

SONNA KODUM

Editor :

R.N. SADASIVAN

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29th GLOBAL SOURASHTRA JADHAGA PARIVARTHANAI MELA

A REPORT

The 29th Global Sourashtra Jadhaga Parivarthanai Mela was held at Aaradhana Hall of Sri Raghavendra Swamy Mutt (Temple), 1st Floor, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Near Navrang Theatre, 2nd Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-10 on Sunday, 17.03.2019 with a large number of Sourashtra parents with their children. It is to be noted that we encourage second marriages, widow marriages and marriages for physically disabled through such Melas from the year 2004. This is a good opportunity for Sourashtra people to assemble in a place like this for the purpose of the marriage of their children avoiding the support of marriage brokers in many cases for away from main cities.

Sethuraman from Mumbai had jointly lighted the lamp to inaugurate the Mela.

President Sri V.G. Gopalakrishnan and past president Sri K.V. Pathy in their brief speech requested the parents to minimize the scrutiny of horoscopes of boys and girls in order to speed up the matching process.

KUSO General Secretary Sri T.S. Jayabalan narrated to the audience the main purpose of this Mela while elaborating the achievements of KUSO for community.

Later, KUSO Vice President Sri R.K. Sridharan and Joint Treasurer Sri R.R. Baskar read out the details of horoscopes of Nowrin and Nowran registered in the



Sri J.K. Vijikumar, B.Sc., PGDMM, Dip. In Astro, M.A. Astrology (of Sri Aadhiyandha Prabhu Astrology Research Center, Madurai) was available among us for the matching the horoscopes. He explained in detail the audience the matching process of horoscopes for marriage purpose. He also read the features of oncoming Hind New Year "Vikari".

Smt. K.S. Padmavathi from Walajapet, Smt. Anusuya, Gujarat, Smt. O.S. Sulochana, Madurai, Smt. R. Dhanalakshmi, Dindigul and Smt. S. Subhashini

Mela separately and introduced the parents with their boys/girls on the stage simultaneously to the audience.

Sri V.G. Gopalakrishnan, President, KUSO, former Presidents, Sri K.R. Kalidoss and Sri K.V. Pathy, Vice President Sri R.K. Sridharan, Joint Treasurer Sri R.R. Baskar, General Secretary T.S. Jayabalan, Secretaries Sri S.K. Varadharajan, Sri T.A. Pattabiraman, Joint Internet Computer Operators Sri T.R. Rajesh Khanna and Smt. Yogeshwari



Nagarajan, Committee Members, Sri M.R. Nagarajan, Sri R. Krishnakumar, Sri N.R. Viswanathan, Sri P.K.M. Rajkumar, Sri K.K. Gopinath, Sri P.M. Balaji, Sri B.V. Srinivasan, Sri (Auto) B.M. Srinivasan, Smt. Saroja Jayabalan, Smt. Kavitha Saravanan, Smt. Shanthi Baskar, Smt. Subhapiya Krishnakumar, Smt. Ashwini K.K. Gopinath, and Smt. Jayanthi Sridharan were seen deeply involved in their duties to assist the visitors in filling the application forms as well as arranging distribution process of lunch items in a systematic discipline to the fullest satisfaction of the visitor-parents and their children.

The parents discussed with our Astrologer Sri J.K. Vijikumar for matching the horoscopes. The highlight of this Mela is the arrangements made by KUSO for the meeting of the parents of matching boys and girls, for direct discussion with each other.

We highlight the dedicated and remarkable services rendered for more than 2 months for the success of this Mela, by Sri R.R. Basker, Joint Treasure, Smt. Yogeshwari Nagarajan, Assistant Internet Computer Operator and Internet Computer Operator Sri V.G. Ravindranath.

It is also remarkable to state that from Calcutta, Aurangabad of Maharashtra, Bangalore of Karnataka, Madurai, Dindigul, Thirubuvanam, Trichy, Salem, Rasipuram, Thanjavur, Nagercoil, Ayyampettai, Walajapettai from Tamilnadu and from some other cities the parents had come to register horoscopes. We also observe that the parents of children who work in Kaddar and Soudi Arabia also joined with us in this Mela.

We thank Sri R.K. Balayogi from Madurai, Sri Sudharsan (Sagar TV), Maduai had helped us with their publicity in Cable TVs.

We also thank the office bearers of various Sabhas and social workers who worked for pasting the posters and distributing leaflets in their cities and towns. All the visiting parents and their inmates were provided with morning tiffin, lunch and evening tea.

The Mela events were photographed by Sri R.K. Shridharan, Vice President.

The proceedings of this 29th Jadhaga Parivarthanai Mela were completed with the vote of thanks by Vice President Sri R.K. Sridharan.

Sri K.R.M. KISHORE KUMAR



Sri K.R.M. Kishore Kumar (belongs to Sourashtra Community) is an IPS Officer who is elevated to DGP of Andhra Pradesh. Sri Kishore Kumar met the Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu who greeted the incoming DGP of Andhra Pradesh. KUSO President V.G. Gopalakrishnan, General Secretary T.S. Jayabalan and other Executive Committee Members and Members of KUSO greeted Sri Kishore Kumar for being promoted to DGP of Andhra.

divaa puje



The 63rd 'divaa puje' was held on Wednesday, 20th February 2019, at 6.00PM at the residence of Committee Member Sri N. Saravanan, 24, Champa Nivasa, 12th Cross, KP Agrahara, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-23, with the participation of large Nos. of KUSO members families.

In this function, Vice President, KUSO, Sri R.K. Sridharan performed the rituals. Smt. Santhi Baskar and Smt. Yogeshwari Nagarajan had organized the pooja events. Those who are interested to participate are requested to contact Smt. Santhi Baskar (9342014615), Smt. Ramila Devadoss Babu (9379681716) and Smt. Yogeshwari Nagarajan (9141335308, 9379365178).

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Small Business Ideas with Low Investment

12. Music Tutoring

Setting up Music Tutoring business is next in the list of creative business ideas. This business demands specialized skill and lot of experience. If you are new to music, I suggest not to go for this business. You can start this business from home also.

13. Unique Seasonal Ice Creams

If you are planning something innovative you should look at unique seasonal ice cream business. However, you need to develop formula of making unique ice creams. This requires time and skills.



14. Hair Business

Hair business idea may sound unusual to you. However, it is a fact that hair business is highly profitable business idea. Lot of hair is imported from India and used for making wigs.

15. Ethnic Food Service

Another home based business idea is ethnic food service. You can serve Ethnic Food for your community at your home. You can charge money for this. If you are good at cooking food this could be a very good business option.

16. Funeral Services

Funeral service is a new concept in India. These type of organization help families and relative to take a decision and give them advice about a ritual of the funeral. Not only that they will arrange for all material required during the funeral ritual.

17. Doula Services

Doula service is a new concept in India. Doula services mean providing emotional, physical and assistance in getting the information she needs to make empowered decisions throughout her pregnancy, birth.

18. Organic Farming

If you have some land, you can think of starting organic farming. You need to do a research before starting this business.

19. Mobile garage service

Opening mobile garage by keeping mobile manpower/repairers is good business idea because usually car breakdown takes place in the area where garage service is not available.

2 Best home based business ideas

20. Home Chocolate Business

Chocolate is one of the great product for home business. If you love making chocolate make it your business. You need chocolate recipe, utensils, cookware, molds and packing material to start this business. You need to tie up with shopping malls or small shop keepers to purchase your chocolate. You can think of creating online presence also. Investment required for this business is low.

21. Tuition Class

Starting at Tuition Class is one of the best home based business idea. If you have good teaching skill and knowledge you can start this business. You just need few wooden benches and blackboard for starting this business. At an initial stage this business demands mouth publicity or advertisement.

22. Recruitment Services

One of the most popular home based business idea is recruitment services business. In this business you just need data of candidates looking for Job. Just refer a candidate to the company and get commission out of it. It is very good small business idea.

23. Tailor

If you are housewife and want to earn part time money you can start tailoring service at home. This business does not require much investment, you just need tailoring machine and knowledge of sewing cloths. To begin with you can start cloth altering and cloth modification. If required get necessary training on sewing.

24. Tiffin Services

Starting a tiffin services is a very viable home based business idea. Everyone need food, if you are good at cooking tasty food at reasonable price you can start this business. You need to do proper market research before starting this business. Investment required for this business is very low. Tasty food and timely delivery is success mantra of this business.

25. Cooking Class

A housewife expert in cooking can start a cooking class at home. You may need to buy some equipments like oven, tandoor, chopper etc. to make your cooking easy. You may need extra room or space a kitchen to teach all students. You may need to take training to improve your culinary skills in making specialized food such as Thai,

Chinese, Italian etc.

26. Hobby Class

Today every parent look for holistic development of their children & they are ready to pay for it. This gives birth to a very good business idea called as hobby class. You can start hobby class for dance, music, craft based on the skill you possess. This is one of the top home based business ideas for housewives.

To be Continued

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I, V.G. Gopalakrishnan, (President, Karnataka United Sourashtra Organisation) hereby declare that the particulars furnished above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(Sd.)

V.G. Gopalakrishnan, President,
Karnataka United Sourashtra Organisation
Signature of Publisher

Date : 26-02-2019

SILAPPADHIKAARAM**Madurai KaanDam (in Tamil)**

Silappadhikaaram – Madurai KaanDam authored Ilangovan is transliterated by Surya Ganeswar is to be released. Madurai KaanDam released with Preface by Justice L.R. Sathyamoorthy, appreciation by World Tamil Sangam Director Dr. K. Pasumpon and Greetings from Sri R.N. Sadasivan, Editor, Sonna Kodum. Price: Rs. 200/-. Pre-publication price Rs. 160/- Please register for your copy immediately. For purchase of single copy or for bulk purchase by community organisations, you may directly remit into the a/c. of

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**HEART BEATING WITH SMILE !**

Recently one person was admitted to a well known nursing home at Pune, due to severe chest pain. He had an earlier attack in 2012 and was under treatment. The doctors now suggested Angiography.

Upon undergoing Angiography at multi speciality hospital, Doctors diagnosed multiple blockages for which Angioplasty was ruled out and instead, suggested 'Bypass Surgery'. That evening, he was brought home as doctor suggested his heart being very weak, bypass could be performed only after 10 – 15 days.

Meanwhile, after discussing the matter with relatives and close friends, fresh information came from a family friends. A new treatment known as – “Chelox therapy, Laser therapy & Chelation Therapy” has been introduced into the Indian medical theatre.

With this therapy, a patient who has to undergo by-pass need not do so.

Instead, the patient is given about 30 bottles of IV fluids in which certain medicament are injected. The medicine cleans the system and removes all blockages from he heart and the arteries. The number of bottles given may increase depending upon the age-factor and health of the patient. Cost per bottle may be around Rs.1300/-.

Currently, only a few doctors in India specialise in this field. One of them is Dr. Vikrant Laate in Pune.

He has a list of patients who had to undergo by-pass from major hospitals, but, instead after and are leading a normal life, without or with minimum medicine.

Dr. Vikrant Laate, Suvish Holistic Wellness Centre, Swargate, PUNE. Mob: +91 9970970770, 9975170399.

This treatment has been done at Chennai Annanagar Neomed Hospital also.

Please forward this message it Might Help !! Please, don't delete this without forwarding. I am forwarding it to the maximum I can. Let it reach the 120 crore Indians and the remaining if any Create Awareness!

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KUSO MARRIAGE BUREAU accepts the responsibility of forwarding the horoscope details to the parents of alliance seekers only. The genuineness of the horoscope and the other information furnished therein should be verified by the parents concerned. The applicants should quote the Reference Number mentioned in all the horoscope details published in this issue, on the left hand top corner of the envelope which will enable us to locate and send them a particular horoscope without much delay. For further details, please contact **Sri T.S. Jayabalan**, General Secretary, **KUSO Mobile : (0) 9902264195**.

Dear Parents : The registration of horoscope with KUSO Marriage bureau is valid only for a period of 6 months from the date of registration. Any request for horoscope copies after the expiry of the said 6 months period, will be entertained only upon renewal of your boy's/girl's horoscope with KUSO. **Ref.No.** must be quoted in all your correspondence.

G: Gothram, **H:** House Name **N:** Natchathram, **R:** Rasi **P:** Padam
D/B: Date of Birth **O:** Origin **Ref:** Reference No. to identify a particular horoscope

Note: We have pleasure to present the details of fresh horoscopes of Nowrin / Nowran registered for the **29th Global Jadhaga Parivarthanai Mela** (Sunday, the 17th March 2019) in instalments

KUSO Marriage BUREAU



NOWRIN:

- ★ **G** Markandeya Rishi **H** Naagu **N** Uththirattaadhi **P** 3 **R** Meenam **D/B** 28.07.1994 **O** Thirubuvanam B.Com., MBA std., 5'3" height fair girl works as Admin., in Premier Group, Kumbakonam with a salary of Rs. 12,000/pm seeks suitable alliance from graduate boys from Tamilnadu (Thanjavur preferred) living / working in all India level, with a min., height 5'8". **Ref: KMB/G/29/001.**
- ★ **G** Markandeya Rishi **H** Ambalam **N** Mirugashiirisham **P** 4 **R** Gemini **D/B** 18.12.1994 **O** Madurai MCA std., 158 cms height fair girl works in TCS, Hinjewadi, Pune with a salary of Rs. 30,000/pm seeks suitable alliance from post graduate boys of Madurai and Chennai regions living/working in Bangalore or Chennai in Govt. Or Private Sectors with a min., height 5'5". **Ref: KMB/G/29/002.**
- ★ **G** Bharathwaja Rishi **H** Mettu Nattamai **N** Ashwini **P** 1 **R** Mesham **D/B** 08.07.1996 **O** Dindigul B.E.(Aero) std., 152 cms height wheatish colored girl works as Designing Engineer in PRR Engg. Tech., Coimbatore with a salary of Rs. 15,000/pm seeks suitable alliance from post graduate boys of any origin living / working anywhere in India with min., height 155 cms. **Ref: KMB/G/29/003.**

NOWRAN

- ★ **G** Sarabanga Rishi **H** Kundan **N** Kettai **P** 1 **R** Viruchigam **D/B** 08.08.1992 **O** Dindigul B.E. std., 5'7" height fair boy works as Net Working Engineer in All State Solutions P. Ltd., Varthur Hobli, Bangalore 560 103 with a salary of Rs. 70,000/pm seeks suitable alliance from graduate (BE preferred) or any post graduate girls of any origin living / working in Tamilnadu or Karnataka with a min., height 5'. **Ref: KMB/B/29/101.**
- ★ **G** Markandeya Rishi **H** Malli **N** Bharani **P** 1 **R** Mesham **D/B** 12.07.1985 **O** Madurai B.Tech., MS(UK) std.,

6'3" height medium colored boy works as C.E.O., in Kyvor Genetics Inc., Chennai with a salary of Rs. 1 Lakh (approx./)pm seeks suitable alliance from graduate girls of any origin living/working anywhere in India. **Ref: KMB/B/29/102.**

- ★ **G** Markandeya Rishi **H** Malli **N** Uthiram **P** 2 **R** Kanni **D/B** 28.06.1982 **O** Madurai B.Tech., std., 5'11" height medium colored boy works as Asst. V.P. in Barclays India, Chennai with a salary of Rs. 1.60 Lakh/pm seeks suitable alliance from graduate girls for 2nd marriage from anywhere in India. Horoscope match is a must. Divorcee may be considered. **Ref: KMB/B/29/103.**
- ★ **G** Jabali Rishi **H** Sembu **N** Hastham **P** 1 **R** Kanni **D/B** 30.03.1991 **O** Madurai B.E. (EEE) std., 166 cms., height fair boy works as Software Engineer (Application Developer) in IBM, Bangalore with a salary of Rs.72,000/pm seeks suitable alliance from Madurai origin girls std., B.E., living / working in Madurai, Bangalore or Chennai with a min., height 155 cms. Mutual acceptance will also hold good. **Ref: KMB/B/29/104.**
- ★ **G** Uthanga Rishi **H** Jamukkaalam **N** Thiruvonam **P** 3 **R** Thulam **D/B** 29.03.1992 **O** Madurai B.Tech.(IT) std., 165 cms height wheatish colored boy works as Sr. Analyst in Boston Consulting Group, Bangalore with a salary of Rs. 75,000/pm seeks suitable alliance from girls of Madurai origin std., B.E., living / working in Madurai, Bangalore or Chennai. Horoscope matching is a must. **Ref: KMB/B/29/105.**
- ★ **G** Agasthiya Rishi **H** Thoguluva **N** Avittam **P** 2 **R** Makaram **D/B** 30.03.1992 **O** Madurai B.Tech.(IT) std., 165 cms height wheatish colored boy works as Associate (Project) in Cognizant Technology Solutions, Chennai with a salary of Rs. 65,000/pm seeks suitable alliance from girls of Madurai origin std., B.E., or any Master Degree living / working anywhere in India with a min., height 5'. **Ref: KMB/B/29/106.**

- ★ **G** Janhu Rishi **H** Kuduva **N** Moolam **P** 3 **R** Dhanusu **D/B** 02.06.1988 **O** Madurai B.Sc.(Maths) std., 5'9" height wheatish colored boy works (IT) in IQVIA, Kadubeesnahalli, Bangalore with a salary of Rs. 60,000/pm seeks suitable alliance from graduate girls of Madurai origin living/working in Bangalore/Chennai with a min., height 5'. **Ref: KMB/B/29/107.**

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Signature

Note : Please send us the above form duly filled in and signed as soon as possible. The names and addresses of those members who had not submitted to us the said form, will be deleted from the mailing list and Sonna Kodum copies will not be sent to them. Those who have registered their horoscopes with us will receive Sonna Kodum copies for a period of 6 months only from the date of registration.



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SUPPORT LEADS TO SUCCESS

The total success of a community oriented event or a function mostly depends upon the total involvement and commitment of the people for whom such an event or a function is conducted. KUSO has been conducting "Global Jadhaga Parivarthanai Mela" since 2004. We have so far conducted 26 such 'Melas' twice in a year.

The response from the parents of "Nowrin / Nowran" is ever increasing and is very encouraging for the organizers of KUSO. We are making elaborate advertisement by various means. Wall posters are also prepared and arranged to be pasted in various big cities and towns for which we get support and cooperation from various people. We take this opportunity to thank the following personalities from different towns in Tamil Nadu, who have come forward for lending assistance for distribution of notices and for pasting wall posters for the 26th Global Jadhaga Parivarthanai Mela.

Members of KUSO and office bearers appreciate with gratitude, the efforts and the contributions of the following Sourashtrians, towards the success of the 'Mela' held on 4th March 2018:-

Arni	: Sri K.K. Chandran, Sourashtra Sabha, President
Ayyempettai Chennai	: Sri A.R. Sarangan : Dr. M.S. Jayaram, President & TASWA Committee Members
Coimbatore	: Sri K.R.S. Moorthy, President, Coimbatore Sourashtra Sangam
Dindigul	: Sri P.G.M. Thulasiram, Dy. Mayor and Sri T.R. Govindan
Erode	: Sri T.M. Surendran
Kanchipuram	: Sri K.R. Anandan, President
Kumbakonam & Thuvankurichi: Madurai	: Sri L.R. Selvam : Sri R.R. Baskar, Secretary, Madurai Sourashtra Sabha Sri N.S.R. Santharam, Sri M.V. Mohanram Sri R.K. Balayogi, Ex-M.C.
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Nagercoil	: President, Sourashtra Sabha
Salem	: Sri V.N. Baskar
Shevapettai	: Sri A.B. Madhavan
Palani	: Sri R. Rajendran
Paramakkudi & Yamaneswaram	: Sri P.G. Mohan
Periyakulam	: Sri S.R. Subramanian
Rasipuram	: Sri M.S. Shankarlal
Thanjavur	: Lion M.S. Ramalingam
Trichy	: Sri T.K. Shankar, Sri R. Srinivasan
Tirupati	: Chukla Dhamu
Tirunelveli	: Sri J.M. Arunachalam
Tirupur	: Sri P.K. Murali
Walajapet	: Sri T.G.T. Srinivasan
Woraiyur	: Sri T.R. Paranthaman

And Sourashtra Sabha Presidents of Kilakulam, Nilakkottai, Vathalagundu, Ammaiyappan, Tharasuram, Illupur, Thiruvapur, Aranthangi, Vellore, Thirubuvanam, Tutucorin, Ramanathapuram, Rameshwaram, Vellankuli, Melmangalam and New Delhi.

KUSO Marriage Bureau

Sri Venkataramana

Bhagavathar Oli Chithiram

Radio Drama broadcast by all India Radio Stations Chennai, Tiruchi, Madurai etc., on Sunday, 17.03.2019.

Sri Venkataramana Bhagavathar is a Sourashtra of Ayyampettai and was the chief disciple of Sadguru Tyagaraja.

Please listen to the Radio programme and write your comment / feedback to All India Radio, Chennai.

Please publish this in your whatsapp group so that many people listen to this programme.

O.S. SUBRAMANIAN

FREE MEDICAL CAMP

Free General Medical Camp was conducted on Thursday, 14.03.2019 at Perumal Koil premises of Prasanna Colony, Avaniyapuram, Madurai. This is organized by Meenakshi Mission Hospital with sponsorship from K.L.N. Polytechnic NSS.

GITA NATANAGOPALA NAYAKI MANDIR

"Jegathguru" "Maduraiyin Jyothi" Sriman Natanagopala Nayaki Swamigal Maadhaanthira Mirugasiirisha Nakchathra Vizha!

The Monthly Mirugasiirisha Nakchathra Vizha was held on Thursday, 14.03.2019 from 6.00 pm at Sri Nayaki Swamigal Sanghiitha Mahal, at No.3, Mariyamman Teppakulam West Street, Madurai-9.

Sri R.B.R. Ramasubramanian, Founder, Sourashtra Foundation, presided over the events in the presence of Sri T.R. Prakashumar, Executive Member, Sri Giitha Natanagopala Nayaki Mandir.

Devotional Musical performance held in the presence of large number of devotees. Bhakthi Vocal recital by Prohitham P.A. Seshan was held with pakka vaadhyams.

Thoughts

While taking decisions, stop being afraid of what could go wrong... Think of what could go right ...

Only then will you be able to take calculated risks while taking decisions... That will lead to success.

Your mood should never dictate your manners... It doesn't matter how angry, upset or sad you are... Always be respectful and polite to others in all situations... Have a nice day. Ramesh Kuduva.

Courtesy: SOURASHTRA MURASU

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SADASIVAM SANKARABHARANAM

Reference to Sourashtrians in the ancient epics and puranas of India are legion. The history of the early 56 countries tells us how Sourashtrians have made themselves a glorious community. The "Sourashtrians Raga" has a unique place among the "Mangala Ragas" of Carnatic Music. The names of Sourashtram and Somanathapuram find a distinct place in the history text books of schools, especially in the political maps of the regions of Ashoka, Kanishka, Gupta Harsha, Gajini Mohammed etc.



If one looks into recent history, one finds nearly 46 towns in South India alone, where 4,50,000 people speak Sourashtram as their mother tongue.

Madurai, Paramakudi, Thanjavur, Kumbakonam, Tiruchi and Salem are the most notable towns. The social customs and the dress patterns of this community vary from place to place. Generally speaking, these people adapt in Weaving cotton and silk fabrics.

Quite a large number of Sourashtrians have gone down in the history of Indian Independence owing to their patriotic fervour. One great instance is that of Rashtrabandhu Sri L.K. Thulasiram who bravely defeated the British Government's ban of Bharatiar's Songs and sang them aloud in the Assembly. These people are also remarkable for their religious fervour. The installation of the "Navagrahas" (Nine Planets) in the Meenakshi Amman Temple and the formation of the "Rajagopuram" (Supreme Tower) at the Koodal Azhagar Perumal Temple (Madurai) are the works of this community.

At the time of Independence there were about 280 small "Samasthanams" and "Jamins" ruling themselves as independent regions. When our leaders conceived the idea of Indian Union, all these regions were placed together to form Sourashtram, which meant "the affluent state". ("Sou" means wealth or goodness). This is the present-day Gujarat State. Originally the Gujarathis and the Marathis belonged to the same state, but when linguistic bifurcation occurred in 1960, Gujarat and Maharashtra became separate states. The state of Gujarat, then known as Sourashtram and Kathiavar, is quite renowned for its world famous temple of Somanathar on the seashore. History makes it clear that from this ancestral home that the forefathers of Sourashtrians migrated to different parts of the country, especially to Tamil Nadu, probably,

as Sir Athul Chatterji remarks, in Search of a region conducive for silk-fabric weaving. Since then, these people who have settled in Tamil Nadu for generations, never left for the home of their origin.

Their contact with Gujarat is barely a verbal one during betrothals, when the parents-in-law of both families, represented by their eldest members, narrate the history of their origin through a question-answer system called "Bahulwas". They would describe themselves as having started on a pilgrimage from Sourashtra and migrated to Madhurapuri. Apart from this reference, there is hardly any contact between Gujarat and Sourashtrians who have migrated from there. Neither marital or trade relations prevail. At present, Sourashtrians live their lives in Tamil Nadu.

The influence of Tamil on their language and lives have been increasing since they settled in that state. As they do not learn their mother-tongue at school, children of this community use only Tamil words to express their thoughts. The accomplishments and virtues of Sourashtrians have been glorified in ancient history, as the Motocross culverts bear evidence. They are adored not only as excellent silk-weaving artisans but also as magnificent warriors. They lived decent and dignified lives and established close contacts with royal families. They never compromise for self-respect, independence and truthfulness. Being keen on social good, they often invest their hard-earned money in temples and arrange their management through Sabhas (Communal Assemblies). In recent times, apart from their name as "Pattunoolkaarar" (Silk-weaving class), quite a large number of these people have earned a name for their immense aptitudes for learning and research. However, they are highly religious. They are not a daring and adventurous lot as of yore.

Sourashtrians came under the influence of the Telugu-speaking Andhras also when they moved to Andhrapradesh. The language and culture of Sourashtrians underwent a great change as Sourashtrian women increasingly imbibed the traditions and cultural accomplishments of Andhras. Even to-day, one may see the impact of Andhra culture on many Sourashtrian families in Tamil Nadu. (In the later part of the 13th Century, most of the Sourashtras were evacuated from Vijayanagar and they settled in Tamil Nadu). One of the distinct features of Sourashtra is their traditional recognition of family names. Whatever caste they may belong to, they are always known by their family names such as Kuttuva, Gujuluva, and Posanna. Following the South-Indian custom, they place their family names before their own. (Eg. – Thoguluva Rajalakshmi).

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History tells us how Sourashtra provided a significant interaction and religious integration. The ancient Greeks and Romans are said to have held strong trade relations with Sourashtrians who rolled in wealth and luxury. Yuwan T-Suang the famous Chinese Pilgrim, marvels at their affluence as follows: "scores of export and import goods lie piled up in Vala Town; hundreds of millionaires can be seen reveling in the joy of prosperity. And all religions here go hand in hand in perfect harmony".

The truth of Yuan T Suang's observations is borne out by the fact that Sourashtram, which had been rooted in Saivism, gave room for Vaishnavam, another significant sect of Hindu religious tradition, to flourish. Puranas say that Krishna, the Lord of the Vaishnavites moved from Madhura to Sourashtra to rescue the Yadhavas from the atrocities of Jarasandhan, and the whole of his later life was spent in Sourashtram. The fusion of Saivism and Vaishnavam is exemplified by the episode in which the Lord Krishna worshipped Somanathar, the presiding deity of Sourashtram.

For centuries – South, especially Tamil Nadu and Andhra, enormously influenced Sourashtrians linguistically and culturally, but these people have successfully kept their own identity in both aspects.

Their custom of putting family names before their maiden names has already been mentioned. Several family groups of this Community owing to their orthodox bring up and their capacity for dispensing justice, have been held in high esteem as the "governing class". "Goundan" and "Nattamai", two instances of such governing families, had and still have the habit of smearing the white holy ash on their foreheads and arms, which is a symbol of Saivite orthodoxy.

"Saulin" is another family group that was regarded with great respect by other members of the community. Yet another group traditionally respected was "Bhavthuls" (Singers of the Lord's praise), who were steeped in devotion to God and showed the other folks the way to lead a good life".

Apart from their distinctions in the society, family names were classified in accordance with the places they occupied (Gujili, Vontivillu, Sagalavan), the names of ancestors (Royallu, Ramana, Geshdasu, Regupathy), Professions (Setti, Javuli, Banalnu, Govla meaning merchants, textile-dealers, cracker-manufacturers and shepherds respectively), and also nick names based on their (bad) habits: (Kulithbhathun – baked horsegram, Velepeisun filtered rice-water, Dheimpanin-buttermilk, Dhovrakholan – aged fox, Buskaan-waste thread).

The origin is certain, and research has proved the current day Sourashtra spoken by us is a modern form of pre-Gujarati spoken thousands of years ago... Their home language (Sourashtra language) is still a modern form of the old Saurashtri or Pew-Gujarati as it was over a thousand years ago, which was the language they brought with them through Maharashtra and Andhra Desa to Tamil Nadu.

This language preserves, naturally enough many archaic features in Gujarati and at the same time shows influence of the sister Aryan languages of Konkani and Marathi and of Dravidian Telugu besides of course Tamil which has now virtually become the second mother tongue of the Sourashtrians....' says Suneetkumar Chatterjee, a famous linguist.

But the time period when they migrated from Saurashtra region to South is still uncertain.

To be Continued

JOKES

Mannen : doctor, morE beyil deedi thonri vaththo kerarini, kaai hoiriyo meni savogaa.

Doctor : thenu kaai khayeyo meni chokkat houdan keru sanganuvo?

Mannen : thelle kalayeth serko keththuvaiyaa ?

Doctor : nhii nhii morE beiluk melli thelle dii saathak...

Ravi G Vidi

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A.R. Mahalakshmi

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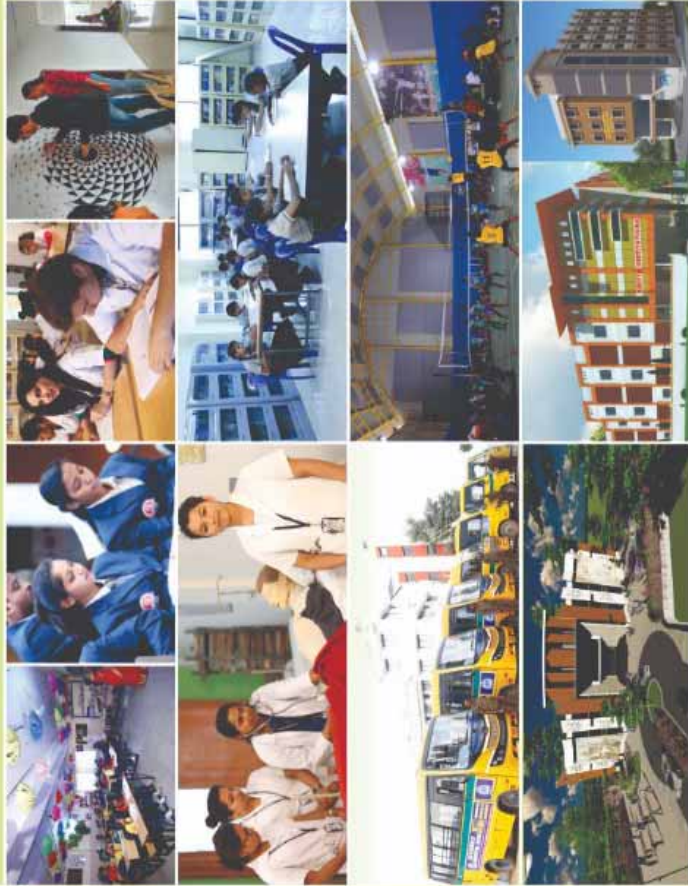


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