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# March of Karnataka

AUGUST 2015



*Devaraj Urs*

A Visionary Leader who Changed  
the Course of Karnataka



## **Bengaluru Metro in Progress**

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# C O N T E N T S

## March of Karnataka

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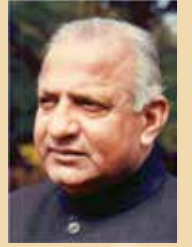
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*Noted political scientist James Manor described Urs as 'a pragmatic progressive' who not only dreamt of bringing about a structural change in the society but also evolved a definite plan of action to achieve the desired goal, phase by phase. On 20th August 2015, Karnataka will celebrate Devaraj Urs' 100th birthday.*

# Devaraj Urs

## A Visionary Leader who Changed the Course of Karnataka

■ Dr. Nataraj Hulyar

**D**evaraj Urs who was the chief minister of Karnataka for more than six years will be remembered in the history of modern Karnataka as a visionary leader who was able to re-orient political power as a tool of social change. Noted political scientist James Manor described Urs as 'a pragmatic progressive' who not only dreamt of bringing about a structural change in the society but also evolved a definite plan of action to achieve the desired goal, phase by phase. Devaraj Urs would have celebrated his 100th birthday on 20th August 2015, had he been around. The government of Karnataka and the people of Karnataka in general are looking forward to celebrate his 100th birthday in a massive way.

Urs who had leftist leanings in his early youth had, perhaps, quietly nourished a dream of changing the destiny of the lower strata of the society, and when he got the opportunity, he had the will to execute it. The programmes and policies he introduced in the state changed the destiny and destination of the voiceless masses belonging to the 'orphan castes', to borrow an expression from Dr. Rammanohar Lohia. A politician who also spent a quality time with good books, Urs was one of those thinking politicians who had a deeper understanding of the problems that flocked the society and would relentlessly work towards a practical solution.

Devaraj Urs was born in a tiny village called Kallahalli on 20th August 1915 in Hunsur Taluk in Mysore district. Born and brought up in an agricultural family which was distantly related to the royal family of Mysore, Devaraj Urs did his B.sc.in Mysore. He was tall, handsome and well built and was to join the military services as an officer which his mother quietly opposed. Devaraj had to give up the idea and he took to full time farming and started living in his village. Young Devaraj would draw water from the well, plough the fields, take care of

the cattles and whenever he found time he would have a book for his company, a habit which was a part of his life till the end.

Though young Urs was inspired by the leftist ideology, he had no inclination to join active politics, at that point in time. But, Sahukar Chennaiah, the veteran Congress leader, who noticed the leadership qualities in this charming young man, invited him to join the Congress party and made him a member of the party and thus Urs became a Congressman at the age of 26. But he continued farming with not too many ambitions about his political career.

In 1946, Urs was asked to contest his first election for the Representative Assembly in Mysore which he won. In the meanwhile, he married Chikkammanni. Later, in independent India, he continuously won twice- in 1952 and 1957- from Hunsur constituency for the Mysore Assembly and continued to win from there for many more years. Veteran journalist, Vaddarse Raghuram Shetty notices in his book *Bahuroopi Arasu* (many of the details used in this essay are drawn from Raghuram Shetty's book) that, by then, Urs had already been nursing revolutionary ideas like 'land for the tiller', but to realise this dream he had to wait for a couple of decades. Urs later became a minister in the Nijalingappa cabinet and, was, perhaps waiting for the ripe moment to emerge as a leader to reckon with.

The moment came in 1971. Devaraj Urs occupied the centre stage of Karnataka politics when he joined the Congress faction led by Mrs.Indira Gandhi in 1971. Under the leadership of Urs, Indira Congress won all the 27 Loksabha constituencies in Mysore state and Urs smelt that his moment to become the Chief Minister of the state was coming closer. The Assembly elections held in 1972 established Urs as an undisputed leader of the Indira Congress in Karnataka, though he did not contest the general

elections since he took charge of the entire election process- beginning from the distribution of tickets till campaign. The social engineering which Urs attempted for the first time in the politics of the state immediately bore fruits. As a result, among the 163 legislators who won for the assembly from Indira Congress, more than half (92) belonged to the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, backward castes and minorities. Urs was chosen as the chief minister and served the state of Mysore and, later, Karnataka for eight years. Incidentally, he had the opportunity to announce the renaming of Mysore as Karnataka in the assembly in 1973.

As soon as he became the chief minister, Urs set out with his social justice agenda. One of the most significant decisions of the Urs' cabinet was to appoint L.G.Havanur, a committed advocate, as the chairman of the Backward Classes Commission. His decision to implement the Havanur report inspite of the stiff opposition from the dominant castes was truly historic and the impact of it ushered in a decisive change in the history of modern Karnataka. The Havanur report changed the course of thousands of families, particularly in rural Karnataka. In fact, Havanur report inspired the Mandal report later and the implementation of the Mandal report by the central government changed the course of the backward classes and their economic position and saw them emerging politically stronger throughout the country.

Either out of an ideological compulsion or with an instinct to take on the dominant castes, Urs felt a strong need for bringing the backward and the most backward castes together. Hence, knowingly or unknowingly, Urs was instrumental in creating a 'backward class', albeit in a limited sense of the term, in Karnataka. It is now part of the history that his attempts changed the very direction of the politics in Karnataka. As a result, Karnataka would later have four chief ministers from the backward classes, and, at least, a part of its credit should go to the social engineering which started during the Urs period.

One could see a broad vision of social justice in Urs' moves. He took up the distribution of land to implement the socialist ideal of the 'land for the tiller.' The introduction of the land reforms act was hence historical. He was one of those dedicated chief ministers who implemented some


of the pro-people programmes of the Twenty Point Programmes announced by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi during the Emergency. As a result, in the 1977 Lok Sabha elections, Indira Congress won 27 out of 28 constituencies in Karnataka. The Janata Party that came to power in the centre dismissed the Urs government. But, in the assembly election that followed in 1978, Urs led the party to victory and became the chief Minister again and continued till 1980.

Devaraj Urs brought Indira Gandhi to Chikmagalur in 1978 where she contested the Lok Sabha by-election and won to re-enter the Lok Sabha, which is considered as the 'political rebirth' of Mrs. Gandhi. But the moment of separation of the two tall leaders came and Urs had to step down as chief minister though he tried to retain his chair through different political permutations and combinations. Those days in Urs' life were also the days of betrayal by some of his staunch followers. Urs was shocked by the greed of the politicians whom he had nursed. After this phase, Urs tried to build a party called Karnataka Kranti Ranga and focussed attention on the realignment of the Non Congress parties. But, before realising his new dream, Devaraj Urs breathed his last on 6th June 1982. But, by then, he had already earned a prominent place in the history of modern Karnataka.

Vaddarse Raghurama Shetty who followed Urs' political career for decades closely, describes him as a politician who had a thorough rational outlook who was willing to have dialogue with thinkers who shared his social concerns. Raghuram shetty also points out that Urs had a deep commitment to ideology which prompted him to launch several pro-people programs. Noted environmentalist A.N.Yellappa Reddy fondly recalls Urs' commitment for the protection of the environment in his book *Arasuyugada Aranyaparva*. Many literators have noticed that Urs also had a fine taste for literature and would always update himself of the latest books on literature, culture and politics. He even had the time and the taste to discuss a good book which he had read, with prominent writers, journalists and intellectuals.

Prof. C.R. Govindaraju, a young historian, has edited a volume on the history of modern Karnataka titled *Charitrika Karnataka* in which he lists out some of the significant achievements of the Urs period: Apart from the land distribution for the dalits and the

implementation of Havanur report, Urs has several policies, programs and governmental schemes to his credit. The loan schemes for landless agricultural labourers and farmers with small holdings; minimum wage policy; Hydro-electric project at the Kali river; completion of several irrigation projects; emancipation of the bonded labourers; old age pension scheme and pension scheme for the physically challenged; the 'Bhagya Jyothi' scheme which provided electricity to the poorest of the poor through which many of the slums and huts got electric connections for the first time; several schemes for the education of the children belonging to the dalit and backward classes from school to higher education, fee concessions, scholarships, free hostels; the distribution of free sites and houses for the weaker sections, several welfare schemes implemented through the department of social welfare... just to name a few. Many of the programmes and schemes which the Urs government implemented successfully have continued till date and several new and improvised schemes have also followed later.

During the Devaraj Urs centenary year celebrations which begin on the 20th August, one expects all those communities and classes who have been amply benefitted by Urs's commitment to the upliftment of the downtrodden to remember with deep gratitude one of the tallest leaders modern Karnataka has ever seen and also vow to take forward the mission of social justice which he envisaged and sincerely worked to realise for the most part of his life. 

*(Dr.Nataraj Hulyar is a well known writer and the Director, Centre for Gandhian Studies, Bangalore University.)*





# Sunshine at Midnight

India wakes up to Freedom  
when the World sleeps

*“Frenzied Enthusiasm, not triumphism was the spontaneous reaction of the People while witnessing the Historic and Once in a Life time Event, Birth of Independent India. People kept awake throughout the country congratulating each other. It was a moment of India’s Tryst with Destiny to go forward, in Tranquility toward Prosperity”. Some interesting anecdotal incidents of the movement, highlighted here.*

.....  
■ A Girish Rai

**D**uring the last three Centuries many epoch making Events happened throughout the world due to the clash of liberal and radical ideas. The American Revolutionary War (1775-1783), the French Revolution (1789-1799), American Civil war (1861-1865), Industrial Revolution (1820-1840) and Indian Freedom Movement. These events profoundly and permanently altered the course of Modern History. These events could be classified as modern Mythology. The American War of Independence was an Armed rebellion between Great Brittan and the then North American Colonies who declared themselves as independent States of America. The war was primarily fought protesting against the arbitrary imposition of Taxes on colonies, who had no say in he Government.





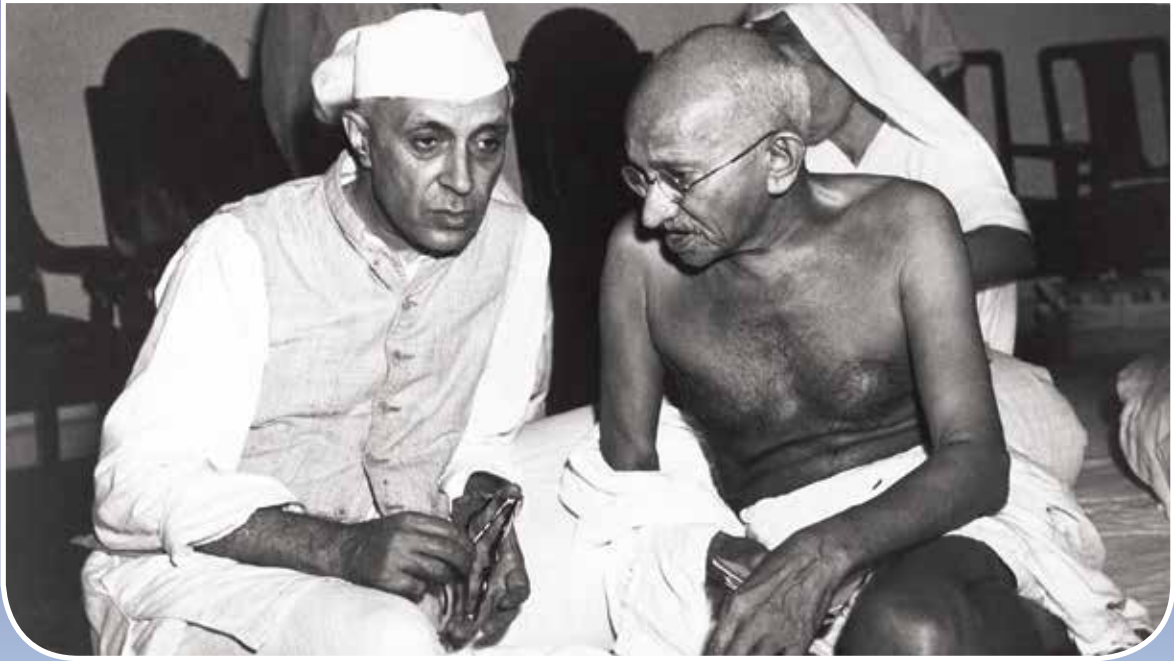
They demanded due representation in British Parliament and started a movement “No Taxation without Representation”. The natives also set up a shadow Government that took control of some more colonies. These Colonies formed a continental Congress to coordinate, which effectively seized power from Brittan. The Congress appointed George Washington to take charge and fight the enemy. Finally in June 1776 the Congress formally declared Independence. The French Revolution began in 1789 when the People disillusioned with the Government. It was a revolt against years of oppression by the inept Government. People razed the absolute Monarchy, redesigned the Feudal system and changed the political sphere of France. The French Revolution caused the decline of Theocracies, Dynastic Rule, Dictatorships and replaced them with Republics and Democracies. The Industrial Revolution 1820-1850, transformed the manufacturing process by the use of steam Power and modern production methods which resulted in high production and profit. The change of manufacturing process from an Agrarian and Handicraft Economy to modern methods of production. Industrial Revolution was initially

popularized by British Historian Arnold Toynbee. Industrial Revolution originated in Brittan later on spread to other parts of the world.

Indian Freedom Movement started much before the 1857 Mutiny. Brave and Patriotic women like Rani Abbakka Devi, Jhansi Lakshmi Bai and Kittur Chenamma were in the forefront of Freedom movement. Indian straggle for freedom was not just to throw out the Imperialists from India but also to shape a Vibrant Democracy and well developed sovereign Country. The Swatantra Senanis, Freedom fighters, led by Mahatma Gandhiji participated in the Non co-operation and Quit India agitation irrespective of Caste, Community and status, with one and the only aim of freeing the Motherland from foreign Rule.

There are many basic issues comman in the Freedom Movement of India, Revolutionary War and Civil War of America. American Colonies revolted against the British Empire and waged War for Freedom. India’s straggle was non violent in nature and never resorted to force. The issue of American Civil War was Slavery. The Presidential Election of 1860 Republican Party led by Abraham





***Indian struggle for freedom was not just to throw out the Imperialists from India but also to shape a Vibrant Democracy and well developed sovereign Country. The Swatantra Senanis, Freedom fighters, led by Mahatma Gandhiji participated in the Non co-operation and Quit India agitation irrespective of Caste, Community and status, with one and the only aim of freeing the Motherland from foreign Rule.***

Lincoln opposed Slavery. The Republican Party secured a majority, Abraham Lincoln was elected as President of America. The outgoing President James Buchanan and incoming President both opposed Slavery and secession as illegal. Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation to end Civil War. The Civil War, still remain the deadliest War in American History.

Millions of Swatantra Senanis toiled with determination sacrificing everything with the single minored aim of securing Freedom. The Non co-operation Movement and Quit India agitation intensified throughout the Country, thousand's were arrested and many went under ground. Karnataka was in the forefront of Independence Movement. Thousands of freedom fighters were arrested and many more went under ground. They found out some strange and ingenious methods to avoid arrest. The freedom fighters from Madhugiri town found out an unusual place to hide and escape

from Police net.. Madhugiri is a sleepy town in Tumkur district, about 150 kms from Bangalore on Bangalore - Pavagada - Bellary Road. The Town is protected by the natural Rock Fort a huge solid Boulder which emerges from Earth's womb soars into the sky. From the Town looks as if the Boulder almost touches it the sky. The top of this can be reached through pebble laden curvacious pathway. It is a tedious four-five hour walk to reach the top. The freedom fighters were hiding in this open place for several days without water or food. Unfortunately, then packed food and Bottle water was unheard of.

Unfortunately Mahatma Gandhiji, in spite of his best effort and uncompromising stand on Partition was made a mute witness to the creation of Pakistan. Later on in early 1947 Viceroy Lord Mountbatten in a conference held at New Delhi, attended by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and M.A. Jinha declared Britain's Partition Plan for India. Thus Brittan followed their pet plan "Divide and Rule, till the End".

### *Why freedom at Midnight*

The British Parliament and Government decided to grant freedom on 15th August 1947. Lord Mountbatten announced this date but Indian Parliament adopted a Resolution to take charge of the country's Administration one day in advance. Some well meaning People indicated that August 15th 1947 was not an auspicious day for such Historical and once in a life time event-Birth of Independent India. Accordingly Pandit Nehru met Lord Mountbatten and requested him to consider this demand. It is also said that Viceroy was reluctant to change the date 15th August, as it was on that day during the last stage of second world war (1945) Japani's Army surrendered to British Army which was then led by Lord Mountbatten himself. which he considered as a lucky day for him. Then Indian Religious leaders argued that after midnight 12 "o" clock, it is 15th August as per British Calender. The Viceroy agreed to this plea and permitted to hoist Indian Flag at 12.02 Midnight on 14th August 1947 itself. As per the predetermined plan Pakistani Flag was unfurled at Karachi on 14th August 1947 at 11.57 midnight and declared as Independent Nation. The Indian and Tricolor was hoisted at Parliament House, 12.02 midnight. Indian Leaders assumed the Administration of the Country. Two Independent Nations emerged within a short span of only 5 minutes on 14th August 1947.

### *Union Jack hauled down*

The only Flag in the British Empire which was never lowered since 1857- the Union Jack fluttering on Lucknow Residency was hauled down about 24 hour's before the transfer of Power from Britten to Indian hands The hauling down ceremony was kept a guarded secrete by the military authorities. It was done with the departure from the city, of Sir Frances Wylie, the last British Governor of the United Province (Present Uttar Pradesh)

Attlee's Message to India 'My colleagues in United Kingdom Government join with me in sending on this Historic Day Greetings and Good wishes to the Government and People of India' said Mr. Attlee Prime Minister of Great Brittan in a message to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

### *Tribute to vibrent Democracy*

How we have survived as a " Nation during the last seven decades is indeed a tribute to our vibrant Democracy and sagacity and sobriety of the Leadership. The vexatious problem of unification of the Nation by integrating about 540 small and big Principalities, solving internal problems combating the menace of Terrorism and separatism was possible by decisive leadership. India has emerged as a fast developing Economic Power in the World. It has been acclaimed as a most desirable country for Investment. Indian Independence Movement exhibited the power of Peoples and their inalienable Rights. It also triggered the urge for Independence in other countries inspired for the birth of many independent countries after the second world War.

MMX





(Hon'ble Chief minister sri Siddaramaiah's appeal made to the farmer Brethren to stop committing suicide, through AIR on 18 07 2015)

# My Fervent Appeal to the Farmer Brethren of the State

*Our Government is always committed to the Welfare of Farmers. The day I took over office as the Chief Minister, I took a vow to protect the interest of farmers.*

I am deeply distressed and disturbed to know that some farmers have taken the extreme step of committing suicide.

My heart has really sunk. This is unprecedented in the history of Karnataka.

Our Government is always committed to the Welfare of Farmers. The day I took over office as the Chief Minister, I took a vow to protect the interest of farmers.

Before we came to power, the figures of farmers suicides in the State was between 100 and 200. During 2013-14, it was 58. On the next year in 2014-15 the figure came down to 48, as per the official records of the State Police.

Especially, from June this year, the number reached 70. This is very shocking, indeed. I do not know the exact reason for the farmers to commit suicide. I think due to the heavy burden of loan compounded by exorbitant rate of interest by Private money lenders was the culprit for this tragedy when occurred in several parts of the State.

During the previous two budgets, I had provided adequate funds for agriculture and irrigation departments.

Now, I am convinced that the intolerable weight of the loan procured from private money lenders was the root cause for pushing the poor farmers to the extreme step of taking their own lives. The private money lenders have been fleecing the poor farmers with exorbitant rates of interest and pressuring them for repayment.

The Karnataka Money Lenders Act of 1961 as well as the Karnataka Prohibition of Charging exorbitant interest Act of 2004 has scope for taking stringent action against such money lenders, who harass and violate the provisions.

While 14 percent interest is fixed for secure loans and 16 percent interest is fixed for unsecure loans, there is blatant violation of these norms by the private money lenders, who are charging exorbitant interest and causing untold miseries to the poor farmers.

I have directed all the concerned departments to take stringent action against such Private Money Lenders, who are harassing public in general and the farmers in particular.

I have also directed the Department of Health and Family Welfare to respond immediately to the distress call from the farmers and their families through its toll-free Help Line No. 104, established to meet the crises situations.

*My dear farmer brethren,*

I am also a farmer. I am also born and brought up in a farmers family. I am fully aware of difficulties of the farming community. At any cost please do not resort to the extreme step of committing suicide.

Please do not forget that the Government was with you in the past, is with you at the present and will be with you in the future to meet all the challenges and to resolve all your problems pertaining to your profession.

*Yours*

***Siddaramaiah***

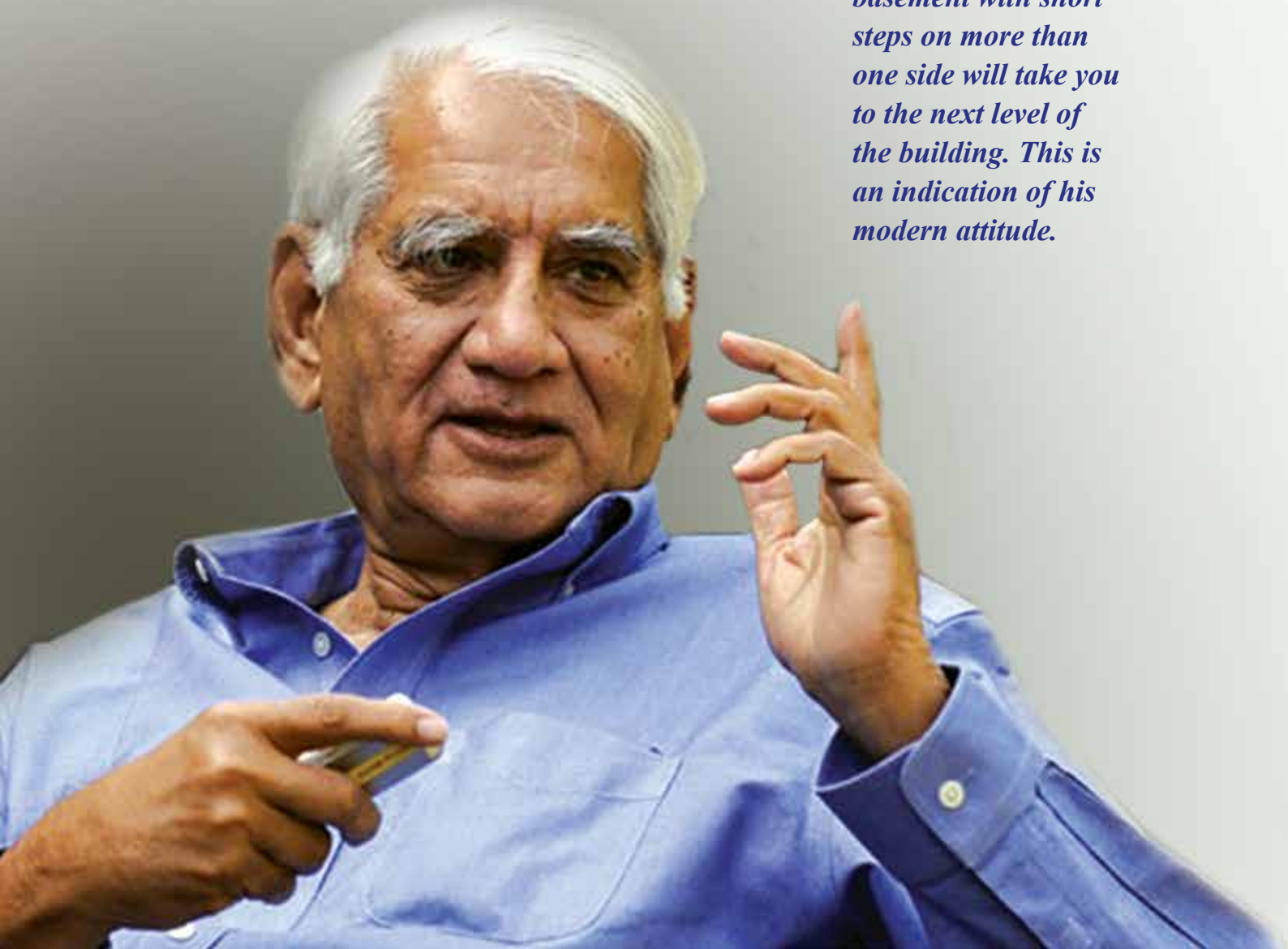


# Charles Mark Correa

India's Numero Uno Architect

■ K S Someswara

*His contribution to Bangalore has many architectural wonders. The Visweswaraya Towers stand tall at about 247 feet which has 21 floors. The architectural style was brutalist material—glass concrete which exposed concrete with least ornamentation on the exteriors. To understand his style one has to go to the central area of the building. A spacious basement with short steps on more than one side will take you to the next level of the building. This is an indication of his modern attitude.*



**F**rom Bangalore Palace to Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore has witnessed landmark buildings of typical style which has not only enhanced the landscape of the area but also added to the topographic beauty of the city. Now-a-days, high rise buildings has become common architectural activity. But, to have a unique style which enhances the beauty of the city is very difficult to be seen.

Visweswaraya Towers on the Ambedkar Veedhi near GPO building is one such concrete structure built in a separate style which stands around GPO, Vidhana Soudha, High Court and City Central Library. The architect who designed this building and constructed should be remembered for ever. He is Charles Correa who has been called as post independent India's most important modernist, architect who left a deep impression of his style, concept and vision all over the country and abroad.

Charles Correa was born on 1st of September 1930 in Secundarabad. He has taught in many universities all over the world. He had been felicitated with many awards in architecture. Aga Khan award, Praemium Imperiale of Japan gold medal of UIA and RIBA, Royal Gold Medal of Royal Institute of Architecture, Britain. His architecture company Charles Correa Associates is considered among the best in the world and the legendary Correa was on board of several governments, cities and states. He has also been honoured with our nation's civic honour Padma Shri in 1972 and Padma Vibhushan in 2006.

His contribution to Bangalore has many architectural wonders. The Visweswaraya Towers stand tall at about 247 feet which has 21 floors. The architectural style was brutalist material- glass concrete which exposed concrete with least ornamentation on the exteriors. To understand his style one has to go to the central area of the building. A spacious basement with short steps on more than one side will take you to the next level of the building. This is an indication of his modern attitude.



*V V Tower, Bengaluru*

## **Some of his Land Mark structures**

Gandhi Memorial ot Sabarmati, Gujrat

Jawaharlal Kala Kendra Jaipur

British Council, New Delhi

Salk Lake City, Kolkata

Mcgrover Institute of Brain Research MIT, U.S.

Ismaili Centre, Toronto, Canada

Vidhan Bhavan, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

Plan for Navi Mumbai Satellite Town

Indian Embassy at UN, New York.

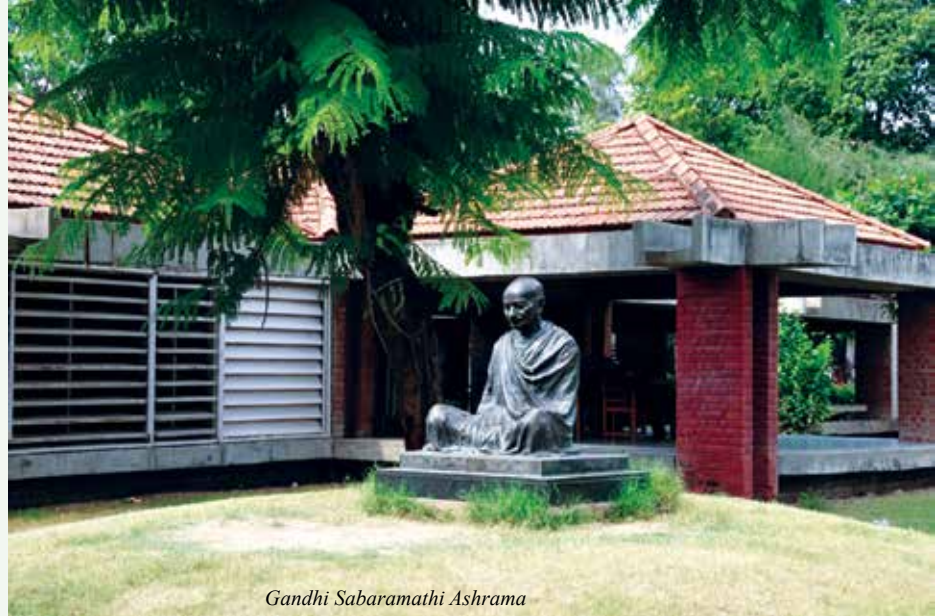
Champalimaud Centrer for the Unknown, Lisbon, Portugal

LIC Building, Delhi.

He used courtyard concept in every one of his designs which included his house in Koramangala. Similar concept was designed in Jawaharlal Centre at Indian Institute of Science where he has built house, office and guest house with court yards. He has also designed staff house at Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Sciences at Jakkur.

Even in the Titan Township and Bimanagar Township, the courtyard concept is extensively used. Here it can be seen not only in the front of the house but also in the backyard. This will enable both residents and neighbours to enjoy open air space.

Other building designs/plans with his brain are KSBE and HMT Head Office building on Bellary



*Gandhi Sabaramathi Ashrama*



*Kala Academy, Goa*



*Kachanjunga Apartments, Mumbai*

Road. He even conceptualized the construction of Navanagar in Bagalkot.

Charles Correa was always for the concept of 'open sky'. Always, he used to say that 'one has to open up to the skies, then only buildings got air and light'. He is one of the few architects who utilized climatic concepts in modern building design. Known for blending his architectural marvels with nature, he was also a votary of open spaces and as an architect, planner, activist and theoretician, he became one of the few contemporary architects who addressed not only issues of architecture but also low cost housing of urban planning.

As many renown architects who were students of Correa at one or the other time opine, he was very innovative and his designs are non- repetitive and excellent. The structures are extremely sound matched with the India's culture. He has also founded Urban Designs Research Institute in Mumbai in 1984.

He never built glass structures. He was of strong opinion that with the climate conditions of Indian cities (tropical) glass buildings will contribute for the raise in the atmospheric temperature. Every building of his architectural designs were Land Mark. He was also called as Man of Land Marks He died on 16th of June 2015. **MOA**



# University of Mysore Centenary Celebrations: A Reflection on Unparalleled Past

■ N Niranjn Nikam

*This is a great moment of joy, honour and privilege for those involved in running the affairs of the University, and to those in the past who have laid a solid foundation. The time has come to reflect on the rich traditions and to revel in its glory.*



**I**t is more than a year since the preparation for the Centenary celebration of University of Mysore began. The only reason why this was possible was due to the vision, dynamism and farsightedness of our Vice Chancellor Prof K.S. Rangappa. All these days we have been telling that we are at the threshold of celebrating the centenary. But the time has finally come and it is July 27, 2015 when the Honourable President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee will inaugurate the year-long celebrations at the beautiful Open Air Theatre in the Manasagangothri campus at 3 pm.

This is a great moment of joy, honour and privilege for those involved in running the affairs

of the University, and to those in the past who have laid a solid foundation. The time has come to reflect on the rich traditions and to revel in its glory.

The University was founded on July 27, 1916 and it gives one goose bumps when one goes through the Gazette Notification to see the meticulous planning for setting up the University. The Founder Rajrishi Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar was just 32 years old when he took this giant step with the able guidance of the Dewan Sir M Visvesvaraya.

As one delves into the history, it is very clear that many people who were involved in the formation of the University were highly focused on

the importance of higher education in particular and the interests of the students in general. It is with great reluctance that the Madras University, where students had to go to acquire their degrees as the Maharaja's and Central Colleges were affiliated to it, finally agreed to the setting up of a separate University in Mysore.

It is the first University in India to be established outside the aegis of the British Raj under royal patronage. The initial years were really the golden period even though the First World War was raging at the time the University came into existence. Some of the finest minds and intellect adorned the University beginning with the first Vice Chancellor H V Nanjundayya who was also instrumental in getting the finest teacher that India has produced Dr S. Radhakrishnan who was teaching Philosophy at the Maharaja's College between 1918 and 1921. There are three Bharat Ratnas that we can boast of and they are the Founder Sir M Visvesvaraya, Teacher Dr S. Radhakrishnan and Student Prof C.N.R. Rao and also two Jnanapeeth awardees Kuvempu (Prof K.V. Puttapa) and Dr U.R. Ananthamurthy.

To get a glimpse of the glorious days of the past all one has to do is try to lay their hands on the Maharaja's College Centenary Commemoration volume edited by M.V. Krishna Rao which was brought out in less than a month with write-ups by who-is-who of Maharaja's college sharing their experiences as teachers and students. The Silver Jubilee celebration volume of the University is another treasure trove.

The book that everyone should look forward to is "An Era of Enlightenment (One Hundred Years of Mysore University)" written by Prof B. Sheik Ali, former Vice Chancellor of Mangalore and Goa

Universities where he has traced the hundred years the University has traversed in his eloquent prose.

### Centenary Celebrations

The countdown to the celebrations began in right earnest last year in September when the Centenary Logo designed by MrsPramoda Devi Wadiyar was launched at a function held in Crawford Hall. Incidentally this was the first time a lady from the erstwhile royal family of Mysuru had graced the magnificent edifice. Every staff member working in the administrative office of the University was stunned and too moved to see the graceful and elegant MrsWadiyar sharing the dais with other dignitaries. Her explanation of the design of the logo had the audience cheering.

The Centenary website - <http://centenary.uni-mysore.ac.in> was also launched on the occasion. The next programme was in October when two distinguished former vice chancellors Prof Dejugow and Prof B. Sheik Ali who are also the alumni of the University were honoured.

After these two functions, the preparations have been very low key and the time has come now to reveal the ambitious programmes that the University has envisaged as part of the celebrations.

The Centenary theme song is ready and it is one of its kinds in the entire world. One of the well-known Kannada poets in the State H.S.





***The Founder Rajrishi Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar was just 32 years old when he took this giant step with the able guidance of the Dewan Sir M Visvesvaraya.***

Venkatesh Murthy says, “I have seen one poet writing ten poems but I have never seen ten poets writing one poem.” The four stanza theme song reflects the hundred year journey in all its glory and this theme song with music by renowned music director Hamsalekha will be launched on July 12.

The work on the historical theme play is also going on and again experts in writing drama have been roped in and the sound and light show will be a riveting experience once it is staged.

The historical documentary film will also be made and we are looking for experienced documentary film makers to showcase the rich hundred year history on the big screen. A coffee table book will also be ready during the course of the year-long centenary celebrations which involves a lot of research.

Plans are also afoot to release the Centenary Commemorative stamp and coin during the valedictory function next year in July. The South Zone women’s hockey and All India varsity wrestling tournament will also be held as part of the celebrations under the watchful eyes of the Physical Education department.

The feather in the cap however, during the celebrations is the hosting of the 103rd Indian Science Congress to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on January 3, 2016. Nearly 15,000 delegates will be participating in this five-day congress. The last Science Congress was held in Mysuru in January 1982 when the then Prime Minister Smt Indira Gandhi inaugurated that is still fresh in the memory of most Mysureans. The credit for bringing the Science Congress goes to Mysuru entirely to our dynamic Vice Chancellor.

All eyes in the State and the country will be focused on the cultural capital of the State, Mysuru for the next one year that will keep the students, teachers, staff of the colleges affiliated to University of Mysore and the citizens enthralled as events after events will keep unfolding. **MNN**



*Kalakeri - A sleepy little village on the foothills of the Western Ghats and adjoining the Malnad forest is awoken up early morning every day by the mellifluous vocal chanting accompanied by enchanting melodies produced on the sitar, the violin, the flute, the harmonium and the tabla by young talents of Gurukul Vidyalaya.*

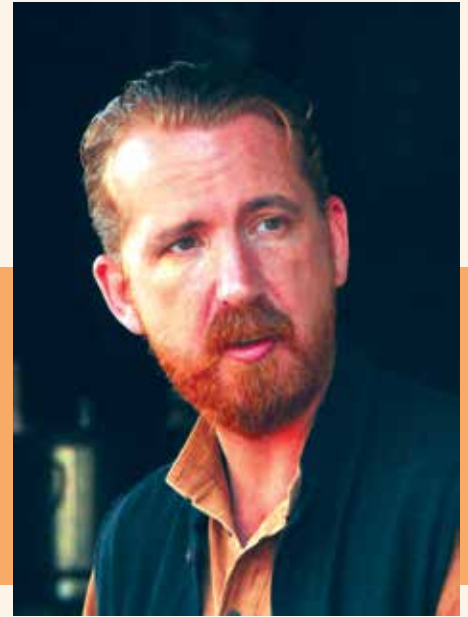


# A MELODY OF SONG OF SILENCE

■ Harshavardhan V Sheelavnt

**K**alakeri - A sleepy little village on the foothills of the Western Ghats and adjoining the Malnad forest is awoken up early morning every day by the mellifluous vocal chanting accompanied by enchanting melodies produced on the sitar, the violin, the flute, the harmonium and the tabla by young talents of Gurukul Vidyalaya.

Ms. Rekha Matti, member of Kalakeri Gram Panchayat, from Lalagatti village says, "This splendid music along with the chirping of birds ushers the dawn to our village. This harmonious sound not



*Kalakeri Music School Director Adam Woodward*



only soothes and calms the soul of anyone who hears, but also brings a divine encounter to visitors. We have a spring that lasts throughout the year.”

Kalakeri Sangeet Vidyalaya (KSV), a charitable rural residential school founded in November 2002, registered as society, is a better performing school of arts with a difference. Naveen Jha, CEO of Deshpande Foundation, Hubli is the present chairperson for the school’s governing board.

KSV School is inspired by the ancient Indian traditional learning and culture system called ‘Gurukul’. The musical meditation is an evidence for vibrations which one can experience in this remote picturesque hamlet, 18 kilometers away from the cradle of Hindusthani Classical music & performing arts - Dharwad.

The founders of the school Mathieu Fortier of Canada and Agathe Meurisse-Fortier from France, dreamt of Hindusthani Classical music reaching the

less privileged as well. Soon, the classes also got expanded from vocal to all performing arts. KSV is now both traditional and modern in its policy & educating approach.

This infrastructure of the Gurukul is very attractive. It is built of natural materials which are locally available except roof tiles and looks like an extension of the nearby village. Along with the school inmates, the officials and volunteers who are foreign nationals too lead simple living in the same structures, is really inspiring.

KSV is also quite impressive in ambience, where students come and live with renowned masters to acquire traditional knowledge of music and performing arts integrated into a tradition of master and disciple, creating a lifelong bond of India’s vast cultural heritage. KSV is probably the only residential Gurukul in India where, in addition to academic pursuits, students practice

## ‘KSV Light Scholarship’

The money saved on electricity is now utilized on an innovative concept ‘Light Scholarship’. Most of the children here in KSV are from poor families and many of them do not have access to power. The meritorious students from such families will be provided light scholarships. The school is now distributing and installing solar panels to the houses of such children.

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## Solar energized water pump

A 6 kilowatt solar powered 5 hp motor pumps almost 50 thousand liters of water alternate days. It has reduced the electricity bills from 8 thousand to only 1 thousand per month! 2 solar water heaters for boys’ hostel, 2 for girls’ and one for volunteers have been installed. The kitchen is about to be converted in to steam cooking pattern to make optimum use of solar pre-heated water.

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## Gap year students as volunteers

The scholarly students who have taken a break for practice learning come to KSV as volunteers. Almost 15 countries from Europe and America, Japan, Nepal and India come. Since inception some 2 thousand volunteers from different professions have served in different capacities at KSV. They have trained these children to master their skill sets through vocational training like wood carving, carpentry, tailoring and painting.



music, dance and drama for four to six hours a day with deep involvement and joy.

“Once they were students at KSV and now are serving as teachers! Krishna Sutar teaches vocal also learning higher notes in Baroda, Dayanand Sutar teaches Laya on Tabla, Basavaraj Hugar teaches vocal and Santosh Kalaghatagi works as warden 24x7! Very happy and contented as they say – job satisfaction is must. Students becoming teachers in the same school where they learnt is an indication of 360° development of students” says, Suddharm Basapur, Principal.

Hope is what KSV waters the most. Two of the six children of Kamala, 38 a single mother and a versatile cook in the school, appeared the S.S.L.C exam last year, and now both have passed. “I want them to continue their studies and find good jobs. They are the only hope for me. This could have not been possible in my wildest dream without KSV”, she beams with confidence.

Girija, 45 a humble woman from Soraba, near Shimogga works as teacher cum warden in KSV since 9 years, has adopted a girl and a boy. With the savings of her salary she got her adopted daughter married. She has decided to help two more adopted daughters to get them married at her own expense!


Phakkeerappa, aged 50 from the same village, works as a laborer for KSV. Sadly he encountered a cardiac problem recently. He is very fortunate because KSV Gurukul bore the full medical expenses and the school takes care of his two kids too.



*“All living things contain within them some measure of madness that moves them in strange, inexplicable ways”*

Just as Christopher Columbus was able to find in one town people with all the different skills needed for building and equipping his ships – carpenters, sail makers, rope makers, and craftsmen to make caulking, musicians, cooks and the rest, as well as the sailors themselves and discovered America which was once called a land of milk and honey. Here Adam and his dedicated team of 15 academicians, 15 performing artists, 17 wardens, 7 administrators and 19 laborers along with 30 volunteers that are working round the clock. It will not be a wonder if we see the lives of the under privileged in enviable positions if not reach the pinnacle of glory.

Adam Woodward nicely puts it, “at KSV the main values underlining the entire ethos are justice, non-violence, equality, cooperation, critical thinking and respect for people and one’s environment. By adopting all these values in all that we do, our team believes that our students will be well prepared to be responsible citizens. They serve and are a source of inspiration wherever they go and live”.

“All living things contain within them some measure of madness that moves them in strange, inexplicable ways” writes Yann Martel in Life of Pie. KSV is a personification of this statement! 



## KSV won Zayed Future Energy Prize

The Gurukul won Zayed Future Energy Prize in the Global High School Section representing Asia in 2014, after competing second time. The prize offered to the school was \$1,00,000 (approximately Rupees 63 lakhs) which is being utilized for sustainability projects on the campus now. KSV has been encouraged and inspired by the initiatives of Masdar Foundation and Zayed Future Energy program team lending a great financial support for a noble cause, for integrating energy efficient and environmentally sustainable projects at High School level at par with global standards, but also inspired future generation towards more sustainable way of life through simple natural living.

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## Solar Energy empowers KSV

Ramon Magsaysay winning SELCO’s social entrepreneur Harish Hande was kind enough to support KSV with considerable concessions in converting the school into solar energy campus and in slowly giving up the grid power. Deshpande Foundation was also instrumental in seeding this idea. Newly installed solar panels produce 14 kilowatt electricity. In order to make the class room activities more interesting, multimedia technology is introduced. A new computer lab has kicked off. Thus the power requirement has also increased considerably. Single phase throughout the day, erratic fluctuations in the village made KSV to think solar energy to be a better solution. A switch over to solar energy helps the school to save the annual electricity cost of approximately Rs 84,000.

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## Naming the named one’s!

In order to make little ones remember the ragas the names have been carved on wood pieces and hanged on the class doors. Marava, Khamaj, Asavari, Poorvi, Todi, Bhairavi, Bhilaval and Khaphi to name few. To make the little masters remember the contributions of great masters, names are carved on wood pieces and hung on every hostel like Pt. Bhimsen Joshi, Ustad Bismillha Khan for boys’ hostels and Dr. Gangubai Hanagal, Vidushi Lalita Rao, Vidushi Kesarbai Kela kar for girls’ hostels!





*According to British writer, Henry Cousens who wrote extensively on the architectural remains of Bijapur in 1916, these intricately built chains of subterranean tunnels were the primary sources to supply water from artificial lakes and wells to the ancient city of Bijapur.*

.....  
■ Firoz Rozindar

# Ancient Water System in Vijayapura



**V**ijayapura: After remaining unnoticed for centuries from general public, the ancient underground tunnels of the city may now see the light of the day with the district administration intending to revive these magnificent and intrinsic part of Adil Shahi history, the dynasty that ruled the Deccan plateau between 1490 and 1686 AD.

According to British writer, Henry Cousens who wrote extensively on the architectural remains of Bijapur in 1916, these intricately built chains of subterranean tunnels were the primary sources to supply water from artificial lakes and wells to the ancient city of Bijapur.

Deputy Commissioner, D. Randeep who has shown keen interest in reviving and restoring the ancient water supply system here, has decided to involve experts, the officials of ASI and BDA for execution of this ambitious project.

“I am amazed to see this marvelous structure. This hidden history must be revived, preserved and protected”, he said.

The Deputy commissioner also said that he would be exploring the possibility to introducing tunnel tourism here by clearing a portion of tunnel between Suranga Bawadi and Sainik School.

“If we could do that, it will be no less than an achievement for us as it has remained hidden for centuries”, he said.

The official after visiting the tunnels, said that fortunately, a majority of stretch is still intact and could be revived.

Sri Randeep said that the long-term project would be to restore and revive the ancient water system by involving experts of Iran and Indian Heritage Cities Network.

He said that Rs. 60 lakh would be earmarked for consultation and revival out of Rs. 10 crore granted by the government for development of tourism. “Meanwhile I will issue order to the people not damage or destroy any tunnel as it’s a protected monument by the ASI”, he said.

He hoped that at least in next three months, a considerable work would be completed to open a small portion of the tunnel for public.

**MOX**



*Deputy Commissioner, D. Randeep looking at the ancient water system during his recent visit.*

## Clearing the tunnel routes...

After the decision of the District Administration to revive the ancient water system of Adil Shahi era, the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) has initiated the process of clearing one of the tunnel routes as a beginning of the project.

According to the sources in ASI, though the ASI Dharwad circle yet to get funds for revival of entire stretch subterranean tunnel between Batt Bawadi and District Government Hospital, however a small portion would be first opened which would enable the ASI to seek more funds based on it.

The official said that during the recent joint survey by Bijapur Development Authority (BDA), ASI and Revenue Department, the entire stretch was checked and found about 36 air vents while are either opened or partially closed concrete slabs.



# PICK A PEARL



## Folklore Museum Mysuru

**T**he Folklore museum Mysuru is located in Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion, Manasa gangothri. The folklore museum contains representative collections of art and crafts from all over Karnataka. The museum was founded in 1968. Since its foundation the University of Mysore has contributed to study of folklore, and the museum has been developed to its present level by scholars such as P R Thippeswamy, Javeregowda and Jeesham Paramashivaiah.

P R Thippeswamy brought material from all over Karnataka to increase the museum's collection. As a folklore museum it not only showcases items but also elements of music, dance and drama.

The museum has a spectacular collection of more than 6,500 unique folklore exhibits. The museum exhibits have been organized in a systematic order according to the folk art forms. The gallery is divided into wings for folklore, large dolls, folk life, literature and art.

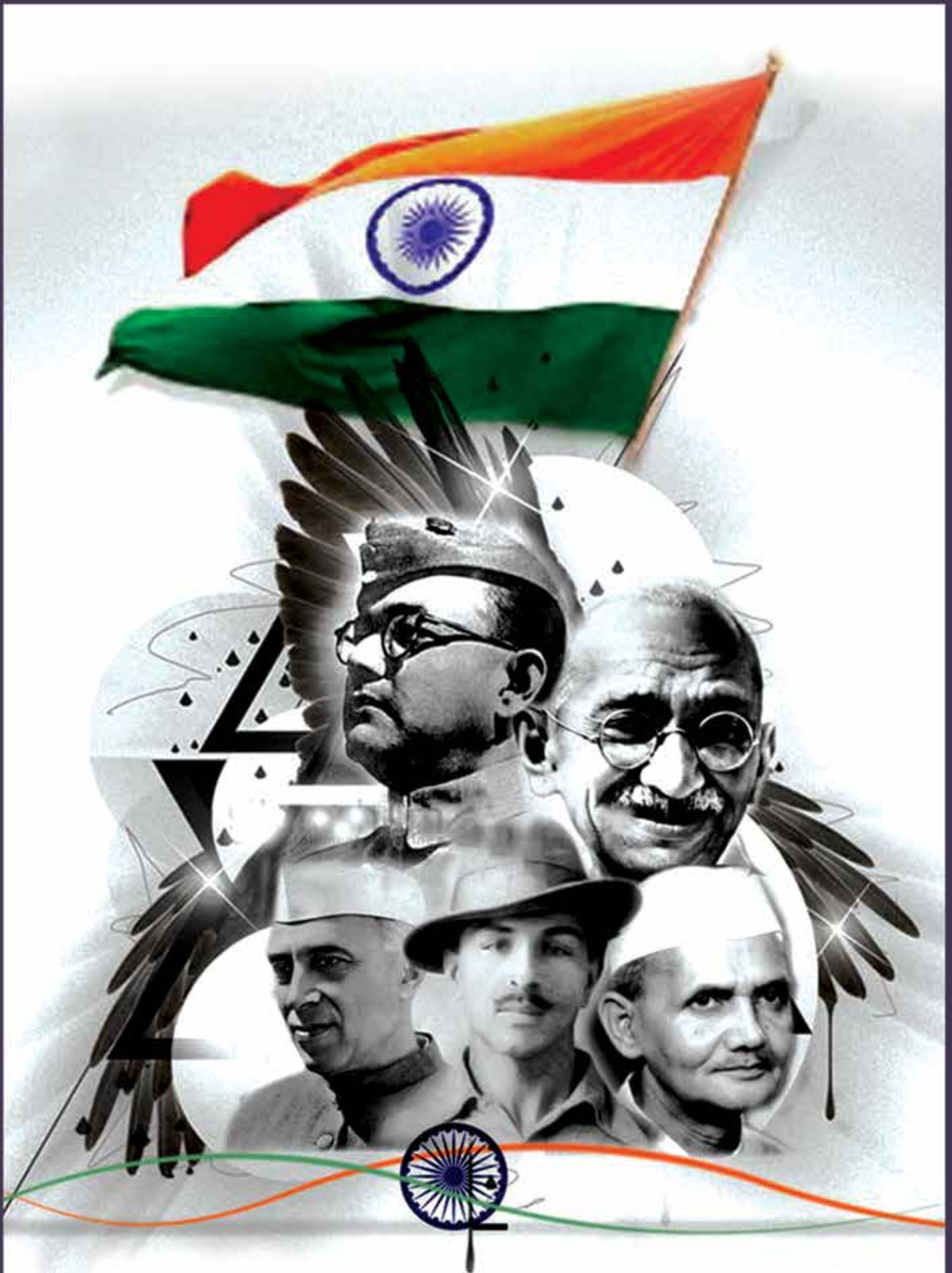




*Jog Falls in rainy season*

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*Nation Celebrates 69th Independence Day*