

# Profile

Newsmagazine of Hyderabad Mathur Kayastha Education & Welfare Society (HMKE&WS); Vol. N2/6(2); October-December 2022.



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#FARMTOFAMILIES



Dear Biradari Members:

As you are aware, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Hyderabad Mathur Kayastha Education & Welfare Society (HMKE&WS) was held on 18th December. On the occasion, our two desires remained unfulfilled. One, the attendance and participation of members in the AGM remained far below expectations. AGM is an occasion to add value to the governance of our Society through policy and program appraisal by biradari members. On receipt of concrete suggestions at the AGM, it becomes possible to chart the future course of action. It was thus a lost opportunity for the entire HMKE&WS team. When I look back, the HMKE&WS AGM used to be widely attended and biradari members used to actively participate in the discussions.

Second, yet again we were unable to host the AGM at the Sushil Mathur Bhavan (SMB). SMB was still undergoing repairs and renovation owing to natural ageing of the building. The recent torrential rains added to further damage. Presently, the sub-committee charged with maintenance of SMB is doing its best to get the works done with existing resources. I have myself

visited the SMB regularly to see the progress of works. In this context, I have time and again been renewing my request to our biradari members to donate liberally to keep our most prized asset in top condition. I do so again.

The HMKE&WS Golden Jubilee celebrations still remain on our agenda despite COVID led restrictions and financial con-

straints delaying repairs and renovation of the SMB where the Golden Jubilee events are planned to be hosted. I would be happy to receive your suggestions on how to celebrate the Golden Jubilee celebrations in a befitting manner.

I would like to renew my appeal to elderly members of different branches of our biradari to provide us their family trees for publication in the Golden Jubilee Souvenir. The earlier we receive these, the faster we can publish the Golden Jubilee Souvenir.

Despite resource-oriented challenges, HMKE&WS has met its welfare obligations by interest fed and ad-hoc financial arrangements through one-time donations. Our programs have continued online supported by Pragati Mathur sponsoring Zoom connectivity for a year.

Our educational programs have recently focused on the much-needed networking of biradari teachers for interaction on the latest methodologies in the post-COVID scenario and in the context of the New Education Policy. All other programs and publication of the Profile have drawn appreciation from all quarters. That is encouraging. This issue of Profile pays homage to the memory of Ishwar Raj Mathur,

who had made a mark as one of the most accomplished Public Relations professionals in the country. I conclude by wishing you loads of happiness throughout 2023.

Cordially,

Dr. DINESH RAJ MATHUR

President, HMKE&WS



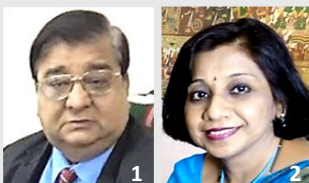
THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

### HMKE&WS AGM held on 18th December

The Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of the Hyderabad Mathur Kayastha Education and Welfare Society (HMKE&WS) for the year 2022 was held online on Sunday, 18th December, at 6.30 PM. Addressing biradari members, HMKE&WS President Dr. Dinesh Raj Mathur while expressing his happiness over the variety of programs conducted online during the year, outlined the challenges facing HMKE&WS and renewed his appeal for donations to restore the Sushil Mathur Bhavan which required urgent maintenance, especially after the recent torrential rains. After the Prayer, Organizing Secretary (Administration) Dr. Manoj Chandra Mathur read out the names of the dear departed in the biradari and presented the Secretary's report. The Treasurer's Report was presented by Kiran Kishore Mathur. Organising Secretary (A&P) Dr. Sugita Mathur presented the vote of thanks.

### Dr. Dinesh & Dr. Sugita donate shawls

HMKE&WS President Dr. Dinesh Raj Mathur (1) and his wife Dr. Sugita Mathur (2), Organizing Secretary (A&P), donated shawls that were used to honor the elderly members of our biradari on Elder's Day.



### Pragati sponsors Zoom link

Pragati Mathur (w/o Manish Karan Mathur) has sponsored the Zoom link for online activities of HMKE&WS for a year. Pragati is presently Global Chief Digital and Information Officer of ConocoPhillips based at Houston, Texas, USA.



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### *The life and times of Ishwar Raj Mathur*

1. Ishwar Raj Mathur—way ahead of his time. 2. Born on 29th November 1922, the third son of Mahadev Pershad (sitting centre), Ishwar Raj Mathur (standing right) with his elder brothers Dharam Raj Mathur (left) and Prem Raj Mathur (right) sitting beside their father and youngest brother Dr. Shiv Raj Mathur standing beside him. 3. The young graduate and post-graduate nursed big plans. 4. The Chattu Lal family bids good-bye to Ishwar Raj who is all set to depart for the United States to study Journalism at Northwestern University. 5. Ishwar Raj finds the United States a land of opportunity and exclusion and succeeds in gaining acceptance of different racial groups. 6. While he succeeded in learning survival skills, driving cars remained a lifelong challenge although the wreckage in picture is not his. 7. The games were new, but the sporting spirit dwelt in Ishwar Raj.



8. Ishwar Raj's firsthand experience as a journalist at the Ottawa Times. 9. It wasn't all work and no play; Ishwar Raj believed in living life to the fullest. 10. Back to Hyderabad from the US with a Bachelors of Science in Journalism (BSJ) degree. Younger brother Dr. Shiv Raj and others receiving him at the Nampally Railway Station. 11-15. After joining the State Information Department, Ishwar Raj married Swaroop (d/o Harbans Chand) on 9th July 1951. They were a 'made for each other couple.'



16. The first time father-Ishwar Raj with his daughter Shashi. 17. Ishwar Raj playing with his son Vinay. 18&19. Ishwar Raj took frequent holidays with his family and for his children it was an educational tour with lots of fun. 20. Welcoming his daamad Mohan Karan into his family. 21. Shashi's engagement to Mohan Karan at New Delhi; some invitees had travelled all the way from Hyderabad to attend the event. 22. Performing kanyadaan at Shashi's wedding.





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23. Ishwar Raj, Swaroop and Vinay with bride Shashi. 24. Ishwar Raj and his samdhi Raja Ram Karan shared a special relationship; while his samdhi was the HMKE&WS President, Ishwar Raj was the Vice President. 25. The first time Nana; Ishwar Raj holding baby Sai Karan. 26. Ishwar Raj, Swaroop and Prem Raj on a holiday with Mohan, Shashi, Sai and Salil.



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27. Ishwar Raj and Swaroop at Vinay's wedding at Bombay with his bride Indira's parents. 28. Most members of Ishwar Raj's family who had travelled to Bombay to attend Vinay's wedding. 29. Ishwar Raj and Swaroop with Vinay's children Neha and Mihir.



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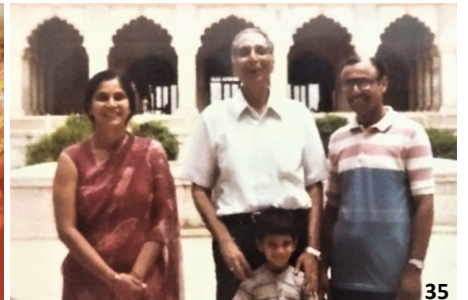
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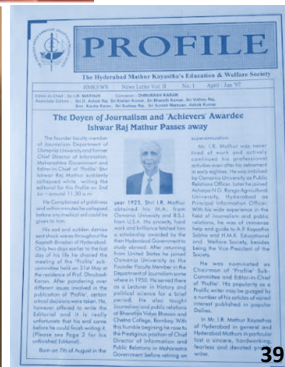
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30. Ishwar Raj in the last family photo in 1996. 31. With elder brothers Dharan Raj and Prem Raj. 32. Always the livewire of a party—Ishwar Raj at one family get-together hosted by his brother Dr. Shiv Raj. 33. At a nephew's wedding with brothers and brothers-in-law. 34. Ishwar Raj, Swaroop, Indira and Vinay with Uma's family. 35. Ishwar Raj in Agra with Shashi, Mohan and Salil; he discovered his family's Agra connection after a painstaking search. 36 & 37. Dressed to surprise audiences on Republic Day at New Delhi; sometimes his prominent nose would instantly identify him. 38. As a popular senior official of the Government of Maharashtra, he received many awards in his career. 39. The last issue of Profile for which he served as Editor-in-Chief.



### Papa was the mainstay of our lives

It's now 25 years since we lost Papa (Ishwar Raj Mathur). It is difficult to say what Papa meant to me. He wasn't a strict father. I think that ours was a typical father-daughter relationship of that time (the 50s and 60s). Papa was the mainstay of our lives. So well read and widely read, he was our *Google*. If there was a question, an argument be it with Mummy (who was also well read), with my brother Vinay or friend or any random person, it was Papa we would go to. If Papa said so, it had to be right - no matter what anyone else said after that.

Papa was very family-oriented. The extended family was important to him. And not just the family in Hyderabad but also the clan left behind in the North. When my husband Mohan and I were in Agra, Mummy and Papa visited us. He asked us to enquire about Shikohabad, which his Chacha had told was his *watan* along with his *aal* and *gotra*. After sustained enquiry, we found out the name and address of a Dr. Mathur in Shikohabad. We drove down and reached his residence around noon on *Choti Diwali*. The door was answered by a middle-aged man in shorts (unusual for grown men to wear shorts in the 80s). Papa explained that he was from Hyderabad and disclosed his *aal* and *gotra*. The Doctor suddenly stood up and said, "*Phir toh aap parivar hain. Drawing room me kyon baithe hain, ghar me chaliye.*" We were introduced to his extended family that was summoned to his house post haste. We were treated with lots of affection. There was much hugging when we were finally left around 8 PM. Papa and Dr. Mathur kept in touch I think till Papa passed on.

Our dinner time was a conference table or a debating podium. All subjects were discussed threadbare. Of course, some subjects were never even mentioned. That was not an age when uninhibited discussions happened between parents and children. Table manners and etiquette had to be followed so that we knew how to conduct ourselves from a very young age. Religion was hotly discussed. I had very limited understanding of my religion, seeing that we went to Christian schools and at home *puja* meant offering water, *roli*, rice and flowers to various deities - without knowing why or the significance of it. So, it was Papa against Vinay and me. We argued against the rituals not knowing that these had a deeper significance. To date, I don't know why he didn't simply tell us the meaning and shut us up. After a particularly heated discussion, he said, "I am your father. I give you permission to follow whatever religion you want. The important thing is not religion but faith. Your faith must be deep and unchanging." One summer night when we were about to fall asleep on the terrace, he told me, "Look at the sky, see how vast the universe is and how you and I are less than a dust particle in this vastness." He must have told me a million



other things, but these two nuggets were shaping factors of the teenager that I was.

Though he was all things that I admired, I also realized he was as human as I was, not just the colossus I believed him to be. He was hopeless at keeping his cupboard neat or even remembering what clothes he had! All that was Mummy's unquestioned domain. When he went on tours, she would meticulously pack his clothes and then tell him that she had packed X number of shirts, X number of trousers and X number of under clothes and she would invariably end: "*Kuch kapde idhar udhar chodke mat aiye.*" I remember a particularly hilarious scene when he returned from a tour. Mummy was unpacking the haphazardly packed clothes while he was stretched out on the bed. She said, "*Aap ka towel nahi hai*" and he looked quite bewildered and replied, "*Oh, who apna tha? Desai* (his junior who had accompanied him on the tour) *bola bhi bathroom me towel hai, toh mai bola woh hotel walon ka hoga.*" Though she must have been highly annoyed, even Mummy burst out laughing!

Another specialty of his was his ability to talk to anyone and everyone, irrespective of age, sex or class, even if he couldn't remember who the other person was. We were travelling to Hyderabad from Delhi; another traveler who was passing our cubicle, peeped in and he said "*Arre Mathur saab aap hain!*" most joyously. He sat in our compartment and chatted with Papa for quite a while and even got tea at one station. I think he went away after an hour or two. Mummy was bored because Vinay and I, the bookworms that we were then and are even now, had our noses in our books. When he left, we wanted know who he was. Papa thought very hard, and finally admitted that he couldn't remember! We were all shocked. How was it possible to talk to a person so long and so intimately and then not know who he was!

His love for small children was phenomenal. Long before Vinay and I became parents, he was a *pal* to the children of our cousins. One summer holiday, Nitin and Vicky (Vikram) were visiting them in Bombay. They would go for morning walks with Papa to the Brabourne Stadium, which was across the road. Each boy had *borrowed* one pocket of their Nana's kurta to collect as many Coca Cola and soda caps as they could, and Nana came home happily with jingling bulging pockets. I cannot talk of Papa and not mention *Akke Tau* (late Prem Raj Mathur). Papa and he were a team when it came to teasing sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, sons-in-law and daughters-in-law - the whole family and I cannot remember anyone taking offence. To his own grandchildren, he was of course a hero and a source of all goodies they could ever want. But one thing he never did was to counter the rules/orders set up by us, their parents. It would be so easy to go on and on, but I need to stop for the sake of my readers. - *Shashi Karan (Daughter)*

### Person with multiple talents

Dad/IR Pupaji/Father-in-law was a person with multiple talents. He could talk for hours to anyone from a child to an adult from varying backgrounds, about their interests. This talent of his was a gift from the Gods, a gift that is rare. We had taken my



in-laws for a pilgrimage to Rameswaram. On the train, I remember, he had gone to the loo and did not return for a very long time. We got worried. I went looking for him and found that he was happily chatting with a co-traveler for at least half an hour to forty-five minutes. When he returned, I asked him if the person was known to him. Dad smiled and said th-



at he did not know him from Adam. "We just started talking and one topic led to another," was his response.

Dad and Prem Raj Pupaji, when they got together, could pull anyone's leg with a straight face and in such a way that the person was not offended. Both had a great sense of humor. When Dad suffered a severe heart attack in Bombay, I went to meet him. The year was 1979, the fashion then for men was to have longish hair and wide sideburns. As soon as I reached his bedside in the hospital, although heavily sedated, Dad took one look at me and asked, "*Kya hazrat lagta hai Lucknow ke saare hajjam strike pe hain!*" Akke Tau added to the fun by saying "Shashi is in Bombay. So, who will give him a haircut?" Everyone started laughing and the tense atmosphere turned to laughter and light heartedness. What struck me was that Dad had not lost his sense of humor in spite of

the sedation.

He was a wonderful person but a terrible driver. He forgot to change gears so often that I was perpetually afraid the gear box would break because of the jerks. He was tense while driving and would often say, "*Mere samne hi kyon ate; saari sadak khali hai unke liye.*" (Even when there was no problem with the other person's driving). He was very happy for Vinay or me to drive him around when we were there. Basically, I am a quiet and reserved person, but even I was able to talk very freely with him. His passing away was a great loss to the family and his very large circle of friends and acquaintances. His memories will always be with us. Dad, wherever you are, I am sure you are spreading good cheer there. Please keep your guiding hand on all of us and showering your blessings on us. – Mohan Karan (Son-in-law)

### My loving grandfather

My Nana was a jolly and loving person whom we surely met every year during summer vacations and some years in the winter vacations also. It's been 25 years since my Nana left us. We still feel he is around, blessing us and taking care of us. When we used to visit Nana and Nanima, they took us out and bought yummy things to eat. He told us stories of Akbar and Birbal. He asked us to write about our train journey to Hyderabad in detail in the form of an essay ever since we could write. He made us laugh and we - Neha, Mihir, Salil and I - played *hotel-hotel* with him. Our hotel made only tea and sold it only to Nana (no one else wanted it). He used to enjoy it and *pay* us. So, we were professional *chaiwalas* long before Modiji made it an honorable profession.

One day Nanima asked Nana to buy fish from the *mandi*. He bought Pomfret, shrimps and crabs all at one go. When we got home and Nani saw the huge quantity, she was upset. She said, it was summer time, electricity was erratic and sea



food spoils easily. He coolly replied, "*Bacchey hain na.*" I still remember how he said it; his tone was such that Nanima had no reply. She went back into the kitchen for a long time and we got yummy fried fish.

He seemed like a library when we were little; he knew so much about everything. I remember him sitting on his bed, with his briefcase in front, using it like a table and writing. He wrote articles, many articles on different subjects (we still have his briefcase). He came to us when Papa was posted in Agra. We visited all the monuments and his knowledge of history made us wonderstruck. He knew more about the places we visited than the local guides. He told us much more than the guide did, and we plied him with more questions. Then he joked that he would charge us as a guide, at the rate of each place we went to. Nana was the kind of person you cannot forget. Whenever I think about my childhood, Nana is predominant, someone who I adored and looked up to. Almost every day, I think of Nana and all that I learnt from and miss him. – Sai Karan (Grandson)



### Nana: In the league of extraordinary gentlemen

Whenever I sat down to write about Nana, there were so many memories that it became difficult to pen these down; but to sum up in a few words a person like him, his persona and his liveliness, I can proudly say, my Nana was in the *league of extraordinary gentlemen*. We have grown up listening to his stories, his life experiences and never to be forgotten laughter which still rings in my ears. Every vacation, we looked forward to coming to Hyderabad not just to get a break from studies but we looked forward to meeting him, Nanima and sometimes Mama, Maen, Neha and Mihir. Sai and I would try to note down which stations we passed (which was a difficult task specially in the night) as we knew Nana would surely be asking us.

We all miss him in different ways. Sometimes its words like then *oopsidazi*, when go too fast over a speed breaker and many Urdu words and expressions which Mom lets slip (which of course she got from him). Going shopping with him was fun because he would buy things in vast quantities. This would always lead to an argument between Nana and Nanima. Nanima would say we should consume what was in the already overflowing fridge. We still have his briefcase, which holds his pens and his writing pad with letterhead. It reminds us not only of him but also all that he stood for. I also have his last handwritten letter, which is a treasure now. His last visit was expected to happen in Kanpur and we were looking forward to seeing him and Nanima around my birthday, but it never happened. But he lives on in so many thoughts and ideas which we imbibed from him. – Salil Karan (Grandson)



### Ahead of his time in thought and deed

If there is one sentence that captured the essence of Papa it was the fact that he was at least a few decades *ahead* of his time in both thought and deed. Those of us who knew him well, will corroborate this. His sense of adventure in experi-

encing things, his extroverted personality, liberal thought process and above all his awesome way with words coupled with that extraordinary ability to tell a story (whether it was to a 5- or a 50-year-old) were a few of the things that just made him a very special and extraordinary person. At a time when most folks from his generation at best finished school

or earned a degree from the Osmania University, he chose to break this mould and applied for a scholarship from the Nizam's Trust to complete a Bachelor's degree in Journalism in the US at the Northwestern University. This was way back in 40s much before many of us in the biradari were born. After going through multiple rounds of qualifying interviews, I remember him recalling the question from Ali Yavar Jung (the Chairman of the selection committee) that clinched the scholarship for him. It was about how he would financially structure a newspaper if he were to come back and start one. Apparently, he thought for a while and very clearly and lucidly laid out a plan about starting a *cooperative* newspaper the then equivalent of collective ownership and crowd funding an enterprise. Apparently, that hit a chord and impressed Ali Yavar Jung a great deal who even recalled his answer many years later whenever Dad had the opportunity to meet/work with him as the Governor of Maharashtra.

He went on to complete his degree, but not before doing some path breaking things at Northwestern. Since he wanted a complete and fully immersive University experience in the US, he wanted to join a *frat*. Unfortunately in the 1940s for a brown person to find a *fraternity* that would accept him was mission impossible. The all-White Frats just refused to entertain him, and he wasn't colored enough to be accepted by the Black community in their fraternity called *Alpha Phi Alpha*. He persisted and in an open address to all members of the fraternity, stood on the soap box and delivered a speech which he used to recall as – *Two wrongs do not make one right*. Eventually, he got accepted with some degree of circumspection and remained an active member of this fraternity till he finished. In the process, he made a few colored friends and spent breaks and other holidays experiencing life in the US that we have only seen in movies like the *Green Book*.

I also recall him describing his flight to the US which was an adventure in itself, and with his story telling ability seemed so exciting. Apparently in those days besides essential travel documentation, anyone travelling from India needed all sorts of vaccination papers which he only learnt at the last minute (remember this was the 40s and essential travel information was scarce). So, on his way to the Nampally railway station he dropped by at Bankat Nana's (Dr. Bankat Chandra) home and got a certificate from him that he had been inoculated

for whatever it was that was needed. He boarded the train to Bombay from Nampally to catch his flight to the US. The flight apparently had *four* scheduled stops for refueling. It took him to Karachi, Aden, somewhere in Europe, then to Shannon in Ireland before it hopped across the Pond to the US. He was stopped at each location for incomplete health documentation but managed to make it all the way to New York and from there to Chicago and on to Evanston based on a certificate issued by Bankat Nana.

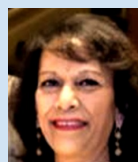
Anyway after experiencing life to the fullest in the US, Papa came back and taught for a bit at his Alma Mater and went on to join the Government. After the accession of Hyderabad to the Union of India and its subsequent break up, his services were allotted to the Bombay Presidency which got further divided in the 1960s into Maharashtra and Gujarat. He remained with the Government of Maharashtra working his way up the ranks to end his career in the early 80s as the Head of the Information Department. This not only gave him the opportunities to meet and greet many VIPs of the 60s and 70s but it also tested his capabilities in terms of implementing the *gag* orders of the Emergency of 1975 all of which he did in his inimitable style.

After his retirement and move to Hyderabad in the late 80s, he got involved with various projects including contributing to the *Profile*. Those were the days when articles were hand written, and composing the publication was still extremely manual and time consuming. Apparently even at the moment when he passed, he was working on some *Profile* related work. My wife Indira and I would make it a point to speak with both Mum and Dad every weekend and right to the end he just seemed so full of life that when I got that fateful call at work on 6th June 1997 from Vinod Mama, it just seemed that God had it wrong. Even when I look back now, the only way I can reconcile to his premature passing on is that if you have lived life way ahead of your time, you get called on to the other side way ahead of your time too!

It's been 25 years since you left us Papa and you would have been 100 this year on the 29th of November but what you have left behind for me, Indira and the kids are a spate of wonderful memories, so many life lessons, a solid sense of values and above all that wonderful secure feeling that you are still around watching over us. Thank you for all that you did for us. – *Vinay Mathur (Son)*

### Very friendly father-in-law!

Papa was a very friendly father-in-law! He was a kind, tolerant and gentle person! He would always have a solution for every problem and would put it across in his own witty, humorous manner! He had a way with words and was an expert at Urdu poetry! When my brother got married, he wrote a lovely poem for him. My brother had a Hindu and a Church wedding. Papa wrote some very appropriate *shero-shayeri* for him, which was hugely appreciated at his *mehndi* function! Papa was very fond of writing and it was indeed extremely touching and heart-warming that he left us finally, doing just that, without any suffering! We will always remember his sweet, smiling face. Gentle and benevolent souls like Papa never go away. They live among their loved ones, forever as their friend, philosopher and guide! R.I.P. Papa! We love you! We know you are watching over us and guiding us through our lives! – *Indira Mathur (Daughter-in-law)*



### Life lessons he taught us were incredibly special



Babaji had this incredibly infectious smile which made all his teeth sparkle and a laugh that boomed through the room. I can still hear it and remember him so very clearly. His penchant for poetry, rhyme and lyrics and truly holding his own at every gathering made me feel incredibly lucky to call him my Babaji. He taught us the importance of learning, questioning and always being a



student. His last visit to Singapore remained incomplete as he really wanted to go to the Temple of a Thousand lights but we didn't get around to it. After being here for over 25 years, we still haven't gone there! As the only granddaughter, I used to feel very special whenever we visited Hyderabad. He would encourage me to be as fast as the boys when we explored Jubilee Hills and was always on my side when it was me against the boys. Some of my best memories are having long conversations with him questioning Hindu mythology while we made *besan ladoos*, dressed up *Bhagwanji* and prepped for the daily *puja*. The life lessons he taught us were also so incredibly special - from the implicit moral lessons in his stories hours where we learnt to work as a team, appreciate friendships to enjoying milk bread at its fullest (with butter and jam at every corner) - will stay with me till my passing day.

When I went to the States to study, I often felt like a minority as all my friends had a similar upbringing in terms of shows and reference point. I would often marvel at how Babaji did it with such confidence nearly 50 years before I went! Babaji had an incredibly colorful life - from being awarded a scholarship during the British Raj to dealing with some very unique political personalities in his career, and his stories kept us laughing for hours. I'll never forget the background stories of the photos of him with all the big shots that were around the house. While we can recall bits and pieces of stories that impacted us, we fail to give you a thorough picture of what an incredible influence he was on all our lives and a wonderful human that he was. He was gone too soon but the best men are. Cheers to you Babaji, you truly are an inspiration for all generations to come. I wish Aveer and Ziaan had a chance to speak with you. But I'm sure they know you're guiding over us all. We love you always. – *Neha Mathur Kaul (Granddaughter)*

### Gentleman, scholar, and best grandfather



My Babaji was an amazing man. We had a kindred friendship with me being his youngest grandchild. Whenever we would visit Hyderabad in the summers, I would be his sidekick and assistant as he would go about his daily routine, teaching me many lessons along the way. Though Babaji was my first grandparent to pass away, his memories are so fresh to this day, speaking volumes of the man and character he was. My main recollection of Babaji was his ability to combine humor and wisdom in almost every interaction we shared. This was even more so the case when we (my sister Neha and my cousins, Sai and Salil) would sit on his bed and listen to his stories. Fiction or non-fiction, he was by far the best storyteller I've probably ever met! A wordsmith who set the scene perfectly in every story he told, his stories reflected that same humor but also the morals that remain with me to this day. He taught me the value of companionship and friendship in one of his favorite stories called *Char pakke pakke pandu dost*, whilst also other great values like humility and perspective in his story about a mouse who saved a lion from being trapped in the jungle.

His life stories too and international experiences also come to mind amongst the great stories he would share with us. I was very proud to have a grandfather who was one of the first Indians to study in the US on a scholarship and to travel in the pre-partition era. Those classic photographs of him in a long trench coat in the freezing Chicago snow reflected a bygone era that I had only seen in classic movies. My Dad would tell me about Babaji's complex journey from India to the US back then and all the various layovers he had which made our flight routes of today look like a walk in the park. I always did think of Babaji and had him in mind as a mental reference when I left home at 17 and have been fortunate enough to live in several countries and cities since then. He taught me to fully experience the countries and the cultures that I lived in and that immersion would teach me empathy to fully understand how other countries went about life and help me understand our differences. A timeless lesson and something that is very relevant to the world we live in even today.

His open-mindedness via his experiences combined with his gift of the gab also made me recall some simple cultural differences. For example, he would flip his fork upwards to state that is how Americans would use their forks, and then flip it downwards to depict how the British would use theirs. This lesson which was communicated in such a simple yet effective way described the nuanced cultural differences in table manners so clearly that I recall noticing this when I went to the UK for my undergraduate studies. Another fact that I always recall, especially in the past few years given the recent racial tensions in the US, was how my Dad mentioned Babaji approached an all-black fraternity wanting to join and requested them to expand their entrance requirements to allow him to become a member too. I was amazed and so proud to have learned this and it just showed Babaji's courage and open-mindedness again and most importantly how ahead of his time he was!

The same open-mindedness was also shown towards technology with the PC era just about taking off in his final years. When he would visit us in Singapore, I recall showing him the ins- and outs- of the Windows 95 system as per his request and curiosity. I'll never forget how he was particularly chuffed when I made him a calendar of his birth year which made me feel so special despite doing something which I treated as second nature at that age! Given his general love for life and the fact that he lived life to its fullest will always make the shock of his passing a memory that will never leave me. I was 9 years old and it indirectly taught me to live life to its fullest much like my Babaji did. A gentleman, a scholar, and most importantly the best grandfather a kid could ask for! – *Mihir Mathur (Grandson)*



### A great and inspiring Guru

Remembering Ishwar Da is like sketching the personality of a mentor - or was he a teacher? No, I would prefer to address him as *Adhyapak*, the Guru, who awakened wisdom in every being he happened to meet. I would like to share some personal and inspiring moments we spent together and incidents that are etched in my mind like these happened yesterday. We

were born in an era when girls were protected and kept secluded. He seemed to know that in the course of life's journey, we would require to be empowered with education, vocational skills and physical activity which would make us mentally fit. He was always looking out for ways and means to empower all of us, his sisters and girl cousins. So, there were races, plays and competitions often, which we looked forward to very eagerly. We learned to innovate and use whatever was available to suit our needs in our entertainment. It was an age without TV and even radios were few and far between, so this was major entertainment for the whole extended family.

In my youth, I was good at crochet and embroidery but untrained. He encouraged me to attend classes. Sometime in the 50s, he saw how passionate I was about embroidery and encouraged me to enter some of my work, a frock, cap and socks, in a national level competition organized by Usha Sewing Machine Company. The whole family was extremely overjoyed when my work was adjudged the best, and I was awarded the first prize. For me, this moment is etched in my memory and my heart as a *moment of reckoning* and the prize a *priceless possession*. This was possible only because of Ishwar Da's guidance and persistence.

He never missed an opportunity to make the family experience different facets of life. When a group of us visited him in Bombay, I carried with me the dream and aspiration of every teenager - meeting film stars and encountering the glamour and glitter of the film world. When I expressed this desire to Dada, he arranged a visit to a film studio. Bharat Bhushan, the yester years star, was resting between shots. Dada spoke to him and he came to speak to us till his next shot was ready. It was my first encounter with the film world and it was a heady experience for any teenager!

Ishwar Da always made it a point to spend time with our children also. He sat them around in a circle and asked each one questions pertaining to their educational, vocational and recreational activities and other interests. He would guide and inspire them by sharing incisive thoughts, a new vision or a fresh dimension. My younger daughter Rati benefitted when he guided her to change her board. She reinvented herself, grew wings after that change, making us so proud of her achievements. He was indeed a great and inspiring Guru in our lives. I shall always remain proud and grateful to him. God bless you Ishwar Da. - *Susheel Kumari Asthana (Sister)*

### Ishwar Da was our CEO



My earliest memory of Ishwar Da is during an epidemic of plague. I must have been 8-9 years old. The entire extended family had shifted to our Ameerpet house, which at that time was far away and so considered *safe*. For my sisters, cousins and myself, it meant freedom, a holiday time from studies and school. But Ishwar Da had other ideas. He taught us to cycle (I carry a scar from this misadventure even today), organized races, set up competitions, and finally awarded prizes to the winners impartially, bought from the contributions he had collected from the elders. One afternoon, he gathered all of us under the trees away from the house, while Ba and Amma took their afternoon nap. We were going to pluck *narangis*. It seemed a great adventure as everything had to be done stealthily so that Ba and Amma's afternoon nap was not disturbed. Ishwar Da was our CEO, and we girls would go scurrying around again and again without making any noise to fetch a big *parath*, chilli powder, jeera powder, salt, powdered sugar, knife, etc., at his bidding and not all at once. Dada would remember one thing at a time. Finally, the *dhapdam* was ready. Our youngest brother Shiv Raj Da, who was then a medical student, was studying in a room on the roof (but was watching our activities, more than studying). He was horrified at the amount of chilli powder Ishwar Da used. He came running down and upturned the *parath* saying that we would all get loose motions. We were all so disappointed. There were tears and quarrels.

When we returned to our Charminar East home, there were dramatics. We performed *Satyavan-Savitri*. Again, it was Ishwar Da who was the convener. These activities made us innovative. To depict *Yamraj* carrying away *Satyavan's* soul, we piled many of Amma's *sandooks* (wooden trunks) one on top of the other, to make it look like Yamraj was ascending skywards with *Satyavan's* soul. Ishwar Da got Ba and Amma involved in the activity. They would innovate our dresses and improvise crowns, weapons and wands. He got Mahabir Pershad Da and his friend Rabinandan Pratap to be the judges. After the performance, he gave us a critical appreciation of all our efforts. And of course, prizes in various categories. Small as they were, the prizes were very valuable to us. That was an age of innocence and innovation. I think back with great happiness that I have lived through such a time where innocence, sibling love and closeness was predominant and with great sadness that such times as those are now history. - *Usha Devi (Sister)*



### He was incredibly smart

I first met Ishwar Jijaji when I was still a teenager. He was marrying my sister Swaroop. I remember the first thing I noticed was how gentle he was. He was very friendly from the beginning and so outgoing. He was able to talk nonstop, and talk with anyone - even a stranger on the street. He never hesitated to engage with others. He was also incredibly smart. I can still remember when we found out he was getting a masters in journalism at Northwestern. It was so exciting for everyone. He was a great writer and orator, and was constantly telling stories. He used to sit and talk to the cleaning ladies, just telling them stories of whatever came to mind. Later, I had moved to the US. He and my sister came to visit for a few months. They traveled all around the country but stayed with us for a while. Jiji used to encourage him to get out and go for a walk and Jijaji would always joke with her in response. He would walk down just to the mailbox and collect our mail and then walk back. When he returned, he would declare that that had been his walk. It used to frustrate my sister but it also made her laugh. He was kind. I especially appreciated it when he wrote a *sahara* (a poem in praise) for my youngest son Sadath's high school graduation, and then later another for his wedding. He spoke beautifully at both. It is strange to think



that this year he would have been 100, he always seemed so young and vibrant. I remember so many things about him - 25 years after losing him, which I think, is a credit to his personality and what he meant to us. - *Dr. Karuna Syeed (Sister-in-law)*



## My favorite chacha

When I say Ishwar Chacha was my favorite chacha, I would be stating the obvious. He was a favorite with all his nieces and nephews. He was a storehouse of stories and supporter of our ventures and legitimate mischief. Chacha was far ahead of his times. When he was posted at Bombay, we cousins were excited as it would be our ticket to see a new city, and more than that to experience the sea. A group of us teenage girls, including Susheel Bua and Usha Bua, travelled with Baba to Bombay. Chacha's flat was typical of Bombay flats, one huge bedroom, one drawing room and a big kitchen/dining the windows of which opened out onto the main road. The drawing room was also the entrance to the flat. Those were times when daughters-in-law did not interact or talk freely with fathers-in-law. So that we all had privacy, the drawing room became Baba's domain. When Baba heard us all clamoring to visit the seaside, he said, "*Paani me utarna nahi!*" and that dashed our hopes of gambling in the sea. Nobody could or would openly flout Baba's order. We were sure to need a change of clothes after having fun in the sea, and Baba would know what we were up to if he saw us leaving with bundles of clothes. Ishwar Chacha turned into our comrade-in-mischief. We made bundles of fresh clothes and passed them on to Shashi, who stood below the kitchen window on the road. We stepped out nodding our heads in agreement with Baba's warnings that we should not go into the sea. We spent a fun day playing in the sea and getting thoroughly wet and changing our clothes in a makeshift tent made of our towels. When we returned home, the bundles of wet clothes were passed back through the kitchen window! Baba either did not notice that we were wearing different clothes or large heartedly chose to turn a blind eye.

Fast forward many years to the time when Nitesh, my elder son was getting married and wanted a separate establishment from day one. All my seniors were disapproving and thought it a bad idea. But Chacha said, "Young people should be given freedom." Then Nitesh wanted to take his bride for their honeymoon on a motorbike - the seniors thought it a worse idea. Chacha's reaction was, "Binnu, let them do it." Binnu - that was his special name for me. I miss being called by that name now. - *Veena Naidu (Niece)*

## Ishwar Chacha – the storyteller



I always admired Ishwar Chacha's gift of the gab, his inquisitive and friendly nature which are trademarks of a good journalist – which he was. We looked forward to Chacha and Chammi Mausī's visit to Hyderabad along with Shashi and Vinay. Chacha was the font of fascinating stories about various members of our family. I was most interested in stories about my older siblings since I had missed out on their childhood and youth - being the youngest. I heard with fascination how my older siblings tried to get out of going back to the Bolarum Boarding School by declaring that the school nuns were feeding the students crow meat (One crow had been strung on the tree as a deterrent to the prevalent crow menace, hence the deduction!!). She also announced in all solemnity that her suntan was due to eating the crow meat and not from playing in the hot sun!

I also enjoyed witnessing the interaction between Prem Raj Chacha, Ishwar Chacha and my mom, their Bhabhi. Once they got together, the chachas teased my mom mercilessly, and my mom laughed it off or teased them back correcting them of their exaggerations – there was a lot of back and forth, a joyful repartee – an affectionate way of remembering their history together through the oral tradition – a way of familial bonding. It also laid the groundwork for our relationship with not only Shashi and Vinay, but with all cousins – laughing and teasing and raiding the fruit trees (guavas, pomegranates, fig, mulberry, and alpha-lodi) in our compound and also in the neighbor's compounds (grapes, badaam, jamun, and mangoes) during the lazy, hazy days of hot summer afternoons when school was out, and the adults were taking their sestas after heavy lunches! We really enjoyed Ishwar Chacha's company – he was the keeper of the stories of the Mahadev Pershd's family. - *Neeta Mathur Chandra (Niece)*



## Ishwar Chacha was a motivator

Ishwar Chacha was an amazing guy and an award-winning Chacha. He was a natural when getting along with people, both young and old. He would always lighten up the room as soon as he entered with his stories and sense of humor. He was perhaps the first in our biradari to study in USA. This was a major excitement for the family and we were all very proud. He had a very successful career as a Public Relations professional, initially appointed as Assistant Director of Information and Public Relations in Hyderabad. After the reorganization of States, Chacha was posted to Maharashtra at Bombay. He retired from there as Chief Director. He was always full of encouragement to his nieces and nephews. When I passed the Higher Secondary exam, I went to Charminar to seek Baba's and Ishwar Chacha's blessings. When he found out that I passed in First Division, he was very ecstatic and immediately ordered *mithai* to celebrate and made a big deal of it. He was a *motivator*. He encouraged me a great deal to continue to be a high achiever pursuing higher studies. Later, he was very excited and proud when he found out I was going to Germany for studies and came to the airport to see me off in Bombay. He even gave me his overcoat from his days in the US to take as he realized it would be very cold when I landed. True enough, it came in very handy once I landed in Berlin. He was very knowledgeable, especially of historical facts. Gloria and I were visiting Hyderabad from the US. We were going to see Golconda Fort. Ishwar Chacha was visiting Hyderabad and willingly accompanied us. He gave a detailed commentary about the Fort's history and came wi-

th us all the way to the top despite his heart condition. Later, he did get a lecture from Chammi Mausi for this. He was very close to Abba (my father late Prem Raj Mathur), like two peas in a pod. When these two great storytellers get together with a few drinks, it becomes a long evening. They always sought each other's advice on important matters. Abba passed away in 1987. Ishwar Chacha and Chammi Mausi were in the US at Iowa. As soon as he found out, they came to us in New Orleans to help with the rituals and celebrate Abba's life. We bonded well during his one week stay with us in New Orleans and a memorable trip to Florida. He was very proud of my success. I reminded and thanked him for motivating me during my early achievements that helped lay the foundation of a successful career. He had a gleam in his eye about how he made an impact on my life. His legacy will live on through the lives he impacted. Gone but not forgotten! – *Vinod Raj Mathur (Nephew)*

### Compelling storyteller

Whenever I think of Ishwar Chacha, it brings a smile to my face. He was one of my favorite people. His personality was such that he could make the most cantankerous person smile and even laugh. His great quality was that he was a child with children and a wise man in the company of thinkers. He drew children to him by his extraordinary talent of storytelling. My daughter Madhvi still recalls listening to the Ramayana stories from him. When he came to the part where Ravana carries off Sita, his manner was so compelling that Madhvi started crying uncontrollably! Such was the impact of his storytelling. Another story that my children remember very well is about five animals who were *pakke pakke pandu dost*, a story which helped them to understand the value of friendship and loyalty.

Chacha had a great sense of humor. He would tease Amma a lot. My Amma was very forgetful. She would misplace her bunch of keys very often and all of us, her children, would be searching for the keys frantically and a few times we found those safely tucked away at her waist. On her birthday, Ishwar Chacha collected the keys from all the ladies in the house, tied them on a string and made a garland. He garlanded Amma with the *kunjion-ka-haar* as part of her birthday celebrations. This gesture had the whole household in splits. If I remember right, Amma never forgot her keys after that! That was Ishwar Chacha – so much love and so much fun. – *Gita Karan (Niece)*



### Most dynamic, energetic, non-stop talking person

Here goes... Ishwar Chacha sitting with legs crossed, inhaling *naas*. He was the most dynamic, energetic, non-stop talking person I've ever known. It was impossible not to be drawn to him in an interesting conversation. He had such an infectious, friendly generous personality. When I was coming to Canada, Jillu and I were in Bombay staying with Chacha and Mausi. Our flight was the next day and we realized that I was missing an important document. Chacha convinced us not to worry. He actually took out this big fat telephone directory, looking for some *Mathur* name in that Department and he did find one! The work was done in no time. Of course this was possible due to his charming talk and personality. You are missed dearly Chacha. In his later years, his driving skills were getting challenging! We were all invited to Aghapura at Tau's place. When we arrived, Chacha and Mausi were sitting in their car which was parked accidentally on a big pile of gravel in a very precarious manner, totally tilted to one side. It was a sight to behold, surely Mausi giving Chacha her usual lecture! We all had to very carefully push the car off the mountain of gravel! Chacha, we miss you dearly. – *Rajni Khan (Niece)*



### He had a bewitching personality

I had the good fortune to have four mamas. All of them were extraordinary gentlemen and I had super relationship with them! With Ishwar Mama, I had it from the day I was born. We said good bye to each other as on the same day he left to the US for higher studies. When he came back, I was grown up and talking. He motivated me to tell stories. With his encouragement, I used to make stories and narrate confidently. He used to say *what next* or listen patiently for long hours. I am sure that made me bold enough to later participate in debates, dramas and finally as a teacher who would bag prizes and awards. I owe my success to him. He had a bewitching personality, his very presence used to change the atmosphere of parties, get-togethers or simple meetings. If he was with Prem Raj Mama, this duo was the world's best mood elevators. Ishwar Mama was very intelligent, hard working and highly qualified. He excelled in all the assignments given to him and had a very successful professional career. As a true Kayasth, he had shown that the pen is mightier than the sword through his excellence in writings. Besides, he took a lot of interest in his siblings and their families by giving timely advise, guidance and help whenever required. I am sure God must have given him the best place in heaven. – *Dr. Dinesh Raj Mathur (Nephew)*



### Ishwar Tau and I had similar career trajectories



Ishwar Tau and I had similar career trajectories. Both studied Journalism – he at Northwestern (USA) and I at Osmania (Hyderabad); both entered the Public Relations profession – he in government and I in the corporate sector. Both had stints in academics. In 1975, I was staying with Tau and Taima at Bombay when I was an intern with The Times of India. Information flows then were strictly controlled by the government during the dreaded *Emergency*. Tau was then the Chief Director - Information & Public Relations, Government of Maharashtra, and Taima a Censor. The journalist community had never experienced such coercive restrictions on reporting in independent India and I was a highly upset Trainee Journalist. The dining table discussions were quite naturally heated. As an experienced professional, Tau's responses were calibrated to persuade, not yielding an inch of the government turf. I hardly got to interact with him professionally after 1975, as we were cities apart –



he in Bombay, and I in Hyderabad. Many years later, Tau and I worked together on reviving the *Profile* (it was revived many times) – he as Editor and I as Convener. Tau was a great storyteller. As reading his writing was a great challenge for my company steno-typist (who would type the *Profile* stories at my request), Tau would dictate to him. The arrangement didn't work. Later, he would narrate and I would write/type his news items, factoring-in his golden words as much as possible. But perhaps the most memorable incident was on our *Bahu Pravesh* night (11th January 1983). It was a *Curfew* period in Hyderabad and certainly not safe for anyone to travel late in the night. But Tau and Taima insisted on returning to their Agriculture University quarter in our car because their dog would be hungry. All of us were awake till the driver finally returned safe after dropping both of them! – *Rohit Raaj Mathur (Nephew)*

### Architect of my career

Ishwar Mama was the architect of my career. I remember my days with him in Delhi, where I was made to write an essay every day to hone my skills at expression. Anecdotes of his experiences with Ali Yawar Jung (who had been his professor and later Governor of Maharashtra) and different chief ministers of Maharashtra were hilarious. His was storytelling personified. He used to make us laugh our guts out. His everlasting companion *naas* (snuff), a habit which he inherited from his Ba, my Nana, gave him that strength to talk unendingly. I had an opportunity to be with him again in Hyderabad, when I was posted there for six years. By then, Mama had retired and settled down in Hyderabad. I remember we used to be next door neighbors with Akke Mama in Shyam Nagar. Ishwar Mama and Akke Mama used to visit my Mom often and I have vivid memories of hilarious evenings spent in their company, enjoying the lovely whiskey and my Mom's delectable cooking. My meetings with Ishwar Mama increased when he was staying in Jubilee Hills. I used to be like a son to him looking after his small needs. His multi-faceted personality can never be forgotten. – *Bharat Kumar Mathur (Nephew)*



### Ishwar Mama – Together forever

*"Example isn't another way to teach; it is the only way to teach" - Albert Einstein*

*"Tappa aaya kya?"* was my daily query to our watchman, as I returned from Osmania General Hospital each evening. And he would dutifully hand me over a bunch of letters and periodicals that we used to subscribe by post. I would pick those addressed to me and place the rest on my Dad's Kashmiri table. Letters from my pen-friends and Reader's Digest were my main interests. One day, in that summer of 1984, I had a surprise in the mail. It was a letter from Ishwar Mama. As I opened it eagerly, I found a formal typed note and an enclosed newspaper cutting on Acupuncture. A few weeks before that, during the course of a get-together, I had an interesting conversation with him on Acupuncture. What amazed me was not that he remembered but that he took pains to type out a letter and mail that to me. Being overwhelmed, I wrote back to him and he replied to that too! For a while the correspondence continued, and he became one of my pen-pals! Ishwar Mama spoke with a regal flair, and his talks were garnished with a subtle humor. I heard him speak at an Urdu seminar once, where he had an elderly audience mesmerized. Luckily, I have a picture of him which I shot during that talk. He was a kid with kids and a dedicated professional at work. Often, he would recollect with nostalgia, incidents from his early career when he worked as an assistant to my grandfather, Rai Janki Pershad. Post 1956, after the states reorganization, Mama's services were transferred to Maharashtra. Some of his sisters and nieces visited him in Bombay. Ishwar Mama, excited to be a host always, took my mother (Usha Devi), Susheel Aunty, Sudha Jia, Veena Jia and Asha Jia on a tour in the state-run BEST buses to show film studios and beaches! Being a food connoisseur, he would quiz us on several exquisite and traditional recipes. *Dum Pukht* was his favourite. *"Dum Pukht nahi maloom to kuch nahi maloom!"* was his popular line. There were lessons learnt in the process. Humility is expressed through deeds, and age isn't a barrier to communicate. Ishwar Mama's way of living had a hidden message about keeping life simple, realize the joy of sharing and bring smiles on the faces of people who cross your path in life. It's been 38 years since I received that mail from him. And, never has that memory of being with him or with his words and deeds, faded. Those moments that we were together, were forever. – *Dr. Ravi Kumar (Nephew)*

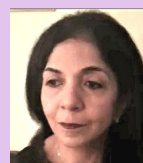
### Positive role model for all

Ishwar Pupaji was always kind, gentle, and would have a smile about him that was pleasing to adults and children alike. We would travel to Delhi for summer vacation and stay with Chammi Bua and Ishwar Pupaji. My Bua would enforce discipline but Pupaji would let us get away with all kinds of mischief. His classic saying was, *"Kya bolna? Bole to bole vya hota hai."* We respected and loved him for his playful attitude, especially to all of us as children, then further along as teenagers. They eventually moved to Hyderabad, bought a house in Jubilee Hills where we visited them quite often and of course his sense of humour would keep us laughing and entertained. He was a positive role model for all of us, and that's how we recall our memories about him. – *Dr. Ravi Chandra (Nephew)*



### Never a dull moment with him

Ishwar Raj Pupaji was kind, humble, loving, caring and an endearing soul. He lived well, laughed often, was much loved, had gained the respect of the elders and love of the young. We remember the great times we got to spend with Chammi Bua and Pupaji in Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad. We have vivid and special memories of Pupaji taking us on a visit to INS Vikrant. He had a great sense of humour and there was never a dull moment with him. He had a personality that



would attract flocks of people towards him. Pupaji was a great listener and would offer interesting solutions. He was filled with wisdom and the family could count on him. He was a great friend of our Dad (late Bipin Chandra). They shared a wonderful relationship, advised and supported each other. Pupaji had hilarious one-liners for every occasion. "The song has ended, but the melody lingers on." This quote reminds us of Pupaji. Even though he is no longer with us, we were blessed with his presence in our lives and will hold on to the memories. He left an indelible mark wherever he went. On his 100th birthday, we salute the man of vision. – *Vinita Kodati & Tanuja Saxena (Nieces)*

### The world's best *mausaji*



Ishwar Mausaji once shared with my grandfather that his father and our family have the same *Aal*. In other words, our families came from the same village or carried the same surname - *Chharcholia*. He made my Babaji's day and then regaled him about the family lineage of various Kayastha families in Hyderabad. He was a treasure trove and had an inimitable way of telling his stories. We, as children, sat with our eyes and mouth wide open as he told us unimaginable tales.

I was perhaps five years old when I discovered that Bombay had *lost the sea*! The story started when he mentioned going from Dadar railway station to his home that Bombay had lost its sea. I didn't believe him. He then asked if I remembered if Haji Ali was covered with sea or was on rocky land. I remember seeing Haji Ali in full tide, with waves splashing at the Dargah and the walkway inundated with seawater. When we crossed Haji Ali, he asked me to check his story and tell him if he was telling the truth!! I saw the path to Haji Ali on a rocky land and no sea nearby. I was now convinced that Bombay had lost its sea. I was distraught as I looked forward to Chowpatty and playing at the beach. He promised that we would *ask* the sea to come back. Guess what - I found the sea the next day!!!

I don't remember winning any arguments with him. My most passionate argument with him was *Bal Mithai Barfi* of Dehra Dun. I firmly believed that *Bal Mithai Barfi* was the best sweetmeat in India. He disagreed since he said he had never tasted the *mithai*. We would argue about the best *mithai* when we were having any *mithai*, and he would poke me about *Bal Mithai*. On one visit, we travelled from Dehra Dun, carrying *Bal Mithai* for him to taste and declare as the *world's best mithai*! I think I won that argument. Mausaji was one of the most positive people I have ever met. He saw good in everyone and always had a smile on his face. My son Eshaan was also his fan, just like me. Eshaan and Radhika (my wife) loved to visit Mausi and Mausaji. Mausi treated us to a fantastic meal, and Mausaji would regale us with stories. As a child, Eshaan voted them as the best Dada and Dadima. He had a way with children and with people. Everyone I know walked away with a smile and an acknowledgement that they had met a wonderful human being. In summary, I believe he was the world's (my world) best *mausaji*. May his tribe increase. – *Chetan Mathur (Nephew)*



### My hero!

Ishwar Raj Mausaji was my hero! He loved children, and this was evident to all the children who had the good fortune to interact with him.

Being one of the younger ones in a long line of Ishwar Raj Mausaji's nephews and nieces, I understood quite young that he was an expert at entertaining children and making them happy! Not only are all my memories of him being a favourite - a kind and loving uncle, but he was also a favourite *Nana* of my daughter! Such was his magic that he enthralled the old and young alike. Going to Mausaji and Mausi's house had always been an exciting adventure, one we looked forward to every year. There was so much pampering that we received at the house - in Bombay and Delhi - where every wish was fulfilled as if by magic!

One of the many magical moments came when, just in conversation,

Mausaji casually asked me which film actor was my favourite and I admitted that Shashi Kapoor was a big favourite! Then, as a complete surprise, a few days later, he sent the car and arranged for us to visit Film City. It was a novel concept and we got a grand tour and then right at the end, we were taken to the sets of a movie being made and guess who was acting in it? It was Shashi Kapoor and Hema Malini! My excitement and joy were difficult to contain but certainly to me - it was Mausaji who was the real hero! He transformed the dreams of a little girl to reality! Later in life as I grew older, I greatly admired his writing and his ability to pen down a few verses to suit every occasion. His wealth of knowledge and sound advice has stayed with me to this day. Even today, you remain a hero to me, Mausaji! – *Priya Mathur (Niece)*



### "Not failure, but low aim is a crime," he said

When I heard of a *Profile* being published in the memory of Ishwar Baba, I wanted to share a rare gem from him – a personal handwritten letter full of wisdom written to me way back in 1996, still carefully preserved with me! I was a student then, having completed my 10th standard and into the 11th. The words in the letter were profound and had a great inspirational influence on me. He wrote: "Not Failure, but low aim is a crime;"...

"Aspire for the highest and noblest; God helps those who help themselves!" In the letter, Ishwar Baba expressed a desire that I join the IAS or IPS. I had a different calling – to be an engineer. But the broad principles written in the letter held good in my life. I still fondly remember Ishwar Baba narrating stories in his own charming way, talking to my Baba (late Dharam Raj Mathur) and Dadima (late Chandrakala) at our Aghapura house. I recollect Ishwar Baba and Chammi Dadima's devotion to Sai Baba. My parents (Bharat Raj Mathur and Shashi) fondly recollect Vinay Chacha's wedding that they attended at Bombay. – *Akshay Raj Mathur (Grandson)*





### Intellectual with a fantastic sense of humor

I have many remembrances about Ishwar Nana, ever since I could hold a memory! He was an intellectual with a fantastic sense of humour, so loving and always the life of any party. He was incredibly knowledgeable on any topic I cared to inquire about. As a child and later as a young adult, I really enjoyed spending time with him. He had a unique gift to engage and interact with anyone irrespective of their age, appreciate their view point, include them and make them feel special. I have many stories and memories to share but my favourite memory is of one summer vacation in Bombay. I would go on early morning walks with Nana on Marine Drive, asking him so many questions especially about the sea which he patiently answered; I was mesmerized by the vastness of the Arabian Sea, the waves, the pinchy crabs, it was the best start to the day! His remarkable influence on both his family and the larger community was deep. He will always be missed. – Vani Chandra Sayeed (Granddaughter)

### The man with the gift of the gab



Ishwar Raj uncle was a legend in the communication field. He could articulate his ideas beautifully and precisely. His fluency was excellent and oration commendable. I was fortunate enough to have worked with him after his retirement in a reputed advertising company for a short time though. It is here that I came to know him better and learnt how to be kind to people, be well grounded and also to be social and have conversations with different people on various topics. I remember an incident when an army captain had approached our office for an advertisement on their centenary celebrations. Uncle asked him about the menu during the celebrations and their conversation was on crabs and surely unending. Uncle delved deep into the type of crabs there were, like the fresh water and the sea water crabs, their texture, their size their colour and of course their taste. I was awestruck to hear uncle speak about any topic under the sun with so much of flourish.

My husband Rajiv and myself were frequent visitors to Ishwar Raj uncle and Chammi Aunty's place to help them more so as Vinay was away in Singapore. Aunty used to give me small gifts with immense love. We had a very cordial relationship as Rajiv was their go-to person for any requirement and I used to carry some food for them and also had lunch with them at times. So the memories are still rife in our minds and they made an amazing couple together, showering love on whoever came their way! Rajiv and I are grateful to God for bringing these two beautiful and caring souls close to us...though for a brief period. – Madhu Mathur (Relative)

### Biradari members awarded at Sangat Pangat

The Telangana chapter of *Sangat Pangat*, an all-India organization established by former Member of Parliament R.K. Sinha and others to promote a community-level engagement among Kayasthas and reward individuals in the community for service to humanity, organized the *Dussehra and Diwali Milan 2022* at Hyderabad on



6th November. On the occasion, eminent Kayasthas of Hyderabad, among them members of our biradari, were honored. They include educationists – Prof. Sugita Mathur (1), former Head, Department Zoology, Osmania University and Organizing Secretary, HMKE&WS, and Revati Devi Mathur (2), Principal, Villa Marie Degree College for Women; medical professionals – Dr. Smita Mathur (3), Dr. Siddharth Prasad Mathur and Dr. Eshan Mathur (4); and photographer Akhlesh Mathur (5). The awards were presented by R.K. Sinha, Neera Shastri (daughter-in-law of former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri) and former Member of Parliament Alok Sanjar.



### Dr. Mohan Sain honored at ASTICON 2022



Former Senior Regional Director (undivided Andhra Pradesh) and Consultant Dermatologist, CGHS (Central Government Health Service), Dr. Mohan Sain Mathur was honored during ASTICON 2022, the 46th National Conference of the Indian Association for the Study of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS, at Hyderabad. He was honored for academic contribution to activities conducted by the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists (IADVL). *Profile* had informed its readers in its previous issue that this eminent dermatologist was honored by the Lions Club of Hyderabad and by Director - AIDS, Government of Telangana.





### Dr. Naval is API Hyderabad Chapter Chairman

Dr. Naval Chandra, Professor of Medicine at the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS), has been elected as Chairman of the Hyderabad Chapter of the Association of Physicians of India (API). Dr. Naval has been a Governing Council member of API. He is a Fellow of the Indian Academy of Clinical Medicine and Indian College of Physicians; and Governing Council member, AIDS Society of India. Dr. Naval has vaccinated over 20,000 (60,000 doses of Hepatitis-B vaccine) government school children over a decade in support of Round Table India. He is the author of the chapter on *HIV Epidemiology* in the 11th edition of the API Textbook of Medicine.

### Sushanth sustains welfare momentum at MJFLC

As long as the Mathurs are involved, the Melvin Jones Fellowship Lions Club (MJFLC) of Seychelles will remain abuzz with welfare activities. Sushanth Mathur, who succeeded his father Rajesh Mathur and brother Siddhanth (see photo) as MJFLC President, proved this point. MJFLC, which has been supporting the Government of Seychelles regularly, recently donated equipment to the Child Health Services. Sushanth, who works with his father alongside his brother and sister, all professional accountants, at Baker-Tilley, an international accounting firm, was among 25 youth from Africa (representing the Republic of Seychelles) who participated in an event commemorating the 125th anniversary of the eviction of Mahatma Gandhi from the first class compartment at the Pietermaritzburg railway station in South Africa. He got an opportunity to travel with a host of Indian and African dignitaries in the special replica steam locomotive drawn train that recreated Mahatma Gandhi's historic Pentrich-Pietermaritzburg journey on 7th June 1893. He also attended the Mandela-Gandhi Youth Summit, jointly organized by the Government of India, on that occasion.



### 2022 proves lucky for Darsh

The year 2022 has proved to be lucky for the promising young biradari cricketer Darsh Mohan Lal. He not only represented Osmania University in the Inter-Varsity cricket tournament held at Chennai in June but also played for Hyderabad Under-19 Team in the Cooch Behar Trophy tournament conducted by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The grandson

of the legendary Mahesh Mohan Lal who left a mark in the annals of Hyderabad cricket and son of Brijesh Mohan Lal who played a lot of competitive cricket in his time, Darsh has performed impressively in local league tournaments. He was among top five bowlers who bagged 25 wickets this season. He mesmerized the opposition with two 6-wicket and one 5-wicket haul. His highest score with the bat was 68 runs. Darsh takes his cricket as seriously as his studies. The number of HMKE&WS educational awards he wins every year is testimony enough.

### Nishi's FPI trains 175 SC candidates

The Fairy Princess Institute (FPI) run by Nishi Mathur with valuable support from her husband



Nitesh Mathur, successfully completed training 175 candidates in a program sponsored by the Telangana Scheduled Castes Development Corporation Ltd. Officials distributed beauty kits to 105 Beauty Therapists and sewing machines to 70 Fashion Designing candidates who were trained by FPI in three centers in three districts. Nishi said, "This was FPI's maiden project with the SC Corporation of Telangana. Earlier, we had trained 250 candidates for the National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation, a central government undertaking."

### Shilpa is a full-fledged Yoga and Wellness instructor



After completing a grueling 300-hour Yoga Teacher Training course, Physiotherapist Shilpa Mathur (d/o Sangeeta & late Vidya Raj Mathur) turned into a Yoga Wellness instructor, armed with a certificate from the Ministry of AYUSH's Yoga Certification Board. Shilpa

who recently got engaged to Rajat Chandra Mathur (s/o Dr. Manoj Chandra Mathur), is a trained Kathak dancer who explores contemporary dance forms like Salsa and Bollywood numbers with equal vigor. She can also be called a creative artist whose alcohol ink, acrylic and acrylic pour painting and resin art are striking.





### Nachiket leads in laying the digital bed in AP

As Chief Technology officer (CTO) with the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Nachiket Mathur (s/o late Kishen Raj Mathur) has been leveraging his telecom domain expertise to create a digital bed for all future technologies under the Digital India umbrella. The benchmark project was launched from Andhra Pradesh. Other states like Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra, etc., have started adapting this holistic model for rural and urban development. "Funded by the Government of India and USOF (Universal Service Obligation Fund) and implemented by state agencies like ours in Andhra Pradesh, such projects would provide triple play services (Internet, Telephony &

IPTV) through single fiber optic cable and deploying of 4G/5G technologies to all unconnected villages. That means every village will have telecom signals, irrespective of the population in that area," explains Nachiket adding, "Cloud computing, FASTag, Smart city deployment, use of AI (Artificial Intelligence), and drones are also a part of this digitization program." And, how did it feel, we asked. "It was a unique experience working alongside multiple stakeholders like the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, PM Wani and Department of Telecommunications (DoT), under regular media attention," says Nachiket. Nachiket was previously working with, Airtel, Aircel, Tata Communication, DishnetDSL providing solutions for enterprise connectivity. He Chairs the HMKE&WS Sub-committee on Sports and is a member of the Religious Sub-committee along with being on the Profile's Editorial Board.



### Vishesh is Most Inspiring TA Leader

Vishesh Raj has won the 2022 Global BPO (Business Process Outsourcing) TA (Talent Acquisition) Award for emerging as the *Most Inspiring TA Leader*. Parents (Aruna Lal & Dr. Suresh Raj Saxena), wife (Payal Mathur), close relatives, friends and well wishers were his constant cheerleaders all through the nail biting contest. The *biradari daamad* was pitted against peers of 20 global BPO organizations. An alumnus of IIM-Kozhikode, Vishesh joined Genpact 18 years ago and is presently the Regional Recruitment Leader for Genpact Philippines based out of Manila. Expressing his happiness at this development, Vishesh has volunteered to help young and experienced persons of the biradari who are seeking employment/better prospects.

### Arvind wins FTCCI HR Jury Award



Arvind Mathur (s/o late Raj Kumar Mathur) received the FTCCI (Federation of Telangana Chamber of Commerce & Industry) HR (Human Resource) Jury Award recently. On the occasion, he addressed the august body on *HR transformation and its significance*. Arvind also received the NALSAR University of Law's *Legal Acumen for HR Leadership* Certificate from HE Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan, Hon'ble Governor of Telangana (see photo). Arvind is presently a Senior Director who heads the HR function at Cyient.

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### Sumit wins Tech Mahindra's ACE Award once again

At the rate Tech Mahindra has been presenting their Best of the Best Associates Consistently Excel (ACE) awards, including the ACE 2022 Award, to Sumit Mathur "for consistently delivering exceptional work, delighting customers and creating a better world with Tech Mahindra every day," we had advised him to build a special cabinet to display his and his wife Nidhi's (also with Tech Mahindra) awards. The Project Management Institute also added to Sumit's delight by presenting him with a Certificate of Appreciation for "volunteer contributions to the Project Management Institute and the Project Management profession in 2022."



### Vimal joins Applus+

Vimal Kumar Mathur, who earned accolades as General Manager spearheading the LPG distribution of Indian Oil Corporation all over the country, more specifically meeting the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana goals to award-winning perfection, has accepted a new assignment. He has joined Applus+ as Senior Consultant. Applus+ is a worldwide leader in the testing, inspection and certification sector conforming to regulatory standards. It's also acknowledged as a leader in providing solutions from asset integrity management to statutory compliance-based inspections.



### Dr. Rena to join Cleveland Clinic

Dr. Rena Chandra will start work as a Pediatric Hospitalist at the world renowned US-based Cleveland Clinic in January 2023. A double board certified doctor in Pediatrics and Pediatric Hospital Medicine, Dr. Rena told Profile that she is, "Truly happy to be in Cleveland, practicing in the city I grew up in." Her parents Neeta and Dileep Chandra and siblings Ajay and Sonal are also excited to have Dr. Rena back home.

## Gita receives Lifetime Achievement in Education Leadership Award



Founder Director of Gitanjali Group of five schools and HMKE&WS Vice President Dr. Gita Karan was presented the *Lifetime Achievement in Education Leadership Award 2022-23* by *EducationWorld* and inducted into the *EW Hall of Fame of Indian Education* in appreciation of her "sustained effort to raise the teaching/

learning standards in India." Readers may recall that she received the *Brainfeed Lifetime Achievement Award 2018-19* "for her outstanding contribution in the field of education by elevating the standards in imparting quality education to the next generation of learners." The list of awards and the accolades she has received in her lifetime is impressively long, but we would be failing on our part if we do not mention that Round Table India conferred upon her the *Pride of Telangana* title as a distinguished achiever in the education category; COWE (Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs) included her in their list of *Women of Inspiration*; and Education Today honoured her as a *Visionary-Leading Icon*.

## Gitanjali Devshala is No.1 Co-Ed Day school



Gitanjali Devshala (Balamrai) has been recognized as the No.1 Co-Ed Day school in Secunderabad and the No.8 Co-Ed Day school in Telangana by *EducationWorld* magazine. It was another addition to the vast collection of awards won by Gitanjali Devshala in the past, before it celebrated its Silver Jubilee. Madhvi Chandra, who has been steering the fortunes of the institution admirably on the road to success over the past twenty-four years, received the award.

## Awards that reflect Pratima's leadership



Pratima Sinha, Chief Executive Officer, DSR Educational Society and Representative, Birla Open Minds International School, Hyderabad, was at the EducationWorld annual award event at Gurgaon in October to

collect a number of awards. These include the Senior Jury Award for Excellent Senior Management Leadership besides awards to Birla Open Minds International School for First in Hyderabad and Telangana for Career Counsel Leaders, 5th Rank Co-ed school in Hyderabad and Telangana and 25th Countrywide, and Top 10 rank school in Parent Involvement in the Country.

## Prof. Vikram et al, set-up International Tax Law Research & Policy Network



The International Tax Law Research and Policy Network has been co-founded by Switzerland's University of Lausanne Prof. Vikram Chand. The Network has been established to conduct independent research on international taxation that would serve as a basis to advance debates on international taxation. Prof. Vikram (s/o Ashok Chand) is well known as an eminent expert in international taxation circles. Besides his students at the University of Lausanne, Dr. Vikram has trained and empowered government officials of various countries on international taxation besides authoring authoritative texts and research papers. He has recently been invited by the Indonesian government to build capacity and provide recommendations related to global minimum tax rules.



## Nitika's doctoral dissertation wins award

University of Melbourne's Dr. Nitika Mathur's (d/o late Dr. Pradeep Raj Mathur) dissertation on 'Robustness in machine translation evaluation' won the CORE Australasian Doctoral Dissertation Award. It is only the second University of Melbourne's Ph.D. of all time to be so recognized in 28 years. Dr. Nitika's research focuses on how best to evaluate the automated translation of one natural language to another.

## Prof. Sanjay receives Fifteen Year Service Award



The College of Medicine, Florida State University, USA, presented its *Fifteen Year Service Award* to Prof. Sanjay Kumar (extreme right in

photo with colleagues), who has not only distinguished himself as a popular teacher, but more importantly as a frontline Temporal Lobe Epilepsy (TLE) researcher. Profile had reported in its previous issue that Prof. Sanjay and his team had made significant strides in unraveling the patterns of this disorder, which received significant media attention globally.



## Sangeeta wins 20-year service award

On 17th December, Sangeeta Mathur (w/o late Vidya Raj Mathur) received an award for completing 20 years of dedicated service at the Gitanjali School. This popular ever-smiling Class-III teacher holds Master's degrees in Commerce and Education.



## Pratima attends EDUtech Asia Conference at Singapore

Pratima Sinha (w/o Balkrishna Sinha), Chief Executive Officer, DSR Educational Society and Representative, Birla Open Minds International School, Hyderabad, joined the Indian School Leader's Delegation that participated in the EDUtech Asia international conference during 7th and 12th November at Singapore as a distinguished speaker. Winner of many awards and one of India's leading school education leaders, Pratima is a member of HMKE&WS Managing Committee and the Editorial Board of Profile.



## Anjali qualifies as Clinical Psychologist



Anjali Chandra took her first class M.Sc. (Clinical Psychology) degree from the Manipal University, Jaipur, in the presence of her proud parents Kakuly and Atul Chandra in September. Following in the footsteps of her grandmother late Dr. Premrata Chandra in the field of Psychology, in the last two years, Anjali has not just honed her skills in lecture halls but also out in the real world. Among others, she has played the role of Student Mental Health Counselor for Health Basix at Brigade School, Supervised Counselor in the Fellowship Program of Wellness Within and completed internships with Hope Trust, Bharosa She Team of Hyderabad Police, Rainbow Children's Hospitals, Chetana Hospital and My Choices Foundation. She has participated in training programs on QPR Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) in a non-clinical and safe environment, Trauma Counseling and Queer Therapy. Her research thesis on 'Psychological predictors of sustainable consumption behavior' was published in the *International Journal of Indian Psychology*. Anjali has trained well to "provide individual psychotherapy to children and adolescents to facilitate social, vocational and personal adjustments that would allow them to lead more meaningful and fulfilling lives."

## Suhani bags Super Dream internship

Suhani (d/o Neha & Sumit Mathur) has been selected by Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) as an Intern during her campus placements at the Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT-Vellore). Her six-month internship starts in January 2023.



## Shrey joins Apollo

Those who know Shrey Mathur well were sure he would get a medical seat, and in a good institution too. True to his reputation, Shrey didn't disappoint his well wishers and strode confidently into the portals of the Apollo Institute of Medical Science and Research Center this year.



Shrey's delighted parents Vandana and Santosh Mathur hosted a party on 17th December to celebrate the momentous occasion amidst their close relatives (see photo). Shrey can be called an all-rounder in the true sense. The awards/certificates he has received not only cover academics (including those given away by HMKE&WS), but also poetry recitation, dramatics, cricket, football, handball, etc., etc.

## Pradeep's first success as Consultant



When Pradeep Kumar Mathur retired as Country Head – Corporate Quality from the Karvy Group, he donned a

Consultant's cap. "I can help clients obtain most ISO certifications," says Pradeep. The most popular certifications are QMS (ISO 9001:2015), ISMS (ISO 27001:2013), EMS (ISO 14001:2015), besides CMMi, SOC-2, Six Sigma solutions for cyber security solutions, etc., explains Pradeep. Educated in India and UK, Pradeep (centre in photo) reported his first success as a consultant recently!





### New Biradariwallas

**TIYA MATHUR:** Born to Shreya (d/o Arpana & Sudesh Raj Mathur) and Sohil Mathur (s/o Seema & Pradeep Kumar Mathur) at Hyderabad on 15th November (1).



**VIANA VARMA:** Born to Vedika (d/o Achla & late Prahlad Kumar) and Varun Varma (s/o Annapurna & P.V.N. Raju) on 15th December (2).

### Dhriti's great grandparents ascend *sone-ki-sidi*



At the colorful and largely attended Godi Bharai and Masodan of **DHRITI SAGAR** (d/o Apoorva and Dheer Sagar) hosted by her grand-

parents Rakesh Mathur, Preeta and Renu Sagar at *Our Palace* on 26th December, a number of her great grandparents ascended the coveted *sone-ki-sidi*. They included Veer Sagar and Surabhi, Dr. Shanti Sagar and Dr. Aruna, Anand Sagar and Rita, Om Kesari, Vijay Mohini, Naresh Chandra and Udai Mohini.

### Engagements

**ASHRAY MATHUR** (s/o Namita & Sunil Kumar Mathur) to **TANYA MATHUR** (d/o Rajita & Dharmesh Raj Mathur) on 28th December at a largely attended event with dance, music, cocktails and dinner at the Classic Gardens, Secunderabad (1).



**Dr. RIDHI MATHUR** (d/o Superna & late Dr. Nitin Chandra Mathur) to **Dr. PRASHANT BEDRADI** (s/o Jayshree & Shekar Bedari) (2). A formal announcement is expected shortly.



### Wedding Bells



**RANVEER KARAN** (s/o Sangita & Adhir Karan) wed **SHIVANGI BAJPAI** (d/o Pooja & Anil Bajpai) on 20th November at Kanpur (1). A wedding reception was held at Alankrita Resorts, Hyderabad, on 24th November.



**SHAILESH RAJ MATHUR** (s/o Suman Kumari & Vinod Raj Mathur) wed **NIHARIKA SRIVASTAVA** (d/o Rachana & Nagesh Srivastava) at Hyderabad on 27th November (2). **SMRITI MATHUR** (d/o Shradha & Sanjeev Bali Mathur) wed **JAYESH AGARWAL** (s/o Sandhya & Yugal K. Agarwal) at Hyderabad on 25th November (3).

### Gruhapraveshs



**SAMIT MOHAN LAL** (s/o Renuka & Uday Mohan Lal) and **REEMA** (d/o late Saroj Laxmi & Suresh Chand) purchased a house at Marietta, Georgia, USA, and moved into the house with their

son Rithwik in October (1).



The sons of Shashi and Bharat Raj Mathur purchased an apartment each recently. Elder son **AKSHAY RAJ MATHUR** and daughter-in-law **NITYA** (d/o Geeta Devi & Verender Pershad) performed gruhapravesch close to the dwelling of his parents at Brindavan Apartments, Chikoti Gardens, Begumpet, Hyderabad – 500 016 on 22nd December (2). Earlier, their younger son **ABHINAV RAJ MATHUR** and his wife **NITYA** (d/o Deepa & Rajesh Chandra) chose Valley View Apartments on Road No. 6, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad – 500 034 and performed gruhapravesch on 4th November (3).





## Use LPG cooking gas safely at home

VIMAL KUMAR MATHUR\*



The cooking gas that we use in cylinders at home is called LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas). With the rising acceptability of this cooking fuel at homes and commercial establishments comes the enormous risk of its misuse. Lack of knowledge or over-confidence of consumers is leading to

avoidable accidents. Safety is of paramount importance. Hence, it is necessary that biradari members must be informed about safety measures to be undertaken while using LPG. Ideally, your kitchen complies with certain safety standards. I am listing below a few important aspects of LPG you must know:

- The LPG gas in the cylinder is available in combined form of gas (compressed) and liquid. The cylinder contents are in a pressurized state. LPG has a distinct foul smell. Customers can smell when it leaks. But LPG vapor cannot be seen. When it leaks as it is colorless.
- LPG is heavier than air. So, it will settle on the ground in case of leakage. Leaked LPG can stay settled on the ground for days and can collect in drains or basements. You won't even realize that it is present on the ground because it could be below your range of smell. When the accumulated gas meets a source of ignition (even in adjoining rooms), it can burn or explode. The only way leaked LPG can disperse is through well ventilated windows.
- Exposure to liquid LPG can cause cold burns to the skin. It can act as an asphyxiant in high concentrations.
- The LPG cylinder, valve and pressure regulator have been designed for safe and optimum usage by a normal household. If used properly, all the LPG will be used in the cylinder. Do not roll the cylinder to extract the last portions of LPG.
- LPG fires can only be extinguished by using dry chemical powder (DCP) type or ABC type of fire extinguishers and not carbon dioxide type of fire extinguishers (widely used).
- Contrary to certain WhatsApp messages doing the rounds on 'expiry of cylinders' oil companies have clarified that there is no such thing as expiry date of cylinders. The test date is marked on cylinders only for identification by company officials of next test dates. This information is not intended for the customers. The small burner consumes a quantity of approximately one third LPG compared to the bigger burner provided on your stove. So it is economical to use the smaller burner.

A few tips on safe use of LPG:

- Always keep the LPG gas stove on a platform above the LPG gas cylinder level. Never keep the LPG gas cylinder in a confined cavity below the kitchen platform enclosed by modular kitchen shutters. Always get the cooking gas installation serviced regularly through an authorized mechanic.
- It is common practice to let the delivery staff keep the sealed cylinder in the kitchen without letting them con-

duct pre-delivery checks. This practice is unsafe. Always ensure that refill is connected after due pre-delivery checks in your presence, even if it's for the second cylinder.

- Do not use green color or transparent nonstandard rubber tubes. Use only orange colored BIS marked SURAKSHA LPG Hoses sourced through your authorized LPG distributor. Replace the same every 5 years even though it may seem neat and clean. Do not use 'T joints' available in the open market. These are the weakest sections of the connection and increase the chances of leakage of gas through the joints.
- Keep the stoves and cook-tops free of grease and fat build-up. The exhaust fan above the stove should always be kept in clean condition free of grease and fat build-up. Dirty, old and un-serviced gas cookers operating in a sealed environment have an increased risk of carbon monoxide spillage. Smaller, poorly ventilated dwellings are at greater risk.
- Wear only cotton clothes with tight-fitting sleeves while cooking. It is important to wear a cotton apron, while cooking. Aprons prevent loosely held cloth like '*saree pallu*' accidentally catching fire. Cotton, in comparison to synthetic cloth, has the property of not letting fire spread rapidly on the body. Synthetic cloth will aggravate the extent of burn by sticking to the body. Hang tea-towels away from the stove. Have a fire escape plan and discuss the same with your family. Make them aware of it.
- Do not use the commonly available piezo-electric gas lighters as they are bound to fail after some usage and you wouldn't be sure of its ignition. It's also not recommended to use a cooking gas range provided with an auto ignition facility. It is recommended to use flame lighters for igniting LPG burners.
- Always turn off the knob on the gas cylinder, after use, to prevent any accidental leakage. Close all the stove knobs after use and also if you smell a leak. Install gas detectors in your kitchen and in the room where you keep your gas cylinder in order to avoid any accidents due to gas leak from a gas cylinder.
- Never leave cooking unattended even for a few moments. It is one of the most common and preventable causes of domestic fires. Also, never allow a child to cook without adult supervision. When cooking with gas, make sure the flame does not go out – gas can escape silently and invisibly.
- When cooking with oil or fat take extra care as fats and cooking oils will ignite in a *kadhai* once these have reached a certain temperature.
- Never use water to put out fat and oil fires. Water can cause a fire to spread rapidly and inflict horrific burns. If a fire starts, turn off the stove or cover the flame with the pot/lid if it is safe to do so. Then use an appropriate fire extinguisher, such as ABC type or dry chemical powder type chemical extinguisher, or fire blanket to smother the flames.

In case of emergency:

Continued on page 20

## Shraddhanjali

22nd October: **SUCHITRA SAXENA** (d/o Kishan Chand Mathur) (1): She was 58. She leaves behind her husband Naveen Kumar Saxena, daughter Dr. Aditi Mathur, son-in-law Siddharth Mathur, and two sons Akshay Saxena and Ankit Saxena.

4th November: **Dr. KULDEEP MOHAN CHAUDHARY** (son-in-law of Keerath Chand) (2). He was 78. The former leading medical practitioner of Unnao (UP) leaves behind his wife Aruna, the families of his daughter Bhavana Karan (Dr. Anil Karan, Sachin, Divya) and two sons Dr. Akash Chaudhary (Dr. Soumya, Dia, Aryan) and Dr. Gagan Chaudhary (Divya, Aarav).

5th November: **SUMANLATA MATHUR** (w/o Late Prahlad Mohan Lal): She was 76. The retired Principal of Agarwal Girls High School leaves behind her two sons Akhil Mohan Lal and Ashit Mohan Lal, daughters-in-law Ekta Mathur and Monika Lal, daughter Sumita Lal (w/o Late Sanjay Mohan Lal), and five grandchildren - Shreya Lal, Gauri Mathur, Ira Mathur, Reyansh Lal and Rishaan Lal.

22nd November: **MITHLESH KISHORI** (w/o late Rai Romesh Chand). She was 93. The biradari's first women entrepreneur leaves behind her two daughters Sareen Sagar and Dr. Nishi

Mathur, three sons-in-law Ajeet Sagar, Giridhar Aharam and Sudhir Mathur, son Nilesh Mathur, daughter-in-law Nisha, nine grandchildren and their spouses Ashish Sagar and Ipsita, Alok Sagar and Mansi, Manisha and Amit Mathur, Mitali and

Abhay Sinha, Rashmi, Nitish Mathur and Reeti, Dr. Neeti and Varun Mathur, Nainika Mathur, Mrinal Mathur and four great-grandchildren Kriti, Ishan, Kiara and Mishka.

8th December: **UDAI SAIN MATHUR** (s/o late Jeevan Pershad): He was 84. The retired Superintendent of the Civil Supplies Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, leaves behind his wife Shobha Mathur, two daughters Sunaina Srivastava and Rachna Mathur, sons-in-law Susheel Srivastava and Rajnish Pershad and two grandchildren Shivani Srivastava and Rakshit Mathur.

28th December: **RAM MOHAN RAI** (s/o late Dharam Rai): He was 81. The retired Joint Director of Agriculture, Government of Andhra Pradesh, leaves behind his wife Subhadra, son Aminesh Mathur, daughter-in-law Ruchi, daughter Roochi, son-in-law Brijesh Mohan Lal, and three grandchildren Aarav, Darsh and Sonal.



## Use LPG gas safely (Contd.)

- Do not panic. Shout 'fire, fire, fire...' so that nearby people are alerted and come to your rescue.
- Round-the-clock LPG Emergency Helpline Number is 1906. Please make a note of this at a prominent place in your home and call-in case of emergency. Seek medical help.
- Keep your Oil Company, distributor name and phone number, and your consumer number handy.
- In case a person's clothes catch fire, wrap a moist blanket around the person to douse fire and cool the person. Immediately inform the distributor/emergency service and the nearest hospital.
- Suraksha LPG hose (orange color), flame retardant aprons and energy efficient devices are recommended to enhance safety measures.

\*The author is the former General Manager (LPG), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.



## Profile released

Rich tributes were paid to the memory of Dr. Dharam Ram Pershad at the online release of the July-September 2022 issue of Profile on 22nd December. Starting with

HMKE&WS President Dr. Dinesh Raj Mathur, speaker after speaker from India, USA and UK spoke in glowing terms about the illustrious, affectionate and large hearted gentleman in the *Profile* published in his memory and at the event. The family members of Dr. Dharam Ram Pershad, his wife Gyaneshwari Pershad and son Dr. Harsh Ram Pershad (see photo) thanked the *Profile* team for bringing out an excellent issue. Earlier, the *Profile*'s Editor-in-Chief Dr. Rohit Raaj Mathur thanked the sponsors and said that it is an honor to publish special issues of the *Profile* dedicated to outstanding biradari members like Dr. Dharam Ram Pershad. *Profile*'s Executive Editor Sharad Raj Mathur proposed the vote of thanks and Editorial Board member Nachiket Mathur, hosted the event.

## Profile Editorial Board

**Chairperson & Editor-in-Chief** — Dr. Rohit Raaj Mathur (Mobile: 98485 97963; email: drrrrmathur.toshiba@gmail.com); **Executive Editor** — Sharad Raj Mathur (P&T: 2404 1083; Mobile: 99082 99947; email: sharadrajmathur@yahoo.co.in); **Members** — Jayanth Kumar (P&T: 2373 8531; Mobile: 83744 28921; email: kumarjayanth@outlook.com); Mohit Kishore Mathur (P&T: 2371 2941; Mobile: 98492 40450; email: mohitakshki@gmail.com); Nachiket Mathur (Mobile: 98857 23344; email: nachiket-mathur@hotmail.com); Nilesh Chand Mathur (Mobile: 89788 44489; email: ncmmathur@gmail.com); Pradeep Kumar Mathur (P&T: 2360 7001; Mobile: 90300 33673; email: pradeepmathur54@gmail.com); Pratima Sinha (P&T: 2360 0624; Mobile: 93913 56477; email: pratimasinha25@gmail.com); Sangeeta Mathur (mobile: 98485 79725); Shreya Mathur (Mobile: 70329 00292; email: Shreya.mathur3090@gmail.com); Vishnu Raj Mathur (P&T: 2373 9474; Mobile: 95020 47980; email: amrit.shilpa@gmail.com); and Dr. Vrijilesh Rai (Mobile: 90525 03311; email: vrijilesh@gmail.com).

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