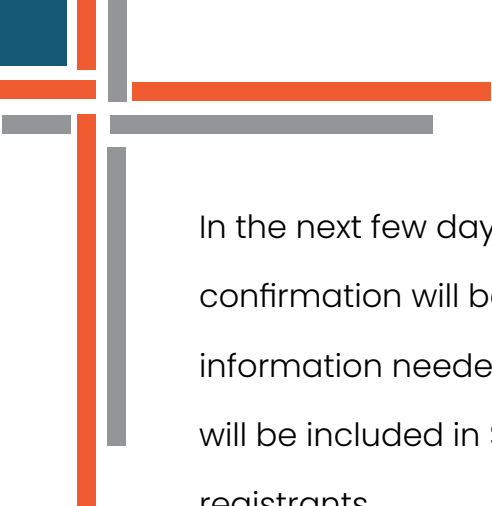
- If you have already registered for the Konkani Sammelan 2020, your registration is carried over without any action on your part.
- The registration for the convention is now open at the same special discount rates. You may register at <https://konkanisammelan.org/registration.php>

Hotel Booking

We have negotiated highly discounted room rates of \$129/\$139 per night for the following two hotels:

- San Jose Marriott, San Jose, CA
- Hilton San Jose, San Jose, CA

Both the hotels are directly connected with the San Jose McEnery Convention Center, where all the Sammelan events will be held.



In the next few days, we will make the booking for the donors, and an email confirmation will be sent. The existing registrants will receive an email to fill in the information needed to complete the hotel booking. The hotel registration link will be included in S sammelan registration confirmation mail sent to the new registrants.

COVID Protocol

The convention center implements all the Covid requirements mandated by the county, state, and CDC, such as masks, checking vaccination records, etc. We will take care of the strictest protocols for the safety of our participants. We will send specific information about these protocols closer to the convention.

Entertainment, Seminars and Food

The pandemic has not held us back in aiming for a spectacular event. We are bringing a great lineup of keynote speakers, entertainment, seminars, and authentic amchigele food. The committee has actively worked in the background, even during the pandemic. We are not planning to start from scratch but start from where we left off earlier. You will hear more about our programs in the coming weeks.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to call us at 408-459-8423 or email us at askammani@konkanisammelan.org.

Devu Baren Koro,

Aruna & Ram Acharya. Presidents,

Konkani S sammelan 2020

The Konkani family of Northern California is very proud to host and welcome you to

Konkani S sammelan 2022

10th North American Konkani Convention



San Jose Convention Center
San Jose, California
July 2-4, 2022

konkanisammelan.org
Contact: askammani@konkanisammelan.org

WITH BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR READERS. WISHING YOU
ALL A SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON !!!

ENJOY GOOD TIME WITH FAMILY & SHARE YOUR
BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS VIA KONKANI CHARITIES



North American Konkani Association,
2465 Bergen Avenue, Brooklyn,
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