



# SRWA Newsletter

*Working together for a better community*



**Tamarind Tree Children's Park  
(Opp. Janatha Bazar)**

*For private circulation only*

*Issue 5 -MAY- 2021*

## ***From the President***

*We have witnessed strange times through 2020 and starting 2021. The year gone by and the year to come have brought about some unthinkable lifestyle changes which will be here to stay. We have weathered 2020 with some level of success and we hope to see the end of the road by 2021-22.*

*At this point, I would like to appreciate the SRWA Committee for not flagging in their responsibilities and continuing to strive for a better community. Despite road blocks, we have tried to bring a lot of cheer through reaching out and keeping the community spirit alive. Our team of COVID volunteers have helped many of our residents through difficult times.*

*We have also been regular in keeping in touch with the government agencies through Ward Meetings etc. in an effort to improve facilities. Some of our initiatives have borne fruit and we have given a more detailed description in the pages to follow. This has also been made possible through the collections for the Annual Subscription to which you responded very willingly. I thank you for the same.*

*Wishing you better times*

*Prema K. Vasant*

## ***The year gone by***

*Over the last year, we have kept members informed about the ongoing work being taken up by the SRWA with the government agencies. Beside this some highlights of the year were .*

- *The sale of fruits under the Farmer to Families programme through the summer months,*
- *The unstinting support given to both BBMP and the residents of our area by our two COVID Warriors – Anupama Harish and Chaitra Mukund.*
- *Offering of Bagina at Sankey Tank which overflowed after 16 long years.*
- *2 stimulating webinars Sadashivanagar – Orchards and Onwards and Education -Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow.*
- *A first time AGM held on December 26, 2020 amidst greenery in the Low Level Park.*
- *Installation of Convex mirrors at 4 important cross roads.*
- *A very efficiently organized free BBMP COVID vaccination drive on April 9th which saw an excellent turnout of 148 people of above 45 years turn up for the vaccines at the Health Centre at the Ramakrishna Hegde Complex. This will be repeated again for the second dose.*

*SRWA will strive to continue coordinating with Government agencies regularly through the next year too despite the challenges faced.*

## **REFLECTIONS - COVID Times in Sadashivanagar**

*“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times ... it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of Hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us ...”*  
*These opening lines from Charles Dickens' Tale of Two Cities spells out the chameleon like changes of the present times. We felt we could not cope but we have coped and will continue to cope!*

*In March 2020, a nationwide lockdown was announced to break the threatening chain of the Corona virus. None of us was prepared or even realised what a lockdown meant and anxiety soared.*

*However, within a few weeks, life became very interesting. Typically, the small-time vendors, came up with their refined business model and everything was delivered at our doorstep. Online shopping became the mantra and e-pay became the preferred mode of payment. Even the household help rose to the occasion and salaries were paid online. In their absence for those few months many of us lost those extra inches and felt healthier. Spring cleaning became COVID Cleaning and loads of accumulated junk left our homes.*

*The COVID Kitchen! The best ever restaurant emerged the winner. Eating out became pass'e and Dunzoed home-cooked meals, relished in the comfort of our own homes provided the best 5-star restaurant atmosphere! Cooking became a joint task and an enjoyable experience in every home. Planning menus, procuring vegetables and groceries, preparing for the next meal resembled any well-run corporate body. The same raw material with different spices and cut differently became a new dish!*

*This period was marked by major lifestyle changes. With lockdown restrictions, online yoga, online physical fitness classes, online music programmes, online lectures crowded virtual media. In all this there has been a real 'Going back to our roots' and Sanskrit learning and Vedanta studies have been much sought after!*

*Social life took a beating but by the end of the year, short vacations to nearby resorts really saw a phenomenal rise. The sunny beaches of Goa, the silver sands of Karwar, the ever attractive resorts of Bandipur and Kabini, the sylvan coffee slopes of Coorg and Chikmagalur beckoned, only to be brutally cut short by COVID Times – 2.0.*

*But the vaccine is here and we will continue to hope and beat this second wave. So chin up residents. Wear your masks, maintain distance, vaccinate and sanitize and together we will get there!*

## **FLASH BACK TO HISTORY - Did you Know ?**

### **Sadashivanagar is home to a monument of historical significance - Kempe Gowda Tower**

*Immadi Kempe Gowda - Kempe Gowda II built and developed several new temples and lakes in Bangalore. However, the most interesting structures that he built were the watchtowers that continue to exist even to this day.*



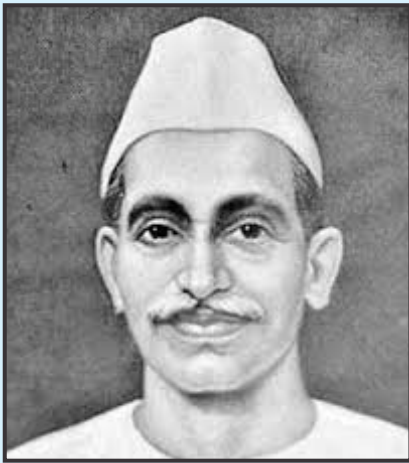
**Then**

*One among the four towers that were built was to mark the northernmost limits beyond which the city was not supposed to be expanded. This tower is located in the park near the Raman Research Institute, near Mekhri Circle. Some historians opine that these towers were built to mark the city's boundaries. A few others believe that the reason these towers were built on hillocks and had security guards was to oversee the major roads leading into Bangalore, thus ensuring the safety of the city. The towers also functioned as the toll booths of yore where stationed officers would collect charges from immigrants or visitors entering Bangalore. These four towers have been declared as protected monuments for their inherent heritage value.*



**Now**

## ***Sadashivanagar is named after a prominent Indian freedom fighter***



**Karnad Sadashiva Rao**

*Karnad Sadashiva Rao was an Indian freedom fighter from Karnataka. He was born in 1881 to a wealthy South Indian family. He was one among the first from Karnataka to volunteer for Gandhi's Satyagraha movement and was also one of the key members of the Congress Party responsible for expanding the party in Karnataka.*

*Rao spent all his wealth in service of the independence movement and helping the poor. Rao died without a single penny, without having money to even perform his last rites.*

*Sadashivanagar (erstwhile known as Upper Palace Orchards) was named after Karnad Sadashiva Rao in 1960.*

*Having inherited such a beautiful area, it is for us to further enhance the beauty of this haven of peace*

## ***BCLIP WOMAN ACHIEVER'S AWARD – 2021***

### ***Prema Vasant leads from the front !!!***



*Being socially active and engaging in community development and ensuring development of the neighbourhood needs hard work, sustained effort and courage to face tough challenges. It is never easy for those who choose to stand apart from the rest and contribute unstintingly to the welfare of the community*

*BCLIP Alumini Association decided to celebrate this hard work by instituting the BCLIP ALUMNI WOMAN ACHIEVER'S AWARD 2021. We are proud to say that the SRWA President, Smt. Prema K.Vasant was one of the women in the city to be honoured with this award in the field of Civic Development and Social Service. She was presented a citation recognizing her services on March 20th, 2021, in a well attended awards ceremony.*

*She was also recognized by the BBMP on Women's Day for her services, Kudos, it is pouring awards.*

## ***AWARDS GALORE FOR DR. B. RAMANA RAO***

*The village Clinic is reminiscent of Oliver Goldsmith's Village School Master and Preacher. Well, that is the peaceful atmosphere that Dr. Ramana Rao has created under the spreading peepul trees at his farmhouse, in T Begur, 36km from Bengaluru where he has conducted a weekly medical camp for the past 47 years. This village clinic has drawn patients from a radius of 100 kms, where they have been provided health care services including eye, skin and dental care, all free of charge.*



***Padmashri Dr. B. Ramana Rao***  
***Our very own good samaritan***

*Dr. Ramana Rao believes in the need for holistic care covering the body, mind and soul. He has built over 700 toilets in houses, adopted 50 schools in the vicinity, has constructed 2 schools himself and planted over 10,000 saplings in neighbouring villages. In addition every Sunday, without fail, for the past 4 decades and more, patients who line up to be treated are sent home only after being fed with freshly cooked wholesome meals.*

*It is no wonder that his service to the community has been recognized over and over again. He was decorated with the Padmashri some years ago and a host of other awards. Recently, at the time of writing this article the Sri Siddhartha Academy of Higher Education awarded him with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his yeoman service. Doctor, we are proud of your humility.*

## **KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURS**

### **The Maestro - T. Radhakrishna**



*Music they say is food for the soul. Playing into the hearts of millions is what our friendly neighbour T. Radhakrishna does with ease. Dabbling with harmonium, mouth organ, bulbul tarang and few others he found his love in the beautifully wired Sitar. With his father as a guiding force at age 14 he discovered his passion for this stringed instrument and there was no looking back.*

*He began training under N.R. Ramarao in 1968 and went on to give his first public performance 4 years later at All India Radio in Calcutta. The journey continued under the mentorship of Shri. Umashankar from 1978. His first competitive victory was in 1976 on AIR after which he continued to be with them till 2000.*

*Pursuing his passion was a challenge with an ongoing successful career in Travel trade with Mercury Travels and later with P&O Liners, for more than three decades. The travel business also seems to be a passion and he continues to send globe trotters around the world with his own company even to this day*

*All through his corporate life the love for rhythm and music never took a backseat. This perseverance brought him to the Aha moment in his life – a chance to train under world renowned maestro Pt. Ravishankar in 2003. The opportunity was God sent and he cherished every moment till the end with his Guruji.*

*Playing in different cities to different audiences Shri. Radhakrishna is equally at ease in small drawing room Baithaks and large audiences. Keeping up with his younger audiences, he has recently digitally recorded a piece on Music Room. Now in his role as a teacher and guru, he has students hailing from varied professions and the spell of the Sitar strings bind them together.*

*Gen next Rahul and Ramita have inherited the musical genes and pursue their own genres.*

### **The Wordsmith - Saniya**

*“Life is a continuous learning curve” - motto of Award winning Marathi author, counsellor and an amazing person called Saniya residing amongst us. Saniya started writing and publishing even when she was in school. Though she has novels to her credit, her favourite genre is the short story or the novella, which she says is very popular in Marathi and in addition more impactful. A mild, soft spoken person, she can speak with a gentle but firm voice in her writings, evident in books like Avartan and Bhumika which deal with women's issues - her primary focus. A recipient of 13 awards in the literary field, some of her books which were originally in Marathi have been translated into different languages.*



*“Learning about human behavior and the human mind, she feels, is very enriching and real life is more intriguing than fiction when one works at understanding people and their thought process”. This thinking led her to the world of Lay Counselling for emotional trauma as a volunteer, to which she has since been committed for close to 3 decades now. Saniya words it beautifully saying counseling is a sharing experience. In her words - “By helping people unburden themselves we help them to think clearly and find their own workable solutions, eventually”. She never fails to reiterate that it is a symbiotic relationship and the Counsellor and client work together towards a better tomorrow. When asked about whom she likes to work with most, it came as no surprise when she said - “Working with youngsters is enjoyable as it brings a different perspective but surprisingly, coming to seniors, men are more comfortable opening up to outsiders than women.”*

*Saniya's academic interests and her curious mind took her to NLS for a diploma in Human Rights Law. Not a person to waste time, she has been working on online courses in Counseling during the pandemic and Anthropology and Genetics! Chat with her and you can find the connect between these different subjects. More power to the curious mind and empathetic heart. May her tribe increase.*

### **Editorial Credits -**

*Chaitra Mukund, Indu Sridhar, K.R. Krishnamoorthy & Vishal Makhija*