

July - September 2024

## Creating, Preserving Culture...

Wedding dessert buried deep inside the freezer for five decades. During a deep cleaning session, lady observed: 'Do not open until 2018!' A chunk of wedding cake preserved, to be shared on their fiftieth anniversary...the sharing of vows ne'er happened- her better half gone! Son encouraged Mom to unwrap the aluminum foil, and let it thaw; pushing aside skeptical views: 'No concerns, the oldest one is about 161 years old!' 'Gharchola sarees are cherished family heirlooms passed down through generations...' Isha Ambani's wedding outfit - a 16-panelled ghagra worth hundreds of crores. Noteworthy, the drape on her shoulder – Mom Nita's 35-year-old wedding sari! Connecting with people and places, not just from the present but also from the past, reveals a world anew. Sepia-tone photographs, hand-written letters, crumpled diaries, the scent of old books bring along infinite sensory pleasures, greater awareness to rediscover talents, traditions, customs, and practices; such narratives help to establish identities, core to our very being, to recognize we're leaves of one gigantic tree -"Humaniqueness!"

## Hema Ravi

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