BHA VAN'S DHARWAD KENDRA MAKES BOW

With the inauguration of management courses and classes in fine arts under its Kala Bharati, the Dharwad Kendra of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan on August 31, became a dream come true.

The new centre, the 10th Kendra in the State and the 375th in the overall reckoning, is verily a dream of Dr. Ramchandra Akkihal, a professor in the Bhavan’s Marshall Institute of Management in the Bangalore Centre. He not only donated the spacious plot in Saptapur, but went all out to erect the Savitriamma Akkihal Institute of Management to commemorate the memory of his beloved mother.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Akkihal said he considered it a proud day for the residents of the region in general and himself in particular that the city which is known as the hub of literary luminaries and artistes of repute, welcomes the Kendra to promote and propagate high moral values.
Prof Srinivas K Saidapur, Vice-Chancellor of Karnataka University who declared the centre open, said it was a happy occasion when a Vidya Kashi is coming up in Dharwad. Paying rich tributes to the services of Bhavan, he said it had been rendering yeomen services in protecting the declining human values.

Dr. M I Savadatti, former Vice Chancellor of Mangalore University, who was the Chief Guest, said the Bhavan proved the fact that honest service can always be productive. He wished that the Kendra will uphold the high Indian traditions.

Sri N Ramanuja, Chairman, Bhavan Karnataka, who presided, said more than five lakh students are studying in the courses offered by the Bhavan in its constituent 375 centres spread the world over. The Bhavan lays stress on the overall development of its wards, he added.

Bangalore Centre’s Director of Programmes and Projects, Sri H N Suresh compered the programme which was attended among others by Justices Smt.Manjula Chellur, Smt. B.V. Nagarathna of the circuit bench of the State High Court, Dr. M Narayana, Vice Chairman of the Shiva Bharathi Trust, and Sri. A Krishnamurthy, Hon. Secretary of Bhavan.

The function concluded with a cultural programme comprising Sugama Sangeet by Srikant Kulkarni, Carnatic Vocal concert by Srivalli Lokesh and classical dance by the students of the local Ujjwala Nrityalaya.
It was a unique and prestigious function in which prominent organizations like the State Sangeet Nritya Akademi, the State Nataka Academy, Vinayaka Vangmaya Trust, Prism books Pvt. Ltd., State Directorate of Kannada and Culture and Ananya joined the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and the State Sahitya Academy to pay homage to the illustrious academician and literary genius Prof V K Gokak, on his birth centenary.

The two-day function in the Bhavan’s Khincha auditorium on August 2, and 3 also marked the institution of an endowment in honour of the celebrated writer who wrote under the pen-name Vinayaka, by the members of his family.

The speakers who showered accolades on the many-sided contribution of Prof Gokak were as distinguished. The Poet Laureate G S Shivarudrappa who lit the lamp to inaugurate the tightly knit programme, described him as one of the foremost writers of the ‘Navodaya’ epoch of Kannada, who raised Kannada and himself to global status in a perspective as distinct as that of his mentor poet Bendre, but in a different direction. He said the Gokak Movement which has come to be referred to as ‘Gokak Chaluvali’ made way to cleaning the decks to make Kannada as the medium
of instruction in the State. Dr. GSS made a special mention of Dr. Gokak’s ‘Bharata Sindhu Rashmi’, which he described as an epic.

Dr. U R Ananthamurthy who like Prof Gokak is a Jnanapeeth awardee from the State, released the English translation of his classic ‘Samarasave Jeevana’. The work under the title ‘The Agony and the Glory’, is translated by Smt Yashodhara Bhat, a retired professor and daughter of Prof. Gokak.

Releasing the magnum opus together with a music CD based on his massive literary output which includes novels, essays, lyrics and dramatics, Dr. Ananthamurthy described how Gokak was different than his contemporaries like Bendre and Kuvempu. While Bendre derived inspiration from divinity and Kuvempu was inspired by Nature, Gokak’s writings had global or universal dimension. He didn’t forget to remind the listeners that he himself was a disciple of Gokak.

Elderly literature and another disciple of Dr. Gokak, Prof. L.S. Seshagiri Rao remembered him as a model teacher. While a student of his...
in the Central Institute of Linguistics in Hyderabad, he recollected how there used to be certitude in every word and every sentence of his. He paid a tribute to the facile manner in which Dr. Gokak used to unfathom complex situations.

Smt. Yashodhara Bhat, the translator of ‘Samarasave Jeevana’ explained at length, how her father had encouraged her in the difficult task. She recalled that it was he himself who suggested the English title and said, ‘I am proud that I was privileged to present a classic by a renowned Kannada writer to the English reading public.

Justice Dr. Rama Jois, MP and former Governor of Bihar and Jharkhand described Dr. Gokak as a towering personality in the academic and literary spheres. Recalling how during the historic ‘Gokak Chaluvali’, he himself was one of the members of the judicial panel, he had pointed a slip in his statement and Dr. Gokak instead of disputing it, gracefully accepted the error and set it right.

Among the many other scholars who spoke in the day-long deliberations were Dr. G V Kulkarni on “Novels of Gokak”, Anil Gokak, his son on ‘Gokak as I saw him’, Dr. Pradhan Gurudat on ‘Bharata Sindhu Rashmi’ and Dr. Gurulinga Kapase on ‘The Essays of Gokak’. 
Earlier, after the invocation by the students of Kala Bharati, under the direction of H V Gayathri, Sri N Ramanuja, Chairman Bhavan Karnataka welcomed the gathering and explained the significance of the occasion. Dr. Mathoor Krishnamurti, Bhavan’s Director, said it was befitting that the Bhavan should be sponsoring such an important function to honour a celebrated author like Dr. Gokak. He was happy that an endowment was created in his honour and the proceeds will go to conducting similar functions in the years to come in memory of the distinguished academician.

While Sri Manu Baligar, Director, Directorate of Kannada and Culture, inaugurated an exhibition of Dr. Gokak’s photographs and an exhibition

*Ms. Ramya Vasishsta performs music concert based on Prof. Gokak's poetry.*

*Nupura students in a group dance sequence based on Prof. Gokak’s poem Samudra Geetegalu*
of his works, Prof M H Krishnaiah, Chairman, State Sahitya Academy presided over the function, besides chairing the Seminar that followed.

The same evening a music concert by Ms. Ramya Vashista and Party and a dance recital directed by Smt. Lalitha Srinivasan of Nupura.

A documentary on Prof. Gokak of the Central Sahitya Akademi and the staging of his play ‘Jana Nayaka’ directed by Dr. B V Rajaram, formed part of the gala celebrations on Monday (Aug 3)

A scene from the Prof. V.K. Gokaks play "Jana Nayaka" directed by Dr. B.V. Rajaram for the Gokak Centenary

Sri. N. Ramanuja, Chairman, BVB along with Sri Girish Karnad and Dr. U.R. Anantha Murthy during Prof. Gokak Centenary
The institution of an endowment to commemorate the memory of the renowned dancing couple, Prof U S Krishna Rao and U K Chandrabhaga Devi, made big news in the city’s dance circles. Yes, it is gratifying that at long last some of their senior disciples, with Smt. Sharada Umesh Rudra in the lead have taken steps in this direction.

It is equally true that these students found an ideal ally in the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan to not only serve as the custodian of the endowment but also to coordinate in realizing their objective, which is to organize one or more dance recitals a year under the banner of the endowment. After all, where could they think of a more conducive ally than the Bhavan which is not only equipped with the ideal infrastructure, but also the fact that the dancing duo had taught Bharatanatyam for sometime under its Kala Bharati.

The launch of the endowment at the Khincha auditorium on
August 9, was certainly not as flamboyant as the Krishna Raos, but undoubtedly impressive and responsive.

After the customary lighting of the lamp to symbolize the inauguration by the well known dancer Vani Ganapathi, contemporaries like Vimala Rangachar, Mathoor Krishnamurti, S N Chandrasekhar and H N Suresh shared some of their reminiscences of the popular dancers with the large gathering, which included a sizeable number of dancers, dance students and long-time friends of the Krishna Raos, including their son U K Jayadev. While Vimala handed two cheques of Rs.15000 each on behalf of her daughter Revati and cousin Asha, both students of USK’s settled in the US, Dr. Mathoor himself announced a Rs.10000 contribution to augment the investment.

The pleasant function concluded with a recital of Bharatanatyam by Sharada Rudra, Shobha and Maithreyi, of all numbers popularized by the famous dance gurus.

Dr. Sarvothama Kamat, another student of theirs, proposed a vote of thanks.
ILL-EFFECTS OF TERRORISM

Many are the means adopted to create awareness about the alarming terrorist menace. One such is through cinema, ‘Beyond Belief’, an American production, directed by Beth Murphy, is a film in this direction.

The screenplay portrays two American women who had been widowed in the terrorist onslaught in America. With a view to study and share the agonies of fellow-victims in the terrorist infested Afghanistan, the two women tour important cities of the US, collect donations for the care centres in Afghanistan to help poor women and their children.

In the denouement, one gets an idea of the magnitude of their suffering, pangs of the separation and the bleak prospect before them. In the mountainous terrain, they see the pathetic conditions of women who have been deprived of wedded happiness and see how they can alleviate their sufferings.

On a rough estimate, there were five lakh widows in Afghanistan, their life partners having succumbed to the terrorist attack.

This film focusing on the burning topic of the day, was screened in the Bhavan on August, 1. The screening jointly organized by the Bhavan’s American Corner and the HB College of Communication and Management was open to the students of the college, besides a few others. One dare bet that the young minds who witnessed the film and the heart rending ill effects of terrorism would have been moved by the sufferings of the victims of terrorism. If nothing, they would have been strongly determined to stand by the country to counter terrorism and explore ways and means to help the families affected by terrorists.
GURUPOORNIMA - 2009

2009 Gurupoornima celebrations were held at the Bhavan on July 24. Bhavan’s Veda school and Yoga students organized this programme in a befitting manner.

Programme started by offering prayers to Sri Maha Ganapathi followed by Rudrabhishekam under the guidance of Gurus Sri. M.N. Chandra Shekar, Sri Ramesh Avadhani. Resitation of Purushasuktha, Srisuktha and Durga Suktha were the highlights of this programme. 

Poornakumbha Swagatha to Gurus Prof. M.N. Chandrashekar, Sri Ramesh Avadhani and others during Gurupoornima celebrations

Rudrabhisheka at Gurupoornima
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<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>10.30 a.m.</td>
<td>Teachers Day Celebration and Inauguration of Shikshana Bharathi</td>
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<td>Launch of Study Centre - Coaching classes for SSLC / II PUC students.</td>
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<td>Chief Guests: Prof. G. Venkata Subbaiah, Prof. S.R. Leela MLC, Sri. A. Krishna Murthy</td>
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<td>Presided by: Sri. N. Ramanuja</td>
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<td>Sat</td>
<td>5.00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>10.00 a.m.</td>
<td>American Corner</td>
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<td>Fifth Anniversary Celebrations</td>
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<td>Tue</td>
<td>6.00 p.m.</td>
<td>Sri. R. Nagaraja Rao Endowment Lecture</td>
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<td>Topic: The Nature of a religious mind in the light of Jiddu Krishnamurti's Teachings</td>
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<td>Speaker: Dr. Padmanabhan Krishna and Sri Kabir Jaithirtha</td>
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<td>Sat</td>
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<td>5.00 pm. Bharathanaty Arangetram by</td>
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<td>Ms Lakshmi Priya</td>
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<td>Sat</td>
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<td>8th Kalabharathi Convocation</td>
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<td>Awarding Certificates and Cash prizes</td>
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<td>Chief Guest: Smt. Sarala Unikrishnan</td>
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<td>Presided by: Sri N. Ramanuja.</td>
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