

Volume: 24 EDITION 2 : October 2015

# કેન્દ્ર સમાચાર



Email: info@kendra.org.za www.kendra.org.za



## Sunday Times eastern BRIDAL FAIR



### ANOTHER SUCCESS

The 16th Sunday Times Eastern Bridal Fair can best be described as Smooth and Slick. All involved in this event performed like well-oiled machines. Stall holders and Service providers put their best foot forward and the result was an astounding success. All the volunteers were fantastic and worked tirelessly.

quickly disappeared off the racks of the Storeholders and the lighting, backdrops, sound and other special effects added to the glitz and glamour of The 16th Sunday Times Eastern Bridal Fair.

The colourful 16th Annual Eastern Bride Magazine was distributed free of charge.

The Fashion Show, dance extravaganza wowed audiences. For the first time in the bridal fair's history, a top Pakistani designer, Nida Azwer was invite to participte. She was very popular and her elegant designs did not disappoint. The show also invited, a playback singer, Shruti Rane, who stole everyone's hearts with her infectious personality and beautiful singing. She was a resounding success and the public clamoured for more!

### The 17th Annual Sunday Times Eastern



**Bridal Fair will be held at the Durban Exhibition Centre on 5, 6, 7 August 2016. See you there!**

The highly skilled choreographer Shampa Gopikrishna and her assistant Ankita Maity mesmerized the audiences with their amazing dance routines performed by members of the Nateshwar Dance Academy.

Garments that were modelled on the Ramp



Winner of two tickets to India and one weeks accommodation in Mumbai at Sunday Times Eastern Bridal Fair Mrs Meena Koovarjee with the compliments of OneStop Travel

## Rangili Shaam 2015

Rangili Shaam has evolved in all aspects since its inception in 2003. The impressive eminence of the stage décor and extraordinary standards of the individual performers has grown from strength to strength. Thankfully, the endearing formula of a broad base of new, up and coming as well as established performers and of course the delicious supper has not changed.



This year the audience we treated to an eclectic mix of Eastern and Western fusion in a variety of performances. This feel-good extravaganza threw it all into the pot - song, dance, comedy drama, instrumental performances as well as staggeringly spectacular costumes. It let it all boil over in heart thumping beats. If you were searching for subtlety forget it, this was a show determined to give you a good time and served it up very well.

It will be an injustice to mention one, or even a few items, at the expense of not mentioning every other item. All the items were incredible in their own right and no words can do justice to the time and effort each performer has contributed in preparation for this extravaganza.

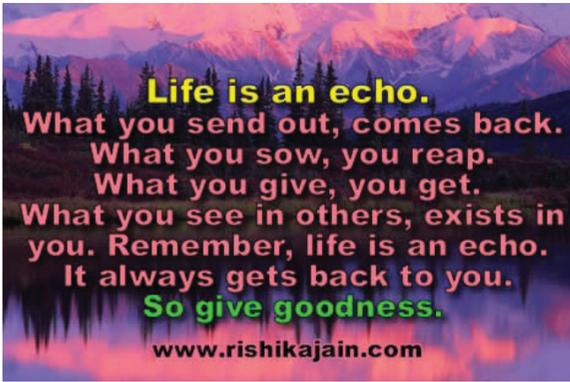
The group of performers over the years has been appreciated by the audience with an age range from new born babies to 80+ years of age.

*The philosophy of Rangili Shaam has always, and will no doubt always be.... 'a show for everyone, performed by anyone'.*



## Gujarati School Excursion - Divine Life Society La Mercy





## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor!

A little note to the Gujarati Hindu Sanskruti Kendra and the Sunday Times, Sponsors of the EBF, Sunday Times Eastern Bridal Fair 2015, Congratulations on a job well done!

This year's event was simply amazing. Somehow the organizers and the entire team just seem to outdo themselves year after year. However this year was the BEST! To surpass this year's event, would be a feat, for the event was simply amazing & awesome, everyone from the dancers, to the exhibitors, models, to international guest Shruti Rane,

Choreography: Shampa Sonthalia, to the Nateshwar Dance Academy, Bridaltech (for its stunning photography and imagery) etc. etc.

The entire event played out like a well-orchestrated symphony, without any glitches! Well done to the hidden people, people behind the scenes, who have sacrificed their time & efforts over the years to make this event the ginormous success it is today!

Charmaine Singh

### 2 BEDROOM FLAT FOR SALE IN MANJEE CENTRE.

97 m<sup>2</sup> flat +  
5 m<sup>2</sup> store room

**ASKING PRICE  
R1 MILLION**

316 - 320 Grey street, Cnr Derby & Grey Str.

Both bedrooms have been recently laminated.

Bathroom with walk in shower

Fully Air Conditioned

Parking, and guest parking available.

There is 24hour security on the premises.

CONTACT VIKASH 082 575 2090

### Turn a Negative into A Positive

If you fail, never give up because

F.A.I.L. means

"First Attempt In Learning"

End is not the end, in fact

E.N.D. means "Effort Never Dies"

If you get No as an answer,

Remember

N.O. means "Next Opportunity

So let's be positive



## KENDRA BUSINESS FORUM

The Kendra Business Forum is a unique networking platform for the Indian Business Community in Durban, South Africa. It is collection of successful business professionals that span all areas of industry and service in the city. With a focus on sustainability and education, it's aim is to expose members to engaging, impactful speakers, and to develop strong economies within our community by connecting as a united forum.

Servicing a community which boasts such a rich business heritage, the idea of the KBF was brainstormed in 2011. It aims to support the community in facing the changing economic and political landscape by facilitating the sharing of skills and expertise in different constituencies within the organisation are subcommittees with varying focus grounds namely: **MEMBERSHIP; EDUCATION, FINANCE; ADMINISTRATION; EMPOWERMENT OF COMMUNITY; EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTH; EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN.**

### RECENT PROGRAMMES

1. KBF hosted Advocate Thuli Madonsela at a successful fundraising dinner that was attended by 300 guests at the International Convention Centre. Her topic was "The Challenges for Democracy and Governance". This event was sponsored by MTN. Advocate Madonsela spoke on the issues facing our country and also responded frankly to questions from the floor. Entertainment for the evening was provided by the Durban Tenors and also the String Trio.
2. With technology and data playing an ever growing role in everyone's life KBF hosted the "Big Data Forum" sponsored by FNB. The speakers were Frank Rizzo of KPMG, Dr Brian Ruff, CEO of PRO Serve and Sbu Shabalala, CEO of Adapt IT. The talks and the discussions centred around how data is collected and used by Industry and Businesses.
3. In Women's Month of August, KBF hosted a luncheon with 75 women from the broader community. The event was sponsored by the Citadel Group. The guest speakers were Varsha Vala (Momentum Health), Farzanah Mall (Business Womens Association), Pria Hassen (Women of Africa), Kanchana Moodliar (Inmotion), and Christelle Louw (Citadel). This event was hosted by Koosum Kalyan and Anuschka Coovadia of KBF.

## KENDRA SENIOR CITIZENS

2015 has been the most memorable year for our citizens. The exposure to various interesting and informative lectures has been very successful. The seniors learnt a great deal by attending KSC meetings which are held on the 1st Sunday of every month.

The following is a summary of the programmes.

1. Summary of the Bhagwath Gita.
2. Tour of Europe-10 cities.
3. Talk by Dr. Bijay Garach (Orthopaedic surgeon)
4. Discussion by Dr. Dilip Garach (Specialist on Tax & Finance)
5. Gap Cover Insurance and Investment advice by Shalini and Samir Kara.
6. Physiotherapy talk by Anila Rajkumar.
7. Talk and demonstration by Podiatrist Mrs. Maricelle McInain

In every meeting there was an attendance of over 55 people ranging in ages from 35 years to 85 years old. Please support us! This is open to the public.

## Kendra SMS Service

To receive an SMS for funerals, Kendra Functions etc...

Contact: Jolene 031 309 1824

Like Us On  
facebook



## Samuh Katha at Kendra



His holiness Pujya Goswami 108 Shree Yadunathji Mahoday from Ahmedabad (India) enthralled everyone from his memorable pravachan on "Shrmaad Bhagvat Katha" held at Kendra Hall from 13 August 2015 to 20 August 2015. Shree Yadunathji Mahoday is the 17th direct decedent of Shri Vallabhachayaji, the founder of Pushitmarg. He has visited various other countries and given religious discourses.

In his divine pravachan, Shree Yadunathji explained basic principles of the religious life in simple language and citing numerous examples whilst covering all the twelve "skandhs" (parts) of "Shrmaad Bhagvat" at the same time.

Pujya Shree Yadunathji also encouraged youth from his pravachan. He also encouraged the youth to participate in religious and community activities.

He visited the Ashram in Chatsworth with youth and took part in Bhajans.

Sastriji Birenbhai (also from India) impressed the crowd with his vocal and musical skills during the Katha. He also conducted prayers, puja vidhi and vaidic vidhis during the Katha.

Sincere thanks to his holiness Pujya Shree Yadunathji Mahoday and Sastriji Birenbhai for coming to Durban and delivering an unforgettable "Shrmaad Bhagvat Katha".

## Annual Medical Day



## Janmasatami



## Shree Ganeshaya Namah and Ganeshji Visarjan



As many may recognize, all Hindu events begin with recognition of Ganeshji, the remover of all obstacles. So why do we observe the ritual of Ganesh Visarjan? What is the aim, is it a physical experience or something more.

### What is Ganesh Chaturthi?

It is the Hindu festival celebrated on the avatar of Lord Ganesh, the son of Lord Shiva and Parvati. It is believed that Lord Ganesh bestows his presence on earth for all his devotees during this festival. It is the day Lord Shiva declared that his son Lord Ganesh as superior to all the gods, except Vishnu, Lakshmi, Shiva and Parvati.

### Meaning of "Visarjan"

At the beginning of any pooja, such as Lord Ganesh pooja, the presiding deity is first invoked in a murti for the purpose of worship. At the end of the pooja, the presiding deity (Lord Ganesh) is requested to depart from the murti. "Visarjan" is a Sanskrit word that refers to this final rite and act of respectfully requesting departure. The murti is viewed as a temporary body and is then returned to Nature by submersion into running water, such as a lake, river or the sea. The act is not necessary for inaugurated (pratishtit) permanent murtis found in Hindu temples.

In order to understand the practice of Visarjan, we must first understand the concept of worship in the Hindu faith. The worship of the Almighty in Sanatan Dharma may be through the 'Saakaar' (with form) or 'Niraakaar' (formless). The Niraakaar method requires no physical depiction, or object and meditation (dhyaan) is a form of this kind of worship. The Saakaar method requires a physical medium such as a murti through which the Almighty is venerated and 'Pooja' or 'Archana' are forms of this act of worship. Most often, murtis are made primarily from clay and straw so that it could be returned to Nature from which it came. This practice shows that Hindus respect the environment and Nature and it is consistent with good "green" practices today.



The purpose of Visarjan is to replenish our spiritual energy and to remind us that material wealth is transitory and is of no use to the soul. The process of Visarjan teaches us detachment and to realise that life is short and that our own body, which we cherish and pamper, will one day be reduced to ashes and base elements.

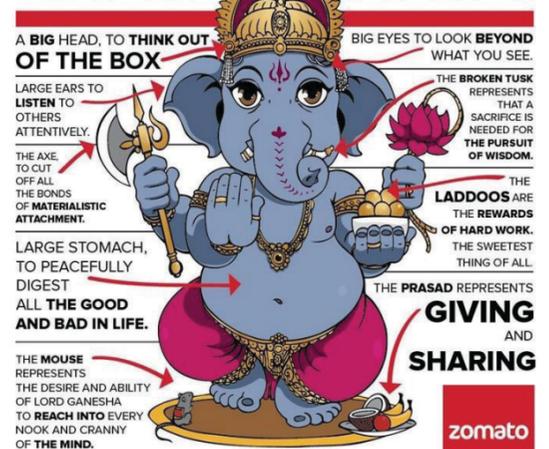
Understanding the process of Visarjan, one cannot but think that the whole practice is one of acknowledging the flow of the supreme energy that is what we call GOD. The cycle of life is depicted here.

When we pray, we pray to the spirit that we initiate into the murti, be it of any deity. But for the sake of prayer, we are assured that the object of our prayer, has the qualities that we do to hear, eat and thereby pay heed to our prayer.

All of the above relates to the physical experience. But my personal feeling on the day, that of happiness and then of sadness was a little surprising even to me. Like the departure of a loved one, not in death but on a long journey, or an emigrating friend. Ganeshji is set on his way, after we have developed a personal relationship with him, and so I have realized that this visarjan, is really a symbolism of the journey our soul. The essence of who we truly are. Our soul transcends from body to body and every death is a Visarjan, and every birth a Chaturthi until we become free from this cycle, that is.

Thank you to everyone who assisted with the 2015 Visarjan function.

## THINGS TO LEARN FROM GANESHA



Source Acknowledgement: devimandir.com.



Gujarati Hindu Sanskruti Kendra  
Invite You To

# PRE NAVRATRI

**Bhajan Evening**

**With The  
Diamond  
Orchestra**

**from  
Gujarat, India  
Sun 11th Oct  
@ 7pm**

**Light meals will  
be served**

**ALL WELCOME!**



Gujarati Hindu Sanskruti Kendra in association  
with

Gujarati Mahila Mandal presents

# Dasera Music Masti

An Evening of Filmi Songs

**Fri 23th Oct @ 7pm**

Free Entry - Refreshments will be served



Gujarati Hindu Sanskruti Kendra  
presents

# DIWALI DINNER & GET TOGETHERS

An evening of Live Entertainment & Dinner

**Sun 1st Nov @ 5:30pm**

Tickets R100 per person from Reception at Kendra Retirement



Gujarati Hindu Sanskruti Kendra  
Patni Social Club  
Surut Hindu Association

# NAVRATRI

**Tues 13th to Thurs 22nd Oct  
Ekta Mandir & Kendra Hall**

**Daily Pooja & Havan**

Mornings 7am - 8h30am & Evenings 5h30pm - 7pm

**Chandi Paat Recitals**

Daily at 9am - 11am

**Aarti**

Daily at 7h30pm

**Garba and Dandia Raas**

With Diamond Orchestra from Gujarat India

Daily from 8pm

**Durgashtami Havan & Maha Aarti**

Wen 21st Oct Commencing at 11am

Purnahuti at 5h30pm

**Maha Aarti**

8pm and Garbas thereafter

**Uthapan**

Thurs 21st Oct at 5h30pm

Officiating Priest: Shri Ashwinbhai Hirjee Trikamjee

Resident Priest: Shri Hemantbhai Vaidya

**Venue: Ekta Mandir**

5 John Zikhali (Sydenham) Road, Durban

Enquiries: Kendra - Tel: 031 309 1824

**All Welcome!**

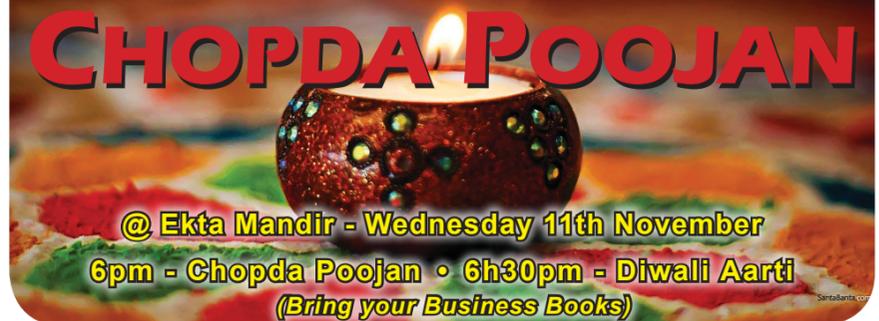
Gujarati Hindu Sanskruti Kendra  
Invites you to

# CHOPDA POOJAN

@ Ekta Mandir - Wednesday 11th November

6pm - Chopda Poojan • 6h30pm - Diwali Aarti

(Bring your Business Books)



Gujarati Hindu Sanskruti Kendra  
Presents...

# New Year Havan

**Get Together / Annkoot**

**Thursday 12th Nov**

**Kendra Hall / Ekta Mandir**

**Havan: 10h30am to 11h30am**

**Meet and Greet: 11h30am**

**Aarthi & Aankoot Prasad 12noon**

PLEASE DELIVER YOUR ANNKOOT TRAYS BY 10m





## First South African Selected

Gita Harie who has dedicated her life to improving the lives of people with Mental Illness was recently selected by the US Government as one of 6 Gold Stars' Alumni NGO leaders

worldwide to go to the USA on an International Visitor Leadership Programme (IVLP) fully sponsored by the US Government. She represented the NGO Sector for the African Region and left on the 1st May 2015 for this 21 days programme. She is the **first South African** to have been selected since the launch of this Gold Stars' Alumni Project 5 years ago.

The IVLP Gold Stars' Project is a special initiative for IVLP Alumni's' to participate in a second exchange experience in order to reconnect with their US counterparts from their first project visit, and to develop new connections in their field of interest. Her first IVLP project visit was in 1998.

Gita is the Executive Director of Durban and Coastal Mental Health, an NGO which has 25 projects comprising of 7 Residential Care Centres, 8 Protective Training Workshops, 8 Day Care Centres and 2 Social Work Regions.

It had a beneficiary reach of 56 021 beneficiaries in the last financial year.

Gita shared: "This was a wonderful opportunity to share and exchange knowledge and to network with mental health professionals, volunteers and consumers during the 26 meetings that I participated in during my visits to Washington DC, Baltimore, New York, Minneapolis, Helena and Louisville. Many best practice models of service delivery were shared with me, some of which can be implemented in South Africa which will contribute to transforming mental health services in our country. I want to thank the US Government for selecting me for this International Award as the first South African Gold Star Alumni and for affording me this incredible opportunity. I believe that this IVLP Gold Star Alumni Journey has contributed tremendously to my growth and development, both at a personal and professional level and I am inspired and motivated to direct Durban and Coastal Mental Health's services to greater heights and Mental Health Services in South Africa."

Gita is a wonderful inspiration and role model and we are proud of this achievement of one of our Community Members.

Indian Cultural Centre, JHB  
Gujarati Hindu Sanskruti Kendra, Durban  
And SADAFAL Foundation S.A  
invites you, your family and friends for



Lecture on



### Science and Spirituality



**By : Dr. Hemant Kumar Singh**

EX-NASA Scientist, Senior Geophysicist  
and a Great Yogi; currently working as  
Associate Lecturer at IIT Powai, Mumbai

VENUE:

Gujarati Hindu SanskrutiKendra,  
5 SydnhemRoad, Durban

DATE: 13th November 2015

DAY: Friday

TIME : 6:15 PM

RSVP: info@kendra.org.za / 031 309 1824

Light snacks will be provided after the program



## KENDRA WEEKLY PROGRAMME

Vedanta Classes	Monday	6pm - 7:15pm	Kendra Cultural Room
Music Classes	Tuesday & Saturday	5:30pm - 6:30pm 10am - 1pm	Kendra Conference Room
Samarpan Meditation	Tuesday	6:30pm - 7pm	Kendra Gardens Gym
Shiv Yog	Wednesday	7pm - 8pm	Kendra Conference Room
Sai Group Satsangs	Wednesday & Thursday	7pm - 8:30pm	Kendra Gardens Gym
Art of Living Satsangs & Bhajans	Thursday	7pm - 8pm	Ekta Mandir
Kendra Gujarati & Hindu Dharma Classes	Friday	3pm - 5pm	Futura School
Kendra School Bhajans	Every Fortnight	5pm - 5:30pm	Futura School
Radhasoami Satsangs	Wednesday & Sunday	8pm - 9pm 11am - 12pm	Kendra Gardens Gym
Kendra Girl Guides	Friday	5:30pm - 6:30pm	Kendra Cultural Room
Art of Living - Kriya	Tuesday	7pm - 8:30pm	Kendra Conference Room
Nateshwar Dance Academy	Saturday	8am - 1pm	Kendra Downstair Hall

## DIARISE THESE DATES

Shraad Pooja & Havan	Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> October
Pre-Navratri Bhajans	Sunday	11 <sup>th</sup> October
Navratri	Tues-Thurs	13 <sup>th</sup> to 22 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Maha Aarti/Durga Astami	Thursday	21 <sup>st</sup> October
Dasera	Saturday	23 <sup>rd</sup> October
Diwali Dinner	Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> November
Diwali / Chopda Pooja	Wednesday	11 <sup>th</sup> November
Gujarati New Year	Thursday	12 <sup>th</sup> November
Kendra Business Forum	Friday	13 <sup>th</sup> November
Gujarati Classes Open Day	Monday	7 <sup>th</sup> December
Kendra Golf Day	Wednesday	16 December
Weekly Bhajans	Sunday	17h30-18h30
Daily Aartis		Daily 18h30

## Kendra Gardens Update

The Retirement Home has continued to progress and occupancy has varied between 75% to 100% since June this year. One can see the dining room full at meal times and the venue is a hive of activity throughout the week with residents, staff, caregivers, family and service providers creating a pleasant atmosphere throughout the week. The various activities of residents as well as the numerous services and Satsangs held at the Home also keep residents occupied.

The old boundry palisade wall adjoining St. Augustines School, is currently being replaced with a higher facebrick wall.

This will improve both the security and the aesthetics of the complex. The wall will be completed in November.

The building plans for the additional 7 rooms (to accommodate 11 more residents) are being finalised and construction should commence early in the new year, once engineering details have been finalised. This expansion will have 4 double rooms and 3 single rooms as we now have more requests for doubles. This addition to the Home will increase the capacity to 101 residents in 82 rooms. The Retirement Home also has 8 double rooms (all en-suite) for 16 staff who are employed at the Home.

The total budget of these two additions is R1,500,000 and Kendra would appreciate the previous donors to kindly consider topping up their donations and we also make a humble appeal to new donors to also kindly consider supporting this worthy cause. It has been the compassion and generosity of all the donors that have made the dream of Kendra Gardens Retirement Home into a reality. The donations are eligible for tax deduction.

### DONATIONS : TAX DEDUCTION

Donations to certain designated Public Benefit Organisations (PBO's) qualify for a tax deduction in the year made.

The Kendra is a registered Public Benefit Organisation (Registration No. 004-387 NPO) in terms of Section 30 of the Income Tax Act.

The entire donation will be eligible for tax deduction, under Section 18A of the Income Tax Act. Deductions are limited to 10% of taxable income and could entitle the donor to a tax deduction of up to 41% of the donation, depending on the donor's tax status.

Please contact your financial adviser for advice pertaining to your specific circumstances.

### ENQUIRIES

Name: Ramnik Juta or  
Rajen Bhika  
Email: nfo@kendra.org.za or  
raj@kendra.org.za  
Telephone: 031 326 1000

### BANK DETAILS

Account: Gujarati Hindu Sanskruti Kendra  
Bank: Standard Bank  
Branch: Albert Street  
Account No: 052 661 474  
Branch No: 040 826

## Kendra Gardens Retirement Home

Are inviting applicants from retired people requiring full board and lodging at very reasonable rates. Kendra Gardens, situated behind The Kendra Hall, offers permanent, full residency. Set in spacious grounds, the Home offers a wide variety of activities including recreational and spiriual, as well as security and in-house care.

Please direct inquiries to  
Rajen Bhikha 031 326 1000



## World Shoot - Manhar Parshtom



"Durban born and Director of Dragon Protection Services, Manhar Parshotam has always had a passion for the sport of defense and tactical shooting from the young age of 19 when he was the youngest Indian instructor.

for the Africa Champs in his first year. Africa champs is one of the greatest achievements and highest accolades throughout Africa, which a defensive sport shooter can participate in, this qualified him to an invite to the 2015 World Championships.

The World Champs will be held 13-20 September at the U.S Shooting Academy in The city of Tulsa, Oklahohma, where many law enforcement and specialist agencies use this as a training base. 600 people from around the world, Russia, Italy, India, Argentina...just to list a few will be at this Prestigious event.

Throughout his training, Manhar has had to ensure that there was always a good balance between work, family and his passion for sport shooting...as he believes that his passion is a life skill and survival tool in these dangerous times that we live in.

His work and passion all fit together like a glove and because of his daily exposure within the Security Industry to Crime, he would like to encourage many people to get involved in this sport. "

Now in 2015, after many years of experience, training and perseverance he will be representing SA at the 2015 IDPA (international Defensive Pistol Association) World Championship. IDPA, is a defensive shooting sport where contestants are timed on particular scenario based stages. The lowest times is the best time. These scenarios are reality based and time is added to your final times for misses and for not using cover for defense.

Manhar joined IDPA in 2014, and took it up to a competitive level immediately and qualified

### Spacious apartment in Manjee Centre

Price R1,35m

**For Sale**

316 - 320 Grey street, Cnr Derby & Grey Str.

3 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms

For more info email: anilaparsotam@gmail.com



## Property left behind by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam



Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kala, former President of India who passed away a few months ago, was estimated.

### He owned

- 6 pants(2 DRDO uniforms) • 4 shirts(2 DRDO uniforms) • 3 suits(1western, 2Indian) • 2500 books • 1 flat(which he has donated)
- 1 Padmashri • 1 Padmabhushan • 1 Bharat Ratna • 16 doctorates • 1 website
- 1 twitter account • 1 email id

He didn't have any TV, AC, car, jewellery, shares, land or bank balance. He had even donated the last 8 years' pension towards the development of his village. He was a real patriot and true Indian...India will for ever be grateful to you, sir.. Is there any politician to compare with him?