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From the Editor's Desk

कल्पना सुनील राणे

परभांचा मुकुटमणी - शिरपेच पुरस्कार



नव्या वर्षाने नवीन सुरुवात करण्याची संधी दिली आहे आणि ती संधी डिजिटल फॉरमॅट आपलासा करून 'प्रभुतरुण'ने घेतली आहे. या पहिल्या डिजिटल अंकातून आपल्याशी संवाद साधताना अतिशय आनंद होत आहे. आशा आणि शक्यतांनी भरलेल्या या वर्षात आपण सगळे एकत्र येऊन नव्या वर्षाची जादू उलगडूया.

मागच्या महिन्यात म्हणजेच २ डिसेंबर रोजी पाठारे प्रभुंच्या विचारांना मुक्त व्यासपीठ देणाऱ्या 'प्रभुतरुण' या मासिकाचा शतक महोत्सव विलेपार्ले (पू) येथील मास्टर दीनानाथ मंगेशकर नाट्यगृहात दिमाखदार पध्दतीने साजरा झाला. त्यावेळी ज्ञातीमधल्या उत्तम कामगिरी करणारे विविध क्षेत्रातले मातब्बर व उगवत्या तान्यांचा गौरव 'शिरपेच पुरस्कार' देऊन करण्यात आला. शंभर वर्षांची परंपरा असणाऱ्या 'प्रभुतरुण'ने लेखांच्या माध्यमातून विचारांची देवाणघेवाण केली. ज्ञातीमधल्या घडामोडींचा सातत्याने वेध घेतला. अनेक लेखक घडवले तसेच विचारही दिले. लिहिणाऱ्यांना प्रोत्साहन दिले. न लिहिणाऱ्यांना लिहिते केले. असा गेली शतकभर अविरत प्रवास केला आणि बोलता बोलता २०२३ मध्ये चक्क शंभरी गाठली. याचे औचित्य साधून 'प्रभुतरुण'नेही आपले स्वरूप बदलले आणि डिजिटलच्या दिशेने वाटचाल सुरू केली आहे. त्याचा पहिला टप्पा आहे 'प्रभुतरुण बुलेटिन' आणि दुसरा 'प्रभुतरुण डिजिटल...!'

शतकी टप्पा म्हणजे कोणत्याही संस्थेच्या वाटचालीतला अत्यंत महत्वाचा टप्पा. मग वेगळे काहीतरी घडायलाच हवे. त्यातून 'शिरपेच' पुरस्काराची संकल्पना उदयाला आली. प्रभुतरुण ट्रस्ट उत्साहाने कामाला लागले आणि वर्षभरात छोट्या छोट्या कार्यक्रमासोबत 'शिरपेच' पुरस्काराची आखणी सुरू झाली. गुणगौरव समारंभ हा प्रत्येकाच्या आयुष्यातला हर्षाचा दिवस. या हर्षाला शिरपेचाच्या कोंदणात बसवून आरोग्य, समाजसेवा, साहित्य, मनोरंजन, उद्योग, कला, क्रीडा आणि विज्ञान या विविध क्षेत्रात विशेष योगदान असणाऱ्या गुणवंतांना बहाल करण्याचे ठरले. सोहळ्याची आखणी, मनोरंजनाची रेलचेल, परभांची खवय्येगिरी... असे बरेच काही ठरले. श्रेणी (कॅटेगरी) ठरल्या, प्रवेशिका आल्या, नावाजलेले परीक्षक, परीक्षण, समन्वय, नृत्याची तालीम, वेशभूषा... सगळे जमून आले आणि तो दिवस उजाडला... द गॅण्ड फिनाले! शिरपेच पुरस्कार संध्या... पाठारे परभांचा मुकुटमणी!!

सोहळ्याच्या दिवशी नऊवारी साडीतल्या, पारंपरिक परभी दागिने ल्यालेल्या परभिणी मिरवत होत्या. प्रेक्षकांमध्ये काहीतरी छान पाहायला मिळणार याची उत्सुकता होती. अनेक दिवसांनी सगळेजण

सोहळ्याच्या निमित्ताने जमले होते. त्यामुळे गाठीभेटींना उधाण आले होते. वातावरणात मोकळेपणा होता. त्यामुळे संध्याकाळ प्रफुल्लित झाली होती. एकत्र येण्यासाठी असा काहीतरी कार्यक्रम व्हायला हवा असाच एकंदर सूर होता.

बॅकस्टेज व ग्रीन रुम्समध्ये तयारी चालली होती. कलाकारांची लगबग आणि धांदल होती. वातावरणात औत्सुक्य आणि उत्कंठा जाणवत होती. लाईट्स, साऊण्ड, कॅमेरा अँड अॅक्शन... पडदा उघडला. 'प्रभुतरुण'च्या शतकी वाटचालीच आढावा घेणारे ऑडिओ व्हिज्युल्स सुरू झाले ते माजी संपादकांच्या कारकिर्दीचा मागोवा घेणाऱ्या अतिशय माहितीपूर्ण प्रेझेंटेशनने. मग एण्ट्री घेतली सूत्रसंचालकांनी! सूत्रसंचालन ही एक कला आहे. पण ती उत्तमरित्या सादर करणे कलाकारी आहे आणि ती अवगत असणारी दोन नावे होती. ती म्हणजे मोनिका राणे अय्यर आणि बन्सीधर धुरंधर! पारंपरिक पोशाख परिधान करून या दोन्ही सूत्रसंचालकांनी अशी काही खुमासदार सुरुवात केली की आता कार्यक्रम उत्तरोत्तर रंगत जाणार याची खात्री पटली आणि झालेही तसेच.

सुरुवात झाली साहित्य पुरस्कारांनी आणि त्याचे परीक्षक मंडळ होते, साहित्यिक/संवाद लेखक अनिल हर्डीकर, लेखक डॉ. मुकुंद कुळे व लेखिका माधवी कुंटे. सर्वोत्कृष्ट लेखक या विभागात नामांकने होती आधार कोठारे, अपर्णा विजयकर, अरमान कोठारे, डॉ. नृपाल कोठारे, राजीव विजयकर, संजय दळवी, साया नवलकर आणि त्वरिता दळवी. विजयी ठरले संजय दळवी!

सर्वोत्कृष्ट कविता या विभागातली नामांकने अशी होती. कल्पना कोठारे, अदिती दिनार तळपदे, अरमान कोठारे, गीतांजली आंबवणे आणि नेहा दळवी. विजयी ठरले अरमान कोठारे!

साहित्य पुरस्कारांमध्ये सर्वोत्कृष्ट ब्लॉगर्स ही कॅटेगरीही होती आणि नामांकने होती आधार कोठारे, अदिती दिनार तळपदे, अरमान कोठारे, मोनिका देशपांडे आणि प्राची नवलकर जोग. विजयी ठरले आधार कोठारे!

चाईल्ड प्रॉडिजी म्हणजेच प्रज्ञावंत बालक या विभागातले परीक्षक होते प्रिन्सिपॉल शारदा कुंडेर, पार्ले टिळक विद्यालयाच्या माजी प्रिन्सिपॉल स्वप्ना त्रैलोक्य आणि एनएसएम (नवसमाज मंडल ट्रस्ट) प्राथमिक शाळेच्या समन्वय अल्पा भट्ट. या विभागातली नामांकने अशी होती, पर्जन्य किर्तीकर, गुणमय पवार, रूहान देसाई, सियान लकडावाला, आरा अजिंक्य, आयना जयकर व रोहन देशपांडे. विजयी प्रज्ञावंत ठरला रीमा धुरंधर यांचा पुत्र सियान तेजस लकडावाला!

सर्वोत्कृष्ट अभिनय या विभागात परीक्षक म्हणून काम पाहिले दिग्दर्शक महेश टिळेकर, अभिनेत्री सुचित्रा बांदेकर आणि अभिनेते आशिष नेवाळकर यांनी. यामध्ये पूजा अजिंक्य, डॉ. पवन किर्तीकर, मोना आंबवणे, श्रेया तळपदे, यश तळपदे व राहुल राणे यांना नामांकने होती. विजयाची माळ पडली पूजा अजिंक्य यांच्या गळ्यात.

सर्वोत्कृष्ट क्रीडा पुरस्कारांची नामांकने अशी होती, संजना व्यवहारकर, श्रद्धा धराधर, सोहम राणे, वैजयंती अजिंक्य, आदिल तळपदे, अयान विजयकर, अवंती तळपदे, गुणमय पवार, करण अजिंक्य आणि विजयी ठरली वैजयंती अजिंक्य. या विभागाचे परीक्षक होते टीम इंडियाचे परफॉर्मन्स क्रिकेट अॅनलिस्ट सौरभ वालकर व प्रो वर्ल्ड टॅलेंटचे सिद्धार्थ हजारे.

सर्वोत्कृष्ट नृत्य पुरस्कारांचे परीक्षण कथक विशारद सुनील सुंकारा, आरटी डान्स अकॅडमीचे ऋषभ तोतलानी व कथकमध्ये एम.ए केलेल्या ऋतुजा साठे कुलकर्णी या दिग्गजांनी केले. नृत्य विभागातली नामांकने नताशा त्रिलोकेकर, निहारिका कोठारे, निरंजनी राव, निशिता धैर्यवान, रोमा राणे मलिक, अनुश्री कोठारे, अपूर्वा कोठारे, अवंती तळपदे, मोईशा कोठारे व नंदिता धुरंधर यांना होती. विजयी नृत्यांगना ठरली अपूर्वा कोठारे.

सर्वोत्कृष्ट चित्रकला पुरस्कारांमध्ये चांगलीच चढाओढ होती आणि नामांकने अशी होती. मोईशा कोठारे, मोनिका राणे अय्यर, प्रणोती किर्तीकर, राजा अजिंक्य, रमेश त्रिलोकेकर, शमिता राव, सिद्धार्थ कोठारे, आसावरी धुरंधर, आनंदिता आगासकर, अपर्णा समीर विजयकर, अपर्णा विजयकर, अर्चना धुरंधर, चांदनी अजिंक्य, मयुरेश वाझकर व मिलन राणे केसवानी. विजयी चित्रकार ठरली मोईशा कोठारे! या विभागाचे परीक्षण केले 'दॅट्झ इट'चे क्रिएटिव हेड सचिन पुथरन, चित्रकार सुरेश केळस्कर आणि आर्टिलिजिन्सचे क्रिएटिव डायरेक्टर अनिल कोडपे यांनी.

फोटोग्राफी या विभागातले परीक्षण आर्ट डायरेक्टर नितीन वाबळे, सिनेमाटोग्राफर/दिग्दर्शक केदार गायकवाड व फोटोग्राफर सुरेश तारकर यांनी केले. नामांकने याप्रमाणे राहुल आगासकर, मयुरेश वाझकर, निकेत नवलकर, डॉ. पवन किर्तीकर, पा. अश्विन प्रधान, धीरेन रणजीत, दिशांक नायक आणि पार्थ कोठारे. विजयी लेन्समॅन ठरले निकेत नवलकर!

पुढचा विभाग होता उद्यमशीलतेचा. हाय सेन्स इंटरनॅशनलचे दक्षिण आशियाचे संचालक राकेश चौहान, हुयेला सर्व्हिसेसच्या सहसंस्थापक/सीईओ प्रिन्सी रॉय आणि युएफओ मुव्हीज (इं) लिमिटेडचे कार्यकारी संचालक/सीईओ राजेश मिश्रा यांनी बिझनेस कॅटेगरीचे परीक्षण सजगपणे केले.

सर्वोत्कृष्ट उद्योजिका (आंत्रप्रिनर) या विभागातली नामांकने होती, रेश्मा नाईक तळपदे, श्रीधा किर्तीकर, तान्या विजयकर, तृप्ती तळपदे, वैशाली धैर्यवान मेनन, वर्षा तळपदे, अनघा जयकर सावंत, बिंबा नायक, दीपाली प्रधान, मयुरा प्रधान पेडणेकर, मीता तळपदे, रत्नमाला धुरंधर आणि सर्वोत्कृष्ट उद्योजिका ठरली अनघा जयकर सावंत.

सर्वोत्कृष्ट उद्योजिका या विभागातली सर्वोत्कृष्ट बिजनेस लीडर या विभागातली नामांकने होती.

अॅडव्होकेट उन्नती धुरंधर, यशोधरा विजयकर क्रॅन, अनुश्री किर्तीकर, अर्चना धुरंधर, अश्विनी तळपदे, मृगा कोठारे आणि विजयी ठरल्या यशोधरा विजयकर क्रॅन!

बिझनेस कॅटेगरीमधली बेस्ट सीएक्सओ कॅटेगरीतील नामांकने होती, गौतम नायक, अनुश्री किर्तीकर, राज मानकर, संकेत जयकर व उन्मेष नायक. बेस्ट सीएक्सओ ठरले राज मानकर!

सर्वोत्कृष्ट गायक/गायिका या विभागाची परीक्षक होते लोकप्रिय गायिका वैशाली सामंत, गायक/संगीत दिग्दर्शक ऋषिकेश कामेरकर आणि गायक डॉ. राहुल जोशी. या विभागातले जेवढे परीक्षक मोठे होते तेवढीच नामांकनांची यादीसुद्धा मोठी होती. रोनिका विजयकर, ऋता प्रधान हजरनीस, सागर देवरूखकर, संकेत जयकर, शिवानी देवरूखकर, सोनाली नागपुरे, सुरूपा राणे देवरूखकर, आधार कोठारे, अश्विनी सूर्याकुमार, दिशांक नायक, मुग्धा त्रिलोकेकर, राहुल राणे, राजा अजिंक्य. विजयी गायक ठरले संकेत जयकर!

नामांकने असणाऱ्यांना विजयाची उत्कंठा असते. पण इतर लोक जे येतात ते आपल्या नात्यातल्या वा माहितीतल्या मंडळींना चिअर्स करायला. त्यात एखाद्याला थोडेसे कंटाळवाणे वाटू शकते. प्रत्येक कॅटेगरीमधली गॅप भरून काढण्यासाठी सगळ्या कलाकारांनी त्यांच्या बहारदार संगीत-नृत्याने असे काही मनोरंजन केले की उशीर झाला तरी कंटाळा आलाच नाही. नव्या दमाच्या नव्या पिढीने त्यांच्या दमदार नृत्याने प्रेक्षकांना जिंकून घेतले. मिहिका नवलकर, निशिता धैर्यवान, काजल धुरंधर, डॉ. श्वेताली विजयकर भालेकर, डॉ. ऋतुजा विजयकर, निशका कोठारे, डॉ. मिताली नायक, निहारिका तळपदे, अदिती तळपदे, श्रिया किर्तीकर, प्रीती धैर्यवान, डॉ. अर्चना कोठारे, अपर्णा कोठारे, मेघना रणजीत, डॉ. निवेदिता धैर्यवान सत्तूर, पूजा नवलकर, पायल अजिंक्य, पल्लवी कोठारे, मयुरा नायक, ऐश्वर्या वेलकर, पर्जन्य किर्तीकर, निर्विघ्नम वाझकर, मिथिल नवलकर, ईशान कोठारे, डॉ. तन्मय कोठारे, दिशांक नायक, जतीन नवलकर, आदिल तळपदे, प्रथमेश तळपदे व प्रजेश तळपदे यांनी धमाल नृत्ये सादर करून मनोरंजनाचा एकच धमाका उडवून दिला.

खाण्यासाठी जन्म अपुला... या उक्तीला सार्थ ठरवणारे अभिनेता, विनोदवीर, लेखक आणि सर्वात मोठ्ठा खवय्या असलेले कुणाल विजयकर! त्यांनी त्यांच्या खमंग गप्पांना सुरुवात करून कार्यक्रमात आणखी रंगत भरली. 'खाने में क्या है' या त्यांच्या यु-ट्यूब चॅनेलवरच्या कार्यक्रमातला पाठारे प्रभु पदार्थावरचा 'मुंबईज बेस्ट केप्ट सिक्नेट' या एपिसोडचा संकलित भाग दाखवण्यात आला. कुणाल उत्तम वक्ता आहेच. खाणे या विषयावर ते बोलायला लागले की त्यांची जीभ... नाही हात कोणीच धरू शकत नाही. खाण्याविषयी त्यांनी परभू सुगरणींशी गप्पा सुरू केल्या आणि मग उपस्थितांना लागलेली भूक आणि कुणालचे खाद्यपुराण यांची एकच जुगलबंदी सुरू झाली. नुसते पाहून-ऐकून उपस्थितांची मने तृप्त झाली. अँडव्होकट केतकी जयकरांनी करंदी-बॉबिलाचे वडे आणि खिमा भरलेली वांगी (किसमिस घातलेली) बनवली. ते बनवताना त्यांनी अनेक परभू खासियत उलगडून सांगितल्या. खारच्या योगिनी धैर्यवान यांच्याकडे करंदी घातलेला तिखट रव्याचा आस्वाद घेत विविध परभू पदार्थांवर तसेच बेकिंगवर चर्चा झाली. शिंगड्या, भानवलं हे बेक केले जाणारे पदार्थ कसे स्वादिष्ट आहेत हे बोलत असताना योगिनीताईंनी थेट त्यांच्या किचनमध्ये नेऊन चणा, मसूर डाळ घातलेलं फ्लाव्हर-कोलंबीचं भानवलं करूनच दाखवले. ते बेक होईपर्यंत शेवळाचे सांबारे, खारवणी, कोलंबीचं कालवण, सुकट अथवा कोलंबी घातलेली पातवड... गप्पा चविष्ट रंगल्या होत्या. भानवलं चवीला अगदी परफेक्ट झाले होते आणि प्रेक्षकांना भूकही परफेक्ट लागली होती. तरीही रसनेला आवर घालून वसुंधराताईने केलेली पुढची रेसिपी 'कोलंबीचं गोडे आटले' ते पाहू लागले. कोलंबीचे गोडे आटले 'जरा हटके' रेसिपी आहे. नारळाचं शिरं, गरम मसाला, पाठारे प्रभु मसाला, चिमूटभर साखर, हळद अजिबात नसलेलं गोडे आटले म्हणजे थाय करीला टक्कर देणारे अप्रतिम कॉम्बिनेशन आहे. एव्हाना अनेकांच्या घरी बनवले गेले असेल.

बनवायला सोपे आणि खायला लज्जतदार अशा खडखडल्याशिवाय परभांचे जेवण पूर्ण होत नाही. मग ते कोलंबीचे असो, चिंबोरीचे असो वा शेवंड्यांचे! पुढची सुगरण अर्थात नीलिमा महेश कोठारे यांनी शेवंड्यांचे खडखडलं बनवून दाखवले आणि लसणाचा दरवळ जणू ऑडिटोरियममध्ये पसरला. इतकी ती रेसिपी चमचमीत असल्याचे दिसत होते.

कुणाल विजयकरांची खमंग मुशाफिरी संपत आली तोपर्यंत प्रेक्षकांच्या क्षुधेचा कडेलोट झाला होता. कुणाल यांचे शिरपेच सोहळ्यातले सादरीकरण एक मनोरंजनाचा भाग होता, पण परभू खाण्यापिण्याच्या सवयी आणि कोणत्या पदार्थांचा काय म्हटले जाते याची माहिती देणारा होता. नव्याने परभू झालेल्या सुना आणि जावयांसाठी परभी पदार्थ जाणून घेण्याची ही एक शानदार पर्वणी होती. युट्यूबवर जाऊन तुम्ही हा एपिसोड नक्की बघाच.

शिरपेच पुरस्कार सोहळ्यामध्ये काही लक्षणीय कामगिरी करणाऱ्या परभूंना विशेष पुरस्कार देऊन सन्मानित करण्यात आले. विशेष पुरस्कार पुढीलप्रमाणे होते.

-महेश अंबर कोठारे यांना शिरपेच पाठारे प्रभु रत्न, -सॉलिसिटर राजन जयकर यांना शिरपेच पाठारे प्रभु इम्पिरियल अवॉर्ड - कन्झर्वेशन अँड रिस्टोरेशन ऑफ हेरिटेज साईट्स,

-कुणाल विजयकर यांना शिरपेच पाठारे प्रभु कोनोजियर,

-डॉ. प्रिया धुरंधर यांना शिरपेच डॉ. प्रफुल्ल गजानन विजयकर मेडिकल एक्सलन्स,

-डॉ. निखिल धुरंधर यांना शिरपेच पाठारे प्रभु ग्लोबल रेकग्निशन,

-समीर तळपदे यांना शिरपेच पाठारे प्रभु एक्सलन्स इन स्पोर्ट्स,

-शीतल तळपदे यांना शिरपेच पाठारे प्रभु स्टेज क्राफ्ट टेक्निकल एक्सलन्स,

- डॉ. जान्हवी राणे यांना शिरपेच पाठारे प्रभु डायनॅमिक पर्सनॅलिटी

- श्रेयस तळपदे यांना शिरपेच पाठारे प्रभु आऊटस्टँडिंगअचिव्हर - एंटरटेंटमेंट आणि

- रेखा विजयकर यांना शिरपेच पाठारे प्रभु सोशल सर्व्हिस...

अशा विविध क्षेत्रात योगदान देणाऱ्या व लक्षवेधक कामगिरी करणाऱ्या तसेच नेत्रदिपक यश मिळवणाऱ्या परभूंचा शिरपेच विशेष पुरस्कार प्रदान करून सन्मान करण्यात आला.

सिनियर व्हाईस प्रेसिडेण्ट व एबीपी माझाचे संपादक राजीव खांडेकर व भाजपचे आमदार पराग अळवणी या मान्यवरांची या सोहळ्याला उपस्थिती लाभली. राजीव खांडेकर यांना पाठारे प्रभु पदार्थांनी जिंकले आणि आडनावांनी भुरळ घातल्याची कबुली त्यांनी दिली. या प्रसंगी दिग्दर्शक/निर्माते महेश कोठारे यांनी एक लाख रुपयांची घसघशीत देणगी जाहीर करून 'प्रभुतरुण'ला आनंदित केले.

प्रज्ञा आणि प्रतिभा, कल्पकता आणि चिकाटी, उद्यमशीलता आणि रसिकता यांचा अनोखा संगम या व्यासपीठावर पाहायला मिळाला. ज्ञातीतल्या अनेक दिग्गजांसोबत, नामवंतांच्या साक्षीने व ज्ञातीला जोडून घेत हा शिरपेच सोहळा मोठ्या उत्साहाने संपन्न झाला. याचे अविस्मरणीय क्षण तुम्हाला लवकरच यु-ट्यूबवरून अनुभवता येतील आणि याबद्दल प्रभुतरुण बुलेटिनवरून कळवण्यात येईल.'

The Rising

Sanjana Kothare

It's a brand new year, and the beginning of a new era!

Prabhu Tarun completed 100 years of its existence on 25th August 2023. However, our celebrations began 3 years ago, when we started our online events. It was a celebration in the true sense, with Pathare Prabhus all over the globe connecting on one digital platform, thereby becoming part of one grand celebration.



The centenary year was celebrated with the inception of the Prabhu Tarun Bulletin, which was announced on the auspicious day of 'Gudi Padwa' on 22nd March 2023. The first Bulletin was launched on 30th April 2023. The Bulletin achieved recognition as a landmark event dedicated to our ex-editors Mr. Vishnu Kothare, Mr. Suhas Kothare, Mr. Vihang Nayak and Prof. Suhasini Kirtikar. However, bringing this revolutionary change would not have been possible for me without the able support of Monica Rane Iyer. With the Shirpech Puraskaar held on 2nd December 2023 at Dinanath Natyagruha, Vile Parle, we concluded our celebrations with galore and splendour amidst the Who's Who of the community.

The Prabhu Tarun Website had been launched in the year 2009. However, our process of going digital began only in the year 2020. Today, I take immense pleasure in announcing that Prabhu Tarun has finally taken the plunge, taking pride in being the only Newsletter of the community to go online. This is indeed a historical moment, and I am extremely happy to be a significant part of this revolutionary change which will be remembered for generations together.

I have been closely associated with Prabhu Tarun for the past 31 years. 1993 was the year I was welcomed not only into Prabhu Tarun Editor Mr. Suhas Kothare's household, but also into the Prabhu Tarun family! It was indeed a blessing in disguise, to be closely associated with the cream of the community.

My first introduction to Suhas Kothare's family was principally with the larger Prabhu Tarun family. It was an honour to be associated with the likes of Adv. Sadashiv Dhurandhar, Dr. Sadashiv Gorakhshkar, Mr. Ravindra Mankar, Mr. Mukund Ajinkya, Mr. Pratap Velkar, Dr. Gajanan Vijayakar, Mr. Vihang Nayak, Dr. Praful Vijayakar, Dr. Pradeep Vijayakar, Mr. Bansi Dhurandhar, Dr. Surekha Dhurandhar, Dr. Vinod Dhurandhar, Mrs. Anuradha Dhurandhar, Dr. Nikhil Dhurandhar, Judge Bageshri Dhurandhar Parikh, Mr. Madhav Prabhakar, Mr. Vinod Pradhan, Mrs. Pratima Pradhan, Mr. Pradeep Kothare, Mr. Deepak Dhairyawan, Mr. Madhukar Talpade, Mrs. Pramila Talpade, Mr. Sham Jayakar, Mrs. Vrinda Jayakar and the then Hon'ble Minister, Mr. Pramod Navalkar himself!

This was the Prabhu Tarun Family I entered, as a newly wedded bride...

It was an instant connect not only with my husband Deepak, but also with Mr. Suhas Kothare, alias Daddy. It gradually dawned upon me, why God had chosen this particular family for me. He had a reason. At the age of 19, I was full of excitement, zest and vigour. The hobbies I had been indulging in during my teenage years, like organizing events in my society, dancing, etc., found a new avenue. Perhaps Daddy saw the 'future' in me and came up with a platform for the youth and named it Yuva Manch. Cultural activities, picnics and parties were organized under this banner, which brought the youth together.

Those friendships have continued till date!

It was a platform for our generation, to explore and showcase our talent, to connect with each other, develop friendships and keep the community bonded. Within a year of entering this family, I realized that I resonated with Daddy's views and his mission to keep the community folk connected. To be honest, this thought had not crossed my mind those days. Back then it was just about 'having fun' with my newly made Pathare Prabhu friends but as years passed, the realization dawned upon me that this is a 'commitment' which I had unknowingly but willingly accepted.

This emotion which I have inherited from our Daddy, encompasses me completely. I feel a deep sense of belonging vis-a-vis my roots and our Pathare Prabhu clan, and this feeling has driven me to continue Daddy's mission with gusto. This gave birth to my brainchild. The Prabhu Tarun Bulletin was conceptualized, with the sole purpose of keeping the community folk bonded, and helping them develop a sense of connection with their roots.

Considering the challenges faced by Prabhu Tarun to continue the printed issue of the newsletter, the usage of technology was the most logical and progressive thought. Hence, the transition from the printed hard copy of the Newsletter to the digital, environmentally friendly Prabhu Tarun Online.

Change being the only constant, we decided to change with the times and make the most of the technology. Prabhu Tarun has always been progressive, be it with respect to converting the Newsletter into a Bilingual Newspaper, or introducing online activities with the purpose of involving Pathare Prabhus globally on a common platform.

Here, too, we made a mark by being the first institution to introduce Online events in the community.

Prabhu Tarun had to adapt and grow, hence the proportion of the Marathi language as compared to the Queen's language, had to be diminished. This was done not only to generate interest in the younger generation and communicate in the language they are accustomed to, but also for the benefit of non-Marathi speaking spouses who have gotten married to Pathare Prabhus.

Prabhu Tarun Online marks a fresh beginning of a New Era with new opportunities to exploit hidden talents, and welcomes all those who have a flair for expressing themselves in words which will lay a foundation for generations to come. This Newsletter is not only an endeavour to exhibit your writing prowess, but also a medium to help you stay connected to your roots and keep yourself updated with the happenings of the community. We would appreciate your contribution not only in the form of articles, poems etc., but also by sharing your news and happenings, which will be showcased in Prabhu Tarun Bulletin and Prabhu Tarun Online.

So, keep writing, keep sharing, keep watching our Prabhu Tarun Bulletin, keep reading our Prabhu Tarun Online, and above all - Stay Connected Forever!

देव जरी मज कधी भेटला!

संजय शरद दळवी



देव जरी मज कधी भेटला. खरंच, या सारखे दुसरे कसलेही दिवास्वप्न नाही बघितले मी. लहानपणी, संध्याकाळी देवासमोर आईने दिवे लावले कि 'शुभं करोती कल्याणम' म्हणताना इतके काही सूक्ष्म संस्कार झालेत ना मनावर, कि आयुष्यात कुठल्याही चांगल्या गोष्टींची सुरुवात करताना वा एखाद्या संकटाला सामोरे जाताना, कुठल्याही स्पर्धेत भाग घेताना, परीक्षेला जाताना, पेपर लिहायला सुरुवात करताना, निकालाची वाट पाहताना, ठायी ठायी फक्त देवाचेच नाव तोंडी असायचे... आणि अजूनही असतेच. देव जरी कधी भेटला नाही तरी त्याचे अस्तित्व मात्र प्रत्येक वेळी जाणवते. कारण असल्याचे निदान मी तरी मानतो. माझ्यावर बेटलेल्या हर एक प्रसंगातून त्यानेच मला सहीसलामत बाहेर काढले असल्याची माझी प्रामाणिक श्रद्धा आहे. एक अदृश्य हात सदैव आपल्या डोक्यावर असल्याची तृप्त भावना मनात दाटून येते.

नमनालाच घडाभर तेल वाहून थोडे पुढे सरकण्याचा प्रयत्न करतो. उपरोक्त म्हटल्याप्रमाणे जरी माझी मानसिकता असली, तरी ह्यातूनही कित्येक गमती जमती मनाच्या खोल सागरातून पृष्ठभागावर येऊ घातल्या आहेत. लहानपणी, देवबाप्पाकडून गोड खाऊ मागणारा मी, क्रिसमसला सांताकलोजची आतुरतेने वाट पाहणारा मी, जसा मोठा होत गेलो, तशा मनातील मागण्या बदलत गेल्या.

देव जर का खरोखरच प्रसन्न झाला तर ठरवले होते कि पहिल्यांदा मागायचे अमरत्व, कारण मरणाची भीती वाटत होती. थोडे कळायला लागल्यावर समजले, कि नुसते अमर होऊन काय फायदा, जगायला पैसे तर हवे. मग मागणी थोडी वाढली, गडगंज श्रीमंती आणि अमरत्व. मग त्याबरोबर विचार यायला सुरुवात झाली, अरेच्या, मरणार नाही पण वय वाढेल तसा मी तर म्हातारा होईन. मग ना संपत्तीचा उपभोग घेऊ शकत ना अमर असल्यामुळे मरू शकत! आली का आफत? मग नवी ऑफर तयार झाली. अमरत्व, श्रीमंतीबरोबर चिरतारुण्याचा वरसुद्धा हवाच. विचारांचा भुंगा सुटत नव्हता आणि मारुतीच्या शपटासारखी मागण्यांची यादी थांबत नव्हती.

यथावकाश लग्न झाले, संसारात गुंतलो, पण तरीही अचपळ मन माझे, कधीतरी देव भेटला तर त्याच्याकडे काय मागावे ह्या विचारात रंगून जाई. बायकोलाही अमर वगैरे करता आले तर... ह्या विचारात असताना, पहिल्या कन्येचा जन्म झाला, आणि मग देवाकडेच्या मागण्यात तिचीही वर्णी लागली. कधीतरी वाटायचे, समजा देवाने फक्त मलाच हे वर दिले आणि बाकीच्यांना नाही दिले तर मग काय? एक विनोदी विचार त्यावेळी मनात उमटून गेला, तोही सांगायची हिंमत करतो आता. अर्थात माझी बायको बिनधास्त असल्यामुळे, आणि सर्व गोष्टीं गमतीने घेणारी तशीच निर्विकार दृष्टीने पाहणारी असल्यामुळे, मी हे लिहिण्याचे धाडस करतो आहे. अन्यथा आजूबाजूला मी जे काही बघतो, तसल्या परिस्थितीमध्ये कुठलाही शहाणा नवरा असा गौप्यस्फोट करू धजला नसता. विचार असा कि, लग्नानंतर, प्रत्येक ३० वर्षांनी, कायद्याने मला नवे लग्न करण्याची परवानगी हवी. कारण मी तर विशी-पंचविशीचाच राहणार. मग वय वाढलेल्या पत्नीला ते झेपायला नको? भले, तो एक गंमतीचा भाग असला तरी विचार मनात आलाच होता ना.

हळू हळू वयाबरोबर समजही वाढत गेली. कळायला लागले कि आपले आयुष्य केवळ आपलेच नसते. आपले कुटुंब, सखेसोबती, मित्र, सुहृद ह्यांचेही आपण काही तरी देणे लागतो. त्यांच्या शिवाय अमरत्व मिळून जगायला मिळाले तर त्या जगण्यात काही मजा असेल का? पंचवीस हजाराची नोकरी मागताना देवाला पन्नास रुपयांचा नारळ वाहीन असा नवस करणाऱ्यांना हसणारा मीसुद्धा काय वेगळा होतो? ते निदान एका उपकाराची झेपेल एवढी परतफेड करायला तयार असतात, आणि मी मात्र देवाकडे संगळेच फुकट मागू पाहात होतो. माझ्या सहचारिणीशिवाय, माझ्या मुलीशिवाय, माझ्या सुहृदयांशिवाय मी एक क्षण तरी जगू शकतो का, हा विचार आला आणि अंगावर शहारे आले. किती स्वार्थी विचार करत होतो मी.

भाऊसाहेब पाटणकरांइतकी माझी कुवत नाही. भाऊसाहेब असे काही लिहून गेलेत, कि मान तुकवावीच लागते. ते म्हणतात, "ऐसे नाही कि मृत्यूस आम्ही, केव्हाच नाही पाहिले, खूप आहे पाहिले त्या, प्रत्येक जन्मी पाहिले, मारिले आहे आम्हीही, मृत्यूस ह्या प्रत्येकदा, नुसतेच ना मेलो आम्ही, जन्मलो प्रत्येकदा."

भाऊसाहेब पुढे असेही म्हणतात, 'मानतो देवासही, ना मानतो ऐसे नव्हे, मानतो इतुकेच की, तो आमचा कोणी नव्हे!'

भाऊसाहेबांबद्दल नितांत आदर असूनही मी 'देव' माझा कुणी नव्हे असे ना मानू शकत, ना म्हणू शकत. स्वर्ग आणि नरक ह्यांची कल्पना ज्या कुणी महाभागांच्या सुपीक डोक्यातून बाहेर पडली, त्याला माझा सलाम. कारण स्वर्ग आणि नरक, पाप आणि पुण्य, ह्यांना जी रेषा दुभंगते तेथेच देवाची गरज सुरु होते. देव, ह्या एकाच संकल्पनेने आपल्याला पिढ्यान्पिढ्या बांधून ठेवले आहे. म्हणूच आता 'मोलकरीण' मधल्या गीतांतले बोल मनात दाटून आलेत,

'देव जरी मज कधी भेटला,

माग हवे ते माग म्हणाला,

म्हणेन प्रभू मी, माझे सारे, जीवन देई मम् बाळाला,

देव जरी मज कधी भेटला...

Second Honeymoon

Monica Rane Iyer

An empty nest. An eventuality that almost all parents face one day. Allow me tell you, what me and my husband experienced, and what we did about it.

Our daughter left home 10 years ago. Being in the US, most kids leave home to go to university after 12th grade. Our son, however, being 7 years younger than his 'Tai', left for university 3 years ago, and that is when our nest became truly empty.



If your nest is not empty yet, you must cherish every moment you have with your kids. All the good ones and those challenging teenage ones, as well. One day you will only have memories, so make them count!

Now, back to the 'navra' and 'baiko' left to themselves finally, for the first time since 'before the kids happened'! There is no homework to take care of, no lunch boxes to pack, no classes to drop the kids to, no special meals to make and the home is way quieter than usual. Sad? Yes, definitely a little in the beginning. As every child leaves their home, he/she leaves behind a mom and dad who miss them dearly. Take my word, it is temporary. You get used to the new routine, and the fun has just begun!

Initially, my hubby and I were a bit 'lost' as to what we should do with our evenings and weekends. Don't get me wrong. We are both involved in some activity or the other outside of routine. He enjoys golf, plays various musical instruments, loves trying out new recipes and reading about astronomy. I am the president of our Indian association and plan and execute events for the local community. Moreover, I am very involved with the Prabhu Tarun bulletin. I also sketch professionally now. We keep pretty busy. The challenge was finding some fulfilling activities to perform together.

After all, we now have the rest of our lives to do anything we wish...

COVID coincided with our nest being empty. That was an even bigger challenge.

The first thing we realized is that we both love to sing and spend evenings jamming together. So, we joined a music club that meets every month. This gave us an opportunity to practice our songs together, and look forward to wonderful evenings with old and newfound couple friends with similar interests.

Further, I have always wanted to travel a lot. We surely did a bit with the kids, including camping trips. Now, we realized that we don't need to wait for spring, summer or winter school breaks. So, whenever time permits, we take off on mini-vacations to wherever time and budget permit! We discover new places and learn about new people, food, culture and more.

Perhaps the best thing we discovered about each other, is our common love for Crossword Puzzles. So, now we print at least 2 crossword puzzles from the Internet and start our mornings (he drinks coffee & I love my chaha) with one crossword, completing another one in the evening. This has become such a habit, that even on vacations we print our crossword at the hotel!

What can I say? We are hooked and loving it!

This is not to say, that everything is hunky dory. Sure, we fight and since there are no kids in the house, we don't need to hide our thoughts and feelings. Hehe! Those times are rare and far between, though, and we are slowly learning to relive our 'couple days' and do things that we enjoy together.

So, The nest is empty but our lives are getting fuller again. Let the birdies spread their wings and fly. Don't hold them back. To all those like us, I just want to say this: Find the things you enjoyed together earlier, or simply find new ones.

You can create your own haven yet again. The second honeymoon has just begun!

Keeping up with the times

Dr. Rahul Navalkar

Only the other day, my son was chatting with my daughter about new pumps (shoes) which he thought were drip (cool).

My daughter mentioned that Timothée Chalamet wore them for a photo shoot, and that he looked like a snack (handsome)!

“I’m Finna (going to) get them for you for your birthday”, I told my son.

If you don’t have Gen Z kids, the above conversation sounds like a lunatic’s rant. However, if you do, then ...

IYKYK.

Meaning, ‘If You Know You Know.’

“Aaj kal chi mule kay boltat te tyanach mahit”, is a common refrain I have heard from many a parent. Still, I love to keep up with the current times, the styles, the lingo, the music...

My dad used to tell me since childhood, that our community, the Pathare Prabhus, who were always at the forefront of current trends, would embrace change with open hands.

This, in contrast with many other communities in our country that, in the name of holding on to their ‘culture’, refused to move with the times.

Well, not us PPs!

While places like Kerala boast of 100% literacy, we Pathare Prabhus, who have had 100% literacy for generations, don’t think about it as something ‘extraordinary’, or event ‘relevant’ enough to proclaim.

With many community members being pilots and shippies who travelled abroad regularly from the 70s through the 90s, we have had a worldwide cultural influence from the earliest times.

With a large number of our community members settling down abroad over the past decades, I’m sure our Bhujne and Khadkhahadle have travelled to the four corners of the world.

As a result of these rapid changes in Mumbai and the world over, it was time we moved our community newsletter to the digital realm.

That being said, I’m proud to be penning down my thoughts (or rather typing them out) for the first online issue of Prabhu Tarun.

When Sanjana Kothare of Prabhu Tarun asked me whether I could write something for this issue, I jumped at the idea!

Sticking to rigid old ideas is my pet peeve, and something like this, the online version of Prabhu Tarun, is a fresh breeze.

I’m sure this digital edition is going to go viral amongst our community members across the world.

After all, our community is the G.O.A.T. (Greatest Of All Time)



The Joys of Travelling Alone

CS Ishani Shreyas Senjit

20,000 ft above the ground, somewhere in between continents, with not a familiar face around me, I sat still in my seat, not really sure how I felt. Everyone around me was thinking, 'This is such a unique chance', and I caught on to their excitement. For days it went on - the preparations, the packing and the arrangements. As it all happened in a frenzy, I had little to feel other than the thrill of the impending journey ahead.

Guess what? I was to fly alone!

This was back in 2010, my very first trip! I had never travelled alone earlier, never been in an aircraft before, nor had I ever crossed the boundaries of our country. And here I was, all set to fly, without any chaperone, to New Zealand!!

Mind you, I had been thoroughly updated about what New Zealand was all about - What I should do, see and eat there, as well as how cold and beautiful it was. But nobody had told me how it would be, on the voyage to that beautiful, faraway land.

"Oh! I am not a kid anymore", I thought to myself. "I know what it means to fly."

Well, did I, really?

As I waved my parents a goodbye and the ground hostess guided me towards the check-in gate, I could feel butterflies in my stomach. As I boarded the flight and clipped my seat-belt shut, the butterflies seemed to multiply! My first instinct was to run back into my mother's warm hug, but then I fought it down and sat looking all composed from the outside and like a jelly from the inside! The lady next to me must have sensed my discomfort, for she smiled sweetly, which relaxed me a bit.

Finally, it was take-off time! The earth outside my window started moving, and suddenly it was all tilted before in some time I could see a curtain of white enveloping us. Clouds! We were amongst the clouds! I wished to reach out and catch some; they looked so soft and fluffy.

By and by I was feeling comfortable, and at ease. The air crew was very polite and as they offered me juice and snacks, I told myself to make the most of the trip. To my surprise I had a T.V. all to myself, to select from a variety of channels and an assortment of programs.

Wow! Now is that not a treat by itself?

I watched some cartoons and a movie until my legs went numb, signaling me to take a walk. I decided to walk the aisles of the aircraft. It was indeed a most pleasurable walk. So many people from different places; some eating, some talking, some sleeping, some reading, and some just staring blankly; all sitting together here.

And it occurred to me that this is one place where, away from solid land, away from the demarcated ground below, people come together as one. They all belong to one place – our dear mother earth! And this realization forged in me a feeling of global loyalty.

I saw a cute baby in her mother's arms. I felt the mother needed a break to finish her snack, so I offered to carry the baby around a bit. The mother gladly parted, while I baby-sat a blonde, blue-eyed bundle in the air! As I moved ahead, there was a grandmother looking like she was cold and sore. I figured that she required a blanket. So, we rang the bell for assistance, and soon there came an airhostess who promptly handed over one. Down the aisle stood a little boy with a bag of cookies in his hands, but a frown on his face. How can cookies bring in a frown? I wondered. "I can't find my mommy", he whispered, and so, we went mommy-searching.

Dinner was announced and I walked back to my place. I tucked into the delicious airline meal and with stars in my eyes, slept peacefully.

In December 2023, as I embarked on an unsupervised trip to the vibrant city-state of Singapore, the aforesaid memories of my first solo expedition came flooding back. In the realm of solo travel, pleasure lies not just in the destinations visited, but also in the journey itself.

As I carry the echoes of both experiences in my heart, I promise myself to add more such chapters to the book of my life because,

Travelling is so much fun.... all the more so, if you are alone!

One

Pravin Mankar



Was it a coincidence, design or random occurrence? I wonder!

I happened to witness an exchange of thoughts between two generations separated by three decades, and from the knowing smile curling across my lips, to indignation at times and amusement at others, I was struck by the impact the discussion had on my thinking. The older generation was strongly favouring heritage, culture and tradition, while the younger generation was vehemently arguing in favour of 'moving forward' instead of being mired in the past or 'history', which is 'over'. It was an attritional debate between the experienced navigators and the adventurous dreamers in life. I couldn't help reflecting on the generation gap and the strife it causes in a society, in varying degrees.

As my casual gaze fell on the fruit-laden mango tree outside the window, I noticed that while they were all mangoes, some were small, and some still raw and green. Some had acquired the tinge of pink like the sky at dawn, yet others were brighter with dashes of yellow and orange. My thoughts meandered to multiplication of mango trees across landscapes and continents. I was amazed at the wide variety of sizes, shapes, textures, tastes, aromas and colours of creation. In India itself you have so many varieties - Alphonso (Hapus), Kesar, Totapuri, Dasher, Neelam, Langda, Himsagar, Ambika, Baganpalli and Chausa, just to name a few from the more than 1000 varieties available.

It startled me.

Such diversity, and yet the tree was one!

I was witnessing creation of the 'One' with such diversity; not only in the living room where the 'discussion' was taking place (now at higher decibels) but also, outside the window! Looking from the mangoes to the one tree that was bearing them, my perspective changed. I looked at the human 'mangoes' in the living room now embroiled in some serious arguments. Suddenly, I saw the tree! The Tree of life! The tree that bore the fruits of human beings. Each fruit so different from the other, yet belonging to the 'One'! I also noticed the difference - The mangoes on the tree appeared in harmony with their source, and were gently swaying in the breeze. They all appeared to be smiling, content and at peace. But the human beings in the living room were animated, agitated and not entirely at peace with each other.

Ironically, they belonged to the same family. Besides, they also belonged to the same family of Homo sapiens - Mankind! However, sadly, they weren't 'one'.

Then it hit me in a flash! The difference between the mango and the man was the 'intellect'. Mangoes didn't have it, Man did! (At least, that is what we all like to believe).

'One' represents unity, union, yoga (योग), becoming one (communion), atonement, nirvana, moksha, blending or mixing. Uniting is the principle of the universe, and it is in not understanding this principle that has led to diverse thoughts, communities, tribes, cultures, nations and worlds. The downside of which is disagreements (as witnessed in the living room discussion), clashes, conflicts, wars and destruction. If construction is the law of the universe, then destruction is not in tune with the universe. Unfortunately, we are witnessing massive destruction around us happening continuously. The connection with the 'One' is slowly disappearing from the human consciousness, and this manifests in statements like 'Don't get mired in history.' We can move forward like the kite attached to the string held by the kite-flyer, or we can move forward like a kite whose string has been cut. The cut kite is destined to doom and will eventually fall, while the connected kite continues to soar high.

'One' is an important number because 'one' is unique! Each one of us is unique. We all have a unique thumbprint and there are no two human beings with the same thumbprint. It is our special QR code. If we trace back to the origin of mankind, each individual was created unique and we all came from the same 'source' - firstly as spiritual beings, and secondly as human beings in a distinct life-form.

'One' is also our body, though it has several diverse systems made of different organs. Each organ is also 'one', but made up of multiple cells. It is said that a human body has approximately thirty seven trillion cells and yet, there is so much harmony in the human body. The heart pumps with precision. The lungs exchange Oxygen and Carbon-dioxide with precision. The stomach releases gastric juice for digesting the food we consume – again, with precision!

Such fantastic co-ordination and harmony in that 'One' entity!

'One' is the home to which each one of us returns. It used to be 'One' joint family during the days of our grandparents. Now, the family is fragmented and nuclear families are in fashion. Indication is that soon there may be no families as the live-in concept is increasingly taking root. वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् – The World is One Family, is the need of the hour if we have to bring peace and harmony to the world. World Peace can be a slogan of beauty pageants, but it does not happen automatically. It has to be planted in the minds, cultivated and nurtured for it to bear fruit.

There is supposed to be One spouse, One husband, One wife! That 'one' is also in danger as breakups are increasing, and one-to-one relationships are converting to one-to-multiple relationships!

'One' used to be the States and they split into smaller states, as it became difficult to stay as 'One'. The same is seen with nations as Tukde-Tukde (तुकडे-तुकडे) gangs become active. Akhand Bharat (अखण्ड भारत) is no longer what it used to be. It has been split several times over, and is now fragmented (खण्डित).

White light, which is a combination of the seven colours of the rainbow, is also 'One'. Nature periodically reminds us that light is one, by occasionally showing us the rainbow that we don't see all the time.

'One' is also a song, or any musical composition of seven notes (सप्तसूर). A solitary note would not have made those innumerable melodious tunes that we have enjoyed and continue to enjoy.

'One' also signifies a beginning! Zero to One is the crucial step because the static inertia is broken. Spiritually speaking, it is the source of all existence. From the point of view of the universe too, it is the first manifestation of creation, which we refer to as Srushti (सृष्टि) or Nirmitee (निर्मिती) in Indian culture.

Exploring the beauty of 'One' further, we see it is an 'absolute'! It means: there is nothing comparable to the absolute. By and large, through different eras and various landscapes there is a consensus among believers that there is only 'One' God! Though the terminologies vary in referring to God, the essence is the same – Creator! Whatever stories and narratives are spun around that absolute, they are just that – Stories and Narratives! They acquired credence due to the conviction of the people of those lands and times. If I like a story or narrative, I endorse it, subscribe to it, share it and advocate it. If I don't like the story I pass it by, dislike it, pass an adverse comment or even, oppose it! Isn't this also happening on social media in the modern era? All the scriptures like Ramayana, Mahabharat, Quran, Bible, Guru Granth Sahib (इक ओंकार) and Bodhi Tattva, are narratives or scriptures of the landscapes and eras with followers, opposers and ignorers.

Ironically, all concede that there is One God but they are not in consensus on 'which' that 'One' is. Funny!

Becoming 'One' is combining, uniting, consolidating! The ultimate success lies in combined strength. Today, the Pathare Prabhu community is also scattered. Kudos to 'Prabhu Tarun', for keeping it bound through its monthly publication. 'One' is a beginning, and it has been made with the first virtual issue.

For this 'One' initiative of launching a virtual platform and keeping generations of Pathare Prabhus 'One', heartiest congratulations!

Passion Hunt

Sanjana Kothare

“What is it that you are passionate about?”

This is a question that has been posed to me several times by my buddies, during our intimate discussions. However, I have not really answered that question and to my astonishment, not even to myself!



Oxford says that ‘Passion’ is a very strong feeling, especially of Love, Hate or Anger. Well, my greys have given me the opportunity to experience all these emotions very strongly! However, besides love (only the romantic, ‘conditional’ one), the rest do not qualify as ‘passion’ for me.

Passion is also a value that holds significant meaning to you, or an activity that you enjoy doing. Going by that theory too, it is difficult for me to pinpoint any one ‘passion’ that I pursue. Being a Jack of all trades, I’ve dabbled in writing, dancing, singing, anchoring, painting, modelling, organizing events and acting, too. However, despite this exhaustive list, none of these activities could qualify as my ‘passion’.

Some people are so sorted that they don’t need to rack their brains while talking about their passion. Pat comes the reply, and I’m amazed to see how defined their thought process is. Some common answers I came across were cooking, gardening, gymming, dancing and singing, to name a few. However, I still could not zero down to even one activity I am passionate about!

Passion being a very intense emotion, I realized there’s one thing that builds a strong feeling of enthusiasm or excitement for something in me. Voila! I found my Passion (or so I thought) - it’s building Relationships!!! Romance comes first to my mind, but it’s not only the romantic relationship that I’m talking about. I would sum up all relationships in general. It could be a relation with an old school friend, or an attachment to a classmate who I didn’t even know in college, but has now turned into a Soulmate!

It could be my cousins, with whom I’ve spent my childhood, or even long-lost cousins whom I’ve met after decades. Also, my immediate family or my extended family of relatives and friends, and even my community on the whole! Is connecting with my friends, relatives, and all those acquainted with me, my passion?? Or am I just deriving false pleasures out of the relationships I’m attempting to build?

Technology has been a blessing, and I’m happy to have utilized it to the fullest. It all began with the social platform ‘Orkut’, where I met some of my old school and college classmates. I couldn’t call them friends, because that’s not what they were back then. They were just classmates, but thanks to these social networking platforms which helped me build relations, they have now become ‘friends’ in the true sense. This has got me going, to connect with more and more classmates, acquaintances, long-lost relatives, etc.

It was an addiction, but again - can I call it my ‘passion’?

Is bringing everybody together my passion?

From being instrumental in gathering a handful of school friends to create a group which has now crossed over a hundred, to creating groups with my cousins and extended family (not only on my maternal side but my in-laws as well), and from gathering friends from my neighbourhood, to the community I was born in - The Pathare Prabhu clan, I have done it all!

The reason? It just 'feels good'!

I feel elated with the sense of belonging. The camaraderie shared amongst the group members, gives me an adrenaline rush. My soul feels happy, and I'm filled with a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment.

Perhaps this has got something to do with my past life...

However, this happiness is not consistent. Seeing most of them not reciprocating my feelings, some even being averse to the thought of connecting with their peers, relatives, community folks etc., and even those who prefer being reticent and choosing not to interact with or get associated with others, preferring isolation instead, deflates my enthusiasm to continue. The reasons for their indifference and detachment remains unknown.

This flip side deters me, and then I begin to wonder whether it is even worth the effort!

As I said, not all relationships are reciprocated in the expected manner. People do not take the other at face value. Suspensions, jealousy, hatred, being judgmental, assumptions etc., are all instrumental in hindering the culmination of a beautiful relationship. Lack of interest shown by the other in developing a bond, limits and restricts the passion within, which eventually leads to disappointment and failure to build a good relationship. And, a good relationship can never be one-sided. This does not serve my purpose of getting people together, and attempting to develop a bond between them and building a healthy, harmonious society. This thought itself is far-fetched, and more of a dream.

Unbelievable and impossible, nothing short of a fantasy!

The realization dawned on me, that I've been living in a fantasy world and in love with my dreams. No wonder, they seemed so perfect and surreal!

So, does it mean I'm passionate about my Dreams?

Well, I'm still trying to find the answer to the question, "What is it that you are passionate about?"!!!

Nirmit Designers

Mita Talpade

Welcome aboard the world of Ethnic clothes and unique designs to mix-n-match your wardrobe!

Here, you will find a blend of the new trends and timeless styles, created just for you.

Our standout selection of apparels, will add fragrance to your wardrobe!

Mita N Talpade (popularly known as Prajakta), a passionate homemaker who had a passion for fashion and textile designing, gave birth to Nirmit Designers. With a post-graduation in Textile Designing, she has imbibed a flair for fabrics, textile and colours, right since childhood. Mita finally indulged in her thoughts and passions, after 21 years, by starting her dream collection.

From a tough start of hunting and reaching out to the best artisans, weavers manufacturers, and core suppliers across the country, Nirmit Designers has captured a unique market expectation and established themselves as a class apart from their competitors.

Nirmit Designers set its footprint on a small scale. Being a post-graduate in textile designing, and with wholehearted support of my dear family, I was born as an entrepreneur on 07th Oct 2015, through the establishment of Nirmit Designers. My talent was put to the test, as was our patience, dedication and sincerity. Nirmit stands for its uniqueness, with its mix-n-match philosophy.

I started off with a small investment of 20k, with the objective to stand on my own at retirement time. Today, I am truly proud to say that Nirmit Designers is at its peak, with more than 8k customers on our Facebook page!

Our laurels & success is all thanks to our dear customers, who made Nirmit Designers what it is today.

I said to myself, "Talent without working hard is nothing." Success is not a destination, but the road that you're on. Being successful means that you're working hard and walking your walk every day. You can only live your dream, by working hard towards it.

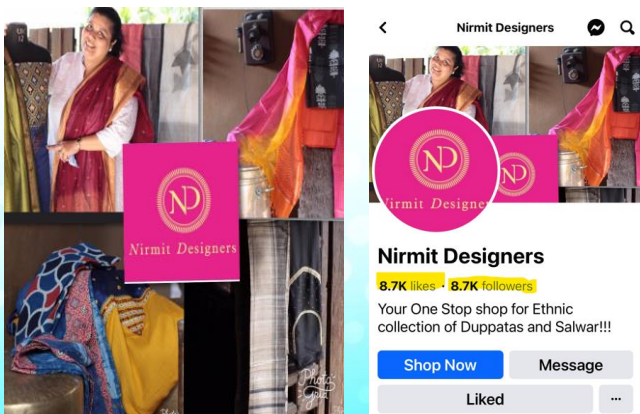
This is living my dream: my passion for designing, my 'Nirmit Designers.'

As Nirmit designers crosses many milestones, you will see a totally new, vibrant range of mix-n-match suits in the coming months this year. We are unique in a way that 'No two customers have the same style. Every suit is unique. After all, What you wear is how you present yourself to the world... that's the theme I will live by always, as we move on year by year.

I am overflowing with positive emotions and the secret of getting ahead is by getting started! Watch out our website: nirmit.designers.com for exclusive designs, innovative concepts and much more.

As Joseph P. Kennedy rightly said, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going – meaning when the situation becomes difficult, the strong will work harder to meet the challenge."

"Excellence is not an exception; it is a prevailing attitude with Nirmit Designers. Chase the vision, be passionate about something, work hard, success will follow you"-



'उड, उड पाखरा रे'

उड, उड पाखरा रे,
आकशाला भीड रे.
माझिया माहेर जा रे,
संदेश माझा देशील का रे.

संसारात रमले मी माझ्या,
निरोप दे रे आईला माझ्या,
खुशाली कळवशील ना रे,
उड, उड पाखरा रे.

बाबा, असतील माझी आठवण काढीत,
त्यांना सांग राहू नका चिंतेत
सांत्वन करशील त्यांचे ना रे
उड, उड, पाखरा रे

अंगणात रातराणी असेल फुललेली
कळव तिज माझी ख्याली खुशाली
हितगुज करशील ना तिच्यासवे रे
उड, उड पाखरा रे.

माझ्या सख्याना भेटशील का रे
त्यांच्या सवे झोका घेशील का रे
उड, उड पाखरा रे
आकाशाला भीड रे.

- सौ. निकेता प्रशांत राणे



रेशीमगाठी...

मुकुला राणे नवलकर

आठ पेठांचं एक नगर होतं.
तिथे रहात होत्या अक्कु आणि बक्कु,
दोघी मैत्रिणी... अगदी जीवश्चकंठश्च.

घरं त्यांची, शेजारीशेजारी.
एका शाळेत, एका वर्गात...,
एकाच बाकावर बसायच्या.
शाळेत जाताना सोबत.
घरी परतताना सोबत.
मधल्या सुट्टीत खाऊसुध्दा सोबतच खायच्या.
अभ्यास सोबत, खेळ सोबत.
खुसूखुसू हसू सोबत, मुळमुळू रडू सोबत.

सुटीच्या दिवशी, दुडक्या चालीने,
बोरं वेचायला, चिंचा पाडायला,
जाळीत करवंद हुडकायला,
गावाबाहेरच्या डोहात पाय सोडून बसायला,
सोबतच जायच्या.
एकमेकींच्या घरी वाळवणं राखायला,
लाट्या पळवायला, लोणचं चाखायला,
सोबत असायच्या...

असेच सोबती... सोबतीने,
महिने सरले आणि वर्षे निघून गेली.

नेहमीप्रमाणे दिवस उगवला.
घरची कामं धामं सवयीने उरकून,
हातात हात गुंफून, दोघी फिरायला निघाल्या.
सावकाश... सभोवार न्याहाळत चालू लागल्या.
फुलांशी थबकून, फुलपाखरांशी बोलू लागल्या.
पाखरांसवे मुक्तकंठाने निसर्गगाणी गाऊ लागल्या.

चालता चालता, पायाखालची,
सरावाची वहीवाट हरवली...
अन् त्या दोघीं, अनोख्या, अनोळखी
वळणावर येऊन ठेपल्या.

पुढे अनेक वाटा, उलगडत होत्या.
वाट छोटी, वाट मोठी,
वाट वर चढणारी... वाट खाली उतरणारी.
वाट बिकट, वाट धोपट.
एक वाट पायात घुटमळणारी,
तर एक वाट, क्षितिजाच्या पार नेणारी.

अक्कु थांबली.
विस्फारलेले डोळे आणि आश्चर्याने पाहू लागली
बक्कु थांबली.
डोळ्यात स्वप्ने आणि उत्सुकतेने पाहू लागली.

अक्कुने पाहिलं...
वाटेवर काटे होते. वाटेवर फुलं होती.
वाटेवर धोंडे दगड, कपार दरडी...
कुठे वाट निसरडी होती.
झरे, ओढे, झाडं, वेली, सुगंधित हवा आणि
धरित्रीची माया होती.

बक्कुनेही पाहिलं...
बाजूने किर् झ़ाडी होती.
झ़ाडीत दबकी चाहूल होती.
हलकी हलकी कुजबूज होती.
भास होते. आभास होते.
साद आणि पडसाद होते.
मंतरलेले नाद होते.
गूढरम्य प्रकाश आणि आभाळाची छाया होती.

अक्कुने बक्कुकडे पाहिले,
बक्कुने अक्कुकडे पाहिले.

अक्कुने पाऊल उचलले, बक्कुने पाऊल टाकले.
तेव्हा त्यांचे गुंफलेले हात, मात्र सुटले होते.

दोघी एकमेकींशी निरोपाचे हसल्या आणि आपल्या
वाटेने चालू लागल्या.

अक्कुची वाट मोठी विलोभनीय होती.

फुलांना कधी काटे,

तर कधी काट्यांवर फुले होती.

पावलं कधी अडखळत होती अन् चाल मंदावत
होती.

सोबत रंगीबेरंगी होती, रसीली अन् मिठ्ठास होती
दरवळणारी धुंदी होती.

बक्कुची वाट विभीषक तरी लोभस होती.

वाटेवर काही नजारे होते... खुणावणारे...

आणि काही इशारेही होते... सावरणारे.

छायाप्रकाशाचे खेळ आणि अद्भूतरम्य मेळ होते.

विलक्षण मोहक भोवताल आणि आश्वासक
सहवास होते.

अक्कु आणि बक्कु दोघी मैत्रीणी, जीवश्चकंठश्च.

चालत राहिल्या, चालतच राहिल्या...,

स्वतः निवडलेल्या वाटेनी आणि

दिवस सरत गेले, सरतच गेले...

नकळत चोरपावलांनी.

चालता चालता, कधीमधी,

वेगळ्या ह्या दोन वाटा...,

एकमेकींना भेटत राहतात.

गळ्यात गळा... डोळ्यात डोळा ...

वाटेवरले सारे... सोसले भोगले...

काही वेल्हाळ, काही लडिवाळ,

काही बोचरे, काही वाचाळ,

काही हर्षद काही विषाद.

मनभरून दिलासा आणि हुरूप वाढवून

उत्साहात दोघी पुढे निघतात,

तेव्हा तिथे असते एक रेशीमगाठ;

हळव्या क्षणांची.

हातात हात नसले, तरी मनात मन गुंतलेले
असते रेशमी धाग्यांनी.

अक्कुचे आणि बक्कुचे... रेशीमगुंत्याचे..

हे नातेही असेच चालत राहते,

चालतच राहते... वाटभर.

दिवस सरत जातात, सरतच जातात.

रेशीमतंतू भरत जातात, हळूवार कशिदा, मनभर.

अक्कु आणि बक्कु, दोघी मैत्रीणी...

जीवश्चकंठश्च!

म्हणून सांगितली ही कहाणी,

त्यांच्या मैत्रीची, रेशीम लडींची,

रेशमी सोबतीची.

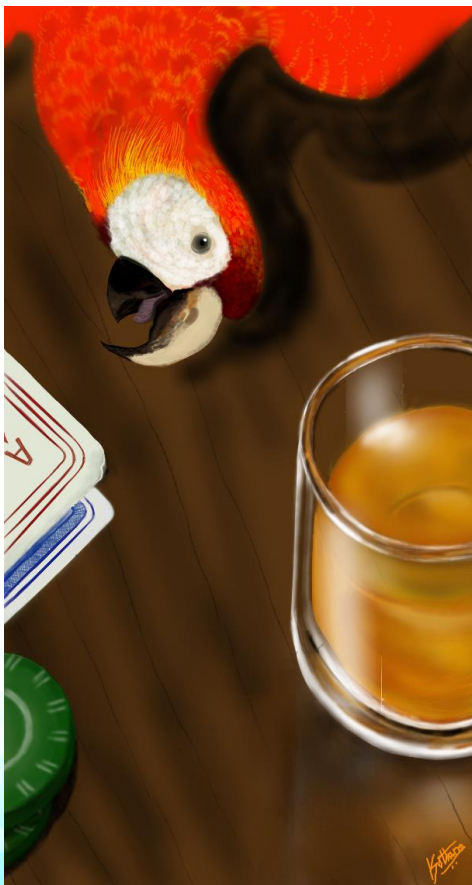
साठां उत्तराची.. पाचां उत्तरी.. सुफळ संपूर्ण...!!

Art Gallery



A painting with acrylic colours on Canvas. Pure love of a mother fondly looking at her sleeping Beauty.

Pranoti M. Kirtikar



Fingerpainting titled "Life is a gamble, good luck for 2024".

Siddharth Kothare

News of the Month

- Maheshwari Devi Utsav was celebrated in December 2023 in Mumbai on Kartik Amvasya. Maheshwari Devi Utsav is a very old festival celebrated for over 200 years. Advocate Ketaki Jayakar has explained its significance and how it is celebrated by Pathare Prabhus in Mumbai in our December 2023 Bulletin. Yash Shailendra Talpade also takes us around the Utsav and gives us a sneak peek at the celebrations. Do watch the December 2023 Bulletin.
- Hridhana Vikram Jayakar aged 9 years represented Goregaon Sports Club at the District Level Artistic Gymnastics Competition organized by Sane Guruji Arogya Mandir at Santacruz West, Mumbai on 9th December 2023. Hridhana won the 2nd Place in the floor set and is now eligible for State level training.
- Kyra Yash Talpade, aged 8 years, won a Bronze Medal in an ABACUS (Level 4) tournament on 24th December 2023.
- Kunal Vijayakar was honoured with the, "Culinary Icon of the Year Award" at the Annual Food Food Top 50 Restaurant Awards 2023. The event was organized by Shafquat Ali, the big chief of Hospitality Horizon and mentored by the legendary Sanjeev Kapoor. The award ceremony was held in the presence of the who's who of the restaurant business, a glittering array of restaurant owners, chefs, and hoteliers at the Grand Hyatt Gurgaon, Delhi in December 2023. Congratulations Kunal !
- Vidisha Navalkar, daughter of Prashant and Sameera Navalkar, won the 3rd prize for her Kathak choreography and performance at the Nrityanjali Classical dance competition held at the Mood Indigo Festival of IIT Bombay. Congratulations Vidisha!
- Shreyas Talpade, Bollywood actor and pride of our community was hospitalized recently. He is well and recovering at home. On behalf of the entire Pathare Prabhu family we wish him a speedy recovery and all the very best always.

Prabhu Tarun Diary

Golden Wedding Anniversary

- Mr. Sudhir Dilip Desai & Nee. Subhashini (Laxmi) Motiram Kothare - 16/12/2023
 - Mr. Subhash Ramakant Desai & Mrs. Seema (Achala) Subhash Desai, Nee. Seema Anant Kirtikar - 16/12/2023
 - Mr. Jayapal Jayawant Talpade & Mrs. Jayamati (Menka) Jayapal Talpade, Nee: Menka Bholanath Kothare - 15th Dec.1973
-

Deaths

- Smt. Snehal Prabhakar Kirtikar nee Vinodini Kamlakant Jaykar - 84 years on 15.12.2023 at Indore (M.P.)
-
- Mr. Atul Anand Moreshwar Dhairyawan - 67 years on 8.12.2023 at Malad, Mumbai
- Mrs. Pallavi Prashant Navalkar – 51 years on 8.12.2023 at Prabhadevi, Mumbai
- Mrs. Mrudula Joshi nee. Agaskar - 80 years on 21/12/2023

Credits



Kalpana Rane

Editor



Rohit Trilokekar

Resident Editor



Monica Rane Iyer

Editorial Support



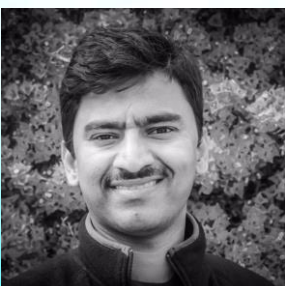
Sanjana Kothare

Editorial Support



Shrinal Kothare

Design Head



Sunil Pawar

Web Master