



Ontario Konkani Association

e-Samachar (July 2022 Edition)

www.ontariokonkanis.com

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President's Message

Namaskaru Members,

This amazing organization has been a part of our lives for 30 years, and it has been a joy to be at the helm this past year. We are extremely grateful for all the support we have received from our members during our time of leadership.

Our team worked tirelessly to ensure that OKA fulfills its mission of bringing the Konkani community together and of preserving our culture. In addition to scheduled events, we had many highlights, including the first-ever Chudi Puja and Cook-Along event, the OKA Idol, Bollywood Trivia Night, OKA's Kitchen Series, and OKA Mentorship Circles. Our hope is that these will continue in the future. Our OKA family was able to reconnect face-to-face for the first time in 2 years at the Ugadi event in April and it felt wonderful. We proudly supported the wonderful initiatives of OKA's Senior Forum under the able leadership of Sadanand Mankikar.

A big thanks to all our event sponsors, volunteers, and participants, as well as everyone who donated volunteered, and participated in the Diwali food drive, Diwali package distribution, and Covid vaccine clinic at the SVBF.

Achieving all these successes would not have been possible without the dedication, commitment, and hard work of the incredibly talented, passionate Executive Committee members. Words cannot express how grateful we are to our AMAZING team for their hard work and support.

It's time for us to hand over the torch to our new Presidents, the dynamic Anjana and Pravin Pai, who are already busy planning some great events for us!

We wish you all a safe, healthy summer!

Anita and Vivek Navak

Ontario - Yours to Discover: Part II

By Vivek Nayak

Following on from my last post about Ontario's sights, here are some more great places to visit. We visited some of these before the Pandemic hit. Over the last few years, we have kept up our visits regardless of the pandemic.

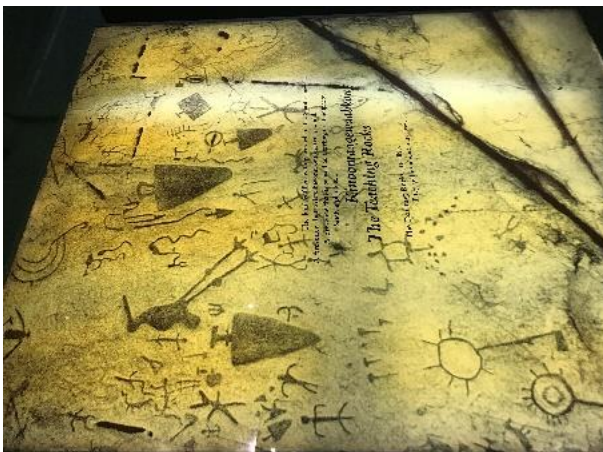
Algonquin Provincial Park

For Fall colours, one of the best places to visit in Ontario is the Algonquin Provincial Park. The essence of Algonquin is in its vast interior of maple hills, rocky ridges, and thousands of lakes – 7,635 square kilometres of forests, bogs, lakes and rivers. Speaking of Maple hills, we visited a Maple Syrup processing farm during our visit to the park. The Sugar Bush Farm located in Muskoka is worth a visit. While learning about the process we tried the delicious Maple flavored Ice cream and bought some Maple flavored mustard as well. There are many hiking trails in Algonquin, ranging in length and difficulty. Centennial Ridges is a demanding 10 km loop, while Look Out is an easier 2 km trail, both offer magnificent views



Petroglyphs Provincial Park

Yet another Provincial Park we visited was the Petroglyphs Provincial Park located in Woodview. It has the largest known concentration of Indigenous rock carvings (petroglyphs) in Canada, depicting turtles, snakes, birds, humans and more; this sacred site is known as “The Teaching Rocks”. We also enjoyed the very picturesque bright blue/green McGinnis Lake – one of only a handful of meromictic (layers of water that don’t intermix) lakes in Canada. A must visit!



Cochrane, Ontario

We traveled to Cochrane in March this year to see the polar bears in their natural habitat. The drive was over 7 hours, but having done it, I now believe it was worth it. It was wonderful to see Henry, Inukshuk, and Ganuk enjoying the pool and playing in the snow. This is the next best thing to seeing polar bears in the wild. For those not able to or willing to travel to Cochrane here is a link where you can see the bears in their various enclosures on a live webcam <https://www.polarbearhabitat.ca/watch-live>

We made good use of our time and went to the Cedar Meadows farm to see bison, deer and elk in Timmins which was within an hour's drive from Cochrane. In addition, it is worth mentioning that Tim Hortons was born in Cochrane. The Tim Hortons Event Centre and Arena is worth a visit as well.



Peterborough Lift Locks

Peterborough Lift Lock is a boat lift in Peterborough, located on Trent Canal. It is Lock 21 of the Trent-Severn Waterway. Its dual lifts were the world's highest hydraulic boat lifts for many years, raising boats 20 meters. While it is nowhere near the engineering marvel of the Panama Canal, it is worth a visit since it is an important part of Canada's history and is the world's highest lift lock. For animal lovers, Riverview Park and Zoo are nearby.



Tobermory and Flower Pot Island.

Located at the top of the Bruce Peninsula, Tobermory is a lakeside town surrounded by crystal clear water, the majestic Niagara Escarpment and is home to Flowerpot Island. We went here with a group of friends. Since there was a three-hour drive, we made this an overnight trip. The boat ride to the flower pot island which is located in the Fathom Five National Marine Park was a wonderful experience. The grotto in Bruce Peninsula National Park, is one of the top tourism attractions in Ontario. A shoreline sea cave with the beautiful blue waters, the Grotto is a unique natural wonder and memorable place to experience. We ended the tour with a glass bottom boat ride which showed a sunken ship. For fish lovers the place is well known for the local white fish.



Tribute to the Mankikars: Suvarna and Sadanand Mankikar

By Anita Nayak



At the recently held 2022 Konkani Sammelan, Suvarna & Sadanand Mankikar were honored with the 'Outstanding Public Service' award in recognition of their over forty-five years of service to the Konkani community in North America and abroad, contributions to blood banking with Canadian Blood services and consulting expertise to Institutions in Canada, Europe and India. Sadanand and Suvarna profusely thank Ashok & Amita Bhatt for nominating them for this award.

In January of this year Sadanand was nominated by the Ontario Konkani Association for the 'Ontario Volunteer Service award'. This award recognizes volunteers for providing committed and dedicated service to an organization ranging from five to 65 years of continuous service.

For Suvarna & Sadanand Mankikar, the call for community service in Canada came about forty-five years ago. On a fine Sunday morning in 1977, Sadanand got a call from a long-standing member of the Marathi Bhashik Mandal, Toronto telling him that he had volunteered Sadanand's name for the Mandal's Executive Committee. Since then, Suvarna & Sadanand have been dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers in various organizations involving not only Canadians of South Asian origin, but also the larger Canadian community in and around GTA, and the Gloucester/Ottawa areas. They have been closely associated with Ontario Konkani Association for over 30 years and have been leading the OKA Seniors Forum for the past several years.

After working for six years at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto as Virology Research Technologist, Sadanand joined Canadian Blood Services in 1979 and retired as Executive Director, Quality Assurance in 2006. He worked as a consultant in Canada, Europe and India and developed Quality Management Systems for Stem Cell Program, International Plasma Fractionation Plant and National Blood Program. Suvarna started her career at Canara Bank, Davangere, and after 38 years with the Ontario Government, she retired as Supervisor in Corporate Finance at the Ontario Securities Commission.

ONTARIO KONKANI ASSOCIATION (OKA) SINCE 1990

President (2004 – 2005); Established OKA Scholarship (2004; Scholarship Committee (2004-2008, 2011-2014; Communication and Leadership Workshops (2010-2015); Chair, KAO Vision 2020 (2013-2014); e-Samachar Editorial Committee (Since 2016); Drafted OKA Constitution and By Laws (2021-2022)

ONTARIO KONKANI ASSOCIATION SENIOR'S FORUM (Since 2016)

Initiated the Forum to develop and implement socio-cultural programs with a focus on seniors to help prepare for and adapt to the changes. It has developed teams of volunteers to provide support and assistance to the seniors.

PROJECTS DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED:

Emergency Preparedness Program; Interactive forum "OKA Aadhaar Chat"; Carpooling for senior; Information sessions, Workshops and seminars; Technical Support Workshops;

ONTARIO KONKANI ASSOCIATION AND SRINGERI VIDYA BHARATI FOUNDATION HEALTH AWARENESS PROGRAM (Since 2018)

Over 40 Seminars/webinars in collaboration with SVBF, Canada India Foundation, South Asian Diabetes Chapter and other relevant organizations. covering various topics including Diabetes, Heart, Stroke, Parkinson's Disease, Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia, Mental Health, Digestive System and COVID 19, Wills and Power of Attorney, Seniors/ Retirement Community, Assisted Living, Home Care and Long Term Care.

OTHER RELATED SENIORS' ACTIVITIES (2017-2019)

Aging with Confidence: Ontario's Action Plan for Seniors February 2018; Member, Seniors' Community Housing Project, Indus Community Services 2018; Member, RetCom/Nirvana - a Seniors' Residence Project (2018-2019); Scattering of Ashes/Asti Visarjan Project by Ontario Government (2017-2018); Ontario Liberal Caucus –Indian Friendship Group Meeting March 2017; Sheridan Centre for Elder Research Loneliness and Social Isolation Knowledge Exchange Think Tank (November 2017); Sheridan Centre for Elder Research - South Asian Community Forum (June 2017)

NORTH AMERICAN KONKANI ASSOCIATION – NAKA (2004-2021)

Executive Vice President, NAKA Convention in Hamilton, Ontario, (2004-2006); Director, NAKA Board of Directors (2006 – 2012), White paper on NAKA Reorganization 2012; Vice President, NAKA Board of Directors (2012 – 2016); Coordinator, "Seniors' Corner" on NAKA website 2017; Chair, NAKA Board of Director's Election Committee 2021

JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION (2022) Member, Curriculum Development Committee

CITY OF BURLINGTON CANADA DAY CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE (2008-2010) Volunteer, Organizing Committee; Master of Ceremonies on the West Stage

JOSEPH BRANT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, BURLINGTON, ONTARIO (2006-2009) Member, Board of Governors' Quality Assurance Committee

GLOUCESTER, ONTARIO (1991-1992)

Organized and moderated Candidates Debate, Gloucester Civic Election 1991; Facilitated public consultation on structural reform (G. M. Kirby Commission) 1992; Member, Gloucester Leisure Recreation Board 1992

CHAPEL HILL RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION, ORLEANS, ONTARIO (1988-1992)

President, Chapel Hill Residents Association; Editor, CHRA Newsletter; Initiated Neighborhood Watch Program; Organized Community Health Fair; Started Chapel Hill Canada Day Celebrations – Coordinator 1990-1992

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL (1980-2006)

Held Club to District level Leadership positions in two different Districts; Conducted District Conferences, Speechcrafts, Youth Leadership Programs, Officer Training Sessions, Seminars, Workshops in two different Districts; Started a number of Clubs including a Gavel Club for Youth in two Districts

METRO INTERNATIONAL CARAVAN, TORONTO (1978-1982)

Member of the Organizing Committee that initiated and organized the New Delhi Pavilion at the Metro International Caravan - a multicultural nine-day festival with over 60 pavilions in and around GTA.; Award winning Entertainment Coordinator 1978; Award winning Pavilion Host 1979; Chairman 1980-1982

INDIAN IMMIGRANT AID SERVICES (1977-1982)

Planning Committee, of the first "Indians in Canada" Conference; Member, IIAS Board to select author of Report on concerns of the South Asian Community; Member, IIAS Race Relations Committee that presented a report to Ontario Attorney General, Member, IIAS Race Relations Committee that presented a report to Toronto Police Commissioner.

FEDERATION OF INDO-CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS, TORONTO (1977 -1978)

Founding Member; Vice President; Chair, Education and Social Services Committee

MARATHI BHASHIK MANDAL, TORONTO (1977-2011)

Secretary 1976 -1977; President 1978 -1979; Member; Think Tank Core Group 2011

Sri Venkatramana Devasthan – Mulki

By Niranjana Kamath

Our beautiful Dakshina Karnataka hosts several ancient temple cities. Mulki is one such small city halfway between the Mangaluru and Udupi. Mulki has several historical temples. Apart from the Durga Parameshwari Temple built some 800-years ago, Mulki is also famous for the 500+ years old Shri Venkataramana Temple, where Shri Ugra Narasimha is the main deity.

Historically Mulki was the capital of a small kingdom of Jain rulers called “Savanths.” Standing on the banks of river Shambhavi, close to the Arabian sea, the Mulki town boasts of one of the most prominent temples of GSB community. Shri Venkataramana Temple belonging to the Gaud Saraswat Brahmin Community shines like a jewel in the crown and has brought fame and glory to Mulki. Mulki is also called “Vola-Lanke” which if literally translated, means the “Inner Lanka.” The presiding Lord of this Temple Lord Ugra Narasimha is popularly known as Volalanke Ugra Narasimha or Volalankadisha.



Well, why is this place called as Volalanke? The Sthala Purana says that Lord Hanuman on his way back carrying the mountain of herbs mistook this beautiful locality for Lanka and started descending. But soon he realised that this is not Lanka and therefore at once ascended and resumed his journey calling this as Volalanke.

The word Mulki is derived from “Moolikapura.” Moolika – means medicinal herbs. This place was quite famous for the Ayurvedic herbs and roots of medicinal properties prompting people to name it Moolikapura. People say that a few herbs had fallen here in Mulki from the mountain of herbs that Hanuman was carrying and hence the herbs and medicinal plants grew here naturally.

The temple was originally consecrated as “Vittala Gudi.” On invitation from the Jain rulers around 13th century. Only 5 GSB (Gaud Saraswat Brahman) families from Bhatkal (much before Islamization, where majority of locals speak GSB Konkani even today) came and settled down in Mulki. The Vittala idol belonging to the “Vatsa Gotra” family was installed in a small temple and called as the Vittala Gudi. This is believed to be sometime in the 13th century. Later more families came and settled in Mulki and made it their home.

There is a remarkably interesting prelude to our Venkatramana Devasthan in Mulki. This started in Karkala. In the June E Samachar I had written about the Karkala Venkatramana Devasthan. Sometime

in early 16th century (about 500+ years back) because of some political upheavals in Karkala, there was threat to the Sri Venkataramana Temple there. Karkala is famously known as "Padu Tirupati".

To protect their beloved Lord Venkataramana's Idol the people of Karkala secretly carried the idols and hid them in a well in Mulki Vittala Gudi. After some time when normalcy had returned at Karkala they came to Mulki to retrieve the idols from the well after a few years. But however, much they tried they could not find the idols in the well. Disappointed, they returned to Karkala.



Much to the delight of Mulki people they could find the idols when they searched for it. Mulki people claimed that since Karkala people had not found the idols and they had found it – it shows that the Lord wants to stay back in Mulki. People from Karkala were very much disappointed and worried and

did not know what to do. The Lord appeared in a dream to them and said that they should go back and one Sanyasi from Tirupati will give them an Idol of Lord in Karkala itself in a few days. As divinely ordained, that is what happened. That is why Karkala is also known as "Padu Tirupati." Meanwhile out in Mulki the people of Mulki happily consecrated the idol of Lord Venkataramana in the Vittala Gudi and the Vittala Gudi became – Shri Venkataramana Temple Mulki.

Main Deities:

Shri Venkataramana – God of Prosperity, Shri Ugra Narasimha – Annihilator of fright and misfortune, Shri Bindu Madhav – God of Grandeur – thus Shree Venkataramana Temple is the sacred place of confluence of these three deities – a Triveni Sangam in all respects.

Besides these three on the Simhasana are:

Two Vittala Idols – one belonging to Vatsa Gotra and another to Atri Gotra. These are on either side of Shri Ugra Narasimha on the central peetha of the Simhasan. (Idol of Kadugola Krishna to the left of Shri Ugra Narasimha, Idol of Vedavyas to the right of Shri Ugra Narasimha)



After 500+ years, the local Mulki GSBs were pleasantly surprised through the 'Darshana Patri' that the well is still there in the temple premises, and he showed the exact spot. People prayed to the God almighty Ugra Narasimha, after seeking his approval started digging the 1-2 feet thick concrete ground at the exact spot directed by the



'Darshana Patri' when he was on Avesha (invoking God in his body), and people started digging. A beautiful small well was found, in which the original Venkataramana Murthy of Karkala was and later

found by the Mulki GSB some 500+ years ago!! The presence of this well was completely forgotten all these years, till God revealed the spot thru the Deva-Darshana.

Ugra Narasimha in Mulki is indeed unique in many respects:

Lord is Astha Bhuj – 8 armed. Lord is Trinetra – 3 eyed. Lord is standing on one leg. Lord is Ugra – he is depicted slaying the demon Hiranyakashipu with his nails (Nakhashtra). Usually, Lord will be accompanied by either Goddess Lakshmi or Prahlad. Here they are not there. Lord is holding the intestines of Hiranyakashipu and wearing it as a garland. Lord has Brighu Lanchana on his chest. Lord has an exceptionally beautiful Kamala – Nabhi Kamala. Lord is holding Chakra in one of his right arms and Shankha in one of his left arms. The impression on sandalwood paste of the Chakra is given as Abhaya Hasta Prasad in the Temple. This is usually worn by people in silver lockets for protection.

Some of the rituals here in our Venkataramana Devasthan are unique. There is a Darshan Seva that



happens each week here at the temple.

Darshana (Narthan Seva) at Sri Venkataramana Temple Mulki is of Kal Bhairav. According to the legends this Darshana was sent here by Lord Sri Venkataramana from Tirupati. Every Saturday as soon as the Darshana starts the prasadam is first given to devotees who have any kanike or seva to be offered to Lord Venkataramana of Tirupati or Lord Manjunath of Dharmasthala. These offerings are maintained separately and then offered to the respective Temples. The Darshana Patri is from Palimar Nayak family belonging to Gujjadi Nayak family.

Usually the Darshana (Oracle) Seva is held on every Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday. Seva starts with ‘Sarvalankar Pooja’ at 10.30 A.M.

On Uthsav-days if other than Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday, Darshan will be there in the Evening or at Night. However, do keep in mind that the Darshan Seva is not there on the following days:

- Sankramana – Dwadashi – Amavasya
- Yugadi to Chaitra Panchami
- Five days from Ganesh Chaturthi
- Nine days of Navrathri and on Deepavali days
- On Suthaka to Darshana Patri

Konkani S sammelan 2022 - A Glimpse into San Jose Hod Gammath

By Surekha Shenoy

It was before the lockdown in 2019 when I got a call from a good friend asking me to consider attending the Konkani S sammelan in San Jose, California. I immediately said yes and registered. My disappointment was immense when we went into lockdown, the borders closed and the sammelan got postponed. I have to credit the S sammelan Presidents Ram & Aruna Acharya and their entire team for keeping us hooked with [Gharanthu Ek Saan Milan](#) & [Gharanthu Ek Saan Milan 2](#). Two years later, when the S sammelan date was firmed up I was excited and looking forward to attending the event. Much to my surprise my entire family wanted to attend the S sammelan, our very first.

We booked our flights, hotels etc. The theme was San (small) Jose Hod (Big) Gammath. I had heard about the long lineups at the airport, the luggage delays and so on. Initially I had planned on checking in a suitcase however it quickly became apparent we had to travel light with a carry-on. The thrill soon became apprehension as to what to pack, how many outfits per day, jewelry, shoes and so on in a small carry on.

We barely slept the night before to make sure we had plenty of time for our early morning flight. We were pleasantly surprised when the whole process of going through security and customs was less than 30 minutes.

From the onset I was impressed with how well the sammelan was organized. The venue was well thought of. San Jose Convention Center was huge, it was connected to two hotels, Hilton and Marriott. Check-in was quick and our rooms were very nice. We already could hear the amchigelle chatter at the reception desk and lobby. With over 1200 attendees there were amchis everywhere. As both my daughters said they had never seen so many konkani ever in one place. We quickly changed and headed to the convention center.

We knew we were entering konkani land as the corridors were decked with our traditional Rath, palanki, yaksha gaana mannequins to name a few. We registered and headed straight to the Jevan Hall. We are well known for our food habits with mid morning and afternoon snacks, breakfast, lunch and dinner. There was a long list of items from Poha Chutney, buns, to Kadgi chakoh, bibeh upkari (tender cashew nuts), ambeh upkari, val val, madgane and so much more. We were swept into konkani land and soon were immersed in our culture.

Soon after dinner we headed to the Gammath Hall for a concert by Shankar Mahadevan. The Gammath Hall was packed and much to the delight of the audience Dipika Padukone and Ranveer Singh decided to attend the show. It was entertainment one dreams of, up close and personal. Ranveer even jumped on stage and sang and danced to the crowd's cheers. I knew Ranveer was an actor but had no idea he was a singer and a rapper. There was not a single person who was not on their feet dancing. It must have been close to

midnight when the concert ended. Just the concert with Shankar Mahadevan, Dipika Padukone & Ranveer Singh was worth the trip.

We had to wake up early for the Opening Ceremony with OKA participating in the Meravanige (procession). Thanks to our Presidents Anita & Vivek Nayak's quick action on getting an OKA banner made in San Jose, along with Ajay Rao and Kishore Kulkarni, our OKA team was one among the most noticeable, making sure everyone knew we were from Canada. The meravanige was complete with palanki and Vaaga Vehsoo. Our own Kishor Kulkarni provided the drums for the vaaga vehsoo much to everyone's delight.

The opening ceremony was impeccable in execution with dance/drama narration of the wedding and the subsequent journey of the young couple moving from India to North America. Right on the heels of the opening ceremony was the Fireside chat with Dipika Padukone, Louis Vuitton's first Indian Brand Ambassador. She opened in konkani and spoke openly of her struggles with mental health, her Foundation 'LiveLoveLaugh' and its impact on reducing the stigma associated with mental illness. Ranveer joined her on stage at the very end and entertained the guests with a few lines in Konkani.

We later had world renowned speed painter Vilaas Nayak display his talents producing art such as the Statue of Liberty, Kodial Terru (Rath Utsav) and Goddess Saraswati in under 5 mins. There were so many renowned classical vocal artists of the likes of Balachandra Prabhu, Padmini Rao, Vivek Ullal, Ganesh Shenoy; musicians, bharatnatyam and Kuchipudi dancers it's impossible to name all of them. I will try my best to go through some of the sammelan highlights.

Something that caught my attention was the 'Young Adult Mixer' for the age group 18-35 yrs. What I write here is from some of the folks who attended the Mixer including my girls. It was strictly for young adults and no parent was allowed close to the venue. I was impressed to see so many young adults at the Sammelan...it was a social mingle and within hours this huge group was out partying till the early morning hours. I was happy to see them connect so quickly from across North America and I hear they now plan to meet regularly. My girls had a blast and said they will attend every sammelan going forth. Till the hour we were to check out of our hotel room on July 5th I saw all the young adults together making plans for future meets etc. What was commendable was their interest to stay connected and that they came of their own free will. It is something the NAKA Board (North American Konkani Association) wants to advance.

Almost all our OKA team volunteered to serve food the entire 3 days. I find volunteering the best way to meet people and it was incredible how the volunteer beside me from Chicago happened to be from my hometown of Puttur. As the conversation progressed between serving guests, we soon found out she was the classmate of my sister, Padma Kamath. There were so many new friendships forged, and so many memories made. From the minute we entered the sammelan it was like reconnecting with this huge family whom you had lost touch with. I wish more from OKA had attended as it was an experience of a lifetime.

There were education sessions in the afternoons and our own Sadanand Mankikar (well known among the NAKA crowd), had a session on 'Socio-culture and Housing for Seniors'. We also had 'Konkanis Got Talent' and the evening ended with Karaoke Jukebox from our Konkani Dazzlers. We all danced to our favorite songs till late in the night.

Our last day was a day to remember. Though sad that all good times had to come to an end, the day was packed with prominent speakers. Our keynote speaker was Meera Shenoy and it was inspiring to hear her work with helping and finding employment for disadvantaged and people with disabilities in India. This was followed by the awards ceremony and we were so proud when our own Sadanand and Suvarna Mankikar were honored with 'Outstanding Public Service' award.

The afternoon events were culturally rich with a display of India's folk dances by the various konkani associations across North America. OKA too participated and our performers (Anita Nayak, Chitra Rao, Lalita Kulkarni, Roopa Shenoy and Ankita Kizhatil) thrilled the audience with Karnataka's folk dance Kolatta (sticks). This was followed by the Fireside chat with someone we all know, actor Anant Nag. It was nice to see him conduct the entire interview in konkani, something I would say most of us would find it difficult to do.

The entire closing ceremony was mesmerizing with the backdrop of world renowned sand artist Raghavendra Hegde depicting the entire 90 minutes closing ceremony through sand art in the background. Over 150 performers participated in narrating our konkani tradition of [Gurbini Kappad](#). It was breathtaking, an Olympic style caliber I have not seen anywhere except on TV.

The evening ended with the DJ playing some of the hit songs. It was fun and it was impossible for anyone not to be on the dance floor. Needless to say the guilt of eating so much food would wipe away with all the dancing and at times to Vaaga Vehsoo music. We were sad that the Sammelan came to an end, but nonetheless happy of memories made, reconnecting with friends from our childhood and meeting new friends. Both my girls had so much fun and have said they will attend all future sammelans. They commented that every four years is a long wait and wished it was more frequent. I now know why they were so many young adults at the Sammelan as you get hooked instantly.

I am grateful to the Sammelan Presidents Ram & Aruna Acharya and their entire team for doing such an outstanding job of hosting the Sammelan. The leadership, teamwork and the flawless execution speaks volumes of their dedication and commitment to retaining our konkani culture and making sure everyone had a great time. The NAKA Board is already in search of the next host for the sammelan. I personally can't wait to attend the next Sammelan and I hope you will too.