



# ಸಮನ್ವಯ

S A M A N V A Y A

2021 • Q1 • QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER

## VSNA OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT**

**HARISH  
HIREMATH**

**VICE PRESIDENT**

**NAGARATHNA  
TOTADA**

**SECRETARY**

**KIRAN  
BABALADI**

**TREASURER**

**BHAVANI  
MOODABAGIL**



VEERASHAIVA SAMAJA OF NORTH AMERICA



# Samanvaya ಸಮನ್ವಯ

**Veerashaiva Samaja of North America**  
**Quarterly Newsletter – Q1 2021**

## **Elected Board of Directors:**

Girish Budibetta, FL  
Suresh Shroff, OH  
Dilip Shivanna, GA  
Mahesh Patil, MI  
Nandish Dhananjaya, IL  
Prabhshankar Setru, MI

## **Board of Regents:**

Nayantara Swamy, FL- Chairperson  
Puttaveeraiah Prabhakara P, Toronto  
Manjula Sankarappa, OH  
B.S. Nanjunadappa, PA  
Vimala Siddalingaiah, VA  
Sudhir Kumar, TN

## **Appointed Board of Directors:**

T.S. Shivashankar, AL  
Shivu Vibhuti, CA-North  
Uma Hukkeri, CA-South  
Shankar Yadiyur, CA-Central  
Shashidhar Kallur, IL  
Nagaraj Shivakumar, CT  
Vidya Takkalaki, FL  
Jay Jayadev, GA  
Nijaguna Prasad, MD  
Santosh Teli, MI  
Rudresh Kottani, NE  
Onkara Murundi, NY/NJ  
Thumbesh Halnur, NC  
Sudhir Naikar, OH  
Siddaramanna Tumkur, PA (East)  
Srikanth Hanumanthappa, Pittsburgh, PA  
K. P. Channabasappa, TN  
Mahantesh Nashi, Dallas, TX  
C.K. Swaroop, Houston, TX  
Chaithanya Mallikarjun, San Antonio, TX  
Kiran Shivappagoudar, Toronto, Canada  
Sumangala Desaigoudar, Alberta, Canada  
Roopa Guddimath, VA & DC  
Vivek Neginhal, WV  
Sateesh Kavi, Kansas City, MO  
Dhanya Moodabagil, Youth Chapter

## **VIRC-Committee:**

Sajjan Shiva, TN, Director  
Yash Gaddi, CT, Editor  
Manjunath Nyamathi, MI  
Jay Kalmath, NC  
Veer Muchandi, GA



ನಾನು ಆರಂಭವ ಮಾಡುವೆನಯ್ಯಾ, ಗುರುಪೂಜೆಗೆಂದು,  
ನಾನು ಬೆವಹಾರವ ಮಾಡುವೆನಯ್ಯಾ, ಲಿಂಗಾರ್ಚನೆಗೆಂದು,  
ನಾನು ಪರಸೇವೆಯ ಮಾಡುವೆನಯ್ಯಾ, ಜಂಗಮದಾಸೋಹಕ್ಕೆಂದು.  
ನಾನಾವಾವ ಕರ್ಮಗಳ ಮಾಡಿದಡೆಯು ಆ ಕರ್ಮಫಲಭೋಗವ ನೀ ಕೊಡುವೆ  
ಎಂಬುದ ನಾನು ಬಲ್ಲೆನು. ನೀ ಕೊಟ್ಟ ದ್ರವ್ಯವ ನಿಮಗಲ್ಲದೆ ಮತ್ತೊಂದಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡನು,  
ನಿಮ್ಮ ಸೊಮ್ಮಿಂಗಿ ಸಲಿಸುವೆನು, ನಿಮ್ಮಾಣೆ ಕೂಡಲಸಂಗಮದೇವಾ.

– ಬಸವಣ್ಣ

## Table of Contents

VSNA President's Message.....	3
Board of Regents (BOR) Chairperson's Message.....	5
VSNA International Resources Center (VIRC) Director's Message.....	7
Samanvaya Editor's Note.....	9
Guidelines for Submission of Articles.....	10
International Basava Jayanthi 2021.....	11
44 <sup>th</sup> VSNA Virtual Convention.....	14
VSNA Officers (Brief introduction) .....	17
BOD, BOR & Appointed Board of Directors (Brief introduction).....	18
Report: All Chapters Mahashivaratri Celebrations.....	22
Article/Poem: ಪದಗಳಿಗೆ ನಿಲುಕದ ಸಾಧಕ! ಧರೆಯ ಕೌತುಕ!!.....	25
Article: Does Veerashaivism Fill Our Religious Needs in Today's world?.....	27
Chapter Activities Report .....	31

### Disclaimer:

The views and opinions expressed in these articles are those of the author. Neither VSNA officers, affiliated chapters, Board of Directors warrants or endorses any contents or articles linked from this newsletter, and shall not be held legally liable for any losses caused by reliance on the accuracy or timeliness of any such information. Portions of the information may be incorrect and/or may not be current. Any person or entity that relies any information obtained from this newsletter does so at his or her own risk.



## President's Message

The First Servant of The Samaja's Message:

Om Namah Shivaya; Om Sri Guru Basava Lingaya Namah.

By the blessings of Lord Shiva and Guru Basava, it is my pleasure to serve our Veerashaiva-Lingayat community of North America as the first servant of this great religious non-profit organization, Veerashaiva Samaja of North America (VSNA). Our Samaja is built on the vision of **"Samanvaya"**, passion, diligence and hard work of our past presidents, past board members and our life members since 44+ years.



Our team consists of passionate Chapter Presidents, Elected Board Members and Officers having high motivation to serve you all at 'All Chapters' level with strong collaboration as ONE TEAM to rejuvenate, build and expand our beloved and sacred VSNA. As your team of servants, with great pleasure, we are sharing our Vision and Goals for VSNA 2021-2022:

### VISION

Preserve and strengthen the 40+ year old organization for the younger generation with vigor and vitality via growth and reform.

### GOALS

#### Growth:

- Extricate our sacred organization from the legal involvement as early as possible.
- Engage members' participation across chapters with innovative community service and networking programs.
- Pursue consistent outreach program to build **"Samanvaya"** among our chapters and community-at-large to unify.
- Engage members by promoting All-Chapters virtual programs (key events and convention).
- Merge the distinction between Chapter and Central memberships along with increasing life memberships.

#### Reform:

- Build the collaborative culture by bringing end to legal activism witnessed in recent years.
- Engage younger generation in all aspects of the organizational structure to develop future leaders.
- Develop web-based online services for membership and chapters to improve digital experience.
- Enhance web based VIRC as online library for Veerashaiva-Lingayat related information.
- Develop policy and procedures for conducting VSNA business and processes in all aspects while following and adhering to our VSNA Bylaws.

After it was duly certified by the election committee, our team took the oath of allegiance to our Mission, Goals and to the Objective of Bylaws of VSNA on Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021. In line with our Goals, within first fifty days, as one team, we are happy to share with the community: -

1. March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021: More than sixteen chapters enthusiastically participated by sending their programs to our All Chapters Mahashivaratri, dedicated to Akkamahadevi, a virtual online program conducted for

roughly three hours and viewed by nearly 900 families. Most notable presentation was, the video presentation by VSNA NextGen, our youth group.

2. March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021: On the day of our Mahashivaratri event, we announced the continuation of our community building and outreach programs to engage all of you in International Basava Jayanti 2021 on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and started collaborating with Kannada Organizations in North America and Veerashiava-Lingayath organizations all around the world.
3. As promised in our vision and goals, we focused our effort to bring an end to the legal involvement of VSNA which had brought the organizational activities to stand still for the past nine months. On the first day of our service to VSNA, we received a court order to submit all the VSNA Bylaw 2020 voting process and membership details within 30 days (by March 10<sup>th</sup> 2021). As none of the data was available, we convinced eBallot organization (used by past president) to grant access to all the voting data and verified it against the payments received in VSNA checking accounts data. After detailed verification and analysis, shared all our findings with previous BOD and BOR along with current BOD and BOR. We received very minimal input to modify our data and formally submitted to the court. On March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, we received the judgment from Hon. Rae Lee Chabot, Circuit Court Judge, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, declaring VSNA Bylaws 2020 voting is invalid in its entirety (NULL & VOID). Hence, the legal case was formally closed and VSNA was extricated from its legal entanglement.
4. Excerpts from the Entered Declaratory Judgment issued on March 25<sup>th</sup> 2021:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECLARED, that the 2020 vote to amend the VSNA Corporate Bylaws is invalid in its entirety, without affect, and is hereby set aside.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECLARED, that there is evidence of fraud in the voting process by the "System Administrator", Srishail K. Hadimani, and improprieties in tabulating the vote.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECLARED, that the Plaintiff, GADIGEPPA DODDAMANI, prevailed and was successful in his challenge to the corporate vote to amend the Bylaws.

**THIS ORDER DISPOSES OF THE LAST PENDING CLAIM AND CLOSSES THE CASE.**

As per the mission and goals of VSNA and to be transparent with the general membership, we have provided the full transcript of Entered Declaratory Judgement from the court in our website, [www.vsna.org/resources/](http://www.vsna.org/resources/)

We earnestly look for guidance and blessings from all our Past Presidents, Past Board Members, Senior leaders, and best wishes from all of you to continue to work towards fulfilling and realizing our Vision and Goals.

Yours First Servant,

Harish Hiremath



## Board of Regents Chairperson's Message

Sharanu,

Our Veerashaiva Samaja is the oldest and largest organization of Veerashaivas outside India. I am delighted to see this prestigious organization with 26 chapters, continuing to grow bigger and stronger. I am humbled and honored to serve this esteemed organization as Chairman of the Board of Regents.

Our founders recognized that we the Veerashaiva immigrant families in North America, have particular needs and challenges, unlike our counterparts elsewhere in the world. They also recognized that religion, not only adds depth and meaning in our lives, it also provides an anchor, a sense of identity and belonging, which is a basic necessity in the lives of our growing families in North America.



VSNA has a unique and important role, as well as responsibility in this regard. There are many charitable organizations that have noble, and humanitarian goals that most of us belong to. However, VSNA is a religious organization whose primary goal is to cater to the spiritual and religious needs of its members. Charity or Dasoha is only one of the several goals of our faith.

I am privileged to be working with a group of very experienced fellow Regents, towards developing programs that help all age groups - children, youth and seniors. We will be reaching out to you for input through surveys in the coming months.

My hope is to help make VSNA integral and indispensable in the lives of our members.

Seeking your support and blessings.

*Nayantara Swamy*

*Chairman, Board of Regents*

-O-

Introduction:

I have spent most of my adult life in community service in different organizations, but none so much as in VSNA, as it is the closest to my heart. I continue to be engaged and active, within my local VSNA family since the early 80's when my husband Dr. Mallikarjuna Swamy and I started the Pittsburgh Chapter.

I have formally served in Central VSNA in various positions since 1985 as Treasurer for 4 years, Vice President for 2 years, President of 2 chapters [Pittsburgh, Florida & in their 3 conventions], VSNA editor 2 yrs, and as a Board of Directors [BOD] member, on and off through several terms, in addition to several ad hoc committees.

I helped build the VSNA library and ran it for two decades. I feel proud to have successfully initiated, raised funds, and produced an audio 'pravachana' of "Akka Mahadevi {Shunya} Sampadane" rendered in

Gamaka style by Jaya Rajashekar for VSNA. It is an entertaining and popular medium for educating, and propagating one of our sacred texts.

Through the years it has given me great joy in promoting Veerashaiva philosophy outside VSNA through the two schools I founded "Swadesh" Sunday school, and 'Natya Bharati". Inspired and motivated by my students, I have taken opportunities to promote our philosophy through Temple Summer Camps, comparative religious panel discussions, lecture demonstrations in temples, schools and even churches. My service as President of TAPI Auxiliary [Tristate Association of Physicians of Indian origin], and Chairperson of Cultural Committee, and Jt. Secretary of S.V.Temple was also very rewarding. It has given me awareness of how VSNA is perceived, how our philosophy is taught and practiced in this country, as well as methods used by other faiths to teach their religion to their congregation.

My involvement in the community in different positions helps me see issues in VSNA from different angles from a generational and community perspective. I realize that the role of Chairman of the Board of Regents demands both hindsight and vision. I am hoping that my experiences in life, and in VSNA, will help me review its past, assess the present and help plan for the future of a vibrant VSNA.

I sincerely believe in what VSNA stands for, and the vast potential it has to enrich lives. I am one of its grateful beneficiaries.

Nayantara Swamy 🙏

ಅಯ್ಯಾ, ಕತ್ತಲೆಯ ಕಳೆದುಳಿದ ಸತ್ಯಶರಣರ  
ಪರಿಯನೇನೆಂಬೆನಯ್ಯಾ  
ಘನವನೊಳಕೊಂಡ ಮನದ ಮಹಾನುಭಾವಿಗಳ  
ಬಳಿವಿಡಿದು ಬದುಕುವೆನಯ್ಯಾ.  
ಅಯ್ಯಾ, ನಿನ್ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಂದು ಬೇರೊಂದರಿಯದ  
ಲಿಂಗಸುಖಿಗಳ ಸಂಗದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನವ ಕಳೆಯಿಸಯ್ಯಾ ಚೆನ್ನಮಲ್ಲಿಕಾರ್ಜುನಾ.

- ಅಕ್ಕಮಹಾದೇವಿ

## VSNA International Resources Center (VIRC) Director's Message

According to VSNA Bylaws, the activities of VIRC shall include publications of quarterly newsletters and other publications. The VIRC shall serve as a real and virtual storehouse of all printed literature, disks (CDs and DVDs), paintings, artifacts etc. related to the Lingayat religion and history of Samaja.

I am pleased to report that Yashavanth Gaddi has accepted the Editorship of Samanvaya (Former name: Baandhavya), our quarterly newsletter. All the past newsletters are under Services on VSNA.org. Several other publications are also archived at the same site. Hope you can make use of these in enhancing your knowledge of our beloved religion and ways of life.

Vachana literature and articles on Veerashaiva and Lingayat principles are now extensively available online. VIRC will try to assemble the links to these and make them available on VSNA.org soon.

Our membership now consists of four generations of individuals. We must create programs to introduce our children to Vachanas along the lines of the 'VachanaVana' program of Southern California Chapter. The series of talks from this chapter on various aspects of Veerashivism (Shoonya Sampadane, Sharanaru Kanda Shiva) are in Kannada and are easily accessible to adults and seniors. We will list links for these programs on VSNA site so they can be used by all. Our youth and young adults (without exposure to Kannada) need programs and literature in English to convey the principles. We also need to create a structured program (along the model of Chinmaya Mission) to educate our membership. These are monumental tasks, and we need volunteers to contribute to these efforts.

Starting this month, VIRC will coordinate the **VSNA VICHARA VEDIKE (V3)**, a weekly online discussion on Veerashiva – Lingayat principles and practices. We would like these sessions to be focused on how the principles and practices are pertinent to us here today. We have several scholars in our community, and I am requesting them to volunteer to lead the weekly sessions. We will also invite Swamijis and Scholars from everywhere to lead these sessions. The success of V3 depends on your interest and feedback.

Please read the newsletter and make use of the books and articles available on VSNA site and let us know of your thoughts on enhancing their usefulness. Also, please provide us the details on other artifacts you have found useful.

Sharanu Sharanarathi,

Sajjan Shiva



-0-

Introduction:

Dr. Sajjan Shiva is a Professor of Computer Science at the University of Memphis, Tennessee. He is a Fellow of IEEE and has been a teacher, researcher and consultant since 1975. He is an author of 100+ articles in software engineering, cyber security and computer architecture. He has authored four books which have seen

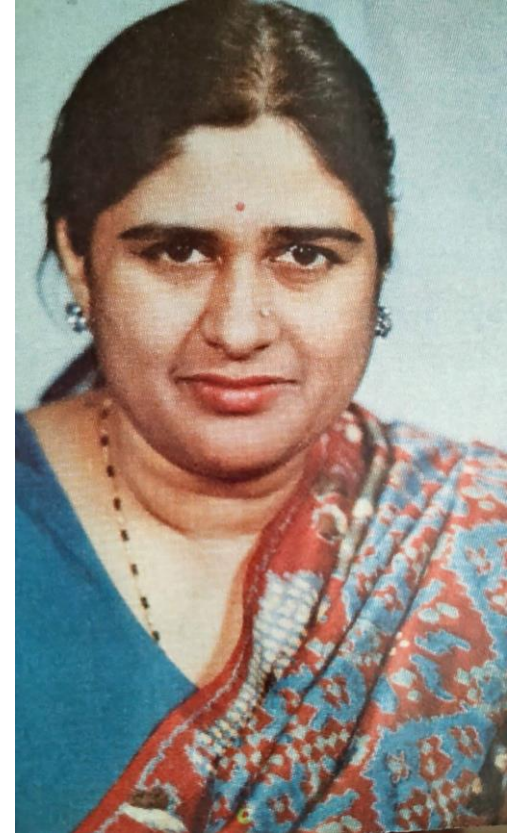
10 editions and are used by 120+ universities around the world. Through his weekly blog <http://vachanaaweek.blogspot.com> he has translated and written commentaries on 200+ Vachanas so far. It has reached audience in USA and India and 8 other countries with a total read count of 60000+. He has served as a member and chairman of the VSNA BOR and has been a life member since 1990. He is a co-founder and currently President of Siddaganga Humanitarian Mission – USA, to support the educational activities of Siddaganga Gurukula in Tumkur. He hails from Akki Rampura in Tumkur District of Karnataka. Kalpana and Sajjan Shiva have two daughters (Sruti and Sweta) and four grandchildren.



## ೫೭. ಚಿತ್ತ ಮಲ್ಲಿಗೆ

ನಿತ್ಯ ಪೂಜೆಗೆ ಅಣಿ ಮಾಡು ನೀ ಬೆಳಗಿನ ಜಾವ  
 ಪತ್ರಿ ಪುಷ್ಪವ ಎತ್ತಿ ತಂದಿಡು ಚಿತ್ತ ಮಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಹೂವ  
 ದಾನ ಧರ್ಮದ ಜ್ಞಾನ ಕರ್ಮದ ಹಗ್ಗದಿ ನೀರೆಳೆದು  
 ಸ್ನಾನ ಮಾಡು ನೀ ಶಿವಪೂಜೆಗೆ ಧ್ಯಾನ ಗಂಗೆಯೊಳೆರೆದು  
 ಲೇಪ ಮಾಡು ನೀ ಆಸೆ ಆಮಿಷ ಸುಟ್ಟು ಭಸ್ಮವ ಮಾಡಿ  
 ಲೋಪಮಾಡುತ ಕೋಪತಾಪವ ಸುಟ್ಟು ಧೂಪವ ಮಾಡಿ  
 ಸಿರಿಗಂಧದ ಕೊರಡೊಂದು ಎರಡಾಗಿಸಿ ಕೊರೆದು  
 ಹಿರಿ ಬದುಕಿನ ಸಾಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜೀವಗಂಧವನರೆದು  
 ಹೆಜ್ಜೆ ಹೆಜ್ಜೆಗೆ ಚಂದವಾಗಿಹ ಗಂಧ ಕುಂಕುಮ ಧರಿಸಿ  
 ಇಷ್ಟಲಿಂಗದ ಸಿರಿ ಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಕ್ಷತೆಯನ್ನಿರಿಸಿ  
 ಏಕಭಾವದ ಏಕತಾರಿಯ ಭಕ್ತಿಗೀತವ ಹಾಡಿ  
 ದೇಹ ದಂಡಿಗೆ ವೀಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜೀವ ತಂತಿಯ ಹೂಡಿ  
 ಅನ್ನದಾನದ ನೈವೇದ್ಯವ ನಿನ್ನ ಕೈಯ್ಯಲಿ ನೀಡಿ  
 ನಿನ್ನ ಭಕ್ತಿಯ ಚಿನ್ನದಾರತಿ ಚಿನ್ನಯನಿಗೆ ಬೆಳಗಿ

— ವಿಮಲಾ



(Poem penned by Smt, Vimala Channabasappa, First President of VSNA)

## Editor's Message

Baandhavyada... Oh! Oh!, Samanvayada sahrudaya oduga, sharana sharaneyarige saprema sharanu sharanaarathi \_^\_

I know you may be thinking, "Wait! I have heard these words, before!". You're right! It is like, 'hOdeyaa..... BandhavyadiMda aMdre..baMde samanvayadalli!' 😊 ...Same person!!

Most of you may have heard this joke before – After a person concluded his singing in a function, someone from the audience shouted, "Once more!". Encouraged by it, he sang one more time. "Once more!!", there came the encouragement, again! Excited, the singer asked the person, "Is my singing that nice!?" "Not really! That is why I am asking you to sing again and again!" I remembered the same joke when Mr.Hiremath called me few weeks ago asking me to continue as the Editor of Samanvaya, the new name given to VSNA's Quarterly Newsletter!



Joke apart, I am very happy and thankful for the opportunity given to me to continue as the Editor of this Quarterly Newsletter but I will be more happier if someone from the community comes forward with enthusiasm to take it forward – New faces, New ideas are always welcome!

I know, you are seeing the first issue very late. It should have been published by March 31, 2021. If we had done that, I would have missed an opportunity to wish you all, 'Happy New year, Happy Sankranti, Happy Shivaratri, Happy Ugadi, Happy..' in one sentence! Due to many unexpected reasons, it got delayed. From next issue onwards we will make sure that, the Newsletter gets released – On time! But, please don't delay reading it!!

New committee, new ideas, new initiatives, new efforts to forge the bonding among the members of VSNA are the highlights of this edition. Hence, in this issue you will read the messages from the office Bearers, Board of Directors, BOR Chair, message from VIRC Director highlighting the importance of 'Unity'. You will also read brief messages, information from New Chapter presidents. It is always good to know a little more about people who serve you! As done previously, we will continue to present chapter activities, articles written by our members and professional writers, on Sharana philosophy. Articles, pictures, poems etc., from Youth members are highly encouraged. Whatever the work you do that has 'kayaka', 'dasoha', 'samaanathe' principles attached to it, please share that information with us. We will be very happy to publish them in our Quarterly Newsletter.

I know situation in India is not great and here too it is still delicate. Please stay safe! Stay away from others – Physically but keep in touch with friends and family members over phone, Zoom, etc.,! Please wear masks!

Please read samanvaya and provide your valuable suggestions to improve the quality of the Newsletter. Please send your articles, suggestions to [vsna.virc@gmail.com](mailto:vsna.virc@gmail.com)

Happy reading!!

Sharanu Sharanarthigalu,

Yash Gaddi  
Editor, Samanvaya

## Guidelines for Submission of Articles

The Editorial committee welcomes your articles and poems for publication in our esteemed Newsletter - Samanvaya. Please adhere to the guidelines below and provide clear, concise, quality articles with facts. The Articles should reflect Veerashaiva / Lingayat philosophy, highlighting its rich religious and spiritual heritage. Submissions may include the life of Sharanas, Vachana interpretations and the philosophy. Please share contributions / achievements of the members in enriching the community around the world.

1. Articles should be original in nature and have not been published in any other format / heading in the previous editions of Baandhavya or any other VSNA publications.
2. If the articles contained any part or paragraph of previously published books / articles, appropriate reference should be provided.
3. Articles should be 1-2 pages (exceptions can be made up to 4 pages based on the subject / topic).
4. Up to 2 articles per author / issue will be considered per publication
5. Editorial committee will review the article within 5 business days and the editor-in-chief will communicate to the writer of its acceptance / revision /rejection.
6. Revised article will be considered as a new submission and due course will be followed.
7. Articles received within the prescribed due date will be considered for publication in the issue. If an article is received after the due date, it will be considered for the following issue.

**VSNA Newsletter Committee**

[vsna.virc@gmail.com](mailto:vsna.virc@gmail.com)



**Next Program being brought to you...!!**

॥ ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ಗುರುಬಸವಲಿಂಗಾಯ ನಮಃ ॥



**"SAMANVAYA"**

**"888ನೇ" ವಿಶ್ವ ಬಸವ ಜಯಂತಿ 2021**  
**"888th" International Basava Jayanti 2021**

**Saturday May 15th & Sunday May 16th, 2021**



Parama Pujya  
Jagadguru Shri Shivarathri  
Deshikendra Mahaswamiji  
Shri Suttur Mutt, Mysore



Parama Pujya  
Shri Dr. Shivamurthy  
Murugha Sharanaru  
Shri Murugha Mutt, Chitradurga



Parama Pujya  
Shri Siddalinga Swamiji  
President  
Shri Siddaganga Math



Shri B. S. Yediyurappa  
Hon'ble Chief Minister  
of Karnataka



Shri Aravind Jatti  
President  
Basava Samithi  
Bengaluru



Shri Harish Hiremath  
President  
Veerashaiva Samaja of  
North America (VSNA)



Shri D.P. Prakash  
Ex Director, KSIIDC



Shri Chetan  
Film Actor

**Program Highlights**

- Curtain Raiser & Welcome Address
- Ashirvachana
- Keynote Speakers



**LIVE**

@Basavasamithiglobal



Live Basava Samithi

Website : [www.basavasamithi.org](http://www.basavasamithi.org) & [www.vsna.org/live](http://www.vsna.org/live)

**Organised by:**

**Aravind Jatti**

President  
Basava Samithi Head Quarters  
(India)

**Harish Hiremath**

President  
Veerashaiva Samaja of North America  
(USA & Canada)

**Conceptualized & Co ordained by:**

**Dr. Chinmaya Chigateri**

Digital Committee - Chairman  
Basava Samithi, Bengaluru

**Smt. Bhuvaneshwari Dummi**

Director - Propagation & Digitisation  
Basava Samithi, Bengaluru

**Smt. Nagarathna Totada**

Vice President  
VSNA

# ವಿಶ್ವ ಬಸವ ಜಯಂತಿ 2021

## International Basava Jayanti 2021 Guidelines for the Program Entries

Last Date for Entries Sat, May 07th, 2021 @ 10:00PM EST

Organized By: Basava Samiti, India & Veerashaiva Samaja of North America (VSNA)



### “Samanvaya”

1. To celebrate the rich heritage and contributions of Vachana Sahitya to Kannada literature and to uphold and demonstrate the “Social Assimilation (Samanvaya)” of Basava’s message, we request all participating organizations to invite and involve Sharanas, Kannadigas, Indians and Others in practicing and presenting their programs for International Basava Jayanti 2021.
2. All entries must be sent to [vsna.programs@gmail.com](mailto:vsna.programs@gmail.com) while copying your organization or chapter presidents.
3. Program evaluation group will not be responsible for any program NOT sent to the official email address or submitted after the set deadline. Inclusion of such program is at the discretion of Program Group.
4. Topic of the performance: Program must be related to Veerashaiva-Lingayat principles and Indian culture - vachanas, speeches, skits, songs, dances, folk songs, etc. For clarifications, check with the program group.
5. Include the details below along with “Basava Jayanti 2021 Entrée” in the Subject Line: ○ Organization/ Chapter Name:
  - Item Name:
  - Name of the participants:
  - Brief Description about the song/skit/dance/duration of the item:
6. Audio/video file extension: MP3/MP4/MOV/AVI; Files must be sent with original quality without any compression.
7. Video format: Recording of the video & audio quality must be good and, in a landscape, (horizontal) mode (especially when recorded in mobile phones). Program group has the discretion to reject any entry if Audio/Video quality is not good and adhering to the guidelines specified.
8. Program/item details in the video in the beginning and in the end: Include Organization/ Chapter Name, County Name, Item Name, Participant Name/s in the beginning and end of the item as well.
9. Group entries are preferred, encouraged, and will be given more preference by the Program Group.
10. Solo entries will be reviewed, evaluated and may be length adjusted to fit total program time and with a view to encourage participation from all.
11. Compiled Entries from chapters are not encouraged. Each chapter is suggested to encourage the participants to submit their individual performances.
12. Suggested time limits for the entries:
  - a. Solo Entries - 1 to 2 mins max
  - b. Small Group (2 to 5) - Up to 5 mins
  - c. Large Group (6 to 10) - Up to 10 mins
13. For entries with exceptional artistic content, these requirements will be relaxed by Program Group.
14. Any participant groups requiring more time for their program, they can approach the program group to get pre-approval by sharing the brief content of the program.
15. For any clarification or questions, please contact [vsna.programs@gmail.com](mailto:vsna.programs@gmail.com) or 832 607 3843 or 678 557 9411 (whatsapp numbers).

॥ ಓಂ ಶ್ರೀ ಗುರುಬಸವಲಿಂಗಾಯ ನಮಃ ॥

### First Session: Focused on USA, UK, Middle East, India & Asia

USA: May 15th, 9:00AM to 12:00PM Eastern ST

UK: May 15th, 2:00PM to 5:00PM

Middle East: May 15th, 5:00PM to 8:00PM

Singapore & Perth: May 15th, 9:00PM to 12:00AM Midnight

India: May 15th, 6:30PM to 9:30PM IST

After Break – Program Continues.... No repetition in Second Session

### Second Session: Focused on USA, India, Asia, Australia & New Zealand

USA: May 15th, 7:00PM to 10:00PM Eastern ST

India: May 16th, 4:30AM to 7:30AM IST (*India Program @ 6:00 AM IST*)

Singapore & Perth: May 16th, 7:00AM to 10:00AM

Australia East: May 16th, 9:00AM to 12:00PM Noon

New Zealand: May 16th, 11:00AM to 2:00PM

### Participating National Organization Leaders

Mr. Gitesh Desai/ Mr. Nikhil Jain, SEWA, USA

Mr. Subhash Gupta/ Mr. Chardudatta Malusare, HSS, USA

Mr. Amarnath Gowda, Chairman, Board of Trustees, AKKA

Dr. Mysore S. Nataraja, Kannada Sahitya Ranga, USA

Mr. Dayananda Tumkur, AKKA, North America

Mr. Subhash Malgan, JSS Mission, USA

Mr. Ashwinikumar Sanakal, NAUKA, USA

Mrs. Vijaya Kotur/ Mrs. Chaitra Sanikop, VSUK, UK

Mr. Chandrashekar Lingadahalli, Sagarottara Kannadigaru

Mr. Shivakumar Shekar, Vachana Samaja, Poland

Mr. Madhu Hemegowda, Italy Kannada Association

Dr. Lingappa Kalburgi, Basava Samiti of Asia Pacific

Mrs. Leena Kalburgi, Basava Samiti, New Zealand

Mr. Somashekar N.S, Vachana Koota, Singapore

Mr. Satish Hinder, UAE Basava Samiti, Dubai

Mr. S. Renukamurthy, Basava Balaga, Muscat, Oman

Mr. Shobha Patil, Basava Samiti, Bahrain

Mr. Prithvi Prabhakar, President International Lingayath Youth Forum



## **44<sup>th</sup> VSNA Virtual Convention (July 02<sup>nd</sup> – 04<sup>th</sup>, 2021)**

We cordially invite all the Chapter Presidents, Chapter Officers and members of your community to participate in the VSNA 44th Virtual Convention. We want all the board members to at least participate in one committee as mandatory to drum-up all of our involvement and encourage others. Please share this information with your chapter officers and members and solicit their participation. Please respond indicating your expression of interest to [harish.vsnapresident@gmail.com](mailto:harish.vsnapresident@gmail.com) and [bhavni.vsnatreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:bhavni.vsnatreasurer@gmail.com).

<b>Committee Names</b>	<b>Roles and Responsibilities</b>
<b>Advisory:</b>	<b>At least one or two members of the committee will be involved in every committee to communicate the best practices and best execution of all activities. Work with any committee that requires an extra hand.</b>
<b>Communications/PR</b> <b>Chair:</b> <b>Co-Chair:</b>	<b>Responsible for all website updates prepares communication/PR pieces for mailing/emailing to all VSNA members list. Prepares and develops video or presentation pieces to promote and encourage participation in the upcoming convention. Works closely with the registration committee to ensure all mailing/emailing is coordinated efficiently.</b>
<b>Competitions</b> <b>Chair:</b> <b>Co-Chair:</b>	<b>Responsible for coordinating all the competitions for Vachana, Essay, Dance, and coloring for all age children and including any adult competition. Coming up with awards and participant certificates and awarding them. As a virtual convention, greater collaboration with the technology committee is essential.</b>
<b>Media Committee</b> <b>Chair:</b> <b>Co-Chair:</b>	<b>Crucial committee for the virtual convention to make sure all programs are running smoothly on the day of the convention. Manage a lot of pre-recorded programs, editing, and scheduling, working closely with the entertainment committee</b>
<b>Finance /Fund Raising</b> <b>Chair:</b> <b>Co-Chair:</b>	<b>Prepares convention budget. Plans for fund-raising activities keep up-to-date accounts of all financial affairs – including registration, convention expenses if any, and souvenir advertisements. Prepares the final expense report and balance sheet. Perhaps one</b>

	of the goals could be to become a Life Member instead of a donation towards the convention.
<b>Hospitality</b> <b>Chair:</b> <b>Co-Chair:</b>	A group of members to be focused on answering questions on various programs and committees for enquiring participants. Direct them to the right people or webpage for seamless coordination. Works closely with all committees to be up-to-date on developments.
<b>Program</b> <b>Chair:</b> <b>Co-Chair:</b>	Plans and schedules the overall convention program for all three days. Responsible for main day's invocation, chief guests and invited VIPs, and general session meetings. Works closely with all committees to ensure efficiency and good collaborative execution.
<b>Member &amp; Participants Registration</b> <b>Chair:</b> <b>Co-Chair:</b>	Responsible for developing registration materials and participation forms to send to all members. Responsible for all registrations coming in and reporting the updates on registration. Works closely with a lot of committees to ensure the right information is emailed out to all members. Maintains the members' list for future use
<b>Souvenir</b> <b>Managing Editor:</b> <b>Editor-in-Chief:</b>	Responsible for publishing the convention souvenir with all related speeches, articles, and necessary photos, including finding patrons for ads and a good printer.
<b>Technology</b> <b>Chair:</b> <b>Co-Chair:</b>	Another crucial committee tag-teamed with the media committee to ensure all necessary software, technology, and other needed tools are in place for streaming worldwide. Works closely with Program and Entertainment committee for smooth operation.
<b>Yoga &amp; Shiva Pooja</b>	Responsible for arranging yoga workshops and shiva pooja events with or without swamiji's presence.

<b>Chair:</b> <b>Co-Chair:</b>	
<b>VSNA NextGen</b> <b>Chair:</b> <b>Co-Chair:</b>	<b>Responsible for planning events focused on youth and NextGen members. Works closely with the Entertainment committee for youth participation.</b>
<b>Matrimony:</b> <b>Chair:</b> <b>Co-Chair:</b>	<b>Responsible for organizing the events for the parents of potential bride and bridegrooms who are interesting in getting to know each other families and build the network within VSNA.</b>
<b>Business</b> <b>Chair:</b> <b>Co-Chair:</b>	<b>Responsible for coordinating the workshops with an entrepreneurial outlook</b>
<b>Medical/Health</b> <b>Chair:</b> <b>Co-Chair:</b>	<b>Responsible for coordinating a health workshop with required speakers. Also responsible for arranging emergency care and security</b>
<b>CME:</b> <b>Chair:</b> <b>Co-Chair</b>	<b>Responsible for coordinating a health workshop and /or CME event with required speakers</b>
<b>Religious</b> <b>Chair:</b> <b>Co-Chair:</b>	<b>Responsible for coordinating religious workshops and invited religious guest speakers for the event.</b>



## **VSNA – Officers**

### **(A brief introduction)**

Name: Nagarathna Totada  
Title: Vice President  
Term: 2021 - 2022

I have been part of the GA VSNA community for over 20 years. I have been an active member of the GA chapter and also served as the president during the 2018 - 2019 term.

We have been VSNA members since 2015. I was the group lead for registration and Website committees and was in the Entertainment committee during the 2004 convention which was held in Atlanta, GA.

I am a strong believer of the Basava Philosophy - "work is worship" and I try to integrate that into my everyday life. One of my favorite parts of the VSNA goal is "Let us work together to realize the vision of our sharanas in our adopted land. Something that I want to achieve during this year is to serve the VSNA organization at a central level to help our community unite. We have been Nrupatunga Kannada Koota members for over 20 years and were part of many NKK activities as well. I have volunteered in a couple of committees during the AKKA convention in GA. I have also volunteered at Meals By Grace, and my son's self-started non-profit called Covid Care.

Just a little bit of background information about myself:

Originally, I grew up in Karnataka - India, and currently, I live in Johns Creek, GA with my husband Lokesh Totada and kids - Ashmita and Amogh.

I hold a Master's degree in CS and am working in a management position for a Third-party Insurance company.

In my free time, I like doing yoga, walking outdoors, and volunteering.

Thanks!  
Nagarathna Totada



Name: Kiran Babaladi  
Title: Secretary  
FL Chapter  
Term: 2021 – 2022



Name: Bhavani Moodabagil  
Title: Treasurer  
IL Chapter  
Term: 2021 – 2022



# VSNA – BOD, BOR & Appointed Board of Directors

## (A brief introduction)

I have been a Life member of Central VSNA for more than 30 years.  
Have attended many VSNA conventions and participated in various levels.  
Conducted VSNA conventions in 1992 and 2002 in Columbus, Ohio.  
President of Ohio VSNA twice and is active at the local level at this time.  
Practicing Physician Asthma and Allergy specialist.  
Wife Aruna Suresh Practicing Endocrinologist

Children: Nikhil Sharoff Engineer and Entrepreneur; Rayshma Sharoff is in medical School; Vishal Sharoff is in School of Law.

Children have been very active in earlier conventions in religious and cultural activities.  
As a Family, we have gotten a lot more than what we have done, and grateful for that.

Thank you for all the work you have been doing for VSNA.

**Suresh Sharoff**



-O-

**Vimala Siddalingaiah** is a Founding and Life member of VSNA. She and her family have been very actively involved since the inception of VSNA and even before, both at the chapter level and at the Central VSNA level. Worked side by side with Dr. H. Siddalingaiah, her beloved husband of 57 years, the first Secretary of VSNA, in registering the organization as VSNA and getting the IRS approval as Tax Exempt Entity in 1978 in the State of Maryland. Instrumental in producing numerous News Letters and Directories. Active participation as member of organizing the very first 3 conventions that were held in Maryland and at the 1988 Tenth Anniversary convention as Secretary and Treasurer of VSNA-MD chapter. Helped produce the First Thirty Year History of VSNA in 2008 authored by Dr. H. Siddalingaiah. In 2005 published the convention souvenir. Received "Lifetime Achievement Award" at 34th VSNA annual convention held at Boston in 2011. The award mentioned, "Lifetime Achievement Award to Mrs. Vimala Siddalingaiah and Dr. Honnappa Siddalingaiah for their Invaluable Services and Contributions towards VSNA". She has attended 38 and Dr. Siddalingaiah has attended 40 conventions. Their sons Tharakesh and Madhukesh were very much involved in the activities of VSNA very early on. Tharakesh was one of the first Youth members in the youth committee. Their daughters-in-law Dr. Savitha has served as President of VSNA-MD chapter for 3 years and served as President, Shilpa served as the coordinator of events of the 2015 Convention. Their grand daughter Simran won the first prize for the youth competition at 2015 convention, very actively involved in the youth committee and is a life member. Sonum, Eashan, and Sasha also participate in the chapter activities. Vimala worked with Dr. H. Siddalingaiah to register Siddaganga Humanitarian Mission to support Siddaganga Matha and raised money for the organization. She studied at the University of Maryland and worked for almost 40 years as a Software Engineer on several Federal Agencies like Goddard Space Flight Center, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Defense, etc.



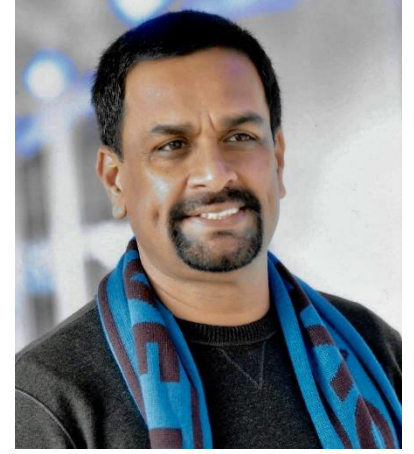
-O-

**Dr. Nijaguna Prasad**

President, VSNA-Maryland (2021-2022)

Dr. Nijaguna Prasad is the current President of VSNA-Maryland Chapter for 2021-2022 term. Prior to this term, he served as the Vice President of the same chapter/organization for 2019-2020. Dr. Prasad has been residing in Maryland for the past 24 years with his family, and he has been actively involved in various community services with multiple organizational affiliations including Kaveri Kannada Association, JSS spiritual mission, Vidya-Niketanam and VSNA-Maryland Chapter in Washington DC metropolitan area. Occasionally he loves cooking, hiking, listen to music and singing leisurely.

-O-

**Uma Hukkeri**

President, VSNA-Southern California

**Uma Hukkeri** has been part of the VSNA Southern California community residing in Irvine California. She is serving as the chapter President from 2019. She is very passionate about the Sharana Philosophy and delivers invited lectures on women's contributions to vachana sahitya. She runs Vachana Vana online classes for children of North America. She also volunteers at OC kannada shaale and is a current board member. She runs multiple YouTube channels related to Vachana sahitya such as Vachana Vana, Vachana Sarani, and Shoonya Sampadane. By profession, she is a Stock Trader, conducts online Technical Analysis Classes and runs Chart Readers YouTube channel. She is happily married to Basavaraj and is blessed with a son and a daughter - Shreyas and Shivani.



-O-

**Roopa Guddimath**

President, VSNA-VA/DC

For over 10 years, Roopa Guddimath has been part of the Virginia/DC Chapter of the VSNA community.

She is both humbled and honored to serve as current VA/DC chapter President for 2020-2021. Roopa strongly believes in Veerashaivism and Dasoha, originated from Basava philosophy. As President, Roopa has successfully organized and coordinated several programs involving adults and kids. A creative woman, she has choreographed over 25 programs which have been appreciated and recognized by VSNA Community for her excellent choreography. She is also an entrepreneur and runs her own IT firm, Aventurine Technologies. Aventurine Technologies is a Data Annotation expert in AI Applications. She is married to Chandrashekhhar Guddimath who was a former VA/DC chapter president. Together, they have two sons, Ayush and Rishi Guddimath

-O-



**Prabhu Setru**  
President, VSNA-MI

Prabhu Setru been an active VSNA member for the last 20 years in Detroit chapter and a life member since 2016. He was the Treasurer for the 2018 VSNA Convention held in Detroit. He resides in Rochester Hills, MI with his wife Dr. Deepa and sons, Siddanth and Samarth."

-0-

**Jay Jayadev**  
President, VSNA-GA

Jay Jayadev has been part of VSNA community residing in GA area for over 25 years. He has served GA Chapter in various capacities and Central VSNA as a Board of Director. He was also the Treasurer of the VSNA Convention held in Atlanta in 2004. He has worked alongside and led diverse set of people at VSNA and other non-profit organizations and communities. He is keen to work with the members across the chapter to further promote the mission and vision of VSNA and make this organization relevant to the needs and aspirations of its members in GA. Jay holds an MBA and Engineering degrees. He is a seasoned Financial Services SME and works for Wipro as Domain Partner. He is married to Roopa and is blessed with two daughters Ishaand Sohani

-0-

**Nagaraj Shivakumar**  
President, VSNA-CT

Nagaraj Shivakumar been an active VSNA member for the past 15 years in Alabama & Connecticut chapters and is a life member VSNA. He resides in Farmington, CT with his wife Parvati and two children, Apurva & Manish

-0-

**Dr. Sumangala Desai**  
President, VSNA-Alberta Chapter

Dr. Sumangala Desai is the current President of the newly formed 26th chapter of VSNA-Alberta, Canada. Prior to that she has served in the committee of VSNA-Toronto chapter and she has volunteered in the Registration committee for VSNA Convention 2010. She is also working with other non-profit organizations and actively involved in Edmonton Kannada Association activities as President of EKA. She takes interest in writing and reading Kannada literature, reading Vachana Sahitya, Basava Tatva, participating in Kannada Reading groups, and she was teaching Kannada classes at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. She is interested to work in collaboration with Toronto and other chapters to propagate the significant teachings of the great Philosopher Basavanna and other Lingayat-Veerashaiva Sharanas.



Sumangala holds a doctorate in Physics, Education degree from University of Toronto and Certificate in Educational Leadership from University of PEI. She has worked as a Teacher, Specialist, Vice-Principal, Principal, member of Board of Directors and now as a Coordinator for a school division. She is also serving on different committees to serve the educational needs of the province. She lives in Edmonton, Alberta with her husband, Somashekharagouda Desaigoudar and sons, Anandgouda and Naveengouda.

-O-

### **Dr. Chaithanya Mallikarjun M.D.**

President, VSNA-TX, San Antonio

I have been blessed with the opportunity to lead the youngest chapter added to the VSNA.

Basava koota San Antonio began in 2015. In our gatherings we are learning immensely from our diverse heritage and younger generation is getting a glimpse of different aspects of religion.

Growing up in Bengaluru and Davangere, having parents hailing from Hosadurga who were actively involved in the community following the principles of Basavanna not only shaped my life, my career as a Gastroenterologist but also shaped my religious beliefs and preference to continue to follow it & hopefully Mallikarjun, my husband and I inspire our children Yashas and Deetya to follow as well.



-O-

### **Shivu Vibhuti**

President, VSNA-Northern California

**Shivu Vibhuti** has been part of the VSNA Northern California community since 2002, residing in San Jose (Silicon Valley), California. He is serving as the chapter President from 2020. In the past he has held various roles in VSNA including General Secretary of VSNA Convention held at Palo Alto, California in 2012. His wife Neelu Vibhuti has been part of the VSNA community since 2002 and an active committee member of the Northern California chapter since 2018, she is coordinating Vachana Classes for kids. Their Kids Suyog and Samrat have been actively involved in various local chapter youth activities. Shivu Vibhuti along with his enthusiastic committee in 2020 and 2021 have brought many programs for our community which you all may have attended and read about those in 2020 VSNA news letters. He strongly believes in VSNA's mission and goals and has been working hard to help the community and the organization to grow.



## **Report: VSNA All Chapters Mahashivaratri Celebrations**

The Maha Shivarathri virtual event was a great occasion for all North American Veerashaiva-Lingayats to come together and celebrate Shivaratri and remember our great sharane Akkamahadevi on Saturday, March 20th, 2021.

The program committee was really impressed by the enthusiasm and interest from the participants in the events even though it was the first time all chapters around North America came together for the celebrations.

Presided over by the office bearers of VSNA, the program was attended by the members of all the chapters.

It started off with Hiriyarige Namana, an item to give respect to all the past presidents who served the organization followed by displaying current VSNA chapter presidents.

Additional events of the program included Ishta-Linga pooje, devotional songs about Shiva, vachana recitations including one with sign language, chanting of the rudram, music including a mixed medley, dancing, speeches, group songs, and skits.

Shri Shivamurthy Muruga Swamiji from India delivered a valuable speech about Akkamahadevi. In his speech, he explained how Akkamahadevi chose spiritual enlightenment and stood by her choice.

Furthermore, there were messages from the past VSNA president and BOR chairperson. Also, we were grateful to receive warm wishes and blessings from Sri Aravind Jatti, president of Basava Samiti, Bangalore.

Last but not least, there was an emphasis on the next generation VSNA made by the youth leaders that highlighted the importance of joining and making a difference in the community.

Overall, everybody enjoyed the cultural function and highly appreciated the organizers. The function revealed many aspects of the VSNA organization and we are looking forward to seeing where we go from here!



(Screengrab from the presentation: Hiriyarige namana)





ತನು ಶುದ್ಧವಾಯಿತ್ತು ಶಿವಭಕ್ತರೊಕ್ಕುದ ಕೊಂಡೆನ್ನ.  
ಮನ ಶುದ್ಧವಾಯಿತ್ತು ಅಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ನೆನದೆನ್ನ.  
ಕಂಗಳು ಶುದ್ಧವಾಯಿತ್ತು ಸಕಲಗಣಗಳ ನೋಡಿ ಎನ್ನ.  
ಶ್ರೋತ್ರ ಶುದ್ಧವಾಯಿತ್ತು ಅವರ ಕೀರ್ತಿಯ ಕೇಳಿ ಎನ್ನ.  
ಭಾವನೆ ಎನಗಿದು ಜೀವನ ಲಿಂಗತಂದೆ.  
ನೆಟ್ಟನೆ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಮನಮುಟ್ಟಿ ಪೂಜಿಸಿ ಭವಗೆಟ್ಟೆ ನಾನು ಚೆನ್ನಮಲ್ಲಿಕಾರ್ಜುನಾ..  
- ಅಕ್ಕಮಹಾದೇವಿ

## ನಿಮ್ಮ ದಿವ್ಯ ಸ್ಮರಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಾವಿಂದು ! ಮರೆತು ಮಸುಕಾಗದಿರಲಿ ಮೂರು ಮತ್ತೊಂದು!!

(ತುಮಕೂರಿನ ಸಿದ್ಧಗಂಗಾ ಮಠದ ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ ಶ್ರೀಗಳ ೧೦೪ನೇಯ ವರ್ಷದ ಜನ್ಮದಿನದ ಪ್ರಯುಕ್ತ ವಿಶೇಷ ಲೇಖನ)

-ಡಾ. ಗೀತಾ ಪಾಟೀಲ, ಕಲಬುರಗಿ

ತುಮಕೂರಿನ ಸಿದ್ಧಗಂಗಾ ಮಠದ ಲಿಂಗೈಕ್ಯ ಡಾ. ಶ್ರೀ ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ ಸ್ವಾಮೀಜಿಯವರ ಒಂದನೂರಾ ಹದಿನಾಲ್ಕನೇಯ ವರ್ಷದ ಜನ್ಮದಿನ (ಏಪ್ರಿಲ್ ೧)ದ ಅಂಗವಾಗಿ ಅವರ ಪಾದಕಮಲಗಳಿಗೆ ಅನಂತ ಕೋಟಿ ಗೌರವ ನಮನಗಳು.

ಕಾಯಕ ಯೋಗಿ, ಲಕ್ಷಾಂತರ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ತ್ರಿವಿಧ ದಾಸೋಹದ ಮೂಲಕ ಬದುಕನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟ ಸಿದ್ಧಗಂಗೆಯ ಸಿದ್ಧಿಪುರುಷ ಪೂಜ್ಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಡಾ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ ಸ್ವಾಮೀಜಿಯವರು ನಮ್ಮ ಸಮಾಜಕ್ಕೆ ನೀಡಿರುವ ಉತ್ಕೃಷ್ಟ ಕೊಡುಗೆ ನಿತ್ಯಸದಾ ಸ್ಮರಣೀಯ! ಆಧುನಿಕ ಬಸವಣ್ಣರೆಂದೇ ಪ್ರಸಿದ್ಧರಾಗಿ ಆಕಾಶದತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ ಬೆಳೆದು, ಸುದ್ದಿಗಾಗಿ ಸದ್ದುಮಾಡದೇ, ಸದ್ದು ಮಾಡಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಯಾಗದೇ ಸಾಧನೆಯ ಮೇರು ಶಿಖರವನ್ನೇರಿದ್ದ ಈ ಮಹಾಚೇತನರ ಹಿರಿಮೆಯನ್ನು ಕೇವಲ ಅಕ್ಷರಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಕಟ್ಟಿಕೊಡುವುದು ಶೂನ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಮವಾದರೂ ಅವರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಬರೆಯುವುದೇ ನಮ್ಮ ಬಾಳಿನ ಸುದೈವ!! "ಕತ್ತಲಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವವನನ್ನು ಬೆಳಕಿಗೆ ಕರೆಯುವುದು ಧರ್ಮ,



ಅನ್ನವಿಲ್ಲದವನಿಗೆ ಅನ್ನವಿಕ್ಕುವುದು ಧರ್ಮ, ಬಾಯಾರಿದವನಿಗೆ ನೀರುಣಿಸುವುದು ಧರ್ಮ! ಗ್ರಂಥದಲ್ಲಿ, ಗುಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಧರ್ಮವಿಲ್ಲ; ಅದು ನಮ್ಮ ಬದುಕಿನಲ್ಲಿದೆ, ಹೃದಯವಂತಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿದೆ" ಎಂದು ನಂಬಿ ನಡೆದ ಈ ಮಹಾಸಂತ ಗುರುಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಂತು ಜನರಲ್ಲಿ ಮೌಲ್ಯದ ಬೀಜ ಬಿತ್ತುವುದರ ಜೊತೆಗೆ, ತಮ್ಮ ಬೆವರನ್ನೂ ಬಿತ್ತಿ, ಮುತ್ತನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆದು ತಾಯಿ ಭಾರತಿಯ ಕೊರಳಿಗೆ ಮಾಲೆ ಮುಡಿಸಿದ ಹೆಮ್ಮೆಯ ಸುಪುತ್ರ!! ಇಂದು ಲಕ್ಷಾಂತರ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಬಾಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸ ಬೆಳಕನ್ನು ಮುಡಿಸಿರುವ ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ ಸ್ವಾಮೀಜಿ ಎಂಬ ಸೂರ್ಯನ ಕಾಂತಿಗೆ ಆ ಸೂರ್ಯನೇ ಸಾಟಿ!! ಭಾರತ ರತ್ನವಲ್ಲ, ವಿಶ್ವರತ್ನವಲ್ಲ; ಅದಕ್ಕಿಂತಲೂ ಶ್ರೇಷ್ಠ ರತ್ನವೇನಾದರೂ ಇದ್ದರೆ ಅದು ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ ಶ್ರೀಗಳಲ್ಲದೆ ಮತ್ತಾರೂ ಆಗಲಿಕ್ಕೆ ಖಂಡಿತ ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ!!

ಇವರಿಗೆ ತಾವಾಗಿಯೇ ಒಲಿದು ಬಂದ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿ, ಪುರಸ್ಕಾರ, ಗೌರವಾದರಗಳು ನೂರಾರು! ಆದರೂ ಬೀಗದೇ ಅತ್ಯುನ್ನತ ಮೌಲ್ಯಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಬಾಗಿ, ಬಾಳಿ ಬದುಕಿದ್ದ ಈ ದೇವ ಚೇತನ ನೂರಾ ಹನ್ನೊಂದು ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಸಾರ್ಥಕ ಬಾಳಿ ಆ ದೇವನಡೆಗೆ ನಡೆದದ್ದು ೨೦೧೯ ಜನವರಿ ೨೦ರಂದು! ನಡೆದಾಡುವ ಈ ದೇವರ ನೆನಹೇ ಬೆಳಗು, ಮರೆಯುವುದೇ ಅಸ್ತಮಾನ, ಇವರ ಸ್ಮರಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಮ್ಮೆಲ್ಲರ ಬಾಳು ಸಾರ್ಥಕವಾಗದೇ ಇದ್ದೀತೇ!?

ಕಾರುಣ್ಯಗಂಗೆಯ ಜನಕ, ಪದಗಳಿಗೆ ನಿಲುಕದ ಈ ಸಾಧಕರ ಜನ್ಮದಿನದ ಸಂಭ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾವಿಂದು! ಮರೆತು ಮಸುಕಾಗದಿರಲಿ ಮೂರು ಮತ್ತೊಂದು!! ಎಂಬ ಭಾವದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಶ್ರೀಗಳ ಜನ್ಮದಿನದ ಪ್ರಯುಕ್ತ ನಾನು ರಚಿಸಿದ ಕವನ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಓದಿಗಾಗಿ ಇಲ್ಲಿದೆ ಳ್ಲಿ

## ಪದಗಳಿಗೆ ನಿಲುಕದ ಸಾಧಕ! ಧರೆಯ ಕೌತುಕ!!

೧. ಧರೆಗೆವತರಿಸಿದ ದೇವ ಸಂಭೂತರೇ  
ನಡೆದಾಡುವ ಮಹಾದೇವ ಪ್ರತೀಕರೇ  
ಸಿದ್ಧಗಂಗಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರವ ಬೆಳೆಸಿದ ಮಹಿಮರೇ  
ಜ್ಞಾನದ ಜ್ಯೋತಿಯ ಬೆಳಗಿದ ಪೂಜ್ಯರೇ

೨. ಎಲ್ಲರೂ ನನ್ನವರೆನ್ನುವ ಬಂಧುವೇ  
ಕೋಟಿ ಕೋಟಿ ಬಡ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ತಂದೆಯೇ  
ಹಸಿದೊಡಲನು ತಣಿಸಿದ ಮಹಾದಾಸೋಹಿಯೇ  
ನಿಸ್ವಾರ್ಥಸೇವೆಗೈದ ನಿರ್ಮೋಹಿಯೇ

೩. ದೇಹದ ಹಸಿವಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಸಾದದಂತೆ  
ಮನಸ್ಸಿನ ಹಸಿವಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥನೆಯೆಂದಿರಿ  
ಶರಣ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಯ ಮೌಲ್ಯವ ಬಿತ್ತಿ  
ನೀತಿಯ ಮರಗಳ ಬೆಳೆಸಿದ ಯೋಗಿಯೇ

೪. ಜಾತಿ, ಪಂಥ, ಮತ ಭೇದವ ತೋರದೆ  
ಮನುಕುಲದೊಳಿತಿಗೆ ಬಾಳನು ಅರ್ಪಿಸಿ  
ಗುರು ಬಸವಣ್ಣರ ಅವತಾರ ಪುರುಷರೇ  
ಕಾಯಕದಲಿ ಕೈಲಾಸ ಕಂಡವರೇ

೫. ಸುದ್ದಿಗಾಗಿ ಸದ್ದು ಮಾಡದ ಮಹಿಮರೇ  
ಸದ್ದು ಮಾಡಿ ಸುದ್ದಿಯಾಗದ ಪೂಜ್ಯರೇ  
ಸದ್ದಿಲ್ಲದೆ ಗದ್ದುಗೆಯ..ನ್ನೇರಿದ  
ಪದಗಳಿಗೆ ನಿಲುಕದ ಸಾ..ಧಕರೇ

೬. ದೇಶದ ಕೀರ್ತಿಯನ್ನುಂತ್ತುಗೈರಿಸಿ  
ಜಗಬೆಳಗಿದ ಜೋಳಿಗೆ ಜಂಗಮರೇ  
ಸ್ವಾಮಿಜಿ ಪದಕ್ಕೆ ರೂಪಕ ನೀವು  
ನಿಮ್ಮಯ ಬದುಕೇ ಬೆಳಕಿನ ಬೆರಗು

೭. ಸಿದ್ಧಗಂಗೆಯ ಸಿದ್ಧಿಯ ಪುರುಷರೇ  
ನಿಮ್ಮನು ಪಡೆದು ಬೀಗಿದೆ ಈ ಧರೆ  
ನಿಮ್ಮಯ ನೆನಹು ಬಾಳಿಗೆ ತಿರುವು  
ಎಂಬುದನರಿತು ನಡೆವೆವು ನಾವು!

ದೃಶ್ಯ ಕಾವ್ಯವನ್ನು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಿ: ಳ್ಲ ಳ್ಲ

<https://youtu.be/kRncnOi2WIs>



# Does Veerashaivism Fill Our Religious Needs in Today's world?

Sajjan G Shiva

Man's search for the meaning of life is as old as man himself. Anytime we have a moment to ourselves, the first question that comes to mind is: Why am I here, and what am I supposed to be doing? The question is not merely what do I want to do, but what should I do with it? The dilemma is not a practical one but a moral one. Throughout human history, from the ancient Hindus and Greeks to the most modern societies, man has recognized the twin forces of science and religion. Science deals with our external world and material progress while religion helps us to deal with our internal world, those nagging questions that spring from that corner of the soul. Science tells us how things work and makes our daily living easy while religion helps us to make sense of our day-to-day lives. As humans, we crave for more than just the outside world, no matter what it is. It is the religion that provides the blueprint for man's spiritual growth and survival. Some scholars refer to this aspect of our duality as *logos* and *mythos* — the two Latin words *Logos* is logic, reason, and science, while *mythos* is faith and religion. Both are essential and complementary to our total well-being and experience as humans. From time to time, whenever science and reason have made quantum leaps, the role of religion in human affairs has been challenged. One such example took place during the 'Age of Reason' in eighteenth-century Europe. Advances in science convinced man that all nature could be reduced to a series of mathematical laws and the workings of the universe were seen to be orderly and simple. If the same rigor of reason could be applied to all other matters just as well, humankind's happiness would be assured. The reason, if followed logically as in the natural sciences, would replace tradition and faith. That was three hundred years ago and we know better, man's need for religion has never been greater. Science has marched on at an unprecedented pace since then and how little we know of our inner selves and how empty and isolated we feel. Some refer to it as being in a condition of permanent limbo and longing. Religion has filled this gap through the ages and continued to do so to this day. Religion's role has varied in relation to science and politics of the

day, but it has never been eliminated. Religion has stood the test of time and will always be with us. Most of human life is about hopes and fears, which are outside the realm of reason and it is the religion that helps us manage them in a way that we can accept the outcomes. Religion serves as a bridge from the known to the unknown and provides us comfort and peace. Religion teaches us charity towards all and malice towards none. It is the power to guide and guard our steps so that we may choose the right from the wrong and the good from the bad. It is obvious then that we need religion in our life to give us completeness and peace of mind. The next two sections examine two views on religion followed by a discussion of why religion ends up as a ritual. The last section discusses the applicability of Veerashaivism to our life today. Rabindra Nath Tagore, the poet laureate of 20th century, India, provides an interesting view of religion. If we want to light a lamp in a room, a lot of preparation is needed. We will have to depend on many people: lamp makers, sellers, and so on and so forth. Even with all the preparation and effort, the light that we get out of the candle is very little. It may satisfy the need to light the room but it makes the darkness outside even more than before. On the other hand, we do not have to depend on anyone to receive the light from the morning sky. We do not need to create anything. We just need to be awake and open our eyes. No one can resist the flood of light from the sky filling every corner of the world. Religion is similar to this light. Religion is as simple, infinite, and abundant as the light from the sky. It is the gift of God. It is eternal and all-pervading. It has silently engulfed humanity from all around. All that we need is a desire to receive it. We need only to open our hearts. The key moral of the religion must be very simple and fulfilling. But we have made our religion the most complex aspect of our life through artificial rituals, complex theories, and diverse imaginations. We are constantly creating new factions and groups to get out of our self-imposed complexities. These factions and groups teach us humility and belief in the grace of God. In its truest form, religion gives are always in conflict with each

other creating unhappiness, war, and destruction. We have not been completely faithful to Religion. Instead, we have tried to make Religion suitable to our imagination. We have adapted Religion to suit our day-to-day needs like all other material necessities of our life. There is no doubt that religion is the most important need of our life. We reduce its importance by making it fit our needs. Religion is beyond everything that we can conceive with our feeble mind. It gives us constant support because it is eternal. There is no need to adopt a Religion. God is not what we comprehend. What we understand is not the Religion that is our world. It has all the symptoms of the world. The symptoms of the world are diversity and conflict. We are satisfied when we understand something. But what we understand keeps changing. We want to understand everything in search of happiness. But our happiness ends as soon as we understand. As Upanishad says "What is unlimited is happiness; there is no happiness to which that is limited". If we try to comprehend the unlimited with our limited perception, it will create unhappiness. Therefore we must try to realize the unlimited by detaching ourselves from the world. We will never be able to achieve it by applying material laws. The simple moral of Religion did exist in Upanishad. Brahma's manifestation in Upanishad is very complete. He is Truth; otherwise, nothing would have been true in the universe. He is the Knowledge. All Knowledge that exists is His knowledge. He is limitless. The world is a manifestation of Brahma's limitless Knowledge and Truth. Upanishad has never tried to establish any particular deity or temple in any particular place. It teaches us to focus, only to feel the presence of Brahma in everything around us by eliminating all complexities of diverse and restless imagination. Swami Vivekananda, the famous Hindu ascetic, thrilled the Western World with his eloquent exposition on Vedanta philosophy and religion in the Parliament of Religions held in Chicago in 1894. In his lectures in London that year, he provided an interesting definition of Religion. According to him, of all *the forces that have worked and are still working to mold the destinies of the human race, none certainly is more potent than religion*. It is obvious that in very many cases the bonds of religion have proved stronger than the bonds of race, climate, or even descent. It is a well-known fact that persons worshipping the same God, believing in the same religion, have stood by each other, with much greater strength

and constancy, than people of merely the same descent. Various attempts have been made to trace the beginnings of religion. In all the ancient religions which have come down to us, we find one claim made that they are all super-natural, that their genesis is not in the human brain, but that they have originated somewhere outside of it. Two theories have gained some acceptance amongst modern scholars. One is the *Spirit Theory of Religion*, and the other is the *Evolution of the Infinite*. The first maintains that ancestor-worship is the beginning of religious ideas, the other that, religion originates in the personification of the powers of nature. Man wants to keep up with the memory of his dead relatives, and thinks they are living even when the body is dissolved, and he wants to place food for them and, in a certain sense, to worship them. Studying the ancient religions of the Egyptians, Babylonians, Chinese, and many other races in America and elsewhere, we find very clear traces of this ancestor-worship being the beginning of religion. With the ancient Egyptians, the first idea of the soul was that of a 'double'. Every human body contained in it another being very similar to it, and when a man died this 'double' went out of the body and yet lived on somewhere and somehow. But the life of the 'double' lasted only so long as the dead body remained intact, and that is why we find among the Egyptians so much solicitude to keep the body uninjured. And that is why they built those huge pyramids in which they preserved the bodies. For, if any portion of the external body was hurt, the 'double' would be correspondingly injured. This is ancestor-worship. The scholars from the ancient Aryan literature show that religion originated in nature-worship. Although in India we find proofs of ancestor-worship everywhere, yet in the oldest records there is no trace of it whatsoever. In the Rig Veda Samhita, the most ancient record of the Aryan race, we do not find any trace of it. Modern scholars think it is the worship of nature that they find there. The human mind seems to struggle to get a peep behind the scenes. The dawn, the evening, the hurricane, the stupendous and gigantic forces of nature have exercised the human mind, and it aspires to go beyond, to understand something about them. In the struggle they endow these phenomena with personal attributes, giving them souls and bodies, sometimes beautiful, sometimes transcendent. Every attempt ends with these phenomena

becoming abstractions whether personified or not. Thus, a very strong case has been made out, that religion has its origin in the personification of the powers of nature. These two views, though seem to be contradictory, can be reconciled on a third basis which is the real germ of religion. This is, the struggle to transcend the limitations of the senses. Either, a man goes to seek for the spirits of his ancestors, or the spirits of the dead, or he wants to get a glimpse of what there is after the body is dissolved, or he desires to understand the power working behind the stupendous phenomena of nature. Whichever of these is the case, one thing is certain, that he tries to transcend the limitations of the sense and to find answers to the questions raised at the outset of this inquiry. In all organized religions, their founders, prophets, and messengers are declared to have gone into states of mind, that were neither waking nor sleeping, in which they came face to face with a new series of facts, relating to what is called the spiritual kingdom. They realized things much more intensely than we realized facts around us. Take, for instance, the religions of the Brahmins. The Vedas are said to be written by Rishis. These Rishis were sages who had realized certain facts. The exact definition of the Sanskrit word Rishi is a Seer of Mantras, of the thoughts, conveyed in the Vedic Hymns. These men declared that they had realized certain facts, and these facts they proceeded to record. Buddha sitting under the Barteer reached that superconscious state of mind. All his teachings came through this, and not through intellectual cogitation. Thus, a tremendous statement is made by all religions, that the human mind, at certain occasions transcends not only the limitations of the senses but also the power of reasoning. It then comes face to face with things that it could never have sensed, could never have reasoned out. These facts are the basis of all religions of the world. Of course, we have the right to challenge these facts, to put them to the test of reason, nevertheless, all the existing religions of the world claim for the human mind this peculiar power of transcending the limits of the senses, and the limits of reason; and this power they put forward as a statement of fact. Apart from the consideration of the question of how far these facts claimed by religions are true, we find one characteristic common to them all. They are all abstractions as contrasted with the concrete

discoveries of physics, for instance; And in all the highly organized religions they take the purest form of Unit Abstraction, either in the form of an Abstracted Presence, as an Omnipresent Being, as an Abstract Personality called God, as a Moral Law, or, in the form of an Abstract Essence underlying existence. In modern times, too, the attempts made to preach religions without appealing to the super sensuous state of the mind, have had to take up the old abstractions of the Ancients, and give different names to them, as "Moral Law", the "Ideal Unity", and so forth, thus, showing that these abstractions are not in the senses.

### Religion and Rituals

As Tagore has said, there has always been a tendency to adopt religion to suit our daily lives. If we accept that the religion originated as either ancestor worship or nature-worship, a visualization of the power being worshipped helps focus on that worship. The various forms of this power in terms of idols or aids for worship have been adopted by all religions of the world. Along with the invention of idols, it has become natural to devise rituals to allow everyone to worship these idols. As the days go by, the meanings behind the idols and the rituals have vanished and a mechanical following has evolved. In every religion, when the influence of rituals overrides the meaning of power behind them, a reformer has arrived to bring the meanings back. The followers of such a reformer end up creating an offshoot of the original religion which stays at the intellectual level for a while and becomes ritualistic eventually. This cycle of reformation and ritualization continue resulting in a multitude of gods and beliefs and rituals. One cannot say that being ritualistic is sub-human. Rituals alone might satisfy the religious needs of most individuals. Look at the faces of individuals in the bhajan group singing the prayers in any temple or religious gathering. You will see peace and oneness with God (with no awareness of the material world). Some can go into this transient state just observing a priest perform an elaborate pooja of the deities. For some, the ritualistic mode of being one with God may not be adequate. The four forms of Yoga prescribed for Hindus might be an attempt to satisfy individuals of varying nature: **Karma Yoga** (based on performing the daily chores to offer them to God); **Bhakti Yoga** (Devotion, Bhajans, chanting as ways of reaching

the almighty); **Jnana Yoga** (probing to understand God by contemplating his powers and learning more about why it is so) and **Raja Yoga** (the supreme form of all the four types, where one denies that "I" does not exist and one is part of God). *Veerashivism* became popular in the twelfth century AD through the teachings of Lord Basaveswara and other Sharanas as an attempt to reform the society when religion and rituals were taking over the simple rules of humanity and equality among individuals. The main premise of *Veerashivism* is equity, justice, and equality, service with sacrifice, tolerance, and emphasis on humanism. It does not prescribe a place of worship, but advocates that one is aware of God's presence in everything and everywhere. There are three aspects of *Veerashivism* that are pertinent to our examination of its practicality to our lives in the modern world. They are the Five Codes of Conduct (Panchachara), The Sixfold Path (Shatsthala), and The Eight Aids (Ashtavarana). The Five Codes of Conduct are considered to be the life-breath of the seeker of God. They are:

1. *Lingachara*, which prescribes consistent monotheism. It calls for a strict belief in one God represented by Ishtalinga.
  2. *Sadachara*, which implies earning one's livelihood through pure and honest work and sharing a part of the earning for the welfare of society (Dasoha).
  3. *Ganachara*, which prescribes courage to fight social evils and injustice.
  4. *Shivachara*, which implies the presence of God in each being thus portraying social equality and nondiscrimination.
  5. *Brityachara*, which is the practice of humility. Basaveswara says "*No one is smaller than me, there is no one greater than a true devotee*".
- The Sixfold Path to reach God is very similar to the four Yogas mentioned earlier. The six progressive stages in which one seeks to be one with God are:

1. *Bhakti Sthala* - the stage of intense devotion and faith.
2. *Maheswara Sthala* - the stage of strong will and discipline.
3. *Prasadi Sthala* - the stage of all grace.
4. *Pranarlinga Sthala* - the stage of awareness of the Ultimate Reality (God) in life-breath.

5. *Sharan Sthala* - the stage of total surrender to God.

6. *Aikya Sthala* - the stage of sublime union with God.

The Eight Aids that guide the seeker in his path to reaching God are:

1. *Guru*, a teacher who imparts knowledge about the universal soul and Initiates one into *Veerashivism*.
2. *Linga*, the icon of *Veerashivism* implying monotheism, non-idol worship, aid for meditation and contemplation.
3. *Jangama*, a wandering spiritual teacher who invokes faith and devotion in the seeker.
4. *Vibhuti*, the sacred ash worn on the forehead, arms, and neck indicating that the seeker has reduced the negatives like lust, anger, greed, and envy to ashes.
5. *Padodaka*, the literal meaning is the water used to wash the feet of the Guru; implies that the seeker develops qualities such as humility and equality and washes away his ignorance.
6. *Prasada* indicates the acceptance of food by the seeker for is won and sharing with the society.
7. *Rudrakshi*, means 'The eye of Shiva', the sacred beads worn on the body indicating that the seeker has opened his spiritual eye to look within, to realize God within.
8. *Mantra*, a set of words that allow the seeker to achieve quietness and introspection when chanted repeatedly. The common Mantra for *Veerashaivas* has been "*Om Namah Shivaya*" salutations to Shiva, these aids are meant to nurture the faith of the seeker in achieving the ultimate purpose of life. They are not meant to be an end to themselves. As we can see the Pancharas acceptable equally well to modern society no matter which religion one follows. The Shatsthalas prescribe a progressive way of life starting from the true worldliness ending in Godliness. The Ashtavaranas may be considered rituals and may not be completely applicable when taken literally. If one concentrates on their symbolism rather than the literal representation, they are quite practical even for this modern age. No wonder *Veerashivism* has been called *Vishwa Manava Dharma* (a religion that is applicable to the whole human world of all ages).



## VSNA – Southern California

Sharanu,

To begin with we would like to share that all our chapter members are safe and healthy and doing well during the COVID-19 Pandemic situation. Members have shown their continued enthusiasm and actively participated in all the online events and initiatives organized by the chapter.

### Mahashivaratri Festival Celebration



The poster for the VSNA Southern California Chapter, USA Maha Shivaratri Online Event features a dark blue background. At the top left is the VSNA logo. In the center is a vibrant image of Lord Shiva seated on a lotus, holding a trident and a damru. To the right is a small portrait of a man in traditional attire. The text on the poster includes the event title, date (March 13, 2021, Saturday), time (11am PST to 1pm PST), and an agenda with four items: Guru Linga Pooje, Vachana Recitation and Singing, Guest Speaker, and Chapter Updates. At the bottom, the names and titles of the chapter officers are listed.

**VSNA Southern California Chapter, USA**

**Maha Shivaratri Online Event**

Date  
March 13, 2021  
(Saturday)

Time  
11am PST to 1pm PST

Agenda

- Guru Linga Pooje
- Vachana Recitation and Singing
- Guest Speaker
- Chapter Updates

PRESIDENT	VICE PRESIDENT	TREASURER	SECRETARY
Uma Hukkeri	Suma Hareesh	Suneeta Rachanaikar	Veena Vadmal

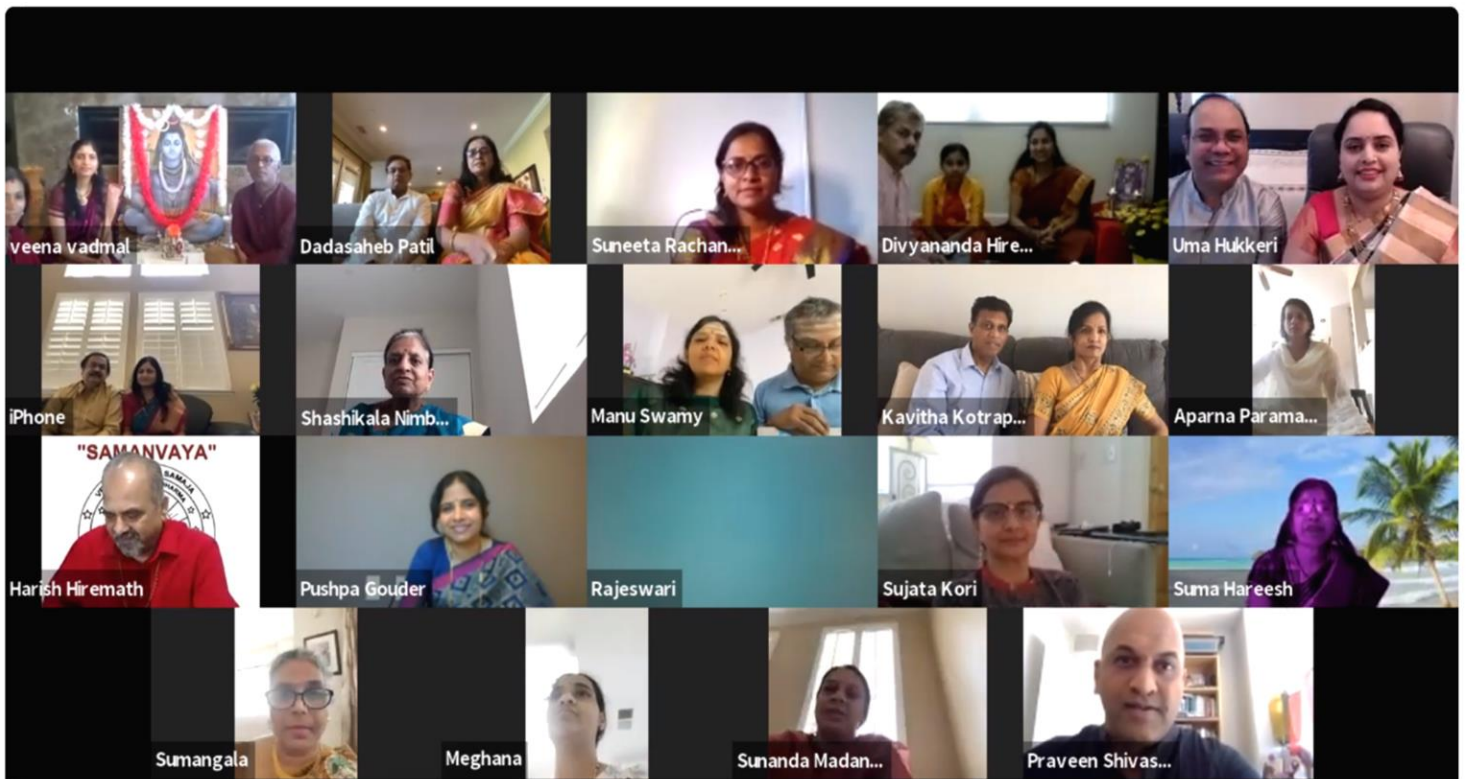
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bEzeXn0gU8Y&t=1349s>

We are very happy and excited to inform that members of the VSNA Southern California Chapter celebrated Mahashivaratri festival virtually via Zoom on Saturday the March 13, 2010.

More than thirty families participated in the celebration headed by our vibrant and enthusiastic President Uma Hukkeri. Members present were dressed in colorful, festive attire with the picture of Guru Basava, Shiva and Linga beautifully decorated. The event started on time. President Uma Hukkeri greeted and welcomed all the members, followed by prayer and chanting Guru Basava Naamavali.

Members showcased a variety of cultural events performed by kids, youth, and adults. Kids reciting Vachana expressed their emotions and actions and enhanced the melody by

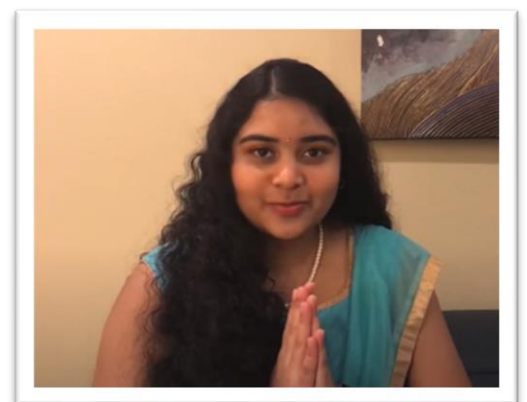




playing piano to the recitation. We could see the viewers excitement watching the program. Young kids sang vachanas with their parents playing musical instruments, and special effects enhanced the beauty of the program. A dance performance for one of the vachanas by our President Uma Hukkeri and her husband Basavaraj Hukkeri mesmerized our members. Attendees were creative in finding ways to showcase their talent and honor Shiva through their vachanas. There were outpouring comments from the audience appreciating the performers.

Collectively more than forty vachanas were recited. Members showcased their talents in various forms including vachana singing, reciting with explanation, dancing, and acting with musical instruments. Following the cultural performance, guest speaker Praveen Shivashankar talked about 'Sharanaru Kanda Shiva,' beginning a new series for VSNA members about this topic. New board members were introduced to the general members by President Uma Hukkeri, and members introduced themselves afterwards. There were out pouring comments from the audience appreciating the performers.

This flawless flow of events and smooth transition from one form to another kept the audience excitement at high until the end of the program. This was made possible by our highly talented emcee Shivani Hukkeri.



## Speaker Series on "Shoonya Sampadane"

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZvWQFRRnFV4yfuW3a1caW1dCS3pnUt-3>

The banner is blue with yellow and white text. At the top left is a circular logo for VSNA Southern California Chapter. At the top center, it says "VSNA SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER" in yellow. Below that, a yellow banner with "38<sup>th</sup> Week" in black. In the top right corner is a small image of Lord Venkateswara. The main title "SHOONYA SAMPADANE" is in large yellow letters. Below it, a paragraph of white text describes the work. At the bottom, it lists the speaker, Praveen Shivashankar, and the host & organizer, Uma Basavaraj Hukkeri, along with the date and time: "SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2021 08:30 A.M PST".


VSNA SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

38<sup>th</sup> Week

**SHOONYA SAMPADANE**

Shoonya Sampadane" is a seminal work of Kannada literature dating back to the 14th Century. This one of its kind work is a compilation of the vachanas written by 12th Century Shiva Sharanas, expounding the philosophy of "Shivaadwaita" or the oneness with Shiva as envisioned by Sharanas such as Allama Prabhu, Basaveshwara, Akka Mahadevi, Siddharama, Chennabasavanna and several others. The central figure of Shoonya Sampadane is Allama Prabhu. The vachanas have been beautifully arranged as if they were narrated conversationally between the characters and therefore adds a uniqueness to the style and approach taken in compiling them together. In totality, they paint a splendid picture of the philosophical outlook, spiritual struggles in the Sadhana and the eventual epoch that was achieved by the Shiva Sharanas.


Speaker



Praveen Shivashankar

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2021  
08:30 A.M PST

Host & Organizer



Uma Basavaraj Hukkeri

"Shoonya Sampadane" is a seminal work of Kannada literature dating back to the 14th Century. One of its kind works is a compilation of the vachanas written by 12th Century Shiva Sharanas, expounding the philosophy of "Shivaadwaita" or the oneness with Shiva as envisioned by Sharanas such as Allama Prabhu, Basaveshwara, Akka Mahadevi, Siddharama, Chennabasavanna and several others.

The central figure of Shoonya Sampadane is Allama Prabhu. The vachanas have been beautifully arranged as if they were narrated conversationally between the characters and therefore adds a uniqueness to the style and approach taken in compiling them together.

In totality, they paint a splendid picture of the philosophical outlook, spiritual struggles in the Sadhana and the eventual epoch that was achieved by the Shiva Sharanas.

Our Guest Speaker **Shri. Praveen Shivashankar** did a tremendous job in explaining the intricacies of the deep subject in a digestible form to our members. In this series we touched upon the history of Shoonya Sampadane Sahitya, Veerashaiva Siddhanta, Prabhudevara Purva Sangatya, and Muktayakkana Sampadane, Shri Siddarameshwara Sampadane, Basavanna & Channabasavanna Sampadane, Arrival of Prabhudevaru and Siddharama's to Kalyana and Prabhudevara Aarogane. More than 600 selected Vachanas have been discussed during the last 38 sessions. Each session spanned for about 90 minutes to 120 minutes. In this quarter, the discourse covered. The series concluded on January 30, 2021 and members can watch the entire series on YouTube.

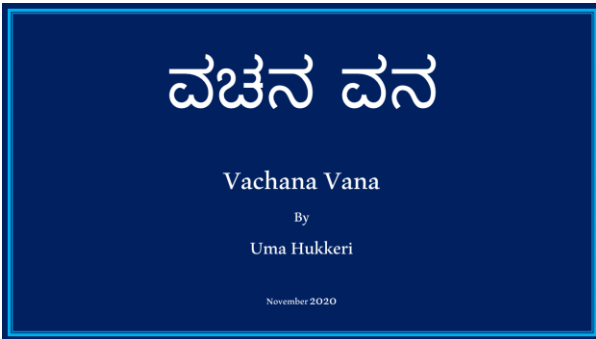
## Speaker Series on "Sharanaru Kanda Shiva"



On this auspicious occasion of Shivaratri Celebration, chapter started a new speaker series on the topic "Sharanaru Kanda Shiva". In this series, speaker Shri. Praveen Shivashankar will discourse unique Vachanas by various Sharanas and an attempt will be made to understand the way each Sharanas experienced/viewed "Shiva / Paramatma" in their own way. Online sessions will be held on every Sunday at 12noon PST. Recorded sessions will be made available on YouTube.

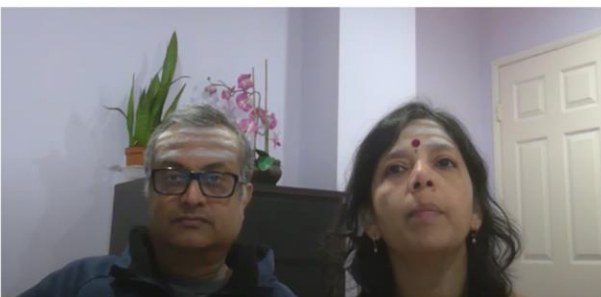
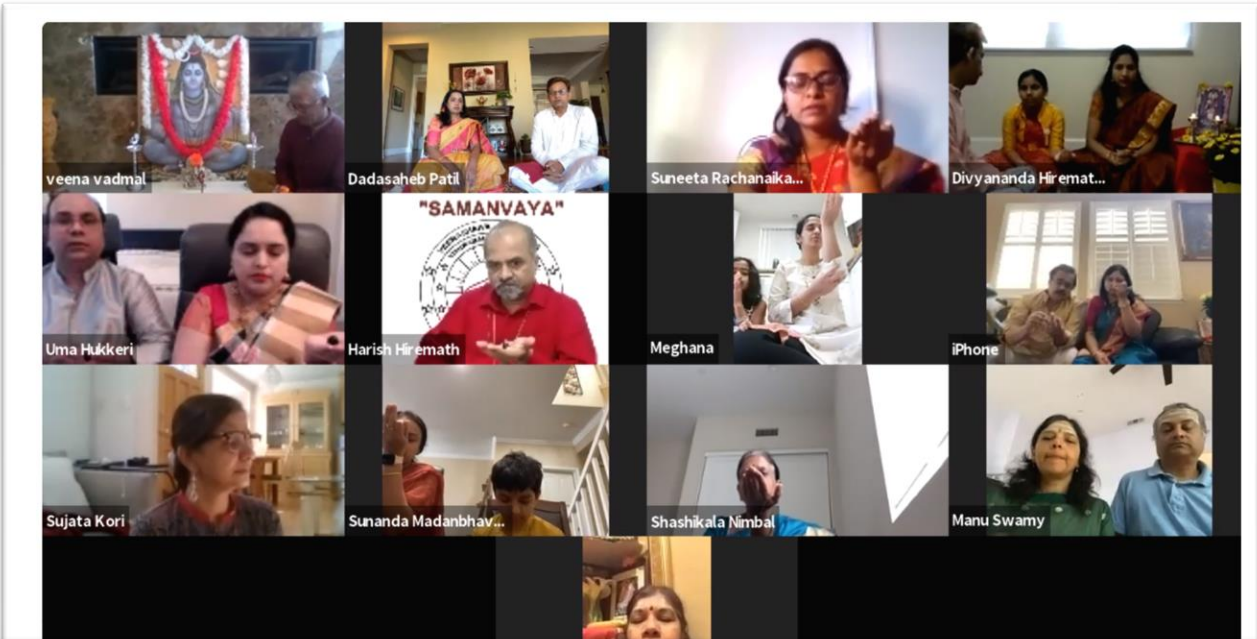
### Vachana Vana

YouTube Link : <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnJMrq2eL8ckn3KrMw1n8psogrknhtYOp>



Vachana Vana classes are personally conducted by Uma Hukkeri, in which she also talks about Vachanakararu and their Vachanas, remembering them during their birth month. She also teaches new ways of identifying learning, appreciating, and remembering Vachanas by pictorial representation in the class.

This is a monthly event and the initiative was started in March and has received very good response from the youth, and we continued the initiative in in this quarter too. The event is not restricted to members only and is open to all. Many non-VSNA kids from all over USA are participating in this event. The purpose of this initiative is aligned with our dedication to preserve, protect, and propagate the way of life depicted by Basaveshwara and his contemporaries. The initiative was primarily designed to teach the Vachana Sahitya to the next generation. Participants are introduced to various Sharanas and their Pen names.





### Other Executive members:

**Vice-President:** Suma Harish is residing in Riverside, California. She is passionate about volunteering for different community events, active member of community organizations like VSNA SoCal chapter, Hindu Society of Inland Empire and some more. Married to Harish and proud mother of three daughters – Shweta, Shilpa and Shanta



**Treasurer:** Suneeta Rachanaikar is residing in Thousand Oaks, California. She has PhD in Information and Communication Engineering and continuing work on Software Quality Assurance. Happily married to Sachin and Proud mother of Ravi.

**Secretary:** Sunanda Manjunath Madanbhavi is residing in Irvine, California, proud to be a member of VSNA Southern California Chapter. She has a bachelor's degree from Electronics and Communication, currently she is associated Design Verification Engineer. Happily married to Manjunath Madanbhavi and proud mother of two boys, Tanush Madanbhavi and Viaan Madanbhavi



ಅಯ್ಯಾ, ತನ್ನ ತಾನರಿಯಬೇಕಲ್ಲದೆ,  
ತನ್ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರಿವು ಸ್ವಯವಾಗಿರಲು ಅನ್ಯರಲ್ಲಿ ಕೇಳಲುಂಟೆ ಚೆನ್ನಮಲ್ಲಿಕಾರ್ಜುನಾ,  
ನೀನರಿವಾಗಿ ಎನಗೆ ಮುಂದುದೋರಿದ ಕಾರಣ ನಿಮ್ಮಿಂದ ನಿಮ್ಮನರಿವೆನು.

- ಅಕ್ಕಮಹಾದೇವಿ

# VSNA – Georgia

## **Veerashaiva Gurukul**

Just like all the other chapters, GA chapter has been meeting monthly and conducting prayers. We realized that the time available in monthly meetings was very limited to teach our kids about our dharma. We felt we needed to invest additional time with kids on a weekly basis to inculcate Shiva Bhakti, teach them Shiva Puja, uniqueness of our traditions, imbibe Veerashaiva principles, philosophy, history and vachana saahitya so that they can lead a dharmic way of life and inherit our traditional values.

Beginning January 2020, we started Veerashaiva Gurukul classes every Sunday from 11:00 AM to 1 PM ET. While we met in-person for the first couple of months, the pandemic impacted us and we had to switch over to online learning. Frankly speaking remote learning has worked out better, as it cut down the commute time for kids and allowed participation from multiple regions. Today we have kids joining from Georgia, Virginia, North Carolina and India. We started with just a handful of kids to begin with and have been growing steadily ever since.

Here is the format we follow

1. Isha Linga pooja with step-by-step procedure ( only when we meet in-person)
2. Learn dharmic concepts with focus on Shiva Bhakti, Veerashaiva Siddhanta
3. Learn to sing Vachanas after understanding the in depth meaning of each one
4. Kids exhibit their learnings by taking quizzes, tests, writing essays, stories, preparing presentations etc.

Our curriculum includes teaching general dharmic concepts that form foundations to understanding Veerashaivism, deeper level discussions of our Veerashaiva Lingayatha faith, learning shlokas that inculcate shiva bhakti in our life, stories around Shiva, Pramathas/Shiva Sharanas from Basava Purana and Shivamahapurana, learning to sing vachanas and shiva stotras etc.

These classes have been spectacular in how much kids are learning on a week-to-week basis. Gurukula kids are ready with topics to talk about anytime, know many shlokas and mantras by heart, sing and explain the vachanas they have learnt with clear pronunciation and utmost confidence. As a positive side effect of this learning, the kids are prepared to perform or demonstrate at events with a short notice, as opposed to the struggles we faced in the past to coordinate and prepare for events.

We believe in learning through discussions with the kids rather than teaching. All our study material is available online on a google drive. Most of our material is in the form of multimedia presentations. We are also proud that the kids volunteer with innovative ideas to keep the classes engaging and interesting. As an example, at the end of each learning, a kid volunteers to prepare a kahoot quiz for the topic and runs the quiz program for the rest of the group. Kids conduct competitions among themselves and cherish their learnings. There are healthy debates during these sessions which have helped even shy kids to open up. We are also trying to engage high school kids as volunteers for material preparation, coaching the younger ones, reviewing the work, reviewing the writing skills etc. We are trying to inculcate mentor-mentee relationships among our veerashaiva kids through this process.

We strive to connect the dots and draw attention to how our age-old philosophy is still more relevant than ever in the current day and age. We help them understand how they can apply what they learn in Gurukul in their daily lives here in the US, which is a totally different environment than how we grew up over in India.

Volunteers:

- Dhanvin Yajaman (Youth Volunteer - Mentor for kids, reviews the work, prepares materials)
- Harsha R Gurumurthiah ( Teaches Ishta linga puja)
- Roopa Jayadev ( Singer - teaches vachanas and bhajans)
- Veerabhadrapa Muchandi (Coordinator - shares Shiva Bhakti)

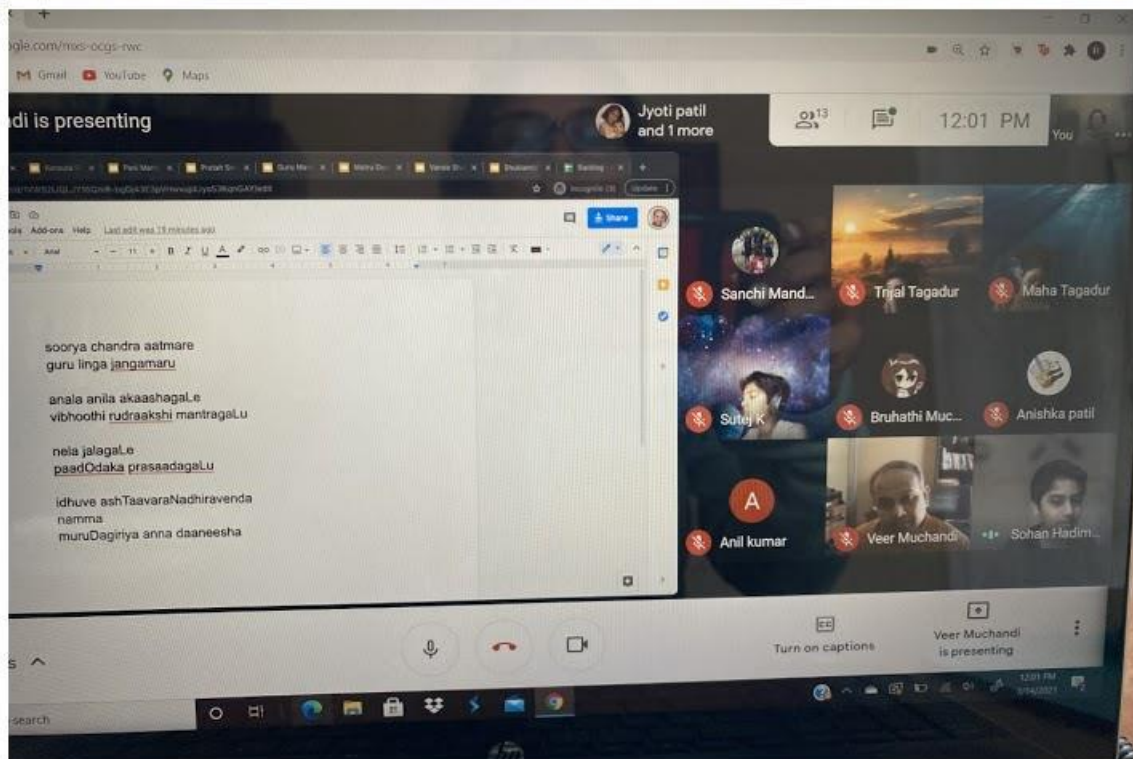
We always look forward to and welcome ideas from other members. We also encourage anyone with deep knowledge on any topic to consider volunteering occasionally. If anyone has any study material or books that they would like to donate, please do so.

Link to few kids' performances

<https://youtu.be/39FZ-M20ztM>

<https://youtu.be/4zgsy-s6sls>

Few pictures from the Veerashaiva Gurukul:





## Dasoha:

In the absence of monthly VSNA face to face meetings due to pandemic and social distancing, GA chapter took up the service project in order to make a small difference in the local community we live in.

As GA VSNA community, we picked Food4Lives organization to extend our support to (<https://food4lives.org/>) About 40 million people face hunger in the U.S today - including more than 12 million children and more than five million seniors. The world is hungry, but the emptiness goes far beyond the table. Food4Lives strives to fight against homelessness and the underfed.

Our chapter not only chose to make a monetary donation of \$1000 towards this organization, but we also took up organizing the lunch service every few 3rd Sundays of the month. In the spirit of Dasoha we initiated the monthly service where VSNA volunteers donate necessary items in the menu, cook the food, pack and distribute the entire lunch to more than 75 homeless people in the metro Atlanta area. We meticulously plan and provide a healthy, balanced vegetarian meal. We are hoping to continue this service at least once every few months rest of the year. Once the covid situation improves, we are planning to get the youth/kids to lead

and take care of the entire service by collecting and organizing the donated items, pack and distribute the food cooked by the volunteers. It has been a very fulfilling experience to be able to do our part to help the needy during these difficult times. We believe there is no better way to reemphasize that Kayaka and Dasoha are truly the pillars of our value system. Here are some of the pictures from these events.





## Other Executive Committee members:

### Dr. Veena Melinamani, VSNA GA Chapter Vice President



Veena Melinamani has been part of VSNA GA chapter for the last 14 years and has coordinated many cultural activities at Basava Jayanthi. She is keen on preserving, strengthening the existing rich and diverse religious, cultural assets of the chapter; community regrowth and passing it to the future generation in an acceptable form and aid in the goals and visions of VSNA. Her spouse and she have funded education, surgeries and chemotherapy for the underprivileged back home. She practices Internal Medicine, has run researches at Stanford, VAPAHS and has received outstanding accolades for her innovative ideas. She has been an honorary visiting professor, rendered CME and presided over several medical and allied forums at esteemed Universities. She is married to Sanjay and is blessed with two children Simran and Jai.

### Sudhir Chandraiah, VSNA GA Chapter Treasurer



Sudhir Chandraiah has been part of VSNA community residing in GA area for over 18 years. He has served GA Chapter as Vice President 2010-2011, He was also the Secretary of the VSNA Convention held in Atlanta in 2006. He has worked on many cultural activities at VSNA programs, directed plays, assisted in technical (audio/video) needs during various cultural programs. He was instrumental in starting Basava Jayanthi celebrations in VSNA GA chapter. Very keen to work with the members in promoting the mission and vision of VSNA and make this organization relevant to the needs and aspirations of its members in GA. Sudhir holds an MCA and Electronics degrees. He works for UPS Inc in the capacity as a Manager for Business Intelligence and Financial Systems. He is married to Jyothi and is blessed with two children Manas and Gowri.



### Lakshmi Doddannara, VSNA GA Chapter Secretary



Lakshmi Doddannara married to Sujith Gowda and blessed with 2 beautiful daughters Aarna and Avani. They lived in US for number of few years before they opted to call Georgia their home. Lakshmi hold a masters degree in Computer Science and worked at EY in the past. Lakshmi's family received a warm welcome into the VSNA community in 2018, since then it's been a huge part of their life. As a member and secretary of VSNA GA, she is eagerly looking forward to serve with talented people to make our wonderful community stronger.

## VSNA – TX San Antonio

### Other Executive Committee members:

	<p><b>Shekara Mahadevaswamy</b> <b>Vice President</b></p> <p>IT Professional, Staying in San Antonio TX with his wife Suneetha and son Jatin. Basically, from Keregud, Hassan district, Karnataka.</p>
	<p><b>Chetana Santosh Birajdar</b> <b>Secretary</b></p> <p>I am basically from Belgaum; Karnataka. I did my Masters of Commerce from Dharwad University. I like Reading book, cooking, listening and Dancing. Currently I am staying in San Antonio, Texas with my spouse and two kids. I am full time housewife</p>
	<p><b>Chidanand Aiholli</b> <b>Outreach coordinator</b></p> <p>Software Professional</p> <p>I am from Vijaypur and My wife Anusha is from Bagalkot . San Antonio has been our home since 2016 , we are blessed with a son Daksh</p>

# VSNA – Maryland

## Maha-Shivarathri Event Meeting Minutes (March 21, 2020)

The members of VSNA-MD Chapter celebrated **Maha-Shivarathri**, the maiden festivity of the year, with great devotion, joy and excitements on March 13, 2021, via Zoom Online Meeting. Members attended the event in large number, which was well organized and run by VSNA executive committee.

The festivities began with a vibrant invocation “Ganesha Stuthi” divinely recited by Saanvi Hiremath. Our Chapter President, Shri. Nijaguna Prasad formally welcomed the members on behalf of VSNA executive committee. To start with the program, Chinthan Prasad highlighted the significance and importance of Maha-Shivarathri with a beautiful story of Bedara Kannappa.

As per the custom of our chapter, we performed *Linga/Shiva pooja*, one of the major items on our agenda, with zeal and devotion, and by chanting **OM NAMAH SHIVAYA** under the guidance of Smt. Jayashree Aunty. The *linga pooja* was followed by a video presentation of *Lord Shiva abhisheka* specially created for the VSNA family by JSS Spiritual Mission. This was followed by chorus singing of ‘*Shivaastakam*’ led by Saanika Mahashetty followed by listening to the recorded version of ‘*Lingaastakam*’ (originally sung by evergreen singer Padmabhushana S.P Balasubramaniam) both in praise of Lord Shiva. It was simply breathtaking to listen to the melodious songs, which were followed by Maha Mangalaarathi with the song of ‘*Jyothi Belagutide*’ lead by Smt. Sheela Aunty.

Shri. Nijaguna Prasad uncle introduced new family who attended the event. We welcomed Shri Puttaraju family along with their children Amulya Puttaraju and Amith Puttaraju to our VSNA community.

The impact of ‘anubhava mantapa’ and ‘anubhava goshti’ that reshaped veerashaivism and created ‘vachana-sahitya’ in the 12<sup>th</sup> century was put into practice by reading three vachanas. For this occasion, we selected *liMgava pUjisi PalavEnayyA* by Guru Basaveshwara, *olavillada pUje, nEhavillada mATa* by Guru Basaveshwara and *allamana lakShya vairAgyadalli* by Siddarameshwara. Most of these vachanas had a theme of ‘linga pooje’ and its merit. For daily worship, “*Ishta-linga*” that provides a focus for meditation, is used. It is always worn on the body. It is bestowed to the disciple by a Guru Basavanna says God is vast, immense and immeasurable but He comes and resides in my palm as ‘*ishta-linga*’. There were 11 children who took turns in recite/read vachanas in Kannada followed by detailed narration in English. The participants include, Samiksha Mahashetty, Nidhi Niranjana, Varsha Prasad, Sejal Patil, Laxmi Hatte, Ashna Jolad, Amith Puttaraju, Ratan Hatte, Tarini Nagenalli, Arusha Jolad and Sasha Siddalingaiah. Shri. Jagadeesh uncle led the conversation, discussing the importance of these vachanas and how we can apply their values to our daily lives.

The religious segment of the event was followed by the ‘**Talent show**’ from many enthusiastic kids including Rhuthvik Ravishankar, Arusha Jolad, Yukta Ravishankar, Ashna Jolad, Sejal Patil, Nidhi Niranjana, Saanvi Hiremath, and Saanika Mahashetty.

At the end, all the members participated in the ‘chapter meeting’ in which Shri. Vijay Guggari uncle presented the financial aspects including annual income and expense for the year 2020. It was a great effort from Sri. Vijay uncle and we appreciate his time and dedication in maintaining the VSNA MD funds.

Thanks to the executive committee members for organizing the event very successfully and meticulously. Special thanks to Smt. Puspha aunty (Secretary) for giving me the opportunity to write the meeting minutes.

Sharanu!

The report prepared by Tarini Nagenalli, a Youth member.  
(On behalf of the VSNA-MD Chapter)

# VSNA – Northern California

January to April, 2021 - Report

## Monthly Anna Dasoha

ತನು ತನ್ನದಾದಡೆ, ದಾಸೋಹಕ್ಕೆ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಲ್ಲ,  
ದಾಸೋಹ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ, ದಾಸೋಹವೇ ಮುಕ್ತಿ.  
ಮನ ತನ್ನದಾದಡೆ, ಜ್ಞಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಲ್ಲ,  
ಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ, ಆ ಜ್ಞಾನವೇ ಮುಕ್ತಿ.  
ಧನ ತನ್ನದಾದಡೆ, ಭಕ್ತಿಗೆ ಕೊರತೆಯಿಲ್ಲ.  
ಭಕ್ತಿ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ, ಭಕ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಕ್ತಿ.  
ತನುಮನಧನವೊಂದಾಗಿ ತನ್ನದಾದಡೆ  
ಗುರುಲಿಂಗಜಂಗಮವೊಂದೆಯಾಗಿ ತಾನಿಪ್ಪನು  
ಬೇರೆ ಮುಕ್ತಿ ಎಂತಪ್ಪುದಯ್ಯಾ?  
ಉರಿಲಿಂಗಪೆದ್ದಿಪ್ಪಿಯ ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರ.

In the spirit of dasoha, the distribution of wellness to society, VSNA Northern California 2021 Youth Committee has initiated monthly anna dasoha to distribute meals to the unhoused. VSNA NCAL chapter has connected with a group of community members who are trying to provide meals for the unhoused. Our youth committee member Aarna Burji has been leading this effort with the help of other youth committee members and adult volunteers Rekha Shivappa and Anu Burji. VSNA Northern California Chapter thanks the following members for successfully conducting the Anna Dasoha in the last few months:

Rekha Shivappa - January

Aarna Burji & family and Diya Desai & family - February

Ronit Gulla & family and Prateeksha Kallesh & family - March

Shubha Vajragiri & family, Anvita Hiremath & family, Sneha Patil & Family - April

Please visit <https://vsnanc.org/newsite/?p=8746> for detailed Monthly Anna Dasoha reports.



### **Vachana Classes for Kids/Youths**

One of the fundamental principles of VSNA is to grow and nurture Sharana Philosophy and Vachana Sahitya.

AllamaPrabhu, Akkamahadevi, Basavanna, and many great Sharanas have given us great knowledge through Vachanas. Earning this knowledge can be achieved by studying these Vachanas.

Learning, understanding and adapting the concepts of these Vachanas in our lives can bring enlightenment to each one of us and our kids. It helps kids improve their spiritual knowledge.

As you all know, we initiated the Vachana classes with the support from VSNA NCAL 2019 committee as “Yuva Anubhava Mantapa“ to educate our children on Vachanas. There were around 25 students who attended these classes and took advantage of the program. They sang Vachanas, performed in the skit, and participated in the classroom discussions.

Last year, due to pandemic, the classes were conducted virtually and students attended the online classes. All the kids performed online during Deepavali celebrations.

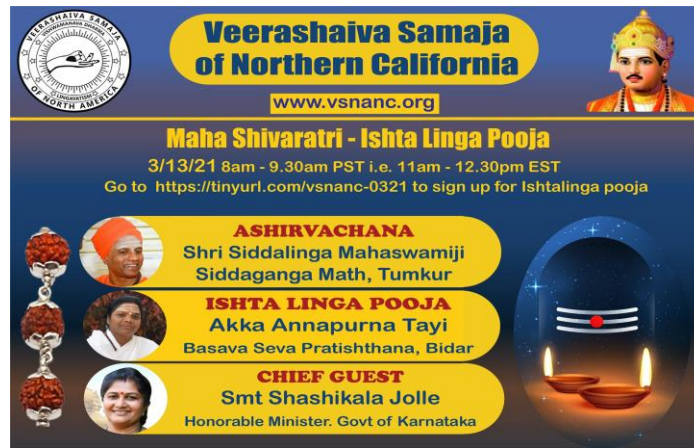
This year (2021) also VSNA Northern California has been conducting Bi-Weekly Vachana Classes for kids/youth aged between 4 years to 16 years. We have more than 20 kids/youths participating and learning various Vachanas this year.

VSNA Northern California chapter committee thanks Vachana Class Teachers Vasantha Siddappa, Sheela Shankar, coordinators Neelu Vibhuti and Rachana Sujay for their time and effort in conducting these classes throughout the year.



### **Ishta Linga Pooja – March 2021**

On the occasion of Maha Shivaratri, VSNA Northern California Chapter has successfully conducted Ishta Linga Pooja program on March 13th where many of the Northern California and other chapter members' families have participated along with swamijiis and dignitaries from Karnataka India. This program was watched live on YouTube by more than 1500+ members in the USA and India.



### Program Details:

**Ashirvachana - Sri Siddalinga Mahaswamiji, Siddaganga Math, Tumkur, Karnataka, India**

**Ishta Linga Pooja - Akka Annapoorna Tayi of Basava Seva Pratishthan, Bidar, Karnataka, India**

**Festival wishes from Shri. B. S. Yedeyurappa, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka**

**Chief Guest - Smt. Shashikala Jolle, Hon'ble Minister for Department of Women and Child Development and Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Government of Karnataka, India**

Link to the recorded program: <https://vsnanc.org/newsite/?p=8687>

VSNA Northern California committee thanks Poojya Siddalinga Maha Swamiji for delivering Ashirvachana, Akka Annapoorna Tayi for conducting Ishta Linga Pooja/Yoga, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka for recording and sending us the festival wishes and Chief Guest Smt. Shashikala Jolle, Hon'ble Minister of Karnataka for participating and sharing her thoughts with our members.





## **Maha Shivaratri and Yugadi Celebrations**

VSNA Northern California Chapter has successfully conducted virtual Maha Shivratri and Yugadi Celebrations on April 3rd, 2021. This premier show was watched by 600+ members in the USA on YouTube. Link to recorded program can be found here: <https://vsnanc.org/newsite/?p=8703>



VSNA Northern California (VSNA NC) 2021 Committee would like to thank all our members for participating/attending Maha Shivratri and Yugadi celebrations. Due to continued COVID restrictions, the event was conducted entirely virtual.

This year we celebrated the combined Maha Shivaratri and Yugadi on April 3rd. The event was streamed online through YouTube streaming platform. Although the event was virtual, the committee strived to keep the festive mood by packaging and delivering “Habbada Oota”, to 350+ community members to relish while watching the programs online in the safety of their homes. We also delivered a Welcome to kit consisting of a VSNA T-Shirt, Vachana Books and a good quality Tote Bag to 100+ chapter families. All this would not have been possible without the active support and participation of our chapter members. A big thanks to all our sponsors for their financial support and our volunteers who helped in every step to make this a successful

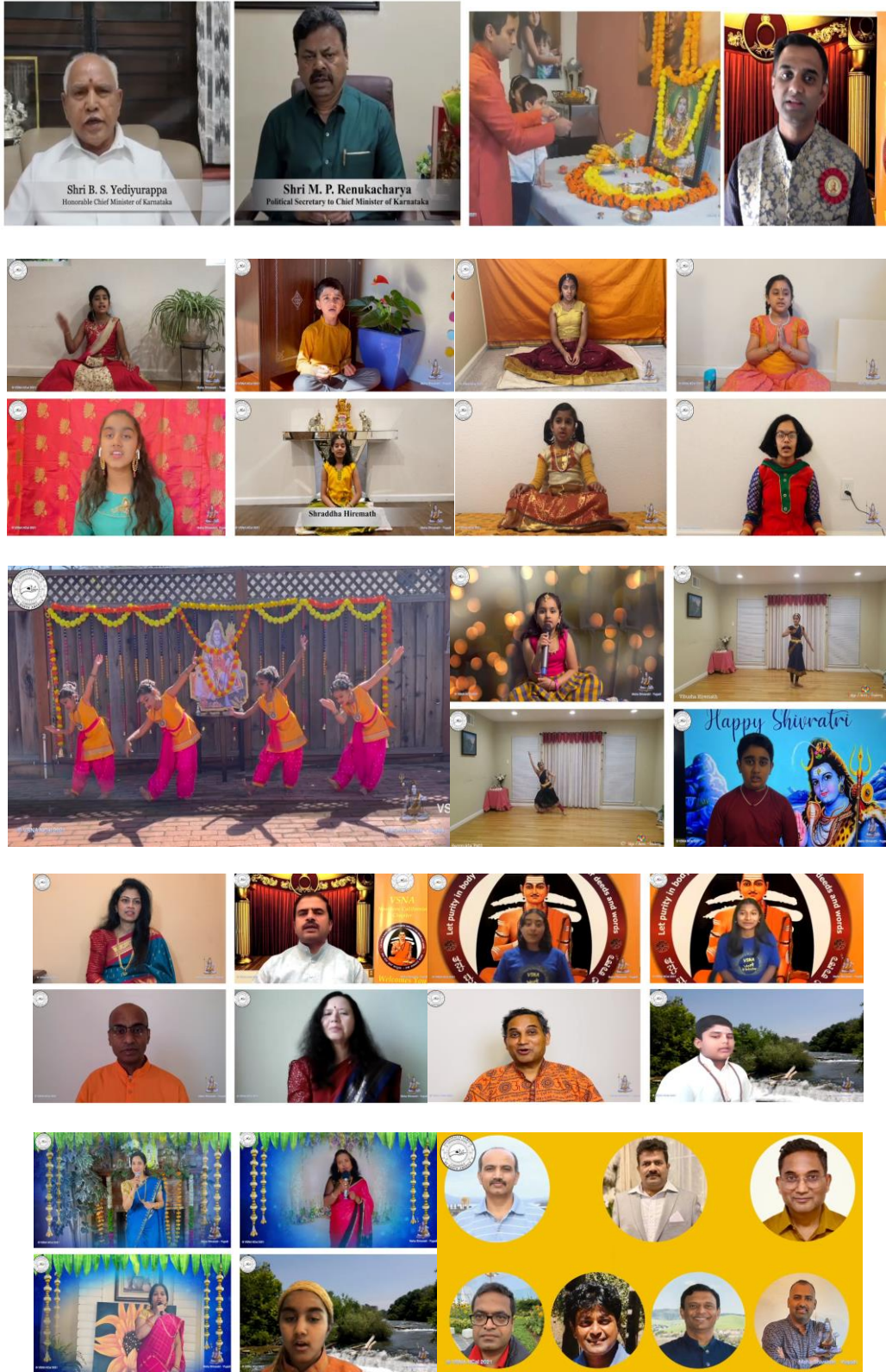
event. The complete list of sponsors and volunteers is given at the end of this message. (Please accept our sincere apologies if we have inadvertently missed anybody.)

The event started with committee members and volunteers packaging and delivering the Habbada Oota to our community for most part of the morning and early afternoon. The committee diligently followed every COVID safety procedure while packing and distributing the food. Habbada Oota consisted of: Samosas, Chana/Chole, Batura, Vegetable Biryani, Jilebi, Masala Chakli/Muruku and Cookies.



The event was kicked off by Shiva Pooje and wishes from Karnataka leaders. We had planned many entertainment programs from our chapter members. We would like to thank all the choreographers, directors of the programs and participants. We also provided a financial report for the fiscal year 2020 by our treasurer Prakash Bilodi and an address by Chapter President Shivu Vibhuti. Here are the highlights of the program:

- Shiva Pooje
- Wishes from Karnataka Leaders
- Devotional Songs and Bhajans
- Shiva Tandava Nrutya
- Vachana Recital with meaning from Vachana Class kids
- Skit on "Nuliya Chandayya" by Vachana Class kids
- Singing Performance - Gana Sudhe
- Bharatanatyam
- Kannada Karaoke Songs on Ugadi



We would like to thank all our sponsors:

1. Platinum Sponsors: Anil Halappa - Primerica.
2. Gold Sponsors: Gangadhar Murthy Hullekere (Murthy Homes) and Right TaxMate
3. Silver Sponsors: PNG jewelers and New India Bazar
4. Snack Sponsor: Deep Foods

We thank everyone for their support to the 2020-21 VSNA NCAL committee. As you all know planning and execution of this big event during pandemic was hard and challenging for us, despite all the challenges we were able to successfully pull it off because of the help from all committee members (both adult and youth) and their family members, volunteers, program directors, participants, business sponsors, individual donors and all the chapter members. Our team has worked hard in various activities listed below:

- reaching out to chapter members to renew their membership
- reaching out to business sponsors to get the sponsorship
- Yearly finance/budget planning for income and expenses
- coordinating with program directors and participants to get the good programs
- Website changes to add new pages/features
- Flyers and document design/editing
- Program sequence, Audio, Video editing/composition, slides and sponsorship video preparation etc.
- Program MC video planning and recording
- Welcome kit preparation and packing
- food planning, budgeting and preparation of some items at home, bringing it from various restaurants, packing and distributing it from 6 locations that are closest to your home and many other things happened in the background for more than 375 signed up members
- Final video editing and hosting it on YouTube to start it on time
- Digital communications to send you the timely update of the program details

Plus, many other things that happened in the background.

This was a huge task and we thank everyone for helping and supporting the 2021 committee to successfully conduct virtual Maha Shivaratri and Yugadi Celebrations.

Sharanu Sharananthigalu,

VSNA Northern California 2021 committee

<https://vsnanc.org>

<b>President</b>	<b>Shivu Vibhuti</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Prasanna K. L.</b>
<b>General Secretary</b>	<b>Rajesh Munavalli</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Prakash Bilodi</b>
<b>Food and Hospitality Team</b>	<b>Deepak Gulla</b>
	<b>Shobha Kudrikar</b>
	<b>Rekha Nagarajappa</b>
<b>Cultural Events Team</b>	<b>Praveen Honnappa</b>
	<b>Manohar Nagarahalli</b>
<b>Membership and Registration Team</b>	<b>Mallappa Pallakke</b>
	<b>Sneha Patil</b>
<b>Website Management</b>	<b>Deepak Bevinamara</b>
<b>Digital Communications and Graphics Design Team</b>	<b>Sujay Davalgi</b>
	<b>Vishwanand Pattanashetty</b>
<b>Youth Committee</b>	<b>Aarna Burji</b>
	<b>Aarna Davalgi</b>
	<b>Diya Desai</b>
	<b>Jeevith Chanveer</b>
	<b>Prateeksha Kallesh</b>
	<b>Ronit Gulla</b>
	<b>Samarth Hiremath</b>

# Thank you!

