



*Chiguru*  
*Vol. 38, No. 1*  
*May 2021*

# North American Sankethi Association (NASA)

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<http://www.sankethi.org>

May 2021

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## President's Note

Dear NASA Members,

Happy Ugadi! The NASA Board of Directors hopes that this new samvatsara will bring health and happiness to all. May 2021 be a year of growth for everyone.

I want to thank all those who attended the NASA virtual event in December 2020. We had a fantastic event with a variety of beautiful performances. Despite not being together in person, the NASA community brought the same excitement and energy to this event as always. I want to recognize the BOD for all of their hard work in making this event possible. We want to thank all the participants for their wonderful performances, all the sponsors of the event, as well as those who donated to NASA. We plan to conduct a virtual event again this year and will share more details when we have them. If anyone has any ideas as to what they would like to see in this year's event, please contact one of our board members.

Since our December meeting, the BOD has put a lot of time into updating the life membership list. If your contact information has changed in the past few years (and you have not yet let us know), or if you have been contacted by a BOD member asking for updated information, please get in touch with us at your earliest convenience to ensure you are receiving all communications. Please encourage your fellow Sankethis to become NASA life members! Let us all pledge in 2021 to introduce one new person to NASA and encourage them to become a life member so we can continue to grow our organization.

Ganesh Rao continues to lead our efforts around finalizing charitable donations to foreign organizations. You can find more details about this process in this edition of Chiguru. We will be collecting donations to support two causes this year: Needy Sankethi Students and Needy Sankethi Seniors. Please consider your donations to support Sankethi students and seniors. Send your donations to NASA and specify which cause you are supporting. Please donate generously by July 4th, 2021!

The BOD has also been discussing how we, as a community, can foster more awareness around our Sankethi culture among younger generations (and others who have interest!). We are thinking about offering virtual workshops around Sankethi language, culture, music, food etc.. If you are interested in being a part of these workshops or have other ideas as to how we can creatively share our culture, please contact one of the board members.

Thank you for supporting NASA!

Prema Keshav Kumar

NASA President

## 1. NASA Annual Event 2020

This last year was unlike any in our lifetime. We had to improvise based on the circumstances and come up with a new way to meet and share with NASA families and stay safe. Our annual event, therefore, was conducted virtually via Zoom on **Saturday, December 12th and Sunday, December 13th**. We were pleased that over 120 people logged in from North America, India, Europe and Australia, and other parts of the world. With multiple people sharing some of the devices, we estimate that over 200 people participated in some part of the program. The level of participation was higher than for many in-person annual NASA get-togethers in previous years. In order to accommodate the time difference between India and North America, performers and presenters from India were featured in the morning sessions on both days.

Saturday's event began with informal social interaction among members. Several members of the Kowshika Sankethi Sangha Management Committee joined the event. Many old connections were reestablished and new connections made. The main program began with invocational prayer by Mrs. Shamala Chandan. NASA President Prema Keshav Kumar presented welcomed the participants to the event.

We were next presented with a beautiful live Carnatic vocal music concert by Akshatha Rudrapatna. She was accompanied on the violin by Vishwajeet Mattur and on the Mridanga by Sachin Prakash. The concert began with the upbeat Ganapathi kriti by Thyagaraja in *SowrAshtra* raga. This was followed by the popular *BanTureethi* in *hamsanAda*. Next was an elaborate alapana in *Lalitha* that brought out the beauty of the raga; Vishwajeet ably followed with alapana on the violin. The main kriti of the concert was the well-known Dikshitar kriti *Hiranmayeem Lalitha*, accompanied by creative Neraval and Kalpanaswaras. Sachin Prakash exhibited his talent with a competent Tani Avartanam. Akshata then presented a song on a diety dear to Sankethis, Lakshmikeshava of Kowshika, composed by her guru *Ganakalabhushana* R.K. Padmanabha in Raga Ahir Bhairav. The concert was concluded with a beautiful ragamalika ugabhoga followed by the evergreen Purandaradasa composition *Jagadoddharana* in *kApi*.

This was followed by a Stand-up Comedy presentation by the renowned comedienne Sudha Baragur. Sudha, a masterful entertainer, lightened the hearts and minds of the audience so stressed by the pandemic for nearly a year with her jokes about the COVID pandemic, life in the U.S. and Sankethis. Despite the virtual format, she built rapport with the participants with her personable and engaging style. Given the late hour in India, we had to reluctantly end the program! We would like to thank Prema who is Sudha's friend and college roommate for enabling this program.

The post-lunch session on Saturday provided an opportunity for NASA youth to show their talents. We were entertained by several of our young members. We thank all the parents and children for this talent show. Here is a list of the children who performed, the talent they displayed and the names of the proud parents:

Ashok and Arya	Bhajans	Shankar Shridhara and Merica Shrestha
Nayan	Piano	Aruna Viswanatha and Joydip Kundu
Mihir	Pledge of Allegiance	Aruna Viswanatha and Joydip Kundu
Roshan	Piano	Veena Viswanatha and James Bourke
Amar	Shlokas	Veena Viswanatha and James Bourke
Adithri	Piano	Lalitha Hanasoge and Dima Khavulya
Savithri	Violin	Lalitha Hanasoge and Dima Khavulya
Ahaana	Singing	Sheela Nagaraj-Dikshith and Pramod Dikshith
Myra	Singing	Vidya Ramanath and Santhosh Sorab
Mythili	Singing	Soudamini and Dinesh Rao
Chinmayee	Violin and Flute	Soumya and Sunil Srinivasmurthy
Ashray	Bhagavad Gita Chanting	Sheela Hanasoge and Arun Chickmenahalli
Reyva	Singing	Ranjini Srikantiah and Dale Poage

Tejan  
Jathin

Saxophone  
Tabla

Ranjini Srikantiah and Dale Poage  
Shalini and Ganesh Rao

The Saturday event ended with Dr. M.S. Nataraja reciting three of his poems, *Namgu nimgu engagalhoytu Trumpu*, *Aha America*, *Ayyo America* and *Turufanu bandanu Shwetha bhavanake*

Sunday's program began with a beautiful invocation by Amala Arun. NASA President welcomed the participants next. This was followed by an introduction of the keynote speaker for the day, Dr. Gururaja Karajagi, by Uma Venkatesh. Dr. Karajagi is a well-known personality in Karnataka, known for his inspirational talks on a wide range of topics. The theme of this presentation was *Joy of Giving*. With many examples from his own life, Dr. Karajagi impressed on the audience that listened to him with rapt attention why giving back to society brings the greatest joy and meaning to our lives. The talk was followed by a lively Question and Answer session in which participants interacted with Dr. Karajagi. Dr. Karajagi's lucid style and his optimistic outlook inspired the audience.

The next event was a vocal Carnatic concert by Dhanya Dinesh Rudrapatna, a disciple of accomplished musicians including Vidwan Sri Delhi P. Sunderrajan and Vidwan Sri Neyveli R. Santanagopalan. Dhanya was accompanied on the violin by Vishwajeet Mattur and on the Mridanga by K.R. Gurudutt. The concert began with a brisk varna in *Behag*. This was followed by the popular Thyagaraja composition *Sangeetha Gnanamu* in the raga *DhanyAsi*. Dhanya next presented a beautiful alapana in the soothing *Kharaharapriya* raga. Vishwajeet followed suit on the violin. Next came the main piece of the concert, the Thyagaraja kriti *kOri sEvimparAre*, embellished with Neraval and captivating kalpanaswaras. Gurudutt next displayed his drumming prowess with an outstanding Tani Avartanam. Dhanya next sang Rajaji's patriotic composition *Kurai Ondrum Illai* in ragamalika (*Sivaranjani*, *KApi* and *Sindhu Bhairavi*). The concert concluded with the popular Swathi Tirunal Thillana in Hindi, a rarely used language in Carnatic music, in Raga DhanAshri.

Sri Anantha Nanjundiah, President of Kowshika Sankethi Sangha (KSS), who was gracious enough to address the meeting at a late hour, spoke to NASA members about the objectives of the Sangha and the various community service activities undertaken by KSS. Sri Anantha spoke about the long-standing relationship between NASA and KSS. He assured NASA members that KSS awards scholarships and supports older Sankethis without consideration to which sect they belong to. He emphasized the need for unifying Kowshika Sankethis and Bettadapura Sankethis into one group and explained efforts taken by his organization towards this vision. Mr. Anantha answered many members' questions and appealed to NASA members to donate generously towards KSS's charitable activities.

The post-lunch session on Sunday was dedicated to discussing NASA activities including membership, charitable work and community activities. While originally planned to be a General Body, the meeting was regarded as an informal member meeting as some discrepancies in the membership roster needed to be made before an official GBM could be held. The event ended with members wishing good bye to their relatives and friends and agreement that NASA should hold more such online sessions, especially during the pandemic. NASA President Prema Keshav Kumar.,

Here is a link to the first day of the event, December 12, 2020

<https://youtu.be/MAVlxrshwwM>

This is the link to the second day of the event, December 13, 2020

<https://youtu.be/Vq8gku4iOHE>

Please note that these video links are only for your personal use and should not be shared with others without permission from NASA.

**Arkanath Sudarshan**

**Screen Shot From The Zoom Conference Showing Participant Images**



## **2. Secretary's Report of The NASA Annual Meeting Held On December 13, 2020**

Dear Members:

As there have been questions about the accuracy and validity of the NASA Membership List, it was determined that there is no way to achieve a quorum. Therefore, the meeting was not a true General Body Meeting and no formal actions or votes could be taken. Formal meeting minutes do not need to be approved. Instead, the time was used to discuss issues and plan future activities. A chief outcome was the need to properly validate and correct the membership list so that the next meeting can be a formal General Body Meeting. In addition, the plan for charitable donations was discussed at length. After discussions concluded, the meeting was adjourned.

**Ganesh Rao**  
**NASA Secretary**

## **3. Thank You To Sponsors Of The Annual Event**

The NASA Board thanks all the sponsors who enabled us to bring the excellent artistes from India to our annual event.

Dinesh & Soudamini Rao	\$500	
Uma Venkatesh & Bangalore Sathyaprakash	\$500	Dr. Karajagi's Program
Prema & Keshav Kumar	\$250	
R. Shivashankar	\$101	

## **4. NASA Donations to Charitable Causes**

Over the past year, the NASA Board has discussed ways to provide more charitable assistance to needy Sankethis in India, especially during these difficult times. Many concerns were raised by NASA members throughout the process, and prior Board members with experience on this matter were involved in the discussions. Due to the many questions raised, the NASA Board decided to consult a lawyer to get an authoritative opinion. We retained Hurwit and Associates of Massachusetts who specialize in non-profit law. Here is a very brief summary of their recommendations.

*We do not have to be overly complicated. NASA is a registered 501(c)(3) and there are more stringent requirements for private foundations. There is no need for bylaw amendments or separate funds.*

- o Collect funds in a general charitable drive or annual campaign for general purposes not specific to any foreign organization (general old-age help, scholarship help, etc.)*
- o NASA Board should meet and vote to disburse the funds. This should be done EACH TIME before sending money to any other organization. Avoid conflict of interest and self-dealing*
- o Also check the federal government's Office of Foreign Assets (OFAC) list to ensure that organizations' names and all their board members' names are not on the list*

*o Also create an agreement for EACH TRANSFER and get it signed by the recipient organization before sending money.*

Therefore, the process for handling donations to any organization is:

1. Raise money with a general fundraiser
2. Have a board vote prior to any disbursement to approve the grant.
3. Check OFAC list
4. Update the charity agreement for the donation to specify the amount, cause, date etc.
5. Get the agreement signed by the grantee
6. Disburse funds.
7. Receive receipt
8. Receive annual report

Based on the advice we have received, this is how we intend to proceed. This simplifies the process (no need for votes by the General Body or by-law amendments) and maintains full NASA control (each disbursement is voted on and agreed to for a specific purpose).

Thank you all for your patience throughout this process.

Sincerely,  
Ganesh Rao  
NASA Secretary

## **5. Would You Like To Learn The Sankethi Language?**

The NASA BoD would like to offer an Online Sankethi Language Program to help our children ... and even adults ... learn the Sankethi language. As we all know, there is real danger of our language becoming extinct in the next generation or two, if very few of our youth learn the language. What we envision is a one-hour class every two weeks led by a couple of volunteer teachers who are proficient in the Sankethi language and are passionate about teaching. The plan is to spend about 45 minutes of each session on the language and for the remaining time have a Sankethi elder go over some aspect of Sankethi culture based on their own personal experience.

If you or your children are interested in learning the language or honing your language skills, please send a note to Sudarshan ([sudi\\_sudarshan@yahoo.com](mailto:sudi_sudarshan@yahoo.com)) or contact any Board member. Also, if you are proficient in the language and are interested in teaching, please contact Sudarshan or any Board member. Once we gauge the interest, we will send more details about the program.

## **6. Request For Donations To NASA Charitable Causes**

The NASA BOD would like to provide assistance to needy Sankethi students and senior citizens in India through partner organizations that are authorized by the Government of India to receive foreign funds. NASA encourages its

members to donate generously to support these worthy causes. If you are eligible for employer-matching programs, please use those to increase your impact. It only takes a little to have a large impact. **Since NASA is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization, you may be eligible for tax benefits for your donations to these funds.** Please consult with your tax professional to determine if you are able to deduct these donations.

To make donations for the present fundraising drive, please send your check to **NASA, Inc., 161 Natsisky Farm Rd. South Windsor, CT 06074** or contact the NASA Treasurer at [NASATreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:NASATreasurer@gmail.com) to make arrangements for electronic transfer. Please indicate the cause you would like to make your donation for e.g., Scholarship, Senior Citizen. If you don't designate the NASA BoD will use your donations where funds are most needed. NASA will provide a receipt acknowledging your generous donation.

We request you to make donations by July 4, 2021. We will then make the disbursements to qualified organizations.

### **Sankethi Student Scholarships**

Donations designated for student scholarships will be used for provide board, lodging and educational assistance to needy Sankethi students in India. The funds will be managed according to IRS guidelines and disbursed at NASA's discretion to eligible organizations in India. About 95% of the funds collected will be used for charitable purposes and the remainder will be used to cover administrative expenses. To help you plan your donations, here are some suggested amounts based on Kowshika Sankethi Sangha's scholarship programs.

Boarding and lodging for one Sankethi student in a hostel	\$300/year (\$25/month)
Degree student scholarship (Medical, Engineering, PG, etc)	\$120/year (\$10/month)
Pre-degree students	\$90/year (\$7.50/month)
Other students (10-12 grade)	\$60/year (\$5/month)
Partial college fee reimbursement	\$480/year (\$40/month)
General support	Any amount

### **Sankethi Senior Citizen Support**

Many Sankethi senior citizens in India are left without money or family to support them in their old age. The Sankethi Old-Age Home provides needy seniors with lodging, food and medical care. Donations designated for Senior Citizen Support will be used to support the needs of elderly Sankethis in India. The funds will be managed according to IRS guidelines and disbursed at NASA's discretion to eligible organizations in India. About 95% of the funds collected will be used for charitable purposes and the remainder will be used to cover administrative expenses. To help you plan your donations, here are some suggested amounts based on Kowshika Sankethi Sangha's estimated costs of senior programs.

Senior Citizen/widow/disability pension	\$180/year (\$15/month)
Board and lodging in the Sankethi Old Age Home	\$720/year (\$60/month)
Emergency Medical Support	\$180/year (\$15/month)
General support	Any amount

## **7. NASA Sponsors Carnatic Music Concert Recording By Shantala Subramanyam**

The NASA Board is pleased to recognize and cosponsor a concert by talented Sankethi artiste Vidushi Shantala Subramanyam. Shantala is an AIR Graded artiste based in Chennai and is the sister of renown Carnatic flautist Shashank Subramanyam.

Shantala Subramanyam was born in Bangalore and raised in Chennai, the heartland of Carnatic music. She plays the Carnatic bamboo flute, in addition to singing Carnatic vocal music. Shantala started her music learning at a young age under the tutelage of her father M N Subramanyam, himself an amateur musician, and her brother Shashank, the world-renown flautist. She continued her vocal training under the eminent musician, the late Sri Vairamangalam Lakshminarayanan. She is currently pursuing vocal music training under accomplished vocalists Sri O.S.Thyagarajan and Sri T.V. Gopalakrishnan. Her rhythm training was enriched by the contributions of famed percussionists Trichur Sri Narendran, Sri Patri Satish Kumar and Sri Parupalli Phalgun. Owing to her diligent and rigorous training, Shantala has been highly appreciated for her melodic presentations combined with complex rhythmic patterns. Today, she's recognized by music critics and experts as an important and authentic voice in this demanding tradition.

Shantala has graced the stages of many reputed organizations such as Sri Krishna Gana Sabha, Narada Gana Sabha, Mudhra, Hamsadhwani, Rama Seva Mandali to name a few and, in recent years is a frequent visitor to Europe, USA, Canada, England, Ireland and Malaysia for concerts, workshops and lec-dems. She has given lectures in Carnatic music and rhythms at Goteborg University in Sweden, Music Academy Oslo, Royal College of Music – Stockholm, and University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She has performed for young audiences in schools in Sweden, Germany, USA and India.

Shantala is also a well sought-after teacher. She has been imparting training in South Indian vocal music, flute playing and reciting kunakkol [vocal rhythm] to scores of students from India and across the globe. She has released two CD albums titled "Bamboo in Harmony" and "Dakshin" in collaboration with popular artists from the South Indian music tradition. The albums have been highly appreciated by critics and audiences alike.

In this full-length concert recorded live, Shantala is accompanied by Vidushi Akkarai Sornalatha on the Violin, Vidwan Patri Satishkumar on the Mrudangam, and Smt. Shirisha Shashank on the Tambura.

Here is a link to the concert. We hope you will enjoy this. To view this, either copy and paste the link to your browser or press the <CTRL> button and click on the link below.

<https://youtu.be/egOOWTq6YNU>

## **8. Review Of Concert By Shantala Subramanyam And Party**

Smt. Shantala Subramanyam, internationally acclaimed Carnatic musician, Flautist and Vocalist released a fabulous vocal concert named Meenakshi Kripa. She is accompanied by Akkarai Soornalatha on the violin and Sri Patri Satish Kumar on the mrudangam. This concert was co-sponsored by NASA.

Shantala starts the concert with a prayer, followed by the song Paahi paahi Baal Ganapathe in Hamsadwani with a brisk chittai swara. A very vibrant, rarely heard song by Sri Thyagaraja, Pattividuvaradu in the raga Manjari comes next. A soothing Alapana in Kalyana Vasantha and the song Nadaloludai with catchy kalpana swarams is rendered next. This is followed by soulful singing of Thaye Tripura Sundari, a song composed by Periyasaami Thooran in Suddha Saveri raga and Khanda chapu tala.

The main song is Dikshitar's masterpiece Meenakshimemudam in Poorvi Kalyani, with very enjoyable and soulful Raga Alapana, well-fitting Neraval and complex, skillfully rendered Kalpanaswarams, followed by a brief but brilliant

Tani Avartanam. This is followed by Chittam Eppadiyo in Nadanamakriya and Kshana madhuna in Hamsanandi. The concert concludes with a perfect rendition of Dr. M. Balamuralikrishna's Brindavani thillana.

Shantala, with a deep passion for Carnatic music and a mission, has done decades of sadhana in Carnatic music on the bamboo flute and recently with more dedication to vocal music, she has come up to heights, beating many odds. Selection of songs, keeping in mind different ragas, talas and composers, speaks volumes about her accomplishment which you can see in this concert.

Velvety violinist Sornalatha who follows the vocalist like a shadow is simply superb! Her bhavapooritha Poorvi Kalyani is very enjoyable. Having learnt from and encouraged by her father, well respected Sri Akkarai Swamynathan sir, she has shot to great heights. In a few places, I wish there was more volume given to violin.

Sr Patri Satish Kumar has given an excellent, well-fitting Mrudangam support. He is the Michael Jordan of Mrudangam!

NASA wishes these young artists the very best.

- **Amrutha Viswanatha**

## **9. NASA Donation To COVID-19 Relief In India**

As you all know, COVID-19 is ravaging India at this time. There are severe shortages of Oxygen, therapeutics and other supplies in several parts of the country. Several service organizations are collecting funds to provide relief in India. The NASA Board unanimously approved a donation of \$1,000 to COVID-19 relief in India. This will cover the cost of two Oxygen Concentrators. The funds are being sent to Sewa International, a nonprofit service organization registered under Internal Revenue Code 501 (c) (3) ( <https://www.sewausa.org/Donate-for-Covid-19-Support-Bharath-Fundraiser> ). We encourage NASA members to contribute generously directly to this or any of the several organizations that are raising funds for COVID relief in India.

## **10. Health Corner**

### **COVID-19: AN EVER-EVOLVING ENIGMA**

**By Jayanthi Srinivasiah, MD**

*Editor's Note: This article was originally written in February 2021. As Dr. Jayanthi notes, the pandemic is dynamic and changing by the day. An update has been added at the end of the article*

The Novel betacoronavirus SARS-CoV-2, commonly designated as COVID-19, is responsible for severe acute distress syndrome that has devastated the global economy and healthcare systems causing over 155 million confirmed cases and over 3.2 million deaths worldwide. The numbers in the U.S. are ever-increasing with over 32 million cases and 580,000 deaths. India has seen over 21 million cases and over 230,000 deaths with a dramatically increasing trend in recent weeks.

COVID-19 has changed the definition of normal life around the world. Hence therapeutic and intervention strategies are needed to fight SARS-CoV-2 infection and return to normalcy. Understanding the pathogenesis is most crucial in identifying therapeutic strategies and vaccines. The three sequential phases of disease are pulmonary (pneumonia), pro-inflammatory (causing inflammation) and thrombotic (causing blood clots).

Treatment options have included attacking all of the above pathogenic mechanisms. Repetition inhibitors (Remdesivir) are used in the pulmonary phase, corticosteroids in the pro-inflammatory phase, along with

immunomodulating drugs (monoclonal antibodies – casirivimab/imdevimab) in the inflammatory phase, and antithrombotic therapy (blood thinners) in the thrombotic phase. However, no unanimously recognized new treatment options are available; existing medications and treatments are being utilized. Newer drugs are still in the early trial phases.

Vaccines are the only ideal solution for this rapidly spreading disease. Policy makers, government officials and experts in various fields from all countries should come together hand-in-hand to establish response operations. Vaccinations currently are limited due to availability. The hurdles of distribution/administration, emerging variants have also been roadblocks to vaccine utilization.

Currently available vaccines include Moderna/Pfizer (mRNA vaccines with 95% efficacy) and Johnson & Johnson, recently approved (65%-85% efficacy), which are DNA vaccines, AstraZeneca (adenovirus vector vaccine) used in the U.K., and Novavax (protein-based vaccines). These are being used in high-risk populations throughout the world at this point. Herd immunity can only develop if over 70% of the population is immunized. Immunization is required even for patients who have recovered from the SARS-CoV-2 infection, as their antibody levels have fluctuated and antibody is not evident in some younger patients and populations recovering from COVID-19. Some recent studies, however, suggested that a single dose vaccine may be sufficient to those recovering from COVID-19. Recommendations for vaccine should be universal and the only hope of achieving normalcy.

We are in for a challenge with this novel virus and understanding the virus with its newly developing variants (South African variant, homegrown variants and U.K. variant). While it is not uncommon for variants to develop with viral replication, the seriousness of this disease and modality of spread and morbidity from these variants have made it even more challenging for vaccine makers and to understand the therapeutic strategies. It appears, however, that current numbers in India have increased dramatically in recent weeks possibly due to spread of more infectious variants, lack of compliance in mask-wearing, social distancing and other measures, and low vaccination rates. As outlined earlier, this is a global health issue and learning from various populations is critical.

Dealing with cancer patients on a day-to-day basis, with associated COVID, their poor response to therapies and their poor immune response to vaccines are challenges that I face as an oncologist.

This is an attempt at outlining the current status of the coronavirus behavior in our community and worldwide. This is an ever-evolving disease, with ever-evolving interventions that would have to be updated frequently.

*Dr. Jayanthi Srinivasiah is a Hematologist/Oncologist with Georgia Cancer Specialists, Northside Hospital Cancer Institute, Atlanta, GA*

**Update (May 7, 2021):**

Since the time this article was written, the disease course and trajectory seem to be rapidly changing. Since late April, India is reporting high case numbers, exceeding 400,000 daily and almost 4000 deaths daily. This is due to new mutations, with the new “double mutant” strain (B.1.617 variant) being the most dangerous, with both communicability and intensity of the disease; however, these mutations are ongoing.

These changes, over time, again bring up the importance of the whole world tackling this pandemic jointly. Many nations and individuals are supporting India in different ways. Ultimately, to mitigate this disease, achieving herd immunity with vaccinations, or recovery from infection, would be essential. Vaccinations to cover as many mutant strains, and plans for booster shots to cover emerging new strains, would also be essential. This is still a dynamic situation and further details about the status of vaccinations will be covered in the next write-up.

## 11. Poetry By Dr. M.S. Nataraja

We are happy to bring to you once again some poetry from Dr. Nataraja. In this issue, we have a Kannada translation of the inspirational poem *The Hill We Climb* by young poet Amanda Gorman who recited this at President Biden's Inauguration on January 20, 2021. Dr. Nataraja has maintained the poetic style and metre of the original poem and has tried to bring out the emotions expressed by the original author. The views expressed in these writings are those of the author and don't necessarily represent the views of NASA or its Board members. Enjoy!

## ನಾವು ಏರುವ ದುರ್ಗ

ಜನವರಿ 20, 2021 ರ ಬೈಡನ್ ಹ್ಯಾರಿಸ್ ವಚನಸ್ವೀಕಾರದ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ, ಕಪ್ಪು ತರುಣಿ ಕವಯಿತ್ರಿ-  
ಅಮ್ಯಾಂಡ್ ಗೋರ್ಮನ್ ಓದಿದ ಕವಿತೆಯ  
ಕನ್ನಡ ಭಾವಾನುವಾದ: **ಡಾ. ಮೈ.ಶ್ರೀ. ನಟರಾಜ**

ಬೆಳಗಾಗ, ನಮ್ಮ ನಿತ್ಯದ ಸ್ವಗತ  
'ಮುಗಿಯದ ಕತ್ತಲೆಲಿ  
ಬೆಳಕನೆಂತು ಕಂಡೇವು?'  
'ನಷ್ಟದ ಭಾರವನು ಹೇಗೆ ಹೊತ್ತೇವು?'  
'ಸಾಗರವ ಸೀಳಿ ಎಂತು ನಡೆದೇವು?'  
ಹೆಬ್ಬುಲಿಯ ತಬ್ಬಿ ಧೈರ್ಯದಲಿ ನಿಂದೇವು?

'ನಿಶ್ಯಬ್ದವೆಂದರೆ ಶಾಂತಿ ಎಂದೇನಲ್ಲ.'  
ಎಂಬುದನರಿತೆವು.  
'ಆದದ್ದೆಲ್ಲ ನ್ಯಾಯವಲ್ಲ.'  
'ರೂಢಿಯೆಂದ ಮಾತ್ರಕ್ಕೆ  
ನ್ಯಾಯ ಸಮ್ಮತವಲ್ಲ.'  
ನಿರತ ಸ್ವಗತದ ಮೌನದಾಚೆಗೆ  
ಅರುಣ ಬಂದನು ನಭದ ಅಂಚಿಗೆ

ಇನ್ನೇನು ಮುರಿದುಬೀಳುವುದೇನೋ ದೇಶ  
ಎಂಬುದಕೆ ಸಾಕ್ಷಿಗಳಾದವು ಸೊರಗಿ  
ಮಳೆಯಲಿ ನೆಂದು ಬಿಸಿಲಲಿ ಒಣಗಿ  
ಛಳಿಯಲಿ ನಡುಗಿ ಹೇಗೋ ಸಹಿಸಿಕೊಂಡೆವು.  
ದೇಶ ಮುರಿದುಬೀಳಲಿಲ್ಲ ದಿಟ,  
ಆದರೆ ಕಟ್ಟುವ ಕೆಲಸ ಇನ್ನೂ ಮುಗಿದಿಲ್ಲ

ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರದ ವಂಶೋದ್ಧಾರಕರು  
ಯುಗವ ಹೊತ್ತು ಮುನ್ನಡೆವವರು ನಾವು  
ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಒಬ್ಬಳು ತೆಳುವು ದೇಹದ ಶಾಮಲೆ  
ಒಂಟಿ ತಾಯಿ ಬೆಳೆಸಿದ ಕೋಮಲೆ  
ಗುಲಾಮರ ಗೋತ್ರದ ಕೂಸು ಅಬಲೆ  
ರಾಣಿಯಾಗುವ ಕನಸ ಕಾಣಬಲ್ಲವಳು  
ಪಟ್ಟಾಭಿಷೇಕದಲಿ ರಾಜನೆದುರಲಿ ನಿಂದು  
ಕವಿತಾವಾಚನವ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿಹಳೆಂದು.

ಹೌದು ನಾವು ಕಟ್ಟಿದ ದೇಶಕ್ಕಿನ್ನೂ ಬಂದಿಲ್ಲ ಹೊಳಪು  
ಅದು ಪರಿಶುದ್ಧವೂ ಅಲ್ಲ, ಇರಬಹುದು ಬಿಳುಪು  
ಆದರೆನಂತೆ? ಪರಿಪೂರ್ಣದೇಶವಿದೆಂದು  
ನಾವೆಂದೂ ಸಾರಿಲ್ಲವಲ್ಲ  
ಪರಿಪೂರ್ಣತೆಯತ್ತ ಸಾಗುವುದಷ್ಟೇ  
ಒಕ್ಕೂಟ ರಚಿಸಲು ಹೊರಟವರ ಧೈರ್ಯ  
ಎಲ್ಲ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಗಳ ಮೇಳೈಸುವ ಬದ್ಧತೆ  
ಎಲ್ಲ ಬಣಗಳ, ಬಣ್ಣಗಳ, ನಡತೆಗಳ, ಆಯ್ಕೆಗಳ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟ  
ಅದಕೇ ಇಂದು ತಲೆಯೆತ್ತಿ ದಿಟ್ಟಿಸೋಣ  
ನಮ್ಮ ನಡುವಿನ ಗೋಡೆಯನಲ್ಲ  
ನಮ್ಮೆದುರು ನಿಂದಿರುವ ಬಂಡೆಯನ್ನು

ವಿಭಜನೆಗಳ ಕೂಡಿಸುತ್ತ ಭಿನ್ನಮತಗಳ ಕಡೆಗಣಿಸುತ್ತ  
ನಾಡಿನ ನಾಳಿನ ಭವಿಷ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಂದೆ ಸಾಗೋಣ  
ಅಸ್ತುಗಳ ಕೆಳಗಿಟ್ಟು ಹಸ್ತಲಾಘವಕೆ ಕೈಯ ಚಾಚೋಣ  
ಯಾರೊಂದಿಗೂ ಬೇಡ ಆಕ್ರೋಶ  
ಎಲ್ಲರೊಂದಿಗೂ ಇರಲಿ ವಿಶ್ವಾಸ  
ನೋಡುತ್ತಿಹ ವಿಶ್ವ ಹೇಳಲಿ ಈಗ  
ಸತ್ಯವೆಂದು ಸಾರಲಿ ಬೇಗ  
ಕಣ್ಣೀರ ಸುರಿಸಿದರೂ ತಲೆಯೆತ್ತಿ ಬೆಳೆದಿಹವೆಂದು  
ನೋವಿನಲಿ ಬೆಂದರೂ ಭರವಸೆಯ ಹೊತ್ತಿಹವೆಂದು  
ಸೋತು ಸುಣ್ಣವಾದರೂ ಯತ್ನವನು ಬಿಡದಿಹವೆಂದು  
ಐಕ್ಯತೆಯ ಬಂಧನದಿ ಜಯಭೇರಿ ಹೊಡೆದಿಹವೆಂದು

'ಮುಂದೆಂದೂ ಸೋಲಕಾಣವು' ಎಂದೇನೂ ಅಲ್ಲ  
ಆದರೆ ವಿಭಜನೆಯ ಬೀಜವನು ಬಿತ್ತದಿರೋಣ ನಾವೆಂದು  
ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಗಳು ಸಾರುವ ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಳ್ಳಿ  
ಕುಳಿತಿಹವು ಸುತ್ತಿಕೊಂಡು ಮೈಮೇಲೆ ಬಳ್ಳಿ  
ಮುಚ್ಚಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಉಂಟು ಅಂಜೂರದಲೆ  
ಇರಿ ಯಾರೂ ಯಾರನೂ ಭಯಪಡಿಸದಲೆ

ನಮ್ಮ ಕಾಲದಿ ನಾವೇ ಬಾಳಲುಬೇಕು  
 ಕತ್ತಿಯಲುಗಲಿ ಇಲ್ಲ ಜಯದ ಝಲಕು  
 ಕಟ್ಟಿದ ಸೇತುಗಳ ನಮಗೆ ಮುಂದಿನ ದಾರಿ  
 ನಾವು ಏರುವ ದುರ್ಗ ಛಾತಿಯಿದ್ದರೆ ಏರಿ  
 ಅಮೆರಿಕದ ಪ್ರಜೆ ಆಗಿರುವುದೆಂದರೆ  
 ಹಿರಿಯರು ಕೊಟ್ಟ ಕೃಪೆಗೆ ಹೆಮ್ಮೆಪಡುವುದಷ್ಟೇ ಅಲ್ಲ  
 ಅದು ನಾವು ಭೂತಕಾಲಕ್ಕಿಡುವ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ  
 ಅಂದಿನ ದುರಂತಗಳ ತಿದ್ದುವ ಮಜ್ಜೆ

ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರವನು ಹಂಚಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಬದಲು  
 ಪುಡಿಮಾಡುವ ದೈತ್ಯಶಕ್ತಿಯನು ಕಂಡೆವಷ್ಟೆ?  
 ಪ್ರಜಾತಂತ್ರವನೆ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಹೊರಟವರು  
 ಇನ್ನೇನು ಜಯವ ಗಳಿಸಿಯೇಬಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದರಲ್ಲ  
 ಅದು ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ ಜಯವಿರಬಹುದು  
 ಸಾರ್ವಕಾಲಿಕವಾಗಲಾರದು ಅದೆಂದು  
 ಈ ನಿಜವ ನಂಬೋಣ ನಂಬುಗೆಯ ನಂಬೋಣ

ನಮ್ಮ ಕಣ್ಣಿರಲು ಬರುವ ನಾಳಿನ ಮೇಲೆ  
 ಇತಿಹಾಸ ನೋಡುತ್ತಿದೆ ನಮ್ಮನಿಂದು  
 ಕೂಡಿಟ್ಟ ಪಾಪಗಳ ತೊಳೆದು ಕಳೆಯುವ ಕಾಲ  
 ಅದು ಹುಟ್ಟಿದಂದು ನಾವು ನಡುಗಿದ್ದೆವು  
 ಎಂಥ ನಡುಗಿಸುವ ಗಳಿಗೆಯದು  
 ಅವರ ತಪ್ಪಿನ ಹೊರಗೆ ಸಿದ್ಧರಾಗದ ನಾವು  
 ಅದರಲೇ ಕಂಡುಕೊಂಡೆವು ಶಕ್ತಿ  
 ಹೊಸ ಅಧ್ಯಾಯ ಬರವ ಯುಕ್ತಿ  
 ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ಭರವಸೆಯ ನಗುವ ರಕ್ತಿ

'ಹೇಗೆ ತಾನೇ ಗೆದ್ದೇವು ಇಂಥ ಸಂಕಟವ?'  
 ಎಂದು ಕೊರಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದವರು  
 'ಸಂಕಟ ನಮ್ಮ ಗೆದ್ದೀತು ಹೇಗೆ?' ಎಂದು ಬೀಗಿದವು  
 ಕಳೆದ ದಿನಗಳ ಕಡೆಗೆ ಮರಳದಿರೋಣ ಎಂದೂ  
 ಬರುವ ದಿನಗಳ ಕಡೆಗೆ ನಡೆಯೋಣವೆಂದು  
 ಗಾಯಗೊಂಡರೂ ದೇಶ ನಿಂದಿಹುದು ಇಡಿಯಾಗಿ  
 ಉಳಿದಿದೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ಸನ್ಮಾರ್ಗ, ಧೈರ್ಯ,  
 ರೋಷದಲಿ ಮೆರೆವ ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯ

ಯಾರೂ ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾರರೆಮ್ಮನು  
 ಬೆದರಿಕೆ ಒಡ್ಡಿ ಚದುರಿಸಲಾರರಿನ್ನು  
 ಕರ್ಮಹೀನರಾದರೆ ನಾವು  
 ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲೆ ಬಿದ್ದು ನಿಡ್ಡೆಹೋದರೆ ನಾವು  
 ಆಗುವೆವು ಮುಂದಿನ ಪೀಳಿಗೆಯ ಶಾಪ  
 ಭವಿಷ್ಯದ ಬಲಹೀನತೆಯ ವಿಲಾಪ  
 ನಮ್ಮ ಹೊರೆ ಆಗುವುದು ಅವರ ಹೊರೆ

ಆದರೆ ಈ ಮಾತು ಸತ್ಯ  
 'ಕರುಣೆಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಶಕ್ತಿಯಿದ್ದರೆ,  
 ಶಕ್ತಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ನ್ಯಾಯವಿದ್ದರೆ  
 ಪ್ರೀತಿಯೇ ಆಗುವುದು ನಮ್ಮ ಆಸ್ತಿ'  
 ದೊರಕಾವು ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಜನ್ಮಸಿದ್ಧ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳು

ಆದ್ದರಿಂದಲೇ ಕೇಳಿ ದೇಶವಾಸಿಗಳೆ  
 ಮುಂದಿನ ಪೀಳಿಗೆಗೆ ಬಿಟ್ಟುಹೋಗೋಣ ಉತ್ತಮ ದೇಶ  
 ನಮಗೆ ದಕ್ಕಿದ್ದಕ್ಕಿಂತಲೂ ಉತ್ತಮ ದೇಶ  
 ಇದು ನನ್ನದೆಯ ಮಿಡಿತದ ಘಂಟಾಘೋಷ  
 ಘಾಸಿಗೊಂಡಿಹ ವಿಶ್ವವನು ವಾಸಿಗೊಳಿಸೋಣ  
 ಪಶ್ಚಿಮದ ಸ್ಪರ್ಣದುರ್ಗಗಳಿಂದ ಏರೋಣ  
 ಪೂರ್ವಜರ ಕ್ರಾಂತಿಯ ಈಶಾನ್ಯದಿಂದ  
 ಗಾಳಿಯಂತೇರೋಣ ವೇಗದಿಂದ  
 ಸುಂದರ ಸರಸಿಗಳ ನಗರಮಾರ್ಗದಿ ಹೊರಟು  
 ಮೇಲೆ ಮೇಲೇರೋಣ ಮಧ್ಯಪಶ್ಚಿಮದಿಂದ  
 ಸುಡುವ ಸೂರ್ಯನ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ತೆರೆದ ತೆಂಕಣದಿಂದ  
 ಬಿಸಿಯ ಸೂಸುತಲಿ ಮೇಲಕೇರೋಣ

ಕಟ್ಟೋಣ ದೇಶ ಅಳಿಸೋಣ ದ್ವೇಷ  
 ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ಮೇಲೆದ್ದು ತುಂಬೋಣ ಕೋಶ  
 ಮೂಲೆ ಮೂಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲು ಹುಡುಕಿ  
 ಕೋಣೆ ಕೋಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡದೆಲೆ ತಡಕಿ  
 ವಿವಿಧತೆಯ ಸಾಕಾರ ಸುಂದರ ಸುಶೀಲರನು  
 ತುಳಿತದಲಿ ತಗ್ಗಿರುವ ತರತರದ ತರಳರನು  
 ಎಲ್ಲರನು ಕೂಡಿಸುತ ಹೊರಡಿ ಮೆರವಣಿಗೆ

ಆದಾಗ ಬೆಳಗು ತೊಲಗುವುದು ಕತ್ತಲು  
 ಕಣ್ಮರೆಯಾಗುವುದು ಉರಿವ ಬೆಂಕಿಯ ನೆಳಲು  
 ನಿರ್ಭಯದಿ ಉಬ್ಬುವುದು ಅರುಣನುದಯದ ಛಾಯೆ  
 ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯದಾರತಿಗೆ ಮುಳುಗುವುದು ಮಾಯೆ  
 ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಎಂಬುದು ಅಮರ ತಿಳಿಯಿರಿಷ್ಟೆ  
 ಅದನು ನೋಡುವ ಕಣ್ಣಿರಬೇಕು ಅಷ್ಟೆ  
 ಜ್ಯೋತಿಯೇ ಆಗುವ ಧೈರ್ಯ ಇರಬೇಕು ನಿಷ್ಠೆ

## **12. Poetry By Dr. Jaikumar Rangappa**

Next, we have a collection of interesting poems on the COVID-19 pandemic – and a humorous one on a device that helps both personal hygiene and the environment – penned by Dr. Jaikumar Rangappa. The views expressed in these writings are those of the author alone and don't necessarily represent the views of NASA or its Board members. Enjoy!

### **COVID THOUGHTS**

Do Black lives matter  
Or any White lives matter  
In truth all lives matter  
With no mask do scatter

Be away from COVID virus  
Pray for all and be pious  
Don't on others transgress  
For one's selfish progress

Please love one and all  
As calamities will befall  
For not caring for all  
Cooperate for solutions tall

COVID mercilessly does disseminate  
Caring compassion will compensate  
Lord will soon a healthy world create  
If the stupid humans will cooperate!

- Jaikumar Rangappa  
October 15 2020

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### **ANOTHER DAY**

On cold chilly morning I am awake  
See the orange sunrise on the lake  
Beckoning me to rise and shine  
And I hope the COVID will decline.

A bright sunny day awaits ahead  
Lord invites me to walk and tread  
To appreciate His incredible Nature,  
Thank Him for His gracious wonder.

Many flying birds soar, land and float  
On the glistening water near my boat,  
This cold morning in my diary I note  
My good fortune to be alive and gloat.

I fervently pray for pandemic to be over  
With the Almighty Lord's blessing power!

- Jaikumar Rangappa  
December 19, 2020

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### **COVID FATIGUE**

For over a year suffer from COVID fatigue  
Bury myself in books in the literary league  
Quarantined home, being online is only gig  
In a maddening silence stay alone in my dig.

Reading so many books after book  
I have whole personal library shook  
TV programs repeat day after day  
Now I hate and shun what they say.

President will not give up or compromise  
To him new president-elect was a surprise  
Time flies and sun sets after every sunrise  
All politicians are crooks in different guise.

Pray to the Lord to keep me calm and clear  
Till Corona virus does completely disappear.

- Jaikumar Rangappa  
January 4 2021

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### **COVID PANDEMIC ANNIVERSARY**

WHO declared global COVID pandemic a year ago  
With remote online learning students did school forgo  
With shortage of essential workers all did frown  
Republicans and Democrats in politics booed down

COVID virus spread everywhere like a wild fire  
As firefighters doused burning CA homes and tire

Food and toilet paper were city people's desire  
Shortage of which caused politicians to conspire  
To blame President Trump in Washington's mire  
And governor Cuomo's Nursing homes dead retire

Doctor Fauci predicted the deadly viral calamity  
With his sincere daily advice on TV did he pity  
The indifference of government and people in city  
Over half a million died of the COVID Corona disease  
The blame games of the wily politicians did not cease

As many states opened businesses and restaurants  
Pandemic spread all over again with Fauci's taunts  
President Biden inherited COVID virus in the new year  
With new virus strains and vaccine shortage as the fear  
An aging new confused US President is so lost  
And his first term to help America may be the last

Airlines fly with passengers few, movie theaters closed  
As the wild citizenry to the spreading virus were exposed  
Sports Stadia with no games all but remain empty  
Though Netflix and Amazon TV got rich fast plenty.

Investors on Wall Street became millionaires overnight  
As many lost jobs and homes and starved day and night  
Social isolation has hit the depressed and the lonely  
Many mourn deaths in the nursing homes patients sadly  
Lockdowns are different by race, gender and class  
As men and women and children experience a loss.  
Home offices opened up for business, shut down city  
Road traffic and pollution came down, thanks Almighty

Fires, rains and freeze followed by floods and the mudslides  
Marriages postponed, wait the anxious grooms and brides  
The COVID virus has killed the rich and the poor  
Greed and exploitation will not be tolerated any more  
Lord has warned and sent a message door to door  
To help and share God's planet with all and Adore !

Jaikumar Rangappa  
March 2021

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## DELUXE BIDET

New bidet was installed in my toilet  
By my friend from Amazon did get  
Number 1 to clean up Number Two,  
Don't laugh and read my clean review.

Recommend as best toilet upgrade  
For all and the disabled the best aid  
Seems like lifestyle of famous and rich  
But it's very cheap even for a snitch.

Most affordable and non-electric bidet  
Easily installed fast under toilet seat  
With care the plumber can be beat  
Believe me, it is the clean butt treat !

My happy wife says it's real fantastic  
Washes the butt clean like real magic  
No need for toilet paper wipe  
Leaving a dirty itchy anal gripe.

Order it on the Internet fast  
For your lifetime it could last  
Save toilet paper rolls and the trees  
Climate change may slowly freeze.

Bidet is the dirty bottom's best friend  
Preventive healthcare's best dividend  
Worth every penny that you do spend  
A joy for every man and woman to blend.

Jaikumar Rangappa  
December 20, 2020

### **13. Invitation To Join The NASA Board**

The NASA BOD has several openings and we need your help! Please consider volunteering to help us in planning and conducting activities and events, and in managing the NASA organization. We need you! Please email any member of the BOD to volunteer or for more information.

### **14. Condolences**



The NASA Board expresses its deep condolences to the family of Lakshmi Kashyap who passed away on Sunday, February 7, 2021 in Charlotte, North Carolina. After a brief battle with cancer, Lakshmi died in peace at the Harris Hospice Center of Presbyterian Hospital.

Born on February 28, 1944 in Mysore, Lakshmi was one of twelve children in a large, close-knit family. After marrying Shantaram Kashyap in 1963, she moved to Bombay. There she became mother to two children. The family immigrated to the United States in 1971. They lived in Baltimore, Chicago, Southern California and, finally, Charlotte, making lasting friendships in all the places they called home. Lakshmi placed a high value on education, and continued her own at night school, while still being a fully dedicated wife and homemaker. She worked in information technology until retirement.

Travel was a great passion for Lakshmi and she visited almost every corner of the world. Traveling through six continents - she did not like the cold weather and so skipped Antarctica - Lakshmi enjoyed seeing historic sites, absorbing cultures and broadening her perspective of the world. In fact, just one year ago, she was in Cambodia where she climbed the Stairway to Nirvana in Angkor Wat. While the climb was steep and grueling, Lakshmi was determined to make it to the pinnacle, often encouraging others along the way.

Lakshmi's greatest joy was her five grandchildren. She shared their success, encouraged them to overcome challenges and inspired them in their future endeavors. She was very happy to see them grow up and become engaging young adults.

Lakshmi is survived by her husband Shantaram Kashyap; her son Vikram Kashyap and his wife Sangeeta; her daughter Nandini Hashe and her husband Bill; grandchildren Tejas Kashyap, Mira Hashe, Anjali Kashyap, Cayla Hashe and Rohit Kashyap; her sister, brothers and many other relatives and good friends. Lakshmi will be remembered for her warmth and her beautiful smile!

### **15. NASA Annual Event – A participant's report**

This report by Smt. C.A. Sunanda on the NASA Annual Event was originally published in the February 2021 issue of *Sankethi Sangama* and is republished here with permission.

### **NASA ನಾರ್ತ್ ಅಮೆರಿಕನ್ ಸಂಕೇತಿ ಸಂಘದ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಕೂಟ**

ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ ತಿಂಗಳ 12 ಮತ್ತು 13ನೆಯ ತಾರೀಖಿನಂದು NASA ಕೂಟ Zoom ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಹಾಯದಿಂದ ನಡೆಯಿತು. ಜುಲೈ ತಿಂಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಜೋರಾಗಿ ನಡೆಯಬೇಕಿದ್ದ ಸಂಭ್ರಮದ ಕೂಟವನ್ನು, ಕೊರೋನಾ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ ಮುಂದೂಡಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ದಸರಾದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದ ಹಲವಾರು ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳಿಗೂ ಕೊರೋನಾ ಕಡಿವಾಣ ಹಾಕಿತ್ತು. ಆದರೆ NASAದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷೆ ಪ್ರೇಮಾ ಕೇಶವಕುಮಾರ್ ಮತ್ತವರ ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಗಣೇಶರಾವ್, ಶ್ರೀ ಸುದರ್ಶನ್ ಅರ್ಕನಾಥ್, ಶ್ರೀ ರಘುನಾಥ್ ಕಣಗಾಲ್, ಡಾ ಅಮೃತಾ ವಿಶ್ವನಾಥ್ ಮತ್ತು ಡಾ ಉಮಾ ಸತ್ಯಪ್ರಕಾಶ್ ಇವರೆಲ್ಲಾ ಚರ್ಚಿಸಿ-ಯೋಚಿಸಿ ಕೂಟವನ್ನು Zoom ಮೂಲಕ ನಡೆಸಲು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸಿದರು. ಕೂಟಕ್ಕೆ ತಕ್ಕ ಸಮಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂದರ್ಭೋಚಿತ

ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳು, ಭಾಷಣಕಾರರು, ಸಂಗೀತ ಪ್ರತಿಭಾಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ ಮುಂತಾದುವುಗಳನ್ನು ಸರಳವಾಗಿ ನಡೆಸಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ಆಸಕ್ತರು ನೋದಾಯಿಸಿಕೊಂಡರು. ನಾಸಾದ ಸದಸ್ಯರೇ ಅಲ್ಲದೇ, ಹಲವಾರು ಸಂಕೇತಿ ಕುಟುಂಬಗಳು ಅಮೆರಿಕಾ, ಇಂಡಿಯಾ, ಕೆನಡಾ ಮತ್ತು ಆಸ್ಟ್ರೇಲಿಯಾದಿಂದ ಸಹಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಂಡರು.

ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ 12ನೇ ದಿನಾಂಕದ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳು ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಶ್ಯಾಮಲಾ ಅವರ ಚಿಕ್ಕ-ಚೊಕ್ಕ ಮಧುರ ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಆರಂಭವಾದವು. ನಾಸಾದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷೆ ಪ್ರೇಮಾ ಎಲ್ಲರನ್ನೂ ಆತ್ಮೀಯವಾಗಿ ಸ್ವಾಗತಿಸಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಕ್ಕೆ ಚಾಲನೆ ನೀಡಿದರು. ಕುಮಾರಿ ಅಕ್ಷತಾ ರುದ್ರಪಟ್ಟಣ ಅವಳ ಸಂಗೀತ ಕಚೇರಿ ಅದ್ಭುತವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಇಂಪಾದ ದನಿ, ರಾಗಗಳ ಮೇಲಿನ ಹಿಡಿತ ಅವಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಗೀತದ ಮೇಲಿರುವ ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ತೋರುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಪಕ್ಕವಾದ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಹಕರಿಸಿದ ವಿಶ್ವಜಿತ್ ಮತ್ತೂರು (ವಯಲಿನ್) ಹಾಗೂ ಸಚಿ ಪ್ರಕಾಶ್ (ಮೃದಂಗ) ಅಮೋಘ ಪ್ರತಿಭಾನ್ವಿತರು. ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮವನ್ನು ಆಸ್ವಾದಿಸಿದ ಅಮೃತಾರವರ ವಿಮರ್ಶೆ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಸೊಗಸಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಸಂಗೀತಸುಧೆಯ ಸ್ವಾದವನ್ನು ಅನುಭವಿಸಿದವರಿಗೆ ಮುಂದೆ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸುಧಾ ಬರಗೂರರ 'ಹಾಸ್ಯದೂಟ' ಬಹಳ ಹಿತವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ತಮ್ಮ ತಾಯಿ ಮಡಿದು ಕೇವಲ 13-14 ದಿನಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ ಗೆಳತಿ ಪ್ರೇಮಾ ಕೇಶವ್ ಅವರ ವಿನಂತಿಯಂತೆ, ಹಾಸ್ಯ-ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ನಡೆಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟು ಎಲ್ಲರನ್ನೂ ಮಿಂದೆಳಿಸಿದರು. ತನ್ನ ತಾಯಿಯ ಆತ್ಮಕ್ಕೆ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಶಾಂತಿ ಕೋರುತ್ತೇನೆ ಎಂದು ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸುಧಾ ಬರಗೂರು ನುಡಿದಾಗ ಕೆಲವರ ಕಣ್ಣಲ್ಲಿ ಕಂಬನಿ. ಕೊರೋನಾದ ಅಬ್ಬರಕ್ಕೆ ಸಿಲುಕಿ ನಗುವೇ ಮರೆತಂತಾಗಿದ್ದ ಹಲವರಿಗೆ ನಗುವಿನ ರಸದೌತಣ ಬಡಿಸಿದ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸುಧಾ ಅವರಿಗೆ ವಂದನೆಗಳು. ಕಾಮೆರಾ ಸ್ಥಗಿತಗೊಳಿಸಿ, ಅವರವರ ಮನೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಊಟ ಮುಗಿಸಿ, 30 ನಿಮಿಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಶಿಸ್ತಿನಿಂದ ಲಾಗಿನ್ ಆಗಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಪ್ರತಿಭಾಪ್ರದರ್ಶನಕ್ಕೆ ಚಾಲನೆ.

ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷದ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಂದ, ಯುವಕ-ಯುವತಿಯರು ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಂಡ ಈ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಮುದ ನೀಡಿತು. ವಯಲಿನ್, ತಬಲಾ, ಕೀ ಬೋರ್ಡ್, ಕೊಳಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಹಾಡುಗಾರಿಕೆ ಮುಂತಾದ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳು ಹೊರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಲೆಸಿರುವ ನಮ್ಮವರು ಕಲೆಗೆ ನೀಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹ ಮತ್ತು ಅಭಿಮಾನಗಳನ್ನು ಎತ್ತಿ ತೋರಿಸಿತು. ಇಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಲೆಸಿರುವ ಮಕ್ಕಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಮ್ಮ ಕಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಬಗೆಗಿನ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ನಿಜಕ್ಕೂ ಮೆಚ್ಚುವಂತಹದು. ಈ ದಿಸೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಶ್ರಮಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ನಮ್ಮ ಹೃತ್ತೋರ್ವಕ ಧನ್ಯವಾದಗಳು. ಕೂಟಗಳು ಮುಂದೆ ನೈಜವಾದಾಗ ಯುವಜನತೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವಿಧ ರೀತಿಯ ಪ್ರತಿಭಾ-ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಿ, ರಚನಾತ್ಮಕ ವಿಚಾರಗಳನ್ನು ಕುರಿತು ಚರ್ಚಿಸಿ ಅಳವಡಿಸುವಂತಾಗಲೆಂದು ಹಾರೈಕೆ. "ತುರುಫನು ಬಂದನು ಶ್ವೇತಭವನಕೆ" ಇಂದಿನ ಅಮೆರಿಕೆಯ ರಾಜಕೀಯದ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಗೆ ಕನ್ನಡಿ ಹಿಡಿಯಿತು. ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಕವನ "ಆಹಾ ಅಮೆರಿಕಾ ಅಯ್ಯೋ ಅಮೆರಿಕಾ" ಅಮೆರಿಕದಲ್ಲಿನ ಹಲವಾರು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ಬೆಳಕು ಚೆಲ್ಲಿತು. ನಂತರ ಸದಸ್ಯರನೇಕರು, ಉಭಯ-ಕುಶಲೋಪರಿ, ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಲ ವಿಚಾರ ವಿನಿಮಯಗಳೊಡನೆ ಮೊದಲದಿನದ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳು ಮುಕ್ತಾಯಗೊಂಡವು.

2ನೇ ದಿನವಾದ ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ 13ರಂದು, ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಆರಂಭವಾದವು. ಕುಮಾರಿ ಅಮಲಾ ಅರುಣ್ ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆ ಸೊಗಸಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಕ್ಲಿಷ್ಟ ಪದಗಳ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಉಚ್ಚಾರ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಕಲಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಬಿಂಬಿಸುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ಚಿಕ್ಕದಾಗಿ, ಚೊಕ್ಕವಾಗಿ, ಆತ್ಮೀಯವಾಗಿ ಎಲ್ಲರನ್ನೂ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಕ್ಕೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುತ್ತಾ ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಪ್ರೇಮಾ ಕೇಶವ್ ಅವರು, ತಮ್ಮ ಪ್ರಾಂಶುಪಾಲರಾಗಿದ್ದ ಡಾ ಗುರುರಾಜ ಕರ್ಜಗಿ ಅವರು ಶಿಕ್ಷಕ-ಬೋಧಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶಕರೇ ಅಲ್ಲದೇ, ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಹೇಗೆ ಆತ್ಮೀಯರಾಗಿದ್ದರೆಂಬುದನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸಿದರು. ಡಾ ಗುರುರಾಜ ಕರ್ಜಗಿ ಅವರ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿತ್ವ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾಧನೆಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ವಿವರವಾಗಿ ಡಾ ಉಮಾ ಸತ್ಯಪ್ರಕಾಶ್ ತಿಳಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟರು.

ಇಂದಿನ ಕೊರೋನಾ ಪೀಡಿತ ಜಗತ್ತಿಗೆ ಅತಿಸೂಕ್ತವಾದ ವಿಚಾರ "Joy of Giving" ವಿಷಯವನ್ನು, ಕರ್ಜಗಿ ಅವರು ತಮ್ಮ ಜೀವನದ ಅನುಭವ ಮತ್ತು ಉದಾಹರಣೆಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಸರಳವಾಗಿ, ಎಳೆ ಎಳೆಯಾಗಿ ಕೇಳುಗರೆಲ್ಲರ ಮನಮುಟ್ಟುವಂತೆ ವಿವರಿಸಿದರು. ಸಮಾಜಕ್ಕೆ ಸತ್ಯಜಿಗಳಾದ ನಾವು ನೀಡಬಹುದಾದ ಕೊಡುಗೆಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ನಮ್ಮ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಮನಮುಟ್ಟುವಂತೆ ಹೇಳಿದರು. "ಕ್ಷೀಣಿಸುವ ಸಂತಸಗಳು" ಹಾಗೂ "ವೃದ್ಧಿಸುವ ಸಂತಸಗಳ" ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನೀಡಿದ ಉದಾಹರಣೆಗಳು ಎಲ್ಲರ ಹೃದಯ ತಲುಪಿದವು. ನಾವೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಸಮಾಜಕ್ಕಾಗಿ, ಇತರರಿಗಾಗಿ ಏನಾದರೂ ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂಬ ಸಂಕಲ್ಪವನ್ನು ಮಾಡುವಂತಾಯಿತು. "ಕರುಣಾಳು ಬಾ ಬೆಳಕೆ" ಮಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಲೇಖಕರಾದ ಡಾ ಕರ್ಜಗಿ ಅವರು ಎಲ್ಲರ ಮನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕಷ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿರುವವರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಕರುಣೆ ಹುಟ್ಟಿಸಿದರೆಂದರೆ ಅತಿಶಯೋಕ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲ. ಪ್ರಶೋತ್ತರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಮೀಸಲಿಟ್ಟ ಸಮಯ ಇನ್ನೂ ಬೇಕಾಗಿತ್ತು ಎನಿಸುತ್ತಿತ್ತು. ನಂತರ ತನ್ನ ಇಂಪಾದ ದನಿಯಿಂದ ಕುಮಾರಿ ಧನ್ಯಾ ದಿನೇಶ್ ಕೇಳುಗರ ಮನ ಗೆದ್ದಳು. ಶ್ರೀ ಗುರುದತ್ ಮೃದಂಗ ಮನೋಹರವಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಶ್ರೀ ವಿಶ್ವಜಿತ್ ವಯಲಿನ್ ಅದ್ಭುತ.

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನಿಂದ ಮಾತನಾಡಿದ ಕೌಶಿಕ ಸಂಕೇತಿ ಸಂಘದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಅನಂತ ಅವರು ಸಂಘದ ಧೈಯ ಮತ್ತು

ಕೆಲಸಗಳ ರೀತಿಯನ್ನು ವಿವರಿಸುತ್ತಾ, ವೃದ್ಧಾಶ್ರಮ ಮತ್ತು ನಮ್ಮ ಜನಾಂಗದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ವಿದ್ಯಾಭ್ಯಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಅಗತ್ಯವಾದ ಸಹಾಯಗಳನ್ನು ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಕಳಕಳಿಯಿಂದ ವಿವರಿಸಿದರು. ಸಂಕೇತಿಗಳೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಒಂದು, ಇದರ ಉಪ-ಪಂಗಡಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಇರುವ ಧೋರಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ತೊಡೆದುಹಾಕುವುದು ಇಂದಿನ ಬಹುಮುಖ್ಯ ಅಗತ್ಯ ಎಂದರು. ನಾವೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಹೈತ್ಯೂರ್ವಕವಾದ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಿಂದ ಒಂದಾಗಬೇಕೆಂಬ ನಿಲುವನ್ನು ಒತ್ತಿ ಹೇಳಿದರು. ನಾವೆಲ್ಲರೂ ಒಂದೇ ಎನ್ನುವ ಭಾವನೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಪಂಗಡದ ಏಳಿಗೆಗೆ ಬಹುಮುಖ್ಯ ಎನ್ನುವ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಗಳು ಚರ್ಚೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಕ್ತವಾಯಿತು. ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಕೂಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಒಪ್ಪುತ್ತಾ ಈ ದಿಸೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಗಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸುದೀರ್ಘವಾಗಿ ಚರ್ಚಿಸಿದರು.

Zoom ಕೂಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿದ ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ಸಮಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ Login ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಕ್ರಿಯವಾಗಿ ಶಿಸ್ತಿನಿಂದ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದರು. ಪ್ರಶ್ನೋತ್ತರಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಅನುಮಾನಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಹರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡರು. ಎರಡು ದಿನಗಳ ನಾಸಾ ಕೂಟ ಮುಗಿದೇ ಹೋಯಿತಲ್ಲಾ ಅನಿಸಿತು. ಮುಂದೆ ಚುನಾವಣೆಗಳು ನಡೆಯುವವರೆಗೆ, ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಪ್ರೇಮಾ ಕೇಶವ್ ಅವರೇ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂದುವರೆಯುವಂತೆ ಒಮ್ಮತದಿಂದ ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ಈ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳನ್ನು ಚಾಚೂಬಿಡದೆ Zoomನಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಿದ ನನಗೆ, ಇದೊಂದು ಅಭೂತಪೂರ್ವ ಅನುಭವ. ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣರಾದ ಎಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ನನ್ನ ಕೃತಜ್ಞತೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಇದೊಂದು ಪ್ರುಟ್ಯ ವರದಿಯನ್ನು ನಿಮ್ಮ ಮುಂದಿಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದೇನೆ

## ಸುನಂದಾ ಸಿ.ಎ

### **16.Information about OCI Cards**

The following article about Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cards may be of interest to our members and is included for informational purposes only. Please contact the Indian Embassy or Consulate for official information.

\_Ministry of Home Affairs

### **Modi Government Simplifies process for re-issue of OCI Cards**

#### **Decision Expected to Facilitate OCI Card Holders**

Posted On: 15 APR 2021 7:02PM by PIB Delhi

In a decision which is expected to significantly ease the process for re-issue of Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cards, the Modi Government has decided to simplify the process. This decision has been taken on the directions of the Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah.

The OCI Card has proved to be very popular amongst foreigners of Indian Origin and spouses of foreign origin of Indian citizens or OCI cardholders, as it helps them in hassle free entry and unlimited stay in India. So far about 37.72 lakh OCI Cards have been issued by the Government of India.

As per the extant law, a foreigner of Indian origin or a foreign spouse of an Indian citizen or foreign spouse of an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholder, can be registered as an OCI cardholder. OCI card is a life-long visa for entry into and stay in India with a number of other major benefits attached to it which are not available to other foreigners.

Presently, the OCI card is required to be re-issued each time a new passport is issued up to 20 years of age and once after completing 50 years of age, in view of biological changes in the face of the applicant. With a view to facilitate the OCI cardholders, it has now been decided by the Government of India to dispense with this requirement. A person who has got registration as OCI cardholder prior to attaining the age of 20 years will have to get the OCI card re-issued only once when a new passport is issued after his/her completing 20 years of age, so as to capture his/ her facial features on attaining adulthood. If a person has obtained registration as OCI cardholder after attaining the age of 20 years, there will be no requirement of re-issue of OCI card.

With a view to update the data regarding new passports obtained by the OCI cardholder, it has been decided that he/she shall upload a copy of the new passport containing his/her photo and also a latest photo on the online OCI portal, each

time a new passport is issued up to 20 years of age and once after completing 50 years of age. These documents may be uploaded by the OCI cardholder within 3 months of receipt of the new passport.

However, in the case of those who have been registered as OCI cardholder as spouse of foreign origin of a citizen of India or an OCI cardholder, the person concerned will be required to upload on the system, a copy of the new passport containing the photo of the passport holder and also a latest photo along with a declaration that their marriage is still subsisting each time a new passport is issued. These documents may be uploaded by the OCI cardholder spouse within three months of receipt of his/ her new passport.

The details will be updated on the system and an auto acknowledgement through e-mail will be sent to the OCI cardholder informing that the updated details have been taken on record. There will be no restriction on the OCI cardholder to travel to/ from India during the period from the date of issue of new passport till the date of final acknowledgement of his/ her documents in the web-based system.

All the above services of uploading documents will be provided on gratis basis to the OCI cardholders.

Relaxation in OCI Guidelines till 31st December, 2021

1. The following OCI guidelines have been in force since 2005:

- OCI card is required to be re-issued each time a new passport is acquired by the cardholder up to the age of 20 years.
- OCI card is required to be re-issued once on acquiring a new passport after completing 50 years of age.

2. The Government of India has decided to grant further extension of time till 31st December, 2021 to get the OCI cards re-issued in accordance with above guidelines.

3. The requirement of carrying old and new passports, along with the OCI card, has been done away with. Henceforth, an OCI cardholder traveling on the strength of existing OCI card bearing old passport number is not required to carry the old passport. However, carrying the new (current) passport is mandatory.



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