

## Karnataka Rajyothsava 1998

The day: 16 December 1998. NAL is buzzing with the festive atmosphere. The occasion: the Karnataka Rajyothsava function. The venue, Systems Auditorium, was packed to the brim and the dais was studded with glittering personalities. They included Prof B V Sreekantan, former Director, TIFR, Mr K Srinivasa, former Chief Executive, CEMILAC, Ministry of Defence, Prof Chandrashekara Patil, President, Kannada Development Authority and Mr Srinath, popular Kannada cine artiste and vice-president, Udaya TV. Dr T S Prahlad, Director, NAL and the Chief Patron of the Sangha, presided over the function.

Mr M S Ramachandra, the President of Kannada Samskrithika Sangha, welcomed the gathering and introduced the guests. He pointed out that the Rajyothsava celebrations in NAL is always associated with the release of [Kanaada](#), an annual science magazine of the Sangha. Thereafter Prof B V Sreekantan released the 24th issue of Kanaada. "*Kanaada* must be one of the best books in Kannada dedicated to writing articles on science in simple language", he said, while reminding the scientific community of their responsibility to popularise the results of their scientific research for the welfare of the society at large. He suggested that the Sangha must organise a debate among scientists, technologists and scientists about the latest research and development in science and technology during the year, and then report on its implications on society in future issues of the magazine. Mr C V Srinatha Sastry, Editor, *Kanaada*, earlier outlined the growth of the magazine during the past 24 years and thanked all those who helped in bringing out this book.

Mr K Srinivasa released a Kannada book titled *Vichitra Vimanagalu* (unusual aircraft) authored by Mr K S Raman. He complimented the Sangha on this initiative and advised it to bring out more such books. He too expressed his happiness at the success of *Kanaada* and commended the efforts of Mr C V Srinatha Sastry, the untiring Kannada crusader and his team in bringing out the publication year after year.

Prof Chandrashekara Patil released the book titled *Bahoopayogi Rockettugalu* (multipurpose rockets) written by Mr S A Guruprasad. He said people ask him if the celebrations should be called as 'Kannada Rajyothsava' or 'Karnataka Rajyothsava'. He expressed the view that it should be called Karnataka Rajyothsava, because Karnataka has a much larger meaning encompassing people of all languages living in Karnataka. He said higher studies are certainly possible in the Kannada medium. He said English is needed as an international language and Hindi as a link language. But English must be learnt as a language but it should not be a medium of instruction. He gave an example of Hebrew language, which was considered as a dead language before being successfully revived in Israel. "Language does not leave or die on its own", he remarked. Prof Patil also urged scientists to adopt Kannada for science writings including aeronautics. He said instead of coining a new equivalent word in Kannada, we should phonetically adopt the word. He assured that he would do whatever possible to propagate *Kanaada* by the Kannada Development Authority.

The function drew to a close with the ceremony to felicitate Mr Srinath. Mr Sathyaprasad read out the felicitation citation and Dr Prahlad honoured Mr Srinath in the traditional way: with a shawl and flowers.

Responding to NAL's felicitation in his short but crisp speech, Mr Srinath assured the gathering that his Udaya TV channel would do whatever needed to promote and publicise the activities of the Kannada Samskrithika Sangha. Earlier he released the 1997-98 Kannada version of the NAL Report of the Director.

Summing up, Dr T S Prahlad expressed his happiness at the contribution of the Sangha. He announced that the next issue of *Kanaada* will be brought out as a grand and special issue as it will be the Silver Jubilee issue. He thanked the distinguished guests for their valuable suggestions and enlightening speeches. Mr S Gopala, Secretary of the Sangha proposed vote of thanks.

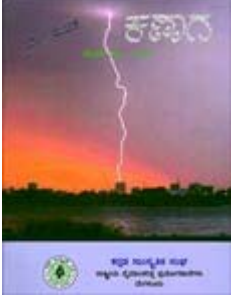
*K Anantha Rao*

## Karnataka Rajyothsava 1999

14 December 1999. It was again celebration time at NAL as the Karnataka Rajyothsava celebrations got under way. Right from the main entrance, NAL was bedecked with colourful lights and flags.

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The function started at 3.30 pm with a melodious invocation of Yakundendu Tushara Hara Davala by NAL's new singing talents: Roopashri, Sandhya and Vanaja. Mr M S Ramachandra, President of the NAL Kannada Samskrithika Sangha, welcomed the gathering. He said that this year's Rajyothsava was special for the Sangha since it marked the release of the silver jubilee issue of *Kanaada*, the popular science magazine in Kannada. The President also pointed out that the Sangha has a tradition of inviting well known personalities as guests; this year's guests included the well known Kannada litterateur, and the Pampa Award winner, Dr G S Shivarudrappa, and NAL's former Director, Dr S R Valluri (who unfortunately could not make it, but conveyed his best wishes for the success of the function). The Chief Patron of the Sangha and NAL Director Dr T S Prahlad then greeted Dr Shivarudrappa with a shawl and a memento. The Sangha also honours well-known artistes: this year Mr A S Murthy, the accomplished stage artiste, humorist and litterateur, was chosen for the honour.



Mr C V Srinatha Sastry, the editor of [Kanaada](#) briefly traced the path of the magazine right from its first issue to the present silver jubilee issue. He recalled the contributions and services rendered by numerous colleagues in writing, editing, proof reading and selling the magazine and mentioned how *Kanaada* has contributed significantly to science writing in Kannada. He recalled how in the 1980's, the team contrived to ensure that copies of *Kanaada* reached Hassan overnight from Bangalore by sending the following telegram (which the Hassan operator most sympathetically immediately transmitted to Bangalore): *Kanaada expired -- start immediately*. Dr G S Shivarudrappa released the silver jubilee issue of *Kanaada*, an NAL anthology of poems titled *Baana Munjavinaali*, and the 1998-99 NAL Report of the Director in Kannada and distributed prizes for the winners of various singing competitions.

In his address Dr Shivarudrappa said that he has never seen a more meaningful Rajyothsava function anywhere else. He remarked that all those people from other states living in Karnataka are Kannadigas too: "They may be Tamil Kannadigas, Malayalam Kannadigas or Sindhi Kannadigas". He also added: "Now is the time of multi languages, it is not possible to manage with only one language". The chief guest recalled what Dr K V Puttappa, the first Kannada Jnanpith award winner, tells about Karnataka in his well known poetry *Bharatha Jananiya Thanujathe*: "Karnataka is the daughter of India. But she is not the carbon copy of her mother. She has her own identity" and Nrupathunga's famous assertion, in his book *Kaviraja Marga*, that real gold is not the precious metal but the tolerance of other's languages and ideas.

Dr T S Prahlad said that he was proud of Karnataka Samskrithika Sangha and *Kanaada*. He urged the Sangha to launch new programmes in the new century to popularise science writings in Kannada, and arrange more science talks on All India Radio and in schools.

Mr S Gopala, Secretary of the Sangha proposed the vote of thanks. Later in the evening, as a befitting conclusion to the literary and intellectual programmes of the day, there was an enjoyable cultural programme in the evening. NAL's own Mr B V Nagaraj and party entertained the audience with their haunting melodies. Mr A S Murthy and his troupe gave hilarious skits which sent the audience (including the impossible-to-manage tiny tots) into peels of laughter.

The days programme was therefore a delightful blend of thoughtful contemplation and exceptional hilarity.

*K Anantha Rao*

## Karnataka Rajyothsava 2000 celebrations

Karnataka Rajyothsava celebrations at NAL appear to be getting better with every passing year. This year's two-leg function, held on 22 December 2000, was again marked by that familiar festive mood and the gracious presence of eminent teachers and scholars.

The first leg of the celebrations, held early in the afternoon at the S R Valluri Auditorium, was graced by Dr K Siddappa, Vice-Chancellor, Bangalore University and Dr Aralu Mallige Parthasarathy, the renowned scholar. Dr Siddappa, who released the 26th issue of Kanaada, NAL's successful science magazine, welcomed NAL's effort to popularize science writing in Kannada. He also made an intriguing observation: while Kannada literature has witnessed tremendous development (evident, e.g, from the large number of Jnanpith awards in Kannada), the language itself has failed to keep pace -- which also makes it that much more difficult to write expository S&T articles in Kannada.

Dr Parthasarathy released *Kavya Sankalana*, an anthology of poems from NAL's budding poets and the Kannada version of NAL's Report of the Director, before starting his lecture. The lecture was pure magic; with the speaker's masterful felicity in Kannada holding the audience spellbound. Whether it was his narrative on the origin of the word "algebra", or his evocation of the richness of the culture of the Kannadigas during the reign of Nrupathunga, Dr Parthasarathy's mesmerising prose had the audience longing for more. Many in the audience later remarked that it needs a speaker of Dr Parthasarathy's mettle to really bring out the richness of the Kannada language.

The function opened with the invocation by Mr Nanda Ramesh, the welcome address by Mr M P Ramesh, Secretary, Kannada Samskrithika Sangha. Mr G Rajendra, the Sangha's President, presented mementos to the chief guests, Mr C V Srinatha Sastry, the indomitable spirit behind Kanaada, introduced the contents of the 26th issue, Mr T Thipperudrappa compered the programme while Mr S R Giri Gowda proposed the vote of thanks.

Come evening and the S R Valluri Auditorium was again full to the brim to witness the cultural programme. The programme opened with the Sangha honouring two great personalities of the visual media: Mr T S Nagarabharana and Mr T V Dwarakanath. The cultural programme started with Kolaata by NAL artistes, followed by the ballet titled *Ena Bedali Ninna Balige Bandu*, conceived, written and directed by NAL's tremendously talented Sathyaprasad. The ballet's literary acumen, production quality, stage craft and script were impeccable and of real professional quality. As the audience poured out after the cultural extravaganza, the popular verdict was that Mr Sathyaprasad had done it again.

*K Anantha Rao with SB*

## Karnataka Rajyothsava 2001

Karnataka Rajyothsava celebrations in NAL are always eagerly awaited; they offer interesting glimpses of the state's rich cultural and literary heritage.

This year's programme opened at the S R Valluri Auditorium on 26 December 2001 -- it was a cool winter evening and we had a packed auditorium. The programme started with an invocation by Mr R Nanda Ramesh.

Mr M P Ramesh, Secretary of *Kannada Samskrithika Sangha* then welcomed the gathering. Mr G Rajendra, President of the *Sangha* felicitated the chief guests: Mrs B Jayashree, the well known stage director, artiste and playback singer, Mrs Ratnamala Prakash and Mrs Malathi Sharma, the renowned light music artistes. The chief guests most graciously agreed to distribute prizes to the winners of various competitions conducted by the *Sangha*.

Deviating from the traditional speech in response to the felicitation, Mrs Jayashree accompanied by Mrs Rathnamala Prakash and Mrs Malathi Sharma treated the audience to the melodious song *Gajavadana Herambha* in the style of *Ranga Geethe*. This was followed by *Abhimanya Vijaya* -- a "Yakshagana" dance-drama unique to Karnataka, presented by Yakshadegula troupe, which held the audience spell bound. The little girl who played the role of *Abhimanyu* stole the hearts of the audience.

Dr B R Pai, Acting Director, NAL took keen interest and participated in the evening's programme which also included a light music performance by the *Suchitra and Alakananda group*.

Mr Satyaprasad and K N Sanjeeva Rao compered the programme and Mr S R Giri Gowda proposed the vote of thanks.

*K Anantha Rao*

## Karnataka Rajyothsava 2002



The Rajyothsava celebrations at NAL have been both intellectually and culturally enriching. This year was no exception. The campus wore a festive look as this year's function began on 22 November 2002.

The afternoon function started at 4.00 p.m. Dr B R Pai, Director, NAL presided over the function. Dr K S Nanjundaswamy, President of Kannada Samskrithika Sangha, NAL, welcomed the gathering. Dr H Sudarshan, Chairman, Karnataka Government Health Task Force who is the winner of the Right Livelihood Award (alternate Nobel prize) released the 28th issue of NAL's annual Kannada science magazine Kanaada.

Professor H S Lakshminarayana Bhatta, an accomplished physics professor and a well known litterateur released the Kannada version of Director's Report 2002 and an anthology of Kannada poems Baana Usheyalli, composed by NAL staff members. Dr C Divakar, read out the felicitation of Dr Sudarshan and Dr R Ramachandra Rao read out the felicitation of Prof Lakshmi-narayana Bhatta. Dr B R Pai felicitated Dr Sudarshan and Prof Lakshminarayana Bhatta. Dr R Ramachandra Rao, editor of Kanaada, spoke about the mission and mandate of the magazine.

In his address, Dr Sudarshan spoke about the traditional knowledge of tribal people for whose welfare he is working. He gave an example of a tribal school boy who collected all the leaves that he could identify and wrote their names. The boy collected 180 leaves and identified and wrote down the name of each one (the boy went on to obtain doctorate in botony). Dr Sudarshan jokingly said that earlier he could identify the leaves by their local name, but after obtaining his doctorate the only difference is that he knows their Latin names also!

Professor Lakshminarayana Bhatta, had all praise for Dr Sudarshan. The poet in him said that though a million stars are sparkling in the sky on a dark night, a man needs a lamp to find his way. He said that Dr Sudarshan is such a lamp. Prof. Bhatta, who is an authority on the life and work of the great poet D V Gundappa (DVG), quoted and explained some verses from DVG's Manku Thimmana Kagga (known as Bagadgita of Kannada). The audience longed for more from this mesmerising orator. But alas, time was the culprit. The function came to an end with the vote of thanks by K Anantha Rao, Secretary of the Sangha. (Most of the audience were unanimous in urging the organisers to arrange at least a two-hour talk by Prof. Bhatta again). Rekha Ramesh compered the programme.

The cultural programme in the evening was in two parts. First, there was a discussion forum among the audience and the team of the popular TV serial Manvanthara. The audience were thrilled to pose question s "face to face" to the characters of their favourite serial. Dr K N Nanjundaswamy, felicitated T N Seetharam, producer and director of the serial and C Aswath, the well known singer and music composer.

The second part consisted of the cultural programme Karnataka Vybhava, jointly presented by Sangha artistes and Prabhat Kalavidaru. Yaksha-gana, Karnataka's own dance-drama was presented by the Yakshadegula troupe. The programme was conceptua-lised and directed by Satyaprasad, NAL'S own art director, M N Varadarajan, Vice-president of the Sangha proposed the vote of thanks.

*A S Rajasekar*

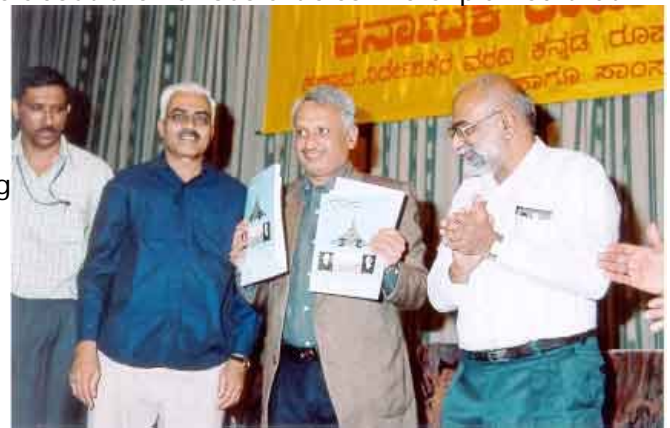
## Karnataka Rajyothsava 2003 celebrations



NAL's Kannada Samskrithika Sangha celebrated Karnataka Rajyothsava on 21 November 2003. Dr M D Deshpande, Head, Computational and Theoretical Fluid Dynamics Division presided over the function. Prof Narahalli Balasubramanya, well known litterateur and critic and Professor, Kannada Adhyana Kendra was the chief guest.

Dr K S Nanjundaswamy, President of the Sangha welcomed the gathering. Prof Balasubramanya released the 29th issue of the annual science magazine Kanaada, the Kannada version of NAL's Report of the Director and an anthology of poems written by NAL colleagues.

Dr R Ramachandra Rao, editor of Kanaada briefly spoke about the various articles. He explained that more articles were devoted to the invention, technology and development of aircraft this time since this is the centenary year of the first manned powered flight by the Wright brothers. Prof A P Radhakrishna from Puttur, (who contributed article to Kanaada as a student!) mentioned how Kanaada influenced his young mind and set the course of his career.



Prof Balasubramanya, in his speech pointed out how scientists, litterateurs and philosophers all have a common urge deep inside their mind: of wonderment, inquisitiveness and seeking truth. He said each one of them is a bit of the other two. He gave the example of Albert Einstein, Leo Tolstoy and Mahatma Gandhi. He lauded the efforts of NAL and its scientists and Kannada Samskrithika Sangha for bringing out such a wonderful science magazine which is igniting innumerable young minds in the field of science. He advised that whatever happens in a premier institution like NAL should be communicated to the common man in the local language.

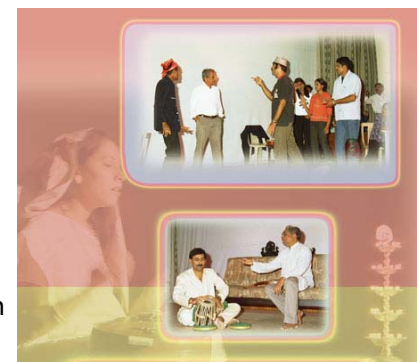
Dr M D Deshpande in his presidential address thanked Prof Balasubramanya for his appreciation of NAL scientists and pointed out that his appreciation adds more responsibility to them. He assured him that efforts will be made to put Kanaada on the web.

Mr K Anantha Rao, Secretary of the Sangha, proposed the vote of thanks.

*A S Rajasekar*

## Cultural extravaganza

A cultural extravaganza was arranged in the evening. Mr M N Varadarajan, Vice-president of the Sangha welcomed and honoured Ms Tara, a well known cinema artiste, and a recent Rajyothsava awardee, on behalf of the Sangha. Mr and Mrs Bhatia, who are always encouraging and supportive of the cultural activities of the Sangha, were also felicitated. The felicitation was followed by a play "Ganadatta-Madon-matta" which has a social message for the youth and the parents. The play with professional lighting effects and



state-of-the art recording enthralled the spectators. The play was conceived, written and directed by our 'culture-vulture' Mr Satyaprasad assisted by Mr K N Sanjeeva Rao. The day's programme concluded with the vote of thanks by K Anantha Rao.

*A S Rajasekar*



## Rajyotsava Celebrations 2004

Come November, and the Rajyotsava celebrations are eagerly awaited in NAL. More so, because every year the organizers come up with something different and novel.

This year's programme too was a resounding success. The programme started off with a melodious invocation by Mr R Nanda Ramesh and his troupe. Mr C Chandra Shekar, President of NAL's Kannada Samskrithika Sangha, then welcomed the gathering.

Dr B R Pai, Director, NAL, who presided over the function, surprised everyone with his fluent welcome speech in Kannada. Expressing his appreciation that the Sangha is celebrating Rajyotsava for more than three decades, Dr Pai had a special word of praise for the Sangha's *Kanaada*, the annual science magazine in Kannada, that was released on the occasion. "Through *Kanaada* the Sangha is serving the language and the state in its own humble way", he noted. Dr Pai also applauded the Sangha's tradition of honouring well-known scientists, litterateurs and artistes every year.

The highlight this year was the felicitation to Mr C V Srinatha Sastry, who retired from NAL service last month, for being one of the founding fathers of *Kanaada*. "Shubha Haraike", a tribute to Srinatha Sastry, was released together with the 30 th issue of *Kanaada*.

Dr A R Upadhyya, who takes over as Director NAL next week, was the chief guest. He addressed the gathering in chaste Kannada and recalled his earlier stint at NAL from 1977 to 1987. He paid rich tributes to NAL for its contributions in the field of aerospace and allied science and technology, its contributions to social and educational causes. He urged that the information on latest research and development in science and technology must be available to the common man in his regional language. He appreciated the work done through *Kanaada* in this direction. He also had a word of praise for Mr Srinatha Sastry for his outstanding work in Karnataka Ganaka Parishat.

Dr R Ramachandra Rao briefly outlined the various articles in the 30 th issue of *Kanaada* and thanked the 'Team *Kanaada*' for the support he received in bringing out the magazine.

Dr A R Upadhyya released the Kannada *Director's Report* and distributed prizes and mementos to





When the last scene was frozen like a perfect picture, the spontaneous response from the spectators just had to happen! The long and thundering applause gave way to a standing ovation as if the entire audience is one person. Such was the spontaneity. It is a rare sight where both the artistes and the spectators were unified by an emotion of supreme appreciation for each other.

The function ended with Mrs Anuradha Sridhar and Mr Sridhar distributing prizes to the winners of various Rajyothsava competitions. The present and past Presidents of the Sangha, Mr C Chandra Shekar and Dr K Nanjunda Swamy warmly felicitated the Sridhar couple. Mr C Sanjeeva Rao read the citation and compered the evening's programme, while Mr G Ravindra, vice-president of the Sangha's cultural activities proposed the vote of thanks.

*R R Veena*

## Karnataka Rajyothsava in NAL

Karnataka Rajyothsava celebrations in NAL are always different and meaningful, and without unnecessary fanfare and rhetoric. They are eagerly awaited mainly for thought provoking speeches, the release of the Kannada science magazine *Kanaada* and, of course, the cultural programme.

This year's function, held on 13 December 2005, opened with Mr Nanda Ramesh's tuneful *Manikya Veena* composed by *Kalidaasa*. Mr C Chandra Shekar, President of the *Sangha* welcomed the gathering. Dr R Ramachandra Rao, Vice-president of the *Sangha* gave a brief account of the objectives, circulation and uniqueness of *Kanaada*. He introduced the chief guest Dr N Seshagiri, the former NIC Director General and invited him to release the 31st issue of *Kanaada* and the Kannada version of Director's Report. Dr Seshagiri also distributed prizes to school and college students whose articles were published in the latest *Kanaada* issue, and mementos to other *Kanaada* contributors.

In his eloquent speech, Dr Seshagiri urged the science community to ensure that science reaches common man. "Everyone has a right to know what is happening in science", he said, "and scientists must help in developing the scientific temper and eradicate superstitions". With examples he elaborated on the wealth of Indian traditional knowledge; he called it the "native intelligence" possessed by rural India. Citing the example of CSIR's successful Traditional Knowledge Database Laboratory (TKDL), he explained how such projects were implemented in 63 villages in Kolhapur district and greatly excited the rural people living there. He also indicated how many other village groups pooled their own resources and came forward to implement TKDL themselves.

Dr A R Upadhyaya, Director, NAL, expressed his happiness at becoming the *Sangha*'s Chief Patron ("at last year's Rajyothsava function I was only the chief guest", he recalled) and promised to render all support needed to the *Sangha* and its publication *Kanaada*. He pointed out that the magazine is popular but its reach is limited and urged the editorial board to increase its reach. He also indicated his happiness at the success of the first ever Kannada Science Congress jointly organized by NAL and Swadeshi Vignana Andolana. He however appeared visibly worried when he asked why Kannadigas have to fight for Kannada in their own land ("it's like fighting for our food in our own house!") and called for introspection.

One of the evening's highlights was Dr Vimala Dutta chanting her soul stirring poem depicting a conversation between Mother Nature and her daughter Kannada about her plight in her own land. The day's function ended with the vote of thanks by Mr M Anand, Secretary of the *Sangha*.

In the evening function the veteran cine artiste, Mr Rajesh, was warmly felicitated. In response to the felicitation, he thanked the *Sangha* and appreciated the way Rajyothsava was celebrated at NAL. The festivities concluded with energetic dances by young girls and boys, wards of NAL employees, accompanied by an excellent orchestra and Kannada film songs by Somu Melodies.

*K Anantha Rao*



