

# ವಿಶ್ವಮಾನವ

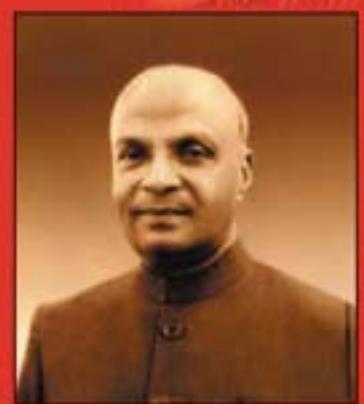
Vishwamanava  
10th National  
Convention



Volume 10, 2007

**Soil to Silicon**

*Dedicated to  
Justice H. Hombe Gowda*



# Celebrating 10 VPA Conventions!



1<sup>st</sup> Souvenir Cover

## First Ad-Hoc Committee

1991-1992 Detroit, MI



Dr. Raja P. Gowda  
President



Mr. Narayana Swamy Krishnappa  
Vice President



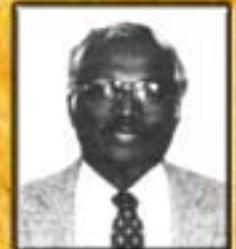
Mr. Nanjappa Siddalingiah  
Secretary



Dr. D. L. Narayan  
Treasurer



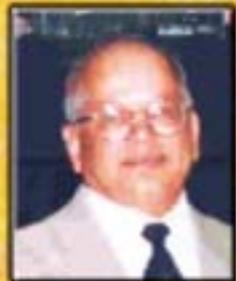
Mr. Shiva Shankar  
Jr. Secretary



Mr. Govind Lakshman  
Jr. Treasurer

## Honoring the founding members at the 10<sup>th</sup> Convention

## Presidential Roster



Dr. Raja P. Gowda  
1992-1993 Pittsburgh, PA



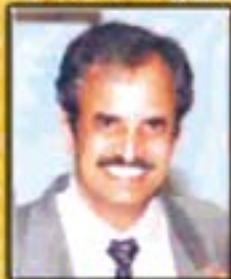
Mr. Narayanaswamy  
Krishnappa  
1993-1994 Chicago, IL



Dr. Krishna N. Gowda  
1994-1995 Baltimore, MD



Dr. Shashi Kumar  
1995-1996 Cherry Hill, NJ



Dr. K. L. Satyanarayana  
1997-1998 Los Angeles, CA



Dr. D. M. Sreekanth  
1999-2000 Chicago, IL



Dr. Srinivas Gowda  
2001-2002 Virginia Beach, VA



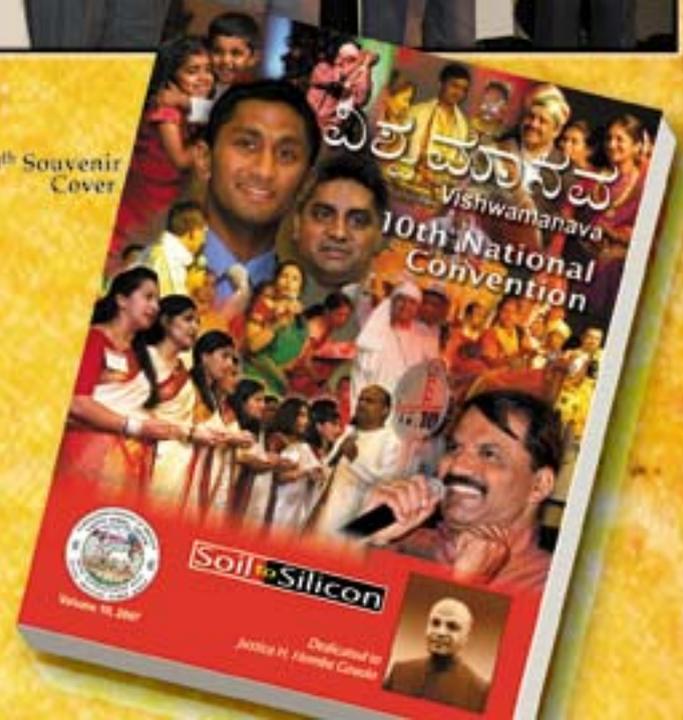
Mr. Amarnath Gowda  
2003-2005 Detroit, MI



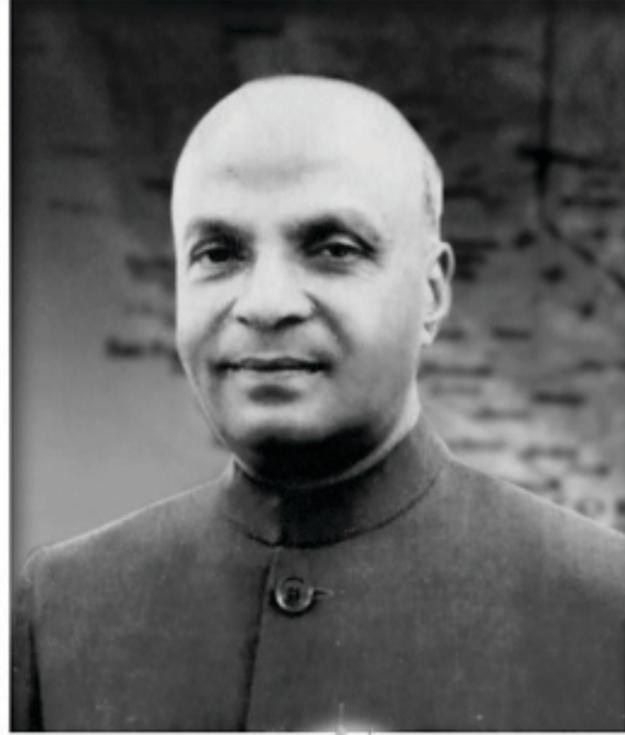
Mr. B. J. Arun  
2006-2007 Palo Alto, CA



10<sup>th</sup> Souvenir Cover



# Dedicated to Chief Justice H. Hombe Gowda



## ಸಂಪಾದಕೀಯ

(Editorial)

Dear Vokkaliga friends,

The people of the Golden State regaled the delegates at the 10th national convention of the Vokkaligara Parishat of America (VPA) with a fun-filled and exciting three-day weekend. The convention theme, "From Soil to Silicon" appropriately highlighted the number of successful entrepreneurs and technological professionals in the Silicon Valley.

On behalf of the Souvenir and Program Book committee, I am pleased to present the 10th volume of the Vishwamanava journal commemorating the event.

This volume is dedicated to Chief Justice H. Hombe Gowda. The Vokkaliga community has numerous luminaries and selecting one is always a daunting task. However, Justice H. Hombe Gowda is an ideal choice because of his accomplishments as the leading Vokkaliga in the legal field and the first Vokkaliga Chief Justice of Mysore (Karnataka) High Court.

Our keynote speaker, Captain Neil Prakash brings home to me the fact that Vokkaligas are not only thriving across the globe as engineers and doctors, but are also spreading their wings to explore different areas of endeavor. The other speaker, stand-up humorist Prof. Krishne Gowda entertained the delegates for hours with fun-filled laughter. The surprise event, Karaga, produced by the talented Veena Gowda got a standing ovation for ingenuity and brought back memories of our roots. Mr. Vittal's authentic gowdara oota enhanced the fun-filled weekend.

I would like to acknowledge the VPA members who took the time to send us letters after the convention and members who contributed to this magazine. Please read their letters in the Convention section of this magazine. A unique aspect of this convention was the youthful leadership of the second generation Vokkaligas. It was wonderful to see them holding up to the traditions, showing their humble roots and addressing other fellow members with the respected, "gowdare." This enthusiasm at the convention was truly inspiring, and makes me proud to be a Vokkaliga.

This journal could not have been put together without the help of Sumanth Venugopal and Dr. M.P. Divakar. Shantanu Kothavale organized and incorporated the advertisements and VPA directory into the magazine. On a personal note, I'd like to thank my family for supporting me to finish this souvenir.



Sharmila Kumar  
Vishwamanava editor

\*\*\*\*\*

Cover art: Harry Lafnear  
Printed by  
Alpha Printing & Media Services, Inc.  
1409 N. 10th Street  
San Jose, CA 95112  
(408) 885 8210

Views expressed in the articles of this magazine are those of the respective authors and they do not necessarily reflect the views of the Vishwamanava Editors or of Vokkaliga Parishat of America.

## **ವಿಷಯ ಸೂಚಿ (Contents)**

**Letters from Well Wishers**

**VPA Executive Committee**

**Justice H. Hombe Gowda**

**Other Prominent Vokkaligas**

**ಹಲವು ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಒಕ್ಕಲಿಗರು**

**VPA 10th Annual Convention  
Highlights**

**VPA Chapter Activities**

**Community/Health**

**Short Stories/Poems**

**Youth/Children**

**Advertisements**

**VPA Member Directory**



*Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515*

*Anna G. Eshoo  
Fourteenth District  
California*



June 27, 2007

Vokkaligara Parishat of America  
50 West 75<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 106  
Willowbrook, Illinois 60527-2383

Dear Friends,

I'm pleased to welcome the participants of the 2007 Vokkaligara Parishat of America Convention to California's 14<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

Your convention theme, *From Soil to Silicon*, is wonderfully suited to Silicon Valley, which was originally known as the Valley of the Heart's Delight for its abundant orchards. It is now the international center of innovation in the advancement of technology, biotechnology and the Internet.

I commend your achievements in promoting the heritage, culture, education and entrepreneurship of the Vokkaligara community and the inspiration you provide to the community's young people to learn and build foundations for the future.

I hope your time in Palo Alto is enjoyable and that your convention is the best yet.

Sincerely,

Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



### MESSAGE

*I am happy to learn about the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Vokkaligara Parishat of America (VPA) Convention in the Bay Area. The community has provided great leaders from visionaries to Chief Ministers; from a poet of the stature of Kuvempu to an ace administrator like K. Hanumantayya. In the Silicon Valley area, I do come across a number of successful entrepreneurs and technological professionals. The theme of the Convention "From Soil to Silicon" is particularly appropriate.*

*As a fellow Kannadiga, I take great pleasure in the achievements of the community and wish the event every success.*

*(B.S. Prakash)  
Consul General of India, San Francisco*

## VPA Executive Committee 2006-2007



**President**  
B J Arun



**Vice President**  
Gangadhara Hosalli



**Secretary/Convention Chair**  
Sumanth Venugopal



**Treasurer**  
Vasanthi Gowda



**Joint Secretary**  
Anusuya Swamy



**Joint Treasurer**  
Lalitha Swamy

## Regional Presidents



**Kulle Gowda**  
**Midwest**



**Prabhu Dev**  
**West**



**Dinesh Gowda**  
**South**



**Vanita Kuppalli**  
**East**

## Board of Trustees

Mr. Amarnath Gowda  
Mr. Ramesh Gowda  
Mr. Rangappa  
Mr. D.L. Narayan

Mr. Ramesh Malekal  
Mr. Arjun Gowda  
Mr. Prapanch Narayanaswamy

## Message from the President, 10th VPA Convention 2007

Dear friends,

What a show we put on for our guests! The congratulatory phone calls, emails and letters from our attendees from all of the four VPA chapters as well as from India have not stopped coming. We absolutely delighted them with everything from our selection of the venue of the Crowne Plaza Cabana, to the warm welcome they were extended upon arrival, the goody bags, the fact that we chose a keynote speaker (Capt. Neil Prakash) from within our community in the US, the outstanding quality of the program content, the punctuality with which everything was conducted, the delicious food, the fabulous decorations, the beautiful stage and A/V system, magazine dedication, the CME, the business forum, the women's forum, the rummy tournament, the children's activities/ care center, the sports and golf tournaments, the wonderful weather (guess even the Gods were on our side) and on and on. The list is endless but the one thing they all mention without fail is the fact that every one of our host volunteers was so talented, enthusiastic and gracious.



My own conclusion is that it was the fantastic team that came together that made our Convention the overwhelming success that it clearly was. In the hustle and bustle of the Convention, many of us were not able to fully take in the impact of what we had put together. It is only now when I have 'reruns' in my mind is it sinking in about how truly magical each and every event was. I used to think that I had seen it all but I must confess that this was a totally new and wonderful experience for the senses.

It was over the July 4th VPA West events in 2006 that Sumanth and I first started getting the ball rolling for putting the Convention together. We had a slow start and some of you early attendees will recall that we had just a handful of people attend the initial planning sessions at my home. Many of you did not know us and some of you were even skeptical about our ability to pull together an event of this magnitude. But once we were able to identify, engage and empower the leaders for the various aspects of our Convention, the whole operation got on auto pilot. Each and every one of you rose to the occasion by sacrificing personal time with family on weekends and even weekday nights by putting in thousands of man hours into ensuring our success. Behind the scenes, I personally attended VPA events in Southern California, Chicago, Detroit, and New York to create excitement about attending our Convention as well as generate funds. The Board of Trustees was very helpful and we kept them engaged on a monthly basis. We would not have been able to achieve the success that we did without their help.

Some of you may know that I have been part of building some fairly successful companies in the past. Working with all of you was an experience which is different than building businesses, but one I have come to realize as immensely more satisfying. Through this process, my own life has grown richer by at least a couple of hundred new friendships that I will cherish moving forward. Each and every one of you has become like a family member and it was indeed with a heavy heart that I wound down our Convention activities. It truly felt like we had wrapped up a joyous occasion like a family wedding back in India when we checked out of our hotel rooms and headed home on Monday morning. One of our visitors (someone I had not known from before) even called me from the airplane saying that they were feeling very depressed that this event had ended so soon.

This message does not do justice to my emotions. I am however doing so now since I have realized that I just do not have the bandwidth to reach out to so many of you that have contributed so much to our success by phone, in person or by individual email. With this in mind, I want to sincerely thank each and every one of you from the bottom of my heart for the outstanding support you have extended Sumanth, our team leaders and I in making this, our 10th VPA Convention something we can all look back with on pride and joy for many years to come.

I feel honored to have had the opportunity to lead such a fabulous team deliver such a memorable Convention! Thank you,

BJ Arun  
President, 2007 VPA convention  
Palo Alto, California

## Message from the Secretary/Convention Chair 10th VPA Convention 2007

Greetings!

It is hard to believe that just over a year has passed since the 10th National VPA Convention. It seems like yesterday that our wonderful volunteers were preparing to welcome and host our Community members from all over the United States and India. What an event!



Going into the Convention, our desire and goal was to craft an agenda that would not just celebrate our achievements as a Community but also, make sure that we inspired the next generation of Vokkaliga's to build on these successes and to take our Community to the next level. Our Convention's theme "From Soil to Silicon" was inspired by our Community's continued ability to make significant contributions to our respective social, economic, and political landscapes - whether here in the United States or back home in India.

Indeed, our decision this year to have Captain Neil Prakash serve as our Convention Keynote was made with this thought in mind. A second generation Indian-American, Captain Prakash's service to this Country is one that should make us all very proud. A Silver Star recipient, Captain Prakash's actions and bravery during wartime is something that not only should motivate us but also, remind us that we – individually and collectively – have the ability to make a difference no matter what we set out to do. Thanks again to Neil. A true American Hero!

I want to also take the time to thank our many visitors who took the time to make the trip out for our Convention. Your presence was truly appreciated and definitely added to the festive and lively atmosphere of the Convention.

In addition, I'd like to acknowledge the efforts of our President, B.J. Arun and the rest of our Executive National Board for their help and guidance. Without it, we never would have succeeded. Their efforts to secure donations as well as raise the excitement and interest levels among Community members across the Nation was instrumental to our Convention's success.

Finally, I'd like to send a big thanks to our Convention Chairs, Sub-Chairs, and volunteers. They spent a countless number of hours preparing - sacrificing week nights, weekends, and vacation time – to make sure that this Convention would go down as one of the best ones ever.

The Convention has come and gone. However, our memories of this great event will last forever as will the friendships we made through the process.

Again, we appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedules to attend the Convention this year and for your generous support!

Sumanth Venugopal  
Convention Chair and General Secretary



## Features

**Chief Justice H. Hombe Gowda**

**Devangi Chandrashekhhar**

**B Marideva Gowda**

**KS Malle Gowda**

**B Kempanna**

**NP Govinda Gowda**

**R Range Gowda**

**Message of Universal Man (ವಿಶ್ವಮಾನವ)**

## ಸಾಫಲಕ ಸಾಧನೆಯ ಸರದಾರ ಎಚ್. ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡ

—ಮಿರ್ಲೆ ಬಿ. ರಾಜಶೇಖರ್

ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಎಂಬ ಮಾತು ಅತ್ಯಂತ ವಿರಳವಾಗಿದ್ದ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗದಿಂದ ಬಂದ ಒಬ್ಬ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ, ಉಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧೀಶರಾಗುವುದೆಂದರೆ ಅದು ಸಾಧಾರಣ ಸಾಧನೆ ಎನಿಸಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಅಂಥ ಮಹತ್ ಸಾಧನೆಯ ಶಿಖರವೇರಿ ಇಂದಿಗೂ ಜನಸಾಮಾನ್ಯರ ಮನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಂದದ ನೆನಪಾಗುವವರು ಎಚ್. ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರು.

1930ರ ದಶಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕವಾಗಿ, ಆರ್ಥಿಕವಾಗಿ, ರಾಜಕೀಯವಾಗಿ ಅಷ್ಟೇನು ಪ್ರಬಲವೆನಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳದಿದ್ದ, ಒಕ್ಕಲಿಗ ಜನಾಂಗದಿಂದ ಬೆಳೆದುಬಂದ ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರು, ಸಾಧನೆಗೆ ಆತ್ಮಸ್ಥೈರ್ಯ, ಭಲ ಇರಬೇಕೇ ಹೊರತು, ಯಾವ ಜಾತಿ, ವರ್ಗಗಳೂ ಬೇಕಿಲ್ಲ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ತೋರಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿ ತಾವೇ ಒಂದು ಅದ್ಭುತ ನಿರರ್ಶನವಾಗಿ ಬೆಳೆದವರು.



ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಟಿ. ನರಸೀಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಬನ್ನೂರು ಸಮೀಪದ ಮಾಗೋಡನಹಳ್ಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 1910ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡ

ಎಂಬವರ ಮಗನಾಗಿ ಜನಿಸಿದ ಮಗುವಿಗೆ ತಂದೆಯ ಹೆಸರನ್ನು ಉಳಿಸಲಿ ಎಂದು ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡ ಎಂದೇ ಕರೆದರು. ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರು ತಮ್ಮ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣವನ್ನು ಹನುಮನಹಾಳು ಮತ್ತು ಬನ್ನೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪೂರೈಸಿದರು. ಅನಂತರ ಪ್ರೌಢಶಾಲಾ ವಿದ್ಯಾಭ್ಯಾಸವನ್ನು ಮೈಸೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸಿದ ಅವರು ಕಾಲೇಜು ಶಿಕ್ಷಣವನ್ನು 1927ರಿಂದ 29ರ ವರೆಗೆ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಯಾಗಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಇಂಟರ್ಮೀಡಿಯೇಟ್ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದರು. 1931ರಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿ.ಎಸ್ಸಿ. ಪದವಿ ಪಡೆದ ಗೌಡರು ಇವೆಲ್ಲವುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಳಶಪ್ರಾಯವಾಗಿ 1932-33ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪೂನಾದ ಲಾ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾನೂನು ಪದವಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು, ಉನ್ನತ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಂಡಿತ್ಯ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡರು.

ಅನಂತರ 1933ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂದಿನ ಮೈಸೂರು ಸಂಸ್ಥಾನದ ಬಾರ್ ಕೌನ್ಸಿಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ವಕೀಲರಾಗಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಹೆಸರನ್ನು ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸುವುದರೊಂದಿಗೆ, ವಕೀಲ ವೃತ್ತಿ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಿದ ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರು ಮೊದಲಿಗೆ ಅಂದು ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಮಾಜಿ ಸಚಿವರಾಗಿದ್ದ ಎಚ್.ಸಿ. ದಾಸಪ್ಪ ಅವರ ಬಳಿ ವೃತ್ತಿ ಆರಂಭಿಸಿದರು. ತದನಂತರದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಡ್ಯ ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಸ್ವಂತ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಹಿಂದೆ ಪಡೆದ ಅಪಾರ ಅನುಭವವನ್ನು ಬಳಸಿಕೊಂಡು, ಉತ್ತಮ ವಕೀಲರೆನಿಸಿಕೊಂಡರು.

ಹೀಗೆ ವೃತ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪವೇ ಉನ್ನತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಾಧಿಸುತ್ತಾ, ಬಡವರು, ಹಿಂದುಳಿದವರಿಗಾಗಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಡುಪಾಗಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದ ಗೌಡರು, ಗಂಗಮ್ಮ ಅವರನ್ನು ಬಾಳಸಂಗತಿಯಾಗಿ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಿದರು. ಇವರಿಗೆ ಎಚ್. ಶರತ್‌ಚಂದ್ರ, ಊರ್ಮಿಳಾ, ಸತೀಶ್ಚಂದ್ರ, ಜಗದೀಶ್ಚಂದ್ರ ಎಂಬ ನಾಲ್ಕು ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಜನಿಸುವುದರೊಂದಿಗೆ, ಸುಖ ಮತ್ತು ನೆಮ್ಮದಿಯ ಸಾಂಸಾರಿಕ ಜೀವನವೂ ರೂಪುಗೊಂಡಿತು.

ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರು 1933ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊಟ್ಟಮೊದಲ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ಮೈಸೂರು ಸಂಸ್ಥಾನದ ಪ್ರಜಾಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿ ಸಭೆಗೆ ಸದಸ್ಯರಾಗಿ ಚುನಾಯಿತರಾದರು. ಇದೇ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರು ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯದ ಸೆನೆಟ್ ಸದಸ್ಯರಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಅನಂತರ 1947ರಲ್ಲಿ ಲೋಕ ಸೇವಾ ಆಯೋಗದ ಆಯುಕ್ತರಾಗಿ ಸೇವೆಗೆ ನಿಯೋಜಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟರು. ಆದಕ್ಕೂ ಮುನ್ನ ಮಂಡ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಅಭಿಯೋಜಕರಾಗಿ ಸೇವೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಹೀಗೆ ತಮ್ಮ ವೃತ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಂತ ಹಂತವಾಗಿ

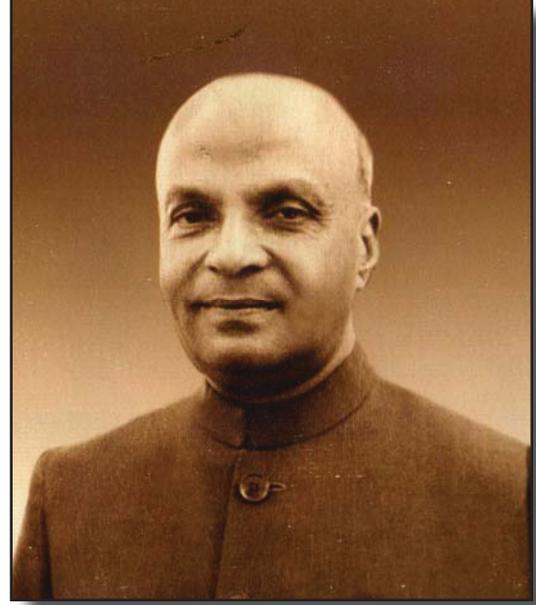
ಮೇಲೇರ ತೊಡಗಿದ ಗೌಡರು 1951ರಲ್ಲಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧೀಶರಾಗಿ ನೇಮಕಗೊಂಡು, ಅಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಅಪೂರ್ವ ಸೇವೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದರು.

ಅನಂತರ 1955ರಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರ ವೃತ್ತಿಜೀವನದ ಕಿರೀಟಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊನ್ನಗರಿ ಮೂಡಿದಂತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಉಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಮುಖ್ಯ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧೀಶರಾಗಿ ನೇಮಕಗೊಂಡರು. ಇಡು ಗೌಡರ ಜೀವನದ ಅವಿಸ್ಮರಣೀಯ ಹಂತ. 1963ರಿಂದ 1969ರ ವರೆಗೆ ಮೈಸೂರು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಉಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧೀಶರಾಗಿ ಅವರು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ ಸೇವೆ ಅಪಾರ. ಅಂದು ತಮ್ಮ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಿರುವ ತೀರ್ಪುಗಳು ಚಿರಸ್ಮರಣೀಯ.

ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರು ಉದಾರ ಹೃದಯಿಗಳು. ಯಾರಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ಭೇದ-ಭಾವ ತೋರದೆ, ಎಲ್ಲರನ್ನೂ ಸಮಾನತೆಯಿಂದ ಕಾಣುತ್ತಿದ್ದ, ಎಲ್ಲರ ಕಷ್ಟಗಳಿಗೂ ಸ್ಪಂದಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಸ್ನೇಹಜೀವಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸರಳ ಜೀವಿ. ಇದು ಅವರ ಹುಟ್ಟುಗುಣ. ಅವರು ಬಹು ಜನಪ್ರಿಯರಾಗಲು ಇದು ಕಾರಣವಾಯಿತು. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದಾದ್ಯಂತ ಅಪಾರ ಕೀರ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಗಳಿಸಿದ್ದ ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರು ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯಾಭಿಮಾನಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ನಾಡು-ನುಡಿ ಚಿಂತಕರು ಆಗಿದ್ದರು. ಅವರ ವಾಗ್ವರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕುವೆಂಪು ಮೊದಲಾಗಿ, ಅನೇಕ ಕವಿಗಳ ಕವನಗಳು ಪುಂಕಾನು ಪುಂಕವಾಗಿ ಹೊರಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಕೇಳುಗರನ್ನು ಮೂಕವಿಸ್ಮಿತರನ್ನಾಗಿಸುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಕೆಲಸದ ಒತ್ತಡಗಳೇನೇ ಇದ್ದರೂ ಓದುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪಾರ ಅಭಿರುಚಿ ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದ ಅವರು ಕನ್ನಡ ಭಾಷೆ, ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ರಕ್ಷಣೆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅತಂತ ಕಾಳಜಿ ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರಲ್ಲದೆ, ಅದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಹೋರಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಅನೇಕ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ತಮ್ಮನ್ನು ತೊಡಗಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು.

ವಕೀಲರಾಗಿ, ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧೀಶರಾಗಿ ಅಪಾರ ಜನಮನ್ನಣೆ ಗಳಿಸಿದ ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರು 01.08.1969ರಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇವಾ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ವಿಧಿವಿಶರಾದರು. ಅವರ ಆಕಸ್ಮಿಕ ನಿಧನಕ್ಕೆ ಅಂದಿನ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಜನತೆ ಅತೀವ ಶೋಕ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿತು. ಅವರ ಪಾರ್ಥಿವ ಶರೀರವನ್ನು ಸಕಲ ಸರ್ಕಾರೀ ಮರ್ಯಾದೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಹಸ್ರಾರು ಅಭಿಮಾನಿಗಳ ಸಮ್ಮುಖದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ವಿಲ್ಸನ್ ಗಾರ್ಡನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಸ್ಮಶಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಸ್ಕಾರ ಮಾಡಲಾಯಿತು. ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರು ಬಡಜನರಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೈಗೊಂಡ ಸೇವಾಕಾರ್ಯಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಅವರು ವಾಸವಾಗಿದ್ದ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ವಿಲ್ಸನ್ ಗಾರ್ಡನ್ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಜನರಲ್ಲಿ ಗಳಿಸಿದ ಪ್ರೀತಿ, ವಿಷ್ವಾಸ, ಆತ್ಮೀಯತೆಗಳು ಅವರನ್ನು ಉತ್ತುಂಗಕ್ಕೆ ಕೊಂಡೊಯ್ದವು. ಅವರ ಸವಿನೆನಪಿಗಾಗಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸೇವೆಗೆ ಸ್ಮರಣಾರ್ಥವಾಗಿ ವಿಲ್ಸನ್ ಗಾರ್ಡನ್‌ನ್ನು 'ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡನಗರ' ಎಂದು ಮರುನಾಮಕರಣ ಮಾಡುವಷ್ಟರ ಮಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಜನಾನುರಾಗಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಈ ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರ ಅಭಿಮಾನಿಗಳು ಗೌಡರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ 'ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡ ವಿದ್ಯಾಸಂಸ್ಥೆ'ಯನ್ನು ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಿರುವುದಲ್ಲದೇ, ಚನ್ನಪಟ್ಟಣದಲ್ಲಿಯೂ

ಸಹ ಇವರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೃಹತ್ ವಿದ್ಯಾಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಿ ಸಾವಿರಾರು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ವಿದ್ಯಾದಾನ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳು ಜನರಿಗೆ ಗೌಡರ ಮೇಲಿದ್ದ ಪ್ರೀತಿ, ಅಭಿಮಾನಿಗಳ ದ್ಯೋತಕವಾಗಿವೆ.



ಇವುಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಗೌಡರ ಸಾಧನೆಗೆ ಕಲಶಪ್ರಾಯವೆಂಬಂತೆ ಮಂಡ್ಯದ ವಕೀಲ ಸಮುದಾಯವು 1968ರಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ "ಬಾರ್ ಅಸೋಸಿಯೇಷನ್ ರೆಕ್ರಿಯೇಷನ್ ಕ್ಲಬ್"ಅನ್ನು ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಿ, ಅಂದು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದ ಕೆ.ವಿ. ಶಂಕರೇಗೌಡರ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ ನೆರವೇರಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅದರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಕ್ಲಬ್ಬಿನ ಕಟ್ಟಡದ ಮುಂಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಗೌಡರ ಪ್ರತಿಮೆಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಾಪಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಗೌಡರ ಜನಾದರಣೀಯ ಗುಣಕ್ಕೆ, ಜನಪ್ರಿಯತೆಗೆ ಇದೊಂದು ಅನನ್ಯ ಸಂಕೇತವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ಜನಾಂಗವೆಂದು ಗುರುತಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದ ಒಕ್ಕಲಿಗ ಜನಾಂಗದ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಕುಟುಂಬವೊಂದರಲ್ಲಿ ಜನಿಸಿ ಸಾರ್ಥಕ ಸಾಧನೆಗೆ ಸರದಾರರೆನ್ನಿಸಿಕೊಂಡ ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರು ಅಷ್ಟು ಉನ್ನತ ಹುದ್ದೆಗೇರಿದ ಒಕ್ಕಲಿಗ ಜನಾಂಗದ ಮೊದಲಿಗರು.

ಗೌಡರ ಕುಟುಂಬವೇ ಒಂದು ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇವಾಹರಿತನಕ್ಕೆ ಹೆಸರುವಾಸಿಯಾದುದು. ಗೌಡರ ಒಡಹುಟ್ಟಿದವರು ನಾಲ್ವರು ಅಣ್ಣತಮ್ಮಂದಿರು. ಅವರೆಲ್ಲರೂಸಹ ಸಾರ್ಥಕ ಸೇವಾ ಜೀವನ ನಡೆಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಬಂದವರೇ ಆಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರ ಅಣ್ಣ ಎಮ್.ಎಚ್. ಮಂಚಿಗಯ್ಯನವರು. ಮೈಸೂರು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವಿದ್ದಾಗ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ಆಗಿ ಸೇವೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದವರು. ಇವರ ತಮ್ಮಂದಿರಲ್ಲಿ ಒಬ್ಬರಾದ ಸಿದ್ದೇಗೌಡರು ಪೂರ್ವಿಕರ

ಊರಿನಲ್ಲೇ ನೆಲೆನಿಂತು ಜೀವನ ಕಂಡುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು. ನಾಲ್ಕನೆಯವರಾದ ಡಾ. ಎಮ್.ಎಚ್. ಮರೀಗೌಡರು. (ಹಾಪ್ಪಾಮ್ಸ್) ಮೂಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥಾಪಕರಾಗಿ, ತಮ್ಮ ಅಮೂಲ್ಯ ಕೊಡುಗೆ ನೀಡಿದವರು. ಕೊನೆಯವರಾದ ಚಿಕ್ಕಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರು ಹುಣಸೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಕಟ್ಟಿಮಳಲವಾಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಲೆಸಿ ಸಮಾಜ ಸುಧಾರಕರಾಗಿ, ಗ್ರಾಮಂತರ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಜನರಿಗಾಗಿ ದುಡಿದವರು. ಈ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಸಹೋದರರು ಇಂದು ನಮ್ಮೊಂದಿಗಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದರೂ ಅವರ ಕೊಡುಗೆ ಚಿರಂತನವಾದವುಗಳಾಗಿವೆ.

ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕಾ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರಾಗಿ ಸೇವೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದರೊಂದಿಗೆ, ಹಣ್ಣು ಮತ್ತು ತರಕಾರಿ ಮಾರಾಟ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಹೀಗೆ ಇಡೀ ಕುಟುಂಬವೇ "ಪರೋಪಕಾರಾರ್ಥಮಿದಂಶರೀರಂ" ಎಂಬ ತೆ ಬಾಳಿ ಬದುಕಿದವರು. ಇಂಥ ಕುಟುಂಬದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಮೂಲ್ಯ ಮಾಣಿಕ್ಯದಂತೆ ಕಂಗೊಳಿಸಿ ಕತ್ತಲಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಬಡವರಿಗೆ ಬೆಳಕಿನ ದಾರಿ ತೋರಿದ ಪುಣ್ಯಪುರುಷ ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರು ಎಂದರೆ ಅತಿಶಯೋಕ್ತಿ ಎನಿಸಲಾರದು.

ಈ ಬರವಣಿಗೆಯನ್ನು "ಮಣ್ಣಿನ ಹಣತೆ," ಪ್ರೊ. ಕೆ. ಬಿ. ಶಿವರುದ್ರಪ್ಪ ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣ ಗ್ರಂಥದಿಂದ (ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಸಂಪಾದಕರ ಡಾ. ಪಿ. ಕೆ. ರಾಜಶೇಖರ) ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

This article on Justice H. Hombe Gowda is selected from the book Prof. K. B. Shivarudrappa Samsmarana Granthe, Manina Hanathe. The chief editor of this book Manina Hanathe, Dr. P.K. Rajashekhara has compiled biographies of prominent Vokkaligas of Karnataka who have made a difference in our society. To obtain a copy of the book, contact Nandini Chandra at (817)-645-0653 or email [chandra.nandini@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chandra.nandini@sbcglobal.net)



## ಮಲೆನಾಡ ಕೋಗಿಲೆ ದೇವಂಗಿ ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರ್

-ಕಣಗಾಲ್ ವಿಶ್ವನಾಥ್

ದೇವಂಗಿ ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರ್ ಅವರು ಐವತ್ತು-ಅರವತ್ತು ದಶಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಾಡಿನ ಜನಪ್ರಿಯ ಗಾಯಕರಾಗಿ, ಸುಪ್ರಸಿದ್ಧ ಸುಗಮ ಸಂಗೀತಗಾರರಾಗಿ, ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಆರಾಧಕರಾಗಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ನಾಡಿನ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಅಮೋಘ ಕೊಡುಗೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಹಿರಿಯ ತಲೆಮಾರಿನ ಸುಗಮಸಂಗೀತಗಾರರಲ್ಲಿ ಒಬ್ಬರಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸಂಗೀತ ಪ್ರಿಯರ ಮನದಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿರಂತನವಾಗುಳಿದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರರು ತೀರ್ಥಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ದೇವಂಗಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 7.6.1921ರಲ್ಲಿ ಜನಿಸಿದರು. ದೇವಂಗಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇವರದು ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಿತ ರೈತ ಕುಟುಂಬವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಇವರಿಗೆ ದೇವಂಗಿ ರಾಮಣ್ಣಗೌಡರ ಸಲಹೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶನಗಳು ಚಿಕ್ಕವಯಸ್ಸಿನಿಂದಲೂ ದೊರಕಿದವು. ಶ್ರೀಮಂತ ಮನೆತನದಲ್ಲಿ ಹುಟ್ಟಿದ ಇವರ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ವಿದ್ಯಾಭ್ಯಾಸ ದೇವಂಗಿ ಮತ್ತು ತೀರ್ಥಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳಲ್ಲಾಯಿತು. ಪ್ರೌಢಶಾಲಾ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗವು ಮೈಸೂರಿನ ಮಹಾರಾಜ ಹೈಸ್ಕೂಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ, ಇಂಟರ್ಮೀಡಿಯೇಟನ್ನು ಯುವರಾಜ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಗಿಸಿದರು.



ಶ್ರೀರಾಮಕೃಷ್ಣ ಆಶ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರರು ಮುಂದೆ ಓದಲು ಮನಸಾಗದೆ, ಪ್ರಕೃತಿಯ ಕಡೆ ಭಾವುಕತೆ ಹರಿದು ಅಲ್ಲಿಂದ ಕಾಲ್ತೆಗೆದರು. ಹಳ್ಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಲೆಸಿ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಜಮೀನ್ದಾರರಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ-ವ್ಯವಹಾರಗಳ ಕಡೆ ತಲೆಕೆಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳದೆ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಸಂಗೀತಗಳ ಕಲ್ಪನಾ ಲೋಕದಲ್ಲಿ - ಸೌಂದರ್ಯ ಆರಾಧಕರಾಗಿ ಹೊರಹೊಮ್ಮಿದರು. ಪ್ರಕೃತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವುದೆಲ್ಲವೂ ಇವರಿಗೆ ಇಷ್ಟವಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು.

ಇವರು ಓದಿದ್ದು ತುಂಬಾ ಕಡಿಮೆ ಎನಿಸಿದರೂ ಇಂಗ್ಲೀಷ್ ಭಾಷೆ ಇವರ ಮೇಲೆ ಪ್ರಭಾವ ಬೀರಿತ್ತು. ಇದರಿಂದಾಗಿ ಇಂಗ್ಲೀಷ್ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ, ಕವನಗಳು, ಇವರನ್ನು ಆಕರ್ಷಿಸಿದವು. ಆದರೆ ಈ ಇಂಗ್ಲೀಷ್ ವ್ಯಾಮೋಹದ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಕನ್ನಡದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಮೂಡುವ ಘಟನೆಯೊಂದು ಜರುಗಿತು. ಅದಂದರೆ ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರರು ಕಾಲೇಜು ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡುವ ಮಹಾರಾಜ ಮತ್ತು ಯುವರಾಜ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಂಘಕ್ಕೆ ಸಹಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಈ ಸಂಘದ ರಜತ ಮಹೋತ್ಸವದ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮಾರಂಭದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತದ ಪ್ರೊಫೆಸರ್ ನಂ. ಶಿವರಾಮ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಿಗಳು "ನಮ್ಮೂರು ಚಂದ್ರೋ ನಿಮ್ಮೂರು ಚಂದ್ರೋ" ಎಂಬ ಕೆ. ಎಸ್. ನರಸಿಂಹಸ್ವಾಮಿಗಳ ಕವನವನ್ನು ಹಾಡಿದಾಗ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಗೀಳನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆಸಿಕೊಂಡರು.

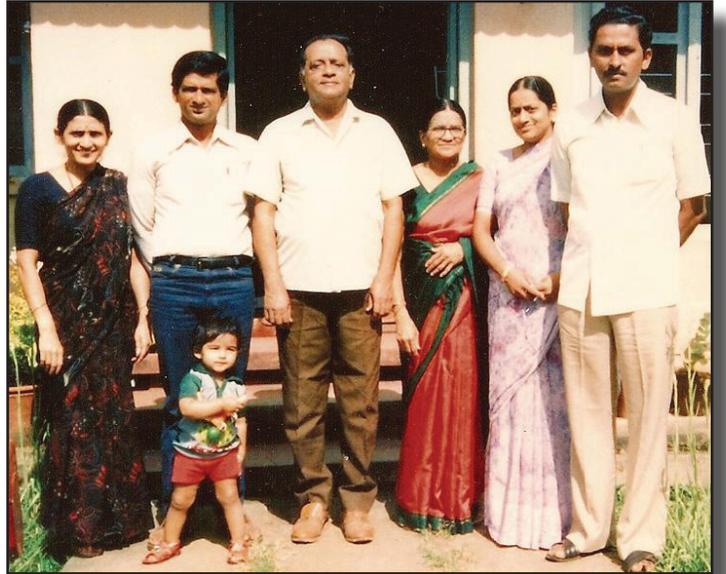
ಅನಂತರದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತ ವಿದ್ವಾಂಸರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ನ. ಅವರ ವಿಳಾಸವನ್ನು ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಂಡು ಅತಾರಾ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭೇಟಿಯಾಗಿ ಪರಿಚಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಸ್ನೇಹ ಬೆಳೆಸಿದರು. ನರಸಿಂಹಸ್ವಾಮಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಚರ್ಚೆ ಸಂಭಾಷಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಬೆಳೆಸಿಕೊಂಡರು, ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯಾಭ್ಯಾಸ ಮಾಡುವುದರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಹಳಗನ್ನಡದ ಕವಿಕಾವ್ಯ ವಿಚಾರಗಳನ್ನು ಜೀರ್ಣಿಸಿಕೊಂಡರು. ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ನ. ಅವರಲ್ಲದೆ ಕನ್ನಡದ ಅನೇಕ ಹಿರಿಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕಿರಿಯ ಕವಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾಹಿತಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸ್ನೇಹಸಂಬಂಧ ಬೆಳೆಸಿಕೊಂಡರು. ಕಾರಂತ, ಬೇಂದ್ರೆ, ಎ. ಆರ್. ಕೃಷ್ಣಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಿ, ಟಿ. ಎಸ್. ವೆಂಕಣ್ಣಯ್ಯ, ಬಿ.ಎಮ್.ಶ್ರೀ, ಪುತಿನ, ಕುವೆಂಪು ಮುಂತಾದವರೊಂದಿಗಿನ ಇವರ ಒಡನಾಟ ಅಪೂರ್ವವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಅದರಲ್ಲೂ ಕನ್ನಡದ ಮಹಾಕವಿ, ಶ್ರೇಷ್ಠ ಕವಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಹಿತಿಯಾದಂತ ಶ್ರೀ ಕುವೆಂಪು ಅವರು ಇವರ ಬಂಧುಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಅಷ್ಟೇ ಅಲ್ಲ, ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರರ ಹಿರಿಯ ಆಪ್ತರೂ, ಮಿತ್ರರೂ, ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶಕರೂ ಆಗಿದ್ದರು. ಮಲೆನಾಡಿಗೆ ಯಾವ ಕವಿ-ಸಾಹಿತಿಗಳು ಬಂದರೂ ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರರ ದೇವಂಗಿ ಮನೆಯೇ ಮುಖ್ಯ ತಾಣವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಹೀಗಾಗಿ ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರರು ಕನ್ನಡದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸದಭಿರುಚಿಯ ಕಾವ್ಯ ರಸಿಕರೂ, ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಪ್ರೇಮಿಗಳೂ, ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಪರಿಚಾರಕರೂ ಆಗಿದ್ದರು.

ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರ್‌ಗೆ ಗಾಯನ ಎಂದರೆ ಪಂಚಪ್ರಾಣ. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕವಯಸ್ಸಿನಿಂದಲೇ ಹಾಡಿನ ಗೀಳನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆಸಿಕೊಂಡರು. ಆದರೆ ಇವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಸಂಗೀತ ಪರಂಪರೆಯಿಂದ ಬಂದವರಲ್ಲ. ಇವರು ತಮ್ಮ 9ನೇ ವಯಸ್ಸಿನಿಂದಲೇ ದೇಶದ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಆಕರ್ಷಣೆ ಆಗಿದ್ದ ದೇಶಭಕ್ತಿಗೀತೆಗಳನ್ನು

ಹಾಡತೊಡಗಿದರು. ಅನಂತರ ಸಭೆ ಸಮಾರಂಭಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ದೇಶಭಕ್ತಿಗೀತೆಗಳ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಹಿಂದಿ ಚಿತ್ರ ಗೀತೆಗಳನ್ನೂ ಹಾಡಿ ಸಂತೋಷಪಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರಂತೆ. ಇವರ ಕಂಠ ಸಿರಿಯನ್ನೊಮ್ಮೆ ನೋಡಿ ಮನಸೋತ ರಾಲ್ಫ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅನಂತ ಕೃಷ್ಣಶರ್ಮರು ಸಂಗೀತ ಹೇಳಿಕೊಡುತ್ತೇನೆ ಬಾರಷ್ಟ ಎಂದು ಕೈಹಿಡಿದು ಕರೆದರಂತೆ. ತಕ್ಷಣ ಇವರು ಹೋಗಲಿಲ್ಲವಾದರೂ ಆಕಸ್ಮಿಕವಾಗಿ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರೀಯ ಸಂಗೀತದ ಕಡೆ ಒಲವು ತೋರಿದರು. ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ನ. ಅವರ ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಲ್ಲಿಗೆ, ಬಳೆಗಾರ ಚನ್ನಯ್ಯ, ಒಂದಿರುಳು ಕನಸಿನಲಿ, ರಾಯರು ಬಂದರು ಮಾವನ ಮನೆಗೆ, ನಿನ್ನ ಪ್ರೇಮದ ಪಯಿಯ ಮುಂತಾದ ಹಾಡುಗಳನ್ನು ಸಭೆ ಸಮಾರಂಭಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅದ್ಭುತವಾಗಿ ಹಾಡಿ ಸೈ ಎನಿಸಿಕೊಂಡರು. ಇವರ ಕಂಠಸಿರಿಗೆ ನಾಡಿನಾದ್ಯಂತ ಅದ್ಭುತ ಸ್ವಾಗತವೂ ದೊರೆಯಿತು. ಇವರು ಕೇವಲ ಭಾವಗೀತೆ, ದೇಶ ಭಕ್ತಿಗೀತೆಗಳಷ್ಟೇ ಅಲ್ಲದೆ ಜನಪದ ಗೀತೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮೈಮರೆತು ಹಾಡಿ ಜೀವ ತುಂಬಿದರು. ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರರು 1944ರಿಂದ ನಾಡಿನಾದ್ಯಂತ ಕನ್ನಡ ಕವಿಗಳ ಸಾವಿರಾರು ಕವಿತೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಡುತ್ತಾ ಕಾವ್ಯರಸಿಕರ ಮನವನ್ನು ತಣಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಇವರ ಕಂಠಸಿರಿ ಮನೆ ಮನೆ ತಲುಪಲು ಮೈಸೂರು ಮತ್ತು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಆಕಾಶವಾಣಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳು 1944ರಿಂದ ಭಾವಗೀತೆಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರಂತರವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಸಾರ ಮಾಡತೊಡಗಿದವು. ಅದ್ಭುತ ಶಾರೀರ, ಸುಮಧುರ ಶೈಲಿ ಕೇಳುಗರನ್ನು ಮೋಡಿ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದವು. ಆದರೆ ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯೋತ್ತರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕವಾಗಿ ಹಾಡುವುದನ್ನು ಕಡಿಮೆ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದರಿಂದ ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರರ ಕಂಠಸಿರಿ ಹೊಸಪೀಳಿಗೆಗೆ ಪೂರ್ಣ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪರಿಚಿತವಾಯಿತಾದರೂ, ಹಿರಿಯರಲ್ಲಿ ಅದು ಗುನುಗುಡುತ್ತಲೇ ಇತ್ತು. ಅನಂತರ ಅನಾರೋಗ್ಯದ ಕಾರಣ ಹಾಡುವುದನ್ನೇ ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸಿಬಿಟ್ಟರು.

ದೇವಂಗಿ ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರರು ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯಿಯಾಗಿಯೂ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾರಸ್ವತ ಲೋಕಕ್ಕೆ ತಮ್ಮದೇ ಆದ ಕೊಡುಗೆ ನೀಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. 'ತೀರ್ಥಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ದರ್ಶನ', 'ಹೊಸಗನ್ನಡ ಭಾವಗೀತೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಜೀವನ ವಿಹಾಸ', 'ಜನಪದ ಗೀತೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಸಾರ ಚಿತ್ರಗಳು' ಎಂಬೆರಡು ವಿಮರ್ಶಾ ಕೃತಿಗಳು 'ಬಣ್ಣವಾಡು' ಎಂಬ ಜನಪದ ಗೀತೆಗಳ ಸಂಕಲನವನ್ನು ಹೊರತಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಇವರ ಸಂಗೀತ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿನ ಪ್ರತಿಭೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಧನೆಯನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಿ 1982ರಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಂಗೀತ ನೃತ್ಯ ಅಕ್ಯಾಡೆಮಿ ಸನ್ಮಾನ ಮಾಡಿ ಗೌರವಿಸಿದೆ. ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರರು ವಿವಿಧ ರೀತಿಯ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಕಾರ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅನೇಕ ಮೌಲಿಕ ಕೃತಿ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಗಳ ಚಿಕ್ಕ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯ; ಬೇಂದ್ರೆ, ಪು.ತಿ.ನ., ಕುವೆಂಪು, ಕಾರಂತ, ಮುಂತಾದ ಸಾಹಿತಿಗಳ ಛಾಯಾಚಿತ್ರಗಳು, ವೆಂಕಟಪ್ಪ ಮುಂತಾದ ಚಿತ್ರಕಲಾವಿದರ ವರ್ಣಚಿತ್ರಗಳು; ಅಪೂರ್ವವಾದ ಕೆಲವು ವಸ್ತುಗಳು ಇವರ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಣಿಸುತ್ತವೆ.

1947ರಲ್ಲಿ ದೇವಂಗಿ ಮಾನಪ್ಪನವರ ನೇತೃತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ ತೀರ್ಥಹಳ್ಳಿಯ ಬ್ರಿಟಿಷರ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಚಳುವಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿ ಸೆರೆಯಾಳಾಗಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಜೈಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷೆ ಅನುಭವಿಸಿದರು. ತದನಂತರ ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾಲಿಟ್ಟು; ದೇವಂಗಿ ಜನರ ಪ್ರೀತಿಗೆ ಕಟ್ಟುಬಿದ್ದು ಎರಡು ಬಾರಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರೂ ಆಗಿದ್ದರು. ಇವರು ಕಾಂಗ್ರೆಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಷ್ಠಾವಂತ ರಾಜಕಾರಣಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಮೈಸೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಾಂಧೀಜಿಯವರನ್ನು, ದೆಹಲಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಹರು ಅವರನ್ನು ಕಂಡು ಸಂತೋಷಗೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು. ಆದರೆ ಇತ್ತೀಚಿನ ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಅಸಹ್ಯ ಎನಿಸಿ ರಾಜಕೀಯವನ್ನು ತೊರೆದರು.



ಕುವೆಂಪು ಅವರ ಗಾಢ ಪ್ರಭಾವ ದೇವಂಗಿ ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರರ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಧ್ಯಾತ್ಮವನ್ನು ಮೈಗೂಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡಿತ್ತು. ಅಲ್ಲದೆ, ಮೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕ ಮನೋದೃಷ್ಟಿ, ಮೈಚಾರಿಕತೆ, ವಿಶ್ವಮಾನವ ಪ್ರಜ್ಞೆ, ಇವೆಲ್ಲವನ್ನೂ ಅರಿತಿದ್ದರು. ಭಾರತೀಯ ತತ್ವಜ್ಞಾನಿಗಳಾದ ರಾಮಕೃಷ್ಣ ಪರಮಹಂಸ, ಸ್ವಾಮಿ ವಿವೇಕಾನಂದ, ಅರವಿಂದರ ಜೀವನ ತತ್ವಗಳಿಗೂ ಮಾರುಹೋಗಿದ್ದರು.

ಹೀಗೆ ದೇವಂಗಿ ಚಂದ್ರಶೇಖರರು ಮಲೆನಾಡಿನ ರೈತ ಕುಟುಂಬದಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳೆದು ಕುಸುಮವಾಗಿ ಅರಳಿ 1999 ಜೂನ್ 6ರಂದು ಹೃದ್ರೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ತುತ್ತಾಗಿ ಕೊನೆಯುಸಿರೆಳೆದರು. ಮಲೆನಾಡಿನ ಮೂಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದುಕೊಂಡೆ ಜೀವನದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಭೂತಪೂರ್ವ ಸಾಧನೆ ಮಾಡಿ ನಾಡಿನಾದ್ಯಂತ ಪ್ರಸಿದ್ಧರಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಇವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ಪ್ರತಿಫಲಾಪೇಕ್ಷೆಯನ್ನು ಬಯಸದೆ; ಕೀರ್ತಿಗಾಗಿ ಹಂಬಲಿಸದೆ; ಸಂಗೀತಗಾರರಾಗಿ, ಗಾಯಕರಾಗಿ, ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯಿಯಾಗಿ, ರಾಜಕೀಯ ನಿಷ್ಠಾವಂತರಾಗಿ, ಜ್ಞಾನದಾಹಿಯಾಗಿ, ಹೃದಯವಂತರಾಗಿ, ಸಜ್ಜನರಾಗಿ ಯಶಸ್ವಿ ಬಾಳ್ವೆ ನಡೆಸಿ ಎಲೆಯಮರೆಯ ಕಾಯಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

## ಆದರ್ಶ ನ್ಯಾಯಮೂರ್ತಿ ಹೆಚ್.ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡ

ಪ್ರೊ. ಟಿ. ಶಿವಣ್ಣ

ಹತ್ತೊಂಬತ್ತು ಮತ್ತು ಇಪ್ಪತ್ತನೆಯ ಶತಮಾನದ ಮೈಸೂರು ರಾಜ್ಯ, ಹಲವು ಅನೇಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದಾಗಿ ಇಡೀ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾದರಿಯಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಸರ್ವತೋಮುಖ ಪ್ರಗತಿ ಸಾಧಿಸಿತ್ತು. ಜನಸಾಮಾನ್ಯರ ಜೀವನ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಸಹ್ಯವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ರಾಜ ಪ್ರಭುತ್ವವಿದ್ದರೂ ಪ್ರಜಾಪ್ರಭುತ್ವದ ಬೀಜಾಂಕುರವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ನಮ್ಮದಿಯ ತಾಣವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಆಳಿದ ಪ್ರಭುಗಳೆಲ್ಲ ತಮ್ಮ ಪ್ರಜೆಗಳ ಹಿತವೇ ತಮ್ಮ ಹಿತ ಎಂದು ಭಾವಿಸಿ, ಜನತಾ ಜನಾರ್ಥರಿಗೆ ಶಿರಭಾಗಿ ರಾಜ್ಯವಾಳಿದ್ದರು. ಆಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ನಾಲ್ವಡಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣ ರಾಜ ವಡೆಯರ ಆಳ್ವಿಕೆಯಂತೂ ಇತಿಹಾಸದ ಪುಟಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸುವರ್ಣಾಕ್ಷರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲಾಗಿ ಆದರ್ಶ ಪ್ರಭುಗಳೆನಿಸಿದ್ದರು. ಮಹಾತ್ಮ ಗಾಂಧೀಜಿಯವರೇ, "If there is Rama Rajya, it is here in Mysore and if there is a Raja Rishi, it is Nalwadi Krishna Raja Wodeyar" ಎಂದು ಮುಕ್ತ ಕಂಠದಿಂದ ಕೊಂಡಾಡಿ, ನಾಲ್ವಡಿ ಪ್ರಭುಗಳ ಆಳ್ವಿಕೆಗೆ ದರ್ಪಣ ಹಿಡಿದಿದ್ದರು.

ಇಂಥದ ಅಪ್ರಾಯಮಾನವಾದ ವಾತಾವರಣ ಅನೇಕಾನೇಕ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಸ್ಮರಣೀಯ, ಮಹಾನ್ ಸಂಗೀತಗಾರರ ಸಕಲಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಕೋವಿದರ, ಪಂಡಿತರ, ರಾಜಕಾರಣ ತಜ್ಞರ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ, ಸೇವಾಕರ್ತರ, ಚಿಂತಕರ, ಜಿಗ್ಜಾಸುಗಳ, ಸಾಹಿತಿಗಳ ಜನನಕ್ಕೆ ಇಂಬು ನೀಡಿತು.



ನಮ್ಮ ಜನಾಂಗದ ಅತಿರಥ ಮಹಾರಥರನೇಕರು ಈ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಜನ್ಮ ತಾಳಿ, ಜೀವನದ ವಿವಿಧ ರಂಗಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಜನಾಂಗದ ಏಳಿಗೆಗಾಗಿ ಶ್ರಮಿಸಿದರು. ಇವರಲ್ಲಿ ಶ್ರೀಕಂಠೇಶಗೌಡರು, ಭೈರವಿ ಕೆಂಪೇಗೌಡರು, ಕೆ.ಹೆಚ್.ರಾಮಯ್ಯನವರು, ಮಾರಪ್ಪನವರು, ಮೈಸೂರು ಟಿ.ಚೌಡಯ್ಯನವರು, ಎನ್.ಸಿ.ನಾಗಯ್ಯರೆಡ್ಡಿಯವರು, ಎಸ್.ಸಿ.ಮಲ್ಲಯ್ಯನವರು, ಎಮ್.ಸಿ.ಲಿಂಗೇಗೌಡರು, ಬಿ.ಹುಚ್ಚೇಗೌಡರು, ಎಸ್.ಕರಿಯಪ್ಪನವರು, ಹೆಚ್.ಸಿ.ದಾಸಪ್ಪನವರು, ಹೆಚ್.ಚೆನ್ನಯ್ಯನವರು, ಕುವೆಂಪು ಅವರು, ಎಂ.ಎಸ್.ದೇವೇಗೌಡರು, ವಿ.ವೆಂಕಟಪ್ಪನವರು, ಅಂಜನೇಯರೆಡ್ಡಿಯವರು, ಕೆ.ಸಿ.ರೆಡ್ಡಿಯವರು, ಕೆ.ಹನುಮಂತಯ್ಯನವರು, ಕಡಿದಾಳ್.ಮಂಜಪ್ಪನವರು, ಹೆಚ್.ಕೆ.ವೀರಣ್ಣಗೌಡರು, ಕೆ.ವಿ. ಶಂಕರೇಗೌಡರು, ಯಶೋಧರಾದಾಸಪ್ಪನವರು, ಎಮ್.ವಿ.ಕೃಷ್ಣಪ್ಪನವರು, ಎನ್.ಪಿ.ಗೋವಿಂದ ಗೌಡರು, ಎಮ್.ಹೆಚ್.ಮರೀಗೌಡರು, ಕೆ.ಪುಟಸ್ವಾಮಿಯವರು, ಎಸ್.ಎಮ್.ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಅವರು, ಎಂ.ಆರ್.ರಾಮಯ್ಯನವರು, ಹೆಚ್.ಡಿ.ದೇವೇಗೌಡರೇ ಮೊದಲಾದ ಪ್ರಮುಖರು. ಬಹುತೇಕ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಪರಿಸರದಿಂದಲೇ ಬಂದವರು. ಇವರೆಲ್ಲ ತಾವು ಆಯ್ದುಕೊಂಡ ರಂಗಗಳನ್ನು ಶ್ರೀಮಂತಗೊಳಿಸಿದವರು, ಜನಾಂಗದ ಉದ್ಧಾರಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಅಹರ್ನಿಶಿ ಶ್ರಮಿಸಿದವರು, ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಸೇವೆಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಯುವಕಯುವತಿಯರನ್ನು ಹಚ್ಚಿದವರು, ವಿದ್ಯಾಪ್ರಸಾರವನ್ನು ಸಮರೋಪಾಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರು, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಜೀವನವನ್ನು ಉತ್ತಮಪಡಿಸಲು ದುಡಿದವರು. ಮೂಡನಂಬಿಕೆಗಳಿಂದ ಅವರನ್ನು ಮುಕ್ತರನ್ನಾಗಿಸಲು ತಪಹಟಿಸಿದ ಈ ಸಾರ್ಥಕ ಜೀವಿಗಳು ಇಂದಿಗೂ ಎಂದೆಂದಿಗೂ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಸ್ಮರಣೀಯರು.

ಈ ಖ್ಯಾತನಾಮರಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಮುಖರಾದವರಲ್ಲೊಬ್ಬರು ಹೆಚ್.ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರು. ಇವರು ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಟಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಮಾರಗೌಡನಹಳ್ಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜನಿಸಿದವರು. ಇವರ ತಂದೆ ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರು ಊರಿನ ಪ್ರಮುಖರೂ, ಜಮೀನುದಾರರೂ ಆಗಿದ್ದರು. ಈವರ ತಾಯಿ ಹನುಮನಾಳಿನ ಬೊರೇಗೌಡರ ಪುತ್ರಿ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿದೇವಮ್ಮನವರು. ಈ ದಂಪತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಎಮ್.ಹೆಚ್.ಮಂಚಿಗಯ್ಯ, ಹೆಚ್.ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡ, ಎಮ್.ಹೆಚ್.ಸಿದ್ದೇಗೌಡ ಹಾಗೂ ಎಮ್.ಹೆಚ್.ಮರೀಗೌಡರೆನ್ನುವ ನಾಲ್ಕು ಗಂಡು ಮಕ್ಕಳು, ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿ ದೇವಮ್ಮನವರ ಅಕಾಲ ಮರಣ, ಸಂಸಾರವನ್ನು ಧ್ರುತಿಗೆಡಿಸಿದ್ದಾಗ, ಅವರ ಜಾಗವನ್ನು ತುಂಬಿದವರು ಮಮತಾಮಯಿ ಪರಿಶುದ್ಧ ಜೀವಿ ಲಿಂಗಮ್ಮನವರು. ಇವರು ಚಿಕ್ಕ ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡ ಎನ್ನುವ ಮಗನಿಗೆ ಜನ್ಮ ನೀಡಿದರೂ ಎಲ್ಲ ಐದು ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಇನಿತೂ ಕುಂದು ಬರದಂತೆ, ಪ್ರೀತಿ ವಾತ್ಸಲ್ಯಗಳನ್ನೆರೆದು, ತಾರತಮ್ಯ ಮಾಡದೆ ಸಾಕಿಸಲುಹಿ,

ಅವರ ಏಳಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಕಣ್ಣಾರ ಕಂಡು ಹರ್ಷಿಸಿ ಕೃತಕೃತ್ಯರಾದವರು.

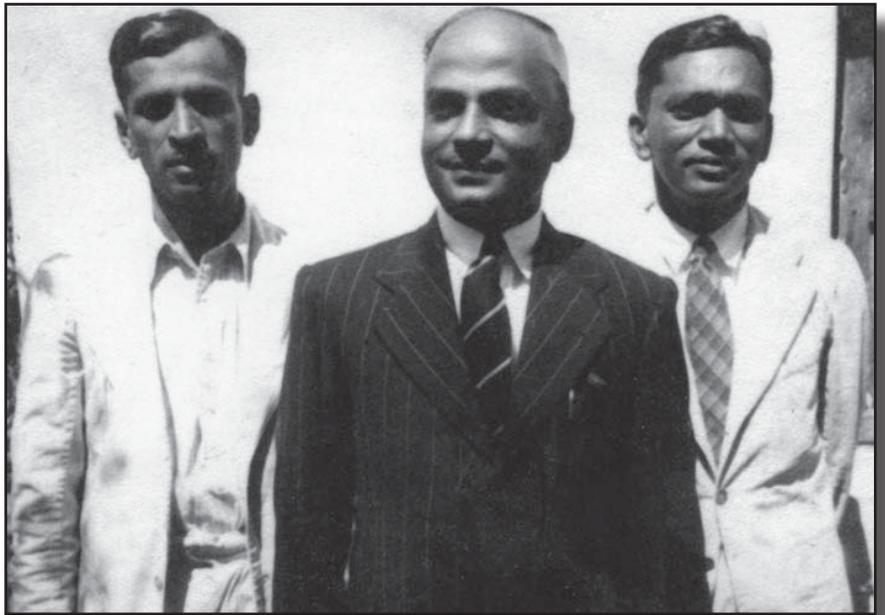
ಈ ಐವರು ಸಹೋದರರಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿದ್ಧೇಗೌಡರು ವಿದ್ಯಾಭ್ಯಾಸದ ನಂತರ ಊರಿನಲ್ಲೇ ನೆಲೆನಿಂತು ವಂಶಪಾರಂಪರ್ಯದ ಕೃಷಿ ಕಾರ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿ ಹೆಸರು ಮಾಡಿದರು. ಉಳಿದವರಲ್ಲಿ ಎಮ್.ಹೆಚ್.ಮಂಚಿಯ್ಯನವರು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಎಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ಆಗಿದ್ದರು. ನಮ್ಮ ಕಥಾ ನಯಕ ಹೆಚ್.ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರು, ನ್ಯಾಯವಾದಿಯಾಗಿ, ಪ್ರಜಾ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿ ಸಭೆಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರಾಗಿ, ಲೋಕಸೇವಾ ಆಯುಕ್ತರಾಗಿ ನಂತರ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಉಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಮುಖ್ಯ ನ್ಯಾಯಮೂರ್ತಿಗಳಾಗಿ ಸೇವೆಸಲ್ಲಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾಗಲೇ 1969 ರಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಧಿವಶರಾದರು. ಎಮ್.ಹೆಚ್.ಮರೀಗೌಡರು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕಾ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರಾಗಿದ್ದು, ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಮೂಲೆಮೂಲೆಗೂ ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ಕೊಂಡೊಯ್ದು, ಜೀವಂತರಾಗಿದ್ದಾಗಲೇ ದಂತಕತೆಯಾದ ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪಿತಾಮಹ. ಕೊನೆಯವರಾದ ಚಿಕ್ಕಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರು ಕೃಷಿ ಪದವಿ ಪಡೆದು ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಹುಣುಸೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಲೆನಿಂತು ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸಿದರೂ, ಕೃಷಿಕರಾಗಿ ಉಳಿದವರು.

ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರು ತಮ್ಮೆಲ್ಲ ಸಹೋದರರೊಡನೆ ಹನುಮನಾಳು, ಬನ್ನೂರು, ಮೈಸೂರು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾಭ್ಯಾಸ ಮಾಡಿದರು. ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಎಸ್ಸಿ, ಪದವಿ ಪಡೆದು, ಪೂನಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಆತ್ಮೀಯ ಗೆಳೆಯರೂ ಸಹಪಾಠಿಗಳೂ ಆಗಿದ್ದ ಕೆ.ಹನುಮಂತಯ್ಯ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿ.ಎಂ. ಲಿಂಗಯ್ಯನವರೊಟ್ಟಿಗೆ 1931ರಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾನೂನು ಪದವಿ ಗಳಿಸಿದರು.

ಪೂನಾದಿಂದ ಮರಳಿದ ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರು ಮೈಸೂರಿನ ಹೆಸರಾಂತ ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಧಾರೀಣರೂ ಜನಪ್ರಿಯರೂ ಖ್ಯಾತ ನ್ಯಾಯವಾದಿಗಳೂ ಆಗಿದ್ದ, ಹೆಚ್.ಸಿ.ದಾಸಪ್ಪನವರಲ್ಲಿ ವಕೀಲಿವೃತ್ತಿ ಆರಂಭಿಸಿದರು. ತಮ್ಮ ಸೌಜನ್ಯ ಭರಿತ ನಡೆನುಡಿ, ಸ್ನೇಹಪರತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾರ್ಯತತ್ಪರತೆಗಳಿಂದಾಗಿ ದಾಸಪ್ಪನವರಿಗೆ ಮೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಶಿಷ್ಯರಾದರು. ಕೋರ್ಟು ಕಛೇರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಬುದ್ಧಿಮತ್ತತೆಯನ್ನು ಒರೆಗೆ ಹಚ್ಚಿದರು. ಕಾನೂನಿನ ಒಳಹೊರಗುಗಳನ್ನು ಆಳವಾಗಿ ಅಭ್ಯಾಸಿಸಿ ಕರಗತ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡರು.

1934 ರಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ 24ನೇ ವಯಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಹ ಭಾಷಂತರಕಾರರಾಗಿದ್ದ ಧರ್ಮಬೀರು, ಸಂಪ್ರದಾಯಬದ್ಧ ಎಸ್.ವಿ.ವೆಂಕಟರಾಮಯ್ಯನವರ ಪ್ರತಿ ಗಂಗಮ್ಮನವರನ್ನು ತಮ್ಮ ಬಾಳ ಸಂಗಾತಿಯನ್ನಾಗಿ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಿ ಗೃಹಸ್ಥಾಶ್ರಮ ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸಿದರು. ಗಂಗಮ್ಮನವರು ಮೃದು ಸ್ವಭಾವದ, ಸಂಕೋಚ ಪ್ರವೃತ್ತಿಯ ಸಹನ ಶೀಲ ಮಹಿಳೆ. ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಂಗೀತಾಭಿರುಚಿಯುಳ್ಳವರಾಗಿದ್ದ ಅವರು ರೂಪವತಿಯೂ ಆಗಿದ್ದರು.

ವೈವಾಹಿಕ ಜೀವನಾರಂಭದ ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಪ್ರಜಾಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿ ಸಭೆಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಸೆನೆಟ್ ಸದಸ್ಯರಾಗಿ ಸ್ಮರಣಾರ್ಹ ಸೇವೆಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದರು. ಈ ಸ್ಥರದ ಸೇವೆ ಎರಡೇ ವರ್ಷಗಳದಾಗಿತ್ತಾದರೂ ಗೌಡರು ತಮ್ಮ ತನದ ಛಾಪನ್ನು ಒತ್ತಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ ವಾಸಿಗಳ, ಅದರಲ್ಲೂ ಕೃಷಿಕರ ಕಷ್ಟ ಕಾರ್ಪಣ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಆಳುವವರ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ಮನಮುಟ್ಟುವಂತೆ ತಂದು ಅನೇಕಾನೇಕ ಜನಪರ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಾರಣೀಭೂತರಾಗಿ ಜನ ಮನ್ನಣೆ ಗಳಿಸಿದರು.



ಈ ಮಧ್ಯೆ 1935ರಲ್ಲಿ, ಮಂಡ್ಯವನ್ನು ತಮ್ಮ ವಕೀಲಿವೃತ್ತಿಯ ಸ್ಥಾನವನ್ನಾಗಿ ಆರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಎಚ್.ಸಿ.ದಾಸಪ್ಪನವರಿಂದ ಬೀಳ್ಕೊಂಡು, ವಿ.ಎಂ.ಲಿಂಗಯ್ಯ, ಪಿ.ಮಲ್ಲಯ್ಯ, ಕೆ.ಬಿ.ಶಂಕರೇಗೌಡ, ಎಂ.ಕೆ.ಶಿವನಂಜಪ್ಪ ಹಾಗೂ ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಲಿಂಗಪ್ಪನವರೊಡನೆ, ದಾಸಪ್ಪನವರ ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶನದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ತಮ್ಮ ವೃತ್ತಿಜೀವನದ ಎರಡನೇ ಘಟ್ಟವನ್ನು ಮುಟ್ಟಿದರು. ತಮ್ಮ ನ್ಯಾಯಬದ್ಧ ನಡೆ, ವಾದ ವೈಕರಿ, ಕಕ್ಷಿದಾರರ ಹಿತಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಶ್ರಮಿಸುವ ಪರಿಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಅನತಿಕಾಲದಲ್ಲೇ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಹೆಸರು ಮಾಡಿದರು. ಕಕ್ಷಿದಾರರು ಮುಗಿಬಿದ್ದು ಇವರನ್ನರಸಿ ಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಗೌಡರ ದಕ್ಷತೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ಬರಲು ತಡವಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ.

ಇದರಿಂದಾಗಿ ಅವರು ಮಂಡ್ಯದ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರಾಸಿಕ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಆಗಿ ನೇಮಕಗೊಂಡರು.

ಮಂಡ್ಯದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಜೀವನದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರು ಹಾಸುಹೊಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಬೆರೆತರು. ಮಂಡ್ಯವನ್ನು ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯನ್ನಾಗಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಯತ್ನದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಸ್.ಸಿ.ಮಲ್ಲಯ್ಯ, ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಲಿಂಗೇಗೌಡ ಮೊದಲಾದವರೊಡನೆ ಸಕ್ರಿಯವಾಗಿ ಕೈಜೋಡಿಸಿ, ಮಹಾರಾಜರ ಮನವೊಲಿಸಿ, 1940ರಲ್ಲಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಉಗಮಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣರಾದರು.

ಮಂಡ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರ ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಸ್ಮರಣೀಯ ಕೊಡುಗೆ ಎಂದರೆ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಲಯದ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ. ಮಂಡ್ಯದ ಬಹುದಿನದ ಬೇಡಿಕೆಯೂ, ಅತ್ಯಗತ್ಯವೂ ಆಗಿದ್ದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ನಿಲಯವನ್ನು ಕೀರ್ತಿ ಶೇಷ ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಲಿಂಗೇಗೌಡ, ಎಸ್.ಸಿ.ಮಲ್ಲಯ್ಯ, ಕೆ.ಕೆಂಪೇಗೌಡ, ಹೆಚ್.ಹೊನ್ನಯ್ಯ, ಪಿ.ಮಲ್ಲಯ್ಯ, ಕೆ.ವಿ.ಶಂಕರೇಗೌಡ ಮತ್ತಿತರರೊಡನೆ ಶ್ರಮಿಸಿ ಸಫಲರಾಗಿ, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ವಿದ್ಯಾಭ್ಯಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಮಹತ್ತರ ಕೊಡುಗೆ ನೀಡಿದರು. ಕಾಲಾನಂತರ ಕೆ.ವಿ.ಶಂಕರೇಗೌಡರು ಈ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ನಿಲಯದ ಹೊಣೆ ಹೊತ್ತರು. ಸರ್ವಾಂಗೀಣ ಪ್ರಗತಿ ಸಾಧಿಸಿದ ಈ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಇಂದೂ ಪ್ರವರ್ಧಮಾನ ಸ್ಥಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದು ಅಸ್ತಿತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿದೆ.

1947, ಗೌಡರ ಜೀವನದ ಮಹತ್ತರ ಮೈಲಿಗಲ್ಲು. ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರದ ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ ಚಳುವಳಿ ಅಂತಿಮ ಘಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಕಾಲ. ಅದರ ಕಾವು ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೂ ತಟ್ಟಿ ಜನಮನವನ್ನಾವರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದ ಕಾಲ. ಮಹಾನ್ ಮೇಧಾವಿ ಚತುರ ಆಡಳಿತಗಾರ ಸರ್ ಆರ್ಕಾಟ್ ರಾಮಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಮೊದಲಿಯಾರ್ ಅವರು ರಾಜರಾಜ್ಯಕೀಯ ಸಂಧ್ಯಾ ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿವಾನರಾಗಿದ್ದ ಕಾಲ. ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಲಿಂಗೇಗೌಡ ಹಾಗೂ ಎಸ್.ಸಿ.ಮಲ್ಲಯ್ಯನವರೊಡನೆ ನಿಕಟ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಗೌಡರ ಜಾಣ್ಮೆ ಪರೋಪಕಾರ ಮನೋಭಾವ, ಪ್ರಾಮಾಣಿಕತೆ ಸಚ್ಚಾರಿತ್ರ್ಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಗ್ರಾಮವಾಸಿಗಳ ಬಗೆಗಿನ ಕಾಳಜಿಗಳು ದಿವಾನರ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದಿದ್ದು ಆಶ್ಚರ್ಯವೇನಲ್ಲ. ಪ್ರತಿಭೆಯನ್ನು ಗುರುತಿಸಿ ಸೂಕ್ತವಾಗಿ ಪುರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಸ್ವಭಾವದ ದಿವಾನರು ಗೌಡರನ್ನು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಮೊದಲ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಸರ್ವೀಸ್ ಕಮೀಷನರಾಗಿ ನೇಮಿಸಿದರು. ಈ ನೇಮಕದೊಡನೆ ಮಂಡ್ಯದ ಹನ್ನೆರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ವಾಸ್ತವ್ಯ ಕೊನೆಗೊಂಡಿತು. ಮಂಡ್ಯದ ನಷ್ಟ ರಾಜ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಲಾಭವಾಯಿತು. ಗೌಡರ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ವಿಸ್ತಾರಗೊಂಡಿತು. ಸಾವಿರಾರು ಅರ್ಹ ಯುವಕಯುವತಿಯರನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಸೇವೆಗೆ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಅವರ ಜೀವನಕ್ಕೆ ದಾರಿದೀಪವಾದರು. ಜಾತಿಮತದ ಸೋಂಕಿನಿಂದ ದೂರವೇ ಉಳಿದು ಮಾಡಿದ ತೀರ್ಯಾಕು ಮಹತ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳಿಂದಾಗಿ ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರು ಸರ್ವಜನಾಂಗದ ಅದರಲ್ಲೂ ಬಡವರ, ದೀನದಲಿತರ ಆರಾಧ್ಯ ಮೂರ್ತಿಯಾದರು. ರಾಜ್ಯಾಧ್ಯಂತ ಮನೆ ಮಾತಾದರು.

ರಾಜಪ್ರಭುತ್ವ ಕಾಲಗರ್ಭ ಸೇರಿ ಪ್ರಜಾಪ್ರಭುತ್ವ ಅಸ್ತಿತ್ವಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದು ಹೊಸ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯ ಅಂಗವಾಗಿ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಸರ್ವೀಸ್ ಕಮೀಷನ್ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆಯಾದಾಗ ಗೌಡರಿಗೆ ಹೊಸ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಾಗಲು ಆಹ್ವಾನ ನೀಡಿತು. ಆದರೆ ಗೌಡರು ಆ ಸ್ಥಾನವನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದಾಗಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಅವರನ್ನು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಂಗ ಸೇವೆಗೆ ನಿಯುಕ್ತ ಮಾಡಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ಸತ್ರ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧೀಶರಾಗಿ ನೇಮಿಸಿತು. ಕಾನೂನಿನ ಎಲ್ಲ ಪ್ರಾಕಾರಗಳ ಅರಿವಿದ್ದ ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರಿಗೆ ಈ ಹುದ್ದೆ ಬಯಸದೇ ಬಂದ ಭಾಗ್ಯವಾಯಿತು. ತಮ್ಮ ನ್ಯಾಯಪರತೆ, ಸಮದರ್ಶಿತ್ವ ವಿಳಂಬ ವಿರೋಧಿನೀತಿ, ಕಕ್ಷಿದಾರರ ಮನಸ್ಸಿಗೆ ನೋವುಂಟು ಮಾಡದೆ ಸತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಚ್ಯುತಿ ಬಾರದಂತೆ ಕಟ್ಟಿಗಳನ್ನು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಇವರ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯ ಶ್ರೇಷ್ಠ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ಬರುವುದು ತಡವಾಗಲಿಲ್ಲ.

ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರು 1955ರಲ್ಲಿ ಶ್ರೇಷ್ಠ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ನ್ಯಾಯಮೂರ್ತಿಗಳಾಗಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಿದರು. ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಹಾಗೂ ಶ್ರೇಷ್ಠ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯ ತಮ್ಮ ಮೇಲೆ ಇಟ್ಟ ನಂಬಿಕೆಗೆ ತುಸುವೂ ಕುಂದುಂಟಾಗದಂತೆ ತಮ್ಮ ಹೊಸ ಕಾರ್ಯಸ್ಥಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊಂದಿಕೊಂಡರು. ನ್ಯಾಯಾಂಗಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊಸಬರಲ್ಲದ ಅವರು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಅನುಭವವನ್ನು ಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಒರೆಗೆ ಹಚ್ಚಿದರು. ನ್ಯಾಯವಾದಿಗಳ ಪ್ರೀತಿಗೆ ಪಾತ್ರರಾದರು. ಹೊಸ ಹಾಗೂ ಅನುಕರಣೀಯ ಸಂಪ್ರದಾಯಗಳ ಕಲ್ಪನಾಕಾರರು. ಶ್ರೇಷ್ಠ ನ್ಯಾಯಮೂರ್ತಿ ನಿಟ್ಟೂರು ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸರಾಯರೊಡನೆ ಅನೇಕ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಗಳ ಪ್ರವಾಸ ಕೈಗೊಂಡು ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ, ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧೀಶರೊಡನೆಯೂ ನ್ಯಾಯವಾದಿಗಳೊಡನೆಯೂ ಪರಸ್ಪರ ವಿಚಾರ ವಿನಿಮಯ ಮಾಡಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಜ್ಞಾನವನ್ನು ವೃದ್ಧಿಸಿಕೊಂಡರು. ಅಲ್ಲಿನ ಅನುಕರಣೀಯ ವಿಧಿ ವಿಧಾನಗಳನ್ನು ನಮ್ಮ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಂಗದ ಚೌಕಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿದ್ದಷ್ಟು ಅಳವಡಿಸಿದರು.

1963, ಗೌಡರು ತಮ್ಮ ವೃತ್ತಿ ಜೀವನದ ಅಂತಿಮ ಘಟ್ಟ ತಲುಪಿದ ವರ್ಷ. ಶ್ರೇಷ್ಠ ನ್ಯಾಯಮೂರ್ತಿಗಳಾಗಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಧವಳ ಕೀರ್ತಿ ಸರ್ವ ದಿಕ್ಕುಗಳಿಗೂ ಹರಡುವಂತೆ ಅಹರ್ನಿಶಿ ಶ್ರಮಿಸಿದರು. ತಮ್ಮ ಸಹೋದರ ನ್ಯಾಯಮೂರ್ತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾದರಿಯೆನಿಸಿದರು. ಹಿರಿಯ ವಕೀಲರ ವಾದಗಳನ್ನು ಎಷ್ಟು ಗೌರವಾಧಾರಗಳಿಂದ ಗಮನಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೋ, ಅಷ್ಟೇ ನಿಭೀತಿಯಿಂದ ತಪ್ಪುಗಳನ್ನು ತಿದ್ದುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಕಿರಿಯ ವಕೀಲರನ್ನು ಹುರಿದುಂಬಿಸಿ, ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶನ ಮಾಡಿ ಅವರಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಶ್ವಾಸ ಮೂಡಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ತಮ್ಮ ವಾಕ್ಯಾತುರ್ಯದಿಂದ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಅಂಗಣವನ್ನು ಮಂತ್ರ ಮುಗ್ಧವನ್ನಾಗಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ನಗೆಯ ಬುಗ್ಗೆ ಚಿಮ್ಮಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ನವ ಜೈತನ್ಯ ಮೂಡಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಘನತೆ ಗೌರವಗಳನ್ನು ಎತ್ತಿ ಹಿಡಿಯಲು ಸದಾ ಕಾಳಜಿ ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು.

ಬಿಡುವಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಸಮಾಜದ ಒಳಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ದುಡಿದು ದಣಿದ ಈ ಮಹಾನ್ ಚೇತನ ನಿದ್ರಾವಶರಾಗಿದ್ದಾಗಲೇ, ಯಾರಿಗೂ ಮುನ್ನೂಚನೆ ನೀಡದೆ, ತೊಂದರೆ koDade 1969ರ ಆಗಸ್ಟ್ ತಿಂಗಳ ಒಂದನೇ ತಾರೀಖಿನಂದು ಚಿರನಿದ್ರೆಗೆ ಜಾರಿದರು. ಅಂದು ಶರತ್ ಚಂದ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ಶ್ರೀಲತ ವಿಧೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊರಡುವುದಿತ್ತು. ತಯಾರಿಯೆಲ್ಲ ಮುಗಿದಿತ್ತು. ಗೌಡರು ಮೊದಲ ಮಹಡಿಯ ತಮ್ಮ ಕೊಠಡಿಯಿಂದ ಇಳಿದು ಬರುವ ಸಮಯ ಮೀರಿತ್ತು. ಅಣ್ಣನನ್ನು ಎಬ್ಬಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕ ಮಗಳು ನಳಿನಿ ಮೇಲೆ ಹೋಗಿ ನೋಡಿದಾಗ, ಅವರು ಇಹಲೋಕ ಯಾತ್ರೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಗಿಸಿದ್ದಿದ್ದನ್ನು ಅವಾಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ನೋಡಿ, ಗಾಬರಿಯಿಂದ ಕೆಳಕ್ಕೆ ಓಡಿಬಂದು ಆಗಬಾರದಿದ್ದದ್ದು ಆಗಿಹೋಗಿರುವ ಸುದ್ದಿಯನ್ನು ಮುಟ್ಟಿಸಿದರು. ಮನೆಮಂದಿಯೆಲ್ಲಾ ಸ್ತಂಬಭೂತರಾದರು. ಗೌಡರ ನಿಧನದ ವಾರ್ತೆ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಮೂಲೆ ಮೂಲೆಗೂ ಕ್ಷಣಾರ್ಧದಲ್ಲೇ ಹರಡಿತು. ಜನ ನಂಬಲಾರದಾದರು. ಜನಾಂಗದ ಆಧಾರ ಸ್ತಂಭವೇ ಕಳಚಿ ಬಿತ್ತಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಗೋಳಾಡಿದರು. ಶರಣನ ಸಾವನ್ನ ಮರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡು ಎನ್ನುವ ಉಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ನೆನೆದು ಕಂಬನಿಗಿದರು. ಅಸ್ತಂಗತ ನಾಯಕನ ಅಂತ್ಯ ದರ್ಶನಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ದೂರದೂರುಗಳಿಂದ ಸಾವಿರ ಸಾವಿರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಓಡೋಡಿ ಬಂದರು. ಗೌಡರ ಮೈಮನವನ್ನಾವರಿಸಿ ಕೊಂಡುಬಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದ ಶ್ರೀರಾಮಾಯಣ ದರ್ಶನದ ವಾಚನದ ಧ್ವನಿ ಮನೆಯನ್ನಾವರಿಸಿತು. ಆದರೂ ಇದರ ಪರಿವೆಯೇ ಇಲ್ಲದ ಗೌಡರು ಮಲಗಿಯೇ ಇದ್ದರು. ಸಂಜೆ ವೇಳೆಗೆ ಫಿರಂಗಿ ಗಾಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಕಲ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಗೌರವಗಳೊಡನೆ ವಿಲ್ಸನ್ ಗಾರ್ಡನ್ ಶಾಂತಿ ತಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂತಿಮ ಯಾತ್ರೆ ಕೊನೆಗೊಂಡು ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಸಹಸ್ರ ಸಹಸ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೇರಿದ್ದ ಜನ ಸಾಗರದ ನಡುವೆ ಗೌಡರ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಶರೀರ ಭೂಗರ್ಭ ಸೇರಿತು.

ಗೌಡರ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯಾಭಿಮಾನದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಬರೆಯದಿದ್ದರೆ ಅವರ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿತ್ವದ ಸಮಗ್ರ ಚಿತ್ರಣ ತಮ್ಮ ಮುಂದಿಟ್ಟಂತಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರ ಪ್ರಥಮ ಪ್ರೇಮ ಕಾನೂನು ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರದೊಟ್ಟಿಗಾದರೂ ಅವರ ಎರಡನೇ ಒಲವೇ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ.

ಮೈಸೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ಸತ್ರ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಶರಣಿಗಿದ್ದಾಗ ಶ್ರೀ ಕುವೆಂಪು, ದೇಜಗೌ, ಪ್ರಭುಶಂಕರಂತಹವರ ನಿಕಟ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಕ್ಕೆ ಸೆಳೆಯಲ್ಪಟ್ಟರು. ಆದರೂ ಮೊಳದಲೆ ಆಧುನಿಕ ಕವಿಗಳ ಕೃತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊಂಡು ಓದುವ ಹವ್ಯಾಸವಿದ್ದ ಅವರು ಕುಮಾರವ್ಯಾಸನ ಕೃತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾರು ಹೋಗಿದ್ದರು. ಅವನ್ನು ಅಮೂಲಾರ್ಥವಾಗಿ ಅಭ್ಯಾಸ ಮಾಡಿ ಕಂಠಪಾಠ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು. ಅಷ್ಟೇ ಸಮರ್ಥವಾಗಿ ಶ್ರೀ ಕುವೆಂಪು ಅವರ ಎಲ್ಲ ಕೃತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಳವಾಗಿ ಓದಿ ಕರತಲಾಮಲಕ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದರು. ಅವರ ಕಾವ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಗಲವಾಗಿ ಪಠಿಸುವ, ವ್ಯಾಖ್ಯಾನ ಮಾಡುವ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯವನ್ನೂ ಗಳಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಲ್ಲದೆ ಅಧಿಕೃತವಾಗಿ ಆ ಕೃತಿಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾತನಾಡುವ ಕೆಲವೇ ಕೆಲವರ ಗುಂಪಿಗೆ ಸೇರಿದ್ದರು. ಈ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಅವರ ಜೀವಿತದ ಗತಿಯನ್ನೇ ಬದಲಿಸಿತೆನ್ನುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಇನಿತೂ ಉತ್ತೇಜ್ಜಿಯಿಲ್ಲ. ಕುವೆಂಪು ಕೃತಿಗಳನ್ನು, ಅದರಲ್ಲೂ ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಮಾಯಣ ದರ್ಶನವನ್ನು ದಿನ ನಿತ್ಯವೂ ಓದದಿದ್ದರೆ, ತಮ್ಮ ಭಾಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಸುವು, ಕಾಂತಿ, ಕಚಿತೆಗಳಿಲ್ಲದೆ ತಮ್ಮ ಬದುಕು ನಿಸ್ಸಾರವಾಗಿ ಬಿಡುತ್ತಿತ್ತು ಎಂದು ಗೌಡರು ಪದೇ ಪದೇ ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ನಿರರ್ಗಳವಾಗಿ, ಗಂಟೆಗಟ್ಟಲೆ ಇನಿತೂ ಬೇಸರ ತರದಂತೆ, ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಕುಂದದಂತೆ, ಸರಳ ಸುಂದರ ಕನ್ನಡದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತನಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ರಾಮಾಯಣದರ್ಶನಾದಿ ಕೃತಿಗಳಿಂದ ತುಸುವೂ ತೊಡರದೆ ಪುಂಕಾನುಪುಂಕವಾಗಿ ಉದ್ಧರಿಸುವುದು ಅವರಿಗೆ ಕರಗತವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಮೋದಲೇ ಅವರು ವಾಗ್ಮಿ, ಇನ್ನು ಅವರ ಮೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಕೃತಿ ರತ್ನಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾತನಾಡುವಾಗ ಭಾವಪರವಶರಾಗಿ ತಮ್ಮನ್ನೇ ತಾವು ಮರೆತು ಬಿಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಏಕೆ ಭಾವದಿಂದ ಎಳೆ ಎಳೆಯಾಗಿ ವಿಷಯ ಮಂಡಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಅವರ ಪರಿಯನ್ನು ವರ್ಣಿಸಲಸಾಧ್ಯ.

ಶ್ರೀ ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರ ಕೌಟುಂಬಿಕ ಜೀವನ ಸುಖ ಸಂತೋಷಗಳಿಂದ ಕೂಡಿತ್ತು. ಆದರ್ಶನೀಯವೂ ಅನುಕರಣೀಯವೂ ಆಗಿತ್ತು. ಸಹ ಧರ್ಮಿಣಿ ಗಂಗಮ್ಮನವರು ಸಹನಶೀಲೆ , ಸುಚರಿತೆ, ಮಿತಮೃದು ಭಾಷಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಬಂಧು ಬಾಂಧವರಿಗೆ ಮೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಪತಿಗೆ ಅನುರೂಪರಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಮಮತಾಮಯಿ ಮಾತೃವಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಅತಿಥಿ ಅಭ್ಯಾಗತರ ಸತ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಹಸನ್ಮುಖಿಯಾಗಿ ಸದಾ ತೆರೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದ, ಅವರೊಬ್ಬ ಆದರ್ಶ ಗೃಹಿಣಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಮನೆಯ ವ್ಯವಹಾರಗಳನ್ನು ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಚೋಕ್ಕವಾಗಿ ನಿಭಾಯಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಐದು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆ ಮನೆ ಒಂದು ನಂದನವನವೇ ಆಗಿತ್ತು.

ಇಂತಹ ಸುಂದರ ಸಂಸಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿಡಿಲಿನಂತೆ ಬಂದೆರೆಗಿದ್ದು ಗಂಗಮ್ಮನವರ ಅನಾರೋಗ್ಯ. ಗೌಡರು ಅಧೀರರಾದರು. ತಮ್ಮೆಲ್ಲ ಬಿಡುವಿನ ವೇಳೆಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರಿಯ ಪತ್ನಿಯೊಡನೆ ಕಳೆಯಲಾರಂಭಿಸಿದರು. ನುರಿತ ಹೆಸರಾಂತ ವೈದ್ಯರ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಸತತ್ವಾಗಿ ನಡೆದರೂ ಗಂಗಮ್ಮನವರ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸುಧಾರಿಸಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ದಿನೇ ದಿನೇ ಆತಂಕಕಾರಿಯಾಗುತ್ತಲೇ ಹೋಯಿತು. ದೇವರಲ್ಲಿ ಅಚಲ ನಂಬಿಕೆ ಇಟ್ಟಿದ್ದ ಗಂಗಮ್ಮನವರು ಧೃತಿಗೆಡದೆ ಪೂಜೆ ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ನೋವನ್ನು ಮರೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಎಲ್ಲರೊಡನೆ ಹಸನ್ಮುಖಿಯಾಗಿ ಮಾತುಕಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿದ್ದಾಗಲೇ 1955ರ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ 12ರಂದು ವಿಧಿವಶರಾದರು.

ಡಾ.ಶರತ್ ಚಂದ್ರ, ಸತೀಶ್ ಚಂದ್ರ, ಜಗದೀಶ್ ಚಂದ್ರ, ಮಂಜುಳ ಹಾಗೂ ನಳಿನಿ, ಈ ತಂದೆ ತಾಯಿಯರಿಗೆ ತಕ್ಕ ಮಕ್ಕಳು. ಎಲ್ಲರು ಸರಳ ಸಜ್ಜನಿಕೆಗೆ ಹೆಸರಾದವರು. ವಂಶದ ಘನತೆ ಗೌರವಗಳಿಗೆ ಇನಿತೂ ಕುಂದುಂಟಾಗದಂತೆ ನಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಾ ಸಮಾಜಕ್ಕೆ ಈ ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ತಮ್ಮ ಕೈಲಾದಷ್ಟು ಸೇವೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲೇ ನೆಲೆ ನಿಂತ ಶರತ್ ಚಂದ್ರ, ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರದ ಮಂಚೊಣಿಯ ಹೆಸರಾಂತ ಜೀವವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ ಭಾರತೀಯ

ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರಾಗಿದ್ದು, 1992ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಿವೃತ್ತರಾದರೂ ಇಂದಿಗೂ ಜವಹರಲಾಲ್ ನೆಹರು ಉನ್ನತ ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ಭಾರತೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಮತ್ತು ತಳಿ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ಜೈವಿಕತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಎಮಿರಿಟಸ್ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರಾಗಿ ಅನುಪಮ ಸೇವೆಸಲ್ಲಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಪತ್ನಿ ಶ್ರೀಲತಾ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದ ಕಡಿದಾಳ್ ಮಂಜಪ್ಪನವರ ಕುಮಾರಿ.

ಮಂಜುಳ, ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಖ್ಯಾತ ಶಸ್ತ್ರವೈದ್ಯರು, ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಒಕ್ಕಲಿಗರ ಸಂಘದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರೂ ಆದ ಡಾ.ವಿಠಲ ಅವರ ಕೈಹಿಡಿದು ಮೂರು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ತಾಯಿಯಾಗಿ, ತಮ್ಮ ತಾಯಿಯ ಎಲ್ಲ ಸದುಣಗಳನ್ನು ಮೈಗೂಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಮ್ಮದಿಯ ನೆಲೆ ಕಂಡುಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ನಳಿನಿ ಅಮೆರಿಕಾ ಸಂಯುಕ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥಾನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಲೆಸಿರುವ ಡಾ.ರಾಜೇಗೌಡರ ಪತ್ನಿ, ಮೂರು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ತಾಯಿಯಾದ ನಳಿನಿಯವರು ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ತೀರಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಸತೀಶ್ ಚಂದ್ರ ಮತ್ತು ಜಗದೀಶ್ ಚಂದ್ರ ಅಮೆರಿಕಾದಲ್ಲಿಯೇ ವಾಸಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ತಾವು ಆಯ್ದುಕೊಂಡ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಶ್ರೀಮಂತಗೊಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಮಾತು, ಹೊಂಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ತಮ್ಮ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೂ ಅತ್ಯುತ್ಕೃಷ್ಟ ವಿದ್ಯಾಭ್ಯಾಸ ದೊರೆಯುವಂತೆ ನೋಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಸಫಲರಾದರು. ತಮ್ಮ ಮಕ್ಕಳಂತೆಯೇ ಇತರ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಉತ್ತಮ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂಬುವುದು ಅವರ ಉತ್ಕಟ ಆಸೆಯಾಗಿತ್ತು.

ಹೊಂಬೆಂಗಳೂರ ಮಿತ್ರವರ್ಗ ಅಪಾರ. ಶಾಲಾ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಸಹಪಾಠಿಗಳನ್ನು ಮರೆಯದೆ ಸಲುಗೆಯ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲೇ ಪ್ರೀತ್ಯಾದಾರಗಳಿಂದ ಮಾತನಾಡಿ ಸತ್ಕರಿಸುವುದು ಅವರಿಗೆ ಅಪಾರ ಹರ್ಷ ತರುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಗೌಡರಿಗೆ ಪೂನಾದ ಲಾ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಹಪಾಠಿಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದ ಕೆಂಗಲ್ ಹನುಮಂತಯ್ಯ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿ.ಎಂ.ಲಿಂಗಯ್ಯನವರು ಅತ್ಯಂತ ನಿಕಟವರ್ತಿಗಳಾಗಿ, ಅಜೀವ ಮಿತ್ರರಾಗಿ, ಗೌಡರ ಸುಖದುಃಖಗಳನ್ನು ಹಂಚಿಕೊಂಡವರು. ಹನುಮಂತಯ್ಯನವರು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಾಗಿ, ದಕ್ಷತೆಗೆ ಮತ್ತೊಂದೇ ಹೆಸರಾಗಿ, ಸರ್ಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಶಿಸ್ತು ಹಾಗೂ ಸಮಯ ಪ್ರಗ್ನಿ ಮೂಡಿಸಿ ಜನ ಮನಗದ್ದ ಧೀಮಂತರು.

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದು ದಕ್ಷ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಎನಿಸಿ ಶ್ರೀಮಂತ ಜೀವನ ಸಾಗಿಸಿದ ಲಿಂಗಯ್ಯನವರು ಗೌಡರನ್ನು ತಮ್ಮ ಜೀವಿತದ ಕೊನೆಯವರೆಗೂ ದಿನನಿತ್ಯವೂ ಕೂಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಆರಾಮವಾಗಿ ಮಾತುಕತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿ ಕಾಲಕಳಿಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು.

ಪ್ರವಾಸ, ಹೊಂಬೆಂಗಳೂರ ಅತಿಪ್ರಿಯವಾದ ಹವ್ಯಾಸ. ಕೋರ್ಟಿನ ಪ್ರತಿ ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ರಜೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿ.ಎಂ.ಲಿಂಗಯ್ಯ ಹಾಗೂ ರಾಮಚಂದ್ರ ಶೆಟ್ಟಿರೊಡನೆ ಊಟಿಗೆ ಹೋಗಿ, ಅಲ್ಲಿನ ಹೆಸರಾಂತ ಜಮೀನುದಾರ ಗಿರೀಗೌಡರ ಬಂಗಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉಳಿದು ಅವರ ಆತಿಥ್ಯದ ಸವಿಯುಂಡು ಇಡೀ ವರ್ಷದ ದುಡಿಮೆಯ ಹೊರೆಯನ್ನು ಇಳಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಸಂತೋಷದಿಂದ ಮರಳುವುದು ಒಂದು ವಾಡಿಕೆಯೇ ಆಗಿಹೋಗಿತ್ತು.

ನ್ಯಾಯವಾದಿಗಳಾಗಿ ಮಂಡ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಾಗ, ಪಿ.ಮಲ್ಲಯ್ಯ, ಕೆ.ವಿ.ಶಂಕರೇಗೌಡ, ರುದ್ರಪ್ಪ, ಅನಂತಶಂಕರಪ್ಪ ವೊದಲಾದವರೊಡನೆ ನಿಕಟ ಒಡನಾಟವಿತ್ತು. ಗೆಳೆಯರ ಗುಂಪಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸದಾ ಮಿಂಚುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಗೌಡರು, ಮಾತಾಡುತ್ತಾ, ನಗುತ್ತಾ, ಕಾಲ ಕಳೆಯುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಸ್ಸೀಮರು. ಊಟೋಪಚಾರಗಳಿಂದ ಗೆಳೆಯರನ್ನು ಸತ್ಕರಿಸುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಗೌಡರನ್ನು ಮೀರಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದವರೇ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ರುಚಿರುಚಿಯಾದ, ಅಚ್ಚುಕಟ್ಟಾದ ತಿನಿಸುಗಳೆಂದರೆ ಅವರಿಗೆ ಬಹು ಮೆಚ್ಚು. ಊಟವಾದ ಮೇಲೆ ವೀಳಿಯ ಮೆಲ್ಲುವುದು ಅವರಿಗೆ ಬಹು ಪ್ರಿಯ. ಮಿತ್ರಕೂಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೀಗಿರುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಗೌಡರೇ ಬೇರೆ, ಕೋರ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಗೌಡರೇ ಬೇರೆ ಬೇರೆಯೇ ಆಗಿರುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯ ಅವರನ್ನು ಗಾಂಭೀರ್ಯದ ಘನಿಯನ್ನಾಗಿಸಿ ಬಿಡುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಮಾತು ಮಿತವಾಗುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಶಿಸ್ತು ತಾನೇ ತಾನಾಗಿ ಮೂಡುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಕಕ್ಷಿದಾರರಲ್ಲಿ ಭರವಸೆ ಪುಟಿದೇಳುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಹಿರಿಕಿಯ ನ್ಯಾಯವಾದಿಗಳ ತಂಡ ಅವರ ಮುಂದೆ ಹಾಜರಾಗುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ತಹ ತಹಿಸುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಗೌಡರ ನಿಷ್ಪಕ್ಷಪಾತ ನಡುವಳಿಕೆ ಸರ್ವರ ಮೆಚ್ಚುಗೆಗೆ ಪಾತ್ರವಾಗಿತ್ತು.

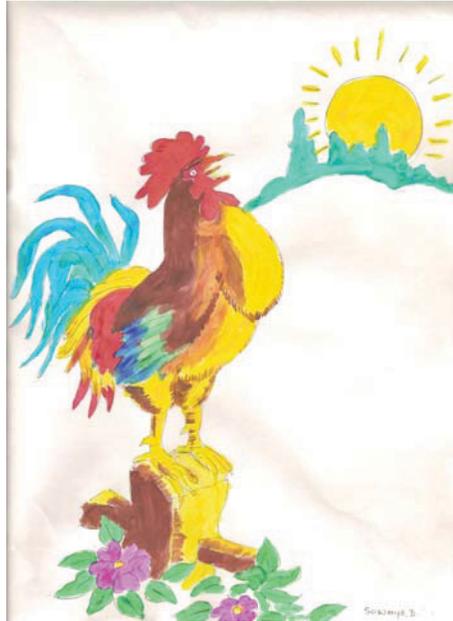
ತಮಗೆ ತುಂಬ ಪರಿಚಿತರಾಗಿದ್ದವರನ್ನಾಗಲಿ ಬಂಧುಬಳಗದವರನ್ನಾಗಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಕೋರ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಾದ ಮಾಡಲು ಅವಕಾಶವನ್ನೇ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಅವರ ಇಂತಹ ಒಂದು ನಡೆಗೆ ಈ ಲೇಖನಿನೇ ಸಾಕ್ಷಿ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಸುವಿಖ್ಯಾತ ನ್ಯಾಯವಾದಿಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದ ಎಸ್.ಡಿ.ಗಣೇಶರಾಯರಲ್ಲಿ ಎಸ್.ಎಮ್.ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಅವರು ಕಿರಿಯ ನ್ಯಾಯವಾದಿಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದಾಗ, ಒಂದು ಪ್ರಸಂಗ ನಡೆಯಿತು.. ಒಮ್ಮೆ ಗಣೇಶರಾಯರು ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಅವರನ್ನು ಕರೆದು ಒಂದು ಕಡತ ನೀಡಿ "ಹೊಂಬೆಂಗಳೂರ ಮುಂದೆ ಬರಲಿರುವ ಈ ಕಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ನೀವೇ ನಡೆಸಬೇಕು ಶ್ರದ್ಧೆಯಿಟ್ಟು ಓದಿ ಸಿದ್ಧರಾಗಿ", ಎಂದಾಗ ಒಮ್ಮೆಗೆ ಅಚ್ಚರಿ ಅಳುಕು, ಹಾಗೂ ಕುತೂಹಲಗಳು ಅವರನ್ನು ಮುತ್ತಿದವು. ಅಧೀರರಾದರೂ ಅದನ್ನು ತೋರಗೊಡದೆ ಹಗಲು ರಾತ್ರಿ ಸಿದ್ಧತೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡರು. ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ ತಯಾರಿಸಿದರು. ಗಣೇಶರಾಯರೊಡನೆಯೂ ಸಹ ನ್ಯಾಯವಾದಿಗಳೊಡನೆಯೂ ವಿಚಾರ ವಿವಿಮಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡರು. ಆ ದಿನಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಕಾದರು. ಬಂದೆ ಬಂತು ಆ ದಿನ. ಅಂಜುತ್ತಾ, ಅಳುಕುತ್ತಾ, ಗೆಳೆಯರ ಗುಂಪಿನೊಡನೆ ಕೋರ್ಟು ಹಾಲಿಗೆ ಬಂದು ಕುಳಿತರು.

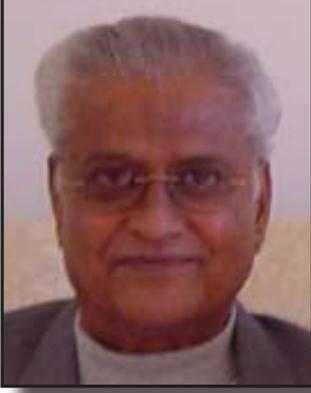
ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧೀಶರು ಗಂಭೀರವದನರಾಗಿ ಕೋರ್ಟ್ ಹಾಲನ್ನು ಪ್ರವೇಶಿಸಿ ಆಸೀನರಾದರು. ಕೃಷ್ಣ ತಮ್ಮ ಸರದಿ ಬಂದ ಕೂಡಲೇ ಎದ್ದು ನಿಂತು ಶಿರಬಾಗಿ ವಂದಿಸಿ ತಮ್ಮ ವಾದ ಮಂಡಿಸಲು ಸಿದ್ಧರಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತೆ, " ಈ ಯುವ ವಕೀಲರು ನನ್ನ ಬಂಧುಗಳು, ಈ ಕೇಸನ್ನು ನಾನು ನಡೆಸಲಾರೆ, ಬೇರೊಬ್ಬ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧೀಶರ ಕೋರ್ಟಿಗೆ ವರ್ಗಾಯಿಸಿ" ಎಂದು ಗೌಡರು ಮುಂದಿನ ಕೆಸನ್ನು ಕೈಗೆತ್ತಿಕೊಂಡಾಗ, ಕೃಷ್ಣರಿಗೂ ನಮಗೂ ಆದ ನಿರಾಶೆಗೆ ಮಿತಿಯೇ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲವಾದರೂ, ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರ ಈ ಆದರ್ಶನೀಯ ನಡತೆಯನ್ನು ಮೆಚ್ಚಿ ಹೊಗಳಿದ್ದು ಮಾತ್ರ ನಿಜ.

ಈ ಸದ್ಗುಣಗಳೊಟ್ಟಿಗೆ, ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರ ವೇಷ ಭೋಷಣಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಬರೆಯದಿದ್ದರೆ ಅಪಚಾರವಾದೀತು. ಅವರು ಗರಿಗರಿಯಾದ ಸೂಟು, ಬೂಟು, ಟೈ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೈಸೂರು ಕಂಬಿ ಪೇಟಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸದಾ ಮಿಂಚುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಸಪೂರಾದ ಸುಂದರ ಮೈಮಾಟದ, ಆಕರ್ಷಕ ಮುಖದ, ಕಂಡರೂ ಕಾಣದಂತಹ ನಸುನಗುವಿನ, ಗಂಭೀರ ನಿಲುವಿನ ಗೌಡರನ್ನು ನೋಡಿದರೆ ನೋಡುತ್ತಲೇ ಇರಬೇಕೆನಿಸುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ ಇನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ಮುಖ? ಇನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ಮೆಲು ದನಿ? ಇನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ನಸು ನಗು? ಕಾಲ ಗರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಲೀನವಾದ ಅವರ ದೇಹ ಸಿರಿಯೊಡನೆ ಅವೂ ಇಲ್ಲವಾದುವಲ್ಲ?

ನ್ಯಾಯಮೂರ್ತಿ ಹೊಂಬೇಗೌಡರು ಕಾಲವಶರಾಗಿ ಇಂದಿಗೆ ಮೂವತ್ತೆಂಟು ವರ್ಷಗಳೇ ಸಂದಿವೆ. ಆದರೆ ಅವರ ಅಪ್ರತಿಮ ನಡೆ, ಸದ್ವರ್ತನೆ, ಮೆಲುಮಾತು, ನ್ಯಾಯ ತತ್ವರತೆ, ಬಡವ ಬಲ್ಲಿದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮರುಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಪರಿ, ಸರ್ವರಿಗೂ ಸರ್ವ ಕಾಲಕ್ಕೂ ಅನುಕರಣೀಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಪ್ರಾಯಮಾನ ಅದ್ದರಿಂದಲೇ ಅವರು ಒಬ್ಬ ಆದರ್ಶನೀಯ ಮಹನೀಯರು.

ಪ್ರೊ. ಟಿ. ಶಿವಣ್ಣ ವಿಶ್ರಾಂತ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಸಿಂಡಿಕೇಟ್ ಸೆನೆಟ್, ಮತ್ತು ಅಕಾಡೆಮಿಕ್ ಕೌನ್ಸಿಲಿನ ಮಾಜಿ ಸದಸ್ಯರು.





## My Grandfather, Sri. B. Marideva Gowda

By A. C. Chandrasekhar

Sri. Bache Gowda was born to an uneducated agricultural family who had plenty of paddy lands in Baburayana Koppal, Srirangapatna Talluk, Mandya District in present-day Karnataka State, India. Bache Gowda married Ningamma of the same village and had six children, five sons and one daughter; Javare Gowda, Dodda Chamiah, B. Marideva Gowda born in 1880, daughter Chamma, then sons Borappa and B. Chamiah.

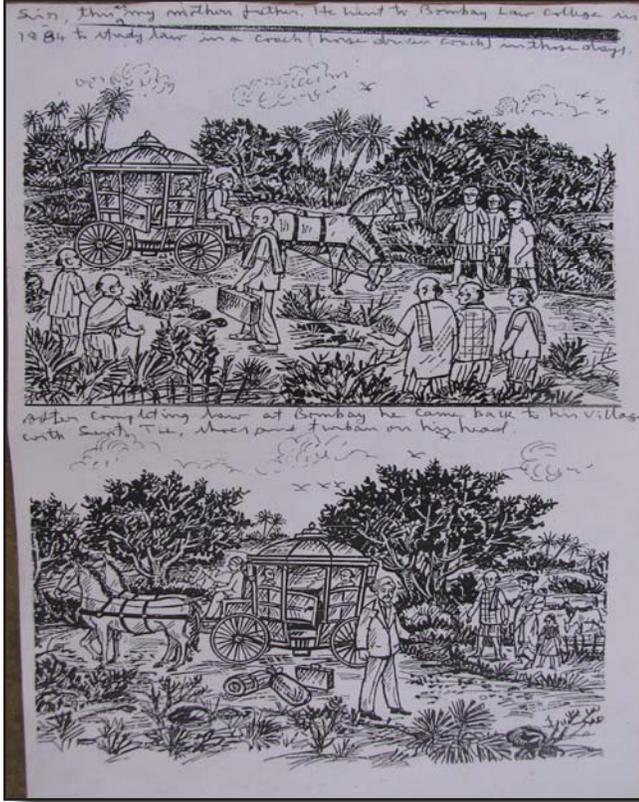
In those days, there were no schools in the villages. The learned Brahmin people from Mysore city used to go over to villages to teach the village boys. These types of schools were called "Cooli Matha," matha meaning school. There were no slates or Balapa (pencil) to write with. The teachers used to take the children to river beds where plenty of sand was stocked. On the wet sand, they used to write the letters of the Kannada alphabet, and ultimately learned to read and write. These learned Brahmins did not receive any salary by the Government for teaching the boys, but the parents of the village used to give these Brahmins, crops that they grew in their land like paddy, horse gram, green gram, black gram, ground nuts, milk and all kinds of vegetables as a fee for their teaching. Even the barbers and the washer men were also getting these things once a year instead of salary. Bache Gowda started sending his son Marideva Gowda only because he was deemed as intelligent. The other children were looking after the lands, oxen, cows, and buffalo.

The Brahmin teachers also recognized the intelligence of Marideva Gowda and asked his father Bache Gowda to have his son come to Mysore so that they can keep him in their house and send him to a school in Mysore. Bache Gowda reluctantly agreed. Marideva Gowda was admitted to Mysore School. At that time, there were no trains or buses from Bangalore to Mysore, Bache Gowda used to take all of the crops during the harvest in January in his own bullock driven cart to Mysore and would give it to the Brahmin family. The Brahmin families were eating two times a day, lunch in the morning at 9 AM and again in the evening at 7pm and giving Marideva Gowda two meals a day as well. There was no breakfast, coffee, or tea. Marideva Gowda used to help in the house by sweeping and cleaning the house, and washing their clothes, similar to a Gurukula. They used to take cold baths everyday and then pray to God.

After he completed his fourth year public examination of middle school, which was called L.S. (lower secondary), Marideva Gowda was admitted to Mysore Maharaja High School which was started in 1833 by His Highness, The Maharaja of Mysore Mummudi Krishna Raja Odeyar III who ruled from 1799 to 1868. He started this school with only ten students.

After Marideva Gowda passed his S.S.L.C. (secondary school leaving certificate), he received his E.P.S. certificate (eligible for public service) when he was about eighteen years old and Bache Gowda wanted to take his son back to the village

to look after his lands, because he was in need of people to help him with his farm. The Brahmin family knew of his high intelligence, and the way he argued impressed them so much that they thought he should study law.



The nearest law college was the Government law college in Mumbai. Prior to 1855, there were no law schools in India. Due to the spread of British culture, in 1855, Mumbai's Supreme Court Justice Sir Erickson Perry was teaching law during his leisure time in the evening. The Brahmin family knew of this law school in Mumbai because so many other Brahmin families had sent their children to study Law in Mumbai. They forced Bache Gowda to send his son to Mumbai for studies in order to become a Pleader.

In those days, there were two types of lawyers. After passing S.S.L.C., those who passed were entitled to study law in order to become a pleader. Pleaders were entitled to work only in Taluk Courts and District Courts. However, a

person who studied Law after his degree became a lawyer who was allowed to practice from Taluk Courts to the High Courts.

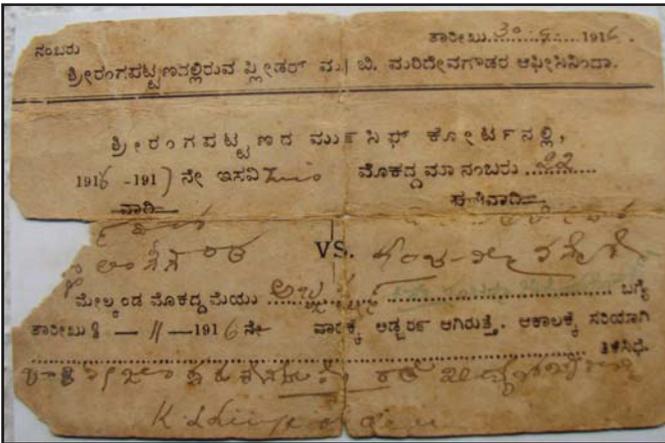
Bache Gowda asked for some time to think about this decision. When he went back to the village, his wife, children, and even the villagers did not agree to send Marideva Gowda to Mumbai. When he went to tell this to the Brahmin family, Marideva Gowda and his teachers were adamant about him going to Mumbai. Bache Gowda realized there was no alternative to sending his son to Mumbai. Eighteen-year-old Marideva Gowda came back to his village and made all the arrangements for the departure including money for his stay in 1898.

In those days, reaching Mumbai was not an easy task. The British used to travel out of Mysore by horse-driven coaches. Coaches used to travel during the day time and rest during the night in a safe village which they used to call a "junction." In the next morning, the coach which reached the junction used to come back to Mysore with passengers. Likewise, Marideva Gowda went on changing coaches and ultimately reached Mumbai. Lastly, when Marideva Gowda reached Mumbai, the coach driver took him to a person who used to arrange rooms for new students.

After completing his Law degree in two years, he came back to his village dressed in suit and tie, with a turban and shoes, and no one in his village, including his parents, recognized the man who had left with a simple shirt, with a towel thrown over his shoulder, carrying a trunk. He started practicing at Srirangapatna Munsif and Magistrate Court.

One day during Dasara Holidays, he went to Mysore Maharaja's Darbar. There he saw a beautiful girl who was with her family. Somehow, he was able to get the name and address of Sri. H. Boranna of Hassan who had been to Madras to do his B.A. and then he was working as an Amildar (Government official who looks after the Taluk) in Hassan. When he retired in 1919, he became the first president of

Hassan Municipality and then was elected by the people of Hassan Taluk to Mysore Representative Assembly (MRA), which was presided by the Maharaja of Mysore at Jaganmohan Palace. His son was H.B. Gundappa Gowda, a Congressman, who was also elected to the Mysore Representative Assembly (MRA) and became a Health Minister in 1941 due to the pressure from Congress leaders, particularly Vallabhai Patel, to the Mysore Maharaja, forcing him to induct the elected representatives, since the Maharaja would not include the elected officials, but would take other people who were not elected. He was awarded the Rajamanthra Praveena title by the Mysore Maharaja for his good work as a minister. In 1951, he became the first Public Service Commission Chairman of Mysore State.



As Marideva Gowda’s parents were already searching for a suitable bride, he suggested that if at all he marries he will marry only Sri. H. Boranna’s daughter. As his marriageable age was increasing, his parents were forced to agree. Marideva Gowda traveled in a bullock cart to Hassan, which was about sixty miles and went to H. Boranna’s house, and introduced himself as a pleader from Srirangapatna. H. Boranna, an Amildar, did not believe him and refused to marry his daughter to him.

Marideva Gowda came back to his village disappointed. It was not easy for him to take a

“No” from anybody. He decided to start practicing in Hassan and took his mother along with him to Hassan for four years. Usually in those days, the Brahmin lawyers would not let the local non-Brahmin clients into their houses. However, Marideva Gowda allowed people of all castes to come inside his house, which greatly pleased the people of Hassan District. In Sanskrit, they say “Athithidevo Bhava,” but he was thinking that his clients are “Kakshidhara Devo Bhava.” He ultimately won the heart of H. Boranna and married his eldest daughter Jayalakshamma and shifted to Srirangapatna.

In Srirangapatna, he earned a good name and became very successful. He had about 40 suits, ties and shirts and used to play tennis with British officers. He had two sons and one daughter. When his children were born, he had the “Namakarna” ceremony performed for each of his children.

However, other Brahmin lawyers were jealous of him because he was getting all the clients in the area. So, they went to a thantrik (witch doctor), and asked him to kill Marideva Gowda by making “Mata Mantra.” Marideva Gowda started becoming weaker and weaker every day without any ailment. So, his relatives advised him to go to Arathiukkada in Pandavapura Taluk where a temple of Ahalliadevi and Maramma was located. At this temple, the priest would be able to perform the necessary rites to correct this spell.

But, he did not believe in such curses because he was an educated man. His father-in-law came from Hassan and brought the Mysore Maharaja’s personal physician, Dr. Nanjappa to find out what was wrong with him. However, the doctor could not find anything wrong with him. Even on his deathbed, Dr. Nanjappa was there but could not save him. He died at the young age of thirty seven in 1917, leaving behind a wife and three young children. His father-in-law sold Marideva Gowda’s house in Srirangapatna, but kept his ancestral house as well as lands in Baburayana Koppal. He took his daughter and

three grandchildren back home with him to Hassan, and gave them an education.

His first son, B.M. Shamanna did his B.A. degree in Mysore and became a sub-inspector of police, and retired as superintendent of police. B. M. Shamanna's son Krupakala who was a wild life photographer and was staying in the forest along with Senani were kidnapped by the forest brigand Veerappan for fourteen days. His two grandchildren are in U.S.A. His youngest son, B.M. Somashekar B.A., L.L.B., became a lawyer in Srirangapatna like his father. Marideva Gowda

also had a daughter named Shamamma, who studied up to fourth year of middle school and then married Cheluve Gowda of Srinivasa Agrahara, a neighboring village of Baburayana Koppal. Marideva Gowda's daughter, Shamamma has five grand children who are living in USA including the author's three children, Vasanthi Gowda, Jayanthi Mittur, and Chandra Prasad, who all reside in the Chicago land area.

-----  
A.C. Chandrasekhar currently resides in Jayanagar, Bangalore with his wife Leelavathi. He is a retired branch manager of Life Insurance Corporation of India (L.I.C.).  
-----

# Shri. K.S. Malle Gowda

**Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) 1970 – 1982**

**Improving the Farmer's Life in the Villages**

Chickmagalore is a beautiful District surrounded by natural tourist spots like Seethalayyana Giri, Shri.Mulliahana Giri, Shri Dattatraya Peeta and Kudremukh region. Kabbinahali is a tiny village among the 6.8 lakh villages of India and is part of Chickmagalore District. Shri. Malle Gowda, son of Shri Sidde Gowda and Siddamma was born in 1915 at Kabbinahalli. Sidde Gowda was a popular farmer and was helpful to the people of surrounding villages.

In the nineteen twenties there was no Government or Private Schools in Kabbinahalli and surrounding villages. Shri Malle Gowda started his education on his own by WRITING "OM" ON SAND. Later he came to Bangalore and completed his education with a Degree in B.Sc, from Central College, Bangalore.

In 1939, the Mysore Government selected Mr.Malle Gowda to the Gazetted Post of Revenue Probationers from Vokkaliga Community along with six other probationers from other communities. Loka Sevanirata Shri. M.S. Dyave Gowda and Smt.Sakamma of Coorg introduced Malle Gowda to Sir.Mirza Ismail and recommended him for the post of probationers. When Malle Gowda appeared for the interview by the selection committee headed by the Dewan, the Dewan said, "Yes, Mr. Malle Gowda, I have seen you. You can go". Mr. Malle Gowda describes this interview by the Selection Committee as follows:

*"I came to the office of Dewan, I saw the Dewan and I won"*

He started his career as a gazetted officer in the Mysore Government and served the people as head of some Taluks, Sub-Divisions and head of District Administrations including Coorg District in the Karnataka State for over 28 years.



In the year 1942 the Government posted him to the newly formed Periapatna Taluk as Tahsildar. A Tahasildar could be benevolent king of a Taluk in that Golden Age. Shri. Malle Gowda shone as the most popular Tahasildar of Periyapatna Taluk rendering yeomen service to the people believing that 'SERVICE TO PEOPLE IS SERVICE TO GOD'.

Shri.Malle Gowda was appointed as Director of Bangalore Dairy – a UNICEF supported Dairy Project. He directed all activities of this project from conception to fully operational Milk Dairy in Karnataka. This successful project took six years and during this time he traveled on a study tour in England, Denmark, Sweden, and West Germany.

Mr.Malle Gowda voluntarily retired from Government Service in 1969 to serve the Indian people as a Member of Parliament. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha as an Independent candidate in 1970 and re-elected in 1976. He founded the Rural India People's Party in 1976.

An interesting situation was created during his first term in Rajya Sabha. The bill for 'Abolition of the Privy Purses and the privilege of Princes' was defeated in the Rajya Sabha in 1970 when his vote tilted the balance against Mrs. Indira Gandhi's Congress Government. It was an irony of fate that in the Rajya Sabha elections of 1976 Mrs. Gandhi directed her party to give Congress Party's surplus vote to Mr. Malle Gowda and this helped him get re-elected to Rajya Sabha for the second term. Mrs. Gandhi informed her party that she is taking this action as Mr. Gowda is an honest person and I trust him.

As an active parliamentarian, Mr. Gowda presented and gave lucid exposition of the rural problems, the invidious economic policies and ever-widening socio-economic gap between the urban and the rural societies in the country.

Mr. Malle Gowda has traveled extensively in USA, Europe, Japan, Taiwan and Japan to understand the infrastructures created in Agricultural sector and he has written his findings and experiences in his books 'For Power or For People', 'Whither Rural India?' 'Rural Poverty for Power' and 'Bharata Etta Sagide?' He received Karnataka State Sahitya Academy Award in 1974 for his Kannada book. All his writings were admired by Prime Ministers, Presidents Sanjeeva Reddy, Narayan, Abdul Kalam and other key statesmen in and around the world including Secretary of Agriculture in USA and minister of Agriculture in Japan. All these statesmen have appreciated Mr. Gowda's energy and efforts in bringing awareness of Rural India and how we can improve the life style of Farmers.

\*\*\*\*\*

## VOKKALIGA

**Broken is not the chain of ancient roots  
Alive and well budding flowers and shoots  
Blooming beyond the borders of village  
Vokkaliga is forever a sanctified sage**

**Living with honor of the treasured heritage  
Showing the veneration to the cherished lineage  
Streaming through life of valuable vintage  
Vokkaliga is forever a sanctified sage**

**Standing on foundation of esteemed tradition  
Spreading the virtues of the farmer's institution  
Standing tall like a pictogram with blessed image  
Vokkaliga is forever a sanctified sage**

## B.Kempanna

By Nalini Ramanna

Many of you reading this article would not even have heard the name of lawyer B. Kempanna (1868-1937), a highly respected and reputed specialist in criminal law. He was a popular public figure in Bangalore of the early 20th century, especially among the Vokkaliga community. I myself did not have the good fortune of knowing this gentleman as he passed away a year before I was born. If any of you have been to the Vokkaliga Sangha here in Bangalore, he would still be just one more portrait of the old timers adorning the walls of the sangha's auditorium or office. Yet the old records of the sangha's archives (if they still exist) will speak otherwise and vouch for the good work done by him in contributing to the development of the sangha as well as the Vokkaligara Patrike. His diary, a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the sangha found in his library, and also my mother (his daughter) lovingly recalling many incidents of his life, work, and his friends, have been the main source of information and has left a lasting imprint on us.

Mr B. Kempanna was one of the founder members of the Vokkaligara Sangha and played a vital and dedicated role in the administrative committee and in getting the Sangha's building constructed. In 1926 the committee members elected him the president of the Sangha and he served in this capacity for the next five years. During his tenure, he ensured that the Sangha was firmly established, spreading its fame across Mysore State. It was also during this time that the Sangha's auditorium was constructed. The Vokkaligara Patrike also grew in stature and was acknowledged as being on par with the best local

dailies of those days, featuring very good articles which were worth preserving. His son B.K.Shamanna also contributed in a big measure in enhancing the patrike's popularity.

I quote all this information from the Vokkaligara Patrike, dated 10 February 1937, which carried a one and a half page tribute when he passed away on 5 February 1937. The Sangha and their printing press stayed closed for the day as a mark of respect to the departed soul.



Born to an average vokkaliga family, B. Kempanna's ancestors hailed from Doddaballapur's Rajanakunte. It was his father's foresight that gave him an English education which was just then gaining a foothold in the State. Having lost his father at a very young age, his mother turned out to be his "friend, philosopher and guide," encouraging him in his

higher studies. On completing his matriculation, he started working as an assistant curator in the Bangalore Museum, simultaneously studying law and passing Civil 1 and 2 exams in First Class. Not particularly interested in government service, he continued studies in criminal law, once again passing in First Class in 1894. Initially working with one Mr. Hoover, a well known lawyer of those days, he soon set up practice on his own and gained fame in criminal law. Amongst his well known protégé was Kengal Hanumanthiah, who went on to become Mysore State's first vokkaliga chief minister. Mr Ganesh Rao was another of his disciples who became a famous legal luminary.

With his simplicity and ever willingness to help people in need regardless of their caste and creed, always soft spoken but candid, rigidly firm in his beliefs of honesty and integrity, B. Kempanna earned the affection and respect of all who came in contact with him. He was equally interested in public welfare activities. He was a long time trustee of Mariappa Students Hostel; served as a director of Mysore State Land Mortgage bank from its inception; was a member of the City Municipal Council and served on its various Boards for many years. With his far-

sightedness, care for public welfare, uprightness and impartiality he earned tremendous respect wherever he served.

A family man to the core, his home was always an open house. The beautiful house he lovingly constructed c.1912 still stands intact in Cubbonpet, very close to the District Courts and St. Martha's Hospital. Given his progressive outlook, he ensured that all his children received a fine education; his daughters were educated in the then famous London Mission High School, showing his concern for women's education. A white horse-drawn coach for evening outings for the children to the famous South Parade, or to Lalbagh to meet up with his dear friends like K.H. Ramiah, Byanna and other stalwarts of the community were among his simple pastimes.

It is said that a man's stature is seen when he departs his earthly abode. The Vokkaligara Patrike of 10 February 1937 reports the grief-stricken gathering of his numerous admirers, as also of eminent personalities of the city at his funeral. This and his works speak volumes for the gentleman. I wish there were many more such men in today's public life.

\*\*\*\*\*

## N.P. Govinda Gowda

### Illustrious son of the Chickmagalore District

By Gerbail T. Krishnamurthy

Although it is common that many people get to play different roles in shaping the development of a region by making small contributions individually, once in while a single person arrives on the scene and makes enormous contributions



that leave an impact that may last for many decades. Mr. Nelagadde Puttaiah Govinda Gowda (N.P. Govinda Gowda) is one such example.

His contributions had varied impact in shaping the current district of Chickmagalore, one of the richest regions in the present day state of Karnataka. His vision in education, agriculture, economy, rural development, etc, made him create institutions in many villages and towns in the district enabling rural people to have an educational opportunity to compete with the people from more affluent urban areas like Bangalore and Mysore.

The author of this article is one of many primary beneficiaries of Mr. N.P. Govinda Gowda's vision. During his very productive middle age, Karnataka state had only 9 districts and was called The Mysore State and was ruled by a benevolent ruler, Maharaja of Mysore, Sri Krishnaraja Wodiar. When India became independent in 1947, Govinda Gowda continued to serve people in various capacities until his death in 1995. The most important and everlasting contributions took place while he was president of the Chickmagalore District Board from 1944 to 1950.

**Beginning:** Mr. N. P. Govinda Gowda (Mr. Gowda) came from a village of about 50 houses, Nelagadde, about 10-12 miles from the taluk head quarter, Narasimharajapura (N.R.Pura). He was born on July 15, 1912 to a relatively affluent family. His father, Puttaiah Gowda, was a patel of two gramas which was unique, as most patels at that time would control one grama.

Nelagadde village did not have a regular primary school. As a matter of fact, the entire Narasimharajapura taluk had only two primary schools, one in Narahimharajapura town and another in Balehonnur, about 15 miles from N.R.Pura. A Christian family started teaching

primary school lessons in Nelagadde, and Mr. Gowda became one of the students at age of 7 years. There were about 30-40 students attending primary school, some as old as 20 yrs. Because

**Education:** Mr. Gowda moved to Narasimharajapura to attend middle school and stayed in a house with three other students, who included Mr. D. S. Venkate Gowda, Mr. D. S. Chinne Gowda and Ms. D. S. Yellamma, who were children of one of rich man in N.R.Pura taluk at the time, Mr. Devalekoppa Subbe Gowda. Mr. Subbe Gowda also happened to be a patel of two gramas. Ms. Yellamma would later become Mr. Gowda's spouse. When Mr. Gowda completed middle school in 1928, he was the first Vokkaliga to complete lower secondary school education successfully in N.R.Pura taluk, and people started addressing him as Mr. Govinda Gowda, instead of calling him by his hither to familiar name Govinda Swamy.

Mr. Gowda moved to Shimoga in 1928 for high school, and completed intermediate college in 1931. In addition to attending regular classes, Gowda participated in extracurricular activities including athletics and scout. He played table tennis and was captain of the college cricket team. When Maharaja of Mysore, Krishnaraja Wadior, visited Shimoga, the college rifle team gave guard of honor under Gowda's commandership. He was an accomplished marksman. When Mahatma Gandhi visited Shimoga in 1928, Gowda saw and heard him talk about India's independence and became a Gandhian follower and started wearing Khadi for rest of his life. While he was a student at Shimoga, Gowda married on May 24, 1932, Ms. Yellamma, daughter of Devalekoppa Subbe Gowda. Although marrying mother's brother's daughter was not rare at that time, in Gowda's case, future wife was his housemate and as well as middle school sweetheart in Narasimharajapura.

After completing intermediate college with distinction, Gowda went to study for B.A degree at Maharaja's college, Mysore. He received merit scholarship throughout his college years. He

Gowda was very bright and fast in learning, teachers started teaching him English also in the primary school.

completed his college education in 1936, and was the first person from the vokkaliga community in Chickmagalore district to obtain B.A. degree. Although he intended pursue law, there was no law college in the state at the time, and he entered public life instead.

**Public service:** As he was the first Vokkaliga in Chickmagalore district to obtain a B.A degree, he could have gotten a coveted high paying government job. When divan of Mysore, Sir Mirza Ismael, visited Narasimharajapura in 1937 to inaugurate the vokkaliga community hostel built by Gowda's father-in-law, Mr. Gowda was in charge of various activities including welcoming VIP's and reporting on how the hostel idea was conceived and executed. The devan was impressed so much with Gowda's activities and leadership qualities, he directed the district commissioner to request Mr. Gowda to apply for a government job starting as an amildar (now called tahasildar). Instead of enjoying riding on the horseback as a high powered government officer as amildar, Gowda decided to decline the job offer and come back to settle in his native village of Nelagadde and serve people. He assumed the chairmanship of Nelagadde village panchayat at the age of 25. Chairmanship started his long lasting political career. In 1938 he got elected unopposed as member of the Mysore people representative council at the age of 26 years.

**District:** Although the membership in the state people representative council was considered as an honorable position, it did not enable the members to be creative and take bold and imaginative steps to improve the society. Mr. Gowda wanted to be close to his people and introduce creative projects that would affect their life. An opportunity was provided when he became a member of the Chickmagalore District Board (Zilla parishat) in 1944 when he was 32 years old. Although he declined to become the president of the district board immediately, that

position was thrust on to him within next 4 months, and he stayed as president for following 10 years. During these years from 1944 to 1950 as president of the district board, he shaped the landscape of Chickmagalore district.

**Statesman:** Mysore people's representative council is a unique legislative body presided over by the divan. It had 320 members representing all section of the state population including, men, women, Hindus, Muslims, minorities and untouchables. Twice a year, all members of the legislative body would meet in the Jaganmohan palace either to celebrate dasara or maharaja's birthday. During the dasara, the members would wear darbar dress including the famous Mysore turban and hood made of Mysore silk. Each member would come, bow before the maharaja with one rupee silver coin in each palm. The maharaja would touch the coins, but not take it, and bless the subjects. Mr. Gowda attended two such darbar ceremonies.

**Revolution in education:** Many taluks and hoblies in Chickmagalore district did not have high schools in 1944. A large number of small towns and villages did not have even middle and primary schools. After becoming the first B.A. graduate in the Vokkaliga community in the district, he recognized the enormity of the educational deficiencies in the district, especially in rural areas. Like Gandhi, who traveled the entire country to understand Indian people in 1920's, Gowda traveled the entire district on foot, bicycle, or horseback to know the problems in the region he was responsible for solving. He recognized immediately that there was need for good roads, bridges, irrigation tanks, and drinking water. Foremost, he recognized the need for good education. Even big towns like Narasimharajapura, Shringeri, Shivane, Panchanahalli, Ajjumpura, Sakarayanapatna (Sacrepatna) did not have High Schools. Gowda started High Schools in all of these towns during his 10 year tenure as president. I was a high school student when Gowda invited chief minister Kengal Hanumanthia in 1954 to open Narasimharajapura new high school building. Luncheon was arranged at the house of Gowda's

brother-in-law, Mr. D.S.Venkate Gowda. In Mysore medical college, I met many students from Sringeri, Ajjumpura, Mudigere, Shivane, Panchanahalli, and Sakarayanapatna who had attended high schools in their town started by Mr. Gowda, prior to their admission into Mysore medical college.

**Courage:** Frequently, Gowda had to overcome local opposition to many of his ideas. He used to say that often some people with access to good education for their children in other towns opposed the idea of starting a high school in their own town. Narasimharajapura high school was first started in the municipal office building and continued till the district board found funds to build the new building in 1954. I was a student in the high school he built in Narasimharajapura and was secretary of the student union for all three years from 1953 to 1956. His daughters Vishalakshi and Lalitha were junior to me in the high school. I had the pleasure of inviting Mr. Gowda on many occasions to preside over high school functions. He was humble, unassuming, and easy to approach.

**Senior Citizen:** He was member of the Mysore state legislative council from 1952 to 1958. As a senior citizen, he rendered his invaluable service not being member of any political party. He did not slow down in his senior years. After crossing 60, he was responsible for starting a Rotary club in Narasimharajapura in 1980, and was not only its founding president, but also served as president for a total of six years. By participating in a matching grants program, Narasimharajapura Rotary Club started an electronic library and computer center in the high school in collaboration with Beaverton Rotary club of USA by securing total grants of 7 lakhs rupees. The center was inaugurated in December 2004 by Mr. Srikantappa, a member of parliament, and Mr. D. N. Jeevaraj, MLA of Sringeri constituency. About 70-80 students take computer courses every month.

Mr. Gowda joined congress party in 1954 by the urging of then chief minister Mr. Kengal

Hanumanthia. An unwritten understanding was reached where upon Mr. Kadidal Manjappa would contest from Sringeri constituency in 1957 and make room for Mr. Gowda in 1962 general election as a congress party candidate from Sringeri. So Mr. Gowda agreed not to contest in 1957 election, allowing Mr. Kadidal Manjappa to get elected as a congress candidate unopposed to the legislative assembly. This gentleman understanding, however, was not honored and both contested against each other from Sringeri constituency in 1962 general election. Gowda lost the election and became disillusioned with the honesty in politics and resigned from congress party and retired from party politics in 1962. But he continued to serve the public in many other ways. In addition to several positions mentioned above, Gowda was president of Chickmagalore D. C. C. bank for 15 years, Chickmagalore district scout commissioner for 8 years and founding president of L. N. C. N for 15 years. After a public service of more than 60 years, he passed away at age 83 years on October 17, 1995.

**Societal benefits at large.** Chickmagalore is now a rich district with good communication between towns and villages mainly through the efforts of Mr. Gowda who built many roads and bridges during his regime. He was honest, sincere, non-corrupt, and people felt comfortable to approach him for any help they needed without worrying about paying him any thing in return. The district, famous for coffee, areca,

timber, and natural beauty, attracted Mrs. Indira Gandhi to come and contest for parliament seat from the Chickmagalore constituency and win against former chief minister of Karnataka, Mr. Virendra Patil, and become prime minister of India for the second time. Mr. Gowda's original house in Nelagadde and my original house in Gerbail both got submerged under back waters of Bhadra dam at Lakkavalli. After his village submersion, Mr. Gowda moved to a house in N. R. Pura close to the high school he started. My parents moved to Dwaramakki, five miles from N.R.Pura. My last visit with Gowda was on April 2, 1994 when I introduced my wife and children to him and his family. At that time I suggested to him to write his autobiography. He was very humble and stated that his is a simple life, not much to boast about, and asked his youngest daughter Mrs. Nagaveni Nanjunde Gowda, M.A, to give me a copy of the book entitled "Jeevantha Jyothi" and he autographed it. The book, Mr. Gowda's biography, was edited by his son-in-law Mr. H.D. Nanjunde Gowda. Book has numerous photos and articles by many luminaries including H.L. Nage Gowda, S. M. Krishna, B.D. Jetti, H.D.Deve Gowda, G.V.K Rao, and many other notable personalities. The articles by these people are testimony to the fact that Mr. Gowda lived a rich and benevolent life. People like me and many others around the world, who graduated from high schools Mr. Gowda started, and are well known experts in their chosen field, remain as additional testimony to the rich and illustrious life led by Mr. N.P. Govinda Gowda.

-----  
 Gerbail T. Krishnamurthy, MD, FACP, FACNP  
 Nuclear Medicine Department  
 Tuality Community Hospital, Hillsboro, OR  
 Formerly, chief of Nuclear Medicine Service, VA Hospital  
 Professor of Medicine, Radiology, and Pathology  
 Oregon Health and Sciences University  
 Portland, Oregon, USA

## ಆದಿ ಕರ್ಣಾಟಕ ಮೊದಲ ವಿದ್ಯಾಗುರು

ಆರ್. ರಂಗೇಗೌಡರು

- (ಸಂಗ್ರಹ) ವೇಮಗಲ್ ಸೋಮಶೇಖರ್



ಮೈಸೂರು ಸಂಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿ 19ನೇ ಶತಮಾನದ ಅಂತ್ಯಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ತೀವ್ರವಾಗಿದ್ದ ಅಸ್ವಸ್ಥತೆಯಿಂದಾಗಿ ಅಂಧಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ದಲಿತರ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ವಿದ್ಯಾಭ್ಯಾಸದಿಂದ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ವಂಚಿತರಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಹೀನಾಯವಾಗಿ ಕಾಣುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಈ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಆಗ್ನೆ ಶಾಲೆ, ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರವೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಆಸ್ಪದವಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಇಂತಹ ದಿನ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಸಹಾಯಕ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಂಡ ನಾವ್ವಡಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣರಾಜ ಒಡೆಯರು ಪ್ರಪ್ರಥಮವಾಗಿ 1900ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಮಳವಳ್ಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆದಿಕರ್ಣಾಟಕ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿಯೇ ಮೀಸಲಾದ ಒಂದು ಶಾಲೆಯನ್ನು ಆರಂಭಿಸಿದರು. ಆಗ ಪಾಠ ಹೇಳಿ ಕೊಡಲು ಸರ್ವನೀಯರು ಈ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಬಂದು ದಿನದಲಿತರ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಪಾಠ ಹೇಳಿಕೊಡಲು ನಿರಾಕರಿಸಿದರು. ಇದರಿಂದ ಮಹಾರಾಜರಿಗೆ ನೋವುಂಟಾಯಿತು. ಇಂತಹ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ತಲಕಾಡಿನ ಆರ್. ರಂಗೇಗೌಡರು ಮುಂದೆ ಬಂದು ಆಗ ತಾನೇ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭವಾಗಿದ್ದ ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಾಯ ವೃತ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಒಪ್ಪಿಕೊಂಡು ಅಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಅಸ್ವಸ್ಥ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಪಾಠ ಹೇಳಿಕೊಡಲು ಮುಂದಾದರು. ಸಮಾಜದ ತೀರ ಕೆಳವರ್ಗದವರಿಗಾಗಿ ಮೀಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದ ಈ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಕಳುಹಿಸಲು ಪ್ರೋಫೆಸರ್ ಸಹ ಹಿಂದೇಟು ಹಾಕುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಆಗ ರಂಗೇಗೌಡರ ಒತ್ತಾಯದ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಬರಲು

ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಿದರು. ಬಡತನದಿಂದಾಗಿ ಕೊಳಕಾಗಿದ್ದ ಆ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ತಾವೇ ಶುಚಿ ಮಾಡಿ, ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತಿಳಿವಳಿಕೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟು ವಿದ್ಯಾಭ್ಯಾಸ ಮುಂದುವರೆಯುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡಿದರು. ಪ್ರೋಫೆಸರಿಗೆ ಸ್ನೇಹ, ಬಳಪ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಡಲು ಶಕ್ತಿ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದನ್ನು ಕಂಡ ರಂಗೇಗೌಡರು ಒಂದು ಬಂಡಿ ಮರಳನ್ನು ಶಾಲೆಯ ಆವರಣಕ್ಕೆ ತರಿಸಿ ಅದನ್ನು ಸಮತಟ್ಟಾಗಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಅದರ ಮೇಲೆ ಅಕ್ಷರಗಳನ್ನು ಮೂಡಿಸಿ ಕುಳಿಬಿದ್ದ ಆ ಜಾಗಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಂದಲೇ ಹುಣಿಸೆ ಬೀಜ ತುಂಬಿಸುವ ಮೂಲಕ ದಲಿತ ಮಕ್ಕಳೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಸುಲಭವಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯೆ ಕಲಿಯುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡಿದರು.

ಇಂತಹ ರಂಗೇಗೌಡರು (1880-1947) ತಲಕಾಡಿನಲ್ಲಿ 1880 ಆಗಸ್ಟ್ 15ರಂದು ಗೌರವಸ್ಥ ದೊಡ್ಡಕುಟುಂಬದಲ್ಲಿ ಜನಿಸಿದರು. ತಂದೆಯ ಹೆಸರು ಸಹ ರಂಗೇಗೌಡ, ತಾಯಿ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಮ್ಮ. ಮೂರು ಜನ ಅಣ್ಣಂದಿರು, ಒಬ್ಬಳು ತಂಗಿ, ಕುಲಕಸುಬು ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ. ಗೌಡರು ಒಬ್ಬರೇ ವಿದ್ಯಾಭ್ಯಾಸದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ತೋರಿಸಿ ಆಗಿನ ಲೋಯರ್ ಸೆಕೆಂಡರಿ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೇರ್ಗಡೆ ಹೊಂದಿದ್ದರು. ಆ ಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ತಕ್ಕಂತೆ ನೀತಿಬೋಧನೆಯನ್ನು ನೀಡಿ ದಲಿತ ಬಾಲಕರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಿತೃ ವಾತ್ಸಲ್ಯ, ಪ್ರೇಮ ಉತ್ಸಾಹಗಳನ್ನು ತುಂಬಿ ತಮ್ಮಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಅಮೂಲ್ಯವಾದ ವಿದ್ಯೆಯನ್ನು ಬೋಧಿಸಿ 1906ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಥಮತಃ ಐದು ಮಂದಿ ಬಾಲಕರನ್ನು ಅಪ್ಪರ್ ಪ್ರೈಮರಿ ಪರೀಕ್ಷಾರಂಗಕ್ಕೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸಿ ಅವರೆಲ್ಲರೂ ತೇರ್ಗಡೆಯಾಗುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡಿದರು. ಇದರಿಂದ ಆನಂದಭರಿತರಾದ ಆದಿಕರ್ಣಾಟಕದ ಜನರು ತಾವೂ ಕೂಡ ತಮ್ಮ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಓದಿಸಲು ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಮೂಡುವಂತೆ ಮುತುವರ್ಜಿ ವಹಿಸಿದರು. ಹಗಲು ರಾತ್ರಿಯೆನ್ನದೆ ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಉತ್ತೇಜನ ನೀಡಿದ ಗೌಡರ ಪರಿಶ್ರಮದಿಂದಾಗಿ 1912ರಲ್ಲಿ ಇನ್ನೂ ಏಳು ಮಂದಿ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೇರ್ಗಡೆಹೊಂದಿ ಆ ಪ್ರೈಮರಿ ಐದು ಮಂದಿ ಪ್ರಥಮ ದರ್ಜೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ತೀರ್ಣರಾದರು. ಈ ಫಲಿತಾಂಶದಿಂದ ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಸ್ಫೂರ್ತಿಗೊಂಡ ಪ್ರೋಫೆಸರ್ ತಮ್ಮ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ಈ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಕಳುಹಿಸಲು ಮುಂದಾದರು.

ಈ ವಿಷಯ ಮಹಾರಾಜರ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತೆಯೇ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಸಂತೋಷ ಭರಿತರಾಗಿ ಉದಾರ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಿಂದ ಬಡವರಾಗಿದ್ದ ದಲಿತ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಬೇರೆ ಬೇರೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಿಂದ ಮಳವಳ್ಳಿಗೆ ಬಂದು ವಿದ್ಯಾಭ್ಯಾಸ ಮಾಡಲು ಆಸಕ್ತರಾಗಿದ್ದುದರಿಂದ ಮೈಸೂರಿನ ನಜರಬಾದಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗಾಗಿಯೇ 'ಪಂಚಮ ಬೋಡಿಂಗ್ ಹೋಂ' ಎಂಬ ವಸತಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾಶಾಲೆಯನ್ನು 1913ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಿದರು. ಈ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ ಮುಖ್ಯೋಪಾಧ್ಯಾಯರನ್ನಾಗಿ ನೇಮಿಸಲು ತಲಕಾಡಿನ ರಂಗೇಗೌಡರನ್ನು ಬಿಟ್ಟರೆ ಬೇರೆ ಯಾರೂ ಅರ್ಹರಾದವರು ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ. ಮಹಾರಾಜರ ಅಪ್ಪಣೆಯ ಮೇರೆಗೆ

ಮಳವಳ್ಳಿ ಶಾಲೆಯಿಂದ ಮೈಸೂರಿನ ಪಂಚಮ ಬೋರ್ಡ್‌ಗೆ ಹೋಗಿ ಆಗಮಿಸಿ ಪೂರ್ತಿ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಅವರು ವಹಿಸಿಕೊಂಡರು. ಇವರು ಈ ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಠ ಹೇಳಿಕೊಡಲು ಒಪ್ಪಿಕೊಂಡ ವಿಷಯ ಮೈಸೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಶಾಲೆ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭವಾಗುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಖ್ಯಪಾತ್ರ ವಹಿಸಿದ್ದ ಇನ್ನೊಬ್ಬ ದಲಿತೋದ್ಧಾರಕ ಗೋಪಾಲಸ್ವಾಮಿ ಅಯ್ಯಂಗಾರ್ ಅವರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿದಾಗ ಅವರು ಅರಮನೆಯ ಮುಂದೆ ಕುಣಿದಾಡಿದರಂತೆ. 30 ಬಾಲಕರಿಂದ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಿದ ಈ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥಾನದ ನಾನಾಕಡೆಗಳಿಂದ ದಲಿತ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಜನೆಗಾಗಿ ಬರಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಿದರು.

ಮಹಾತ್ಮ ಗಾಂಧೀಜಿ 1927ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಸಂಸ್ಥಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಆಗಮಿಸಿದ್ದಾಗ ಮೈಸೂರು ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿನ ಇವರ ಶಾಲೆಗೂ 21-7-1927 ಗುರವಾರದಂದು ಭೇಟಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟು ತಮ್ಮ ಮೆಚ್ಚುಗೆಯನ್ನು ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸಿದರು. ಅಂದಿನಿಂದ ಮಹಾತ್ಮರಿಂದ ಪ್ರಭಾವಿತರಾದ ರಂಗೇಗೌಡರು ಪೂರ್ತ ಖಾದಿಧಾರಿಗಳಾದರು.

ಗೌಡರು ತಮ್ಮ ನಿವೃತ್ತಿ ವಯಸ್ಸನ್ನು 1935ರಲ್ಲಿ ತಲುಪಿದಾಗ ಮಹಾರಾಜರ ಘನ ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ಇವರ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಮೆಚ್ಚಿ ಅದನ್ನು ಮತ್ತೆರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಗೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಿದರು. ಆಗ ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಬಾಲಕರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 225ಕ್ಕೆ ತಲುಪಿತು. ಇವರು ತಮ್ಮ ಜನ್ಮದಿನ (1937 ಆಗಸ್ಟ್, 15)ರಂದೇ ಸೇವೆಯಿಂದ ನಿವೃತ್ತಿ ಹೊಂದಿದರು. ಅಂದು ಅವರ ಶಿಷ್ಯವರ್ಗದವರು ಬಿನ್ನವತ್ತಳೆಯನ್ನು ಅರ್ಪಿಸಿ 'ಮೈಸೂರು ಸಂಸ್ಥಾನದ ಆದಿಕರ್ಣಾಟಕದ ಪ್ರಥಮ ವಿದ್ಯಾ ಗುರು' ಗಳೆಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಿ ಗೌರವ ಮತ್ತು ಕೃತಜ್ಞತೆಯನ್ನು ಅರ್ಪಿಸಿದರು.

ಸುಸಂಸ್ಕೃತ ಅಭಿರುಚಿಯುಳ್ಳವರಾಗಿದ್ದ ಕುಮಾರವ್ಯಾಸ ಭಾರತ, ತೊರವೆ ರಾಮಾಯಣಗಳನ್ನು ಅಭ್ಯಾಸ ಮಾಡಿ ವ್ಯಾಖ್ಯಾನ ಮಾಡುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಜನಪ್ರಿಯರಾಗಿ ನೆಮ್ಮದಿಯ ಜೀವನವನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಿ ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಉನ್ನತ ಗೌರವವನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು 1947ನೇ ಜುಲೈ 6, ಶನಿವಾರದಂದು ಟಿ. ನರಸೀಪುರದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಧನರಾದ ರಂಗೇಗೌಡರು ಆಡಿದ ಕೊನೆಯ ಮಾತು 'ಅನಾಯಾಸ ಮರಣಂ' ಎಂಬುದಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಇವರ ಪುತ್ರರಲ್ಲೊಬ್ಬರಾದ ದಿ. ತ. ರಂ. ಕೃಷ್ಣಗೌಡರು ಎನ್. ಜಿ. ಇ. ಎಫ್. ನ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕನ್ನಡದಲ್ಲಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಬ್ದಕೋಶವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಥಮ ಬಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಪಾದಿಸಿದವರು.

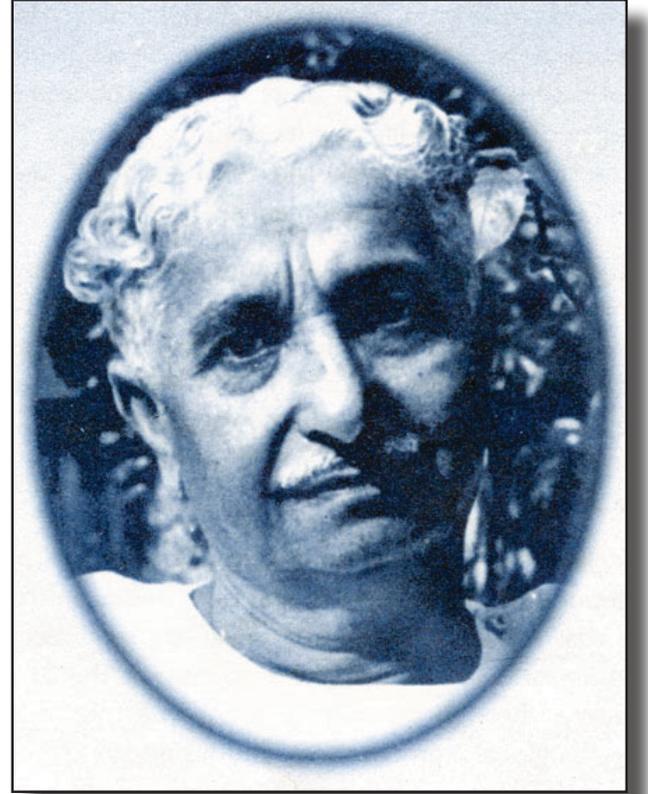
-----  
 ಈ ಲೇಖನವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಸಮಾಚಾರ ಪತ್ರದ ಫೋಟೋಗ್ರಾಫಿಕ್ ಫುರವಣಿ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಗಸ್ಟ್ 3, 2008ರಂದು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು.  
 -----

This article was published in the *Saaptaabika Puravani* Section of the *Prajavani* news paper on August 3, 2008.  
 -----

## Message of Universal Man (ವಿಶ್ವಮಾನವ)

Kuvempu, a literary giant gave the Kannada language a new and renovated direction that is now followed by his disciples. He showed that excellence in literature is not monopoly of any one particular creed or caste, and that any body with inherent talent can make the difference. He started writing very early in life, interestingly first in English. His mastery of the English language made him to seek the opinion of an Irish author who advised Kuvempu that he could be a much better author if he choose write in his own mother tongue. This timely advice for a budding young author made all the difference in Kuvempu's life. He took the advice and excelled as expected. Although Kuvempu is well-known for his literary excellence that often masks his other achievements in life. When I was a pre-university student in Yuvaraja's college, Mysore in 1957, I first saw him at the college quadrangle while he was presiding over a function. He was tall, slim, and handsome. As a vice-chancellor of the Mysore University he was responsible for starting the now famous Manasagangothri campus. First all India inter-university youth festival was held in Mysore during his tenure as vice-chancellor. When I and my family visited him at this house, Udayaravi, in Mysore in 1979, he was still slim and handsome at age 75 with salt and pepper hair. The following message from him describes his personality in great depth. His birth place and its surroundings show the impact of nature had on his thinking. His original house is now a museum and inspires the visitor with its vast and rich contents. For Kannadigas in general and people of Malnad in particular, it is a place of pilgrimage. For VPA members, it is place of pride to visit, and remainder of the achievements from a member of its own creed, and should serve as an extraordinary symbol for generations to come.

(His universal message is reproduced from Ku Vem Pu Prathistana documents, Kuppali, Thirthahalli Taluk, Shimoga Dist. Karnataka State).



Kuvempu symbolizes the highest point of creativity of the contemporary India. The vast range and the diversity of his literary creations arouse as much wonder as the mountains and the forests of the Sahyadri that he emerged from. His sylvan experiences are all pervasive in his epic, novels, plays, and poetry. Almost all of his characters are the symbols of this sylvan culture. The love of nature that finds expression in Kuvempu is basically the extension of his love of life. His passion for nature not confined to

nature's beauty but to the metaphysical quests that go beyond it.

Kuvempu house in Kuppali. The large house has two open quadrangles, typical of an 18th & 19<sup>th</sup> century Malnad abode. It is now a museum and contains Kuvempu's writings, books, awards, many degree certificates, presidential medal and the first Gnanapeeta award given to an Indian author. It displays the kalyan mantap and the palanquin used during his wedding.



Kuvempu hails from an underprivileged class in Malnad. In his own words, he is a poet of the forests. In his depiction of beauty of nature in Malnad, in all its wonders, he also records the tapestry of its social life and its transitory phases. Through this he captures the upheavals and anxieties of the social and cultural life of India in a unique manner.

Although Kuvempu, basically, does not belong to any set tradition, the way he imbibed the literary, religious, and cultural traditions of this country through his studies and reinterpreted it in the context of this age is significant in itself. His creative spirit has drawn from the East and West to give us works of great eminence thereby conferring an honored place for Kannada in the world.

His works are, in a sense, a record of the aspirations of pre-independent and post-Independent India, with all the changes that took place. In fact they can be read as a critical

commentary of them. His creative responses to the tradition of the country, through his literature and the methods of his imbibing the global consciousness, and his efforts to transform the society face the challenges of the changing age have made him a significant writer of his age.

His literature with its roots in metaphysics, rationality and an abundant love for nature has subjected our tradition to a severe and clinical appraisal, a tradition which directed the life of the common man even as it exploited him.

It has also spoken eloquently of his concern for the unfettered development of man's personality in the light of Sarvodaya, Samanvaya and Poornadrishti.

In his last years, his mind had transgressed the confines of country, language, caste, creed and even literature which were so dear to him for so long. It had become universal in its nature and he was preaching his Gospel of Universal Man, which is as follows:

Every child, at birth, is the universal man. But, as it grows, we turn it into "a petty man". It should be the function of education to turn it again into the original "universal man". The child who by birth was the universal man is fettered by us with such constraints as country, language, religion, caste, race and color. To free it from all these limitations and transform it into "the enlightened soul", that is to say, the universal man — this should become the first and foremost function of our education, culture, civilization, and what not. All children of the world should become 'unhoused' beings, if the world should survive, should continue to live, and advance.

In the course of human evolution great men arose at different periods to fulfill the needs of their times, and (then they) passed into history. The message of some of them assumed the form of a distinct religion, but eventually narrowed down into a mere creed. The voice of the great souls, which had sprung from the noble motive

of bringing together all men and making them live nobly, degenerated into a mere creed, and thus became a pernicious opiate. There are instances of a religion turning into a mere creed in the course of time and becoming quite worthless in the process, thus giving rise to another — one more new religion. In this manner, numerous creeds arose, broke up humanity into groups and schisms and have even ignited wars, almost as if they were the root cause of all the troubles and turmoil of the world! To the experimental outlook of our scientific age, the superstition of religion is no longer acceptable. As Vinoba Bhave said some years ago, “The days of religion and politics have passed. The age of science and spirituality has now to dawn”.

The Religion of Humanity, the Universal path, the Welfare of All, Reconciliation, and the Integral Vision- these five mantras should become View of the Future. In other words, what we want hence forth is not this religion or that religion, but the Religion of Humanity; not this or that path, but the Universal Path; not the well-being of this individual or that individual, but the Welfare of All; not turning away and breaking off from one another, but reconciling and uniting in concord and harmony: and above all, not the partial view of a narrow creed, not the dual outlook of the material and the spiritual, but the Integral Vision of seeing all things With the eye of the Divine.

Ideas which are applicable to all mankind do not relate to a single caste or creed, a single section or country. Since they are of value for all time, these are basic human values which tend towards uniting all men and enabling them to live in harmony. They give no room to groupism, which, after all, is the sordid game of politics. While giving full scope for individual freedom, this view aims at collective uplift. On this view it is possible to have as many religions as there are individuals; and it is possible for all of the individuals to contribute towards the development of the whole community. It is this

vision which is proclaimed by the following poem, The Unhoused Consciousness.



Dr. G.S. Shivarudrappa, student of Kuvempu and current poet laureate of Karnataka was honored at the Kuvempu Prathisthana on December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Justice N.D.Venkatesh, president of Kuvempu trust (left), Dr. G.T. Krishnamurthy, USA (striped shirt), Mrs. G.S. Shivarudrappa (next to him) and Mrs. Kamala Hampana (right) Kuvempu trust member, are seen in the photo taken at the Kuvempu centenary hall.

## **The Charter of Fundamental Principles, to be practiced in order to become Universal Men**

### THE SEVEN ARTICLES (OF THE CHARACTER)

1. We have to accept unconditionally that "All man-kind is, verily, one (community).
2. Our attempt should be not to reform the caste system but to wipe it out completely. That is to say distinctions like Brahmanas, Kshatrias, Vaisyas, and Sudras, or the Depressed classes, or Shia and Sunni, or Catholic and Protestant, or Sikh and Nirankari, should be eradicated altogether
3. The caste system that exists in all countries and all religions should be totally denounced and completely destroyed.

4. *Religion* should go and *spirituality* alone, being a scientific principle must be recognized.
5. *Religion* should become *the religion of Humanity*; the Path should be the *Universal* path; and man should become the *Universal Man*.
6. Religion should not become a matter for creating schisms. No one should belong to any particular religion; on the contrary, everyone should belong to *his own* religion - the religion that he has personally discovered. That will mean that there will be as many religions as there are individuals in the world; no one will seek to embrace another's religion, form his own group and create factions.
7. No Single book should become the *only one* and the *most sacred* scripture. Everyone should, on the contrary, study and assimilate all the books he can and should freely decide what to accept, and build for himself his own *philosophy*.

-----  
 Gerbail T. Krishnamurthy, MD, FACP, FACNP  
 Nuclear Medicine Department  
 Tuality Community Hospital, Hillsboro, OR  
 Formerly, chief Nuclear Medicine Service, VA Hospital  
 Professor of Medicine, Radiology, and Pathology  
 Oregon Health and Sciences University  
 Portland, Oregon



# VPA 10<sup>th</sup> National Convention

**Committees**

**Itinerary**

**ಇದೊಂದು ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಸಮಾವೇಶ**

**Capt. Neil Prakash**

**Prof. Krishne Gowda**

**Convention Highlights**

**Count Down...3 2 1**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Financial Statements**

**Post Convention Letters**



## VPA 10<sup>th</sup> National Convention Committees

### Registration

Sumitra Shankar (Chair)  
 Udaya Shankar  
 Gopi Govardhan  
 Naren Simann  
 Reshma Gowda  
 Archana Madadi  
 Amulya Parthasarthy

### Welcome Committee

Deepika Venugopal (Co-Chair)  
 Nag Boranna (Co-Chair)  
 Archana Madadi  
 Srivalli Chandra

### Entertainment

Radhakrishna Talkad (Chair)  
 Yogesh Devaraj  
 Malini Devaraj  
 Veena Gowda  
 Gayathri Baskar  
 Smita Shanker  
 Sharath Shankar  
 Sumitra Shankar  
 Prabhu Dev  
 Sarayu Somesekar  
 Leela Talkad

### Program Committee

Veena Gowda (Chair and Director)

### Food Committee

Vittal - Devi India Restaurants  
 Gayathri Bhaskar  
 Usha Gangadhar  
 Chaya Chandra  
 Bhagvan Cheeyandira

### Master of Ceremonies

Yogesh Devaraj (Chair)  
 Mamatha Keremane  
 Veena Gowda

### Finance Committee

Dr. MP Divakar (Chair, Member Fundraising)  
 Shobha Madegowda (Chair, Corporate Fundraising)

### VIP Committee

Gopi Govardhan (Chair)  
 Gayathri Bhaskar  
 Sumanth Venugopal  
 Prabhu Dev

### Event Management

Mamatha Keremane (Chair)  
 Vinod Keremane  
 Ramamoorthy Thamman  
 Udhaya Shankar  
 Leela Talkad

### Business/Community Forum

Abi Kariguddaiah (Co-Chair)  
 Nag Boranna (Co-Chair)  
 Sudha Dev  
 Gopi Govardhan  
 Ravi Channahalli  
 Shashi Kumar  
 B J Arun

### Woman's Forum

Sudha Dev (Co-Chair)  
 Ashitha Kunjali (Co-Chair)  
 Kannika Cheeyandira

# VPA 10<sup>th</sup> National Convention Committees

## CME

Smita Shanker (Chair)  
Sonali Shanker

## Woman's Forum

Sudha Dev (Co-Chair)  
Ashitha Kunjali (Co-Chair)  
Kannika Cheeyandira

## Web Site

Apurva Chandra (Chair)  
Sharath Shankar

## Decorations

Sarayu Somashekar (Chair)  
Kannika Cheeyandira  
Priya Jagasia  
Shalini Omprakash  
Rashmi Ramachandra  
Rashmi Sundareswara  
Gayathri Bhaskar  
Patricia Zinn  
Roopa Makohanalli  
Ashitha Kunjali  
Gopi Govardhan  
Bhagwan Cheeyandira  
Satish Dogganhalli  
Leela Talkad

## Youth

Radhakrshna Talkad (Co-Chair)  
Smita Shanker (Co-Chair)  
Arjun Gowda  
Eshwari Prasad

## Child Care

Reshma Gowda

## Bangalore VIP Liason

K.C. Venugopal (Chair)

## Magazine

Sharmila Kumar (Chair)  
Dr. MP Divakar  
Sumanth Venugopal  
Shantanu Kothavale

## Graphics

Charles Spina

## Rummy

Reshma Gowda (Co-Chair)  
Bhagvan Cheeyandira (Co-Chair)

## Stage, Audio, Video, Lighting

Sharath Shanker (Chair)

## Fashion Show

Srivalli Chandra (Co-Chair)  
Archana Madadi (Co-Chair)

## Publicity and Marketing

Chethan Chandra (Chair)

## Recognition & Awards

Sarayu Somashekar



### **Friday, June 29<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 – 7:00	Cocktail Hour	Grand Mediterranean Room
7:00 – 8:30	Light Music – Sangeetha Rasa Sanje - Anand and Ranjani	Grand Mediterranean Room
7:30 – 9:00	BBQ Dinner	Hotel – Poolside Area
10:00	Youth Event – Late Night Bowling	Hotel Lobby

### **Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Morning Session**

Grand Mediterranean Room (all)

7:30	BREAKFAST
8:30	Procession by all VPA Chapters
9:00	Invocation and In Memoriam
9:15	Classical Dance - Kids - (Ganesha-Lakshmi Stuti)
9:30	Inauguration – Lamp Lighting, Keynote Address, President's and Chairperson's Address, Magazine Release
10:30	Kids Drama - Upaayadinda apaaya Parihara
10:45	Mohini Bhasmasura (PAMPA)
11:45	Folk Dance - Suggi Kunitha
12:00	Comedy Skit - Adalu Badalu
12:30	Kamsale Dance
12:40 – 2:00	LUNCH BREAK

#### **Afternoon Session**

2:00 – 5:00	Business Forum	Cyprus Room
2:00 – 3:00	South Asian Heart Center Presentation & AAPIO	Grand Mediterranean Room
2:30 – 4:00	Youth Event – Poolside Games and Ice Cream Social	Swimming Pool
3:00 – 5:00	Continuing Medical Education (CME) – Physicians	Mykonos Room
4:00 – 5:00	COFFEE / SNACKS	Grand Mediterranean Room
5:00 – 6:00	COCKTAIL HOUR	Grand Mediterranean Room

#### **Evening Session**

5:45 – 6:00	Doll Dance	Grand Mediterranean Room
6:00 – 6:30	Comedy Skit - Shanka Naada	Grand Mediterranean Room
6:30 – 6:45	Group Songs -The Midwest Malliges:Raaga Raagi Hits (VPA Midwest)	Grand Mediterranean Room
6:45 – 7:30	Comedy – Prof. Krishna Gowda - Part I	Grand Mediterranean Room
7:30 – 9:00	DINNER BREAK	Main Ballroom
9:00 – 11:30	Prithvi – Indian Rock Band	Grand Mediterranean Room
11:30	Wrap-up	



**Soil to Silicon**  
The 10th VPA Convention



**Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup> Morning Session**

6:30 – 8:30	Yoga Session (Meera Nagaraj)	Portofino Room
7:30	BREAKFAST	Grand Mediterranean Room
8:30	Welcome Speech by VPA West President	Grand Mediterranean Room
8:40	Bhajans – Narayana Swamiji	Grand Mediterranean Room
8:55	Keynote Speaker – Day 2	Grand Mediterranean Room
9:10	Youth Classical Dance - Thillana - Jyoti Lakkaraju Students	Grand Mediterranean Room
9:25	Folk Dance - Jalle Kabbu	Grand Mediterranean Room
9:40	Bollywood Dance - Kids	Grand Mediterranean Room
9:55	Sugama Sangeetha – Hema & CH Gowda (VPA – East)	Grand Mediterranean Room
	Violin Instrumental – Pawan & CH Gowda	
10:35	Bhajan in Hindustani Style - Babu & Tejasvi (VPA-East)	Grand Mediterranean Room
11:00	Variety Entertainment	Grand Mediterranean Room
11:20	Hindustani Vocals - Ganjam Brothers	Grand Mediterranean Room
11:50	Bharatanatyam - Ashwini Raagam	Grand Mediterranean Room
12:15	Youth Bollywood Dance – Aham Premasmi Dance – Nishita	Grand Mediterranean Room
12:20	Youth Act - Onake Obawa – Tanmayi	Grand Mediterranean Room
	Chitra Geethegalu – Dinesh K (VPA Midwest)	
12:40 – 2:00	LUNCH BREAK	Grand Mediterranean Room

**Afternoon Session**

1:30 – 3:00	Women’s Forum	Mykonos Room
1:30 – 3:00	Community Service Forum	Cyprus Room
2:00 – 3:00	Youth Event – Scavenger Hunt & Ice Cream Social	Swimming Pool
3:00 – 4:30	General Body Meeting	Grand Mediterranean Room
4:00 – 5:00	COFFEE / SNACKS	Grand Mediterranean Room

**Evening Session**

5:00	Youth Classical Dance - Nruthya Manjari	Grand Mediterranean Room (all)
5:15	Group Dance – Sahadev / Dinesh	
5:20	MajaMix Dance	
5:30	Dance/Drama – Yakshagaana	
6:00	Kids Peacock Dance Drama (Kuchupudi)	
6:15	Comedy – Prof. Krishna Gowda – Part II	
7:00	Fashion Show – “Generations in Style”	
7:30	Recognition Awards Ceremony, Announcing New Board Members, and Passing the Torch VPA South	
8:00 – 9:30	DINNER BREAK	
9:15 – 11:00	DJ Music – Dimple	



**Soil to Silicon**  
The 10th VPA Convention



## 10<sup>th</sup> National VPA Breakout Sessions

### **Business Forum: Saturday, 2 - 5 p.m. Cyprus Room**

- **Kumar Malavalli – Business Keynote Speaker**

Cofounder, Brocade Systems and member of the Silicon Valley Engineering Hall of Fame.  
Awarded the Karnataka State Rajyotsava Award for 2003.

- **B.J. Arun. “Starting Your Own Business. Taking the Leap of Faith”.**

Serial Entrepreneur, Founder, Chairman & CEO:  
California Digital Corporation and EverGrid, Inc.  
Awarded the Karnataka State Rajyotsava Award for 2004.

- **Sudha Dev – “Moving Up in Corporate America”**

Business Development Executive, IBM United Kingdom  
Recipient of numerous Awards of Excellence

- **Bharath Gowda – “Outsourcing – Opportunities and Pitfalls”**

Director, Human Interface Consulting in Bangalore. Currently incubating companies in India.  
Held executive HR positions at Hewlett Packard.

- **Abi Kariguddaiah - “What Does it Take to be an Entrepreneur?”**

Successfully co-founded a number of startup companies.  
Raised investment capital and served on the board of technology companies.

### **CME: Saturday, 3 - 5 p.m. Mykonos Room**

We are proud to announce that we have partnered with El Camino Hospital's South Asian Heart Center (SAHC) and the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPIO) to provide a CME Program at our Convention.



Targeting heart disease within the South Asian Community, we are proud to have secured these two organizations to participate in our event and in turn educate us on what we can do to reduce the rate of heart disease within our Community.

**Note:** The SAHC will address the General Body between 2-3 PM in the Grand Mediterranean Ballroom.

**Soil to Silicon**  
The 10<sup>th</sup> VPA Convention



## 10<sup>th</sup> National VPA Breakout Sessions

### **Community Service Forum: Sunday, 1:30 - 3 p.m. Cyprus Room**

- **Ravi Channahalli** – “Setting up Schools in India”
- **Dr. M.P. Divakar** – “Leadership and Entrepreneurial Vacuum in Indian Educational System.”
- **G. Lakshman** – “Lancaster West Rotary Projects in India”
- **Lakshmi Prasad** — “Make a Difference: Experiences as a AmeriCorps Volunteer.”
- **C.T. Ravi** – MLA, Chickmagalore – “Helping Rural India Grow and Develop”

### **Women’s Forum: Sunday, 1:30 - 3 p.m. Mykonos Room**

- **Deepka Lalwani** – Alternative Career Planning and Aligning with Mainstream America
- **Nithya Ruff** – Life Balance and Dressing for Success – With an “Asian Flair”
- **Sudha Dev** – Women Leaders – Path to Success
- **Thanh Nyguen** – Ikebana Demonstration and Japanese Floral Arrangement Seminar

## ಇದೊಂದು ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಸಮಾವೇಶ

- ರಾಧಾಕೃಷ್ಣ ತಲಕಾಡು  
ವಿಶಿಷ್ಠ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟಿ

ಬೆಳಗೂರಿ ನಾನೆದ್ದು ಯಾರ್ಯಾರ ನೆನೆಯಲಿ  
ಎಳ್ಳುಜಿಣಿಗೆ ಬೆಳೆಯೋಳೆ | ಭೂಮಿತಾಯಿಯ  
ಎದ್ದೊಂದು ಗಳಿಗೆ ನೆನೆದೇನು |

ಇದು ಕನ್ನಡ ಜನಪದದ ಒಂದು ಅರ್ಥಪೂರ್ಣ ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆ. ಕನ್ನಡದ ಯಾವುದೋ ಸಿಂಕಂಠ ಹಾಡದ ಈ ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆ ಇಡೀ ಮಾನವ ಕುಲದ ಅಂತರಾಳದ ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆಯೂ ಹೌದು. ಯಾಕೆಂದರೆ ಮನುಷ್ಯರಾದ ನಾವು ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿರಲಿ, ಅಮೆರಿಕದಲ್ಲಿರಲಿ, ಅಥವಾ ಪ್ರಪಂಚದ ಮತ್ತಾವ ಮೂಲೆಯಲ್ಲೇ ಇರಲಿ, ನಮ್ಮನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಾ ಹೆತ್ತು ಹರಸಿದವಳು, ಹೊತ್ತು ಕಾಪಾಡಿದವಳು, ಕಾಪಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವವಳು ಈ ಭೂಮಿತಾಯಿಯೇ. ನಮ್ಮೆಲ್ಲರ ಏಳಿಗೆ ಅವನತಿಗಳಿಗೆ, ಪಾಪ ಪುಣ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ, ಹಾನಿ ವೃದ್ಧಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರವಾದವಳು ಈ ಭೂಮಿತಾಯಿ. ಈ ತಾಯಿಯ ಚೊಚ್ಚಲು ಮಗ ಒಕ್ಕಲು ಮಗ. ಈ ಭೂಮಿಯನ್ನು ಉತ್ತು ಹದಮಾಡಿ, ಬಿತ್ತು ಬೆಳೆಮಾಡಿ ಲೋಕದ ಸಕಲ ಜೀವಿಗಳ ಹೊಟ್ಟೆ ತುಂಬಿಸುವವನೇ ಈ ಒಕ್ಕಲು ಮಗ. ಈ ಒಕ್ಕಲು ಮಗನ ಪರಂಪರೆಗೆ ಹುಟ್ಟಿದವರು ನಾವು. ಅದು ನಮ್ಮ ಹೆಮ್ಮೆ. ಅದು ನಮಗೆ ಅಭಿಮಾನ. ಅದೇ ನಮಗೆ ಗೌರವ.

ಒಕ್ಕಲುತನ ಅಥವಾ ಕೃಷಿ ಎಂಬುದು ಈ ಭೂಮಿಯ ಮೇಲಿನ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಪುರಾತನ ವೃತ್ತಿ. ಮನುಕುಲದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾಗರಿಕತೆಯೆಂಬುದು ಮೊಳಕೆಯೊಡೆದಿದ್ದೇ ಈ ಒಕ್ಕಲುತನವೆಂಬುದನ್ನು ಮನುಷ್ಯ ಕಂಡುಕೊಂಡ ಬಳಿಕ. ಅಲ್ಲಿಂದ ಇಲ್ಲಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಮನುಷ್ಯನ ನಾಗರಿಕತೆಯ ಪ್ರಯಾಣ ಬಹಳ ದೂರ ಸಾಗಿ ಬಂದಿದೆ. ಮಣ್ಣಿನಿಂದ ಆರಂಭವಾದ ಈ ಮನುಷ್ಯ ಬದುಕು ಆಕಾಶದಾಚೆಗೂ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಿ ನಿಂತಿದೆ. ಸಾಗರಗಳ ಆಳ ಅಂತರಾಳಗಳೆಲ್ಲಾ ಚಾಚಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಈ ಸುದೀರ್ಘ ಪ್ರಯಾಣದ ಉದ್ದಕ್ಕೂ ಒಕ್ಕಲು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಇತಿಹಾಸದ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ ಗುರುತುಗಳಾಗಿವೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದಲೇ 'Soil to Silicon' ಎಂಬ ಘೋಷವಾಕ್ಯವನ್ನು ಇಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಈ ಒಕ್ಕಲಿಗ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಸಮಾವೇಶ ಕೇವಲ ಒಂದು ಜಾತಿಯ ಜನರ ಒಗ್ಗೂಡುವಿಕೆ ಮಾತ್ರವಲ್ಲ. ಒಂದು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಯ ಜನರು ತಮ್ಮ ಪರಂಪರೆಯನ್ನು ಅರಿತುಕೊಳ್ಳುವ, ಆ ಮೂಲಕ ನಮ್ಮ ಹೃದಯಗಳ ನಡುವೆ ಪ್ರೀತಿಯ ಸೇತುವೆಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಸಮಾವೇಶ ಎಂದು ನಾನು ಗುರುತಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇನೆ. ಮಣ್ಣಿನಿಂದಲೇ ಬೆಳೆದ ಮಹಾನ್ ವ್ಯಕ್ತವೊಂದರ ರೆಂಬೆ ಕೊಂಬೆಗಳು, ಹೂವು ಹಣ್ಣುಗಳು ಒಂದಾಗಿರುವ ಈ ಸಮಾವೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ನಿಮ್ಮೆಲ್ಲರನ್ನೂ ಬರಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ನನ್ನ ಹೃದಯ ತುಂಬಿಬರುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಬಂಧುಗಳೇ ನಾವೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಒಂದೇ ಜಲಧಾರೆಯ ಸಾವಿರ ಕವಲುಗಳು. ಈ ಸಾವಿರ ಕವಲುಗಳು ಸಂಗಮಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಸಮಾವೇಶ ಇದು. ಈ ಸಮಾವೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ತಮಗೆಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಪ್ರೀತಿಪೂರ್ವಕ ಸ್ವಾಗತ.

## In Memoriam

By Dr. M.P. Divakar

Shri. K.P. Poornachandra Tejasvi (5-April-2007)  
 Dr. K. Venkatagiri Gowda (6-July-2004)  
 Dr. H.L. Nage Gowda (22-September-2005)  
 Shri. Tulasidas Dasappa (20-April-2005)  
 Prof. A.M. Puttaswamy Gowda (27-September-2005)  
 Shri. J.C. Eraiah  
 Smt. Savithramma Javare Gowda  
 Shri. B.R. Arun, B. Com, LLB (5-September-2006)  
 Shri. M.D. Narayan, MP (19-October-2005)

Your work is done, though incomplete  
 And undisturbed your dust shall dwell  
 On your land's shore where billows beat  
 Along the land you loved so well  
 And thousands yet shall seek that shore  
 As pilgrims seek some sacred shrine  
 Of holy saint whom they adore-  
 Through endless years your life will shine  
 Eugene Hall

ಆತ್ಮಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾವಿಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದರೂ, ದೇಹದುಸಿರಿನ್ನೂ ಬೇಕಿತ್ತು ನಮಗೆ  
 ಹಾಸ್ಯ ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿತ್ತು ನಿಮ್ಮ ಮಾತು ನಮಗೆ  
 ಓ ಆತ್ಮವೇ ಮತ್ತೆ ಬರಲಾರೆಯೆ ನಮ್ಮೂರಿಗೆ  
 ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ಮಗದೊಮ್ಮೆ ನೀ ಹುಟ್ಟಿ ಬಾ ಅರುಣನಾಗಿ  
 ಬಿ. ಉದಯ್

# Thinking Positively

## Reflections of a Combat Soldier

### Captain Neil Prakash shares his experiences in battlefied in Iraq

I remember when I was approached six years ago to speak about leadership at the July 2002 Eastern Region VPA meeting in Virginia Beach.

It's funny to look back and think that people were interested in hearing what I had to say about the subject considering I had just graduated college a newly commissioned officer in an Army at war. I didn't have any real world leadership experience. I might have had more than your average college student simply because of the training I received as a cadet, but it still wasn't "real world." Don't get me wrong, I don't think I would change any of my views that I held then. What I believed about leadership then, still rings true today. Leadership is influence; and in the military that influence is what makes your soldiers stand guard out in the cold, and sleep in the mud, or follow you into the fiercest firefight you've ever faced where both sides are willing to die. But that last part is something I knew nothing about until recently.

I remember the first time we were hit by a rocket-propelled grenade in my tank and the first time my Humvee was deliberately targeted and blown up by an improvised explosive device. When the initial shock subsided, anger set in. Thoughts ran through my mind like: "What the #@\*! Why are they trying to kill me? We're here to help this country. It's not like I want to be in this blazing hot desert." Those were all of the initial thoughts I had the first time I was blown up. If you can get over your feelings, you realize it's not personal. It's just business. They're not really targeting you. You are the enemy, they are

the enemy. It's just war. But still, it's hard not to get angry.



On June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2004 in the city of Baqubah, Iraq, my tank went head to head with the main effort of a highly-coordinated and highly-motivated enemy ambush. Their goal was to kill as many allies as possible, gain control of the city and given the chance, disable an American tank and kill American soldiers. Several months later, the men on my tank were awarded medals distinguishing valor in combat. But at no point during the hour-long continuous firefight did we did think we were doing anything heroic. All we were trying to do was

shoot, move, and communicate – the basics of a combat soldier in contact with the enemy. We were just trying to fight. And we were lucky too, because the enemy managed to disable my turret with all of our weapon systems on it, and destroy my navigation and satellite link-up. Maybe if we stayed any longer, that 16<sup>th</sup> RPG would have taken out our engine or sheared our track.

Days after that attempted siege of the city by foreign extremists, the troops in my platoon gathered to talk about the battle, laugh and share war stories while we conducted maintenance on our tanks. The Battalion Commander wouldn't let our company out of the gate for a week. He figured with our itchy trigger fingers and adrenaline pumping, it would be best if he let us cool off for a bit. That's when I found out what the battle looked like from a third party observer.

My wingman, SFC Terry, had been behind me during the fight and saw the whole thing unfold. He saw the ambush open up, my tank disappear

in a fireball of improvised explosives, RPGs, grenades and machine gun fire, and he stopped right there.



For a moment, he thought my tank and the men inside were goners and furthermore, he really didn't want to follow us into that mess and suffer the same fate. Insurgents were virtually on our tanks trying to lob grenades into the hatches. Dozens of fighters towed in green and red approached as near as 30 meters with RPGs to go shoulder to shoulder with our tank. And this is where I draw my two intertwined points. My first point is that the rest of my platoon must have had to dig down deep to draw the courage needed to enter into something like that.

My crew had no idea what it looked like from the outside. We were in our tank, with fighters in front of us, on our sides, in the houses, on the second story balconies, on the rooftops. We were in the center of it when they ambushed us. All of them firing on us. There was no way we could have had any idea that this was "bad." We didn't even know what bad looked like. According to my commander, this battle was the most violent combat the entire 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division had seen since World War II. We were too busy trying to kill them all to even think about it. So what must it have taken for another group of soldiers to see it all unfold in front of their eyes, and then go in charging after their platoon leader's tank? I imagine it must have

looked a lot worse from the outside. Or maybe it really was that bad, and it just looked a lot better from my perspective. Either way, I believe it takes a lot more courage to make the conscious choice to drive on into danger, than to be moving along, have danger sprung up on you, and now your back is against the wall and you have to choice but to fight your way out.



So now what the heck was it that got us through that madness? There are numerous variations of an ominous expression used in Hollywood war movies to help soldiers get past the fear of combat. I've heard the line in well-done renditions of war like Band of Brothers, and I've heard it used in cheesy B-movies for dramatic effect. The line is something like: "Once you accept the fact that you are already dead, you can perform your job without hesitation." I'm not taking away from the truth in that statement.

Perhaps that philosophy helps some soldiers put their fears aside. But I'm way more of an optimist. My second point is about blind ambition. I've normally heard this phrase in a negative connotation – in reference to starting a new business, going for higher education, or some other lofty goal.



Most people would argue that blind ambition is drive without direction. Energy without focus. People ask me how I got through that battle and if I was scared for my life. I think blind ambition is what got our crew through that firefight that day. I never thought for once that we were going to die. It didn't occur to me that we might not get through the firefight. Oh sure, I was concerned about them stopping our tank dead in its tracks while the RPGs were exploding on all sides of us. So I was thinking about what our next move would be if it came to that. But I just assumed that we'd kill them all and win. We were well trained in tactics – we practiced for stuff like this all the time. We had the highest confidence in our equipment because we trained on it over and over.

My men worked superbly as a crew in performing the tasks necessary to operation and fire the tank – there was no doubt whether or not one of them would fail me. I had the strongest fighting force following me into battle. So my message is THINK POSITIVE! I just assumed we would live. I'm not saying we acted like we were bulletproof – even though that's

exactly how I felt. I'm just saying that there's no time to worry about dying. Any fear or doubt may have caused us to hesitate, as it did my wingman momentarily when he saw the danger in perfect clarity.



When my brother had completed medical school, he told me that the 1<sup>st</sup> year was such a pain that if someone told him he would have to go through his first year again in order to obtain his M.D., he said he would walk away and say to hell with the degree. He told me lots of doctors echoed that sentiment. Doctors probably say that about their internships and residencies too. I know that if someone told me that in order to keep wearing my Ranger tab on my uniform I would have to return to Ranger School and complete the course again to keep up my qualification and right to wear it, I would tear that tab off and not think twice. Not only is there no doubt in my mind that I would probably hurt myself and break my back trying to survive the physical stuff, but I think about what I went through mentally, and knowing what I know now, I wouldn't even want to put myself through that hell. And that's exactly my point about blind ambition. We don't know what we're getting into. Sure, we've weighed the risks; we hope we are well-equipped, well-trained and well-informed to make the right decisions. But if you could see into a crystal ball and see the struggles that you would have to overcome, would you step off the ledge and make that leap? Or would you get scared?

As part of an Indian generation raised in America, I can tell you I was well-equipped to be

successful in Iraq. I couldn't go anywhere in Iraq without meeting a new friendly Iraqi person who was enamored by the fact that I was "one of them." Iraqi mukhtars, mullahs, sheiks, even just everyday people I needed to talk to regularly would greet me with open arms, kiss my cheeks, and point open-handed to my face and turn to their people with delight. Then of course, they'd ask where I was from. Once I told them I was from India, there was instant rapport. I'm treading a fine line here in creating a racial divide with my fellow soldiers, but that's not my intent. My point is that I considered myself fortunate for my appearances – my face, my skin color, my big Gowda nose with which they would swear I was part-Arab. It was the first thread of commonality that brought me closer to them. And I can't say that about every place I've grown up in America. I've gotten the classic "go back to your own country" a few times in my life. Imagine the irony of being welcomed in a country where Americans are hated for being invaders and infidels. Besides the physical attributes, there was also a deeper cultural understanding that existed between us.

As Indians, we can easily accept the basic rules in their society that govern behavior. We may have different reasons for why we don't sit with the bottoms of our feet exposed, but we understand the reasons nonetheless and respect the importance of those practices and how much it can offend our hosts. Try explaining to your fellow soldiers that two Arab men holding hands and walking down the street does not necessarily mean they are homosexual. Then tell them that it's also acceptable where your parents grew up and see what looks they give you. As first-generation Indians, we are armed with an ability to understand social differences and prevent misunderstandings from transforming into racial hatred and contempt.

Although this isn't an attempt to recruit anybody into our Army, I do believe that my Indian-American brothers and sisters would make phenomenal officers in today's military.

I had been approached with the complaint that all the Indians today are doctors and software engineers so it would nice to hear something different. I thought to myself, "What's the complaint? That's a pretty awesome stereotype – better that than to be thought of as a dangerous minority." I have no desire to try to steer anybody away from that path. But when I expressed my fear that I might sound like I'm on stage trying to recruit people into the Army, I was reassured, "Don't worry, they are all Gowdas. They won't let their children join the Army anyways." And so this is exactly the point. This is the only reason why I was even standing on that stage.

My parents wanted my brother and me to become doctors. But they supported our decisions and now I'm an Armor officer in the Army and my brother is a bomber pilot in the Air Force. Forge your own path because we are armed with ambition, academic talent, strong family support, and a worldly upbringing. It should come as no surprise that folks like that are bound to be successful in whatever they do.



Neil Prakash with Sumanth Venugopal and BJ Arun at the 10 National VPA Convention

\*\*\*\*\*

# Best Wishes to Vokkaligara Parishat of America



Chitresh, Shantala  
& Vikram

San Jose, CA



# Professor M. Krishne Gowda

Prominent humorist and writer



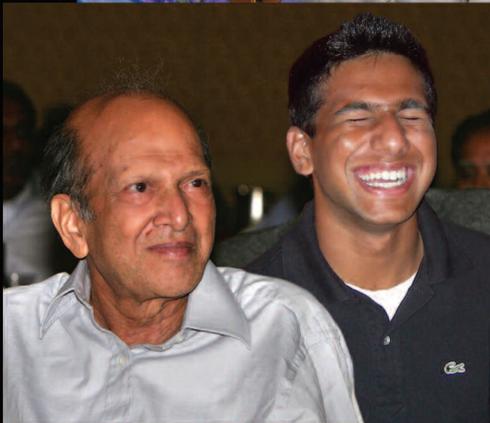
Sharing  
social  
issues  
through  
humor



# Kannada KavanagaLalli haasya Prof. Krishne Gowda



Lekka Haakidiraa...



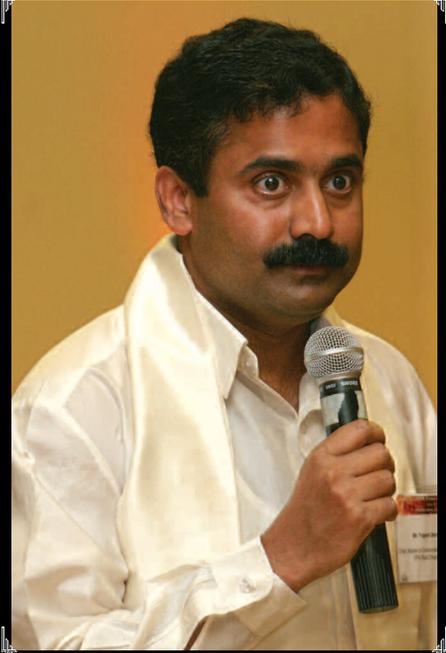
### Setup



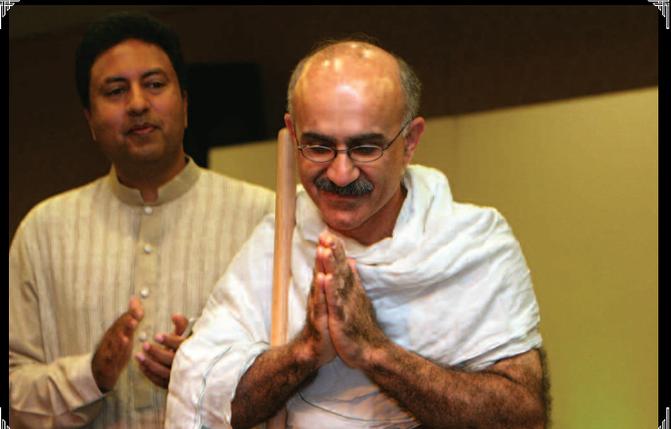
### Invocation and Ganesha-Lakshmi Stuti



### In Memoriam and Keynote Address



### Inauguration



## Upayadinda Apaaya Parihara, Onake Obawa



### Mohini Bhasmasura



### Suggi Kunitha, Jalle Kabbu and Adalu Badalu



### Doll Dance and Shankha Naada



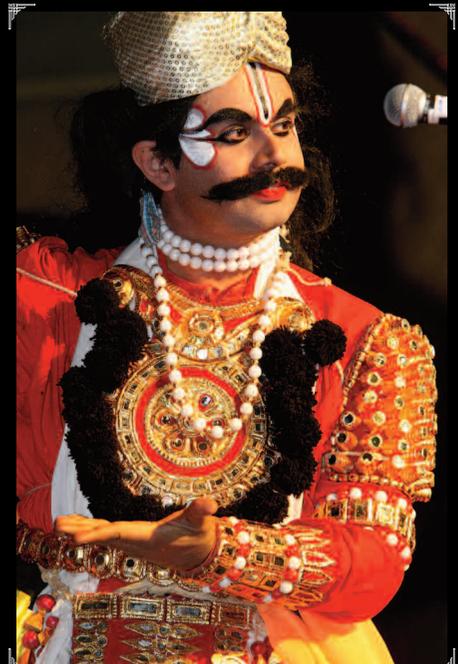
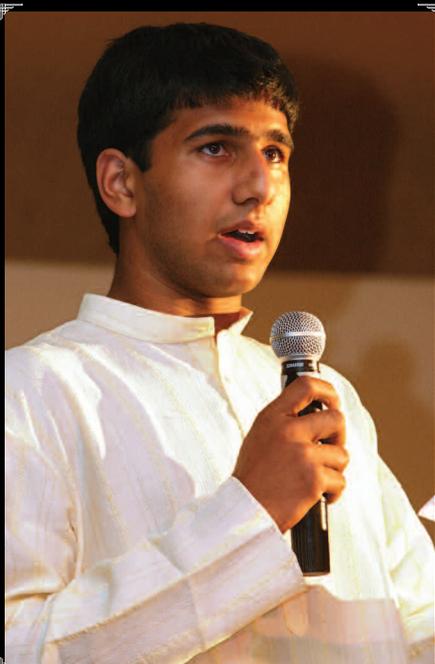
### Karaga Meravanige



### Karaga Meravanige



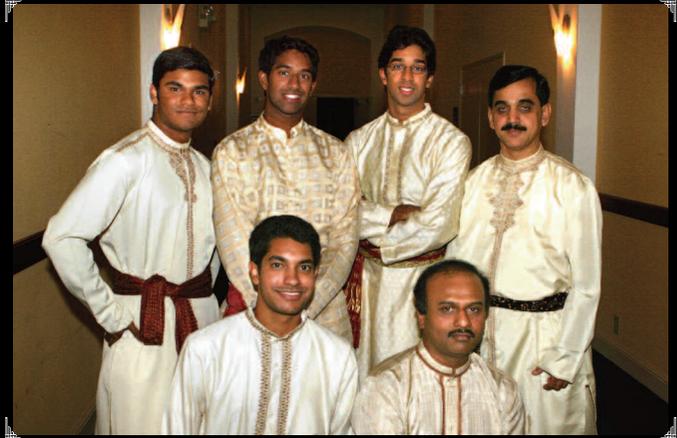
### Nruthya Manjari and Yakshagana



### Bollywood Dance



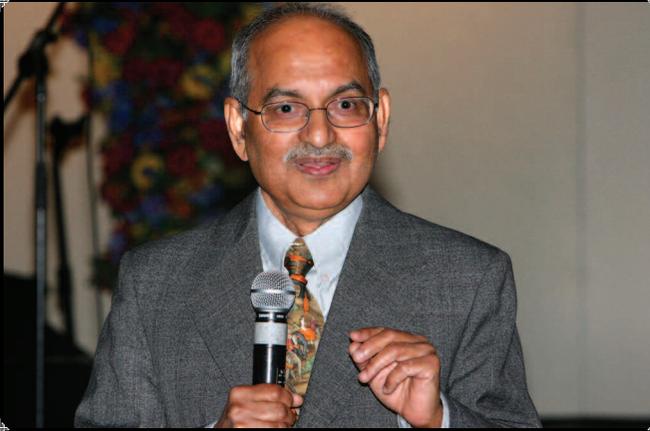
### Midwest Malliges



### Midwest Malliges



### Business Forum



### Peacock Dance



### Kamsaale Dance and Sugama Sangeetha



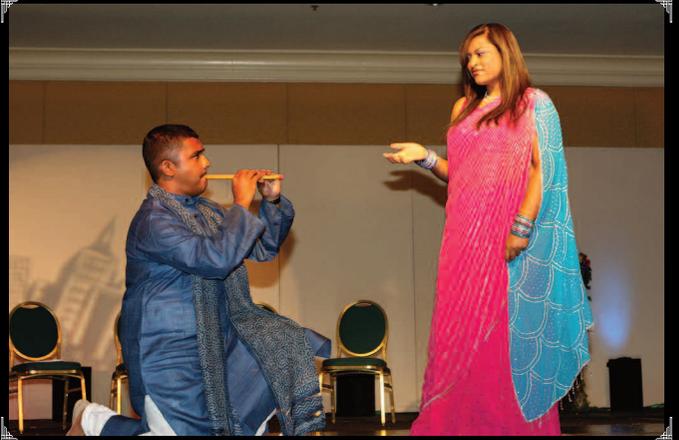
# Fashion Show



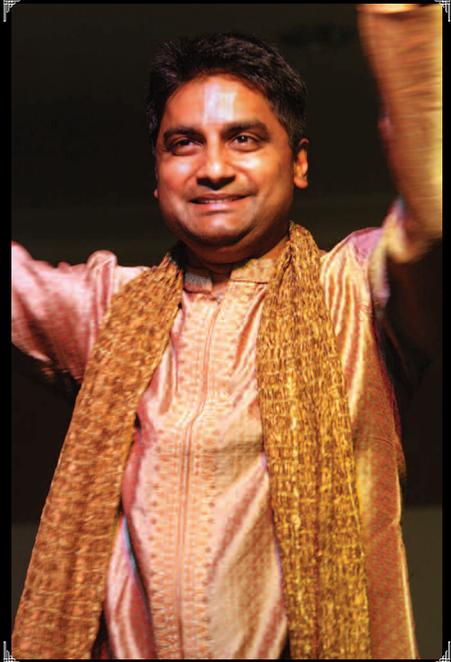
### Fashion Show



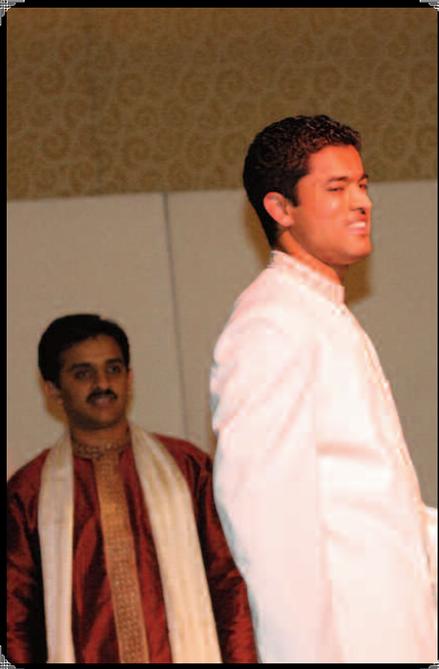
### Fashion Show



### Fashion Show



### Fashion Show

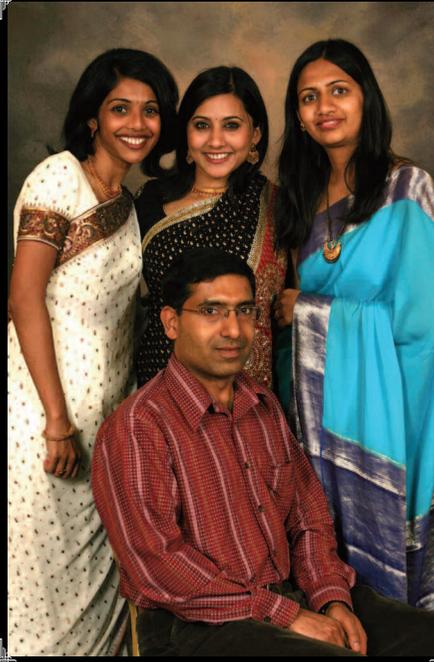




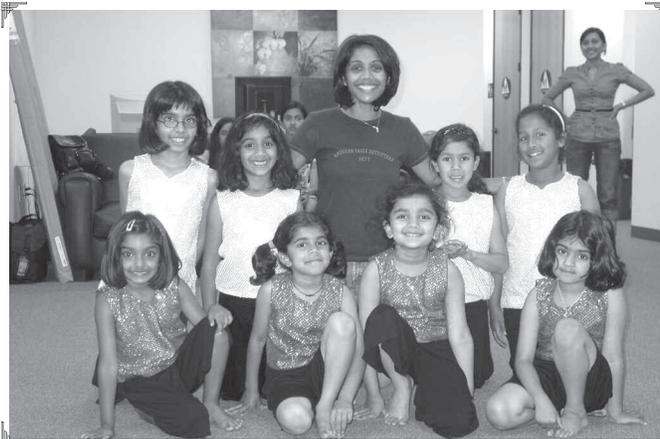
### Convention Committees -- We did it.. .Yes! We did it



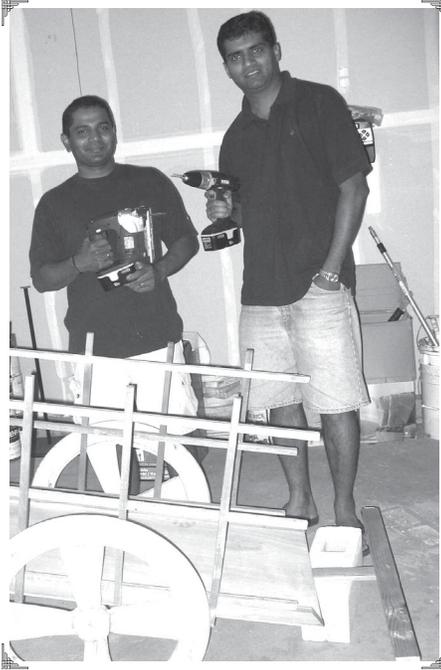
Convention Committees -- We did it.. .Yes! We did it



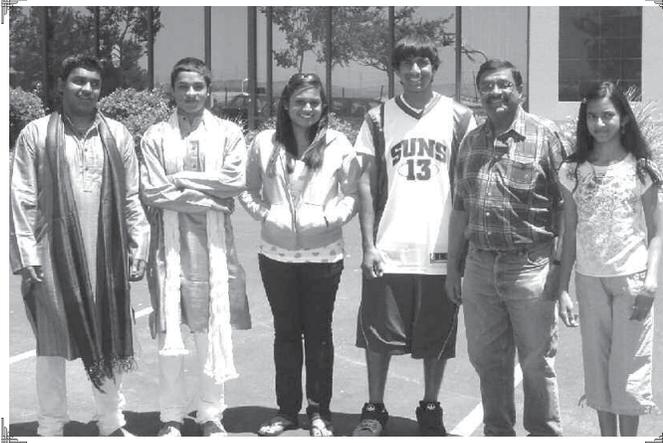
### Preconvention



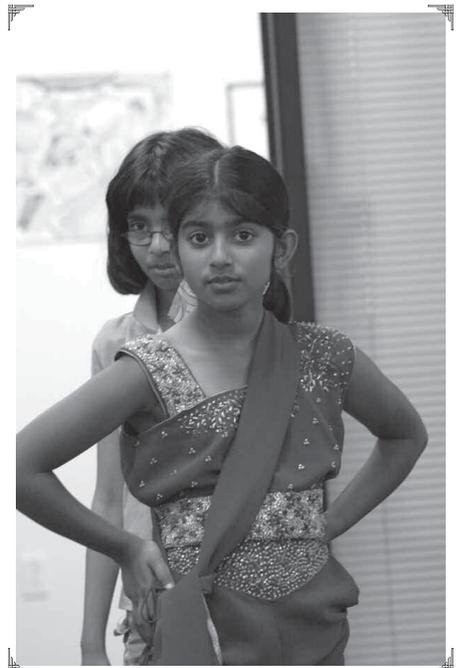
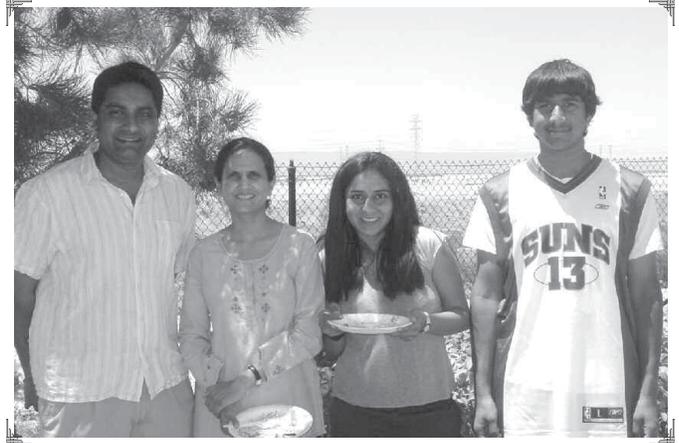
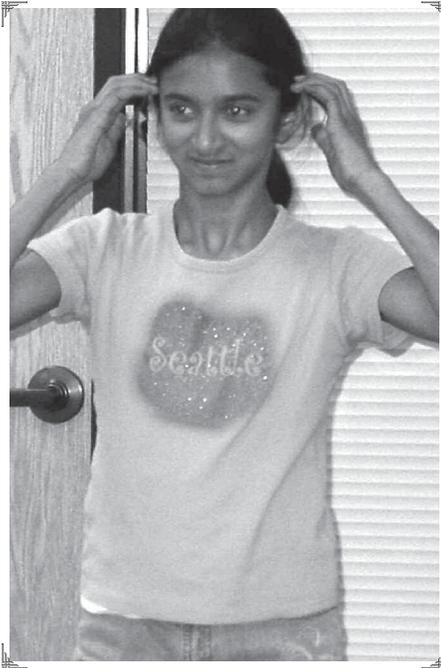
### Preconvention



### Preconvention



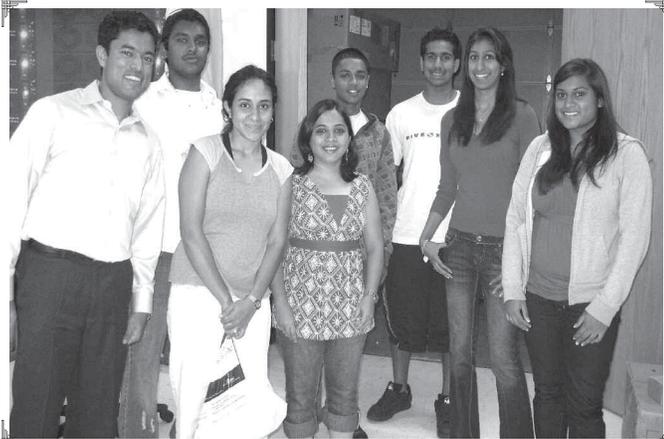
### Preconvention



### Preconvention



### Preconvention



## VPA Board of Trustees and Executive Committee Meeting Minutes June 30, 2007

**Roll Call:** The following table lists the Board Members and Executive Officers (listed alphabetically by first name and/or initial) those were (or were not) at the meeting:

First Name	Last Name	Present?
Amarnath	Gowda	Y
Anasuya	Swamy	Y
Arjun	Gowda	N
BJ	Arun	Y
D.L.	Narayana	N
Dinesh	Gowda	Y
H.	Kullegowda	Y
Hosalli	Gangadhara	Y
Lalitha	Rudraiah	N
M.	Rangappa	Y
Prabhu	Dev	Y
Radhakrshna	Talkad	Y
Ramesh	Gowda	Y
Ramesh	Malekal	Y
Sumanth	Venugopal	Y
Vanitha	Kuppali	Y
Vasanthi	Gowda	Y

### Objective/Agenda

1. Identify list of candidates to fill the open Board of Trustee and Executive Officer positions for the January 2008 December 2009 term.
2. Clarify questions related to the National Office topic

### Discussion

Nominees for the open Board of Trustee and Executive Officer positions:

- 1) Review and identify candidates for the January 2008 – December 2009 term; these candidates would be presented to the General Body for consideration and approval.
  - a. The Nominating Committee presented the list of names it had previously identified to the Board and Executive Officers.
  - b. In addition to the names proposed, Amarnath Gowda suggested that Mr. Ramesh Gowda be added to the list of candidates for the “At Large” category. Sumanth Venugopal asked that Mr. Radhakrshna Talkad to the list.

As a result of the new nominations, there were now 3 candidates for the 1 “At Large” open position: Mr. Ramesh Gowda, Mr. Radhakrishna Talkad, and Ms. Meena Gowda.

An election was held and the Board and Executive Officers voted to nominate Mr. Ramesh Gowda to fill the open “At Large” position.

- c. Vanitha Kuppalli suggested that Dr. Rangappa be considered for one of “Life, Patron, or Grand Patron” Trustee positions (rather than the “At Large” position.) There were no objections to this proposal and it was accepted.

At this point, there were 3 candidates for the two Trustee positions reserved for “Life, Patron, or Grand Patron” members: Mr. Prabhu Dev, Dr. Anasuya Swamy, and Dr. Rangappa.

An election was held to identify which two candidates would be nominated to fill the “Life, Patron, or Grand Patron” positions. The Board voted to nominate Dr. Anasuya Swamy and Dr. Rangappa to fill the two open “Life, Patron, or Grand Patron” positions.

- d. All of the other open positions were unanimously accepted by the Board and Executive Officers.

- 2) It was agreed to present the final list of nominees to the General Body for consideration and approval.

### National Office Discussion

- 1) Wanted to clarify the rationale behind the decision to have a National Office based in the Midwest; this topic was introduced by Sumanth Venugopal with the hope that any open questions related to this topic could be addressed.
- 2) The following explanations/comments were offered by Mr. Kullegowda (Midwest Chapter President) and Vasanthi Gowda (National VPA Treasurer) in response to questions raised by Dr. Anasuya, Mrs. Vanitha Kuppalli, and Dr. M. Rangappa.
  - a. Why do we need a permanent address?
    - i. It is preferable and good practice to have a permanent address to keep all the records of the organization in one place. The current address was established and listed in Chicago area. This allows for a cleaner paper trail to be maintained.
  - b. Are we paying rent on the office listed as the permanent address?
    - i. The address of an accountant who is filing the annual tax papers for the VPA National Organization is the address currently being used and there is NO RENT involved.

- c. Because the office is in the Midwest, does this mean that only the Midwest will control the National Funds?
  - i. No. The funds will be controlled by the National Treasurer and operated in consultation with the President and Secretary (regardless of what Chapter he/she is a member of.)
  - ii. To be clear – in no way are the National Funds controlled by the Midwest Chapter on a permanent basis.
- 3) Based on the discussion, the East Chapter was satisfied with the information received related to the National Office topic. As the East Chapter President, Vanitha Kuppalli said she would share the information with her members.

### **Other Items**

- 1) Because of time restraints the group did get to discuss various constitutional changes the East Chapter wanted to review. Secretary and President will work with Board Members to determine the next steps.
  - 2) Next Meeting: Per Convention Guidelines, the next Executive Officer and Board of Trustee meeting will take place within 90 days of the Convention to review the Convention Financial Statement. This meeting will be co-chaired by both B.J. Arun and Sumanth Venugopal.
-

## VPA General Body

### Meeting Minutes July 1, 2007

**Roll Call:** The following table lists the Board Members and Executive Officers (listed alphabetically by first name and/or initial) that were (or were not) at the meeting:

First Name	Last Name	Present?
Amarnath	Gowda	Y
Anasuya	Swamy	Y
Arjun	Gowda	N
BJ	Arun	Y
D.L.	Narayana	N
Dinesh	Gowda	Y
H.	Kullegowda	Y
Hosalli	Gangadhara	Y
Lalitha	Rudraiah	N
M.	Rangappa	Y
Prabhu	Dev	Y
Radhakrshna	Talkad	Y
Ramesh	Gowda	Y
Ramesh	Malekal	Y
Sumanth	Venugopal	Y
Vanitha	Kuppali	Y
Vasanthi	Gowda	Y

In addition to the Board Members and Executive Officers, the meeting was open to all General Body members.

#### Objective/Agenda

- 1) Elect Board of Trustees and Executive Committee for the January 2008 – December 2009 term
- 2) Discuss matters raised by the General Body (if there were any raised)

#### Discussion

- 3) Elections: January 2008 – December 2009 Candidates
  - a. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Executive Officers, Secretary Sumanth Venugopal presented the candidates identified to fill the open positions for the January 2008 – December 2009 term.
  - b. Sumanth Venugopal presented each candidate and asked the General Body if there were any objections to the name being proposed. If there were none, Sumanth asked if someone

from the floor would officially nominate the candidate. Once the nomination was received, Sumanth asked for the nomination to be seconded.

c. The following individuals were elected using the process stated above:

<b>Executive Office Committee Elected List</b>	
<b>President</b>	Dr. Vishwamitra (South)
<b>Vice President</b>	Dr. Shiva Satish (South)
<b>Secretary</b>	Mr. Dinesh Gowda (South)
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mrs. Malini Laxman (Midwest)
<b>Joint Secretary</b>	Mrs. Hema Kanthraju (East)
<b>Joint Treasurer</b>	Mr. Dayashankar Adappa (Midwest)
<b>Board of Trustees Elected List</b>	
<b>BOT Youth</b>	Ms. Jhanvi Rajagopal (South)
	Ms. Ashwini Anjanappa (East)
<b>BOT VPA founder Member</b>	Mr. Shiva Shankar (Midwest)
<b>BOT (D) Life, Patron, Grand Patron</b>	Dr. Ansuya Swamy (East)
	Dr. Rangappa (East)
<b>BOT (E) Previous Board of Trustees</b>	Mr. BJ Arun (West)
	Mr. Sumanth Venugopal (West)
<b>BOT(E) at-large member from convention</b>	Mr. Ramesh Gowda (Midwest)

d. Note – Dr. Viswamitra was elected National President at the 2005 National Convention in Detroit. As a sign of support, Sumanth asked the current General Body to provide a vote of confidence to Dr. Viswamitra (which it did.)

e. Discussions to Note:

i. Two candidates were approved by the General Body in absentia:

1. Dr. Shiva Satish
2. Ms. Jhanvi Rajagopal

ii. This did set off a debate regarding whether a candidate should be able to stand for election if they are not present at the General Body meeting.

After the debate, B.J. Arun asked if anyone objected to the candidates being considered “in absentia”. A majority of the General Body did not have a problem

with this and as subsequently, elected Dr. Satish and Mr. Rajagopal to their respective positions.

#### 4) Other

- a. Sumanth Venugopal asked if there were any other issues to discuss at the General Body.
  - i. VPA West Chapter President Prabhu Dev announced that the VPA West had elected its new Executive Committee for the January 2008 – December 2009 term.
  - ii. National Vice President Hosalli Gangadhara (VPA West) challenged the overall process used to hold the VPA West elections and also, questioned some of the processes used to manage VPA West membership and finances over the past few years.
  - iii. Prabhu Dev mentioned that he had not cashed any membership checks given to him over his two terms as the West Chapter President because there was no bank account for the VPA West.
  - iv. Dr. Sreekanth (VPA Midwest) and Dr. Rajagowda (VPA Midwest) inquired about the \$1000 check that had been donated to the VPA West. Dr. Sreekanth mentioned that this money could have been used to open a bank account and benefit the VPA West members.
  - v. Prabhu Dev communicated that this check had expired since it was over a year old and the bank would not cash it. He mentioned that he would look to have the check re-issued.
  - vi. Dr. Rajagowda mentioned this was not possible since the account had been closed and as such, the money would not be available.
  - vii. Ms. Anu Gowda (VPA East) commented that questions related to the management of the VPA West membership and finances should be looked into. She expressed that this was important to do given that any incomplete record keeping could have a negative impact on the VPA organization as a whole.
  - viii. After further discussion, the General Body asked National President B.J. Arun to get the membership and financial situation of the VPA West in order so the new Executive Officers would inherit a clean process and set of records.
  - ix. B.J. Arun agreed to the task but mentioned – that due to time constraints – he might have to delegate the task to another VPA member. He would review the findings and present them to the Board of Trustees and Executive Officer Committee.
  - x. The General Body agreed that this was acceptable.

\*\*\*\*\*



**ಬಕ್ಕಲಿಗರ ಪರಿಷತ್ತು, ಅಮೇರಿಕ**  
**Vokkaligara Parishat of America (VPA)**  
 (Not for Profit Tax ID: 31-1529941) [www.myvpa.org](http://www.myvpa.org)



**Executive Committee 2006-2007**

**President**

B. J. Arun, CA  
510-289-2786

**Vice-President**

H. Gangadhara, CA  
925-820-8479

**Secretary**

Sumanth Venugopal, CA  
408-396-9649

**Joint-Secretary**

Amusuya Swamy, MD  
410-581-9161

**Treasurer**

Mrs. Vasanthi Gowda, IL  
630-963-0923

**Joint-Treasurer**

Lalitha Swamy, MI  
248-960-8843

**Trustees**

B. J. Arun, CA  
510-289-2786

Sumanth Venugopal, CA  
408-396-9649

Vasanthi Gowda, IL  
630-963-0923

Vanita Kuppalli  
(President, VPA East Chapter)  
410-654-3723

H. Kulle Gowda  
(President, VPA Midwest Chapter)  
630-963-0923

Prabhu Dev  
(President, VPA West Chapter)  
408-517-9027

Dinesh Gowda  
(President, VPA South Chapter)  
972-724-2343

Amarnath Gowda, MI  
248-682-4872

Ramesh Gowda, MI  
248-377-2727

D. L. Narayana, IL  
708-798-5449

M. Rangappa, VA  
804-748-8765

Ramesh Malekal, IL  
847-622-7247

Radhakrishna Talkad, CA  
510-651-6968

Prapanch Swamy, IL  
630-325-9574

Arjun Gowda, MI  
248-681-4343

**Summary of VPA National Account (January 1, 2003 to June 27, 2007)**

• **Balance as of Dec. 31, 2002 (from previous Treasurer Srinivasa Murthy):**

Investments (Mutual Funds):	\$ 40,858
Cash:	\$ 5,599
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 46,457</b>

Life, Patron & Grand Patron (GP) Memberships received up to 12/31/02: **\$ 59,377**

**Deficit (amount required to balance Life, Patron & GP Memberships): \$ 12,920**

• **Income (January 1, 2003 to June 27, 2007):**

Memberships:	\$ 15,425
Dividends/Interest:	\$ 2,282
Donations:	\$ 24,320
Contribution from 2000 Convention left-over	\$ 5,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 47,027</b>

• **Expenses (January 1, 2003 to June 27, 2007):**

Charitable Contributions:	\$ 24,160
Accountant Fee for IRS Tax Form Preparation and Illinois Secretary of State Annual Reports	\$ 2,156
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 26,316</b>

• **Net Income:**  $\$ 47,027 - \$ 26,316 =$  **\$ 20,711**  
**(January 1, 2003 to June 27, 2007)**

• **Increase in value of Investments:** **\$ 18,992**  
**(January 1, 2003 to June 27, 2007)**

• **Ending Balance (As of June 27, 2007):**

Investments (Mutual Funds):	\$ 59,850
Cash:	\$ 26,310
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 86,160</b>

Life, Patron and GP Memberships received up to June 27, 2007: **\$ 74,802**

**Excess (amount in excess of Life, Patron & GP Memberships received): \$ 11,358**

**Prepared by: Vasanthi Gowda, VPA Treasurer**

# 10<sup>th</sup> VPA National Convention 2007

## Budget Summary

Revenue	\$141,567
Costs	\$138,452
Balance	\$3,115

Note - Cost listed includes an estimate for video production and magazine publishing.  
The final numbers were not available at the time of printing.

\*\*\*\*\*

## VOKKALIGA

Broken is not the chain of ancient roots  
Alive and well budding flowers and shoots  
Blooming beyond the borders of village  
Vokkaliga is forever a sanctified sage

Living with honor of the treasured heritage  
Showing the veneration to the cherished lineage  
Streaming through life of valuable vintage  
Vokkaliga is forever a sanctified sage

Standing on foundation of esteemed tradition  
Spreading the virtues of the farmer's institution  
Standing tall like a pictogram with blessed image  
Vokkaliga is forever a sanctified sage

## Convention Memories

Here are a few letters that we received after the convention conveying thoughts and experiences of the 10<sup>th</sup> convention:

### Jay E Shankar:

We had a great time at the convention. This is the best VPA convention we have attended. We would like to thank you and the whole organization for arranging such a wonderful convention. Starting with the hotel accommodation, food and entertainment, everything worked out superb. It was great meeting friends and family.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Anusaya Swamy:

Congratulations to Sumanth and Arun for job well done. You both have proven to our community that new generation of young adults are rising in various fields. In spite of so many obstructions and egoistic elders, you both have proved that task on hand can be achieved through diplomacy, communication, effective strategies and mutual respect. Both of you have shown the community that young Vokkaligas from "Soil to Silicon" can assume leadership roles any where in the world and make us feel that WE ARE SECOND TO NONE.

I had such a good time during the convention, it is very hard to identify special moments. (See "My Perspectives on the 10<sup>th</sup> VPA Convention" at the end of this section for a detailed analysis of the convention.)

\*\*\*\*\*

### Kalpana Ramaswamy:

I could definitely say that this was **the** best Convention I have attended so far. The Organizational committee had coordinated everything so well--cultural programs, food, decorations, hospitality of the committee members, everything was so perfect.

It was so good to meet all the relatives some of them we hardly knew existed! I was stunned when an old classmate of mine came up to me and introduced herself. It was a wonderful feeling.

I just want to thank the organizers for their endless effort and hard work. You all did a wonderful job! My family and I had a wonderful time and also my Mom says thanks for finding the wheelchair for her even though it was kind of a last-minute notification.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Kumar Hanumaiah:**

1. This was a very nice convention with lots of time and effort by many of you and was really appreciated.
2. Food was excellent and the service of clearing the plates and cups as soon as we finished eating was really great. Those servers were fast and efficient.
3. MC's by the two youngsters--they did a great job. In the future youngsters like these should handle the convention proceedings, as these youngsters are brought up here in this country and they have a good command of the language which we can all follow. If you have some old folks handling the MC's, they cannot really speak good English and most people cannot understand what they are talking about.
4. Politicians were recognized by names without those long speeches, which is just the right thing to do. No one wants to attend these Conventions to listen to a politician for hours and hours on those long speeches.
5. There was a little problem in the microphones on the stage and some of the programs we could not hear properly, which can be improved in our next convention.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Dr. H. K. Mariyappa:**

Me and my wife Shantha attended the conference for 3 days and had a wonderful time. This convention was one of the best we have attended. California's beautiful setting with excellent weather, every one we came across really enjoyed. We met lot of wonderful friends and relatives we had not seen for years. It was a worthwhile time well spent. Your young leadership was one of the best we have seen. Food was very good and plenty. Young talented ladies and men, boys and girls gave a superb performance. On the negative side Coffee and tea was mixed with milk and appeared too light. Milk and coffee should be kept separately. People from India, mainly, politicians enjoyed the hospitality and the program very much. It was a nice group. I hope next year it will be equally good.

Best wishes and thanks for all your hospitality and good work.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Priya Jagasia:**

I thought the three days of the convention were amazing. The energy and the enthusiasm were awesome. It felt like a huge wedding celebration where a family comes together to share, work and have fun. My kids had a blast; they met so many new friends. They actually got to experience things that they have never seen in the past. The concept of the village procession and the associated originality of the costumes were out of imagination. My kids who have never seen one now want to visit a village and experience it. To me, the most inspiring part of the convention was the fact that Sumanth who is a second generation Indian contributed so significantly. This gives me the warm feeling that despite living in the

US, our kids will never forget our roots. Both Arun and he are to be commended for keeping things flowing smoothly all through out the convention.

Great Food, Great People, Overall a big five for the team and the event!. I have made a new family that will stay with me for years to come!. Can't wait for the next one.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Gerbail T. Krishnamurthy:**

While we were signing up for the Palo Alto VPA convention, we were concerned that there would be nobody, except Chandru (my classmate), that we knew to spend time with at the meeting. What a great surprise! If one applies the logic that “A relative of my relative is also my relative”, then everybody who came there was one’s relative.

The meeting was well-organized. Organizers cut out all of the non-sense. Entertainment was top class. Costumes were extraordinary. Music, Drama, dances, skits, plays, Karaga, Bhagavathara Aata, etc, etc were truly first class. Mr. Krishnegowda standup comedy was unparalleled. Silicon Valley has talent, and people put their heart and mind for the success of the meeting. Two days were just too short!!

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Swarup Gowda:**

Congratulations!!!!!! We heard the convention was very well done. The food was excellent, very authentic, entertainment was good too. We also heard the events were very well coordinated and the Gods cooperated with some great weather.

Hats off to you and all your committee members for having worked so hard to make this convention enjoyable for everyone.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **G. Lakshman:**

I really enjoyed the convention. I really feel that you (Sumanth), Mr. Arun and Mr. Radhakrishna had displayed wonderful leadership and organized a perfect convention. The team worked very hard and shows that our community has a wonderful leadership partnering with young and old teams. I am really pleased and I congratulate all of you I wish you all the best and good luck.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Lokesh M V:**

The Convention was fantastic. Everything was fine and well organized. I don't have a story or incident to share, but it was joyful event.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Venkatappa Nanjundaram:**

When Arun accepted to host the VPA CONVENTION in California, I knew that you & your team would do better. Now I feel that the convention set an example in every aspect on how to do it—right from the first day, the food, entertainment, honoring the guests and volunteers. It was very good. We returned home with excellent memories. God bless all of you and VPA.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Shaline and Omprakash:**

It was great pleasure and the most joyous moments for our family attending and participating in this convention. We really appreciated you the most for being born here in US and showing so much of interest in bringing our community to the forefront. We want our kids to follow your steps and be such a responsible gowda. Looking forward for more shows and we hope to participate more.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Mudappa Rangappa:**

This is a personal expression from my heart, not sugar-coated, any reward seeking or asking for any favors, just by being part of the Convention.

Words alone are not adequate to express the joy, happiness and contentment witnessed at “The 10th VPA Convention”. To recollect a few of many highlights; overall arrangements at the venue, the site selection, coordination of events; cultural, social, educational, business and woman forms and starting the day with yoga; food for the soul and the body were all outstanding, very appropriate and highly appreciative.

The food item alone needs a special praise, admiration and deserves an extraordinary reward if there is one. This item alone took care of all obstacles expected and anticipated. Everybody indulged and feasted three days very well and may be added a little bulk over. It was truly outstanding and our Organization should express our very sincere gratitude to Mr. Vital and to his team.

You displayed marvelous love, affection and helped us bond with 500 other people with the same ethnic roots across this great country. Each one deserves a pat on the back for the job well done. You left a long lasting and memorable impression on hearts and minds on all participants attended.

A special recognition and expression of “thanks” to Mrs. Veena Gowda who coordinated that Karaga event and Mr. Radhakrishna Thalkadu who over saw the entire Convention activities; both did an outstanding job.

Truly, you both proved by action that you are the young second generation capable of doing great things not only to our Community but also to this Great Nation. I’m an admirer of President Clinton, my daughter worked in the White House and now she works for the Democratic National Party. President Clinton often stated to the Nation that “among all immigrants of the world, Indians are the most contributing people” to this society. This fits well with both of you, it is my true belief because I worked with both of you closely and I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to both of you for the job well done. You made me feel very proud of our Community.

# My Perspectives on the 10<sup>th</sup> VPA Convention

By Anusaya Swamy

It was evident how diligently and harmoniously the leaders of all committees have communicated and worked with their respective committee members for such an enjoyable and memorable convention. It was also evident that committee leads and members have worked countless number of hours to celebrate and make 10th bi-annual event a grand success. From the site selection to cultural, educational, social programs; from food for body and soul - to break out sessions that included Health, Business, Community Service, Women Issues conducted in such a manner that persons attended the convention inspired to share their Convention Moments with their friends and families and those who could not attend.

The VPA West Chapter under the leadership of B.J. Arun (National VPA President) and Sumanth Venugopal (National VPA Secretary, Convention Chair) have definitely turned the convention into “California Gold”. Both have demonstrated their leadership in celebrating this landmark event through diplomacy, dignity, and people skills. My heart felt gratitude and thanks to committee leads and members who have tirelessly spend their time and efforts.

The following are few of my special Convention moments:

**Choice of Keynote:** I was impressed by Captain Neil Prakash, Iraq war veteran, recipient of the Silver Star for Bravery and young Indian American. His address has shown entire world his bravery continuing the path of our vokkaliga leaders. His patriotic message to young people is admirable and he is the role model.

**Karaga** – Special thanks to Mrs. Veena Gowda for coordinating the program and speaking kannada as village gowdhi and Mr. Radhakrishna Thalkadu for overseeing the convention activities. This event brought my childhood memories of enjoying the Karaga procession, meeting relatives from various places and eating delicacies sold at selected procession routs.

The Karaga festival is a social, educational and historical one to ensure the religious harmony among different community members. During nine day festival, members will ensure that homes, streets and pathways (surroundings) are cleaned (symbolizing Shuddhi) and readiness for unity among various religions including muslim communities. For the Vanikula Kshatrias (Tigalas), this is an important festival. Karaga is part of 9th day festival falls on the full moon day of the first month of the lunar Hindu calendar (Chaitramasa, March). It has a ritualistic significance in celebrating strong and ideal womanhood of Droupadi and bringing religious harmony to villages and towns. Karaga is seen as insulting Dharmaraja (yudhistira in Mahabharatha) for letting Kauravas humiliate his wife Droupadi in the assembly of political leaders and relatives. Karaga (a symbol for ideal & strong womanhood) is a mud pot holding a tall floral decoration shaped in the form of a pyramid that is expertly balanced on the carrier’s head. The contents of the pot have remained a secret even to this day. The selected male carrier has to fast to cleanse himself physically and mentally for days to fit to balance Karaga on his head. The carrier’s wife takes the role of a widow and her mangala sutra (symbol for married woman), bangles and yellow saree are worn by her husband. She will not see her husband or Karaga until the conclusion of the festival.

The rituals are based on Mahabharatha, particularly in the stripping of Draupadi, the exile of pandavas, and the death of her sons. After all these trials and tribulations, she has emerged as a symbol of deity for her

strength and ideals. It is a strong belief that her power (shakti) brims over during the festival. The Karaga's dharshan begins at the Dharmaraya Swamy temple and is heralded by bare-chested veerakumaras. The Karaga carrier symbolizing Draupadi practically in a trance (temporary avatar as Draupadi) even as he dances along with soldiers (veerakumaras) wielding swords, dancers and other processional amenities. The tradition has it that veerakumaras accompanying the karaga can execute the carrier should he stumble and let the karaga fall. According to legend, a sufi (muslim lived in the mosque) saint and Dharmaraya worked for the welfare of their people. To continue the tradition for the welfare of today's community, the Karaga procession first goes to mosque (Dhargah from the time of immemorial) paying respect to living saint to exchange goodwill gestures (fruits /flowers) and then continues through designated routs. The families of veerakumaras perform pooja to the karaga at designated stops. By the time procession returns to the temple, it will be dawn. Karaga is celebrated in different parts of Karnataka in places such as Hoskote, Bangalore, Anaekallu, Maluru, Kolar, Vijayapura, Devanahalli, Yelahunka and others.

It is also celebrated in Tamilnadu as "Kargam" a ritual dedicated to Mariamman the goddess of health and rain. The ritual pot filled with water and adorned with flower decorations of several feet high is carried by the priest in the procession accompanied by dancers, musicians, soldiers, etc. Kargam is celebrated in the month of August. In Andhra Pradesh, it is celebrated as "Garagalu."

**Professor M. Krishne Gowda**, a prominent humorist and a writer, exhibited his knowledge of Sanskrit and unique talent of social comments. I laughed so much not only during the convention even after words. I am still sharing the hilarious statements such as "Lekka Haakidiraa" with my family and friends. He has a special gift of spreading social issues through humorous comments. I am touched by his expertise of creating verses of Suprabhatha / Vishnu Sahasranama to hilarious social comparisons. In my opinion, his singing voice matches with any expert musician.

**Business Form:** Every detail was taken to include what it takes to be an Entrepreneur (Kariguddiah); the opportunities and Pitfalls of Outsourcing (Bharath Gowda); Moving Up in Corporate America- Woman's perspective (Sudha Dev); Starting Business and Role of Faith (B.J. Arun); and addressing the form in its entirety by Sri. Kumar Malavalli. It is an evidence of convention theme "Soil to Silicon" to show young and old vokkaligas the importance of taking part in local and global issues of economy and education.

**Fashion Show- Generations in Style:** I have seen many fashion shows performed by many cultures in the past. This was unique, fun, amusing and educational indicating that everything is subject to change -- CHANGE IS CONSTANT.

Over 160 years ago, people rushed in the hopes of finding golden dreams in the rocks and water beds of the Bay City. Over century ago, the first South Asians came from India via Hong Kong and Canada and settled in the Mediterranean climate of Northern California. Fifty years ago, the state had the foresight to elect the first Asian to Congress embracing professionals from diverse backgrounds that pushed this country forward. Almost 10 years ago California (VPA West Chapter) hosted a National Convention. Today, it is evident that our young leaders are intellectual trail blazers not only changed convention into precious gold, with diverse educational backgrounds they will help shepherd a broader and more valued united vokkaliga community.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Dear VPA members,**

Email has become one of the most widely used forms of communication today. From time to time, it would be helpful to present some tips on proper email etiquette. We use it for a range of purposes from personal to chatting to business interactions. However, because of the casual nature of the whole process of sending email, it is easy to become careless in the way we address our recipients. For an email message to be effective, certain etiquette has to be followed such that your message is gotten across exactly the way you intended for it to be. Also, while using email, we sometimes are a little less courteous than in face-to-face conversations. Here are some useful points to keep in mind when communicating with email:

1. Write your message keeping in mind the context of the person reading it.
2. Be concise. In general, reading requires more mental energy than speaking. Therefore your email should not sound as though you are having a conversation with the recipient but rather as an efficient exchange of ideas.
3. Do not use CAPITAL LETTERS unless it is required to do so. Capital letters, in especially electronic communication is equivalent to SHOUTING and in general, is considered bad etiquette.
4. Do not overuse the "Reply-to-all" feature. Only send email from the original list of recipients who you think your reply will be relevant to.
5. Keep your email free of misspellings and grammatical errors. It not only makes your email look professional but also eases the mental load of the recipient.
6. Read your entire email before you send it.
7. If you have a disagreement with another person, try to solve it one-on-one first, rather than broadcasting the mail to a large group of people.

I hope the above rules will help us to communicate more effectively and courteously.

Regards,

Anonymous VPA well-wisher

\*\*\*\*\*

# Best Wishes to Vokkaligara Parishat of America



Prabhu Dev &  
Family: Sudha,  
Mish & Jayanth

Santa Cruz, CA



## **Chapter Activities 2006-2007**

**East**

**Midwest**

**South**

**West**

# Best Wishes to Vokkaligara Parishat of America



The Shanker Family:  
Smita, Shanker, Sonali  
& Ashwin

Fremont, CA

## VPA East

**President: Vanitha Kuppali**

The Vokkaligara Parishat of America–East (VPA-East) normally begins the year by celebrating Ugadi with Bevu Bella, which marks the beginning of the ‘New Year,’ expecting the coming year will signify the combination of Bevu Bella. The inner significance of this preparation is to indicate that life is a mixture of good and bad, joy and sorrow and all of them have to be treated alike.

The members of VPA-East from Connecticut to North Carolina meet at least two times a year. They have a good social time and it is like a family get together event. The events are filled with cultural events that signify our rich Indian culture.



*There is an abundance of hidden talent in our community; VPA-EAST always encourages the members to get involved in the VPA programs. All VPA events are filled with excellent cultural programs performed by Adults, Youths and kids. VPA-EAST events are Ugadi, Summer Picnics, Deepavali and Christmas toy drive.*

The 2006 Ugadi function attended by 150 members was held at the Best Western Venice Ball room, Hagerstown, MD. The Adult group from Virginia performed folk dance named Munjaneddu Kumbaranna – Bamboo Kolatta. Picture at the right depicts the rich culture of South India. On special occasions including harvest, planting,

marriages and religious holidays, the villagers gather to and sing and dance. This dance depicts one such celebration.

Choreography and coordination of the team was excellent and the dance performance fabulous.

The participants were Girish Ramamuthy, Anitha Dasappa, Veena Gowda, Suresh, Vinodhini Gowda, Ramesh Kundur, Ravindra & Geetha Ravindra.

At the Ugadi function, we had Devaranama – Narayana (Purandara Dasa) recitals by Hamsa Gowda from Maryland. Her performance was excellent. She is trained by the popular Guru Mrs. Ushachar of Washington DC. Hamsa is also a member of the youth committee.



VPA-EAST members are very much involved in helping their kids understand the classical traditions of South India. This creates a stepping-stone for the younger generation to assimilate and realize the great Indian culture.

VPA-East management committee has taken the initiative, donating toys to the needy kids in the Baltimore community. With help from everyone in the community, we enjoyed the Holiday season by sponsoring and donating at the Christmas toys drive.



With the generous support from the community, we were able to help many of these needy kids with gifts that made a difference during the wonderful Holiday season. The toys were donated to “Stella Maria” center .for kids with disability and Autism. The contribution by the community brought joy and made a difference in the lives of so many kids at the center. The picture was taken while handing over the gifts to the Stella Maria center. Picture shows (from left to right) John a Stella Maria representative, Mrs Nalini Anjanappa Treasurer VPA-East, Mr. Prakash Bhadrach Jt. Secretary VPA-East.

VPA-East ends the year with donating toys and serving lunch for the homeless during the Christmas week.

In the future, VPA-EAST is looking forward to helping the community on Earth Day, when flowers will be planted at public libraries.

During the Ugadi function, the kids group from Maryland performed a folk dance named Suggi Haadu (Picture shown below). Kids 12 and under spent reasonable amount of time practicing the dance. Choreography and coordination of the team was excellent. It was a memorable dance performance by the kids trained by Shanthi Tantri (Kannada Teacher). The kids were dressed as South Indian farmers, holding farm tools.



Participants were Pratik Prakash, Ashwin Reddi, Nikhil Bhagavan, Akshay Guthal, Pavan Ravindra, Rahul Reddy, Rohith Reddi, Nitya Prakash, and Arjun Guthal

At the Ugadi function, we had group from Virginia performing a comedy skit named Computer Comrades (picture shown below). The skit was enjoyed by all age groups and portrayed a realistic conversation. The skit created and perfected with little practice made everyone laugh. The program showed the diversity and quality of talents in the community.



The participants were Ravi Ravindra, Suresh Gowda, Girish Ramamurthy, and Ramesh Kundur.

# Best Wishes to Vokkaligara Parishat of America



Govind Lakshman  
& Family

Oak Brook, IL

## VPA Midwest

### President: H. Kullegowda

Executive Committee: President - H. Kulle Gowda, Secretary - Prasad Krishnappa, Treasurer – Poornima Cholenahalli, Vice President - Sathish Chandra, Jt. Secretary - Basavaraj Bettaygowda, Jt. Treasurer - Smitha Somashekar.

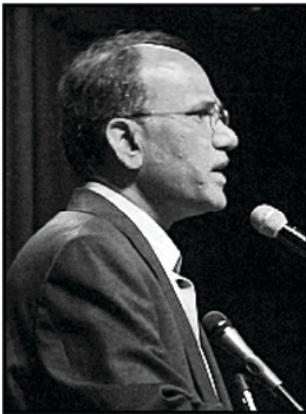
Program Committee: Jayashree Kumar, Thribhuvana Murthy, Pushpa Malekal, & Ramesh Rangasham.

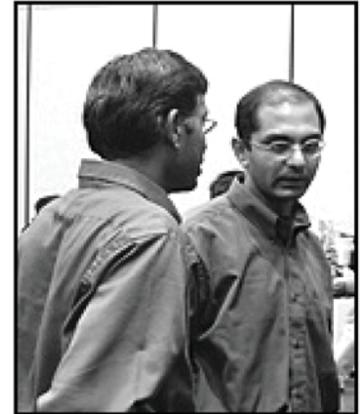
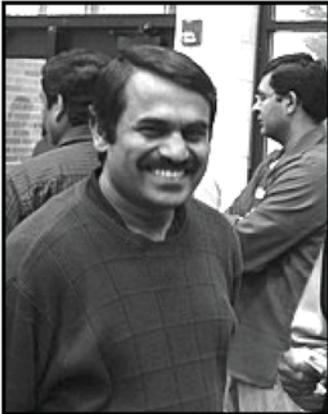
Youth Committee: Abhiram Nagaraj, Ruthvik Basavaraj, Navin Vence, Nishita Kumar, Suman Gowda, Aravind Krishnakumar, & Nikhil Malekal.

State Representatives: Indiana: Rathna Gowda, Kentucky: Kalpana Rajanna, Michigan: Ramesh Gowda, Minnesota: Niranjana Babu, Ohio: Raghava Gowda Wisconsin: Naren Simhan, Iowa: Prakash Hanumaiah.

Our Midwest Chapter committees were formed with the idea of getting more newcomers. The mix of experience and talent has ensured that our committee's role and VPA Midwest activities are executed with a commitment to excellence. With the committee members' hard work and the members continued support and cooperation we have brought in quality performances and programs.

We started our term with a **Spring Get-Together (Vasanthotsava)** which was held on **May 13, 2006** at Prisco Community Center, Aurora, Illinois. There were lots of our members who participated in this event. We also had members from different states perform at this event like Kalpana Rajanna from Kentucky singing the invocation song and Sunil Rajanna gave a guitar performance, Nagamani Viswanath from Michigan danced to the song 'Olage Seridhare Gundu.' State representatives Ramesh Gowda from Michigan, Naren Simhan from Wisconsin, and Kalpana Rajanna from Kentucky also attended the program.





Our Midwest Chapter Summer Picnic was held on July 3, 2006 at Blackwell Forest Preserve. The men grilled tandoori chicken, hot dogs and corn, and the women enjoyed frying fresh, hot onion pakodas. Everyone enjoyed playing picnic games like volleyball, cricket, water balloon toss, and lemon & spoon race.

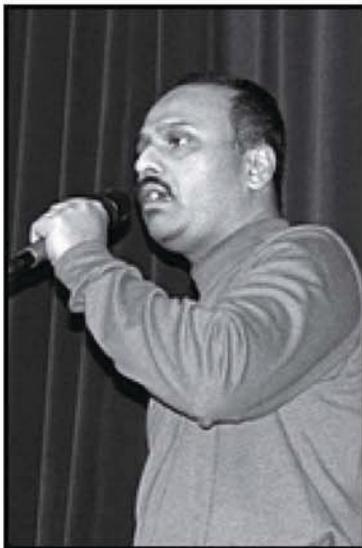


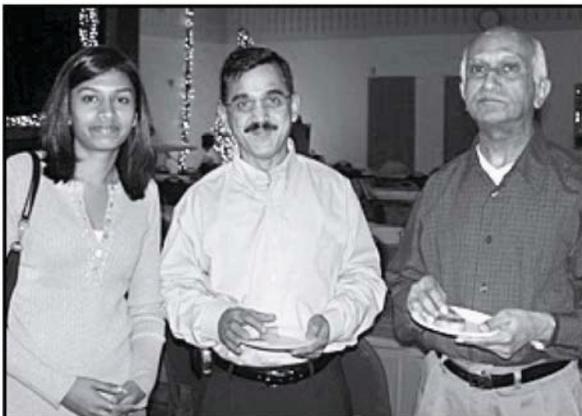
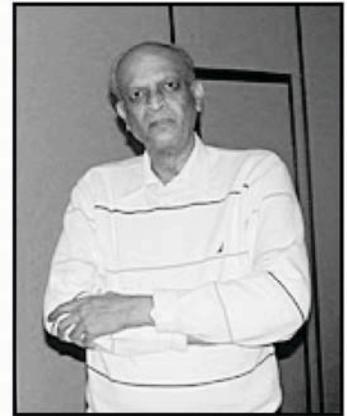
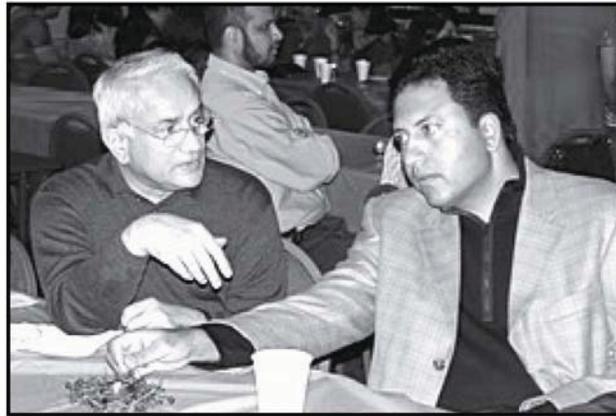
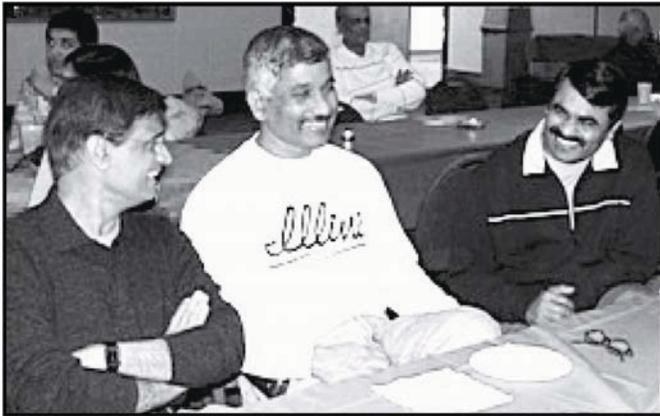


We had the Winter Get-Together on December 16, 2006 in Aurora, Illinois. The youth committee sang both the Indian and American national anthems. National VPA President B. J. Arun attended the program and personally requested everyone to come and attend the VPA convention in California. The program committee had coordinated a showcase of eminent people from Karnataka in commemoration of 50<sup>th</sup> Rajyothsava by having involving sixteen kids; each one showcasing a different personality from Karnataka. Our own playback singer Dinesh Kadamuddi sang many popular hit movie songs. Who can forget the dance routine by Nishita Kumar? Aravind Krishnakumar very appropriately played holiday songs on the piano for us, and Roshana Krishnappa sang some devotional songs. There was an anthakshari sound check quiz time for music and movie buffs created and hosted by the dynamic duo Dinesh Kadamuddi and Thribhuvana Murthy.









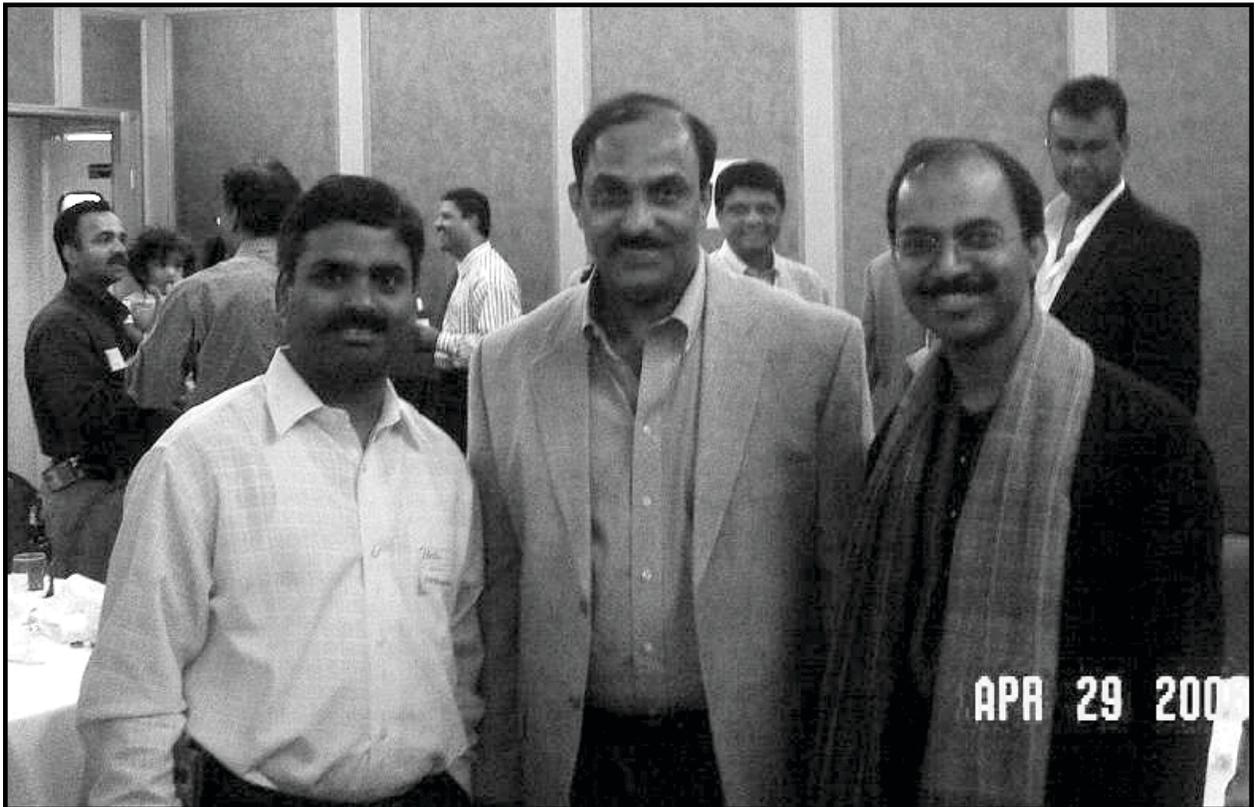
## VPA South

### President: Dinesh Gowda

VPA South Chapter was launched on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2006 at the Mayuri Restaurant in Houston. The program began with an Invocation by the little ones and a welcome note from Dr.Shiva Satish, Secretary VPA South. His words of the organization growing as a family were very motivating. Dr.Halekote Vishwamitra, President Elect of Vokkaligara Parishat of America talked briefly about Vokkaligas and History of Vokkaligas. Mr.Shashi Gowda was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Everyone present in the room introduced themselves. This was followed by an excellent dinner hosted by Mrs. Asha Satish. No party is complete without the ambience of celebration. An energetic crowd I have yet to see. Everyone jived to some good music provided by Mr.Dayanand.

We enjoyed the evening with the Vokkaligas of Houston who made us feel right at home. It was a very friendly and cheerful crowd I met in Houston that day. Everyone was very excited to be part of the organization. My sincere thanks to Dr.Satish and Mrs.Asha Satish whose enthusiasm and efforts made the evening a success. I would also like to extend my thanks to the committee members Mr.Venkatesh Gowda, Mr.Ranganath Gowda, Mr.D.R.Dayananda, Mr.Tyagi Rangappa, Ms.Yamuna Srinidhi and Dr.Vasudev Bomanna for their incredible support. I wish them all success in growing VPA Houston.

Three Cheers to VPA Houston for a very successful launch!



*VPA South celebrates Mother's day in Dallas on May 14, 2006*

VPA South had its second activity for the year on May 14, 2006 by celebrating Mothers day in Dallas. Fourteen families got together to celebrate Mothers day. Dinesh Gowda talked about VPA and the growth of VPA as it is today. He encouraged the families to become active members of the organization. It was a good gathering with Vokkaligas of Dallas meeting each other for the first time. A cake was cut to celebrate the occasion. All mothers were presented with bouquets from their kids. We are sure the kids loved doing that.



*VPA South Holiday Party in Dallas.*

A holiday party was hosted by Dr. & Mrs. Nandini & Balu Chandra at their residence on Nov 18, 2006 in Dallas. Three more new families joined us for this gathering.

*VPA South Christmas Party in Houston:*

A holiday party was hosted by the VPA south committee families on Dec 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at a club house in Houston. The Highlight of the evening was a Fashion show organized and participated by the ladies of VPA Houston.





*VPA CAMPING 2007 at BASTROP.*

The highlight of the events was our camping event in Bastrop, Texas held between March 30 – April 1, 2007. 25 families attended the event. The event went off well beyond our expectations. Everyone had great fun and enjoyed the camping event. There were numerous activities for the adults and kids. The event started off on Friday with the Dining Room cricket at Midnight. Saturday was the main day of the camping. More families joined us in the morning.

The day went with more activities for everyone and in the evening, Dinner was followed by Bonfire. A Quiet Sunday Brunch was followed by Cleanup.

*Report and Pictures Compiled by Roopa & Dinesh Gowda*



# Best Wishes to Vokkaligara Parishat of America



Dinesh Kadamuddi & Family

Aurora, IL

## VPA West

### President: Prabhu Dev

The VPA (West) Committee had its hands full this year especially with the Convention being hosted by our Chapter, at home, here in the Bay Area. It was even more challenging due to the cost of goods and services in the Bay Area. Though it was difficult to envisage, we had a wonderful committee, which though initially cautious took up the challenge and went for it. With the leadership of the Central Executive committee plus help of numerous volunteers they brought about "VPA10" one of the Best Conventions ever.

Congratulations to the Committees and all the members involved in making this a huge success and something to remember. Everyone enjoyed taking home positive thoughts and feelings, making them feel proud and good as Vokkaligas. Mr. Vittal's food gave it even more authenticity and for 3 days all Vokkaligas were mesmerized with wonderful programs, a grand merrivanige, lovely fashion show and a proud vokkaliga reality check.

**UGADI:** Coming into the year 2006, VPA West Celebrated Ugadi in their homes and in smaller groups. This time Sudha and I spent Ugadi with members in Antelope Valley. Palmdale/Lancaster, a joint small High Desert City to the North of Los Angeles, known for its closeness with the Mohave Shuttle Landings as also for the famous Poppy and Lilac festivals. A number of VPA youth remember this place, as 10 years ago it was a VPA West favorite picnic spot. Palmdale/Lancaster boast of a closely knit, welcoming Vokkaliga community in the West. We then came back to our home in Cupertino Northern California, to have another VPA Ugadi event in our House enjoying the savories of the festival, rituals payasa and Bevu Bella.

**JULY 4<sup>th</sup> Events:** San Francisco Bay Area and the Los Angeles Area are the two major metropolitan areas with concentration of Vokkaligas. When planning for a July 4 event as usual we studied the logistics of a center point in California, for an event. We decided that as the Grand Vokkaliga Convention was being planned for the Bay Area next year, we should hold events in both areas in 2006.

**July 2 S CA.,** We had a lunch get together at Punjab Palace in Northridge in Southern California. A place which was jolted-rocked and almost the epicenter of the Northridge earthquake in the early 90's.

We had a number of people who came in to participate. The crowd was mostly of members from the San Fernando and Antelope Valley Areas'. The LA region is so spread out that for people from or beyond the San Bernadino Valley or Anaheim area to come to Northridge, it takes a 2 to 3 hour drive one way. That gives you an idea of how LA is spread out. The luncheon get together was good, with great food. Thanks to our Vice President Ashwini and team who got this going and also to the Krishnas' for sponsoring the event and picking up the tab. We had a good chat meeting families and also an opportunity for the Central VPA team to solicit support for the Convention. This place is not so far from the Universal Studios so some families decided to go there after lunch.

Fullerton another place in the South was always a good meeting spot for Vokkaligas in the past. Disneyland is just around this corner. We decided in LA to do a Christmas season night out there in 2007 and await members input for a location.

**July 4, 2007:** Our next event was right here in the Bay Area. The Center of the Silicon Valley. We had over 70 people attending this Kannadiga owned restaurant, Masala Oven Indian Cuisine in Sunnyvale. The food was good and the company was great.

At this program too, we scouted for volunteers for the convention. We also planned for the Annual BBQ and split for the evening to be available too watch July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks. A number of us watched from the Masala Oven parking lot, a colorful display of fireworks from the Great America Theme Park and also neighboring cities. The large hall provided us a private party location and Govardhan Gowda and Ravi helped man the registration desk while collecting all the funds for the food and membership.



**Annual BBQ October 2007.** This year we had our Bar Be Que event at the Lakewood Park in Sunnyvale. As usual, the attendance was close to a hundred and the weather though slightly crisp, did not deter an enthusiastic crowd to stay until late in the evening. The park was pretty central to most people and easy to find. The food was excellent and as usual we had our specialists Sharath Shankar, Ram Thamman, Jay Dev and others grilling all the marinated chicken, burgers and of course the sausages with all the wonderful spread of breads and buns. Garlic Bread as usual is a favorite along with the chicken and kebabs. We had around 75 persons for this event. The ladies had already done all the work of marinating and cooking some of the dishes brought in and it was time for the guys to show their skills. Thanks to all those families who provided the food and other items. The vegetarians had their usual veggie-burgers and the eggplant dish was a special for them. This tastes great when grilled with the masala. Praveen must be thanked for all the last minute errands and all members who made this a fun day.



Members got together for some anthakshari and the guys were pitted against the girls. You know who would win.... The boys had to give in to the girls especially after the nice recipe dishes with the BBQ. The melodious voices could not be beaten either. The guys however, had also done some good marinating so hats off to them too. The little ones had a ball of a time playing in the sand pits and the lovely lawn. Plans were discussed for the convention too at this time. A bit of rain nearly threw us off balance but nothing put us off as almost everyone was there till very late and till the end.



**FEB 2007 VPA West SATYANARAYANA POOJA.**

Spiritual sense prevails in our group at the VPA West. As in earlier years we had our Satyanarayana Puja held this year and we had nearly 25 families participating. There were a number of youngsters participating in this year's puja. The event was performed by Sri Narayan Swamiji of Balaji Temple, at the temple premises, 678 Cypress Ave., Sunnyvale CA

Balaji Temple in Sunnyvale has a feeling of a math or monastery even though it is small. It has beautiful murthies of Balaji and Lakshmi among other deities. They were both brought in from India and very powerful and giving. We had our Satyanarayana Puja here and the humming and singing of bhajans at the end of the puja especially organized for the VPA West was mesmerizing. All prayers for an eventful, peaceful convention and prayers for all VPA members may have been answered. We had a good puja and mahaprasad was provided for all who attended. The Katha was told and the puja was described in a mix of Kannada and English to enable all our youngsters to follow. Members like Anil Kumar, Manjunath, Jayanth Dev participated and performed the puja with their families along with all the other families.

The Balaji Temple now has a new premises with the purchase of land at 5004 N First St. Alviso/Sunnyvale. We appreciate all members to participate whenever possible and especially on the Third Saturday of May when it will be a special day encouraging Vokkaligas to attend. This is a day dedicated for the Farming Community at this temple.

**Convention VPA10:** This year has been a great year for VPA West. Members were involved not only in the normal activities of the VPA but went all out to assist the VPA Central Executive Committee in preparing for the Convention. The convention came out excellent and I would like to thank all the committee for an excellent job and support. I should appreciate with a special mention the following three committee members who contributed so much. Veena Gowda and Malini Yogesh for the wonderful entertainment programs they put across for this convention while co ordinating major sections, the merivanige, skits, etc. Sudha Dev for the Womens forum, Business forum as a speaker, and the Ikebana floral arrangement. Among the guys Dr. Divakar for helping raise major funds towards the convention, Sharath for being the all rounder, Gopi for managing so much and helping me in the VIP Committee.

Outside the committee, I could thank a number of people but will say a big thank you to all in the VPA Central Executive committee, VPA west members and all the volunteers. Thanks to Kavya and Shreya, two young members of VPA who organized a program for small kids, knowing well they would be out of town. We need people like you who are Vokkaliga youth with so much for the community and mean so well. You are a role model for all. Thanks also to my kids, Jayanth and Mesant Dev whom many of you know and Sudha Dev for standing by me all along with all the VPA events and sentiments.

We wish all VPA members and readers a wonderful year with many more wonderful VPA Years.

# Best Wishes to Vokkaligara Parishat of America



The Swamy Family -  
Javaraiah, Usha, Prapanch  
& Raksha

Burr Ridge, IL



## **Our Community**

**Health**  
**Awards/Achievements**  
**Poems**  
**Short stories**  
**Youth and Children**

# Best Wishes to Vokkaligara Parishat of America



Shakuntala & the  
Kuppe Family

Sacramento, CA



# HEART DISEASE IN SOUTH ASIANS

## Understanding, Approach and Prevention

**By Lalitha Rudraiah MD, Asst. Professor in Cardiology, Wayne State University, MI**

Coronary artery disease (CAD) or blockages in heart arteries is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide and was responsible for more than 7 million deaths in 2003.

1. The South Asian countries of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Srilanka and Nepal account for a quarter of the world's population and contribute the highest proportion of the burden of cardiovascular diseases compared to any other region globally.
2. South Asian migrants living in several countries have a higher death rate from CAD at younger ages compared with the local population despite apparently lower levels of conventional risk factors.
3. Deaths related to CVD also occur 5-10 years earlier in South Asian countries than they do in Western countries. Despite the lower prevalence of conventional risk factors the increased levels of lipoprotein A & B (bad cholesterol) levels and a smaller diameter of the coronary arteries to start with contribute to the above. The mean age for a first acute myocardial infarction is lower in South Asian countries at 53 years compared to their matched controls where it is 58 years.
4. Low HDL (good cholesterol), increased triglycerides, lipoprotein A and insulin resistance are associated with increased risk of CAD.
5. Multiple studies have delineated the fact that South Asians are at an increased risk and have a higher prevalence of CAD as compared to other ethnicities. To understand this better we need to have a better understanding of the pathophysiology of heart disease.

### Mechanism

CAD basically reflects the degree of blockages in the arteries, which supply blood to the heart muscle. The anatomy of the arteries is very complex. It is comprised of multiple layers of cells each having its own designated function. The inner most layers of these arteries are lined with cells which are called endothelium.

The enormous surface of the endothelium gets affected with cholesterol deposits in people with risk factors including high cholesterol levels, smoking and genetic predisposition. These cholesterol deposits in the coronary arteries are called 'plaques' and form the basis of atherosclerosis, a term commonly used in the medical jargon. As this condition progresses there may be a point in time when there is near total or subtotal occlusion of the artery occurs which gives rise to angina. Angina is chest pain brought on by exertion and relieved with rest. Another clinical variant of this is the onset of shortness of breath with exertion of any degree which is referred to as anginal equivalent. Angina is different from the most serious and fatal myocardial infarction (otherwise known as MI or heart attack). In MI, there is total occlusion to flow of blood in the coronary arteries and the muscle that is supplied by the corresponding vessel is devoid

of blood supply. If blood is not restored to that particular muscle very early the muscle will be dead and the entire pump function of the heart can be jeopardized.

This is what entails the syndrome of Congestive Heart Failure.

It is extremely important for us to understand one versus the other and nib the bud before it blossoms into a dangerous condition. What we need to understand is that it is not this slow and progressive blockage that gives an MI but small unstable atherosclerotic plaques that rupture giving rise to AMI (heart attack). In retrospect, any one of the below mentioned risk factors can cause endothelial dysfunction promoting the development of atherosclerosis. Better understanding of the risk factors which forms the basis for the development of CAD is beneficial both from the health as well as from the cost-effective / economical standpoint.

The conventional risk factors for CAD are further sub classified into modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors. The terminologies speak for themselves. Modifiable risk factors are the ones, which can be minimized by virtue of lifestyle change. The non-modifiable risk factors are not amenable to be changed.

### Modifiable

- Diabetes
- Hypercholesterolemia
- Obesity
- Smoking
- Sedentary life style,
- HTN
- Stress (altered autonomic profile, changes with BP and heart rate)
- Metabolic syndrome (symptom complex identified as presence of three or more of these components:

*BP = / > 130/85 mm Hg*

*Elevated triglycerides = / > 150 mg/dl*

*Reduced HDL < 40 mg/dl in men and < 50 mg/dl in women*

*Elevated fasting glucose = / > 100 mg/dl*

*Elevated waist circumference: = / > 40 inches in men and = / > 35 inches in women.*

All these factors cause an alteration in the internal milieu of the endothelium thus promoting the process of atherosclerosis.

*By virtue of our dietary indiscretion, South Asians are at a higher risk. Thanks to the Aji's anna saru with thuppa (Grandmas ghee, rice and curry) as part of growing up. The process of fat deposition (atherosclerosis) in the arteries starts as early as age one and is described as fatty streak. Then add chutney and ghee to idlis for breakfast, not to mention the festive kajjaya and Obattu during the festivals. Wallah! The authentic vokkaliga menu calls for a hats up. That explains why our forefathers who ate ragi mudde (ragi ball) and soppu saaru (greens curry) lived longer and healthier lives.*

To summarize, the smaller coronary arteries, presence of risk factors and unhealthy dietary practices initiate the development of atherosclerosis. One of the treatment entities for symptomatic CAD, Coronary Artery Bypass Grafts (commonly known as Bypass surgery) is associated with higher mortality in south Asians (independent predictor) as proved by one study.

## Treatment

*I am not going to describe the treatment aspect, for my focus here is to make the layman come to terms with coronary artery disease.*

Once the process of atherosclerosis sets in, it cannot be reversed with medications. The only treatment is to prevent its progress. By virtue of this limitation the slogan of “Prevention is better than cure” carries wisdom. This sets step for life style modification to avoid the risk factors so the primary culprit would be tackled. Thus the incidence of CAD can be decreased and we would all be leading healthier lives as long as we follow these rules:

- A:** Abstinence from smoking
- B:** Blood pressure control
- C:** Cholesterol control
- D:** Diabetes and diet control
- E:** Exercise regularly

- Healthy eating habits are the key.
- Incorporate lots of fruits and vegetables in your diet. Inculcate good dietary habits in children.
- Lean meat like chicken and fish should take precedence over red meat.
- Exercise for 30 minutes three – four times a week.
- Maintain regular doctor visits so that you can be screened for risk factors
- Try stress-relieving exercises like yoga, massage and avoid emotional conflict.
- Anti-oxidants have not proven by any research trial to decrease the incidence of CAD.

## **Warning Flags**

- Elderly, women and diabetics do not tend to have the classic presentation of heart disease. Low threshold to recognize the clinical problem is warranted.
- Being a woman does not suffice one from having CAD. In fact heart disease remains the number one killer in women. To emphasize further, the incidence of heart disease is slightly lower in the premenopausal women, however the entire paradigm changes after menopause women have equal if not a greater chance of developing coronary artery disease. Taking hormone supplements does not protect a postmenopausal woman from developing CAD. Women also do not have the classical presentation of heart symptoms. Like in the elderly, recognition of the clinical problem in this set of patients calls for a lower threshold.
- South Asians in particular and women in specific neglect the effects of stress on the heart. Competing to climb the ladder of success, with a go-getter attitude can accelerate the development of risk factors like HTN and also stimulate your sympathetic nervous system which indirectly attributes to the myocardial oxygen determinants of the heart, by increasing ones blood pressure and heart rate.

Note from the Author:

*This article has been written to cater to the general population and educate the VPA community about heart disease. I have tried my best to simplify it for the benefit of everybody. For the medical community this might be a suboptimal revision of the subject.*

# Best Wishes to Vokkaligara Parishat of America



The Munnegowda  
Family

Orchard Lake, MI

## Renewable Energy for Water Pumping in Karnataka

**By Suri N. Appa, Appa Renewable Energy Systems, Inc., Lake Forest, California**  
**Reviewed by Ken Starcher, Director, Alternative Energy Institute, Canyon, Texas**

The Karnataka agricultural industry supplies over 2000 Rs. Crores (> \$460 MM) of horticultural products per year and employs over 70% of the state's workforce. In addition to surface water supplies and seasonal rainfall, Karnataka's 35 million farmers heavily depend on groundwater for irrigation. There are more than 1.4 million electric submersible pumps and each year about 100,000 new wells are added. This creates an enormous demand for electrical power which is subsidized by the state government. In fact, 41% of the state's electrical power is consumed by Karnataka's agricultural needs and this is heavily subsidized by the government of Karnataka (Rs.1500 Crores or \$350 MM). Since peak demand frequently exceeds generation, this puts a heavy stress on the electrical grid resulting in an erratic power supply. The erratic power supply not only represents a significant inconvenience to residents, but also poses a tremendous handicap to industries and other businesses which depend on continuous power.

Distributed generation of electrical power from local generators can ease the agricultural demand on the grid as well as serve farmers' needs during blackouts. Fossil fuel generators are commonly used for this purpose but are less desirable due to environmental concerns and rising fuel costs. Renewable options such as solar and wind power systems, although require a higher initial capital investment, do not pollute the environment and are expected to continue operating well beyond the payback period. After the payback period, they provide essentially "free" energy.

Solar pump sets are useful in areas with abundant sunlight. Photovoltaic cells convert sunlight into electricity to run pumps. Solar systems have minimal moving parts, are easy to install and maintain, and could be mobile. When deep wells

are present or high water volumes are needed, more panels are required which increases the cost. In such cases, wind-electric pumping may be more economical.

In areas where the average wind speed exceeds 4 m/s at 10 meters height, (9 mph at 33 feet height), wind-powered water pumping is a practical choice. Karnataka wind resource studies have suggested such wind conditions exist in many areas throughout the state. Windmill mechanical water pumping has been used by farmers for centuries, but now wind electric pumping systems have proven to be more efficient. Small wind turbine technology has improved dramatically over the last two decades and today's machines are expected to incur minimal maintenance costs.

The initial capital cost for installing a renewable energy system is significant and is often a burden for consumers. A solar photovoltaic system costs about \$6000 - 8000 (Rs.2.6 - 3.4 lakh) per kilowatt and a small wind turbine costs about \$2500 - \$3000 (Rs.1.1 - 1.3 lakh) per kilowatt. Over the life cycle however, the levelized cost of distributed generation using solar and wind power should be less than with fossil fuel generators in the off-grid model. The overall cost savings would be even greater should fossil fuel costs continue to escalate as projected. Such a hedge against the price of fossil fuel could be a significant economic driver.

Currently, the government of Karnataka heavily subsidizes electric power for agricultural needs. However, of the 41% of the state's electric power provided to farmers, reports show there are significant losses due to transmission, distribution and theft, which means that much of subsidized power is not used for the intended

purpose. A more efficient method of subsidizing power for farmers would be to incentivize installation of renewable energy systems for distributed generation. This would result in reduced pollution, reduced demand on the electrical grid, and reduced long term cost of energy.

In conclusion, the delivery of subsidized electric power to farmers through the grid under the current program results in inefficient use of taxpayer funds while siphoning needed power from residents and businesses. Promoting widespread distributed generation using solar or wind power for agricultural water pumping would have a significant sustainable benefit for Karnataka environmentally and economically.



## Wind Turbine Systems Pvt. Ltd.



**Specialising in the Design and Production of**

## *Next Generation Wind Turbines*



**Dr. Kari Appa**  
Founder / Managing Director

**Inquiries:**  
Wind Turbine Systems (P) Ltd  
478 13<sup>th</sup> Main Road  
Koramangala, 3<sup>rd</sup> Block  
Bangalore , India 560034  
(t) 91 80 2553 9873  
(e) [appa33k@gmail.com](mailto:appa33k@gmail.com)

## Dr. Harsha Vardhana: Young Investigator Award

Experts say successful communication between a doctor and a cancer patient may lead to a better outcome. But what are the key elements to building that connection?

Dr. Harsha Vardhana, a hematology/oncology fellow at East Tennessee State University's James H. Quillen College of Medicine, is exploring that question further. This month, he was selected by the



American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) to receive the prestigious Young Investigator Award, an honor which includes a \$50,000 research grant. He won the award in the category of "Health Disparities."

"This gap in communication between doctors and patients is a major health disparity in the field of oncology, particularly here in the Appalachian region," Vardhana said. "Our training focuses on treatments and new therapies, but one of the greatest challenges is being able to communicate this information to our patients.

"Effective communication usually results in better compliance and a stronger understanding of the decisions the patients must make in regard to their care."

During the coming months, Vardhana and his research team will be interviewing patients and listening to their personal accounts of receiving a cancer diagnosis and the dialogue that subsequently occurred with their physician. His research team includes Dr. Forrest Lang, vice chair of family medicine at ETSU and one of the nation's most-respected

authorities in doctor-patient communication; Dr. Joseph Sobol, director of ETSU's storytelling program; and Dr. Fred Tudiver, professor of family medicine and director of primary care research.

"The patients in our region have special needs, as many of them come to us from rural areas," Lang said. "Communication is going to be different, but we know that it must be successful if we expect them to be motivated and become actively involved in their treatment."

More than 75 patients are expected to participate in the study. Sobol, who is an internationally acclaimed storyteller, will be part of the interview process, which will be videotaped.

"Listening is an important element of storytelling, and it will be a pivotal component of this project," Sobol said. "We will be looking for recurring messages, and we've already observed some common themes among patients who were in a previous pilot project."

Vardhana says he hopes to see those stories – some even told by the patients themselves – be included as part of new educational modules the researchers intend to develop for use in training oncologists about successful communication strategies with cancer patients.

“Successful communication between the oncologist and the patient is critical for a good outcome,” said Dr. K. Krishnan, ETSU chief of hematology and oncology and co-investigator with Vardhana. “As the choice of therapies increases, it is important that the oncologist conveys the information in the most succinct manner. This is especially true in areas like ours where disparities in health care may contribute significantly to negative and poorer outcomes in cancer care if the message is not communicated in a regional and culturally appropriate manner.

“I am thrilled at Vardhana’s success in procuring this prestigious grant. This is the first time the ETSU hematology/oncology program has received such a grant.”

Krishnan said one of his programmatic visions for the ETSU cancer program is to unite investigators from across the different colleges at ETSU to partner and work together successfully in obtaining extramural funding and mentorship, and that the ASCO award is an excellent example. He added that successful completion of this project could poise the research team to be extremely competitive in obtaining National Institutes of Health funding.

\*\*\*\*\*



## Fifth-grader Victorious at Spelling Bee

By [Sarah St. John](#), *The Olathe News (Kansas)*

Kavya Shivashankar's spelling future seems illimitable. Kavya, a fifth-grader at Regency Place Elementary School, secured victory in the first Olathe Spelling Bee on Thursday by spelling "illimitable" correctly. To win, Kavya had to correctly spell "illimitable" and then "illusionist." The Olathe News now will pay for Kavya and her family to travel to Washington, D.C., on Memorial Day weekend so she can represent Kansas as a competitor in the 79th Annual Scripps National Spelling Bee, which will be broadcast on ESPN. "I'm really excited," Kavya said after her big win.

Until this year, Kansas sent only one contestant to the Scripps bee. In any other year, Kavya would have had to win the county and state bees to go to Washington. But now that The Olathe News is sponsoring a contestant, she just had to beat 37 other children from Olathe schools.

It was no easy task. "It was obvious when we got to the last seven or so that they had done a lot of studying and were taking this really seriously," said Ken Roberts, Heatherstone Elementary School principal and judge at the bee.

Kavya said she had been studying about an hour a day in preparation for the bee by reading over possible words and having her father read the words to her. Every time she spelled at the bee Monday, she pretended to write the word in her hand.

"I enjoyed Kavya's technique," Roberts said. "She had a consistent pattern. She repronounced the word, asked for the definition, then spelled it out on her hand." Kavya said she is looking forward to participating in the national bee, where thousands of dollars worth of scholarships will be on the line.

"I think it's going to be exciting to meet all the other good spellers," she said. Her father, Mirle Shivashankar, said he and Kavya will increase their study time during the next few months in preparation for the event. "But schoolwork will be first preference," he said. Kavya's mom, Sandy Shivashankar, said she wants to make sure Kavya continues to take time for her school activities like Mathwings and Quest amidst her studying. Sandy hopes her daughter also can keep up with her extracurricular activities of ice skating, Indian dance, violin and swimming as she prepares for the Scripps bee.



# Best Wishes to Vokkaligara Parishat of America



Ramachandra &  
Tara Gowda

Virginia Beach, VA

## ಮಹಾತಾಯಿ

By Veena Gowda

ಸುಮಾರು ನಾಲ್ಕು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ನನ್ನ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಬ್ಬರ ಜೊತೆ ಬೇಸಿಗೆ ರಜೆ ಕಳೆಯಲು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿಗೆ ಹೋಗಿದ್ದೆ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಅಜ್ಜಿ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟಿ. ವಿ. ನೋಡಿ ನೋಡಿ ಬೇಸತ್ತ ಮಕ್ಕಳು “ಇಂದಿಯಾ ಈಸ್ ಬೋರಿಂಗ್,” ಎಂಬ ಮಾಮೂಲಿ ರಾಗ ಶುರು ಮಾಡಿದರು. ನನಗೂ ಒಂದು ಚೀಂಜ್ ಬೇಕೆನಿಸಿ, ನಮ್ಮ ಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಕೊಪ್ಪಲಿಗೆ ಹೋಗುವುದೆಂದು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಿದೆವು.

ಇಲ್ಲಿ ನಮ್ಮೂರು ಕೊಪ್ಪಲಿನ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೇಳಲೇಬೇಕು. ಮೈಸೂರಿನ ಹತ್ತಿರದ ಪಾಂಡವಪುರದಿಂದ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪವೇ ದೂರದಲ್ಲಿ, ಇನ್ನೂ ಪಟ್ಟಣದ ಗಾಳಿ ಬಹಳಷ್ಟು ಬೀಸದೇ ಇರುವ ಒಂದು ಪುಟ್ಟ ಹಳ್ಳಿ ಈ ಕೊಪ್ಪಲು. ಊರಾಚೆ ತೋಟದ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಇರುವ ನಮ್ಮ ವಿಶಾಲವಾದ ಮನೆಯ ಉಪ್ಪರಿಗೆಯ ಮೇಲೆ ನಿಂತರೆ ಕಣ್ಣಿಗೆ ಹಬ್ಬು. ಸುತ್ತಲೂ ಮೈಚಾಚಿ ನಿಂತಿರುವ ಹಚ್ಚನೆಯ ಹಸಿರಿನ ಭತ್ತದ ಗದ್ದೆ, ನಳನಳಿಸುವ ಕಬ್ಬು, ತೂಗಾಡುವ ತೆಂಗು, ಅಡಿಕೆ, ಭೂದೇವಿಯೇ ಹಸಿರು ಸೀರೆ ಹೊದ್ದಂತೆ..... ದೂರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಣುವ ಕುಂತಿ ಬೆಟ್ಟ, ಅದರ ತಪ್ಪಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಲಗಿರುವ ಪುಟ್ಟ ಪುಟ್ಟ ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳು, ಜಳಜಳನೆ ಹರಿಯುವ ನಾಲೆಯ ನೀರಿನ ಶಬ್ದ, ದೂರದಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲೋ ಕೇಳಿಸುವ ಆಲೆಮನೆಯ ಕಿರ್ಕ್ ಕಿರ್ಕ್ ಸದ್ದು, ಗಾಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೇಲಿಬರುವ ಹಿತವಾದ ಎಳೆಬೆಲ್ಲದ ವಾಸನೆ. ವಾಹಾ! ನೀವು ಕೊಪ್ಪಲಿನ ಸೊಬಗನ್ನು ಅನುಭವಿಸಿಯೇ ಸವಿಯಬೇಕು.

ನಾನು, ಮಕ್ಕಳು, ಅಂತೂ ಇಂತೂ ಕೊಪ್ಪಲಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿಳಿದಾಗ, ಪ್ರಯಾಣದ ಆಯಾಸವನ್ನೂ ಮರೆತ ಮಕ್ಕಳು, “ದಿಸ್ ಈಸ್ ಕೂಲ್, ಲೆಟ್ಸ್ ಸ್ಟೇ ಹಿಯರ್!” ಎಂದು ಒಳ್ಳೆ ಚಿಗರೆ ಮರಿಗಳಂತೆ ಕುಣಿದು ಕುಪ್ಪಳಿಸಿದರು. ಈ ಸುಂದರವಾದ ಪರಿಸರದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಆಡಲು ಕೋಳಿಮರಿ, ಕುರಿಮರಿ, ಹಸು, ಕರು, ಎತ್ತಿನಗಾಡಿ! ಸದ್ಯೂ, ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಹಳೇ ರಾಗ ಹಾಡದೆ ಋಷಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದಾರಲ್ಲಾ ಅಂತ ನನಗೂ ಸಮಾಧಾನ. ಸದಾ ಕಾಲ ಹೊರಗಡೆ ಆಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಒಂದು ಕಣ್ಣೆಡಲು, ಅಲ್ಲೇ ಪಡಸಾಲೆಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಕುಳಿತಿರುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ನನಗೆ ಸುಧಾ, ಮಯೂರ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಡಿಕೆಲೆ ಕೇಳಿಕೊಂಡು ಮೆಲ್ಲಲು ಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಹಳ್ಳಿಯ ಮುದುಕಿಯರೇ ಸಂಗಾತಿಗಳು. ಜೊತೆಗೆ ನನ್ನ ಚಿಕ್ಕತ್ತೆ, ಮಾವನವರ ಆತಿಥ್ಯ, ಊಟೋಪಚಾರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊತ್ತು ಹೋಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದುದೇ ಗೊತ್ತಾಗುತ್ತಿರಲಿಲ್ಲ.

ಆಗ ಕಬ್ಬಿನ ಕುಯ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಲ. ಸುಮಾರು ಆರಡಿ ಎತ್ತರದ ಒತ್ತಾಗಿ ಬೆಳೆದು ನಿಂತಿರುವ ಕಬ್ಬಿನ ಕುಯ್ಲಿನ ಬಹಳ ಕಷ್ಟದ ಕೆಲಸವೇ ಸರಿ. ಗದ್ದೆ ಒಳಗೆ ನುಗ್ಗಿ, ಹುಳುಹುಪ್ಪಟೆಗಳ ಕೈಲಿ ಕಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳದೇ, ಹರಿತವಾದ ಎಲೆಗಳಿಂದ ಮೈಕೈ ತುರಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳದೇ, ಆ ಧಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ

ಕಬ್ಬನ್ನು ಹುಷಾರಾಗಿ ಕುಯ್ಲು ಪೇರಿಸುವುದೆಂದರೆ ಒಂದು ಸಾಹಸವೇ ಸರಿ!

ಈ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೊಪ್ಪಲಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿಳಿಯಿತೆಂದು ಕೆಲಸಗಾರರ ತಂಡ. ವಿಚಾರಿಸಲಾಗಿ ಇವರು ತಮಿಳುನಾಡಿನಿಂದ ವಲಸೆ ಬಂದು, ವ್ಯವಹರಿಸುವಷ್ಟು ಕನ್ನಡ ಕಲಿತು, ಕುಯ್ಲಿನ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಊರೂರು ತಿರುಗುವ ಅಲೆಮಾರಿಗಳೆಂದು. ಸುಮಾರು ಇಪ್ಪತ್ತು ಮಂದಿಯಿಂದ ಕೂಡಿದ ಈ ತಂಡ ಕೊಪ್ಪಲಿಗೆ ಬಂದಿಳಿದಾಗ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನದ ಸಮಯ. ಗಂಡಸರು, ಹೆಂಗಸರು, ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಮರಿಗಳು, ಜೊತೆಗೆ ನಾಲ್ಕೈದು ದೊಡ್ಡ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಗಂಟು ಮೂಟೆ ಬೇರೆ. ಬಂದೊಡನೆಯೇ ಕಾಲಹರಣ ಮಾಡದೆ ಹಿತ್ತಲಿನ ಬಳಿಯ ನೆಲವನ್ನು ಸಮಗೊಳಿಸಿ, ತೆಂಗಿನ ತೋಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿದ್ದಿದ್ದ ರೆಕ್ಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಆಯ್ದು ತಂದು, ಚಾಪೆ ಹೆಣೆದು, ಕಲ್ಲು ಮಣ್ಣು ಸೇರಿಸಿ, ನಾನು ನೋಡುನೋಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಂತೆಯೇ ಕಟ್ಟಿಬಿಟ್ಟರು ನಾಲ್ಕು ಗುಡಿಸಲುಗಳನ್ನು ಆ ಗುಂಪಿನ ಗಂಡಸರು. ಹೆಂಗಸರು ನೆಲವನ್ನು ಸಗಣಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾರಿಸಿ ಶುದ್ಧ ಮಾಡಿದರು. ಗುಡಿಸಲಿನ ಹೊರಗೆ ನಾಲ್ಕು ಮಣ್ಣಿನ ಒಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟಿಕೊಂಡರು. ಹೀಗೆ ತಯಾರಾಯ್ತು ಇವರ ಕ್ಯಾಂಪಿಂಗ್ ಸೈಟು!

ಏನೂ ಕೆಲಸ ಇಲ್ಲದೆ ರಿಲ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ನನಗೆ ಈ ತಂಡವನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸುವುದೇ ಒಂದು ಸೋಜಿಗ. ನಸುಕಿನಲ್ಲೇ ಎದ್ದು ಗಂಜಿ ಕಾಯಿಸಿ, ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಕುಡಿದು, ದೊಡ್ಡವರೆಲ್ಲಾ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊರಟರೆಂದರೆ ಬರುವುದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನದ ಊಟದ ಹೊತ್ತಿಗೇ. ಈ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಪುಟ್ಟ ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ನೋಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಕೆಲಸ ತಂಡದ ಅಫೀಶಿಯಲ್ ಬೇಬಿ ಸಿಟ್ಟರ್ಸ್ ಆದ ಆರರಿಂದ ಎಂಟು ವರುಷದ ಆ ಚಿಣ್ಣರ ಅಣ್ಣ ಅಕ್ಕಂದಿರದು. ಈ ಚಿಕ್ಕ ವಯಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲೇ ಇವರಿಗೆ ಎಷ್ಟೊಂದು ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ಎನ್ನಿಸಿತು. ಆ ಮಕ್ಕಳಲ್ಲಿ ನನ್ನ ಮನಸೆಳೆದದ್ದು ದುಂಡುದುಂಡುಗಿನ, ಚುರುಕಾಗಿ ಓಡಿಯಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದ ಸುಮಾರು ಎರಡು ವರುಷದ ಒಂದು ಹೆಣ್ಣು ಮಗು. ಹೆಸರು ಕೇಳಿದ್ದಕ್ಕೆ ಚೆವ್ವಿ ಎಂದು ಮುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಉಲಿಯಿತು. ಅಲ್ಲೇ ಇದ್ದ ಅವಳಣ್ಣ ಸೆಲ್ವಿ ಎಂದು ಸರಿಮಾಡಿದ. ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಚುರುಕಾಗಿದ್ದ ಸೆಲ್ವಿಯನ್ನು, ಆರು ವರುಷದ ಅವಳಣ್ಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಎಂಟು ವರುಷದ ಅವಳಕ್ಕ ಎಷ್ಟು ಹುಷಾರಾಗಿ ನೋಡಿಕೊಂಡರೂ ಸಾಲದು. ಬಹಳ ತುಂಟಾಟ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಆಟ ಆಡಿ ಸಾಕಾಗಿ ಸೆಲ್ವಿ ಅತ್ತರೆ, ಅವಳಕ್ಕ ನೀರು, ಬಿಸ್ಕತ್ತು ಕೊಟ್ಟು ಸಮಾಧಾನ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಳು. ಪುಟ್ಟ ಸೆಲ್ವಿಯ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನದ ನ್ಯಾಪ್ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದುದು ಅಲ್ಲೇ ನಿಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ್ದ ಎತ್ತಿನಗಾಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ. ಕಾವಲಿಗೆ ಪಕ್ಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವಳಣ್ಣ! ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನದ ಊಟಕ್ಕೆ ಬರುವ ಅಪ್ಪ ಅಮ್ಮಂದಿರು ಹಿಂದಿನ ದಿನ ಉಳಿದುದನ್ನೇ ತಿಂದು, ಮಕ್ಕಳನ್ನು ವಿಚಾರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಹೊರಟರೆಂದರೆ ಇನ್ನು ಬರುವುದು ಸಂಜೆ ಐದು

ಘಂಟೆಗೇ. ಬಂದ ಕೂಡಲೇ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಪಾತ್ರೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರು ಕಾಯಿಸಿ, ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆಲ್ಲಾ ಮೀಯಿಸಿ, ತಾವೂ ಮಿಂದು, ಅಡಿಗೆ ಶುರು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು ಆ ಗುಂಪಿನ ಹೆಂಗಸರು. ಆಮೇಲೆ ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಕುಳಿತು ಊಟ ಮಾಡಿ, ನಂತರ ನಮ್ಮ ಮನೆಯ ಮಂದ ಬೆಳಕಿನ ಪಡಸಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಸೇರಿ, ಕಷ್ಟ ಸುಖ ಮಾತಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಾ ದಣಿವಾರಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು ಈ ಕಷ್ಟ ಜೀವಿಗಳು. ಅಮೇರಿಕಾದಲ್ಲಿನ ಆರಾಮವಾದ ಜೀವನಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊಂದಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದ ನನ್ನ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಇವರನ್ನು ನೋಡಿ ಆಶ್ಚರ್ಯ, ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳ ಸರಮಾಲೆ. “ವೈಟ್ ಡೋಂಟ್ ದೀಸ್ ಕಿಡ್ಸ್ ಗೊ ಟು ಸ್ಕೂಲ್? ಇಸ್ ಇಟ್ ನಾಟ್ ಇಲ್ಲಿಗಲ್ ಟು ಲೀವ್ ದ ಕಿಡ್ಸ್ ಅಲೋನ್?” .....ಅಲ್ಲಾ ಶಾಲೆಗೇ ಹೋಗದೆ ಜೀವನದ ನಿಜವಾದ ಅನುಭವಗಳಿಂದ ಪಾಠ ಕಲಿತಲ್ವಾ ಈ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಅಂತ ನನಗನ್ನಿಸದೇ ಇರಲಿಲ್ಲ.

ಅದೇ ಪಡಸಾಲೆಯಿಂದ ನನ್ನ ಕಣ್ಣು ಮತ್ತೆ ಅಲ್ಲೇ ಓಡಿಯಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದ ಪುಟ್ಟ ಸೆಲ್ವಿಯ ಕಡೆ ಹರಿಯಿತು. ಅವರಮ್ಮನ ತೊಡೆಯೇರಿ ಕುಳಿತ ಸೆಲ್ವಿಗೆ ಆ ಹೆಂಗಸು ತಲೆಗೆ ಎಣ್ಣೆ ಹಚ್ಚಿ, ನೀಟಾಗಿ ತಲೆ ಬಾಚಿ, ಬಣ್ಣದ ಟೇಪು ಬಿಗಿದು ಜುಟ್ಟು ಕಟ್ಟಿದಳು. ಎಷ್ಟುಪ್ಪಾ ಪೇಷೆನ್ಸ್ ಈಕೆಗೆ ಅನ್ನಿಸಿತು. ಆ ಹೆಂಗಸಿನ ಇನ್ನೆರಡು ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಗಂಡ ಆಚೀಚೆ ಕುಳಿತಿದ್ದರು. ಆ ಇಡೀ ಗುಂಪಿನ ಕಣ್ಣಿನ ಈ ಪುಟ್ಟ ಸೆಲ್ವಿ, ಅವಳ ತೊದಲು ನುಡಿಗಳಿಂದ ಎಲ್ಲರನ್ನೂ ರಂಜಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದಳು. ಏನನ್ನಿಸಿತೋ ತಡೆಯಲಾರದೇ ನಾನು ಸೆಲ್ವಿಯ ಅಮ್ಮನನ್ನು ಕೇಳಿಯೇಬಿಟ್ಟೆ, “ಅಲ್ಲಮ್ಮಾ ಇಷ್ಟೊಂದು ಕಷ್ಟ ಪಟ್ಟು ದುಡೀತಿದ್ದೀಯಲ್ಲಾ, ನಿನಗೆ ಮೂರು ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಯಾಕೆ ಬೇಕಿತ್ತು?” ಅಂತ. “ದೇವ್ರು ದೊಡ್ಡೋನು, ಎಂಗೋ ನಡೀತ್ಯೆತೆ,” ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿ ಸುಮ್ಮನಾದ ಆಕೆಯನ್ನು ಕಂಡು, ಅಲ್ಲೇ ಪಕ್ಕದಲ್ಲಿದ್ದ ಇನ್ನೊಂದು ಹೆಂಗಸು, “ಇಲ್ಲ ಕಣ್ಣವ್ವಾ, ಇವ್ಕಿಗೆ ಎರಡೇ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಉಟ್ಟಿದ್ದು. ಓದ್ವರ್ಸ ಮೈಗೆ ಉಸಾರಿಲ್ಲ ಅಂತ ಆಸ್ತೆಗೆ ಓಗಿದ್ದು, ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾರೋ ಬಿಟ್ಟೋದ ಒಂದು ಎಣ್ಣುಗು ಅಳ್ತಾ ಇತ್ತು. ಪೋಲೀಸ್ ಕರ್ನಿ ಅನಾಥಾಶ್ರಮಕ್ಕೆ ಕಳಿಸ್ತೀನಿ ಅಂತ ಏಳ್ತಿದ್ದ ಡಾಕ್ಟರ್ನ ಒಪ್ಪಿ ಅಯ್ಯೋ ಪಾಪ ಅಂತ ಕರ್ಕೊಂಡ್ವಂದು ಸಾಕ್ತಾ ಅವೇ, ನಾವೆಲ್ಲಾ ಬೈದ್ರೂ ಕೇಳೋನೇ,” ಅಂತಂದಳು.

ನಾನು ಏನಾದರೂ ಹೇಳಬೇಕು ಅನ್ನುವಷ್ಟರಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ಪುಟ್ಟ ಸೆಲ್ವಿ ಓಡಿ ಬಂದು ತನ್ನ ಅಮ್ಮನ ಕೊರಳಿಗೆ ತೆಕ್ಕೆ ಬಿದ್ದು, ಒಂದು ಮುತ್ತು ಕೊಟ್ಟು, ಹೂನಗೆ ಮಿಂಚಿಸಿ ಮಾಯವಾಯ್ತು. ಆಗ ಆ ತಾಯಿಯ

ಮುಖದಲ್ಲಿ ತುಳುಕಿದ ಸಂತೋಷ ನನ್ನ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಚ್ಚಳಿಯದೆ ನಿಂತಿದೆ.

“ಅಲ್ಲಾ, ಕಿತ್ತು ತಿನ್ನುವ ಬಡತನದ ನಡುವೆಯೂ ಒಂದು ಅನಾಥ ಮಗುವಿಗೆ ತಾಯಾಗಿ, ತನ್ನ ಪ್ರೀತಿ ವಾತ್ಸಲ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಿ ಆ ಮಗುವನ್ನು ಸಾಕುವ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ಹೊತ್ತಿರುವಳಲ್ಲಾ ಈ ತಾಯಿ, ಹ್ಯಾಟ್ಸ್ ಆಫ್ ಟು ಹರ್,” ಎಂದು ಮನದಲ್ಲೇ ಆಕೆಗೆ ವಂದಿಸಿದೆ. ಆ ರಾತ್ರಿ ಕಣ್ಣಿಗೆ ನಿದ್ದೆ ಹತ್ತದೇ ಎದ್ದು ಕುಳಿತಿದ್ದ ನನಗೆ ಆ ಸೆಲ್ವಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಅವಳಮ್ಮನ ಚಿತ್ರವೇ ಕಣ್ಮಂದೆ. ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನ ತುಂಬಾ ಬಗೆಹರಿಯದ ದ್ವಂದ್ವಗಳು. ಅನುಕೂಲಸ್ಥರಾಗಿರೋ ನಮಗೇ ಇಲ್ಲದ ಆ ಧೈರ್ಯ, ವಿಶಾಲ ಮನೋಭಾವ ಈ ಬಡ ಹೆಂಗಸಿಗೆ ಯಾವ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಯಿಂದ ಬಂತು, ಹೇಗೆ ಬಂತು? ಅವಳ ಹಾಗೆ ಈ ಮಹಾಕಾರ್ಯವನ್ನು ನಾನೂ ಯಾಕೆ ಮಾಡಬಾರದು? ಹೇಳೋದಕ್ಕೇನೋ ಸುಲಭ, ಆದ್ರೆ ನಿಜವಾಗಿ ಮಾಡಿ ತೋರ್ಸೋದಕ್ಕೆ ದಂ ಇಲ್ಲಲ್ಲಾ. ಛೇ ಛೇ. ಹೀಗೆ ಹತ್ತು ಹಲವಾರು ಯೋಚನೆಗಳು ಕಾಡಿದವು. ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ ಎದ್ದು ಆ ತಾಯಿಯ ಕೈಗೆ ನನ್ನ ಕೈಲಾದಷ್ಟು ನೋಟು ತುರುಕಿ ಇದು ಸೆಲ್ವಿಗೆ ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದಾಗಲೇ ಮನಸ್ಸಿಗೆ ಒಂದು ಬಗೆಯ ಸಮಾಧಾನ.

ಈ ಘಟನೆ ನಡೆದ ಎರಡು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ನಂತರ, ಸ್ಯಾನ್ ಹೋಸೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಮೂಲಿನಂತೆ ಯಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಜೀವನ ನಡೆಸುತ್ತಾ ಇದ್ದ ನನಗೆ, ಆಪ್ತ ಗೆಳತಿಯೊಬ್ಬಳಿಂದ ಬಂದ ಈ ಮೇಲ್ ಹಳೆಯ ನೆನಪುಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆದಕಿತು. ಆ ಈ ಮೇಲ್‌ನ ಒಕ್ಕಣೆ, “ನಮ್ಮ ಆಪ್ತರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಂಚಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಾದ ಒಂದು ಸಂತೋಷದ ವಿಷಯವೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಹೋದವರ ತಾನೇ ನಾವು ಒಂದು ಮಗುವನ್ನು ದತ್ತು ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡೆವು. ನಮ್ಮ ಹಿರಿಯ ಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಜೊತೆಯಾಗಿ ಆಡಲು ಪುಟ್ಟ ತಂಗಿ ಹಾಗೂ ನಮ್ಮ ಮನೆ ಬೆಳಗಲು ಇನ್ನೊಬ್ಬಳು ಮಗಳು ಸಿಕ್ಕಳೆಂದು ನಮಗೆಲ್ಲಾ ತುಂಬಾ ಸಂತೋಷವಾಗಿದೆ. ಪೇಪರ್‌ವರ್ಕ್ ಮುಗಿದ ಕೂಡಲೇ ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಹೊರಟುಬರುವೆವು.” ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಒಂದು ಮುದ್ದಾದ ಹೆಣ್ಣು ಮಗುವಿನ ಚಿತ್ರ. ನನಗೆ ಕೂಡಲೇ ಸೆಲ್ವಿಯ ನೆನಪಾಯ್ತು. ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಅವಳಮ್ಮ ಸಹ. ಈ ನನ್ನ ಗೆಳತಿಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೆಮ್ಮೆಯೆನಿಸಿ ಆನಂದದಿಂದ ಕಣ್ಣೀರು ತುಳುಕಿತು. ಇಂತಹ ಸಹೃದಯೀ ಮಹಾತಾಯಂದಿರು ಇರುವ ತನಕ ಈ ಪ್ರಪಂಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವ ಮಕ್ಕಳೂ ಅನಾಥರಲ್ಲ. ಅಲ್ಲವೇ?

\*\*\*\*\*

## ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಿ

By satyavati

"ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಿ, ನಿಮ್ಮ ಅಜ್ಜಿ ಕನಕಪುರದಿಂದ ಕಾಗದ ಬರೆದಿದ್ದಾರೆ. 'ಗೋಕುಲಾಷ್ಟಮಿ' ಹಬ್ಬಕ್ಕೆ ಎರಡು ದಿನ ಮುಂಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಬಂದು ಸಹಾಯ ಮಾಡು ಅಂತ ನಿನಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ"

"ನೋಡಮ್ಮಾ! ನಂಗೊತ್ತು. ಅಜ್ಜಿ buy one & get another free ಅನ್ನೋ ಹಾದಿಲೇ ಬುದ್ದಿ ಚುರುಕಾಗಿ ಓಡುತ್ತಾರೆ"

"ಏ ಸುಮ್ಮನೆ ರೇಗಿಸಬೇಡವೆ ಅವರನ್ನು - ಅಲ್ಲ ಎರಡು ದಿನ ಮುಂಚೆ ಹೋಗಿ, ಕಷ್ಟಪಟ್ಟು ತಿಂಡಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಸಹಾಯ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದೆ.."

"ನಮಗೆ ಒಂದಿಷ್ಟು ಫ್ರೀ ಪ್ರಾಕ್ಟೀಸುಗಳು ಮನೆಗೆ ಬರುತ್ತೆ! ಇದರ ಅರ್ಥ ಅಷ್ಟೆ"

"ಪಾಪ ಅವರನ್ನೇಕೆ ಈ ಮಾರ್ಕೆಟಿಂಗ್ ವ್ಯವಹಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಇಳಿಸ್ತೀ? ಉಂಡುಕೊಂಡು ಹೋಗು ಅನ್ನುವ ಅವರ ಜಾಯಮಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಮನುಷ್ಯ ಬೇಡ"

"ಅವರನ್ನು ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಚುಡಾಯಿಸಿದ್ರೆ ನಿಂಗೆ ಹೇಗೆ ಬ್ಲಡ್ ಪ್ರೆಷರ್ ಏರುತ್ತೆ ನೋಡು! ಹೋಗಲಿ, ನಾನು ಆಪ್ಲೀಸ್ ಕೆಲಸ ಮುಗಿಸಿ ಹಾಗೇ ಅಜ್ಜಿ ಮನೆಗೆ ಹೋಗಿ ಹಬ್ಬ ಮುಗಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಬರುತ್ತೀನಿ"

ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಿ, ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ ಹೊರಡುವ ಹೊತ್ತಿಗೆ ವಿಪರೀತ ಮಳೆ ಶುರುವಾಯಿತು. ಮೋಡ ಕವಿದು, ಕತ್ತಲು ಮುಸುಕಿ, ಗುಡುಗು ಮಿಂಚಿನ ಆರ್ಭಟದ ಶಬ್ದದ ಹಿಮ್ಮೇಳದ ಜೊತೆ ಜೊತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಸ್‌ಸ್ಟಾಂಡ್ ತಲುಪಿದಳು. ಟಿಕೆಟ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಜನ ತುಂಬಿದ ಕ್ಯೂನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಂತು, ಕಾದು ಕಾದು ಬೇಸತ್ತು, ಕೊನೆಗೂ ಸರದಿ ಬಂದಾಗ ಕೌಂಟರ್ ಮುಂದೆ ಬಂದು ನಿಂತಳು. ಹದಿನೈದು ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಟಿಕೆಟ್ ಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಪರ್ಸ್ ತೆಗೆದು ದುಡ್ಡಿಗಾಗಿ ತಡಕಾಡಿದಾಗ, ದೊರಕಿದ್ದು ಬರೀ ಹತ್ತು ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳು ಮಾತ್ರ. ಒಂದು ನಿಮಿಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ಚಳಿಯಲ್ಲೂ ಮೈ ಬೆವೆತು ಬೆವರಿನ ಹನಿ ಇಳಿದು, ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಗೊಂದಲ ಶುರುವಾಗಿ, ದಿಕ್ಕೇ ತೋಚದೆ, "ಅಯ್ಯೋ ಎಂತಹ ಕೆಲಸವಾಯ್ತು, ಹೊರಡಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಂಚೆ ಒಂದು ಸಲನಾದ್ರೂ ದುಡ್ಡು ಇದೆಯಾ ಅಂತ ನೋಡಬೇಕಿತ್ತು! ಅಜಾಗರೂಕತೆಯಿಂದ ಎಂತಹ ವಿಪರ್ಯಾಸವಾಯ್ತು!!"

ಪೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ಹೋದ ಮುಖ, ಹಿಂದಿನಿಂದ ಜನಗಳ ನೂಕುನುಗ್ಗಲು ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಯಿತು. ಏನೂ ಮಾಡಲು ತೋಚದೆ ನಿಂತಿದ್ದ ಹುಡುಗಿಯ ಅವಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸುತ್ತಲೇ ಇದ್ದು, ಟಿಕೆಟ್ ಕೊಡುವ ಹಿರಿಯರು.

ಇನ್ನು ತಡಮಾಡದೇ ಇವಳ ಕೈಗೆ ಟಿಕೆಟ್ ಕೊಟ್ಟು, "ಹೋಗಮ್ಮಾ, ಬಸ್ ಹೊರಡುತಾ ಇದೆ," ಅಂತ ಹೇಳಿದ ಹಿರಿಯರನ್ನು ನೋಡಿ, ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲೇ ದೇವರಿಗಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗಿ ವಂದಿಸಿ, ಕೃತಜ್ಞತೆಯನ್ನು ಹೇಳಿ ಓಡಿ ಹೋಗಿ ಕೂರಲು ಬಸ್ಸು ಹೊರಟಿತು.

ಅನಿರೀಕ್ಷಿತವಾಗಿ ನಡೆದ ಘಟನೆ, ಮನಸ್ಸಿಗೆ ತುಂಬಾ ದುಃಖವಾಗಿ, ಸಮಾಧಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಬಾರದೆ ಹಿಂಡುತ್ತಿತ್ತು.

ಅಂತೂ ಇಂತೂ, ಅಜ್ಜಿ ಮನೆಗೆ ಬಂದ್ರೂ, ಸಂತೋಷವಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಮನಸ್ಸಿಗೆ ಬೇಸರ. ಅಜ್ಜಿಯ ತಮಾಷೆಯ ಮಾತುಗಳು, ಕೀಟಲೆಗಳೂ, ಯಾವುದೂ ಬೇಡವಾಗಿತ್ತು.

'ಗೋಕುಲಾಷ್ಟಮಿ' ಹಬ್ಬ ಅಂದ ಮೇಲೆ ಕೇಳಬೇಕೇ? ಕೃಷ್ಣನ ಅಲಂಕಾರ, ನೋಡಲು ಎರಡು ಕಣ್ಣು ಸಾಲದಿತ್ತು. ಘಮ-ಘಮ ಹಿಂಡಿಗಳ ವಾಸನೆ ಮೂಗನ್ನು ತುಂಬಿ ಸೀಳಿತ್ತು!

ಹಬ್ಬ ಮುಗಿಸಿ, ಮಾರನೆ ದಿನ ಹೊರಟ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಿ ಕೈಲಿ ತಿಂಡಿಯ ಪ್ರಾಕ್ಟೀಸುಗಳು "ಒಂದಾ, ಎರಡಾ, ಬೇಕಾದಷ್ಟು ತುಂಬಿದ್ದು ಅಜ್ಜಿ."

ವಾಪಸ್ಸು ಊರಿಗೆ ಬಂದು, ಬಸ್ಸಿನಿಂದ ಇಳಿದು ಆಟೋಸ್ವಾಂಡಿಗೆ ಬಂದು ಕ್ಯಾನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಂತಳು. ಇವಳ ಮುಂದೆ ಹತ್ತು ಜನಗಳು ಇದ್ದು. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಒಬ್ಬರನ್ನು ದೂರದಿಂದಲೇ ಗುರುತಿಸಿದಳು. ಸಾರ್, ಸಾರ್, ಅಂತ ಕೂಗು ಕೇಳಿ ತಿರುಗಿ ನೋಡಿದ್ದು. ಅವರ ಒಂದು ಕಾಲು ಆಟೋದಲ್ಲಿ ಇತ್ತು. ನಾಲ್ಕು ದಿನದ ಹಿಂದೆ ತಾನೇ ನಡೆದ ಪ್ರಸಂಗ ತಕ್ಷಣ ನೆನಪಿಗೆ ಬಂದು, ಓ... ಅಂತ ಉದ್ಗಾರ ಮಾಡೋದ್ರಲ್ಲಿ, ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಿ ಅಲ್ಲಿದ್ದು.

"ಸಾರ್ ನಿಮಗೆ ಹೇಗೆ ವಂದಿಸಬೇಕು ಅಂತ ತಿಳಿಯೋಲ್ಲ ನನಗೆ. ಅವತ್ತಿನ ನಿಮ್ಮ ದುಡ್ಡಿನ ಸಹಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ಬೆಲೆನೆ ಕಟ್ಟಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗದ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿದೆ. ನಿಮ್ಮಂತಹ ದಾಸಿಗಳು ದೊರಕಿದ್ದು ನನ್ನ ಭಾಗ್ಯವೇ ಸರಿ. ಈಗಿನ ಪೀಳಿಗೆಯವರಿಗೆ ನಿಮ್ಮಂತಹಾ ಹಿರಿಯರು ತೋರುವ ಕರುಣೆಯ ಭಂಡಾರವನ್ನು ಹಂಚಿ, ನೀವು ತೋರಿದ ಧರ್ಮದ ಹಾದಿಯ ಅನುಕಂಪದ ದಾನ, ಬದುಕಿನ ಸಾರ್ಥಕತೆಯನ್ನು ಎತ್ತಿ ತೋರಿಸಿ, ನಮ್ಮ ಬದುಕು ಇದೇ ಹಾದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹರಿಯಲಿ ಮುಂದೆ ಎಂಬ ಮಹತ್ವಾಕಾಂಕ್ಷೆಯ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಆದರ್ಶಕ್ಕೆ ನಾನು ಚಿರಋಣಿ" ಅಂತ ಹೇಳಿ ಕೈಲಿದ್ದ ಪ್ಯಾಕೆಟ್ ಅನ್ನು ಅವರಿಗೆ ಕೊಟ್ಟು ನಮಸ್ಕರಿಸಿದಳು. ಆಟೋ ಟರ್ ಅಂತ ಶಬ್ದ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾ ಹೊರಟಿತು.

"ದಯೆಯೇ ಧರ್ಮದ ಮೂಲವಯ್ಯಾ" ಅಂತ ಹೇಳಿಕೊಂಡು ವಾಪಸ್ಸು ಮನೆಗೆ ಬಂದ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಿಯನ್ನು ಗೋಕುಲಾಷ್ಟಮಿ ತಿಂಡಿ ಎಲ್ಲಿದೆ ಅಂತ ಕೇಳಿದ ಅಮ್ಮಂಗಿ. "ಎಲ್ಲೆಗೆ ಸೇರಬೇಕೋ ಅಲ್ಲೆಗೆ ಹೋಯಿತು,"

"ಏನೇ ಹಾಗಂದ್ರೇ...?"

"ಮನುಷ್ಯರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ದೇವರ ಹಾಗೆ ಬಂದು ಸಹಾಯ ಮಾಡಿದ ಆ ಕೃಷ್ಣನಿಗೇ ತಲುಪಿತು"

ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಿ ಸ್ವಾಭಿಮಾನದಿಂದ ಮುಕ್ತಳಾಗಿದ್ದಳು.

\*\*\*\*\*



# Appraisal Letter

By Raghunandan

On a dark and foggy night, a small figure lay huddled on the railway tracks leading to the Bangalore station. At once I held back afraid to see someone in that position at midnight with no one around. But curiosity taking the front seat, I went near the body and tried to investigate. There was blood all over the body which was lying face down. It seemed that a ruthless blow by the last train could have caused the end of this body which seemed to be that of a man around my age.

Amidst the gory blood flow, I could see a folded white envelope which was fluttering in the midnight wind. Carefully I took the blood stained envelope and was surprised to see the phrase "appraisal letter" on it. With curiosity rising every moment, I wasted no time in opening the envelope to see if I can find some details about the dead man. The tag around the body's neck and the jazzy appraisal cover gave me the hint that he might be a software engineer. I opened the envelope to find a shining paper on which the appraisal details were typed in flying colors. Thunder broke into my ears and lightening struck my heart when I saw the appraisal amount!!!! My God, it was not even, as much as the cost of the letter on which the appraisal details were printed.

I felt sorry for the man and I heard myself saying "no wonder, this guy died such a miserable death." As a fellow worker in the same industry, I thought I should mourn for him for the sake of respect and stood there with a heavy heart thinking of the shock that he would have experienced when his manager had placed the appraisal letter in his hand. I am sure his heart would have stopped and his eyes would have gone blank for few seconds looking at the near to nothing increment in his salary.

While I mourned for him, for a second my hands froze to see the employee's name in the appraisal letter. Hey, what a strange co-incidence, this guy's name is same as mine, including the initials. This was interesting! With some mental strength, I turned the body upside down and found myself feeling faint for a second. The guy not only had my name, but looked exactly like me too. Same looks, same built, same name.... it was me who was dead there! While I was lost in that shock, I felt someone patting on my shoulders. My heart stopped completely, I could not breathe and sprung in fear to see who was behind. Splash! A glass of water splashed on my laptop screen as I came out of my wild dreams to see my manager standing behind my chair patting on my shoulder and saying, "Wake up man. Come to meeting room number two. I have your appraisal letter ready."

\*\*\*\*\*



Best Wishes to  
Vokkaligara Parishat of America

The Keelara Family

---



Best Wishes to  
Vokkaligara Parishat of America

The Hanuman Family

# The Dating Game

By Kaavya S Gowda

Girl meets boy, they fall in love, and then they get married. That's the usual routine, whether in movies or real life. But imagine living in a world where marriages are arranged before anything else: before love, before meeting, sometimes before a girl can graduate. Believe it or not, that world can be reached in less than 48 hours.

Not long after a girl finishes her first year of college in India, everyone starts trying to find her a husband. There are those who are lucky enough to fall in love and then get married, but the majority are those who have arranged marriages. Even though the procedure of arranging a marriage isn't as rigid as before, it is still a demeaning ordeal, especially for the women. I've been an unknowing witness to this process for a long time as my various relatives started settling down. But my firsthand experiences stem from attempts to arrange my cousin's marriage, which started about four years ago. Being such a close observer to the method of arranging marriages has led me to question why it is such a deeply rooted tradition.

As soon as a boy or girl reaches a 'marriage-ready' age, their parents start spreading the news. Gossip will always include the name of the most recent bachelor or bachelorette, and/or what they plan to do in the future, whether or not they have a job, speculations about how much they make, what their parents currently do, how many siblings they have, the color of their skin; every single detail is broadcasted to even the most distant acquaintances.

One of the ever-present elements of arranging a marriage is the photo that is sent to prospective spouses. Whenever I looked through old photo albums, my mom would say, "That's the picture that we sent to your dad." She would go on to tell me how she hated dressing up and moving all around the compound to take these pictures. At first I didn't believe her, thinking she was just exaggerating. But then one summer while I was in India, my parents dragged me to my cousin's house and staged their own photo shoot. Shouts of "OK, wear the other one now!" and "Go stand near those trees!" reverberated throughout the house. I sat there, watching and wondering, "Does she want to be a wife or a model?" Now, my cousin is not extraordinarily gorgeous or eye catching. However, her personality completely overshadows her looks. But no picture can convey that message, so often guys have rejected her just by seeing the picture. I've seen her becoming progressively more discouraged, and all I can feel is anger. Of course looks are a big part of high school and sometimes college relationships. But when picking a life partner, appearance should not matter as much. The same people who had preached to me my entire life about how beauty is only skin deep were now giving a guy several pictures and asking him to choose the girl who looks the best.

Whenever my cousin agrees to meet up with a guy, her parents start their badgering. They want her to be traditional: wear a sari, not speak unless spoken to, and serve tea to everyone. My cousin is definitely not a traditional person and is always fighting her parents' demands. I was at her house once when a guy was supposed to come to see her. I sat inside with her while we waited for the boy to arrive. She was tugging at her traditional clothes and loudly declaring that she'd rather be wearing jeans when the doorbell rang. I poked my head out of the room and saw a young man entering with an elderly man next to him. My uncle greeted them and asked them to sit as my aunt brought out a tray of tea. The elderly man, who I later learned was the marriage broker, was silent and seemed to be half asleep, while my uncle and the young

man tried to force conversation. They all looked like they'd rather be anywhere else but there. I looked at my mom incredulously: how could that man be bored while trying to arrange his own marriage? Finally, my uncle called my cousin out from her room. She left, throwing a final grimace in my direction. I was left in the room, wondering who could prefer this kind of a start to marriage.

I heard conversation coming from the main room and decided to eavesdrop. The man was asking about my cousin's education, job, and plans after marriage. It was like an interview, with the boss firing off questions while a nervous interviewee tried her best to give the answer that would get her the job. The one question every single man asked was, "Will you keep your job after marriage?" What really shocked me this time however was the surprise in the guy's voice when my cousin said that yes, she definitely planned to work after getting married. I was silently fuming inside. Didn't he realize that this is the 21<sup>st</sup> century? The times when 'a women's place' was the house are long since over, and he still expects a wife who will stay at home catering to his every whim? Yet I was the only one who found this fact even the slightest bit unusual or sexist. These were educated people, but they were so steeped in old traditions that they failed to see how they conflicted with modern day values. There was an audible sigh of relief around the room when the guy got up and prepared to leave.

My cousin was rolling her eyes behind his back as the broker said that he'd be in touch within a few days.

As we drove home that day, I started thinking about how demeaning this process must be for my cousin. It has been dragging on for about two and a half years, yet she hasn't found the right match. Imagine having your picture circulated to a bunch of guys who use that picture to determine whether or not you'd be a good wife; imagine being interviewed by your potential fiancé, as if he's going to give you a job. It's like being displayed in a catalog. And I shouldn't be the only one feeling so indignant. Everyone scoffs at my criticism because they think I have pure American values. They don't know that I consider myself an Indian first, before an American, and that I probably have more Indian values than their own children. However, India is not such a backward country that the people have no clue about the modernized world around them. Of course arranged marriage is a tradition that has endured for hundreds of years, but that does not mean we should continue to stifle young Indian women in the same ancient manner. India is rising in the world's eye, and increasingly resembles the more advanced countries of the globe. We currently stand on the same stage as the United States, and it's time we started acting like the developed nation we have become.

\*\*\*\*\*





## Poems

ಕವನಗಳು

## ಕಬ್ಬಿನ ಹಳ್ಳಿ ಮಲ್ಲೇ ಗೌಡರು

ರಚನೆ: ವೈ.ಆರ್.ವೋಹನ್  
ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ, ಆಲಬಾಮ

ನಮ್ಮ ಜನಾಂಗದ ಹಿರಿಯರ ಪೈಕಿ  
ಇವರೊಬ್ಬರೇ ಬೇರೆ ತರದವರು  
ಸೂಟುಬೂಟು ದರಿಸಿ ವಿದೇಶಿಯರಂತೆ ಕಂಡರೂ  
ಅಂತರಾಳದಲ್ಲಿ ಇವರು ಅಷ್ಟು ಭಾರತೀಯರು  
ಪ್ರಾಯ ಎಂಬತ್ತರ ಗಡಿ ದಾಟಿದ್ದರೂ  
ನೋಡಲು ನಡು ಹರೆಯದ ತರುಣನಂತೆ ತೋರುವರು.

ಸಹ್ಯಾದ್ರಿಯ ತುಂಗ ಶೃಂಗದ  
ಶಿವಗಂಗೆಯಲಿ ಇವರ ವಾಸ  
ಮಳೆ ಬಂದ ಮಾರನೆಯದಿನ  
ಹೂವರಳಿ ನಿಂತ ಕಾಫಿ ತೋಟದಲಿ  
ಸುತ್ತಾಡಿ ಸಂತಸಗೊಂಡಂತೆ  
ಮನವ ಮುದಗೊಳಿಸುವುದಿವರ ಸಹವಾಸ.

ನಡೆ ನುಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಮ್ಮತೆ  
ಬದುಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಶುಭತೆ  
ಬೆಳಕಿನ ಕಿರಣ ಸೋಂಕಿ  
ಬಿರಿವ ಮೊಗ್ಗಿನ ತೆರದಿ  
ಮುಗುಳ್ಳೆಗೆಯಾಡುವುದು ತುಟಿಯ ಮೇಲೆ  
ಸಾಟಿಯಿಲ್ಲ ಇವರ ಸ್ನೇಹಪರತೆಗೆ  
ತಾವಿಲ್ಲ ಇವರ ತುಂಬು ಜೀವನದಲ್ಲಿ  
ಯಾವ ಕುಂದು ಕೊರತೆಗೆ.

ಸಿರಿವಂತರಾದರೂ  
ಬಡಬಗ್ಗರ ಬವಣೆಗೆ  
ಕರಗುವುದಿವರ ಅಂತಃಕರಣ  
ಭಾರತದ ಬಡತನ ಪರಿಹರಿಸಲು  
ಸತತ ಪರಿಶ್ರಮಿಸುವುದಿವರ ಹರಣ.

ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಭಾರತ ಎತ್ತ ಸಾಗಿದೆಯೆಂದು  
ಸಂಶೋಧಿಸಿ ಪುಸ್ತಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿ

ಅಂಧ ರಾಜಕರಣಿಯರ ಕಣ್ಣೆರಸಿ  
ಬಡತನ ಬಗೆಹರಿಸುವುದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ  
ಪಾಠ ಕಲಿಸಿದವರು.

ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಭಾರತದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಗಳನ್ನು  
ಪಾರ್ಲಿಮೆಂಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಚರ್ಚಿಸಿ  
ಸೂಕ್ತ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದವರು  
ಪಾಶಾತ್ಯ ದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಚರಿಸಿ  
ಅಲ್ಲಿಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳನ್ನವಲೋಕಿಸಿ  
ಅಂತ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ  
ಕಾರ್ಯಗತಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಕನಸ ಕಂಡವರು!

ಯಾರು ಮರೆಯಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯ  
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿ ನೀವು ಜಾರಿಗೆ ತಂದ  
ಭೂವಿತರಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಗ್ರಾಮಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳ?  
ಜನತೆಗೆ ನೀವು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿದ ನಿಸ್ವಾರ್ಥ ಸೇವೆಯನು?  
ಲಂಚ ರುಷುವತ್ತುಗಳಿಲ್ಲದ  
ನೀತಿ ನ್ಯಾಯಗಳ ನೇರ ದಾರಿಯಲಿ ನಡೆದು  
ಸಮರ್ಥ ಆಡಳಿತ ನೀಡಿದ್ದನ್ನು?

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಕ್ಷೀರ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರಾಗಿ  
ಕಾರ್ಯದಕ್ಷತೆಯಿಂದ ಕ್ಷೀರ ಕೇಂದ್ರವನು ಬೃಹತ್ತಾಗಿ ಬೆಳೆಸಿ  
ಕಾಮಧೇನುವಿನಂತೆ ಸುಧೆಯ ಸುರಿಸಿ  
ತಣಿಸಿದಿರಿ ನಗರವಾಸಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿತ್ಯವೂ ನವನೀತವನುಣಿಸಿ!

ನಮ್ಮ ನಡುವೆ ನೀವಿರುವುದು ನಮ್ಮ ಸುಕೃತ  
ನಿಮ್ಮ ನಿರ್ಮಲತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ನ್ಯಾಯವಂತ ನಡವಳಿಕೆ  
ಮಾದರಿಯಾಗಲಿ ಮುಂಬರುವ ಜನಕೆ.

ಜನರ ಮನದಲ್ಲಿ ಶಾಶ್ವತ ಸ್ಥಾನ ಗಳಿಸಿ  
ನೀಲ ಗಗನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರಂತರ ಹೊಳೆವ ದೃವತಾರೆಯಂತೆ  
ದಾರಿತಪ್ಪಿ ತೊಳಲುವರಿಗೆ  
ಪ್ರಾಮಾಣಿಕತೆಯ ಶುಭ್ರಜೀವನದ  
ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶಿಯಾಗಿ ಬಹುಕಾಲ ಬದುಕಿ.

# Oh My Soul

**By Mittur N Ramprasad**

Oh my soul  
Become forever immortal

Showing your supremacy  
Bursting with aristocracy  
Crossing every galaxy  
Oh my soul  
Become forever immortal

Empathizing all religions  
Soaring beyond allegiance  
Never having legions  
Oh my soul  
Become forever immortal

Cross life's bridges  
Never build cottages  
Blending with vintages  
Oh my soul  
Become forever immortal

Forever be eternal  
Being time immemorial  
Endlessly being universal  
Oh my soul  
Become forever immortal

This poem is a translation of Kuvempu's, "Oh Nanna Chethana"  
(Kuvempu advocated the Universal Humanism concept or Vishwamanava.)

# First Drop of Success

**By Raghunandan**

First drop of success has just fallen  
the rain is yet to come,  
It's time to touch my dreams  
I will do it one by one.

The dark clouds of failure  
turned to be my saviour,  
They drizzled all over me  
to make this success special to me.

Life is an interesting salad  
of chillies and cherries,  
I've had enough of chillies  
it's time to taste the cherries.

What if the time takes a twist?  
and puts me again on waiting list!  
I've been waiting for a longtime,  
Won't I wait for some more time?

\*\*\*\*\*

## Wolf

by Jeevika Divakar

I'm a winter wolf.  
So swift and soft.  
My eyes glow in the night viciously.  
I glossy when I run in the hard packed snow.  
Curious what might happen.  
While others around me wander in the cold night, I scamper through the wondrous world with wide eyes.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Vokkaliga

By Mittur N Ramprasad

Venerable it is, to be a farmer tilling the earth  
Oracle of Mother Nature emblem of hope and faith  
Kindling warmth making sacrifice showering mirth  
Knight for all mankind toiling always being lithe  
Ablaze of love for all the creations of divine  
Loving and living spreading the joy of sunshine  
Inspiration to humanity till the end of time  
Glow of light shimmer of life's sublime  
Ardor with compassion leaning on tree of life like vine



## Youth/Children



Best Wishes to  
Vokkaligara Parishat of America

The Nagarakere Shankaraiah Family

---



Best Wishes to  
Vokkaligara Parishat of America

The Shantha Murthy Family

# A Game of Who Dunit? Gone Wrong

By Sankalp Gowda

7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
San Jose CA

It was Friday the thirteenth, the day that my small group of chosen friends and I were to drive to the old mansion in Hootersville to take part in the Who Dunit? game that was scheduled for tonight. We all piled into the rickety old pick-up truck that my father had given me for my last birthday. It was 9:00 P.M. and I noticed how quiet it was except for the rumbling of the engine, the hoot of an owl, and the rustle of leaves. It was a cloudless night, rare in October, with a shining full moon. I thought I was really lucky to be where I was right now; surrounded by friends, a clear night, and about to take part in a game that I had only read about in books. But all that was about to change.

As we arrived at the front door of the mansion, the star-studded sky sank into the mass of gray clouds that had suddenly gathered. My heart sank with the stars; the mansion looked a lot spookier than I had originally thought it would be! Just then, the door opened to reveal an old looking butler and the rest of the guests behind him. "Please come in," the butler said in a very dull voice.

As we walked through the doorway he collected our invitations. We walked in, first Jack, then Sam, then Kevin, and finally, me. Inside, there were antique 19<sup>th</sup> century furnishings. There was a refreshments table where all the other guests were congregating. We joined them and mingled with the crowd of about eighteen other people. One lady who seemed really into it (she was wearing a fluffy old fashioned dress) came up to me and said,

"Dear, I hope you know that I or any of the other guests will go easy on you or your friends just because of your young age," in a British accent.

"Don't worry, " I replied, " we don't need you to!"

Then, all of a sudden, the lights dimmed and our host stepped out. He had slicked back black hair, a skinny handlebar mustache (that made him look cheesy), and wore a tuxedo.

"Welcome," he said, " to our little game, where a series of fake murders will take place, and you will try to find out who the murderer is . He or she is among you right now! ... " Everyone started murmuring at the same time.

"Of course, the person who figures it out first will receive the prize money in the form of a check of \$1000!" he said.

Wow, back then, that was a lot of money! (At least to me and my friends. Remember the rickety old pickup?)

He paused for effect,” So let the games begin!”

A piano player appeared and set to work playing a long and complicated piece of music. A maid came in and poured some drinks from the punch bowl and started serving them. Out of the corner of my eye, I glimpsed the maid serving the piano player a cup of punch. A few seconds after the piano player had drained the cup, gagged and played a wrong note. That attracted a lot of attention! We all rushed to his side as he fell over. Many people cheered: he was our first victim! His body was still, too still. I checked for his pulse and found none! He was really dead! I shared my findings with the rest of the guests and the host.

“Oh no, oh no, oh no! this wasn’t supposed to happen!” the host cried out.

I looked around for the maid ( she had been the last person I had seen with the piano player); and found that she had fainted clear away! So she probably wasn’t the murderer.

“We must call the police!” the host shouted for all to hear.

He sprinted to the telephone, dialed 911 and explained to the dispatcher what had happened.

“Don’t worry,” he consoled us,” the police are sending a detective right over. Meanwhile, I might as well tell you who the culprit was supposed to be...”

There was a lightning flash and the crash of thunder, which signaled the start of the raging storm outside. Then, suddenly, the lights flickered and went out. We all heard a choking sound. When the lights flickered back on, we were shocked by what we saw. “Aaaaaah!”, screeched the woman in the old fashioned dress, pointing as she fainted clear away.

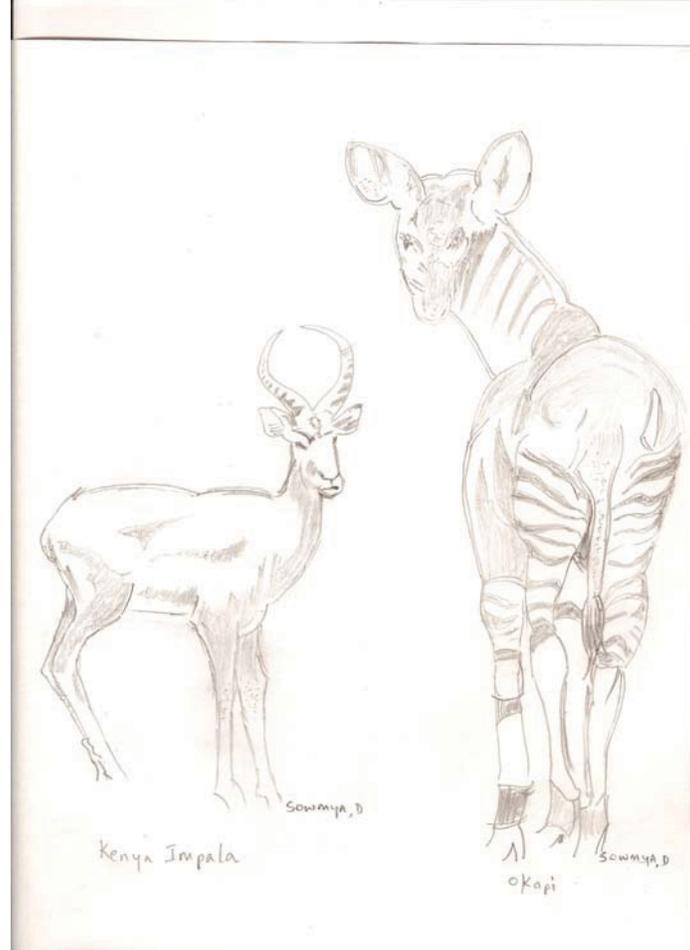
We quickly glanced upward and we gazed upward transfixed by the horrible scene before us. The host was dangling from the stairs by a thick rope that was wrapped around his neck. The host had been hanged! Now we had a double homicide on our hands! What were we to do?

Just then, the doorbell rang. I could swear that we all jumped in our shoes (well except for the woman in the old fashioned dress and the maid who were still out cold)! We all ran to the front door and wrenched it open. There stood the detective that the police must have sent. In our panic I think that everyone had forgotten about it. But still, everyone was very glad to see him. We quickly informed him of the new developments in the case. After the briefing we gave him, he pulled out a huge magnifying glass and

started combing the room for clues as to who the rampaging murderer was. We all crowded around him and asked him nonstop questions. Finally, I think that he got fed up of it all.

He said to us, "Leave me or you might end up like those other two sorry chaps!"

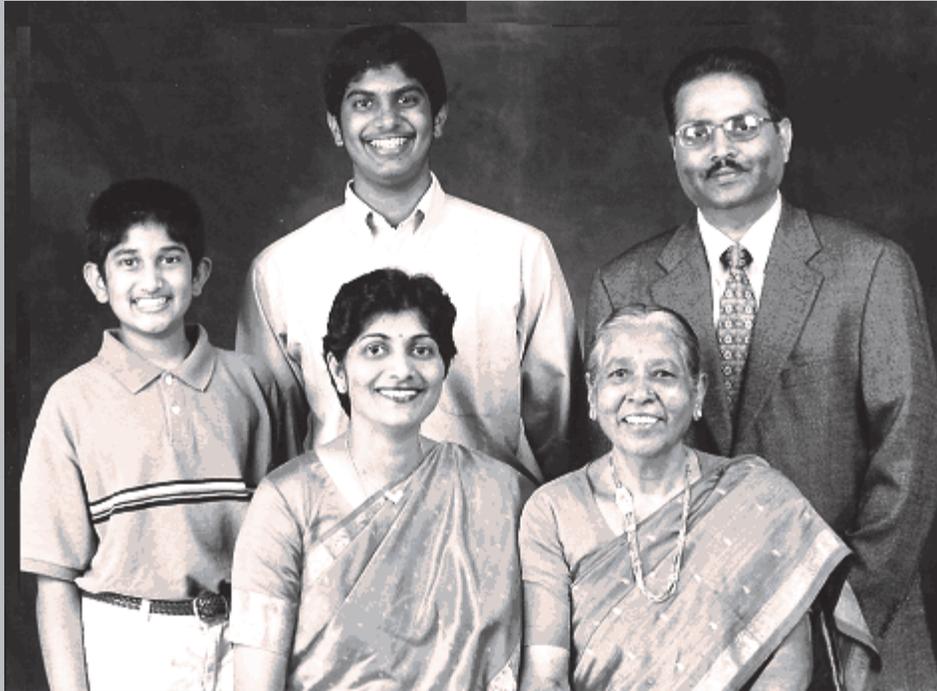
\*\*\*\*\*



# With Best Compliments

From

Smt. Lakshamma Ramaswamy  
(w/o Late Bijjawara Ramaswamy),  
Dr. Rajanna Ramaswamy,  
Kalpana, Sunil, and Sandesh





## FAIRY MAGIC



**Samantha Swamy**

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

West Bloomfield, Michigan

Once upon a time there lived a little girl named Olivia. She lived in a little cottage in the woods with her parents. One day while digging in her closet, Olivia found a door while splitting through her dresses. She opened the door and inside she found a beautiful crystal ball. Olivia rubbed the crystal ball and instantly there appeared a genie.

***“Little girl, little girl, come with me. Great adventures await you.”*** Said the genie.

The genie took Olivia’s hand and they both jumped into the crystal ball.

Olivia then found herself in the bustling streets of a Russian town. She searched and searched for the genie but Olivia never found him. She sat down on a hard, cold rock and wondered why everything looked gray. ***“It’s very weird that everything looks so gray”*** said Olivia to herself.

Just then a girl passed by. Olivia jumped up and asked her as to why everything was so gray. The girl said that a few years ago an evil fairy witch had stolen a very rare and beautiful platinum jewel from the queen at the Winter Palace. That sparkly piece of jewel had provided light for the whole Russian town. Olivia thought that it was a very sad story.

Then after the girls had gotten over the sad story the introduced themselves.

*“Hello, I am Olivian,”* said the girl.

*“Hello, I am Olivia,”* said Olivia.

*“I must say that our names are very much alike,”* said the girl.

*“So they are,”* said Olivia.

*“Now since I have heard the sad story about the jewel, it makes me want to look for the platinum jewel again,”* complimented Olivian.

*“Me too,”* said Olivia.

*“Let us go to the library and find a book of maps that leads us to the evil fairy homes,”* suggested Olivian.

They both walked to the library together and searched and searched and searched, Finally Olivian found a book that had the title “MAPS THAT LEAD TO THE HOMES OF EVIL FAIRY WITCHES”.

*“I found it,”* said Olivian and poked Olivia with her finder.

*“Great, Manduran Opis is the name of the fairy witch right?”* said Olivia.

*“Yes,”* said Olivian. *“Now this gives me an idea! Since Manduran Opis had two long lost sisters, Canchura and Pluntaran, we can dress up as those two old bags and go to Manduran’s house.”*

To this Olivia responded by saying *“Yes! We can ask Manduran to show us the jewel, and when she isn’t looking we could run away with the sparkly platinum jewel.”*

*“Let’s go,”* said Olivian.

The girls went on to Olivian’s house where Olivia was introduced to her parents. Then they assigned themselves the task of cutting up some old clothes which they had outgrown. They

wanted to make it look like rags. They dressed themselves with these old rags, took two sticks that looked like canes and with the book clutched under their arms took off to Manduran's house.

Finally Olivia and Olivian reached the fairy witch's house. Olivian knocked on the creaky door.

"Come in," said Manduran in a dark and husky voice.

"Hello, my dear Manduran," said Olivia who pretended to be Canchura.

"Oh yes! Hello my dearie," said Olivian who pretended to be Plutaran.

"Oh welcome my two long lost sisters," said Manduran. "Please come; let's celebrate our reunion over a hot cup of tea."

The two girls in disguise thanked her for the offer and proceeded on with their mission.

"No we are fine thank you. But we have heard a lot about your acquisition of the sparkly platinum jewel," said Olivia.

"Off course, I am in possession of the jewel, as a result of which the town is in darkness, I will be very happy to show it to my sisters," said Manduran

Manduran brought out a huge decorated jewelery box which treasured the platinum jewel. With the keys she unlocked the box and there was the large platinum jewel in all its glory. It had a halo of light around it. The girls' jaws dropped at the sight of the beautiful and priceless possession. They could not stop but say "Oh my goodness, it is so beautiful."

While the girls adored the platinum jewel, Manduran made an excuse to go check on the tea. "I am going to check on the boiling water on the stove."

"Please go." said the girls.

The minute the fairy witch sailed out of the living room to the kitchen, the girls whispered.

"Okay now, here's our only chance!" They both nodded their heads, hearts filled with joy but scared to death outside. They grabbed the platinum jewel from the box, dashed to the front door and ran as fast as their legs could take them.

Within some minutes they had made their way into the forest with Manduran's house not visible

behind them. They sat down under a tree and ascertained themselves that they had done the right thing. With tears of joy and the source of light to the town in their hands they marched their way into the Winter Palace. When they finally reached the Palace, night had struck. They made their way into the queen's alter and after they greeted her with a curtsy said,

*"Your majesty, here's the platinum jewel. It belongs to you and we are very proud of the fact that light would indeed shine on our darkness inhibited town. The world of happiness and brightness is back."*

The queen walked up to them and gave them a warm hug.

She then shrugged her shoulders and said "You two little girls are real life heroes. Your heroic efforts have brought back light and washed all the darkness from our land. I cannot thank you enough. Could you girls spend the night at the palace and honor me by having dinner with me tonight."

The two little girls were shaken and weak in their knees.

"Yes your majesty, we do accept your invitation," they said.

The girls were then taken by the queen's servants, given a bath and adorned with finery and velvet costumes to behold the status of dining with the queen.

Before dinner the queen took them to the front of the palace and showed them the white pillar which was the home of the jewel prior to being stolen by Manduran.

Amidst lots of cheering by the crowd, the queen ordered the little girls to place the Platinum jewel with its halo of light on top of the white pillar.

The girls walked with the giant jewel in their hands to the white pillar. They prayed to God for bestowing them with the honor and pride of bringing back light to the land. The minute they placed the jewel on top of the pillar, the entire town lighted up.

People sang prayers and thanked the girls.

Finally the finale was over and the two little girls headed off to where they came from. They

hugged each other and after they had said their good byes, Olivia headed off for the crystal ball and Olivian headed off to her home. They felt

very satisfied and proud of their achievements. They had indeed accomplished one of the Greatest!!!!

\*\*\*\*\*



# A TEXAS SIZED BEST WISHES TO ALL THE VPA MEMBERS AND 2007 CONVENTION ORGANIZERS!!!



**FROM THE CHANDRA FAMILY**

Dr. and Mrs. Balu and Nandini Chandra  
Anisha, Michael and Monica Chandra

*Bunty and Babli too!*

**Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas**

## Memoirs of America

By Samika Kumar

My name is Saraswati Gowda. I'm thirteen years old, going into the eighth grade. I moved to California last summer from India.

I'll never forget seventh grade, here. Though there's much humor, I have certainly learned a lot.

I arrived in October. My very first American class was math with Ms. Spindly. When I arrived at the classroom, a lady had waddled toward me.

"Hello, hello," she had said. "I'm Ms. Spindly. I believe you are the new student. Come along with me to my desk. I'll need to print your name on our attendance list."

Diffidently, I had followed the teacher to her desk, my cheeks reddening as I felt twenty one pairs of eyes fall on me.

"Um, I'm Saraswati Gowda."

Ms. Spindly had paused in her writing. I still remember that you've-got-to-be-kidding-me look she had thrown at me. After spelling my first name out for her, she had said, "And your last name is spelt like the cheese, right?"

Baffled at first, I had only nodded, unaware that the cheese was spelt g-o-u-d-a. I had never considered myself to be related to a Dutch cheese, but for the time being, I decided to cope.

I was quick at making friends. After all, everyone was curious of me that chilly October day.

I sat at a table with several girls. They were debating on what to do after eating lunch.

"I have homework to do," Elizabeth had groaned. "Let's go to the library."

"Let's play basketball," Linda had suggested. When I had first noticed her mehendi-colored hair, I thought she had dyed it. I never knew true hair colors could come in such a variety.

Basketball was a cool game, but my all time favorite was cricket. "How about cricket?" I had asked. Instantly, the air filled with shrill screams.

"Where's the cricket? I'm terribly afraid of them!" Leslie had shrieked.

For the rest of the year, we played basketball every lunch.

I remember math was a breeze. Even in India, I was far ahead of my peers.

One icy December day, in math class, we were working on measures within the International System of Units. (This was something I'd learned in the third standard but Americans had to learn two systems of measures so I didn't protest.)

Ms. Spindly had announced, "Class, if you have one meter cubed, then that is equal to how many centimeters cubed?"

Instantaneously, my hand had shot up. After being called on, I had ardently inhaled. Everyone was looking at me, knowing that I had the answer at the tip of my tongue. "That would be 1,000,000 centimeters cubed."

Ms. Spindly had nodded. "And Sa-roh-swah-dee, how did you get that answer?"

By now, I had learned it was futile correcting Ms. Spindly with the pronunciation of my name. Instead I had replied, "Well first, I found the perimeter of one side of the cube, or the square of the side." My own pronunciation of words was nearly similar to those of the Americans. However, when I said "perimeter", it came out as PEH-ree-mee-tuhr.

The baffled look Ms. Spindly had given me is so clear in my mind- as if it was from yesterday. She had quietly said, "Um, could you repeat that?" Confidently, I had repeated my statement.

“Sa-roh-swah-dee, I don’t believe the perry-meter is a part of the International System of Units.”

“It’s part of all the systems,” I had innocently, though perplexed, replied. “Is it not?”

After a couple moments of silence, one boy, Jason, had raised his hand. “I think by perry-meter, she means peh-RIH-mih-tuhr.” At that point, it dawned to me that America had many different pronunciations from India, England, and most of the other countries.

Needless to say, for many months afterwards, several of my classmates continued to playfully ask me, “How many perry-meters are in a meter?”

I recall another humorous event, a couple weeks later, in my language arts class. Our class was quietly working away in our workbooks- pages 102 to 110.

I was on page 106, studying independent and dependant clauses, when suddenly, the person sitting next to me, Tyler, had inquired, “Sa-roh-swah-dee, does the language you speak in India have these same grammar rules?”

Only half listening, I had replied, “No.”

However, Tyler didn’t drop it there. “What is your language called?”

“It’s called Kannada.”

“Oh. Is that what they speak in Canada, also?”

Finally, I had looked up to see if Tyler was joking. I was about to burst into laughter when I noticed he was as serious as if he was asking me if there was a cure for cancer.

When I had stopped suppressing my laughter, I sardonically said, “The last time I checked,

Canada’s official languages were English and French, but if ever I discover a change, you’ll be the first to know.”

It was then that I decided to buy Tyler a reference book about Canada for his next birthday.

School soared by quickly. I remember that day in April when Holi arrived. Enthusiastically, I had briefly explained that Holi was a festival where people tossed colored water over each other.

“Oh!” Leslie had exclaimed. “Is that why that god with the flute is blue? What did you say his name was?”

“Krishna,” Hermione had instantly said. I remember swelling up with pride with the thought that my friends were being educated with my culture.

Accustomed to my friends’ funny questions, I had grinned. “No, I don’t think Krishna is blue because he got permanently colored with Holi water.”

Looking back, though, I wonder if Leslie’s theory about Krishna is correct. What if Krishna is blue because he got sprayed with permanent Holi water? Well, I suppose he’s just lucky that Holi water wasn’t shocking pink or electric lemon yellow.

Seventh grade has been a blast this year. I’ve learned so much with a couple of laughs here and there. Of course I dearly miss India, but I can’t rewind time. I just have to keep going forward, looking out for my many more memoirs of America to come.

\*\*\*\*\*

# Hoysala Dynasty

By Karthik Bande



This summer I went on a vacation to India. When I was there, I visited many places like Halebeedu, Beluru, and Mysore. I liked Halebeedu the most. Halebeedu is a very divine place. Halebeedu means “ruined city.” It used to be called Dwarassmudra because there was a huge lake near the city. The city of Dwarassmudra was the capital city of Hoysala kingdom. Vishnuvardhana was the king at that time. In the town of Halebeedu thrives a temple. This temple is a historic place in the Hassan district. The name of the temple is Hoysaleswara. This was built ages ago in the 12<sup>th</sup> century A.D. by the Hoysala Dynasty. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and Parvathi. It is beautifully decorated with sculptures that were carved by Jakana Chari. Jakana Chari was a great artist, he also carved a lot of other gorgeous sculptures. The exterior walls are intricately carved with horizontal friezes telling stories from the epics, mythology, animals and birds such as elephants, lions, horses, makaras, hamsas, creepers, floral designs etc. The highlight of the temple is that it was built with stone slabs on a pivotal mechanism without a binding material like cement. Amazingly, the slabs were carved after construction, leaving no room for errors. This shows how skilled the people at that time were. Even though people have worked on the temple for over 86 years, there is still lot of work that is incomplete.

All the bracket figures except the one in the interior have been lost because, Muslim rulers successively looted Halebeedu. The state government undertook the renovation work about 30 years ago and the town as well as its area gradually improved. The Hassan district is very amazing. Another famous place in the Hassan district is Beluru. If you ever get a chance to visit the place, you should seize it.

\*\*\*\*\*

ಅದರರ್ಥಗಿರ್ಥಗಳು ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಕರ್ತನಿಗಿರಲಿ  
ವ್ಯರ್ಥ ಜಿಜ್ಞಾಸೆಯಲಿ ಕಾಲಹರಣವದೇಕೆ  
ಬಾರಯ್ಯ ಮಮ ಬಂಧು ಜೀವನ ಪಥದೊಳು  
ಒಂದಾಗಿ ಮುಂದುವರಿಯುವ  
ಯಾವ ಜನ್ಮದ ಮೈತ್ರಿ...

— ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಕವಿ ಕುವೆಂಪು

ಬಕ್ಕಲಿಗರ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ, ಅವುಲಿರಿಕಗೆ

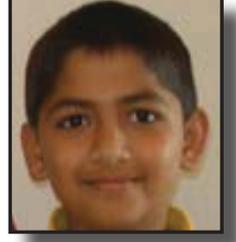
ಹಾದೀಕ ಶುಭಾಷಯಗಳು

ಲೀಲಾವತಿ, ರಾಧಾಕೃಷ್ಣ

ಅಚ್ಯುತ, ಮತ್ತು ಜ್ಯೋತಿಷ್ಣ ತಲಕಾಡು

# A Helpful Hand

By Kaushik Bande



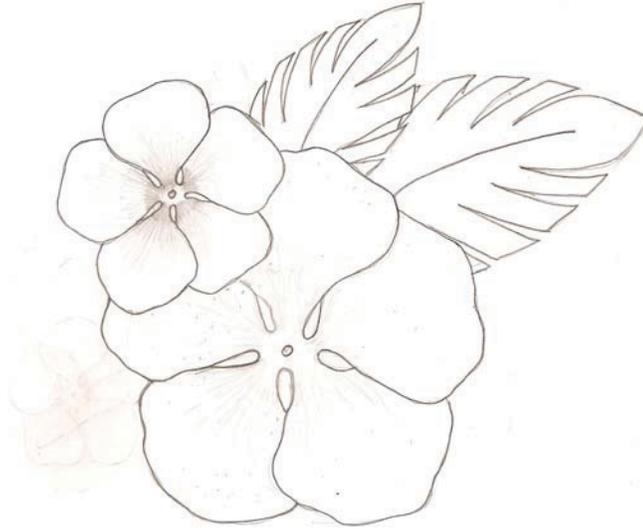
One blazing hot summer day, my annoying little alarm clock boomed, “Bring, bring!” It was the day I had to help my dad on packing out stuff to make out long, difficult journey through the desert to TEXAS (From California).

I tried to stay awake during the morning, but I was way too drowsy. But, somehow I managed to get out of the drowsy sleep. “We have a ton of stuff to pack”, my dad announced in a clear & loud voice as he carefully pulled down some stuff to pack. I was as excited as a guy getting a million presents when it’s not his Birthday or Christmas! “Mom, do we have any duck tape or huge boxes?” I questioned really hoping there was. “Umm... No”, she answered with a grin. I frowned, my head dropped, and my face turned red. So my dad went to Target and came back with 2 rolls of duck tape and 6 gigantic boxes, as quick as a flash.

I helped my dad getting stuff off the walls and into boxes. Once we finished my dad awarded me with a trip to Baskin Robins. I got two cones and one cup of ice cream. We had a splendid time, but I did deserve it, because I did half of the work!

I feel special to this very day about me helping my dad when he packs or does anything that needs another hand. I will never forget the day I helped pack out house into cardboard boxes!

\*\*\*\*\*



# The Spooky House

**By Sathvik Gowda**

4<sup>th</sup> Grader  
San Jose , CA

As I walked in the door, I noticed creepy a few black skeletons. Then I noticed stalactites dropping poisonous liquid. I went upstairs and opened a door and went inside. There were tons of flying skeletons. I then looked around and felt a bumpy cobweb. Frightened, I ran around in circles. Suddenly, the magical skeletons said a spell "Bats, Fangs and Blood mix together!" They all turned in to gulp...blood sucking Vampires!!!! And, they were heading right at me! But, luckily I had garlic with me. They smelt it and turned into ginger bread men! I wondered what would happen next.

I walked down the hall and smelled strange magical candy. I turned around and saw the ginger bread men. They started throwing their buttons at me! I saw a full kid knight set. I put it on and chopped off the ginger bread men's arms. I thought it was done, but they shot chocolate out of their mouth. It was a foul, rotten, spoiled, spicy, strange smell. Somehow, I summoned a dragon and all the men smelled smoky.

I crept upstairs and heard a mysterious, magical magician murmuring magical words. All I could hear was "Ding Dong Dingy Foo send this to space!" and I was filled with terror! Then the magical man saw me and used a spell. I blocked it and hit him. I won!!! I snuck into the kitchen and tasted a poisonous liquid. Luckily, I had an antidote. Then I tasted a strength potion. It worked! I ran past the frozen magician, burnt ginger bread men and down the stairs.

I broke the strong door and escaped!! It was the spookiest trip ever, but it was Fun!

\*\*\*\*\*

# The Best Sleepover Ever!

By Karthik Bande

“Ring, Ring!” my alarm clock sounded with a burst of noise. The best day ever was about to begin and I couldn't wait till 6:00 PM ....(When it starts)

“When are they going to come?” I blurted with a questioning voice. We set everything we thought would be handy. My dad called PIZZA Hut and ordered two large cheese pizzas. “Okay we're all set, and we finished perfectly on time!” my dad announced.

They finally made it with a big a big joyful smile on their faces. “Hey AS, hey VJ, how are you guys? Ready to have some serious fun?” I exclaimed in an exciting voice.

“Yea!” they both answered together. We played video games (PS2). The two large cheese pizzas finally arrived. “Pizza is ready!” my mom called from the kitchen. So my friends and I got ready for dinner right away. We all ate about three slices except for my friend VJ, he was skinny and only ate one slice.

My dad got a tent and set it up in the middle of the room so that we can play around it. But, we didn't. We just ended the day with a nice game of Monopoly.

In the morning we got ready as fast as a flash because we were going to Krispy Kream Doughnuts. When we came back we ate and played more. We soon had to say out goodbyes and then they had to head home.

That was the last sleepover I had in California and it will never leave my heart. I will never forget this fabulous memory.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Best Wishes To The VPA



## The Appaswamy Family

---

## Best Wishes To The VPA



## The Lingaraju Family



## An Expression of Gratitude

We are indebted to **Dr. R. Narayana**,  
Retd. Director of Instruction at the University of  
Agricultural Sciences, Herbal, Bangalore for his kind  
help, guidance, and blessings.

We owe him our enormous debt of gratitude and we  
hold him  
in our daily prayers

**M Rangappa**

# IN LOVING MEMORY OF



MRS NANJAMMA ERAIH  
MR JAMBUR ERAIH



MRS SAVITHRAMMA  
JAVAREGOWDA

FROM: JAMBUR & SHASHIKALA CHANDRASHEKAR



# Best Wishes To The Vokkaliga Parishat of America



**Dinesh Gowda and Family**

## BEST WISHES TO ALL VPA MEMBERS



H. Kulle Gowda

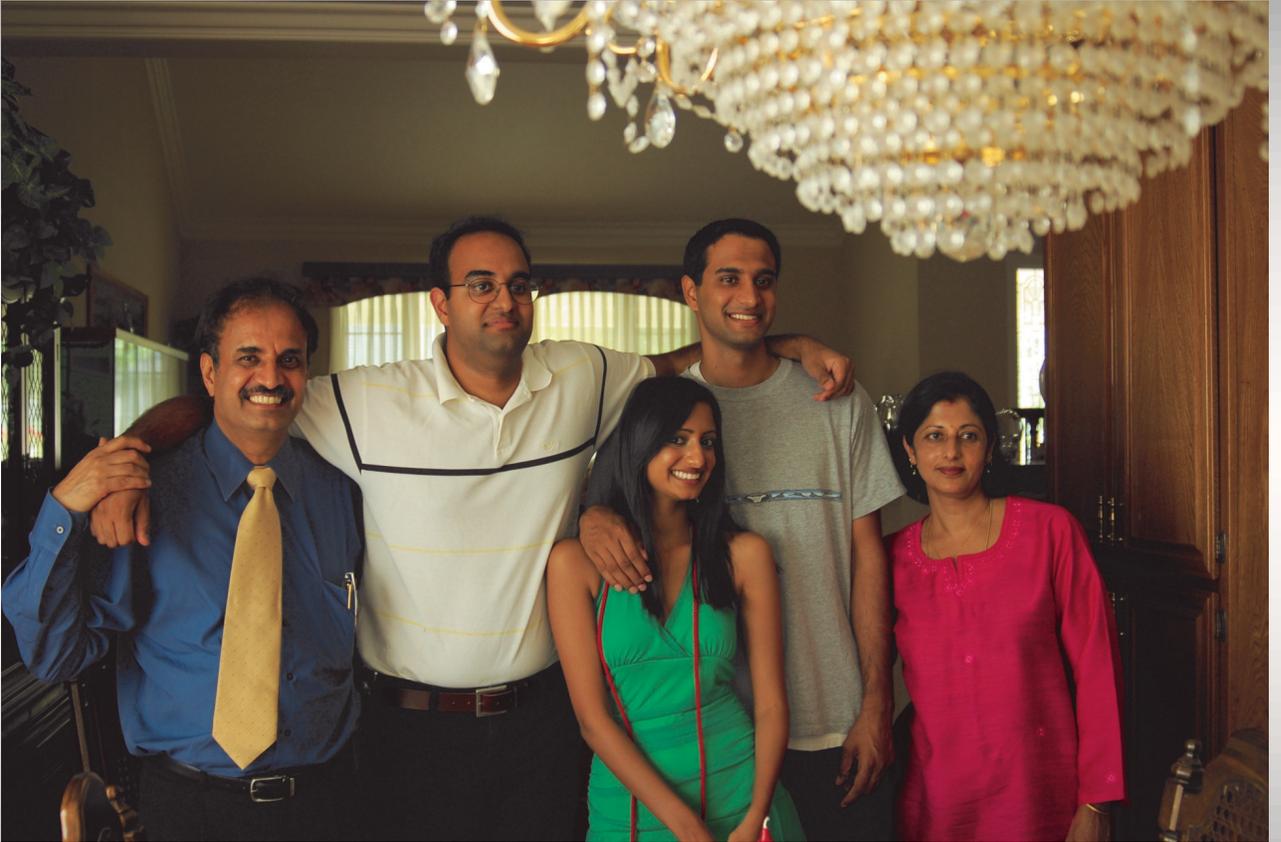
Vasanthi Gowda

Megana

Sahadev

Darien, Illinois

# Best Wishes to the VPA



Poornima & Dr Satya Kanagal

Orange, CA

## Best Wishes from the Venugopal Family and Prakash Café



Pictured: K.L.Chandrashekhariah and Sharadamma

(Parents of KC Venugopal, Grandparents of Sumanth Venugopal)

## Best Wishes to the VPA



Mr Ramesh, Kalavathi,  
Boomika and Deepika

Chikmagalur, India

## Best Wishes To The VPA



The Devi Family Restaurant Group

# Best Wishes To The VPA



Krishnappa & Family

Greensburg, Pennsylvania

# Best Wishes From The Krishnamurthy Family



Shakuntala, Anil, Gerbail, Thomas and Kalpana

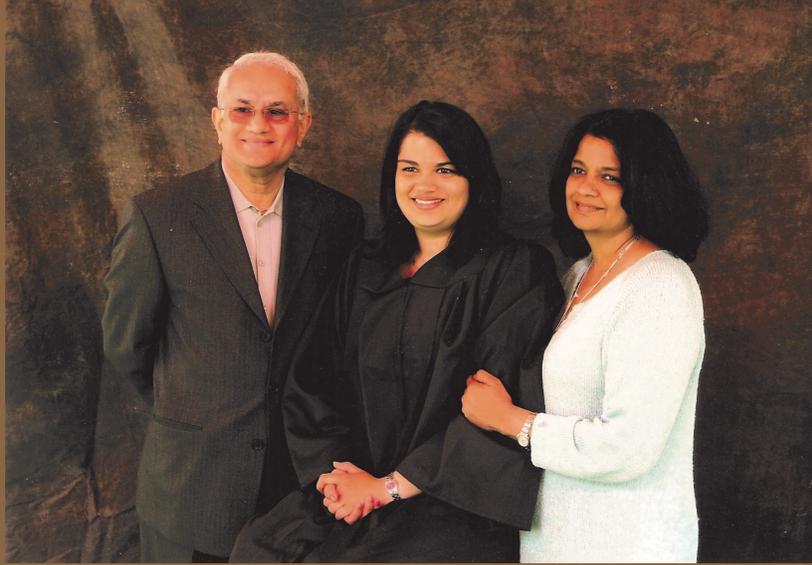
# Best Wishes To The VPA



The Prakash Family

Liverpool, NY

## Best Wishes To The VPA



Dr Devangi Sreekanth & Family

## Best Wishes To The VPA

Shanprasad Devarunda, Bethlehem, PA

Nanda B. Kumar, Windsor, NJ

Sanjay Kumbagodana

D. Channe Gowda, Rockville, MD

Subash Gowda, San Diego, CA

Yadhu Govindrajan, Sunnyvale, CA

## Best Wishes To The VPA



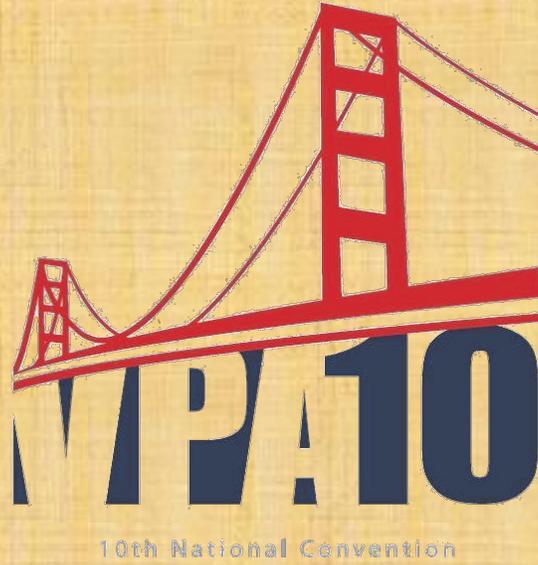
Anantharam, Kausalya & Leela Boriah

## Best Wishes To The VPA



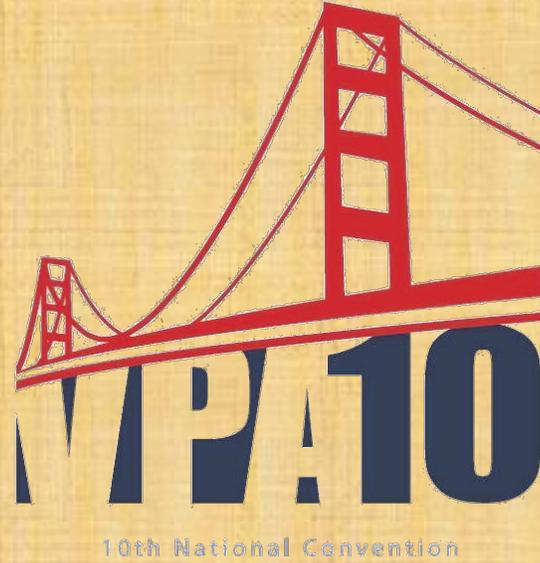
Gayathri, Bhaskar & Family

# Best Wishes to Vokkaligara Parishat of America



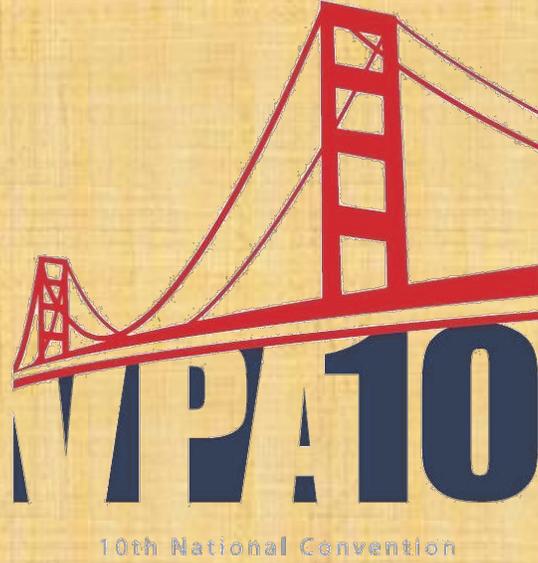
Suri Appa and Family

# Best Wishes to Vokkaligara Parishat of America



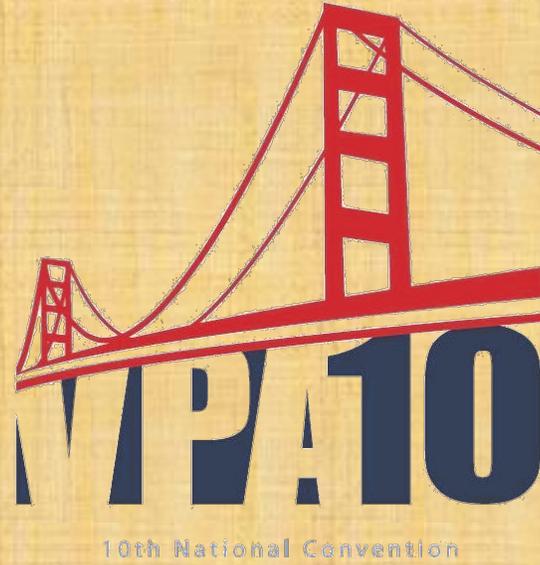
Amarnath Gowda & Family -  
Savithri, Asha & Chaitra

# Best Wishes to Vokkaligara Parishat of America



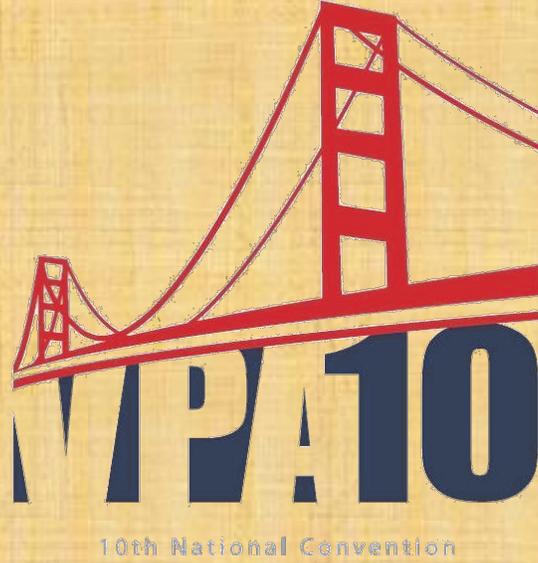
Ramesh Malekal & Family

# Best Wishes to Vokkaligara Parishat of America



B J Arun & Family

# Best Wishes to Vokkaligara Parishat of America



Balakrishna Mundodi & Family

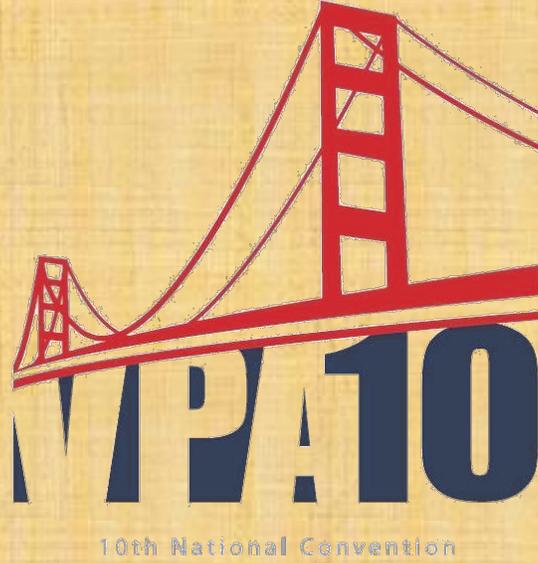
# Best Wishes to Vokkaligara Parishat of America



Dr Vishwamitra & Family

McAllen, Texas

# Best Wishes to Vokkaligara Parishat of America



Dr Balachandra & Family

Moline, Illinois

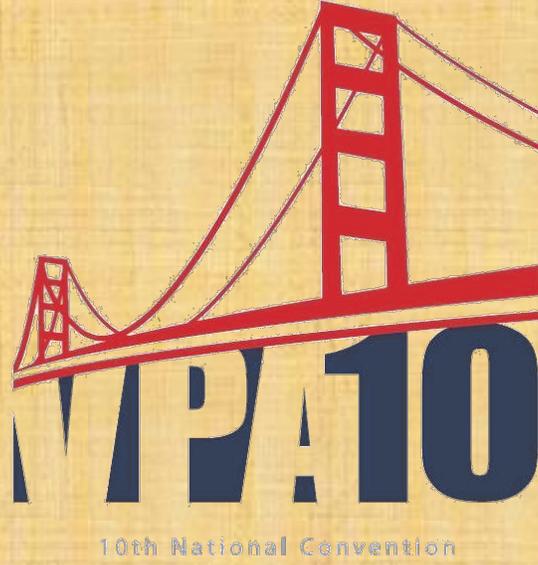
# Best Wishes to Vokkaligara Parishat of America



## The Chandrashekar Family

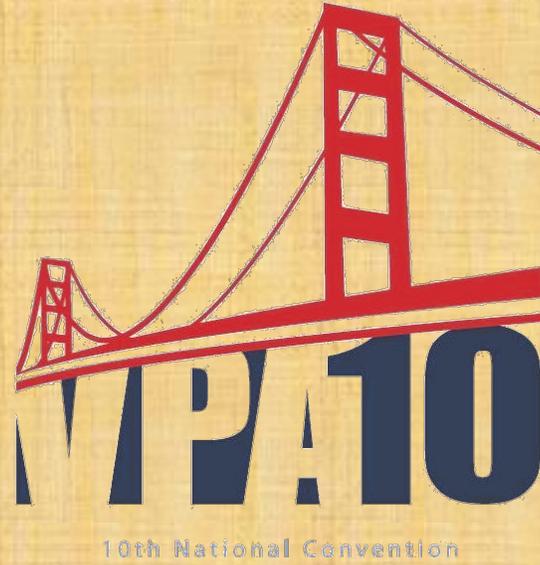
Hixson, TN

# Best Wishes to Vokkaligara Parishat of America



Chandra Channappa

# Best Wishes to Vokkaligara Parishat of America



Dr. M P Divakar  
Mrs. Soumya Divakar  
Ms. Daksha Divakar  
Ms. Jeevika Divakar

## Best Wishes to the VPA



Suchi, Abhi, Renu and Athihalli Nagaraj  
Burr Ridge, IL

---

## Best Wishes to the VPA

From Dr Ashwatha and Premalatha Narayana



Front L to R: Aruna Reddy, Saajan May, Ashwatha Narayana, Anjali Lakshmi May, Asha May  
Rear L to R: Anil Reddy, Akhil Reddy, Premalatha Narayana, Walter May, Avanish Reddy

Wallingford, CT

# ಒಕ್ಕಲಿಗರ ಪರಿಷತ್ತು, ಅಮೇರಿಕ ಬೆಕ್ಕಲಿಗರ ಪರಿಷತ್ತು, ಅಮೇರಿಕ

೨೦೦೭ನೇ ಸಮ್ಮೇಳನಕ್ಕೆ  
ಶುಭಾಶಯಗಳು



*Appa, Nalini, Ashwini and Manu Anjanappa*

*Ellicott City, Maryland*

## ULLAL INSURANCE SERVICES

998 Tulip Ct  
Sunnyvale, CA 94086



- LIFE
- HEALTH
- DISABILITY
- EMPLOYEE BENEFITS
- MUTUAL FUNDS
- COLLEGE SAVINGS PLANS

VISIT MY WEBSITE <[HTTP://WWW.MEDICALNO1.COM](http://www.medicalno1.com)> AND APPLY FOR VISITORS CARE INSURANCE ONLINE WITH INSTANT APPROVAL WITH THE BEST RATES OR CALL : SATISH ULLAL Tel:408-738-5522 /e-mail-ullalinsurance@sbcglobal.net.

Securities products are offered through registered representative of New England Securities, a Broker/ Dealer (member NASD/SIPC) for New England Life Insurance Company, Boston, MA 02116.

CA LICENSE NO:0D77916



**“Her little accidents I can handle.  
The rest I leave up to my Farmers agent.”**

Isn't it nice to know there's someone you can count on if something unexpected ever happens to your home or your family? A Farmers policy can help get things back to normal. If only everything were that easy. Call me now to find out more.

## Rita Sharma

6900 Koll Center Parkway #403, Pleasanton, CA 94566

Call (408) 768-2689

rsharma@farmersagent.com

www.farmersagent.com/rsharma



# FARMERS



Best Wishes to Vokkaliga Parishat  
Kumar Tallam



SERVING SANTA CLARA AND ALAMEDA COUNTIES

YOUR MONEY IS LIKE MY MONEY

FREE MARKET ANALYSIS & CONSULTATION

[Kumartallam.com](http://Kumartallam.com)

kumar@magiclink.net

BUSINESS: (408) 715 1128

CELL: (408) 712-8787

**COLDWELL  
BANKER**

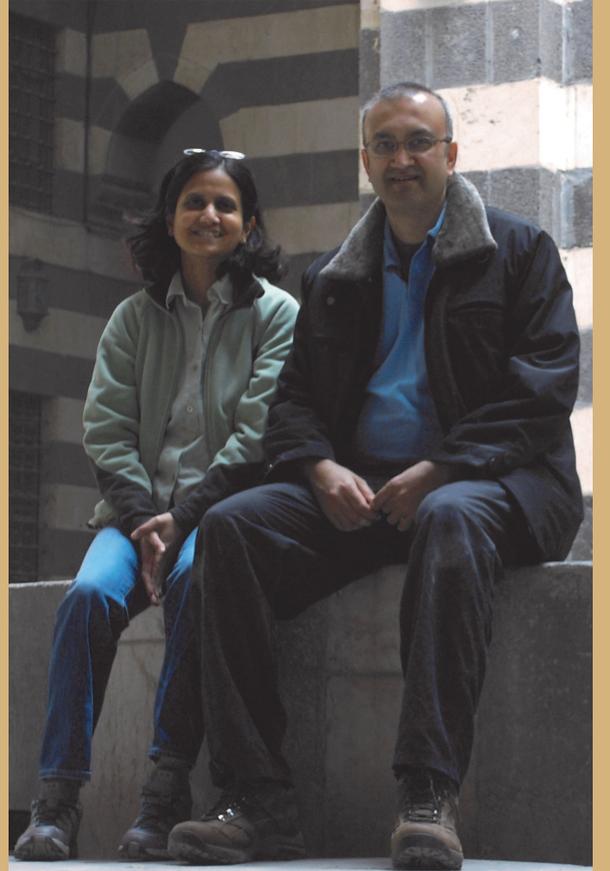
## Best Wishes To The VPA

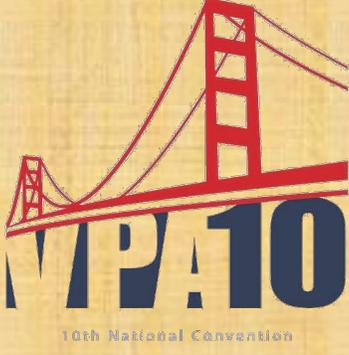


## Jagadish Kariyappa & Family

## Best Wishes To The VPA

## Sushma & Shantanu

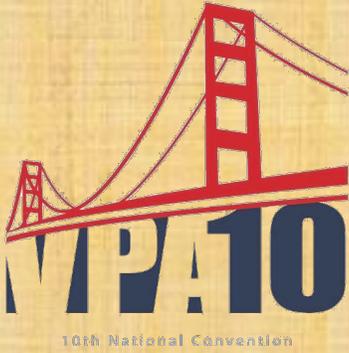




Best Wishes to  
Vokkaligara Parishat of America

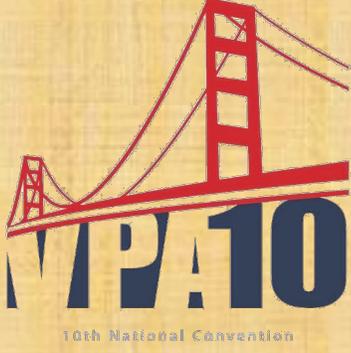
The Chowdappa & Jagasia Family

---



Best Wishes to  
Vokkaligara Parishat of America

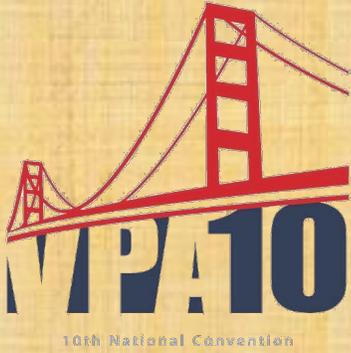
Dr Raja Gowda & Family



Best Wishes to  
Vokkaligara Parishat of America

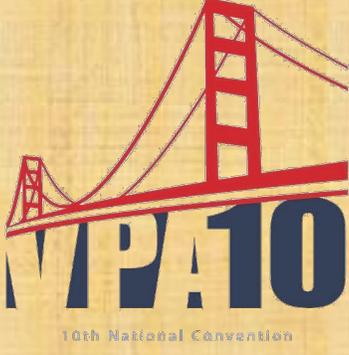
Mr Srinivasa and Geetha Gowda &  
Family

---



Best Wishes to  
Vokkaligara Parishat of America

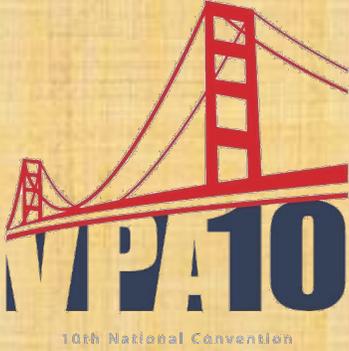
Meena Gowda, Shirin Sudhakara &  
Kiran Sudhakara



Best Wishes to  
Vokkaligara Parishat of America

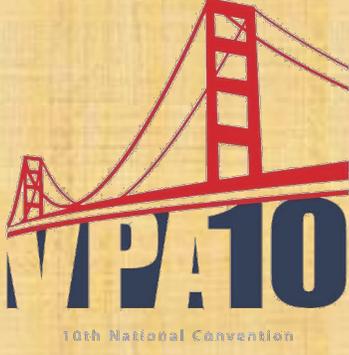
The Puttaswami Family

---



Best Wishes to  
Vokkaligara Parishat of America

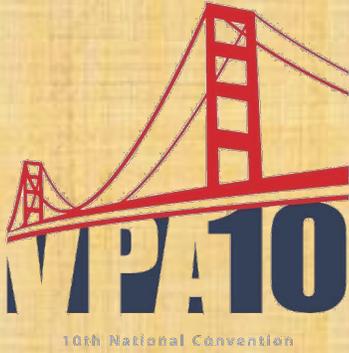
Mittur & Asha Ramaprasad



Best Wishes to  
Vokkaligara Parishat of America

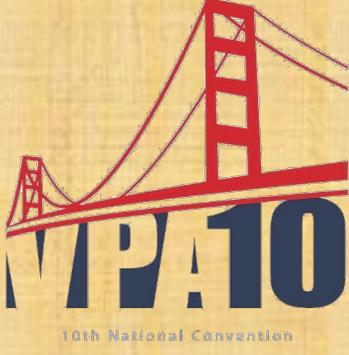
Dr MS Krishna & Mrs Daya Krishna

---



Best Wishes to  
Vokkaligara Parishat of America

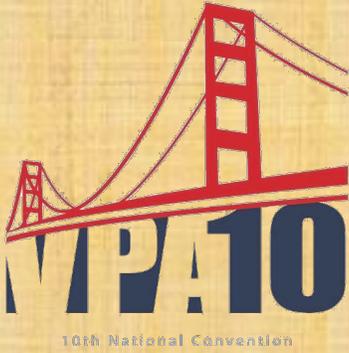
Ramakrishna & Shalini Madadi



Best Wishes to  
Vokkaligara Parishat of America

Hiranya Gowda & Family

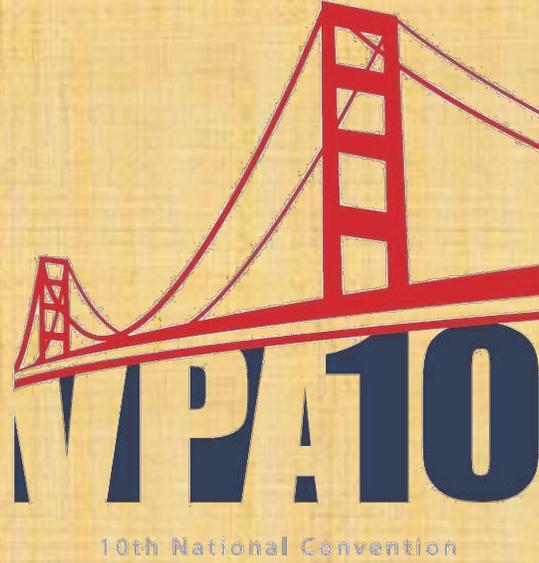
---



Best Wishes to  
Vokkaligara Parishat of America

Dr Shashi Kumar & Family

# Best Wishes to Vokkaligara Parishat of America



Ramesh Gowda

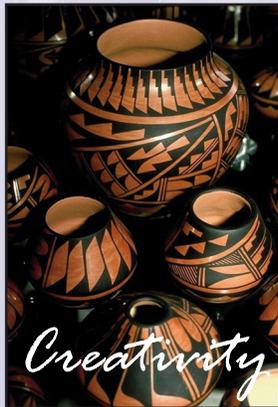
Auburn Hills, MI

# Printing & more

Graphics Design, Digital & Offset Printing, Media Duplication, Software Publishing, Fulfillment, Mailing, and More!

## Best Wishes to Vokkaligara Parishat of America

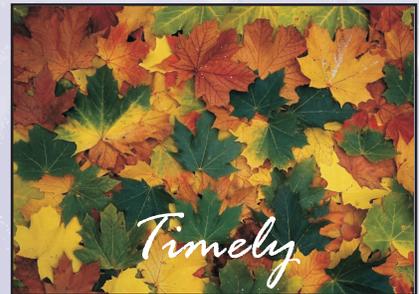
*We serve your industry!  
From concept through delivery ...*



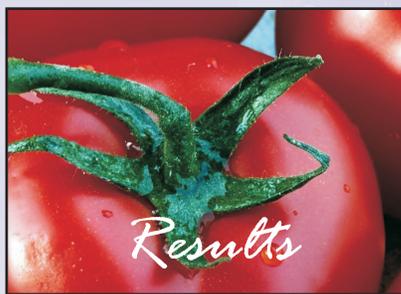
+



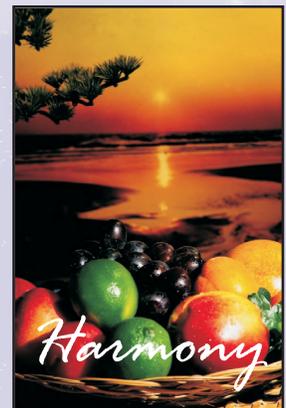
+



=



+



**alpha printing &  
media services. inc.**

Quality & Service. One Stop Shop For All Your Printing & Media Needs

1409 N. 10th Street, San Jose, CA 95112

tel: 408.885.8210 • fax: 408.885.8212

sales@alpha-printing.com • www.alpha-printing.com

Convenient location for easy access -- close to Highway 880/101 intersection

*This Souvenir Printed by Alpha Printing & Media Services, Inc.*

# VPA Member Directory Listing

## A

**Annam & Rathna Achutha**  
Marlton, NJ 08053  
**Dayashankar & Rashmi Adappa**  
Farmington Hills, MI 48335  
**L. & Anita Amaranath**  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
**K.M. & Mani Anandaiah**  
Hendersonville, TN 37075  
**Anoop & Rashmi Anantha**  
Kirkland, WA 98003  
**Muniswamappa & Nalini Anjanappa**  
Ellicott City, MD 21402  
**Suri and Tanvi Appa**  
Lake Forest, CA 92630  
**Umesh Appareddy**  
Collegeville, PA 19426  
**Ramesh & Vijaya Appareddy**  
Chattanooga, TN 37421  
**Sudhakar & Chaitra Arakere**  
**Arakere Basavaraj & Chetana**  
Marlborough, MA 01752  
Houston, TX 77077  
**Arun**  
Jersey City, NJ 07306  
**B.J. Arun & Gayathri**  
Fremont, CA 94539  
**Ramesh & Mohana Kumari Ashokananda**  
Piscataway, NJ 08854  
**Mugabala & Suneetha Aswath**  
Danville, VA 24541  
**Sathya & Rashmi Aswathappa**  
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648  
**Sathya Aswathappa**  
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648  
**Nagaraj & Renu Athihalli**  
Burr Ridge, IL 60527  
**Avverahalli & Mena Harish**  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

## B

**Ravishankar & Bhagyashree B.**  
Fremont, CA 94538  
**Niranjan & Nirupama Babu**  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443  
**Suresh & Sujatha Babu**

Morris Plains, NJ 07950  
**Balachandra & Nandini**  
Colleyville, TX 76034  
**Shaker & Geetha Balagopal**  
Sandy, UT 84093  
**Hatti & Srimathi Balakrishna**  
Glastonbury, CT 06033  
**Kumar & Rekha Balalingaiah**  
Beacon, NY 12508  
**Nanjaiah & Vijaya Balam**  
Elkridge, MD 21075  
**Mohan & Premalatha Ballagere**  
Sugarland, TX 77478  
**Gopinath & Prema Bangalore**  
Foster City, CA 94404  
**Deepa & Deepak Bangalore**  
Algonquin, IL 60102  
**Shivanna and Sujatha Banniguppe**  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
**Murali & Sahana Basavaiah**  
Sunnyvale, CA 94087  
**Madesha & Jyothi Basavaraju**  
Chantilly, VA 20152  
**Basavaraju Shivanna & Ramya**  
Liverpool, NY 13088  
**Prasanna K. & Chammu Basavegowda**  
Miramar, FL 33029  
**Padmamabha & Veena Bedarahally**  
Lutz, FL 33549  
**Ramegowda Belakere**  
Overland Park, KS 66210  
**Bhanu & B. Bettegowda**  
West Chicago, IL 60185  
**Anilkumar Bettegowda**  
East Lansing, MI 48824  
**B.N. & Gayathri Bettegowda**  
Charlotte, NC 28277  
**Prakash & Sudha Bhadraiah**  
Clarksville, MD 21029  
**Vivek & Saviya Bhaktaram**  
Edmond, OK 73034  
**V.L. & Gayathri Bhaskar**  
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022  
**P.R. & Tara Priyadarshani Bikkasani**  
Lecanto, FL 34461  
**Preetham & Hema Bilumane**  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
**Umesh & Varijakshi Bolagyathanahally**  
Inkster, MI 48141  
**Mohan Bommalingaiah**  
Chalfont, PA 18914  
**Mohan Bommalingaiah**  
Chalfont, PA 18914  
**Vasudeva & Veena Bommanna**  
Nagogdoches, TX 75965  
**Lokesh & Shobha Bommegowda**  
Somerset, NJ 08873  
**Nag & Shobha Boranna**  
Sunnyvale, CA 94086  
**Roopa and Dinesh Boregowda**

Aurora, IL 60504  
**Bhagavan & Ramya Boregowda**  
Germantown, MD 20876  
**Lalitha & Jayaram Boriah**  
Mansfield, OH 44904  
**Chandresh & Mridul Burgi**  
Farmington Hills, MI 48336  
**Sridhar & Archana Byrappa**  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003  
**Ravishankar & Bhagyashree Byrappa Gowda**  
Fremont, CA 94538

## C

**Shankar & Gayathri Chakkere**  
Boysds, MD 20841  
**AV Chalapathi**  
Danbury, CT 06811  
**Sunil & Sahana Chalya**  
Cerritos, CA 90703  
**Chandan**  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
**Chethan & Srivalli Chandra**  
San Jose, CA 95136  
**Harish & Chaya Chandra**  
San Jose, CA 95131  
**Sachin Chandra**  
Pocatello, ID 83201  
**Rama Chandra**  
Algonquin, IL 60102  
**Dinesh & Kalpana Chandra**  
Fayetteville, NC 28314  
**Satish & Malini Chandra**  
Philadelphia, PA 19116  
**Shashinath & Indumathi Chandrahasegowda**  
Iselin, NJ 08830  
**Shashinath & Indu Chandrahasegowda**  
Brooklyn, NY 11231  
**B.K. & Vasantha Chandraiah**  
Owings Mills, MD 21117  
**Archana & M.B. Chandrasekar**  
Bloomington, IL 61704  
**J.E. & Shashikala Chandrashekar**  
Indian Wells, CA 92210  
**Magala & Sumathi Chandrashekar**  
Riverside, CA 92506  
**P. & Anasuya Chandrashekar**  
Palmdale, CA 93551  
**Murali & Arathi Chandrashekar**  
Rochester Hills, MI 48307  
**Pankaja Chandrashekar**  
Bloomington, MN 55431  
**Channappa Chandrashekar**  
Hixson, TN 37343  
**Prathibha Chandrashekar**  
Sterling, VA 20165  
**Shilpa & Chandrashekar**  
Naperville, IL 60540  
**Chandrashekar & Savithri**

Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
**Harish & Smitha Chandregowda**  
 Westland, MI 48185  
**Ravi & Swetha Channahalli**  
 Olathe, KS 66062  
**Jaya & A.C. Channaiah**  
 Westerville, OH 43082  
**Vasudev Channaiah**  
 Winchester, VA 22602  
**Vasudev Channaiah**  
 Winchester, VA 22602  
**Channalingaiah Sudhakara**  
 Gaithersburg, MD 20877  
**Shirnil Channappa Channappa**  
 Knoxville, TN 37919  
**Srikumar & Divya Chari**  
 Cupertino, CA 95014  
**Bhagvan and Kannika Cheeyandira**  
 San Jose, CA 95138  
**Ramamani & H.M. Chengappa**  
 Holland, OH 43528  
**Surendrababu & Nandini**  
**Chenneerappa**  
 Santa Clara, CA 95051  
**Bangalore & Shamala Chidananda**  
 Richardson, TX 75082  
**Venkatesh Chikkabelavangala**  
 Alpharetta, GA 30004  
**Arun & Bharathi Chikkanna**  
 Beacon, NY 12508  
**Ben & Keerthi Chikkaswamy**  
 North Potomac, MD 20878  
**Shivarajan & Leela Chikkiah**  
 Lancaster, CA 93536  
**Aswini & Priya Chowdappa**  
 San Jose, CA 95148

## D

**Harish & Veena Dambekodi**  
 San Antonio, TX 78247  
**Marigowda & Ragini Darshan**  
 Somerset, NJ 08873  
**Hemachandra & Chetana Das**  
 Houston, TX 77041  
**Ranganath Dasappa**  
 Kalamazoo, MI 49006  
**D. R. & Kshama Dayananda**  
 Sugarland, TX 77479  
**Prabhu & Sudha Dev**  
 Cupertino, CA 95014  
**Prabhu Shankar & Parvathi**  
**Devaiah**  
 Germantown, MD 20876  
**Devadas Mysore & Indira**  
 Baltimore, MD 21234  
**Yogesh & Malini Devaraj**  
 Sunnyvale, CA 94086  
**Shamprasad & Vinutha Devarunda**  
 Thornton, CO 80602  
**Shamprasad & Vinutha Devarunda**  
 Bethlehem, PA 18017

**Ramanujam & Sumangala**  
**Devegowda**  
 Jacksonville, FL 32257  
**Sandesh & Regena Devegowda**  
 Elkridge, MD 21075  
**Kabbinamane & Ragini Dharmappa**  
 Coral Springs, FL 33076  
**K.M. & Nandini Dineshchandra**  
 Macon, GA 31210  
**MP & Sowmya Divakar**  
 San Jose, CA 95120  
**Arun & Hamsa Doddaghatta**  
 Jersey City, NJ 07306  
**Prasad Doddanna**  
 Columbia, MD 21045  
**Nagesh KK Doddi & Radha**  
 Exton, PA 19341  
**Suresh & Sulochana Doddiah**  
 Redlands, CA 92373  
**Venkatesh & Asha Dwarnal**  
 Chino Hills, CA 91709

## E

**Vimala & Anand Elangovan**  
 , IL  
**Eshwar & Akshatha**  
 Ann Arbor, MI 48108

## G

**K.P. & Rukmini Ganeshappa**  
 San Antonio, TX 78232  
**Hosalli & Usha Gangadhara**  
 San Ramon, CA 94583  
**Narasimha Murthy & Ashwini**  
**Gangaiah**  
 Santa Clara, CA 95051  
**Hanasoge & Pramila Girishkumar**  
 Saddlebrook, NJ 07663  
**J & Savithri Giriappa**  
 Reading, PA 19606  
**Janardhan & Mangala**  
**Gnanamurthy**  
 Monmouth Jct., NJ 08852  
**Devegowda & Geetha Gopal**  
 Jacksonville, FL 32205  
**Papaiah & Pushpa Gopal**  
 Middleton, MA 01943  
**Ritha & K. Gopal**  
 Brookfield, WI 53045  
**Gopal**  
 Middleton, MA 01949  
**Dhanapal & Chandrarathna**  
**Gopegowda**  
 Bowie, MD 20720  
**D.R. & Kamala Govindaraju**  
 Lexington, MA 2420  
**Jagadish Govindaraju**  
 Midlothian, VA 23114  
**Ragu Gowda**  
 Tempe, AZ 85283  
**Madhusudan & Neeti Gowda**  
 San Jose, CA 95148  
**Nanda kumar Gowda**  
 Pacifica, CA 94044  
**Narayan & Shantha Gowda**  
 Davis, CA 95616  
**Prashanth & Roopa Gowda**  
 Union City, CA 94587  
**Rakesh Gowda**  
 Menlo Park, CA 94025  
**Ramesh & Geetha Gowda**  
 Diamond Bar, CA 91765  
**Ramesh & Veena Gowda**  
 San Jose, CA 95120  
**Subash and Anitha Gowda**  
 San Diego, CA 92129  
**Raju & Parvathi Gowda**  
 Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418  
**Narayana & Maitri Gowda**  
 Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418  
**Siddarame & Kusuma Gowda**  
 Lakeland, FL 33809  
**Anil & Vaidehi Gowda**  
 Weston, FL 33326  
**Sridhar & Bharathi Gowda**  
 Martinez, GA 30907  
**Appaswamy & Ramamani Gowda**  
 Griffin, GA 30223  
**Lalitha & Bhoje Gowda**  
 Cedar Rapids, IA 52402  
**Chandrappa & Sudha Gowda**  
 Twin Falls, ID 83301  
**Prema & Nanjunda Gowda**  
 Naperville, IL 60564  
**Radha & Jagadeesh M. Gowda**  
 Streamwood, IL 60107  
**Nandini & Prashanth Gowda**  
 Urbana, IL 61802  
**Ravi & Preethi Gowda**  
 Jacksonville, IL 62650  
**Susheela & Shive E. Gowda**  
 Morton Grove, IL 60053  
**Bharathi & Netkal M. Gowda**  
 Macomb, IL 61455  
**Nandini & Mohan Gowda**  
 Naperville, IL 60540  
**Vasanthi & Kulle Gowda**  
 Darien, IL 60561  
**Chandra & Raja P. Gowda**  
 Dyer, IN 46311  
**Radhamma & Hanumaiah Gowda**  
 West Lafayette, IN 47906  
**Babu & Roopa Gowda**  
 Lenexa, KS 66215  
**Divya & Sheela Gowda**  
 Lexington, MA 2173  
**Srinivas & Sujatha Gowda**  
 Frederick, MD 21702  
**Shive & Vijaya Gowda**  
 Frederick, MD 21703  
**Bharathi Gowda**  
 Ellicott City, MD 21043

**Kusumadhara & Vijayalakshmi Gowda**  
Greenbelt, MD 20770  
**Channe & Kalpana Gowda**  
Rockville, MD 20850  
**Meena Gowda**  
Silver Spring, MD 20906  
**B.K. Raje Gowda**  
Orangeburg, NY 10962  
**Raviprakash Gowda**  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
**Seetharam & Swarup Gowda**  
Ellicott City, MD 21042  
**Srinivas & Sujatha Gowda**  
Frederick, MD 21702  
**Ashvin & Ashwini Sreenivasaiah Gowda**  
Farmington Hills, MI 48331  
**B. Prabhudev Gowda**  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326  
**Babu & Archana Gowda**  
West Bloomfield, MI 48323  
**Bharath & Swarupa Gowda**  
West Bloomfield, MI 48324  
**Dayananda & Veena Gowda**  
Farmington Hills, MI 48331  
**Jay & Sandhya Gowda**  
Canton, MI 48187  
**Kempaiah Aswath & Kanaka Gowda**  
Franklin, MI 48025  
**Kiran Gowda**  
Farmington Hills, MI 48335  
**Mune & Sathya Gowda**  
Orchard Lake, MI 48323  
**Padmanab & Manjula Gowda**  
Troy, MI 48098  
**Prabhudev & Ushadevi Gowda**  
Farmington, MI 48335  
**Ramakanth & Shailaja Gowda**  
Dearborn, MI 48120  
**Shashikumar & Jayalakshmi Gowda**  
Troy, MI 48084  
**Swamy Krishna & Lalitha Gowda**  
West Bloomfield, MI 48322  
**Umesh & Sachi Gowda**  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304  
**Amarnath & Savithri Gowda**  
West Bloomfield, MI 48324  
**Ramesh Gowda**  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326  
**Prafulla & Prasanna Gowda**  
Minneapolis, MN 55434  
**Jogi & Ashamani Gowda**  
Charlotte, NC 28213  
**Hanumaiah & Amba Gowda**  
Lakewood, NJ 08701  
**Anil & Nithasha Gowda**  
Clifton, NJ 07014  
**Ganesh Gowda**  
North Brunswick, NJ 08902  
**Nidagalle & Hemalatha Gowda**

Jersey city, NJ 07303  
**Pavan & Shruti Gowda**  
Princeton Junction, NJ 08550  
**Ramesh & Mamatha Gowda**  
Edison, NJ 08820  
**Vijayakumar and Sangeeth Gowda**  
North Brunswick, NJ 08902  
**Srinivasa & Geetha Gowda**  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003  
**Srisai & Archana Gowda**  
Egg Harbor Tp., NJ 08234  
**Vittal & Melba Gowda**  
Rivervale, NJ 07675  
**Rajesh Gowda**  
Ozone Park, NY 11416  
**Vishwanath & Ganga Gowda**  
Planinview, NY 11003  
**Narendra Gowda**  
Webster, NY 14580  
**Prashanth Gowda**  
Bronx, NY 10461  
**Raja & Hema Gowda**  
Nanuet, NY 10954  
**Rajiv Gowda**  
Staten Island, NY 10303  
**Sharath & Chethana Gowda**  
Brooklyn, NY 11231  
**Latha & Srini Gowda**  
Cincinnati, OH 45236  
**Shaila & Raghava Gowda**  
Dayton, OH 45459  
**Suma and Ravi K Gowda**  
Dublin, OH 46016  
**G.T. & Usha Gowda**  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
**Umesh & Sona Gowda**  
Collegeville, PA 19426  
**Chethan & Sheetal Gowda**  
Chalfont, PA 18914  
**Srinidhi B. & Prathiba Gowda**  
Wayne, PA 19087  
**Thimme & Anasuya Gowda**  
Elkins Oark, PA 19027  
**Usha Gowda**  
Monroeville, PA 15146  
**Ravi & Asha Gowda**  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
**Hiranya & Saraswathi Gowda**  
Nashville, TN 37215  
**Chandra Gowda**  
Hermitage, TN 37076  
**Dinesh & Roopashree Gowda**  
Flower Mound, TX 75022  
**Maresh & Sindhu Gowda**  
Irving, TX 75038  
**Rashmi & Nandish Gowda**  
Houston, TX 77041  
**Venkatesh & Rajeshwari Gowda**  
Houston, TX 77095  
**Yamuna Krishne Gowda Gowda**  
Sugarland, TX 77479  
**Jay Gowda**  
Glen Allen, VA 23060

**Jagadish & Shubhangi Gowda**  
Parcellville, VA 20132  
**Nara & Padma Gowda**  
Ashburn, VA 20146  
**Raj Swaroop & Sheela Gowda**  
Glen Allen, VA 23060  
**Suresh & Veena Gowda**  
Glen Allen, VA 23059  
**Subash & Harini Gowda**  
Ashburn, VA 20147  
**Ramachandra & Tara Gowda**  
Virginia Beach, VA 23455  
**Shivaram & Niveditha Gowdagere**  
Glen Cove, NY 11542  
**Tejaswi & Shanthala Guthalagowda**  
North Potomac, MD 20878

## H

**Ravi & Shruthi Halekote**  
San Antonio, TX 78255  
**Kumar Hanumaiah**  
Phoenix, AZ 85032  
**Shashi Hanuman**  
Los Angeles, CA 90025  
**Siri N. & Akkamahadevi Hanuman**  
Palmdale, CA 93551  
**Hari & Rajani**  
Nashua, NH 03060  
**Sarwa & M.B. Harish**  
Bloomington, IL 61704  
**Kumarswamy & Sahana Hassan**  
Plainsboro, NJ 08536  
**Rakshitha Hegde**  
Lake Orion, MI 48360  
**Akkannappa & Sandhya Himanand**  
Davie, FL 33324  
**Poornima & Pradeep Hirethota**  
Glendale, WI 53209  
**K.T. & Suja Hiriyanra**  
Boyds, MD 20841  
**Ravi L. & Gayathri Honakere**  
Sunnyvale, CA 94086  
**Vasudev Honnappagowda**  
Atlanta, GA 30338  
**Ravi & Savitha Hosalli**  
Troy, MI 48083  
**Padmanabha & Swathi Hosmane**  
Fairfax, VA 22031  
**Rajagopal A. & Kalpana Hosur**  
San Antonio, TX 78255  
**Girish Hullukere**  
Westland, MI 48185

## J

**Nikhil Jagadish**  
Fullerton, CA 92833  
**Venu and Dharmashree Javarappa**  
San Jose, CA 95124

**Naveen and Preeti Javarappa**  
San Jose, CA 95117  
**Kemp & Shobha Jayadeva**  
Baltimore, MD 21208  
**H.C. & Kamakshi Jayaraj**  
Kathleen, GA 31047  
**Shankar and Smita Jayaram**  
Fremont, CA 94539  
**Vinod & Chaitra Jayaram**  
Wesley chapel, FL 33543  
**Beby & Shakuntala Jayaram**  
Rockville, MD 20851  
**Shiv & Vasantha Jayaram**  
Edmond, OK 73034  
**J.E. & Suguna Jayashankar**  
Apple Valley, CA 92307

## K

**Devakumar Kadalur**  
Centreville, VA 20121  
**Thribhuvana & D.Kadamuddi**  
Aurora, IL 60504  
**Yeshwant & Lakshmi Kademani**  
Hainesport, NJ 08036  
**Devendra & Sarala Kadidal**  
Sayville, NY 11782  
**Mahendra & Anu Kadidal**  
Murrysville, PA 15668  
**Chandregowda & Shantala Kaggere**  
Broomfield, CO 80020  
**Aswath & Vinutha Kalappa**  
Sugarland, TX 77479  
**Balu & Smitha Kalegowda**  
Southfield, MI 48034  
**Kankere & Krupa Mahesh**  
Andover, MA 01810  
**Sanjeeva & Kalpana Kanth**  
Dumfries, VA 22026  
**Shashi and Archana Kantha**  
New Windsor, NY 12553  
**Ben & Hema Kantharaju**  
North Brunswick, NJ 08902  
**Abi & Zinn Kariguddaiah**  
San Ramon, CA 94583  
**Jagadish & Arundathi Kariyappa**  
Fullerton, CA 92833  
**Vijaya Kariyappa**  
Baltimore, MD 21236  
**Aravind & Preethi Kebballi**  
Sunnyvale, CA 95085  
**Chaya and Goplan Keelara**  
St. Louis, MO 63141  
**Krishna & Chandini**  
**Keelaramariswamy**  
Milford, CT 06460  
**Veena & Shiva Murthy Keelera**  
Lake In The Hills, IL 60156  
**Kumar & Pushpa Kembaiyan**  
The Woodlands, TX 77381  
**Prabhakar & Jayanthi Kemp**  
Friendswood, TX 77546

**Nagarathna G. Kempaiah**  
Tampa, FL 33613  
**Shantharaju & Anitha Kempaiah**  
Farmington Hills, MI 48336  
**Srinagesh & Chandrakala Kempaiah**  
Dayton, NJ 08810  
**Anil Kempanna**  
San Diego, CA 92128  
**Lokesh & Beena Kempegowda**  
Parsippany, NJ 07054  
**Pavithra Kenjige**  
Centreville, VA 20121  
**Vinod & Mamatha Keremane**  
San Mateo, CA 94403  
**Nagu Keshava**  
Rockville, MD 20852  
**Channa Keshava**  
Morgantown, WV 26505  
**Krupakala & Ravi Kiran**  
Aurora, IL 60504  
**Arathi & Shashi Kiran**  
Bartlett, IL 60943  
**Ravi & Anitha Kollegal**  
Tampa, FL 33647  
**Ramachandraiah & Shantha Koyira**  
Norcross, GA 30093  
**Doddanna & Vaidehi Krishna**  
Northridge, CA 91325  
**Gopal & Latha Krishna**  
San Jose, CA 95148  
**Lavanya K. Krishna**  
Aurora, IL 60504  
**Lakshmi & Rama A. Krishna**  
Roselle, IL 60172  
**Daya & M. S. Krishna**  
Princeton, IN 47670  
**Gopala Krishna**  
Ellicott City, MD 21042  
**Adithya & Shashi Krishna**  
Vicksburg, MS 39183  
**Arathi Krishna**  
McLean, VA 22102  
**Gopala & Gayathri Krishna**  
Richmond, VA 23234  
**Suresh & Shruthi Krishnaiah**  
Collierville, TN 38017  
**G.T. & Shakuntala Krishnamurthy**  
Portland, OR 97225  
**Vivek Krishnan**  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403  
**Harsha & Smita Krishnappa**  
Los Altos Hills, CA 940241  
**Prakash & Lalana Krishnappa**  
San Jose, CA 95129  
**Vijay & K. M. Krishnappa**  
Orinda, CA 94563  
**Achala & Ram P. Krishnappa**  
Naperville, IL 60565  
**Jyothi & Srinivas Krishnappa**  
Algonquin, IL 60102  
**Rakshith A. Krishnappa**  
Algonquin, IL 60102

**Shubha & Shantha R Krishnappa**  
Arlington Heights, IL 60004  
**Kala & T. Krishnappa**  
Schaumburg, IL 60194  
**Renuka & N. Krishnappa**  
Hoffman Estates, IL 60195  
**Suresh & Sowmya Krishnappa**  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326  
**Prashanth & Rashmi Krishnappa**  
Apex, NC 27523  
**Anuradha Krishnappa**  
Loudonville, NY 12211  
**Kachigere & Anuradha Krishnappa**  
Latham, NY 12110  
**Nagu & Asha Krishnappa**  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
**Latha & Krupadev**  
Marietta, OH 45750  
**Prathibhanu & Mrudula Kumar**  
San Jose, CA 95136  
**Shashi & Mamatha Kumar**  
Santa Clara, CA 95050  
**Srinivasa & Kadambari Kumar**  
Santa Clara, CA 95054  
**Suresh & Tarini Kumar**  
San Jose, CA 95129  
**Anil & Sharmila Kumar**  
Saratoga, CA 95070  
**Yashwanth & Shruthi Kumar**  
Heathrow, FL 32746  
**Sridevi & Krishna Kumar**  
Naperville, IL 60540  
**Vasanth & Bharathi Kumar**  
Saginaw, MI 48011  
**Chetan & Ramya Kumar**  
Prior Lake, MN 55372  
**Jeevan Prasanna Kumar**  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55429  
**Keshav Kumar**  
Olathe, KS 66062  
**Pradeep Kumar**  
Circle Pines, MN 55014  
**Ramya Giriraj & Chetan Kumar**  
Prior Lake, MN 55372  
**Vinod & Sowmya Kumar**  
Charlotte, NC 28202  
**Anil & Suman Kumar**  
East Windsor, NJ 08520  
**Nanda & Mangala Kumar**  
West Windsor, NJ 08550  
**Mohan & Sanchayana Kumar**  
Metuchen, NJ 08840  
**Prasanna Kumar**  
Sunny Side, NY 11104  
**Jagadish & Niveditha Kumar**  
Kew Gardens, NY 11415  
**Udaya & Sonia Kumar**  
Edmond, OK 73003  
**Anil & Jayashri Kumar**  
Villanova, PA 19085  
**Kishore Kumar**  
Morrisville, PA 19067  
**Shashi & Vani Kumar**

Huntingdon Valy., PA 19006  
**Shashi & Bindu Vishnu Kumar**  
 Sugarland, TX 77479  
**Sathish Kumar A.P**  
 Louisville,, KY 40217  
**Halekote N. & Lalitha Kumara Shekhara**  
 San Antonio, TX 78257  
**Vivek & Nirupama Kumaraswamy**  
 Milford, CT 06460  
**Ramesh & Roopa Kundur**  
 Chester, VA 23836  
**Satishchandra & Manjula Kuppalli**  
 Perryhall, MD 21128  
**Prafullachandra & Vanita Kuppalli**  
 Owings Mills, MD 21117  
**Sharaschandra & Gayatri Kuppalli**  
 Glen Allen, VA 23059  
**Anand & Bhagya Kurikoppal**  
 Plainsboro, NJ 08536  
**Vinuthan & Nithya Kusarige**  
 Milford, CT 06460

## L

**G.S. & Ramamani Lakshman**  
 Palmdale, CA 93551  
**B.T. Lakshman & Shashikala**  
 Hockessin, DE 19707  
**Malini & G. Lakshman**  
 Oak Brook, IL 60523  
**Jayashree & Samantha K. Laxman**  
 Naperville, IL 60564  
**Bavikere & Jaya Laxmana**  
 Voorhees, NJ 08043  
**Anand & Vani Lingaiah**  
 Orange, CT 06488  
**Mahesh & Shwetha Lingaiah**  
 La Crosse, WI 54601  
**Sudha & B. P. Lingaraj**  
 Fort Wayne, IN 46835  
**Nagaraj & Malathi Lingaraju**  
 Voorhees, NJ 08043  
**Shubha & Narendra Linge Gowda**  
 Schaumburg, IL 60194  
**Haravu & Swarna Lokesh**  
 Palm Harbor, FL 34685  
**Mune & Manjula Lokesh**  
 Richmond, VA 23236

## M

**Amul and Archana Madadi**  
 Dublin, CA 94568  
**Lokesh & Pavithra Madhu**  
 Fremont, CA 94555  
**H.B. & Theja Mahalingaiah**  
 Southbury, CT 06488  
**Sampathu & Premalatha Malavalli**  
 Lutz, FL 33549

**Pushpa & Ramesh Malekal**  
 Hoffman Estates, IL 60192  
**Kiran & Shobha Manchegowda**  
 Novi, MI 48375  
**Ramesh & Sridevi Manjegowda**  
 Monroe, NJ 08831  
**Manjunath**  
 Menlo park, CA 94025  
**G.S. & Poornima. Manjunath**  
 Mission Viejo, CA 92692  
**Manjunath & Jamuna**  
 Acton, MA 01720  
**Ranjeet and Leena Mankikar**  
 Santa Clara, CA, CA 95051.  
**Ashok & Vinutha Maragundanahalli**  
 Morganville, NJ 07751  
**D.V.Maregowda & Sunitha**  
 Winnetka, CA 91306  
**Vivek Mariyanna**  
 Farmington Hills, MI 48335  
**Narayana & Indira Mariappa**  
 Laguna Niguel, CA 92677  
**Prabha & Mariappa**  
 Villapark, IL 60181  
**Mahadev & Sarame Marigangaiah**  
 Villa Park, CA 92861  
**Himamshu-shresta & Kusum Marigowda**  
 Drexel Hill, PA 19026  
**Satish Marisiddaiah**  
 N. Wales, PA 19454  
**Mari & Vanaja Marisiddaiah**  
 North Wales, PA 19454  
**Satish & Vinutha Marisiddaiah**  
 North Wales, PA 19454  
**H.K & Shantha Mariyappa**  
 Lahabra Hts., CA 90631  
**Janardhana & Bindu Mariyappa**  
 Sunnyvale, CA 94087  
**Nagaraj & Asha Mariyappa**  
 Rochester Hills, MI 48307  
**Manjunath & Vinutha Markonahalli**  
 Acton, MA 01720  
**Hanumanthiah & Lalitha Marur**  
 Swartz creek, MI 48473  
**T.J. & Manjula Master**  
 McLean, VA 22101  
**Balakrishna & Sarala Masti**  
 Okemos, MI 48864  
**Sampathu & Vijaya Mavahalli**  
 Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852  
**Praveen Kumar MG**  
 St. Petersburg,, FL 33716  
**Jayanthi & Lakshman Mittur**  
 Streamwood, IL 60107  
**Chandra & Nandini Mohan**  
 Hazelton, PA 18201  
**Kiran Bilisare Mohan**  
 Federal Way, WA 98023  
**Mysore & Lakshmi Mouliswar**  
 Voorhees, NJ 08043

**Apu & Reena Muddappa**  
 Shelby Twp., MI 48317  
**Sampath & Dmayanthi Muddappa**  
 Southfield, MI 48034  
**Vijaya & Balakrishna Mundodi**  
 Moline, IL 61265  
**Ramesh & Shobharani Muniswamy**  
 Invergrove Heights, MN 55077  
**Meena & B. Muniveerappa**  
 Westmont, IL 60559  
**Rekha & Venkatesh Munivenkata**  
 Hoffman Estates, IL 60192  
**Murli and Kavitha Muniyappa**  
 North Brunswick, NJ 08902  
**M. & Vasanthi Muralidhar**  
 Folsom, CA 95630  
**Kesturkoppal Muralidhara**  
 Peachtree City, GA 30269  
**Krishna & Gajalakshmi Murthy**  
 Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739  
**Sucheta & Shantha Murthy**  
 Peoria, IL 61615  
**Sreenivasa & Shoba Murthy**  
 East Lansing, MI 48823  
**Ananth and Devika Murthy**  
 Cary, NC 27511  
**Sanjeev & Meena Murthy**  
 West Windsor, NJ 08550  
**Konappa & Geetha Murthy**  
 Wichita Falls, TX 76308  
**Annayappa K. Murthy**  
 Houston, TX 77082  
**K.H. Murthy**  
 Wichita Falls, TX 76308  
**Srinivasa & Vijaya Murthy**  
 Virginia Beach, VA 23455  
**Raju & Sunitha Muthu**  
 Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852  
**Nagaraj & Susheela Mysore**  
 Bell Canyon, CA 91307  
**Ravishankar Mysore**  
 Dallas, TX 75206

## N

**Manjunath & Sandya Nagalapur**  
 Herndon, VA 20171  
**Prakash & Prathiba Nagappa**  
 Bloomington, IL 61704  
**Kuppe & Meera Nagaraj**  
 Tracy, CA 95304  
**Ben & Geetha Nagaraj**  
 Coral Springs, FL 33076  
**Smitha & Hemanth Nagaraj**  
 Aurora, IL 60504  
**Renuka & A.S. Nagaraj**  
 Burr Ridge, IL 60521  
**M.P. & Indira Nagaraj**  
 Rockville, MD 20855  
**Hosahally & Meera Nagaraj**  
 Niskayuna, NY 12309  
**Bagamane Nagaraj**  
 Arlington, VA 22205

**Nagu Nanjappa**  
Pineville, NC 28134  
**Domlur & Parvathi Nanjappa**  
King of Prussia, PA 19406  
**Sajith Nanjundaiah**  
North Brook, IL 60062  
**Raju & Kaveri Nanjundaiah**  
Woodbridge, NJ 07095  
**Venkatappa & Lakshmi**  
**Nanjundaram**  
Glen Allen, VA 23059  
**Devendra and Rupali**  
**Narasenakuppe**  
Somerset, NJ 08873  
**Vijaya & Shanthala Narashimha**  
Tampa, FL 33647  
**Chitresh & Shantala Narasimhaiah**  
San Jose, CA 95131  
**Dayananda & Sucheetha**  
**Narasimhaiah**  
Southfield, MI 48076  
**Dinesh Narasimiah**  
Rochester Hills, MI 48307  
**Aswatha & Premalatha Narayana**  
Wallingford, CT 06492  
**Lakshmi & D. L. Narayana**  
Flossmoor, IL 60422  
**Mahesh Narayana**  
Columbus, OH 43235  
**Raj & Vasudha Narayana**  
Oak Hill, VA 20171  
**Vrinda Narayana & Kumar**  
Birmingham, MI 48009  
**Susheela & Krish Narayanappa**  
Nicholasville, KY 40356  
**Nithyananda & Triveni**  
**Narayanappa**  
Westland, MI 48185  
**Harish & Hema Narayanappa**  
Katy, TX 77450  
**Usha & J. Narayanaswamy**  
Burr Ridge, IL 60521  
**Naren & Smitha Narendra**  
San Jose, CA 95129  
**Narendra and Bindu**  
Webster, NY 14580  
**Leena & Naveen**  
Sylvania, OH 43560  
**Sudharshan and Shreemalatha**  
**Nayakanahalli**  
ELMSFORD, NY 10543  
**Balakrishna & Veena Ningaiah**  
S. Plainfield, NJ 07080  
**Pushpa Ningegowda**  
St. Louis, MO 63129  
**Ranganath Nuggehalli**  
Pikesville, MD 21208

**O**

**Maduvegadde & Shaline**  
**Omprakash**

Union City, CA 94587

**P**

**Chikkaiah & Vasantha**  
**Padmanabhan**  
Palmdale, CA 93551  
**Kamlesh & Mamatha Pancholi**  
Catonsville, MD 21228  
**Aruna & G. K. Papanna**  
Streamwood, IL 60107  
**V. & Shyla Pathy**  
Scarsdale, NY 10583  
**Petaiah & Saraswathi Mohan**  
Beckley, WV 25801  
**Babu & Gayathri Prabhakar**  
Ellicott City, MD 21042  
**Asita Prabhushankar**  
san jose, CA 95124  
**Pradeep**  
Somerville, NJ 08876  
**Jay & Pushpa Prakash**  
Liverpool, NY 13088  
**Andani S. & Lalitha Prakash**  
Brentwood, TN 37027  
**Miramar & S. Prasad**  
Bettendorf, IA 52722  
**Sangeeta & Chandra Prasad**  
Naperville, IL 60540  
**Shashikala & Eshwari Prasad**  
Cincinnati, OH 45249  
**Shashikala & Eswari Prasad**  
Cincinnati, OH 45249  
**Mahalingaiah & Nalini Prasad**  
Monroeville, PA 15146  
**Neetu & Krishna Prasad**  
Houston, TX 77077  
**Ramesh T. Kumar Pushpa**  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986  
**Govind & Prema Puttaiah**  
Mt. Carbon, WV 25139  
**Surendra & Vijayalakshmi**  
**Puttamadaiah**  
Boardman, OH 44512  
**Raghava & Meena Puttaswamy**  
Farmington Hills, MI 48335  
**Dunthur & Vanitha Puttaswamy**  
Chester, NY 10918  
**Mohan & Latha Puttegowda**  
Bartlett, IL 60103

**R**

**Naveen & Anitha Raam**  
Charlotte, NC 28262  
**Shrisha & Preethi Radhakrishna**  
San Jose, CA 95125  
**Venkateshwara & Kamala Ragam**  
Flemington, NJ 08822  
**B.K. & Geetha Rajagopal**

Ellicott City, MD 21042  
**Rajagopal & Shyamala**  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302  
**Sushila Rajanna**  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765  
**Doddanna N. & Uma Rajashekar**  
North Potomac, MD 20878  
**Sreenivas & Ashwini Rajanna**  
Farmington Hills, MI 48334  
**Bettaiah & Sharada Rajanna**  
Vicksburg, MS 39180  
**Kothnur & Premavathi Rajanna**  
German Town, TN 38138  
**B. & Jaya Rajashekaraiiah**  
Orange Park, FL 32073  
**R. & Sarvamangala Rajendra**  
Sterling, VA 20165  
**Chikka & Usha Raju**  
South Gate, CA 90280  
**Shantha & Savitha Raju**  
San Mateo, CA 94402  
**Shantha & Savitha Raju**  
West Chester, PA 19382  
**Hulimangala Rakesh**  
Troy, MI 48083  
**V.A. & Girija Ram**  
Las Vegas, NV 89102  
**Ram Prashanth**  
Buffalo Gove, IL 60089  
**Kembguda Ramachandra**  
Austell, GA 30106  
**Bhagya & N. Ramachandra**  
Skokie, IL 60076  
**Chandrasekar and Kokila**  
**Ramachandra**  
**H.G. Ramachandra**  
**B.M. & Anjanakumari**  
**Ramachandraiah**  
Hernando, FL 34442  
**B.M. & Anjanakumari**  
**Ramachandraiah**  
Hill Forest, VA 24551  
**Seetha & Radha Ramaiah**  
Phoenix, AZ 85044  
**Y.K. & Sheila Ramaiah**  
Timonium, MD 21093  
**Amarnath Ramakrishna**  
Mountain view, CA 94043  
**Deepak Ramakrishna**  
Northridge, CA 91326  
**Javaraih Ramakrishna**  
Bradley, IL 60915  
**Chandu & Goutham Ramakrishna**  
Rochester, MN 55902  
**Anil & Suman Ramakrishna**  
East Windsor, NJ 08520  
**Byranna & Vijaya Ramakrishna**  
Hauppauge, NY 11788  
**M. & Vijaya Ramakrishna**  
Leesburg, VA 20176  
**Chandrashekar & Shobha**  
**Ramakrishna**  
Fairfax, VA 22030

**T.V. & Vijaya Ramakrishna**  
Charleston, WV 25314  
**Ramakrishna and Kushuma**  
Charlotte, NC 28273  
**B.N. & Vimala Ramakrishnaiah**  
Nashville, TN 37221  
**Aravinda M. Ramakrishnaiah**  
Arlington, TX 76013  
**Melur & Bharathi Ramakrishnaiah**  
Centreville, VA 20121  
**Girish & Anitha Ramamurthy**  
Glen Allen, VA 23060  
**Girish and Anitha Ramamurthy**  
Richmond, VA 23233  
**Indira & H. N. Ramaprakash**  
Fort Wayne, IN 46804  
**Karthik and Anu Ramaswamy**  
Sunnyvale, CA 94086  
**Kalpana & Rajanna Ramaswamy**  
Prospect, KY 40059  
**Devanahalli Ramaswamy**  
McLean, VA 22102  
**Rajagopal & Veena Ramegowda**  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
**Srinivas & Smitha Ramegowda**  
Troy, MI 48083  
**K.C. & Nirmala Ramesh**  
Manroe, GA 30655  
**Soumini & Ramesh**  
Bartlett, IL 60103  
**Mittur & Asha Ramprasad**  
Tullahoma, TN 37388  
**Madhu & Subhashini Rangaiah**  
Bloomfield, NJ 07003  
**Heggere & Latha Ranganath**  
Huntsville, AL 35803  
**Kris & Lavanya Ranganath**  
San Jose, CA 95131  
**Srini Ranganna**  
Selma, AL 36701  
**Suresh & Anu Ranganna**  
Marlboro, NJ 07746  
**Srividya and Ramesh Rangappa**  
Hoffman Estates, IL 60194  
**Tyagi & Suman Rangappa**  
Friendswood, TX 77546  
**M. & Bhagya Rangappa**  
Chester, VA 23831  
**Sreenath & Suma Rangaswamy**  
Duluth, GA 30096  
**Kantaraja & Shobha Rangaswamy**  
Bloomington, IL 61704  
**Sridhar & Viji Rangaswamy**  
West Bloomfield, MI 48324  
**Sujay Rangaswamy**  
Ann Arbor, MI 48682  
**Harish and Geetha Rangaswamy**  
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648  
**Chidananda & Sandhya Rangaswamy**  
Houston, TX 77059  
**Nagaraj & Rashmi Rangegowda**  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

**Ravi & Poornima**  
West Bloomfield, MI 48324  
**P.V. & Geetha Ravindra**  
Richmond, VA 23233  
**Ravindra Bangalore & Nanda**  
Clarksville, MD 21029  
**Chathura & K.C. Ravishankar**  
Becksville, OH 44141  
**Gonchikar & Geetha Raya**  
Duluth, GA 30097  
**Prakash and Sandhya Reddappa**  
Flanders, NY 07836  
**Nagaraj & Padma Reddi**  
Clarksville, MD 21029  
**Narayana & Veeramma Reddy**  
Little Rock, AR 72212  
**Malla & Sundara Reddy**  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407  
**R.V. & Shantha Reddy**  
La Palma, CA 90623  
**Ravi & Chitra Reddy**  
Cupertino, CA 95014  
**Jaya & Narayana Reddy**  
Orange Park, FL 32003  
**Venugopal & Padma Reddy**  
Hernando, FL 32642  
**Narayana & Sumithra Reddy**  
Roswell, GA 30075  
**Ravi & Asha Reddy**  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
**D. Ganesh & Anuradha Reddy**  
Ellicott City, MD 21042  
**Krishna & Padmini Reddy**  
Jarrettsville, MD 21084  
**Ramesh & Manjula Reddy**  
Clarksville, MD 21029  
**Venkatesh & Lakshmi Reddy**  
North Potomac, MD 20878  
**Anil Reddy**  
Sterling Heights, MI 48312  
**Byra & Radhika Reddy**  
St. Joseph, MI 49085  
**Devender & Sandhya Reddy**  
Novi, MI 48375  
**L.N. & Kala Reddy**  
Pigeon, MI 48755  
**Shama & Parimala Reddy**  
Troy, MI 48098  
**Meena & K. L. Reddy**  
West Bloomfield, MI 48312  
**Ravi & Sreedevi Reddy**  
Carry, NC 27511  
**Shivaram and Sujatha Reddy**  
Jersey City, NJ 07306  
**Adithyababu & Sunitha Reddy**  
Marlton, NJ 08053  
**Srinivasa & Lalitha Reddy**  
Burlington, NJ 08016  
**Himanth & Ananthini Reddy**  
Edison, NJ 08817  
**Keshava & Vishala Reddy**  
Sewell, NJ 08080  
**Narala Chandrashekar Reddy**

Las Vegas, NV 89135  
**Babu & Jyothi Reddy**  
Dix Hills, NY 11746  
**Venkat Reddy**  
Port Jefferson, NY 11777  
**Bhaskar & Tanuja Reddy**  
Nashville, TN 37213  
**Jayaprakash & Jyothi Reddy**  
Terrell, TX 75160  
**Ramana V.& Sudha Reddy**  
Weslaco, TX 78596  
**Ramana & Shoba Reddy**  
Chantilly, VA 20151  
**Venugopal & Bharathi Reddy**  
Southriding, VA 20152  
**Raghava & Lavanya Reddy**  
Seattle, WA 98133  
**Nagaveni & Muni Reddy**  
Brookfield, WI 53005  
**Ratna and Shankar Reddy**  
Cedarburg, WI 53012  
**Rohit & Kavitha Robinson**  
Spring Hill, TX 77379  
**Sunil & Aruna Roy**  
Chino Hills, CA 91709

## S

**Sharan & Arthi Saktivelu**  
Sunnyvale, CA 94086  
**Manjula & Ranganath Saligrama**  
West Lafayette, IN 47906  
**Ravi & Poornima Samundur**  
West Bloomfield, MI 48324  
**Rama Krishna & Usha Sanjay - Chatura**  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
**Narahari & Bela Sastry**  
Washington, DC 20010  
**Sathish Shiva & Asha**  
Missouri City, TX 77459  
**Smitha & Pradeep Sathyanarayana**  
Streamwood, IL 60107  
**Kanagal & Poornima Satyanarayana**  
Orange, CA 92667  
**Srikanth Seenappa**  
Norcross, GA 30092  
**Nagendra & Latha Seenappa**  
Downingtown, PA 19335  
**Shirish & Sushma Seetharam**  
Cupertino, CA 95014  
**Asha & Chandra Sekhar**  
Johnston, IA 50131  
**Venu & Sharada Shamanna**  
Woodbridge, NJ 07095  
**Sharath and Sumitra Shankar**  
Santa Clara, CA 95051  
**Kuppe & Shakuntala Shankar**  
Sacramento, CA 95864  
**Sharath & Sumithra Shankar**  
Santa Clara, CA 95051

**Udaya & Shubha Shankar**  
 San Jose, CA 95148  
**Lakshmi & S. Shankar**  
 Naperville, IL 60565  
**Varchasvi & Nandini Shankar**  
 West Bloomfield, MI 48324  
**Yashvi & Savitha Shankar**  
 Farmington Hills, MI 48335  
**Nagarakere & Sreedevi Shankaraiah**  
 West Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410  
**Yogesh & Shambavi Shankarappa**  
 Rochester Hills, MI 48307  
**Sandeep & Preethi Shantharaj**  
 Montclair, NJ 07042  
**Sharath. N & Deepa**  
 Shelby Twp., MI 48317  
**Kusuma & Vivek Sharma**  
 Cedar Rapids, IA 56402  
**Chitra & R.H.Shashikumar**  
 Terrehaute, IN 47802  
**Mallappa & Anjali Shekar**  
 East Windsor, NJ 08520  
**Ganesh & Gayathri Shenoy**  
 Las Vegas, NV 89117  
**Jayasheela & Phyllis Shetty**  
 Moorestown, NJ 08507  
**Shashindra Shetty**  
 Shawnee, OK 74804  
**Nagesh.& Priyadarshini Shiavaiah**  
 Warsaw, IN 46582  
**Sushma and Shirish Shirish**  
 Cupertino, CA 95014  
**Sharada Shiva**  
 Ellicott City, MD 21043  
**Sreeranga & Vasumathi Shivaiah**  
 College Park, MD 20740  
**Kunigal & Netra Shivakumar**  
 Greensboro, NC 27410  
**Shivakumar & Jayanthi**  
 Plainview, NY 11803  
**Shivakumar & Sushma**  
 White Plains, NY 10607  
**Arun Shivanna**  
 Attleboro, MA 02703  
**Prakash & Shakunthala Shivanna**  
 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304  
**Venugopal & Navya Shivanna**  
 Flushing, NY 11355  
**Raviraj. J. Shivappa**  
 Simi Valley, CA 93065  
**Shivaraju & Rama**  
 Southfield, MI 48076  
**Morganahally G. & Lakshmi Shivaram**  
 Cordova, TN 38018  
**Mirle & Sandhya Shivashankar**  
 Olathe, KA 66062  
**Mirle & Sandhya Shivashankar**  
 Olathe, KS 66062  
**V.T. & Sukrutha Shyam**  
 Roswell, GA 30075  
**Gurudev & Sapna Shyamsundar**

Roswell, GA 30076  
**Jayamma & N. Siddalingaiah**  
 Elk Grove Village, IL 60007  
**Shivaram & Shobha Siddappa**  
 Greenfield, WI 53221  
**Nagaraj & Shubha Siddegowda**  
 South Lyon, MI 48178  
**Shashi & Naren Simhan**  
 Brookfield, WI 53005  
**Som & Roopa Singh**  
 La Mirada, CA 90638  
**Mahadev & Nayana Sitaram**  
 Newark, DE 19711  
**Suraj and Sumathi Somasekhar**  
 Farmington Hills, MI 48331  
**Saraswathi Somashekar**  
 Wallingford, CT 06492  
**Mysore & Shylaja Somashekar**  
 Downingtown, PA 19335  
**Kempegowda Sonnappa**  
 Richardson, CA 75082  
**Shantha & D. M. Sreekanth**  
 Olympia fields, IL 60461  
**V. & Leelavathi Sreenivas**  
 Silver Spring, MD 20904  
**Nanjappa & Sumitra Sreenivas**  
 Harlingen, TX 78550  
**Kam M. & Rathna Sreeram**  
 Macon, GA 31210  
**Sumanth Sreeramaiah**  
 Danbury, CT 06811  
**Vishala & Susheela Sridhar**  
 Diamond Bar, CA 91765  
**Sridhar & Shashikala**  
 Voorhees, NJ 08043  
**Manmohan & Latha Srikrishna**  
 Rochester Hills, MI 48307  
**Gayathri Srinarayan**  
 Chandler, AZ 85226  
**Gowdagere T. & Sheilaja Srinath**  
 Cleveland, OH 44147  
**Kuppe & Sarala Srinivas**  
 Concord, CA 94520  
**Venkat & Rajalakshmi Srinivas**  
 Monroeville, PA 15146  
**Mayanna & Shashi Srinivasa**  
 Houston, TX 77084  
**Sadananda & Manjula Srinivasaiah**  
 Westland, MI 48185  
**Geetha & Jayj Srinivasappa**  
 Fort Dodge, IA 50501  
**Lekha & B.H. Srinivasmurthy**  
 Bloomington, MN 55438  
**Ranganna & Patricia Subramanya**  
 Holland, PA 18966  
**Byrapatna & Jyothik Sudarshan**  
 Princeton Junction, NJ 08550  
**Haraga & Geetha Sudhakar**  
 Warren, MI 48088  
**Ramegowda & Kavitha Sudheendra**  
 Gallatin, TN 37066  
**Chidananda & Kamalakshi Sulli**  
 Mays Landing, NJ 08330

**Sunayana**  
 North Arlington, NJ 07031  
**Bangalore & Arathi Suresh**  
 Virginia Beach, VA 23455  
**Hanumaiah Suvarnamma**  
 Knoxville, TN 37922  
**Anasuya Swamy**  
 Owings Hills, MD 21117  
**Narayana & Anasuya Swamy**  
 Owings Mills, MD 21117  
**Gopal & Nalini Swamy**  
 Houston, TX 77083

## T

**Balakrishna & Shailaja Talkad**  
 Newark, CA 94560  
**Radakrishna & Leela Talkad**  
 Fremont, CA 94539  
**Taranath & Nagarathna**  
 Westland, MI 48185  
**Krishnaraj & Namratha Tejeswi**  
 Newark, DE 19713  
**Shivaraju & Gowthami Thamaiah**  
 Santa Clara, CA 95051  
**Thimmaiah & Yashodamma Thammaiah**  
 East Windsor, NJ 08520  
**Ramamoorthy & Sabana Thamman**  
 Union City, CA 94587  
**Girish Thimmadasaiah**  
 Union, KY 41091  
**Ramesh & Nirmala Thimmaiah**  
 Beverly Hills, MI 48025  
**Umesh Thimmappa**  
 Reno, NV 89502  
**B.G. & Jeevarathna Thimmappa**  
 Bridgeport, WV 26330  
**Yogesh & Roopalakshmi Thimmegowda**  
 Rochester Hills, MI 48307  
**Prakash Thopiah**  
 Champaign, IL 61820

## V

**Sharath Varadhappa**  
 Rochester Hills, MI 48309  
**Vishnu & Pooja Vardhana**  
 Charlotte, NC 28202  
**M.B. & Shantha Veerabhadrapa**  
 Louisville, CO 80027  
**Umesh & Shailaja Veeraiah**  
 Centreville, VA 20121  
**Babu K. & Sreevasuda Veeregowda**  
 West Windsor, NJ 08550  
**Indu & Manju Vence**  
 Inverness, IL 60010  
**Chetana & Jaga Vence**  
 Darien, IL 60561  
**Sonnepal & Mangala Venkat**

Brentwood, TN 37027  
**Siddartha & Madhavi Venkatappa**  
Oklahoma City, OK 73103  
**Venky & Suma Venkatesh**  
Milpitas, CA 95035  
**Punith & Namitha Venkatesh**  
Newark, DE 19702  
**C.N. & Vijaya Venkatesh**  
Alpharetta, GA 30005  
**Muniyappa Venkatesha**  
Savannah, GA 31411  
**Narayanama & Venkateshaiah**  
Schaumburg, IL 60193  
**Santhosh Venkateshappa**

Hackensack, NJ 07601  
**Sreenath & Julie Venkatram**  
San Jose, CA 95123  
**D.S. & Pankaja Venugopal**  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730  
**Sumanth & Deepika Venugopal**  
San Jose, CA 95125  
**Neel & Sharada Vibhakar**  
Millersville, MD 21108  
**K.M. & Mallika Vijayakumar**  
Exton, PA 19341  
**Shashi & Sarita Vishakanta**  
East Windsor, NJ 08520  
**Vishwanath & Nagamani**

Southfield, MI 48076  
**Halekote N. & Saroja Viswamitra**  
McAllen, TX 78504  
**Ashok & Reshma Vittal**  
Fremont, CA 94539  
**Karthik and Sumati Vugane**  
Campbell, CA 95008

**Y**

**Yatish**  
Secaucus, NJ 07094

## THINKING OF RELOCATING?

Welcome to Greater Antelope Valley

*Invest in Land. It is Real and Non Manufactured.*

Greater Antelope Valley is a rapidly growing area encompassing 3000 square miles and a shining city on the hill with its world famous weather (News).

Land in every zone and Homes for every budget!

*Invest in leisure.*

**For free consultation/List Call:**



**Kris Venkatappa GRI**

Broker Associate,

HomeBased Realty.

(661) 538-5383. E-mail: kris\_v32@msn.com

Web: www.krisrealtor.com

## **Congratulations to the VPA Convention 2007**

**From**

**Dr. Mysore Nagraja and Family,  
Bell Canyon, California**

**Dr. Mysore Nagraja, MD, Inc. Gastroenterology,  
Endoscopy, ERCP and Endoscopic Ultrasound**

**818-363-3105**

From the Golden Gate...

# CALIFORNIA



On to the Lone Star State...

# TEXAS



See You Again in 2009!

# Best Wishes to VPA

ವಿಶ್ವ ಮಾನವ

**From:**

**High Desert Nephrology Medical Associates**

**&**

**Jamboor Medical Corporation**

**Jay E. Shankar, M.D., F.A.C.P.**

**Edgard Vera, M.D.**

**Harkala Janardhan, M.D.**

**Prashanth Kumar, M.D.**

**Jamboor Medical Corporation, DBA**

**Desert Cities Dialysis**

12675 Hesperia Road

Victorville, CA 92307

Tel: 760-241-8063

**Jamboor Medical Corporation, DBA**

**Desert Cities Dialysis**

655 S. Seventh Street

Barstow, CA 92311

Tel: 760-256-3918