



SABHA NEWS

Published by Samyukta Gowda Saraswata Sabha, 55, Habibullah Road, T.Nagar, Chennai 600 017.

For circulation only among the members.

Telegrams: "SAMSAR"

Telephone: 2834 3804

E.mail: sgssabhachennai@airtelmail.in

Website: www.sgssabhachennai.com

No.30

July 2007

EDITORS SPEAK:

This July 2007 issue of the Newsletter contains articles from some new contributors. It is always a pleasure to receive articles from new writers, and rejoice at the unlocking of hidden talents.

The varied fare served here show the problems faced by a new comer to Chennai, but another article shows that a problem is no problem at all. And when there is heavenly music vibrating in the world around us, minor hiccups like looking out for servants or learning a new language pale into nothing. There is also an article on Rathinagiri which seems to be a good spot for an outing and a fresh lot of idiomatic Konkani expressions which should be of interest to all.

Wishing you all HAPPY READING.

PROBLEMS – MY OBSERVATIONS

- K.P. Ramesh Rao

Defining the word "problem" is in itself a problem! It will therefore be better to describe the characteristics of problems in general.

I am a retired Public Sector executive. Whenever I stumbled on a problem, my immediate reaction (as you would know Public Sector executives react rather than pro-act) was to find out who caused it and upon whose shoulders it could quickly be downloaded. The downloading activity usually preceded the fact-finding activity. It is, therefore, clear that problems can be passed on to others, preferably to the nearest person.

It is well known that children pass on their problems to elders. The elders are happy to deal with them unless they happen to be mathematical ones. When the frequency of this passing activity increases and becomes unbearable, elders start perceiving the child as a problem child. It is quite possible that about the same time or a little earlier, the child may feel that it has a problem parent. Similarly there are cases of

problem friends, problem relatives, problem colleagues, superiors, subordinates, problem neighbours – the list is endless. Yet it is a rarity to talk of a problem mother-in-law for "mother-in-law" and "problems" are synonymous.

In some organizations, we come across problem of promotions. Sometime back my daughter, working in a private sector company in the IT industry in USA, was promoted as a Project Manager. I immediately advised her to accept the promotion for I felt it required more guts to reject a promotion than to accept one. My daughter fortunately did not heed my advice, whereupon the company made her a more attractive offer with higher pay, perks etc. In passing, she asked me how I used to tackle my official problems. I wanted to tell her honestly that I either passed them down the line or referred them above to my bosses. If the situation became difficult, I simply proceeded on sick leave – thankfully those were the days before call phone and email invaded our privacy and being on leave meant just that! However, I was a little discreet on this occasion and tactfully sidestepped the question! She narrated this joke to me. A CEO of a private sector unit in the USA hired a renowned consultant, complained to him about the company's

difficulty and told him “Identify the problem areas quickly and recommend solutions”. After a study, the consultant went back to him and told him “You are the problem and you are the solution. You better quit before they sack you”.

There are special types of problems, a few of which arise out of the suggested rapid solutions, entirely not anticipated. The army generally believes in rapid solutions. They take pride in saying that “Difficult problems are solved immediately and the impossible ones take a little time”. They never give their soldiers time to think but order them to attack the enemy. One example was the war on Iraq for locating weapons of mass destruction. They could not find any but they concluded that Iraqis had the “know how”.

One of our revered leaders of the past viz. the creator of our permanent “Kashmir problem” was never tired of repeating “Problems are the signs of progress”. We are no doubt progressing because the problem is persisting.

Lastly there are those ‘No problem’ blokes who sail through all situations in life. They keep repeating “No Problem” well before you complete your narration, This is a unique lot and what they probably mean is “No” to your request and ‘problem’ will be yours should you persist with them. Now I come to my own problem. I see a problem where none exists and fail to see one where there are many. I dare not amplify it lest I be christened a problem contributor.

AN OLD AGE HOME FOR THOSE WHO CAN AFFORD TO PAY

- K. Keshav Kini

It is a very welcome thing that the Charitable Trust sponsored by our S.G.S. Sabha has been running an Old Age Home for the economically weak section of our community who do not have adequate means of support. It is now over two years since this Old Age Home has been functioning and I feel it is necessary now for us to think of extending our activities to those who can afford to pay.

This is a keenly felt need because:

- a) Our community is somewhat insular and does not mix well with others.
- b) Our food habits are entirely different. It would be difficult for us to get used to the food habits of the local people.
- c) There are very few old age homes where the financially well off aged persons can seek admission.
- d) The joint family system does not exist any more. Cruel treatment of the aged members is prevalent in our country to a much larger extent than one can imagine. I have myself witnessed two deaths of my relatives who were

treated like servants – one committed suicide and the other, after the son dispossessed her of her jewellery took her to a destitutes home where she died under tragic circumstances. The third one was a diabetic and was not given any medical treatment, totally neglected and treated cruelly. She is eighty three years old and I am told she is very ill. If there was an old age home of our community they could have found shelter in them. The heads of these three families are financially well-off. It is necessary that a statistical survey is taken in Chennai of members of our community who are 65 years and above and would like to stay in a paid old age home sponsored by our Sabha. Before any such survey is undertaken, it is essential to determine how much fees have to be collected and whether any deposit has to be collected from the clients before admitting them.

- e) An estimate of income and expenditure would have to be prepared for a year and then a decision would have to be taken with regard to collection of fees for new admissions. Before taking a decision on the construction of this paid old age home for our community, it is necessary that we plan and design the building, the cost of land, provision of amenities, medical care etc. and thereafter work out the cost. I learn that some space is available in the property in Ayanavaram where the free old age home of our community is now functioning.

(We would welcome suggestions and comments on the proposal by our very elderly member Sri K. Keshav Kini)

ENGLISH – WE GIVE UP!

There was a time when even persons who had studied up to SSLC could write letters in good English without grammatical errors. Times have changed. We are now getting letters from some of our scholars showing that the old standards have vanished. These letters make hilarious reading as shown in two samples below:

“I (.....) is glad to hear that I have granted scholarship by ur Sabha. Thank you for granting me the scholarship. I regret by the inconvenience for late submission of advance receipt as 1 Re Revenue stamp has stopped selling in our state. In hard difficulty I have got the stamp and am sending u the advance receipt. Please kindly accept my receipt if received late.”

(This is from a student studying in III B.Sc.)

“I (.....) kindly thinking you. Because you sencation my scholarship. I got the document

letter very letter on 31/1/07 so I through you will not send me a scholarship. On right Time, you are send this scholarship. Because I want to pay the Examination fees. So once again I am thinking you from my bottom of my heart. The second sem marks card copy sending with this documents.”

(This is from a student studying in II B.E. (Mech.)

PICTURESQUE KONKANI

The younger persons in our families who have not had the opportunity to hear or use Konkani idioms and proverbs have particularly liked the collection of these in our last two Newsletters. Hence a few more picturesque Konkani expressions are included in this Newsletter.

1. **Adhikaaru aani dhana aasleri gaaindolu sarapu jattaa:** This is applicable to persons of no special capabilities accidentally catapulted to high positions of pomp, patronage or prestige.

2. **Nela polonu paaya davvari, kula polonu soirika kari:** An advice to those who are searching a bride or groom for their children so that adverse consequences are averted. Perhaps redundant when the boys and girls opt for a love marriage; more so if love is blind.

3. **Dooda pivayilyaaka visha deevnukaa:** One should never be ungrateful and harm those who have helped or been good to you.

4. **Asal naashi vaadi naa, dhaiyan naashi taaka naa:** An expression to show that unless you put in essential efforts, you cannot expect to get any results.

5. **Tondaantu baddi ghaalnu ullaita:** An expression indicating provoking some one to react by asking a barbed question.

6. **Aambe taalo vhaardikekayi jaavkaa, bojjaakayi jaavakaa:** Some one who makes his presence felt anywhere and every where, whether invited or not, is called an ambe taalo.

7. **Gaaddaava ghaasleri ghodo jaayinaa:** It is no use trying to improve some one incapable of being benefited by any advice or help. Similar idea is conveyed in the expressions. **Radde phaatiri udaaka ghaalle vari** or **Radde mukaari sangeeta katcheri.**

8. **Moorkhu jaalleri pootu vairi, vidyaa saanganaatilo guri vairi:** It is no use having an asset which does not yield the benefit it is meant for.

9. **Haandkara bailuso:** This is applicable to a person who rushes in his work thoughtless of consequences – a veritable “bull in a china shop”.

10. **Maala ghaaltaana galo neeta kartaa, vantigeka gelleri beelaantu vattaa:** Something which persons who have been collecting funds for good causes have noticed for ages. There are persons ready to preside over functions or be honoured in any way, but the moment they are asked to make a contribution, these persons are nowhere to be seen.

11. **Naankaaka aani vontaka sandu ghaalyeta, maatyaaka aani paayyaaka jadtave?:** You can bring together closely associated things, not those with a wide gap of difference. Also some times used for politely turning down marriage proposals.

12. **Vaagaaka bheevnu simhaachyaa tondaantu palle vari:** Analogous to the English expression “from the frying pan into the fire”.

Dear Readers, hope you enjoyed reading these. Can you please send us some more picturesque expressions like these to be shared with others.

HINDUSTANI CLASSICAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

This year's Hindustani Classical Music Concert to commemorate the memory of Parabmam and Koppimai was held on Saturday, 14th July 2007 from 10.00 a.m. starting with a vocal concert by Kumari Niranjini followed by Sri J. Niranjana of Dharwar, Smt. Lakshmi Sriram, Sri Adwitya Bhatnagar, Kumari R. Aadithi, Smt. S. Madhulika, Sri S. Mallikarjun of Gadag, Sri Chandrjit, Sri Nagabhushan Hegde of Mysore and culminating with a scintillating vocal recital by Kumari Mahalakshmi Shenoy of Karkala.

This year also the Sabha was able to organize a 3-day Hindustani Music Festival from 13th July to 15th July in association with Gana Yogi Panchakshara Sangeet Yogashram Trust, Chennai. The inaugural function was held on 13th July with an outstanding vocal recital by Sri Abhijith Shenoy of Bangalore, a disciple of Pandit D.B. Harindra, Sri Nagaraj Rao Gaikward and Sri Rajagopal Kallurkar, captivating the audience with his melodious voice. Other prominent artistes like Sriram Parasuram and Smt. Anuradha Sriram of Chennai, Kum. Shakti Patil of Dharwar, Basavaraj Bantanur of Gadag, Sri Mruthyunjaya Settar of Dharwar, to name a few, participated this year enthraling the lovers of Hindustani Classical Music in the City.

YOUNG ACHIEVERS AWARD 2008

As in the previous years, the Sabha proposes to recognize and honour Young Achievers of our

community at the Family Evening to be held in January 2008.

Members are requested to send the names, brief profile and the nature of achievement in educational, service, sports or cultural field of the persons you would like to recommend. Only the National or State level excellence of achievement is recognized. The proposals should reach the Sabha Office before 31-10-2007.

KONKANI WITHOUT TEARS

- Dr. Vidya Nayak

Having married into a Konkani family, learning the language was a challenging job. More so because every one in the house was busy with their own pre-occupations and there were no books of the type 'Konkani in 30 days'. So I had to learn it the difficult way. Looking back there were some hilarious moments which have wiped the tears with smiles.

A very lovable relation in Mangalore decided that if she talked to me in Konkani only (of course she did not know any other language) I would be able to learn it in no time. Then started a series of humorous incidents. She used to say that there was nothing wrong with her health and add 'Ek usramiti badha ditta' She kept on repeating it till I reached home and learnt that she meant asthma.

She took me to the kitchen to teach me some Konkani cuisine. Half-way through she said 'Taen bhanshire dee vaggi'. I looked around for a sophisticated kitchen gadget that she might have meant, but behold! She pulled out a kitchen rag lying around and said here it is. What a sweet sounding name for a dirty rag, so useful though. I liked the sound of it and named our cats Bhanshi I, Bhanshi II etc.

At times, in the midst of talk, I would get quite baffled by new words. We were expecting some guests and she decided that she would get some moodas. All of us got into the car to get them. I was quite worried. 'Why the moodas?' I asked. She said 'That is the easiest when guests come.' I was amazed and worried when she said that she intended to get twenty moodas. Now I was tensed how and where these twenty moodas could be accommodated in the car or even in the house. 'Don't you worry', she assured. When the moodas were finally being bought in the market, we laughed till our sides ached. I was thinking that she was planning to buy Delhi moodas used for sitting and the moodas we bought in the shop were leaves rolled in cylindrical form to fill idly batter. Such incidents led to a lot of fun in learning Konkani and within a few months I could communicate well almost like a born Konkani.

When the application forms for my children's school admission were being filled, I could write with pride of having mastered the language –
Mother Tongue – Konkani.

IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE, PLAY ON....

- Anita P. Kamath

And the night shall be filled with music,
And the cares that infest the day
Shall fold their tents like the Arabs
And as silently steal away

-H.W. Longfellow

'Let's start at the very beginning. A very good place to start. **Do-re-mi-fa-so-la-te-do!**' sings Maria in **The Sound of Music** and turns the clock all the way back to those salad days of mine. From when I was this high, musical notes have always had their magical effect on me like no wand ever could. Be it the soft strains of the flute, a lilting lullaby on the piano, the sedate sounds of the sitar, the energetic strums of a guitar or the doubly swift tabla, they have all had their soothing effects on my soul and have always proven to jerk me out of my boredom and boost my spirits. My joys were doubled and sorrows halved as music added a spring in my step and hauled me out of my blues and transported me to a faraway world.

Be it chartbusters of the sassy seventies from **Abba** to **The Eagles**, or melodies from Bollywood which derives its character from its music, or our very own peppy Tamil numbers that train my ear onto the radio without fail or a Beethoven jazz piece, genre or genus no bar. What enlivens my whole self is devotional music in the form of Bhajans that transport me to a land of piety far far away from the madding crowd.

The wide reach of music into our daily lives is often taken for granted. Pause to think for a moment, a mandap without the strains of the **shehnai**, a party without the blasting beats of modern music, or **Chavati** without our fond adulation of **Ganpati Bappa**. And of course, the annals of history have been imprinted with the instances of lovers serenading their beloved with many a love song! The radio that is my constant companion through the day, a simple musical at the theatre, the eloquent music festival at the Sabha or simply a tiny tot's nursery rhyme are some of the countless ways music penetrates our mundane routine.

There is nothing, it is said, that is so much like prayer as is music. Prayer is to become one with the Gods, is to heal and is balm to a troubled mind and isn't music such an intrinsic part of prayer universally? I for one, an innately devout person, believe that music can at most times be synonymous with prayer. Our Hindu religion embodies music in our deities with

Goddess Saraswati holding a **veena**, **Narada** with his **chipli** and **Lord Krishna** personified as the charming Muraliwala. In fact music holds its own place in any religion from the Christian choir to the hymnal calls that waft in the air from a mosque, and in any country from the **Spanish Flamenco** to **Jamaican Reggae** or **Latino Salsa**.

The most popular shows on television today are music reality shows and many a sigh have we heaved when our favourite **Indian Idol** wannabe was voted out or many a gasp have we let out when a teen belted out classic almost as flawlessly as the original on the ever-increasing voice hunts. These shows captivate adults and kids alike and in fact even those that do not have an ear for music are hooked on too!

The emotional and spiritual power of music has never been successfully disputed on. Evidence is writ large in history when **Tansen** set Akbar's palace aglow with the divinity in his Deepak Raga, when **Lata Mangeshkar** reduced the then reigning **Nehru** to tears with her soulful rendition of '**E mere watan ke logon**'. Does patriotism not well up in every inch of our body when we hear the National Anthem? These are just a minute fraction of the countless instances when music can stir the soul.

My earliest initiation into the world of music was in the form of my mother who, to this day, fights age and tumult to make time for her classical music lessons. I eagerly wait for and cherish our music sessions together when I visit her. You do not have to be vocally blessed to be a connoisseur of music as I discovered from my mother-in-law. Though she confesses that her vocal chords do not favour her, she not only encourages the musical talent in our family, but also makes it a point to sing at the **Sai Bhajan** held annually at home. Such is the allure of music.

Music, they say, washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life. And I choose to polish each brand new day with the spirit of music so that it beams back at me renewed vigour to march ahead and literallyface the music!

CHENNAIPATTINAM.....MADRAS..... CHENNAI

-Yogesh Kamath (YSK), Chennai

What's in a name?...they say. A rose smells as sweet by any other name and a renamed city will carry on with its lifestyle despite the political gimmickry that triggered the change.

Without going into the historical aspects of the city, I would like to share some impressions of the city being a newcomer relatively. Before landing here, I had met an elderly relative in Bombay who had stayed in Madras in the 1950s. He reminisced fondly about

Connemara Library and Museum, the tranquility of the tree-lined roads like – Sterling Road, College Road, Haddows Road, Harrington Road which had many bungalows for railway and other govt. officials. My relative would now be quite surprised to see quite a few of those have given way for multi-storeyed apartments and commercial complexes; the quiet roads are now choc-a-block with traffic. He had mentioned Parrys Corner, T.Nagar, Marina Beach, Mount Road, Broadway (now a narrow way) as shopping/leisure places then. But with the mall-culture having struck Chennai, the cool hang-outs have dispersed to a much larger area. Each area like Anna Nagar, Adyar, Nungambakkam, etc. has its own popular favourite spots including Barista, Quickys and Dosa-Pizza joints. But the rage is the ECR.

The city is the cultural capital of Southern India and come December (called Margazhi season), the air hangs heavy with Carnatic music wafting from the many Music Sabhas. That is also the time for NRI folks to visit the city, to be seen in Kutcheris in their finery, meeting acquaintances and socializing. However, this cultural standard has not extended to audience discipline. People in the hall wander about at will, even when the music performance is in progress. Even the front-seaters keep conversing, something which is unimaginable in a concert hall of any metropolis in the West. Somehow it seems to be made up by the quality of catering available at the Sabha halls.

Traffic in Chennai is a newcomer's nightmare. The MTC buses are so overcrowded that it is difficult to get in or get out. However, if you have the time and manage to get a window seat, that could be opportunity for window shopping and Chennai darshan. Though a few brand new buses have been introduced recently, the fleet is ill-kept and depends only on the next rain for wash. The majority depend on auto rickshaws as fast means of transport, though auto drivers are an not polite and are experts in customer exploitation.

When I came to Chennai the water scarcity was acute. Water bottling companies are having a field day since the Metro Water Board is lethargic in providing potable drinking water to citizens in all areas. The water tankers along with the MTC buses – a deadly combination- were vying for the might of the road and were in news for a lot of accidental deaths on the road.

Garbage disposal is another area where Chennai needs lot of improvement. Also drainages are almost non-existent making rain water flow on the roads even after a modest rainfall; forget about rains in our native places on the west coast.

The bright spot in Chennai is the TNEB. Having seen scheduled, unscheduled transformer-down power cuts in many other places, this was a

relief. Others who have to share kudos are the Chennai Airport and Metro trains.

Chennai is a place of gastronomical delight with wide variety of food. Purasawalkam Krishna Sweets is a heritage food spot now, if you want to time-travel backwards to the days of the Raj with aromatic filter coffee, for ...the ambience is such! There are many other places to explore for good food.

Though the climate is hot and humid – making one wipe sweat with a phew! Chennai continues to attract visitors by its own special metropolitan yet traditional charm!

INTERVIEWER INTERVIEWED

- Dr. Vidya Nayak

Strange as it may sound, I have come to realize that it is truly the fashion of the day.

Unfortunately, we lost our servant in a road accident. We started interviewing a series of them as replacement. Since my husband and I are doctors, we needed a servant to suit our timings and requirements.

Along comes one and asks – “How many people in the house? Veg or non-veg? Is there a washing machine? How many hours of work? Do you have a colour TV? I am used to watch the TV when the washing machine is on”. Facing this barrage of questions, I started wondering whether I was being interviewed for a job.

Then comes another who requires, in addition, weekly off and hot well-sugared coffee immediately on arrival. A weekly holiday seems to be now a compulsory demand equating my house with a government office.

Formerly, Diwali or Pongal gift was a sari or dress. But now the demand is for bonus and dresses, not just for the maid but also for all the others in their family.

No maid worth her salt will commence working until she has a tour of the premises. If she approves, I must be the one to feel honoured!

Even with all care in employing the person, work is slipshod and petty thievings are endless. If they pocket trifling things like a couple of spoons, it would not be noticed. But one walked off with all the spoons and another with all pins and clips to start with.

One wonders who is at whose mercy! We feel truly blessed at the sight of the maid each day, no matter what her shortcomings are. Is it not because all of us have been totally enslaved – hook, line and sinker – to a species called “servants”.

SCHOLARS' GRATITUDE

A Past Scholar Mr. R.S. Sadananda Shenai wrote from Kochi : *“At the outset I like to inform you that I was recipient of a loan scholarship from the Sabha for my studies at the College of Technology, Banaras Hindu University. I completed the course successfully and passed the final year examination very creditably with very high marks.*

I got employment with a multinational company at Bombay and was able to refund the full amount of the loan scholarships.

I am now leading a retired life at Kochi, my birth place. I desire to donate two endowments (1) Endowment for the award of freships to deserving poor students of our community and (2) Endowment towards the cost of running the Old Age Home for one day.”

Mr. Pai has donated Rs.25,000 towards free scholarship endowment and another Rs.25,000 to SGS Sabha Charitable Trust.

Mr. K. Krishna Kudva another old scholar from Bangalore visited the Sabha and donated Rs.10,000 towards Free Scholarship Endowment Corpus fund.

The Sabha values the sentiments expressed by our Past Scholars as also their donations.

FREE SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS

We received eight scholarship endowments when the scheme started in 1962. With the continued support of the members, the Sabha has 3266 free scholarship endowments as on date. The highest number of endowments during 2006-2007 with Rs.2 lakhs was from Mr. Narayandas Kamath of Canada. Mrs. Sushila Kamath from Mumbai has sent us a donation of Rs. One lakh during the current year 2007/2008.

We have no doubt with the wholehearted support of members the Sabha will reach a new high in scholarship endowments.

RATHINA GIRI – A jewel in the hills

- K. Mohandas Pai and Varija Pai

Since the last two or three decades temples have been taking increasing interest in extending social service – be it education, medical relief or providing assistance to the poor. Along side, of course, they have not been neglecting the religious aspects and procedures of pooja etc.

Some persons in our colony had heard of a Muruga Temple in Rathina Giri near Vellore. So fifteen of us hired a maxi cab and decided to spend a whole day with an over-night halt to see first hand the various activities being carried out there.

Rathinagiri is a hillock 5 km off the Chennai-Bangalore Highway and can be reached by taking a right turn at a sign-posted point somewhere half-way between Vellore and Arcot. The distance from Chennai is about 130 km.

It is not an ancient temple mentioned in the verses of Tamil saints, Nayanmars etc. The temple owes its present form to a spiritually evolved person - Swami Satchidananda who was a well-qualified Engineer. The temple in its present form was inaugurated on 20th March 1968, but a simple mud structure already was there.

The hillock was surrounded by a wild growth of shrubs and bushes. It was a free roaming place for wild animals and hardly any one ventured to climb the hill for performing pooja or even to light a lamp.

The Swami who calls himself only as "Balamurugan Adimai" i.e. servant of Bala Muruga, took a vow around late 40's to rebuild the temple and make it a place of pilgrimage for the devout. It was a severe vow – he vowed not to leave that temple site, not to speak and not to wear any clothes be it rain or shine (except a koupeenam) till he achieved his mission. This, as mentioned earlier, was done in March 1968.

Thanks to his efforts he was able to gain support from several devotees. The work went on slowly and steadily in pace with the funds he was able to collect.

For the convenience of the visitors, a road has been constructed with several hair-pin bends enabling cars to reach the top. The more devout who wish to walk up the hill can do so by using about 120 steps for easier climbing. There are about 20 rooms for those wanting to stay over-night. Prasad is provided to all visitors in the after-noon. The Swami has now started constructing a tank at the foot of the hill.

The more important social and welfare activities undertaken by the temple are a school and a hospital. The school caters to a population of about 15,000 in Rathinagiri and the outlying villages. Education is available up to plus 2 level. Most of the students are from lower socio-economic group and are first generation school-goers. The teachers take a lot of interest and have been able to achieve 100% pass results. President Abdul Kalam who visited the place in 2005 has commended the temple authorities for their outstanding work in the field of education in a backward rural area.

The temple also runs a 20 bedded charity hospital equipped with an operation theatre, laboratory and a x-ray unit. Various specialists from Chennai and other places visit periodically to perform surgeries as their service. Cataract surgery and providing free spectacles is the major activity financed by the temple and other donors/well-wishers.

We enjoyed the visit to Rathinagiri immensely – both as an outing and as a spiritually elevating experience which, we thought, could be shared with others. This little jewel on a hill cannot remain secluded from sight for long.

SGS SABHA CHARITABLE TRUST

The Old Age Home, presently the main activity of the Trust, has been functioning well through out the year. The residents in the Old Age Home are happy with the facilities provided. There are now 10 residents. Metro Water connection and sewerage connection are now available. The ACC topped semi-permanent structure and frame work on the ground floor kitchen and bathrooms have been changed into RCC ceiling structure. A kitchen and store room have been provided on the first floor. The Trust has plans to provide additional facilities to enable the first floor being used for holding small functions or to augment the strength of the Old Age Home. The work has commenced and is expected to cost about Rs.14 lakhs for civil work, electrical, furniture, fittings etc. The Trust seeks generous donations from its well-wishers.

During the year 2006-07 the Trust received sponsorship donations for 180 days' expenses at Rs.1500 per day and 23 days' expenses were met from the interest on Annaposhana Corpus Fund. The Trust hopes that many more readers of this Newsletter will come forward to donate the very modest sum of Rs.1500 each and sponsor a day's expenses of the Old Age Home during 2007-08, so that all 365 days in the year are taken care of.

Dr. K. Ramesh Pai, a generous donor and well-wisher of the Trust visited the Old Age Home on 23rd December 2006 along with his wife Mrs. Prema Pai. He has written to us: *"Both of us were very much pleased to see the Old Age Home run by the Sabha and how the residents are being looked after. It was extremely gratifying to see them all happy and all the basic amenities provided. It was also nice to see many members of the community being actively involved and willing to share the responsibility. The Sabha is doing yeomen service and can be genuinely proud of its activities. Prema and I very much appreciate the regular feed back we get by way of the news letters and reports. I am enclosing a cheque for Rupees Two lakhs in the name of the Trust for the Annaposhana Fund for the Old Age Home."*

Mr. Damodara Prabhu, Pittsburgh, U.S.A. also visited the Old Age Home on 28th December 2006 along with his wife and was very happy to see the facilities provided to the residents of the Old Age Home who were all in good cheer.

Sri K. Keshav Kini, an elderly member of the Sabha living in Chennai, visited the Old Age Home on 24th July 2007 on the eve of his 90th birthday and sponsored a day's expenses. The residents of the Old Age Home were thrilled to see how active and alert he was even at this age. That has served as a big boost to them. They also appreciated the kind enquiries he made as also the Prasad he brought from a local temple where Puja had been done.

Mr. K.R. Baliga, our Trustee, had held weekly lectures on Bhagavatha in the Old Age Home since September 2006 until June 2007. He has at present taken up weekly lectures on Vishnu Sahasranama on Wednesday mornings from 11 a.m. to 12 noon from 1st August 2007. The Trust will appreciate if any others volunteer to talk on spiritual subjects on any other topic of interest. They may please contact Mr. A. Arjuna Pai on phone 2486 7022 and 2488 1860.

Donations to the Trust are eligible for Income Tax concession under section 80G. Cheques drawn favouring "SGS Sabha Charitable Trust" may be sent to the Trust's Office which shares the Sabha's address.

SABHA WEBSITE

Our Sabha now has a Website from which you can get all details of our Sabha and its activities, as also of the Charitable Trust. It is updated from time to time. Please do visit it and give us your views and suggestions for improving its contents and scope.

The website is
www.sgssabhachennai.com
 and our Email address is
sgssabha@vsnl.net

IMPORTANT REQUEST

Quite a few letters and circulars mailed to members are being returned because of change in address. To avoid inconvenience or non-delivery of letters, please inform the Sabha Office **as soon as there is any change in your address.**

The Sabha is grateful to Sri Vasant M. Shanbhag, Canara Traders & Printers Pvt. Ltd. For the production of this issue, free of charge. He is the Joint Secretary of our Sabha.

WE MISS THEM

Since the publication of the last Newsletter No.29 in January 2007 the Sabha has come to know about the sad demise of the following members:

P.D. Shenai, Bangalore	...	24-12-2006
Mrs. Sobha Sudhakar, Chennai	...	29-01-2007
N.V. Shenoi, Chennai	...	26-02-2007
Arun S. Kalyanpur, Chennai	...	09-03-2007
R.B. Shenoy, Bangalore	...	In April 2007
G.V. Prabhu, Chennai	...	09-05-2007
Narayan V. Kudva, Chennai	...	15-05-2007
S.B. Gurpur, Chennai	...	24-05-2007
N.D. Prabhu, Bangalore	...	28-05-2007

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

- ❖ The tragedy of life is not death; but what we let die inside of us while we live.
- ❖ We do not laugh because we are happy. We are happy because we laugh.
- ❖ Without a rich heart, wealth is an ugly beggar.
- ❖ I wept because I had no shoes until I saw a man who had no feet.
- ❖ A little fragrance always clings to the hand that gives you roses.
- ❖ The tree that has the most fruit is the one that bends to the ground.
- ❖ The key to a long and healthy marriage is that, honestly, there's nothing worth fighting about.
- ❖ The fragrance of flower spreads only in the direction of the wind. But the goodness of a person spreads in all directions.
- ❖ There are two tragedies in life. One is not to get your heart's desire. The other is to get it.
- ❖ There is no satisfaction in hanging a man who does not object to it.
- ❖ A man, Sir, should keep his friendship in constant repair.

