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From the President's Desk...

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Dear (s)

After nearly three decades of untiring social service, SYMA made an entry in a formal way. Yes, this month SYMA obtained the registration from the Registrar. Though the issue of Registration has been debated upon many times, and efforts were on in this direction, this has finally fructified thanks mainly to the efforts of our Committee member S Rajaraman backed by Mr. R. Vijayaraghavan and spirited efforts of few others. Our Registration No. is 200/06

The aim, attitude & actions of SYMA were never wandering and our volunteers have been working tirelessly towards serving the society at large in multifarious ways. It is cast in our minds that we owe a lot to the society which has given us so much. It is not only our obligation to help and assist people in their times of need, but work with zeal to make the society a happy and better place to live in. In pursuit of this with the root idea of obligation to serve, we have been undertaking various projects in the fields of education, art, religion, culture, music and sport etc. month after month. Though the association has been clearly functioning as a service organisation, the need for a legal entity which could own, possess and manage funds now stands fulfilled by the formal registration.

In this wondrous land, cine stars and sports persons are instantly recognised. But away from the tinsel world, there have been many great heroes. Even small child would recognise Bharathiar's portrait, but not many know about his works. We are very proud that Mahakavi **Subramanya Bharathi** lived in our midst, lived in Triplicane infact our medical centre is located just opposite the house where he lived. The Pondicherry Govt. deserves special praise for making No.20, Easwaran Dharmaraja Koil Street, a memorial for the poet, which is almost a place of pilgrimage today for the Tamil people. We on our part, remembered the Mahakavi by organizing competition in the very place he lived. BLISS carries life sketch of this great poet in this issue.

On Oct 2, remembering the Father of the Nation, we are conducting a seminar aimed at educating the lower echelons of society on healthy heart. Details of this on page 4. For updating the blood donors list in our website, post cards are being sent to the earlier donors for confirmation and for correctness of contact details. The efforts of Mrs. Shobana Narasimhan & Team deserves special mention.

Yours friendly, T. J. RAMANI

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Mahakavi Subramanya Bharathiar

Mahakavi Subramanya Bharathiar undoubtedly is one of the greatest Tamil poets, a prolific writer, philosopher and a great visionary of immense genius. He was also one of the most prominent leaders of the Indian independence movement. His national integration songs earned him the title "Desiya Kavi" (National Poet). His patriotic songs emphasized nationalism, unity of India, equality of men and the greatness of Tamil language.

Mahakavi Subramanya Bharathi was born on 11 December 1882 in Ettaiyapuram in Tamil Nadu. Though his life span was very short, he left an indelible impression in the National history and stoked the flames of independence in the minds of people. He waxed eloquence in the national scene as an inspirational patriotic poet. With a simple and yet fabulous technique of combining the rhythm of spoken language in a ceaseless flow of prose and poetry, Bharati captured the imagination of the Tamil people. Bharati introduced spiritual dimension to the freedom movement and deliberated on important aspects in a marvellous literary combination of prose-poetry. They were - physical and spiritual greatness of the land, unequivocal emphasis on the fundamental quality of freedom of individual & Nation, the need to banish fear in the path to attain it, and highlighting the lives of great persons as living examples for emulation.

The Vande Mataram which was in news recently in not so happy environ, greatly influenced him. He translated this great work poetry in tamil as he himself was always keen to inculcate fearlessness and this powerful poetry gave him further inspiration to unleash force in revolutionary compositions on freedom and national unity. When one thinks that all these happened almost a century back, one is naturally awe struck by his fore thought and the vision, this great man had.

It was never an easy path for this genius. He lost his parents very early in life. At the age of 11, in 1893 his prowess as a poet was recognised and he was accorded the title of 'Bharathi'. He was a linguist - fluent in many languages including Bengali, Hindi, Sanskrit, and English and frequently translated works from other languages into Tamil.

In April 1907, he became the editor of the Tamil weekly 'India'; he also edited the English newspaper 'Bala Bharatham'. He participated in the historic Surat Congress in 1907, which saw a sharpening of the divisions within the Indian National Congress between the militant wing led by Tilak and Aurobindo and the 'moderates'. Subramanya Bharathi supported Tilak and Aurobindo together with V.O.C. In 1908, he gave evidence in the case which had been instituted by the British against 'Kappal Otiya Thamizhan', V.O.Chidambarampillai. In the same year, the proprietor of the 'India' was arrested in Madras. The British Govt imposed curbs on publication of his nationalistic and patriotic works,

he was placed under surveillance by the government. To avoid arrest by the British which forced him to move to french territory of Pondy. This period proved to be the period of his prolific writings. During 1918 he was arrested and incarcerated in the Central prison in Cuddalore.

Bharathi met Mahatma Gandhi in 1919 and in 1920, Bharathi resumed editorship of the Swadeshamitran in Madras. Though legend has it that he was struck by elephant of the Parathasarathi swami temple, the poet's health had been badly affected by the many confinements and punishments by the British and his failing health contributed to the tragic premature death. Though he survived the mishap his health deteriorated and he died on September 11, 1921, not even forty years of age. The legacy of the poet, however, endures.

Despite his literary genius, he lived in extreme poverty and died in chill penury. He was not merely content of being proud of the motherland but outlined his visions of a free India, not as wild dreams of some living in imaginary world but specifically outlined aspirations of a true patriot with clearly planned ideas on how different regions of the country can live happily, share the resources for their mutual benefits. He saw a great India. He saw an India of skilled workers and educated people. He visualized an India where women would be free. His words expressed the depth of his love and the breadth of his vision for India.

He proved to be a true patriot devoid of parochial tendencies, unparalleled in loudly proclaiming the uniqueness and richness of tamil language. He was undoubtedly one of the earliest champions on emancipation of women.

His patriotic songs were not only clarion calls for freedom from alien rule but also adressed the need to unite a people across caste barriers. His lilting songs were on numerous lips, and it is recorded that processions / public meetings in those days certainly had the participants singing his compositions.

It is 85 years since this mahakavi left for heavenly abode, annals of history records that some of his dreams have been fulfilled thanks to the sacrifices of freedom fighters. His works have served as tools to many to mobilize energy, live fearlessly, express oneself clearly and fight ceaselessly for achieving social equality.

Blessed are those, who have scented the soil where Mahakavi lived. The house where he lived should be a sacred place of pilgrimage for all those who love the Nation. **BLISS** Pays tribute to this Mahakavi.

Q : Prodea Systems is a consumer technology company headquartered in Plano, Texas with Office in Chennai, made International Headlines during Sept. 2006. Do you know the reasons for such wide coverage in the print & electronic media ? **Ans: Page 4**

மகாகவிக்கு நினைவாஞ்சலி

நமது சங்கம் நடத்தும் நிகழ்ச்சிகளில் முக்கியமானது மகாகவிக்கு நினைவாஞ்சலி. 1882ல் பிறந்து தேசிய சிந்தனைக்கு வித்திட்டு 1921ல் நமது மண்ணில் இருந்து மறைந்த அந்த தீர்க்கதரிசிக்கு நமது சங்கம் செலுத்தும் நினைவாஞ்சலி செப்டம்பர் 10ந்தேதி மகாகவியின் நினைவு இல்லத்தில் நடைபெற்றது. மாலை 3 மணிக்கு சென்னை கல்லூரி மாணவ மாணவியரிடையே 'எண்ணிய முடிதல் வேண்டும்' என்ற தலைப்பில் பேச்சுப்போட்டி நடைபெற்றது. தலைப்பையொட்டி மாணவர்கள் பொருத்தமாக பேசியது மகாகவியின் மேல் கொண்ட அளவற்ற பக்தியை வெளிப்படுத்தியது. சிறப்பாகப் பேசிய செல்வி. தூர்கா (எத்திராஜ் மகளிர் கல்லூரி) முதல் பரிசினையும், ப.ஜெகன் (லயோலா கல்லூரி) இரண்டாவது இடத்தினையும், வி.பி. கணேஷ்(புதுக்கல்லூரி) மூன்றாவது இடத்தினையும் பெற்றனர். திரு. எஸ். அமுதன் (எஸ். ஆராவமுதன்) மற்றும் லயோலா கல்லூரி பேராசிரியர் ப. ஜஸ்டின் ஆண்டனி நடுவராக செயல்பட்டனர்.

மாலை 5.30 மணிக்கு மாஸ்டர். தி. கலைமகன் (கவிஞர் சுப்பு ஆறுமுகத்தின் பேரன்) குழுவினரால் பாரதி பாடல்கள் வெகு சிறப்பாக பாடி அனைவரின் பாராட்டுதல்களையும் பெற்றனர்.

மாலை 6.30 மணிக்கு பேராசிரியர் வ.வே.சு. தலைமையில் 'எண்ணிய முடிதல் வேண்டும்' என்ற தலைப்பில் கருத்தரங்கம் தொடங்கியது. கருத்தரங்கத்தில் திரு. பி. மணிகண்டன், திருமதி பாரதி திருமகன் கலந்து கொண்டு சிறப்பாக உரையாற்றினார். மற்றும் கவிஞர் சிநேகன், 'எண்ணிய முடிதல் வேண்டும்' என்ற கவிதாஞ்சலியை செலுத்தினார். நிகழ்ச்சிக்கு முன் பாரதி பாடல்கள் அடங்கிய பெயர்பலகையை திரு வ.வே.சு அவர்களால் வெளியிடப்பட்டு மண்டபம் திரு.எஸ். பார்த்தசாரதி அவர்கள் பெற்றுக்கொண்டார். இப் பலகைகள் டி.பி.கோவில் தெருவில் பலர் வீடுகளின் முன் மாட்டப்பட்டுள்ளது. வெகு திரளாக மக்கள் நிகழ்ச்சியில் கலந்து கொண்டு பாரதிக்கு அஞ்சலி செலுத்தினர்.

- பாரதிபக்தன்

KURINJI

The year 2006 has special place in florae, as this year Kurinji flowers are blooming on the declivity of the Kodaikanal hills, particularly near the Kurinji Andavar temple. This phenomenon is observed in the the Palni ranges, in Mattupatti and Gundumalai around Munnar, where Kurinji grows in abundance. The Nilgiris, which literally means the blue mountains, got its name from the purplish blue flowers of Neelakurinji that blossoms gregariously once in 12 years. The Kurinji flower is native to South India, growing only in the Anamalai, Nilgiris and Palni hills in Tamil Nadu. It does not grow anywhere else in the world.

Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*) is a gregarious shrub that grows abundantly in the shola grasslands of Western Ghats above 1800 metres. Some tribes which inhabit these mountain ranges calculate their age with the blossoming of the Kurinji. Though most of the varieties are blue, there are some yellow varieties too. Though this flower has been a familiar subject for poets and for the hill folk, two British botanists who explored the Palni ranges — Robert Wight in 1836 and Capt. Beddome in 1857 — documented the details and let the wider world get to know about this plant.

In Tamil Sangam literature there are quite a few references to this flower. In works such as Agananuru, and Maduraikanchi, the plant is referred as "Karungal Kurinji", meaning the Black stemmed flower. When it is in bloom, the honey gathered from the beehives in the vicinity was valued highly. One poet praises a king as "the one who rules over a country where the Kurinji honey is in plenty". The Sangam groups of literary works divide the landscape into five categories. The mountainous area was known as Kurinji, after the flower. Murugan, the presiding God of the Kurinji area, wore a garland of Kurinji flowers whilst married to Valli. This blue flower that blossoms stands as a symbol of hills and forests. The other forms of landscape described are mullai (jasmine) which stands for forests, marudam (a tree) which stands for pastoral area, Neythal (an aquatic flower) which denotes coastal area and Palai (a tree) which represents arid area. In testimony of the lore, there is a temple for Lord Muruga in Kodai known as SRI KURINJI EASWARAR TEMPLE.

The home of the Kurinji, which had remained inviolate for millennia, was damaged beyond repair in the last 100 years. Range after range of pristine forests were cleared for tea and cardamom plantations and for timber. To promote the leather-tanning industry, wattle was planted in the heart of Kurinji country. Eucalyptus was grown to supply raw material for rayon and paper. Trees totally alien to this land were brought in and introduced, devastating the ecosystem. Hydroelectric projects submerged vast stretches of virgin rain forests. Now in the little space that is left, in steep valleys and gorges, the Kurinji bushes are battling for survival, like many other life forms of the area.

**Award of Excellence - 2006
to
Sri Krishna Sweets**



The Federation of Tamil Sangams of North America (FETNA) conferred on Mr. M. Krishnan and Mr. M. Murali of Sri Krishna Sweets the Award of Excellence -2006 for their Stellar role in promoting Tamil language, culture, music, fine arts, heritage and spirituality.

Mr. M. Krishnan and **Mr. M.Murali** of *Sri Krishna Sweets* are recognised for their commitment to quality and excellence in business acumen. Their Corporate social responsibility is worthy of emulation by one and all. The company's philosophy to do good deeds is implemented through an innovative and purposeful unique, social responsibility programme by supporting one programme everyday to energize lives across the wide spectrum of the society to build better individuals and a better community is noteworthy.

The award was presented by His Excellency the Governor of Tamilnadu, Shri. Surjit Singh Barnala in the presence of Mr. David T. Hopper, U.S. Counsul General for South India, Chennai on Wednesday 6th Sept. 2006.

BLISS wishes **Sri Murali** many more awards.

நடக்க இருக்கும் நிகழ்ச்சிகள்



அக்டோபர் 1, 2006, சைமா மெடிகல் சென்டரில், சரஸ்வதி பூஜை மாலை 6 மணி அளவில் நடைபெறும். அனைவரும் தவறாது கலந்து கொள்ளுமாறு கேட்டுக் கொள்கிறோம்.

அக்டோபர் 2, காந்தி ஜயந்தி அன்று மகாகவி பாரதியார் இல்லத்தில், 'மனமும், இருதயமும்' என்ற தலைப்பில் டாக்டர். வி. சொக்கலிங்கம் M.B.B.S., M.D., D.M. அவர்கள் குறுந்தகடு உதவியுடன் உரையாற்றுவார். டாக்டர். கே.ஸ்ரீதர், ஸ்ரீகாஞ்சி காமகோடி சங்கரா மெடிகல் டிரஸ்ட், அவர்கள் தலைமை தாங்குவார். பொதுமக்களின் சந்தேகங்களுக்கு டாக்டர்கள் விளக்கம் அளிப்பார்கள்.

நிகழ்ச்சி துவக்கத்தில் சௌந்தர்ய ரத்னமாலா இசைக் குழுவினரின் தேசபத்திப்பாடல்கள் நிகழ்ச்சி நடைபெறும்.

SYMA & Public Services International jointly organised a drawing competition on the 2nd September 2006 at NKT Girls High School. The topics were 'Perceptions on Public Services or Trade Unions'. 83 students (boys & girls) of classes 9th to 12th took part. Mr. Katsuhiko Sato, PSI Asia Pacific Regional Secretary & Mr. T.J.Ramani, our President distributed certificates and a pen set to all.

The talent of these young children was precocious. The winners were : 1) N.Sindhu Bhargavi, CGHS School; 2) S.Divya, Lady Wellington Hr. Sec. School 3) Arunraj, CSI Kellet Hr. Sec. School; 4) G.V.Dilip Kumar, Hindu Sr. Sec. School 5) G.Keerthana, DAV Girls Sr. Sec. School; 6) K.Kavithiran, NKT National Boys High School

Prizes were given to these students at the inaugural function of the PSI Asia Pacific Regional Conference held at Le Royal Meridien, Chennai on the 6th Sep 2006. All the drawings were displayed and were viewed by the 400 delegates from 25 countries of Asia & Pacific attending the conference.

The event was neatly organised. SYMA thanks Public Services International and specially R Kannan for this event.

Ans : This consumer oriented company in the field of digital home and multimedia management technology was in news as its Chairwoman Anousheh Ansari began her historic journey as the world's first female private space explorer on 18 th Sept. 2006.

Born on 12 September 1966 in Mashhad, Iran, the world's first female space tourist launched her multi-million dollar adventure in the Russian-made Soyuz rocket. On Sept. 20, the spacecraft docked to the ISS. After Mrs. Ansari's eight-day stay aboard the space station, she will return to Earth on Sept. 28 with the Expedition 13 crew members.

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