



**North American Sankethi Association (NASA)**  
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February 18, 2003  
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Dear Fellow Sankethis of North America,

Greetings! We are extremely happy to report to you on the second get-together of the western Sankethi families under the banner of "Paschima-vaahini" in the California Bay Area (see detailed report by Poornima). We look forward to greater interaction between Paschima-vaahini and NASA. We invite you to our upcoming regional programs in the Washington DC area (March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>), Detroit area (April 5<sup>th</sup>), and other programs yet to be firmed up. Our goal is to facilitate as many regional get-togethers as possible in order to encourage fellowship among Sankethi families that are scattered all over the continent. We hope for greater participation and initiative by NASA members, and we seek your help in recruiting new life members. We would also appreciate dues payment by those of you who committed to life or annual membership and are yet to pay your dues.

With Best Wishes and Warm Regards,

M.S. Nataraja, President

As many of you know, Kowshika Sankethi Sangha in Karnataka has been serving our community in a big way for a long time, and they have currently undertaken several major projects. Following is an appeal from the President Sri Arkanath, who is on a visit to the USA:

## **KOWSHIKA SANKETHI SANGHA (REG'D.), MYSORE**

Prof. K. V. Arkanath  
President, K.S. Sangha  
2<sup>nd</sup> Main, Jayanagar, Mysore 570 014  
India

January 1, 2003  
Plano, Texas

Dear Sankethis of North America,

Wish you and your families a very happy and prosperous new year. I am presently on a private visit to the U.S. to spend time with my daughter's and son's families, and will be here until February 17, 2003. During my stay here, I would like to contact each of you personally to wish you success in your endeavors, thank you for your past support to the K.S. Sangha, and request your continuing generous support for the various community services rendered by the K.S. Sangha. However, since this is a vast country and the sankethi community is quite large, I won't be able to contact each of you individually and hence this letter. I thank the North American Sankethi Association's Board of Directors, especially Dr. M.S. Nataraj, for consenting to publish this letter in the next NASA newsletter.

K.S. Sangha, since its inception on April 24, 1944, has been dedicated to serving the sankethi community, especially in the field of education, by opening several hostels and awarding scholarships to deserving students. The Sangha is presently:

- running seven student hostels – two in Mysore, three in Hassan, and two in Shimoga. In these hostels, we provide free board and lodging to about 110 students (60 girls and 50 boys). In addition we provide free lodging to nearly 150 students who share the cost of food among themselves.
- awarding scholarships totaling Rs. 2,00,000 to nearly 150 students each year.
- operating an old-age home (vridhashrama), providing free board and lodging to 10 deserving old people of our community.
- awarding old-age pensions to nearly 60 people every month.
- running a well-equipped library in each hostel.
- providing facilities for sports and games in the hostels.
- arranging cultural and literary meets to unearth hidden talents in our students.
- facilitating memorial dinners from the proceeds of endowment funds.

Presently, the Sangha has undertaken three projects:

- **Construction of a modern Girls' Hostel building in Mysore to accommodate about 40 students at a cost of Rs. 25,00,000.** The building is under construction and will be inaugurated on March 16, 2003.
- **Construction of four additional rooms in the Boys' Hostel in Hassan at a cost of Rs. 5,00,000.** Smt. Gangamma Keshavamurthy has donated about Rs. 4,00,000 towards this project.
- **Construction of additional rooms in the Vridhashrama building at a cost of about Rs. 10,00,000.** The building, which is in Vijayanagar, Bangalore, was donated by Late Dr. K.S. Rajanna.

In addition, it is our desire to **construct a Community Centre in Bangalore**, which has the largest concentration of sankethis, to serve the needs of our entire community.

I hope this gives you a fair idea of the various community service activities that K.S. Sangha has been engaged in. Every year, the Sangha needs over Rs. 14,00,000 to provide these services (Rs. 4,00,000 to

run the free hostels, Rs. 2,00,000 on scholarships, Rs. 1,00,000 each on old age pensions and memorial dinners and Rs. 4,00,000 on employee salaries and other administrative expenses).

**K.S. Sangha needs the generous support of all of our community members**, especially sankethis who have made their home in North America, to continue providing the above services, and successfully complete the projects described above. I appeal to you to donate liberally to the Sangha. You may send your donations in one of the following ways:

1. Make out a check in US Dollars to "NASA" and indicate that the donation is for Kowshika Sankethi Sangha. NASA charges a nominal fee to help offset the cost of processing the donation; please add this to the amount you want to contribute, and mail the check to: NASA, 20017 Doolittle Street, Montgomery Village, MD 20886. You may be able to get U.S. income tax exemption on the donation.
2. Make a personal or certified check in US \$ or Indian Rupees to "Kowshika Sankethi Sangha (Reg'd.) Mysore" and mail the check to: K.V. Arkanath, c/o Archana Dhurka, 4068 Banff Court, Plano, TX 75093-2644.

Please use the following guidelines for making contributions for specific purposes:

- Naming a room in the Girls' Hostel in Mysore after you or in honour of a designated relative: Rs. 50,000 or \$1100
- Awarding a scholarship: a minimum of Rs. 10,000 or \$220
- Arranging a memorial dinner in honour of a deceased relative: a minimum of Rs. 10,000 or \$220
- Maintenance of one person in the Vriddhashrama for one year: Rs. 7500 or \$165
- Maintenance of one poor student for one year: Rs. 7500 or \$165
- Old age pension for one person per year: Rs. 2500 or \$55

If you want your donation to be used for a specific project or purpose, please write a note indicating the same.

Please feel free to contact me at 972-312-9795 during my stay in the U.S. I remain grateful to you and your family for your help which will strengthen the service that the Kowshika Sankethi Sangha provides our community.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,  
(sd/-) K.V. Arkanath

### **New Members:**

We welcome our new life members: Sri. K.V. Ramaprasad, and smt. Poornima Prasad from the west coast, and Ms. Sruti Ranjani Nataraja from the east coast.

### **NASA Community News:**

**New Arrivals:** NASA is happy to share the joy with these member families: Menaca and Bhaskar Padakandla now have a baby daughter Rumya Sahaley Padakandla, born on July 15, 2002. And, Ramesh Nagaraj and Shubha Nagaraj are blessed with twins, Anirudh and Kartik, on Jan. 15, 2003. Hearty congratulations to both families!

NASA congratulates Dr. M.S. Nataraj of New Orleans for being selected to go on a lecture tour of several institutions of higher learning in India (Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, etc.). He was a recipient of the prestigious Full Bright Scholarship. NASA also congratulates our past president Dr. Natesh Magge and smt. Sundari Magge on the recent wedding of their daughter Sheela with Nandakumar, and wishes the couple all the best for a happy married life.

We request our members to please send us information about any news items such as new arrivals in your family, weddings and accomplishments, so we may share your joy with all families.

### **Charitable Contributions:**

We encourage all our members to take advantage of the facility available to all of you to send charitable contributions to tax-exempt reputable institutions such as Kowshika and Bettadapura Sankethi Sanghas in India through NASA. If you need any clarifications, please contact the President.

### **Sankethi Tamboola:**

NASA encourages all Sankethi families to send in a Sankethi Tamboola to mark family celebrations like weddings, upanayanas and new arrivals.

### **Regional Activities:**

**Paschimavaahini** Western sankethis had an outstanding start this year with their get-together on Jan 25. We look forward to more of these in the west, and we want more of them to attend the July meeting so we can all meet them! We are happy to bring you up to date on this with a nicely written report from Poornima Prasad:

Paschimavaahini (NASA's bay area chapter) got together for the second time to celebrate sankranthi on Jan 25th. There was an overwhelming response & a great turnout. Almost 40 families (total headcount of about

110) participated & most importantly, all of them were in by 5:30pm to enjoy every single moment. So to say, people were looking forward to it like we do for a munji or maduve in India.

After the welcome announcement, invocation (PurandaraDasa's Vandisuvudadiyali Gananaathana) was aptly sung by Bay area's famous classical musician Srivardhini.

This was followed by distribution of ellu packets by kids. It was wonderful to see all kids in traditional dresses with great enthusiasm to give ellu. Then was the snacks time & when it comes to food, sankethis are second to none!

Then two newly married couple & one set of new parents were greeted on behalf of Paschimavaahini. Also, announcement about NASA & its activities was made.

After that, was a game called Shopping Mall. A list of 15 branded items was handed out to all the wives (different list for each of them). All the ladies sat on one side & shouted out what they needed to shop & the husbands, sitting on the other side, had to list out what their wives wanted. This game really created a pleasant chaos for 2 minutes. Then the results were evaluated & prizes were given out.

Then was a jokes session which was 15 minutes of nonstop fun & laughter.

Next, there was a group song session with 2 sankethi songs & a popular hindi movie song. One of the sankethi songs was "nanga sankethi jananga" written by NASA president Dr. Nataraja. The other one was Kailasam's hit song "namma thipparalli balu doora" sankethized to "nambde aichampalli hembra dooru", Thipparalli became Ichampalli, Boregowda became Gundu mavayya & Basavi became Sarasu. Listeners joined to sing the last song as it gained a tempo & enjoyed a lot.

Next was another group activity consisting of several funny quick brain exercises like dumb charades (one of the words to guess was Chomai:)), memory game & on the spot translated singing of a few popular movie songs in sankethi. This session was hilarious and was enjoyed by all.

Little kids had fun too. They had their own little corner to color and play.

After this was a game of housie-housie.

Finally, came the long awaited sankethi Dinner. Not to boast, but Bay area sankethis are extra special in cooking. The dinner menu among other delicacies had sankethi specials like Chomai & Obbattu. Everything was sumptuously prepared thanks to all the contributors.

After dinner, people still enjoyed chit-chatting in groups until the caretaker of the hall came in to say that the time was over. It was a quick clean up with everyone pitching in.

This kind of unity & enthusiasm will, for sure, help this western chapter of NASA to grow & sponsor a National get-together very soon. Also Paschimavaahini seeks all possible support from NASA to move forward.

Regards,  
Poornima

**DC Area** We are happy to announce the next regional event in DC area on March 8-9, 2003. Please pass the word around, and we look forward to your participation in large numbers! Following is a summary of the planned program:

**Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>:**

4:00 PM: Arrive at Sri Siva-Vishnu Temple (For directions see the SSVT web)  
4:00-5:00 PM: Snacks, Coffee, Registration and Socializing  
5:00-8:00 PM: Grand Karnatik Music Kacheri  
Vocal: Smt. Seethalakshmi Madhavan  
Violin: Smt. Sandhya Srinath  
Mridangam: Sri. Srinath Balasubramanian  
8:00-9.30PM: Dinner at the temple

**Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>:**

10:00AM-12:00 Noon: Group Satyanarayana Puja at the Temple  
12:00-1:00 PM: Lunch at the temple and Farewell.

Location

Sri Siva Vishnu Temple (<http://www.ssvt.org>)  
6905 Cipriano Road  
Lanham, MD 20706  
Phone: 301.552.3335

Accommodations

Visitors from out of town please contact Sridhara or Nataraja for arrangements with local Sankethi host families in the DC area. If you prefer, please also visit the SSVT website (see above) for information regarding hotel/motel accommodation near the temple (Temple discount may be available).

**Detroit** The tradition continues at Detroit on **Saturday, April 5**. Program is being finalized and will be communicated separately. If you want to participate in the cultural program, please contact Sangeeta.

**Richmond, VA** We plan to have our next BOD meeting at Richmond, with some of our key BOD members living in that area.

**Texas:** NASA Vice-President, Dr. Jaikumar Rangappa is trying to coordinate a possible get-together of the Texa-kethis. Please contact him if you have any ideas. The actual date and location is yet to be determined.

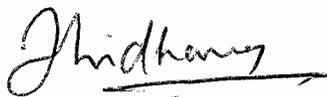
**Chiguru:** Due to a lack of sufficient response from our members, this project is on hold. We will revive it and report to you in days to come. In the mean time, for more information and to submit articles to *Chiguru*, please contact: Lakshmi Jayaram, e-mail: [lj@jhu.edu](mailto:lj@jhu.edu), phone: 410-243-8990, address: 3011 Saint Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21218. All feedback welcome!

**Sankethi Cruise:** NASA has postponed its proposed cruise to 2004 due to the recent reported problems associated with a stomach virus on some of the cruises. Please write to Veda Shekhar (address on the front page) if you have any suggestions in this regard. Veda will present some ideas during the NASA annual meeting in July 2003. We can certainly have a Sankethi cruise if at least twenty families make a firm commitment during the annual get-together. Most suitable time will be determined by a survey during the July meeting. A short (3-day) cruise with nice Indian food (and some Sankethi delicacies to go with us), unlimited cards game and all other clean family fun, come on guys, you won't want to miss it!

**NASA Website:** Please visit [www.sankethi.org](http://www.sankethi.org) to read our newsletter and many other updates. We look forward to your feedback, and please send them to Sangeeta Sastry at [sangeeta99@aol.com](mailto:sangeeta99@aol.com).

**Addresses and e-mails** We would like you to send any updates to your addresses or mails to Latha Shanthi Ramakrishna at [lshanthi@hotmail.com](mailto:lshanthi@hotmail.com). Latha has been maintaining this NASA database and it is very important to have your current information. Our communication with you will become extremely effective and efficient if we can send mass e-mails to all our members regarding any important news item if only we have your current e-mail addresses. So, please help.

Thank you and with best wishes,



Sri Sridhara, Gen. Secretary, NASA



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