



# Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan

# KARNATAKA NEWS

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Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560001.

Tel : 22267303, 22267421.

Website : [www.bhavankarnataka.com](http://www.bhavankarnataka.com), E-mail : [bhavanblrhns50@gmail.com](mailto:bhavanblrhns50@gmail.com)

Youtube : [BVBBengaluru](https://www.youtube.com/BVBBengaluru), Instagram : [@bvbbblr](https://www.instagram.com/bvbbblr), Facebook : [@bvbbengaluru](https://www.facebook.com/bvbbengaluru)

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

**D**ear Members & Patrons,  
Season's Greetings!

In a blink of an eye, we have marched forward to the third month of the year already, and I hope that the colors of March spill forth to the rest of the calendar as well. Bhavan, Bengaluru has slowly recovered from the setbacks of the pandemic last year to once again become the hub of cultural activities.

The Israeli Film Festival conducted in association with the Consulate General of Israel to South India received tremendous response from cinephiles and media. This collaboration has strengthened the cultural bilateral ties between the two organizations, and we look forward to jointly hosting various programs. Bhavan's Film Society's maiden venture has added more vigor to its activities, and we shall ensure that more such fiestas will be held to educate and entertain cinema lovers, which was the principal tenet of our film society.

Another significant milestone that we have to help our youth

cross this summer would be the class X board exams. They have battled a slew of invisible adversaries over the last few months in terms of the pandemic, and its many uncertainties, yet are geared up to leap over one of the most important hurdles of their lives. It becomes our duty to fill them with confidence and strength so that they can fearlessly face these board exams. The distribution of tabs at our BBMP Public School, Srirampuram has aided our students to prepare better for the oncoming examinations.

I once again thank the entire team of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bengaluru for having tirelessly worked in an altruistic fashion to keep the light burning. With the same enthusiasm, I see a bright future for Bhavan and our motto of upholding and dispersing Indian culture, heritage, and tradition.

Thank you

With Best Regards



Director, Bharatiya Vidya  
Bhavan, Bengaluru

## ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL: BHAVAN'S FILM SOCIETY'S MAIDEN VENTURE

**B**havan's Film Society in association with the Consulate General of Israel to South India, Bengaluru organized a three-day Israeli Film Festival from 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021 to 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021 for the cinephiles of the city. Six magnificent films from the Israeli film industry were screened at Khincha Hall at Race Course Road.

The Consul General of Israel to South India, His Excellency Mr. Jonathan Zadka inaugurated the

Israeli Film Festival. Chief Guest, National Award Winner, and Wing Commander (Retd) Shri. H. G. Dattatreya.

Present on the occasion were Shri. K. G. Raghavan, Chairman, and Shri. H. N. Suresh, Director, Bhavan, Bengaluru.

Shri. H. N. Suresh in his welcome speech thanked Mr. Jonathan Zadka for having extended his precious support to flag the maiden film festival of Bhavan's Film Society.



*His Excellency Mr. Jonathan Zadka lighting the lamp to inaugurate the Israeli Film Festival*

He expressed that this gesture will further strengthen our mutual bonds. This would also mark the many foreign film festivals to come in the future.

Mr. Jonathan Zadka spoke about how moved he was with the interest that the diaspora of cinephiles through Bhavan's Film Society has shown towards Israeli films. The films showcased at the festival were a part of Israel's culture, and a part of his childhood and growing up, hence was happy to share it with cinema lovers of the city.

Shri. Dattatreya congratulated Bhavan on its venture and reminisced about Film Societies

and the role they played in his formative years at the Air Force. He elucidated upon carefully curating films for the benefit of cinema lovers to help them choose amidst the sea of platforms and choices they are presented with.

Shri. K. G. Raghavan in his presidential speech expounded the positive and inspiring path that Bhavan's Film Society was treading on. He urged the audience to make the most of the 3-day film festival to watch the 6 Israeli films chosen by the film society and the Consul General of Israel

The inauguration was followed by the screening of *Desperado*



From left to right - Smt. Nagalakshmi K. Rao, Shri. H. N. Suresh, Shri. H. G. Dattatreya & Shri. K. G. Raghavan felicitated Mr. Jonathan Zadka



*From left to right - Smt. Nagalakshmi K. Rao, Mr. Jonathan Zadka, Shri. H. N. Suresh & Shri. K. G. Raghavan felicitated Shri. H. G. Dattatreya*

*Square*, cinematic excellence, and winner of Israeli Academy Award and Golden Antigone, Montpellier, France.

Over the three days, films such as Camp Fire, Halfon Hill Doesn't Answer, Hagiga B' Snucker,

Colombian Love and Alex is Lovesick were screened for the delight of film lovers of Bengaluru.

To be a part of film screenings and Bhavan's Film Society, contact Mr. C. N. Ashok Kumar on 9980055864. ●



Bharatiya Vidya  
**Bhavan**

### **Life Membership Privileges**

**A Life Member / Life Subscriber is entitled to :-**

- ❖ A copy of one of the Journals - Bhavan's Journal (English) / Navneet (Hindi) / Navneet Samarpan (Gujarati) for twenty years.
- ❖ A discount of 25% on the cover price of all the books published by Bhavan.
- ❖ Free Membership of Library wherever exists.
- ❖ Invitation to Bhavan's major functions.

## SITA KALYANA KATHA KIRTAN – RELIVING AN ANCIENT STORY-TELLING ART FORM

**S**tory telling is an art form that is as old as time itself. Innumerable colorful mediums exist across the world to recount sagas of mythology, culture, morality and principles, interlaced with song, dance and flamboyant presentation to keep the audience riveted.

In India, *Hari Katha* or *Katha Kirtan* is a prominent form of story-telling. Translated to ‘Story of Lord Hari’ (Hari – Lord Vishnu & Katha – Story), *Hari Katha* is one of the oldest forms of narrative where a ‘*HariDasa*’ or a ‘*Hari Katha Dasa*’, a devotee of Lord Vishnu, entwines an entertaining format of dance and song, filled

with humor, wit, educative messages of righteousness and altruistic path of life with stories of Lord Vishnu. These shows would be organized during festivals and other important days, and they would stretch through the night till the early hours of the morning, mesmerizing the viewers and educating them at the same time.

A wonderful opportunity to witness a ‘*Katha Kirtan*’ or ‘*Hari Kathe*’ presented itself thanks to the 78<sup>th</sup> Cultural Outreach Program organized by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bengaluru in consortium with Infosys Foundation. The celestial wedding of Lord Rama and his consort Goddess Sita from



*Shri. Sirsi Narayana Das and his troupe presenting the  
'Sita Kalyana' Hari Kathey*

Ramayana was presented as 'Sita Kalyana' by eminent Hari Katha artist Shri. Sirsi Narayana Das. Accompanying him on Harmonium was Shri. Kamalakar Hegde, Shri. Anand Bhat on Tabla and Shri. Krishnakumar Hegde on Taala.

Contenders were many to win the hand of King Janaka's beloved daughter Sita, but it was only Lord Rama who could break the Shiva Dhanush, and by doing so, augmenting the sanctity and beauty of 'Sita Swayamvara'. Our Gratitude to Shri. Sirsi Narayana Das and troupe for having brilliantly presented this Hari Katha, and making these divine scenes unfold

in our imaginations one after the other.

The artists were felicitated by Shri. H. N. Suresh, Director, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bengaluru, and Smt. Nagalakshmi K. Rao, Member, Kendra Committee.

To watch this program again, scan the QR code on your smartphone. ●



*From left to right - Smt. Nagalakshmi K. Rao, Shri. H. N. Suresh with the artists.*

## PROF V. K. GOKAK AWARD CONFERRED TO SHRI. LAKSHMISHA TOLPADI

**B**haratiya Vidya Bhavan, Bengaluru, and Vinayaka Vangamaya Trust had jointly instituted the Prof. V. K. Gokak Award in the year 2010 and had since then conferred the same on many noble recipients. Shri. Lakshmisha Tolpadi was awarded the Prof V. K. Gokak award for the year 2020 but due to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic situation, the award ceremony postponed indefinitely last year was finally conducted on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan.

Present at the occasion along with Shri. Lakshmisha Tholpadi and his family were Retd IAS Officer and Late Prof. V. K. Gokak's son Shri. Anil Gokak, an eminent critic and columnist Shri. Narahalli Balasubramanya, well-known musician Shri. Vidyabhushana and Shri. H. N. Suresh, Director, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. The program was hosted by Shri. Ravikumar from the Vinayaka Vangamaya Trust.

The ceremony started with an ode to Goddess Saraswati by



*Shri. Lakshmish Tolpadi presented with V. K. Gokak Award by Shri. Anil Gokak, Shri. Narahalli Balasubramanyam, Shri.H. N. Suresh and Shri. Vidyabhushana*



Ms. Chaitanya. Shri. H. N. Suresh welcomed the dignitaries and recollected the day when this award was instituted and recollected the many stalwarts who were bestowed upon with this award. He was immensely happy that Shri. Lakshmisha Tholpadi was the recipient for the year 2020 and expressed that everyone present was eager to hear him speak.

Shri. Anil Gokak congratulated Shri. Tholpadi, and illuminated the many achievements and contributions towards Kannada literature made by the scholar. His role as a social reformer, an agriculturist and an environmentalist were praised by Shri. Gokak. Two characters from Shri. Lakshmisha Tholpadi's book 'Betta Mohammadana Balige Baaradiddare' Ramachandra Bhat and his bond with his student Ismail was admired by Shri. Anil Gokak.

Shri. Lakshmisha Tholpadi enlightened the audience with his immense knowledge. He remembered the time when as a student he had heard the towering personality of V. K. Gokak address a gathering which had left his young-self enamored and

motivated to become a writer. His grasp on the language and the explanation of the finer nuances of the same, enlaced with his wit left the audience mesmerized.

Shri. Narahalli Balasubramanya praised the persona of Shri. Anil Gokak and his contribution to the Indian Administrative System. He congratulated Shri. Gokak's unparalleled tome about his father, Shri. V. K. Gokak. Shri. Balasubramanya said that 'Gokak Ondu Vismaya' had more insight into the life of the eminent personality. He also appreciated the Zen-like aura effusing from Shri. Tholpadi which touches everybody who comes in contact with him.

To watch this program on our You Tube channel 'BVB Bengaluru', kindly scan the QR Code on your smartphone. ●



## THIS DAY THAT YEAR

### **3<sup>rd</sup> March**

1923 - Publication of the first issue of Time Magazine.

### **4<sup>th</sup> March**

1951 - The Asian Games were inaugurated by President Dr. Rajendra Prasad in New Delhi.

### **11<sup>th</sup> March**

1886 –Anandibai Gopalrao Joshi was awarded a doctorate from the University of Philadelphia.

### **12<sup>th</sup> March:**

1930 - Mahatma Gandhi embarked on a 200-mile Dandi March for the Salt Satyagraha.

1954 – Sahitya Akademi was founded in New Delhi

### **13<sup>th</sup> March**

1940 - Udham Singh assassinated Punjab Governor Michael O'Dwyer.

### **14<sup>th</sup> March**

1931 - The first Indian talkie, Alam Ara, was released in Mumbai.

### **18<sup>th</sup> March**

1972 - The Treaty Srirangapatna ended the Third Anglo-Mysore War. Its signatories included Lord Cornwallis on behalf of the British East India Company, representatives of the Nizam of Hyderabad and the Maratha Empire, and Tipu Sultan, the ruler of Mysore

### **19<sup>th</sup> March**

1972 – Indo – Bangla Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Peace was signed to forge close bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh

1998 - Atal Bihari Vajpayee became Prime Minister for the second time.

### **20<sup>th</sup> March**

1602 – The Dutch East India Company was established\

### **21<sup>st</sup> March**

1977 - End of the National Emergency in India.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> March**

1947 - Lord Mountbatten came to India as the last Viceroy of India.

2020 - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the country's largest-ever self-imposed curfew (Janata Curfew), to fight the spread of COVID-19.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> March**

1931 - Indian revolutionaries Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev were executed.

### **30<sup>th</sup> March**

1949 – State of Rajasthan was formed

## CULTURAL OUTREACH PROGRAMS

### Odisha

#### Rod Puppet Dance –Kumbha Karna Badha

**T**he Rod Puppet (*Kathi Kandhei*) tradition is prevalent only in Keonjhar district of Odisha. The string and glove puppet dances are based on episodes of Krishna Leela, whereas the Rod Puppet form is based on Rama Leela. At one time, this profession was pursued by the Jhara Community indigenous to this area. When it faced extinction, two to three groups of the same locality

came forward under the leadership of Sj. Maguni Charan Kumar to revive this rare art form. Sri Chakradhar Parida, founder of Deva Silpi Biswakarma Kandhei Nacha of Village Jadopada is well known for having preserved this ancient art form. They presented “Kumbha Karna Badha” one of the most popular stories from Ramayana at the Bhubhaneshwar Kendra.

#### Rasa Leela

Rasa Leela centers around the immortal love story of Lord Krishna with Radha and his



**Rod Puppet Dance –Kumbha Karna Badha**

Gopikas. As a dramatic form, it is most popular in seabord district of Odisha. It is known by different names in different district. In the district of Cuttack, it is called Gopo Leela, at Puri it is Rasa Leela and in Ganjam it is Radha Prema Leela. Rasa Leela is mainly devotional in spirit and content. Prior to the advent of professional parties during the early period of 20<sup>th</sup> Century, it was mostly an amateur activity patronized by the mathas, temples and vaishnavite rulers and zamindars. Those who popularized Rasa Leela in Odisha in the first half of 20<sup>th</sup> Century are Mohan Dev Goswami, Govind Chandra Surdev, and Kabichandra Kali CharanPattanik.

## West Bengal/Agartala

### Baul Gaan, Mahajoni Gaan, Santoor and Hindustani vocal

A Cultural Outreach Program was organized by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan-Infosys Foundation in association with Salt Lake Cultural Association on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Hall, Salt Lake, Kolkata. This program was live on You Tube, and was held in three parts – the first one was BaulGaan, MahajoniGaan and Bhab Sangeet. It was performed by Smt. Dipannita Acharya accompanied by Sri Aaryan Acharya on small percussions. The preservation of this art form depends mainly on the



*Rasa Leela presented by Smt. Rupa and Team held on Jan 18th at Bhubaneswar*



*BaulGaan,  
Mahajoni  
Gaan, by  
Smt.  
Dipannita  
Acharya  
&troupe*

social and economic situations of their practitioners. Their music represents a long heritage of preaching mysticism through songs.

The second one was a Santoor concert performed by Sri Sudhhadshil Chatterjee and accompanied by Sri Arkendu Mitra on Tabla. The concert left the viewers on YouTube mesmerized.

The last one was Hindustani Vocal performed by Sri Sandip Bhattacharyya with light classical songs based on different ragas. He ended the concert with a very melodious thumri. He was accompanied by Sri Rupak Mitra on Tabla and Sri Sayan Chatterjee on Harmonium.



*Santoor by Shri. Sudhhadshil Chatterjee & troupe*



*Hindustani Vocal by Shri Sandip Bhattacharyya*

# PROGRAMME :

## APRIL - 2021

**Fri-Sun 02 - 04** | **9.30 a.m. - Madikeri**  
 Artiste camp in Association with **Karnataka Lalithakala Academy & BVB**  
 Inauguration :  
**Shri Pratap Simha**  
 Member of Parliament  
 Guest of Honour :  
**Shri K.R. Ramakrishna, IAS (Retd)**  
 Former Commissioner,  
 Dept of Kannada & Culture  
 In the presence of :  
**Shri. K.S. Devaiah**  
 Chairman, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan,  
 Kodagu Kendra  
 Presided by :  
**Shri. Mahendra D.**  
 Chairman, Karnataka Lalithakala Academy, Bengaluru  
 Venue : **Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Kodagu Vidyalaya, Siddapur Road, Madikeri.**

**Fri 02** | **5.00 p.m. - Madikeri**  
**BVB-Infosys Foundation**  
**Cultural Outreach Programme –**  
 Kodava folk dance Muthunadu  
**Abhimaani Okkuta & Muthunadu Ommakkada Okkuta**

**Sun 04** | **5.00 p.m. - Madikeri**  
**BVB-Infosys Foundation**  
**Cultural Outreach Programme**  
 Flute recital at Madikeri by  
**Shri. Hemanth and Shri. Herambha**

**Fri 09.** | **6.00 a.m. - Khincha Hall**  
**ICCR 71st Founders Day Programme**  
 (1) Folk Dances of India by **Krishna Foundation**  
 (2) Light and Folk Music by **Chaitanya Sangeetha Vidyalaya, Bengaluru.**  
 (3) Mime Group Show by **Vamshi Fine Arts.**  
 (4) Variety cultural programmes by **International students. (Srilankan Dance, Bharathanatyam and Kathak Duet dance, Nepalese dance and African dance.**

**Sat 10** | **6.00 p.m.**  
**BVB-Infosys Foundation**  
**Cultural Outreach Programme**  
 Hindustani Vocal :  
 Vid. Abhijith K. Shenoy  
 Harmonium : Vid. Ashwin Walwalkar  
 Tabla : Vid. Adharsh K. Shenoy  
**Please watch the above programme on Youtube : bvblive**

"Registered News Papers"



## Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bengaluru Bhavan's Film Society

(Affiliated to Federation of Film Societies of India, Hyderabad)

Bhavan's Film Society opens its doors to the cinephiles of the city. Become a member to enjoy exquisitely curated national and international films.

- Annual membership at Rs. 1000/-
- Regular screening of films
- Membership inclusive of film festival participation
- Bhavan's Film Society membership complimentary if you become a member of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bengaluru

For membership details contact

Mr. C. N. Ashok Kumar on 9980055864

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