





# **Voice of G.S.B.**



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# **Dear Members:**

### Namaskaru,

On Behalf of the Managing Committee of your Sabha "Wish you and your dear ones a Happy, Healthy and Safe 2019".

Looking back, 2018 has been a satisfying year for the Sabha. We kicked off a new initiative, the GSB Sabha's Higher Education Assistance Scheme on the basis of the endowment by the philanthropist, Late Shri G D Bhat. The iconic Kreeda Mandir was refurbished and we launched our new web site.

The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2019 is a busy one with many events in the offing. We start with the M. R. Pai Memorial Carrom Tournament for the differently abled followed by the picnic for Senior Citizens and then the joint program of the Sabha &Mahila Shakha. Solicit your presence to make these events a grand success.

As you are aware that the Kreeda Mandir repairs and renovation cost us a big sum of money, however we are sure that with your philanthropy and magnanimity, we would be able to recoup the money spent from the Sabha's own funds. We make an earnest appeal for donations from you, any amount as per your will would be gracefully accepted. All donations above Rs. 50,000/- will be engraved on the granite slab and displayed at the venue.

We have a new President at the Mahila Shakha in Mrs. Shanteri Nayak. Shanterimai, as we all call her fondly, come in place of Mrs. Durga Shenoy, Durgamai was the mainstay at the MS for many years. During her tenure as the President MS celebrated its Diamond Jubilee in 2017. Shanterimai has been associated with the Sabha and MS for more than

# Rs. 6.05 LAKHS DISBURSED UNDER G.S.B.SABHA'S HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE SCHEME

### FOUNDER DONOR: SHRI GURPUR DATTANANDA BHAT

As updated in earlier issues, the Sabha was bequeathed an amount of Rs. 1.50 crore by Shri Gurpur Dattananda Bhat in his will, of which Rs. 1.00 crore was directed to be utilized to establish an endowment to provide scholarships to meritorious students belonging to economically backward sections of the Gowd Saraswat Brahman community for pursuit of higher education in any field.

On receipt in July 2017, this amount was credited to establish an endowment titled "Higher Education Assistance Endowment Fund, Principal Donor: Shri Gurpur Dattandanda Bhat". The guidelines to implement the scheme were framed with guidance from some prominent personalities from the field of education and Social work, namely Smt. Gita R. Pai, Chairperson GSB Scholarship League; Dr. Kavita Rege, ex-Principal Sathaye College; Dr. Roshan Bhakta, Hon. Secretary of Little Angels Education Trust and Smt. Medha Lotlikar, Special Educator.

The applications received were scrutinized by a Special Committee comprising of Smt. Sudha G. Pai (Chairperson), Shri Laxmikant Prabhu (Ex-officio Chairperson), Shri Prakash M Pai, Shri S D Shenoy, Smt. Bina Shenoy and Shri Uday Malya (Committee Members). Mumbai based applicants were met personally with their parents and interactions were done with outstation applicants over phone.

Total amount of Rs. 6.05 lakhs has been disbursed to 18 students pursuing education in Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Engineering and Architecture. Of this, 11 beneficiaries are boys and 7 are girls. 15 beneficiaries are from Mumbai and 3 are from out of Mumbai.

We remember Shri Gurpur Dattananda Bhat maam, a great visionary and philanthropist, whose generosity has enabled the Sabha to launch one more initiative to be of service to the community. three decades and knows the pulse of our community. Please join me in thanking Durgamai for her invaluable contribution and welcoming Shanterimai to her new role.

The Voice of GSB is our connect with you, the look and feel and the content of which is ever evolving. Each page is available for sponsorship under any given mast head for Rs. 1,000/- only, a line will be inserted on the bottom of such pages indicating your name. We invite you to come up with suggestions to enable us to serve you better.

The New Year renews our commitment to fulfil the task entrusted to us and assure that we will continuously strive to deliver better results.

Look forward to your support and cooperation.

Thanks and regards,

Laxmikant Prabhu

**President** 

Encourage the artist in your child. Get their talent appreciated by publishing it in VoG's Kid's Zone page. Submit your child's drawing to gsbsabha@gmail.com

# **INDEX**

Ta	ble of Contents	Page No.		
	essage from the President	1		
	eport on Programmes Conducted by GSB Sabha			
	d it's Mahila Shakha in the recent past	2,4,6		
	oto Gallery – Pictures taken during Mahila Shakha	0		
	ogrammes	8		
	ture Programmes of the Sabha:	7		
a.	Mahila Shakha Future Programmes	9		
b.				
c.		10		
Aı	ticles			
a.	50 Glorious Years of GSB Sabha's Mahila Shakha Bhajan Class by Smt. Meera Acharya	11		
b.	GSB Legends - They make us proud - Manikrao D. Lotlik by Pallavi Lotlikar	ar <b>18-19</b>		
c.	Jaane Kahan Gaye Woh Din by Veena Shenoy	19		
d.	Phanchadika with Amrita Mahale by Gauri P. Pai	20-21		
e.	GSB Catering at Lake Como by Kala Kudva	21		
f.	Kashi, The City of Eternity and the Infinite	22-23		
g.	Nutrition - Your Study Buddy by Anjali Dange	24		
h.	Recipes - Dishes made from Jackfruit by Anuradha Prabh	u <b>27</b>		
Uı	odates			
a.	Rs. 6.05 lakhs disbursed under G.S.B. Sabha's Higher			
	Education Assistance Scheme	1		
b.	Sabha launches a new website	4		
c.	G.S.B. Sabha's Mahila Shakha gets a new President	7		
d.	Bookings open at Kreeda Mandir	1 <b>7</b>		
Ol	pituary			
a.	Mangalore Devadas Mallya	24		
b.	Dr. Pavan Bhat	24		
Ne	ews from Other GSB organizations	25-26		
Ki	Kids Corner/Answers			
List of Important Dates and GSB Sabha Calendar 28				
Kids Zone Inside Back Cover				

# REPORT ON PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED BY G.S.B. SABHA, MUMBAI

# ANNUAL ADHYATMIK PROGRAMME ON 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER. 2018 A TALK ON "THE NEED FOR SPIRITUALITY IN MODERN LIFE"

Sabha's annual Adhyatmik programme was held on Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2018, at the I.M.Pai Hall of its newly renovated Kreeda Mandir. Smt. Sanjivi Bhat, the founder sponsor of this program, had passed away earlier in the year, so the program began with a 2 minute silence in her memory. The Mahila Shakha bhajan group did a great job of setting the atmosphere with their melodious and soulful rendition of bhajans at the start of the program.

The speaker, Mr Tushar Pradhan, is both the Chief Investment Officer of HSBC Asset Management Company, as well as the Regional Coordinator for the Heartfulness Organization. Mr Pradhan spoke from his personal experience, of how his meditation practice over the past 17 years, had supported him through the pressure of overseeing the investment of crores of rupees in his work life.

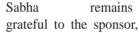


He spoke as a parent, of how children learn from example; from watching what parents do rather than what they say, and how important it was to be consistent in displaying the behaviours we want our children to display. He shared his experience of having to work with people with whom he was not compatible, and found that the moment he introspected on what lesson he was supposed to learn from the

other person's behaviour, and acted on it, the person was removed from his path in the most natural fashion. So his message to all of us was, instead of stressing about events and people that pose a challenge to us, we should identify and learn the life lesson we are supposed to derive from the experience.

Mr Pradhan ended with an appeal to all of us to meditate every day – though it might be difficult at first, to try, try again until we are able to meditate for at least 20 minutes a day, preferably at the start of the day. He introduced us to the Heartfulness Organization -www.heartspots.heartfulness.org / mumbai@heartfulness.org /1800–103–7726 and extended an open invitation to all to experience the power of meditation with a trainer.

After a lively question and answer session, a Vote of Thanks was extended to Tushar and Meghana Pradhan and the bhojan prasad was consumed with relish.





co-sponsor as well as all sevadars for this years program.

# SCRABBLE WORKSHOP ON 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2018



G.S.B. Sabha, Mumbai, organized a Scrabble Workshop for young minds on Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2018, at the I. M. Pai Hall of its newly renovated KreedaMandir. About 25 children, in the 8 to 13 age group, participated in the workshop. The workshop was sponsored by Shri Prakash Hegde.

The workshop was conducted by Shri Ashok Bhandarkar, President, Scrabble Association of India, who also provided the Scrabble kits for the workshop. Shri Ashok Bhandarkar made a presentation to explain the basics of the game, and also the rules of the tournament. The children then paired off

against each other and played the game, in the course of which they were taught various nuances of the game.

The Sabha was fortunate to have the presence of Akshay

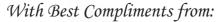
Bhandarkar, World Scrabble Champion, in the workshop. Akshay interacted with the participants and was also sporting enough to play with them.

The Sabha hopes to conduct more such activities for children and youngsters in the future











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Executive MBA (Finance), ACS

MAYA KAMALAX SARAF

# REPORT ON PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED BY G.S.B. SABHA, MUMBAI

# 9th EDITION OF V. R. SHENOY MEMORIAL INTER GSB CRICKET TOURNAMENT ON 16TH DECEMBER, 2018



The 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of Sabha's V. R. Shenoy Memorial Inter G.S.B Cricket Tournament was held on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2018, at our Kreeda Mandir grounds. This tournament is held every year in memory of Late Shri V R Shenoy, who served in our Managing Committee for several years and in several capacities till his demise in 2010.

The tournament was inaugurated by Shri Navin Shetty, cricket administrator and philanthropist. A lamp was lit in memory of Shri V R Shenoy. Shri Navin Shetty advised the players that they believe in their coach and play passionately for their team.

There were a total of 12 boy's teams representing 1) GSB Sabha, Andheri 2) GSB Seva Mandal, Sion 3) GSB Sabha, Kalyan 4) GSB Sabha, Dombivli 5) GSB Sabha, Mira Bhayander 8) GSB Seva Mandal, Virar 9) GSB Sabha, KharDanda10) GSB Sabha, Dahisar Borivali 11) GSB Mandal, Thane and the host team 12) GSB Sabha, Mumbai. Therewere three ladies team participating 1) GSB Seva Mandal, Sion 2) GSB Seva Mandal, Dombivli and 3) GSB Sabha, Dahisar Borivali.



All the matches were played with true sportsman spirit. The women's final was played between the teams from Dombivili and Seva Mandal and Seva Mandal emerged winners. In the ladies category, Niti Rajadhyaksha was the Best Batsman and Player of the Tournament, whereas Dipti Shanbhag was the Best Bowler. Both the players are from GSB Seva Mandal, Sion.

The men's final was a high voltage game played between GSB Sabha, Andheri and GSB Seva Mandal, Sion. The match went till the last ball and was a tie. GSB Sabha, Andheri won as they had lost less wickets. Prasad Nayak was the Best Batsman and Player of the Tournament, whereas Sameer Shanbhag was the Best Bowler. Both the players are from GSB Sabha, Andheri.



The prime sponsor for the tournament was Shri Sunil Shenoy, USA, son of late Shri V. R. Shenoy. Financial Support for the tournament was extended by NKGSB Co-op. Bank, Saraswat Co-op. Bank, Prashant Puranik and Madhusudan Shenoy



### SABHA LAUNCHES A NEW WEBSITE

GSB Sabha, Mumbai unveiled its new website in November shortly after Diwali. The website replaced a decade old earlier website with a modern content management system enabling easier updating of newer content.

This is an initial step towards many other digitization initiatives that are planned by the Sabha. An online payment gateway integration has also been setup at http://donate.gsbsabhamumbai. org which enables the Sabha to collect online donations in India through credit card, net banking and other modes. In addition to this, events conducted by the Sabha are now updated and announced in advance on the website. Soon, ticketing for events and registration will also be enabled online.

It is the Managing Committee's earnest request for members who have relevant experience in web design and development to contact us for volunteering opportunities and co-create the digitization platforms of the Sabha.

WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS FROM: Mrs. Lalita Pundalik Pai

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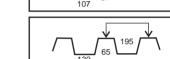
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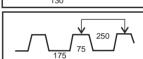
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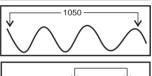


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# REPORTS ON PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED BY G.S.B. SABHA'S MAHILA SHAKHA

(For Pictures, see photo gallery on page no. 8)

Mahila Shakha Bhajan group rendered bhajans at different occasions.

October 11th 2018 - Bhajan Seva at Vashi on the occasion of Navratri celebration.

November 17th 2018 - Bhajan Seva at Walkeshwar Saturday Bhajan Pali

December 15th 2018 - Bhajan Seva at Walkeshwar Saturday Bhajan Pali

December 19th 2018 - Bhajan Seva at Kurla Balaji Mandir, Kurla on the occasion of Gita Jayanti.

October 12<sup>th</sup> 2018 - Navratri Haldi kumkum was held on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 at I. M. Pai Hall, Kreeda Mandir. This was sponsored by Smt. Varsha Rao.

This was the first auspicious event held at I.M.Pai hall after its renovation and makeover. There was light Bhakti Sangeet performance by Kum. Shivani Gaitonde, a 17 year old upcoming artist. Accompanied by her brother Mast. Yash Gaitonde a 10<sup>th</sup> Std student on tabla, and Smt. Maya Nayak on harmonium.

It was a mesmerising performance by Shivani. The ambience of the hall significantly enhanced the effect. Shivani's melodious singing was appreciated by all. Aarti to Maa Sharada, chanting of Devi Stotra and

Sponsor was felicitated with Holi Honti. Ladies were given Haldi Kumkum.

The programme concluded with sumptuous refreshments.

**October 28**th **2018 - 'PARICHAY'**, the 71st Get-together of eligible boys and girls, along with their parents was held on Sunday, 28th October, 2018 at Sri Kashi Math, Dahisar. There was overwhelming response and many eligible boys and girls registered their names for seeking an alliance.

The parents attending PARICHAY for the first time were impressed by the service provided by Mahila Shakha and some of them expressed their gratitude by contributing a token amount as donation for the service. The members attended expressed their opinion of conducting such get together very often at Dahisar Kashimath.

We Mahila Shakha express our gratitude to Dahisar Kashi Math Managing Com. for making excellent arrangements and helping us in smooth functioning of the event and serving refreshment to the members present.

November 25th 2018 - Bhajan Competition was held on Sunday, 25th November 2018 at I. M. Pai Hall, Kreeda Mandir.

There were 21 participants consisting of various age groups, youngest being 5 year oldAkshay Pai and Senior most was 87 year old Smt. Vijaya Shenoy.

The participants were divided into 3 groups. The judges were Shri. Padmanabh Pai and Smt Preethi Kamath

All the participants sang melodiously. It was a tough competition.

In the first group all the three participants received the prize, the youngest among them was Mast. Akshay Pai.

In the second group Mrs. Pratibha Prabhu bagged 1<sup>st</sup> prize, Mrs. Poonam Kamath won the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize and there was a tie between Smt. Meena Kamath and Sulakshana Pai for the 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

The third group consisted of participants above 56 years of age. 1<sup>st</sup> prize went to Mrs. Sheela Nayak, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize was bagged by Mrs. Shilpa Rao, and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize went to Mrs. Surekha Shenoy.

Both the judges spoke about their journey in the field of singing and the hardwork to become successful. They were requested to sing and both the judges showcased their talent. The programme ended with refreshments.

**Decembe 7**th **2018 - Annual get together** was held at I. M. Pai Hall, Kreeda Mandir. This programme was sponsored by Smt. Kripa Kamath in memory of her mother, late SmtVatsala. R. Shenoy (Past President of Makhila Shakha).

Cookery competition was organised with the theme for the competition being 'Savoury items using Bread'. The competition was judged by two young and dynamic chefs, Chef Siddharth Kale and Chef Vini Vijay Shivkar. Chef Siddharth Kale has worked in many prestigious 5-Star hotels and is currently due to is love for sharing knowledge has opted to train young generation at ITM as food production faculty. Chef Vini Shivkar has been a worked at the prestigious Hyatt Hotels. She too is currently opted to

train young generation at ITM as food production faculty since 2017. The First prize was for Dahi vada bagged by Smt. Jyothi Kamath Second prize for bread chaat by Smt.Sandhya Mallya and the Third prize was again a bread chaat bagged by Smt. Mughda Nadkarni .

The evening commenced with a prayer followed by 'Variety Entertainment' programme by 'V Sisters' of Vashi. The audience were treated to various dance performances such as a dance on the evergreen song 'Pyaar hua ikraar hua', a lively Lavni (Maharashtra's folk dance)and an energetic 'Ghoomar' dance on the famous song from the movie Padmavat. A hilarious skit by deaf and lame ladies kept the audience in splits. The befitting finale was a depiction of 'Eight stages in a woman's life' school girl, college going teenager, working woman, bride/wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great grandmother.

Mahila Shakha received a lot of appreciation for the function and we hope to continue serving our society with many more events like these.

# G.S.B. SABHA'S MAHILA SHAKHA'S FUTURE PROGRAMMES

Date	Programme	Time	Venue
Thursday 17/1/2019	Sankranti Haldi Kumkum Sponsored by Smt. Aparna Anil Kamath. Elocution competition Time: 5 minutes Sub: "Smart phones - Boon or A curse"	4:00 PM	I. M. Pai Hall, Kreeda Mandir
Sunday 24/02/2019	'PARICHAY' - 72 <sup>nd</sup> get-together of eligible Boys & Girls with their parents Sponsored by Shri Padmanabh Pai. Release of Master List of eligible boys	3.30 PM	I. M. Pai Hall, Kreeda Mandir

All are invited for the programmes.

Bhajan Classes are held at Sabha's Office. For particulars, contact office between 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm Marriage Information meetings are held at Sabha's office on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month between 4:00 pm and 6:00 p.m.

Mahila Shakha gives marriage assistance to the needy. We need your assistance to help them better **Donations are gratefully accepted** 

Smt. Shanteri N. Nayak President

Tel: 9821183501

Smt. Bina Shenoy & Smt. Amita Kini Jt. Hon Secretaries Tel: 98205 07690 / Tel: 98700 62476

# MAHILA SHAKHA GETS A NEW PRESIDENT- SMT. SHANTERI NAYAK



During its meeting on 1st January 2019, Smt. Durga Shenoy stepped down from the post of Mahila Shakha (MS) President. The MS Committee selected Smt. Shanteri Nayak as the new President. Smt. Durga Shenoy took the reins of MS as President in 2010. During these 8 years, MS took many new initiatives combining the modern with traditional

activities, like auspicious puja of Durga Namaskar, workshop called "Shakti" which included "Ride the Digital Revolution" and "Understanding Money Matters".

During Durgamai's tenure MS celebrated its Diamond Jubilee in February 2017. From the surplus generated by this program, the MS Committee decided to set up the MS Aadhar Endowment Fund, interest therefrom is being used to facilitate the stay of needy GSB senior citizens in old age homes. A WhatsApp group "PARICHAY" was started in July 2018, adding to the popular activity of Mahila Shakha's "Marriage Information Service",

making it easier to search for alliance seekers of our community from any corner of the world.

On behalf of GSB Sabha and its Mahila Shakha, we thank Durgamai, for all the guidance, support and new initiatives introduced to take MS to greater heights. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.



GSB Sabha & MS welcomes new President Shanterimai, as she is fondly known to most Sabha members. She has been a very dynamic and capable contributor to MS for more than 3 decades and has been Secretary and Vice President earlier. Smt. Shanteri Nayak also serves on the Managing Committee of the Sabha as Vice President.

# Photo Gallery

# PICTURES TAKEN DURING MAHILA SHAKHA PROGRAMMES HELD IN RECENT PAST

# **NAVRATRI HALDI KUMKUM ON 12-10-2018**



Smt. Durga Shenoy felicitating Smt. Varsha Rao sponsor of Navratri Haldi Kumkum



Kum. Shivani Gaitonde and her brother Mast Yash Gaitonde

# **BHAJAN COMPETITION ON 25-11-2018**



Sr. most participant of Bhajan competition Smt. Vijaya Shenoy



The acheivers of Bhajan competition



Judges at work

# **ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER ON 07-12-2018**



V-Sisters- one for the album



V-Sisters after the splendid show



Winners of cookery competition with judges and Smt. Durga Shenoy M S President

# SENIOR CITIZENS PICNIC

# A visit to Govardhan EcoVillage, Wada

(Accompanying Non-Senior Citizens are also welcome)

Bus Arrangements Supported By: Smt. Roopa & Shri Vishnu Prabhu

Govardhan EcoVillage is a farm community that illustrates the profound principle of 'Simple Living & High Thinking'. Spread over 70 acres in the scenic backdrop of the Sahyadri mountains, this award winning farm community is an amalgamation of traditional wisdom and modern techniques. The vision of this village is to share with one and all this truly fulfilling experience of sustainable community living based on organic farming and cow care and to educate people in the field of traditional sciences including Yoga and spirituality. You can find more details about this place at http://www.ecovillage.org.in The Sabha is pleased to announce a one day tour to this amazing place.

# Details are as under:

Sunday, February 10, 2019 Date and Day

**Bus Arrangements** Two buses have been organized and will start from Mancherii Joshi Chowk, Jame Jamshed Road,

Entrance of Dadar Parsi Colony, Near Dadar T.T. Khodadad Circle.

En-route bus pick-up points in Western and Central Suburbs will be informed later.

Schedule for the day: 6.15 a.m. – Bus Reporting time, buses will leave at 6.30 a.m. sharp

8.45 am – Arrival followed by Breakfast at Yogashala 10.00 am – GEV orientation at Satsang Bhavan

10.30 am - Eco Tour Goshala

Rainwater harvesting pond

Animal Barn

Waste management systems (SBT, Food waste and pyrolysis plant)

Alternative energy (Solar panels) 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm - Lunch at Yogashala

2.00 to 3.30 pm – Quiz & Games 3.30 to 4.15 pm – Wisdom talk 4.15 to 4.45 pm - Yoga Nidra 4.50 to 6.15 pm – Vrindavan Tour

6.20 to 6.30 pm – Yamuna Aarti and Return

# We expect to reach back by 9.30 p.m.

Registration fees: Registration fees are Rs. 650/- for senior citizens (completed 60 years of age on date of picnic) and Rs. 700/- for non senior citizens. No seat sharing. Only Baby in arms will not be charged, else full ticket rates apply for all. Only two buses are organized, so we request all members to register for the picnic at the earliest and avail the special prices negotiated for the Sabha Members. Last date for registration: 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2019.

Please send the following registration form duly filled in at the office of the Sabha, along with the registration fee in cash/cheque (non refundable). Registration forms are also available at Sabha office. If you want to do an NEFT transfer, please contact our Office Manager, Shri V K Shenoy, Monday to Saturday 2 to 7 p.m. on 2408 1499.

Mumbai Damodar Mallya 98205 06190 Pandurang Navak 97692 82871

December 27, 2018 Jt. Programme Convenors

REGISTRATION FORM	
To	
G.S.B.Sabha,	
101, Shreenidhi,	
76, Bhau Daji Road,	
Matunga, Mumbai 400019	
I/We would like to participate in the Picnic for Senior Citizens. Registration fees are paid as under.	
@Rs.650/- per person Rs	
(No. of Senior Citizens)	
@Rs.700/- per person Rs	
(No. of accompanying non senior citizens)	
Name:	
Address:	
Tel.No.:	
(Please give accurate phone number where we can contact you)	Signature
The Address of the Ad	*********



# THE MANAGING & MAHILA SHAKHA COMMITTEES OF G.S.B. SABHA, MUMBAI

# **Presents**

# **SNEH MILAN PROGRAMME**

On Saturday, 30th March, 2019

Program details are:

Venue : Sujir Gopal Nayak Memorial Kreeda Mandir Grounds,

G.S.B. Sabha's Sports Club Entrance next to SNDT Womens College,

R.A.Kidwai Road, Kings Circle,

Mumbai - 400 019

Day & Date : Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.

Chief Guests : Dr. Suhas V. Prabhu, Consulting Pediatrician and Trustee – President of GSBS Medical Trust.

**Program details** 

5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. Formal Program

a. Welcome Address by Shri Laxmikant Prabhu, President of Sabha, and Smt. Shanteri Nayak, Mahila Shakha President.

b. Introduction of Chief Guest

c. Presentation of GSB Talent Recognition Award

(Founder Sponsor of this award is Shri K.M. Kamath)

d. Presentation of Vatsala Shenoy Memorial GSB Woman Entrepreneur Award (Founder Sponsor

of this award: Smt. Sadhana and Shri Sunil Shenoy)

e. Speech by Chief Guest

f. Vote of Thanks

6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Sant Virasat – Legacy of Saints

Skit by GSB Sabha's Mahila Shakha Creative help by Dr. C. N. Shenoy

**7.30 p.m.** Dinner

Distribution of Passes : a. This program is for the members of the Sabha.

b. Two complimentary passes will be issued to each member of the Sabha.

c. Complimentary passes can be collected from the Sabha's office between 2 and 7 p.m. from

11<sup>th</sup> March, 2019, on a "first come" basis.

Please confirm the availability of passes with Office Manager,

Mr. Vishwanath Shenoy (Tel. No. 2408 1499) before coming to the Sabha's office.

Mumbai Laxmikant T. Prabhu Shanteri N. Nayak Amita A. Kini 98700 62476 14.01.2019 President MS Committee President Bharat S. Kini 93222 51244 98203 16495 98211 83501 Bina N. Shenoy 98205 07690 Uday V.Malya 98206 98756

Jt. Programme Convenors

# 50

# GLORIOUS YEARS OF GSB SABHA'S MAHILA SHAKHA BHAJAN CLASS

GSB Sabha's Mahila Shakha, in the Nov of 1968, decided to start a Bhajan Class. The person instrumental in doing so was Smt. Bola Rama Kamath (wife of Shri Bola Narasimha Kamath). Her determination to start the class was so strong that not only did she find a teacher for the class, Shri K G Kamath, (Gopimaam), but also so magnanimously gave him a house to live very close to the then Sabha office, Heera House. This is unthinkable in todays day and age. Gopimaam started residing in Vishwadeep, a stones throw away from Sabha's office premises where the classes were to be held. Gopimaam, a person of shy, demure and modest demeanour was the first teacher of the bhajan class. In fact, I remember him, after conducting the class for about four and half years,

saying "its been four and half years since I am teaching you all and yet.....(he left the sentence incomplete. But we all knew that he was struggling with students like us, who were unable to pick up well). Smt.Sharada Rao, one of the students at that time, retorted "had we joined a medical course, we would have been doctors by now". He was conducting the classes without charging any fees. The class had a fantastic camaraderie between the students, Smt. Bola Rama Kamath, Smt. Nirupama Kamath (wife of Eknath Kamath), Smt. Sanjivi Bhat, Smt. Sudha Kini, Smt. Sujir Sarojini Nayak (Churchgate), Smt. Meenakshi Bhandarkar, Smt. Lilli Rao, Smt. Sharada Rao, Smt. Manorama Rao (who also played the harmonium), Smt. Sumati Shenoy (who also played the harmonium), Smt. Prema

Kuloor, Smt. Vatsala Shenoy and myself. At that time, I was the youngest amongst the students, today the Seniormost. This was the composition in the early years. To our great fortune the Vithobh Rukhmai idols were installed in the office premise and the Bhajan class basked in their blessings.

After Gopimaam, Smt. Sarojini Nayak (from Purnanand Society, Walkeshwar) took the mantle. She travelled a great distance to Heera House. But her dedication for the class was unparalleled. She was our teacher for lot many years, the time and year has slipped from my memory. I guess when you are having a good time with friends, time becomes very relative.

We were very fortunate, at that time, whenever Sarojini Mai for health reasons was absent, the classes continued under the able hands of Smt. Manorama Rao (Manoramamai) and Smt. Maya Nayak.

Somewhere around the year 2004, Smt. Saraswati Padiyar took up the class and we were very fortunate to have learned so many bhajans from her. She was an extremely hardworking



# BY SMT. MEERA ACHARYA

teacher. She took a lot of pains to upgrade her teaching skills, so she could impart her knowledge to us. Unfortunately she met with a serious accident and was away from the class for a period of almost a year. During that period Smt Maya Nayak very ably managed the classes.



Earlier Picture of Bhajan Class

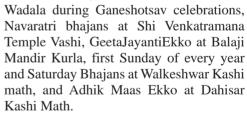


Present Bhajan Class Group

During the last 50 years, we were also very fortunate that talented women like Smt. Prema Kuloor and Smt. Meenakshi Bhandarkar were instrumental in teaching us different genres of bhajans, Namavali, Gavlan etc. Also, since the very beginning, the classes were conducted with very minimalistic fees, and sometimes they were waived too. The idea was always to keep the tradition and culture alive and not monetary. That tradition is being followed even today. In the year 2000,new idols of Vithobh Rakhumai were installed in the premises, that continue to bless us till this date.

The bhajan classes over the last 50 years also conducted Geeta Chanting classes. The ladies have immensely benefitted from this. The class is also invited to

recite Bhajans in various places in and around Mumbai. Ram Naam chanting from SamsarPadvo to Ramnavami and Ashaadi Ekadhashi, Ekko at Shree Ram Mandir, Wadala, Shravan Maas Saptah at Walkeshwar Kashi Math, Ganeshotsav Seva Samithi



After the passing away of Shri Vijay Ajgaonkar in July 2017, the bhajan class has very gladly taken up the responsibility

of conducting the weekly bhajanseva of the Sabha, which is conducted every week after completion of the class.

Since May 2015 till date, it has been our great fortune to have a teacher like Smt. Maya Nayak. A person of few words but great deeds. The class is now flourishing under her guidance. I pray to God that he gives her the strength and health to continue as our teacher for a long time to come.













8. TIKARAK

2. KHAVASAI

10. YAPSHAU

12. NAGUPLAH

5. RAVASAN

6. DHAPADAARB

4. DHAÁASH

9, HAAYAANARG

3. YASAIJTH

**11. HAMAG** 

7. HISNAW

1. TIAACHR

Hi Friends!

Do you know the calendar marks important religious festival and worship days. While there are many different variations of calendar, for the Hindu calendar there is a standard version that serves as the national calendar of India. The calendar is made up of both solar and lunisolar calendars It centers on astronomy and religion. Let us learn the twelve months in a Hindu calendar, given in jumbled words

# TAARE ZAMEEN PAR

1.The Galaxy to which our	solar system belongs	to
---------------------------	----------------------	----

2.We have high and low tides because of -----

3. When the Earth comes in between the Sun and Moon, it is called ------

4. The Planet which spins backward relative to the others ----

5.Earth's sister planet -----

6. Time taken by Sun rays to reach the Earth -----

7.----is also called a Blue Planet.

8.Except Earth, the Planets are named after ----- and -----

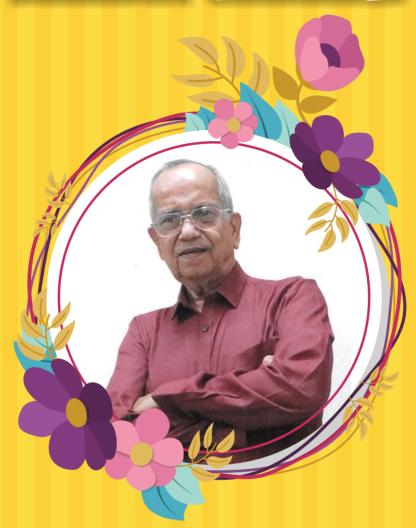
9.---- was the first to use Telescope to study Stars and Planets.

10. The freezing planet farthest away from the Sun ------



Please turn to page no. 28

# BIRTHDAY GREETINGS



# Maroli Ramachandra Kini "Duke's"

Date of Birth 09/12/1938

# With Best Wishes From:

Wife: Smt. Vidya Kini

SonDr. Vijay Kini & Megha KiniDaughterSonSrinivas Kini & Ratna Kini

Grandchildren: Yash Kamath, Reeya Kamath, Neil Kini,

Nina Kini, Akira Kini

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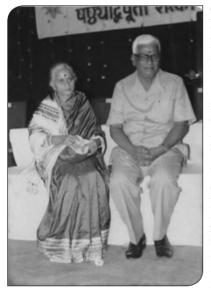
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# THEY MAKE US PROUD THE G.S.B. LEGENDS SERIES : MANIKRAO D. LOTLIKAR

# BY PALLAVI LOTLIKAR

I believe that legends are eternal. They come, they conquer and they leave behind a legacy that makes us proud. This legacybears fruit for many generations, long after they have left us. One such legend is my Ajja (paternal grand-father), Manikrao Dattaram Lotlikar.

Manikrao Lotlikar is a name that is synonymous with education in Maharashtra. Under his Trusteeship, the renowned Indian Education Society expanded from just 8 schools and 10,000 students in 1967 to 65 schools, two colleges and 75,000 students in 1997. More than just building a conglomerate of



educational institutions, his real dream was to provide quality. yet affordable education to children. He often said that if children did not go to school, they wouldeventually be in a placewhere they did not belong. There have been times when he has pulled out students from cinema halls, parks and public places during school hours and pushed them into class. A few years ago, while producing Marathi Show

television, I was introduced to the anchor of the show, a popular Marathi actor, as "ManikraoLotlikar's granddaughter." The immediate reaction was, "who? That'terror' Lotlikar?" Then with a sense of gratitude he continued, "I had lost count of the number of times Lotlikar Sir had reprimanded me for challenging his code of conduct, but he is responsible for adding 'discipline' to my vocabulary. His discipline was my mostvaluable take-away from Raja ShivajiVidyalaya." I was aware that the students and the staff were petrified of Ajja and his ways, but I knew that it eventually, always translated into respect. His means may not have been gentle but his intention was noble. He was not an educator but was a visionary. Education did not equate to academic excellence for him. He recognized a child's right to education way before it was constituted as a fundamental right in our country. It was this vision that paved the path for the making of a legend.

Born in Shirali, a tiny village in Bhatkal Taluka of North Karnataka, ManikraoLotlikar was raised in Mumbai. He attended a municipal school till standard four and then was transferred to King George School (now Raja Shivaji Vidyalaya) from where he completed his matriculation in 1939. He was a fine sportsman and represented his school in Giles and Harris Shield cricket tournaments. In 1946 he graduated from Sydenham College with a degree in Commerce. After a



short stint in an accrual office, Manikrao turned to setting up businesses in Insurance, import and export, pest control and furnace manufacturing. He did business with partners in Karachi who he was extremely close to. Religion or class never mattered to him. He visited Pakistan and in spite of being a strict vegetarian he lived with them and invited them to live

in his home. Their friendship was so strong that it has been carried forward to the subsequent generations as well.

His interest and passion was always tilting towards education of children. With encouragement from some of his teachers he joined the Governing Council of I.E.S in March 1957 and took complete control of its administration in 1967. He realized the basic need for affordable school education and took upon himself the responsibility of setting up schools in and around Mumbai. The work was selfless. It was difficult for people to accept that he had no personal interest in it. The challenges were multiple but none that could even remotely deter him. He was elected as a member of theeducation committee, formed by the governing body of the Muncipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. Ajja received the prestigiousDr T.M.A Pai Foundation (Manipal) award for his contribution in the field of education. His keen interest in sports motivated him to preside over the Cosmopolitan Sports Club as President. He was elected as the Vice-president of the Mumbai School Sports Association and the Maharashtra State Aquatic Association. His interests spread even to the field of performing arts. He produced Marathi and Konkani feature films and dramas. "GarambichaBapu" and "Devdas" are two such memorable productions.

Manikrao Lotlikar took philanthropy to a different level. His work in education was honorary but he was extremely dedicated to it. He didn't belong to a wealthy family but his generosity was commendable. He helped friends in times of financial crisis, built homes for those who didn't have one, paid for the education of their children and never kept an account or expected the debt to be repaid.

In 1970 the G.S.B Seva Mandal parted ways with its counterpart Dwarkanath Bhawan at Wadala. The Mandal, at very short notice, was left without a venue to host their annual Ganeshotsav. The requirement was not only for a hall but also ample supply of water and space to feed all the devotees. On the recommendation of late Sri A.Rama Nayak, the office bearers approached ManikraoLotlikar for help. Without any hesitation or money involved, 'Lotlikar mam' (as he was known within the community) offered the entire Cosmopolitan Sports Club premises as the new home for our beloved Lord Ganesha. From the first Ganeshotav held there in 1971 to the present day, the celebration hasincreased manifold but the

office bearers and community continue to show deep gratitude towards my grand-father and our family.

They say that behind every successful man there stands a lady. In this case, the lady, his wife and my grand-mother, "Amma" or "Suman Mai" as she's lovingly known, stood by him, handin-hand. She was his pillar of strength, care-giver, home-maker and mother to his children, students and staff. 'Lotlikar Sir' was incomplete without 'Amma'. They had a family of five children but played the role of parents to many more.

I had only thirteen years to enjoy my time with Ajja. A distinct memory of him is that he would promise to take my brother and me for a treat over the weekends but we were very rarely the only ones to enjoy the pampering. The invitation was open to all children from the building and those who were playing with us. There was never any discrimination on the affection showered. Similarly, the house was always flooded with people who would visit for either official work or friendly visits. The door of that tiny one-bedroom apartment was always open and every guest was offered tea or invited to join in for a meal. Today, we stay in bigger homesbut even one extra person in the house makes it seem claustrophobic. The volume ofhis heart just seemed infinite.

On 20<sup>th</sup> May, 1997 Ajja left us for heavenly abode. He was posthumously conferred with the title of 'Vishwakarma', meaning creator of the universe, by his colleagues and members of the Indian Education Society. More than his work and contribution, his humility, determination and generosity won him tremendous love and respect. His presence is still felt in the campuses and I strongly believe that Manikrao Lotlikar will be fondly remembered as long as his schools stand and his proteges keep his vision alive.

# Jaane Kahan Gaye Woh Din

# BY VEENA SHENOY Thane

I visit an Old Age Home near Thane along with my friends and spend time with the old people. Visiting these people and listening to them gives me immense pleasure. I am also pained to see old people who do not have anybody to look after them during their old age, old people abandoned by their children who spend the last leg of their life in these Homes. When we visit them, they are extremely happy and would like to share their stories with us. Although they are looked after well by the staff, they crave a personal touch and feel happy when we talk to them.

One thing I have observed is, these people never complain about their children who have left them at the Old Age Home. In fact many of the old people praise their children and try to look happy. One day one of my friends told me that she is going to organize an orchestra for these old people. Hence when we visited the Home and told them about the program, some of the inmates gave us a list of their favorite songs and told us that they will be happy to hear those songs. We made a note of it.

The program was arranged on a Sunday and started around 3.30 p.m.The elderly people were enjoying the old songs played by the artistes. Some of them were sending chits to the artistes requesting for their favorite songs. While we were watching the program I observed an old man sitting near us becoming restless before a song started and making unpleasant gestures. After sometime, he made gestures with his walking stick and called the boy (one of the orchestra members) who was playing tabla. The boy was around 17 to 18 years old. The old man (let us call him Uncle) took him aside and gave him certain instructions. I was observing them very minutely.

After a few minutes the Uncle got up and angrily walked out of the hall/auditorium. I knew something was wrong. I too

followed him and asked him why is he walking away mid way through the program. He told me that he had requested the boy (whom he called down) to tell the artistes to sing the song "jaanekahangayewoh din,kehtehaitere rah mein" from the movie "MeraNaam Joker", but they have not obliged. I pacified him and told him that I will tell my friend to arrange for the song and brought him back to the auditorium. He obliged me and came back and sat near us.

I went and told my friend about the uncle's request and she told methat one of the artistes is rehearsing that song and it will be sung. I came back and told him that the song will be sung. He toldme about himself and said whenever he listens to this particular song he remembers his wife who had passed away. He patiently waited for another five minutes when my friend announced that the program is coming to an end. Our uncle was angry again since his song was not played and again left the hall.I was looking at him helplessly and did not again persuade him to wait, as I myself was not sure whether that song will be played/sung. Luckily my friend who was organizing the orchestra saw him leaving the hall and gestured to me to call him back. So I again went to him and brought him back.

After another five minutes the evergreen song from MeraNaam Joker, "jaanekahangayewoh din" was sung by one of the artistes. I was watching the uncle. Tears were rolling down his cheeks and he was sobbing. Looking at him my eyes became moist. The old man gently got up, took his walking stick and left the auditorium. This time I did not stop him. However, now whenever I listen to this immortal song, I remember the uncle.

It is a sad commentary that children leave their parents in old age homes, even when they are very well capable of looking after them.

# PHANCHADIKA WITH AMRITA MAHALE



Amrita Mahale is a young novelist. She was born in Mumbai and grew up in five cities across India. Milk Teeth, her first novel, was published by Westland Context in November 2018. In 2014, she was picked as one of India's five most promising emerging writers by Caravan Magazine and Columbia University to attend the Writers of India literary festival in Paris. Amrita was also part of the Sangam

House writing residency. Her writing has appeared in Scroll, Himal South Asian and Brown Paper Bag. She is a gold medallist in aerospace engineering from IIT Bombay and she post-graduated from Stanford University. Besides being a writer, currently, Amrita is also the Product Manager and Strategy Lead at Wadhwani Institute for Artificial Intelligence, a non-profit innovation lab working on AI-enabled solutions for social good.

# Q: Please tell us something about your childhood, family, natives and your early education?

A: I was born in Mumbai but I lived in Gujarat till I was fifteen. My father worked for SBI and then ICICI Bank and his job took us to a different city every two or three years. My mother is from Karwar and my father from Ankola and my younger brother and I grew up speaking Konkani at home. I was always surrounded by books, but it was a very ordinary childhood in every way.

# Q: Tell us about your connection with Mumbai?

A: I think of Mumbai as my hometown even though I have only lived here for eight years in all. My entire extended family (mamas, atyas, and kaka) lived in Mumbai so I would spend every summer vacation and winter break there. My family finally moved to Mumbai when I was fifteen. College (IIT Bombay) and my first job were in Mumbai too.

# Q: Who were your childhood role models?

- A: Leonardo da Vinci, because I was drawn to both the arts and the sciences. I was also inspired by Arundhati Roy, Albert Einstein and a lot of sportspeople (but I was terrible at sports myself)
- Q: You've achieved great feats in your academic career. You are a gold medallist from IIT Bombay in aerospace engineering and you went to do your Masters in Aeronautics at Stanford where you were a recipient of the Stanford Graduate Fellowship. Tell us something

# **Interview by**

Gauri P. Pai, a Chemical Engineer works in Mumbai for an US based multi-national engineering company.



# about your academic interests and your experience at Stanford.

A: I started to prepare for the IIT exam because I wanted to study aerospace engineering. People warned me that the career prospects in aerospace were not great and advised me to pick a more lucrative branch. But I can be quite stubborn once I have made up my mind. Over the course of my six years at IIT Bombay and then Stanford, I realised that as much as I loved studying aerospace I did not want to work in the field. That said, Stanford was a wonderful experience - I took classes in design thinking, French and film theory. I wish Indian universities could offer such a diverse, well-rounded education.

# Q: How and when did you develop an inclination for writing?

- A: I started reading when I was five years old. Reading and loving books is the first step to wanting to write one yourself. I took part in creative writing competitions all through school and college, but writing fiction is much harder. Even though I have wanted to write novels since I was a teenager, I only started writing seriously in my twenties, when I lived in San Francisco.
- Q: You worked with management consultancy and technology firms before you became a full-time novelist. What were the challenges you faced when you decided to take leap from a relatively low-risk conventional career into a more precarious career like writing?
- A: It was both very fulfilling and very challenging. In a conventional job, even if you are in a senior position and enjoy autonomy, you have a structure deadlines, a team and a boss to hold you accountable, performance reviews, etc. In writing, you are on your own. That takes some time getting used to. And the chances of failure are much, much higher, and you have to battle that fear every day.
- Q: What was the reaction from your family and acquaintances when you decided to switch a career into writing?
- A: Everybody was very supportive. It was not a sudden switch. I had already been working on my novel for about two years before I quit, so my family and close friends

knew I was serious about writing and probably expected the switch to some extent. To others, it must have been very puzzling!

# Q: Your debut novel "Milk Teeth" has released on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018. What inspired you to write "Milk teeth"? Tell us about your experience writing your first book.

A: The novel took me four years to write and edit. A large portion of that time was spent learning how to write. I think I eventually scrapped almost everything I wrote in the first year and a half. Writing is really hard. It requires a lot of discipline and patience. The novel spans the 70s through the 90s, so I had to do a lot of research as well. I interviewed about twenty-five people and spent many hours going through press archives at the Asiatic Library. There were also many rejections before I got offers from two publishers.

# Q. What does the title of your book "Milk Teeth" mean in the book context?

A: Milk teeth, being associated with early childhood, are symbols of growing out of infancy. The characters in the novel are in the process of figuring out who they are and how they fit in the world. Around them, middle class society and the city of Mumbai are also rapidly changing (the book is set in the 90s). The title 'Milk Teeth' captures this without being too direct.

# O. Your book is a fictional narrative on the lives of two young people from middle-class GSB families who are trying to balance between traditional values and modernism which is a very relatable to the youth today. Are these characters inspired from real life? How did you conceive this story?

A: The story is completely fictional but there are shades of people I know in the characters. I wanted to explore a few themes: childhood friendships, the dilemma of choosing between love and family, building politics, redevelopment, Bombay / Mumbai in the nineties, etc. The story evolved quite organically from there.

# Q. Where do you draw your inspiration from in your writing? What are your favourite literary works and your favourite authors?

A: I have many favourite writers, both Indian and international: Vikram Seth, Jhumpa Lahiri, Elena Ferrante, Chimamanda Adichie, Haruki Murakami, and many more. I am happy to take inspiration from books, movies, TV shows, any form of art really. What defines my writing style (in my opinion) is that I like to take a fresh look at everyday incidents and interactions to extract insights about people and relationships. This requires paying close attention to the world around me and talking less, listening more.

# O. You are one of the few from the GSB community to have given a TED talk. Tell us something about your experience?

A: I gave a TEDx talk at Shiv Nadar University in Noida two years ago. The title was 'What follows after following your heart' There are a lot of people who talk about the importance of following your dreams but I wanted to talk about the challenges that come after, especially if you quit a stable, analytical profession to enter an unpredictable, unstructured vocation like writing. The audience was mainly college students and I think the message resonated with them: follow your heart but don't expect that life will be a bed of roses after that.

# Q. As a writer, what would you chose as our mascot / avatar/spirit animal?

A: Haha, no idea. If forced to choose, I'll say the fox. Fantastic Mr. Fox is one of my favourite movies - it's about a fox going through a midlife crisis who decides to live more consistently with his true nature.

# Q. What is your message for the youth?

A. Learn how to think for yourself, be prepared to work hard, and be kind. The first two because critical thinking, discipline and hard work will help you no matter what path you pick

# **OUR ACHIEVER - SONA GANESH NAYAK GSB CATERING AT LAKE COMO**

November 2018 undoubtedly belonged to Deepveer. Just as much as they were in the news worldwide; our community caterer, Sona Ganesh Navak too shot to instant fame as he catered to the Konkani fanfare at their wedding in Lake Como, Italy.



BY KALA KUDVA

Sona Ganesh Nayak was called by the Konkani community in USA & Canada to cater at their Konkani Sammelan.

Starting with humble beginnings, Ganesh has slowly & steadily made a name in the food industry with his entrepreneurial skills and service quality.



Ganesh has climbed each step of the ladder of success as he has the experience, expertise and the skills required to do a fab job.

Ganesh, I do hope you visit different parts of the world and make our Konkani dishes famous; thus bringing

a taste of Mangalore on everyone's plate.

Thank you Ganesh...' Our King of Food Times '

# KASHI, THE CITY OF ETERNITY AND THE INFINITE



By: Arun .R. Shenoy aroon.shenoy@gmail.com

Our trip to the holy city of Varanasi was a last-minute decision, albeit the destination itself was on my mind for many years. Like any other Hindu child, I had heard about Kashi or Varanasi – but somehow it was linked to death. One had heard about the ancestral rites, pouring of 'Gangajal' to the dying and tales of elderly longing to breathe their last in Kashi to attain salvation. Then, there were stories of the power of a holy dip in Ganga – but the same were

juxtaposed with comments on how dirty the holy river had become. So as a child, it was always a powerful holy place; but never a destination one longed to visit. Later when I was in college, the television channels exposed me to the visuals of the Ganga Aarti. Although watched on a normal non-HD television, the sight was unbelievably divine and left a mark on my mind. Come 2014, Varanasi hogged the limelight for being the prime-ministerial contender's electoral constituency. Again, the visuals of the temple city aired relentlessly by the channels added to my intrigue. The campaign, the election and the associated air wavesfaded in time. At the same time, a strong desire to experience this city was kindled in me.

We landed in Varanasi on the 5th of September and were dropped to the hotel as per schedule. Being a non-native speaker of Hindi, the unadulterated and non-anglicised Hindi of Uttar Pradesh always fascinated me. The beauty and culture of the language enthrals you when you hear "Gangaji" or "Ganga Maia" (instead of just Ganga) or "Vishwanathji" (instead of just Vishwanath).

Coming from Mumbai,the first few times, I found the laid-back attitude of the driver a bit odd. I was quick to realise this is a city which moves at its own pace and is absolutely comfortable with it. For this is a city that is arguably the oldest continually inhabited city on the planet andthe associated slow pace is apt. Kashi has its own pace. This slowness and self-contentment add calm to the chaos and crowd of the city.

We were dropped at a crowded junction and were asked to walk through the lanes to our Kashi Mutt. I was told that during normal days when Ganga is not overflowing, one can take a boat ride directly till the steps of the Mutt. The walk to the Mutt through the lanes is not easy for senior citizens. I thoroughly enjoyed the walk. There were hand painted signages on walls and posts that direct visitors to the Mutt. It was impressive to note, in this mega holy city, Kashi Mutt has managed to put helpful signages for directions and all the locals in the lanes knew about the Mutt. When we lost our way about a few meters away from the Mutt, a young boy volunteered. For those who are Swades movie fans, this was like the innocent Chiku helping Mohan's caravan through the village lanes. As we could not match his pace, the boy ran ahead and waited for us by sitting on a sleeping cow's back. While he was fully at home, he said to

us, "Come and touch Gowmaata. She will not harm you". News channels weave a different narrative about cows and the politics of it, yet the reality is starkly differentIn the heartlands of India. A large part of India still believes in "Isha VasyamIdamSarvam"; "SaravamKalvidam Brahma"; IshwaraSarvabhootanam"; SarjeevaNamaskaraamKeshavamPrathigachati" encouraging people to see divinity around them. Hence, this boy does not need a primer from PETA to internalise love for animals and nature

Once we reached Kashi Mutt, the familiarity returned. Sri Suresh Pai, the manager was extremely helpful by assisting us in chalking out an itinerary for the remaining four days. The Mutt also arranged for us to undertake the ancestral rites in Kashi as well as Prayaag. The manager explained to us that

Shri SudheendraThirthaSwamiji had instructed to put in place arrangements in Kashi as well as Prayaag(including the services of a Purohit) for community members to perform the Shraad rituals. This is truly invaluable. The mutt also arranged for a guide to help us manoeuvre the narrow lanes and assist us in Vishwanathji's darshan. We reached the temple during the evening Aarti.The Darshan and experience will always stay with me. The guide also took us to a Sari shop situated unbelievably close to the main temple complex. The view from



the first-floor shop was the gold plated dome of the temple. It was a sublime feeling to peacefully view the temple and soak up all the history, legend, culture, divinity and spirit of this ancient monument of faith – a place that has been mentioned in the Puranas. One also sees the mosque that stands adjacent.

Unlike the temples of South India and Goa, devotees are permitted to touch the deity and perform abhisheka by themselves. Here, the overall darshan and all the processes are democratised and personal. This is like the access to Babulnath temple in Mumbai. We were also told that in Kashi, the abode of Shiva, one is not required to bathe after funeral or shraada. The city is beyond these rituals.

The next morning, we visited Sarnath. Local guides are easily available and will take you around the complex at affordable rates. The Sarnath complex is well maintained. This houses the spot where Gautam Buddha gave His first sermon. Thereafter, we visited Sankatmochan temple – established by Sri Tulsidas a few centuries ago; again, a very peaceful setting. The temple is believed to have been built at the same spot where Sri Tulsidas had a vision of Hanumanji. One can chant the powerful Hanuman Chalisa from the many booklets kept there. As you



go around, you find people chanting bhajans and Ramnaams in the complex and all this adds serenity to the surroundings. On our way to the next destination of Banaras Hindu University ("BHU"), we got a glimpse of Durga Mandir from the outside.

BHU is an expansive campus with a rich history. The story of Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviyaobtaining the land from Kashi Naresh (King) to establish BHU was truly impressive. The legend has it that Kashi Naresh offered as much land as Panditji could cover walking in a day. Today, the vast campus is situated on the land donated by Kashi Naresh. Befittingly, the campus houses a statue of its founder Pandit Malaviya. BHU is also an account of how great families and personalities like Gaikwads of Baroda, Maharaja of Darbanga, Birlas, Dr. Annie Beasant and many more jointly contributed to the noble vision.

Towards the evening, we reached Ramnagar situated across the river, famous for the Ramnagar Fort built by Kashi Naresh andas the birthplace of Sri Lal Bahudar Shastri. The Ramnagar Fort also houses a museum that contains many weapons, antique cars and other royal paraphernalia. Unfortunately, the authorities responsible for the maintenance have done great injustice to the history of the place. The museum display lacks vision and certainly lacks a curator. At the same time, Sri Lal Bahudar Shastri's memorials are limited to a humble statue and his humble childhood abode.

Later in the evening, we had two things to complete. One – shopping for Banarasee Saris and two – Ganga Aarti at Dashashwamedh Ghat. For the uninitiated, it is difficult to zero down on a shop from the hundreds that pave the streets leading to the Ghat. We had the benefit of a recommendation from a friend who is originally from Kashi. The shopping took time – like always! At7:30 PM, we took a break and walked towards the Ghat to view the spectacle of Ganga Aarti. As the water levels were high, boats were not allowed to seat passengers to enable the view from the river. We managed whatever space was available on the Ghat and I should say, the view was not perfect. Yet the atmosphere was electric when the Aarti began and the light showers added to the ambience.

Our Day 3 we commenced on an early morning road trip to Prayaag Raj (Allahabad). Throughout the trip, one could see road construction and other infrastructure work in progress. Prayaag too has a Kashi Mutt branch and the Mutt office was kind enough to arrange for Shraada rituals. The Mutt-owned boat helped us to go to Triveni Sangam, toconclude the ritual and take a holy dip in the sacred waters.

We also paid a visit to Anand Bhavan, the family house of the Nehrus. This one was spectacularly maintained, well curated and great narrative woven together, which ended with an updated family tree in one of the final viewing galleries. If you compare this with the dismal condition of Ramnagar fort or the humble statue of Lal Bahudar Shastri, it is clearly tale of different treatment of history and certainly nudges us to introspect. We drove back to Varanasi and retired for the day.

Day 4 itinerary entailedShraada rituals at Kashi Mutt and darshan of Vishwanathji and other deities like Sri KaalBhairavji in the vicinity.Sri KaalBhairavji is believed to the Chief Kotwal of Varanasi and one must visit His temple when in the city.Our Kashi Mutt itself is also arepository of history. There is the legend of how the building was offered to our first Mathadisha Shrimad Yadavendra Tirtha Swamiji by Kashi Naresh and about the room in which ShrimadRaghavendra Tirtha Swamiji got the divine darshan of LordNarsimha. Three Swamijis attained Jal Samadhi in Kashi; as per practice, their mortal remains were placed in a rock box and lowered into the holy Ganga. One can see the Ganga flowing peacefully from the windows of the Mutt. It is with great vision and foresight that our Swamijis had established Mutts in key holy cities to help our community pilgrims.

Day 5 was rather uneventful as we were flying back to Mumbai that evening.

As this was my first trip to Varanasi, I am not the right person to measure if the city has improved since 2014. My wife, who was on her second trip, certainly believes there has been improvement in overall up-keep and cleanliness. One cannot miss the extensive infrastructure spends undertaken to connect Varanasi with major cities. We witnessed busy work on a flyover that would connect the airport seamlessly to the city. We also saw lane expansion of highways. Then, there were different highway projects that aimed at connectivity with Ayodhya, Lucknow and Gorakhpur. It is unreasonable to expect Kyoto like transformation for a city like Varanasi in 5 years. An ordinary Member of Parliament cannot transform Varanasi. For the kind of work and investment required, Kashi requires a Member of Parliament who is of a certain stature. Well, it could be the Prime Minister or President of a National Party or a tall national leader. I would place my bet on the Prime Minister being a Member of Parliament to get the job done in the coming years.

Unlike some of the touristy places like the Eiffel Tower, Kashi is not a tick in the box for me. This visit was just like reading the blurb of a book. I went to Kashi unplanned by design, as I just wanted to soak in everything the city offered. I still long to view the Ganga Aarti in a perfect setting. I still long to immerse myself in the divinity of Vishwanathji's temple. Those beautiful ghats still call me. I still want to get lost in the lanes of Kashi. Yet, what I want is irrelevant as the decision to visit is not mine. I end with this awareness and it dawns on me - it was so silly to start this note by referring to my first visit as my last minute "decision".

Har Har Mahadev!

# **NUTRITION- YOUR STUDY BUDDY**

When children are studying for exams, good nutrition is highest on the parents priority list. The brain needs good fuel to ace those question papers.

Here are 5 tips for eating right during exams:

# FOCUS ON THE NUTRIENTS:

Meeting daily nutritional requirements will make "doing your best" much easier. Iron and B vitamins are especially important for maintaining the physical and mental energy necessary to study well. Including foods like Millets instead of rice in Dosa batter or whole eggs with multi grain toast can help boost the brain by the providing the nutrients it needs. Spinach in dal during the main meal, dates or raisins after a meal instead of a high sugar sweet are some options to ensure right intake of iron which helps improve blood circulation and therefore keeping the brain alert.

### EAT SMART AT BREAKFAST

While much is said about the reasons to eat breakfast, less known are the best ways to eat smart in the morning. The idea is to get some protein, calcium, fibre and a piece of fruit or a vegetable in there. Carrot grated into idli batter, adai or dal Dosa paired with a veg chutney or Ragi Malt with a cup of milk are all examples of healthy breakfast options.

# **INCLUDE FRUITS**

Going bananas? Good. Fruit ranks high among the best food for the brain. Pomegranates, grapes& oranges get a lot of attention because they contain powerful antioxidants and Vitamin C. The natural sugars in fruit offer clean energy and fibre while burning the midnight oil. Ms. Anjali Dange
Founder & Chief Nutrition Consultant
at Starlite Nutrition & Wellness Centre,
Vizag



### CHOOSE POWERFUL VEGETABLES

Not all vegetables are created equal. The darker the color, the higher the concentration of nutrients. For example, beetroot has more to offer the mind and body than potatoes. Other great vegetable choices include coloured capsicum, carrots, green beans & red amaranth (tamdibhajji). A good source of antioxidant in your child's food can help reduce "exam stress".

# STAY WELL HYDRATED

Keep a bottle of water on the study table. Insist that the bottle must be completed within a stipulated time. If plain water does not work, prefer flavoured water such as cucumber or mint leaves or sabja seeds in the water. During the day fresh fruit juices are a good option, with out sugar of course. During the night, thin salted buttermilk or warm milk with few strands of kesar are a good option.

Remember to Keep Calm which will in turn influence your child to keep calm. Teach them to do their best and leave the rest, just like you were told by your parents. Good luck!!!

https://www.facebook.com/starlitewellness/

We offer a 50% off on our Monthly Nutrition Plan exclusive for the subscribers of Voice of GSB. Offer valid only till 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019. Call us on 8500052020 to know more

# **OBITUARIES**

# Mangalore Devadas Mallya – Banker par excellence



Former Chairman and Managing Director of Bank of Baroda and Bank of Maharashtra, Mangalore Devadas Mallya passed Away at Bengaluru November 25, 2018. He was 66 years of age and was popular as M D Mallya in banking circles. He is survived by his wife, a son and daughter.

Mallya who hailed from Mulky had done his engineering from the then KREC and later a diploma course in management from Indian Institute of Science. He began his banking career with Corporation Bank in 1976 and after a stint of 29 years in the Bank was appointed Executive Director of Oriental Bank of Commerce.

Mallya was known for his innovative business strategies in banking and in introducing information technology into banking. He was also responsible for overseeing the merger of Global Trust Bank with Oriental Bank of Commerce. During his period as Managing Director of Bank of Maharashtra, he achieved all-round development of the bank and at Bank of Baroda, he was instrumental in induction of technology in a big way and for the overall growth in the business of the bank. Mallya also functioned as director of State Bank of India between 2014 and 2017 and independent director of ICICI Bank in 2018. Mallya also served as Deputy Chairman of Indian Banks Association.

In 2011, he had bagged the Best Banker Award of Business India Magazine.

# Dr. Pavan Bhat - Keertankar



It deeply saddens us to report that Dr. Pavan Bhat passed away on 1st December, 2018. Dr Pavan Bhat hailed from Hubli in Karnataka. He was a religious scholar who had done his Master of Arts in Sanskrit and a PhD from the Karnatak University, Dharwad. He was groomed under Pandit Pandharinath Acharya Galagali, and apart from performing 'Hari Keertans' and 'Pravachans' at various places across India and abroad, he had also conducted several 'Bhagvat Saptahs'. He was a prominent name among the artistes of the GSB community, and has composed a lot of texts too.

# NEWS FROM OTHER GSB ORGANIZATIONS



# of Vidyadhiraj Charitable Trust

# Shantikunj Sevashram Complex, Harigram, New Panvel - Road, Panvel

**Vidyadhiraj Charitable Trust (VCT)** - a non-commercial, not for profit charitable organisation was established in 1998 and duly registered under the Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950. It is an outcome of the vision of Late Vaman R Kamath together with the continued blessings and guidance of His Holiness Vidyadhiraj Teerth Vader Swamiji – Mathadhish Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math.

Located at Harigram and Kevale villages on New Panvel-Morba Road, Panvel the activities are conducted under 3 separate foundations :

1. Sevashram Relief Foundation ... providing dignified living for senior citizens

2. Saraswati Educational Foundation ... providing education for the rural children

3. Jeevottam Medical Foundation ... providing basic medical relief

A Board of Trustees manages the affairs of the Trust and the benefits are availed of, by people of all castes and creed.

Revered Swami Maharajs of all the 4 Saraswat Gurupeethas have visited/camped at the Trust premises and planted an Ashwatta tree each at the complex, as a mark of divine continued blessings.

From humble beginnings of single digit students in the school and a couple of residents in the home for the aged, VCT had about 240 students and 32 residents in November 2015. This has grown to over 500 students and 77 residents in November 2018.

# Donations to this trust have been accorded exemptions u/s 80-G of the Income Tax Act.

The surplus from a 10 day spiritual event in November/December 2008 was used in furthering the infrastructure at the home for the aged and the school.

Similarly, in order to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Trust and the 10th anniversary of the "Vishwa-Shanti Mahayajna" a 2 day event is planned on February 9th and 10th 2019 with various spiritual events in the presence of His Holiness Vidyadhiraj Teerth Vader Swamiji and His Holiness Vidyadheesh Teerth Swamiji of Gokarn Partagali Math.

Various projects like an additional building, concretising of internal pathways, close circuit cameras, additional toilet block for visitors, solar panels, sewage treatment plant, canopy over the approach to the dining hall from the buildings etc are envisaged to improve the quality of life of the elderly residents.

Needless to say, the surplus from such mega events, together with donations from individuals and corporates will be used for improving facilities and adding more rooms at our old age home.

Please support this initiative by visiting our old age home, see for yourselves and experience the "Joy of giving"

# **NEWS FROM OTHER GSB ORGANIZATIONS**

# BALAJI SUVARNA SHIKSHA PROGRAMME OF GSB SABHA (REGD.) K.C.G.



Starting with small scholarships to the needy students of school, the Balaji Suvarna Shiksha programme diversified to donation of books to these students, scholarships to undergraduates and graduation students. However, till date, the programmes had been general in nature and individual needs varied. It was felt that individual attention was not adequately addressed. With completion of 50 years of Sabha in 2009-10 Sabha diversified into other areas related to development of members.

Some of the areas today considered are:

- Upgradation of personal education / skills / personality
- Apprenticeship / On job training
- Attention of any education / job related needs of members In the current year the Sabha sanctioned of free scholarships worth about Rs. 7.0 Lacs to more than 250 students. The distribution was carried out at august hands of Chief Guest, Shri Ramesh Shenoy, Director on Board of Metro One, on

A perfect illustration of how education helps a person to reach great heights, Shri Ramesh Shenoy delivered an inspirational speech citing examples from his own life experiences to the students and their parents present during the occasion. He induced the students to look at adversity as opportunities of growth, to face any humiliation with a resolve to work to better their circumstances, to not to fear failure, to maintain a positive attitude in life and to pursue subjects of their passion and excel in it.

Shri Uday Malya, representing GSB Connect, who was present on the occasion, gave a detailed introduction of activities of GSB-Connect in bringing to one platform of all GSB Institutions in Mumbai and surrounding suburbs professing education helps. He explained how the application of digital technologies used for the purpose would help the students in getting their benefits and at the same time making administration easier for the institutions. GSB Sabha (Regd.) K.C.G. takes active role in this effort



# DIWALI GET TOGETHER AT GSBS MEDICAL TRUST

### BEST EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

It has been a tradition with GSBS Medical Trust to organize a Diwali get together for all the employees of GSBS Medical Trust (all 5 units). Hosting them a lunch and also distributing Diwali sweets to all. The guests invited this year were Mrs. & Mr. Rajan Bhat and Mrs. & Mr. Dilip Pai. It was a pleasant get together. The highlight of the program was to honour the 'Best employee of the Year. This year Ms. Vanaja Nadar was chosen for this honour. The most pleasant employee, also popularly known as the 'The smiling lady' was given a cash present and thanked her for being with the Medical Trust for more than a decade. Ms. Nadar thanked her co employees for their co operation.

# HEALTH BABY CONTEST

2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2018.

As in the past during Sarwajanik Wadala Ganeshotsav program, A Healthy Baby Contest was organized under the auspices of GSBS Medical Trust on Sunday the 16th of September at Wadala Mutt premises. The Medical Trust takes pride in organizing this contest.

This contest was held for two age groups, New born to 1 year .And 1 year to 3 year old babies. Each child was examined for its heath issues by various doctors, Parents were very happy to get consultation with Pediatric doctors. The program was sponsored by Indoco remedies for the past many years. Their medicines were freely distributed to the children for common illnesses. All participating children enjoyed the gifts for their participation.

The first prize winner in 1st group was Master Devansh Sadaphule, 11 months

The first prize winner in 2<sup>nd</sup> group was Baby Nyasa S.Sadaphule, 2 years.

Dr.Suhas Prabhu welcomed the gathering. Mrs. Sunita Rao, the Chief Guest, a donor of the Trust, fully appreciated the program and gave away prizes to the winners. All doctors and Parents were thanked for their services and co operation.

Report By Smt.Gita R.Pai Trustee, Secretary

# **RECIPES - DISHES MADE FROM JACKFRUIT.**

# Kadgi Ghashi

Kadgi is a seasonal vegetable that is cooked in different ways in our cuisine. Chacko, phodi, adgai are some of the dishes made from kadgi. Also used as bharshi in chanyaghashi, kadgi is versatile in our amchi cuisine.

Ripe jackfruit (ponus) is used for making mulik, ponsamuddo and gharayi.

Ghashi made with kadgi and seasoned with garlic

# **Ingredients**

- 1 cup of kadgi cubes
- 1 cup grated coconut
- 5-6 dry red chillies
- Marble sized tamarind
- 1/2 tsp udad dal
- 1/4 tsp fenugreek seeds
- 6-8 cloves of garlic
- 1 tbsp oil
- Salt to taste



**by Smt. Anuradha Prabhu** anuradhaprabhu49@gmail.com



### Method

- 1) Cook the kadgi cubes in water till they turn tender (do not overcook or it will become mushy).
- 2) In 1 tsp oil fry the udad dal and fenugreek seeds till light brown, add the red chillies and stir for a minute.
- 3) Grind the coconut along with tamarind, fried ingredients and a little water to form a smooth paste.
- 4) Add the ground mixture to cooked kadgicubes, add salt to taste and water to get a gravy consistency.
- 5) Bring the gravy to a boil, heat the remaining oil in a karahi, crush the garlic and add to the oil, when it turns golden brown pour over the ghashi.
- 6) Serve hot with rice.

# Adgai

A hot and spicy pickle made from kadgi and raw mango.

# **Ingredients**

- 1 cup kadgi cubes
- 1/2 cup raw mango cubes
- 15-20 dry bedgichillies
- 2 tbsp mustard seeds
- 1/2 tsp fenugreek seeds
- 1 tsp asafoetida powder
- Salt to taste

# Method

- 1) Steam cook the kadgi cubes till tender, let it cool.
- Dry roast the mustard, fenugreek and red chillies separately.
   Roast till they change colour and release aroma.
- 3) Once the roasted ingredients cool down grind them along with asafoetida and salt to taste. Add a little boiled and cooled water while grinding to form a thick paste.
- 4) Mix the paste along with the cooked kadgi cubes and raw mango cubes. Mix well, check seasoning and add salt if required. Store in a clean jar.
- 5) The shelf life of this pickle is a few days.

**PS:-** I've used bedgi chillies which is a non spicy variety, if using spicier variety of chillies reduce the number of chillies.

# Ponsagharayi

A delicious payasu made from ripe jackfruit pieces.

# **Ingredients**

- 2 cups chopped jackfruit(ponas) pieces
- 3/4 cup jaggery
- 1 medium coconut grated
- 1/4 cup semolina (rava)
- 1tsp ghee
- 1 tsp cardamom powder
- A few cashews and raisins.

# ashe

- 1) Take ghee in a karahi and roast the semolina till it changes colour. Keep aside to cool.
- 2) Grind the grated coconut and extract thick juice. Add water and grind again and extract thin juice of about 3 cups.
- 3) In a thick bottomed vessel add the jackfruit pieces along with thin coconut juice and cook till tender.
- 4) Add the semolina and cook for 5-7 minutes, add the jaggery and cook till it dissolves completely.
- 5) Once the mixture comes to a boil add the thick coconut juice and cook on a slow flame till it comes to a boil.
- 6) Add cardamom powder, mix and remove from flame. Garnish with cashews and raisins which are roasted in ghee.





# LAST BUT NOT THE LEAST

# GSB Sabha, Mumbai Calendar January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>: 'Devi Mahatme' Pravachan by Smt. Bhavana Prabhu, I. M. Pai Hall, Kreeda Mandir, 5.30 p.m to 8 p.m

 12<sup>th</sup> : 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, Marriage Information Service, Sabha Office, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

12<sup>th</sup> : Monthly Satsang, at Sabha Office, 6.30 p.m.

13<sup>th</sup> : Mumbai Fort Heritage walk at CST Station Entrance, 7 a.m.

13th : M. R. Pai Memorial Carrom Tournament for the Physically Challenged, I. M. Pai Hall, Kreeda Mandir, 9.30 a.m.

17<sup>th</sup> : Sankranti Haldi Kum kum and elocution competition at I. M. Pai Hall, Kreeda Mandir, 4 p.m.

26th : 79th Annual General Meeting of the Sabha at I. M. Pai Hall, Kreeda Mandir, 10 a.m. Since it's a public holiday, there will be no Matrimonial Service .

### February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

2<sup>nd</sup> : Monthly Satsang, I. M. Pai Hall, Kreeda Mandir, 5.30 p.m.

9<sup>th</sup> : 2nd Saturday, Marriage Information Service, Sabha Office, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

10<sup>th</sup> : Sr. Citizens Picnic, Govardhan Eco Village, Wada

 23<sup>rd</sup> : 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday, Marriage Information Service, Sabha Office, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

24th : 'PARICHAY', 72nd Eligible boys and Girls meet with their parents and release of Master List at, I. M. Pai Hall, Kreeda Mandir, 3.30 p.m.

### March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

9<sup>th</sup> : 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, Marriage Information Service, Sabha Office, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

9<sup>th</sup> : Monthly Satsang, I. M. Pai Hall, Kreeda Mandir, 5.30 p.m.

23<sup>rd</sup> : 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday, Marriage Information Service, Sabha Office, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

30<sup>th</sup>: Sneh Milan Programme of Managing & Mahila Shakha Committees, Kreeda Mandir Grounds, 5.30 p.m.

# List of important dates in the quarter January-March, 2019

Dates	Day	Festival	21st March 2019	Thursday	Holi Dhoolivandana
15 <sup>nd</sup> January 2019	Tuesday	Makar Sankranti	24th March 2019	Sunday	Sankastha Chaturthi
24th January 2019	Thursday	Sankastha Chaturthi	6th April 2019	Saturday	Gudi Paadva
26th January 2019	Saturday	Republic Day			(Chaitra Navaratri Aarambh)
8th February 2019	Friday	Shree Ganesh Jayanti	13th April 2019	Saturday	Shree RamNavami
22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2019	Friday	Sankastha Chaturthi	19th April 2019	Friday	Hanuman Jayantii
4th March 2019	Monday	Maha Shivratri	22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2019	Monday	Sankasth Chaturthi
20th March 2019	Wednesday	Holi Poornima	7 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	Tuesday	Akshay Tritiya

# ANSWERS OF JUMBLED WORDS

- 1. TIAACHR Chaitra (Aries), 2. KHAVASAI Vaisakha (Taurus), 3. YASAIJTH Jyaistha (Gemini),
- 4. DHAAAS ASHADHA (Cancer), 5. RAVASAN Sravana (Leo), 6. DHAPADAARB Bhadrapada (Virgo), 7. HISNAW Ashwin (Libra), 8. TIKARAK Kartika (Scorpio), 9. HAAYAANARG Agrahayana (Sagittarius,)
  - YAPSHAU Paushya (Capricorn), 11. HAMAG Magha (Aquarius), 12. NAGUPLAH Phalguna (Pisces),

# ANSWERS FOR TAARE ZAMEEN PAR

- MILKYWAY, 2. SUN AND MOON'S GRAVITY,
- VENUS, 5. VENUS,
- . EARTH, 8. GOD AND GODESSESS,
- 10. NEPTUNE

4.

- LUNAR ECLIPSE,
  - 6. 8 MINUTES 20 SEC.,
- 9. GALILEO,

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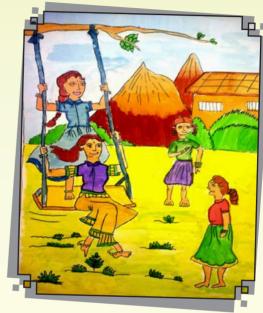


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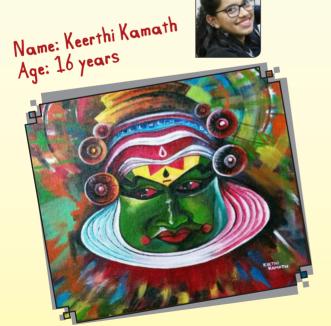




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