



# SABHA NEWS

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## EDITORS SPEAK:

This mid-year edition has varieties of interesting articles. We thank and appreciate the continuing patronage by our regular contributors but we also feel an impending need for more participation by other members as well which will make our Newsletter more interesting.

Happy reading

## DR. PRABHAKAR BALIGA HONOURED IN USA

Dr. Prabhakar Baliga, son of our life members late Dr. K. Rathnakar Baliga and Suneethy Baliga, has earned the rare honour of being named as the first individual to hold the prestigious Fitts-Raja Endowed Chair in Transplant Surgery in the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), Charleston in USA. This Chair had been established in 2007 as a tribute to Dr. Raja and Dr. Charles Thomas Fitt whose pivotal efforts enabled MUSC being one of the top transplant centres in USA.

Prabhakar (an alumnus of Madras Medical College) went to USA in 1982 where he completed his Transplant Surgery and Critical Care in the University of Michigan. He joined MUSC in 1992 as Director of Transplant Programme and built up the Pediatric Liver Transplant programme and an Intestinal

Transplant Programme. Currently, the Division does about 80 liver transplants and almost 300 kidney transplants a year. The kidney programme in particular has been ranked as No.1 in quality by the University Hospital Consortium – a group of academic medical centres that share data for learning purposes – four years in a row.



Prabhakar Baliga with his family

MUSC held a function on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2011 to honour Dr. Prabhakar Baliga, Professor and Chief of the Division of Transplant Surgery, and to name him as the first individual to hold the prestigious Fitts-Raja Endowed Chair in Transplant Surgery. Attending the function were over 100 MUSC faculty, medical colleagues, grateful patients, family and friends. One of the patients, Laura Phillips echoing the views of grateful patients said “Dr. Baliga and the rest of the transplant team are my heroes, my earthly angels. They are ..... an amazing team that have given me a new lease of life. ....MUSC is lucky to have him, he is a blessing to me and to every patient he encounters. I am forever indebted to him”.

We are all very proud that one of our youngsters who was born, grew up and studied in Madras has earned this rare honour and has made us proud.

### CONGRATULATIONS RAHUL

Ace Rower Rahul Baliga, son of Mr. B. Ramesh Baliga and Mrs. Asha Baliga and grandson of Mr. U.N. Baliga broke all records at the Madras-Colombo Regatta of the Madras Boat Club held in November 2010. Although a student of Masters in Electrical Engineering at the University of British Columbia in Canada he fervently wished to create history back home – at the Madras Boat Club.

Rahul who flew down to Chennai to participate the 112-year old Madras-Colombo Regatta – a big event in the rowing calendar said preparing for it was his top priority in Canada. In the run up to the race, his daily schedule in Canada was something like this: Wake up at four in the morning, row for two-and-a-half hours on the Fraser River, work on his research on renewable energies till evening and then head to the gym. After two hours of workout, it was back to the research centre and, most often, he would spend the entire night there. And since he was clueless about the rowers he would be contesting with, he trained harder and requested his coach to help him prepare.

Though undoubtedly one of the best rowers the Madras Boat Club has seen – he was the first civilian

in 20 years, after his coach James Joseph, to win against the formidable Army team at the 2008

National Rowing Championship – he was still asked to take part in the selection races for the regatta, as per club rules. Winning all the four selection races not only brought back his confidence, but also propelled him into his record-breaking performance on D-day. In rowing terms, he became the first person to have won all four ‘A’ events in a single day in the race’s century-old history!

When asked what next for him after having broken all records at the Madras-Colombo Regatta, he said that In India there is no incentive for rowing, so if you want to be in the sport, you have to be passionate about it. Though he will continue training, his career will take priority over rowing. He may not be able to break more records and maintain his present fitness, but will keep rowing.

Rahul also wants to change the perception that this sport is only for the elite and the Services. “Only if more people start taking it up as a serious sport, will the rowing scene in India change for the better. Youngsters need to be told about the perks – the fun of being fit and travelling across the world. There are four to six seats reserved every year at the Anna University for rowers. I am pursuing my Masters thanks to a rowing scholarship. If you love the sport and give it your all, you can get a lot back from the sport”, he said. – Courtesy “Indian Express”.

*Sabha congratulates Rahul for winning all four ‘A’ events and creating history in the century old Madras-Colombo Regatta event and wishes him many more laurels and achievements in his favourite sport as well as in his career.*

### A DOYEN HAS BEEN HONOURED

Dr. U.S. Nayak, eminent Plastic Surgeon and a longtime Life Member of the Sabha has been awarded “Lifetime Achievement Award” at a function organized by Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University to celebrate University Day and Doctors Day on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011.



The award was handed over by Dr. S.S. Badrinath, Chairman Emeritus, Sankara Nethralaya in the presence of Mayil Vahanan Natarajan, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil Nadu MGR University.

We are very proud of Dr. U.S. Nayak who received this prestigious award. The Sabha wishes Dr. Nayak many more such prestigious awards in future in the field of his specialization.

### DR. (MRS.) KAMAKSHI SHANBHOGUE CONFERRED F.R.C.P., EDINBURGH

Dr. Kamakshi Shanbhogue, M.D.(Gen.), D.M.(Neuro.), Life Member of the Sabha was conferred F.R.C.P. by the University of Edinburgh (U.K.) recently. This is in recognition of her contribution in Neurology and to teaching and work in speech abnormalities and mentoring students.

Sabha congratulates Dr. (Mrs.) Kamakshi Shanbhogue for this prestigious achievement and wishes her many more such distinctions in the years to come.

### MISCELLANEOUS POEMS

#### On Puppy Love

1. For the glimpse of her smile  
which lasts but a while,  
The rank and the file  
Queue up a mile.
2. Dear dear Rose  
Please do not pose  
Tread on my toes  
And raise me from my woes

3. The telephone rings  
My heart sings  
To her it brings  
The joy of spring.

#### Touched by Birthday Wishes

4. Birthday greetings  
With such feeling  
For my well being  
Makes thanks giving  
Very very trying  
Yet really pleasing

#### Hindi poetry written in the context of selections for the Indian cricket team.

Karta hai acchi gend baazi  
Karta hai acchi balle baazi  
Phir bhi hota hai selection mein  
Uske saath daga baazi.

- K.P. Ramesh Rao

### TAMIL NAMES BY PROFESSION ... HILARIOUS

Doctor -- Vaidyanathan  
Dentist -- Pallavan  
Lawyer -- Kesavan  
North Indian Lawyer -- Panjabakesan  
Financier -- Dhanasekaran  
Cardiologist -- Irudhayaraj  
Pediatrician -- Kuzhandaisamy  
Psychiatrist -- Mano  
Sex Therapist -- Kamadevan  
Marriage Counselor -- Kalyanasundaram  
Ophthalmologist -- Kannayiram  
ENT Specialist -- Neelakandan  
Diabetologist -- Sakkarapani  
Nutritionist -- Arogyasamy  
Hypnotist -- Sokkalingam  
Mentalist -- Budhisikamani  
Exorcist -- Maatruboodham  
Magician -- Mayandi  
Builder -- Sengalvarayan  
Painter -- Chitraguptan  
Meteorologist -- Kaarmegam  
Agriculturist -- Pachaiyappan

Horticulturist -- Pushpavanam  
 Landscaper -- Bhuminathan  
 Barber -- Kondaiappan  
 Beggar -- Pichai  
 Bartender -- Madhusudhan  
 Alcoholic -- Kallapiraan  
 Exhibitionist -- Ambalavaanan  
 Fiction writer -- Naavalan  
 Makeup Man -- Singaram  
 Milk Man -- Paul Raj  
 Dairy Farmer -- Pasupathi  
 Dog Groomer -- Naayagan  
 Snake Charmer -- Nagamurthi  
 Mountain Climber -- Yezhumalai  
 Javelin Thrower -- Velayudam  
 Polevaulter -- Thaandarayan  
 Weight Lifter -- Balaraman  
 Sumo Wrestler -- Gundu Rao  
 Karate Expert -- Kailaasam  
 Kick Boxer -- Ethiraj  
 Batsman -- Dhandiappan  
 Bowler -- Balaji  
 Spin Bowler -- Thirupathi  
 Female Spin Bowler -- Thirupura Sundari  
 Driver -- Sarathy  
 Attentive Driver -- Parthasarathy

## H.H. SHRIMAD SAMYAMINDRA THIRTHA SWAMIJI

Paramapoojya H.H. Shrimad Samyamindra Thirtha Swamiji, Pattashishya of Paramapoojya H.H. Shrimad Sudhindra Thirtha Swamiji, Mathadhipati of Shri Kashi Math Samsthan accepted Sabha's request and graciously visited the Sabha in the evening on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011. His Holiness was received with Poorna Kumbham accompanied by Jaighosh. H.H. was escorted to the Music Hall and garlanded by Managing Committee Members followed by Veda ghosh by Sri K.R. Baliga, P.R. Shenoy and Dr. R. Sujeer. The President, in his welcome address, recounted the various activities of the Sabha.



In a thought provoking Ashirvachan to a large gathering, His Holiness emphasized values of compassion, patience, tolerance and purity in dealings and also the need to safeguard Konkani language. His Holiness expressed his delight for the excellent arrangements made.

The Sabha sponsored for the Mahasamradhana on 31<sup>st</sup> May at Madras Shri Kashi Math where H.H. was camping to coincide with His visit to the Sabha.

## HINDUSTANI CLASSICAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

As in the past, J.S. Prabhu and Koppimai Memorial Concert was held on Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2011 from 6.30 p.m. starting with a tabla solo by Pt. Abhijit Banerjee of Kolkata followed by an outstanding vocal recital by Sri Ravindra Sorgavi of Bangalore. This was part of a 3-day Hindustani Classical Music Festival from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> July 2011 in association with Ganayogi Panchakshara Sangeet Yogashram Trust, Chennai. The inaugural function was held on 15<sup>th</sup> July with a vocal recital by Smt. Darshana Dutta Pal of Kolkatta. Other prominent artistes who enthralled the music lovers this time were Sri Sriram Parasuram (Violin), Smt. Mousumi Chakraborty of Kolkata (Vocal), Sri Sujay Bose (Sitar), Smt. Geetha Jayram of Chennai (Vocal), Sri Babu Padmanabh of Bangalore (Flute), Sri S.N. Bhat of Chennai (Vocal), Sri Dada Peer of Raichur (Vocal) and Sri Kiran Hangal of Gadag (Vocal).

## SNIPPETS

*(Being centenary year reporting excerpts from the past annual report)*

Mr. V.N.Kudva has passed the Indian Civil Service examination. We take this opportunity of congratulating Mr. Kudva on his brilliant success. The Sabha feels proud that one of its members, Mr. K.P. Lakshmana Rao, B.A. B.L. has been appointed a District and Session Judge. (1921)

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The idea of having a habitation for the Sabha which will serve the multiple purpose of a students' hostel, a social club and a library and reading room, and the proposals regarding the grant of scholarships for technical education, and to women to undergo training as teachers, midwives and nurses must now be considered (1922)

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Mr. A. Vittal Pai who proceeded to England in 1923 for higher studies, has passed the I.C.S. competitive examination held in London last August and we are glad to note he has been posted to the Madras Presidency. The degree of Doctor of Medicine has been conferred on Dr. G. Dinkar Rao by the local University (1925)

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The success of Dr. B.S. Mallya, a member of the community in the Madras City Elections to the local Legislative Council may be taken as an index of the progress and popularity of members of the community at the headquarters of the Presidency. (1926)

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The Scholarship Fund of the Sabha has been strengthened by the liberal contributions from the members of the Gowd Saraswath Community resident in Cochin and Travancore, the Shenai family of Vypeen taking the lead with Rs.5000 of which

Rs.2000 has already been paid. Special thanks of the Sabha are due to Rao Sahib K.J. Guna Pai, Professor K. Narasimha Pai and Dr. V. Nagoji Rao who rendered valuable assistance in the matter of collections in Cochin and Travancore (1927)

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The congratulations of the Sabha were conveyed to Mr. M. Purushotham Pai, B.A. on his brilliant success in the Civil Service competition in England. (1928)

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The Sabha feels highly gratified and happy that Mr. V.P. Row, I.C.S., one of its members and a distinguished member of the community in South Kanara, has been raised to the bench of the Madras High Court. A dinner was given by the Sabha in his honour. (1933)

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Among the distinguished Vice-Presidents of the Sabha were such outstanding personalities as Rao Bahadur K.G. Kudva, Rao Bahadur H. Narayana Rao, Mr. A. Rama Rao, Mr. U. Vittal Rao and Dr. U. Ganapathy Rao. By their enthusiastic and sustained interest and sympathy they contributed not a little to the welfare of the Sabha.

Prof. B. Sanjeeva Rao, Dr. C. Rama Kamath, Rao Sahib K. Gopal Rao, Dr. M.B. Prabhu and Mr. M.L. Nayak who were also Vice-Presidents continue to take keen interest in the Sabha. We look to them for advice and guidance. (1937)

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### THE FIRST MARRIAGE

The first marriage in the Sabha Hall was celebrated at noon on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1963 when Kumari Indumathi, daughter of Mr. B.S. Mallya, was married to Sri Gokuldas, third son of the late Mr. B.T. Kamath. The function and the luncheon that followed were largely attended.

## Letters

Mr. M. Srinivas Rao, Madras, wrote in 1965

### Just the Facts

"I have been watching the activities of the Sabha for a few years now and would like to congratulate the Committee on the fine work it is doing. The assets of the Sabha have increased by leaps and bounds side by side with its social, cultural and religious activities as contemplated in the Sabha's constitution.

It is just as well to remember, however, that the Sabha's chief justification to exist is to help educate poor students. I observe that all the efforts of the Committee tend directly or indirectly towards achieving this objective. It is all to the good that every inch of the Sabha's valuable land in the City is put to good use to yield a fair and recurring return on investment. It is this that can be ultimately used to increase the funds available for disbursing more and more scholarships. The progress already shown in this direction in so short a time is praiseworthy."

## THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

- K.R. Baliga

Life is the greatest gift of nature to any being. Nothing can be achieved without life ticking. But why has this gift been given to us. Is it for any purpose? All other living beings – plants, birds and animals – do not perhaps think their life has any purpose other than continuing to live as long as possible satisfying their basic instincts. We, humans, endowed with superior capabilities sometimes ask 'Is there any purpose or aim of life?' We also introspect "Am I progressing towards it or moving away?. How do I attain the aim of life."

If we ask the question, we get several replies depending on the thought upper-most in the mind of the respondent. Health, Wealth, Power, Fame, Happiness, Children, Service to our nation, Service of humanity – are some of the responses. When I was young, my mother asked me to pray to God –

"Maakkaa hoaidu kari, devaa" (God, please make me great) But she could not explain to me what being great implied.

If we, and all of mankind, seek something it must have some permanent value for all people at all times. Let us see whether this condition meets all the responses that were referred to.

Health is a temporary phenomenon and even the healthiest; why even those who restore health to us, will be bowing out of the world, and almost all of us have to lose health before death.

Wealth is no doubt a very welcome thing as money makes the world go round! But you cannot take it away with you, nor does it have an intrinsic value. For example, you may willingly pay `10 for a bottle of chilled water, here in Chennai; but how much will you be prepared to pay for a glass of water if you happen to have been lost (with a fat purse) in a desert and have been starving for two days. As the saying goes, one has to undergo pain in acquiring wealth, anxiety in keeping it (fear of robbers or IT raid) and anguish in spending it. Nor is it our experience that all wealthy persons are happy persons invariably.

Power or Influence, as one wag said, is what you think you have until you try to use it. History is strewn with examples of persons who seemed to be invincible but were reduced to non-entities by some quirk of events. People have started forgetting undoubtedly great persons like Mahatma Gandhi as could be gathered from answers heard in some quiz sessions.

Fame too is transient whether it be for political leaders, cinema stars or sportsmen. Some may be remembered for about a decade after their active life and others will at best be just a line in some obscure history book.

Happiness is something difficult to define; it is even more hard to say what constitutes or contributes to happiness. The same object or person will not be the cause of happiness to all persons at all times and what causes happiness to me may cause intense



pain to another as e.g. loud rock music regaling the grandson but annoying his granddad.

Children are no doubt something we all like and look for. But that, but itself, cannot be a goal of life because then we will be no different from other animals. And have we not seen cases where problematic children have been the cause of intense sorrow of some parents. We intelligent human beings have to see something more in this than just propagation of the species.

Services to the country is a noble objective. But what is a country? A geographical area or the people living in it? The borders of countries have changed and in most cases these have no rational justification. In any case, it is not possible to serve some thing as insentient as a geographic area. If it is the people, we can see that there is hardly any difference between persons across the border. Does the nation as such, being a collection of sentient people, have any purpose? Will the nation last as an entity for ever? History has shown nations are born, change and vanish.

Then, can service to humanity be an aim? Certainly it seems to be more noble. How long will humanity be around? Scientists have been forecasting that before long it will not be possible to sustain life (as we understand it now) on earth either because sun will get cold or there will be global warming.

You, may well ask, is it enough for you negate all the usually known things as aim of life without informing what is the aim of life. My purpose now is to kindle your thoughts on this and based on your responses this will be addressed in a subsequent article.

## **RANDOM THOUGHTS**

D. J. Kamath  
kamath.dj@gmail.com

About 18 months back, I had made a suggestion that wedding invitations should include a request to invitees to donate to certain nominated charities instead of giving gifts to the couple. I'm not sure how much, if any, impact that suggestion had. It was heartwarming to read the following lines in the

Economic Times, Chennai dated June 6, 2011 in the report on the Lakshmi Venu – Rohan Murthy wedding:

'The couple in their reception invite have requested guests not to carry gifts or flowers and instead make contributions to the Akshaya Patra Foundation, a charitable organization.

"We have been very fortunate and the chances of fate have given us both so much. We would love our wedding to support a cause we care about dearly and one that will have a positive impact on society. Hence, if you are thinking of buying us a gift or flowers for our wedding, we request that you instead contribute to the following cause," they said in the invitation card.'

I hope more persons follow their example.

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Reproduced below is an article taken from Tehelka Magazine, 12th Issue, Volume 8 about the conduct of the Japanese people following the tsunami in March 2011:

Vijay Simha's "10 Things To Emulate From Japan"

### 1. THE CALM

Not a single visual of chest-beating or wild grief. Sorrow itself has been elevated.

### 2. THE DIGNITY

Disciplined queues for water and groceries. Not a rough word or a crude gesture.

### 3. THE ABILITY

The incredible architects, for instance. Buildings swayed but didn't fall.

### 4. THE GRACE

People bought only what they needed for the present, so everybody could get something.

### 5. THE ORDER

No looting in shops. No honking and no overtaking on the roads. Just understanding.

#### 6. THE SACRIFICE

Fifty workers stayed back to pump sea water in the N-reactors. How will they ever be repaid?

#### 7. THE TENDERNESS

Restaurants cut prices. An unguarded ATM is left alone. The strong cared for the weak.

#### 8. THE TRAINING

The old and the children, everyone knew exactly what to do. And they did just that.

#### 9. THE MEDIA

They showed magnificent restraint in the bulletins. No silly reporters. Only calm reportage.

#### 10. THE CONSCIENCE

When the power went off in a store, people put things back on the shelves and left quietly.

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I recently read a thought-provoking blog:  
<http://www.firstpost.com/business/the-gvk-reddy-wedding-partying-like-its-1985-24633.html>  
I request readers to read the blog and to send their comments.

#### **WE REPEAT OUR REQUEST**

Please inform Sabha Office as soon as there is any change in your address to avoid inconvenience of non-delivery of letters. We still receive quite a large number of communications addressed to our members returned undelivered for want of information of change of address.

## Close-up Africa

Freeze frames in a wild corner of South Africa..



The landscape opens out suddenly and, as far as the eye can see, is a vast expanse of scrub, plains, grassland, lake and undulating hills in the distance.

- Vinay Kamath

The two giraffes, mother and offspring, move closer to each other. The younger one stretches its long neck upwards, while its mother cranes a little downwards. And, for a moment, both appear to be kissing.

Framed against a brilliant African sunset, on the edge of a wide plain stretching into the far horizon, we are witness to this unique bonding between mother and child. We watch with bated breath from our large game reserve vehicle, oblivious to the cold creeping in.

“They aren't kissing,” declares Piet Mogotolane, our intrepid game tracker and driver. As giraffes are vegetarian, he says, they get their dose of calcium by rummaging for bones in the mud and the mother was merely passing a bone for her offspring to chew on!

We were in the heart of the Pilanesberg Game Reserve, the fourth-largest park in South Africa, spread over 55,000 hectares. After driving deep into the reserve — through partly dense scrub jungle — we had gone around a vast lake, the Mankwe Dam, and come upon the giraffes that put up this wonderful show for us.

Barely 30 minutes earlier, we were in the middle of opulence and luxury at the Palace of the Lost City in Sun City, an epitome of high living and big spending



– with its casinos and luxurious hotels. The Palace is built in the middle of the scrub jungle with waterfalls and small lakes and the Big Five (lion, leopard, rhino, elephant and buffalo) as the leitmotif for its décor. The entrance is designed to inspire awe, and awe it does with a breathtaking metal sculpture of two leopards running at full tilt and hunting down a few springboks. The sculpture captures the movement and speed of one of the fastest felines.

The enormous inner-dome of the cavernous lobby is a splash of colour in stained-glass, depicting the Big Five and sundry jungle scenes. One is spellbound looking at the roof, till the craned neck begins to ache! The inner open lobby has an almost life-like sculpture of a charging bull-elephant.

But now we were far removed from that lap of luxury, in the middle of an African forest, with wild nature for company. We had set off with a cheery warning from Piet, that one was not to get off the vehicle — recently a Japanese tourist who did so was mauled by a lion.

Now he keeps up a non-stop commentary on the reserve, its antecedents and the animals — the Big Five, besides zebras, foxes, giraffe, springboks aplenty and hippos in the lake. The ever-changing landscape is spectacular with rocky outcrops, open grasslands, wooded valleys and thickets.

As Pilanesberg is a private game reserve, it needs to earn for its upkeep. One can see many tourists in their own cars zipping around the mud tracks. But the danger of that, Piet says, is people think they are driving somewhere uptown and tend to neglect safety norms. He soon pulls up beside a car, whose occupants have come out to take pictures, and admonishes them gently, citing park rules, and tells them to get back in. You never know what's lurking in the bushes, he says.

The weather is quite pleasant when we spot our first game — zebras in the distance, their symmetrical stripes glistening in the wintry sun. We're beside a small lake and Piet points out a hippo, motionless in the water. Of course, to us, it looks just like a rock!

We drive on through fairly dense scrub, full of nervous excitement, expecting a lion or two to leap out of the thicket and shatter the windshield. Suddenly, Piet stops and gestures towards a small hillock. There are a couple of white rhinos there, he says, and we look closely and finally spot them when they move a little. Seeming to be a part of the hillock, this is their camouflage, Piet explains.

The landscape opens out suddenly and, as far as the eye can see, is a vast expanse of scrub, plains, grassland, lake and undulating hills in the distance. This is the African scene one has always read about and seen on Discovery TV.

The ruggedness and splendour is breath-taking and we pause to absorb the vastness and the silence, except for the whistle of the wind. At the far end of the lake we spot a couple of crocodiles, a hippo wallowing in the water and one trotting about the lake's edge. Piet drives us around for a closer look, keeping a safe distance nevertheless.

It's now getting really cold — it's close to winter in Africa and the soccer World Cup is on. In the middle of this reserve, though, the soccer fever and madness, as also the controversies, seem really distant. Piet offers us blankets to keep warm.

Night falls and Piet, who's hell-bent on getting us to see some of the Big Five, drives on. With a powerful searchlight, he scans either side of the path, catching some startled springbok in the beam. "The impalas are everywhere; they're the McDonald's of the game parks," he says.

The cold is biting and each of us, not wanting the other to know how cold we are, silently implore Piet to take us back to the hotel.

At one spot, his powerful beam reveals a small herd of elephants, including a young one in tow. As if Piet's beam has startled the male, he relieves himself in a gush right before our eyes! Toilet niceties make us move on.

With no more of the Big Five willing to show themselves to us, we reach the park exit,

disappointed at not spotting a lion or a leopard but secretly happy to return to a warm room and the warmth of some spirits. Later, we learn that Bollywood's King (Shah Rukh) Khan, who was in South Africa to watch the World Cup finals, tweeted that he froze as well on his visit to the Pilanesberg game reserve.

If the 'King' can freeze what about us humble mortals?

*(This article was published in the Business Line print edition dated September 3, 2010)*

## MY CELL PHONE

- K.P. Lakshmana Rao

Grew up in an era when possessing the ugly black instrument was a status symbol. As a youngster was in awe of its shrieking call-tone and only occasionally had the privilege of being permitted to use it. In due course, gravitate into civil service and get exposed to the newfangled technologies. In the later part of my file-pushing carrier, get my first cell phone- a first generation piece, big and bulky, with push buttons large enough to manipulate without glasses, no added gimmickry, a charge span just long enough to ensure my outgoing calls, with incoming calls often blanked out (supposedly important call from office and home) and with practically no memory base or call ID system. All this enabled one to call at his convenience and fake ignorance when situations became slippery. This cell phone was my buddy and I called him "Old Faithful". We resisted being parted for a long time and his vintage was an added advantage. Whenever I misplaced him, he was promptly returned, the crowning proof of this aspect of human nature being on the golf course, where experienced caddies who would often manipulate to lose my new golf balls, promptly returned Old Faithful on two occasions when I lost him on the golf course.

We all know that all good things do not last for ever- Old Faithfuls tryst with destiny came unexpectedly. One not so bright a morning, our busybody domestic help is seen by my wife carrying

a cellphone similar to mine. When complemented, she is politely informed that this was her second spare set, the first being charged at home and the usual spare borrowed by her son. History then tells me that an investigation was initiated and the result was that even all the service providers( drivers, gardeners, handymen, hawkers and chaiwalas) all had better set and that Old Faithfuls intrinsic/exchange value was less than NIL. Also through well placed and spaced comments a body of opinion was emerging that I had apparently breached the unstated image quotient on this issue. Was not sure how long my hardboiled bureaucratic defence in favour of Old Faithful would last.

In an Emotional "Pinzer Movement" my wife and children present me on my birthday with a newfangled Cell Phone- it was small and neat with features I would never understand, buttons on its face and sides which operated camera, radio, recorded music and substantial memory and ID features to ensure no skullduggery on my part. Right from the beginning we became incompatible. Small numbers and stubby fingers were the recipe for wrong numbers and abusive responses. Pressing the side buttons by mistake often gave out blaring music and news features at the most inappropriate times, this further complicated by the fact that only by trial and error would I be able to eliminate the offending noises. Could not goof off for golf as my golf buddies' calls and messages were often recorded. This cell phone if I could dub HER a traitor was slowly emerging as an instrument of benign control in the scheme of things of the supreme Household Power.

I slowly move into retirement with this unfriendly cell phone. Having no office retinue to cushion my movements, this unworthy cellphone which keeps track of all my calls and movements, is touted as being in my Best Interest. I am often reminded of the phrase my teachers and Bosses used to use—" go and get lost" and reminiscence that these days are the past.

But, am an incurable optimist and I see a faint rainbow in technology. My only salvation now it appears is that I upgrade to a 3-G instrument, with the fond hope that new touch screens and numerous other convolutions touted in the name of technology would make it difficult for the older

generation to comprehend its myriad functions. Even if others do, can in my defence plead ignorance and revert to my old ignorant happy- Old Faithful-days. This is a fond hope and would welcome suggestions from similarly placed "senior citizens"

## SABHA'S CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

A committee was formed for the planning and execution of cultural programmes during the Centenary Year. The committee met twice and tentatively decided on the following Agenda.

1. Inaugural Function.
2. Cultural Programmes spread over 1 year
  1. Harikatha Programme in Konkani
  2. Drama Programme
  3. Puppet Show in Konkani
  4. Light Music/Classical Music
  5. Classical Dance
  6. Carnival with games and shows
  7. Competitions for women and children
3. Visits by Swamijis of all 4 Maths
4. Valedictory Function in January 2013

We propose to invite dignitaries from our community for the inaugural and valedictory function. The cultural programme will be made all exciting and enjoyable by all. Members are requested to attend the functions in large numbers. A detailed programme will be sent to all the Members in due course.

## PICTURESQUE KONKANI

**Kaanteni kanto kaadka:** You need a thorn to remove a thorn. Also implies that you cannot treat trouble-mongers by fair means.

**Gaaiche tondaa vagu:** Refers to some one evil who masquerades as a good person; a wolf in sheep's clothing.

**Chintaa aasleri raati sarnaa; santoshu aasleri deesu dhaavna:** If you have sorrow, the night looks very prolonged; if you are happy and contented the day seems to be too short.

**Chaanniyena chochhaailevari khaattaa:** Refers to pecking at food without much interest.

**Chane vottu teelu karpalo:** However good you may be, association with one bad company can spoil you.

**Meeta khellelo keeru so:** Refers to some one not able to speak because of a feeling of guilt.

**Jattanai nagdo vathanai nagdo:** Refers one not bringing any material things when born, nor taking these away on death.

**Toon bailele mushti bhittari assa:** Refers to one who is under the thumb of his wife.

**Dveshu doora kartaa, Preeti laaggi hadta:** Refers to enmity creating distances and love bringing others nearer.

**Shiyanka melnaa naathili kaambali ithya?:** Refers to something which is not available when needed.

**Suddi kaannaa vailyaana gelli:** Refers to a case where a person chooses not to listen with attention.

**Haada nathili jeeba:** Refers to one who is not sincere and does not mean what he talks.

## BEST TEACHER AWARD

Dr. Hema Kini, daughter of Dr. U.S. Nayak and Professor of Pathology, KMC Mangalore, has received the Best Teacher Award for KMC Mangalore Para Clinical Section for the year 2010. This is an award given by the students of the Para



Clinical Section to their Teacher who has made the most impact on their studies. The award was handed over by Dr. Ramnarayan, Vice-Chancellor of

Manipal University. She was one of the four people to have received this award.

The Sabha wishes Dr. Hema Kini many more such rewards in the years to come.

## YOUNG ACHIEVERS AWARD 2012

The Sabha, as in the previous years, will recognize and honour the Young Achievers at a suitable occasion in 2012. Members are requested to send the names, brief profile and the nature of achievement in educational, service, sports or cultural field of the persons you would like to recommend for the Young Achievers Award 2012. Only the National or State level excellence of achievement is recognized. The proposal should reach the Sabha Office before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011.

## SGS SABHA CHARITABLE TRUST

U.Prabhakar Rao, Managing Trustee

There was a change in the number of Trustees during the last 6 months. We are glad to announce that Dr. (Mrs) Shantha Kamath, Mrs. Vijayalakshmi R Pai and Mr. V. Muralidhar Rao joined as Trustees from March 2011. Mr. K.R. Baliga one of the Founder Trustees expressed his desire to step down due to his other commitments, from January 2011. The Board of Trustees very reluctantly accepted his resignation. His efforts in creating the Trust, getting donation of the land and building from Mrs. Radha Mahale, financial donations from his friends and associates in India and abroad will be recorded in golden letters in the annals of the Trust. Though not a trustee now, Mr. K.R. Baliga is very well associated with the Trust with his valuable advises on important matters and by his lectures on spiritual matters in the Old Age Home. We record our deep appreciation of his support and sincerely thank him.

The number of residents at the Old Age Home are eight as on date. The residents keep themselves active by cooking food, cleaning and maintaining the Old Age Home. They are living as a family. 195 Donations of `1500 each towards "Days Expenses" were received during the year 2010-11. The Trustees express their grateful thanks to those donors. We appeal to the respected members of the

SGS Sabha to kindly contribute to this Scheme and help us to achieve the target of collection of donation for 365 days during 2011-12.

Mr. K.R. Baliga and Mrs. Deepa Shenoy continue their good work of lecturing to the residents on religious matters. Bhajan classes are conducted by Mrs. Vijayalakshmi R Pai, and Dr. (Mrs.) Shantha Kamath has been advising the residents on health care regularly. Our thanks to all of them for their excellent contributions.

We repeat that donations to the Trust are eligible for Income Tax concession under Sec. 80G. Cheques drawn in favour of "SGS Sabha Charitable Trust" may be kindly sent to the Trust Office, Dr. K.P. Mahale Centre, New No 17 (Old No 3), Ujjini Devi street, Ayanavaram, Chennai – 600 023.

## WE MISS THEM

Since the publication of the last Newsletter No.37 in January 2011 the Sabha has come to know about the sad demise of the following members:

R.R. Kamath, Chennai	23-12-2010
Mrs. Savithri Manjeshwar, Chennai	01-01-2011
K.S.Muralidhara Pai, Kochi	04-01-2011
Dr. Ratnakar Baliga, U.S.A.	09-01-2011
V.Prabhakara Kamath, Chennai	21-01-2011
G.K. Prabhu, Tirupur	26-02-2011
R. Venkatesan, Chennai	11-05-2011
Bhaskar Ullal, Chennai	22-05-2011
R.R. Prabhu, Bangalore	31-05-2011
G.V. Baliga, Chennai	05-06-2011
Mrs.Muktha Bhandarkar, Chennai	16-06-2011
M. Sundaresa Sarma, Chennai	20-06-2011
Mrs. Leela Nayak, Chennai	22-06-2011
K.V. Mohandas Pai, Chennai	18-07-2011

The Sabha is grateful to Sri Vasant M. Shanbhag, Canara Traders & Printers Pvt. Ltd. for printing this issue, free of charge. He is the Joint Secretary of the Sabha.

