



Souvenir

46th VSNA Convention



46th VSNA Convention – Atlanta, GA – 2023



Souvenir Editors

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Harish Hiremath

President



Nagarathna Totada

Vice President



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Treasurer



Nandi Nagaraj

Secretary



Convention Leadership

VSNA GA 2023 Convention Chair
Chaitra Veerashekar



VSNA GA 2023 Convention co-chair
Vidya Rudresh

VSNA GA 2023 Convention Treasurer
Harini Rajesh



VSNA GA Chapter President
Jay Jayadev

Convention Committee Leads

Convention Committees	Committee Leads	Convention Committees	Committee Leads
Facilities Committee	Sangeeta Patil	Photography and Video Committee	Rajesh Shivakumar
Finance Committee	Harini Rajesh	Yoga Committee	Nagarathna Totada
Registration Committee	Nagarathna Totada	Youth Committee	Sanjana Gowda
Fundraising/Marketing Committee	Nanda Gulve	Religious/Shiva Puja Committee	Veer Muchandi
NextGen Committee	Vidya Rudresh	Decorations Committee	Tejashree Patil
Communications Committee	Sujatha Banav	Anubhava Ghosti	Mamatha Hirannaiah
Entertainment Committee	Roopa Praveen	Medical/Health Forum	Jyothi Mattam
Hospitality Committee	Niranjan Banav	Volunteers Committee	Rajesh Shivakumar
Food Committee	Sangeeta Patil	Competitions Committee	Kusuma Tawady
Business Forum	Raj Mahadevaiah	Matrimonial Forum	Mamatha Hirannaiah
Women's Forum	Kavitha Mahadevaiah	Souvenir Committee	Pramod Patil
Stage/AV Committee	Prakash Palled	Programs Committee	Roopa Jayadev

Convention Dates: July 1st – 3rd 2023

Convention Location: Crowne Plaza Atlanta Perimeter at Ravinia

Foreword

It is with immense joy and a profound sense of gratitude that I extend my heartfelt greetings to all who are gathered here through the pages of this Souvenir, commemorating the 46th Annual Convention of the Veerashaiva Samaja of North America (VSNA). Though the event now resides in the realm of cherished memories, its impact continues to reverberate within our hearts and minds.

The 46th VSNA Convention, held at the exquisite Crowne Plaza Atlanta Perimeter Ravinia on the hallowed day of July 2nd, 2023, stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of our community. It was a celebration of our shared heritage, our commitment to the teachings of Guru Basaveshwara, and our dedication to the principles of Daya, Kayaka and Dasoha (Compassion, Work and Service).

As we flip through these pages, we are reminded of the vibrant tapestry of events, discussions, and cultural expressions that adorned the convention. From enlightening keynote addresses to spirited panel discussions, from soul-stirring musical performances to thought-provoking workshops, each moment was imbued with the essence of our collective devotion and shared aspirations.

This Souvenir serves as a time capsule, capturing the essence of our gathering and preserving it for posterity. It is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the organizers, volunteers, sponsors, and participants who came together to make the convention a resounding success. Their tireless efforts ensured that every aspect of the event was infused with warmth, hospitality, and the spirit of camaraderie.

As we reflect on the 46th VSNA Convention, let us cherish the memories we have created together and draw inspiration from the bonds we have forged. May the teachings imparted, the friendships nurtured, and the experiences shared continue to guide us on our individual and collective journeys, enriching our lives and strengthening our community.

I extend my deepest gratitude to all who contributed to the success of the convention and helped bring this Souvenir to fruition. May its pages serve as a source of inspiration and joy, reminding us of the profound significance of our shared heritage and the limitless potential of our collective endeavors.

With warmest regards,

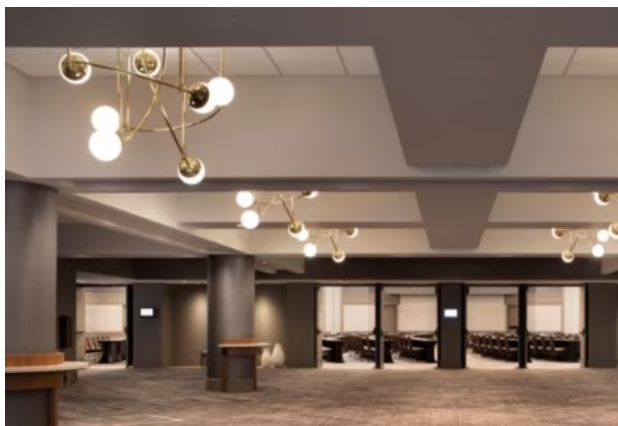
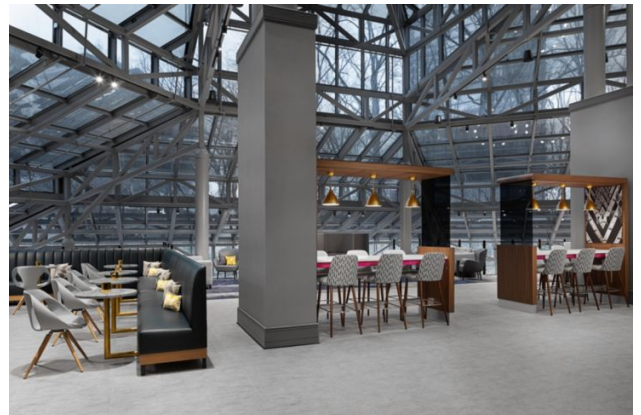
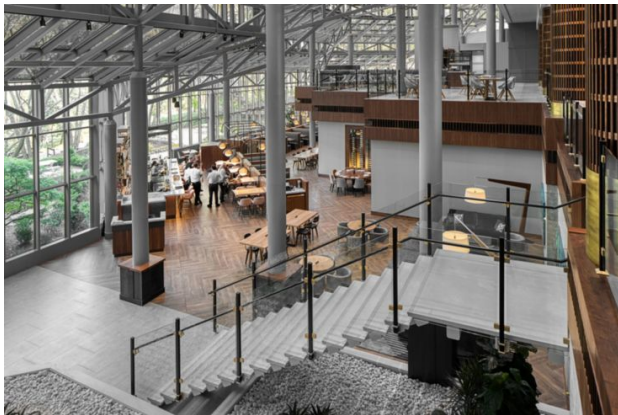
Pramod Patil

President, VSNA GA Chapter

Table of Contents

Convention Facility: Crowne Plaza Atlanta Perimeter at Ravinia.....	8
Program Schedule – Day 1	9
Program Schedule – Day 2	10
Inauguration Ceremony	11
Convention Chair: Chaitra Veerashekar	12
VSNA GA President : Jay Jayadev	13
Convention Co-Chair: Vidya Rudresh	14
State of Samaja : Central VSNA President, Harish Hiremath	15
Guest Speaker : Dr. Aravinda Jatti.....	18
Guest Speaker : Dr. Vijayalakshmi Balekundri	23
Guest Speaker : Sunita G. Doddamani	24
Our heartfelt thanks to our gracious donors	26
Our heartfelt thanks to our gracious donors	29
Our heartfelt thanks to our gracious donors	34
Our heartfelt thanks to our gracious donors	36
Our heartfelt thanks to our gracious donors	38
The Vedic Bridge.....	41
ಬಸವಣ್ಣನವರ ವಚನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಪ್ರಜ್ಞೆ	46
Our heartfelt thanks to our gracious donors	47

Convention Facility: Crowne Plaza Atlanta Perimeter at Ravinia



Program Schedule – Day 1

*****Legend: The program colors in the schedule correspond to the room colors in the map*****

Sunday, July 02, 2023			
Time	Programs	Room	Synopsis
06:30 AM - 07:30 AM	Yoga	Camelia	Yoga session led by the instructor
06:30 AM - 07:30 AM	Ishta Linga Pooje	Azelea	Start the day with Shiva Pooje
07:00 AM - 08:00 AM	Breakfast	Prefunction Area + Dunwoody Suites	
08:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Opening Ceremony	Ravinia Ballroom	Key note messages from the guest speakers and VSNA leaders
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Kids Fun activities	Maplewood	Face Painting and ballon art for kids
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Anubhava Ghoshti Session 1	Ravinia Ballroom	Discussion with speakers led by moderators based on audience questions
12:30 PM - 02:00 PM	Lunch	Prefunction Area + Dunwoody Suites	
02:00 PM - 03:00 PM	Business Forum	Ravinia Ballroom	A fireside chat with three Veerashaiva Entrepreneurs who used their strengths and fortitude to "Walk the Talk"
01:00 PM - 04:00 PM	Kids Competitions	Maplewood/ Conference center	Competitions held for kids of all age groups in various categories
03:30 PM - 04:30 PM	Medical Forum	Ravinia Ballroom	Health and lifestyle: Audience lead session with their questions
03:00 PM - 04:00 PM	Next-Gen Activity	Gardenia	Next-Gen Dasoha Event
04:00 PM - 05:00 PM	Matrimony Session 1	Azalea	Sammilana—Forum to meet your potential life partner
04:00 PM - 05:00 PM	Tea/Coffee	Camelia	Tea/Coffee will be available along with a few munchies
05:30 PM - 07:00 PM	Entertainment by Georgia Chapter	Ravinia Ballroom	An evening celebrating our cultural heritage and showcasing the talents of GA Chapter members
07:00 PM - 08:30 PM	Dinner	Prefunction Area + Dunwoody Suites	
08:30 PM - 09:30 PM	Gnaana Yogi Basavanna	Ravinia Ballroom	A Dance Drama production by Dr. Sanjay Shantaram and team of dancers including local talents
09:30 PM - 11:00 PM	Entertainment by All Chapters	Ravinia Ballroom	Entertainment programs from all chapters

Program Schedule – Day 2

*****Legend: The program colors in the schedule correspond to the room colors in the map*****

Monday, July 03, 2023			
Time	Programs	Room	Synopsis
06:30 AM - 07:30 AM	Yoga	Camelia	Yoga session led by the instructor
07:00 AM - 08:00 AM	Ishta Linga Pooje	Azelea	Start the day with Shiva Pooje
08:00 AM - 09:30 AM	Breakfast	Prefunction Area + Dunwoody Suites	
09:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Akka KeLavva Skit	Ravinia Ballroom	Skit about female Vachankarthis presented by GA chapter members
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Joint BOD/BOR Session	Maplewood	Central VSNA conducted session for BOD/BOR members
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Next Gen Activity	Gardenia	Career Forum - Pathways, Passion, and Purpose in choosing a fulfilling career
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Women's Forum	Ravinia Ballroom	Get insight from women leaders on present-day equality, diversity, and inclusion challenges
12:30 PM - 02:00 PM	Lunch	Prefunction Area + Dunwoody Suites	
01:30 PM - 02:00 PM	Competition Winner Performances	Ravinia Ballroom	Winners of singing, dance and instrumental perform on the stage
02:00 PM - 03:00 PM	Markandeya Skit	Ravinia Ballroom	Skit about Markandeya story presented by GA Chapter kids
02:00 PM - 03:00 PM	Anubhava Ghoshti Session 2	Maplewood	Anubhava Ghoshti second session with our esteemed guests
03:00 PM - 04:00 PM	Shiva Tandava and other Entertainment	Ravinia Ballroom	By Dr. Sanjay Shantaram and his team of dancers along with all chapter programs
04:30 PM - 05:30 PM	Youth Forum	Gardenia	Practical Veerashaivism with Dr. Balekundri
04:30 PM - 05:30 PM	Tea/Coffee	Camelia	Tea/Coffee will be available along with a few munchies
05:00 PM - 06:00 PM	Magic Show	Conference Center	Magic show entertainment for children
05:00 PM - 06:00 PM	Matrimony Session 2	Azalea	Sammilana - Forum to meet your potential life partner
06:00 PM - 07:00 PM	Next-Gen Anubhava Ghoshti	Gardenia	Next-Gen / Youth led Discussion
06:00 PM - 07:00 PM	VSNA General Body Session	Maplewood	Central VSNA conducted session
07:00 PM - 08:30 PM	Dinner	Prefunction Area + Dunwoody Suites	
08:30 PM - 11:30 PM	Music by Ajay Warriar and his team	Ravinia Ballroom	A Musical Extravaganza by Ajay Warriar and his team of live musicians

Inauguration Ceremony



The opening ceremony of 46th VSNA convention hosted by VSNA GA Chapter.

The 2 days religious event filled with cultural activities was inaugurated by Shri Aravind Jatti, Dr. Viajaylakshmi Balekundri, Mrs. Sunita Doddamani, Mr. Harish Hiremath, Mrs. Chaitra Veerashekar, Mr. Trishul Nagenalli, Mrs. Sangeetha Patil, Mr. Jay Jayadev and other distinguished guests.

Convention Chair: Chaitra Veerashekar

Good morning everyone Namaskara - My name is Chaitra Veerashekar, Convention chair.

It gives me immense pleasure to invite you all to the 46th Annual VSNA convention which is being held in Atlanta Georgia hosted by central VSNA with the support from GA chapter.

We the Georgia chapter are extremely honored to have our guest speakers Mr. Aravind Jatti, Dr. Vijayalakshmi Balekundari and Ms. Sunita Doddamani enlightening us with their speeches and talks at this convention.

Basavanna was such a great philosopher and an open minded thinker at that era. We are fortunate to be following his values where we don't need to follow extravagant rules and rituals. He fought for equality, non violence and discrimination back in 12th century. One example is Akkamahadevi who was respected by everyone for her simplicity and devotion without being judged. A feat that is not possible even in this technically advanced era. That is commendable!



This is the story I tell both my daughters as to why we should be so proud to be a Veerashaiva and we are blessed to have been born, introduced, and taught to follow his values .

I am fortunate and extremely happy to have my dear parents, my family, and my friends who have stood by my side every step of the way today on this joyous occasion.

We have worked day and night relentlessly in making this convention a memorable experience for all and we hope you enjoy it. I whole heartedly welcome you all to this convention.

Now I would like introduce GA chapter president Mr. Jaydev, who is one of the key person in making this convention happen.

Sharanu
Chaitra Veerasekhar

VSNA GA President : Jay Jayadev

Dear esteemed VSNA members,

Shri Aravind Jatti, Dr. Viajaylakshmi Balekundri, Mrs. Sunita Doddamani, Mr. Harish Hiremath, Mrs. Chaitra Veerashekar and distinguished guests,

Welcome to this remarkable occasion, the opening ceremony of 46th VSNA convention hosted by VSNA GA Chapter. My name is Jayadev and I am the GA chapter president. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to VSNA families who have assembled here today.

As we gather under the banner of shared values and community, this convention promises to be a dynamic amalgamation of knowledge, innovation, and camaraderie. Our distinguished speakers, engaging workshops, and networking opportunities await you, ensuring an enriching experience for all. Today marks the commencement of a transformative journey, and your presence amplifies the vibrancy of this gathering. Let us forge new connections, exchange ideas, and collectively elevate the impact of VSNA. May this convention be the catalyst for inspiration and success.

Yours truly,

Jay Jayadev

President, VSNA GA Chapter



Convention Co-Chair: Vidya Rudresh

Good morning, everyone. Sharanu. My name is Vidya Rudresh, and I will be your MC for this morning's opening ceremony. On behalf of the Georgia Chapter and as this convention's Next Gen Chair, we welcome you to the 46th VSNA Annual Convention. Many have traveled from all over this country, and even internationally, to be here. We are very grateful for your presence and attendance this morning. We hope your travels were safe and stress-free, but in case they weren't - we hope the delicious breakfast made up for it! We are very excited to host everyone in this beautiful convention center and hope to create a spiritual, social, and entertaining weekend for everyone in attendance.

A few housekeeping rules for this convention's programs:

Firstly, we hope that you have been added to the Convention Whatsapp group for communications. This will provide you with real-time updates, and we know you all care about when food is ready. In case you have not been added, the QR code to join is at the hospitality table. The website is another resource you can visit for program details.

Please be on time for every program out of respect for all the artists, speakers, and organizers.



Also, please do not bring any food or drinks into this main ballroom.

When you are in any of the forums or program halls, cell phones need to be silenced.

We also ask that you do not have any side conversations out of respect for these programs.

If you have young children, we would greatly appreciate that they remain seated during the program to prevent any hazards from them moving or running around.

For any emergencies, please call the front desk as they have the proper channels for quick action to be taken.

We have professional photographers and videographers capturing all the wonderful programs that are occurring this convention weekend. Since the program photos and videos will be provided to all attendees, we ask that you sit back and relax, as photography and videos taken from your own cell phones and devices can distract other members of the audience.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and attention.

State of Samaja : Central VSNA President, Harish Hiremath

ಅಯ್ಯಾ, ಸಜ್ಜನ ಸದ್ಭಾವರ ಸಂಗದಿಂದ
ಮಹಾನುಭಾವರ ಕಾಣಬಹುದಯ್ಯಾ.
ಮಹಾನುಭಾವರ ಸಂಗದಿಂದ
ಶ್ರೀಗುರುವನರಿಯಬಹುದು,
ಲಿಂಗವನರಿಯಬಹುದು,
ಜಂಗಮವನರಿಯಬಹುದು,
ಪ್ರಸಾದವನರಿಯಬಹುದು, ತನ್ನ
ತಾನರಿಯಬಹುದು.
ಇದು ಕಾರಣ ಸದ್ಭಕ್ತರ ಸಂಗವನೆ ಕರುಣಿಸು
ಕೂಡಲಸಂಗಮದೇವಾ, ನಿಮ್ಮ ಧರ್ಮ.

As Basavanna has mentioned, it is my privilege to be associated with this august group of sharanas along with many senior life members of North America. We all have our good fortune to be with Aravinda Jatti, Vijayalakshmi Balekundri, Sunitha Doddamani & our Georgia Chapter leaders.

OUR SECOND TERM: As you already know, during our last VSNA elections, I was away from USA, very busy with my son's marriage and engulfed in renovating my Malleshwaram apartment in Bangalore. I truly didn't have time and opportunity to give time or focus on elections. You all have surprised me by your trust and confidence in supporting me especially in my absentia. By re-electing me and my team members with a resounding majority, you all have given a referendum on our programs, actions and decisions taken in our last term. Your affection and love has humbled me and motivated me and my team to serve you with more vigor and take back our VSNA to its past glory.

VSNA IS OUR MATHA: I have mentioned earlier that VSNA is our matha and all our chapters are our shaka mathas imparting the essence of our faith, culture and legacy in North America. Our gurus here are our senior leaders who have lived here more than four decades and having the experience to guide us to retain our faith and philosophy in our families. Like Guruswamy Ayya, Prabhakar Puttaveeraiah, Gadigeppa Doddamani, Dr. Sajjan Shiva, Dr. Somashekara Palegar, Sante Nagaraj, Ranjan Raj, & many others who are present among us today.



MY FAMILY: Like all of you, we actively participated in VSNA events while raising my family. After raising a family, with my two loving children, VSNA's huge contribution has become very clear to me. My wife Kavya and I are totally indebted to VSNA!

SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUR TEAM:

1. **ONE TEAM:** We started calling our board meetings as Anubhava Mantapa Sessions and it gives me pleasure to declare it has been the most productive, collaborative and peaceful board after many years. My sincere thanks to our officers and board members for helping us to build and continue this board room culture.
2. **EXPANDED VSNA:** In the past two & half years, we have expanded VSNA Chapters nearly by 25%. We added two chapters, VSNA San Antonio & VSNA Alberta in 2021 and another two VSNA Austin & VSNA Indiana in 2022. Now, in past six months, we added one more chapter VSNA Minnesota. We are working on another two sharana groups in Washington State and Ottawa, Canada and hope to hear the good news soon. Our total number of Chapters has reached 29 and soon it will cross 30. If all of you join me and help, soon we can take this number equal to the number of states of America.
3. **VSNA 44TH SAMANVAYA CONVENTION 2021:** Due to onslaught of COVID, for the first time in past 44 years, VSNA was not able to celebrate the annual convention in 2020. Hence, during the first year of our last term, for the first time all the chapters of VSNA have joined together and organized VSNA's FIRST VIRTUAL 44th Samanvaya Convention. All our members participated from their living rooms!
4. **VSNA 45th SHARANA SAMANVAYA CONVENTION 2022:** After the COVID Omicron wave, in late Feb 2022, most of the board members approved to conduct onsite convention, but no chapter came forward to host it. Hence for the first time in 45 years, Central VSNA took full financial responsibility and conducted the 45th Sharana Samanvaya Convention at Houston with the volunteer help from the Houston chapter members. Few of our board members were concerned about the financial risk, but this effort became a huge success especially with respect to finance! Generous donations from you all and keeping the convention costs down, enabled us to pay back \$36,000 to VSNA Convention Trust Fund (CTF: \$20K Seed Money + \$16K from Surplus Funds). In addition, \$8,000 was paid to Central VSNA to develop of Common Website for all chapters and \$8,000 was paid to Houston Chapter as dedicated Children Activity Fund, We distributed amount is \$52,000. In addition, we raised \$25,000 in donations pledged for CTF during the convention. Savings achieved is nearly \$75,000! It is very important for us to thank and recognize our Fundraising Chair Kavya Hiremath for her dedicated and extraordinary effort in making it happen for us. Also, our thanks to strong support from Houston Chapter Convention Chair, Anuradha Gubbi. Most importantly, Central VSNA taking financial responsibility and working with voluntary support with a smaller chapter MODEL works and can be adopted in future, if needed. On behalf of VSNA, we thank Georgia Chapter, specifically, Chapter President Jay Jayadev to take up the mantle and bringing this 46th convention for all of us with the help of other Georgia leaders.
5. **VCTF 2022 (VSNA Children Talent Festival):** It was our pleasure to see around one hundred forty children of all ages from our chapters participated in our second National Level VSNA Children Talent Festival competitions. We sent nearly \$5,000 as Gifts to recognize nearly fifty winners along with the certificates to our chapter presidents. Thanks to Gadigeppa Doddamani for his generous gift, Our chapter presidents distributed the Gift Cards along with the certificates on behalf of Central VSNA to their winners in their chapter events. So, from Central VSNA, now we are not just asking, we have started giving back! We will be conducting our third national event VCTF2023 and request all of you to encourage more children to participate.
6. **IBJ 2023:** Once again, nearly fifty organizations joined our effort including Basava Samiti of Bangalore to celebrate IBJ 2023. On behalf of VSNA, we thank Sri Aravind Jatti for being with us in our efforts and guiding us. Along with various chapters of VSNA, this year we saw increased participation of organizations from Australia and UK.
7. **VSNA VICHARA VEDIKE (V3):** We created an international platform and conducted nearly 30 presentations followed by discussions with the help of our VIRC Director, Sajjan Shiva. During this year we have already conducted three V3 presentations and look forward more participation from all of you.
8. **VSNA Sammilana:** VSNA Matrimony program has become our most successful program implemented by our team with the active help of Shrikanth Hanumantappa, our Pittsburg Chapter Past President and other volunteers.

We had two successful marriages last year, our son Atheeth found his partner Tanushri and Basava Samithi's vice president, Sri Prabudev Chigateri's son Tejeshwar found his partner Priyanka from our Sammilana program. We have two sessions for parents and wards today and tomorrow for interested participants.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE FUTURE OF VSNA:

By having the overall understanding of the VSNA organization and its chapters from the past two and half years, I see a strong and robust future for our beloved VSNA.

We must continue to expand our central VSNA involvement beyond conducting our Annual Conventions, by organizing our national level programs like IBJ, VCTF, V3 & VSNA Sammilana to establish cross integration and to bring out the huge networking opportunity among our chapters as we are spread all over this continent.

International Dasoha Day - ID2: We have declared with the support of several VSNA Chapter Presidents, first Saturday of every August as International Dasoha Day conducting Community Service activities together at every chapter location as one organization. Later we can include our partners around the globe to join us also!

VS2: With the help of few senior leaders, we have launched online, virtual, VSNA Samanvaya Vachana Shale for children to teach vachanas in Kannada. We are looking for senior sharanas to take interest in imparting their knowledge to our little children to pass on our legacy, faith and culture.

With your blessings, with all humbleness, I and our team will work hard for the remaining period of our term to serve VSNA better. Please continue supporting me, our team, our programs and our initiatives. Together we shall build a stronger and robust VSNA and take back to its glorious past. I truly believe in ourselves as our Guru Basavanna did:

ಮನೆ ನೋಡಾ ಬಡವರು;
ಮನೆ ನೋಡಾ ಘನ.
ಸೋಂಕಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಶುಚಿ;
ಸರ್ವಾಂಗ ಕಲಿಗಳು.
ಪಸರಕ್ಕನುವಿಲ್ಲ; ಬಂದೆ ತತ್ಕಾಲಕೆ ಉಂಟು,
ಕೂಡಲಸಂಗನ ಶರಣರು ಸ್ವತಂತ್ರಧೀರರು.

It gives me a lot of pleasure to declare "I am a proud to be the first servant of Veerashiva Samaja of North America, our VSNA" Hence, join me in chanting "VSNA, VSNA, VSNA" Sharanu Sharanarthi

Guest Speaker : Dr. Aravinda Jatti

On this auspicious occasion my greetings to all the members who have joined together on 46th VSNA Annual Convention being hosted by Georgia Chapter in Atlanta USA. The theme of your program is *Daya*, (Compassion), *Kayaka* (Work) *Dasoha* (Service) to exemplify pillars of Sharana principles and to propagate the significance and its rich heritage to youth and children. Further, I was given the freedom to select the topic of my choice related to Sharana and enlighten the audience.

To understand Sharana principles or in other words Basava Philosophy we must understand the basics. In my perspective, understanding the philosophy should be based on Vachana literature and not otherwise. The study of Basava Philosophy deciphering the values in their right perspective step by step.



1. ಪರಮಾತ್ಮನ ಅವ್ಯಕ್ತ ಸ್ವರೂಪ (The form of Divinity or God)

- ಅಂಡಜ ಒಡೆಯದರಿಂದ ಮುನ್ನ ದ್ವಿಪಾದ್ವಿಪಾವಿಲ್ಲದರಿಂದ ಮುನ್ನ,
ಅನಲ ಪವನಿಲ್ಲದರಿಂದ ಮುನ್ನ, ರವಿ ಶಶಿಗಳಿಲ್ಲದರಿಂದ ಮುನ್ನ
ಇಂತಿ ಚರ್ತುವಿಧ ಒಂದಾಗದ ಮುನ್ನ,
ಗುಹೇಶ್ವರಲಿಂಗರಲ್ಲದ ಮುನ್ನ
- ಆದಿ ಅನಾದಿ ಇಲ್ಲದಂದು, ಹಮ್ಮುಬಿಮ್ಮುಗಳಿಲ್ಲದಂದು,
ಸುರಾಳ ನಿರಾಳವಿಲ್ಲದಂದು, ಶೂನ್ಯನಿಶೂನ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲದಂದು, ಸಚರಾಚರರೆಲ್ಲ ರಚನೆಗೆ
ಬಾರದೆಂದು ಗುಹೇಶ್ವರನೊಬ್ಬನೇ ಸಿದ್ಧಿಯಿಲ್ಲ ಇಲ್ಲದಂತೆ

2. ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಯ ರಚನೆ (Nature's formation)

- ಮರದೊಳಗಣ ಪತ್ರೇ ಫಲಂಗಳು ಮರಕಾಲವಶದಲ್ಲಿ ತೋರುವಂತೆ
ಹರನೊಳಗಣ ಪ್ರಕೃತಿ ಸ್ವಭಾವಂಗಳು ಹರಭಾವದಿಚ್ಛೆಗೆ ತೋರುವವು.
ಲೀಲೆಯಾದಡೆ ಉಮಾಪತಿ, ಲೀಲೆಯಾದಡಿದ್ದಡೆ ಗುಹೇಶ್ವರ

3. ಪರಮಾತ್ಮನು ಅಚ್ಛೇಯನು (Formless form of God)

- ಅಸುರರ ಮಾಲೆಗಳಿಲ್ಲ, ತ್ರಿಶೂಲ ಡಮರುಗಳಿಲ್ಲ,
ಬ್ರಹ್ಮ ಕಪಾಲವಿಲ್ಲ, ಭಸ್ಮ ಭೂಷಣನಲ್ಲ,
ಋಷಿಯ ಮಗಳೊಡನನಿದ್ವಾತನಲ್ಲ,
ಎಸಗುವ ಸಂಸಾರದ ಕುರುಹಿಲ್ಲದಾತಂಗೆ
ಹೆಸರಾವುದೆಂದ ಅಂಬಿಗ ಚೌಡಯ್ಯ

4. ಪರಮಾತ್ಮನು ವಿಶ್ವವ್ಯಾಪಿಯೂ (God is all pervasive)

- ವಿಶ್ವದೊಳಗೆಲ್ಲ ನೀನೇದೇವಾ, ವಿಶ್ವಭರಿತನೂ ನೀನೇ ದೇವಾ,
ವಿಶ್ವರೂಪನು ನೀನೇದೇವಾ, ವಿಶ್ವಪತಿ ನೀನೇದೇವಾ,
ವಿಶ್ವಾತೀತನೂ ನೀನೇದೇವಾ, ಅಖಂಡೇಶ್ವರ

- ಎತ್ತತ್ತ ನೋಡಿದಡತ್ತ ನೀನೇ ದೇವಾ,
ಸಕಲ ವಿಸ್ತಾರದ ರೂಪ ನೀನೇದೇವಾ ____.
- ವನವೆಲ್ಲ ನೀವೇ, ವನದೊಳಗಣ ದೇವತರುವೆಲ್ಲ ನೀವೇ,
ತರುವಿನಳೊಗಾಡುವ ಮೃಗವೆಲ್ಲ ನೀವೇ, ಚೆನ್ನಮಲ್ಲಿಕಾರ್ಜುನ ಸರ್ವಭರಿತನಾಗಿ ಎನಗೆ
ಮುಖದೋರಾ!
- ಇಳೆ ನಿಮ್ಮ ದಾನ, ಬೆಳೆ ನಿಮ್ಮ ದಾನ,
ಸುಳಿದು ಬೀಸುವ ಗಾಳಿ ನಿಮ್ಮ ದಾನ,
ನಿಮ್ಮ ದಾನವ ನುಂಡು ಅನ್ಯರ ಹೊಗಳುವ ಕುನ್ನಿಗಳನೇನೆಂಬೆ ರಾಮನಾಥ.

5. ಪರಮಾತ್ಮನು ಜಗತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರಭೂತನಾಗಿದ್ದು ಅದರ ಉತ್ಪತ್ತಿ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಕಾರಣನು
(God is the founder and responsible for creation, existence, and destruction)
6. ಪರಮಾತ್ಮನಿಗೆ ಹುಟ್ಟು ಸಾವೆಂಬುವಿಲ್ಲ. ಅವನು ನಿತ್ಯನು
(God is infinite)
7. ಪರಮಾತ್ಮನು ಸಕಲ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಚೈತನ್ಯವಾತ್ಮಕವಾಗಿ ವರ್ತಿಸುತ್ತಾನೆ.
(God is omnipresent)
8. ಪರಮಾತ್ಮನು ವಿಶ್ವಮಯನು ಆದರೂ ವಿಶ್ವದ ಗುಣಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊದ್ದನು.
(God existing in every element of the nature yet he is detached (detached attached))
9. ವಿಶ್ವವು ಪರಮಾತ್ಮನಲ್ಲ.
(Nature is not God)
10. ಪರಮಾತ್ಮನು ಧರ್ಮಿಷ್ಠರಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತಾನೆ.
(God's philosophy is the eternal truth and resides in the true devout person)

One can study Vachana literature based on the philosophy of Basava thereby we can lead the path of our life on the basic tenets. To brief a few adages of Basava Philosophy are as follows:

1. ದಯವೇ ಧರ್ಮದ ಮೂಲವಯ್ಯಾ
Kindliness is the foundation of all religions.
2. ಸಕಲ ಜೀವಾತ್ಮರಿಗೆ ಲೇಸನೆ ಬಯಸು
Wish well for all beings.
3. ಕಾಯಕವೇ ಕೈಲಾಸ
Work is Worship.

4. ದೇಹವೇ ದೇಗುಲ
Our Body is a Divine Abode.
5. ಭಕ್ತ ದೇಹಿಕ ದೇವ
A devotee is God personified.
6. ದೇವನೊಬ್ಬ ನಾಮ ಹಲವು
One God, many names.
7. ಸ್ಥಾವರಕ್ಕಳಿವುಂಟು ಜಂಗಮಕ್ಕಳಿವಿಲ್ಲ
Sthavara is transitory; the Jangama is perpetual.
8. ಅರಿದಡೆ ಶರಣ ಮರೆದಡೆ ಮಾನವ
To discern is Sharana, to oblivate is human.
9. ಮರ್ತ್ಯಲೋಕವೆಂಬುದು ಕರ್ತಾರನ ಕಮ್ಮಟ
Mortal world is the Creator's workshop.
10. ಕುಲವೊಂದೆ ತನ್ನ ತಾನರಿದವಂಗೆ
All clan is one for the self-realized.
11. ಸಾರ ಸಜ್ಜನರ ಸಂಗ ಲೇಸು ಕಂಡಯ್ಯ
There is no substitute for the company of the noble.
12. ಜ್ಞಾನದ ಬಲದಿಂದ ಅಜ್ಞಾನದ ಕೇಡ ನೋಡಯ್ಯಾ
Power of knowledge is the bane of ignorance.
13. ಎನ್ನಿಂದ ಕಿರಿಯರಿಲ್ಲ ಶಿವಭಕ್ತರಿಂದ ಹಿರಿಯರಿಲ್ಲ
None inconsequential than I, none worthier than a Shiva devotee.
14. ಶರಣರ ಸಂಗವೆನಗೆ ಪರಮಸುಖವಯ್ಯಾ
The company of Sharanas is the ultimate bliss.
15. ತತ್ತವ ಹಿಡಿದವರಿಗೆ ತೊತ್ತಾಗಿ ನಡೆವೆನು
I am subservient to the principled.
16. ಭಕ್ತನ ಅಂಗಳವೆ ವಾರಣಾಸಿ
A devotee's courtyard is my Varanasi.
17. ಭಕ್ತನ ಕಾಯವೆ ಕೈಲಾಸ
A devotee's embodiment is Kailash.
18. ಅಚಾರವೆ ಸ್ವರ್ಗ ಅನಾಚಾರವೆ ನರಕ
Observance is nirvana, non-observance is purgatory.

19. ಅಯ್ಯಾ ಎಂದಡೆ ಸ್ವರ್ಗ, ಎಲವೊ ಎಂದಡೆ ನರಕ
To say 'sir' is noble, to say 'hey you' is ignoble.
20. ಸದುವಿನಯವೆ ಸದಾಶಿವನೊಲುಮೆ
Humbleness is Shiva's benevolence.
21. ಸೋಹಂ ಎಂದೆನಿಸದೆ ದಾಸೋಹಂ ಎಂದೆನಿಸಯ್ಯಾ
May servitude be bereft of ego.
22. ಆಯುಷ್ಯ ತೀರಿದಲ್ಲದೆ ಮರಣವಿಲ್ಲ
Death happens not until the longevity is over.
23. ಮರಣವೆ ಮಹಾನವಮಿ
Death is the ultimate chastisement.
24. ಶರಣರ ಬರವೆನಗೆ ಪ್ರಾಣ ಜೀವಾಳವಯ್ಯ
The advent of Sharanas is my elixir.
25. ಬಾಗಿಡ ತಲೆ ಮುಗಿದ ಕೈಯಾಗಿರಿಸು
Let me be bent head and folded hands.
26. ಅರಿವೆ ಗುರು
Cognizance is the teacher.
27. ಅನುಭಾವವೇ ಜಂಗಮ
Jangama is but mysticism.
28. ಮೃದು ವಚನವೆ ಸಕಲ ಜಪಗಳಯ್ಯಾ
Soft words are true hymns.
29. ಪರವಧುವ ಮಹಾದೇವಿಯೆಂಬೆ
Another's wife is to be honoured a deity.
30. ಲಿಂಗವಿದ್ದವರ ಮನೆ ಕೈಲಾಸ
The abode where Linga resides is *Kailash*.
31. ನುಡಿದರೆ ಲಿಂಗಮೆಚ್ಚಿ ಅಹುದಹುದೆನಬೇಕು
Speak one should, in a way that Linga reckons and appreciates.
32. ಶರಣಿಗೆ ಪಾದವೆ ಪರುಷ
Sharana's feet is the philosopher's stone to attain enlightenment.
33. ಪ್ರಸಾದ ಕಾಯವ ಕೆಡಿಸಲಾಗದು
Our body is divine benevolence; soil it not.

34. ಎನ್ನ ವಾಮಕ್ಷೇಮ ನಿಮ್ಮದಯ್ಯಾ
My wellbeing is Thy responsibility.

35. ಶರಣರ ಅಂಗಹೀನರೆಂದಡೆ ನಾಯಕ ನರಕ
To call Sharanas lame is the road to extreme hell.

36. ಶರಣರ ನೊಸಲಿಗೆ ವಿಭೂತಿಯೇ ಶೃಂಗಾರ
Holy ash is an adornment for Sharanas' forehead.

The deep study of Vachana literature will lead us to a perfect and ultimate path guided by Guru Basava and his contemporaries. The study of these Vachanas scientifically will make us understand the depth of this philosophy of life and not religion. Unfortunately, till today this great Basava Philosophy has been advocated as a religion leading to very many confusions which are existing in the society at large. We must hold ourselves committed to one philosophy thereby we reach the destination of eternal bliss. i.e., *Lingangasamarasya* or in other words a human being should merge in the qualities of Linga (Mahalinga) and amalgamate. Finally, we the normal people of the human being will be enlighten to know that we are divine beings.



‘ಶರಣ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬದುಕಿ, ಶರಣ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಯನ್ನು ಉಳಿಸೋಣ, ಬೆಳೆಸೋಣ, ಸಂರಕ್ಷಿಸೋಣ’

Dr. Aravind Jatti
President,
Basava Samithi, Bengaluru

Guest Speaker : Dr. Vijayalakshmi Balekundri

Sharanu members of VSNA,

It was my great pleasure and proud privilege to be a guest at the 46th annual VSNA convention. Just to give a brief introduction, I am a cardiologist by profession, the first female cardiologist in Karnataka and subsequently specialized in Pediatric cardiology. I was the first one in south Bharat to start using Amplatzer device to close hole in the heart (Atrial septal defect). I have set several world records in doing invasive cardiology procedures in infants and children. In recognition of my work, I have been awarded several gold medals. I have received lifetime achievements award from two presidents of Bharat and chief ministers of Karnataka. I have also been recognized and honored by Veerashaiva Mathas and various religious organizations for my insight into religion.

I have been blessed with a very satisfying and gratifying professional as well as personal life. Early in my life I was exposed to “Sharana samskriti” (Sharana's way of life) by my parents and grandparents to whom I owe a great deal of gratitude. While doing Manasa Sarovar yatra as well as Kailas Parvat parikrama I visited Muktinath temple and did meditation. That is where I experienced Sakshatkar (self-realization) of Shiva. This resulted in great progress in my spiritual path. Since then, I have been giving lectures on spirituality that I have experienced.

I deeply believe and practice the philosophy of Kayakave Kailasa which is one of the core tenets of our Veerashaivism. Shudh (pure) Kayaka is work that is done without expecting anything in return as a service to God. It is done with the volition of benefiting all living beings and mankind taking care not to hurt or harm intentionally. Dayaa guna (Kindness and compassion) is an essential quality for a Veerashaiva. As Basavanna says, “Dayave Dharmad Moola”. Without this quality there is no religion. “Dayave beku sakala pranigalalli”, One should show kindness and compassion to all living beings. I try to practice it in my profession and in my life in general. Daasoha is sharing and giving whatever one has, without expecting anything in return, serving the Devine as a Daasa (servant of God). Any action done with the intent of benefitting the society is Daasoha. Whatever we earn by our satya, shudh kayaka (honest, sincere work) should not be stored for our children and grand children but to be utilized to make this world a better place.

My dear fellow Veerashaivas, let us all be engaged in Shudh Kayaka, cultivate Daya guna and perform Daasoha. This is Sharana Smaskruti, life of a Sharana. These are the principals of our Veerashaivism and practicing these would bring abundant joy, peace, and harmony into our lives. In other words, the world becomes Kailasa, the abode of Shiva.

Sharanu Sharanarathi

Dr. Vijayalakshmi Balekundri



Guest Speaker : Sunita G. Doddamani

Summarised by: Mamatha Hirannaiah

Sunita Doddamani, an accomplished attorney, mom, daughter, leader eloquently shared her experience with VSNA organization. Having attended conventions since childhood, Sunita's roots in the organization run deep, with fond memories of her parents' engagement in the community and her active role in the Detroit chapter.

Sunita fondly acknowledged her father, Gadigeppa Doddamani, a founding member of VSNA, serving in multiple capacities and leaving a lasting impact as a contributor to VSNA and as the best father one could have. Sunita reflects on the sacrifices and risks her immigrant parents undertook, painting a vivid picture of her father's arrival in the U.S. with just \$8, working at a gas station while pursuing a master's degree. She attributes her own opportunities and success to her parents' bravery and the broader context of first-generation American experiences within the VSNA community.



Sunita's career trajectory, though not conforming to traditional expectations, reveals a passionate commitment to justice. From a Detroit law school to her current role as an Assistant United States Attorney specializing in hate crimes and civil rights, she reflects on her journey of making a direct impact on her community. Sunita emphasized the un-American nature of hate crime and expanded on the rich diversity that defines America's essence.

Sunita shared insights into the principles of Veerashaivism, highlighting moral codes, ethics, and a commitment to social justice. She drew a connection between these principles, her parents' support, and her own journey to the present—a point where she has contributed to justice for the people of the state with compassion.

The convention's themes—compassion, work, and service—resonate deeply with Sunita's personal and professional life. She reflected on her service as an attorney and the compassionate approach she takes in her role, stressing the importance of choosing a career aligned with one's values.

Embracing heritage became a focal point for Sunita, the critical role VSNA plays in allowing Indian-Americans to proudly embrace their roots. She advocates for diverse career choices, encouraging the youth to follow their passions and find meaning in their work.

Personally, Sunita cherishes the VSNA community for providing lifelong friendships and an extended family. She recounts heartwarming anecdotes of support during major life events, underscoring the enduring bonds formed within the VSNA.

Addressing the challenges faced by first-generation Americans, Sunita highlighted the role of VSNA in fostering a sense of belonging and community for youth navigating dual cultures. Her concluding expression of gratitude and anticipation for participating in the convention's panels reinforces her commitment to giving back to the community that has played a pivotal role in her life. Sunita's narrative serves as a testament to the enduring impact of VSNA, not only as an organization but as a supportive and enriching community for its members.

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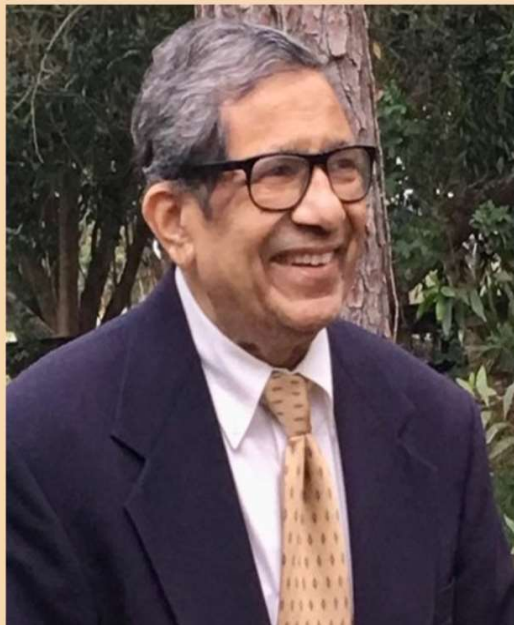




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**Best Wishes from
Mohan, Chandana, Akash and Abhay Bethur**



**In Loving Memory of
Basappa G. Byakod, MD
(11/05/1930 - 01/08/2022)**

**“Happiness is when what you
think, what you say, and what
you do are in harmony.”
- Gandhi**

**Mrs. Sudha Byakod, Sunil &
Sujata Desai**









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Dr. Basavaraj Mutnal



Dr. Basavaraj Muthnal, Dr. Lalitha Mutnal and Dr. Amar Mutnal





The Vedic Bridge

Bridge between the Vedic period and the Basava period

- Ravi Amblee - Chicago

When we look at the history of Hinduism, especially from the perspective of overarching Vedic values, inevitably we find two profoundly glaring time periods - the golden Vedic period and the brazenly dark Basaveshwara's period. A bridge between such unique periods helps us understand the social issues of the 12th century much more pragmatically than otherwise. If you consider Rig Veda to have been formulated around 1200 BC and the Basava period around 1200 AD, this Vedic time bridge spans over 2400 years! A considerable time gap of 24 centuries. If you look at these two time periods much more acutely, we can't deny the fact that if the glory of the Vedic period had been preserved and not deteriorated, Basavanna would not have surfaced as a religious leader, instead he would have passed on in history as yet another minister in an inconspicuous Bijjala empire. If women were treated justly like in the Vedic epoch and if Shudras had equal opportunity like in the Vedic era, then the Basava moment and revolution would not have transpired.

When we stride on the bridge exploring the events along the way, it gives us an opportunity to understand how our glorious past was dilapidated into barbarous dark times. Although there are many facets that we can explore, I would focus on 3 aspects that are relevant to the discussion.

First and foremost is the inter-caste marriage between a Brahmin girl and the son of a cobbler that took place during Basaveshwara's period under his leadership. Heads rolled! King Bijjala was killed, Basava clan was massacred, Vachanas were burnt, and it was the most violent revolt that an inhuman vengeance could ever get at. If you walk to the other side of the bridge, Veda Vyasa was a half Brahmin. Many saints during the Vedic period were either Brahmins or half Brahmins and entirely Shudras. There was no evidence of any revolt over inter-caste marriages during that period. Even in the epic Mahabharat there are many instances of inter-caste marriages. Even Bhagavad Gita affirms inter-caste weddings. There was absolute freedom for women to choose their partner. Swayamwaras that were being held during that time period are testimony to women's freedom. Vedic saints, irrespective of their origin, were accepted and revered in the Vedic times, like Vishwamitra, Durvasa, Kashyapa, Agastya and so on. According to historian R S Sharma (source:wiki), nowhere in the Rigveda "is there any evidence of restrictions regarding food and marriage either between the Dasa and Aryan, or between the Shudra and the higher varnas". The point being, during the Vedic period, inter-caste marriages were common and accepted by society. However, during Basavanna's period, after 24 centuries, inter-caste marriages were not only unacceptable but hated. What a contradiction! When and how such a glorious period began to deteriorate is truly a regrettable aberration we need to re-explore. What event made the beginning of this fateful downfall? A walk on that bridge makes us reckon with the setback and rekindle our exploratory mind.

The second aspect is that all casts and tribes did contribute to the Vedas and the Upanishads with equal vigor and, needless to say, only such an agile societal engrossment can give birth to an epic philosophy. If only the Brahminical pedigree, which hardly accounts for about 5% of the population, had attempted to pen down a glorious doctrine like Vedic philosophy, it would have been a mediocre one. Even though Vyasa and Valmiki were half Brahmins, their contributions are profound. Like them, many Sudra saints have contributed immensely. There are instances where Sudras got converted to Brahmanas, like Matanga a Sudra barber received a Brahmin-hood and so were Prince Datta, Matsya, Vaibhndaka, Prananda and so on. Many Sudra saints had Brahmin disciples!

Continued....





Continued...

According to Joel Brereton professor at University of Texas, and Stephanie Jamison professor at UCLA says "there is no evidence in the Rigveda for an overarching caste system". Their findings also make sense, as the Vedas were still being conceptualized, the idea of framing restrictions on their constitution would not have arisen during Vedic times.

It was only after the Vedas and Upanishads were well chartered, that the concept of their ownership began to dawn on them. Having said that, it is evident that the Vedic period was indeed a glorious one in the history of Hinduism as there was not much of a distinction between casts and all were well respected, even though the Varnas did exist during that time.

On the contrary, on the other side of the bridge, during Basaweshwara's period, Sudras were not allowed even to listen to the Vedas that their own forefathers wrote centuries ago! Those who opposed were even punished. What an incongruity! What made us lose all that sublime, gratifying societal balance? It is this inexpiable breach that prompted Basavanna to inspire people from all castes to write Vachanas and contribute to the re-building of a glorious society that we had lost.

Thirdly, during the Vedic period, women contributed immeasurably to the Vedas and Upanishads. The notable female Rishikas who contributed to the composition of the Vedic scriptures were (Source:wiki): The Rig Veda mentions Romasha, Lopamudra, Apala, Kadru, Visvavara, Ghosha, Juhu, Vagambhrini, Paulomi, Yami, Indrani, Savitri and Devayani. The Sama Veda adds Nodha, Akrishtabhasha, Sikatanivavari and Gaupayana. On the contrary, on the other side of the bridge, after 24 centuries, women were not allowed to chant or listen to the Vedas! What an irony! It is this diversion that made Basavanna inspire women to write to rebuild a balanced society.

You may wonder, how on earth a noble, illustrious, and marvelous period like the Vedic period deteriorated over a period of 24 centuries to an inhumanely insane level? This would be astounding research work for any youth to pursue. If they walk along this bridge and try to explore where our ancestors went wrong, it would be an amazing journey.

Was Basavanna trying to recreate the Vedic glory by inspiring Shuras and Women to write Vachanas? He had realized how the Vedic period reverberated with grandeur as all sects were involved in the conceptualization of religious literature. He tried to involve everyone to procreate the same harmonious society. Anubahava Mantapa remains a monumental testimony to equality and freedom that evoked an electrifying spirit among the Sharanas and Sharanaes. He dreamed of a society that rejoiced religious tolerance and parity. Did that remain a dream?

Though the Vedic bridge was just an unconceivable dream of Basavanna, he sacrificed his entire life to reconnoiter such a time bridge. His life was too short to see its completion. The bridge is still there where he left it. Building of the Vedic Bridge must continue to its fruition. Shouldn't we all be part of it? Shouldn't we reclaim the lost glory? You bet!

About the author:

Ravi Amblee is the author of "Rise of the Digital World: An opportunity India cannot afford to miss" the book that deliberates on the impact of artificial intelligence on the world economy. After earning a master's degree in mechanical engineering, Amblee pursued an IT career that spanned over twenty years while also completing studies on artificial intelligence at MIT. He is deeply committed to looking for global opportunities that make the world a better place to live. He has contributed articles to several leading Indian publications including the Deccan Herald and the Hindu newspapers and Outlook India magazine. He has a readership of over 80,000 on Quora about ways to make technology work for humanity. Ravi lives in Chicago with his family.



ಬಸವಣ್ಣನವರ ವಚನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಪ್ರಜ್ಞೆ

12ನೇ ಶತಮಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಜನ ಜೀವನದ ಸುಧಾರಣೆಗಾಗಿಯೇ ಎಂಬಂತೆ ಹುಟ್ಟಿ ಬಂದ ವಚನ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಲೋಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಅತ್ಯಪರೂಪದ ಮಹತ್ತರವಾದ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯನ್ನು ತಂದಿತು. ಅದುವರೆಗೆ ಬಂದ ಹಳಗನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತ ಮಯವಾಗಿ ಜನಸಾಮಾನ್ಯರಿಗೆ ನಿಲುಕದ ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿತ್ತು. ಹಾಗಾಗಿ ಶರಣರು ತಮ್ಮ ಅನುಭವದಿಂದ ಹೊರಬಂದ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾಣಿಕ್ಯದಂತಹ ಮಾತುಗಳನ್ನು ಸರಳ ಕನ್ನಡದಲ್ಲಿ ದಾಖಲಿಸಿದ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವೇ ವಚನಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ. ಅಂದು ಅವರಾಡಿದ ಒಂದೊಂದು ಮಾತೂ ನುಡಿಯೂ ಜನಮನವನ್ನು ಗೆದ್ದು 800 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ನಂತರವೂ ಮನೆಮನೆಯ ಮಾತಾಗಿ ಉಳಿದಿರುವುದೇ ವಚನ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಗಟ್ಟಿತನಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಕ್ಷಿಯಾಗಿದೆ ಎನ್ನಬಹುದು. ಕಲ್ಯಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಬಸವಣ್ಣನವರ ನೇತೃತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದ ವಿಚಾರಕ್ರಾಂತಿ ಮನುಕುಲವನ್ನು ಉದ್ಧರಿಸುವ ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹತ್ವದ ಪಾತ್ರವಹಿಸಿತು. ಬಸವಣ್ಣ, ಅಲ್ಲಮಪ್ರಭು , ಅಕ್ಕಮಹಾದೇವಿ, ಅಕ್ಕನಾಗಮ್ಮ ಮೋಳಿಗೆ ಮಾರಯ್ಯ , ಸಿದ್ಧರಾಮಯ್ಯ, ಅಂಬಿಗರ ಚೌಡಯ್ಯ ಮುಂತಾದ ಸಾವಿರಾರು ಶರಣರು ರಚಿಸಿದ ವಚನ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊಸದೊಂದು ಪ್ರಕಾರದ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಗೆ ಕಾರಣವಾಯಿತೆನ್ನಬಹುದು.

ಬಸವಣ್ಣನವರು ತಮ್ಮ ವಚನಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ಅಂದಿನವರೆಗೆ ನಡೆದು ಬಂದಂತಹ ಕೆಲವು ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಅಪಮೌಲ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಅಂಧಶ್ರದ್ಧೆಯನ್ನು, ಮೂಢನಂಬಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ತಿದ್ದುವ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹತ್ವದ ಪಾತ್ರ ವಹಿಸಿದರು. ಜನರಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇರೂರಿದ ವರ್ಣಭೇದ, ಅಸ್ಪೃಶ್ಯತೆಯು, ಮನುಕುಲದ ಆತ್ಮ ವಿಶ್ವಾಸವನ್ನು ಕುಂಠಿತಗೊಳಿಸು ತಿದ್ದುವುದನ್ನು ಕಂಡು ಕನಲಿದರು. ಸುಧಾರಣೆಯ ಹರಿಕಾರನಾಗಿ ಹುಟ್ಟಿ ಬಂದ ಸಂತನಂತೆ ಅನೇಕರ ಬಾಳಿಗೆ ಬೆಳಕಾದರು. ಕಾಯಕವೇ ಕೈಲಾಸ ಎಂಬ ಧೈಯ ವಾಕ್ಯವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಚುರಪಡಿಸಿ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯು ಕಾಯಕದಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿ ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬಿಯಾಗಿ ಬದುಕಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಜನರ ಜೀವನ ಜ್ಯೋತಿಯಾದರು ಜನರಿಗೆ ಬದುಕುವ ಸರಿಯಾದ ಮಾರ್ಗವನ್ನು ತೋರಿಕೊಟ್ಟರು.

ಜನರಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಪ್ರಜ್ಞೆಯನ್ನು ಬಡಿದೆಬ್ಬಿಸುವಂತಹ ಬಸವಣ್ಣನವರ ವಚನಗಳು, ಜನಜೀವನದ ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶಕ ಸೂತ್ರಗಳಾಗಿ ಅಂದಿಗಷ್ಟೇ ಅಲ್ಲ ಎಂದೆಂದಿಗೂ ನಿಲ್ಲುವಂತಹ ಸಾರ್ವಕಾಲಿಕ ಸತ್ಯವಾಗಿ ನಿಲ್ಲುತ್ತವೆ. ಕೆಲವು ವಚನಗಳನ್ನು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪಿಸಬಹುದು.

‘ಎನಗಿಂತ ಕಿರಿಯಿರಲ್ಲ’ ಎಂಬ ಅವರ ಮಾತು ವಿನಯಶೀಲತೆಯನ್ನು ಸಾರಿದರೆ ‘ಕೊಲ್ಲುವನೆ ಮಾದಿಗ ಹೊಲಸ ತಿಂಬುವ ಹೊಲೆಯ ಎಂಬಲ್ಲಿ ಜಾತಿ ಎಂಬುದು ಹುಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇಲ್ಲ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯ ನಡೆಯಿಂದ ಬರುವಂತದ್ದು ಎಂದು ಸೂಚಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಕಾಸಿ ಕಮ್ಮಾರನಾದ, ಬೀಸಿ ಮಡಿವಾಳನಾದ ಎಂದರೆ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ಮಾಡುವ ವೃತ್ತಿಯಿಂದ ಮೇಲು ಕೀಳು ಎಂಬ ಭಾವನೆಯನ್ನು ತಾಳಬಾರದು ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾರೆ.

‘ಕಳಬೇಡ ಕೊಲಬೇಡ ಹುಸಿಯ ನುಡಿಯಲುಬೇಡ
ಮುನಿಯಬೇಡ ಅನ್ಯರಿಗೆ ಅಸಹ್ಯ ಪಡಬೇಡ
ತನ್ನ ಬಣ್ಣಿಸಬೇಡ, ಇದಿರ ಹಳಿಯಲು ಬೇಡ
ಇದೇ ಅಂತರಂಗ ಶುದ್ಧಿ, ಇದೇ ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಶುದ್ಧಿ
ಇದೇ ನಮ್ಮ ಕೂಡಲಸಂಗಮ ದೇವರನೊಲಿಸುವ ಪರಿ’

ಎಂಬ ವಚನದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಷ್ಟು ವಿವರವಾಗಿ ಮಾನವ ಹೇಗೆ ಬದುಕಬೇಕೆಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ನೂರಾರು ವಚನಗಳ ತಾತ್ಪರ್ಯ ನಮಗೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ದೊರಕುತ್ತದೆ.

‘ಕಾಗೆಯೊಂದಗುಳ ಕಂಡರೆ ಕರೆಯದೆ ತನ್ನ ಬಳಗವನ್ನು

ಏನು ಬಂದಿರಿ ಹದುಳವಿದ್ದರೆ ಎಂದರೆ ನಮ್ಮ ಮೈಸಿರಿ ಹಾರಿಹೋದುದೆ’

ಇಂಥ ಹಲವು ವಚನಗಳು ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಪ್ರಜ್ಞೆಯನ್ನು ಬಡಿದೆಬ್ಬಿಸುತ್ತವೆ. ಜನರ ನಡೆ-ನುಡಿ ಹೇಗಿರಬೇಕು ಎಂದು ಜನರನ್ನು ತಿದ್ದುವ ಮಹತ್ತರವಾದ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಕೈ ಹಾಕಿದವರು ಬಸವಣ್ಣನವರು. ಜಾತಿ ಧರ್ಮಗಳ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದ ಅಪಚಾರಗಳನ್ನು ಬಲವಾಗಿ ಖಂಡಿಸಿದವರು. ‘ನುಡಿದರೆ ಮುತ್ತಿನ ಹಾರದಂತಿರಬೇಕು ಎಂದರು’

Continued...

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Continued...

‘ದಯವಿಲ್ಲದ ಧರ್ಮವದೇವುದಯ್ಯ
ದಯವೇ ಬೇಕು ಸಕಲ ಪ್ರಾಣಿಗಳೆಲ್ಲರಲ್ಲಿ’
ಎಂದು ದಯವೇ ಧರ್ಮ ಎಂದರು
‘ತನಗೆ ಮುನಿವರೆಗೆ ತಾ ಮುನಿಯಲೇಕಯ್ಯ’

ಎನ್ನುತ್ತಾ ಶತ್ರುತ್ವವನ್ನು ಸಾಧಿಸುತ್ತಾ ಹೋಗಬಾರದು ಎಂದರು
‘ಆಚಾರವೇ ಸ್ವರ್ಗ ಅನಾಚಾರವೇ ನರಕ’ ಎಂದು ಸದಾಚಾರ ಸದ್ವಿಚಾರಗಳೇ ಮಾನವ ಧರ್ಮ ಎಂದು
ಪ್ರತಿಪಾದಿಸಿದರು

ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾ ಹೋದರೆ ಇಂತಹ ಹಲವಾರು ವಚನಗಳನ್ನು ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪಿಸುತ್ತಾ ಹೋಗಬಹುದು.

ಒಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂದಿನ ಯುವ ಜನಾಂಗ ಇಂಥ ವಚನಗಳನ್ನೇ ಮಾದರಿಯಾಗಿ ಇಟ್ಟುಕೊಂಡರೆ ಉತ್ತಮ ನಾಗರಿಕರಾಗಿ ಬದುಕಬಹುದು. ಕನ್ನಡ ಬಾರದ ಇಂದಿನ ಜನಾಂಗಕ್ಕೆ ಅನುಕೂಲವಾಗುವಂತೆ ವಚನಗಳನ್ನು ಆಂಗ್ಲ ಭಾಷೆಗೆ ಭಾಷಾಂತರಿಸುವ ಹಲವು ಗ್ರಂಥಗಳು ಪ್ರಕಟಗೊಂಡಿವೆ. ಇತ್ತೀಚೆಗೆ ಬಸವ ಸಮಿತಿಯಿಂದ ಎರಡು ಸಾವಿರಕ್ಕೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ವಚನಗಳನ್ನು ಇತರ ಭಾಷೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಭಾಷಾಂತರಿಸಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿರುವುದು ಅತ್ಯದ್ಭುತ ಕೆಲಸವಾಗಿದೆ. ಇಂದಿನ ಮಕ್ಕಳು ಇವುಗಳ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಪಡೆದು ವಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ವಚನವನ್ನಾದರೂ ಓದಿ ಅರ್ಥ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡರೆ ಸಾಕು. ಆದರ್ಶ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳಾಗಿ ಬದುಕಲು ಇನ್ನೇನು ಬೇಕಿದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ನಮ್ಮ ಯುವ ಜನಾಂಗ ವಚನಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶನ ಸೂತ್ರಗಳೆಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿ ಓದಿ, ತಿಳಿದು ಅದರಂತೆ ನಡೆಯಲು ಪ್ರೇರೇಪಿಸಬೇಕಾದದ್ದು ಪೋಷಕರ ಆದ್ಯ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ ಎಂದು ಪರಿಭಾವಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

**ದಾಕ್ಷಾಯಣಿ ಸೋಮಶೇಖರ್
ಮೈಸೂರು**



Thank you

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for making the 46th VSNA Convention a resounding success. Your presence, enthusiasm, and active participation truly made this event memorable and impactful.

Throughout the convention, we had the opportunity to connect, share experiences, and celebrate our shared heritage and values. From thought-provoking discussions to engaging workshops and cultural performances, every moment was enriched by your presence and contributions.

We are especially grateful to our speakers, volunteers, and sponsors for their dedication and hard work in making this convention possible. Your tireless efforts ensured that every aspect of the event ran smoothly, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees.

As we depart from this convention, let us carry forward the spirit of camaraderie, unity, and empowerment that defines the VSNA community. Together, we can continue to uphold our traditions, support one another, and strive for positive change in our communities and beyond.

Once again, thank you for your unwavering support and participation. We look forward to our paths crossing again in future VSNA events

Warm regards

VSNA GA Chapter