



Bhavan's News

Australia

आ नो भद्राः क्रतवो यन्तु विश्वतः

Issue 2 - June 2004

'Let Noble Thoughts come to us from all sides' – Rigveda 1-89-i

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia honoured the "Stars" of its programmes which were organized during the last six months of its existence on April 17th 2004 at the Ryde School of Arts and Community Centre.

The evening was an example of cultural integration immersed totally in the Indian culture and traditions, following an Australian tradition of honouring their contributors and functionaries, and as a tribute to those who made the Bhavan's programmes a big success.

The evening was dedicated to the performers at the BVB's past shows and the audiences were the performers and their parents and friends. For the first time, there was no chief guest for a function. The performers at the function were among those who had performed in the past shows. The music was played by Avijit Sarkar, Afghanistan artist Rahim played the tabla, Dr. Navin Bhatt was on percussion. Rahim deserves special praise for performing for Indian songs with a familiar rhythm.

The show started with two Lata songs sung by Chirusmita Chakraborty, who runs a music and dance school in Matraville. Ms. Chakraborty is a trained musician and had been at the Bhatkhande University. She sang "Chandan sa badan" and another "Mohe pan ghat pe."

Kuljeet Singh, a runner up at Rafi Ki Yaad contest in India a few years ago sang two hits of Mohammad Rafi "Aa ja tujhko pukare mera pyaar" from Neelkamal and another one from Kanyadaan "Likhe jo khat tujhe." Kuljeet justified success at the contest by his skillful rendition.

The celebrated Sydney singer Vijay Jogia started slowly with Kal ho na ho but picked up the rhythm in Tum bin jaaon kahan from Pyar ka Mausam. Jogia also managed the sound at the function and was on the stage virtually for most part of the function.

A psychologist by profession, Indrani Mukherjee displayed her prowess as a singer with three songs of Rafi and Mukesh — Din dhal jayee par raat ne jaye (Guide), Aansoo bhari hai ye jeevan ki raahein (Parvarish) and Kahin door jab din dhal jayee (Anand). Indrani learnt music from her mother and took it up as a passion. She performed at the Holi Mahotsava at the Darling Harbour exactly a month ago.



Pushpa Jagdish, popularly known as the Lata Mangeshkar of Sydney rendered the famous Lata bhajan Allah tero naam, ishwar tero naam from Hum Dono with the same melody for which the soprano is famous for. The second was from the Madhumati, Aaja re pardesi."

In spite of such wonderful performances, the crowd refused to disperse after the certificates had been given away to the participant "Stars." They wanted the seasoned singer and coordinator of the evening Avijit Sarkar to treat them with his Hemant Kumar like melodious voice. And he obliged. The second half of the function belonged to Avijit. Avijit is one of the directors of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and is the Cultural Director for all the Bhavan Australia's events. He started with the patriotic Aae mere pyaare watan (Kabuliwala) to remind the audiences of their homeland.

The other one was also a song close to many an Indian heart — Ganga aaye kahan se, Ganga jaaye kahan re. Avijit presented a comparative study of two different eras by singing Pankaj Mullick in Pankaj Mullick style — Piya Milan ko jaana.. (1939) and followed by a song recorded just last year sung by Adnan Sami Bheegi bheegi raaaton mein.... A totally different style using different instruments depicting the progress of the Indian Music over the years.



The classical Phul gendwa no maaro showed the depth of musical training the versatile singer has had from his parents in the childhood.

Yaari hai imaan mera yaar meri zindagi set the audience to foot-tapping and clapping to his tune. Avijit ended the evening with this song but the audience had to leave unfulfilled.

The Indian Culture

Culture transcends boundaries and is the most accepted means of promoting people-to-people contacts. With the world today progressing towards a global village where the impact of cross cultural influences is evident, the Bhavan has a singularly important role in the promotion of Indian civilisational values. At Bhavan Australia in Sydney we offer a permanent focal point for the Australian people interested in the Indian culture and the published literature related that culture.

Indian Culture for Gandhiji had in it the making of a united India. His words:

"Indian culture stands for synthesis of the different cultures that have come to stay in India, that have influenced Indian life and that, in their turn, have themselves been influenced by the spirit of the soil. This synthesis will naturally be of the swadeshi type where each culture is assured its legitimate place."

"Indian culture is therefore Indian. It is neither Hindu, nor Islamic, nor any other wholly. It is a fusion of all and essentially Eastern. And everyone who calls himself or herself an Indian is bound to treasure that culture, be its trustee, and resist any attack upon it"
-The Sole Hope and Alternative. Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, 1996. Pg 72, Sadiq Ali, Former Governor of Maharashtra & Chairman, Gandhi Samarak Nidhi,

Gambhir Watts
President
Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia



World Culture and Arts Festival Sydney Town Hall, 15 August 2004

The Bhavan Australia is staging a "World Cultural Festival" on **15 August 2004, 4- 8pm**, at the **Sydney Town Hall**.

This unique event 'World Cultural Festival' has been conceived to bring the performing and fine arts of the world under one roof – allowing audiences to enjoy arts, crafts, music and dances from around the world and to have an understanding of the culture and lifestyle of different communities in this diversely multicultural Australia. The Bhavan feels that the event will positively contribute towards promoting harmony in diversity.

This concept of showcasing the global culture – a mini world under one roof has been welcomed and appreciated by the senior Federal & State ministers and government organizations. 15 countries (through their Consulates General / Embassies) have confirmed their participation.

The two major components of the Cultural Festival will be :

Fine arts where paintings, sculpture, handicrafts, traditional arts from different communities and countries will be on exhibit. Products on display will also be available for purchase.

Performing Arts for the evening will include three hours of classical & folk dance and music from around the world. The focus will be predominantly on dances interspersed with lively musical performances.

The Bhavan looks forward to the generous support of the various organizations, communities and Corporates to be partners in this event.

The detailed program will continue evolving with the confirmations of participation by other community organizations and details of their presentations.

For details please contact:

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Tel: 02 9267 9255 Fax: 02 9267 9005

Email: president@bhavanaustralia.org, Web: www.bhavanaustralia.org

BHAVAN' S ACTIVITIES REPORT – Year to Date

• Following a Pre Launch function of 26 July 2003 Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia was launched on **Saturday 30 August 2003** by the former Minister for External Affairs India, the Hon. Mr. Yashwant Sinha. Nearly 250 guests attended the launch of the 7th international centre of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, in the Grand Ballroom of Sheraton on the Park, Sydney. Among those present were Philip Green, Director of Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Alexander Downer, and former Minister for Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, Phillip Ruddock, now Attorney General; Laurie Ferguson MP, Shadow Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs; Michael Abbott QC, Chairman of the Australia India Council; Dhirubhai Mehta, Executive Secretary and Director-General of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan worldwide; Mr R. S. Rathore, former High Commissioner for India; M. Ganapathi, Consul-General of India; and Mr. Neville Roach, Chairman of Australia India Business Council.

• **The Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia Library was opened by Mr. M Ganapathi - The Consul General of India on 2nd October, 2003 at its Kent Street (Town Hall) office.**

• On 2nd October, Bhavan Australia President, Gambhir Watts, co-hosted with ISKCON, the Interfaith Dialogue at State Centre, Level 44 Grosvenor Place, Sydney. This conference was attended by high profile religious and spiritual leaders including, His Holiness Sankaracharya Swami Divyananda Tirtha and His Grace Sri Atmarama Das (Hinduism), Ven. K Sri Sumedha Thero and Rev. Shigenobu Watanabe (Buddhism), Keysar Trad (representing Sheik Taj El Din Al Hilaly) and Mahmood Ahmad (Islam), Rabbi Raymond Apple and Rabbi Geoffrey Cohen (Judaism), Mark Yettica Paulson (Aboriginal) and Bishop Manning (Christianity).

• On Wednesday **21st January 2004**, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan hosted the lecture "The Myth of Aryan Invasion in Ancient India" a lecture by internationally renowned Scholar and Historian Dr. Navratna S. Rajaram PhD, at the Ethnic Community Council Hall in Waterloo.

• The Indian Consul General Mr Ganapathi launched Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's website – www.bhavanaustralia.org - with the lighting of traditional lamps on **26th of January 2004**.

• Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia actively supported the Wesley Mission Family Centre Quakers Hill and the various associated community groups in organising the **Multicultural Family Festival in Quakers Hill on 21st February 2004**.

• On **25 February 2004** Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan was involved in the Northern Sydney Indian Info Expo held at the Dougherty Community Centre in Chatswood. The event was hosted by Migrant Network Services, Centrelink, NSW Police, Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW and Willoughby City

Council along with various other councils and community groups.

• The Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, along with India Tourism Sydney, celebrated **Holi Mahotsav on the 14th of March** at Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour. The celebrations commenced at 10.30am on stage with music and dance by our local artists ranging from Indian classical dances from South to North & East to West, traditional Rajasthani, Bengali, Sindhi, Oddissi, Kannada to the more contemporary themes of Bollywood songs, Indian rap, belly dance and jazz fusion. Over 10,000 people are estimated to have passed through the event on this busy day. There were many stalls selling delicious cuisines from the various regions of India, SBS Radio, were present all day and broadcast from the Mahotsav and had interactive programs with the crowd Mr Gambhir Watts, President of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia, welcomed the VIPs and special guests and extended the message of peace and friendship to all. The dignitaries who spoke were the Hon. M. Ganapathi, Consul General of India Sydney, Hon. J. Brogden MP, Leader Opposition in NSW, Hon. Laurie Ferguson MP, Shadow Minister for Population, Citizenship, and Multicultural Affairs, Hon. Amanda Fazio MLC, representing the Premier for NSW, Senator Aden Ridgeway, Deputy Leader of the Australian Democrats, Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman 12th Finance Commission with the Rank of the Cabinet Minister to the Government of India, Mr. S. Kerkyasharian AM, Chair of NSW Community Relations Commission, Mr. Neville Roach AO, Chairman Australia India Business Council, Swami Maheshwarananda, Founder of Yoga in Daily Life, Dr. A. Balasubramaniam, Chairman Hindu Council of Australia, Mr. Ivan Brownrigg, President Art of Living Australia.

• On **17 April 2004** Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia organised a musical night called 'Hamare Sitaron ki Mehefil – An Evening for Our Stars' to honour the performers and other volunteers for their contribution in the success of its various programmes during the year. Certificate of Appreciation was issued to more than 150 artists and volunteers. This is proposed to be an annual event.

• Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia has commenced **Sanskrit** classes for beginners by Dr Minakshi under the guidance of Dr. Peter Oldmeadow of University of Sydney.

• Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia runs an annual essay competition in Indian culture for enrolled university students. The current years competition "The Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi Today" has been closed and assessments completed. The 2005 essay competition will be announced on 2 October 2004.



Info For the Indian Community

- **Geetanjali School of Dance and Performing Arts** is organising a 'Mehefil-E-Ghazal aur Geeton Bhari Shraam' on 22 August '04 with India's distinguished ghazal singer A.I.R, Dr Ajay Roy, Avijit Sarkar, Rachana Bhatnagar. For further details contact 9896 2993 or 9899 4961 or mobile 0410 431 461.
 - **The Federation of Austalian Indian Associations Inc (FAIA)** is organising an Indian Nite on Saturday 17 July 2004. The theme for the nite being "Colours of India". Proceeds from the mega event will be credited to the FAIA Benevolent Community Fund. For details please contact Jayant Pattekar 9218 6924 / 0403 208 165.
 - **UIA India – Australia Fair / Indian Independence Day celebration** are planned to be held at the Olympic Park on 8 August 2004. For details contact Dr Sid Orekondy, President or Mr Raj Natarajan, Ph: 9874 8121.
- The 11th Aradhana of Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Swamigal (Maha Periaval)** is being held at the Murgan Koil, May Hills, Westmead on 6 June 2004, 8:30am to 12:30pm.
- **India Calling 2004, "Asia Pacific Business Summit" July 9-10, 2004 in Grand Hyatt Singapore.** The Indian Merchants Chamber (IMC) has organized India Calling Conferences in Mumbai with the objective of encouraging overseas Indians to play a proactive role in India's economic development. IMC is now set to move into Phase 2, i.e going global and presenting "Resurgent India" in terms of new opportunities for growth. The Indian Merchants' Chamber has jointly organised the summit with Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The summit theme is "**Harnessing Global Business Opportunities**". For more details contact, Shri P N Mogre, Secretary General , pnmogre@imcnet.org or Mr Gambhir Watts, Ph: 9267 9255.
 - **Impro Australia Inc** organised Theatresports Celebrity Challenge, Hooray for Bollywood on the Sat 29th May. Andrew O'Keefe compered the night. There were songs, dances, audio suggestions, and video challenges.
 - Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia would like to congratulate **The Marathi Association Sydney Inc** for hosting such spectacular Indian musical dance drama in Sydney named *Durga becomes Gauri* in Marathi and Hindi in the month of May 2004. The drama depicted a story of an unhappy princess who discovers the joy of life while working with toiling villagers.
 - Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia would like to congratulate **Australian Hindi-Indian Association Inc (AHIA)** and the **Hindi Samaj** for jointly organising a brilliant **Kavisammelan and Mushaira nite** held on 29 May 2004.
 - Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia would like to congratulate **AHIA and Gujarati Samaj, Sydney** on separately hosting on different dates the musical programme '**Safar- Musical Journey 2004**' by **Avijit Sarkar** (Cultural Director, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia) for the benefit of their respective Senior Citizens Forum Fund.

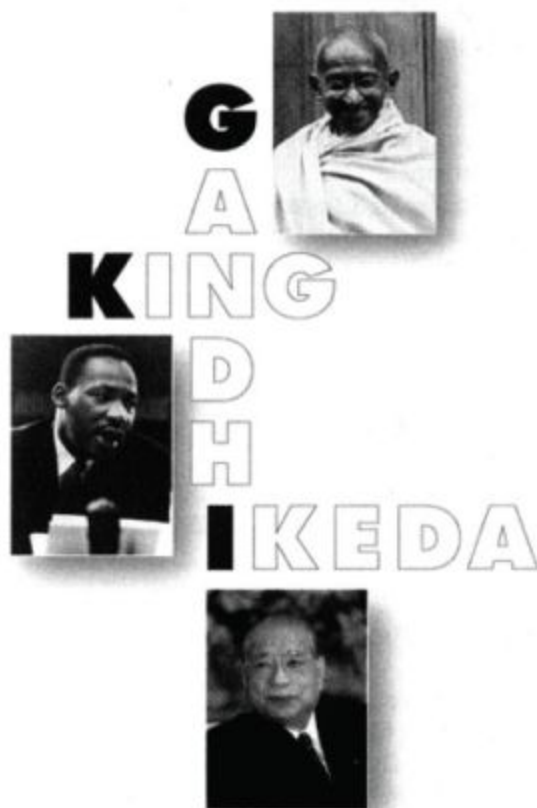
Gandhi, King, Ikeda Exhibition

Gandhi King Ikeda Exhibition – A legacy of building peace is being launched in Sydney on 15 June 2004. The event details are:

- **Day 1, Opening Ceremony, 15 June 2004, Eastern Ave Auditorium, University of Sydney, 6:30 – 8:00pm.**
Opening/ Welcome by Prof Stuart Rees
Address by Mr Gambhir Watts
Performances
Speech by Dr Lawrence Carter
Presentation of the Gandhi, King, Ikeda Award.
- **Day 2, Free Public Forum, 16 June 2004, SGI Australia Community Centre, 3 Parkview Drive, Homebush Bay, 6:30 – 8:30.**
Opening/ Welcome by Hans van der Bent
Address by Mr Gambhir Watts
Speech by Dr Lawrence Carter.

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia is supporting and sponsoring these events along with:

- Centre for Peace And Conflict Studies, The University of Sydney
- Conflict Resolution Network
- Martin Luther King Jr International Chapel, Morehouse College
- Gandhi Institute for Reconciliation
- Gandhi Smriti Darshan and Samiti
- M K Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence
- Multi-faith Centre, Griffith University
- International Conflict Resolution Centre, University of Melbourne
- Office of Multicultural Interest, Department of Premier and Cabinet Western Australia
- Soka Gakkai International Australia



A Legacy of Building Peace

Prophet of Power of Love

GANDHI was probably the first person in history to lift the love of ethic of Jesus above mere interaction between individuals to a powerful and effective social force on a large scale. Love, for Gandhi, was a potent instrument for social and collective transformation. It was in this Gandhian emphasis on love and non-violence that I discovered the method for social reform that I had been seeking for so many months. The intellectual and moral satisfaction that I failed to gain from the utilitarianism of Bentham and Mill, the revolutionary methods of Marx and Lenin, the social contract theory of Hobbes, the “back to nature” optimism of Rousseau, and the superman philosophy of Nietzsche, I found in the non-violent resistance philosophy of Gandhi. I came to feel that this was the only morally and practically sound method open to oppressed people in their struggle for freedom.

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

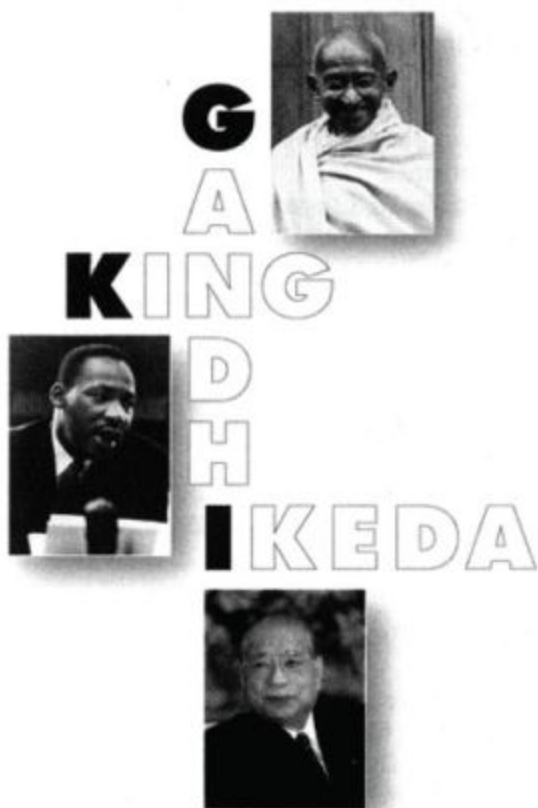
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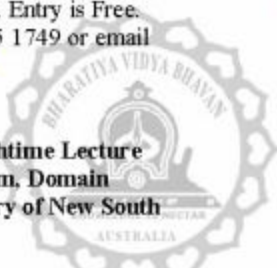
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- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

News on Indian Art from Art Gallery of NSW

- **Indian Folk Painting and Textiles, 29 May – 4 July 2004, Asian Art Galleries, Ground Floor :**
This exhibition explores the vibrant heritage of Indian tribal and village traditions. On display for the first time is a large painting cloth depicting the story of Rajasthani folk hero Pabuji, who is worshipped by the nomadic Rabari people. Other works relate to popular religion such as pilgrimage paintings from temple sites in Bengal, Orissa and Rajasthan. Also included in the exhibition are textiles including wedding shawls, canopies and decorative hangings.
- **Stories of India, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 8 June – 1 July :**
Volunteers from **Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia**, the international institute of Indian art and culture, bring to life depictions of Hindu gods and goddesses, celebrations and seasonal cycles of village through stories and props. School groups are welcome. Entry is Free.
Bookings (02) 9225 1749 or email pp@ag.nsw.gov.au.
- **Arts of India Lunchtime Lecture Series, Tuesday 1pm, Domain Theatre, Art Gallery of New South Wales.**


1 June: Devanganga Imagery on Hindu Temple Architecture: A study of Form Meaning and Aesthetics, by Gauri Krishnan, Senior Curator for South Asia, Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore.

8 June: When Sculptures Dance: Connections Between Indian Classical Dance and Sculpture. By Dr Chandrabhanu, Director, Chandrabhanu Bharatalya Academy. This is a paid event. Bookings: Art Gallery Society (02) 9225 1878.
- **Special lecture by Dr. Rachel Dwyer, Senior Lecturer in Indian Studies and Chair of the Centre of South Asian Studies at SOAS, University of London, 'Yeh Shaadi ho nahi sakti' ('This wedding cannot happen!'), Thursday 24 June 2004 3pm – 4pm, Centenary Auditorium, Art Gallery of New South Wales. Entry is Free.**



**Indian Folk Paintings and Textiles
Art Gallery and New South Wales
29 May to 4 July 2004**

For further information on any of the above events contact:

Ann MacArthur,
Coordinator of Asian Programmes,
Art Gallery of New South Wales.
Tel +61 2 9225 1702



An Instinct for Democracy

Editorial , Bhavan's Journal

Vol. 50 No.16

March 31, 2004

The imminence of India's disintegration has long been a figment of the Westerner's perverse imagination. So is the healthy survival and vibrant manifestation of this country's democracy.

Time and again the Indian people have believed and defied the prophets of doom by proving to the world that democracy is not so much a Western inheritance as an ordained way of life of the rural Indian society down the ages.

If India today is the world's largest functioning democracy with an electorate of 660 million more than the number of voters of all major democracies in the world put together, it is entirely due to the tradition of freedom and the societal institutions for the expression and enforcement of people's hopes and aspirations. We may have borrowed from the West the concept of constitutional democracy with people electing their rulers periodically. But the tradition of Indian rulers responsive to people's opinions and responsible for their welfare is as old as the Ramayana and Mahabharata.

The success of Indian democracy is all the more surprising when one looks at the history of all other countries in the subcontinent, which were born out of British imperialism, and struggling to keep democracy alive.

This sense of surprise is heightened by the fact that all successful democracies of the world are industrially advanced and rich in resources.

In addition they are bound by one common language, or religion or ethnicity.

India on the other hand is a country of bewildering variety of languages, religions, cultures and practices. What holds them together is their very diversities meshed into a civilizational continuum of shared myths, faiths and legends sprinkled with the flavour of local folklore and regional genius.

Democracy, said Winston Churchill "is the worst of all forms of government" and then slowly added "except everything else". It is a profound observation that emphasizes that the all too evident flaws of democracy more starkly evident in India than anywhere else are not an argument against democracy as a system of popular governance.

Democracy cannot be imposed from above. It has to be a part of the nation's psyche. The founding fathers of the Indian Constitution understood this psyche based on centuries of societal ethos built on the ruler consciously striving to heed the views of the ruled. Political wisdom does not depend on education levels and literacy standards.

The unlettered Indian villager could make a rational choice with greater ease than the semi-educated urbanite, or even the educated elite of the Metropolis.

Currently, there is vigorous activity connected with the forthcoming general elections. These elections have come in the wake of a year of Indian resurgence in the economic, social, cultural and sports spheres.

The most notable feature of this resurgence is that Indian achievements are independent of official patronage and governmental support. It is a manifestation of national self-confidence.

Back in the 80's, Indira Gandhi gave the slogan: 'We can do it'. There was a song in Hindi, which said 'Hum Honge Kamiyab' which continues to be popular even today. Excellence at the highest global level is becoming an Indian habit.

A basic faith in the tradition of secular tolerance and respect for individual faith and feelings marks the Indian democratic ethos and this guides the voter more than ideology or slogan.

If Indian democracy has survived the worst of odds and remains as strong as ever, it is entirely due to the common Indian voter who could be devastatingly discriminating and decisive.

The Indian voter loves elections. It is the only time when the black money of the rich politician becomes the white income of thousands of ordinary people.

At the end of it all, the Indian voter has never failed to make his point. He may have very little to choose from but the choice is his and no one else's. That is the secret of success of Indian democracy.

News from India

Goa Kendra Born

Bhavan's Journal Vol. 50 No.18 April 30, 2004

Bhavan's 118th Kendra has taken birth in Vasco-Da-Gama, Goa. Hari Om Shri Balakrishnan, a senior functionary of Bhavan, who served under late Shri K. M. Munshi, lighted the auspicious lamp in the conference hall of hotel La-Paz Gardens, Vasco-Da-Gama, Goa, on 26-1-2004. The significant event in Goa's history coincided with the nation's Republic Day



Shri Hari Om Balakrishnan, lighting the auspicious lamp. Prof Krishnakumar, Shri Sasindran Nair, Shri Rudradevan Ellath are also seen.

Prof. P. T. Krishnakumar, the delegate deputed by central Bhavan especially for the occasion, addressed the gathering and briefed them about Bhavans activities worldwide. Shri Sasindran Nair and Shri Rudradevan Ellath, leading social workers of Goa were elected Chairman and Secretary, respectively of the new Kendra.

Dimdima

Bhavan's Journal Vol. 50 No. 16 March 31, 2004

President A. P. J Abdul Kalam received the inaugural issue of DIMDIMA, the new Children's monthly launched by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. At a simple function held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Wednesday 25th of February 04, the president released the Bhavan's new children's periodical.



President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and Shri Dhiru S. Mehta with the DIMDIMA

Those Present on the occasion included Shri Pravinchandra V. Gandhi, Bhavan's President Dr. P.C Alexander, Bhavan's Vice-President; Shri Dhiru S Mehta, Bhavan's Executive secretary & Director General; Shri Justice R.S Pathak, former Chief Justice of India and Chairman, Bhavan's Delhi Kendra; Dr L.M Singhvi, Co-Chairman, Bhavan International, Shri J. Veeraraghavan, Director, Bhavan's Delhi Kendra and Shri Subba Rao, Editor, Bhavan's DIMDIMA.

Mumbai Head Office

Bhauasaheb Hindi Ekanki Natya Spardha – 2004

Bhavan's Journal Vol. 50 No. 19 May 15, 2004

To promote Theatre Movement, the students of Baratiya Natya Shikshapeeth-An Academy of Acting & Direction run by Baratiya Vidya Bhavan Kala Kendra organised Bhauasaheb Hindi Ekanki Natya Spardha in the memory of renowned Thespian of Gujarati Theatre, the late Shri Giresh Desai to pay homage and tribute to fulfil his dream of encouraging Theatre Movement in Mumbai. Shri Giresh Desai was associated with Bhavan Kala Kendra for more than 20 years as director of programmes. His major achievement was to restart of Bhavan Kala Kendra's Inter Collegiate Competition.



Smt Veerabala Giresh lighting the lamp at the Bhauasaheb Hindi Ekanki Natya Sardha. Behind her are Shri Kamlesh Mota and Shri Rahul Bhavsar.

He started Bhavan's Experimental Theatre and Baratiya Natya Shikshapeeth which has become a gateway for artistes, writers, directors, technicians, etc towards Theatre, T.V serials & Motion films.

A record breaking 31 entries from all over Mumbai were received.

The elimination rounds were held for 3 days from 29th to 31st March 2003. The judges were well known Gujarati theatre's actor- director- producer Shri Kanti Madia, Janab Fayyaz Ahmed Faizi and Marathi playwright Shri Anand Mhasvekar.

The final round was held on 1st April 2004 at Bhavans Auditorium with a packed audience, thrilled by excellent performance of 6 nominated one act plays.

The judges were writer-director Janab Imtiaz Hussain, Film director Ms Aruna Raaje, and actor Shri Anant Jog. Twelve prizes were given Sakaar's "My Dearest Friend" was "The Best Play."



Three 'C's That Cloud the Conscience

Bhavan's Journal Vol. 50 No.16 March 31, 2004

The word farewell has a connotation of a conclusion, an end of an association and does have a touch of melancholy.

On the contrary, it should be an event that fills our minds with hope, anticipation of discovery, adventure and achievement.

Incidentally, for girl students, this can serve as a rehearsal. Some day most of you will leave your dear homes and proceed further to your chosen homes as dear ones.

Those of you who have successfully completed your school education, are only embarking on a journey that will expand your minds, hone your skills and equip you to face the myriad challenges that would confront you as you tackle the tasks of making this world a better place to live in, during the course of your pilgrimage of life.

Twelve years ago, you entered the kindergarten of your school—rightly called the garden for children. Over the years you grew physically, emotionally and intellectually. You realized that you have career goals to be set and cherished dreams to be realized. You also become aware that to be able to turn your dreams into reality, you have to run a race along with hundreds of your colleagues. Some of them could be richer, stronger and more powerful than you.

Your mind is sown with self-doubts, "Are means really as important as ends? Is it Ok if I am able to achieve what I want, no matter how I get it?"

Years back, I have had the good fortune of talking to Swarni Ranganathanandaji who identified 4 'C's that are capable of clouding the conscience of a confused adolescent:

- (a) competition, which breeds
- (b) cleverness, which in turn instils
- (c) cunningness and which sows
- (d) the seeds of cruelty

Nothing could be more disastrous for a nation if its younger generation pick's up these 4 'C's.

Bhavan's philosophy, if I am interpreting it correctly, is to create children who are confident, compassionate, caring and competent, those who are capable of creating their own destiny, not just passively following in the footsteps of others before them.

Children, who are aware of who they are, and what they want to accomplish. Children who know that they don't have to lie or cheat, but have to be fair and just.

Indeed rather than focusing on teaching children what is right or wrong, your school is focused on awakening and developing your innate ability to know within yourself what is right and wrong.

But more important than anything else you should, in the words of well-known Hindi poetess Nandini Mehta:

"Be true to yourself. Be loyal to your own conscience. Everything else is of secondary importance."

There is a saying that if you aim at the moon, you can at least hit a tree. You should aim at a galaxy and then, and then alone can you hit a star. To be a leader, to be a creator to acquire fame and fortune, anything less than hitting a star would be inadequate. That means children must learn to soar. You can soar only when you learn to take off. You need a base. You need a foundation. If your foundation is not strong you cannot take off.

This foundation has already been laid by your school where you walked in as students and are now poised to walk on, as scholars. Your teachers have made you imbibe values, ethics, morals and all the elements of culture because they are teachers of a school of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, and you – their students.

Being a bhavanite, you will walk, or ride with your heads erect, your feet firmly anchored to the principles of Santana Dharma. Santana Dharma for us is a religion of a universal brotherhood and does not permit hatred of any other religion or sect. We stand for equal respect for all religions.

Let the business of life be peace and prosperity and not exploitation and conflict. Your school has not only helped you gain knowledge and acquire skills, it has also taught you the purpose of human life.

To gladden the hearts of human beings, to feed the hungry, to help the suffering souls, to lighten the sorrow of sorrowful and to remove the wrongs of the injured.

Decades ago, Gandhiji said these simple words, words which haven't faded with the passage of time –
"I will give you a talisman. Whenever you are in doubt or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test:

Recall the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he gain anything by it? Will it restore him to a control over his own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to Swaraj for the hungry and spiritually starving millions?"

This takes me back to your school. A school is like a perennial stream. The water always remains flowing. As one drop moves on, another takes its place. It happens without being noticed. One only notices the flow. For those of you who will occupy the seats afresh, what I have mentioned so far is of equal relevance and importance. You are, however more fortunate. You know what is ahead of you and have the advantage of having one more year to excel, to perform and become achievers.

Those of you who are on the move, and those of you who have walked in, all of you do so carrying my best wishes and my prayers for outstanding success.

Wherever in the world you may be, no matter how tall are the crests of mountains that you conquer, never ever forget that it all started from your alma mater, this sacred school.

As Brooke Mueller, the German Poet, put it so succinctly

"I am leaving you to slay the foe-

Fight the battles, high and low

I'm leaving, mother, hear me go!

Please wish me luck today.

I have grown my wings, I want to fly

Seize my victories, where they lie

*I am going, Mother, but please don't cry –
Just let me find my way.*

I want to see and touch and hear,

Though there are dangers, there are fears

I will smile my smiles and dry my tears

Please let me speak my way.

I'm off to find my way, my dreams

Carve my niche, sew my seams

Remember, as I sail my streams –

I'll love you, all the way."





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(Central Bhavan) Mumbai, India

(founded in 1938 by Kulapathi Dr. K.M. Munshi with the blessings of Mahatma Gandhi)



Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mumbai, India

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Upcoming Events 2004

• **8 June – 1 July, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Stories of India, held by Art Gallery of NSW.** Volunteers from **Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia**, the international institute of Indian art and culture, bring to life depictions of Hindu gods and goddesses, celebrations and seasonal cycles of village through stories and props.

15 and 16 June 2004 – Participating in the Gandhi King Ikeda exhibition at the University of Sydney and SGI Australia Community Centre. Organised by Soka Gakkai International Australia and supported/sponsored by University of Sydney, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia and various other organisations.

15 August – World Cultural and Arts Festival, Sydney Town Hall. This grand festival is organised by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia with participation from community organisations of various countries in Australia.

2 October – Ghalibnaama, Mirza Ghalib's Ghazals will be sung by the well known singer Jasvinder Singh with accompaniments of Amit Chaubev (Tabla), Jitendra Thakur (Violin) and Himanshu Tiwari (Guitar) from India.

November - Celebrating Divali at the NSW Parliament jointly with Hindu Council of Australia, UIA, FAIA, ISKCON and other community organisations.

“The fountain of all knowledge is in every one of us.”

- Swami Vivekananda

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