



Chiguru
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North American Sankethi Association (NASA)

28 Cranberry Cir, Medford, NY 11763

<http://www.sankethi.org>

May 15 2023

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President's Note

Dear NASA Friends and Families,

Namaskara and Hello to everyone. The NASA BOD is excited to welcome you all to our 2023 in-person get-together to spend three fabulous days of various fun-filled activities and GBM. I am sure everyone is excited just like us. As previously announced, our three-day get-together will be at the Holiday inn, Hazlet New Jersey from Saturday July 1st through Tuesday July 4th. I am looking forward to seeing many of you there.

We would like you all to take this opportunity to showcase your and your children's talents. If interested, please indicate on the registration form or send your names and what you would like to showcase to Sudarshan (sudi_sudarshan@yahoo.com).

This year we are organizing a variety of fabulous programs including dance performance, Veena concert, beach trip, picnic in the park, hike and visit to a local temple. Detailed program by day will be provided to you ahead of the get-together. We will start our get-together at Noon with a lunch with a Sankethi touch!

Recognizing High School and College Graduates: For the past three years we could not recognize our high school graduates and college graduates. Please send the names and the year of graduation of your family members. Let us catch up and finish this job, by recognizing all who graduated over the last three years.

Sankethi Language Class: We will provide a report on the Sankethi language class that was started last year, and recognize the teachers that helped make this happen.

Please consider sponsoring: We could plan the grand veena concert and the dance program this year because of a generous sponsorship from one of our NASA members. NASA wants to really thank them. We look forward to more sponsorships to help cover some of the costs of this grand event. A sponsorship form is included in this Chiguru.

The registration form and details are in this Chiguru. **Please register by June 5** so that we can better plan the event, including fabulous food, programs, and other arrangements.

I know everyone is looking forward to aLhIthay chUTu. We are planning that. Ithn jothAykku oru Sankethi chUTu saha plan AhanDrAndu, attA hatratuku vandapO chollaNi.

Looking forward to meet many of you at the NASA annual get together and make it a biiiiggggg success.

Prema Keshav Kumar
NASA President

1. Announcement: NASA 2023 Annual Get-Together and General Body Meeting

After conducting the annual NASA get-together virtually for the past three years due to the pandemic, the NASA Board is delighted to announce that we will meet in person this year. We will be meeting in Hazlet, New Jersey. We explored several locations and decided that the Holiday Inn in Hazlet, NJ was the most suitable venue for this year's gathering. The hotel offers a large number of rooms and a spacious ballroom for us to hold all our events. It is less than an hour from Newark, Jersey City and the heart of New York City, and close to several eastern US cities including Philadelphia (75 min), Hartford (2.5 Hrs), Baltimore (3 Hrs), Washington DC (3.5 Hrs) and Boston (4 Hrs). Hazlet is close to several major airports including Newark (EWJ), La Guardia (LGA) and New York JFK (JFK). In addition, the location is close to several recreational areas and the Atlantic Ocean.

Consistent with overall inflation, the cost of accommodation and meeting hall have gone up significantly from where they were in 2019 when we last met in person. Even with a substantial contribution from NASA funds towards the event, the NASA Board needs to increase the pricing. We are planning an exciting, entertaining program for all ages. We hope our members will participate in large numbers and make this a very successful and memorable event.

Venue:

Holiday Inn
2870 Highway 35
Hazlet, NJ 07730
(<https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/hazlet/hztmj/hoteldetail>)

Dates:

Saturday, July 1, Noon -- Arrivals & Check In
to
Tuesday, July 4, 11 AM – Program Closing & Check Out

Registration Deadline: June 5, 2023

Program Highlights

We are still working out the day-by-day program for this exciting gathering but here are some highlights:

- Picnic at the Park or Beach
- Yoga and Vedic chanting
- Grand Carnatic Veena Concert by Vidwan D. Balakrishna and Party
- Dance program by Kum. Aditi Shesh
- Talent Show by our NASA kids and adults
- Card games and board games
- Outdoor games and hiking
- And many more fun activities

Here is the tentative day-by-day program. We will provide more details before the event.

Saturday July 1st: We will start our get-together at Noon with a lunch with a Sankethi touch! Rooms will be available around 3 pm for check-in. We have reserved the Ballroom for the entire day and so we will assemble there when we arrive. Arrive early to enjoy an authentic Sankethi lunch! We will have snacks and coffee in the afternoon as we catch up with one another. The program for Saturday evening includes chanting of Lalitha or Vishnu Sahasranama (please bring a hardcopy if you have one or use your cell phone). After dinner we will have a fabulous Bharathanatya Program by Kumari Aditi Shesh. She is a young artist from India who wants to make dance a part of her career. We will close the day with watermelon and ice cream.

Sunday July 2nd: Morning begins with yoga and veda chanting followed by breakfast and coffee. We are planning two concurrent activities - an outdoor activity such as a local hiking trip and a visit to the Sri Guruvaayoorappan Temple nearby in the morning, followed by lunch around 1 pm. Sunday afternoon, from 3 pm to 5 pm, we will have the General Body Meeting and elections for the new Board including the new President. Please participate in the GBM and volunteer to join the NASA Board to take the organization one step further in celebrating our roots and guiding our youngsters on the same path. This Board is here to help and guide you. In the evening, after dinner, we are planning an exciting Veena concert by Vidwan D. Balakrishna, son and disciple of the renowned Vainika V. Doreswamy Iyengar. From what I have heard and read about him I am sure we will have a wonderful concert.

Monday July 3rd: We are working on a possible field trip and picnic at a nearby park or beach. We will also have talent show by our NASA children and adults. More details including additional activities are being finalized.

Tuesday July 4th: Happy Independence Day. Checkout by 11 AM.

2. Notification of the General Body Meeting (GBM) to be held on July 2, 2023

Dear Members:

The 2023 Annual GBM will convene on Sunday, July 2, 2023 at 3:00 PM at the Holiday Inn, Hazlet, New Jersey.

The order of business will be as follows:

1. Roll call
2. Reading/Confirmation of minutes of the preceding meeting
3. President's address
4. Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Old and unfinished business
7. New business
8. Good and Welfare
9. Adjournment

Any member in good standing may introduce a motion from the floor with the permission of the Chair. Such permission shall not be denied if the member has given written notice of such motion to the corporation at least ten days but not more than fifty days prior to the scheduled date of the meeting provided, however, that the advance notice requirement may be waived if the estimated additional financial exposure to the corporation from the proposed motion is less than US\$500 in the relevant fiscal year(s).

Please note that per NASA bylaws only members in good standing as of the Record Date (June 19, 2023) may vote in any formal motion or election of office bearers. We would encourage nonmembers desirous of joining NASA to consider life membership instead of annual membership. Membership form may be printed from our website www.Sankethi.org.

Minutes from the Minutes from the 2022 GBM are published in this Chiguru.

Submitted by:
Ganesh Rao
Secretary

3. Notification of NASA Elections

The delayed NASA elections will be held on Sunday, July 2, 2023 at Holiday Inn Hotel, Hazlet, NJ. We will be electing a President and 8 Directors to the Board of Directors for the 2023-2025 term. Elections will be held at the conclusion of the GBM which will be held from 3 to 5 PM.

The Board will appoint an Election officer in the near future and inform members via email.

Members in good standing can nominate one person for president and maximum of 8 for the Board of Directors. We suggest that you take the consent of the nominee before nominating him or her. Self-nomination is permitted as long as you have someone to second your nomination. If you would like to serve in one of these capacities or wish to nominate a member (with their consent), please contact me or any of the present BoD members.

We encourage all youngsters to come forward and serve the community as the future of NASA is in your hands

Thank you

Prema Keshav Kumar

NASA 2023 Conference Registration Form (p. 1 of 2)

Saturday, July 1, 2023 – Tuesday, July 4, 2023

Full Name: _____

Home Address: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Expected Arrival Date: _____ Time: _____

Expected Departure Date: _____ Time: _____

Signature*: _____

* By registering for this event, you agree that NASA will not be held liable for injuries or damages, if any, incurred in connection with the July Annual Function.

We are pleased to offer different pricing options to suit differing needs. Please indicate the number of participants under each category and send the appropriate amount accordingly.

	Adults (18+)	Qty	Children (5 to 18)	Qty	Children (0 to 4)	Qty	Total \$
All Days Including Accommodation	\$280		\$120		Free		
All Days Without Accommodation	\$180		\$90		Free		
Day Tripper – July 1 / No accommodation	\$75		\$40		Free		
Day Tripper – July 2 / No accommodation	\$75		\$40		Free		
Day Tripper – July 3 / No accommodation	\$75		\$40		Free		
Dietary Restrictions /Allergies							

Please pay either digitally through Zelle or by mailing a check payable to NASA Inc.

Zelle payment can be made to NASATREASURER@GMAIL.COM. Please indicate your full name, number of adults and children attending from the family and type of registration (Full with accommodation or Day Tripper). Please also scan and send your signed registration form by email to NASATREASURER@GMAIL.COM if possible.

Those who prefer to pay by check should mail the check along with the registration form to the following address:

NASA, Inc.
25010 Mineral Springs Cir
Aldie VA 20105

Registration forms should be received on or before **June 5, 2023** to ensure that we get rooms at the hotel.

- Please contact Prema Kumar (860) 648-9798 / keshavprema@gmail.com or Raghunath Kanagal (703) 483-9212 / NASATreasurer@gmail.com if you need any travel assistance or a registration fee waiver

NASA 2023 Conference Registration Form (p. 2 of 2)

Saturday, July 1 – Tuesday, July 4

Please indicate your interest in participating in the following activities:

■ Talent Showcase (Adults and Children)

Please indicate name of participant, age (for children; otherwise say "Adult"), and talent(s) to be shared. Due to time constraints, we ask that each person perform only once. Thank you.

Name: _____ Age: _____ Talent/Performance: _____

Name: _____ Age: _____ Talent/Performance: _____

Name: _____ Age: _____ Talent/Performance: _____

■ Special Programs or Presentations

Do you have something special you would like to share? Please indicate names of participants and provide a brief description of the program, presentation, etc. and the estimated time needed

For questions regarding participation in any of these events, please contact:

Prema Keshava Kumar at (860) 648-9798 / keshavprema@gmail.com

High School Graduation Award (HGA) and College Graduation Award (CGA) Candidates (all graduates from 2020-2023):

Name: _____ Indicate HGA or CGA: _____ Attending Event (Y/N): _____

Person who will speak about the Candidate: _____

Name: _____ Indicate HGA or CGA: _____ Attending Event (Y/N): _____

Person who will speak about the Candidate: _____

Name: _____ Indicate HGA or CGA: _____ Attending Event (Y/N): _____

Person who will speak about the Candidate: _____

NASA 2023 Sponsorship Form

We request your generous support for the NASA 2023 annual event. If you would like to sponsor any of the activities occurring at the NASA 2023 conference, please complete this form, make checks payable to NASA, Inc., and mail both to Raghunath Kanagal, 25010 Mineral Springs Cir, Aldie VA 20105. Please call at (703) 483-9212 or email NASATreasurer@gmail.com with any questions.

Name: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ **Telephone:** _____

Amount of Donation*: _____

*Your kind donation/sponsorship may be used to cover the costs of the following items/services. If you would like your donation to be used for a particular purpose listed here, please check the box next to the relevant items/services below. (Please note that it is not required to cover the full cost of any of the items, partial sponsorship is also welcome)

- ☐ Snacks/Coffee/Tea/Cold Drinks/Fruits (\$250)
- ☐ Late Night Snacks (\$250)
- ☐ Breakfast (\$250 each day)
- ☐ Lunch or Dinner (\$1000 each meal)
- ☐ Children's Materials / Equipment (i.e., balloons, art supplies, games, sports equipment) (\$300)
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

4. Performing Artistes' Information

Vidwan D. Balakrishna



Vidwan Sri. D. Balakrishna is the son and disciple of Padma Bhushan Awardee Sangeetha Kalanidhi Dr. Mysore V. Doreswamy Iyengar) who was a Veena artiste par excellence of the glorious Mysore School of Veena playing, synonymous with the great Veena Sheshanna.

He underwent rigorous training under the tutelage of his father from childhood. He has given innumerable duet performances with his father as well as critically acclaimed solo performances in India and abroad. The highlights of his artistry include his natural flair for purity of notes, rendering of ragas opulent with mellifluousness and bhava, and expertise in rhythm and

smoothness of style. He enjoys the distinction of performing as a Top Grade artist of All India Radio and brought laurels to Karnataka by performing for numerous national programs on AIR and Doordarshan. Apart from solo concerts he has played numerous jugalbandhis (duets) with eminent artistes including Sangeeta Kalanidhi M Chandrasekaran, Ustad Bahauddin Dagar, Pandit Rajeev Taranath and Pandit Debiprasad Ghosh.

Balakrishna aims at preserving and sustaining the authentic classicism of the Mysore veena tradition (a k a Mysore Baani) for the posterity. As a part of this endeavor, he is grooming disciples of whom several are currently well known AIR artistes and concert performers.

Sri D. Balakrishna has taken the flavor of Carnatic Classical Music to foreign shores. As part of his father's Pancha Veena Troupe he traveled to Russia in 1987. The year 1988 saw him winning a wide audience in Britain while accompanying his father. He participated successfully in the Pancha Veena Programme under his father's guidance at the Festival of India held in Germany in 1991. His 2002 tour of the USA was an impressive musical voyage showcasing the unique elegance of the Mysore Veena Tradition. He represented the Govt. of Karnataka in the Vishwa Kannada Sammelana held in 2006 in Washington DC. He performed at the Cleveland Thyagaraja Festival in 2010 with Sangeetha Kalanidhi T N Seshagopalan.

Sri Balakrishna is the worthy recipient of many prestigious awards and honors including:

- "Best Veena Player" from Madras Music Academy in 1979, 1991, 1996, 2006 and 2008.
- Conferred the title Ganakalshri by the Karantaka Gana Kala Parishat in 1997.
- Appointed as Asthana Vidvan of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham in 2009
- Conferred the title "VAINIKA BRAHMA" by Naada Brahma Sangeetha Sabha, Mysore in 2013
- Conferred the title "KARNATAKA KALASHREE" by the Karnataka Sangeetha Nrithya Academy in 2014 for his contribution to preserving and propagating the excellent Mysore style of Veena technique
- Conferred the title of "Sangeetha Kala Rathna" by Bangalore Gayana Samaja in 2022

Aditi Shesh



Aditi, daughter of late Sri. B.L Adishesha and Smt. Suma Shesh, was born in Bangalore. She began her journey in the art of *Bharatanatyam* from the age of six, under the tutelage of her illustrious Gurus, *Karnataka Kalasri Dr. Shridhar and Smt. Anuradha Shridhar.*

She completed her schooling from Sri Kumaran Children's Home and finished her B.Com at St. Joseph's College of Commerce. Along with her bachelor's degree, she simultaneously pursued ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) - an international certification, and is now an affiliate.

From a young age Aditi has had a deep passion for the divine art form of dance and has actively participated in many group productions of Khechara Academy.

With the blessing of her gurus, Aditi performed her *Arangetram* on Dec 17th 2022, and with the experience gained from this first step, she went on to perform at the *Ramotsava 2023 at Basavapatna, Karnataka. Aditi looks forward to embracing Bharatanatyam as a significant part of her life and learning from the experiences it offers.

5. Minutes of the NASA General Body Meeting 2022

July 3, 2022

Agenda

1. Roll call
2. Reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting
3. Reports of committees
4. Reports of officers
5. Old and unfinished business
6. New business
7. Good and Welfare
8. Adjournments

Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 10:15am.

Roll Call was held and quorum established with 25 members.

Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and accepted

No committees are formed, so no committees reported.

Officers' Reports

Moved next to President's report by Prema Keshav.

Next, Ganesh Rao presented the Secretary's report.

Next, Raghunath Kanagal presented the Treasurer's report.

There were questions on the membership and how membership payments would be tracked. Plan is to record membership payment dates in the membership list.

We have filed an annual return through 2020. 2021 return extension was filed. State return does not have to be filed every year, we have received such guidance from the state. This has been audited by Mr. Sundaresan.

Q: what is the income we are receiving? Why don't we invest in T-bills?

Because it requires a minimum time invested. We may not need all the funds for working capital so we can invest some in T-bills. Current return is about \$45. Balakrishna says Temple is using investment fund to manage investments in a conservative way. Suggestion is to do the same here. Also, if income is less than \$25,000 we don't need to file. Raghunath to check. Nataraj: suggests filing for protection in any case. Filing errs on the safer side. Several others also suggest filing to avoid penalties.

Ranjini: suggests putting in partial payments for Life Members as a note in the treasurer's report. It should be noted that \$100 was received previously for life membership.

Reports will be included in Chiguru next time it is published.

Old business

Only business is membership list cleanup which will continue.

By-law cleanup is on hold for now.

New business

Discussion of dropping 501(c)(3) status to make management easier and focus on social gatherings.

Balakrishna: opposed this measure. Not sure what the future holds and it may be necessary. Also difficult to get it back in the future if we drop it. We should earmark some amount every year to match members' donations for charitable work.

Y.N. Jayaram agrees. Wants to maintain charitable focus. There is some work but there isn't much extra work and it's worth keeping the 501(c)(3). Balakrishna has done a lot of work to obtain this status and it should not be relinquished at this time.

Raghunath agrees.

Ashok Rudrapatna says that the assets must be liquidated as part of the change in status.

M.S.Nataraj: We spent a lot of effort coming up with a process to do charitable work. We should do more work now since we have the money and the facility to do charitable work. We are talking about having an organization at all or no organization.

Dathatri: money is sitting doing nothing. The Board should take the lead in distributing the money for charitable causes. I am Ok with either choice but the activities will change over the next few years. We may not need the tax exempt status if we are just organizing meetings. We would need to distribute funds to make the change.

Suresh Keshavamurthy: They have KSS in India and a Europe sangha. If we don't have an organization then we don't have meetings and purpose. It takes away from our identity. We should plan how to grow instead of cutting it down.

Uma Satyaprakash: Euro Sankethi is only social, not a charitable organization. Perhaps have a survey.

Sudarshan: perhaps need a clear set of arguments to share with members first.

Discussion that there are pros and cons and nothing can be decided now, will require recommendations and a GBM vote.

Ranjini: Consider donating to Santhosh's organization to help his organization with Ukraine charity work. This can be done with a board vote.

Santosh: We should act for all, not just Sankethis.

Ashok Rudrapatna: focus our limited resources on helping our own people first. People can contribute privately if they decide.

Discussion of donation philosophies continues. There is concern about setting a precedent, helping our people first, helping beyond our means, priorities, etc.

Closing new business.

Good and welfare

Shared community news.

Moment of silence for those who have passed away.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:03 pm

6. NASA's Founding President Dr. Y.N. Jayaram Passes Away

It is hard to believe that it has been over two months since the passing of NASA's founding president and everyone's beloved friend and uncle, Dr. Jayaram. He was a prominent member of several communities including NASA, the Army and the local communities in Long Island and Florida. He was the heart and soul of every NASA activity over the past four decades. The void he has left is impossible to fill but we are sure he will continue to guide us from his new abode.

Dr. Yelleshpur Narasinga Rao Jayaram passed away on March 8, 2023, at the age of 78. Dr. Jayaram was born in Mandya, Karnataka (India), did his schooling in Bengaluru, and graduated from Mysore Medical College. He emigrated to the United States in 1967 to do his residency at St. Luke's Hospital in New York City.

Dr. Jayaram subsequently worked for the Suffolk County Health Department on Long Island, NY for many years. He joined the U.S. Army Reserves (Medical Corps) in 1979 and retired as Colonel after serving for more than 30 years. He served in various military missions both in the U.S. and abroad, with international assignments in Germany, Honduras, El Salvador, and several Pacific Islands.

Dr. Jayaram was instrumental in organizing the North American Sankethi Association and served as its first president.

He is survived by his wife, Radha; his son and daughter-in-law, Jayanth & Lakshmi, and their three children: Jennani, Naveen, and Saathvik; his son, Mark; and the rest of his extended family.

The Celebration of Dr. Jayaram's Life (Vaikuṇṭha Samārādhana) was held on March 20, 2023 at The Hindu Temple of Florida in Tampa and was attended by many relatives and friends. A recording of the event is available at <https://bit.ly/DrYNJayaram>. A Memory Board where people have posted messages and pictures remembering Dr. Jayaram is available at <https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/fac1iLC6/dr-yn-jayaram>. The board is still (and will always be) available if you wish to share your memories of Dr. Jayaram in the form of messages, photos, videos, artwork or music. Other photos of Dr. Jayaram with friends and family can be viewed at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/K3do9LT0CMhXMryb6>. Please feel free to upload any pictures that you may have that you wish to share with the community.

7. Community News

Here are some (older) community news items that we would like to share.

Jennani Jayaram graduated from the University of Michigan Honors Program with a double-major in Mathematics and Statistics. During college she was a member of the Delta Gamma sorority and served as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer. Jennani was also the Vice-President of the Reach Consulting Group and led several information technology projects with local businesses and non-profit organizations. Jennani was a violinist in the Michigan Pops Orchestra and a math, chemistry, and computer science tutor as well. During all four years at UMich, Jennani was a research assistant at a hydrology lab and developed mathematical models for predicting water levels of lakes around the world as part of broader research related to climate change and water security. Jennani's models have been adopted by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and the Government of Malawi, Africa, and she presented her research at the American Geophysical Union, too. Now Jennani is continuing her mathematical career and focus on the environment at Karbone in Manhattan, a company that specializes in the renewable and sustainable energy sector, and Jennani will be working in the research division for renewable energy credit markets worldwide.



Naveen Jayaram: What a year he has had in soccer! In addition to playing club soccer, Naveen also played on the state and region Olympic Development Program teams, and is the captain of his school team. Naveen also started a very popular Futsal club, too. Naveen's school soccer team's motto this year was "Make History" and they did -- they won Districts, played in the Regional Final, and were invited to the Florida Champions League for the first time in school history. The team also won the Highest GPA District Award for all winter sports. "Make History" was also a great motto for Naveen's club team. They were undefeated this season, had the best defensive record in the league, won the Florida Conference for the first time in club history for any age group, and advanced to the National Championships in San Diego, too.



Jathin Rao graduated from Needham High School and earned the Don Brock Award for Excellence in Mathematics. He will attend college at McGill University in Montreal, Canada in the Fall.



8. 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.

We raised \$6300 in our last drive in 2021, let's see if we can beat that this year!

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 to make arrangements for electronic transfer. Please indicate the cause you would like to make your donation for e.g., Student Scholarship or Senior Citizen Support. 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, 2023. We will then make the disbursements to qualified organizations.

9. Kannada Koota Keynote Address by Dr. M.S Nataraja

It is our pleasure to share with you the Keynote Address that Dr. M.S. Nataraja gave at the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Mandaara Kannada Koota in Massachusetts. In a unique presentation that he calls ShabdamaAlike or Garland of Words, Dr. Nataraja portrays the five decades of life of Kannadigas in these United States. In his inimitable style of what could be called narrative poetry, Dr. Nataraja, evokes memories of experiences of Kannada-speaking immigrants in the American milieu over the decades. As always, Dr. Nataraja demonstrates his uncanny ability to bring out the quintessence of his topic with a big dollop of humor. We are sure you will enjoy reading this and can relate to it.

Please note that the views expressed here are those of the author and do not represent the views of NASA.

ಮಂದಾರ ಸ್ವರ್ಣ ಮಹೋತ್ಸವ--ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅತಿಥಿ ಭಾಷಣ (ಮೈ.ಶ್ರೀ.ನಟರಾಜ)

ಶಬ್ದಮಾಲಿಕೆ

ಮಂದಾರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಕೂಟದ ಸುವರ್ಣ ಮಹೋತ್ಸವದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಬಂದಿರುವ ಅತಿಥಿಗಳೇ, ಮಹಿಳೆಯರೇ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಹನೀಯರೇ, ತಮ್ಮೊಂದಿಗೆ ಈ ಸಂಭ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ನನಗೆ ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಹರ್ಷವಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಈ ಶುಭಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆಯ ಭಾಷಣ ಮಾಡುವ ಬದಲು ಒಂದು ಶಬ್ದಮಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ನನ್ನ ಸಂದೇಶವನ್ನು ತಮಗೆ ಮುಟ್ಟಿಸಲು ಯತ್ನಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ. (ರಾಗಮಾಲಿಕೆ, ತಾಳಮಾಲಿಕೆ ಇದ್ದಂತೆ ಶಬ್ದಮಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಪರಿಕಲ್ಪನೆ ಸಹ. ವರ್ಡ್ಸ್ ಎಂಡ್ ಫ್ರೇಝಸ್ ಸ್ಟ್ರಿಂಗ್ ಟುಗೆದರ್ ಇಂಟು ಎ ಗಾರ್ಲೆಂಡ್ ವಯ ಡಾಟ್ಸ್ ಎಂಡ್ ಡ್ಯಾಶಸ್!)

ಅಮೆರಿಕನ್ನಡಿಗರ ಜೀವನದ ಐದು ದಶಕಗಳ ಇತಿಹಾಸವನ್ನು (ಅಂದರೆ, 1960-65ರ ನಂತರದಿಂದ 2020ರ ಆದಿದಿಯವರೆಗಿನ ಇತಿಹಾಸವನ್ನು) ಕೆಲವೇ ಶಬ್ದಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸೆರೆಹಿಡಿಯುವ ಯತ್ನ ಇದು. ಇಲ್ಲಿ ನಮ್ಮ ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕ ಜೀವನದ ಜೊತೆ-ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಕನ್ನಡ ಕೂಟಗಳ ಬೆಳವಣಿಗೆ, ಮತ್ತು ಅಮೆರಿಕದ ವಿದ್ಯಮಾನಗಳೂ ಸಹ ಹಾಸುಹೊಕ್ಕು ಜಡೆಗಟ್ಟಿವೆ. ದಯವಿಟ್ಟು ಕಿವಿಗೊಟ್ಟು ಆಲಿಸಿ, ನಿಮ್ಮ ಅನುಭವಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ತಾಳೆ ಹಾಕಿಕೊಳ್ಳಿ. ನಮ್ಮೆಲ್ಲರ 'ಟೈಂ ಲೈನ್' ಬೇರೆ ಬೇರೆಯಾದರೂ ನಮ್ಮ ಅನುಭವಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಮ್ಯತೆ ಇರಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಮೊದಲ ದಶಕ

ಬಲಿತ ರಕ್ಕ- ಗೂಡು ಬಿಟ್ಟು ಹಾರುವ ತವಕ- ಸಾಧನೆಯ ಹಸಿವು- ಗುಜರಾಯಿಸು ಅರ್ಜಿ- ಅರ್ಜಿಸು ಸೀಟು- ಪಡೆದುಕೋ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ವೇತನ- ಪ್ಯಾಸ್ಪೋರ್ಟ್- ವೀಸಾ- ಜಿಗಿತದ ರೋಮಾಂಚನ- ನಭೋಮಂಡಲ- ಮೇಘರಾಶಿ- ಭೂಸ್ಪರ್ಶದ ಚಡಪಡಿಕೆ- ಅಪರಿಚಿತ ದೇಶ-ಮುಂದೇನೋ?- ಬಲ್ಲವರಾರು??- ಅದೊಂದು ಕಗ್ಗಂಟು- ಅರ್ಥವಾಗದ ಆಕ್ಸೆಂಟು- ಇದೆಲ್ಲಿ ಬಂದು ಬಿದ್ದುಬಿಟ್ಟೆ?- ತಪ್ಪು ಮಾಡಿನೇ?- ಏನೋ ಅಳುಕು- ತಾಳ್ಮೆಬೇಕು- ಈಸಬೇಕು- ಇದ್ದು ಜೈಸಬೇಕು- ಆದರೆ- ಮೂಗಿಗೆ ಪರಿಚಿತವಾಸನೆಗಳಿಲ್ಲ- ನಾಲಿಗೆಗೆ ಒಗ್ಗಿದ ರುಚಿಯಿಲ್ಲ- ಕಿವಿಗೆ ಅಭ್ಯಾಸವಾಗಿದ್ದ ಸದ್ದುಗಳಿಲ್ಲ- ಒಂಟಿತನ- ಹುಚ್ಚುಹಿಡಿವುದೊಂದೇ ಬಾಕಿ- ಹಸಿವು- ಎಂಟಿಆರ್ ಇಲ್ಲ- ಬರೀ-ಎಂಟಿ!- ತೌರ ನೆನಪು- 'ನಿನ್ನ ಊಟವ ನೀನೇ ಬೇಯಿಸಬೇಕು- ಇಲ್ಲದಿರೆ ಉಪವಾಸವಿರಬೇಕು'- ಬೇಳೆಯಿಲ್ಲದ ಸಾರು- ಸಾಸಿವೆ-ಜೀರಿಗೆ-ಇಂಗು-ಒಗ್ಗರಣೆಯ- ಘಮವಿಲ್ಲ- ಅಯ್ಯೋ- ಬಯಕೆ- ಕರಿಬೇವು ಕೊತ್ತುಂಬರಿ ಸೊಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ಸಮವಿಲ್ಲ- ಹುಡುಕಾಟ-ರುಚಿಯಿಲ್ಲದೂಟ- ರುಬ್ಬಿದ-ಬಟಾಣಿಗೆ- (ಸ್ಪ್ಲಿಟ್-ಪೀ-ಪುರ್ರಿ)- ತೌರಿನಿಂದ ತಂದ ಮೆಣಸಿನಪುಡಿ-ಪುಟಗಟ್ಟಲೆ-ಪತ್ರಗಳು-ಇತ್ತಲಿಂದ- ಅತ್ತಲಿನ ಅಂಚೆಗಾಗಿ ಕಾಯುವ ಚಾತಕಪಕ್ಷಿ- ಊರ-ಮಂದಿಯ ನೆನದು- ಕಣ್ಣು ತೇವ- ಹೇಗೋ--ಸಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಕಾಲ- ಎಲ್ಲಕೂ ಮುಲಾಮು ಹಚ್ಚುವ ಜಾಲ! ಓಹೋ ಚಿಂತೆಯಿಲ್ಲ- ಎಲ್ಲೋ ಕೇಳುತಿದೆ ಕನ್ನಡ- ಸವಿಗನ್ನಡ- ಕನ್ನಡವೆನೆ ಕುಣಿದಾಡುವುದೆನ್ನದೆ- ಕನ್ನಡವೆನೆ ಕಿವಿ ನಿಮಿರುವುದು! ಯಾರೋ ಬಿತ್ತಿದರು- ಕನ್ನಡದ-ಬೀಜ-ಅಲ್ಲಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಗುರುತಿದೆ- ಕನ್ನಡದ ತೇಜ!

ಅತ್ತ- ಅಮೆರಿಕದ ಪ್ರಜೆಯೊಬ್ಬ ಚಂದಿರನ ಮೇಲೆ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆಯಿಟ್ಟ- ಆಹಾ ಎಂಥ ದೇಶ!

ಇತ್ತ- ವಿಯೆಟ್ನಾಮ್ ಯುದ್ಧ- ಲಕ್ಷ-ಲಕ್ಷ ಹೆಣಗಳು- ಕೋಟಿ-ಕೋಟಿ ಸ್ಪೋಟಗಳು- ದೇಶದುದ್ದಕ್ಕೂ- ಬಾಂಬ್ ಕೊರೆದ ಗುಂಡಿಗಳು- ಹೆಣಗಳಿಗೆ ತೋಡಬೇಕಿಲ್ಲ ಗೋರಿ.

ಈ ಮಧ್ಯೆ ಟೀವಿಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಸದಾ 'ನೀರ್ ಬಾಗಿಲ' ವಟವಟ (ವಾಟರ್ ಗೇಟ್).

ಯಾರು ವಟಗುಟ್ಟಿದರೇನು? ಯಾರು ಸತ್ತರೆ ಏನು?- ಓದಲೇ ಬೇಕು ನಾನು- ಓದು-ಬರಹ-ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳ ಮೇಲೆ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳು- ಸಂಶೋಧನೆ- ಮಹಾಪ್ರಬಂಧ- ಪದವಿ- ಹೆಸರ ಹಿಂದೆ-ಅಂಟಿದ ಡಾಕ್ಟರ್ ಬಿರುದು- ಸಾರ್ಥಕ- ಮುಂದೆ??- ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ದ್ವಂದ್ವ- ಇರಬೇಕೇ ಇಲ್ಲೇ- ಹೋಗಬೇಕೆ-ಅಲ್ಲೇ?- ಹುಡುಕಬೇಕು ವೃತ್ತಿ- ಗಳಿಸಬೇಕು ಬುತ್ತಿ- ಎಲ್ಲಿದ್ದಾಳು ಜೊತೆಗಾರ್ತಿ?- ಸುತ್ತ ಶ್ವೇತ-ಸುಂದರಿಯರು- ಕೋಮಲ-ಶಾಮಲಾಂಗಿಯರು- ಛೇ-ಛೇ ಮಾಡಿ ಬಡಿಸುವರೇ ತಿಳೀ ಸಾರು?-ಹಾಗಿದ್ದರೆ- ಭಾರತಕೆ ಹಾರು- ಹಾರುವಗೆ- ಬೇಕೇಬೇಕು- ಸಾರು-ಸಾಂಬಾರು- ಸ್ವದೇಶೀ-ಸುಂದರಿಯರ ನಾಡಿಗೆ ಹಾಕು ಲಗ್ಗೆ- ವಿಚಾರಿಸು ಕನ್ಯೆಯರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ- ನಡೆಸು ಕನ್ಯಾಶೋಧ- ಆಗು ದಿಢಿರ್-ಮದುವೆ- ಕರೆಸಿಕೋ ಬಾಳ ಸಂಗಾತಿ- ಅವಳಿಗೆ ಒಂಟಿ- ನಾನೂ ಒಂಟಿ- ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ತೌರ ನೆನೆಯುವ- ನೆನದು ಮರುಗುವ- ವಿರಹ ನೂರು-ನೂರು-ತರಹ- ಅಕೋ- ಬಂದಳು-ಒಬ್ಬಳಿಗೇ ಮನೆಯಲಿ ಬೋರು- ಕನ್ನಡ ಕೂಟಕ ಸೇರು- ಅಲ್ಲಲ್ಲಿ- ಪುಟ್ಟ-ಪುಟ್ಟ ಸಂಸಾರಗಳು-ಹುಟ್ಟುಹಬ್ಬಗಳು- ಪಾರ್ಟಿಗಳೋ- ಪಾರ್ಟಿಗಳು- ಪಾಟ್ಲಕ್ಕುಗಳೋ-ಪಾಟ್ಲಕ್ಕುಗಳು- ಕನ್ನಡ-ಮಾತುಗಳು- ಕನ್ನಡ ಗೀತೆಗಳು- ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಿನಿಮಾಗಳೂ ಅಪರೂಪಕೊಮ್ಮೆಮ್ಮ. ಯುಗಾದಿ-ಗೌರಿ-ಗಣೇಶ-ನವರಾತ್ರಿ-ದೀವಳಿಗೆ- ಮಕ್ಕಳ-ಕಿಲಿ-ಕಿಲಿ-ಕನ್ನಡ-ಕಲಿ-ಕಲಿ- ಎಲ್ಲಕೂ- ಇರುವುದು- ಕನ್ನಡಿಗರ- ಕೂಟ.

ಎರಡನೇ ದಶಕ

ಮಿತು ವಸಂತದಿ ಬಂತು ಬೇವು-ಬೆಲ್ಲ- ಭಾದ್ರಪದ ಚೌತಿಯಲಿ ಗಣಪ ಡೊಳ್ಳ ನವರಾತ್ರಿ- ದೀವಳಿಗೆ- ಹರಿದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ- ಮಂದಾರ- ಮಲ್ಲಿಗೆಯ ಸುಗಂಧಗಳ ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಎಲ್ಲೆಲ್ಲು ಕನ್ನಡದ ಕಂಪ ನೋಡ- ಇದೇ ಚಂದದ ನಾಡು- ತಾಯ್ಯಾಡು ಬೇಡ ಇನ್ನೆಲ್ಲಿ ವಿರಹ- ಕೈತುಂಬ ವರಹ- ಯಾರು ಹಿಂದಿರುಗುವರು? ಅಯ್ಯೋ ಮೂಢ!

ಕಾರುಗಳು- ಕಾರುಬಾರುಗಳು- ಬಂಗಲೆಗಳು- ಕಂಪನಿಯಿಂದ- ಕಂಪನಿಗೆ-ನೆಗೆತ-ಪ್ರಮೋಷನ್ನುಗಳು- ಇನ್ನಿಮೆಂಟುಗಳು- ಲೇಆಫುಗಳು- ಕೆಲಸ ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡಾಗ ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ತೌರಿನ ಪ್ರೀತಿ- ಇದೇ ನಮ್ಮನೀತಿ- ಇದೇ-ನಮ್ಮ ರೀತಿ- ದೇವರಿಗೇ ಪ್ರೀತಿ

ಅಯ್ಯೋ! ಮನೋವಿಕಾರದ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ- ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷನೆದೆಗೆ ಗುರಿ ಇಟ್ಟ- ಸತ್ತು ಬದುಕಿದ ರೇಗನ್- ಆದರೂ ಬಂದೂಕಿನ ಪ್ರೀತಿ- ದೇವರೇ ಗತಿ

ಮೂರನೇ ದಶಕ

ಮಕ್ಕಳು-ಮರಿಗಳು- ಲಕ್ಷಕೂ ಮೀರಿ ಹರಡಿರುವರು ಕನ್ನಡಿಗರು- ದೇಶದ- ಉದ್ದಗಲಕೂ- ಹೊರಗೆಲ್ಲ- ಅಮೆರಿಕದ ಜೀವನ ಭಾಗ- ಒಳಗೆಲ್ಲ ಅದೇ ಕನ್ನಡದ ತಿರುಳಿನ-ಯೋಗ-ಸ್ಥಿಪೋವರುಗಳು- ಊಟ-ಪ್ರತ್ಯೂಟ- ಒಮ್ಮೊಮ್ಮೆ ಬಹುಕಾಟ- ಹೈಸ್ಕೂಲು ಬಹುಮುಖ್ಯ-ಆದರೂ ಮರೆಯಲಾಗದು- ಸಂಗೀತ-ನೃತ್ಯ! ಕಚೇರಿಗಳು- ರಂಗಪ್ರವೇಶಗಳು- ಕಲಿತವರೆಷ್ಟೋ? ಮರೆತವರೆಷ್ಟೋ? ಎಸ್‌ಐಟಿ ಸ್ಕೋರುಗಳು- ಏಪಿ ಟೆಸ್ಟುಗಳು- ಕಾಲೇಜು ಹುಡುಕಾಟ- ಒಂದು ಸೀಟಿಗೆ ನೂರು ಕಡೆ- ಅರ್ಜಿ- ಹಸಿರು ಬಳ್ಳಿಯ ಕಲ್ಲು-ಗೋಡೆ (ಐವಿ-ಲೀಗು) ಕೆಲರಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ-ಪ್ರಾಂತೀಯವಾದರೇನು ಕಮ್ಮಿ?- ಹಣವೂ- ಉಳಿಯುವುದು- ಕೆಲವರ- ಹುಳಿದ್ರಾಕ್ಷಿ-ಸಮಾಧಾನ-ಗ್ರಾಜುಯೇಷನ್ ಪಾರ್ಟಿಗಳು- ಜುಟ್ಟುಗಳು- ಮುಂಜಿಗಳು- ಈಮಧ್ಯೆ- ಕನ್ನಡಿಗರ- ಮಿಳನ-ಸಮ್ಮಿಳನ- ಪ್ರಾಂತೀಯ-ಸಮ್ಮೇಳನ- ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ-ಜಾತ್ರೆಗಳು- ನಾಟಕಗಳು- ಸಿನಿಮಾಗಳು-ಗೋಷ್ಠಿಗಳು- ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಕಲಾವಿದರ ಆಗಮನ- ರಾಜಕಾರಣಿಗಳ ಆಕ್ರಮಣ- ಕೂಟಗಳ ಆಕ್ರಂದನ- ಕದ್ದು-ಮುಚ್ಚಿ ಡೇಟಿಂಗು-ಮೀಟಿಂಗು- ಆಮೇಲೆ ರಾಜಾರೋಷ- ಆದರೂ ಬಿಡುವು ನಾವ್ ವರಾನ್ವೇಶಣೆ- ಕನ್ಯಾನ್ವೇಶಣೆ- ಬರೀ ಕಂಠಶೋಷಣೆ-

ಸದ್ವಾಮನಿದ್ದಾನೆ-ಎಚ್ಚರಿಕೆ! ಅಗೋ ಬಂತು- ಕೊಲ್ಲಿ-ಯುದ್ಧ- ಕಳ್ಳನಿಗೊಂದು ಪಿಳ್ಳೆ ನೆವ! ಅಮೆರಿಕದ- ಬಾಂಬುಗಳಿಗೆ- ಫೀಲ್ಡ್- ಟೆಸ್ಟಿಂಗ್- ಅಷ್ಟೆ! ಸತ್ತವರ್ಯಾರೂ ಮನುಷ್ಯರೇ- ಅಲ್ಲ.

ಎರಡೂ-ಶೂನ್ಯ-ಶೂನ್ಯ-ಶೂನ್ಯ- ವೈ-ಟೂ-ಕೇ- ದೇಶವೇ ಸ್ಥಗಿತ- ನೀರು-ವಿದ್ಯುತ್-ಅನಿಲ-ಎಲ್ಲ-ಕಟ್- ಹುಚ್ಚುಮುಂಡೇ- ಮದ್ದೇಲಿ ಉಂಡೋನೆ ಜಾಣ- ಏನೂ ಕಟ್ಟೀಆಗಲಿಲ್ಲ- ಬರೀ ಲೊಳ-ಲೊಟ್ಟೀ!

ಬಂತು- ಎರಡು-ಸಾವಿರದ-ಒಂದು-ಸೆಪ್ಟೆಂಬರ್-ಹನ್ನೊಂದು-ಸಿರಿಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಸೌಧಗಳ ಜೋಡಿ-ಅಗಿಹೋಯಿತು- ಪುಡಿ-ಪುಡಿ.

ತಂದೆ-ಬಡಿದಿದ್ದು- ಸಾಲದು- ಮಗರಾಯನೂ ಬಂದ-'ಮಾರಣ-ಹೋಮದ-ಮಾರಕಾಸ್ತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು-ಅಡಗಿಸಿಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾನೆ- ಸದ್ವಾಮ' ಎಂದ- ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು-ಪಟಾಕಿ-ದೀವಳಿಗೆ ಹಬ್ಬ- ಮಾರಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತಷ್ಟು ಔತಣ.

ನಾಲ್ಕನೇ ದಶಕ

ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಭವಿಷ್ಯದ ಚಿಂತೆ- ಓದುವರು- ವೃತ್ತಿಮಾಡುವರು- ಮದುವೆ-ಮಾತ್ರ-ಆಗರು- 'ಲೀವ್ ಮಿ ಅಲೋನ್' ಎನ್ನುವರು- ಕೆಲವರು 'ಯಾರಿವನು ರ್ಯಾಂಡಮ್ ಹುಡುಗ?'- ಎಂದು-ಕೇಳುವರು-ಅಪರೂಪಕ್ಕೆ-ಕೆಲರು-ತಾವೇ ಹೇಗೋ ಜೊತೆ-ಗೂಡುವರು- ಆಹಾ! ಮದುವೆಗಳು- ಅಂತರ್ಜಾತಿ-ಅಂತರ್ಭಾಷೆ- ಅಂತರ್ಧರ್ಮ- ಅಂತಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ- ಎಂತೆಂಥ ಜೋಡಿಗಳು- ಬಣ್ಣಗಳ ಮಿಶ್ರಣ-ಬಣಗಳ ಮಿಶ್ರಣ- ಭಾಷೆಗಳ ಮಿಶ್ರಣ- ಓಲಗ-ಡೋಲುಗಳು- ಲಾಡು-ಚಿರೋಟಿಗಳು- ಬೆಳಿಗೆ- ಚಾಟುಗಳು-ಭೇಲ್ವುರಿ-ಬೀರು-ವೈನುಗಳು-ಭಾಂಗಡಾ-ನೃತ್ಯಗಳು- ಸಂಜೆ- ಮುಷಿಪಂಚಮಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರೂ ಕುಪ್ಪಳಿಸಿ-ಕುಣಿವ-ಜೋಡಿಗಳು- ನೀರಿನಂತೆ ಹಣದ ಖರ್ಚು- ಮೊದಲು ದೇಗುಲ-ನಂತರ ಚರ್ಚು- ವೆಚ್ಚಗಳ ಹಿಂದೆ ವ್ಯಥೆಗಳು- ಜೊತೆಗೂಡುವ ಬಿಸಿ ಆರುವ ಮೊದಲೇ-ವಿಚ್ಛೇದನದ- ಕಥೆಗಳು- ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ-ಮಕ್ಕಳು- ಈಗ- ನಾವು ಅಜ್ಜ-ಅಜ್ಜಿಯರು- ಏರುತಿದ್ದ ಜೀವನದಲ್ಲಿ-ಪೇರುಗಳು- ಖಾಯಿಲೆಗಳು- ಅಲ್ಲಿಲ್ಲಿ- ಆಗಾಗ್ಗೆ-ಜವರಾಯನ ಆಗಮನ- ನೆಂಟರ್-ಇಷ್ಟರ- ನಿರ್ಗಮನ- ನಂಬದಿರು-ಈ-ದೇಹ-ನಿತ್ಯವಲ್ಲ- ಪರಸ್ಪರ-ಸಾಂತ್ವನ- ಆಪತ್ಕಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ-ವ್ಯಸನದಲ್ಲಿ- ಜೊತೆಗಿದ್ದವನೇ- ನೆಂಟ- ಕನ್ನಡ-ಕೂಟದಲ್ಲಿಮಾತಾಡಿಸದಿದ್ದವರೂ- ಶವಾಗಾರಕ್ಕೆ- ಬಂದು ಸುರಿಸುವರು ಕಣ್ಣೀರು- ನಾವೇ-ವಿಶ್ವಕುಟುಂಬಿಗಳು

ಕೃಷ್ಣವರ್ಣದವನೊಬ್ಬ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷನಾದ- ಮಹದಾಶ್ವರ್ಯ!

ಕರಿಯ ಜೀವಕೂ ಉಂಟು ಬೆಲೆ ಕೇಳಿರೋ- ಬ್ಲಾಕ್ ಲೈವ್ಸ್ ಮ್ಯಾಟರ್! ಕಾಲಂಬೈನ್-ನಲ್ಲಿ-ಧಡಧಡ- ಎಷ್ಟು ಬಾರಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಸತ್ತರೂ- 'ಅವರ್-ಥಾಟ್ಸ್ ಎಂಡ್ ಪ್ರೈಯರ್ಸ್ ಆರ್ ವಿಥ್ ಯು'- ಬಿಟ್ಟರೆ ಏನೂ ಇಲ್ಲ. ಎಲ್ಲಕೂ ಒಂದೇ ಸಿಂಪತಿ ಮಂತ್ರ- ಆರಿಸಿ ಬಂದವರು ಏನೂ ಮಾಡುವುದಿಲ್ಲ- 'ಬಂದೂಕುಕೊಲ್ಲುವುದಿಲ್ಲ-ಗುಂಡು ಕೊಲ್ಲುವುದಿಲ್ಲ- ಹೊಡೆಯುವವ ತಲೆತಿರುಕ- ತೋರಿ ಮರುಕ"- ಒಟ್ಟಿನಲಿ- ಬೇಕು ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯ- ಹುಚ್ಚು ಬೊಗಳಲು ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯ- ಸುಳ್ಳು ಹರಡಲು ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯ- ಏನಾದರೂ ಸರಿ-ಶಸ್ತ್ರ-ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲದೇ ಬದುಕಲಾರರು ಇವರು ಗುಂಡು-ಗಾವಿಲರು!

ಮಹಿಳೆಯೊಬ್ಬಳು ಆದಾಳೇ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಈ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ? ಛೇ- ಅದು ಹೇಗೆ ಸಾಧ್ಯ? ತುರುಫನಿದ್ದಾನೆ ಈ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ.

ಮಾ-ಗ-ಮಾಗ-ಮಾ-ಗ-ಮಾಗ-

ಮೀ-ಟೂ-ಮೀಟೂ-ಮೀ-ಟೂ-ಮೀಟೂ

ಐದನೇ ದಶಕ

ಕಂಡು ಕೇಳಿರಿಯದ ಮಹಾಮಾರಿ- ಕೋವಿಡ್ ಎಂಬ ಕಂಟಕ- ನೆಂಟರಿಷ್ಟರ ಸಾವು- ಎಲ್ಲರೂ-ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೆರೆ- ಕಚೇರಿಗೂ ಕನ್ನಡ-ಕೂಟಗಳಿಗೂ ಝೂಮ್- ಎಂಬ-ಮ್ಯಾಜಿಕ್- ಎಲ್ಲಿದೆ-ವೈರಾಣು? ನೆಲದಲ್ಲೋ? ಜಲದಲ್ಲೋ? ಗಾಳಿಯಲ್ಲೋ- ಆಹಾರದಲ್ಲೋ? ಇತರರ ಸಂಗತಿಯಲ್ಲೋ? ಹೇಗೆ ಕಳೆಯಿತೋ ಮೂರು ವರ್ಷ? ಅಂತೂ ಕಲಿಸಿತು- ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಪಾಠ!

ಅಯ್ಯೋ-ಅಯ್ಯೋ- ಅರಸನೇ ಇಟ್ಟನೇ- ಅರಮನೆಗೆ ಲಗ್ಗೆ?- 'ನಾನು-ಗೆದ್ದರೆ ಗೆದ್ದೆ- ನಾನು-ಸೋತರೂ ಗೆದ್ದೆ'- ಇದೆಂಥಾ ಪ್ರಜಾತಂತ್ರ? ಭಂಡರ-ಕುತಂತ್ರ- ಮೂರನೇ ವಿಶ್ವದಲಿ ನೂರಾರು-ಕೋಟಿ ಮತಗಳ ಎಣಿಕೆಯಲಿ ಇಲ್ಲದ ಗೊಂದಲ- ಮುಂದುವರೆದ ಈ ದೇಶದಲ್ಲೇಕೆ?- ಕಣ್ಣೆದುರಿಗೇ ಕಂಡ ಮುತ್ತಿಗೆಗೆ- ಸಾಕ್ಷಿ ಬೇರೇ ಬೇಕೇ? ನ್ಯಾಯಮೂರ್ತಿಗಳೆಲ್ಲ- ಅನ್ಯಾಯದೆಡೆಗೋಡೆ- ಎಡ-ಬಲದ-ನಡುವಿನಲಿ- ಮುಲುಗಿಹಳು- ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯದೇವಿ- ಭ್ರಮ-ನಿರಸನ- ಭ್ರಮ-ನಿರಸನ- ಭ್ರಮ ನಿರಸನ-

ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳುದಿಸಲಿ-ರಾಜ್ಯಗಳಲಿಸಲಿ-ಹಾರಲಿ-ಗದ್ದುಗೆ-ಮುಕುಟಗಳು-ಮುತ್ತಿಗೆ-ಹಾಕಲಿ- ಸೈನಿಕರೆಲ್ಲ ಸ್ವರ್ಣ ಮಹೋತ್ಸವ ನಿಲ್ಲುವುದಿಲ್ಲ! ರಾಜಧಾನಿಯ ಕಾವೇರಿ- ನ್ಯೂ ಯಾರ್ಕಿನ ಕನ್ನಡ-ಕೂಟ- **ಬಾಸ್ಕನ್ನಿನ-ಮಂದಾರ- ಹೊಡೆಯಿರಿ ಚಪ್ಪಾಳೆ!** ಇನ್ನೂ ಅನೇಕ ಉತ್ಸವಗಳು-ಸಾಲುಸಾಲಾಗಿ. ಇದಲ್ಲವೇ ಅಮೆರಿಕನ್ನಡಿಗರ ಹೆಮ್ಮೆ?

ನಾವಿಲ್ಲಿ ಬಂದಾಗ- ವಯಸು- ಇಪ್ಪತ್ತೈದು- ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಂಘಗಳಿಗಾಗ-ಹುಟ್ಟಿದ ವರುಷ-ಸಂಘಗಳು ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಹಬ್ಬವ ಮುಗಿಸಿ- ಚಿನ್ನದ-ಹಬ್ಬಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾಲಿಡುವಾಗ- ನಮಗೆ- ಎಪ್ಪತ್ತೈದು- ಎಲ್ಲೋ ಹುಟ್ಟಿದ-ನಾವು- ಎಲ್ಲೋ ಓದಲುಬಂದು- ಇಲ್ಲೇ ನೆಲದಲಿ ನಿಂದು- ಅಲ್ಲಿರುವ ನಮ್ಮ ನಾಡು-ನುಡಿ-ಹಾಡು-ಕುಣಿತ-ಹಬ್ಬ-ಹರಿದಿನ-ತಿನಿಸುಗಳು-ಆಚಾರ-ವಿಚಾರ-ಯಾವುದೂ-ಮರೆತು-ಹೋಗದಂತೆ- ಅಲ್ಲಿನ- ನದಿಗಳು- ಅಲ್ಲಿನ-ಹೂಗಳು- ಅಲ್ಲಿನ-ಸಿರಿಗಂಧ- ಎಲ್ಲವನ್ನೂ ಇಲ್ಲೇ ಉಂಟುಮಾಡಿದ- ಆಗುಮಾಡಿದ- ಕನ್ನಡ-ವೃಕ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ- ಸ್ವರ್ಣ-ಮಹೋತ್ಸವ- ಬನ್ನಿ ಮಾಡೋಣ-ಪ್ರದಕ್ಷಿಣೆ- ಯಾರೋ ಬಿತ್ತಿದ ಬೀಜ- ನಟ್ಟ ಸಸಿ- ಬಿಟ್ಟ ಬೇರು- ಅತ್ತಿತ್ತ ಕೈಚಾಚಿದ- ಕೊಂಬೆಗಳು-ಒಮ್ಮೊಮ್ಮೆ ಗಾಳಿ-ಮಳೆಗೆ- ತೂರಾಡಿ- ಮುರಿದು ಬಿದ್ದರೂ- ಬಿಟ್ಟ ಬೇರಿನ ಆಳ- ಹೃದಯಾಂತರಾಳ- ಮನಸಿಗೆ ತುಂಬು ನಿರಾಳ.

ಉಪಸಂಹಾರ

ಮನುಷ್ಯ ಹುಟ್ಟುವಾಗ ತಂದೆ ತಾಯಿಗಳನ್ನಾಗಲೀ ತನ್ನ ಜನ್ಮಸ್ಥಳವನ್ನಾಗಲೀ ಆಯ್ದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾರ. ಆದರೆ ತಾನೇ ಹುಟ್ಟಿಹಾಕುವ ಸಂಘ ಅವನದೇ ಆಯ್ಕೆ. ಅದರ ಸದಸ್ಯತ್ವ ಕೂಡ ಅವನದೇ ಆಯ್ಕೆ. ಪರದೇಶಿಗಳಾದ ನಮಗೆ 'ನಾನು- ನನ್ನದು-ನಮ್ಮವರು-ತಮ್ಮವರು ಎಂಬ ಸಂವೇದನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವ ಕನ್ನಡ ಕೂಟಗಳು, ನಮಗೆ ದೇವರು ಕೊಟ್ಟ ವರ. ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ, ಭಾರತ ಜನನಿಯ ತನುಜಾತೆಯಾದ ಕನ್ನಡ ಭುವನೇಶ್ವರಿಯ ಅಕ್ಕರೆಯ ಆಶೀರ್ವಾದ ನಮಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ನಮ್ಮ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ದೊರಕಿರುವುದು ಮಂದಾರದಂಥ ಕೂಟಗಳ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದಲೇ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ನಾವು ಮರೆಯ ಕೂಡದು. ಪುಷ್ಪಗಂಧ ಗಾಳಿಯಲಿ ಬೆರೆತು ಮತ್ತು ಬರುವಂತಾಗಲಿ.

ಎಪ್ಪತ್ತೈದರ ಸಂಭ್ರಮಕೆ ನಮ್ಮಲ್ಲನೇಕರು ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಶತಮಾನೋತ್ಸವಕ್ಕಂತೂ ಅನೇಕರು ಕಣ್ಮರೆಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತೇವೆ. ಆದರೆ ಶತಮಾನೋತ್ಸವದ ಮಂದಾರ ಹೇಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಅನ್ನುವುದನ್ನು ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವವರು ಇಂದಿನ ಸದಸ್ಯರಾದ ನೀವೇ. ಅಲ್ಲಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಕನ್ನಡದ ಕಂಪು ಉಳಿಯುವಂತೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಶಕ್ತಿ ನಿಮಗಿರಲಿ.

ನನ್ನ ಕನ್ನಡತನವನ್ನು ಜೀವಂತವಾಗಿಟ್ಟಿರುವ, (1929ರಲ್ಲಿ) **ಸಾಲೀ ರಾಮಚಂದ್ರರಾಯರು** ಬರೆದ, ಅದ್ಭುತ ಕವನದೊಂದಿಗೆ ನನ್ನ ಮಾತುಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಗಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ಕನ್ನಡದ ನೆಲದ ಪುಲ್ಲೆನಗೆ ಪಾವನ ತುಲಸಿ;
ಕನ್ನಡದ ನೆಲದ ನೀವೊಲೆನಗೆ ದೇವನದಿ;
ಕನ್ನಡದ ನೆಲದ ಕಲ್ಲೆನಗೆ ಶಾಲಗ್ರಾಮ ಶಿಲೆ; ಕನ್ನಡಂ ದೈವಮೈ;
ಕನ್ನಡದ ಶಬ್ದದಮೆನಗೊಂಕಾರಮೀಯೆನ್ನ
ಕನ್ನಡದ ನುಡಿಯೆ ಗಾಯತ್ರಿಯದ್ಭುತಮಂತ್ರ-
ಮಿನ್ನಾವುದೈ ಪೆರತುಕನ್ನಡದ ಸೇವೆಯಿಂದಧಿಕಮೀಜಗದೊಳಗೆ?

ಸಿರಿಗನ್ನಡ ಬಾಳ್ಗೆ!

ಡಾ. ಮೈ.ಶ್ರೀ. ನಟರಾಜ

10. Poetry by Dr. Jai Rangappa

We are pleased to present to you a couple of poems by Dr. Jaikumar Rangappa.

PARADISE THE PLANET

Let's plan to spread the wilderness
Climate Change we need to address
Plant a billion trees on every lawn
See birds, rabbits, squirrels, fawn.
To live and let live makes more sense
Not be belligerent and carry offense
Is great loss to all with a grievance
Does not help with a comeuppance.

To curb greed, avarice may be funny
For the rich and powerful with money
As they keep poor and helpless puny
Wise live with love, peace & harmony!

For the violent and mean war is exciting
To attack, plunder and loot for hoarding,
Kindness and compassion are nothing
To the arrogant, angry and seething.

The Lord will guide the kind loving one
All the hateful and the angry He will shun.

Jaikumar Rangappa

AGE AND LONGEVITY

Age in years is just the number
Many can reach 100 remember
Mother lived to be century old
Follow I with memories untold.

They say "old age" is a "mind set"
At 81 as a crazy Indian Doc I forget
My age and find many a sport outlet
Encourage youth to be healthy set .

I run, walk, swim, go SCUBA diving, Zipline,
waterski, go snow skiing
And five loving grandkids following
In healthy track all keep showing
Gracefully to the envy of a workaholic
Alone, depressed, smoker, alcoholic
Glutton, 'eat by clock', Foodoholic.

With the Sunrise welcome new day
Think positive in all things you do
Pray for people to be happy and gay
The Lord will guide and bless you.

Share your fortune with one and all
Don't hoard and shop in every mall
Downsize life and play every ball
That comes to challenge your call.

Green planet is for all those Alive
In every corner who work and strive
Not for living dead who won't give
For the needy and the poor to thrive.

Jaikumar Rangappa



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