

Profile

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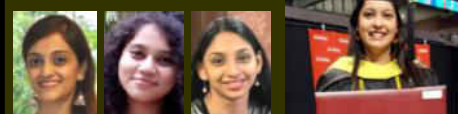
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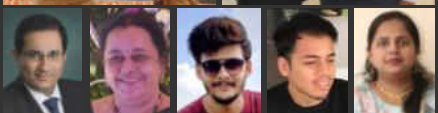
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Dear Biradari Members:

I hope all of you are doing well. This is my last Presidential message to you as I will be completing two successful terms as the President of HMKE&WS. The journey of 43 long years of service to HMKE&WS in different capacities has been very educative, enriching and interactive with biradari members across the globe. Both my tenures were very challenging. During this period we came across the most dreadful pandemic – COVID-19 – which changed the functioning of the world, impacting our Society programs as well. We had to switch from hosting our activities live from Sushil Mathur Bhavan to online through Zoom and broadcast on YouTube. But what is really appreciable is that you all adapted to this change seamlessly. Hence, we were able to continue hosting virtual programs and thereby extend the reach and participation from Hyderabad to all over the world! I felt that once again the entire biradari came together.

I am proud to acknowledge and appreciate my team for supporting me during this challenging period to bring frequent, innovative and exciting programs, which were largely participated and highly appreciated by all members across the world. It is for the first time our entire activities had to be shifted from live programs to online which was a Herculean task and required extra hard work. But every committee and sub-committee member gave their 100% and the result was a variety of very well planned, organized and executed functions for everyone. Additionally, the regular Managing Committee meetings and Profile releases were also conducted online. The telephone directory

was also updated and released online.

During the pandemic, monthly pension and medical aid to widows was continued without any halt. I sincerely thank the biradari members who have responded to my appeals and donated generously by which we could provide ration and monetary help to needy families. Support was also given for medical expenses for families affected by COVID-19. I am very happy that with my team's hard work and generous donations by biradari members, we could repair, renovate and paint the Sushil Mathur Bhavan and bring it back to its original glory. We have restarted live activities after performing



THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

Satyanarayan Katha and Havan to mark its auspicious beginning.

In the Golden Jubilee year, for the first time we have recognized and honored each one of the executive members who have served HMKE&WS from its inception in 1970 till date. I am extremely grateful to all the members who have helped me in completing my much desired Family Tree compilation for the Golden Jubilee Souvenir. This was my idea to show how all our families are connected to form this biradari, and have this history available to pass down to our future generations. Once again I earnestly appeal to all the working biradari members to donate an-

nually - Indian Residents ₹500 and Non Resident Indians \$100 – for maintaining the Sushil Mathur Bhavan and continue future activities. Long live HMKE&WS!

Sincerely,
Dr. DINESH RAJ MATHUR
President
HMKE&WS

Golden Jubilee Year commences with Satyanarayan Pooja and Havan at transformed SMB

The Sushil Mathur Bhavan (SMB) has been fully transformed with the generous support of donors. The Religious Sub-committee of HMKE&WS chaired by Dr. Dhreshwari, set a spirited commencement process in the Golden Jubilee Year at the SMB on an auspicious note with *Sri Satyanarayan Pooja* followed by *Havan*. The SMB transformation was the painstaking



effort taken by the President Dr. Dinesh Raj Mathur and members of the

SMB Sub-committee, principally Vinod Bahadur and Sudeep Raj Mathur, with the support of the two Organizing Secretaries Dr. Sugita Mathur and Dr. Manoj Chandra Mathur. The inability to take up civil works and periodic maintenance during the COVID-19 Pandemic followed by torrential rains caused immense damage to the SMB. Water logging, leaking roof, seepage in walls, damage to doors, windows and electrical installations, among others, left the SMB unusable. All programs had to be conducted online. Now, the SMB bears a new look and is once again the favored venue for HMKE&WS programs.



₹ 41,000 donated to HMKE&WS

A sum of ₹ 41,000 was donated to HMKE&WS recently. Dr. Uday Lal (1) and Renu Lal Narasimham (2) donated ₹ 25,000 on the occasion of the 25th Death Anniversary of their mother Rama Rani Lal. In addition, Dr. Bajrang Pratap Mathur (3) donated ₹ 10,000 and Sneha Lata (4) ₹ 6,000.



Those who love us never leave us

"Those who love us never leave us"- it holds true for me every single day. I feel my Parents dearest Mum - Rama Rani Lal and Dad - Dr. Hirdaya Mohan Lal are with me by my side supporting us always and their Love and Blessings for Udai and me - their offspring as well as our family will never fade. It's hard to come to terms with the loss of our parents but cherished memories and unforgettable moments spent with them, their love and unwavering support have kept us and will continue to keep us going.... I remember my childhood spent with my grandparents in Hyderabad while my parents were in London. When we moved to Bombay, I went through separation anxiety. I was almost 8 years old. The separation from Nana, Nani, Baba, Dadi, buas all my mausis, mamas and maens, my cousins who were my friends was heartbreaking for me. I got Nani to go to Bombay to help me settle in with my parents who had returned from London in 1969 with a 4 year old Udai my brother who I had never met earlier. Both siblings got chickenpox together. I was clingy to Nani and Udai to our Mum.

Our Parents' home 101 Citadel in Malabar Hill, Bombay, was "an open house." Our parents welcomed our relatives and friends, few of them were there for long spells for medical treatment. Our parents were always forthcoming in their hour of need and supported them always. Itni "barkat" thi us ghar mein in Bombay - our "Haven" our cocoon where we were raised. We learned to sacrifice; make time and place for our guests. Udai and I believe we have imbibed those qualities to reach out to all who need help.

Mum:

Mum had a heart of gold, was an accomplished school and college lecturer in English Literature. She did her Ph.D. from the University of London in English Literature in 1962. She worked in London at a primary school initially and thereafter in Bombay she taught English Literature at two degree colleges till her health started deteriorating. Reading extensively was a struggle to prepare for her lectures. Her eyes got affected due to Diabetes. She had to eventually give up her job when she kept indifferent health. She continued to help tutoring from home to the students who reached out to her. Some struggled to understand her British accent but eventually it was a win-win situation and her students were grateful for sparing her time despite the health challenges she faced.

Mum was very generous with her compliments, made time for everyone and was kind-hearted. She was witty and her infectious laughter and sense of humor appealed to all whose lives she touched. She did not tolerate laziness nor if people told lies. Wasting food on the table was not tolerated either. Unless we had an allergy to food, nothing could be wasted.

Her culinary skills were exemplary; everyone loved the food she churned out with ease and she had a passion for cooking and feeding. Dad's bosses who visited from UK loved Rama's "Hot lamb curry n Rice," her Biryani n Kababs. She catered to every palate - mild, medium or smokin' hot! I recall when Mum narrated a story about a whole group of friends based in UK in the early 60s - few of them from our Biradari. Daya Sagar Uncle and other Hyderabadis drove to Lake Geneva from London and Mum cooked Biryani relished by all in the camper van - she never gave up, always trying new recipes and refining her culinary skills and she did excel - considering she did not know any cooking when she got married. Her Gourmet Chef and mentor was her Manjle Tau, who was her inspiration. He would send her recipes to London. She refined her culinary skills through trial n error and perfected them thereafter.

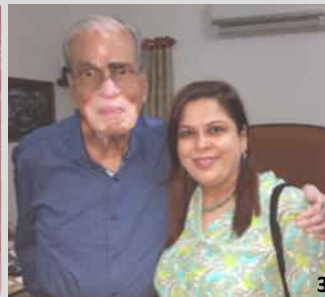
Mum's kindness and generosity is reflected in the training she imparted to our helpers - young boys who dreamed to go abroad and earn a decent living to support their families in their village. Most of them recruited by Mum were South Indians. They cooked for our family. Mum taught them various cuisines. These chaps were quick to learn Hyderabad khaana/cooking and also taught them table manners, etiquette, greeting foreign guests, some spoke English...she taught them how to be frugal with rare ingredients and thereafter sent them abroad for better opportunities - the only condition being they need to train someone before leaving for greener pastures. Helping others those less privileged than her she was always supportive - it came naturally to her and I believe she nurtured this quality in me too.

How I wish Mum had met my husband Sasha - they have similar in-

terests, are voracious readers and of similar intellect. I see so much commonality in both of them - strict, disciplined, both have a love for world History - and have a sharp wit and the ability to repartee at the spur of the moment. Sonya, our daughter, also misses and often tells me "Mummy, I wish I had met Nanima. I've heard Nana telling me such interesting stories and tales about his life with Nani that kept me enthralled!" I know in my heart that she's blessing Sasha and Soni from above. "It's 25 long years Mum since you left us but fond loving memories remain etched in my Heart forever. Love you Ma and not a single day goes by without thinking of you."

Dad:

Dr. Hirdaya Mohan Lal was one in a million - a devoted son and husband, a caring father, a doting brother, a wonderful uncle, a very special friend to those who knew him professionally as well as socially. He made time for everyone. To



1. Renu Lal Narasimham; 2. Renu in her mother Rama Rani Lal's lap; 3. Renu with her father Dr. H.M. Lal; 4. Birthday wishes for Renu from her parents.

some, he was a role model. He carried himself well, dressed impeccably and inspired many to excel in their chosen field. He had mentored many at his place of work too where he was a Medical Director at G.D. Searle India Limited for over two decades and thereafter worked with Glaxo Smith Kline where he retired as Vice President (Research and Development) in Bombay in 1994. Dad was a member of several medical associations in India, who honored and respected him for his commitment to the Medical field. He was principled and he did not shirk his responsibilities. He was a great provider - gave us an opportunity to study in one of India's finest schools - the Lawrence School Lovedale in Ooty. Later, when Udai and I graduated from colleges in Bombay, I went on to pursue Hospitality Management and Udai followed Dad's footsteps - he chose to do Medicine. Later, I got my Master's degree from Florida International University in Hospitality Management.

Dad enjoyed music of various genres - western music as well as *ghazals*. He loved to sing and enjoyed *sher aur shayari*. He was passionate about *Saaz aur Aawaz* that he organized often - it was an evening of music primarily *ghazals* and songs, performed by upcoming Indian artists. The members of *Saaz aur Aawaz* were family and his lovely friends with like minded interest. Dad, we celebrate your life, know that you are: loved, appreciated and thanked by all whose lives you have touched with your compassion kindness, generosity and zest for life. Love you Daddy and miss you eternally. May your sweet Soul rest in eternal peace! *Om Shanti!* Know that you are loved forever. — *Renu Lal Narasimham (Daughter)*



Lost a good friend and guide

My Father-in-law Dr. H.M. Lal was one of a kind. As I got to know him over the past 23 years, I appreciated his tolerance for diversity and differences in perceptions in a non-judgmental manner. Our mutual respect stemmed from intellectual admiration, as well as shared likings of classical music and single malts and rare wines. With his passing, I lost a good friend and guide. — *Radhakrishna Narasimham (Son-in-law) (5)*

Thank you for emboldening me

Nana, I cannot find suitable words to describe how much you mean to me, but I'll attempt to. You will always be remembered for the love, kindness and your generosity towards us- your grandchildren and everyone close to you. Your guidance, love and support are a blessing in our lives. You have left us with so many wonderful memories to cherish forever. You will always hold a very special place in my heart Nana - I miss you and love you heaps. You are my guiding force and my inspiration to strive hard always. As I have embarked on my undergraduate studies this year at QUT (Queensland University of Technology) in Brisbane, I will study hard and make you proud. All the timeless moments of sitting together in silence, your hugs, your kisses, your smile and your laugh is what makes me feel so proud - happy and blessed. I remember when you video called me from the hospital in March and you asked me which university in Australia are you going to? I replied "I still have one more entrance exam to go through before I know which university I will choose - from the ones I have been accepted at." You smiled back and looked at me and said do well for me with your thumbs up. I smiled back and said I will do well for you and that is something I will never forget. I wish I could have given you a big hug and kiss before you left us but I know you are always blessing me from above. My formative years I've spent with you hold special memories for me when we would spend our Summers in Hyderabad or elsewhere on Family holidays. The one in Alaska was special. Also in Singapore when you took us to Universal Studios. Thank you for emboldening me and for all the valuable lessons imparted by you - that I will cherish forever. You have touched so many lives and I thank God everyday that you have touched mine - I feel so blessed to have you shower your love and you will always be my inspiration to achieve stellar heights. You may be gone physically dearest Nana but you will be missed forever by your loving family. They say time is the best healer but the void is always palpable. Rest easy in heaven Nana, I love you forever and shall always remain your "sunshine" as you sang this song for me so often: You are my Sunshine my only Sunshine you make me happy when skies are gray - you'll never know dear how much I love you please don't take my Sunshine away. I'm echoing the same words for you dearest Nana you may not be with us physically but will always live in my Heart. Love — *Sonya Narasimham (Granddaughter)*



6. Sonya Narasimham; 7. Sonya with her Nana Dr. H.M. Lal and her parents Radhakrishna Narasimham and Renu Lal Narasimham; 8. Sonya with Dr. H.M. Lal.

Those we love don't go away; they walk besides us

Daddy:

Dad was a remarkable individual, larger than life figure and a multifaceted personality who touched the lives of many. He effortlessly managed his multiple roles as a dutiful son, loving husband, caring father, friend and mentor. As children, my sibling Renuji and I grew up in awe admiring his vibrant charismatic personality, his sartorial elegance and his calm demeanor which inspired us in many ways throughout our lives. As a child, I remember him being a strict disciplinarian, but as years passed by he was more a friend who was always there to help and give us sound advice. Despite his busy schedule at work, especially whilst at G.D. Searle as Area Medical Director looking after SE Asia, Mi-



ddle East and Africa which entailed frequent travelling, he still made it a point to spend some quality time with the family, be it a brief holiday or a relaxing weekend at Marve beach house or a treat at then famous China Garden or Golden Dragon, our favorite Chinese eat out places. I distinctly remember whilst at Lawrence School as a boarder, I used to eagerly look forward to his visits to Ooty as he would take me and my friends for lunch at the one and only Chinese restaurant called Shinkows, which used to be a real treat and a welcome getaway from the monotonous hostel food. During his visits he would also get a lot of goodies which we called as *tuck food* that I shared with my close hostel buddies. This made him a popular figure amongst my friends and was fondly nicknamed *Uncle Santa*. I distinctly remember when I first joined medical college, Dad's constant encouragement, guidance and mentoring went a long way in helping me overcome the initial jitters, as I felt overwhelmed with the task at hand initially. He always encouraged us to aim high and not compromise to achieve success in our respective fields.

He excelled and reached stellar heights both in the medical profession and subsequently rose up the corporate ladder. He was considered a doyen in the pharmaceutical industry, and helped shaping many policies within the pharmaceutical industry in India, being a vital member of OPPI committee. His work entailed extensive travelling around the world, interacting with some leading names in the medical fraternity throughout the world. His dedication and work ethos along with his persuasive style, patience and an exemplary command of the English language won him many awards and friends over time all across the globe. Even as a child, I was given to believe he displayed exceptional academic brilliance and was recipient to scholarships during his early medical career, before proceeding to the United Kingdom to obtain his degree from the Royal College of Physicians [MRCP] along with his Ph.D. degree.

His passion for music and art was something we all admired, for his melodious *ghazals* and *qawalis* often lit up many a party and smaller gatherings. He was instrumental in bringing like minded music lovers under an umbrella named *Saaz aur Awaaz*, which encouraged several established and upcoming artists to help them showcase their talent. Not only was he a connoisseur of music, he loved his scotch malt whiskey, which blended well with his decorous lifestyle. His elegant demeanor and his larger than life personality made him stand out both within the corporate and social circles. He was a vivacious person. I will miss his infectious laughter, wit, caring presence, his zest for life, his affection, his fun nature and

his *joy-de-vivre*.

Even after his retirement he kept himself busy with his love for music, his passion for cricket, kept abreast with academics and attended regularly his alma mater Osmania Medical College Alumni meetings and spent time catching up with old friends and making new friends! He had this remarkable ability to relate to people of any age, and make them feel comfortable; such was his charm and charisma. He played a major role in nurturing and guiding his grandchildren during their childhood, for he had abundance of patience which helped him to deal with their mischief and tantrums! Health issues in the last two years of his life, were a setback which hindered his movements and confined him largely to the house, but even then he lived by Walt Disney's philosophy "In bad time and in good time I've never lost my zest for life,"

wherein the company of his grandchildren and his love for music kept him going till the very end.

On a personal front I feel truly blessed for being his son, for he made my life that much more meaningful for which I will be eternally grateful. His physical presence we will miss, but his spirit lives on. We will celebrate the lovely memories and time spent with him and will forever cherish and draw inspiration from those moments. He stood out as an individual and believed in the philosophy of "Do what you do so well and so uniquely that people can't resist telling others about you." It would appear the angels from above had planned to send this remarkable individual into the world on a Christmas Day and his departure for heavenly abode was planned on an Easter Sunday! Love you Dad, till we meet again.

My beloved mother:

I remember my mother, Rama Rani Lal, as a charming and jovial person who carried herself very gracefully. She had a great sense of humor and yet was a feisty individual. She was loving and caring. Lilliputian in stature, but a large

hearted individual, a visionary and a person ahead of her times who touched many lives with her generosity and willingness to help anyone in need. As a mother, she was a pillar of strength for us, an embodiment of love who always nurtured and guided us under her protective umbrella. She inculcated in us good moral values and principles of life that I believe have stood both Renu and I, in good stead over time. During her initial days in Bombay, on returning from London after attaining her Ph.D. in English literature, she would always balance her work as an accomplished Professor of English Literature teaching at Lala Lajpat Rai College, taking care of the daily house chores and in addition, spare no effort in our upbringing, especially with my father's constant travel due to his work commitments.



9. Dr. Uday Lal; 10. Rama Rani Lal; 11. Dr. H.M. Lal; 12. The doctor father-son duo - Dr. Uday Lal and Dr. H.M. Lal.

from all walks of life at *101 Citadel* which was like an open house for everyone. Relatives, friends or Dad's professional colleagues from abroad would often be treated to a gourmet meal at home. She was equally adept at cooking an excellent Indian or a continental meal. Mum's culinary skills were exemplary which left an indelible mark on one's taste buds; even today many of my friends remember and rave fondly about the delicious food she would rustle up for us even at a short notice. She trained many an amateur cook into superb chefs during their stay at Citadel, some of who subsequently moved on to greener pastures in the Gulf and the UK. They would always make it a point to visit her on their trips back to India, just to thank her for what they achieved with her help and guidance.

Mom had a passion for collecting antiques and a discerning eye for art. She had this amazing ability to spot an antique even if it wasn't in the best condition; she would pick it up and have it restored to its original beauty. I distinctly remember one incident, when Mom after great persuasion, convinced my reluctant father to take her to Chor Bazaar soon after their return from UK in their new Ford Cortina car. They had no clue about the Chor Bazar except that one could get super bargains on antique furniture which Mum was knee to explore. So after scouting round for furniture they wanted, they paid for its restoration and delivery but Dad was in for a surprise as they moved towards their car. He was



13. Devoted to each other - Rama Rani Lal and Dr. H.M. Lal.

shocked to see that the hubcaps of their new car went missing! Dad was in a dilemma as how to procure new ones for his imported car, when he was approached by the shopkeeper who promptly came up and said "Fikr na karo Saheb, hum aap ko dukan se duplicate dilwa denge" and he winked to his apprentice to guide Dad to another shop that stocked parts of imported cars. On reaching the shop, to Dad's utter dismay, he found his new hubcaps neatly stacked at this junk shop. He flipped one of the hubcaps to find his initials engraved on the inner hubcaps. He proclaimed that "These are my car's hubcaps. How did you get it?" To which he got a reply, "Saab aap ko idhar chori ka maal jaroor milega ekdum same to same, imported." Dad was aghast with his audacity when he said, "Seth apko maangta hai tho accha dam mein bechega!" to which Dad said, "Kya bole tum? Yeh mera hai, mujhe wapaa dejiye." The shopkeeper was quick to

reply, "Seth aapka tha maalum nahi, aaj aapun ko aapun ka daam milega toh leke jao warna dusra grahak aa jayega." Taken aback with the shopkeepers answer, being relatively new to Bombay and being in a 'not-so-friendly neighborhood', he had no choice but to pay a hefty amount to retrieve his own car hubcaps back! That day, Dad swore thereafter never to visit Chor Bazar again! Later, we all had a good laugh as we learnt that earlier many people too were duped in a similar fashion at Chor Bazar. This was a learning curve for Mum and Dad what next to expect in Bombay with a new imported car! However, this incident only kept my Mum away only for a while till she found her bearings in Bombay. Her love for antiques soon took her back to Chor Bazar but subsequently with her friends, in a chauffeur driven Ambassador, minus Dad of course!

Mum and Dad were devoted to each other and travelled the world far and wide often joined by family or friends. They both loved travelling and exploring places, trying the local cuisine and collecting local artifacts. Mum was a voracious reader and had a memory like an encyclopedia! She loved playing a game of cards with her family members especially, whilst visiting Hyderabad. Gardening was another hobby she was passionate about. I would often see her taking utmost care of plants and flowers whilst they were blooming for it gave her utmost joy. Mom's premature demise left a huge void in the family, and took us all a long time to come to terms with this irreparable loss. I do feel sad that that my children missed

the privilege of seeing her, enjoying her affection, pampering and love. Many of her friends that I have touched base over time even to this day reminisce fondly the lovely and fun times spent with her. It is been a quarter century since she left us. Each day we miss her presence and her cherubic smile immensely, but we know that she showers from heaven her love and blessings that will always fill our living spaces, till eternity! We have over the years, built a memorial of joyful and lovely moments spent with her in our hearts, which we shall always treasure and cherish forever. For:

*Those we love don't go away,
they walk besides us every day....
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
still loved, Still missed and very dear.*
- Dr. Udai Lal (Son)

In loving memory of my parents-in-law

They say, legacies are not merely what you leave for your near and dear. They are about what you leave in people's lives. My parents-in-law stood out as an exceptional couple who have left behind this trail of endless grace and love. Words fail me when I start to pen down moments of their glorious life.

My extraordinary father-in-law

Dr. H.M. Lal, my father-in-law was an extraordinary figure, an accomplished and talented soul, with whom the children and



I had forged a special bond. He was the guiding light of our family, that included his siblings and his near and dear. In his presence, we had found a sense of belonging enveloped by his love and care. Dad was always there for everyone. He would guide us with his gentle words and unwavering support. His presence was all pervasive. He exhibited qualities that are indeed rare in modern times. He was an intent listener and a person who had a good word for everyone around him. He would practice more than he would preach setting high standards of living for all of us, especially

his grandchildren. He would slowly but surely, nudge the children to imbibe good values and carry on with family traditions. Shreya and Manav were blessed to have had him as part of their growing up years. Through the stories of his yesteryears he taught us all valuable life lessons and we could gain insights into the intricacies of human connections. He would talk about his childhood and the lasting impression his father, late Prof. Shiv Mohan Lal had on his life. He in all earnest, lived by those values which also provided him the spiritual anchorage.

Daddy was a man of limitless repertoire! While on one hand, we found him digging into his spiritual leanings inspired by Bhagwan Sri Ramana Maharishi's *upadesas* and on the other front, he would serenade people with Urdu couplets and *ghazals*, in his mellifluous voice. Music was the elixir of life for him. Even in his ill health, he would gain comfort in *shlokas*, English classics and *ghazals*. Our mornings would begin with the sounds of music wafting throughout the house. He would never shy away from breaking into a little jig, throwing up his arms in a celebratory way, even when he was confined mostly to the bed! His zest for life and celebrations were second to none. He would keenly await every festival and helped plan them as grand affairs.

I had the comfort of striking conversations with him on a variety of topics ranging from mundane house affairs to the complexities of carrying on with 'the business of life'. He would take in every word and give his opinion and suggestions for the same. His wisdom was a treasure trove for us. He would always nudge me to aim high, to take up bigger projects and guided me in hiring a team whilst I forayed into the corporate world. "Dream big and do more," he would always say. The grandchildren also grew up looking up to him and now aim to build a successful and happy life for themselves. That was the striking part of his personality. He knew how to handle his high flying professional life, a huge social circle, caring for others and investing in himself and his hobbies. Those are now lessons of life for us and the future generations to come.

An Incredible mother-in-law

A moment of serendipity - that is how I refer to it. The remarkable lady, who bestowed upon me the name 'Smita' in my childhood, became my dear mother in law several decades later. My journey as a bride began in the year, 1995. Like countless others, I too was unsure of the life ahead. When a young woman stands on the threshold of starting a new life with her beloved husband, her mind is flooded with so many emotions. The quest to make a new house, a home takes time, effort and a lot of love and understanding from

both, the couple and the parent's in law. In this regard, I was indeed blessed. My mother-in-law too gave me so much of love, that I had no apprehensions dropping the in 'law' tag very soon and embraced her as an extension of my own mother. In the brief time I spent with her, she took me under her wings, guided me every step of the way. I felt protected and secure with her being around. I knew I could rely on her for everything. Slowly, she became my 'Anam Cara' (soul friend).

As I was brought up in Delhi and Mumbai, I was bereft of the experiences of interacting with our extensive Hyderabad family and the several circles of people connected within. It was indeed an overwhelming feeling at the time. The quick quizzes with the familiar line 'pehchani main kaun' would have me digging into the deepest corners of my memory. Not surprisingly, I would fail miserably at the task of recalling names. Here, my mother-in-law would quickly come to my rescue and would not only recall names in a flash, but also fill in with their detailed family trees! Mummy was blessed with an impressive memory and would often share funny anecdotes of the past with immaculate detail which would often have me in splits. Her laughter and jolly disposition was indeed infectious and would always, brighten up our days.

Nature and nurture; she navigated them adeptly. She possessed a profound knowledge of the English language, being an avid reader. Today, as I witness the portrayal of mothers-in-law in overly dramatic television serials, I take pride in saying that our relationship was truly one of a kind. We enjoyed taking walks together, and I marveled at her ability to identify all the blooming flowers, thanks to her green thumb. She nurtured her plants with love, and they thrived under her care. Her culinary skills were exemplary, and her loving nature extended to everyone around her. Mummy was one of those few people I have met in my life, who had the gumption to stand up for what was right. She was feisty

and compassionate at the same time.

Daddy and Mummy's life experiences were also shaped by the wonderful people they met during their lives. They reminded me of Lewis Carroll's quote "The secret Alice, is to surround yourself with people who make your heart smile. It's then, only then, that you'll find Wonderland." We all had the good fortune of meeting most of these special people, some of whom continue to be in touch even through the decades. This beautiful couple had the strength and the ability to reach out to people, stand by their values and conviction, not expecting a thing in return. Their lives could be summed up by the Persian poet Hafeez's words 'And still after all this time. The sun never says to the earth, 'You owe me.' 'Look at



14. Smita Lal; 15. Dr. H.M. Lal at the celebration of the wedding anniversary of his son Dr. Udai Lal and daughter-in-law Smita who are flanked by their children Dr. Shreya and Manav. 16. Dr. H.M. Lal with (L-R) Dr. Shreya, Dr Udai, Smita, Sonya and Manav.

what happens with a love like that. It lightens the whole sky.' – Smita Lal (Daughter-in-law)

My best friend and mentor

Baba:

Let me begin by expressing how my world revolved around Baba. He was more than just a grandfather to me; he was my best friend, mentor, and the embodiment of patience. There was something about his presence that resonated with many people, making him loved by all. I would describe him as the epitome of resilience and grit. Any time any of us thought about quitting, we just had to notice who was watching! Gentle but unwavering in his support, he nudged us towards looking at the bigger picture. The memories of Baba embarking on new endeavors and excelling at them, even at the age of 75, remain vivid in my mind. Not only was he my role model, but he was also a remarkable human being. I always looked up to him, eager to learn his exceptional people skills and his way of life, bereft of any negativity. His zest for life was truly commendable. One of his most endearing qualities was his empathetic nature, which earned him immense love and admiration. Baba had a dynamic personality that radiated energy unlike anyone else. He never ceased to explore and learn something new each day. As an ardent lover of music, he shared songs and couplets, regaling us with stories of his yesteryears. Memories of us such as watching the movie *The Sound of Music* every night before we fell asleep. Whether it was singing along with him during the movie or relishing his blissful laughter, it was always a joyous experience.

Returning home from school, college, or work to see his smile was always a delightful moment. His melodious voice singing *ghazals* was a captivating spectacle that was not to be missed. Baba approached everything he did with meticulous attention to detail, showcasing his strong values and morals. Whenever I felt low, Baba had a remarkable way of bringing a smile to my face. He always encouraged Manav and I to dream big, no matter how challenging a path may seem. If I possess the fearlessness and perseverance to work hard, it is because of him. Though he may not be physically with us, his presence is still palpable, and every moment spent with him



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17. Dr. Shreya Lal; 18. Dadi Rama Rani Lal holds Shreya in her lap; 19. Dr. H.M. Lal with daughter-in-law Smita and granddaughter Dr. Shreya; 20. Dr. Udai Lal, Manav, Dr. H.M. Lal and Smita on Dr. Shreya's birthday.

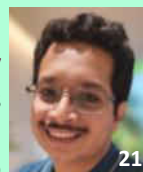
holds priceless value. I miss his warmth, love, and the simple act of bidding him goodnight, but his beautiful memories continue to bring a smile to my face and will linger on like the aroma of the Jasmine flowers he so adored. I can still recall him humming his favorite *ghazals* and the sounds of his laughter will continue to waft through our living spaces. His physical frame may no longer be ours to hold and we can surely feel his ubiquitous influence in every sphere of our lives. My heart swells with pride as I reflect upon the fact that he touched not only my life but the lives of countless others. I consider myself incredibly blessed to have had such an extraordinary soul in my life during my formative years. Dear Baba, wherever you may be, I hope you are happy and keep smiling. We all deeply miss you and love you beyond measure.

Dadi:

Although I have had the pleasure of Dadi holding me in her arms as a baby, I didn't get to see her after that. As one of my prized possessions, I do have a video of her holding me when I was a day old infant. I am ever thankful to my uncle Dr. Neeraj Raj, for capturing this priceless moment. If not, I wouldn't have seen my beautiful grandmother holding me like that. Of all the things that I have heard about Dadi, I did hear often that she was a lady with a golden heart. What amazes me most, is how everyone who had visited her in Mumbai and Hyderabad can still recall how hospitable, amicable and warm she was. She was a loving soul, exuberant and one who had set high standards in living and morality. She had such a charming aura around her that still pervades people's memories even today. Her warmth and affection was something that was truly admired by everyone. If only I could get a chance to live my life with her being by my side, my life would have been more beautiful and meaningful. If she was here, we would have surely nurtured a lovely bond; one that I would have cherished for life. I feel blessed to have felt the warmth of her love and care, although for a short while. Dear Dadi, wherever you are, may you radiate happiness and continue to shower your precious blessings on our threshold, forever! - Dr. Shreya Lal (Granddaughter)

Made me truly feel like a part of the family

One of my first memories with Hirdaya Baba was when I was introduced to him as Shreya's fiancé. The joy on his face and that smile of his was so infectious, that I couldn't help myself from smiling ear-to-ear as well. The warmth in those eyes and the blessings he gave



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me that day is something I'll remember for the rest of my life. I carry fond memories of sitting with him at the dining table and hearing the tales of his youth, stories of him and Rama Dadi or when we used to listen to his favorite songs while sitting besides him in his room. And I must say his taste in music was impeccable. I could never forget the way he held my hand and blessed both Shreya and I during our engagement. It made me truly feel like a part of the family. We do

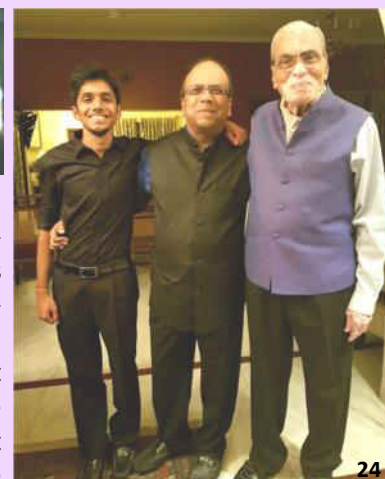


21. Dr. Anuraag Sinha; 22. Dr. H.M. Lal on Dr. Shreya's engagement with Dr. Anuraag.

miss his presence and his guidance every day, but I carry solace in the fact that I got to meet him and take his blessings and acceptance as I'm about to start a new chapter in my life with his granddaughter. — Dr. Anuraag Sinha (Dr. Shreya Lal's Fiancé)

Larger than life

Dear Baba, no matter how much I write, it will never do justice to your memory. The treasurable times we have all had with you can never be summed up in words. You have not just touched the lives of many, but you have shaped so many minds who have prospered under your tutelage. Soon, I realized that this is what you did without ever expecting anything in return. As a young boy, I took some time to understand why you did that, but today I look back and say that was the legacy my grandfather left behind. Because you were not just about building a legacy, but about making people a part of it. One of the many things we admired about you was the success you attained on the professional front. But, what was even more admirable, was that, you were larger than life. You could be the life of any party, and take over with your charisma and charm, on any given day. That was just you, Baba.

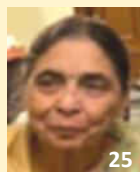


23. Manav Lal; 24. Manav with his father Dr. Udai Lal and grandfather Dr. H.M. Lal.

Music and Poetry were central to your personality, which evidently has rubbed off on many, me included. Even though, very little made sense to me, I could go on listening to you sing any of the *qawali* numbers. Listening to Nana and you sing this together was a treat to the eyes. Baba, the last two and half years were not easy for you at all. Regardless, you gave it your all and fought like a champion. In many ways, you epitomized the textbook definition of resilience. Even when you kept ill-health, you would still have the zest in you to make that day bigger and better than yesterday. Be it the nights that ended with 20 ml of Glenlivet, or your most loved mangoes, you did it *your way*, come hell or high water. Frank Sinatra, would surely be pleased that you did it your way. Baba, I will always strive for success, and keep making you proud while you are looking over me. Your physical presence is something we all miss, but your spirit lives on within us. Wherever you are Baba, I am sure you are conquering that world too. — Manav Lal (Grandson)

Learnt to dream big and aim high from them

It has been 25 years since Rama Bhabhi left us, followed by Dada recently. Yet their presence remains in our cherished memories. Dada was my childhood best friend. We celebrated Dada's birthday on 25th December with immense joy during his lifetime. He was truly an extraordinary scholar. In his school days, he achieved



a double promotion - from VIIIth to Xth class. This early display of exceptional intellect set the stage for future accomplishments. With a passion for medicine, he earned his MBBS degree with distinction and received a prestigious scholarship to study abroad from the Nizam Trust Fund, a rare honor bestowed upon a select few. Later, we witnessed an awe-inspiring performance from him in the United Kingdom, where he journeyed to expand his knowledge and expertise in medicine. As an outstanding doctor and scientist, he contributed significantly in his tenures in the pharmaceutical industry across the globe. Despite occupying

high positions, he remained down-to-earth and humble. His impeccable dressing sense showcased an attention to detail, while his warm and ready-to-help personality touched the lives of all who knew him. Whenever someone in his circle fell ill, he would take it upon himself to ensure that they received proper care, connecting them with the right specialists for a speedy recovery. Sports were a significant part of his life. We spent our childhood playing badminton with him at



25. Dr. Sabita Devi; 26. Celebration of Dr. H.M. Lal's birthday with close members of his family. Dr. Sabita is seated on extreme left with her sister Dr. Dhareshwari.

the grand court at our Tarnaka house. He was also a skilled cricket player who became captain of the college cricket team. His marriage brought great joy to our family. Rama Bhabhi was an extraordinary woman. A pillar of strength and embodiment of love, her caring nature was limitless. When we visited Bombay, she would welcome us with open arms, creating an atmosphere filled with joy and laughter. Her culinary skills were unmatched; the delicious food she cooked left a memorable impression on our taste buds. But it was her nurturing spirit that taught us valuable lessons and provided cherished

memories that have stayed with us. Her remarkable character commanded immense respect, and she touched our lives with her unconditional love and affection. From Dada and Bhabhi we learnt the importance of dreaming big and aiming high. We shared countless golden moments with Dada and Bhabhi. Her love and guidance became an integral part of our journey in life. Even though they passed away, their memories live on, etched in our hearts. We will forever cherish the lessons they taught us and the warmth they brought into our lives. – *Dr. Sabita Devi (Dr. H.M. Lal's Sister)*

Complimented each other

My brother Dr. H.M. Lal inherited the intellectual and spiritual qualities of his illustrious father, Prof. Shiv Mohan Lal. His brilliant scholastic record at Mahaboob College included two double promotions. His subsequent entry into Osmania Medical College was effortless. There, he became very popular among the faculty and students. Fellow students elected him as Secretary. As Secretary, he organized many academic and cultural programs. During his student days, he published many articles on different topics of



27. Dr. Dhareshwari; 28. Dr. H.M. Lal with Dr. Dhareshwari and her husband Kishan Raj; 29. Dr. H.M. Lal with sisters Dr. Dhareshwari and Sudha.

medicine, which earned him laurels. Considering his outstanding performance in MBBS, Dada was awarded a scholarship by the Trust of the Nizam of Hyderabad to study child health and pharmacology in London.

After completing his studies in London, Dada got a very lucrative job in Bombay, where he spent many years. He married Rama Rani, daughter of Dr. Bankat Chandra, an outstanding doctor of Hyderabad. Bhabhi complimented Dada academically and socially. She went on to get a Doctorate in English Literature. A popular college teacher and script writer, she was wise, dignified and charming with a great sense of humor. Like Dada, she was warm-hearted and hospitable, who maintained excellent relations with all our family members. Dada and Bhabhi were big entertainers who shared a love for Hindustani music and became collectors of objects of art from all over the world. I offer my respects to Dada and Bhabhi from the innermost recesses of my heart. – *Dr. Dhareshwari (Dr. H.M. Lal's Sister)*

Man with a golden heart

We had a memorable childhood at our Tarnaka home. A doting brother, Hirdaya Dada was amongst us and our cousins in fun and games. He devised enjoyable games for us like *treasure hunt*. He was a brilliant scholar who secured a double promotion in school. Popular among family and friends, he became General Secretary of his Medical College. Dada married Rama Bhabhi and led a wonderful life in different cities around the world. Whenever we went to Bombay, Dada and Bhabhi were excellent



30. Sudha Pershad; 31. Sudha with her brother Dr. H.M. Lal; 32. Sudha with Rama Rani Lal, her sister-in-law; 33. Dr. H.M Lal with Sudha's husband Manohar Pershad.

hosts who showed us around and took us for shopping. A highly qualified doctor, Dada's career was spent as a clinician, researcher and top executive in the pharmaceutical industry. He and Bhabhi travelled across the world and on return told exciting stories and presented souvenirs to the family. Their home was decorated with fine art and antiques. Dada loved music and Urdu poetry and was himself a good singer. Upon his return to Hyderabad, he became the President of *Saaz aur Awaaz*. Dada was the toast of every party. Their home was rarely without his favorite cocktail snack - the authentic *Tutak*. A man with a golden heart, he was ever ready to help friends and family members during his lifetime. As an Advisor to HMKE&WS, he gave valuable advice. Dada's passing away has left a big vacuum in our lives. – *Sudha Pershad (Dr. H.M. Lal's Sister)*



We grew up together as siblings

Rama, my dearest beloved sister, left us many years ago - it seems unbelievable that it was over 25 years ago. It seems just like yesterday. I can still smell the lovely perfume on her beautiful sarees and hear her spontaneous laughter and greetings. We grew up together as siblings. As there was very little gap between us, we shared wonderful memories of our growing up years at *Bangla* (our home), which consisted of our parents and brothers – Udai Da, Vinod and Pramod. Leela and Dileep came much later and brought great joy in our lives. We had a wonderful childhood thanks to our dear parents. My father was an eminent doctor and though he led a very busy life, he always found time to interact with us, mostly at lunch and dinner table. My mother and my maternal grandmother spoil



and indulged us with loads of love and care. I must mention my father's extended family too - his three brothers and sisters. We always celebrated all festivals and events together at each other's houses which was great fun. The food and bonhomie was incredible.

Then tragedy struck in Utopia - my dearest and most loved eldest brother Udai Da died in a boat accident. We were devastated and it took our family a long time to get over the shock. We still missed him, especially Rama and I, who were very near and dear to him. He was so well informed on every subject, it was a pleasure to talk to him. We really bonded well with him. After his demise, Rama and I came even closer together in our shared grief. We shared each other's joys, sorrows and aspirations. Unfortunately, people had a bad habit of comparing us and showing Rama in a bad light which enraged me a great deal. I would always console her and tell her

that one day she would outshine me and my words proved right. She was far more popular than me with all our friends and relatives. My children adored her and *vice-versa*. When my father told us that he would like one of his daughters to follow his footsteps, she was very reluctant and so the mantle fell on me. She took up the subject I loved at school - English literature - to my great envy. After her graduation, she worked as a lecturer in the same college and did very well

until her prince charming, Dr. H.M. Lal, came along and whisked her away after marriage to the UK, where he left to pursue his higher studies. Rama loved her stay in the UK, and though she had never entered the kitchen prior to her marriage, she became an excellent cook and hostess.

Rama continued her studies in London and got her Ph.D. By then, she had two babies - Renu and Udai - one after the other. She loved travelling and seeing new places. She was a great collector of crystal ware and other artifacts from around the world which she displayed in her beautiful homes at Mumbai and Hyderabad. She entertained a lot. Whoever visited Mumbai wouldn't go back without having a delicious meal at her place. Her other passion was gardening. A painful episode in her daughter's life caused great grief and heartache. She moved back to Hyderabad and was happy to be with her loved ones. Even after moving back to Hydera-

bad she bought her perfumes and toiletries from UK, which was amazing. Unfortunately, fate struck again and she was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. She braced her illness with great mental strength and fortitude but in leaving the world she left her beloved bereft and heartbroken. Rama, my beloved sister, in your immature death, we have lost a beautiful soul. We're left forever with only sweet memories of you. — *Dr. Sheila Karan (Rama Rani Lal's Sister)*



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34. Dr. Sheila Karan; 35. Rama Rani Lal; 36. Dr. H.M. Lal with Dr. Banakat Chandra, his father-in-law; 37. Sisters (R-L) Dr. Sheila Karan, Rama Rani Lal and Prof. Leela Karan with their mother.



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Their natures were complementary

If we believe that *stars* play a significant role in determining human lives and destinies, then we may also assume that out of the billions in the sky, only a few select stars shower their

star dust on their loved ones. I can never forget how little Shreya, pointing to the brightest star in the sky, asserted: "That is my Rama Dadi and she always looks after me and if you trouble me, she will surely punish you." Wisdom from the mouth of babes, but it serves to confirm our hopes and longings for an eternal mystic bond with our dear departed souls. Life for the living continues to be meaningfully enriched by the garnered memories or the *star dust* legacies of our relatives and loved ones.

25 years ago Rama Jia, my dear sister, succumbed to a tragic and premature demise, and this year our dear Jijaji also passed away. This is my tribute to a won-

derful couple, Rama Rani Lal and Dr. Hirdaya Mohan Lal, who's sparkle remains kindled in the lives of their children, Renu and Udai, and in the lives of their grandchildren, Shreya, Manav, and Sonya. My sister Rama played a vital role in her sibling's life. Bubbly and feisty, her wit and her im-



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38. Prof. Leela Karan; 39. Sisters Prof. Leela Karan and Rama Rani Lal with Dr. H.M. Lal.

mense zest for life were all pervasive and positive. A lover of history and literature, She was a storehouse of old anecdotes and dates, and her knowledge of old Hyderabadi families was encyclopedic. She was almost a match for my father, who could enthrall us all with his flair for storytelling and the recapitulations of real life experiences with the Nizam and other Hyderabadi families.

Hyderabad of the late 50s up to the 70s was a delightfully relaxed place to live in. It was an ideal time for family get-togethers, impromptu picnics and joint

family vacations. I cannot recall a single vacation that we undertook on our own, It was always a shared experience

with the families of my brother Vinod Da and of course with Sheila Jia's and Rama Jia's. This was the foundation of our growing years, the lively camaraderie of mind combined with the generous spirit of give and take. The Chandras were one extended family of cousins and elders who inculcated in us the joys of sharing and caring.

Rama Jia's marriage to Hirdaya Mohan Jijaji in 1960, their imminent departure for the UK for the next few years did create a vacuum in the family but this was the time when practically all of us were spreading our wings. On their return, we caught up all the time lost with real vengeance. Rama Jia and Jijaji I guess represented the long and short of life, figuratively; he was tall, dynamic and flamboyant and she was short, vivacious and boisterous. Happily for them, their natures were complementary. Both of them loved the essential pleasures of life – good food, good company, travelling and shopping. Their house was full of art, relics, collected from all over the world and their flat in Bombay was a hub for family and friends. Jijaji was a lover of poetry and *ghazals* and in the company of friends and good spirits, he'd croon his way through his many favorite *ghazals* and *qawallis* while Rama Jia developed her culinary skills with time. She was really such a versatile cook, she could whip up the most exotic dishes like *Chakna* and *Musbi*, continental or Chinese food or the most basic *daal* and vegetables with equal aplomb. The taste of those culinary spreads still lingers on our pallets as do the recipes she handed down to lesser cooks like me.

After Rama Jia's departure, Jijaji was like a lost soul and it was music that gave succor to his life. His commitment to his profession and family also helped to fill up the vacuum. Ex-

tremely meticulous, he maintained his academic career with great care and achieved early name and success. These were some of the qualities that he passed down to Udai and Renu. Udai shows a similar passion for his profession and as a doctor, he has proved his mettle. Shreya has chosen the same line, and I'm sure that all of them that is Manav and Sonya will keep their grandfather's reputation as a caring and competent human being alive. Renu, who came as a baby to live with her grandparents was a veritable bundle of joy for all of us and her affectionate and generous nature is a throwback on Rama Jia's warm and winning ways.

How can we forget the impact of their lives on that of their near and dear ones? Time is indeed a great sifter of the past and while it separates the good from the bad, the gold from the dross, it also helps us to overlook the negative forces of life and to retain only the positive and colorful vignettes of the past. Rama Jia and Jijaji's bonds with a wide circle of family and friends, their commitment to their many responsibilities and their ability to face and encounter their problems, were lessons in resilience and reflect the family scenario of their times. The benevolent and incandescent glimmerings of their lives will surely continue to inspire and guide the lives of their children.

I for one firmly believe in the legacies passed down to the younger generation not through force or habit but through the sheer pleasure they generate even today. Therefore, I would like to conclude that physical death is not the end of life but it is the amalgamations of all those lovely memories and experiences and the golden star dust of the past that continues to highlight and glorify our present. – Prof.

Leela Karan (Rama Rani Lal's Sister)



Rama Jia was a prankster

My first memory of my sister Rama Jia was of love-birds chirping outside her room, the sweet smell of fresh flowers, crystal and glass animals decorating the shelves, her enormous zest for fun and life... Her laughter filled the house, and so did her anger

when I overstepped my bounds. Being the youngest, I was Rama Jia's baby doll – when she had time and to fill in the boredom of the long summer days, my hair was braided, eyebrows, cheeks and lips were highlighted - all accompanied by peals of laughter at my expense. Rama Jia was a prankster. I remember agreeing to get a *buzz cut ala* Elvis Presley style with a bribe of ₹10 from her. The incompetent barber *Ullu* (real name - Ellu) cut his version of buzz, which turned out to be the worst haircut ever – my hair was sticking up in ten different directions. Needless to say, this provided Rama Jia and my other siblings weeks of entertainment, and heartache for me. I refused to look into a mirror until my hair grew back! Hirdaya Jija was a mentor and a guide and they both provided me with guidance, especially during the Telangana agitation during college closures in 1971. I spent that time in Bombay instead of wallowing in Hyderabad. Hirdaya Jija and Rama Jia made it a point to visit us in Chicago and later in Cleveland whenever Hirdaya Jija visited USA for his work - once or twice a year. We looked forward to these visits and his lovely *ghazals* – so did our friends! I have very fond memories of them that I cherish – the love, and care that they showered me, which warms me to this day. I miss them. – Dileep Chandra (Rama Rani Lal's Brother)

The Fun Couple

Rama Jia and Hirdaya Jija complimented each other so well. They were the *Fun Couple* with whom we spent a lot of quality fun time. I remember her teasing,



40. Dileep Chandra; 41. Neeta Chandra; 42. The fun couple - Dr. Rama Rani Lal and Dr. H.M. Lal.

wit and laughter. I used to enjoy discussions about various subjects - especially English Literature which I had in common with her and Leela Jia.

Hirdaya Jija with his great voice and repertoire of *ghazals* is not easily forgotten – his advice, care, and his wisdom was expected, given his international experience! I cherish the memories of both spending time with us in Cleveland and Rama Jia helping me out when my daughter Rena was born.

I also remember that Rama Jia loved Happy

restaurants (a new one every day!) during one summer. We looked forward to their visits to the US. Going to India, meant a mandatory stopover at Bombay and spending a few days relaxing in their beautiful flat on Nepean Sea Road, and trips to the lovely Juhu beach house – watching the sunrise and sunset, eating fresh Bombay Duck and other delicacies that she prepared with such love. Their hospitality and large hearts were much appreciated by our kids and us - Hirdaya Jija was the much loved *Big Daddy* to my children. We miss them and hold on dearly to all the lovely memories. Hope they are together in the great beyond having fun. – Neeta Chandra (Rama Rani Lal's Sister-in-law)

Both will remain in heaven in broad daylight

After entering the threshold of professional excellence, Hirdaya Mohan Jijaji, or *Lal Sab* as I fondly called him, succeeded in anchoring his, Rama Jia's and his family's lifeboat on the shore of happiness and prosperity. Jijaji's established family spectrum will keep moving with established stride and the desired rounds are seen in all splendor of his children and his beloved sisters,

another unparalleled connection! Rama Jia was indeed a great protective umbrella for Jijaji and her children. Her sublime guidance will enliven *Rama Nivas* with tons and tons of sunshine and miles and miles of happiness for generations to



come. Both Hirdaya jijaji and Rama Jia will remain in heaven in the broad daylight, though both are unseen but we hear them shout in delight. For both of them, it was almost a moment of personal hubris to find the younger generation's adherence to established family



43. Sarath Chandra; 44. Samdhis Sarat Chandra and Dr. H.M. Lal with Smita and Manav; 45. Celebration time - Sarat Chandra and Dr. H.M. Lal.

values and traditions of their respective *khandans*. Indeed, this has become the defining leitmotif of their present day life's agenda. Jijaji's and Rama jia's lifestyles and their unmatched characters can

be summed up in the words of Pearl Buck: "I love people, I love my family, my children but inside myself is a place where I live and that's where you renew your springs that never dry up." – Sarath Chandra, IPS (Retd.) (Dr. H.M. Lal's Samdhi)

Real talent for bringing people together

It is with a sense of great admiration and nostalgia we recollect the happy times spent with Rama Jia and Hirdaya Mohan Jijaji. They were the most priceless gift to our family. Rama Jia had a real talent for bringing people together and making everyone feel welcome and inclusive. She brightened up our family gatherings with her infectious laughter and bubbly personality. She was attractive, pure hearted, straightforward in her thinking with a sharp intellect and righteous conduct. These were her virtues worth emulating. – Puran Chandra (Rama Rani Lal's Cousin)



46. Puran Chandra; 47. Priceless gifts -Dr. H.M. Lal and Rama Rani Lal.

He often called me Miss Unnao

I am grateful for the special bond I shared as a sister-in-law of Rama Jia. May everyone get a sister-in-law like her. Hirdaya Mohan Jijaji was the most helpful and caring person. In spite of his busy schedule, Jijaji accompanied me to get the visas for the European countries within a record time of four days. He often called me *Miss Unnao* (by birth place). Jijaji also took the trouble of going to Bombay's Chor Bazar to buy a windscreen for our car which was broken during the Telangana Agitation. He carried it in his hands and brought it to Hyderabad. Once when Puran went to Poona on some work, Jijaji asked him to go to Bombay before leaving for Hyderabad. As he had to proceed to London urgently, he did not want Rama Jia to be alone on her birthday. Jijaji once saw a packet of cigarettes on the table and asked: "Ye kiski hai?" Puran replied: "It is mine." Jijaji picked it up, crushed it and threw it in the waste paper basket. Once we went to the Club for lunch and there Puran became hypoglycemic. Jijaji took control, and when Puran was stable advised: "High blood sugar can be controlled, but never become hypoglycemic." Rama Jia and Hirdaya Mohan Jijaji, you will always be dear to our hearts. – Deepa Chandra (Rama Rani Lal's Sister-in-law)



48. Deepa Chandra; 49. Dr. H.M. Lal—Most helpful and caring person.



Sister with a lovely smile

Rama Jia, sister with a lovely smile, had great persuasive ability and organizational skills.



50. Anoop Chandra; 51. Sister with a lovely smile and her handsome husband.

She would organize get-togethers and family picnics. We would take food along with the gramophone and 78 RPM records. We would sit together and sing songs as music played on. All this stopped when Jiji got married to Dr. H.M. Lal and relocated to the UK. Years later, Jiju, a top executive with an MNC, was posted to Mumbai. On our visits to Mumbai, we would spend the afternoons gossiping with Rama Jia. There would be a lot of leg pulling. Those fun times are etched in our memories. – *Anoop Chandra (Rama Rani Lal's Cousin)*



52. Rama Rani Lal - sister with a lovely smile - with cousin Arun Chandra and his wife Reena. 53. Reena Chandra.



Hold very special place in my heart

Rama Jia and Hirday Jiju hold a very special place in my heart. They visited us in Birmingham twice and laid the foundation of our everlasting relationship. I found them to be a humble and endearing couple, one of my favorites. With Rama Jia, I shared a passion to shop and talk for hours! Age was never a barrier. She was so much fun and so loving. When we shifted to Hyderabad, I needed a lot of mental support and she was always there for me. I called her almost every day to solve my adjustment problems and she advised me soundly. She was my aunt, sister, friend and confidant, someone I adored. She said she was very lucky to have a husband like Jiju and a family like hers. Even after 25 years, I remember a lot of things she told me which speaks volumes about her. In school, Jiju and I would stand and reminisce about her. He used to say he missed her a lot. Wherever this amazing couple is now, I am sure they are spreading a lot of love and cheer around them! –

Reena Chandra (Rama Rani Lal's Sister-in-law)



Towering personality

Dr. Hirdaya Mohan Lal was fondly called *Chot Da* by all his sisters. I had not met him before my marriage. He turned out to be a towering

personality. It was really a surprise to see a tall handsome personality come forward to receive my *baarat*, open the car door gently, hold my hand and take me to the *dwar char* on my wedding day with Karuna. He had come straight from USA. I was told that he was a great scholar-

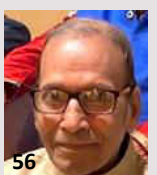


54. Ashok Ram Pershad; 55. Dr. H.M. Lal - Towering personality who had touched many lives.

researcher and a top pharma industry administrator. Despite being very busy, he found time to participate in and enjoy family events. He had the passion for *ghazals* and loved singing too. We are indebted to Dada for timely medical help. Behind every successful man, there is a woman. In Dada's case, it was Rama Bhabhi. Well read with a remarkable sense of humor, she was a popular *Badi Bahu* in Prof. Shiv Mohan Lal's household. Shiv Mohan Lal Tau and Taima lived in a huge mansion at Tarnaka. There would often be get-togethers of the large joint family. The presence of Chot Da and Bhabhi, ably supported by Manjli Jia, was instrumental in maintaining great harmony in our community. – *Ashok Ram Pershad (Dr. H.M. Lal's Brother-in-law)*

Provided unwavering support during our difficult times

Dada (Dr. H.M. Lal), a kind and caring individual, served as a role model for all of us. When Jyoti was faced with kidney failure, he took great care of us by arranging for treatment in Mumbai. We resided at Dada's home, where both Dada and Bhabhi provided unwavering support during our difficult times. While living in Tarnaka, I had the pleasure of spending time with Dada and Bhabhi, creating meaningful memories together. Dada was an excellent doctor. His expertise and care made us feel secure and protected. Dada and Bhabhi were the epitome of responsibility and compassion. I extend my healthful thanks to Dada and Bhabhi for all their support. – *Prem Mohan Lal (Dr. H.M. Lal's Cousin)*



56. Prem Mohan Lal; 57. Dr. H.M. Lal with brother-in-law Manohar Pershad and cousin Prem Mohan Lal.

Touched many lives

I had known Hirdaya Dada since my childhood. He had a very jovial and cordial personality. He lived his life to the fullest. He rose rapidly to distinguish himself as a renowned doctor, a distinguished pharma company leader, an exemplary family man and compassionate human being. He was a good *ghazal* singer. He served HMKE&WS as Advisor with distinction. He has been an elder brother we all looked up to. When I suffered from severe jaundice, he arranged a meeting with Dr. S. Sherlock, a world-renowned authority on liver disease from UK while she was in Hyderabad. Rama Bhabhi was a gem of a lady. Dada and Bhabhi touched many lives. To lose someone so dear and special has been devastating for all of us. – *Vinay Mohan Lal (Dr. H.M. Lal's Cousin)* (58)



Shaan of our family

Hirdaya Dada was the *shaan* of our family. He was a man of principles. Even while being away from Hyderabad (in UK and Bombay), he stayed in touch with everyone in spite of his busy work schedule. He and Rama Bhabhi were an ex-





59. Ajit Mohanlal; 60. Dr. H.M. Lal - Shaan of his family.

traordinarily wonderful couple. Their warm hospitality welcomed one and all. Hirdaya Dada's contribution to HMKE&WS as an Advisor was a very helpful. Dada was very fond of *gaana* and *qawwali*. A very

good singer himself, he had formed *Saaz aur Aawaz* and was its President during his life-time. I was also fortunate to be a member and thoroughly enjoyed every program. During Diwali, Rama Bhabhi loved playing 3 cards with us. She would ask me: "Badu, did you bring the cards and cash?" We used to enjoy all festivals at Tarnaka. Though they are no longer with us, their blessings will always remain with us forever. Udai and Renu are carrying out the legacy of their parents. – Ajit Mohanlal (Dr. H.M. Lal's cousin)

He was Ronakh-e-Mehfil

Dada, Dr. H.M. Lal, embodied the essence of social charisma and benevolence. He was *Ronakh-e-Mehfil*. At every gathering, Dada's enchanting voice mesmerized us with melodies and filled the hall with joy. He effortlessly became the life of the

party, weaving bonds of camaraderie. Beyond the spotlight, Dada's exceptional qualities shone even brighter. His kind and helpful nature was unmatched. He always extended a helping hand to those in need, impacting countless lives. His selflessness inspired us. His captivating personality and compassionate soul left an indelible mark on our hearts and our lives. One day, we were sitting together for lunch on a hot summer day at Tarnaka. For some reason, he didn't like the food made that day. But he didn't complain. He slowly whispered "Chotu, can you please pass me *bho-jan dhaklu (achar)*?" That's the first time I heard that word and always used to joke with him making eye contact if he didn't like the food. Such was our camaraderie. We enjoyed many *ghazal* nights and Diwali *patta parties* together. Rama Bhabhi always helped all in need and often put others before herself. She was a jovial person who loved to laugh and make others laugh. Miss them dearly. – Diljit Mohanlal (Dr. H.M. Lal's Cousin)



61. Diljit Mohanlal; 62. Dr. H.M. Lal singing on the occasion of his Samdhi Sarath Chandra's wedding anniversary.



63. The ever helpful doctor; 64. Aruna Raj; 65. Dr. Suresh Raj.

Always cared for people

Hirdaya Dada and Rama Aunty were affectionate, loving, simple, genuine and kind-hearted persons who always cared for people who met them. Hirdaya Dada was famous not only in India but worldwide for his outstanding contribution to his field. We have one unforgettable memory of them. We were childless. They encouraged us to visit Mumbai for consultation. They took us to the world famous Dr. R.P. Soonawala, who performed a major operation on my wife. We were fortunate that within a short time a child was born. This was

solely due to the blessings of Dada and Aunty. Another outstanding feature of Dada was his love for music. He was the life of every party with his beautiful *ghazals*. He was the President and I was the Treasurer

of *Saaz aur Awaaz* which brought me closer to him. We are happy that Dr. Udai Lal and Smita Lal are continuing their legacy. – Aruna Raj (Dr. H.M. Lal's Cousin) & Dr. Suresh Raj (Brother-in-law)



Two wonderful people I've known

Mama had a charismatic personality. His support and concern for my parents' health and his guidance to us whenever we were lost, exemplifies his generosity. Mama made all my cousins feel special. When I went to meet him during my last trip, he was on his wheelchair and unable to communicate well. However, even in that condition he was singing a *ghazal* and wanted to feed me with his own hands. Rama Maen was a charming and graceful lady. Their amazing hospitality made our trips to Bombay memorable. The artistic décor of their apartment left me spellbound. – Amitha Narain (Dr. H.M. Lal's Niece)

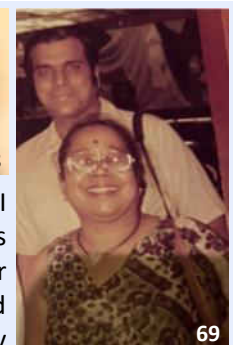


66. Amitha Narain; 67. Dr. H.M. Lal would even sing on a wheelchair.

A wonderful couple

Mama and Maen, you were a wonderful couple. I cannot forget the trips we made to Bombay for my US visa after I got married.

Mama, you went all out to help me. Recently, I learnt that one of my friend's Mom was his classmate. I was able to connect the two after decades. He made several visits to the US and would stay with us. He was also here when my daughter Nina turned one. It was a special moment for us. Rama Maen was an amazing lady. Whenever we went to Bombay we were bowled over by her hospitality, the delicious food and lots of shopping. – Shamitha Mathur (Dr. H.M. Lal's Niece)

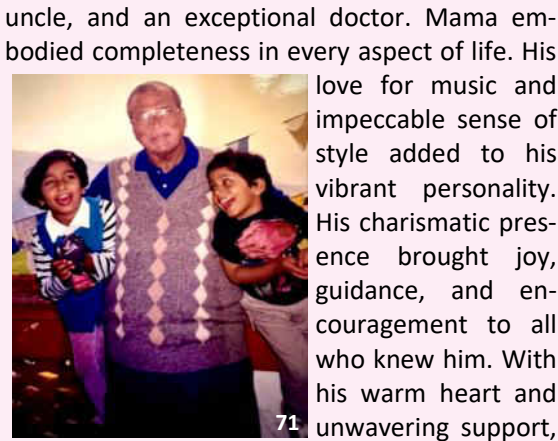


68. Shamitha Mathur; 69. A wonderful couple.

Effortlessly balanced his numerous roles

At Mama's departure, we bid farewell to a remarkable individual. He effortlessly balanced his numerous roles - devoted son, brother, husband, father, friend,





70. Nitesh Kumar; 71. Dr. H.M. Lal effectively balanced his various roles.

he inspired us all to strive for greatness in our respective fields. He was a beacon of strength, always ready to lend a helping hand or a listening ear. As we mourn the loss of this wonderful soul, let us also celebrate and cherish the beautiful moments he left behind. – Nitesh Kumar (Dr. H.M. Lal's Nephew)

We tried to emulate them

Mama and Maen have inspired all of us. Since childhood, we tried to emulate them. As a guiding light, this extremely successful, fun to be with, warm-hearted couple took care of everyone. Mama sent postcards to us from the places he visited across the world. It allowed us to dream big, create a love for



72. Pragati Mathur; 73. Young and old emulated the couple.

travel and the drive to explore the world. We brushed up our geography and memorized all the capitals of the world as Mama would create a competition amongst us. We enjoyed their visits to Hyderabad. Both Mama and Maen were very knowledgeable. Maen had great taste, made delicious food, was hospitable and cared for us whenever we visited them. When I went to Bombay on a school excursion, she personally showed me around. I liked her cheerful, carefree attitude and appreciated the way she enjoyed every moment. Mama loved cricket and spoke about it passionately. My husband Manish was lucky to accompany him to a

World Cup match. Even in his last days when Mama called us, we had great laughs about cricket. Mama and Maen, you are irreplaceable in our life. – Pragati Mathur (Dr. H.M. Lal's Niece)

Mama guided me since childhood

Mama and Maen emerged as a brilliant couple displaying excellence in their professional, cultural and social life. Mama guided me since childhood and appreciated my achievements. As I grew older, we shared many a memorable moment, one of which was sharing our anniversary! Mama was spiritually inclined. He chanted *Updeshsaram* at home and sent periodic donations to Ramana Kendram. Mama was not only a great doctor and top corporate leader but also a connoisseur of food and beverage. He bet cautiously at the race course (with my father mostly by his side). He loved watching cricket on TV and World Cup matches in stadia the world over. His sense of humor was of a subtle variety. He picked up a taste



for *ghazal* and *qawwali* at an early age and sang melodiously at parties. He introduced me to the world of music. My wife Megha could not get to meet Maen after our wedding. But Maen did see her as one year-old baby at Bombay. Mama showered bountiful love and blessings on my daughters Nishka and Mihika, his youngest grandchildren. They, in turn, loved their Hirdaya Baba. – Nachiket Mathur (Dr. H.M. Lal's Nephew)

74. Nachiket Mathur; 75. Dr. H.M. Lal with Nachiket.

Mama was our James Bond!

The earliest memories of dear Mama are of a globe trotter who travelled far and wide to countries we would discover in our Atlas! Each time the postman delivered his post card, the Atlas was taken out, stamps were carefully removed and we would start reading a wonderfully written note in a calligraphic hand by Mama. Mama was our *James Bond* sharing memories, sometimes from the Istanbul Hilton or from Copenhagen! We knew the post cards would soon follow with yummy chocolates or an engraved cap from the New York Jets! Mama was a multifaceted personality! A dear uncle, an inspiring role model, a mentor in our later years, a scholar and a proficient user of the Queen's English, a diligent doctor and a collector of art with a love for his vatted malt - the Green Label! Our holidays in Mumbai were loaded with fond memories at the Citadel, the residence of Mama and Maen at Nepean Sea Road! These include walking in the Hanging Gardens, a boat ride from the Gateway of India or a dinner at China Garden...



76. Manisha; 77. Sanjay; 78. Neeraj; 79. Nehal; 80. Dr. H.M. Lal with sister Sudha, her son Neeraj, daughter-in-law Nehal and grandson.

Manisha and Sanjay fondly remember Mama and Maen's visit to California. It was fun shopping with them. Neeraj and Nehal cherished Mama's visits to Delhi and Singapore. Many fine evenings were spent discussing his experiences over time in Bombay and a whole lifetime of stories with our Dad (Manohar Pershad), and our uncles. Mama was the epitome of academic brilliance and corporate success! His gentle personality blended well with his persuasive style to stand out as amongst our finest from the family. His sartorial style is etched in our minds. Always riding the trend and always

hyper-local - Manisha (Dr. H.M. Lal's Niece) & Sanjay (Manisha's Husband), Neeraj (Dr. H.M. Lal's Nephew) & Nehal (Neeraj's Wife)

He was greater than any superhero

My loving Hirdaya Mama and Rama Maen, both of you have inspired me! Your ideas and approach to life were admirable. I always felt comfortable sharing my concerns with Mama. Caring and considerate, he gave excellent advice and guidance every time I needed it. He was always there for me on every important occasion and event in my life. He was my idol, greater than any superhero! He did all he could in his power for others. Mama and Maen were an ideal couple. They will always be in my memories. – Vishesh Raj (Dr. H.M. Lal's Nephew)



81. Vishesh Raj; 82. Vishesh dancing with Dr. H.M. Lal, his superhero.

An amazing hostess and brilliant cook



Rama Aunty went too soon, but the love and kindness she showered on all of us will live on forever. She was an amazing hostess and brilliant cook. No one turned down a dinner invite at her home in Citadel, Mumbai. The *Dalcha* and *Pomfret in green masala* were legendary. Thankfully, she passed on her culinary skills to Renu and Shakru. She draped her small frame gracefully in georgette sarees. She also wore a generous amount of the latest perfume Hirdaya Uncle got for her from his visits abroad. Her vocabulary was perfect, thanks to her Ph.D. in English Literature. She looked after me like her own daughter when I was for a year in Mumbai. I loved chatting with her in the evenings while watching TV. I love and miss you. – Asha Khilnani (Rama Rani Lal's Niece) (83)

A perfect couple



Some of my fondest memories from a young age relate to visiting Rama Aunty, my Mother's younger sister, at Mumbai. Graceful, generous, kind, caring, loving and warm-hearted, she

completely spoilt us. She was an absolutely fantastic cook. She was such a positive person that she always had a big smile even when she was terminally ill and suffering. She was taken away from us prematurely but left a lasting impact on everyone she shared her life with.

Hirdaya Uncle was one of the most intelligent, knowledgeable and articulate persons I have ever met. He had a fantastic sense of humor and his witty one-liners were so hilarious. His passion and zest for life was unbelievable. He made everyone feel so comfortable and welcoming around him and it was a pleasure to spend so much time with him over the years. I enjoyed discussing a wide range of topics with him ranging from medicine, politics, world affairs, sports (particularly Cricket), and Scotch Whisky! His all time favorite undoubtedly was *ghazals* and



84. Dr. Anil Karan; 85. Dr. H.M. Lal with his family.

shayari. He had such a smooth, melodious and lovely singing voice which we had the pleasure of listening to over the years - particularly at family gatherings and functions.

His zest for life was evident even during the last few days of his life in Hospital - when he was barely conscious and largely

uncommunicative. When his Son, Udai's friend visited him shortly before his demise, I was dumbfounded when informed that he was able to mutter a few words of *shayari*. He was suffering so much with repeated health crisis over at least a 2-3 year period prior to his death – but he battled through admirably and maintained his sense of humor even during these difficult times. I have little doubt that the ex-

pert and timely medical care he received from his Son Dr. Udai Lal helped him overcome these crises and prolong his life. Hirdaya Uncle and Rama Aunty were a perfect couple and we are so grateful that they shared their love with us and for enriching our lives over the years. *Om Shanti Om*. – Dr. Anil Karan (Rama Rani Lal's Nephew)

Fond remembrances of a wonderful couple



Hirdaya Uncle was the suave, sophisticated and charismatic person we all looked upon. His personality made him stand apart from all those around him. His manners and charm could influence even the most unreasonable. Rama Bua on the other hand was all about grace and kindness with a perennial smile. She maintained the house with an air of authority where everything was meticulous and neat from the dining table to the tiny little artifacts collected from around the world. Their presence itself was enough to change the atmosphere around us. Visiting their place in Mumbai was like visiting my second home, which I did every year. When Hirdaya Uncle was with Dr. Reddy's in Hyderabad, my younger brother Atul met with an accident which paralyzed him from waist down. Hirdaya Uncle procured a drug which was still under clinical trials and had it administered within 72 hours of the accident which stopped the progression of the ailment and ensured an early recovery. There are so many instances and fond memories with them both and to

pen all of them would be next to impossible. – *Rahul Chandra (Rama Rani Lal's Nephew) (85)*

Opposites attract

'Opposites attract' is what comes to my mind when I think of Rama Bua and Hirdaya Uncle. One being fun loving, warm, and affectionate, and the other being disciplined, hard-working, and forever hospitable. They made a great couple whom we looked up to both professionally and emotionally. I remember the good times we used to have at their house in Mumbai during our summer holidays. We were thoroughly pampered and enjoyed visiting all



the lovely eating joints, going for movies, and of course, playing cricket in the garages below. I will always remember them through these memories and many more. – *Dr. Naval Chandra (Rama Rani Lal's Nephew)*

87. Dr. Naval Chandra; 88. Dr. H.M. Lal was suave, sophisticated and charismatic person.



Mumbai was synonymous with Citadel

The city of Mumbai was synonymous with *Citadel* in our childhood where our Hirdaya Uncle, Rama Bua, Rens and Udai resided. Their very presence either in Mumbai or Hyderabad increased our excitement. We were always received at the Bombay VT station by Rama Bua and dear Chagan. Ratnagiri Alphonsos bought at Crawford Market in dozens awaited us. With visits of Promod Cha, Dileep Cha and family, the drive and stay at the Marve Beach guest house was a great picnic outing. Here, we gorged on the variety of seafood. Accompanying Hirdaya Uncle and Rama Bua to their favourite restaurant *China Garden*, I observed that they were received as VIPs by Nelson Wang and an awesome Chinese feast followed.

We took frequent trips to Ooty and various hill stations during summer. The drive thru jungles of Bandipur, Nagarhole, Madhumalai, Periyar... was awesome. Once in the jungle of Nagarhole, Hirdaya Uncle, who had just returned from London, was carrying his credit cards, UK documents and currency. While we were on an elephant back, we were charged by another elephant which was protecting its herd. In the confusion, Hirdaya Uncle's wallet fell down never to be seen again! The resulting anguish and disappointment cannot be forgotten. When I was looking for an appointment for my US student visa, the Chennai Consulate was refusing it. With Hirdaya Uncle's influence, I was immediately granted an interview date at the Bombay Consulate. Under strict assurances, the visa was issued. In 1990, I joined Air India. My arrival into Bombay was during peak monsoon. Udai and his friend managed to reach the airport and pick me up. Then started the phase of life, wherein my *guardians* took over. Hirdaya Uncle



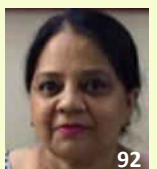
89. Atul Chandra; 90. Dr. H.M. Lal celebrating his birthday with his grandchildren Manav, Dr. Shreya and Sonya; 91. Family picnic.

used to travel abroad very often on his company work, Renu was living in the US and Udai moved on to his medical studies, leaving me and Rama Bua to ourselves. My arrival in Bombay after constant flying was welcome for both of us. We had discovered a seafood restaurant at Kala Ghoda called *Trishna* which served us speciality crabs and seafood and we became its VVIP customers. We also discovered a Maharashtra seafood restaurant called *Mahesh Lunch Home* and *Kobes* for the great sizzlers. I had taken my motorcycle to Bombay. The roads in monsoon would get very slippery and I hurt myself umpteenth times. Rama Bua was always there to comfort me. Once, when we were near the Bombay Stock Exchange, we saw a beautiful car parked and standing beside it was a gentleman in a suit. While we were admiring it, the gentleman turned towards Rama Bua, greeted her and introduced himself. He was none other than Harshad Mehta, the greatest stock market king, and Rama Bua's student.

The Mumbai blasts and riots worried us. I was an operating crew member on a flight to Dubai which was to return the same day Mumbai erupted in flames. Especially, Hindu families in south Mumbai apartments were attacked. Bua was all alone with Chagan, their driver and help. I was stuck at the airport. On the third day, I was dropped to Citadel with police escort. I couldn't step out till things settled. On 12th March 1993, Bombay city was rocked with multiple blasts. I was returning back after operating a flight from Nairobi. I had just passed Prabhadevi a few minutes before the blasts. The news of the blasts was not known till the news channels started broadcasting it. Dadima was visiting Bombay then. Under Rama Bua's concerned instructions, I was not allowed to leave for further flights. – *Atul Chandra (Rama Rani Lal's Nephew)*

They made an ideal couple

It's difficult to believe that it's been 25 years since we lost Rama Aunty. She was such a beautiful soul, vibrant and full of life. She embodied grace and love and was the most affectionate person. She had a fabulous memory and would recount anecdotes that would have us spellbound and in splits. Hirdaya Uncle was the perfect match for her. He was suave, fun loving, a *ghazal* aficionado and a great host. They made the ideal couple, the



perfect hosts. Their home in Bombay was an open house for anyone visiting from Hyderabad. We spent many wonderful holidays in Bombay in the iconic 101



92. Namrita Chandra; 93. Amit Karan; 94. The family of Sartaj Karan with the family of Dr. H.M. Lal.

Citadel. Rama Aunty would run the house meticulously and there was always a great spread on the table. Weddings in the family were so much fun and Rama Aunty was such a great help as she would make the lists, the food planning and all the nitty-gritty details. She was always there for all of us. We remember both of them for their warmth and love and all that they have given us. — *Namrita Chandra (Rama Rani Lal's Niece)*



Feels like an era getting over

Looking back at times spent with Rama Aunty and Hirdaya Uncle evokes memories of a lovely era that was gentle, fun and engaging in a very personal way. Like the old Hyderabad families, one always grew up as part of a broader family and not just the immediate nuclear set up. Rama Aunty and Hirdaya Uncle embodied that in full and their home in Bombay, Citadel, was where many of us spent time and grew up in many ways. With Rama Aunty, my earliest recollections are as a young boy. She loved engaging with her nieces and nephews and constantly teasing us about something or the other. We would often get riled and angry and she would be chuckling away and so started our almost friends like relationship with her. She was funny, engaging, intelligent and with a real ability to connect. Hirdaya Uncle was to us larger than life, full of boundless energy - forever globe-trotting and carrying stories from exotic places.

Later in life, I got to spend a lot more time when I went to study in Bombay. Citadel in those days would be the epicenter of activity with visitors, friends, dinners and a constant flow of life. I was able to see Rama Aunty and Hirdaya Uncle from a different perspective. Rama Aunty was caring, fussing over us and ensuring we had fun and were looked after while Hirdaya Uncle would guide us, smile at all the bustle and quietly be there looking on indulgently, but as a steady presence. In many ways, they were simply being the family one needed when away and making sure all of us who stayed there felt part of a loving and caring unit.

When I started working, I came back to Bombay and stayed with Renu Ji and would often get to spend time with Rama Aunty visiting from Hyderabad. She was always fun and caring, but now with us grown up we would also have a broader exchange of views but with a sense of trust and a deep and personal bond. Rama Aunty to me was more than an aunt; she was like my Mum, my friend and I always feel she left us too soon. Recently, with Hirdaya Uncle passing away, it does feel like an era that's getting over - but equally, time has a permeable quality about it and somehow, good memories and good times distill through, like a spirit to guide and enrich our lives. As we look back at their lives, there is so much to celebrate and be grateful for. Thanks for everything Rama Aunts and Hirdaya Uncle and you will always be part of us. — *Amit Karan (Rama Rani Lal's Nephew)*



Supported my dreams of becoming a physician

When thinking of Rama Bua and Hirdaya uncle, my heart is always full. I first visited them in Mumbai as a young child. We arrived in the morning at the airport. My parents quickly spotted Hirdaya Uncle in the crowd and waved him over. I was a little intimidated by Hirdaya Uncle's stature. He seemed very tall. That feeling disappeared when he pinched my cheeks and made a joke. He sang a short song (about Redrum) as he drove us from the airport to their apartment. Rama Bua was waiting for us. Her eyes peered out behind her round glasses, and she smiled the biggest, most welcoming smile. She had her decadent (butter filled) scrambled eggs and toast and jam waiting for breakfast. I was immediately at ease. Their smiles lit up any room they were in and they could make anyone laugh. At parties they were the centre of attention. Everyone loved being around them, as their warm spirits were infectious. I remember Rama Bua's rich laugh, and Hirdaya Uncle's voice singing the most melodious tunes. Hirdaya Uncle supported my dreams of becoming a physician. He was always interested in how I was doing at school, and gave me books to support my learning. I miss them both dearly, and treasure the memories that I had with them. — *Dr. Rena Chandra (Rama Rani Lal's Niece) (95)*

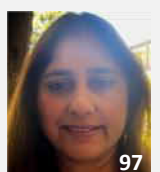


Showed me the power of love

Hirdaya Uncle and Rama Bua were both larger than life. Rama Bua was loving and caring but had the famous Chandra temper if you crossed her. But she was quick to forgive. Hirdaya Uncle always had a joke and a song in his heart. When we lost Rama Bua too early, there seemed to be a sadness in Hirdaya Uncle that never really fully went away. But that never stopped Hirdaya Uncle from trying to make everyone else smile. They were both devoted to each other and to the family. They showed me the power of love and devotion. Rama Bua made the best scrambled eggs that no other person could hope to replicate. Hirdaya Uncle (Big Daddy) I am still trying to pronounce Jack Robinson correctly. We are all so lucky that both were in our lives. I still smile when I think about them. — *Ajay Chandra (Rama Rani Lal's Nephew) (96)*

They made it feel like India was closer to us

Hirdaya Uncle and Rama Bua were warm, caring and a fun loving couple. Hirdaya Uncle travelled extensively. His work brought him to the US every four months. He would ensure Denver was on his itinerary and visit us every six months in Colorado. Rama Bua also accompanied him whenever possible. They made it feel like



India was closer to us. Hirdaya Uncle would sit with us and tell stories/jokes. He also taught us the Indian National Anthem. Rama Bua loved shopping and watched the quiz game shows with my Dad. Her memory was remarkable! It was fun to watch them just giggle. Both were jolly people who loved and enjoyed music, singing, good food, and great company. They will be fondly remembered for their affectionate manner! –

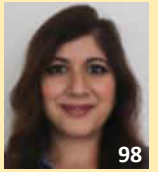
Leena Chandra (Rama Rani Lal's Niece)



97. Leena Chandra; 98. Manisha Chandra; 99. Good times with relatives at Denver, USA - Dr. H.M. Lal with Dr. Sayeed, Dr. Karuna, Arun Chandra and Promod Chandra.

Learnt what our father was like growing up

Growing up, we looked forward to when Hirdaya Uncle would visit us in the US. He would always be coming from some exotic country that we enjoyed hearing about. He was a dapper



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dresser, very charismatic and cheerful. And when Rama Bua would join him on these trips, we also enjoyed her stories about their childhood in Hyderabad and sharing what our father was like growing up. She would tell us about our family history and it helped to make us feel more connected. Rama Bua had an infectious chuckle and quick wit and she taught us everything we needed to know about how to play a mean game of cards. We miss them both and hold on to these memories with great fondness. –

Manisha Chandra (Rama Rani Lal's Niece)



100. Dr. Neeraj Raj painting the portrait of Dr. H.M. Lal; 101. Dr. Neeraj Raj.

He combined medicine, art, music...



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My memories of Hirdaya Uncle are filled with warmth and admiration for his unique combination of medicine, science, art and music. He was a regular attendee at all our Osmania Alumni meets, where his presence and enthusiasm for the alma mater were truly inspiring. His lively presence at every event and party and his unwavering love for good food, poetry and music resonated with everyone who knew him. To pay tribute to his extraordinary life, I have created an oil painted portrait of him, trying to capture the lively glitter in his eyes and his endearing smile (see cover image). His memory will continue to inspire us all. –

Dr. Neeraj Raj (Rama Rani Lal's Son-in-law)



102

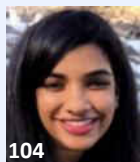
A charming persona

Hirdaya Mohan Pupaji, you will be remembered fondly by our entire family for the everlasting smile on your face and the untiring warmth that you spread across the spaces you enlivened. You had a charming persona that would draw so many people to your abode. You will be missed dearly. May your gentle soul rest in peace. –

Rashmi Raj (Rama Rani Lal's Niece) (102)



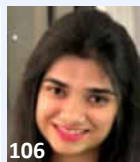
103. The visionary - Dr. H.M. Lal with his son and grandson.



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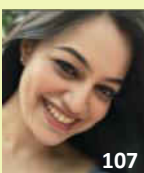


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Nana painted vivid dreams of possibility

Our memories with 'Bombay Nana' offer a glimpse of the essence of his truly dynamic personality. His tales of exploration and discovery were the fabric of our conversations. Nana painted vivid dreams for us, igniting a sense of possibility within our hearts. His unconditional love for the family has been very inspiring. We have seen him often visit his sisters, all our beloved dadis, offering support and comfort. He made sure their birthdays were a special celebration. Melodies of *ghazals* held a special place in his heart. His songs became the soundtrack of most of our family gatherings, filling our lives with joy, nostalgia, and a profound sense of connection. He continues to inspire us as we carry forward his dynamic spirit, embracing new adventures, celebrating the power of song, and cherishing the bonds that connect us all. –

Priyanka Srivastava (104), Sonali Karan (105) & Rashmi Karan (106) (Granddaughters of Dr. H.M. Lal)



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His laughter was infectious

Words are not enough to express how much we miss having Hirdaya Baba around us today. He was such a loving and jovial person. His laughter was infectious and his encouraging words still ring in our ears. We will never forget how he always held our hands and wished us good luck for anything we were going to do next. His excitement to listen to our everyday stories always felt nice! His warm smile and presence is deeply missed. –

Aditi (107) and Ansh Raj (Grandchildren)

Outstanding medical student

Hirdaya and I were classmates through medical college and did two internship rotations together. He was an outstanding medical student excelling in studies as well as in extracurricular activities marked by his travel to the then Soviet Union as a student representative. Later, our paths crossed in England where he was my advisor. I came to know Rama Bhabi well while in England. Periodic visits to this generous couple were highlighted by Rama Bhabi's delicious Kayasth cooking and listening to Hirdaya's unforgettable recordings of *Aziz Qawwal*! –

Dr. Ambadas Pathak (Dr. H.M. Lal's Classmate)

Miss the frequent WhatsApp chats

I have known Hirdaya since he joined medical college in 1953. While he was in London for his Ph.D. and MRCP, I would get news from Daya Sagar, a frequent visitor to his apartment, always praising Rama's gracious and generous hospitality and delicious cooking. I myself was fortunate to experience the same several times at Citadel, their home in Mumbai. Hirdaya was one of those rare persons, who beside holding an executive position in a big pharma company, used to have consultation practice in medicine in Mumbai. Hirdaya and I travelled abroad together many times. Our trip to New Zealand was the most memorable one. We had a lot of fun driv-



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ing around the two islands. I managed to change a non-veg Kayastha to a vegetarian during this two-week trip. Hirdaya had a passion for a decorous life. He was immaculate in his sartorial and culinary tastes. While visiting Hyderabad, I enjoyed *Saaz aur Aawaz* programs he used to arrange. Whenever he got a chance, he would sing his favorite *ghazal* (*Befafa yun tera muskurana*). He loved entertaining friends for a Happy Hour in the evening. I would miss the frequent WhatsApp chats he, Ambadas and I had in the last couple of years reminiscing the good old life in Hyderabad and Urdu *shairi*. I am overwhelmed with pride and pleasure on Hirdaya and Rama's stellar achievements and accomplishments, for their love and affection. – Dr. Gattulal (Dr. H.M. Lal's Friend)



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108. Dr. Gattulal; 109. Dr. H.M. Lal stayed connected with relatives and friends abroad.

Hospitality of the Lals is legendary

We had known Hirdaya since the 1950s. Meera met him at medical school and I met him as an intern. Soon after, he married Rama and both of them left for England. We followed them soon after. Our two holidays together in Europe were superb. We saw most of Western Europe using a motorised caravan and even got looted in Rome, where the thieves failed to take Rama's pearl necklace thinking it was cultured. On discovering that, Rama's words were "Those swines would not know the difference between the two." The hospitality of the Lals is legendary. This also applies to their son Udai and their daughter Renu. We



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110. The Lals - a hospitable family.

had experience of it every time we stopped at Mumbai. Hirdaya would entertain us with his jokes - not once did he ever crack a vulgar one in the 60 years we have known him. As for Rama, she was the one who taught Meera to cook, and what a great cook she was. Mere 60 years of friendship would be enough but what needs to be understood are the ties of understanding and mutual friendship that constituted those years - years of mutual admiration and a desire to treat both victory and defeat with will. May they both now rest in peace! – Dr. Meera & Dr. Srivatsa (Family friends)

We met with each other frequently

Chitra and I first met Hirdaya and Rama when we were working at Brook Hospital in London in 1965. We forged an immediate connection with them (and that little peanut Udai) for the next 50 years. We met with each other frequently, and while Chitra and I continued with our practices in clinical medicine, Hirdaya moved to greener pastures literally and metaphorically. We have travelled in Great Britain and Western Europe, motoring in Hirdaya's car. What a wonderful time we had! We visited Hirdaya and his family three or four times when visiting India, the last occasion being about a year ago. We shall miss a dear friend. – Dr. Chitra & Dr. Sundaram Ramanan (Family friends)

Both are worth a biography

Dr. Hirdaya Mohan Lal was a multidimensional personality and Rama Lal an equally remarkable person. It is impossible to write about them in short. Both are worth a biography. This lovely couple played an important role in my life. I first met Dr. H.M. Lal when he interviewed me in his office at Searle (India) Ltd. I was awestruck by his personality and language control. At the end of the interview, the only question I had was: "Why does Dr. Lal have such an impressive library?" He replied, "Over a period of time, you will learn the importance of it if we decide to work together." After the final round of interviews, I started working with the medical department with Dr. Lal and his colleagues. When he explained to me the nature of the products and the work we

do, I realized we required a bigger reference library. Dr. Lal was directing not only Indian work but also that of Middle East and African countries as an Area Medical Director with the assistance of a colleague based in London. During the course of work, I initially found it difficult to transit from clinical to non-clinical work. Every time I found myself in doubt, Dr. Lal counseled me. During one such counseling, I met Rama Lal. As Dr. Lal had to meet his boss, Rama and I continued to talk over a cup of tea provided by Dr. Lal's secretary Behroze Daruwala (Behroze was very fond of Rama and her children Renu and Udai, who used to drop by once their school was over). Rama explained to me how Dr. Lal had similar mental blocks. The only way to overcome these was to understand that work in the pharma industry was a new

type for a doctor. Someone must travel on new paths and sort out difficulties. Her approach to the subject was professional. I learnt later that she teaches English in a Bombay University college. As we progressed, new colleagues joined us and some old ones left. Among our new colleagues were Dr. Suresh Bowalekar and Vidya Deshpande. While Suresh specialized in Biostatistics, Vidya was a specialist in Clinical Research and Regulatory work. We made a good team led by Dr. Lal. Our association lasted more than a decade. This was really a golden period for the medical and regulatory department of Searle. However, the company's objectives and policies started changing from international to Indian. During this transition, our department supported the company in establishing a new department (Searle Agro

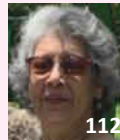


111. Dr. H.M. Lal adapted himself well to the corporate environment.

Chemical) till a new division was established. We participated in international clinical programs, supported some new international company products and independently participated in clinical development and launch of new products (Azoran, Quin-famide, etc). Due to large-scale changes, Dr. Lal decided to move out of Searle (India) and join a larger international pharma company. In due course the entire team separated to pursue newer challenges and careers. We also lost Rama, a great and supportive personality in my life, to illness during this period. In conclusion, I would say Dr. Lal was my role model and the guiding light for my personal and professional development and cannot be replaced by any other person. – Dr. Subhash Phataphekar (Junior colleague of Dr. H.M. Lal at Searle)

Sense of humor was her forte

It was in the 70s that I first met Rama Lal when she joined the Lala Lajpat Rai College as Lecturer in the English Department. Everyone would address her as Mrs. Lal and I did likewise too. Then a strange albeit interesting occurrence took place at the Annual Day function. The teaching staff had been called upon to help in decorating the stage. We were given the task of pinning ribbons on the podium and the table on the stage. Mrs. Lal, not being tall, could not manage to reach the top of the podium. Thus I, being almost a foot taller, helped her out and smilingly remarked to another colleague that "Lilliputians should be spared from such duties!" Now, what I did not realize at that moment, my Lilliputian had heard my sotto voce comment! That was an awkward, embarrassing moment. I felt truly remorse-



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112. Janaki Desai; 113. Rama Rani Lal and Dr. H.M. Lal with a relative.

ful. Then, I heard a chuckle followed by full-throated laughter... and that was the turning point for both of us. Mrs. Lal became Rama for me. Her sense of humor was her forte and the chuckle was her distinctiveness. Rama's castle was 101 Citadel where she would welcome me with open arms. Her warm hospitality was incomparable! I remember how many times I enjoyed a staycation there!! I got to know her entire family....The closeness we felt was the envy of all. Is it any surprise that even after 25 years of her passing, I still feel extremely close to her family in Hyderabad and Manila? – Janaki Desai (Rama Rani Lal's Friend)

Uncle was love at first drink, Maa was so strict



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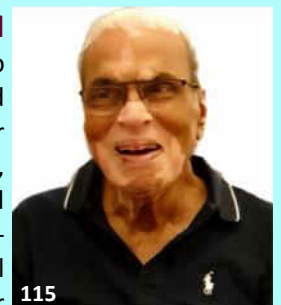
114. Dr. H.M. Lal - love at first drink.

A tribute to Hirdaya Uncle and Rama Aunty in a few words is impossible. Rama Maa was so strict and I was such a brat. She finally adored me and likewise Hirdaya Uncle was love at first drink. We were buddies and spent many days together at each other's homes. Till we meet again on the other side. – Manpreet Uppal Sharma (Family friend)

Keen observer on state of the World

In remembrance of Dr. Hirdaya Mohan Lal who was a dear friend, a great soul and a profound healer. Certain memories come unbidden to our minds: When Uncle Ji would be with my father, who at 85 spoke rapidly in Punjabi, he would quietly listen to a language he barely understood and nod his head - making my father feel welcome and included. He never corrected or interrupted him. Such was Uncle Ji's patience and compassion and we were blessed by it. – Yasmin Tiwana (Friend's daughter)

He was a great friend and a wise soul. Our talks and discussions ranged from politics to philosophy. I shall miss his keen observations on the state of the World. His acceptance and understanding of all things diverse led me to believe that Hirdaya was right when he once told me that there are many different paths but they all lead to the same place. – Sita Tiwana (Friend)



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115. Dr. H.M. Lal - keen observer of state of the world.

Rama Aunty, my Godmother; Lal Uncle, my Godfather

The day I met Udai, he became my closest friend. It gave me the opportunity to walk into 101 Citadel, Rama Auntie's Home in Bombay! I was welcomed by a small, unassuming lady with a warm smile. She opened



her arms, her heart, her home and most importantly, her kitchen.... And I found my home away from home. Her first hug and warm words were more than what a mother would give a child. For the next decade, she sheltered me and ensured that a naughty, happy-go-lucky individual who had his share of rough times, did not wander astray and would stay focussed and transformed into who I am today. I was privileged to have her love, care, guidance, protection and emotional security and learnt to nurture every small family value that she taught me, and live it till date. Her legacy for children like us will always stay for this world to experience through every breath we take. And when Nidhi came into our lives, she pampered her, showered her with unconditional love, and proudly did all the rituals for a new bride like *Chooda* removal.

Her struggles in life were no less, despite having an iron man by her side in Hirdaya Uncle. She stuck to her values, ensuring her family's integrity, showering love on us, and ensuring togetherness within her united and extended family. Though it troubles me to date for not being with her during the most painful moments of her life, it is only the emotional resilience and restraint that she taught me, kept me going on the right path and trajectory which mattered to her. Writing about her for me is like an endless book. The only thing that is stopping me is my emotional breakdown while writing about this great, intelligent and kind woman of substance. There is not a single day of my life when I do not feel her in and around me. I would just like to end by saying "Only a Godmother can give hugs like a mother, can keep secrets like a sister and share love like a friend!" and Rama Auntie did all of that and much more.....

When one thinks of Dr. H.M. Lal, many images come to mind: one of an organized, highly networked well read intellectual,

corporate go-getter; another of a sophisticated, influential, smooth talker, full of humility; or of a music lover and accomplished *shayar* who was the life of any *mehfil*. But to me he was Lal Uncle, my Godfather, who always had my back. He didn't tell me how to live; he lived and let me watch him do it. In losing him I lost my greatest blessing and comfort, for he was always that for me. A million memories come flowing on as I begin to write about him....His most precious possession, probably more important than his wife and kids, was a small red diary, the *khazaana* of all his information. He was also a very punctual man with great respect for time; unfortunately, this was also the reason behind the multiple sparring matches between him and Rama Auntie at the breakfast table.

None could beat him in subtle sarcasm! One evening, when we were all waiting for our food at a restaurant, Uncle called the manager and with a sweet smile and in his unique style told him: "Hope you know we are here for dinner, not breakfast!" His taste for food always pushed Rama Auntie and Renu Jiji to cook the best. But, Jiji's delicious soufflés were merely puddings to him. He always had the right song or *sher* for every situation. When I visited him even in his sunset days, his *shayari* took over the conversation. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us. Uncle was a dedicated family man and caring brother. From the first day that I met him, I tried every day to become a little more like him. I may not have inherited his biological DNA, but certainly strived for his intellectual DNA. The gift that he gave me is that he believed in me, which guided me to be what I am today. "The song may have ended, but the melody lingers on." – Dr. Rajat Goyal (116) (Dr. Udai Lal's friend)

Strong pillars of the Mohan Lal family

➔ Please see page 39

Dr. Gita Karan's *Faasle* wins top award at Indo French International Film Festival



Faasle, scripted and produced by eminent educationist Dr. Gita Karan (w/o Uma Karan), which emphasizes the importance of open communication in resolving relationship issues, received the *Best Indian Short Film* award at the Indo French International Film Festival 2023 at Puducherry. This woman empowerment film in Hindi revolves around Sheetal, a women navigating the complexities of a troubled relationship. Directed by Sashi Pritam, the film stars Swetaa Varma, Ajit Shukla, Prateek Varma, Sandhya Janak, Rajnish Sharma, Master Chirayu and others. This is founder of Gitanjali Group of Schools and HMKE&WS

Vice President's second film.

Anila's Y4J wins WIT award

Youth 4 Jobs Foundation (Y4J), a non-profit organization that works for employment of youth with disabilities, won the *Women in IT (WIT) Award* in the social impact space of the APAC (Asia Pacific) region this year. Y4J Founder Meera Shenoy and Co-Founder Anila Mathur (w/o Praveen Kumar Mathur) were invited to the *Women in IT Summit and Awards* event at Singapore on 28th June to receive the Award. Set up 11 years back, Y4J is presently the largest organization in South Asia in this space. SwarajAbility is their Atmanirbhar AI



-triggered accessible jobs platform exclusively for persons with disabilities. Y4J's work has won several national and international awards, including the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities given by the Hon'ble President of India. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, appreciated the work of Y4J in Mann ki Baat recently. Y4J's work was also appreciated by the Hon'ble Governor of Telangana Dr. Tamilsai Soundararajan during her recent interaction with Anila (see photo). The idea of this project originated at MIT, USA, when Y4J was the Asia winner.

Dr. Manoj Chandra elected Honorary Treasurer of AIOS

HMKE&WS Secretary (Administration) and leading city Glaucoma specialist Dr. Manoj Chandra Mathur has been elected as Honorary Treasurer of the All India Ophthalmological Society (AIOS) for a 3-year term (2023-26), the first from South India. A graduate of Osmania Medical College, Dr. Manoj Chandra completed postgraduate training in Ophthalmology at the Sarojini Devi Eye Hospital and the Regional Institute of Ophthalmology. He is the Past Advisor and President, Telangana Ophthalmological Society; Advisor and Past President, Hyderabad Ophthalmologists' Association; former Member, Advisory Board, Indian Journal of Ophthalmology; Ex Co-Chair, Ethics Committee and Member Medico-legal Cell of AIOS; and Past Vice President, Honorary General Secretary and Editor, Andhra Pradesh Ophthalmological Society (APOS). Dr. Manoj Chanra has received the Best Poster award of AIOS twice and is also the first recipient of the E.T. Selvam Award. Besides this, he also bagged the Raghuvarar Award, Raghunandan Dundoo Endowment Award, A.K. Das Endowment Award and Dr. S.N. Acharya Memorial Award. Dr. Manoj Chandra has conducted hands-on workshops in glaucoma for postgraduate students and practitioners in all the medical colleges of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. He is also on the faculty panel of the Glaucoma Society of India and independently conducted workshops in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.



G.P. Mathur wins Lifetime Achievement Award

At the SHF (Smart Habitat Foundation) and D-Arc (Design Architecture Building & Construction) hosted event on *Visioning New India in Transportation and Infrastructure* at Bengaluru in June, eminent architect Gyaneshwar Pershad Mathur received the *Lifetime Achievement Award*. In 1968, Gyaneshwar Pershad (GP) walked out of the Government College of Fine Arts And Architecture in Hyderabad with the Bachelor's degree in Architecture and arrived at Bangalore in 1969 to join the firm run by Razi Mohammed & Ganapathi as Associate Architect. Later he shifted to Alur & Associates, a big name in the architecture profession. In July 1977 he started off on his own under the banner Mathur & Associates. In a career spanning over four decades, he has deigned almost every kind of building. Some of his buildings have been featured in various magazines of architecture. Gyaneshwar Pershad is the Past Chairman of the Indian Institute of Architects, Karnataka Chapter; Founder Member and present President of the Practicing Architects Association; Associate Member of the Institute of Indian Interior Designers and Member of the Council of Architects. He is recipient of the Architect of the Year Award in 2008 and Special Citation Award during the golden Jubilee celebrations of the Indian Institute of Architects in 2015. He has also produced television serials in Kannada.



Vipin, Shruti and their team illuminate Karimnagar Cable Bridge, Telangana Martyr's Memorial



Two newest attractions in Telangana – Karimnagar Cable Bridge and Telangana Martyr's Memorial – have lighting designed and executed by Vipin Sharma and his wife Shruti Mathur (d/o Varun Kishore Mathur) and their team. The 500-meter Karimnagar Cable Bridge is the largest illuminated cable bridge in the country. It was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister K.T Rama Rao on June 21st. During the event, Vipin and his partner Venkat were felicitated for their contribution. The bridge is located in the stunningly picturesque environs of the Lower Manair Dam. The very same week, Hon'ble Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao inaugurated the magnificent *diya-shaped* Telangana Martyr's Memorial adjoining the Hussain Sagar Lake. The six-storied memorial stands 26 meters tall. It is the largest seamless stainless-steel memorial in the world. Its spectacular interior lighting has been designed by Vipin and his team.

PHOTOGRAPHY
VIDEOGRAPHY



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Vineeth among ICICI's Mortgage Maestros

Vineeth Kumar Mathur (extreme right in picture), Branch Manager, ICICI Bank, Road No. 14, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, was among top three Mortgage Maestros (Top Branch Managers - Disbursement) of the ICICI Bank in April. Vineeth (s/o late Kishan Kumar Mathur) has been receiving performance achievement awards throughout his career, as reported in the earlier issue of *Profile*. Prior to taking charge as Branch Manager, cheerful and helpful Vineeth had a 6-year stint with the Mortgage Department. A Commerce graduate, Vineeth also holds MBA and MCA degrees.



Vineeth (s/o late Kishan Kumar Mathur) has been receiving performance achievement awards throughout his career, as reported in the earlier issue of *Profile*. Prior to taking charge as Branch Manager, cheerful and helpful Vineeth had a 6-year stint with the Mortgage Department. A Commerce graduate, Vineeth also holds MBA and MCA degrees.

Sumit bags Customer Whisperer Award



If TechMahindra found Sumit Mathur (s/o Dr. Vashist Karan) as one of its *Most Customer Focused* employees at a global event, would you be surprised? We at *Profile* were not at all surprised when Sumit walked away with *The Customer Whisperer Award*

2023, which he would have added it to his bountiful trophy collection (we stopped counting the number of ACE (Associates Consistently Excel) Awards he received). At the event at which the award was presented, Sumit remarked: "It was an amazing experience to connect with brilliant leaders across the globe."



Alok joins CGS CIMB Singapore as Head - Institutional Business

Alok Sagar (s/o Ajeet Sagar) has joined CGS CIMB Singapore Pte. Ltd., as Head - Institutional Business. CGS CIMB is a joint venture financial institution between Malaysia's CIMB Bank and China Galaxy Securities (one of the biggest onshore China based brokers). Alok moves from Credit Suisse where he played various roles during his 16+ year stint spanning operations and sales, his last one being APAC Head of Equity Financing Client Coverage. The Commerce graduate from Mumbai University, specializing in Finance and Accounting, also holds a Diploma in Planning and Management.

TechMahindra promotes Nidhi as Group Manager

Nidhi Mathur (w/o Sumit Mathur) has been promoted as Group Manager – Operations at TechMahindra wef April 1. Nidhi, who has been a consistent performer, obviously was delighted to receive her promotion order which read, "Congratulations on this well deserved promotion. Your dedication towards the organization is commendable as is your sincerity and professionalism... This achievement is a moment to celebrate with your loved ones – so revel in this joyful moment." Revel she did, with her husband Sumit Mathur, incidentally her senior colleague at TechMahindra and daughter Sohani, who just started of her career on a high note.



Ashray elevated to Asst Manager at Deloitte

Ashray Kumar Mathur (s/o Sunil Kumar Mathur) has been elevated to Assistant Manager - Audit & Compliance at Deloitte with effect from 1st June. Prior to his promotion, he was heading the team that deals with Australian stakeholders. He will also be heading the New Zealand team after his promotion. Ashray completed B.Com (Honors) and MBA before joining Franklin Templeton. He has been with Deloitte since the last eight years. Out of office, he is a keen sportsman.



Karan all set to move to Ting

Karan Raj (s/o Sandhir Raj), who is presently working with Mumbai-based Sportz Interactive as a Senior Associate, is all set to move to Ting, Chennai, as a Senior Account Manager in July. Its clients include Star Sports, Delhi Capitals, Sun Group, etc. Karan completed his schooling from Geetanjali and Intermediate from Fitjee. He joined the Manipal Institute Technology at their Jaipur Campus. After completing his B.Tech in Electronics & Communication Engineering, instead of taking a job with an IT company, he decided to peruse his passion for sports and joined the

University of Liverpool, UK, and returned to India with a Master's degree in Sports Business Management after working as a freelancer for a while.

Ashini appointed as Data Analyst at S&P

Ashini Mathur (d/o Mohit Kishore Mathur) has been appointed as Data Analyst at Standard & Poor's (S&P). The campus placement drive was very competitive, she admits. She pursued her B.com Degree from Tapasya Degree College and is nearly completing MBA from Villa Marie PG College.





Dr. Gita wins Visionary Woman in School Education 2023 Award

Dr. Gita Karan was conferred the *Visionary Woman in School Education 2023 Award* at The Economic Times Education Leadership Summit 2023 on the theme *Recognizing Hyderabad's Educational Icons* in June. It was yet another of the many awards won by the Founder Director of the Gitanjali Group of Schools and Vice President of HMKE&WS as an individual who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and innovation qualities in the field of school education.

Dr. Sugita honored as Chitransh Professor



Organizing Secretary (Finance & Planning), HMKE&WS Dr. Sugita Mathur was honored as a Chitransh Professor at the Bhagwan Chitrugupt Prakat Utsav organized at the Bhagwan Chitransh Mandir, Uppuguda, Hyderabad, on 5th May. HMKE&WS President Dr. Dinesh Raj Mathur performed the felicitation. Dr. Sugita retired as Professor & Head, Department of Zoology, Osmania University. Earlier, she had a short stint at the Nizam College and a long stint at the Women's College as Professor & Head, Department of Zoology, besides serving as the Controller of Examinations and Vice Principal.

Sri Ramana Kendram felicitates Dr. Dhareshwari



Chairperson of the Religious Sub-committee of HMKE&WS and former Head, Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archeology, Osmania University, Prof. (Dr.) Dhareshwari (w/o late Kishan Raj Mathur), was felicitated at the Sri Ramana Kendram recently. She has witnessed the worship of Sri Ramana Maharshi in the home of her father Prof. Shiv Mohan Lal since her childhood and has been influenced by his teachings. Dr. Dhareshwari's diverse range of academic interests cover religion, philosophy, archaeology, museums, history, and archival science. Author of many books and outstanding research papers, Prof. Dhareshwari has done an authoritative UGC Research Project on Religio-Philosophical and Archeological Database on Andhra Pradesh temples.

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Sonali Graduates from Carnegie Mellon Univ



Sonali Mathur received her Master's degree in Information Systems Management with the highest distinction from the Ivy League Carnegie Mellon University, USA, on 13th May. She scored an almost perfect GPA, earning a position on the Dean's List for outstanding performance. She pursued her second master's degree after MBA (Wayne University, USA) while working full time as Director at General Motors, Houston, Texas, USA, and managing teams nationally and abroad. She had moved from Detroit, Michigan, to Houston, Texas, along with her daughter Anvi when her husband Rajeev Kumar took a position as Vice President (Finance) of Cyanco International LLC, at Houston.

Pratima is a Global Edu Icon of 2022-23



The Global School Leaders Consortium (GSLC) honored Parima Sinha, Chief Executive Officer, DSR Educational Society, as an *Global Edu Icon* of the Year 2022-2023 at New Delhi in April. Rated among 20 elite thought leaders in school education, Pratima has made several interventions to raise academic standards as Prin-Principal of the Meridian School, Hillside School, Euro School, and Gitanjali Devashray besides as Regional Academic Head, Pearson Schools. As Education Consultant with Global Classroom, she developed teachers training modules and conducted English Enhancement Program for Adults. Author of *Striving for today and tomorrow*, she serves on the Editorial Board of Profile.

Dr. Sakshi completes MD (Pediatrics) standing on top of her batch

By sharing the top spot in her batch, Dr. Sakshi Chandra (d/o Sudeep Chandra) completed MD (Pediatrics) with flying colors from the Pravara Institute of Medical Sciences, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra. Sakshi distinguished herself as a meritorious student at Pran-



ava, Delhi Public School and Sri Chaitanya, and completed MBBS from the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Belgaum, Karnataka, where she was spotted and groomed as one among the top nine advanced learners in her batch.



Suhani completes internship at JLL, appointed as Data Engineer

Suhani (d/o Sumit Mathur) successfully completed her internship at JLL and impressed them so much that the company appointed her

as Data Engineer. It was a "super dream offer" for the new graduate of the Vellore Institute of Technology's B.Tech (Computer Science) course. She starts her professional journey in July at Bengaluru.

Aarushi to attend Master's program in Business Analytics at Univ of New Haven



Aarushi Mathur (d/o Praveen Kumar Mathur) has been admitted to the Master's degree program in Business Analytics at the University of New Haven, Connecticut, USA, supported by a scholarship. She completed the Bachelor of Engineering degree in Information Technology from Muffakham Jah College of Engineering and Technology, Osmania University, and had been working as Senior Associate - Information Technology at NTT Data Global Delivery Services for the past two years. She will be leaving for the US in August.

Vihaan promoted as Vice President of TSA

Vihaan Mathur (s/o Akhil Mathur) has been promoted as Vice President, Technology Students Association (TSA), at Holman Middle School, Richmond, Virginia, USA. The techno-savvy eighth grader is a winner of several prizes in



frontline technology areas. He devotes a considerable amount of his spare time to build Cancer awareness and raise funds for this cause. He participated in a community service video wherein he interviewed Cancer researchers with the Virginia Commonwealth University. In academics, he has excelled in Math, Science, English and Spanish. He also has a passion for chess, singing, swimming and cricket.



Alisha wins Second prize in Earth Day Art contest



Alisha (d/o Vijai Kumar), a student of Alston Ridge Elementary School, Apex, North Carolina, USA, recently participated in the Earth Day art contest and won the Second prize for her outstanding artwork amongst various participants.

Nirvi wins Popular Choice Award

Nirvi Sagar (d/o Vivek Sagar) participated in an international arts competition on the occasion of Father's Day themed: *We have a Hero, We call him Dad*. This competition wanted children to express their feelings for their father through their artwork. Nirvi participated in less than 16 yrs age group and won the *Popular Choice Award*.

This competition was open to any young artist from around the globe. The jury consisted of six renowned international artists. Nirvi is very fond of drawing and sketching. Her entry in this competition was a tribute to her father Vivek, with whom she shared a very intimate bond. For her effort, Nirvi received a lot of support, encouragement and blessings from family, friends and well wishers.



Karate: Avyaan gets Green Belt

Avyaan Mathur (s/o Prateek Kishore Mathur) was promoted to the rank of 5th Kyu Green Belt in June by the World Funakoshi Shotokan Karate Organization (WFSKO) which is affiliated to the Asian Karate Federation and World Karate Federation. He has also participated in National WFSKO Open Karate Championship held in Mumbai and won a Silver Medal in *Kata* and Bronze medal in *Kumite fight* in the under 12 years category. Avyaan is a student of Class-II, Pawar Public School.



HMKE&WS honors its office bearers of yore and present team in the Golden Jubilee Year

In the Golden Jubilee Year of HMKE&WS, its Presidents, Vice Presidents, Secretaries, Joint Secretaries and Treasurers of yester years who had worked tirelessly to introduce and sustain the education, welfare and recreational activities of the Society for the last five decades, were felicitated with the elders on 11th June by the President Dr. Dinesh Raj Mathur, Vice Presidents Dr. Gita Karan and Asha Kumar, and Organizing Secretaries Dr. Sugita Mathur (who compeered the program) and Dr. Manoj Chandra Mathur. Those who were felicitated include:

PRESIDENTS: Har Pershad; Chander Mohan Lal; Tej Narain; Raja Sham Karan; Prem Raj Mathur, IAS; S.K. Sinha, IAS; Sindhu Raj Mathur; Prof. J. Krishan Raj Mathur; Tulja Raj, IPS; Raja Ram Karan; Sushil Kumar, IPS; Dr. Ravi Karan; Vijay Mohan Lal (2); and Dr. Dinesh Raj Mathur (1).

VICE PRESIDENTS: Shravan Kumar, IAS; Chander Mohan Lal; Chander Sain Mathur; Anand Narain Mathur; Radhay Mohan Lal; Kesari Pershad Mathur; Kesari Shankar Lal; Prof. J. Krishan Raj Mathur; Prof. Lajpat Rai; Prof. Dhruvash Karan; Vijay Mohan Lal; Bishen Kumar Mathur; A. Kishan Kumar; Ishwar Raj Mathur; Dr. Ravi Karan; Dr. Youraj Chandra Mathur; Dr. Dinesh Raj Mathur; Dr. Gita Karan and Asha Kumar.

SECRETARIES: Tej Narain; Dr. Vijay Kumar; Prof. Lajpat Rai; Isri Narain; Updesh Chand; Brij Jeevan Chand; Jeevan Kumar; Dr. Manoj Chandra Mathur; Dr. Dinesh Raj Mathur; Praveen Kumar Mathur; Bharat Kumar Mathur; Sneha Lata; Suchitra

Pratap; and Dr. Sugita Mathur.

JOINT SECRETARIES: Kesari Pershad Mathur; Rajender Pershad; Uday Raj Mathur; Bharat Sain Mathur; Jeevan Kumar; B. Prem Raj; Dilip Ram Pershad; Ajit Mohan Lal; Diljit Mohan Lal; Sudhir Kumar Mathur; Pradeep Kumar Mathur; Vishnu Raj Mathur; Dharam Kesari; Vinod Bahadur; and Dr. Dhareshwari.

TREASURERS: Jeevan Pershad; Isri Narain; Bharat Mohan Lal; B. Prem Raj; D. Vinod Kumar; Avdhesh Kumar Mathur; Subhash Chandra Mathur; and Kiran Kishore Mathur.

Finally, the HMKE&WS team serving in the Golden Jubilee Year was also felicitated. They include: Dr. Dinesh Raj Mathur (President), Dr. Gita Karan and Asha Kumar (Vice Presidents), and Dr. Sugita Mathur and Dr. Manoj Chandra Mathur (Organizing Secretaries); Managing Committee: Dr. Dhareshwari, Dr. Sulochana Mathur, Vinod Bahadur, Dr. Rohit Raaj Mathur, Pradeep Kumar Mathur, Nilesh Chand Mathur, Mohit Kishore Mathur, Pratima Sinha, and Vishal Karan (Elected); Vishnu Raj Mathur, Dr. Rekha Chandra, Rohit Shankar Lal, Sharad Raj Mathur, Sudhir Kumar Mathur, Dr. Mamta Mathur, Nachiket Mathur, Rinesh Mohan Lal, Sudeep Raj Mathur, and Vibha Asthana besides Capt. Rajiv Kumar Mathur (Legal Advisor). Special felicitations for dedicated services to HMKE&WS were presented to Mateshwari Pershad, Youraj Pershad, Dr. Shanti Narain Mathur, Chitranshan Pratap, Prahlad Kumar, Subhash Narain and Anand Sagar.



HMKE&WS honors its elders

On 11th June, at a colorful Elders Day program, HMKE&WS honored nine individuals for attaining 80 years of age (Dr. Rajwanth Pratap Mathur, Dr. Bajrang Pratap Mathur, Bharat Kumar Mathur, Dr. Vinod Mohan Lal, Prof. Leela Karan, Neena Karan, Kirath Mohan Lal, Santosh Mohan Lal and Dr. Prahlad Kishore Mathur), seven couples for completing 50 years of married life (Dr. Rajwanth Pratap Mathur & Dr. Usha Devi, Dr. Bajrang Pratap Mathur & Dr. Dhaneshwari, Ashok Raj Mathur & Purnima, Vinod Kumar Mathur & Reshma, Uday Mohan Lal & Renuka; Dr. Shyamwanth Pratap & Anita and Jayanth Kumar & Madhur Mohini) and three couples for completing 40 years of married life (Dr. Rohit Raaj Mathur & Sangeeta, Pradeep Kumar Mathur & Seema and Dilip Kumar Mathur and Shakuntala Devi). The highlights of their life are presented below:

ON ATTAINING 80 YEARS OF AGE:

DR. RAJWANTH PRATAP MATHUR (See ATTAINING 80 YEARS OF AGE & COMPLETING 50 YEARS OF MARRIED LIFE).

DR. BAJRANG PRATAP MATHUR (See ATTAINING 80 YEARS OF AGE & COMPLETING 50 YEARS OF MARRIED LIFE).

BHARATH KUMAR MATHUR: Was born to Balbir Pershad and Shyam Bibi on 8th March 1943. Brother of Satraj Pershad, Rajender Pershad, Shravan Kumar and Prem Kishori, Bharath Kumar completed his schooling at Dharamwanth High School, PUC at City College and B.Sc. at Saifabad Science College. Starting his career as a School Assistant, Marwadi Hindi Vidyalaya, he joined IDPL as Grade-I Operator and took voluntary



retirement when he was a Production Executive. For many years, he co-founded and managed a very successful catering service. From 1990 to 2000, he served as the Secretary of HMKE&WS and contributed to publishing the earliest versions of the biradari telephone directory besides being on the Editorial Board of *Profile*. He is presently the President of Kayasth Shiksha Samiti that runs Young Modern Girls High

School. His wife of many decades Anuradha (d/o Brij Kunwar Pratap & Maharaj Kishori), left for her heavenly abode on 16th January 2022. They are blessed with two sons – Ashish Kumar Mathur (married to Deeksha) and Adarsh Kumar Mathur (married to Priyanka) and four grandchildren – Drishya, Aarush, Aariv and Roniv.

DR. VINOD MOHAN LAL: Born on 2nd April 1943 to Chander Mohan Lal and Raj Kishori, Dr. Vinod Mohan Lal had a joyful childhood growing up at Charminar in a family of six brothers and two sisters. While he resides at Banjara Hills today, he still shares a close-knit bond with his family. In Hyderabad, Vinod Mohan studied at Little Flower High School and City College before completing his MBBS from Kakatiya Medical College (KMC) at Warangal in 1970. Back in the city, he spent the years 1971 to 1973 pursuing a two-year DCH course at Niloufer Hospital, and starting alongside his own private practice. In November 1976, he joined Vaidya Vidhana Hospital, where he served four government hospitals. He retired in 2002, leaving behind a legacy of compassionate care. Beyond a successful pediatrician, Dr. Vinod Mohan is a vibrant personality, who radiates a humorous, modest, and down-to-earth nature. He enjoys listening to his favorite singers Mohammad Rafi and Lata Mangeshkar. An ardent cricket enthusiast, he represented KMC in inter-medical cricket tournaments. On 18th May 1975, Dr. Vinod Mohan tied the matrimonial knot with Prem Lata, the daughter of Inder Sain and Sarojini Devi. They have two children. Their daughter Pravita, an MBA graduate, works at Gitanjali School and is happily married to Nitesh Kumar, who works as a Principal Consultant in a software company. Their son, Pranit Mohan Lal, also an MBA, works with ICICI Bank. He is happily married to Shruthi, who is employed at Gitanjali School. The couple finds immense joy in being the grandparents to their four grandchildren – Harsh, Vivek, Neel, and Mahi. Dr. Vinod Mohan's jovial nature makes him the best friend and confidant of his beloved grandchildren.



PROF. LEELA KARAN: Sixth of the seven siblings whose father Dr. Bankat Chandra was Principal and Dean, Osmania Medical College besides the Physician to the Nizam of Hyderabad, and mother Chand Rani, who was the epitome of grace, beauty and old world charm, Leela had a happy childhood surrounded by her sisters Dr. Sheila and Rama and brothers Uday Chandra, Dr. Vinod Chandra, Pramod Chandra and Dileep Chandra. She did her schooling from St. George's Grammar School, and when she passed out, she was the Head Girl. Leela pursued her love for English Literature at the Bachelor's and Master's level. Leela Karan spent 38 years as a member of the English Department of constituent colleges of the Osmania University, starting with the Women's College in 1967, followed by a long stint at the Nizam College and finally as

Professor and Head of the English Department at PG College, Secunderabad. A passion for teaching made her a popular teacher. She married banker Sartaj Karan (s/o Raja Mahaboob Karan) in 1964. They are blessed with three children – Namrita Chandra (w/o Sudeep Chandra), Nikhil Karan (married to Arthi) and Amit Karan (married to Laila) – and four grandchildren – Dr. Sakshi Chandra, Rishik Chandra, Maansi Karan and Farah Karan. A voracious reader, a connoisseur of music (especially *ghazals*), a world traveler (she spent a lot of time in Fiji when her husband was posted there) and an excellent cook and hostess, she is indeed an all-rounder!

NEENA KARAN: Daughter of well-known civil servant Rai Jag-jvan Chandra, and Prema Chandra, Neena studied at the Rosary Convent High School and completed her graduation from the Osmania University's Women's College. After completing her graduation she married Tej Karan, the youngest son of Raja Dharam Karan. Continuing her academic pursuits thereafter, she successfully completed B.Ed., Montessori courses and took up teaching English grammar, geography and history. After a decade of teaching, she joined her husband in business and helped him set up a hotel in Secunderabad. Besides being an excellent cook, she is a most loving mother to her son Sanjeev, daughter-in-law Shefali and dotes on her granddaughter Neha.



KIRATH MOHAN LAL: Born on 25th February 1943 to Shyam Mohan Lal and Kewal Kishori, Kirath Mohan did his schooling from Little Flower High School. A science graduate, he was appointed in the Research and Development Wing of Hyderabad Industries Ltd. He was instrumental in developing cost effective furnishes and new products that are in regular production even today. He married Dr. Prem Lata on 2nd May 1970. They are a golden couple. Dr. Prem Lata is a renowned gynecologist of our biradari, who has worked in many government hospitals before retiring as the Superintendent of the King Kothi Hospital. Despite a busy schedule while working, they managed to spend quality time with their respective extended families and bring up their two children – Dr. Suhas Mohan Lal (married to Suruchi) and Anila (married to Praveen Kumar Mathur) – with great success. His maternal grandson Pratik (married to Sanmita) is settled in the US and his granddaughter Aarushi will also be leaving for the US to pursue MS. The couple has traveled extensively across the world. Kirath Mohan now spends quality time at home with younger grandchildren – Pritika and Suhan – playing with them and teaching them life skills.

SANTOSH MOHAN LAL: Born on 12th July 1943 to Suraj Mohan Lal and Padmavati, Santosh Mohan Lal graduated from Nizam College, joined Hyderabad Industries Limited in 1969 and retired in 2001 as Senior Manager – Materials. On 30th May 1970, Santosh Mohan and banker Tej Laxmi (d/o late Satish Chand and Kalavati) tied the knot of holy matrimony.



During their 50 year journey together, they discovered a lot about each other. Santosh Mohan is calm, patient and a passionate lover of cricket. They are the proud parents of two – Nitin Mohan Lal (married to Aparna) and Shikha (married to Sumith Mathur) – and proud grandparents of three grandchildren – Pranav and twins Ria and Ronak.

DR. PRAHLAD KISHORE MATHUR: Born to Nand Kishore and Ghanshyam Devi, Prahlad Kishore holds a Bachelors of Veterinary Sciences degree from Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University. Rising from very humble beginnings, his career spanned decades serving as Regional Manager for erstwhile leading pharmaceutical companies – Sarabhai Chemicals and Ranbaxy – before launching a pharmaceutical manufacturing and distribution business of his own. During his career, he has had several achievements, quite notably the establishment of the veterinary division at Ranbaxy, which was already well recognized as a pharmaceutical manufacturing leader of its time. He was also instrumental in launching several new and innovative poultry and aquaculture products through his business venture. A quick wit and a *hasya-kavi*, some of his *shayaris* have become quite memorable and earned him fame in the biradari. He is a hobby artist, who has some fine paintings and art works of merit to his name! Dr. Prahlad Kishore is married to Veena Devi (d/o Kulraj Pershad & Bimla Rani). They are blessed with two sons – Ashwin (married to Shruti) and Anuj (married to Divya) – and three grandchildren – Advay, Shanaya, and Anya.



ON ATTAINING 80 YEARS OF AGE & COMPLETING 50 YEARS OF MARRIED LIFE:

DR. RAJWANTH PRATAP MATHUR & DR. USHA DEVI: Dr. Rajwanth Pratap Mathur (s/o Balwanth Pratap and Phoola Devi) did his schooling at Saint Paul High School, Little Flower High School and finally passed HSC from All Saints High School and graduated from City College. He completed MBBS in 1966 and MD (Medicine) in 1974 from Osmania Medical College. Later, he completed his super specialization in Endocrinology at the Institute of Medical Sciences, Varanasi, in 1982. While at Varanasi, he completed the Certificate and Diploma course in Yoga. He took charge as Assistant professor of Endocrinology at Osmania Medical College. After he was promoted as Professor of Endocrinology, he served Kurnool Medical College, Andhra Medical College, Gandhi Medical College and finally retired from Osmania Medical College. He was instrumental in setting up the first Radioimmunoassay Lab at Osmania General Hospital after completing his training at the Bhabha Atomic Research Center, Mumbai. He was one of the rare Indian doctors to be conferred the honorary title of Associate Professor of Medicine by the King Saud University in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He also worked as Professor of Endocrinology at Riyadh



Central Hospital in Saudi Arabia. He was also one of the rare Indian professors to be appointed as external examiner of Common Medical Board examination for all the Gulf countries. Dr. Rajwanth Pratap was awarded the prestigious lifetime Mentor CODE Award in 2014 by the Harvard Medical School, USA, for excellence as an academician and dedication to patient care. He has published many papers in India and USA and organized continuing education programs in India and Saudi Arabia. He is a life member of various academic associations – IMA, RSSDI, ESCON, ADA and European Society of Diabetes. Even at the age of 80, he still practices with enthusiasm at his own Hyderabad Super specialty and Diabetes center at Banjara Hills. “Retired but not tired” is what he says when asked to stop practicing. He married Dr. Usha Devi on 25th May 1972. They completed 50 years of happy married life in 2022. Dr. Usha Devi is the youngest of five sons and six daughters sired by Digamber Pershad. She did her schooling from Rosary Convent High School, PUC from Reddy College, MBBS from Gandhi Medical College in 1972 and DCH in 1974. She practiced for over two and half decades, while raising two kids and shouldering house responsibilities while her husband was away for post graduate studies, research and work in Saudi Arabia. Their elder son is Ajaywanth Pratap (married to Bhavna) and the younger one is Dr. Atish Pratap (married to Dr. Tanisha). They are blessed with four grandchildren – Aashi, Ahaana, Aveer, and Arhaan.

DR. BAJRANG PRATAP MATHUR & DR. DHANESHWARI: Dr.

Bajrang Pratap Mathur was born on 10th February 1943 to Brij Kunwar Pratap and Maharaj Kishori. He passed HSC from Little Flower High School and MBBS in 1966 and MD in 1970 from Osmania Medical College and DM (Gastroenterology) from PGI, Chandigarh in 1980. He has served Kurnool Medical College, Gandhi Medical College and Osmania Medical College as Professor of Gastroenterology. Dr. Bajrang Pratap retired as Additional Director - Medical Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh in 2001 and since then has been practicing in Hyderabad. A popular past President of the Indian Society of Gastroenterology, Dr. Bajrang Pratap is regularly invited as an examiner for DM and DNB courses in Gastroenterology at various medical colleges in the country. He has been on selection committees to appoint gastroenterologists at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University and PGI Chandigarh. Dr. Bajrang Pratap married Dr. Dhaneshwari on 17th February 1972. Born on 14th August 1951 to Sri Raj Pershad and Sowbhgyawati, Dr. Dhaneshwari did her schooling from Rosary Convent High School and MBBS from Gandhi Medical College in 1975. Since then, she is a private medical practitioner. They have two sons and a daughter - Dr. Nitesh Pratap Mathur (married to Dr. Uttara Mathur), Dheeresh Pratap Mathur (married to Prerna Mathur) and Vijita Mathur (married to Dr. Viresh Mo-



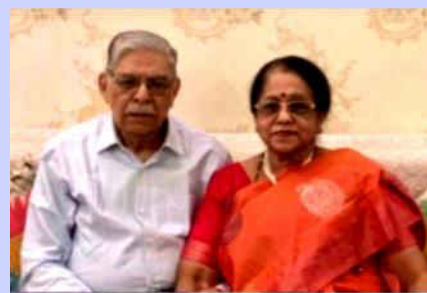
han Lal) and six grandchildren – Aanya, Advik, Aadit, Anshi, Ashna, and Aanvi.

ASHOK RAJ MATHUR & PURNIMA: Ashok Raj Mathur is the eldest son of M. Dharam Raj Mathur and Chandra-kala. He is a post graduate in agriculture and topper of the university in M.Sc. Agricultural Economics. A keen sportsman, Ashok distinguished himself on the cricket field as Captain of the Agriculture College team that won the Inter-collegiate tournament; adjudged the best bowler (1961-1962 season) and represented the Agriculture University in the Inter University South Zone Cricket Tournament (1964). He represented Nizam College in ball badminton (1958-59). He was also the college Chess champion. In his college days, Ashok was an active NCC cadet. After completing his studies, he joined the Indian Leaf Tobacco Development Co. Later he joined the State Bank of India (SBI) and had a successful stint as Manager-Public Relations at Hyderabad Zonal office and successfully heading SBI's Shamsheergunj and Siddipet branches. During his tenure as Branch Manager, Shamsheergunj (1998-99), he was awarded two Certificates - one for outstanding performance in growth of profit and another for reduction in non performing assets. He also received a letter of appreciation from the Collector, Hyderabad District, for best performance in issuing sanctions under PMRY programs (1998-99). He took voluntary retirement from SBI in March 2021. Ashok married Purnima, the first born of D. Raghukul Pershad and Ansuya Devi, in 1973. Purnima studied at Women's College and graduated in Psychology and later took B.Ed. She has contributed precious three decades in teaching and molding future generations in their formative years as a primary school teacher first at St. Georges Grammar School for three years and the rest at the Hyderabad Public School, till her retirement in 2010. Many of her students fondly remember and keep in touch with her. Purnima is a very good cook and whips up lip-smacking dishes. Purnima has a good hand at drawing and loves to simplify drawing for the children she taught. Ashok and Purnima are blessed with two loving and caring children – Ashwin Raj and Pooja – both well settled in life. Ashwin works as Director – Energy Services, Canadian Nuclear Service, Toronto. Ashwin is married to Prerna; they have a daughter – Paakhi. Pooja lives in Bengaluru with her husband Sandeep Karan, who is the Head, IT Cyber Security at L&T Technology Services; they have a daughter – Vitti. At present Ashok and Purnima are leading a quiet and peaceful retired life at Trimulghery. Ashok spends his time gardening, on the computer and playing cards with his wife. He is the president of MPGCA (Mahadev Pershad Grandchildren's Association) and also the chairman the Raja Chatulal Family Trust.

VINOD KUMAR MATHUR & RESHMA: Vinod Kumar (s/o Digamber Pershad, Retired Chief Magistrate Hyderabad) and Prem Kishori married Reshma (daughter of S.K. Sinha, IAS)



on 28th May 1973. Vinod completed M.Sc. (Agriculture) in 1967 and was immediately picked by the Rockefeller Foundation for their research project in 1971. Due to the Bangladesh war, the Rockefeller Foundation was asked to wind up their project. Without any loss of time, he joined Ciba-Giegy (Presently Novartis) as a Research Associate for projects in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Subsequently, he was selected in the first competitive examination held by the SBI for recruitment of Technical Officers – (Agriculture). After working in different positions at SBI for over 25 years, he opted for voluntary retirement as Chief Manager of Shares & Bonds Department at Corporate Centre, Mumbai. Since his retirement, he has been working as Member Secretary of an Independent Ethics Committee for the Pharmaceutical Industry. Vinod is a keen sportsman having played different games representing his school; captaining his college team and playing for the university cricket team. After her schooling, Reshma joined Delhi's College of Art and completed the 5-year Diploma in Applied Art (Advertising). With a view to devote time to the family, she did not join advertising agencies and preferred to work as an art teacher. During her stint at All Saints and Gitanjali in Hyderabad and Poddar School in Mumbai, her students won many awards and she too received many awards. She held a very successful solo exhibition of her paintings at which many of her paintings were sold. Vinod and Reshma are blessed with two daughters – Jyotsna (w/o Akesh Bhatnagar) and Priyanka (w/o Amit Mathur).



UDAY MOHAN LAL & RENUKA: Born on 8th December 1939 to Bind Basini Pershad and Rani Raj Karan, Uday Mohan Lal is the eighth among ten siblings. He completed his schooling from All Saints High School and graduated in B.Sc (Agriculture). While



completing his post-graduation, Uday Mohan got an opportunity to complete his coursework in Plant Breeding in erstwhile Yugoslavia. During his internment, he presented a paper on Sunflower Development at the third International Conference hosted by the International University of Novisad, which was appreciated by the delegates. In the following decades, he has presented multiple papers on Sunflower development in India. While in Europe, he got an opportunity to travel to Italy, Greece and Germany to get an exposure to Oilseeds research. During his tenure as Deputy Director (Oilseeds Development), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, he has travelled extensively within the country to monitor the implementation of Oilseeds development programs. He acknowledges that his travels also exposed him to

the rich diversity of our country. In the Ministry of Agriculture, he was considered an authority on Oilseeds development. Uday Mohan married Renuka (d/o Ram Kishore Mathur and Chanda Devi) on 19th May 1973. Born on 29th August 1949 and the third among four siblings, Renuka completed her schooling from Rosary Convent and graduated from Amrit Kapadia Navjeevan Women's College. She spent 15 years teaching science to elementary and middle school children. She was a well respected teacher during her career. Uday Mohan and Renuka have two children settled in the US – Samit (married to Reema) and Rachna (married to Ganesh Gopal) – and three grandchildren – Rithvik, Ronav and Ruhaan. Today, they are leading a retired life. Uday Mohan spends time watching cricket and is active on social media. Renuka loves watching TV, shopping online and looking up exotic recipes of continental cuisine to help her cook. Together, they have visited the US, Dubai, Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago. Both of them are of firm belief that the invention of the smartphone is the greatest gift to mankind!

DR. SHAMVANTH PRATAP MATHUR & ANITA: Son of Balwant Pratap and Phool Rani, Dr. Shamvanth Pratap was born on 23rd June 1944 and is now 78 years old. He attended All Saints High School and went on to do his graduation and post-graduation (M.Sc.



- First rank) and Ph.D. from Osmania University. He joined the Center of Exploration Geophysics as a Researcher and quickly moved up to Head it's Well Logging Division. Acknowledging the merit of his research work, he was selected by the Government of India as a Young Scientist under the Indo-Soviet Bilateral Exchange Program for two years to pursue his research at the Moscow Geological Prospecting Institute. In 1978, the WHO offered him a Consultant's job in Thailand, marking the beginning of his United Nations (UN) career. After his stint with WHO in Thailand and Indonesia, UNICEF invited him to co-ordinate implementation of all its assisted projects in East Timor, working from Indonesia, in 1986. In 1995, UNICEF posted him to Zambia where he worked till his retirement in 2004. During four decades as a UN Diplomat (the first from our biradari), Dr. Shamvanth helped governments in Asia and Africa to formulate national policies and draw up implementation guidelines. Among others, he identifies the assessment of drought relief in the Cape Horn countries of Africa as a member of UN Envoy Mission in 2000 as his most prestigious assignment. Though he retired in 2004, through a special arrangement, UNICEF kept him engaged for the next 15 years to provide support to countries in Asia and Africa. Anita (d/o Kishan Chand) has been Dr. Shamvanth's life partner since 13th May, five decades ago. Dr. Shamvanth is presently enjoying a retired life as a resident of Zambia at his estate. He also spends a lot of time at his own lodge at Lower Zambezi National Game Park. Dr. Shamvanth and Anita are proud parents of three well educated and settled children – Shamita, Nitasha and Aneesh. Rajneesh Karan is

the eldest son-in-law followed by Jai Karan and Dr. Neha is their daughter-in-law. They have five grandchildren – Alisha, Serena, Anika, Anay and Avi.

JAYANTH KUMAR & MADHUR MOHINI: Jayanth Kumar (s/o Arjun Pershad & Shanta Devi) married Madhur Mohini (d/o Balwanth Pratap & Phool Rani) on 17th May 1973. After completing Electrical Engineering, Jayanth Kumar joined the Commerce and Export Promotion Department of the erstwhile Government of Andhra Pradesh. Among the promotional activities he was involved with, Jayanth Kumar was in-charge of design and erection of the Andhra Pradesh Pavilion at Pragati Maidan at New Delhi. Madhur Mohini retired from Hyderabad Allwyn Ltd., after serving it for three decades, including in the office of the Managing Director. Jayanth Kumar and Madhur Mohini are blessed with two children – Shivani (married to Vijay Raj Saxena) and Rajeev Kumar (married to Sonali) – and are proud grandparents of Ankit, Ananya and Anvi. They love to travel and have visited various places of tourist interest in India and abroad.



ON COMPLETING 40 YEARS OF MARRIED LIFE:

DR. ROHIT RAAJ MATHUR & SANGEETA: To begin at the beginning, both Rohit and Sangeeta were born on 10th April – Rohit to Maya Devi and Dr. Shiv Raj Mathur in 1955 and Sangeeta to Vishva Mohini and Santosh Narain Mathur, seven years later, in 1962. Rohit grew up in the Lallaguda Railway Colony and Sangeeta in a joint family at Abids and later at Humayun Nagar. They got married on 10th January 1983. It was curfew time. Relatives from the curfew-bound areas were ferried to Lallaguda in police van and ambulance. Son Vikas came into their life in 1984 and went on to study Design at Singapore and Film Production in Canada. He lives in Germany. Varsha arrived in 1986, studied Biotechnology in Hyderabad and Information Systems in the US. She is married to Atul Raj Mathur, the son of Reena and Mohan Raj Mathur, an IT professional. Atul and Varsha have a five year sweetheart daughter called Aavyana. They live in the US. Dr. Rohit is a well-known communication professional who has operated in the worlds of academics, corporate and public policy organizations in a career spanning 45 years. A second rank holder in Master's and topper of the first M.Phil batch of the Department of Communication & Journalism, Osmania University, he completed his Ph.D. in Development Studies from the Centre of Economic & Social Studies. Dr. Rohit has been a member of and head of the Public Relations/Corporate Communication teams in public, private, joint sector and family-owned organizations. He has also worked as PRO to the Min-



ster for Power in undivided Andhra Pradesh. Dr. Rohit has trained Public Relations/Corporate Communication professionals as also members of the Indian Forest Service at the Administrative Staff College of India, besides serving as Editor of its peer-reviewed ASCI Journal of Management. He was also Professor and Campus Head of ICFAI's Mentor School of Management. He has taught students of public relations, mass communication and journalism, business management, public policy and community medicine, and has been a university examiner up to the M.Phil level. His core teaching, consultancy and research interests revolve around interaction between organizations and its stakeholders in public arenas. He is the editor/co-editor of 4 books, author/co-author of 8 book chapters and 6 research-based publications in refereed journals. He is presently Officer on Special Duty at the Ayaan Institute of Medical Sciences. Dr. Rohit is a Management Committee member of HMKE&WS and is Editor-in-Chief of Profile. Dr. Rohit had captained the Railway Jr. College cricket team besides playing shuttle badminton and tennis at a non-competitive level. An alumnus of Rosary Convent High School, Sangeeta is an Arts graduate who also possesses B.Ed and Master's degree in Ancient Indian History. She has initially taught children of poorer sections of society in a Banjara Hills slum school and later in three other schools, rising to level of Principal in one.

PRADEEP KUMAR MATHUR & SEEMA: Pradeep Kumar Mathur (s/o Raghunandan Pershad Mathur & Saroop Rani) married Seema (d/o Jagdish Pershad Mathur & Vijay Mohini) on 6th February 1983. Pradeep completed his education at All Saints High School and graduated in Commerce from Sanghi College of Commerce and went on to complete his AICWA from Calcutta. He joined State Bank of Hyderabad (SBH) in 1976 and retired as Chief Manager, Secunderabad Zonal Office. Pradeep has received numerous awards, and promotions for exceptional work, ethics and performance. He dutifully accepted transfers to various destinations across. It meant moving alone, yet he remained a cheerful and supportive member of the family by his presence on every important occasion. A teacher by profession, Seema did her schooling at Rosary Convent, B.Sc from Navjivan Women's College in 1984 and B.Ed. from Annamalai University in 1990. The passion to be amongst children motivated her towards a teaching career. She joined Bright High School in 1992. Subsequently, she moved to Pranava the School, established by Nirmala Sitaraman, the Union Finance

Minister. Later, at Nasar Boys School, she started teaching Biology to Class X ICSC students. She was awarded as the *best teacher* many times in her 14-year teaching career. Pradeep and Seema are blessed with three children – Dr. Megha (w/o Nachiket Mathur), Divya (w/o Anuj Mathur) and Sohil Mathur (married to Shreya) and four grandchildren – Nishka, Mihika, Anya, and Tiya. Their mutual love for travel and food led them to visit famous destinations across India and abroad in their 40 years of happy married life. Pradeep being a *biryani* lover, enjoys cooking and playing host to his loved ones while Seema enjoys spending quality time with her grandchildren and pampering them.

DILIP KUMAR MATHUR & SHAKUNTALA DEVI: Son of late Raj



Pershad and late Kaushalya Rani, Dilip Kumar Mathur was born in Sep 1952. He attended Madrasa-I-Aliya school and graduated in Science from Nanakram

Bhagwandas Science College. He chose to be an Insurance Advisor and got trained at the Insurance Institute, Pune. Serving his clients sincerely for nearly five decades, Dilip gained popularity among biradari members as a reliable Insurance Advisor. He went on to become a Chairman's Club member at LIC, educating people on the benefits of various insurance schemes. He does not wish to retire as he enjoys stepping out to work and meet people. Age is just a number for him. He practices yoga to stay fit. At a personal level, he enjoys biradari parties and Hyderabad food. He loves socializing and catching up with his nephews, nieces and of course, his grandchildren! Shakuntala Devi is the daughter of late J. Shankar Rao and late Tulsi Bai. Born in August 1957, she went to Rosary Convent High School and graduated in Commerce from Sarojini Naidu Vanita Maha Vidyalaya. She joined the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh State Co-operative Bank Ltd and served there for 37 years in various capacities and retired as Deputy General Manager, Telangana State Co-operative Bank Ltd. She is very meticulous when it comes to her work and likes to keep things super organized. Her interest lies in hand embroidery and post-retirement is enjoying tatting! She is very good at remembering dates and does not need today's technology to remember birthdays and anniversaries! Dilip and Shakuntala were married on 8th August, 1982. They are blessed with two children - Vivek and Deepti. Vivek is married to Smriti (d/o Dinesh Raj and Sushma Mathur). Vivek works for General Motors while Smriti works with Ford in the US. Vivek and Smriti are blessed with two sons - Advik and Arvin. Deepti is a HR professional with Model N India Software Ltd.

Arthi shows students how to launch a successful career

Are you planning to launch a successful career? Arthi Karan, Partner, Hyderabad franchise of nationally acclaimed *Career Launcher*, can help you succeed in CAT, CLAT, IPM and CUET. Speaking to students and their parents at the SMB recently, Arthi (Company Secretary, Cert CII, UK) who is partnered by husband Nikhil Karan (Chartered Accountant, Certified Internal Auditor, CIA, USA), in hands-on managing Career Launcher, emphasized, "Choosing the right career path is one of the most crucial decisions in the con-



text of building a career... Apart from Engineering and Medicine career fields there are many other avenues," she said and spoke about these where Career Launcher has expertise. Arthi concluded by offering the following advise to students: (1) Analyze your interest and search for courses that fascinate and excite you; (2) Sit down and introspect about what are the areas you are naturally good at and what are those areas that are often hurdles for you. You may also take inputs from parents or teachers; 3) Please read, listen, watch informative channels for information on different careers and make sure that they offer a secure job and decent salary; (4) Explore about the top universities that offer the selected courses and also check the university's ranking at National and International levels; (5) Pay special attention to vocabulary building; (5) Read National and International dailies especially, the editorial and Finance sections; (6) Read famous speeches and English literature; (7) Practice analytical questions, play Sudoku, practice Maths puzzles and get comfortable with numerical data: (8) Speed building by practicing questions, exercises, developing the knack to process numbers at a good speed and applying reliable tricks to arrive at quicker solutions; (9) Take full length mock tests under actual exam conditions to assess strong and weak areas; (10) It often helps to consult a career counselor who is trained in detailed psychometric profiling and can help you reconsider your likes and preferences.

Rajat, Shashank and Bhavana win HMKE&WS top educational awards

Rajat Chandra Mathur (s/o Dr. Manoj Chandra Mathur) received the Prof. G. Krishan Raj Memorial Award for being declared *Outstanding Mathur Kayasta* at the HMKE&WS Guidance Bureau and Counseling Centre (GBCC) organized scholarships/awards function for the academic year 2021-22 at the Sushil Mathur Bhavan on 28th May. **Shashank Kumar Mathur** (s/o Deep Kumar Mathur) and **Bhavana Mathur** (d/o Hitesh Chandra Mathur) distinguished themselves as *Students of the Year* and bagged the *Sushil Kumar Memorial Award* and *Jagdish Mohan Lal Memorial Award*, respectively. GBCC offered its educational awards in the following categories: School Awards (28), Intermediate Awards (20), Awards for Admission to Professional Courses (2), Awards for Completion of Graduation (9), Awards for Admission to Post-Graduate courses (2), Awards for Completion of Post-Graduation (5),



The family of Rajat Chandra Mathur receiving the Prof. G. Krishan Raj Memorial Award.

SPECIAL AWARDS (3)
Prof. G. Krishan Raj Memorial Award for Outstanding Mathur Kayasta (Donated by family members of late Prof. G. Krishan Raj): **Rajat Chandra Mathur** (s/o Dr. Manoj Chandra Mathur).

Sushil Kumar Memorial Award for Student of the Year (Donated by late Dr. Beena Mathur): **Shashank Kumar Mathur** (s/o Deep Kumar Mathur).

Jagdish Mohan Lal Memorial Award for Student of the Year (Donated by Rinesh Mohan Lal): **Bhavana Mathur** (d/o Hitesh Chandra Mathur).

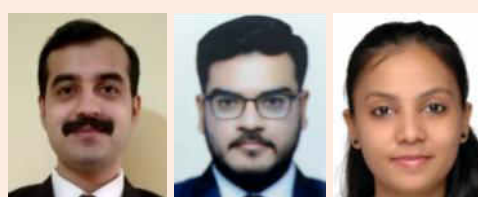
AWARD FOR COMPLETION OF COURSES BEYOND POST-GRADUATION (1)

Dr. Rabinandan Pratap Memorial Award for Research after PG leading to a Qualification or Recognition (Donated by late Dr. Rabinandan Pratap): *No recipient.*

AWARDS FOR ADMISSION TO POST-GRADUATE COURSES

Award For Completion of Course Beyond Post-Graduation (1), Special Awards (3), and Talent of Tomorrow Awards (3). The Rani Kalavati & Raja Sham Karan Trust has intimated GBCC that it would be discontinuing the Raja Sham Karan Memorial Award and Rani Kalavati Memorial Award that was given to Intermediate boy and girl topper, respectively. HMKE&WS President Dr. Dinesh Raj Mathur, Vice Presidents Gita Karan and Asha Kumar, Organizing Secretary Dr. Sugita Mathur, Members of the Managing Committee, awardees, parents and biradari members participated in the program organized by Organizing Secretary Dr. Manoj Chandra Mathur with the GBCC team in the absence of Dr. Sulochana Mathur. Revati Mathur compeered the program.

The details of the awards, the name of sponsors and the names of the meritorious award winners is as follows:



Rajat

Shashank

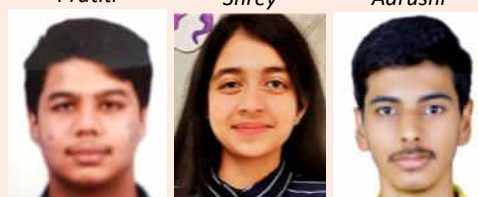
Bhavana



Pratiti

Shrey

Aarushi



Aadit

Anushka

Aadeesh

(2)
Brij Jeevan Chandra Memorial Award for Admission to MD/MS (Donated by Dr. Manoj Chandra Mathur): *No recipient.*

Dr. Lajpat Rai Memorial Award for Admission to M.Tech/MS (Donated by Ritesh Mathur): *No recipient.*

AWARDS FOR COMPLETION OF POST-GRADUATION (5)

Prof. Shamla Mathur Memorial Award for Highest Marks in ME/MS (ECE) (Donated by Dr. Ram Raj Mathur): *No recipient.*

Raj Karan Bali Memorial Award for Completion of MS (Donated by Sailesh Bali): *No recipient.*

Smt. Mateshwari Pershad Memorial Award for Completion of PG/Medicine (Donated by Dr. Bhagwan Pershad Mathur): *No recipient.*

Smt. Mateshwari Pershad Memorial Award for Completion of PG/MS (Donated by Dr. Bhagwan Pershad Mathur): *No recipient.*

AWARDS FOR ADMISSION TO PROFESSIONAL COURSES (2)

Brij Jeevan Chandra Memorial Award for Best Rank in NEET & Admission to MBBS /BDS/BPT (Donated by Dr. Manoj Chandra Mathur): *Shrey Mathur* (s/o Santosh Mathur).

Dr. Lajpat Rai Memorial Award for Best Rank in Entrance & Admission to B.Tech (Donated by Ritesh Mathur): *Aarushi Mathur* (d/o Sanjesh Mathur).

AWARDS FOR COMPLETION OF GRADUATION (9)

Deep Sagar Memorial Award for Completion of B.Tech (Chemical Engineering) (Donated by Renu Sagar): *No recipient.*

Sham Raj Memorial Award for Completion of B.Tech (Civil Engineering) (Donated by late Mahesh Kishorie): *No recipient.*

Dev Karan Memorial Award for Completion of B.Tech (Mechanical Engineering) (Donated by Uma Karan): *No recipient.*

Sartaj Pershad Memorial Award for Completion of B.Tech (Computer Science Engineering) (Donated by Summeta Hari): *No recipient.*

Rai Bindasni Pershad Memorial Award for Completion of B.Com (Donated by Kesar Raj): *Bhavana Mathur* (d/o Hitesh Chandra Mathur).

Prem Raj Mathur Memorial Award for Completion of BDS/Physiotherapy (Donated by Vinod Raj Mathur): *No recipient.*

Sandeep Sinha Memorial Award for Completion of BBA/LLB (Donated by Radhay Kishan Sinha): *No recipient.*

Gulab Kishori & Rang Pershad Memorial Award for Completion of Degree in Non-conventional Course (Donated by Asha Sunil Kumar): *Pratiti Mathur* (d/o Pranesh Kumar) (Bachelor of Design).

Uday Chandra Memorial Award for Completion of MBBS/MD/MPT (Donated by late Dr. Vinod Chandra): *No recipient.*

INTERMEDIATE AWARDS (20)

Rai Lal Bahadur Memorial Award for Highest Marks in Intermediate-I (Donated by Sham Raj): *Aadit Mathur* (s/o Amit Mathur).

Maharaj Kishori Memorial Award for Highest Marks in BPC-Intermediate-I (Donated by Sailesh Bali Mathur): *No recipient.*

Dr. Sowbhagya Sundari Memorial Award for Highest Marks in MEC/CEC-Intermediate-I (Donated by Sham Raj): *MEC-No recipient; CEC – Anushka Raj* (d/o Arun Raj).

Shanti Devi Memorial Award for Highest Marks in Mathematics-Intermediate-I (Donated by Preeti Mathur): 1. *Aadit*

Mathur (s/o Amit Mathur); 2. *Aadeesh Mathur* (s/o Praveer Raj Mathur).

Pratap Mohan Lal Memorial Award for Highest Marks in Physics-Intermediate-I (Donated by Suchit Mohan Lal): 1. *Aadit Mathur* (s/o Amit Mathur); 2. *Aadeesh Mathur* (s/o Praveer Raj Mathur).

Nar Narayan Pershad Memorial Award for Highest Marks in Biological Science-Intermediate-I (Donated by late Sri Vijay Kishen Sinha): *No recipient.*

Prem Raj Mathur Memorial Award for Highest Marks in Economics & Commerce-Intermediate-I: (Donated by Vinod Raj Mathur): *Anushka Raj* (d/o Arun Raj).

Rama Rani Lal Memorial Award for Highest Marks in English-Intermediate-I (Donated by late Dr. H.M. Lal): *Aadit Mathur* (s/o Amit Mathur).

Vijay Devi Memorial Award for Highest Marks in Second Language- Intermediate-I (Donated by Jayanti Mathur): *Aadit Mathur* (s/o Amit Mathur).

Devi Rani & Narender Pershad Memorial Award for Highest Marks in MPC-Intermediate-II (Donated by Anand Sagar): *Gauri Mathur* (d/o Akhil Mohan Lal).

Kesari Pershad Memorial Award for Highest Marks in BPC-Intermediate-II (Donated by Manoj Kumar Mathur): *Shrey Mathur* (s/o Santosh Mathur).

Prem Raj Mathur Memorial Award for Highest Marks in CEC/MEC-Intermediate-II: (Donated by Vinod Raj Mathur): *Supriti Mathur* (d/o Deep Kumar).

Shiv Mohan Lal Memorial Award for Highest Marks in Mathematics-Intermediate-II (Donated by late Dr. H.M. Lal): *Gauri Mathur* (d/o Akhil Mohan Lal).

Prem Sagar Memorial Award for Highest Marks in English-Intermediate-II (Donated by Sri Kishori): *Shrey Mathur* (s/o Santosh Mathur)

Anand Kumar Memorial Award for Highest Marks in Physics-Intermediate-II (Donated by Madhu Rajeev Kumar): 1. *Gauri Mathur* (d/o Akhil Mohan Lal); 2. *Shrey Mathur* (s/o Santosh Mathur); 3. *Aarushi Mathur* (d/o Sanjesh Mathur).

Kesari Pershad Memorial Award for Highest Marks in Chemistry-Intermediate-II (Donated by Manoj Kumar Mathur): 1. *Gauri Mathur* (d/o Akhil Mohan Lal); 2. *Shrey Mathur* (s/o Santosh Mathur); 3. *Aarushi Mathur* (d/o Sanjesh Mathur).

Kesari Pershad Memorial Award for Highest Marks in Biological Science-Intermediate-II (Donated by Manoj Kumar Mathur): *Shrey Mathur* (s/o Santosh Mathur).

Tej Narain Memorial Award for Highest Marks in Economics-Intermediate-II (Donated by late Subash Narain): *Supriti*



Gauri



Supriti



Prachi



Ruhi



Krishnav



Vivaan



Niviti



Saanvi



Anwita



Vihaan



Anika



Anvi



Nirvi



Amiti



Saanchi



Sonal



Arnav



Saanvi



Pranavi

Mathur (d/o Deep Kumar).

Ekbal Chand Memorial Award for Highest Marks in Commerce-Intermediate-II (Donated by late Rohini Chand): *Prachi Mohan Lal* (d/o Rajesh Mohan Lal).

Shiv Mohan Lal Memorial Award for Highest Marks in Second Language-Intermediate-II (Donated by late Dr. H.M. Lal): *Shrey Mathur* (s/o Santosh Mathur).

Raja Sham Karan Memorial Award for Highest marks in Intermediate among Boys (Donated by Rani Kalavati & Raja Sham Karan Trust: *Discontinued by the Donor*).

Rani Kalavati Memorial Award for Highest marks in Intermediate among Girls (Donated by Rani Kalavati & Raja Sham Karan Trust): *Discontinued by the Donor*.

TALENT OF TOMORROW AWARDS (3)

Class-X: *Ruhi Mathur* (d/o Vishal Karan).

Intermediate-I: 1. *Aadit Mathur* (s/o Amit Raj); 2. *Anushka Raj* (d/o Arun Raj); 3. *Aadeesh Mathur* (s/o Praveer Raj Mathur); 4. *Aarushi Mathur* (d/o Sanjesh Mathur).

Intermediate-II: 1. *Shrey Mathur* (s/o Santosh Mathur); 2. *Krishnav Karan* (s/o Gokul Karan); 3. *Gauri Mathur* (d/o Akhil Mohan Lal); 4. *Prachi Mathur* (d/o Rajesh Mohan Lal).

SCHOOL AWARDS (29)

Baby Diya Memorial Award for Highest marks in Class-I (Donated by Dr. Roopesh Mathur): 1. *Vivaan Mathur* (s/o Venesh Mathur); 2. *Niviti Mathur* (d/o Akshay Raj Mathur).

Baby Diya Memorial Award for Highest marks in Class-II (Donated by Dr. Roopesh Mathur): *Saanvi Mathur* (d/o Venesh Mathur).

Anand Kishen Narain Memorial Award for Highest Marks in Class-III (Donated by Nilesh Chand Mathur): *Anwitha Mathur* (d/o Rahul Mathur).

Usha Memorial Award for Highest Marks in Class-IV (Donated by Ashok Kumar): 1. *Vihaan Ram Pershad* (s/o Amith Ram Pershad); 2. *Anika Mathur* (d/o Sohil Mathur); 3. *Anvi Mathur* (d/o Kapil Sain Mathur).

Shakuntala Devi Memorial Award for Highest Marks in Class-V (Donated by Kesar Raj): *Nirvi Sagar* (d/o late Vivek Sagar).

Sudha Devi Memorial Award for Highest Marks in Class-VI (Donated by Smita Mathur): *Amiti Mathur* (d/o Akshay Raj Mathur).

Shanti Chandra Memorial Award for Highest Marks in Class-VII (Donated by Swena Mathur): *Saanchi Lal Mathur* (d/o Ri-

nesh Mohan Lal).

Rai Har Kishore Memorial Award for Highest Marks in Class-VIII (Donated by late Inder Kishore): *Sonal* (d/o Brijesh Mohan Lal).

Pushpa Pratap Memorial Award for Highest Marks in Class-IX (Donated by late Dr. Rabinandan Pratap): *Arnav Bahadur Mathur* (s/o Manish Bahadur Mathur).

Rai Matheshwari Pershad Memorial Award for Highest Marks in Mathematics-ICSE (Donated by Eshwari Pershad): *Pranavi Mathur* (d/o Prameet Chandra Mathur).

Satguru Narain Memorial Award for Highest Marks in Mathematics-CBSE (Donated by Dr. Suresh Narain Mathur): *Ruhi* (d/o Vishal Karan).

Bishan Kumar Memorial Award for Highest Marks in English-SSC (Donated by Brijwanthi): *Saanvi* (d/o Nilesh Kumar Mathur).

Rai Laxmidhar Pratap Memorial Award for Highest Marks in English-ICSE (Donated by Kishan Mohini w/o Mahara-jPratap): *Pranavi Mathur* (d/o Prameet Chandra Mathur).

Dharam Sagar Memorial Award for Highest Marks in English-CBSE (Donated by Dr. Renu Sagar): *Ruhi* (d/o Vishal Karan).

Rai Ganesh Chandra Memorial Award for Highest Marks in Social Studies-SSC (late Dr. Youraj Chandra Mathur): *Saanvi* (d/o Nilesh Kumar Mathur).

Lajwanti Memorial Award for Highest Marks in Social Studies-ICSE (Donated by Manoj Kumar Mathur): *Pranavi Mathur* (d/o Prameet Chandra Mathur).

Lajwanti Memorial Award for Highest Marks in Social Studies-CBSE (Donated by Manoj Kumar Mathur): *Ruhi* (d/o Vishal Karan).

Jaya Devi Memorial Award for Highest marks in General Science-SSC (Donated by Suchit Mohan Lal): *Saanvi* (d/o Nilesh Kumar Mathur).

Romesh Chand Memorial Award for Highest Marks in General Science-ICSE (Donated by Dr. Nishi Mathur): *Pranavi Mathur* (d/o Prameet Chandra Mathur).

Romesh Chand Memorial Award for Highest Marks in General Science-CBSE (Donated by Dr. Nishi Mathur): *Ruhi* (d/o Vishal Karan).

Sri Bharatramji Hindi Award for Highest Marks in Hindi-Class-X (Donated by HMKE&WS): *Saanvi* (d/o Nilesh Kumar Mathur).



Raj Yoga meditation

BRAHMAKUMARI KAVITA LAL

In Raj Yoga, the practice of meditation can help you experience a state of *bodylessness* or weightlessness. Here are some steps you can take:

- Find a quiet and comfortable place to meditate. Sit in a cross-legged position with your spine straight and your hands resting on your knees.
- Close your eyes and focus your attention on your breath. Take deep, slow breaths, inhaling and exhaling through your nose.
- As you continue to breathe, visualize a point of light in the center of your forehead, at the point between your eyebrows.
- Focus your attention on this point of light, and imagine that your body is becoming lighter and weightless. Visualize yourself floating or levitating, free from the constraints of your physical body.
- Allow yourself to experience this feeling of weightlessness for as long as you wish.

Remember, the experience of *bodylessness* is a spiritual experience that comes with deep and sustained practice of Raj Yoga meditation. Keep practicing regularly and with dedication, and you may eventually reach this state.

New biradariwallas



VED MOHANLAL MAT-HUR: Born to Dishant Mathur (s/o Diljit Mohanlal & Reena) and Radhna Saxena (d/o Dr. Ravi Kumar & Ntika) at

Summit, New Jersey, USA, on 8th May 2023.

Wedding bells

SHIVANI (d/o Maheshi & late Santosh Sinha) wed **GANESH SHARMA** (s/o Sri-devi & Brahma-rshi Sola Shushrut Sharma) on 26th May at Gudur, Tirupati District.



Lalith Kumari's 85th birthday celebrated differently

The milestone birthdays of Lalith Kumari (w/o late Kishen Kishore Mathur) are celebrated differently. *Mata ki Chowki* was organized by her family on her 85th birthday at their residence on 6th May. On her 80th birthday, *Tula Daan* was performed. On the occasion, Lalith Kumari received a beautiful portrait of herself from a former tenant.

80th birthdays celebrated with great enthusiasm



The 80th birthday of Kirath Mohan Lal (25th February) (1), Bharat Kumar Mathur (8th March) (2), Dr. Vinod Mohan Lal (20th March) (3), Neena Karan (3rd April), Prof. Leela Karan (5), and Santosh Mohan Lal (30th May) (6) were celebrated by their families with great enthusiasm.



Engaged

KARTIK (s/o Brij Bala & Preet Kumar Mathur) is engaged to **TRISHA** (d/o Deepa & Rakesh Mathur).



Four couples celebrate Golden wedding anniversary

Four couples celebrated their Golden (50th) Wedding anniversaries recently. Dr. Shamwanth Pratap Mathur and Anita (1) celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at Lusaka, Zambia, on 13th May amidst their relatives and friends. Ashok Raj Mathur and Purnima celebrated their Golden Anniversary at their house on 27th May. Their immediate families were invited to the event (2). We hear that a bigger celebration is planned soon.

Jayanth Kumar and Madhur Mohini (3) celebrated their Golden Anniversary at Saraswati Vilas among close relatives and friends on 27th May. It was an entertaining



evening. Jayanth Kumar's brother Anoop Kumar, sister-in-law Preeti and nephew Ashish performed a skit mimicking the Golden couple to laughter and applause from the audience. Vinod Kumar Mathur and Reshma (4) celebrated their Golden Anniversary on 28th May among relatives.

Introduction

The allure of foreign universities and the promise of a "better life" have led to a significant surge in the number of Indian students opting for higher education abroad. While the opportunities overseas are undoubtedly enticing, it's crucial to weigh the pros and cons. This article aims to shed light on this trend and present a compelling case for why staying in India for higher education is an option worth considering.

The trend: What data tells us

According to a recent report by India Today, there has been a 68% increase in the number of Indian students going abroad for higher education in the past year alone. Countries like the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand are the most popular destinations. Several factors contribute to this trend:

- **Better academic opportunities:** Foreign universities often offer specialized courses that are not readily available in India. These institutions also provide state-of-the-art facilities and research opportunities, making them attractive options for ambitious students.
- **Career prospects:** An international degree is often seen as a ticket to better job opportunities. Employers tend to look favorably upon candidates who have been educated in prestigious international institutions, assuming they bring a diverse skill set and a global perspective to the table.
- **Financial aid and scholarships:** Many foreign universities offer attractive financial aid packages, including scholarships and grants, making it financially feasible for students to study abroad.

The flip side: What you may overlook

- **Emotional cost:** The decision to study abroad often leads to permanent settlement in a foreign country. This can result in a disconnect from one's roots, leaving aging parents and the community back in India to fend for themselves.

- **Uncertain immigration laws:** Geopolitical shifts and changing government policies make immigration laws increasingly uncertain. The dream of settling abroad can turn into a legal nightmare, leaving you in a state of limbo.

The case for staying in India

- **Economic and geo-political rise:** India is rapidly emerging as a global powerhouse, both economically and geopolitically. This growth translates to better job opportunities and career growth within the country. As India gains prominence on the world stage, a degree from an Indian institution is likely to hold increasing value.
- **Improving educational standards:** India is home to emerging world-class universities and research facilities. The government is also investing heavily in education, aiming to make India a global hub for innovation and learning.
- **Cultural and community connect:** Staying in India allows you to maintain a strong connection with your community and culture. This emotional support system is invaluable and often lost when one settles abroad.
- **Better living standards:** Economic prosperity has led to improved living standards



The rising trend of studying abroad and why you should consider staying in India

SHOBHIT MATHUR*

across India. Modern amenities, better healthcare, and a rising quality of life make India an increasingly attractive place to live and work.

Conclusion

The allure of foreign lands is undoubtedly tempting, but it's essential to consider the long-term implications of such a decision. India is on an upward trajectory in terms of economic growth, educational opportunities, and living standards. By choosing to stay in India for higher education, you're not just investing in your future but also contributing to the collective future of our community and nation.

**Shobhit Mathur is the co-founder and Vice Chancellor of Rishihood University.*

"The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence." – Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore

The traditional lecture style classroom with closed walls, windows, doors and mindset needs to be re-vamped, redecorated and restructured. Making learning fun and filled with fabulous experiences needs to be a priority for teachers who believe in taking an out of the box and lateral path for teaching.

One such path is identifying the learning spaces – indoors and outdoors – where children can learn through their own observations, participation and involvement. Enhanced learning spaces that promote collaboration as well as individualized experiences will help and highlight the self-development and self-directed approach to learning. Today the learner needs more experiential learning spaces than just the classroom settings.



Learning space matters





PRATIMA SINHA*

Children can be sensitized for keeping their senses alert to learn from every nook and corner of their own house, from the neighbor's house, the next door shopping complex, the busy street, the bus stop, the cafeteria, the open grounds, the park, the beach, the mountains, the river bank, the railway station, the airport, the cinema hall, the coffee shop, the farms, and so on. These spaces are interconnected locations that are informal areas for optimal learning opportunities to give a firsthand

learning exposure to the child. A meaningful curriculum with subject integration can also be curated with outdoor learning spaces in the background setting. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Health Organization recommended outdoor class setting to facilitate learning and many schools re-imagined conventional classrooms to take learning outside the confines of a traditional classroom.

Excellent Metaphors of everyday learning spaces are very well described and thought of by Scott Morris in the Australian Learning and Teaching Council Report (2009). The illustration of Scott Morris for everyday learning spaces is given for reference (see Illustration). With these examples as the base a teacher can create such imaginative learning spaces for the children which will give them an excitement quotient in active learning. Collaboration, discovery, discussions, crea-

should feel the sense of belonging and should be able to relate to the layout well. Quick and easy access to learning material, clearly defined places for manipulatives, space for verbal interaction and active engagement. Furniture should be minimum, four corners of the classroom can be converted as creative learning spaces like theater (role play), science exploration, building blocks, reading, story telling/puppet, know myself, table etiquettes, learning math, art and craft,

Campfire	Watering hole	Cave	Mountain top
<i>A structured space in which students face a teacher and listen to traditional knowledge</i>	<i>An informal space where students can discuss, create and collaborate informally</i>	<i>A private space for independent and reflective work</i>	<i>A space for presenting work to an audience to demonstrate understanding</i>
			
<p>A structured space in which students face a teacher and listen to traditional knowledge.</p> <p>Lectures – A central podium and raked setting.</p> <p>Small group work – Flexible furniture that can be easily moved to suit the learning area</p>	<p>A space where students can discuss, create and collaborate formally and/or informally.</p> <p>Small group work (formal) – Flexible furniture that can be easily moved to suit the learning area; online virtual learning session; online wiki; online discussion forum or live chats.</p> <p>Social learning (informal) – Small spaces for small groups to spread out; gathering spaces near food/coffee outlets.</p>	<p>A private space for independent and reflective work</p> <p>Private learning space – Quiet, comfortable spaces at home, student residences or libraries, with or without technologies</p>	<p>A space for presenting work to an audience to demonstrate understanding</p> <p>Lecture/seminar space – A central podium and raked setting</p> <p>Small or large interactive space – Flexible furniture that can be easily moved to suit the presentation or facilitation of learnings.</p>

tivity can bring in the energy and enthusiasm of the learner at its peak or observation, quiet contemplation and reflection can help in deeper understanding.

As the classroom is a hub of learning the utilization of the space within should be such that it gives flexibility of movement, present, connect, use technology or if need be to isolate to focus. Innovative indoor learning spaces according to Lynn Marenette, a designer of learning experiences need to have the following features:

- Very flexible and easily adjustable to any learning activity
- Promote movement and groupings
- Encourage the integration of curriculum
- Provide room for hands-on exploration, building, and making
- Support the development of cognition
- Allow students to acquire knowledge by examples
- Support technology integration
- Enhance social development as well as social interaction

In the Pre Primary, the learning spaces are to be created keeping the child's safety and comfort in mind. The child

dance and rhythm, board games and puzzles, and so on. It will be an added attraction if the classroom flows outdoors to the outdoor learning spaces for physical activity, sensory zones and also experiential learning from nature.

For Primary and above, keeping in mind creating a learner centered environment, the Classroom furniture needs to light, movable and adjustable. Space in the classroom should be free of excess clutter for movement to enable creating varied learning spaces as and when required. It also adds a surprise element and newness factor for the students. Again easy accessibility to the learning material, encouraging collaborative set up, good storage area helps in building student friendly learning spaces in the classroom.

Learning spaces matters and is a key element in giving the children an excellent environment to learn where they are positively engaged and are confident self learners.

**Pratima Sinha is CEO, DSR Education Society.*

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Independence

On our independence day,
While we all are merry and gay.

We remember the struggles,
And how we have wriggled,
Out of the clutches of foreign rule,
Their gory and inhuman tactics, cruel!

We are a country of brave people,
Who fought for their country in unison.
Our culture is unique and people warm,
They are indeed hard working and calm.

There are people of all castes and religions,
But our unity takes us beyond horizons.
The Himalayas, the Ganges and the Indus,
Create a fervor of pride within us.

The sages, the epics and the beauty,
Of India, strengthens with its unity in diversity.

Freedom indeed has a high cost,
Lives are gone, the ultimate loss.

Patriotic souls and their perilous lives,
Gave us proof through the day and the night.
Our soldiers strong and in the storm.
Selfless and daring and in full form.

For mother India, laid down their lives,
Blood and sweat and faced the knives.
Accolades to them our valiant martyrs,
Whose lives they have selflessly bartered.

Our brave hearts fetched independence,
Made us experience transcendence.
A big, big salute to our heroes brave,
Who proudly sleep in their unnamed graves.

And the unsung heroes, God give them peace,
Are those who gracefully accepted their husbands' sleep!

- Madhu Mathur



Strong pillars of Mohan Lal family

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When I sit to pen down about my association with Dr. Hirdaya Mohan Lal, popularly known as Chot Da in our family, the first few words that come to my mind are – calm, composed and charismatic! When I got married to Ranjit and entered the huge Mohan Lal family as a *bahurani*, I first bowed down to take his blessing, he being the eldest brother-in-law in the family. I found him to be very impressive. He was then the Medical Director of Dr. Reddy's Laboratories. Everyone in the family would look up to him as a role model. Being the eldest in our family, he would hold the family united at all times and make them stronger.

It is so nostalgic thinking of times during *Devi-ki-pooja*, *Bhai dooj* and *Rakhi*, when there would be a big get together of all brothers and sisters and their families. It was fun to be part of the celebrations and Chot Da would enquire about the welfare and well being of each and every one. As a *bhaurani*, I would play my part and enjoy watching the love and bond the family shared among themselves. I always admired and respected his towering personality who always stood by every family member in the time of need.

My acquaintance with Rama Bhabhi was for a few years. I was the youngest daughter-in-law and she being the oldest co-sister, she was a motherly figure to me. Whenever I met her, I found her to be outgoing and expressive. She was filled with immense positive energy. Though from an affluent family, she was well attuned to the Mohan Lal's culture and would balance things with her pleasant and attractive personality. Both Chot Da and Rama Bhabhi were strong pillars of the Mohan Lal family. They have left a lot of fond memories behind for all of us to cherish. – *Sapna Mathur (Sister-in-law of Dr. H.M. Lal)*

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31st March: BHARAT CHANDRA MATHUR (s/o late Raghu-bans Chandra) (1). He was 71. The retired Accountant in Bin-jusaria Oil Extraction Co. leaves behind his wife

Renuka; and families of his two daughters - Ashita (Arun Kumar, Daiwik and Netanya) and Ritika (K. Srinivas Rao).

9th April: Dr. HIRDAYA MOHAN LAL (s/o late Prof. Shiv Mohan Lal) (2). He was 87. The former senior pharmaceutical company executive and Advisor, HMKE&WS, leaves behind the families of his son Dr. Udai Lal (Smita Lal, Dr. Shreya Lal, Manav Lal) and daughter Renu Lal Narasimham (Radhakrishna Narasimham, Sonya Narasimham).



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Shraddhanjali

26th April: VISHVA MOHINI MATHUR (w/o late Santosh Narain Mathur) (3). She was 89. The former schoolteacher leaves behind the families of her two sons -

Sudhir Mathur (Dr. Nishi Mathur, Rashmi, Nitish Mathur, Reeti Mathur and Eshan) and Dr. Arvind Mathur (Dr. Chandra Mathur, Neha Mathur, Adam Fogel and Rohan Mathur) and daughter Sangeeta Mathur (Dr. Rohit Raaj Mathur, Vikas Mathur, Varsha Mathur, Atul Raj Mathur and Aavyana Mathur).

14th May: SUBODH RAJ SAXENA (son-in-law of Lalith Raj). He leaves behind his wife Aruna and son Sahil Saxena.

Profile released

The October-December 2022 issue of Profile, dedicated to the memory of Ishwar Raj Mathur, was released on 2nd April 2023, by his children Shashi Karan (1) and Vinay Mathur (2). Speaking on the occasion, HMKE&WS President Dr. Dinesh Raj Mathur was joined by



1



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Ishwar Raj Mathur's children and numerous relatives from across the globe who paid glowing tributes to his memory and shared interesting anecdotes about a fascinating individual who was a not only one of the earliest Indians to study Journalism in the United States, one of the most successful bureaucrats of his time – retiring as the Chief Director (Information & Public Relations), Government of Maharashtra – but also an ace storyteller who would engage whomsoever he met in conversation like they were old acquaintances, a person who would build seamless relationships with the old and the young, but found driving his car a difficult task. The program commenced with a Prayer by Dr. Dhareshwari, Chair, Religious Sub-committee of HMKE&WS, followed by welcome by Dr. Rohit Raaj Mathur, Editor-in-Chief of Profile. Profile's Executive Editor, Sharad Raj Mathur, proposed the Vote of Thanks. The January-March 2023 issue of Profile that pays tribute to the memory of Gyan Chandra and Kiran Kishori is almost ready and is slated for release in June 2023.

Goodbye readers

Our Editorial Team has been bringing the *Profile* to you since October 2017 [N2/1(1); July-September 2017]. With this issue [N2/6(4), April-June 2023] we complete close to a six year journey with you. Now, we decided it's time to move on. Consciously and deliberately, members of this Editorial Team tried to play to the gallery by making the *Profile* biradari-centric. Our Editorial Team has put in enormous effort to collect news, photographs and other contributions from every quarter.

The *Profile* Sub-committee has been in the forefront to make the publication financially sustainable without borrowing a single paisa from HMKE&WS or taking a haircut on quality, even during the COVID-19 pandemic! We have printed all but one issue and combined two issues in one so far. The key to *Profile's* sustainability has been sponsorship and advertising. The Editorial Team has been fortunate to enjoy the confidence and support of two Presidents and members of the teams they led. Our readers have been our biggest cheerleaders and some our critics. We have accepted bouquets and brickbats with all humility. Before bidding you goodbye, we wish the succeeding Editorial Team all success.

Cordially,
Dr. ROHIT RAAJ MATHUR
Editor-in-Chief, Profile



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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Hanumanth Rao, N - A Shraddhanjali

My husband left for his heavenly abode on 14th May, 2021. A fairly well educated person, he acquired the degrees of B.A, B.Sc. B.Ed, L.L.B and also M.Phil. He had made a mark as a senior faculty member and Reader in Political Science during his service at the Sardar Patel College in Hyderabad. Affable, compassionate and helpful by nature, Hanu, my husband Late Hanumanth Rao, was adored not only by the family members, relatives, our community members whom he knew as well as his acquaintances from the teaching profession, members of Nizam Club, etc.. He could break into a comfortable conversation even in his first meeting with any person. He was the younger brother of renowned Surgeon Dr. N. Radhakrishna Rao known to a few of our Biradari families.

He had an innate desire to extend sizeable financial help to his neighbors and even persons whom he barely knew, doling out very large sums of money and thus left his mark as a philanthropist and a charitable gentleman. Of course, he was an investor of some sort with foresight, spreading his investments across different classes of assets and thus took good care of our financial well being, apart from enabling himself to fulfill his craving for extending financial assistance to the needy.

Our maternal uncle, Mr. Tej Narain was particularly fond of him. Our Banjara Hills house was designed by Tej Maama and his son, Subhash Narain, who devoted a lot of his precious time even during construction of the house. Subhash apart, Tej Maama would frequently drop by during this period to lend us his advice and spend some quality time with us. My brothers Dr. Chander Kishore and Dr. Surender Kishore would also do so, as well as sisters Sartaj, Lalith and Rita. Today, he is missed as a person with admirable qualities and value systems who had endeared himself to many. Up there from the heavens, he is spreading his cheer for us all!

Suresh Devi

(d/o Late Raj Shyam Kishore & Late Jai Rani)

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